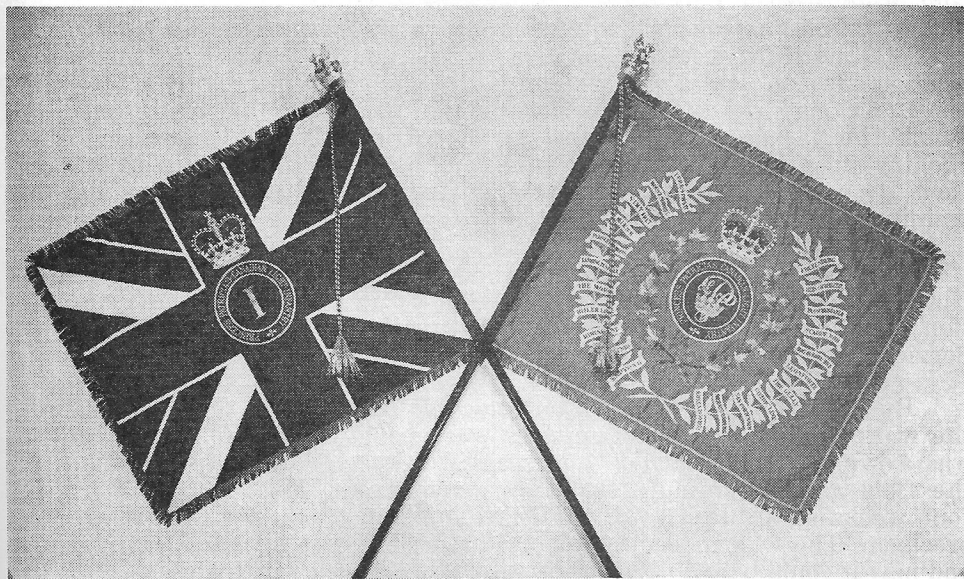


Presentation of New Colours

By Lt RM MacIntosh

"It has been learned that Her Majesty the Queen has approved the Presentation of her Colours to the 1st Battalion PPCLI Thursday 17 July 1959". Thus read the signal received by the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion of the Regiment on 18 April 1959. This momentous message touched off a series of preparations which led to Her Majesty's Presentation of Colours to the Battalion three months later.

During these three months, the training programme of the Battalion was changed considerably. Before the announcement, the aim of the programme had been to ready the Battalion for the annual concentration at Wainwright. The programme was now modified so the Battalion could prepare for the initial honour of receiving Colours from the reigning Monarch. Various committees were formed to determine the ceremonial drill to follow, the guests to be invited, and the arrangement of seating and parking. No half measures were taken; each member of the Battalion felt that here was a Ceremony that was deserving of his utmost effort. The citizens of Victoria, which has been a garrison town for over seventy years, anticipated the event and rightly expected a "first class show."



The colours presented by HM Queen Elizabeth II 17 July '59

The Queen's visit provided an excellent opportunity to replace the Colours which had been presented to the Battalion in 1934 by the then Governor General Earl Bessborough. Twenty-five years had elapsed since then and the Battalion had participated in one major war and Korea,

winning many new battle honours. The honour of receiving colours from Her Majesty was to be shared with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, who were to receive a Guidon. This Regiment, which perpetuated the 50th Battalion of the First World War, had on occasion fought alongside the Patricia's in the Italian Campaign of 1944. They sent a Colour Party to Victoria to begin training with the 1st Battalion. Throughout the entire period a high degree of co-operation and respect existed between the officers and warrant officers of the King's Own Calgary Regiment and the Patricias.

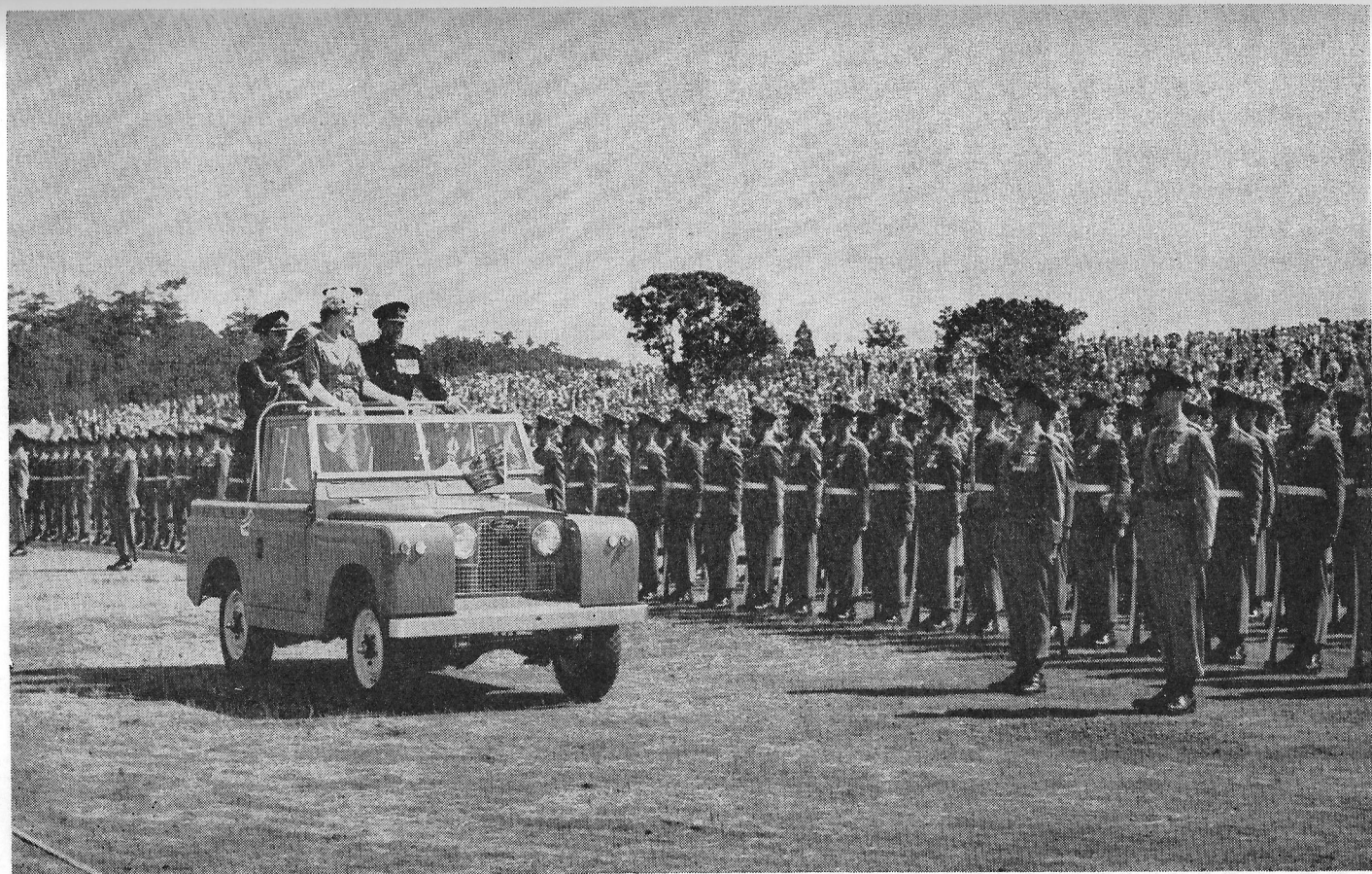
Parade square training commenced in earnest during the second week of June. The Battalion was sized and made up into six Guards. In the Presentation Office a start had already been made on the mammoth job of making up the guest list. It was decided that priority for seating would be given to serving and retired Patricia's of all ranks. Letters were dispatched to all branches of the Patricia Association informing them of the Presentation and inviting the members to attend. Over fifteen hundred invitations were sent out. Checking through the replies that were received one quickly came to realize how sincere the "Old Patricia's" are in their loyalty to the Regiment.

During the time the invitations were being processed, the Battalion continued to drill four days a week. The weather was generally sunny and warm and as the drill improved, all ranks became conditioned to the heat. In the third week of practice, the parade was moved to the soccer field at Beacon Hill Park, where the actual Presentation was to take place. Among the difficulties encountered were the uneven ground on which the parade was to be held, and particularly, the great clouds of choking dust that arose every time the Battalion moved on or off the field. By hard work, the grounds committee solved these problems and the training continued unhindered.

The Royal Canadian Air Force Squadrons stationed at Comox prepared for a Fly Past over the parade in conjunction with the Presentation. This manoeuvre required hours of practice and co-ordination by both Services.

By the day of the dress rehearsal, two days before the Presentation, the work of the various committees was nearly complete. Traffic control was arranged; the bleachers and seats were placed around three sides of the field and last minute tickets were sent out. Most important, after four weeks of arduous drill, the Battalion had reached a high degree of precision. The Old and New Colour Parties had put in many extra hours and now it could be seen that their efforts were well worthwhile.

At exactly ten minutes past ten o'clock on the 17th July 1959, the Bugler sounded markers and the parade was fallen in. By this time the seats which surrounded the field on three sides and which had been filling up for over an hour, were packed to capacity. The hillside to the east of the field was crowded with over ten thousand people. Many of the specta-



HM Queen Elizabeth II accompanied by Brig. JW Bishop OBE, CD and Lt Col JC Allan DSO, MBE, CD inspects the line of Guards 17 Jul '59.

tors who had come solely for the purpose of seeing Her Majesty, now found themselves enthralled by the opening ceremony, which involved an abridged form of Trooping of the Colour. This was the last occasion upon which the Old Colours would be trooped. Shortly after the Trooping was completed, Her Majesty arrived and was greeted with a Royal Salute. Accompanied by The Commanding Officer, The Queen inspected the line of Guards in a Land Rover, which the Battalion had outfitted for the occasion. Then the Old Colours were marched off to the tune of Auld Lang Syne. This stirring moment must have recalled to every Patricia on or off parade, memories of his service in the Regiment, during days of war and peace.

In the presence of Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Guards formed a hollow square in the centre of which the drums were piled. The New Colours were then consecrated by the Protestant Chaplain General and presented to the Battalion by Her Majesty. The Queen, in her address to the assembled parade, said:

"The battle honours which are emblazoned on your new Colour commemorate this service and will remind you of the spirit of loyalty and devotion which you have marked your famous Regiments. They will keep before you the memory and example of your gallant dead."

Then the Colour Party joined the line of Guards and a march past in slow and quick time took place. This was followed by the advance in review order and the Royal Salute. With the departure of Her Majesty and the marching off of the Colours, the parade was completed.

A report of the Presentation could well end at this point; however if it did it would have failed to record the feeling that will make it live on



Lt Col JC Allan DSO, MBE, CD reports to HM Queen Elizabeth II

in the memory of those who witnessed it. An observer on the sidelines would have seen many Old Patricia's standing to attention throughout the ceremony, as if mesmerized by what they saw. In the words of a newspaper editorial writer:

The troops were magnificent"

*For this writer the legacy of the Queen's visit
will be the superb performance of the PPCLI.*

Her Majesty's Press Secretary reported that "the Queen was delighted with the Colour Ceremony. She thought it was magnificently done". The Minister of National Defence, Major General GR Pearkes, himself a former Patricia, personally brought the Queen's compliments to the Commanding Officer in the evening following the ceremony.

For all ranks of the First Battalion, the Presentation of Colours by Her Majesty The Queen had truly been an event of a lifetime. The ceremony perpetuated the best traditions of the Regiment and reaffirmed for all Patricia's, their allegiance to our Sovereign.

The following is a list of

OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS ON PARADE

Commanding Officer

LT COL JC ALLAN DSO MBE CD

Field Officers For The Colours

MAJ RF BRUCE MBE CD

MAJ EMK MacGREGOR MC CD

MAJ CR SHARP CD

Colour Parties

Old Colours

LT RD BELL

2 LT JA BRADLEY

WO2 HO LARSON MC CD

New Colours

LT WEJ HUTCHISON

LT EM CANFIELD

WO2 RH APPLETON MM CD

Guidon

LT WAJ SHARMAN CD

WO1 TR CUNNINGHAM CD

WO2 RG LOVO

Adjutant
CAPT RJ FROST

Regimental Sergeant Major
WO1 JG AUSTIN MC CD

Escort For The Colour

MAJ R F BRUCE MBE CD
CAPT DS ROBERTSON
LT RL DALLISON
WO2 FL MACK

No. 3 Guard

MAJOR GA GUNTON CD
CAPT BM MUNRO
LT D G WALLACE
WO2 AC GREEN

No. 5 Guard

MAJ AGW HARBORD-HARBORD CD
CAPT ME CARLETON-SMITH
(The Rifle Brigade)
LT FL BERRY
S/SGT VD COLE MM CD

Director of Music
CAPT A BROWN CD

No. 2 Guard

MAJ RH GRAHAM CD
CAPT GK NICHOLSON
LT JPRE BEAUREGARD
WO2 RG BUXTON DCM CD

No. 4 Guard

MAJ WBS SUTHERLAND CD
CAPT MG DUNCAN
LT JRS RYLEY
WO2 JB MACKIE

No. 6 Guard

MAJ EMK MacGREGOR MC CD
CAPT AL GALE CD
2 LT AGS FERGUSON
WO2 KG TUTTE BEM CD

Drum Major
D/M WE WYMAN