

Foreword by the Commanding Officer of The Loyal Company

The writing of this book has been a long and challenging process, punctuated by false starts, changes in direction, and awe-inspiring discoveries of our rich history and the relatively unknown contributions made by New Brunswick gunners in the defence of Canada.

The Loyal Company was initially formed in 1793 in response to threats to the City of Saint John and New Brunswick. The story of the first 100 years of the unit was told by Captain John B.M. Baxter in *Historical Records of the New Brunswick Regiment of Canadian Artillery*, published in 1896. As the unit's Bicentennial took place in 1993, discussions ensued regarding the requirement to officially record its history during a century that included two World Wars, the Korean conflict, and the Cold War. The project was launched by Honorary Colonel William Turnbull and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Neil McKelvey, and it was proposed that the book cover the regimental history for the second hundred years, from 1893 to 1993.

Despite the best efforts of the regimental leadership, the project suffered through a period of limited progress. In 2011, in an effort to re-energize the project, a partnership was formed between the Loyal Company Association and the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick. Lee Windsor, the Deputy Director of the Gregg Centre, was designated the lead for the project, and as a direct result of his dedication and enthusiasm, he was able to recruit a small army of researchers, who quickly became inspired by their discovery of the exploits of the New Brunswick Gunners and what their story revealed about Canada's military history.

While writing this book, we have endeavoured to add personal accounts from a variety of former members of the regiment to help us tell the story of the unit from the perspective of the soldiers behind the guns. This was accomplished through the use of journals, letters home to family and friends, and direct testimony. It had originally been planned to focus the research solely on 3rd Field Regiment, but as the work progressed it became clear that our history was in fact linked to the many batteries raised and trained by 3rd Field Regiment for service overseas and all those that no longer exist but whose honours and heritage are perpetuated by 3rd Field Regiment. It was also decided that this book would cover the period from 1893 until 2012, when the unit addendum “The Loyal Company” was officially returned to the unit title.

Many individuals have played major roles in producing this book. On behalf of the regiment, I would like to thank Honorary Colonel John Irving for taking over from Colonel Turnbull and Lieutenant-Colonel McKelvey and for being the driving force in the effort to complete the book. I would also like to thank Lee Windsor, Marc Milner, and the Gregg Centre for their outstanding support of this project, and Roger Sarty of Wilfrid Laurier University for giving freely of his time and effort. I am certain that they appreciate the significance of the history of the unit, for it is its history that gives a unit its strength to endure during difficult and trying times. Prior to the publication of this book, our recent history was an untold story.

This book tells the story of 3rd Field Regiment (The Loyal Company) and the soldiers who served in it over the past 120 years. It will inspire future generations of the regiment and will highlight the extraordinary accomplishments of New Brunswick Gunners. I urge all Canadians to take pride in what has been achieved by the members of this unit on behalf of Canada.

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Quo fas et gloria ducunt.
(Whither right and glory lead)