

## **The Queen's Coronation, 02 June 1953: 2 RCR and the Crowning of a Queen**

By Capt Ross Appleton, with Sgt Len Delaney; photos by Ann Delaney

With the recent wedding of His Royal Highness (HRH) Prince William and Kate Middleton, now known as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and their celebrated royal tour of Canada, Canadian interest in and enthusiasm for the Monarchy has been rekindled. The Royal Canadian Regiment, the senior infantry regiment in the Canadian army, has an appropriately long and close connection with the royal institution. For example, since the creation of The Royal Canadian Regiment, The RCR has participated in every royal coronation. The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, on 02 June 1953, would be no exception. On this occasion, as in 1937 for the coronation of George VI, the Regiment's contingent would be part of a much larger official Canadian Coronation Contingent. The Canadian contingent would consist of some 900 personnel. These personnel were to be drawn from the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army, the Royal Canadian Air Force, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Canadian Coronation Contingent would consist of two components: a street-lining component of some 425 personnel, made up of Reservists from across the services (in theory, for example, every reserve army unit was to be represented by at least one member); and a marching contingent employing the balance of the personnel. The street-lining contingent was to take part in the lining of the route of the Coronation Procession on the morning of 02 June and to perform Royal Salutes as required. The route of the procession covered 7.2 kilometres and was from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey and back again, after the Coronation ceremony at the King Henry VIII Chapel, Westminster Abbey, had concluded. On the way to the Abbey, the procession would move down the Mall, pass under Admiralty Arch and enter Trafalgar Square. The Canadian street-liners would line that portion of the route on Cockspur Street in front of Canada House, near Hyde Park. The dress uniforms for the Canadian Coronation Contingent, patrol dress blues, were supplied by Tip Top Tailors of Toronto.

The marching contingent would participate in the actual Coronation Procession. Each of the Detachments in the procession had its own commander. The Royal Canadian Navy Detachment was commanded by Commander R.P. Welland, DSC, CD; the Canadian Army Detachment was to be commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J.R. "Jim" Stone, DSO, MC; the Royal Canadian Air Force Detachment, commanded by Wing Commander J.V. Watts, DSO, DFC; and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachment to be commanded by Assistant Commissioner D.L. McGibbon. Of special note, Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Stone had commanded 2 PPCLI in Korea, during the storied battle of Kapyong, 22-25 April 1951.

The Canadian Army Detachment was based on two formations, the 25<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade (25 CIB) from Korea; and the 27<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade (27 CIB) from Germany. From 25 CIB, regimental contingents would come from The Royal Canadian Regiment, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and the Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. The 27 CIB would be represented by contingents from each of the 1<sup>st</sup>

Canadian Rifle Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Highland Battalion, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion.

For The Royal Canadian Regiment the decision as to which of the three battalions would support the Coronation task was made straightforward by the unit rotational cycle to the Korean theatre of war. Only one battalion so far had completed a combat tour in Korea and that was 2 RCR, from 05 May 1951 – 24 April 1952. The Second Battalion, now stationed at Wolseley Barracks, London, Ontario, had been back for nearly a year and was well into the swing of training and garrison routine. In contrast, 1 RCR was still in Korea on the front lines and had been in theatre since 10 April 1952. The First Battalion was not scheduled for repatriation to Canada before the end of March 1953. This would be followed by several weeks leave for all members of the Battalion. Finally, 3 RCR were scheduled to deploy to Korea in March 1953, not to return for another year.

So 2 RCR, commanded at this time by Lieutenant-Colonel GC Corbould, DSO, OBE, ED, was the inevitable choice. The Battalion was therefore warned off to provide a total of 21 Officers and Men for the Canadian Coronation Contingent. These men would have the honour of marching in Queen Elizabeth's Coronation Procession and later on they would mount the Queen's Guard at Buckingham and St. James Palaces. The 2 RCR Detachment would consist of two officers, one warrant officer, three sergeants, and 15 junior ranks. The Coronation contingent from 2 RCR included: Maj RD (Dick) Medland, DSO; Lt CG Darling; **Warrant Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class (WO1) JJT McManus**; Sgt RW (Bob) Craig; Sgt Hugh Payne; Sgt GED Wilkinson; Cpl Spier Cameron; Cpl Earle; Cpl Grant; Cpl MacDonald; Cpl Bill Simms; Lance Corporal Len Delaney; Pte Arsenault; Pte Coady; Pte Russ Connaught; Pte Gnatiuk; Pte Howlett; Pte Hurst; Pte Kavanaugh; Pte Llewellyn; and Pte Veysey (these names were, in part, provided by Sgt Len Delaney, who, of course, was part of the contingent).

It is noteworthy that every man in the 2 RCR Detachment was a recent combat veteran of Korea and a paratrooper. Additionally, more than half the personnel in the contingent were veterans of the Second World War. The Detachment was commanded by Maj Richard Dillon Medland, DSO, the OC of A Company, 2 RCR. He had won his DSO during WWII and as OC A Company in Korea had been awarded the Bronze Star for valour, one of only two officers of The RCR to win a U.S. decoration for bravery in Korea.

**WO1 James JT McManus was the Regimental Sergeant-Major of 2 RCR.** He had been appointed to this position on 09 August 1950, remarkably at the age of only 28, making him the very first RSM of the Second Battalion. McManus had enlisted in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (MG) in 1937, at the age of 15. With the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, aged 17, he had volunteered for active service with the Cameron Highlanders and been promoted to sergeant. As of 1941, McManus was promoted to Company Sergeant-Major (CSM). During the campaign in North-West Europe, 1944-45, the Cameron Highlanders were the heavy weapons battalion for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division. CSM McManus landed in Normandy on D-Day, 06 June 1944, and served throughout the subsequent operations including the Liberation of Holland.

At the conclusion of World War II, JJT McManus was promoted to WO1 and became RSM of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Cameron Highlanders, employed in occupation duties in Germany until June 1946. Upon returning to Canada he was posted to The RCR at Brockville, Ontario in October 1946, but reduced to the appointment of CSM. CSM McManus earned his parachute wings at Rivers, Manitoba in September 1948, and then moved with The RCR to Petawawa in 1949. At this time The RCR was designated as an airborne unit. Against the backdrop of the Korean War, McManus was promoted to WO1 and on 09 August 1950 was made RSM of 2 RCR, as that unit formed at Fort Lewis, Washington. The Battalion served in Korea on the front lines from May 1951 – April 1952. Mr. McManus remained as RSM of 2 RCR until 26 August 1953.

**The actual position of RSM McManus in the Canadian Coronation Contingent was as Regular Force Sergeant-Major of the Canadian Army Contingent.** With the formation of the Canadian Guards in 1954, Mr. McManus became RSM of the Canadian Guards Depot in August 1954, an appointment he held until June 1961. At that time he became the College Sergeant-Major of the Royal Military College. In June 1970, as the Canadian Guards were placed on the Supplementary List, Mr. McManus was transferred back to The Royal Canadian Regiment. He retired from the CF in August 1971 after 34 years service.

Lance Corporal Len Delaney was a fine example of the kind of men who were in the ranks of the 2 RCR Detachment. Len's family was of old United Empire Loyalist stock. During the Second World War he had five older brothers and a sister who served in uniform. Len himself, as well as another brother, fought in Korea. With the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950, Len Delaney was soon volunteering for active service in Korea with the Canadian Army Special Force (CASF). In August 1950 he joined the newly formed 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel RA Keane, DSO, OBE, CD, at Fort Lewis, Washington.

After extensive training, 2 RCR was sailing for Korea on 20 April 1951. The Battalion had landed in Korea on 05 May and by mid-May had been ordered into action at the front. On 25 May, in the P'och'on Valley, on the approaches to the "Iron Triangle," 2 RCR was in action for the first time as it attacked an enemy held high feature known as Point 407. This engagement with the Chinese was followed closely by the Battalion's epic clashes with the enemy at the village of Chail-Li on 28 May and at Kakhul-Bong Spur on 30 May. Major Dick Medland's A Company played a key role in these engagements. At one point it was encircled in the village of Chail-Li by the Chinese and withstood close quarter assault. Previously, on 29 May, 2 RCR had crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel.

Numerous offensive operations followed which carried 2 RCR, as part of 25 Canadian Infantry Brigade, across the Imjin River. The intent was to push the front lines as far northward as possible, so as to protect Seoul. On 04 October the Battalion captured Hill 187; shortly thereafter 25 CIB consolidated on the Jamestown Line. The conflict would now settle down into a prolonged, static phase of defensive warfare that would last

virtually until the end of the war in July 1953. In late November the troops of 2 RCR were issued sleeping bags and parkas for the coming winter.

The Battalion occupied defensive positions at Hill 187. The soldiers had built deep bunkers and three belts of wire obstacles to their front; likely enemy approaches were mined and booby trapped. On 02 January 1952, Lieutenant-Colonel Keane departed and was replaced by Lieutenant-Colonel Corbould. On 17 January, after more than three months of continuous service in the front lines, 2 RCR was relieved and moved to positions previously occupied by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Severe winter conditions descended on the front after January. Both Canadian and enemy soldiers now conducted patrols wearing white camouflage suits. The soldiers took the opportunity to play ice hockey on the frozen tributaries of the Imjin River.

On 07 February the Battalion was saddened to hear the news of the death of King George VI, Britain's popular wartime monarch. Two days later the officers of 2 RCR assembled at Battalion HQ to swear fealty to Queen Elizabeth II. The 2 RCR advance party, under Major JF Peterson departed for Canada on 18 February. The great tradition of Paardeberg Day was celebrated by the unit on 27 February. As of 10 March 1952, the Battalion entered the front line for its last tour of duty before repatriation. The Battalion's snipers were very successful, killing 12 enemy soldiers (six alone by Private WR Windle) over a three day period. A 'C' Company patrol, led by Corporal K.V. McCormond, killed at least 10 Chinese during a running fire fight. During a short, but fierce attack by the Chinese on 24 March, four men of C Company were killed. The Battalion's last contact with the enemy occurred on 29 March. Shortly thereafter, 2 RCR was pulled back to the Kansas Line, into reserve positions, to await relief.

On 11 April 1952, the leading elements of 1 RCR arrived at the Kansas Line. From 21-23 April 1 RCR formally relieved 2 RCR. The Second Battalion was moved back to Seoul and then Pusan, from where 2 RCR was ferried to Japan and the 25<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement Camp at Kure. Now, 186 officers and men who had volunteered for parachute training, were moved to Ebisu Camp in Tokyo from where they were flown to Vancouver, BC. The balance of the Battalion was shipped in two groups by sea, departing from Yokohama on 04 May and 18 May respectively; the first group arrived at Vancouver on 18 May; the second reached Seattle, Washington on 28 May. Prior to the onward journey east by train, all ranks were processed immediately and then granted 60 days leave without having to return to Petawawa, then the home base for 2 RCR.

During the campaign in Korea, the Battalion had suffered casualties of 31 killed and 134 wounded. Among the decorations for gallantry and other awards that had been bestowed on members of 2 RCR were two Officers of the Order of the British Empire; two Military Crosses; one Distinguished Conduct Medal; eight Military Medals; 17 Mentioned in Despatches; one Bronze Star (U.S.); and one Queen's Commendation.

On 29 July 1952, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment was officially reformed at Petawawa. As of 12 January 1953, 2 RCR was moved from Petawawa to Wolseley Barracks at London, Ontario. The CO at this time was Lieutenant-Colonel GC Corbould; the Second-in Command was Major FM Vine; and WO1 JJT McManus remained RSM.

Upon arrival at Wolseley Barracks, 2 RCR was granted the Freedom of the City of London.

It was during the Korean War that The RCR became and was confirmed as a multi-battalion regiment. It was felt then that there was now a necessity to establish a Regimental Depot. Such a depot came into being on 19 March 1953 and as of 15 August 1953, Wolseley Barracks had become the site of the Depot. In the meantime, 2 RCR had been selected to provide the Regimental representation for the Canadian Coronation Contingent. It was in March that Major Medland, Lieutenant Darling, RSM McManus, Lance Corporal Len Delaney and the other men were officially selected.

Prior to sailing for England, the Canadian Coronation Contingent was assembled at Valcartier Camp, near Quebec City. On 29 April the contingent sailed from Quebec City aboard the Cunard Line vessel, *Franconia*. A physical fitness programme was instituted during the trans-Atlantic voyage to insure the men didn't put on weight. Arriving at Liverpool, the contingent then travelled by train to London. Their eventual destination was Pirbright Camp, Surrey, near Aldershot. Other Commonwealth contingents, including the Pakistanis, were also quartered at Pirbright. The training of the Canadian Coronation Contingent was now taken in hand by the famous Brigade of Guards. The Coronation was approximately three weeks away.

Two days prior to the Coronation Procession, which was to take place on 02 June, the contingent was moved to Kensington Gardens Camp in London and placed in tents along the Round Pond. On the day of the Coronation it was raining. At 9:00 AM the two respective components of the Canadian contingent, the marching procession and the street-liners moved off to their respective forming-up points. The huge military parade, involving contingents from throughout the British Commonwealth and Empire, marched along the route, preceding the Queen and the procession including royalty and heads of state. Within the procession were three royal parties: the royal princes and princesses; the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, in the Irish Coach; and Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in the 250 year old Gold State Coach. Other dignitaries included the British Prime Minister and wartime leader, Winston Churchill, and Louis St. Laurent, the Prime Minister of Canada.

The Coronation was a massive event, costing \$4 million and was 16 months in the preparation. The ceremony was conducted in accordance with long established tradition, at Westminster Abbey, as always before, involving the Peers of the Realm and the high clergy of the Church of England. However, there was one startling innovation, for the time, that had been resisted by Winston Churchill, but finally approved by Queen Elizabeth herself. The Coronation ceremony was televised, the first one ever. Millions watched the event on television live.

An estimated three million spectators lined the route between Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey to watch the Coronation procession. The Queen arrived at the Abbey, where 8,000 guests attended, at 11:00 AM. Amidst pomp and splendour, the Archbishop of Canterbury administered the Coronation Oath to Queen Elizabeth and eventually placed St. Edward's Crown upon her head. When the ceremony was concluded, Queen

Elizabeth II, wearing the Imperial State Crown and carrying the Sceptre with the Cross and the Orb, departed Westminster Abbey by way of the Great West Door. The Queen returned to Buckingham Palace in the gilded Gold State Coach, along the same route as before, escorted by the thousands of military personnel, including the Canadian marching contingent. The Canadians and the other Commonwealth contingents marched to the strains of “Soldiers of the Queen,” “British Grenadiers,” “Waltzing Matilda,” and “The Maple Leaf Forever.”

Of Coronation Day, the Battalion diarist of 2 RCR noted, “Mere words can never express the grandeur, the pomp and the circumstance, the feeling of personal pride that everyone saw and felt.” In Korea that day, a contingent of soldiers from 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant A.J. Hocking, participated in a 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Division parade marking the Coronation. In celebration of the event, Canadian troops drank a generous rum issue to toast the Queen, while Canadian tanks fired blue, red and white smoke shells at enemy positions.

On 03 June, the day following the procession, the members of the Canadian Coronation Contingent were at Buckingham Palace, in the gardens, to receive their Coronation medals from the hand of Queen Elizabeth II. Just two days later the Canadian Coronation Contingent received the signal honour of mounting the Queen’s Guard at Buckingham Palace and at St. James Palace, from 05-06 June 1953. Typically, the Guard is mounted by one of five British regiments: the Grenadier Guards; Coldstream Guards; Scots Guards; Irish Guards; and Welsh Guards. The Queen’s Guard mounted by the Canadian contingent was commanded by Major Dick Medland of 2 RCR. Lance Corporal Delaney and Private Hurst were the first relief at the main gate of Buckingham Palace; with a state dinner taking place at the palace that evening, the two men were kept very busy sloping arms. Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent visited and congratulated the Canadians mounting the guard at St. James Palace. On the morning of 06 June, the Canadians were relieved by troops of the Grenadier Guards.

For the remainder of the time in the UK the members of the Canadian contingent were guests of the British armed forces, and were able to see the sights just like tourists. For the Royal Canadians this included a day and a night spent with the First Battalion of their allied regiment, the Gloucestershire Regiment, at Warminster. On 15 June the Canadians were at the naval base of Portsmouth, aboard the Canadian aircraft carrier, HMCS *Magnificent*, to watch the Queen’s review of the British fleet off Spithead. This marked the culmination of the Canadians’ participation in the Queen’s Coronation. The next day, 16 June, the contingent was sailing for home from Southampton.

Dramatic changes were in store for Len Delaney and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment. In November, the Battalion departed Wolseley Barracks to begin a two year tour with NATO (27 Canadian Infantry Brigade Group) in West Germany. On 08 November 1953, 2 RCR marched into its new quarters at Fort York, Soest, West Germany. The unit would remain at Soest until November 1955. At the same time, Len Delaney was made up to Corporal.

The Royal Canadian Regiment had been without a Colonel-in-Chief since Field Marshal HRH Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn (the Regiment's first ever Colonel-in-Chief, appointed 04 April 1929) had died on 16 January 1942. Following the Second World War Princess Elizabeth had been approached with the request that she consider filling this appointment. Unfortunately, given Elizabeth's many other commitments, this was just not possible. However, once Elizabeth ascended the throne, it became clear that Prince Philip would be prepared to accept this honour. Thus on 08 December 1953, Field Marshal HRH, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, GBE, CD, officially became Colonel-in Chief of The Royal Canadian Regiment.

From 1951 and over the next 60 years, Queen Elizabeth, with Prince Philip at her side, would officially visit Canada on 22 separate occasions, spending some 222 days in the country. Official interactions over the years between The RCR and its Colonel-in-Chief were many and varied. On 10 August 1954 Prince Philip inspected a 130 man Guard of Honour, from 1 RCR and commanded by Captain W. Snell, at the northern RCAF station at Fort Churchill. The 1 RCR Guard carried the Queen's Colour on this occasion. The CO of 1 RCR, Lieutenant-Colonel T.R. McCoy, presented the Prince with a silver cigarette box. On 17 October 1955, the Colonel-in-Chief arrived by helicopter at Fort York, Soest, West Germany, to present 2 RCR with a stand of Colours, before the Battalion returned to Canada the next month.

In 1956, HRH Prince Philip instituted a competition and award, the Duke of Edinburgh Trophy, which was to loom large in the imagination and future efforts of the Regiment. The competition was an annual event which would involve all regiments and corps in which Prince Philip held an honorary appointment. Initially this involved some 21 British, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and Gurkha units. Each team was comprised of 12 personnel: one captain, two lieutenants, three sergeants, three corporals, and three privates. The competition required both marksmanship and physical fitness. From 1962-1964, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment won the Duke of Edinburgh Trophy for an unprecedented three years in a row. On 11 March 1964, the winning team from 2 RCR was presented with the trophy by Prince Philip himself at Buckingham Palace. It is noteworthy that throughout his career, Sergeant Len Delaney was to be a member of five Duke of Edinburgh Trophy teams.

On 11 June 1957, Prince Philip insisted on spending an informal day with 1 RCR at Fort York, during the Battalion's two year tour in Germany. Prince Philip was hosted at the Home Station for a major event on 02-03 July 1959. Arriving at Crumlin Airport in London, the Colonel-in-Chief was met by a Guard of Honour made up of soldiers from all three battalions, including 3 RCR, then a Militia battalion, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment (London and Oxford Fusiliers), and the Regimental Depot.

At Wolseley Barracks, Prince Philip unveiled the new Regimental War Memorial (also known as the Old Comrades Memorial). Following lunch in the Officers Mess, the Trooping of the Colours took place. This was the first occasion on which all three battalions were together on parade. The Colours of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions were marched off parade and then replaced with new Colours. Present on parade were the Colonel-in-Chief; the Colonel of the Regiment – General Charles Foulkes; the Honourary

Lieutenant-Colonel of 3 RCR – Lieutenant-Colonel D.B. Weldon; and all four Commanding Officers, Lieutenant-Colonel F. Klenavic (1 RCR), Lieutenant-Colonel D.E. Holmes (2 RCR), Lieutenant-Colonel S.G. Heaman (3 RCR), and Major W.J. Jewell (Regimental Depot). Each Battalion provided four Guards for a total of twelve. The old Colours of 1 RCR were subsequently laid up at Wolseley Barracks in St. Mark's Chapel; those of 3 RCR in St. Paul's Cathedral. On 03 July, the soldiers of The RCR lined the route at the University of Western Ontario when Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Prince Philip, officially visited London.

HRH Prince Philip returned to London for a triple Trooping of the Colours on 22 May 1962. He was received at Crumlin Airport by an Honour Guard composed of soldiers from 3 RCR and the Regimental Depot. Prince Philip was then driven to Wolseley Barracks where he laid a wreath at the Regimental Memorial and then witnessed the Trooping of the Colours, involving all three battalions of the Regiment.

On 26 May 1965 Queen Elizabeth visited the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade at Fort York in Soest, West Germany. Soldiers from 1 RCR, then stationed in Germany, were included in the joint army/air force Canadian Guard of Honour. The Battalion then took part in a Brigade mounted roll past. In mid-July Prince Philip returned to Fort York to review a Trooping of the Colour conducted by 1 RCR. The recently appointed Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Daniel Charles Spry, was also present. That evening all three Messes of the Battalion entertained in style in marquee tents set up for the occasion.

Meanwhile the career of Len Delaney in The RCR continued apace. In November of 1955 Corporal Delaney departed Soest, West Germany with 2 RCR. The Battalion returned to Wolseley Barracks at London. Still with 2 RCR at London, Len Delaney was promoted to sergeant in February 1957. Sergeant Delaney remained in London until September 1961 when he was posted to Hamilton, Ontario on recruiting duties. In September 1962 Len Delaney was posted to 1 RCR at Ipperwash, Ontario and from thence rotated to Soest, West Germany with the Battalion in November 1962. As of November 1965 Sergeant Delaney had returned to the fold of 2 RCR when that Battalion replaced 1 RCR at Fort York.

Len Delaney was posted back to Canada and 1 RCR, at Wolseley Barracks, in November 1967. However, before a year had passed, he was back at Soest with 2 RCR as of September 1968. In 1970, 2 RCR was scheduled to rotate back to Canada. However, significant changes were taking place as the Canadian army reorganized. Battalions of the Canadian Guards and the Black Watch were reduced to nil strength as of 30 June 1970. The disbanded 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the Black Watch in effect amalgamated and reformed as 2 RCR.

In Germany half of what had been 2 RCR, along with personnel from 2 PPCLI, began forming a new hybrid unit at Soest, to be known as 3 Mechanized Commando, beginning in April 1970. On 28 June 1970, 3 Mech Commando, technically part of the Airborne Regiment, officially came into being. In July, units of 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (4 CMBG) began the move from Fort York to Lahr and Baden Soellingen. It was during this last posting to Germany that Len Delaney was part of a group photo that was

taken in the Sergeants Mess with the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, HRH Prince Philip, and had the opportunity to meet with the Prince.

In July 1971, Sergeant Delaney received his final posting as Regular Support Staff at Brockville, Ontario with the Brockville Rifles. He remained with the Brockville Rifles for the next five years before taking retirement in February 1976. In the meanwhile, HRH Prince Philip had continued to maintain close ties with The Royal Canadian Regiment. He was on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on 02 August 1973 to present 3 RCR with a new stand of Colours (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion had been disbanded on 21 July 1954, to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Canadian Guards; 3 RCR was re-constituted as a regular battalion on 06 July 1970 when the Canadian Guards had been reduced to nil strength; The RCR Militia battalion now became 4 RCR).

During the Regiment's Centennial celebrations at London, Ontario in July 1983, HRH Prince Philip was very much in attendance. In 2000 there was an event of great significance and rich symbolism, which splendidly represented the long connection between The Royal Canadian Regiment and the monarchy. In September of that year, 2 RCR mounted the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace. The Detachment Commander was Major John S. Fife. The 2 RCR detachment also provided the guard for the Queen Mother at St. James Palace and for the Crown Jewels at HM Tower of London. This occasion (known within the Regiment as OP Parapet) was meant to coincide with the centennial of the Regiment's involvement in the South African War.

As the years went by, Len Delaney remained very much a part of The Royal Canadian Regiment and was active with the Thousand Islands Branch of The RCR Association. In 2010 he became aware that Queen Elizabeth II would be making her 22<sup>nd</sup> official visit to Canada in June-July of that year. The Queen and Prince Philip would be visiting five Canadian cities (Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Waterloo) from 28 June – 06 July 2010. In March of 2010, a proposal was made to the Canadian government that surviving veterans who had marched in the Queen's Coronation Procession on 02 June 1953 be given the opportunity to honour their sovereign again as they had in 1953. By 29 April this proposal had gained the endorsement of Veterans Affairs Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn.

Some two weeks prior to the arrival of the Royal Couple, it was decided that veterans of the Canadian Coronation Contingent would be granted the opportunity to meet the Queen in one of four centres: Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto or Winnipeg. Sgt Len Delaney and wife Ann were invited to the Queen's Garden Reception to take place on 30 June at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Thus on 30 June 2010, Len Delaney was part of a reception line in the gardens of Rideau Hall (the official residence of the Governor-General of Canada), a soldier of the Queen about to honour his sovereign once again.

Appropriately, Sergeant Delaney was resplendent in his Patrol Dress Blues, the same uniform he had worn on 02 June 1953, 57 years before at the Queen's Coronation. He wore his paratrooper's maroon beret with Regimental cap badge; white gloves and white belt with Regimental buckle; scarlet sash; and jump wings and medals on his dark blue tunic. Sergeant Delaney stood proudly at attention as Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister

Stephen Harper and Prince Philip made their way down the reception line towards him. His wife Ann Delaney was close by and able to watch. With an exchange of words, first the Queen and then the Prime Minister passed by.

Finally HRH Prince Philip was in front of Len Delaney. It proved to be a memorable moment for both men as they took each other's measure. A gleam of recognition shone in Prince Philip's eyes. Remembering an occasion that had taken place in the Sergeants Mess at Fort York over 40 years before, the Colonel-in-Chief cocked his head and remarked, "What are *you* doing here? The last time I saw you, you were in Germany." One of the attributes of a great leader is that he always remembers the men who have served with him. It should never be forgotten that Prince Philip had a distinguished, even brilliant combat record as an officer aboard destroyers during World War II and knows more than a little about leading men. Touched by the royal remark, Len Delaney recalled, "Yes, Your Highness, and you organized to have a group photo taken in the Sergeants Mess."

For Sergeant Len Delaney, as a soldier, the road had been long, eventful and worthwhile. From Fort Lewis, Washington to Wainwright; from Pusan to the Iron Triangle, fighting his way across the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel in Korea; from Wolseley Barracks to Petawawa; from Fort York, Soest to Baden Soellingen; and from Hamilton to Brockville. This instance of recognition at Rideau Hall by his Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Prince Philip, had been a fitting tribute to a gallant soldier of The Royal Canadian Regiment.

Pro Patria