

RCOC Apprentice Reunion 12 June 2015



. Submitted by Maj (Retd) RG Elliott. ATC 3 PI 1956-58

During the decade following the Second World War from 1953 to 1956, several young men age sixteen embarked on the Canadian Army Soldier Apprentice Plan at the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps School in Montreal.

They willingly traded civilian teenage life for two years of soldiering on the parade square, in the barrack room and at the rifle range.

They acquired skills with the weapons of the day; the Lee Enfield 303 rifle, the Bren Gun LMG and the Sten SMG (also used in WW2 by the original cast).

The morning training plan consisted of high school academics by civilian teachers.

The afternoons included first year recruit training and parade square rifle and foot drill followed by Ordnance trades training during the second year.

Afternoons also included rigorous physical training at 1600 hours except for those occasionally required to attend the Company Commander's orders parade.

A charge under Section 118 of the National Defence Act, Conduct to the Prejudice of Good Order and Discipline usually resulted in a \$5 fine and seven days Confined to Barracks.

Although the ravages of time may have thinned our ranks, by some unexplained miracle, many of us have stubbornly survived.

Fifteen members of the first four platoons attended the reunion in Kingston Ontario on 12 June 2015.



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Left to right front row

0354 Bob Martinson, Ottawa. 0354 Fred Cameron, Ottawa, 0253 Stan Jackson, Kingston. 0354 Marty Young, Toronto. 0455 Don Dunphy, Russell. 0153 Lorne Wells, Kingston. 0354 Jim Steed, Harrowsmith.

Left to right rear row

0354 Bob Elliott, Kelowna BC. 0455 Jack Lemyre, Richmond. 0153 Ross Phillips, Kemptville. 0253 Carl Duff, Gananoque. 0455 Wally Grant, Sutton West. 0354 Tony Garron, Digby NS. 0253 René Kelly, Pointe Claire QC. 0354 Butch McPherson, Niagara Falls.