

The Canadian Statesman Midlands Hold Annual Reunion

BOWMANVILLE, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1985



Following the traditional wreath laying ceremony at the Port Hope cenotaph, the veterans gathered alongside the monument honoring Lieutenant Colonel Arthur H. Williams, M.P., a

native of Port Hope who commanded the Midland Battalion of volunteers who took part in the historic Battle of Batoche during the rebellion in the Northwest Territories in 1885.



A short parade, led by the Millbrook Legion fife and drum band, followed the cenotaph ceremony along Queen and west on Walton Streets, past the saluting base, where LCol's Arthur Thorn, ED and John Leuty, ED, took the salute with Tom Davis,

MM and Frank Jiggins of Port Hope, alongside as aides. The reunion dismissed and held a get acquainted session at the Legion before participating in a regimental dinner headed by Ted Harwood and a dance.



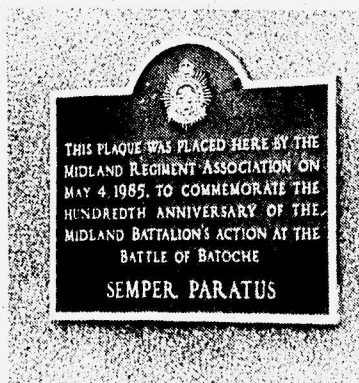
Senior surviving officers of the Midland Regiment, Cols. John Leuty and Arthur Thorn, lay memorial wreaths at the cenotaph in Port Hope

while the color party and veterans join in paying tribute to their fallen comrades in the several wars in which Canadians have participated.



Members of the Midland Regiment held their annual reunion in Port Hope on Saturday, starting with a church parade to St. Mark's Anglican Church where the regimental colors are deposited

for safekeeping. The Rev. Paul Walker was in charge of the service. Here, some of those attending assemble on the church lawn.



THIS PLAQUE WAS PLACED HERE BY THE MIDLAND REGIMENT ASSOCIATION ON MAY 4 1985 TO COMMEMORATE THE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIDLAND BATTALION'S ACTION AT THE BATTLE OF BATOCHÉ
SEMPER PARATUS

by Janine Foster

The Port Hope Royal Canadian Legion hosted the Midland Regiment reunion over the weekend.

The reunion marks the 100 anniversary of the Battle of Batoche (the Northwest Rebellion of Louis Riel) at which Durham units, under Col. Arthur Williams, fought.

The regiment has a long and varied history. The Durham militia fought in the War of 1812, the Northwest rebellion and both World Wars. The regiment encompassed a large area and underwent many name changes. Those who served with the Durham Regiment, Northumberland Regiment, the Trenton Guard, the Arsenal Guard (Lindsay), the Midland Regiment (active or the militia) were eligible to attend the reunion.

Registration for veterans took place at the Legion Friday evening. Organizers expected about 200 people to attend. On Saturday there was a service at St. Mark's Anglican church on King Street, followed by the placing of a new plaque on the Col. Arthur Williams monument at town hall and the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph in the park next to town hall. About 100 veterans then marched up Walton Street, past a salute base set up in front of Randall's book store. The salute was taken by Col. John Leuty.

Saturday evening was the re-dedicating of the Queen's colour of the 46th battalion, the forerunner to the Midland regiment. The colours were originally dedicated in 1886 by Queen Victoria and changed hands and were lost several times until they turned up when the old armories were demolished. Now framed and sealed, the colors were mounted in the George Corbett auditorium in the Legion.

A dinner and dance, attended by about 200, followed.



The Midland Regiment had prepared a special plaque commemorating the 100th anniversary of its participation in the famous Battle of Batoche in 1885. Con Fraser of Port Hope had the honor of unveiling this tribute to her great, great uncle while Ted Harwood stood alongside.



This is the imposing monument erected to honor Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur H. Williams, M.P. It stands in front of Port Hope's historic town hall, with the new plaque in place.