

FAMED REGIMENTS BECOME HISTORY

Two noted Canadian infantry regiments — the Black Watch and the Canadian Guards — ceased last month to exist as separate entities. Their demise was a result of the decision announced last September by the Minister of National Defence to reduce the number of regular and militia units in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Members of the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Black Watch, the two regular units, will be “re-badged” into the Royal Canadian Regiment during July; the 3rd Battalion will continue its role as a militia unit based in Montreal.

The 1st Battalion The Canadian Guards, having been reduced to “nil strength”, the 2nd Battalion will become the 3rd Battalion RCR. The life of this regiment had been brief — it was organized in 1953.

TAPS TO THE GUARDS

On June 6, the 2nd Battalion trooped the colours for the last time on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The final ceremony involved 324 officers and men, with the addition of the Canadian Armed Forces National Band and the regimental pipes and drums. Governor-General Roland Michener inspected the Guards and read the Queen’s farewell address. After the trooping ceremony, the unit marched to Rideau Hall, the viceregal residence, to “lay up” their colours.

CORONACH FOR THE BLACK WATCH

On June 14, the two regular battalions and the reserve battalion of the Royal Highland Regiment — better known as The Black Watch — marched through downtown Montreal to the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, where, following a memorial service, they



Sheila Cairns, five years old, checks over Corporal Sandy Bowen of the Canadian Guards before the final trooping of the colours ceremony on June 6.

The Black Watch parading to the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal on June 14.

