

OCT-1990

"THE RED TOURRI"

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 48th HIGHLANDERS OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL HALL, 29 LESLIE STREET, TORONTO, ONTARIO. M4W 3C3 416/461-2064

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

For all those who weren't able to attend the nomination meeting but are planning to be at the Election Meeting on Thursday, November 8, 1990 at 2000 hrs. here is a rundown on who was nominated, who is standing and who was acclaimed (*) for each position.

Nominated	Standing	
<u>President</u>		
Gord Outhwaite	Yes	
Win Rogers	Yes	
<u>Vice-President</u>		
George Roberts	Yes	*
Leo Trudelle	No	
Bob Harding	No	
<u>Treasurer</u>		
Hugh Mowat	Yes	*
Dann Oliver	No	
Art Connor	No	
<u>Secretary</u>		
Dann Oliver	Yes	
Bob Barnes	Yes	
<u>Marshall</u>		
Ray Bower	Yes	*
<u>Executive - Seven Positions available.</u>		
Ed Majeau	Yes	*
Ray Bower	No	
Marge Ritchie	No	
Harry Ross	Yes	*
Jack Smale	Yes	*
Bob Harding	No	
Tom McCue	Yes	*
Leo Trudelle	No	
Max McDougall	No	
Dann Oliver	Yes	*
Win Rogers	No	

As you can see there are only two posi-

tions which require an election. The President and the Secretary. It is very important that we have a very good turn-out on November 8 to elect the member of your choice for these two positions. Remember that the Secretary of the OCA is also the Secretary of the 48th Board of Directors.

The incoming President will need to fill the three or two positions on the Executive after the election. Should you wish to volunteer you should be at the Election meeting and tell the new President, after his Election, that you are prepared to help.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU! goes to Marge Ritchie for her able assistance in recording the names on the blackboard for all to see. She handled the wisecracks in her usual humorous manner.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Everyone knows that the attendance at our regular monthly General Meetings needs to increase. We should all remember that not only does your Executive co-ordinate all of the activities of all members of the OCA but is also responsible for the effective management of the Memorial Hall and all of the activities that occur in it. In order to carry out this mandate properly your Executive needs all the ideas and help it can get. This is your Association and your Club, the least you can do, if you are able, is to attend the monthly General Meetings to help your Executive do as good a job as possible managing your assets. Why not call another Highlander and come together or arrange to meet a group of your friends at the Club before the meeting. In Article 5 of our Constitu-

tion it says "Regular meetings shall be held on the second Thursday of every month except June, July and August." "Meetings shall convene at 8:15 p.m." You might want to mark your calendar now so you will be reminded later. We know of a couple of people who meet for supper then arrive at the Club in time for a small libation before the meeting. You pay your dues, why not use your Club?

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Speaking of dues, its that time of year again. At only \$15.00, Membership in the Old Comrades' Association is one of the best bargains available anywhere. Our ever active Membership Chairman, Jack Smale, wants to remind you that the new cards should be available early in November. These are a special 100th Anniversary Card that you will want to keep along with your other important souvenirs. We will be producing a 100th Anniversary Membership List of all paid up members in both Alphabetical and Numerical order. Cards will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Anyone who served in the war or at least one year in the Reserve is entitled to be a member. Who from your old section, platoon or company can you think of who may not be a member? They all should be. Get in touch with them (Jack may be able to help) and have them join. Our goal is to go over One Thousand for our One Hundredth.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

A couple of updates on some times. Try and be a Mt. Pleasant Cemetery by 1030 hrs on Saturday November 10 and in front of Queen's Park by 1000 hrs on Sunday November 11. Bus rides will be available from Moss Park Armoury to Queen's Park up to 0930 hrs. Busses have been laid on to transport OCA Members back to Moss Park Armoury from Queen's Park after the service.

Tickets for the Dinner are available at

the Club for the nominal cost of only \$15.00.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU! is due to the Life Members group. They have, again this year, donated \$300.00 towards the wine you will enjoy at dinner.

Remembrance Day

Lots of men passed away,
During the two great world wars,
Lovely red poppies swaying in the breeze,
Help us think of the blood that was shed,
By the men who fought for us.
It was very very sad,
For the hard times they had had,
Hundreds of crosses in a field,
Remind us of the men who fought without shields,
There are still many wars even today,
And still more people will pass away,
How sad!

by Tassa D. (age 9, grade 4)
Some of them do learn and remember.

GLENGARRY

Should you be in need of a new Glen see Capt John Bradfield at the Armoury.

DRILL TEAM

The new executive is;	
Chairman	Russ Duffy
Commander	Bob Barnes
Treasurer	Gord Jeffries
Q.M.	Ray Bower

Should you wish to join this illustrious group, wear a really colourful uniform, travel to exotic places to show off the 48th precision in drill and have the time of your life, contact any of the above through the Club or the Sergeant's Mess. We understand that their goal is to win all of the competitions they enter during our 100th Anniversary year. We wish them well! They always put on a great show.

LINCOLN TOWN CAR LOTTERY

Sales are going well. There is still a long way to go so keep on talking to everyone you see about the great opportunities, especially on the Early Bird Draws. The winner's so far have been very pleasantly surprised. This is the major fundraiser for the 100th and the sooner it is sold out the better.

COMING EVENTS

Every Monday - Euchre

Every Wednesday - Afternoon Mixed Darts
1300 hrs (1 p.m.)
- T.V.C.L. Cribbage

GREY CUP PARTY

On Sunday November 25 to help you enjoy the Grey Cup game the Club will be open two (2) hours before game time and not close 'til one (1) hour after the game is over. Check your favorite media for the game time when it is announced. There will be an appropriate buffet and the usual refreshments as well as door and draw prizes. Admission is only \$7.50 per party lover. Arrive early, especially you ladies, to participate in or observe our very own Miss Grey Cup East/West Contest. One lady will be chosen from the assembled beauties to represent the East and one to represent the West. The lobbying for votes could be very interesting. The outcome of the Game decides who will be our own Miss Grey Cup for the next year.

48th HIGHLANDERS BALL

Just a reminder about this Formal Dress Ball at the Royal York Hotel on Friday, November 30. Tickets are \$60.00 each or \$120.00 per couple and are available from Tom White 822-3511 or 444-0515.

TURKEY SHOOT & MEAT ROLL

This ever popular afternoon will take place at the Club on Saturday December

8, 1990 from 1200 to 1700 hrs. Come out sometime during the afternoon and throw some darts. Maybe you will win your Christmas Turkey. At least you will have some fun. We need to clear the Club by 1800 hrs so it can be made ready for the Brinks Dinner/Dance at 1900 hrs.

L.A. CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Looking for something special for that special someone? Come to the Club on Saturday December 15 from 1 to 5 pm (1300 to 1700 hrs) for the annual Ladies Auxiliary Bazaar. This will be a great time for you to pick up some really neat Baked Goods and Handmade Crafts. The admission is free and there will be draws for a fabulous Ginger Bread House and a beautiful Doll complete with Handmade Clothes.

NEW YEARS EVE

Due to popular demand this Monday December 31 party is an Advance Tickets Only affair. The Tickets are \$45.00 each for which you have a great time, a tremendous hot buffet and a free bar from 8 p.m. (2000 hrs) 'til 1 a.m. (0100 hrs). The Club will be open for party goers at 6 p.m. (1800 hrs) and it would be appreciated if you dressed nicely (NO jeans, T's or sneakers).

LIFE MEMBERS MEETING

As usual, the first Monday, December 3, at the Club at 1300 hrs.

HELP

The Editor needs some help. I would like to start the following sections; Letters to the Editor, Joke, Trivia, and 'War' Stories. There isn't enough time for me to look up all the information to fill these topics. Write to me at the Club or the address below and I'll see that you get credit for your work or remain anonymous, as you wish.

Daniel A. (Dann) Oliver
118 - 10 Sunrise Ave.,
North York, Ontario.
M4A 2R1

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS REPRINTED FROM THE 18 APRIL 1990 EDITION OF 'THE TORONTO DISPATCH' THE PUBLICATION OF CFB TORONTO. THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY CAPT C ALMEY, CFB TORONTO.

Dileas. Translated, the motto of the 48th Highlanders of Canada means faithful.

Current members of the regiment have many to be faithful to. Their Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty, the Queen; themselves and their ideals; and former Highlanders.

As they busily prepare for the 48th Highlanders' 1991 Centennial, this is a year to pause and reflect upon the past.

After the First World War and ten years before the Second World War, Canada had virtually disarmed and left her fighting forces in a shocking state.

All war industries had been abandoned. Canada was spending \$1.46 per capita for defence, compared with \$23.04 in Britain and \$6.51 in the U.S.A. Total budget was \$11-million for three services, with a permanent force strength of 3,688. When war finally broke out, there were but 800 more on strength.

Hammered by the Depression and pacifist propaganda, the 48th had to combat public attitude. The militia had really deteriorated by 1932, but the CO, Col John Girvan restored the regimental spirit and enthusiasm. Awarded the DSO and MC during the 1914-18 conflict, he was not one to surrender.

Bewildered, insecure young men lived in a shattered world without work or money. Membership in the 48th Highlanders gave them something to cling to and they developed strength. Capt Kim Beattie wrote in his historical account of the 48th, published in 1957. In 1933 the Toronto Garrison was reorganized, with units being given the ultimatum to volunteer, to amalgamate or disband, or they would be arbitrarily ordered to disband.

All complied, but the 48th never responded to the General Staff. Asked of the 48th's intention, the reply was the regiment would remain as it was, and the General Staff accepted it without comment.

The reason they turned a blind eye to this resolute bunch of Highlanders was probably because the General Staff had a special place in their hearts for this regiment whose motto was in conflict with their actions at the moment.

But it was the 48th who had turned the tide in the public mind and made the military an honorable profession once again.

Col Girvan had the 48th Highlanders parading throughout the streets of Toronto in his battle to save the unit and the militia. Residents cheered as the 48th marched through the streets. Col Girvan had not only restored the 48th's spirit and enthusiasm, he had restored Toronto's spirit and enthusiasm. Thus he earned a special place for his regiment in the mind of the General Staff.

Postscript to 1932, for the previous ten years, German factories had been designed to quick conversion to war, Beattie wrote. In contrast, the democracies based their security on masses of obsolete weapons and equally obsolete machinery.

By the Spring of 1933, the 48th veterans felt chilly tremors of war in the distance, the book *Dileas* recalled, as Hitler came to power with much sabre rattling and brandishing the mailed fist. Six years later, Hitler started the Second World War with 56 divisions, 44 of them fully equipped. Nine of them were armoured or motorized and six of these had a full complement of

armoured cars or panzer tanks.

The 48th had 26 Battle Honours bestowed upon it to cover their three campaigns - Sicily, Italy and Northwest Europe - in the Second World War. Beattie's book details them all but space here permits only one, the Hitler Line, Day One, when the 48th broke into it alone.

The Hitler Line in Italy had been vaunted to the world as an impregnable position, manned by 8,300 Germans. It was the fixed fortifications and not large strengths of men which constituted the blockading strength of the line. The 48th Highlanders faced 3,000 mines, in addition to artillery, mortars, machine guns and anti-tank weapons.

Beattie wrote that the Hitler Line had been built in winter and its defenders forgot that crops grow. Fire positions and machine gun emplacements were completely blind, due to the height of crops and weeds.

An attack in this valley had been planned and cancelled, with the main 8th Army effort moved to the right, where approaches offered greater chances of success. But the 48th was ordered to attack alone, before the divisional operation began.

Every known position in the 2,000 yard two-brigade frontage was pounded for 72 hours by 400 guns firing 1,000 rounds an hour. The 48th did not ask for a pre-battle bombardment as that would signal a warning to the enemy that an attack was coming. The mission was determined to be a suicide task and the 48th did not want to tip their hands and give any warning.

When the 48th commenced their assault, not one gunner liaison officer was available as they were busy else where on the front. Due to a number of factors, the 6 a.m. attack time was delayed several times, primarily because tanks had been stalled.

Finally at 1030 Hours, the attack was on. Tall grain hid the Highlanders and lack of a barrage fooled the Germans into false security. But what did alert the Germans were the tanks, in clear view behind, coming down the slope of a hill. All along the 48th had wanted tanks with them and couldn't get them and not that they had tanks, they betrayed their stealth. Now the land mines were taking a terrible toll on the tankers.

The 48th were inside the Hitler Line and found 12 deserted armoured posts, with loaded machine guns left unfired in some. But then the 48th became trapped under an ever increasing fire. They were probably saved at this point because the Germans were concentrating their firepower on the tanks, completing the disaster. An entire tank squadron was lost, save one single tank.

A secret message arrived from Brigade and had to be decoded. "A supply of red paint is not available for divisional patches on vehicles," it read.

A total of 11 Highlanders had been killed and 30 wounded, from the four companies that had established a bridgehead 600 yards wide and 400 yards deep by evening and were surrounded on three sides.

Nothing was cancelled, even though the enemy was defending this sector in strength. The next day the 48th continued their lone assault on the Hitler Line. The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment were ordered to attack further to the right.