

## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF LE ROYAL 22<sup>e</sup> REGIMENT

With the outbreak of the First World War, many Canadians of French origin expressed a desire to serve in a regiment which would be exclusively French-Canadian. It was in the fulfilment of this desire that Le Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment was formed at Saint-Jean, Québec, on October 20, 1914.

The "Twenty-second (French-Canadian) Battalion" as it was then known, joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in England on May 29, 1915. The Battalion participated in every engagement in the First World War in which the Second Canadian Division was committed. Two members of the battalion received the Victoria Cross.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, the regiment was placed on active service as part of the Second Canadian Division. It arrived in the United Kingdom on December 17, 1939. The 22<sup>e</sup> took part in the 1943 landings in Sicily and Italy, where its third Victoria Cross was won. Early in 1945, the Regiment was transferred to North-West Europe where it served until the end of the war.

From 1951 to 1953, the regiment (now divided into several battalions) served in Korea. Battalions of Le Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment saw duty in Germany from 1953 to 1959, and more recently, the first battalion of this distinguished regiment undertook peace-keeping duties with United Nations forces in Cyprus on March 15, 1963. The Queen is its Honorary Colonel and recently presented the regiment with its mascot, Baptiste II, a young goat who is now being trained for his onerous saluting duties.