

Beaton, Larry: my Queen's Own Rifles of Canada recollections

[Caroline Duncan interviewing Larry Beaton on April 19, 2010]

00:00 Caroline Duncan: [inaudible] Your name?

Larry Beaton: Larry Beaton. [Where I'm from] Chilliwack, B.C.

CD: From Chilliwack.

LB: Yes. Formerly from Manitoba. Southern Manitoba.

CD: And, why is your uniform different from, from the others?

LB: This is, this is the original uniform that we wore back ... when I joined the army in the '60s [1960s]

CD: Oh, okay.

LB: And, they, they changed uniforms in 1970.

CD: I know. Okay.

LB: They went to the green.

CD: So, this is a, is it a wool? Like, a ...

LB: Oh, it's a very heavy.

CD: Heavy wool.

LB: Very heavy wool, yes.

CD: And ... comes in at the

LB: ... at the gap. Got weights, and putties, black putties and ... red and black ... which is different from all the other regiments because we are a rifle regiment [The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada] [The QOR of C], and ... we marched at a hundred and forty paces a minute, whereas the rest was a hundred and eighteen. [inaudible]

CD: Is that, is that the Double Pass that I hear about, or is that something [different?]?

LB: ... The Double Pass is 180 ... minutes ... paces to the minute.

CD: Right.

LB: And we used to do that too.

CD: ...

LB: ... Yes.

CD: And ... So ... When were you with The Queen's Own [The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada] [The QOR of C]?

LB: I was with The Queen's Own [The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada] [The QOR of C] from ... January 1967 til ... October ... '69 [1969]. I went to, then I went to PPCLI [Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry] in Germany. And over the years I've served a big tour in Cypress, six months in Egypt, I was in ... Germany twice, and every province in Canada, on various jobs, which I eventually transferred to the engineers ... Then I retired in Chilliwack. After ... after a 15 year career with Corrections, Canada [Correctional Service of Canada].

CD: Oh, okay.

LB: That's all.

CD: Now you've got a lot of medals here. Can you just, run through what the medals are?

LB: Okay. This is ... NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization], I served in northwest Europe for NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] ... Peacekeeping Medal [Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal] [CPSM], three six month tours in Cypress, Egypt, and a Canadian decoration. And these are my Aboriginal Service medals.

CD: Okay.

LB: 'Cause I'm, I'm ... First Nations.

CD: Right.

LB: Yeah.

CD: What First Nation?

LB: ... Cree.

CD: Cree.

LB: From Manitoba.

CD: Okay.

LB: Norway House.

CD: Very nice.

LB: Okay.

CD: And ... these medals say, Canadian Aboriginal War Veterans.

LB: Yes. Yes.

CD: Very nice. And what are you looking forward to, over the ... the few days here in Victoria?

LB: Oh ... I'm meeting a lot of good friends. No, it's, it's very good. A lot of ... guys that died, the last time, I hadn't seen for almost 40 years.

CD: Is that right?

LB: Yeah.

CD: That's wonderful.

LB: It is.

CD: Thank you so much for talking to me.

LB: Thank you.