



PHOTOGRAPH BY/PHOTOGRAPHIE PAR JOHN EVANS

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA



BATTLE HONOURS

of

the 48th Highlanders of Canada

(those Battle Honours in capitals are emblazoned on the Regimental Colour)

SOUTH AFRICA 1899 - 1900

YPRES, 1915, '17
Gravenstavel
St. Julien
FESTUBERT, 1915
MOUNT SORREL
SOMME, 1916
Poizieres
Thiepval
Ancre Heights
Arras, 1917, '18
VIMY, 1917
Arleux
Scarpe, 1917, '18
HILL 70
PASSCHENDAELE
AMIENS

DROCOURT-QUEANT
Hindenburg Line
CANAL DU NORD
Pursuit To Mons
France And Flanders,
1915-'18
LANDING IN SICILY
Valguarnera
ASSORO
Agira
Adrano
Regalbuto
Sicily, 1943
Landing At Reggio
CAMPOBASSO
San Nicola-San Tommaso
Cassino II

Gustav Line
LIRI VALLEY
HITLER LINE
GOTHIC LINE
LAMONE CROSSING
Misano Ridge
RIMINI LINE
Torella
San Leonardo
The Gully
ORTONA
San Martino-San Lorenzo
Fosso Vecchio
Italy, 1943 - '45
APELDOORN
Northwest Europe, 1945



THE REGIMENT

Colonel in Chief
Honorary Colonel
Honorary Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
Regimental Headquarters
Cadet Corps
Associated Cadet Corps
Allied Regiment
Regimental Associations

Regimental Museum

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Colonel DC Haldenby CD
Brigadier General PAG Cameron OMM CD
Lieutenant Colonel HWG Mowat CD
Toronto, Ontario
48th Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps
St Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps
The Gordon Highlanders
Continuing Sergeants' Association, IODE, Ladies' Auxiliary, Life Members,
Officers' Association, Old Comrades' Association, Pipes and Drums Association
284 King Street East, Toronto.



THE FALCON

THE JOURNAL OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

VOLUME 7

DECEMBER 1987

EDITORIAL

In the business world, it is a well known fact that 90% of the sales are made by 20% of the salesmen.

Similarly, in most businesses and organizations, it is also a fact that 90% of the work is done by 20% of the employees.

A Regiment does not function at all with such disproportionate ratios. A regiment, like the army to which it belongs, must function as a totally committed team.

There are many occasions when we feel we can't be bothered going to the Armouries tonight, or going on a Church parade on Remembrance Sunday, or our uniform is in the cleaners, and so on, ad infinitum.

We've all heard the excuses, and to a greater or lesser extent, we're probably all guilty of having used one or more of them at one time or another.

Our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty the Queen, in her message to us on our 90th anniversary in 1981 said, in part:

"and I express my confidence that the Regiment's next 90 years will be as distinguished as the first"

This Regiment is a proud Regiment, and it has been made that way by men and women who gave 100% of their effort to it, not 20%, and if we are to be as distinguished in the next 90 years as our forebears were in the first, then it is up to each and every one of us to give 100% of our effort all the time.

The 100% effort of each of us MUST INCLUDE a sense of PURPOSE, a sense of DISCIPLINE and a sense of URGENCY, — no one sense can exist without the other two.

Think about it.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO

Cadet Piper Derrick Boast, 48th Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps. Cadet Piper Boast is the third Boast brother to be a 48th Cadet.

Editor Major JA Brown CD

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C COMPANY

by Captain K.J. McBey

Charlie Company is tasked as the 48th Highlanders' operational company with the responsibility of providing trained infantry personnel able to successfully engage in operations during all phases of war in addition to providing aid to civilian authorities when so requested. Although our primary employment is as mechanized infantry, (in accordance with the Regiment's equipment holding of the AVGP Grizzly Wheeled Personnel Carrier), leadership appointments in C Company exert considerable time and effort to ensure our effectiveness in maintaining a well-rounded, versatile and cohesive infantry company. A brief summary of Company training for the year 1987 will bear witness to this point.



Grizzly Commander, Cpl Bye Photo Courtesy Cpl Blanusca

For the months of January and February 1987, C Company trained in the 'Winter Warfare' basic skills required to survive and fight in cold weather environments. As the past two years of winter indoctrination field exercises had been cancelled due to a combination of mild weather, heavy rainfall, and pay budget restrictions, it was critical that training was conducted not only for new recruits but also for more experienced personnel who were getting rusty in cold weather skills due to lack of practical application. Soldiers were instructed and practiced in tent group routine, cold weather first aid, navigation and patrolling, as well as the safe and correct operation of equipment such as toboggans, snowshoes, arctic tents, stoves, lanterns etc. Apart from the training of our own soldiers in winter warfare skills, a training cadre was despatched to Ashtabula, Ohio, during the weekend 13-15 February in order to instruct American soldiers of the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment before having them join us for a winter field exercise in Camp Borden 20-22 February. We were delighted to be working once again with the 107th, having conducted a series of highly successful, mutually beneficial and enjoyable training exchanges with them over the last decade. To the relief and delight of C Company personnel and our American guests, the culminating field exercise closed a two month phase of training in a very successful fashion. Weather conditions were excellent complete with a light snowfall throughout the exercise, enabling the training accomplished to be truly reflective of operations in cold weather conditions.

Immediately upon completion of winter warfare training, C Company commenced 'Mechanized Infantry' workup exercises which concentrated on providing all ranks with a solid knowledge of the fundamentals of mechanized formations, hand signals, mount and dismount drills etc. During a weekend in early May, C Company practiced mechanized platoon/armoured troop 'held-up' and 'contact' drills with elements of the Royal Regiment and the Ontario Regiment. This mechanized training is always popular with Company personnel as we get to operate as part of a combined arms team and Company personnel will once again comprise the 'cutting edge' of a TMD Combat Team in October for a district-operated exercise pitting our mechanized soldiers against an enemy force performing dismounted delaying and defensive tactics.

The remainder of the spring and early summer was occupied in training Company personnel in a wide variety of military activities. Marksmanship was practiced by means of several outdoor range shoots at CFB Borden, and dismounted section and platoon battle drills were rehearsed in Borden and Meaford during May and June. Soldiers were instructed in the preparation, planning, layout and execution of hasty and deliberate ambushes with associated instruction in booby-traps and early-warning devices. Time was allocated for on-the-ground review and practice of navigational and map-using skills which are essential for successful execution of recon and fighting patrols. All of these skills were tested in an exercise in CFB Borden where a live enemy, known to the friendly forces as 'Scott's Suicide Squad', probed and made contact with platoon level forces conducting advance to contact, and quick attack drills. All ranks seemed to thoroughly enjoy the realistic training which included road blocks, booby-traps (which caused several simulated casualties and not a few red-faces of surprise and consternation!) and the unpredictability of a controlled, well-disciplined enemy force. This writer noted that a number of soldiers developed a much more careful and vigilant performance of their battle drills than had been the case in many past exercises!



A lean mean fighting machine - Cpl Jeffreys
Photo Courtesy Cpl Blanusca

The fall period has shifted training emphasis to defensive as opposed to offensive operations. Apart from instruction and practice in the proper preparation of defensive positions and patrolling, C Company has utilized the obstacle course in CFB Borden to give personnel confidence in overcoming walls, wire,

rope and other similar obstacles which they might encounter in the event of active service. Additionally, we have planned training in NATO and Warsaw Pact equipment and personnel, Artillery and Armour Fire Support (utilizing a 'puff table' which enables soldiers to see the results of fire missions which they have ordered over the radio), and we hope to utilize a moving picture 'Cine' range to practice instinctive combat shooting skills. Finally, we will conduct an infantry leadership course for section commanders, section 2ICs, and senior corporals in the Company's weapons and surveillance detachment. The emphasis will be on decision-making and leadership at the section level.

Socially, this past year has seen a number of C Company gatherings which work in conjunction with the training to give a sense of teamwork and Company esprit-de-corps. In March, despite a horrendous snowstorm which paralysed downtown Toronto, all ranks attended a C Company dinner at the 48th Highlanders Memorial Hall. The predominance of 'war stories' and informal mingling of all ranks led to what was a very pleasant affair, many personnel taking the liberty of stocking up on anti-freeze for the long transit ride home! Additionally, a Company Smoker was conducted with the focus being several films on Infantry and military leadership based on the 'Soldiers' series produced by the BBC. Apart from providing an interesting perspective to our chosen profession, many soldiers remarked on the essential unchanging nature of our infantry role from earliest days to the present: to close with and destroy the enemy. Regardless of armour, artillery or other arms support, Company personnel noted that infantry soldiers still had to personally ensure that the job was done properly, as evidenced by the Falklands War and events in Grenada.

Finally I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank those people who helped C Company in its training efforts over the past year; I only hope that I do not commit any errors of omission! First of all, the often taken-for-granted Regular Support Staff of Captains Cunningham and Waddell, WO MacIsaac, Sgt Carpenter and Cpl Wallace have performed many 'behind the scenes' miracles in fighting red tape and enabling training exercises to be conducted in a proper effective manner. Many thanks Gentlemen!

There have been a number of people who have served in C Company in 1987 but as of late have either been transferred intraregimentally or in a few cases have been forced to leave the 48th due to civilian job requirements: I would like to thank them for their efforts on behalf of all ranks of C Company. The following individuals made important contributions to the effectiveness of C Company over the past twelve months: Captains Stark & Bossi, 2Lt Frost, MWO Lyle, WO Jenkins, Sgt Scott, MCpl Vandevette, and Corporals Bowie, and Mills.

As a closing word, I would like to wish all members of C Company and the Regimental Family a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a great 1988!

D COMPANY

by Captain DS Johnson

September 1987 has brought virtually a complete change of command positions within D Company. The following make up the command appointments within the company:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Capt D.S. Johnson | Officer Commanding |
| Lt JD Stewart | Second in Command |
| 2Lt JS Tremblay | Platoon Commander - 10 Platoon |
| 2Lt JM MacMillan | Platoon Commander - 11 Platoon |
| 2Lt CJ Wheeler | Platoon Commander understudy |
| OCdt ED Wheeler | Platoon Commander understudy |
| Sgt WP Gillie | Company Sergeant Major |
| Sgt TG Scott | CQMS |
| Sgt WM Darling | Platoon Warrant - 10 Platoon |
| MCpl JL Van De Vegte | Platoon Warrant - 11 Platoon |
| MCpl R Potter | Section Commander - 10 Platoon |
| Cpl GJ Mills | Section Commander - 10 Platoon |
| Cpl GF Bowie | Section Commander - 10 Platoon |
| Pte DP Hrycay | Company Clerk/Company Communicator |
| Capt MA Bossi | Recruiting Officer |
| Sgt CL Shalapata | Recruiting NCO |
| Pte HM White | Recruiting Clerk |

Our goal for the company is to recruit and train two 30 - man infantry platoons plus fill the remaining service support roles. We feel this is an ambitious, yet achievable target. Certainly with the personnel listed above a high quality of training will be provided.

Recruiting, while being of immediate concern to the active regiment, is also a concern for all Highlanders. Four years from now we all want and expect to have four 50 - man guards on parade to Troop the Colours in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief. This can only happen if we all make a concentrated effort to recruit. If you know someone you think would make a good Highlander have him contact us or pass us his name and phone number!

The Company training philosophy for this year is somewhat different from previous years. In the past, we have felt compelled to work virtually every second weekend in order to bring a soldier to be a qualified Infantryman by June.

This year, we are going to "slow down" the training so that in most cases we will only work one weekend a month. In order to complete the training, 10 and 11 Platoons will undergo training daily during the month of July. This will replace the Summer Youth Employment Program, and will provide employment for the members of 10 and 11 Platoons for part of the summer. Courses or Milcon should then round out their employment for the summer.

It is our intention to put some of the fun back into being a Highlander - when we work we will work - but we will also find the time to enjoy being a Highlander.

Near Meaford this summer, a Grizzly was making a right-hand turn, when a zipper-head in a jeep creashed into the rear of the Griz. "Hey," whined the jeep jockey, "why didn't you put your hand out to let me know you were about to turn right?" "WHAT +S%ô GOOD WOULD THAT HAVE DONE?" screamed the infantry driver indignantly. "IF YOU COULDN'T SEE AN ENTIRE GRIZZLY IN FRONT OF YOU, HOW THE +S%ô WOULD YOU HAVE NOTICED MY HAND SIGNAL!"

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

by Captain DB Beaton

Headquarters Company's role is to provide the support required by the other companies to successfully conduct their training as planned. The company is sub-divided into Signals, Transport and Logistics Platoons.

The company had a successful year, conducting a Driver Non-Trade course and an STI Infantry Comms course. We also qualified the unit's drivers on the new Iltis 1/2-ton vehicle. The company participated in the battalion's field exercises and sometimes acted as enemy force, most notably during the Exercise HAMMURABI in September '86. We also provided some valuable support to the Regular Force's Exercise RV 87 this past spring.

There has been a considerable change in personnel this year. In Sigs Platoon, Sgt MacKay has traded companies with WO Jenkins who becomes the new Signals NCO. Lt Hergel remains in command of the platoon, consisting of MCpls Wood and Cornish, Cpls Blakely, Mack and Colman and the newly-joined Cpls Louie and Rivers. Transport has both a new Officer and a new NCO: the former Tpt Officer, Lt Turner and Cpls Coffey and Theodorakidis have been transferred out of the company and are probably thoroughly enjoying themselves rolling about in mud and filth somewhere. The new Transport Officer, 2Lt Frost is joined by Sgt Fitzgerald, from QM, Cpls Bachelder, Plaum and Thompson and Ptes Smith and St Germain as well as those remaining with Tpt from last year, Cpls Gordon, Darroch, Treble, Starke, Cassar and Elliott and Pte Strachan. Log Platoon remains much as last year, with Lt Paterson as QM, Sgt Ross as RQMS and their staff of MCpl Rosa and Cpls Davidson, Kierstead, McBurney and Philip. They are joined this year by Sgt Fountain from Tpt Platoon. As for Company headquarters MWO Walker remains with us as CSM and we are to be joined by a new arrival, Lt Birchall, as Company 2IC, hopefully before this magazine arrives for your reading enjoyment. The company also is well-served by its signaller, MCpl Slater.

As the new Company Commander, I wish to express the entire company's best wishes to all our departing personnel, particularly our former OC Maj Andrew Roberts. We will sorely miss his ken and experience, and thank him for the many years of service he has devoted to the Regiment as a whole. To those who now join us from other companies I extend the company's welcome and hope you enjoy your new positions and duties.

The company has two key objectives it hopes to fulfil during this year's training schedule. The first goal is to fill all the unit's available Support trades positions with fully qualified personnel. The second objective is to restore an old Regimental tradition which, for various reasons, has not been observed for several years - the Turner Shoot. I am sure many in the Regimental Family look forward, as keenly as we, to firing at targets during the most miserable weather possible and then celebrating our survival at the dinner afterwards.

On behalf of the entire company, I extend our invitation to all those readers who find such a prospect appealing to join us at this year's Turner Shoot and to contact us for further information.

PIPES AND DRUMS

by Corporal Steingaszner IC

It's a tough life in the Canadian Forces. Training is the only way to maintain and improve the multiplicity of skills required as a piper or drummer in the Regiment and the Canadian Forces. To be a piper or drummer in this Regiment, one has to be a soldier, a musician, a historian, a public relations representative and a recruiter. Most of the training for these roles is provided internally by the Pipe Major, Drum Major and other senior members of the Regiment in their relevant fields of expertise. Many of the courses required for promotion in the Canadian Forces are however, outside the regimental structure and involve large time commitments both in week blocks or a large number of weekends. Many of the course exemptions previously enjoyed by pipers and drummers have been removed. This requires many of the members of the Pipes and Drums to travel outside of the Regimental Family structure in search of training. To this end, many places far away from the familiar, albeit unsanitary, sounds and smells of Moss Park are well known to many bandmen - CFB Borden, CFB Esquimaux, CFB Halifax, Bermuda. Bermuda you say?

Bermuda is proof of the high degree of determination of all personnel in the Pipes and Drums to engage in all training as positions are available. Those left behind due to other commitments were deeply disappointed in not being able to participate in what promised to be a period of very intense training. They were not proved wrong.

The Pipes and Drums left on Easter Sunday for an eight day (for some it turned out to be nine) excursion to Bermuda. Accommodation was in the barracks of the Bermuda Regiment. These fellows were very hospitable, opening their Sergeants' Mess to all ranks. No doubt the prospect of material profit was a consideration on their part.

The Pipes and Drums did not actually have to play until the Thursday after Easter Sunday. This left ample time for band members to engage in individual training programmes such as scuba diving, learning the fine art of becoming a beach-bum and touring the island. Training was continued back at the Sergeants' Mess where debriefing was carried out until the wee hours of the morning. It was in these debriefing periods that a few of the younger members of the Pipes and Drums displayed their eagerness to engage in airborne jump training by falling out of their chairs at frequent intervals. Others enjoyed the beach activities so much that they never did get all of the sand out of their kit. As a result, the sand inventory of the island was greatly depleted.



Pipes & Drums and Military Band, Bermuda



Rehearsing in Bermuda

During this period, the Bermuda Regiment continued with its own training programme which included riot control. With the members of the Pipes and Drums happily training themselves into oblivion in the Sergeants' Mess and the barracks, the Bermuda Regiment set up a mock riot control on their parade square complete with gasoline bombs and rubber bullets. Service in the Bermuda Regiment, the only regiment in the Bermuda forces, is compulsory for all natives. It must have been a uniquely pleasing feeling for some to be able to torch their own parade square.

The Bermuda Regiment is composed of two companies, one artillery and the other infantry. The Artillery company leases its two field pieces from a local association. The barrel of one 25 pounder is so badly warped that it cannot fire live rounds. It is used for purely ceremonial occasions. It is rare that any rounds live or blank are authorized for use. The inclusion of the 1812 Overture in the closing ceremonies turned the generally rational members of the Artillery Company into raving pyromaniacs. Timing distortion due to the distance between various sections of a massed band is always a major concern for any director of music. The members of the Artillery Company must have been aware of this so they placed their 25 pounder thirty feet away facing point blank at the flank of the band. At the first cannonade in the Overture, the music was blown out of the lyres of the military band, the entire band deafened and showered with glowing embers of wadding blown from the muzzle of the field piece. To ensure that confusion was total, the Artillery Company set off twenty-three smoke canisters, all in the confines of the arena. In this totally deafened and gassed state, the Pipes and Drums returned to the Sergeants' Mess (more training) with some members feeling like veterans of the first battle of Ypres.

The concluding action of the visit was the exchange of plaques between the Bermuda Regiment and the Pipes and Drums with the Pipe Major, Drum Major and Military Band Sergeant Major Brian (Benny Hill) MacInnis being made honorary members of the Bermuda Regiment. In the case of the Drum Major, it was probably in appreciation of his 'finding' the bell in the Sergeants' Mess a number of times and of course, requiring the mandatory free round for everyone.

The return from Bermuda forced everyone to get back to some semblance of order since the band had entered a small contingent in the grade two category of the highland games circuit. The results for the season were as follows:

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Georgetown | - 4th |
| Welland | - 4th |
| Barrie | - 5th |
| Fergus | - 4th |

This was the first time the band had entered in the competition circuit since 1981. The intention for next year is to have both a grade two and grade three band entered. This plan is already in the implementation stage with the grade three band being led by WO Pringle. The objective of this competition approach is firstly to raise the general playing quality of the entire band and to attract new people by having the band compete at the highland games. A subsidiary effect is that the Regiment gets free publicity in all the games where the Pipes and Drums compete. When considered in terms of the thousands that attend Fergus it gives the Regiment a unique recruiting opportunity.

Other training opportunities came up in the form of the Nova Scotia Tattoo which is run on an annual basis, in Halifax. Band members were put up in a local university residence and had frequent opportunities to engage in various training activities and submarine watches throughout their stay.

Future activities include a planned return trip to Bermuda (even more training) and various trips to the United States.



More rehearsing in Bermuda

MILITARY BAND by Bandsman Campbell, K

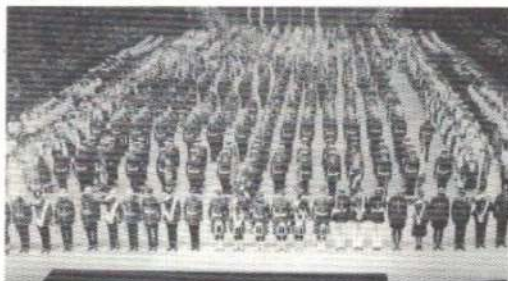
As we greet the cool breezes of autumn with open arms, the Military Band of the 48th Highlanders of Canada winds down from yet another exhilarating and prosperous summer of professional music. With these breezes blows the anticipation of upcoming yearly engagements such as the endurance contest known commonly as the Metro Santa Claus Parade, and the flirt with an icy demise at Maple Leaf Gardens as the combined bands open the next, hopefully successful, hockey season.

But looking back, our year has been packed with many great musical experiences, the most prominent being our country calling us to serve in the sunny paradise of Bermuda.

Only one unit in the city could produce a professional combined band to present a dazzling show on only one week's notice. Hearty congratulations go to our members for diligently perfecting a complex marching routine as planned by Drum Major Fullerton which would please the eager crowds.

The Finale and highlight of our tour was performing the 1812 Overture with the Band of the Bermuda Regiment. Shrouded in the smoke of an ancient battle, and set upon by the fire of a 25 pound cannon, the glorious finale was received with thunderous applause and cheers of sheer delight. The spectators, too, enjoyed the concert.

Cheers and the exchange of gifts followed and customary festivities continued later in the Corporals' Mess. The wit and musical energy of the Bermudians will be missed by all of us.



Grand Finale, Nova Scotia Tattoo

For the historical records, it must be noted that this excursion included for the first time in the history of this band a female musician, namely Jennifer Harman, who has been an integral member of our trumpet section for several years.

If you went to the Better Living Centre at the Exhibition this year in hopes of finding your favourite military band, you would have been out of luck as the band had assumed its proper position for two stunning concerts, at the CNE Bandshell. However, this year's extravaganza was not accompanied by Sgt John Murray's pyrotechnics and percussive barrage of artillery. Instead, we had the fiery wit of our Band Sgt Major Brian MacInnes, who had them rolling in the aisles.

Any of you perusing the local music scene in the spring would have seen advertisements for a 'pull-out-all-stops' Military Tattoo, including all of the Toronto based Military Bands and Pipes and Drums, some fire and brimstone, and shows of military skill: all sponsored by Knob Hill Farms whom we acknowledge and thank immensely. Playing to a decent crowd for two shows,



The parade square of the Bermuda Regiment's Warwick Camp proved an adequate testing ground for newly composed 48th Highlanders Combined Bands Motorcycle Display Team

the sound of music and pageantry was enjoyed by all in attendance at Varsity Arena. Part of the enjoyment was definitely the inclusion of arrangements by our Director of Music, Captain William Hughes. Keep writing them, sir! The talent of our director extends itself to the point of also making him one of the top-ranked flutists in the world.

These, along with many other prestigious engagements as the Labour Day parade, regimental functions and parades, and our own social events round out the diverse duties of the past season with the Military Band.

One of those social events was our band golf day for which we thank our bass drummer, Rick Glover, for all his hard work.

Several of our members have now headed back to university and so we wave good-bye to Malcolm Crawford, Dan Abraham, John Murray, Darcy McFadyen, and Paul van der Bank. They promise to be back next summer for another dose of the effervescent excitement the band provides with its live music.

In the works, we have arrangements for a Military Band reunion on the Regimental weekend in May 1988. The co-chairmen are Major Donald Keeling and WO Keith Harding. We are all quite excited about this and anxiously await the events planned.

Further to the future are major undertakings to restructure the entire musical library. The contents are perhaps the largest and best in musical circles and will involve much time and personnel.

As we proudly march into 1988 wearing the Davidson tartan, and maintaining the Regimental reputation for proficiency, we set our sights on new plateaux of musical virtuosity and professionalism, putting forth the respected and honourable image of our Regiment for the whole world to see. **DILEAS GU BRATH.**

REGIMENTAL HOCKEY TEAM

By now, any hockey player worth his salt would have responded to the hockey alarm by putting on his hockey mask, then banging two skates or sticks together, alerting any other hockey players in the vicinity. Now that all the furore has died down from the Canada Cup, it's time for the Regiment to mobilize its own hockey team!

The FALCONS will play Monday nights, at Chesswood Arena, in a no-contest league. The season will be thirty games long, and if we're lucky, we may still be playing after the Maple Leafs! Come on out, whether you're a player or a fan, and support the Regiment.

If you're interested in playing, please speak to Capt Bossi, MWO McGuffin, Sgt Darling, or MWO McVety (Hmmm - HQ Coy isn't very well represented, so far).

By the way, don't be afraid that you might not make the team - the aim of this hockey is to get together once a week, put on the blades, and get some EXERCISE. See you on the ice!



Courtesy 'BYDAND'

YOU ARE THE REGIMENT'S BEST RECRUITER!

We could spend thousands of dollars on posters, ads, brochures, etc., and we wouldn't be getting even half as many recruits as we get from word-of-mouth. Why? A sign can only say so much, and can only be in one place at a time. On the other hand, YOU can answer almost any question a recruit may have, while members of our Regiment visit almost every corner of Toronto at one time or another. Therefore, it's important to remember that you are a Highlander, even when you are at work, school, or even out shopping! If you're wearing a Regimental jacket or T-shirt, and especially when you're in uniform, remember that people are watching you - even if you can't see them. Stand up straight, smile, don't be afraid to answer 'dumb questions'. Believe it or not, there are some civilians who don't even realize that Canada has an army, let alone an army reserve! Besides, it can only take a minute of your time, and maybe "the lady on the subway" has a son or brother who would make a good infantryman, or perhaps "that little kid on the street" might grow up 'wanting to be just like that soldier' he met one day.

JUNIOR RANKS' MESS

by Cpl Coffey A, PMC

Once again it's time to put pen to paper and let y'all know what's being going on in the mess for the last year. Well... it's been a quiet year for us. The Regiment had (or seemed to have) a part or parts of it away most weekends and so it was difficult to arrange activities around things. However we have acquired a new TV and VCR and have had several successful movie afternoons as an after EX. activity. Attendance has been light but those who have come have enjoyed themselves.

I would like to thank the previous mess committee for the good work they did last year and for leaving us in good financial shape for the coming year. Last year the Mess Committee consisted of:

Cpl Karr C: PMC

MCpl Iusi M: VPMC

Cpl Sargeant I: Treasurer

The whole Mess would like to congratulate Cpl Sargeant on his promotion (!?) to the Officers' Mess. We'll miss your presence, Mr Sargeant.

This year the Mess Committee consists of two rookies and one rerun (this writer)

Cpl Coffey A: PMC

Cpl Jones G: VPMC

Cpl Gordon W: Treasurer

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the members that 'dues will be due' at the beginning of the New Year. This year will not be raising the rates, so none can say we aren't giving you a break on inflation.

The Mess extends its wishes for a good Holiday season and a prosperous New Year to all current and former members.

OFFICERS' MESS

by Maj JA Brown CD, PMC

The New Year started off in it's usual way with a full breakfast having been cooked, from 0600hrs on, by members of both the active Mess and the Officers' Association. Have you ever fried bacon in no. 1 blues? Not recommended.

During the year we had the usual social events, among them being a very successful Burns' Dinner in January, a Dominion Day barbecue at Colonel Trumbull Warren's home at Puslinch and of course the 48th Ball in November. The 'honour' if it can be called that, of being the Ball Chairman this time fell to LCol Roy Beckett who did a super job. Having been Ball Chairman two years ago, this writer can't help thinking that the 'honour' must

really be either the Commanding Officer's method of doling out punishment for some horrendous, long-forgotten military crime, or possibly to remind us that he, the CO, is a direct descendent of the Marquis de Sade. We wonder who will be the 'lucky' Ball Chairman in 1989??

We are currently working on a programme of replacing and/or refurbishing the furniture in the Mess, and hopefully this will be completed in the time for the 100th anniversary in 1991.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Andrew Roberts who has moved on to TMD, to Brian Bartley who is now at CMA, and to Bob Parry who, we are told, is thinking about starting the 2nd Battalion in Mississauga.

All in all, we have had a good year in the Mess, we have seen many visitors not the least of whom was Grenville Irvine-Fortescue of the Gordons who dropped in to the Ball after the Gordons' Drums & Pipes performance at Maple Leaf Gardens.

On behalf of all Members of the Mess, I would like to wish all of you, the Regimental Family of the Regiment, our best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas season.



BGEN Barnes Presents the award for Top Candidate on the BCT I Infantry Qualifying Course to 2Lt Peter MacGowan

SERGEANTS' MESS

by Sgt MacKay F, Mess Secretary

The past year has, as usual, been a busy time for the Sergeants' Mess, a time during which more effort and sweat has been expended than ever before.

Since the last issue of the Falcon, the regiment has embarked on a gruelling training schedule which has demanded the attentions and talents of all members of the mess. Many were called upon to serve regular Tuesday and Friday nights as well as every weekend for months at a time without a break.

As a reward for all this unusual devotion to duty, the Captain D Eaton trophy for the best Senior NCO was shared by Sgt Ron Alkema of C Company and Sgt Peter Ross of HQ Company. Both had richly deserved the award, and all members were pleased that they had finally been recognized.

The Department of National Defence has made Senior NCO qualifications harder to obtain but they did not stop MCpl John Van de Vegte who was finally promoted into the Mess in September.

The Sergeants' Mess continued its long standing tradition of dealing the Officers' Mess a humiliating defeat in the MacKenzie Shoot last April. Interestingly, Lt Col Mowat and Captain of the Rifle Team were tied for top score in the shoot. The CO's marksmanship did not save his brother officers however, who went down to a mortifying defeat more severe than any known previously in the annals of military marksmanship. (*You should have been a politician, Sgt MacKay, with all those exaggerations and terminological inexactitudes!! — Ed.*)

Our mess was privileged to share the marriage of Sgt Curt Shalapata and Miss Shiela Johnson last June, an event which had been anticipated for many years. The wedding reception was quickly taken over by Highland NCOs who turned it into a combination mess dinner, highland dancing contest and wake. An excellent time was had by all.

As this issue of the Falcon goes to press, the Sergeants' Mess is steeling itself for another year as the driving force behind the nation's finest militia regiment.

RIFLE TEAM

by Sgt MacKay F

The 1986/87 shooting year was a busy one for the 48th Highlanders Small Arms team, and one which proved to be extremely rewarding.

In October, the team started off the year by placing second in the 2 Field Engineer Regiment smallbore shoot, missing the trophy by only six points out of a possible 900. The winter took the individual aggregate trophy, relieving the Engineers of it for the first time in nine years.

The following April, the team placed consistently in the top ten in every event of the ORA and CMA shoots. The Regiment was officially recorded as 4th out of 32 units in rifle, but the SMG and Pistol teams placed decidedly lower in the statistics. Cpl Mike Tintor, a two year veteran of the team, won the 200 metre accelerated fire aggregate at the ORA Championship.

During the summer months, the team was fortunate enough to have Sgt MacKay, Cpl Fabry and Cpl Tintor once again selected to shoot on the CMA Rifle Team at the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competitions in Ottawa. At this point, the team's luck began to run out, and no member of the team had any large victory. A fellow member of the CMA team however, Sgt George West of the RHLLI, won the Queen's Medal for marksmanship for the second year in a row. Members of the 48th team were prominent among those who helped carry him in the chair of victory to receive his decoration.

Finally, this writer asked to be relieved of command of the rifle team after five years in the job. He relinquished his position to MWO Mark McVety who will be better equipped to lobby for the rifle team's needs.

If the unit decides to support their rifle team more strongly this year, our marksmen have no reason to doubt that they can sweep the field at the upcoming competitions. 48th expertise and experience are second to none, but we require support and training time to remain competitive in an atmosphere filled with other hungry competitors.

TEAM MEMBERS 1986-87

| RIFLE | SMG PISTOL |
|----------------|------------------|
| Sgt Mackay F | Capt IAG Cameron |
| Cpl Tintor M | Sgt Yong T |
| Cpl Fabry T | Cpl Blakely E |
| Cpl Tapin D | |
| Cpl Jeffreys P | |



L to R: Cpl Tintor, Sgt Mackay, Cpl Blakely, Cpl Fabry at CFSAC '87

FROM THE PADRE

by Captain D Nelson

It started out with the soup bowl. I had not taken the DCO's warning seriously enough, and therefore found myself, along with six other chaplains accompanied by a very tall Sergeant Major, waiting in line in a barber shop somewhere in CFB Petawawa. An hour later portions of my scalp which had not seen daylight for at least a decade basked in the sun's rays.

Having been sworn in two days prior to arriving, I was not too familiar with the ins and outs of military procedure. This lack became increasingly apparent over the first few days. Classroom instruction went quite well; our first time on the parade ground was a disaster. We were told our berets looked like pancakes and our performance was related (politely) to a certain portion of human anatomy. We were always thankful to return to the classroom.

As a matter of fact, by mid-course, it seemed that we were always returning to the classroom. We heard lectures on every possible topic from conducting worship services in the field to how to conduct oneself on the artillery range. One afternoon was spent out in the bush establishing a radio communications net. After four hours the instructor was satisfied with our ability, or at least our attempts, so he secured the equipment in his jeep and left. We piled into our truck which promptly backed up over a spent shell casing and blew a tire. So there we were. Four hours earlier we had the radios but needed knowledge. Now we had the knowledge but needed a radio. There's got to be a sermon illustration in there somewhere.

Speaking of illustrations, there is possibly nothing more illustrative than a group of padres in a helicopter for the first time, especially with the doors open and performing what seemed to be an inordinate number of left and right rolls. The detailing of the top branches of northern Ontario trees is incredible, if one is in a frame of mind to appreciate such things. The walk from the landing pad back to the truck was long and meditative.

The final day of the course was a full day of testing, followed by a course dinner. Because this was the first course run exclusively for chaplains, Colonel Aitchison, the Commanding Officer, was presented with a suitably inscribed course plaque. A fine evening in the mess brought the course to a close.

D'YE MIND AU



Visitors' Day, Niagara Camp 1943 - On extreme right, Pipe Major James Fraser



*Pte C Tyles, 15th Battalion 1915
Photo Courtesy Pte Barry*



University Avenue Armouries 1959



Niagara Camp 1946 *L to R:
2Lt JA Bradfield, 2Lt JA Ramesbottom,
2Lt JA Cowan, 2Lt WA Kelly*

LD LANG SYNE?



*Pte John I Davidson 1940
Grandson of Lt Col John I Davidson,
First Commanding Officer*



The "Highland Company" of the Queen's Own Rifles 1861



Trooping the Colours, England, during WW2

It was a course which I would have been sorry to miss, and therefore I thank everyone who assisted in overcoming the bureaucratic obstacles which could have prevented my attendance. It was a time of learning, but more important, it was a time when I realized how much I, and we, become comfortable with the "familiar", comfortable to the point of avoiding situations which we are not used to, or to which we have never been exposed.

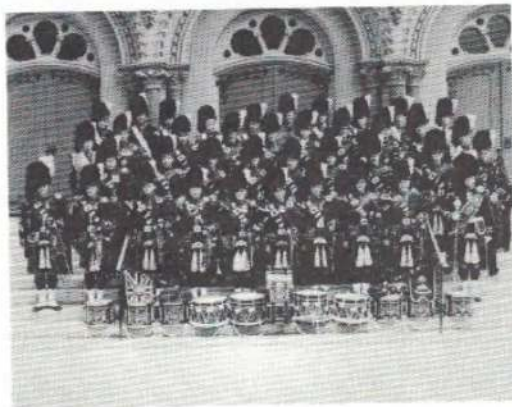
Let's face it, if the Padre can hang out of a helicopter door at five hundred feet, maybe Church Parade isn't so bad after all.

A MESSAGE FROM ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

It can be firmly said that the connection between St. Andrew's Church and the 48th Highlanders of Canada is much more than a mere formal relationship. The Regiment was raised in 1891 within the congregation and from the very beginning many of its Officers and men were members and adherents of the Church. While the regimental personnel has naturally changed greatly through the years so that its members have many denominational affiliations, the association with St. Andrew's as the "mother church" where the Regiment's Colours are laid up remains strong and meaningful.

It is to be hoped we can recognize that the association is much more than simply historical. St. Andrew's stands on the corner of King and Simcoe Streets, in all the beauty and strength of its Scottish baronial architecture, as a constant symbol to all who enter in and to all who pass by of the sovereignty, the Lordship of God over the whole of life; the Lordship which He exercises in Jesus Christ. It is a reminder, along with the other cathedral churches of downtown Toronto, a strong reminder, among all the towering symbols of worldly power, that only as the human race finds its true life in the fellowship and service of God can life be beautiful and strong and free from all injustice and oppression as human beings live in mutual helpfulness, brotherhood and peace.

Those affirmations are at the heart of human life and destiny. They are at the heart of the life of the Regimental Church, the Mother Church of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. As in the past, so in the future may the Regiment draw inspiration from its spiritual home in being strong and vigilant against all that would threaten the true beauty and freedom of life and supportive of all that contributes to life's true fulfillment.



The Pipes and Drums outside St. Andrew's Church at the Regimental Church Parade

REGULAR SUPPORT STAFF

by Sgt Carpenter G

The regular support staff (RSS), readily acknowledges Major JA Brown, the Editor of the Falcon, for giving us the opportunity to publish this article. We are especially pleased since this column will now become a regular feature in future Falcon publications. By being a contributor, we hope to give Falcon readers a better understanding of our role with the active members of the 48th Highlanders. Subsequently you will become more aware of just how the regular and reserve forces continue to work together as a team. In this article we will discuss briefly, the responsibilities of the RSS and describe the recent white paper proposals regarding the defence policy for Canada.

Let's first explain our present regular force positions with the 48th Highlanders. Our job titles, in order of rank, are the Unit Support Officer (Capt), the Unit Training Assistant (WO), the Unit Administrative Assistant (Sgt) and the Unit Support NCO (Cpl).



l. to R: Sgt Carpenter, Cpl Wallace, WO MacIsaac, Capt Waddell

The Unit Support Officer, Captain Waddell, belongs to the First Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1PPCLI). He was posted to the 48th Highlanders from Calgary, Alberta on 15 July 1987. His responsibility is to provide training, administrative advice and assistance to the Commanding Officer of the 48th Highlanders. Captain Waddell reports directly to the Chief of Staff at Toronto Militia District Headquarters. He also supervises the 48th Highlanders' RSS Members and monitors their performance, thus ensuring a high standard of assistance to the unit.

The Unit Training Assistant (UTA), Warrant Officer MacIsaac, belongs to the First Royal Canadian Regiment (1RCR). He was posted in from London, Ontario on 11 August 1986. WO MacIsaac is infantry trained and is responsible for ensuring that unit training is conducted effectively and safely. Subsequently he maintains close contact with key unit personnel and accompanies them on various training exercises and courses. His past experiences in the field make him a definite asset to the operational side of this unit. Either the USO or the UTA, or both, accompany the unit on weekend training. However, during major exercises both the USO and UTA accompany the unit.

The Unit Administrative Assistant (UAA), Sergeant Carpenter, is trained in administration. He was posted to the 48th Highlanders from the Canadian Forces Applied Research Unit, Toronto, Ontario on 03 July 1985. He is responsible for ensuring all administrative tasks are dealt with and performed in a professional manner. Some of his administrative tasks duties include recruiting documentation, non-effective documentation, typing, personal

development and acting in an advisory capacity. He also assists the unit by helping them in making travel arrangements and arranging accommodations for unit members away on course and call-outs.

The Unit Support NCO (USNCO), Corporal Wallace, belongs to 1PPCLI. He was posted from Calgary, Alberta on 15 July 1985. He carries out duties detailed by the USO and the UTA. His job requires him to maintain close contact at CFB Toronto in the base supply and maintenance section. He orders and returns equipment to base supply and fills out work orders to repair equipment that must be in working order. He also assists the Unit Quartermaster in organizing work parties on a required basis.

In the White Paper (a fifteen year programme), there are many changes down the road affecting the Militia. The White Paper is of particular significance to the reserve forces since the reserves will soon become more attractive to the civilian sector. Most importantly the various reserve units will be broken down into brigades similar to the regular army. To achieve brigade status the strength of each reserve unit will be increased significantly. Then each unit will be given specific wartime tasks. As you can see, by this progression we will be better equipped to defend Canada and meet our commitment to our allies. For example, some new equipment mentioned in the White Paper includes tanks, helicopters and nuclear powered submarines. The personal benefits include improvements in pay to the reserves, more defence spending (not less than 2 percent per year), and the trend towards reducing the distinction between the regular and reserve force personnel, thereby creating a total force concept.

As you can see, there are many substantial and positive changes in store for the reserves and regular forces as the White Paper takes effect. Year by year, it will be interesting monitoring how the total force concept is implemented until a formidable force is created. Although we are now in the early stages of change, the reserves and regular forces will benefit in every way.

THE CADET CORPS

by Captain A Stark

The Cadet Corps closed the past training year with a change of command. Captain Patricia Wigle, who served as Commanding Officer for two years, handed the Corps over to the writer, who had been the training officer for the past three years.

2Lt Stuart Kellock, who had been on the supplementary list for a number of years, returned to active strength, and will take over as the Corps Training Officer.

The other officers on strength are 2Lt Geoffrey Nyboer in Supply Section and 2Lt Jane Jamnik in Administration.

The officers who run the Cadet Corps are not Regimental Officers, but are members of the Cadet Instructor List, a component of the Canadian Forces Reserve.

We get our support from the Area Cadet Office at CFB Toronto (Downsview), but more especially, at a local level, from the Regiment.

It is sometimes frustrating trying to run the Corps on a limited budget, and with limited support from the Canadian Forces, so any support from the Regiment is greatly appreciated.

Please keep this in mind, we are, after all, helping the junior members of the regimental family, and the youth of our country. If you can be of any help in the future, don't wait to be asked. Any assistance, no matter how small, will be appreciated by everyone involved with the Cadet Corps.

Together, we can make the 48th Highlanders Cadet Corps work.

At the time of writing this article, the Cadet Corps strength is just under forty male and female cadets, including the Cadet Pipes and Drums. One of our top priorities for this training year is to build up the strength of the Corps and I feel that one of our

best sources of recruits should be from within our own regimental family.

Everyone reading this magazine has a son or daughter, grandchildren, brothers or sisters, or young friends who may be interested in our Cadet Corps.

Tell them about us and bring them down to see the Corps, what have they got to lose?

Bring them down to the cadet orderly room in the basement of the armouries, we will take over from there. We are looking for young men and women between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, for further information, see our recruiting poster on the inside back cover.



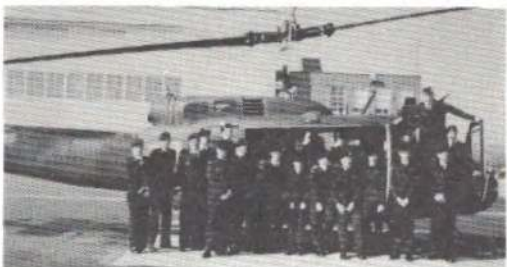
Massed Pipes, Drums and Banjos, Palmyra NY

We also have the Cadet Pipes and Drums who receive musical instruction as well as cadet training. We have piping instructors, but no drumming instructor. We are desperately in need of cadets for the Pipes and Drums, if we do not get any, we will have to give some thought to disbanding the Cadet Pipes and Drums.

During the past training year, we had three cadets who competed for, and were awarded, the Gold Star Level, which is the top cadet training level award available, this is done at a central Ontario testing level at CFB Toronto and CFB Borden.

We are proud to have Sgt Grzela, Sgt Pankatz and Cpl Smith as the three cadets having achieved their Gold Star Cadet Status, and wish them well for the future.

Some of the highlights of our past training year are as follows, during the winter, we won the Central Ontario Cadet Biathlon Competition at CFB Borden, this is our second year in a row as gold medal winners, and we will be entering again this coming winter.



48th Cadets at USAF Base, Niagara Falls, NY

We also had exercise and range week-ends at CFB Borden, and the ranges at Winona and Niagara-On-The-Lake, also winter and spring camping exercises at Colonel Warren's property at Puslinch.

We spent two week-ends in the United States, one of them being at the U.S. Airforce base in Niagara Falls, New York.

For the 1987 - 1988 training year, we already have seven exercises scheduled between September and December, and look forward to a great deal more in the New Year.

At the beginning of this article, I mentioned that the officers of the Cadet Corps are not regimental officers, but CIL Officers. Let me say that the Officers and Cadets of the 48th Highlanders Cadet Corps are proud to be members of the regimental family.

TALES OF THE 48th

by Cpl Hearns BG

The first words the American Colonel heard as he stepped off the bus were:

"Welcome to Finland Falls!" The ju-jubes attacked earlier but we drove them off!"

The 107th Armoured Cavalry, Ohio National Guard, had arrived to do a winter exercise with the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

Warped humour ran rampant that weekend. The Americans were told to beware of 'Slush Alligators', avoid 'Golo-gophers' as they have a mean bite, and if you are bitten by a 'snow snake', pour beer in your mukluk to draw out the poison.

Indeed, But the Americans got their own back, too. We had a Canadian platoon warrant, and an American officer. Now everyone knows how an Orders Group is supposed to work; Situation, mission, execution, service support, command and signals. The Section Commanders were waiting, with all the headings written up ready for the orders. The American lieutenant walked up and said:

"Gentlemen, on the other side of that open field right there is our enemy." Okay fine. "They're dug in right over there." Good stuff. "Hey-diddle-diddle, straight down the middle! We move in ten!"

The men stood in stunned silence. Finally one managed to stutter out a short, gasp "What?! the . . . ?!"

Sgt Bill Darling said it best: "Never, in my eight years in this army, have I ever heard an Orders Group like "Hey-diddle-diddle, straight down the middle!" "But," he said. "You want to know the best part? I've never been on attack that worked so well."

Everybody has a 'War Story' to tell. Everyone remembers someone doing something stupid, funny or memorable, like the time the guy in the trench next to me tried to seat the round in his magazine against his helmet. . . . except that at the time, he was wearing a soft cap.

We carried him back to the CQ tent, where he recovered but we still laugh about him in the mess as we lie to each other about how much we love the army.

Deep down, maybe we really do love the army. Certainly there are many times we wish we were somewhere, anywhere else, than in a water-filled trench at two o'clock in the morning in freezing rain. And shivering so hard that you couldn't even see through the sight of a rifle that you couldn't hold anyway, because your hands are too numb to grip...

Ah madness. Most militiamen agree that we are a little unbalanced to spend our weekends as we do. Obviously, we do it for memories.

The original idea here was to write about some great exercises, which by their scope and nature would, of themselves, make great stories.

The trouble, I discovered very quickly, is that no one remembers, or admits to remembering, any great exercises.

The only stories anyone likes to hear are usually libellous or contain allegations which, if published, could seriously damage someone's career (i.e. mine).

To be remembered, stories must be funny, like the one about the sergeant-major leading an attack across a stream. He tripped halfway across and plunged underwater.

When he resurfaced, the sergeant-major looked like the Creature from the Swamp, all covered in mud. His rainsuit was so full of water, he looked like a balloon.

Struggling to the bank, the sergeant-major just stood there, with little jets of water spurting out from his pants and arms, while the war came to an abrupt halt.

Everyone was laughing so hard, no one could continue the attack.

Which is not to say there haven't been any great exercises. In 1985 there was Opingaaq Odyssey, where 35 militiamen from Central Militia Area had the thrill of a lifetime boating down the Burnside River to Bathurst Inlet, north of the arctic circle in the Northwest Territories.

Although it was August, there was rain, sleet and snow. We had to struggle up cliffs with heavy packs. We spent a lot of time cleaning things, such as rifles, stores and the fish we caught for dinner.

Despite cleaning ourselves too, we still reeked of fish. By the time a story like that is finished, everyone has left, partly because the story is too long and partly because it isn't funny. Soldiers like to sit around the mess and laugh at themselves, laugh at their buddies and especially laugh at army 'snafus', because sometimes that is all you can do.



"I don't know what these are but take them for a couple of weeks, and let me know how you feel."

Courtesy 'BYDAND'

THE LOVE AFTER

by Pte Hrycay D

*The fighting men of our country return from the war
Hiding their secrets from those whom they love
Telling none to all and all to none
They are heroes of our land, long forgotten*

*He laughs in public because they believe in him
Cracking a smile while a teardrop falls inside
He cannot lie anymore, we can see it in his eyes
The warrior is broken beyond all repair
I loved him before he was a hero
Nowadays, I despise him beyond all hate
He never came home like he said he would
Why did I wait for him, like I promised*

*Wasted love, it is, and I know it well
Spending day and night needing him
Praying for him to come home to me
I wonder if it would not have been better for me to have received
the medals*

*I loved that man who went to the war
Now he's back, I know he's gone
All I have are memories
To keep me here, is bogus love*

*I envy the girl that mourns for her love
I cannot miss him for I am told, he has lived
My parents scold me for my attitude
But I know the truth about him*

*The men that left to fight proud
Saw a horror beyond all belief
Changing doves into gulls
And gulls into daisies*

*The story is long and cannot be told accurately
Only a survivor's love will understand the resentment I feel for my
hero*

*The scars show up but once a year
When I wish I had a hero to remember*

*The day my soldier came home and said I was his love
I left for North and never went back
Sometimes I wonder
If it was not me that the war changed*

CONTINUING SERGEANTS' ASSOCIATION

by RQMS (ret'd) Jeffrey G. CD

The Continuing Sergeants did not have a very busy 1987, but this will change very shortly after this time of writing. Come October, we will be, once again, busy with the arrangements for the Annual Mess Dinner. This usually handled by the Executive and some of the Members to take a bit of the pressure off the Active Members of the Mess.

It is with regret that I report the passing of three of our members, namely — Len Falkner, Charley Fraser, John Taylor

They will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered by us all.

At this time, I would like to send best wishes for the Holiday Season and 1988, on behalf of the Executive and all our members, to all branches of the 48th Family, to our good friends overseas in the Gordons, and to our young friends at St. Andrews. May the New Year see the fulfillment of all our dreams.

DILEAS GU BRATH

Continuing Sergeants continuing 'training'

48th CHAPTER IODE

by Mrs. M. Harding, Regent

On the 80th Anniversary of the receipt of its Standards, the 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE presented them to the Regimental Museum for safekeeping.

Promptly at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, 1987, the Regent, Mrs. C.G. Harding, the Standard Bearer, Mrs. L. Fletcher and members of the Chapter, presented themselves at the door of the Museum. Inside waited IODE members' families of the Regimental Laying Up of the Standards Ceremony, the Regent knocked three times at the door asking for permission to enter. Mrs. Harding then made the formal presentation.



Mrs. L. Fletcher and Mrs. C. G. Harding entering the Regimental Museum with the Chapter's Standards

On behalf of the Regimental Museum CWO (RSM) William Elms (Ret'd) expressed the Museum Committee's pleasure in receiving these Standards. The presentation was the first from the IODE and Mr. Elms congratulated the Chapter on its 80 years of service to the Regiment and to the community. Mr. Walter Peddle and Mr. Harry Sershall, members of the Museum Committee, then received the Standards and placed them in their Museum location.

The Chapter members were very pleased that Mrs. L. Fletcher, who now resides in St. Catherines and who has been the Chapter's Standard Bearer since 1940, was able to be in this presentation.

This occasion brought together many members of the IODE and Regimental families for the ceremony, a tour of the Museum and social hour.

The 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE has the honour of being the second oldest IODE Chapter in Metropolitan Toronto and looks forward, with enthusiasm, to its 81st year of service.



Mrs. Harding cuts the 80th Birthday Cake, assisted by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

LIFE MEMBERS

by Capt A E Ruthven EM (retired)

Another year gone by, more sad farewells at the graveside, more grey hairs, more "gimpy" legs but more new members arrive as the Life Members thrive with a vitality that stems from good comradeship kept alive over many years. Next spring we start our tenth year as a group and can boast an attendance of at least 50 at every meeting.

We are a social club and enjoy ourselves to the fullest each month at very informal meetings which no civilian club could hope to match. A visit to the bar may help to loosen the tongue as the chatter is endless, as new versions of every action are refought, barrackroom buffoonery detailed again, rest camp escapades repeated and parade square stories retold all of which outmatch any TV sitcom ever put on the screen. None of us would miss it for the world.

We are Life Members of the OCA but first and foremost we are 48th OCA members, a part of the Regimental family - our duty is to support the club especially in these times of decreasing numbers and increasing problems. We have our socializing each month but there is also the support which is necessary at Regimental church parades, Warrior's Day parades, Remembrance Day dinners, 48th funerals, Company reunions, fund drives (Ladies Auxiliary & IODE etc.), OCA meetings and Changes of Command. We should never forget, whenever possible, to attend the OCA meetings.

The year 1987 was another busy twelve months with seven new members reaching the magic age. The executive worked well together, along with Harry Sershall who has taken over the bar and is doing an excellent job. Gord Hales and George Sershall as well as Harry Ross do not get enough praise for the jobs they do. Art Connor will some day be the finance minister and Cam Fraser the "poet laureate" of the land due to the renowned Geriatric Peril he produces each month. Fantastic! Dave Logan as Vice completes our hard working group.

No report would be complete without a word of special thanks to the Ladies' Auxiliary for the fine support they give us each year. This includes a member, Dorothy Brannan, who provides the most delicious sandwiches at our meetings.

On 10 Feb. a group of 12 (with ladies) hardened members met with Gord Keeler for the Florida Reunion Dileas dinner. This fine get together is becoming an annual affair. D Company had a most successful (as usual) reunion on 28 March. On 4 May there was another enjoyable Ladies' luncheon with a total of 78 in attendance. Again the L.A. put on the lunch for us and after, our own Bert Whitesmith (as in piano) and his two Legion pals gave us great entertainment. A good contingent of members attended the "D" Day Dodgers affair on 9 - 11 May at the Orillia Legion. They outdo themselves every year.

This year we increased our marchers at the CNE Warriors' Day parade on the 22 August. The knees may be weaker but the hearts are just as strong. Our group invited guests to the 14 Sept. meeting - in all 64 sat down to luncheon. Again a trip to Orillia, this time by bus to visit and have lunch at Br 34 RCL. The weather this time was in our favour so the bus load of Life Members and the ladies had a great time.

7th November was the last Remembrance Day dinner at the club on King Street. It is sad for us to leave but all of us hope the new location will fulfill our desires for a good clubroom. Speaking of the future, all Life Members are becoming geared up for the "big one" in 1991 - the 100th anniversary of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Colonel John Lowndes and his committee will need the support of the whole Family to make this reunion something that will go down in history.

One must say a word about John Taylor whose death touched all of us so very much. John, a humble Highlander from Aberdeen, won the hearts of all who knew him, a tireless worker for the OCA he gave his full support to the Life Members as well. John's dry humour and much anticipated bar reports kept us in stitches at every meeting. John Taylor, a great soldier in action, in peace a man's man - a diamond in the rough. He affected all of us more than we'll ever know.

The following comrades were lost to us in 1987:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Charles Fraser | Albert Glendenning MM |
| Len Falkner | Gerry McKean |
| George Murdoch | Walter (Snuffy) Newton |
| John Taylor | W. Wood |

At the going down of the sun and in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION by Maj JA Brown CD, President

The major event of the Association's year was of course the annual dinner which was held on 11 April. Our Guest of Honour was the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Lincoln Alexander and he proved to be a very popular choice. Unfortunately our Mess Steward chose the night before the dinner to quit, in the huff and without prior warning. However the replacement last minute steward proved himself again and again during the evening, so all was well.

The golf match and dinner in September attracted the usual officers, and a good day was had by all, in gorgeous weather, unlike the last year when we were washed out for the first time. It is a pity that more members don't come out, if not for the golf, for the dinner.

We are sorry to advise that the following officers had died this year: Captain George Elms, Lieutenant Bill Hunter, Captain DWH Jenkins, and Lieutenant NE Thompson.

A reminder to all members of the Association that the annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th January 1988 in the Mess. Please show up.



Members of the Officers' Association march through Toronto

PIPES & DRUMS ASSOCIATION

by Sgt Tucker ERL, CD (ret'd)

We have little to report from the Association from this year as our activities were very limited . . . we hope for a more active 1988 and would remind all members that the Club (OCA) is moving to new quarters sometime in 1988.

Since last time in print we have to report the passing of Drummer Roy Engell of Willowdale. Roy served in the Pipes and Drums of the 1930s and attended a number of our dinners. We also learned recently of the passing of Bill Bowden several years back. Bill served in the drum section in the 1950s after coming to us from the Pipe Band of the Irish Regiment. Our sympathy to the families left behind.

We thought it might prove interesting this issue to go back in time some thirty-five years and see how the Pipes and Drums report read in that issue . . . October 1953! Yes, your present scribe (somewhat younger then) was the perpetrator of what follows:

"Well, once again the leaves are falling, the nights lengthening, and from Scarborough to Port Credit the mashed potatoes are bolted and wifey gets a hasty smack on a Tuesday or Friday evening as the good man heads for the Armouries. The ladies shouldn't feel too badly however, as they will be figuring prominently in the Fall and Winter activities being lined up by the Band Committee. But now for a look at the Band doings over the past few months.

"Again the highlight was Summer Camp and the 17 of us who attended for the full week had a rollicking good time. Ten of the boys attending played in the competition band this Summer, and the opportunity afforded for additional practice paid off as we'll see in a moment. Glancing back over that week some highlights were: the party thrown for us by the Toronto Scottish Pipe Band and the "long voyage home" from their tent lines to our own in

the wee sma' hours. Touched by the hospitality shown us, we stopped in the middle of the parade ground and cheered the Scottish to the echo, the astonishment of a stray dog, two cooks and no doubt the orderly officer! Then, of course, there were the sing-songs and the perfection of "Coney Island Baby". We can't forget, either, Drummer George Pearce's "monkey-shines" - so realistic they were, that we're willing to wager it wasn't so long ago since George's ancestors swung from tree to tree by their tails. Then there was Cpl Fred Fisher's story about Bad Man Gonzalez, guaranteed to render Piper Jim Macpherson helpless for some time after its telling! And we mustn't forget the drummer who, in a moment of weakness, translated the Latin tag "sic transit gloria mundi" as "so the Rapid Transit starts on Monday" - when they took him away he was muttering something about having lost his head! Then there were the daily practices in the Grove watched by the usual group of gum-chewing, picture-snapping American tourists. One of these latter approached a group of the Band "taking five" one afternoon and inquired tranquilly if he could be favoured with "You are My Sunshine" on the pipes. After a polite but firm rebuff he sauntered away through the trees whereupon Pipe Major Archie Dewar sat up on his improvised picnic-table bed and astounded Band members by suggesting they "dig that crazy tourist." Yes, it was a lot of fun . . . Vive le Sport!



Niagara Camp 1953

"This was our 8th Summer of competition work since the end of the War and it finished on a most successful note. In ten Class "A" entries at Oshawa, Embro, Buffalo, Maxville and Fergus Highland Games, we garnered seven firsts and three seconds. Pipe Bands in this area have been steadily improving with the arrival of many fine pipers and drummers from across the water. However we were able to hold our end up, and a little more, this summer. Looking at the record book we find that during the period 1946-'53 in 86 Class "A" entries the judges have picked the 48th Pipe Band as first prize winners on 54 occasions giving us in addition 18 second, 10 third and 4 fourth prizes. These totals, of course, do not include the many prizes taken in individual competition over the years by our pipers and drummers. This year saw no less than seven of our pipers in individual competition and carrying off a good share of the prizes. Competing were Cpl Colin MacKay, and Pipers Bill Gilmour, Reay MacKay, John Wakefield, Stu White, Ken Davies and Harry Hodgson.

"The recent visit of the Welsh Guards Band will long be remembered. We renewed acquaintances among some of the Guards who were with the Band when it last visited Toronto in 1947. . . The reception sponsored jointly by the Sergeants' Mess and the Pipe Band was a rousing success turning into a real old English Music Hall show with one of the Guards' Sergeants, a trombonist named King, proving himself a one-man variety show. "Brahm-n-n boots, now I ask you . . ."



An appropriate bus number shows between Sgt A Dewar and Pipe Major J Fraser!

"Our Cleveland trip was well worth the long automobile ride even if we were introduced on a radio program as the "49th Highlanders". This error was quickly rectified by Sergeant Stewart in his interview with the M.C. The Cleveland Caledonian Society who "imported" us to play for their Ball really outdid themselves under the heading of hospitality.

"October 10th saw us doing our annual "heart-in-the-mouth" slide up the ice at Maple Leaf Gardens to open the N.H.L. season. There were no hitches although we did expect Drummer Doug Wyatt to cut loose and go down right wing, feather bonnet and all, for a goal. Doug is no stranger to the Gardens ice, having cavorted with Oshawa Generals of the Junior O.H.A. some seasons back.

"Sgt Jim Clegg and Drummer Bob Sutherland attended their last Regimental parade on October 9, Jimmy having served with the Band since 1916, Bobby since 1930. Both of them have contributed much to the Band particularly during the early years of World War II when, along with Pipe Major Fraser, they and a few others held the 2nd Battalion Pipe Band together at home. Colonel Fraser voiced the sentiments of the whole Pipe Band when he told Jim and Bob that they would be expecting them in from time to time to cast a critical eye over the Band. After parade the members of the Pipe Band presented the "gold-dust twins" with engraved cigarette cases carrying the Regimental crest.

"Well, that's about it for now. Keep in mind that a new picture of the Band (to be used on the Band Christmas Card) will be taken on Sunday November 8th just before fall-in for the Armistice Parade. Plan to be on hand. So long for now."

All for now chaps. Hope you enjoyed the reminiscing! See you all next FALCON!

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM by LCol CE Fraser CD (ret'd)

When I was "volunteered" to contribute an article for The Falcon, I went back, read what I had submitted in previous years and decided that I had a problem. Museums are prone to stand still in one location, they are not given to glamorous activities, they do not engage in exciting activities, so it is difficult to write about one every year without being repetitious and boring. On the other hand, I had my instructions from our beloved Curator so here goes.

Instead of covering the same old ground I decided to take a new approach which will give you an idea of some of our duties, tell you about services we provide, talk about projects underway and generally outline future plans. We have not made any major changes in the Museum since setting it up for our 95th reunion but the work never ceases. There have been many changes of a minor nature, new items added here and there, some cases rearranged to better advantage and that constant cleaning and polishing. We have had many compliments on the immaculate appearance of the Museum and credit for this must go to Doug Chappell, Art Johnson and Harry Sershall who put in more Tuesday work-days than you would ever imagine. Their motto is the same as the Guards Brigade. "If it moves shoot it or salute it, if it is motionless clean it, polish it or whitewash it."

There are not many changes in the membership of the Museum Committee. The qualifications for membership being long years of service in the Regiment, a good knowledge of our history and traditions and the willingness to put in many hours at what is often dull and boring work. We still have Bill Elms as Curator and it is due to his knowledge and expertise that we are rated as the best Regimental Museum in Canada. Al Young, our long time Treasurer, had to step down due to failing health and he certainly did a fine job during his term. Walter Peddle very promptly stepped forward when asked, and now has our bookkeeping department well in hand. Cam Fraser carries on as Secretary and fundraiser and is somewhat amazed at the amount of correspondence generated in answering enquiries or acknowledging donations. Then we have the three real workers; Harry Sershall, Doug Chappell and Art Johnson, and these three are the ones who do the hard work as mentioned earlier. Over the past year Art Johnson has been a real value as he not only has his own computer but is a whiz at it. We are getting so inventoried and indexed it is almost frightening. If a worker pauses to rest he has a number slapped on and becomes part of the inventory. Our Museum is a member of "The Organization of Military Museums of Canada" a large, effective organization which plans an annual conference of one week's duration each year. We have always had members of the Committee at these conferences, sometimes 3 or 4 being able to attend. The cost of attending averages out at about \$500.00 a person. We do not have funds to pay for such conferences so each individual digs into his own pocket. It shows real dedication when volunteers will not only put in long hours but also pay their own expenses to go out and learn more on how to run a museum.

Those of you who visit our Museum probably view the exhibits and assume that what you see illustrates the activities of the Committee. While this is partially true the Committee does have many other functions and responsibilities, and on the assumption that these may be of interest to you I decided to outline them. Some years ago the Regiment asked the Curator to take on responsibility for the Regimental Archives. They delivered dozens of cartons containing a great mixture of paper going back all the way to 1891. The first task here was to strip files, keeping everything of value and discarding the trivia such as transport requisitions and ration indents. Many of you will sleep easier knowing that your MFM6 (Crime Sheet) has been destroyed. In due course this project was finished everything put in order, indexed and is a real source of information on our past.

During the current year Bill Elms has been retained as a researcher and advisor to The National War Museum in Ottawa, spending more time there than at home. This work required Bill to spend a great deal of time in Public Archives viewing thousands of feet of microfilm, requisitioning copies of what he requires. Bill never was one to pass up an opportunity so each time he came across anything pertaining to the 48th Highlanders he automatically ordered a copy. This gave us copies of hundreds of pictures, orders and letters all having a direct bearing on our

history. The material extracted from Public Archives is being put together with what we previously received from the Regiment and in time we will have archives of great value to future historians. Some of the material Bill obtained gives answers to parts of our history and to our dress which were previously a puzzle to us who have been delving into old records.

As part of our Archives we finally obtained copies of all Regimental Orders, Part II Orders and War Diaries. These were sorted, checked, verified and are now in the hands of a book binding firm where they will be properly bound and become a permanent record. This gives us the means of providing a record of service for everyone who ever served in the Highlanders, not only for the Regiment but for all active service battalions. The Committee receives more and more requests for such information from widows having problems with pensions, from former Highlanders wanting to join the Legion along with those who require such information for other purposes. We can also provide a copy of the citation which describes the event for which a Highlander won an award for gallantry. Information such as this is of interest to some of the younger generation who want to know more about fathers or grandfathers.

The Committee has now assembled what we think is a complete war graves register giving the location of the grave of every Highlander who died on active service. We make this statement with some reservation as we can never be absolutely sure that we do have every one. Thanks to many of you who have visited Sicily, Italy and Holland, we now have good, clear pictures of all our graves. As soon as time permits these will all be mounted in albums, indexed by location and cemetery making it easy for visitors to find the picture of any grave. Along with the pictures, we have detailed records of each cemetery and can identify the section and plot of each grave.

We have provided such directions to more than one person planning visits to the Mediterranean or North West Europe and this does save such visitors much time and frustration during a vacation. We now have maps or plot plans of many of the cemeteries. Given time we will have them for every cemetery. These will be reproduced in one standard size, photocopies will be made and when someone wants information on a location we will include a plot plan with that grave site identified.

At the time of writing our Museum is closed to the public and will remain so until we are in our new quarters at 29 Leslie Street. This move is posing many problems for the committee. It will require great deal of work but in time we will open, hopefully bigger and better than ever. The Museum Committee has always been responsible for its own financing. Thanks to the Life Members Association we did receive a very large grant from the New Horizons Program. We also had a small grant from the "48th Trust" and these two enabled us to have the Museum in such line shape for our 95th reunion. Aside from those grants our funds are derived from donations made in memory of former Highlanders and from many other Highlanders who wish to show their support in some tangible way. We may have a few financial problems when setting up the new Museum the way we want, but somehow we will do it.

REGIMENTAL KIT SHOP

Your Regimental Kit Shop continues to be visited frequently by many members of the Regimental Family. The Kit Shop opened for business at Moss Park Armoury in September 1984 with a very limited stock but a considerable amount of merchandise has passed through since that time. Presently, a large variety of stock is carried and ranges from such necessary items as metal collar dogs, to leather and vinyl 48th Highlanders' jackets, to decals and coffee mugs. Other interesting items such as regimental plaques and ice buckets are a stock item.

The Kit Shop is open every Tuesday and Friday between 2030 hours and 2200 hours, and you will usually find Lieutenant J Bradfield or Lieutenant Colonel R Beckett in attendance. Credit is not possible and credit cards are not acceptable, but personal cheques are usually accepted as is cash. The management regrets that it is not usually possible to accommodate mail orders, but every effort is made to respond to special requests.

The small profit generated from sales in your Kit Shop is entirely used by the Regiment in its various activities and your support of this endeavour is actively sought. Bear us in mind when you are looking for an unusual gift or other Regimental item and drop in to see us.

THE BERMUDA CADET CORPS

Former RSM of the 48th, CCWO Bill Elms' association with the Bermuda Regiment began about ten years ago when he was serving as the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Reserves for Canada. The original invitation was through the courtesy of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment with whom the Bermuda Regiment is allied.

Over the years this association has been a very enjoyable one and both Mr. and Mrs. Elms have attended many official functions of this Regiment.

It was therefore indeed an honour to receive an invitation from Capt A Steede on behalf of Lt Col AG Shorto ED, of the Bermuda Regiment to carry out the inspection of the Bermuda Cadet Corps and the Regimental Junior Leaders in June of this year.

The inspection took place at Warwick Camp and the Bermuda Cadet Corps and the combined Junior Leaders Course were on parade. Mr. Elms was impressed by the deportment and dress of both Units and above all, the enthusiasm and attitude of the individual Cadets.



CCWO WP ELMS MMM, CD, inspects cadets of the Bermuda Cadet Corps



1st BATTALION THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS by Major NJ Sutton

With the first falls of snow just starting the Battalion is busy preparing for its last Christmas in Germany before the return to Scotland in March 1988. The 5 year 'Airmobility' trial that we have been involved in came to an end following Ex KEYSTONE, the major Corps exercise of the year, in October. The Battalion and 6th Airmobile Brigade were all put through their paces and a number of new ideas were trialled. Overall it has been a highly interesting tour in Germany. Our role has been challenging and demanding and has stretched everyone from the most junior Jock upwards. We are very pleased to report that the Battalion has come through it all in very good order and once again earned themselves an excellent reputation.

Our final year has been busy enough! We started off on the right foot with 3 weeks block leave which allowed everybody to return in mid-January fresh and eager to get stuck in. We did not have to wait long for an opportunity as the Battalion was lucky enough to be offered a training period at the German Army FIBUA village of Bonnlund near Hammelburg. This complex was in fact an old German village taken over by the German Army in 1938 and kept as a FIBUA training area ever since. The maze of streets, houses, barns and buildings proved a real challenge both for defence and attack. Following a couple of days spent mastering the basic skills the Battalion then launched into a series of assaults against a live enemy. Overall the exercise was a great success with many valuable training lessons being learnt and much fun being had along the way.

Throughout the Spring the Battalion concentrated on a period of individual training and running a series of cadres. Over 60 Jocks formed the first JNCOs Cadre of the year which despite very cold weather was a great success. In addition there were Signals, Driving, Milan and Mortar Cadres all going on at the same time.

For those not involved in cadres there was the opportunity to participate in Ex SNOW QUEEN - the annual langlauf and downhill skiing exercise held in Southern Bavaria. The Battalion has continued to rent a magnificent guest house for the past 3 years which has provided a very comfortable base from which to mount the exercise. Every 2 weeks, 30 Jocks would move down to Bavaria and spend 4 days learning the basics of langlauf skiing before moving onto the thrills and spills of the downhill. Ex SNOW QUEEN proved as popular as ever, providing challenge and excitement within a fun and enjoyable environment. The last of these exercises before our return to Scotland is underway now. We shall badly miss this excellent opportunity next year since the 'piste' in Scotland bears little resemblance to the mountains in Europe!

As with most of Europe this year the weather around Deilinghofen has been very poor indeed. We were however treated to one fine spell in early May and this coincided with the visit of 846 Royal Naval Air Squadron along with the eight Sea King helicopters they brought with them. An excellent working and social relationship was quickly struck up with the Navy and

the companies enjoyed the opportunity to get some additional airmobile training in using a different type of helicopter than usual. On the social side many excellent parties were held in all Messes, and soldiers and sailors discovered they had much in common and certainly shared many of the same interests!

The biggest commitment this year has undoubtedly been Exercise FOURTH FLIGHT - the Corps Milan Concentration. 1 GORDONS were the host and administrative battalion and for 6 weeks during June and July nearly all the Battalion's resources were dedicated to this one area. The actual Concentration was run at Putlos on the Northern coastline of Germany and some six hours drive from our barracks here in Deilinghofen. Nineteen Milan Platoons from throughout BAOR took part in the Concentration each for a two week period. The Battalion was thoroughly complimented on running an imaginative and well organised Concentration.

Life in Germany always seems to be done at the double, and no sooner had FOURTH FLIGHT ended and we were launched into the visit of the Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Graham who came to see us all for 4 days at the beginning of July. Once again we were blessed with quite good weather and the Colonel of The Regiment was able to visit all departments in the Battalion and see many Jocks on training. We held a Highland Games over the weekend which included a now traditional piping competition. The Officers' Mess held a magnificent Summer Dance at which the Officers and their Ladies and many guests danced reels well into the night. The following morning dawned grey and damp and with an Officers' Mess picnic planned, there were one or two worried faces. However once again luck was on our side and the sun shone on our picnic site. Obviously the Colonel of The Regiment has influence in high places!

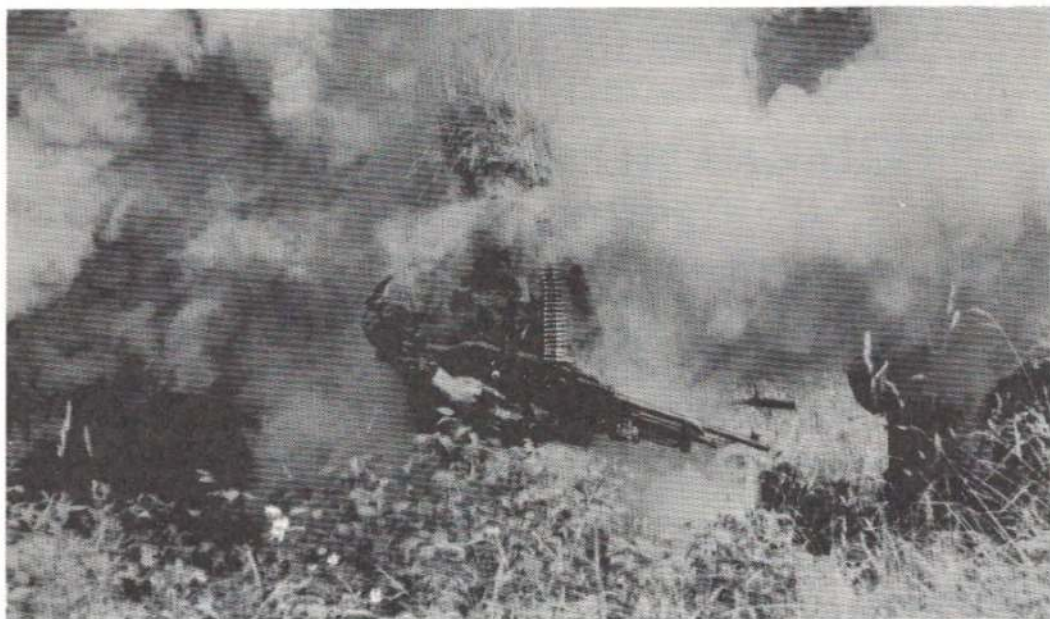
Back to double time and with the visitors gone the whole Battalion packed its bags and moved for the last time to Sennelager for two weeks field firing. The good luck with the weather finally ran out and the rain fell every day for the entire two weeks. The only advantage to that was the lifting of the usual summer time tracer/pyrotechnic ban which allowed us to fire our complete range of weapons. However since the Battalion was all in tented accommodation the rain did become very tedious after a few days. Overall field firing went very well with some excellent training being achieved. The Battalion moved back to Deilinghofen on the Friday and with the exception of one company who acted as rear party, the remainder got away in August for three weeks well earned leave.

Autumn in Germany is exercise season, since with the farmers' crops harvested, there is rather less damage caused by military exercises across private land. The Battalion started the season off with its own exercise - CORRIE LOCHAN which involved a live enemy provided by the German Army. We made maximum use of the exercise to revise our Airmobile skills and practice our tactics. The first 3 days saw the companies under pressure from Bn HQ to be under the thumb! Overall CORRIE LOCHAN provided all the right opportunities to revise company and battalion ops.

The major NATO exercise of the year was Ex CERTAIN STRIKE which involved many of the Officers and SNCOs in umpire tasking. All such international exercises offer excellent opportunities to see our allies at work. Certainly the 'modus operandi' of the Americans never ceases to be a source of interest!

Within BAOR our major exercise was KEYSTONE which exercises 2 Div based in the United Kingdom, in their war role. 1 GORDONS acted as Orange Forces (enemy) for the two week exercise which proved to be fast paced and challenging into the bargain.

With the exercise season over, the Battalion is now at the sunset of its 5 year tour. It's been a thoroughly interesting and challenging role and one which has provided us all with variety



2nd hand smoke causes what...? Field Firing at Sennelager



Exercise on Aprike Training Area

and fun. We certainly hope that our efforts during the trial have been worthwhile and will provide a sound foundation upon which the new Airmobile Brigade based in England can build upon. Now all our attention is turned towards Fort George and our return to Scotland. No doubt the change of environment and role will take a little getting used to but its certainly one which we are all looking forward to very much indeed.

BYDAND.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS ARMY CADET FORCE

by Major JD Beeton

Since the last issue of The Falcon, the unit has gone from strength to strength. Cadet numbers have increased by approximately 60 and the Adult Instructor strength is at its highest level for a number of years. However, officer strength still gives rise for concern and we are constantly on the lookout for suitable officers.

Annual Camp this year was held at Scarborough with some 300 cadets in attendance. Activities were varied and all members of the unit, with the exception of Headquarters staff, spent five nights out in the hills under canvas. From all accounts, camp 1987 will long be remembered as an enjoyable one.

We now have our camp location and dates for 1988 and are heading back to Garelochhead from 16th - 30th July. Garelochhead is a most pleasant part of the West Coast, renowned for the scenery and the largest mosquitos found anywhere in Scotland! No doubt the local chemist shops will have stocked-up with anti-mosquito repellent prior to us arriving! There have been many changes made to the camp accommodation since our last visit in 1983, all for the better I hear, and we are looking forward to the challenge.

On the sporting front, the battalion won the senior and junior national swimming championships during the year, for the second time in succession, and during the next week the unit championships will take place. The cadet .22 Rifle team has just won the Corsar Trophy for the second time in three years with the Queen's Own Cadet battalion being our main adversaries in both shooting and skiing.

During the year our Deputy Commandant, Lt Colonel Charlie Sim resigned, and we welcome Lt Colonel Tom Proteous DFC in his place. Captains Williamson, Gardner and Shearer resigned during the same period, but then John Williamson and George Shearer realised just how much they were missing us all, and decided to rejoin us!

We had intended sending a small party of cadets to Toronto during the summer past but things broke down from our side at the last minute. We would hope to try again however, perhaps in 1989!

It is now two years since a party of cadets visited us from Canada and an open invitation is extended for a further party to visit us in 1988. Garelochhead would be an ideal base with perhaps a visit to the 1st Battalion at Fort George for the Colour Ceremony in late July!

We send our regards to all of our Canadian friends, especially our cadet friends.

VIGNETTES FROM VIMY

Submitted by Major (ret'd) G.I. PEARCE CD

Lieutenant-Colonel Cy Peck, the popular commanding officer of the Canadian Scottish, was known as one of the most beligerent battalion commanders in the (Canadian) Corps - a bulky black-browed British Columbian with an enormous walrus moustache who believed that senior officers should not hang back in battle; indeed, it was his custom to move forward with the assaulting troops. "She's a bear, boys!" Peck would shout over the noise of battle. "She's a bear!" Shaking with fever, plagued by a splitting headache, he should have been in hospital, but nothing was going to keep him from the coming battle.

All his life Cy Peck had trained for moments like this one. He had taken every militia course available and had even gone overseas before the war, intending to enlist in the British Army, a decision he found easy to abandon on closer inspection. For Peck was the quintessential Canadian, born in the Maritimes of United Empire Loyalist stock, schooled in Toronto, lured to the Klondike during the gold rush and later to Prince Rupert. Now a proud, if ersatz, Scot who wore the glengarry over one bushy eyebrow, he insisted that no fewer than five pipers accompany him into battle — one for each of his companies and one for himself. He was nothing if not resourceful in his adopted Highland calling. Asked to speak Gaelic at a Hogmanay dinner, Peck extolled the haggis with a five minute speech in Chinook, the West Coast traders' pidgin.

Few present knew the difference.

— Pierre Berton in VIMY (McClelland and Stewart Toronto) 1986



"There are times I wish we wore something under the kilt!"