



PHOTOGRAPH BY/PHOTOGRAPHIE PAR JOHN EVANS

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



# THE FALCON

THE JOURNAL OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

FROM THE EDITOR'''

No, I'm not going to apologize. I am simply going to breathe a sigh of relief, along with many others, that this issue of THE FALCON has finally seen the light of day. Suffice it to say that in a perfect world this issue would have been in your hands six months ago, but this is not a perfect world (thank God!) so here it is in your hands now.

What I will apologize for are any errors or omissions that have managed to slip by, particularly in the area of pictures. I wasn't able to use all the pictures I was given, and believe me, it was difficult deciding which ones would be used. Likewise with the articles. Every article I received is here in print, but if by some twist of fate something did not reach me please accept my humble apology.

Looking through the final product I realize that what is contained between these covers represents only a small portion of who we are and what we do. Many events and many individuals are not mentioned. Please accept this issue as a token, a testament to ourselves, of the strength and the personal integrity we all gain as a result of our association with the finest and the best regiment Canada has ever produced.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*  
*Captain D.E. Nelson, Padre*



## 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 John M. Lowndes, SB St. J., CD  
Brigadier General PAG Cameron OMM CD  
Lieutenant Colonel G. Young, 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



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**COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE**  
**To all members of the Regimental Family**

Despite a somewhat prolonged absence, rumours of the Falcon's demise are quite what premature. Under the able direction of the Padre, Capt. Nelson, and the VPMC of the Officers' Mess, Capt. Gilbert, the Falcon has risen and been restored to its former glory. I am certain that all Highlanders welcome the return and look forward once again to its bi-annual publication.

I think you will discover as you read the Falcon that the Regiment is in good shape and despite recent hardships it has its eyes set firmly on the future. Our task is not an easy one! Enrollment in the Militia nation wide has fallen on one of its seemingly reoccurring cycles of decline. Also the uncertainty of the Regiments role in Army 2002 and the budget cutbacks have added to the confusion of the future.

However, as Highlanders and simple infantry soldiers we have set our own goals; to increase the Regiments strength to the best of our ability; to improve our basic soldier and formation skills in order to have a firm foundation for any future role; and above all, to maintain and strengthen our Regimental traditions and family.

As I stated in my response to the toast to the Regiment at the Annual Sgts. Mess Dinner; "at many times in its history, both in war and peace, the Regiment has stood ready to cross the Start Line. In battle, the Start Line is secured for the advancing troops by other units so that they may advance with their start point and rear secure. The Regiment today is young, aggressive and dedicated and it too is now crossing a Start Line. It does so with the confidence that the generations of Highlanders, both past and present, have secured their Start Line for them."

As always the Regiment depends so much for the survival on the continued support for all members and branches of the Regimental Family. Thus I ask you to give your support to the Active Unit as you and others have done so nobly in the past.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*  
*L.Col. G. Young, C.O.*

**THE NEW RSS**

CPL R.F. ROZON

I was born on the 18th of May 1963 the oldest of 3 children. I went to school in the greater Victoria area until 1979, at which time my father was posted to Germany. My entire family moved to Germany where I finished school.

It was at this time I enrolled in the C.A.F. (Jan. 29, 1982). I went to Cornwallis until April 82, and went to Wainwright, Alberta to the P.P.C.L.I. Battle School for TQ3 training.

Upon graduation from Wainwright I was posted to 1 P.P.C.L.I. I was in the 1st Battalion for 4 years. During those 4 years we trained in Alaska, Norway, Resolute Bay N.W.T., Fort Lewis Wash., Wainwright, Kananaskis, as well as a 6 month tour of Cyprus.

In March 1986 I was posted to 2 P.P.C.L.I. which was in Germany at the time. Training in Germany varied in all sorts of ways i.e. terrain, allied forces, etc. The best training I felt being FIBUA, conducted in Hammelburg, Hammelburg is an abandoned town maintained for FIBUA training alone.

The Battalion returned to Winnipeg in July of 1988. We were back for 6 months when I was posted back to the P.P.C.L.I. Battle School as a member of the Field Trg. Section. While in Wainwright I was informed of my posting to R.S.S. Toronto.

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Some of my spare time is taken up with hockey in the winter and coaching and playing lacrosse in the summer. I also like to travel and go scuba diving (weather permitting). I am looking forward to an eventful posting here in Toronto and my eventual return to the PATRICIA's.

#### WO MRJA DUPUIS

Born the youngest of eleven in Windsor, Ontario in 1957, my decision to join the C.A.F. came shortly after my expulsion from high school, though I accomplished my grade twelve year, my desire to continue to thirteen was thwarted by a number of angry and bruised teachers.

Not having an over-abundance of knowledge about the Army I was quite pleased to find myself in the midst of a new large "Family", that of THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT, 2nd Battalion. From 1975 to 1989 my time with the unit was filled with a great amount of interesting and successful trg. periods, both at home and abroad. Some of my wandering's have brought me to places such as Cyprus, Norway, Jamaica but to name a few.

Aside from the Military, the remainder of my time is spent playing a good variety of sports, such as golf, soccer, broomball and with my family, of which I owe much of my continued interest in the Forces. My wife, Gail and my two sons Marc and Michael impress upon me the need to do well in all endeavours for the good of the whole.

*"PRO PATRIA"*

#### SGT W.L. (WANDA) LEBLANC

I joined the Canadian Forces in Sydney, Nova Scotia on 26 September 73. On 12 September 73 I started Basic Training at Canadian Forces Recruit School Cornwallis in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia and on completion proceeded to Canadian Forces Base Borden for trades training. In February 74 I was posted to 415 Maritime Patrol Squadron (VP 415) located at Canadian Forces Base Summerside in Prince Edward Island where I remained until June 81. In June 81 I proceeded to Canadian Forces Recruit School

Cornwallis where I was employed as a Basic Recruit Instructor until June 84. In June 84 I proceeded to National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario where I was posted to Deputy Chief of Defence Staff with employment in Chief Land Doctrine and Operations and Chief Maritime Doctrine and Operations until I was posted to RSS Central in July 89.

I was married in 1978 to Robert LeBlanc who is presently employed with LCFSD, Canadian Forces Base Downsview.

#### CAPT R. HAY

I was born in Toronto on 5 September 59 and started my career in the army with the 48th Cadet Corp in 1971 and then spent two years with the Regt 1977 to 79. In January 1979 I transferred to the regular force and after recruit and basic training was soon wearing the uniform of the RCR. I spent 4 years with the First Battalion where I was promoted to MCpl. Two years later I was appointed Officer Cadet.

Following Officer Training I was commissioned and posted to the 3rd Bn where I was employed as Pl Comd, the Unit Accounts Officer and the Intelligence Officer. I spent seven months in Cyprus and my last year with the BN was spent in Germany with 4 Bde.

On 29 June 1989 I was informed of my new posting to RSS Toronto, a dual homecoming — Toronto and the 48th Highlanders. My wife Renée-Ann is a Toronto girl and we both look forward to Highland dancing and the prospect of squeezing me into a kilt again.

#### BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

"In war it is not permitted to make the same mistake twice." *Plutarch*.

Battalion Headquarters is the command and control element of The Regiment that is ultimately responsible for the overall Operational, Logistical and Administrative well being of the Unit. The problem is that by its very nature this component of the

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Regiment works most effectively behind the scenes and hence any brief article about BHQ is bound to reflect only in a very minor way the role that it plays within the Regiment. Since the last issue of *The Falcon*, The Regiment saw a change of command from LCOL Mowat to LCOL Sandham so changes in BHQ took place as a result not only of command change but also because of the change in positions of responsibility that seem to annually take place prior to summer standown.

In the 'command' element of BHQ as mentioned earlier LCOL Sandham is the CO; CWO Goldman is the RSM and Capt Bryan is the Adj. In the 'operational' element of BHQ Capt Cameron is the Ops O; Capt Stewart is the Assistant Ops O; MWO McVety is the Trg MWO; and Lt Poles was attached to Ops & Trg for the year in order to run the TQ2 MG Course. In the 'administrative and logistical' element is Maj Young the DCO; Lt Sargeant the FIN O; MWO Harding the FIN NCO; Cpl Saille and FIN Clerk; Sgt Love the Chief Clerk; and Cpl Sutherland and Pte Liddell are Adm Clerks. Of course a key part of every Militia BHQ is its RSS Detachment and the 48th are lucky indeed to be blessed with such dedicated individuals as Capt Waddell the USO, WO McTague the UTA, Sgt Carpenter our long suffering and Sgt Lilly the Unit Support NCO.

BHQ, possibly more than any other component of The Regiment has seen and will see a great number of personnel changes. Maj. Young returned from the Battle School in Sept; Sgt Love returned from TMD HQ in Sept; Cpl Sutherland transferred into the Unit just this past year; WO McTague came to the Unit from TMD HQ to replace WO MacIssac who returned to IRCR in London and he will be returning to TMD HQ in Aug. Both Capt Waddell and Sgt Carpenter will be leaving during the summer with Capt Waddell going to be the aide to General Stewart at CMA and Sgt Carpenter possibly going to CMA or TMD HQ. Likewise Sgt Lilly will also be leaving The Regiment for a posting as of yet to be determined. All of these individuals gave of their time and their hearts and they will be missed. However,

we expect that their replacements will show the same dedication to duty and comradery that this current RSS detachment displayed throughout their tour with the 48th.

The functioning of BHQ is so diverse that it would be pointless to attempt any summation of its schedule over the time period Sept 88 to June 89 but it is worth noting that in the annual TMD inspection of all of the components of the Regiment, possibly BHQ made one of the biggest recoveries from the dismal inspection of 1988. New BOR policies were put into effect, the entire Units F & E account was once and for all accurized; Regimental Stores was totally revamped in preparation for the 100th Anniversary; classrooms and sub-unit space despite some initial fears were successfully reallocated; and in general a 'tightening up' process has been successfully initiated. But in keeping the opening quotation from Plutarch in mind, we still have a way to go yet and I am confident that all elements of BHQ as well as The Regiment as a whole will continue to progress and improve. On a concluding personal note, congratulations are in order to Capt Bryan on his recent marriage, Lt Sargeant on his impending marriage and Maj Young on the birth of his third daughter.

Since the above article was written, there have been some changes in the BHQ, and they are as follows; CO-LCOL A.G. Young, DCO-Major K.J. McBey, Adjutant-Captain I.A.G. Cameron, RSM-CWO Goldman, OPSO-Captain G.D. Turner, TRG-NCO W.O. Dupuis, FIN-O Lt. T.R.F. Birchall and TRG O/O/CDT M. Walker. All other positions remain the same except for the RSS Detachment. We welcome to The Regiment Capt Bob Hay (USO), W.O. Dupuis (UTA), Sargeant Leblanc (UTA) and Cpl Rozon (Unit Support NCO). It should be noted that Capt Hay spent 6 years in the 48th Cadet Corps and 2 years in the active Battalion prior to joining the regular force.



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**CIOR 1989:  
Hammelburg, West Germany**

"CIOR" is our acronym for Confédération Interalliée des Officiers Reservists and is an umbrella organization for reserve officers from all NATO countries. Each year, the CIOR Military Competition is staged with the intent of encouraging comradery and support between officers of all NATO countries through the vehicle of friendly competition. My experience over the past two years has been that the competition, while friendly, is also extremely tough.

The competition is comprised of four main events: a water obstacle course, a land obstacle course, shooting, and military orienteering. Map-marking, distance estimation, and grenade-throwing are included in the orienteering event. The most gruelling event is the orienteering march, which usually lasts about two hours and requires competitors to cover all sorts of terrain (including water crossings) in combat gear with weapons. The land obstacle course, though, also merits respect. It consists of twenty-two obstacles which must be attacked very aggressively in order to complete the course with a competitive time.

The Armed Forces puts together a CIOR team each summer, with selection of team members being based upon previous CIOR experience and performance and physical fitness. The team trains at CFB St. Jean for six weeks and then travels to the competition site.

While I have learned the most through training for and competing in the orienteering event, perhaps the most beneficial result of my two years with the CIOR team has been the shooting training and competition to which I have been exposed. Because competitors compete in three-man teams, the shooting event is broken down to cover three weapons: the rifle, pistol, and SMG. Each year, the weapons fired are those of the host country. Hence, as a member of the rifle team at the 1988 competition in England, I was able to train and compete with the new British assault rifle, the SASO. I

found that the SASO's telescopic sight provides an excellent sight picture, and in fact missed winning the rifle competition by one point. At this past summer's competition in West Germany, as an SMG gunner, I trained and competed with the Bundeswehr-issue Uzi, and won the gold medal for Canada. The Germans, of course, are our allies; nevertheless, it was a very satisfying to beat them in their own backyard with their own weapon.

Just so I don't leave anyone with the impression that the CIOR programme is all competition, I should say that after the competition I was able to travel from CFB Lahr to the French Riviera for a week's leave on the topless beaches of St. Tropez. Interestingly enough, whenever I spoke with the topless beauties there and explained that I was with the 48th Highlanders, they all (and these are very attractive girls) wanted to know if I knew a guy by the name of Major Young.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to compete for Canada and the Regiment with the CIOR team, and very much appreciate the support the Regiment has given me for this unique training opportunity.

*Lt. P.S. MacGowan  
Weapons Detachment Commander  
Combat Support Company*

### **EXERCISE "ROYAL HIGHLANDER"**

On the weekend of 9-11 June 1989, C Company, 48th Highlanders of Canada from Toronto, and C Company, 1st Bn Royal Canadian Regiment from CFB London, conducted a joint exercise in the Ipperwash training area on Lake Huron. This patrolling exercise reinforced the long standing relationship between these two units which served together in 1 Brigade, 1st Canadian Division, throughout Sicily and Italy in World War Two.

By integrating reserve and regular soldiers throughout all rank levels into the two



*Cpl. Lennon, Cpl. Viach  
Ground Surveillance Radar.*

**EXERCISE  
"ROYAL  
HIGHLANDER"**



*Cpl. Glazin with AN/PPS 15  
Ground Surveillance Radar.*



*Cpl. Curry looking  
formidable indeed!*



*Cpl. Heubner plots  
compass bearings.*



*"Hurons" prepare  
to patrol from  
Ippeewash Patrol Base.*

*Cpl. Tintor advances  
through woods.*



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opposing forces ('Hurons' and 'Georgians'), both 48th and RCR officers/NCO's had the opportunity to operate in leadership positions for the numerous recce and fighting patrols that were dictated by orders passed down from combat team headquarters.

The basic scenario for the exercise was that the invading force ('Hurons') had conducted a waterborne assault to secure a beachhead on Georgian territory, having been frustrated by a long-standing dispute over natural resource ownership. The Hurons were not able to subsequently land their second echelon forces due to Georgian air superiority. This forced the invaders to consolidate their beachhead and conduct probing operations to locate and destroy the forward recce elements which the Georgians had placed in the Ipperwash-Ravenswood area.

As the exercise progressed, a Georgian surveillance detachment seeking to locate and drive the Huron invaders from their homeland located footprints in the sand which indicated the possible presence of Hurons in the area surrounding Moon and Bio lakes. Once Georgian recce patrols confirmed the enemy presence by detecting movement through usage of their AN/PPS 15 ground surveillance radar, Georgian Force headquarters (Lt. Tremblay 48th Highlanders and Sgt Miller 1RCR) gave orders to conduct 'pincer' patrols in order to trap and annihilate the Hurons who were forced back close to their original Lake Huron beachhead.

As the joint exercise commanders (Major K. McBey 48th Highlanders and Major R. McBride 1RCR) allowed the scenario to freely develop in order to challenge their soldiers to peak competitive and tactical performance, the pressure was now firmly on the Hurons commanded by Lt Cummings (1RCR) and Sgt Alkema (48th Highlanders) to find a way to quickly and successfully get out of the ever tightening Georgian cordon around their patrol base. An attempt to move their patrol base was only partly successful as the daylight move was tracked by

Georgian detachments who kept hot on the 'Hurons' trail and reported back "Situation Reports" and 'Location States' to their force HQ on a regular basis.

By Saturday evening the Huron situation was looking pretty grim as they were pinned against the Lake Huron beachhead. An attempt was made at last light to break out 'en masse' between Moon and Bio lakes only to be repulsed with substantial casualties due to machine-gun and indirect fire called down by a Georgian blocking patrol. Quickly running out of time and options, Lt Cummings made the move which enabled his force to live to fight another day. Adopting a defensive perimeter until total darkness, the Huron commander gave orders for a break-out and infiltration into Georgian territory by two man teams who would subsequently linkup at a pre-arranged RV point. Despite the ever-tightening Georgian encirclement, almost all of the Hurons were successful in breaking out of their beachhead and when "End Exercise" occurred (to the frustration of the pursuing Georgians, and to the relief of tired, hounded Hurons) both forces expressed regret that there was not further time for the exercise to continue.

Interviews conducted throughout the weekend indicated that both RCR and 48th personnel thought that the exercise was realistic and that it served to teach and review many valuable patrolling lessons. Cpl Andrew Glazin, a radar operator with the 48th Highlanders, appreciated the chance to put infantry patrolling skills to the test in an "up to speed" weekend with the 1RCR soldiers. Similarly, Lt Stephan Tremblay, commander of the Georgian forces, enjoying the challenge of the weekend and was delighting in having the opportunity with working with "professionals", be they regular or reserve soldiers. He stated that he would like to see more training of this nature where both regulars and reservists are accorded leadership positions and his only regret was that he wished the exercise could have continued for an entire week! Like several 48th Highlander officers, he has completed regular force phase training (RESO) with the Combat Training Centre in CFB Gagetown.

On a visit to a forward patrol base, Sgt Stephen Ruthven, a 1RCR soldier with over fourteen years service, expressed his opinion that once again the 48th and 1RCR soldiers had meshed together in a rapid and effective fashion. He noted that the two companies had worked together during Combat Team operations in Meaford (Milcon 1988) and were by far the most effective field formation at that concentration. Over at a forward patrol base Cpl Jeffreys of the 48th Highlanders mentioned his pleasure over leading a patrol through the geographical challenge of the Ipperwash training area: dunes, lake, beach, swamp, and even a sewage lagoon! this was definitely not the same as the well stalked 'square woods' in CFB Borden. He expressed the opinion that this weekend was the best one he has been on since joining the 48th in 1984.

It was obvious to all involved that this exercise was of great benefit to the soldiers who participated. Amalgamation of the units led to a common understanding and respect between reservists and regular soldiers, a drive for professionalism and competence in key infantry skills regardless of part-time or full-time ability to practice these skills. Major Bob McBride, OC C Coy 1RCR, noted the spirit of cooperation which exists between the 48th and 1RCR, and he expressed his desire for the relationship to not only continue, but to occur on a more frequent basis subject to regular force taskings such as a Cyprus deployment in fall 1989. Major Ken McBey, OC C Coy 48th Highlanders, was delighted with the success of the exercise and commented that the two companies had worked very well together in the past, the most recent occasions being a SARP display put on by 1RCR in Toronto, and the mechanized combat team operations in Meaford during Milcon 1988. He expressed his appreciation to LCol Archibald CO 1RCR, Coy HQ C Coy 1RCR which consisted of Major McBride, Capt Clarke (The Gloucestershire Regiment, British Army) and MWO Ginn, as well as all the officers, NCO's and men of both units whose eagerness and participation in the exercise made all the coordination activities well worth the time

spent. Major McBey noted the need for more realistic training of this nature for reservists resulting in challenging field training exercises instead of repetitive and predictable weekend training. He wished the 1RCR soldiers a safe tour in Cyprus, and he awaits the opportunity to continue joint training for the 'Royal Highlanders' upon their return to Canada in 1990.

**COMMANDING OFFICER (1988-89):  
Lieutenant Colonel John H. Sandham**

Dear Highlanders:

Since the last Falcon, the Regiment has been very busy and many changes have taken place. Lieutenant Colonel H.W.G. Mowat, CD, has retired, and on the 27th of May 1988, I was appointed the Commanding Officer of the Regiment and Major A.G. Young was appointed Deputy Commanding Officer. Colonel Mowat set a high standard for the Highlanders. He will be greatly missed by all who served with him. In August 1988 Honourary Colonel Douglas Haldenby retired and Colonel John Lowndes was appointed as the new Honourary Colonel, General P.A.G. Cameron remains our Honourary Colonel. We wish Colonel and Mrs. Haldenby the very best and hope they will visit the Regiment often. Captain Nelson, the Padre has accepted the challenge of producing the Falcon for 1989. At this time I would like to thank Major John Brown for publishing the Falcon and for his many contributions to the Regiment. He wears the title of Highlander well!

Shortly after the Change of Command the Regiment provided a Guard of Honour at Toronto City Hall for the Arrival of the Heads of State for the G-7 Economic Conference, The Regiment, the Pipes and Drums were seen live in seventy countries world wide.

A company of Highlanders attended Milcon at CFTA Meaford. The OC Major McBey the Officers, SR NCM and men of the Regiment completed an excellent camp, as attested by letters and after action reports by both the Militia and Regular Force. A busy and successful summer was had by all ranks.



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The fall training session was soon upon us. The Regiment trained in Borden and Meaford. Our Remembrance Day Parade at Queens Park, was well attended. The TMD no longer issues first or second standing, our scores were the highest in the District.

The Pipes and Drums Ball in February was a great success. Last summer the Pipes and Drums won 12 trophies, and has recorded their first CD for distribution in the USA and Canada. We have a new Director of Music for the Military Band, Captain Rollin White. Captain White is a graduate of Miller Hall and has had extensive service with the Royal Marines.

The Regimental Posted Strength is 202. This figure includes the Band. Both the Officers Mess and SR NCMs, Mess are strong and active both in training and social activities. But, I can not miss this opportunity to remind you of the need for new members. Any support that you might give in this area would be greatly appreciated.

In closing may I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Regimental Family for their moral and financial support. It would be impossible to continue as Canada's Premier Regiment without this support.

The 100th Anniversary will soon be here, I urge each and everyone of you to get on the mailing list. Encourage those who for one reason or another are not on a list to sign-up.

Let's try to get everyone out for another kick at the cat — Once more into the Breach — For the Regiment. Let us go forward together. Let us make your Regiment strong.  
*DILEAS*

*J.H. Sandbam,  
Lieutenant Colonel  
48th Highlanders of Canada*

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

Between WW1 and WWII there were 21 years. Since the end of the latter 43 years have passed — we no longer have WWI old jocks attend our meetings. Bert McKissock was the last and we buried him a few months ago. Time marches on so we hear from some "old farts" around the O.C.A. now, "I just want to be around for the 100th anniversary in the spring of 1991." Do you know something, they'll be there.

To make sure we do as many as possible assemble on the first Monday of the month to swap stories, have a couple, laugh and enjoy ourselves. We entered the new premises at 29 Leslie Street this last spring with apprehension to find elegant surroundings, fine decor, a well appointed bar and meeting rooms but many were disappointed, the layout left something to be desired concerning means for the O.C.A. dinners and Company banquets. However, in true Dileas fashion, ways and means are being found to overcome the problem. Over the years we have learned to find a way. We Life Members lost our bar which was highly treasured by all, but in the interest of full support for the club we satisfy our thirsts at the main bar.

Speaking of our new club rooms, the Museum Committee have now presented us with a Military Museum considered to be one of the finest of its type in the country. It is excellent, if you haven't seen it make sure you do. The entire group under Bill Elms are to be congratulated for such a job so well done.

In January '88 our same executive was returned to office with one exception. Art Connor retired and Jack McKenna became the new treasurer. We all thank Art for looking after our interests so well. Speaking of finances, the New Horizons program is terminated which means we are on our own again. It really gave us a boost at a time when it was needed, not only L/M benefited but also the O.C.A. as a whole.

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In February, what is now an annual event, the Bradenton Florida dinner was held under the direction of Gord Keeler. There were 22 Highlanders, wives and friends piped into the "Mess Hall" by Archie Dewey. Each year it seems to generate more interest.

During April and May each member was issued a Membership Scroll artistically done suitable for framing. We thank Don McCron for providing these handsome certificates.

May was a busy month. On the 17th, we bussed to Orillia to spend another great day at the Legion. On the 27th, a good turnout of L/M witnessed the Change of Command ceremony of L. Col. Hugh Mowat CD to L. Col. John Sandham CD. Our drill team on parade was outstanding. In August we were set for a big corn roast at Jim Felstead's home near Erigton but due to sudden illness of Mildred, his wife, it had to be cancelled. It is pleasing to know she is coming along fine now after a serious problem. Warrior's Day at the CNE August 20th, was fairly well attended by L/M although every year our ranks get a little thinner.

The September luncheon meeting brought out 42 members plus nine guests to witness our meeting and good fellowship. We are sure they have heard all these stories before but they seem to come back for more. The official opening of 29 Leslie Street on the 14th was a sell-out with a high percentage being L/M. The O.C.A. Executive did a fine job of organizing this important event.

November was another busy time for Life Members especially on the 12th and 13th. At 1100 hours on Saturday about 56 stood smartly to attention to pay tribute to our fallen comrades at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The same evening in the new club room 118 O.C.A. members sat down for the annual Remembrance Day dinner. Andy Le Mesurier and his 'Tin Hat' players put on a most amusing skit about planning the 200th anniversary of The Regiment in the 2091. Terrific! It was one of the finest events put on at a dinner in years. Andy did a superb job in putting on this one with the

help of a number of Life Members. The next day at our 48th Highlanders Memorial at Queen's Park we again paid our respects. For this we always have a good turnout as afterwards at the Armouries a two hour reunion in the three Messes is something no one wants to miss.

So good to hear from Herb Helliker and Joe Hallard, also to have Gord Keeler at meetings. And by the way, we never forget Dorothy Brannan. She makes the most delicious sandwiches.

Let none of us overlook the big reunion in 1991. Col. John Lowndes and his committee have been working on it for over a year. If you know of a Highlander who is not on our rolls send in his name and address.

The following comrades were lost to us in 1988:

Cliff Whaite, William (Pop) Fraser, Howie Hewitt, Jim Blencowe, James MacDonald, Hugh Hargrave, Stan Seggie, Henry Wallace, Bert McKissock. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

*Captain (Ret'd) A.E. Rutbven, EM*

### **MILITARY BAND: A Year of Change**

The members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada Military Band would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Director of Music, Captain Roly White, who has taken directorship of the band at the beginning of March 1989. Although Capt. White may be new to the regiment, he is not new to our bandsmen. We have been honoured in the past with Capt. White's presence as a guest conductor on many occasions and look forward to many productive years together.

This band can be very proud of the directors and for the many years of service to this Regiment. We submit Captain William J. Hughes to this list and for his contribution during the past 4 years. During his tenure, the band made a timely 'change of direction' with the inclusion of women. The obvious success of the record is due to the in-

fluence and leadership of Capt. Hughes, and, the band enjoyed the new arrangements of music as penned by him. We wish him well in his retirement and trust that contact will not be lost.

During this past year, the Military Band along with members of the Pipes and Drums performed at the "Friendship Festival" held at Fort Erie on July 4, 1988. The combined bands of the 48th 'stole the show' with their precise drill and a most favourable choice of repertoires. It is not often that bands get invited back to perform again before the show is over, but we did.

Other concerts and shows performed locally were the annual concerts at the "C.N.E" on three occasions including Warriors' Day, Ontario Place, Centennial Park in Brampton on July 1st and, not to be forgotten, the Sunday afternoon concert in Allen Gardens which always delights the local residents.

The Military Band would like to congratulate Bandsman Rob Laird on his recent acceptance to the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. Rob, who has been with our band for the past two years, will be missed. We do wish him much success and remind him "beware of the ZULU WARRIOR!" and "will ye no come back again!"

The year just past has brought us to a major point of concern regarding the Military Band and our readers. Without the dedicated assistance of the Band Sgt. Major, Brian MacInnes, CD, and a core group of members, the Military Band of the 48th Highlanders would be in great jeopardy. It is always difficult to keep a full contingent of members as individual responsibilities, priorities, and family situations change. We will always welcome any member of the permanent basis, then, just for a night. We are here to serve you; give us serious consideration.

*Sgt. Ewan King*

#### **48th HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA CADET CORPS. Submitted by Lt. Stewart C. Kellock Trgo**

Another very successful training year is about to come to a close. The corps started out very strong with an initial increase in strength from 30 to 72 cadets. We have now "levelled out" at a manageable 60.

It would appear that "activity" is the keyword in recruiting and maintaining a Cadet corps. As most of the young people in cadets are in what could be described as their "difficult years" the officers and NCO's have a formidable task of providing a healthy and challenging environment for them in which all can participate.

It is with considerable pride that we state that the 48th Cadet corps is one of the most active in the Garrison. By providing the cadets with interesting, meaningful and challenging activities we find that interest is maintained and the corps flourishes.

The Commanding Officer, Captain Al Stark has set a mandate of one weekend exercise per month as the minimum standard. This has resulted in the officers and NCO's being very busy.

Our schedule for 1988-1989 is as follows:  
August 20th, 1988 — Warriors day parade  
C.N.E.

September 23-25 — Niagara-on-the-Lake — Range and Bivouac exercise.

October 14-16 — Abseiling (Rapelling) and Range at CFB Borden.

November 13 — Remembrance Parade - City of Toronto.

December 18-19 — Christmas dinner and sleep-over at Moss Park Armoury.

January 15-17 — Winter Idoc. Training - Warrendale.

January 27-29 — Biathlon competition.

February 17-18 — Metro Police E.T.F. display and sleep-over at Armoury.

February 25 — Turner shoot at Armoury.

March 10 — Regimental Parade.

March 10-13 — 3 Cadets to Pipes and Drums school London.

April 15 — Range at CFB Borden.



April 28-30 — Orienteering and Search & Rescue at CFB Borden.

May 19-21 — Fort Drum USA for local parade and training.

May 7 — Regimental Parade.

June 2 — Annual Inspection.

August 4-7 — Ottawa trip and Canoe trip.

We are all looking forward to our upcoming trips to Fort Drum in New York as well as a citizenship tour and canoe trip down the Ottawa river and Rideau Canal. In New York we will be participating in a local parade and training with the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army. Also, we will be participating in the C.N.E. Warrior Day parade for 1989.

Many of the cadets will be attending one of the many camps offered to them through D.N.D. As a "student" cadets receive a bonus of \$300.00 for completing a six week program. As a "call-out" position, cadets can earn up to \$2,200.00

During 1988-89 the corps sent 4 individuals to the Regiment with the hope that more will follow once the time arrives. In the meantime it is hoped that all Highlanders who know of a potential cadet will offer him or her the chance of being a 48th Highlanders' Cadet. We meet at the armoury on Friday evenings at 1900 hrs. and look forward to new faces.

The officers and NCO's look forward to a productive summer and busy fall schedule. If any of you reading this article feel you can contribute to the corps please feel welcome to attend and to those who have supported the corps in the past year we say a hearty Thank-you.

*DILEAS*

*Sergeant Ewan King*

#### **OFFICERS' MESS**

1989 started off very well on New Year's morning with an excellent turnout of Active Officers and Former Officers. An excellent breakfast was prepared by the Associate Officers who had been cooking since 0600 hrs. This was greatly appreciated by all in

attendance.

This year we had a very successful Burn's Dinner held this year at the Royal Canadian Military Institute and WO Walker once again enthralled us with his superb toast to "The Haggis". The C.O. and Mrs. Sandham presented the ladies with a "sprig of heather" as they arrived which was a nice gesture and very fitting for this occasion.

The Pipes and Drum Ball held at the Skyline Hotel and the Regimental Ball held at the Royal York Hotel were well attended by the officers and their ladies. A good time was had by all.

We are sorry to say good-bye to Jack McKenna one of the "old farts" after serving many years in the Regimental Stores, and to Colin Stark. We were pleased to welcome a number of new Junior Officers to the Mess.

We are currently working on a program of refurbishing the Mess and hopefully this will be completed by the 100th Anniversary in 1991. In closing may I take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all former officers to visit their Mess on any Friday night the Regiment is parading.

*Major Tom White, PMC*

#### **OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION**

The new Memorial Hall at 29 Leslie St. has just passed it's first birthday with the result that things are settling in and it can now perform it's role as a Club.

The trauma of leaving King St. and with it the ghosts of our Comrades, though far from forgotten is on the wane. This makes one feel that the results are worthy of the efforts and decisions that were put into this venture. Since the original opening of the Hall the "WORK HORSES" of the club have spared little in continued time and effort to put the place in order. They have succeeded.

The Museum committee have worked endlessly doing a "bang up" job. Their

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results are physical and proudly displayed for all members to appreciate. There are others that have contributed, their work cannot be displayed.

There are the decisions to be made, finances to be considered, the sick to be visited, the Traditional function of the O.C.A. and associates to be organized, sports to be scheduled, arrangements for entertainment, the care and keeping of the building and a continuing drive for membership. We are fortunate in having capable people in charge of all of these things (errors as always will be made, but can be corrected by contacting any of those responsible either through the club or the Regiment). To all these people we owe a vote of thanks for their time and effort so freely given.

To this I would like to add my personal thanks to them and to all the members who stuck with us and saw us through these trying times. The memorial hall is open from 12:00 noon til 12 midnight Mon. through Sat. and any member of the 48th Highlanders families are welcome.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*  
*Don Burr, Pres. O.C.A.*

## **RSS**

As another year ends and a new one begins, many changes occurred in the 48th Highlanders. One of the areas of the Regiment which has experienced change is the regular support staff. This year WO MacIssac and MCpl Wallace were posted back to their Regiments and were replaced by MCpl Lilly from 2 PPCLI, West Germany, and WO McTague from Toronto Militia District (TMD) Headquarters.

MCpl Lilly is the new Unit Support NCM who brings with him a wealth of experience. With his healthy fresh attitude, he should be able to provide strong support to the QM and Transportation Sections. Sgt. Carpenter is starting his fourth year with the 48th Highlanders as the Unit Administrative Assistant. This year Sgt. Love will replace Sgt. Carpenter as the Unit's Chief Clerk which will allow Sgt. Carpenter to concentrate on

some of the other aspects of the Unit's administration.

WO McTague joins us from the Training Office at TMD Headquarters which will be a great advantage to the 48th Highlanders. With his knowledge of the training system, the Unit should be able to improve the quality of training it provides to its soldiers.

Last May the Unit celebrated a change of command which brought LCol Sandham to the helm. Since that time the 48th Highlanders have achieved a number of noteworthy accomplishments. In June, the Unit provided an eighty man guard for the Toronto Economic Summit. This was a great opportunity for the soldiers to parade the Regimental Colours with a world wide audience. The effort and planning which is required for such an undertaking was achieved and it paid off in spades with a very impressive performance.

The 48th Highlanders again rose to a challenge in August. However, this time it was the challenge which the summer concentration brings. It was a two week concentration held at Camp Meaford which started with the basic skills and rapidly progressed into collective training at the Combat Team level. Maj. Ken McBey commanded A Company during Milcon 88, a composite company make up of the 48th and a number of other units. His company performed very well and was a credit to the 48th Highlanders.

Another major success for the Regiment occurred in January 1989 when the District headquarters conducted our annual staff inspection. After a poor performance in 199, it was important to show a marked improvement. The Unit rose to the challenge with a very strong performance and the most improved standard in the District.

All in all, it has been a good year for the 48th Highlanders of Canada. With a continued effort in the area of recruiting, the Unit will remain solid and healthy for its 100th anniversary.

*Captain Jim Waddell*

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## THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS BATTALION ACF ANNUAL REVIEW

Cadet Commandant, *Colonel R. D. Buchan TD MBIM*; Deputy Commandant, *Lieutenant Colonel T.C. Porteous AFC*; Cadet Executive Officer, *Major J.D. Beeton*; Training Officer, *Captain C.R. Champion*; Adjutant, *Captain G. McIntosh*; Quartermaster, *Lieutenant J. McBeath*; Regimental Sergeant Major, *RSM J. Geddes*; OC A Company, *Major J. Williamson*; OC B Company, *Major A.G. Henderson*; OCC Company, *Major D. Gillies*; OC D Company, *Major D. Bartlett TD*.

If Annual Camp is supposed to be the "high spot" of the year for Cadets then it was certainly that this year, or more appropriately the "high water level". The old Gairlochhead chestnut of "volunteers for a day with the Navy as a submarine deck-hand" started to take on a realm of reality as the West coast of Scotland bore the brunt of the atlantic "lows" generating gale driven rain from July to September. Nevertheless, as one Company Commander said, "we might have been stretched but we were not broken" as rearrangement upon rearrangement of the programme showed tolerance and flexibility from the cadets "above and beyond the call".

We've certainly learnt new skills, sir said "A" Company's Cadet RSM after "A" Coy had spent part of the day digging water run-off trenches and laying sandbags to divert the water "gunneling" off the hill and threatening the lower billets. Weather conditions must not, though, be allowed to dominate notable events and achievements at the 1988 camp.

Despite some comments of varying flavour and colour from the cadets when informed that their day's visit would be to the Glasgow Flower Festival ("Posey!") was one of the "mentionable" remarks, what a success it was. "Do you know, sir, there were teeth marks in the grab handle on the Corkscrew Death Ride", said one enthusiast. "You listened to the Norwegian girls choir?" said an incredulous officer, thinking he'd underestimated his cadets cultural capacity. "Aye,

and that blonde in the front row ...." Realisation dawned! The completion of a demanding "three star cadre" under the tender ministrations of "four-two", RSM Georgie Reid of 22 CTT, saw twenty-one Cadets "pass-out" from this demanding examination. Cadet Corporal B. Allen of "D" Coy was awarded best cadre Cadet with Cadet Corporal N. Lees of "C" Coy a close and worthy runner-up. Hardly had breath been drawn after the cadre before a party of some forty senior Cadets and adults, headed by RSM Buchan, left the camp at 0400 on a drenching morning to attend the Fort George Colours Ceremony of our parent Regiment. That superb day of precision drill and ceremony, the sense of occasion plus the added pleasure of meeting some ex-cadet colleagues now in Junior Leader Training before joining the Regiment was "something very special and aday to be forever looked back on with pride and pleasure".

Involvement of Cadets in the Freedom Ceremony at Inverurie in June was also a thrill and we in the Cadets very much appreciate the chance offered by our "big brother" for giving us the opportunity to participate in such events.

In the challenge of maintaining the camp programme under duress, thanks must be extended to the RN Submarine Base at Faslane for the use of sports facilities and the visits to submarines which was an eye-opener to the very impressed Cadets.

The formal mess dinner at Annual Camp is always the time to remember the departure and arrival of faces that have been and will be well known. Friends of the Battalion will be sorry to hear of the departure of Lt. Col. Charlie Sim, Major Douglas Reid, Major John Leith and Padre John Dickson on retirement. At the same time a welcome is extended to Lt. Col. Tom Porteous as Deputy Commandant and Major Douglas Bartlett, OC "D" Coy. We still seek a replacement for our retired and very popular Padre!

During our stay at Gairlochhead, we were pleased to welcome a number of Canadian





*"OK, the Warrant said when Mickey's hands  
are on the twelve and the four...."*

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visitors with us during the first week as well as our GOC Scotland, Lt. Gen. Sir John Macmillan CBE, himself a Gordon. Honorary Colonel, Col. George Morrison DSO, a most distinguished Gordon Highlander, is always a popular figure with the cadets with whom he talks on every opportunity. Their three rousing cheers for him upon completion of sports prizes presentation reflect the respect that all of us in the cadets have for our Honorary Colonel.

The Battalion also very much enjoyed visits from Brigadier L.C. Purves-Hulme and on our Dinner night, from Brigadier Alistair Pearson, Lord Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire and of Para fame, Lt. Col. Donald Young TD, former commandant, Col. Sandy David, Commandant Argylls Battalion ACF, Lt. Commander Palmer RN from Faslane and the Commandant of Gairlochhead Training Camp, Lt. Col. David Nicol cousin of Brian Nicol, Second-in-Command of 1 GORDONS.

James Buchanan-Smith completed his tour as OC 22 CIT in September. Popular and hard working, James will be missed by all in the Gordons Cadets. At the time of writing we are shortly "breaking-in" James' successor, 1 GORDONS ex-RSM, Lt. Norman Jaffray.

Drumming and Piping has begun within the unit at Banff, Bucksburn and Prince Charles Barracks detachments.

The first Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards for some time have been achieved by Cadet CSM Smith, RAMC and Cadet Cpl. Givson, PARA. Congratulations to them and to Captain Eric Stein, Battalion DOE awards Officer for this achievement. There are more in the pipeline yet.

The year has seen the Battalion's "sporting life" prowess maintained, retaining the Senior and Junior National Swimming Titles for the third successive year, whilst the ski team won the ACF Shield during the Army Ski Championships at Aviemore in March. Our Shooting team won the Corsar trophy and were finalists in the national shoulder to

shoulder whilst many individual Cadets won national titles and represented the Scottish AFC in a number of Athletic swimming and shooting events.

Cadets visited BAOR and the Scots DG at Tidworth during July. With the 1st Battalion now situated at Fort George the cadets thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the visits made to detachments by the RECCE MORTAR and MILAN TEAMS during Spring of 1988, soon after the Battalion's return from Germany.

Spring also saw the move of the Cadet Battalion HQ to the Bridge of Don Depot (New telephone number (0224) 826239) with the Cadet Training Centre now occupying the old Sergeants Mess accommodation.

### **THE PIPES AND DRUMS ASSOCIATION**

It was during one of the Regimental Reunions that a group of Pipers and Drummers from our First Battalion decided that the Regimental Family should include a Pipes and Drums Association. This small group put the idea into action, they compiled a mailing list, sent out a notice and in no time at all had organized a "Founding Meeting". During this meeting the first executive were elected with Piper Charles Spence as President and this sure came as a surprise to Charlie. The Association decided to start off with a reunion dinner which was well attended and from then on the Association have accomplished many things. This all took place in 1974 and those of us who have been active throughout find it hard to believe that we have been on the go for eighteen years.

When looking back through the original files one finds that the founding meeting those present decided that the main object of the Association would be to create a focal point which would give former Pipers and Drummers an opportunity to keep in contact. There was also mention of several social events each year; news letters to let members know what was going on and the hope of encouraging members to take a more

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active interest in The Regiment and The Old Comrades Association.

Once a mailing list was compiled and people heard about the Association we soon had a list of 175 paid up members. Fortunately, the membership remained at about that number throughout the years. For the first few years the Association embarked on a very busy program indeed. There was an Annual Dinner; a Wine and Cheese Party; Ladies Nights; Stag Nights in the Pipers Mess and an annual competition of Junior or beginner Pipers. In retrospect it would appear that the Association may have been too ambitious. This is the age when everybody leads a very busy life and by scheduling too many events it was found it was found that interest and attendance tended to drop after the initial novelty was over. Future plans call for fewer activities but more news letters.

It hasn't been all fund and games. The Association did take on a few projects for the good and welfare of The Regiment. They were able to make a substantial cash donation to The Pipes and Drums, used to upgrade uniforms when the band participated in The Wembley Tattoo of 1981. With additional financial help from The 48th Cahpter, I.O.D.E. and The Ladies Auxilliary of The OCA they raised enough money to purchase a set of drums for our Cadet Pipe Band. They have also sponsored a series of Annual Competitions for beginner and Junior Pipers. The competitions were under the direction of the incumbent Pipe Major but the Association was responsible for all administrative details and financed these events.

The Association undertook to provide each member with at least two News Letters each year and periodically to provide each member with a complete copy of the mailing list. These two projects placed a very heavy work load on various secretaries but they all managed to do it and to survive. The feed back from members made it all worth while. There are many ver complimentary letters from those living away from Toronto who appreciate these letters as they are their

only source of news about both old friends and the Regiment. Providing members with up to date copies of mailing lists is also well received. The association had more than one report of members renewing contact with friends who had moved and been out of touch for many a year. This at least indicates that one of the original objects in forming is worthwhile.

During its 14 years the Association have managed to get along with only five Presidents. These have been Bill Baird; Bill Elms; Cam Fraser; Lloyd Tucker; and Charlie Spence. This is proof that the Association is like all other veterans organization. It is a simple matter to be elected President or Chairman but a son of a bitch to get unelected. The five must have all done a very satisfactory job as the Association has continued on and has prospered. All five started in the Regiment under the stern eye of the late Pipe Major James R. Fraser, a very honest, sincere and dedicated man. Could it be that enough of what he stood for rubbed off to make those who served under him better than they deserve to be?

There are others who must be recognized in an article of this nature. The first is Piper John Williams who has been Treasurer from the day the Association was formed. John is one of those sincere hard working people needed on every executive and thanks to him the accounting has always been well done. He has never permitted the Association to spend money, he has never reimbursed a member for out of pocket expenditures but the books are in excellent shape. The other is former Sergeant Drummer, Lloyd Tucker. Lloyd has also been a member of the executive right from the start and has been both President and Secretary. During his terms of office Lloyd did an outstanding job on membership and for the past couple of years wrote all newsletters and did the Associations contribution to the Falcon. Lloyd must now cut back a bit for health reasons and all members will miss his newsletters written in his own whimsical humorous style.

*Lt. Col. C.E. Fraser, CD (Ret.)*



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**BOOK REVIEW:****The Road Past Vimy:  
The Canadian Corps 1914-18**

by D.J. Goodspeed  
General Paperbacks Ltd., Toronto, 1987

If justice is ever to be done to Canada's part in the First World War, it obviously must be written by a Canadian. No writer of any other nationality could report the Canada involvement on the Western Front with such passion and fire.

D.J. Goodspeed has produced a compact and concise, yet absolutely riveting history of Canada at war. Although the detail and accuracy are unsurpassed, Goodspeed has gone out of his way to make his book an indictment of the shoddy British and Canadian leaders of the time. In particular, Canadian Minister of Militia Sir Sam Hughes, and British Commander in Chief Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, both of whom are practically damned to the fires of hell on each and every page for their incompetence and mediocrity. If the reader is willing to forgive the absence of the professional historian's impartiality, this book is an invaluable history which should be required reading for any military historian regardless of nationality.

D.J. Goodspeed was the historian of the Royal Regiment of Canada, and originally published this book in 1969. Regardless of his own loyalties, he does an excellent job of narrating the most bloody battles of other regiments as well. He does particular justice to the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) who held the St. Julien sector at Ypres in 1915, during the world's first gas attack. Without gas masks of any kind, the 15th Battalion held off the German advance, and sustained 647 casualties — almost the total annihilation of the entire unit. As the author admits, his research shows that no other unit on any side during World War One suffered so many casualties in such a short time.

Although the book is not without its faults, it richly deserves its place on a military

bookshelf: and you'll be proud to be a Canadian after you've read it.

*Sgt. F. Mackay*

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**THE C7 RIFLE:****A marksmanship appraisal**

The acquisition of the new C7 rifle (the Cold M16A2) by the Canadian forces is a decision which has caused howls of consternation from shooters, and rapturous gasps of joy from fans of ultra-modern weapons systems. While the opinions of any two individuals in the Regular force or Reserve will probably not be the same on the question, Canadian infantrymen seem to have split into two groups, over the C7.

The C7 has many points in its favor, which made it a top contender for use in the Canadian Forces, and place it among the most efficient battle rifles available in the world today. By the same token, it has many short comings which could greatly hinder our troops in the performance of their duties.

The FNC1 has an effective range of 600 metres, firing a 7.62 x 51mm cartridge at a muzzle velocity of 848 feet per second. The fire power is simply devastating.

The C7 is a pale comparison when its specifications are considered: it fires a tiny 5.56 x 45 mm bullet at 927 feet per second. The micro calibre of the round makes it ineffective beyond ranges of 500 metres, and makes it susceptible to high winds.

The Americans have long bemoaned the inadequacies of the M16 rifle, and specifically the inferiority of their ammunition. In an effort to overcome this, Canada has purchased the new SS109 round which is composed of a steel core over a lead base, encased in a copper jacket. Coupled with increased powder load, this is supposed to correct the sloppy tumbling and poor penetration of the M193 (US) round.

However, an incident at the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competitions (CFSAC), held

Photos by:  
Sgt. Frank MacKay

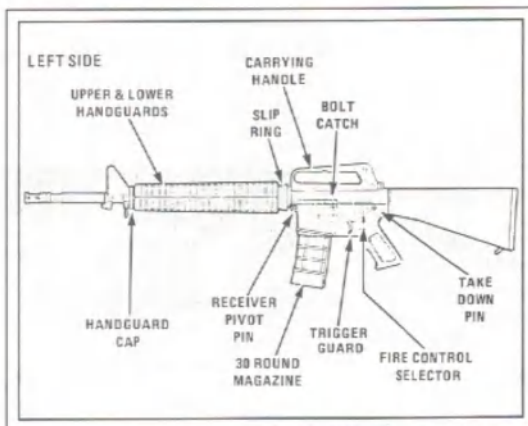
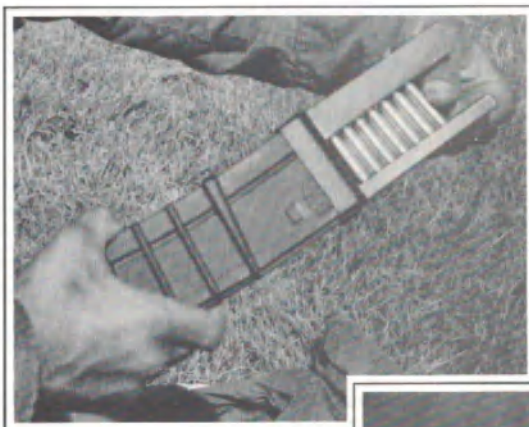


Figure 1-1 C-7 Rifle



*30 round nylon magazine  
and bandy mag charger  
are good news.*

*The C7 looks formidable,  
but still has shortcomings.*





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|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 – FLASH ELIMINATOR | 5 – CARRYING HANDLE |
| 2 – BAYONET LUG      | 6 – BODY COVER      |
| 3 – GAS PLUG         | 7 – REAR SIGHT      |
| 4 – GAS REGULATOR    | 8 – BUTT            |

Figure 2-1 Rifle 7.62 mm FN C1 (Right side)

#### Data Summary

##### a. Physical Data

Calibre	7.62 mm
Length (normal butt)	113.7 cm (44.75 in)
Length of barrel	53.4 cm (21 in)
Rifling number of grooves	6
Pitch	1 turn in 30.5 cm (12 in)
Twist	right hand
Type of sight	blade foresight, aperture backsight
Sight radius	200-600 yd (180-550m)
Locking shoulder	53.4 cm (21 in)
Rifle weight	15 sizes, 0.001 in variation
Rifle weight with full magazine and bayonet	4.22 kg (9 lb 6 oz)
Weight of bayonet	5.24 kg (11 lb 10 oz)
Length of bayonet blade	0.32 kg (11.5 oz)
Magazine	20.3 cm (8 in)
Muzzle velocity	Box type, 20 rds, double feed
	838 m/sec ± 12 m/sec
	(2750 fps ± 40 fps)



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in Ottawa last summer, proved that the SS109 round is still fatally inadequate.

During the falling plate shoot, Canadian shooters were dismayed to see that they were unable to knock down any of the 40 pound steel plates. Team after team took their chances, but few plates fell. How could this be? Poor marksmanship? Perhaps the rounds weren't powerful enough to knock the plates down? The assembled crowds were mystified.

When the famous British Army Rifle Team (BART) fired their relays using their version of the FN, the answer became apparent: while the British 7.62 bullets melted the plates away like butter, the Canadian bullets were slamming right through and failing to knock over the steel plates. If the much vaunted SS109 round didn't have the punch to knock over a 40 pound balanced steel plate, what kind of shock and impact is it going to make in the body of an enemy soldier?

Also during CFSAC, problems with the C7 sighting system were exposed. Unlike the FNC1, the C7 requires all range adjustments to be done on the front sight with a special tool or with the nose of a bullet. This means that range adjustments cannot be done effectively during fire and movement. If the shooter runs two or three hundred metres between his shots, he will have to guess about where to aim.

Furthermore, windage adjustments must be done on the rear sight, again with a tool or a bullet. Civilian models of the M16A2 have "H bar" windage wheels which allow adjustment to be dialed in with ease by hand. Why did the military receive the complicated and inefficient sights on the existing rifle? Questions for people with more rank than I to ponder.

The news isn't all bad however. The C7 has very little felt recoil due to the lightness of the calibre, and a heavy barrel combined with a muzzle compensator reduce muzzle climb to practically nil. The shooter can barely tell when a shot has been fired in fact. The

weapon is so gentle, that a slightly built female was able to win the Queen's Medal this year.

The size and comparative lightness of the ammunition means that the infantryman in the field will be able to carry much more ammunition than ever before. With the retention of the fully automatic fire capability on the C7, he'll be needing it. The 30 round nylon magazines are durable and easy to work with, and the plastic mag charger enables smooth and trouble free loading. One mag charger is supplied in every bandolier.

Personally, I was not impressed with the C7. I think it's a lump of hi-tech black plastic. But then, modern warfare is increasingly becoming nothing but a conglomeration of hi-tech plastic. For good or ill, the arrival of the C7, C8, and C9 is the dawning of a new era for the Canadian Forces.

*Sgt. Frank Mackay, Rifle Team Captain*

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#### THE PIPES AND DRUMS

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1988 was a busy year for the Pipes and Drums, but our focus shifted from engagements and parades to the Highland Games season. Almost everyone in the band found himself sweating inside a yellow circle on summer Saturdays, with baseful Scotchmen in kilts and hornrimmed glasses taking note of his performance.

Our Grade Two band had its most successful season in years, narrowly missing the 1988 Championship Supreme. The Pipers' Society system gives out Championship Supreme points to the band that place first, second, and third at the major Highland Games each summer, which rewards the bands that perform well over the whole season. This year's Championship Supreme was decided on the final Games of the Circuit, at Sarnia in August. The 48th lost by three points to Newmarket, with whom we had traded first- and second-place finishes over the whole summer. The band finished first at Cobourg, Barrie, Maxville (the North American Championships), and we were

second at every other Games.

We got a look at some bands from the U.S., Western Canada, and the Maritimes at the Maxville Games. Upstarts from the St. Andrew's Society of Fredericton showed up with "North American Champions — 1988" taped to their bus, but they were silent after the results were announced.

One thing the Pipes and Drums do at nearly every games is carry away the trophy for Dress and Deportment. Since civilian bands are much more numerous than military ones, it's not usually hard to win. We are one of only four reserve bands remaining on the Canadian competition circuit (the Black Watch, CFB Ottawa, and 400 Sqn. RCAF are the others). The days when the 48th, under a different PM Dewar, and the Argylls slugged it out for Canadian piping supremacy are regrettably gone.

Playing competitively takes a lot of extra time and hard work, and it blows every summer weekend from July to mid-August. Added to that, you never know if, on this particular Saturday, instrument trouble, cold fingers, or cold feet will put you on the bench instead of on the field.

Our second contest band, under the direction of WO Pringle, is continuing to pay its dues on the overcrowded Grade Three circuit, where your sound sometimes doesn't matter as much as your luck. The Grade Three band is a mix of on-strength and volunteer pipers and drummers, with, consequently, a wider range of playing talent than in the Grade Two band. It gives everyone in the band a chance to sharpen his skills by playing at the Games, or at least playing competition-calibre tunes. The playing and sound of the whole band has really improved as a result.

The opposition had another good reason to fear the 48th last summer, as our solo players were a wrecking crew every Saturday morning. Your correspondent cannot remember a single Games when PPr's Clark F., Lang I., or Bennett A. didn't figure in the prize lists. And under-17 band, meant to provide new blood for the "big band" is now operat-

ing under the iron fists of MCPL Moir. Apparently the sound is good, and the youngsters could surprise a few people in the Grade Four league next summer.

On another front, the long-awaited weekend Battle School attracted musicians and other geriatric support trades from all over Toronto and Hamilton Districts to get their JLC qualification. The 48th were no exception, and MCPL's Moir and Whyte, CPL Steingaszner, and PPr Bennett went through MAJ Young's mill. Our band emerged with some credit, placing three candidates in the top five on JLC. CPL Steingaszner infuriated everyone by being named top candidate at the Battle School — measures have been taken to ensure that such accidents don't happen twice.

JLC products were among those sewing on new rank this fall; Steingaszner moved up to MCPL, Bennett to CPL and your correspondent to SGT. MCPL Moir's promotion will, no doubt, appear in orders in due course. Another musician buying a round in the Band Room was Ken MacKay who went up to CPL in the tenor section. The 48th also provided the pipe band for a Staff College trip to Fort Hood, Texas. The band has been doing this for some years now, originally providing one piper, but now a mini-band goes down. The number of performances has grown each year, too, and now there can hardly be a school child in Texas who hasn't seen the 48th play. This year's contingent returned with their memories fogged, but are reliably informed that they had a great time.

In the years ahead, the band will take another run at the Championship Supreme. Our Games appearances this year are at Georgetown, Welland, Cambridge, Barrie, Maxville, Montreal, Fergus, and Samia. Of course we'll also be playing at public engagements (although we'll pass on the Santa Claus parade again this year). We are working on an album (to be released on CD and cassette) for the mass market, so expect to see us at the Juno Awards wearing dinner jackets over our greens.

*Sgt. J.G. Whyte*

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## HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

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The past year has been one of change for the Company. Personnel have changed, our aim and direction (as a Company) has been clarified; and the moral has improved. The current year promises to be even more challenging. The Turner Shoot was held earlier this Spring and despite the lack of real planning, turned out well — more about this later.

The first exercise in 1988, Winter Indoctrination turned out to be more of a summer sojourn. CFB Borden had literally no snow and most of the Company would be sleeping under the stars — some winter training! The exercise was saved from a training perspective with various DP and driving drills. The maintainers were fortunately not busy and the usual demands from the line Companies for re-supply did not materialize. With CSM Short back with the Company from TMD HQ; the men were getting some real direction.

Following the I-Doc exercise we had an opportunity to participate with C Company on a Company level exercise. Rather than deploy on the Friday nite, we met at the armory late Saturday afternoon and proceeded to CFB Borden using a circuitous route to practice convoy control and radio procedures on the move. MCpl Cornish is still not sure who was doing what to whom! As the acting chief rad op he was kept busy virtually constantly. Unlike other exercises where we deploy and then wait for 'something to happen', we decided to take the initiative. We arrived at CFB Borden around midnight — just in time to set up the DP which despite radio silence went flawlessly. Early the next morning C Company laid on an ambush to the vehicle convoy and we were able to practice our evasion drills for the first time in a long time! We still believe we rolled them up; however, it really doesn't matter as we both learned a lot and have developed a better understanding of the relative functions of the line Company and the Support/Adm Company.

Further exercises culminated with the

change of Command in June where we had an excellent turnout. Following the parade, the unit and the Company were directly involved with the Summit Guard. A number of NCM's were in the guard or directly participated in some facet. This was truly an event to remember and reinstalled in all of us the esprit de corps and appreciation of the regimental traditions. It was too bad that the Prime Minister elected NOT to review the guard — I think President Reagan wanted to check out the kilt; however, he was dissuaded by the PM. Maj McBey, OC of C Company and the rest of the Guard were superb. The pers running Regimental stores had all the extras, but where they came up with all the uniforms (scarlets), I'm still not sure. The only negative aspect of the guard was the virtual lack of Canadian media attention — unlike the rest of the world who saw the whole thing live on television.

The summer was uneventful; although a number of Company personnel attended one course or another. In September it was back to the regular routine with a few changes.

Mr. Howes, the MSEO, was transferred in late fall to the Orient by his civilian employer, and Mr. Olmstead was subsequently appointed to replace Mr. Howes as the 3rd MSEO in as many months! (For those of you who don't know the MSEO — Mobile Support Equipment Officer, is responsible for all the transport requirements of the unit which includes the Iltis (1/4 Jeep), the CUCV (1 Ton), the M1VW (modern 'deuces'), and the civilian pattern vehicles). The current Tn (transport section) is staffed with MCpl G.R. Quinnell as the Tn NCO, Cpl A.P. Coffey, Cpl T.E. Bachelder (recently married), Cpl J.P. Tate (also recently married), Cpl G.A. Treble (currently on a callout for RV 89 in Wainwright Alta), Cpl A.J. Mcburney, Pte R.J. Morrison (currently commuting from Barrie, Ont.) and Pte K.M. Dorlandt.

The Stores section was beefed up with the addition of Sgt. O.R. Reece (currently on callout with 25 Medical Company), and WO R.B. Bean. Mr. Paterson, the QM is in the process of transferring the QM respon-





*"When you care enough to send the very best..."*

sibilities to Mr. Howes (recently transferred back from the Orient) and will then be going, hopefully, to Cyprus. Sgt. C.L. Shalapat, the RQMS, will be moving to other duties in the fall and he will be replaced by Sgt. P. Ross who is returning to the Company. MCpl P. Rosa, the senior storeman was transferred in the fall to C Company and then onto Namibia (currently on call-out). Cpl W.R. Davidson was attached out to D Company. MCpl R.E. Kierstead is continuing his callout and is currently assigned to CFB Borden. Cpl P.J. Rivers and Pte S.S. Dunnett continue to ably assist in the issue and receipt of stores.

The Maintenance Platoon is currently under the able direction of MCpl P.D. Cornish. The vehicle techs are primarily responsible for the care, maintenance, and initial repair of the unit's fleet of vehicles. Cpls A.B. Cassar and G.G. Thompson work directly on unit vehicles and Pte (W) D.L. St. Germain is detached to the Queen's York Rangers in Aurora. The weapons techs consist of Sgt S.L. MacKinnon (currently on callout to CFB Borden), Cpl L.R. Starkes (recently married) and Cpl B.W. Plaum (currently on detached duty to Sudbury). The Sigs Platoon has been extremely busy this year with various inspections and constant demands for equipment and support. The Sigs O, Mr. J.R. Hergel, was injured in a car accident earlier this spring and hasn't yet fully recovered; however, we realistically expect him back 'on the line' shortly. In the interim the job has fallen to MCpl B.R. Wood (Sgt F.J. Mackay, the Sigs NCO, is currently on a callout with the unit) who is ably assisted by Cpl E.R. Blakely (on callout with the TMD HQ) and Cpl T.G. Louie.

The last grouping in Headquarters Company is the Coy HQ cell which consists of The author as the OC, MWO R.A. Short as the CSM and WO P.A. Fitzgerald on detached duty with the TMD Battle School.

From the above it can be seen that of the 35 pers all ranks, 11 are on detached duties of one sort or another and the rest are picking up the slack. Never has the Company appeared to run better and the level of

expertise is at an all time high. It is with this in mind that the current aim of the Company is to fully train and prepare the nucleus of qualified pers to run and Adm Company both in garrison and the field.

While a dissertation of all Company personnel is a little unusual for the Falcon, the nature of our jobs puts us in contact with virtually all members of the Regimental family, be it the OCA for weapon's parts, the ladies auxiliary and the IODE for tables and chairs at mess functions, the sigs for PA systems and assistance at regimental functions, or the Tn section to arrange (mostly unused) buses for Remembrance Day. It is important that you know the players of the Company as they generally receive too little recognition if things go well and too much if they don't work to perfection. They are all true Highlanders regardless of whether they wear a kilt, are on detached duty or aren't always in appearance. We may be small but I think we are the best around.

From the Company's perspective the highlight of the year was the Turner Shoot and the excellent turnout by the active regiment, the cadet corps and the OCA. Plans are underway to make next year's shoot even better. The winner was Sgt. F.J. Mackay who scored a perfect 50.

We need help next year to continue the progress made to date. Specifically, we need moral support from the ex HQ Coy and Sup coy personnel to encourage the younger soldiers. As we get closer to the 100th the demands for all of us will increase and the 'bullets, beans and britches' brigade will be there in force. Dilleas P.S. Sgt F. Mckay recently received top honours for the best smallbore shot in the Canada wide CRA shoot for the Canadian Forces.

*Lt. T.R. Birchall*

## **THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM**

As one gets older time does tend to fly past at a dizzy speed. It seems just yesterday that I was struggling with an article for the 1987 Falcon. Here I am again, wondering what I can possibly write for this issue but here goes.

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Back in 1983 our Life Members Association obtained a Grant through the New Horizons Programs and made many thousands of dollars available to the Museum Committee. For the benefit of those not familiar with the term, The New Horizons Program is an agency through which The Government of Canada make funds available to organized groups where the members are over 65 years of age. Bill Elms and the rest of us on the committee just about went out of our minds at such good fortune. For the first time in its history the Museum Committee had enough money to make major renovations and improvements possible. Bill was so carried away with this sudden wealth that he dictated that the Museum be stripped down to bare walls, that everything be painted, that new lighting be installed, new cabinets built and existing ones be relocated. If you go back and read the previous sentence you will agree that it all sounded clear cut, simple and easy. It was only after the room was stripped that the Committee realized the monumental task they (Bill) had taken on. To their horror they also remembered that the 95th Reunion was almost on top of them. Time was of the essence. The Committee then went at it, working four or five days a week, every week, and did have a spanking clean new museum open for the Reunion. No outsider will ever know just how hectic that last week was.

Finally the Reunion was over. The Captain and The Kings departed while the Museum Committee sat back, relaxed, content with the knowledge that nothing would ever disrupt their orderly lives again. They had long years ahead of them with nothing to do but rearrange a display, polish a bit of glass, speak kindly to the mannequins and contemplate their navels. This dream was rudely shattered when they were arbitrarily told to prepare to move everything to Leslie Street. This was really hitting below the belt as we, on the committee had created a wonderful museum, it had become our favourite toy, our first born, a pride and joy forever and something to precious to ever be touched. We were on the point of mutiny when Bill put on his R.S.M. Hat, shouted rude

things in a loud voice which led us to the decision to cooperate. We very sadly took the whole damned thing apart, packed it all away and were ready to move.

The dreaded day arrived, the move to Leslie Street was on and it is a good thing the workers were not aware of the problems in store for them. The room allocated was of a different size, the ceiling was too far from the floor, some of our cabinets would not fit and it was one unhappy day. You all remember that old bromide fed to us about the well trained infantryman "We will do the improbable right now, the impossible may take a little longer." Well it proved to be true in this case. Somehow our instructions to The Building Committee never reached the contractor so for a start all electrical work had to be taken out and properly located. The unsuitable cabinets were sold and a couple of others purchased. A major decision was just how to lay out the new Museum and once this was decided things were off and running. From January on right through the Summer the Committee put in an average of four working days a week. At the time of writing this the Museum is again ready to open to visitors and I am sure you will find it equal to, or possibly an improvement on the one created in King Street. All credit for the work done must go to a very competent and knowledgeable fatigue party. Bill Elms; Doug Chappell, Harry Sershall and Art Johnson. We do hope this will be our last move and that the Committee can again spend their days contemplating navels and keeping the premises absolutely coruscation.

The committee responsible for all this do deserve recognition so here is a little run down on what they do. When Bill Elms became curator he decided to work with a small committee, choosing people who had been around a long time and could work well together. Bill as Curator is the king pin and it is due to his vast knowledge that we have the best Regimental Museum in Canada. Some of Bill's knowledge and skills have rubbed off, the rest of us have more less become specialists with our own individual tasks. Doug Chappell has become our "special effects" man and does all the fancy dis-



play cases where something special or unusual is required. Harry Sershall is our housekeeping specialist and it is mainly due to his efforts that everything is neat, clean and shiny. Art Johnson is one of those computer whizzes and it is due to his efforts that we now have a good, complete accurate inventory. Cam Fraser is now Secretary-Treasurer and among other things is responsible for fund raising, banking and the payment of accounts. He also writes all reports, attends to correspondence and is contributor to The Falcon. Two others, no longer with us due to failing health must be mentioned. Al Young a dedicated worker over many years and our first Treasurer. Walter Peddle is another hard worker in many capacities who took over as Treasurer when we lost the services of Al. We recently added one more to our committee in the person of Warrant Officer (Piper) Bob Taylor. Bob will be working a lot with Bill Elms on archives and as he has been around a long time we can rest assured that he will be of real value, a true worker and not a drone. Aside from the grants from our "Regimental Trust" and "New Horizons" the Museum have not had financial assistance from any other sources. Finances have always been our major problem and we have been able to keep the Museum up to standard only because many of you have been generous with donations. I believe that those making donations should be recognized and these are the ones received since October 1987:

George and Flo Baker; In memory of Cpl Frank Black MM (15th), John Bradfield, Norman Bradfield, Ian Donaldson; In memory of Piper Dave Donaldson, Steward East, Bill Elms; In memory of C.S.M. George Elms, Bill Elms; In memory of R.S.M. Frank Jamieson, Mrs. Lou Fraser; In memory of Sgt. C. Fraser MM, Mrs. Lou Fraser; In memory of Doll Keeler, Millybeth Fraser; In memory of C.Q.M.S. Pop Fraser, Cam Fraser; In memory of George Elms & Pop Fraser, Joe Hallard, Gord Keeler; In memory of C.Q.M.S. Pop Fraser, Jean Oldershaw; In memory of Jimmy Forbes, Walter Peddle, Win Rogers, John Rutledge, Mrs. Mary Taylor; In memory of C.S.M. John Taylor, Mr. L.F. Watson; In

memory of Sgt. C. Fraser MM.

Some of these donations were very substantial, they provided us with most of our working capital and we do thank the donors for their generosity.

Our Curator is still doing research and advisory work for The National War Museum in Ottawa. In doing so he views millions of feet of micro film at National Archives and automatically orders us copies of anything pertaining to The Regiment. We have now amassed an amazing quantity of pictures, copies of orders and copies of correspondence all having a bearing on our history. This material is being sorted, filed in sequence, analyzed and gradually becomes more meaningful. This is a part of museum work which the visiting public never sees but having such archives gives us a better museum. Some day we hope to see much of this written up and published.

One other ongoing project is our Regimental register of war graves. To the best of our knowledge we can now identify the location of the grave of every Highlander who was killed or died on active service. We make that claim with some reservations as every now and then someone brings our attention to one not previously known or recorded. We now have good clear pictures of the majority of our graves, in due course these will be mounted in albums and available for viewing. In this connection we must thank those of you who have taken time out, while on vacation, to locate and photograph head stones for our records. Finally, if any of you plan a holiday in Italy or North West Europe and plan to visit any grave sites you should contact the committee before leaving. We will be able to provide you with the name of the cemetery, the location and even the plot number. Having such information could save you time and frustration while on holiday.

All Museums receive a steady stream of donated items. Much of such material is of little value and does not really have a place in any museum. Quite often however, such items are of great historical value and



**REGIMENTAL HOCKEY TEAM, 1988/89  
WESTWOOD "C" DIVISION CHAMPIONS**

*FRONT ROW: MWO McGuffin, WO MacDonald, Sgt. Darling,  
Andy Robb, MCpl. Quinnell, Stg. Alkema.*

*STANDING: MCpl. Mastbatsis, Steve Tindall, Dave Edgebill,  
2Lt. Morrison, Andy Westerboek, MWO McVety (Coach), Cpl. MacLaren,  
Pte. Browne, Cpl. Starkes, Cpl. Heubner, WO Gillie*

*ABSENT: Cpl. Cassar*



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deserve an important spot in a museum. On many occasions well wishers leave envelopes or cartons at the Memorial Hall and on examination we find pictures, nothing to tell us who wore the badges or uniforms, nothing to identify the individual who used the equipment. Without such information we are at a loss on how to place a value or decide on historical importance. A recent issue of "The Rifleman", the Journal of The Queens Own Rifles contained an article on this subject written by Lt. Col. W.T. Barnard, curator of The Queens' Own very fine Museum in Casa Loma. Bill's article "Documentation of Military Souvenirs" deals with this subject so thoroughly that I am suggesting to our Editor that it be published in The Falcon in its entirety. If you now find it to read you will know the Editor agreed.

*LCol (Ret'd) C.E. Fraser CD*

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#### FROM THE PADRE

##### The Church Sermon: A Modern Parable

"The word became flesh and dwelt among us..."

It was a bright warm spring day, the kind of day that turns one's thoughts to a game of golf or a pleasant drive in the country. That was what the Reverend was thinking as he parked his car in his reserved space right beside the side entrance to the church. Once inside the church he called out his usual pleasant greeting to the church secretary, poured himself a cup of fresh brewed coffee, went into his office and began to sort through the day's mail. For the most part there was nothing out of the usual; handbills from various office and stationary suppliers, (quickly disposed of in File 13), a catalogue advertising the most recently published religious books, (set aside for a better look later on in the day) a large manilla envelope from head office (avoid reading as long as possible) and last, a plain white envelope simply addressed to the church. No return address, the postal mark was blurred. The Reverend was tempted to set it aside until he had finished his coffee, but curiosity got the better of him

so using a silver plated letter opener he carefully opened the envelope and read the contents. "Dear Reverend and congregation," the letter began. "I will be visiting your church on the last Wednesday evening of this month. Yours sincerely, Jesus Christ." Again he searched the envelope for a return address. Again the blurred postal mark was scrutinized. Was it a joke, a belated April Fool's prank perhaps? One of his colleagues testing his sense of humour? Or was this, somehow, in some mysterious way, absolutely serious? Thank goodness it was the second Tuesday of the month, the Reverend at last decided. The regular meeting of the Session would be held tonight, and this was definitely a matter that should be dealt with by the Session.

The Session, the elected leaders of the congregation, reacted to the letter with a mixture of amusement and shock. The Reverend reported that he had explored the possibility of a prank but had learned nothing. So after a lot of discussion that went on until past midnight it was decided that the safest thing to do would be to take the letter seriously. As one of the members put it, "What did they have to lose?" If he showed up, and they were ready, no one would be disappointed. And if he didn't show up, well, they'd enjoy a congregational pot luck dinner anyway.

So a committee was formed to look after the arrangements and together they waited out the days until the last Wednesday evening of the month.

It was an eventful couple of weeks. As the word spread and people began to see how seriously the Reverend and the other church leaders were taking this impending visit attendance at church increased to a level usually seen only at Christmas and Easter. The weekly bible study had to be moved to a larger room. The Committee preparing for the visit outdid themselves with their preparations; a special service was planned, the choir worked on new anthems, the ladies group volunteered to provide refreshments — the only problem encountered was that the Board of Managers got into a bit of a snit



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because the last Wednesday of the month had "always" been the evening of their regular meeting. With some diplomatic negotiations, however, the Reverend was able to persuade them to postpone until the following week. The designated evening finally arrived. The church was packed, the choir was ready, everyone was dressed in their best suits and dresses, some of the ladies had even decided to wear hats, just to be on the safe side. The Reverend had prepared a special sermon for the occasion, and they all waited patiently for ten minutes, twenty minutes, finally a whole half hour went by when suddenly everyone realized that the man they were waiting for was already there, sitting quietly in the back row.

After all the preparations, after all the frenzied excitement that this visit had caused, his appearance was rather anticlimactic — almost a disappointment.

No one could remember when he came in, no one had even bothered to greet him, because he was just too...ordinary.

He was well dressed, neat and tidy to a point, wearing a suit coat and matching trousers, but he had that dishevelled look of a person who has always got too much to do and not enough time to do it. Unshaven because he had rushed out the door that morning to get on with the day's work, hair a little too long because he just hadn't managed to fit a haircut into his schedule this month.

The Reverend was a bit embarrassed. He had, after all expected a more glorious entrance — one he had not expected, in fact no one expected, Jesus to look so... real. They had figured on a bit more "divinity" or something.

But the Reverend cleared his throat and delivered the call to worship and the choir launched into the opening hymn. Things went quite smoothly. Everyone managed to be their "worshipful best" and at last the moment arrived when Jesus was asked to come forward and say a few words.

The entire congregation leaned forward in

anticipation as he mounted the pulpit steps, utter silence as he looked around the assembled crowd, and finally he spoke: "Is anybody else hungry?" he asked. "I noticed a restaurant a couple blocks down the street. Why don't we get a bite to eat and we'll talk over supper." Then he strode down the aisle and out of the church. After a moment of confusion and amazement the congregation followed, down the street and into the restaurant.

Jesus ordered pizza and a coke, and as he ate he told them all that he had been doing during the past few years. He told them about South Africa, about the struggle against apartheid which he had inspired and had been leading for several years. He told them about men like Bishop Desmond Tutu and Alan Boesak, men who risked their lives proclaiming his gospel of liberation.

His thoughts then turned to Latin and South America, tears welling up in his eyes as he spoke of Bishop Oscar Romero who was shot and killed right in the sanctuary of his church during mass because he dared to proclaim Jesus' gospel of freedom — and specifically freedom of totalitarian governments. "But the work goes on," he pointed out to them, "every day, every hour, preachers and church workers proclaim the good news to the poor, the release of prisoners, and the liberty of those who are oppressed."

He spoke to them of his work going on all around the world — the struggle against pollution, against nuclear arms and global annihilation, deforestation, capitalistic real estate developments, economic and political systems which left thousands homeless and poor — by the time he was done speaking there was not one aspect of their lives left untouched.

The pizza, and coke finished, he suddenly announced that it was time for a walk. And off he went again, with the Reverend and the congregation in tow.

As they walked with the members of the congregation began to talk amongst them-

selves. "What about the programme?" some wanted to know. After all, they hadn't finished the worship service which had been so carefully prepared. "When were they returning to the church?" others asked. "Didn't Jesus want to tour the building in which so much time and money had been invested?" Some even wondered aloud whether this was really Jesus.

And the Reverend, well the Reverend was just baffled by the whole thing. And he too was beginning to have doubts. This visit was not at all what he had expected, particularly when Jesus led them into the "seedier" part of town and stopped at the entrance of a rather "disreputable" bar. And he went in. To the everlasting amazement of everyone, he went in, leaving the congregation standing on the sidewalk wondering exactly what they should do now.

It was decided that the Reverend and the Clerk of Session would go in and find out what he was doing. Inside the bar, across the dimly lit interior and through the cigarette smoke haze the Reverend could see Jesus seated at a table. He was sitting with a rather unkempt, downright dirty individual, who had obviously been begging quarters all day and was drinking himself into oblivion. He was well known all about town, not only for his begging, but also because he had only one arm, he was just known as "That one armed beggar". The Reverend was about to take a step in their direction when the waitress placed six glasses of draft on Jesus' table. Well, that was it. That was enough. His doubts had been confirmed.

On the sidewalk outside he told the congregation to go home. The Session, the church leaders, and the Reverend returned to the church to discuss the whole sordid affair.

A few hours later, just as they were about the adjourn the meeting there was a knock at the door. It was Jesus. He entered the room, threw his suit coat across the back of a chair, and sat down. "Is there a problem?" he asked.

The Reverend took a deep breath. "Yes," he said, "there is a problem." "We get a letter telling us that Jesus is going to visit our church. We decide to take this letter seriously. We spend all kinds of time preparing for this visit and when you finally get here you're not really who we expected, and we're not really sure who you are. We plan a service of worship, the choir even called three extra practices, I wrote a special sermon, and what do you do? You haul us off to a restaurant to tell us stories. Then you start wandering all over town, end up in a bar. In fact you spent more time with that one armed beggar that you did with us."

Jesus gave his words some thought. "Anything else?" he asked. "Well," one of the church leaders added, "what about miracles? You've been here for how long? Six, seven, eight hours? And have you done anything even remotely close to a miracle? No. We gave you ample opportunity and what did you do for us? Nothing. Nothing at all that would prove to us that you are who you say you are." Jesus stood to leave "I understand how you feel," he said. So I'll just be on my way." He put on his jacket and turned to go. "Wait," the Reverend said, "What on earth happened to your coat?" It definitely wasn't Jesus' jacket. One sleeve had been cut off just below the shoulder. "Oh, this," Jesus replied, looking at the shortened sleeve. "This isn't my jacket. I traded mine for this one. I couldn't very well give a man a new arm and leave him with no sleeve to put it in." Jesus opened the door and departed into the warm summer night.

"The word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father." Amen.

*Captain The Reverend Dwight E. Nelson*

#### LETTERS

**The following letters were received by  
Major John Brown**

Dear John:  
My wife and I are back from a trip to Sicily where the Regiment landed on July 10,

1943. We had a copy of the Regiment's War Diary, which the National Archives in Ottawa was kind enough to provide, and copies of the maps from Colonel Nicholson's book, *The Canadians in Italy*. We had a car and a driver and spent two whole days following the path of the Regiment.

I must say I could not remember much of beach where we landed or of the ground over which we marched for the first three days. I suppose we were tired, it was strange and nothing very dramatic happened. However, I remembered quite well much of the land after we started fighting the Germans. I suppose the fighting drew our attention - it certainly did mine.

The late Col. Geordie Fraser and I claimed 50/50 ownership in a village named Valguarnera. Geordie commanded 14 pl and I 13 pl. Ian Johnston sent us out on patrol (the first two patrols from the Regiment) with the specific jobs of finding the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, the Brigadier (Howard Graham) having lost them — the radio sets didn't work worth a damn in Sicily and the RCR and Hasty P's were out of touch. Geordie found the Hasty P's and 13 pl found the RCR, coming first on Major Billy Pope, the 2 i/c of the RCR, and about ten men, all killed in a night attack on some German tanks. Coming back from Valguarnera, which the Germans had just vacated, nightfall came very suddenly and 13 pl got lost.

We came upon an electric power line with towers and used it to get back to the Regiment. We came through one of the Regiments of the 3rd Bde and had a scare because the password had been changed between our going out and our coming in. In any event Valguarnera is still there and so is the power line.

Nissoria, where all three regiments of the 1st Bde had bloody noses, having been fed in piecemeal without artillery support, looked the same and the high hill on the left of the road where 13 pl had its position

looked very different. Assoro, Agira, and so on, were recognizable. As was Regalbuto, where Don Reid, my mortarman, and I were captured. The town is much bigger, as is the cemetery where the Regiment was. The small hill across the road from the cemetery where 13 pl was located is there but has been built upon.

The high point for me was when we were driving up the road from Assoro to Regalbuto we came upon a sign "Canadian War Cemetery". I had not realized there was one in Sicily. It is a very small war cemetery, containing only 490 souls. It is away out in the boon docks, miles from anywhere, up on a small hill with a lovely view all round.

Beautifully looked after with shrubs and flowers between the graves, guarded on one side by a row of cypresses standing as straight as guardsmen. I found the grave of many Highlanders — Eddie MacLachlan, the first officer killed, Dusty Miller, Bobs Osler, Earl Chase and George Whitelaw, who was 2 i/c of my company, C Coy. I found the graves of two of my own men, John Thorburn and Bill Arbour, of Jack Besserman, one of the few Jewish fellows we had — and our first man killed, and of other Highlanders. I found the graves of Ralph Crowe and Billy Pope, the CO of the Hasty P's. Because the cemetery is so far out of the way, very few people visit it except Sicilian people from neighbouring towns and villages. They write sweet notes in the visitors book and I translated as "may their souls rest in peace," "they are not forgotten" and the like. I can't tell you how touched my wife and I were by the whole experience.

Anyway, this is a long and over-chatty letter but perhaps some of this would be of interest to the Falcon.

*As ever,  
Ian Douglas*

Sir,  
Having just returned from Florida's sunny clime this last week-end I am a little bit late in catching up on "The Falcon". Once again an excellent effort but I would like to make a few comments. On page 12 in the item



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about the regular support staff you refer to W.O. MacIsaac's unit as "the First Royal Canadian Regiment (1RCR). As a former member of the unit we always referred to it as "THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT". Although this was never recognized officially by the powers that be in Ottawa till quite recently. It is my understanding that the word "THE" is now officially incorporated in the title of "THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT".

With regard to the picture of Niagara Camp 1946, the four gentlemen shown were at that time members of The Toronto Rotary Highlanders. It is interesting to note that two of them went on to become COs of infantry battalions later on. James Ramesbottom of the Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada and James Cowan and the 2nd Bn. of The Royal Canadian Regiment as well as other high staff appointments. He finished his career as a Brigadier. Not bad for a kid who started out as cadet in the Rotary.

In the other Niagara Camp picture as well as Pipe Major Fraser, John Speers a long time drummer in the pipe band is fifth from the left. John and his sons were all well known band members. While I'm out on about the band I really enjoyed Lloyd Tuckers rerun from the 50s, it sure brought back a lot of memories about the band and the gang from Support Coy who used to follow them around the games as well as the parade square.

*Yours sincerely,  
Art Johnson*

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### C COMPANY

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In accordance with its tasking as the 48th Highlander's operationally-capable infantry company, C Company conducts training in a wide variety of military skills and types of operations. From the period 1988 to the present (May 1989), our primary training orientation has been to maintain operational readiness and sustain personnel strength and retention in light of recent unfavourable recruiting and basic training conditions. A quick capsule coverage of

recent Company activities will help provide some background to our efforts.

Despite having conducted our annual refresher training in winter indoctrination skills (e.g. care and utilization of arctic tents, snowshoes, skis etc.) in preparation for a major winter warfare exercise, when this fateful weekend arrived in January 1988, the beautiful but inappropriate weather (absolutely no snow!) forced us to hastily change to platoon and company level advance to contact and quick attacks. This was perhaps the only weekend in record where soldiers expressed regret over the appearance of better-than-average ('early spring') weather conditions.

Subsequent to our major 'winter' exercise, our emphasis in spring of 1988 turned to specialist training for our soldiers in courses such as machine guns, AVGP (armoured personnel carrier) driving, and communications/signals. With most of the soldiers actively learning new military skills, we also sought to reinforce basic infantry knowledge by conducting a live-fire weapons training as well as patrolling exercises in Borden during March. Some very important lessons in camouflage and navigation training in the early summer and at MILCON '88 in Meaford.

Throughout the period of April to June 1988, C Company personnel reviewed section and platoon level battle drills and devoted substantial time to improving the levels of map reading and compass/navigation skills. Quick attacks, night patrols (reconnaissance and fighting) as well as improvised water-crossing techniques (rope bridges) were also practiced. In terms of adventure training, a rappelling and small group "escape and evasion" exercise in Meaford was very well received as military skills were tested in a forum where friendly 'partisans' as well as enemy stalking patrols were operating in the same training areas! A few red-faces resulted from excessively extroverted and friendly behaviour towards certain officers and NCOs acting in a distinctly unfriendly manner (enemy force!)

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When the 48th Highlanders were asked to provide a 100 man Honour Guard for the Toronto Economic Summit 19 June 1988, C Company turned out en masse and was well represented in the key command positions: OC and CSM C Coy were appointed Guard Commander and Guard Sergeant-Major, and both Colour Ensigns were subalterns in the Company. The Guard itself, as undoubtedly will be reported elsewhere, came off in exemplary fashion and was given live television and radio coverage in over 100 countries worldwide. The soldiers of the 48th Highlanders have every right to be proud of the widespread compliments on their splendid turnout, drill and military bearing.

In mid-August 1988, C Company, with its organic HQ and two platoons, was converted into a mechanized infantry company 'combat team' with the addition of a composite platoon from the Royal Regiment and Grey and Simcoe Foresters. For two weeks, the newly formed 'A' Company practiced in live fire jungle lanes, stalking and camouflage skills, helicopter indoctrination, rappelling, mines and boobytraps, as well as mechanized infantry and armour operations in all phases of war. The Company distinguished itself during Milcon despite extremely varied weather conditions (hail, near zero temperatures) and training which often seemed to be conducted primarily for the benefit of the armoured soldiers in attendance. Of great significance to the soldiers in C Company was the establishment of a training link between C Company 48th Highlanders and our regular force counterparts in C Company 1RCR of CFB London, Ontario. Both of our units have a mechanized tasking and regular and reserve personnel demonstrated mutual respect for each other and a desire for further combined training efforts in the future. Apart from our joint operations during MILCON 88, C Company 1 RCR, under the command of Major McBride (OC) Captain Clarke Gloster (2IC) and MWO Ginn (CSM), have also conducted a hands-on weapons display and training for 48th Highlanders personnel on the new SARP weapons family based on the improved M16A2 rifle system. This weapon's display was very professionally presented by

our RCR visitors and was a big hit with C Coy/48th personnel. At time of writing, we are planning a joint patrolling and navigation exercise together in Camp Ipperwash during the weekend of 9-11 June 1989, to further cement a mutually rewarding training alliance. After the summer training period, C Coy got off to a good start in the fall of 1988 finishing first in Toronto Militia District in the CMA Infantry Competition. Since that time we have conducted range exercises in all unit weapons (pistols, rifles, machineguns, grenades, anti-armour rocket launchers), taught all Company personnel how to call for artillery or mortar fire missions by means of the 'invertron' system, performed field training exercises in advance to contact, quick attacks, counterattacks, employed radar as well as conducting a patrolling exercise against a simulated soviet defensive position. Despite the disappointment associated with the cancellation of battalion winter indoctrination and range exercises, C Company soldiers are looking forward to the future and our final, rigorous patrolling exercise to be held in June 1989 as preparation for a platoon level tasking during Milcon 1989 in Borden.

As a concluding note, I would like to offer a sincere 'thank-you' to all the officers, NCO's and men it has been my privilege to work with as C Company Commander over the past three years. Although there are too many of you to list by name — you know who you are! It is your dedication, enthusiasm and loyalty which has made all of our endeavours worthwhile. Dileas.

*Major McBey, OC C Coy*

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#### **SERGEANTS MESS**

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The 48th Sergeant's Mess continued to remain a vital force within the Regiment this year, even though many training exercises were cancelled, and many companies slipped into the doldrums.

The Regimental Ball was a staggering success, and all who attended had a magnificent evening. All the mess members were proud to have been instrumental in keeping the

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grand tradition of the Regimental Ball alive within our unit, especially when the practice has died out in so many other units in Canada.

The Sergeant's Mess Rifle Team swept all opposition away during the year, winning six competitions including the Military Band Invitational Challenge, the Turner Shoot and the MacIntosh Shoot. Victory was especially savoured when the Officer's Mess was totally slaughtered in the MacKenzie Shoot, by a huge margin.

Recent promotions include the welcoming into the Mess of Sgt. Diane Love, the battalion Chief Clerk, and Sgt. Peter Turco, who joined us from the Irish Regiment in Sudbury. Sgt. Terry "Squeaky" Croft left the colours due to a civilian job relocation. The 48th was very fortunate in securing the services of WO Jim McTague as RSS Unit Training Assistant, fresh from 30 years in the Regular Force, including service with the Black Watch. Sgt. David Lilly of the PPCLI was posted in as the Unit support NCO, and both seem to be acclimatizing nicely to the 48th way of doing things.

The Sergeant's Mess is presently helping the lay plans for the upcoming 100th Anniversary, and looks forward to another 100 years of service to the Regimental Family.

*Sgt. Mackay, F.V.A, Mess Secretary*

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### D COY

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What at first appeared to be a promising training year quickly bogged down with problems getting the basic trades training course off the ground. After many discussions with District Headquarters the course was finally able to proceed after a four month delay. The patience of the soldiers on that course speaks greatly to the dedication of a Militia soldier and I owe them a personal note of thanks.

Recruiting has proceeded much better than last year but the enrollment process still drags out the time it takes to enroll a soldier. The constant hounding of the Recruiting Centre by 2Lt. Armstrong and OCDT

Walker have been instrumental in keeping track of recruits in process.

As a result we started a general military training course in February with 20 recruits. Two of those recruits, Pte Mellors and Pte. Brogan waited over a year and a half to join due to a number of administrative problems in getting them in. Again it speaks well of the dedication being put forth by 48th recruits.

Speaking of dedication, another recruit, Pte. Lindsay, is on a one man campaign to stir the morale and prestige of the Regiment to great heights. Since joining he has run a Robbie Burns dinner and with Pte Mellors is running a dance with the proceeds going to the Sick Children's Hospital. The Dileas spirit continues to flourish.

Our recruiting effort has been very active this year. In September we distributed letters to all high schools in the Metropolitan Toronto area addressed to the students. In the January-February time period we visited nine schools to put on lunch time displays. Lt. Paterson has been co-ordinating this for us and continues to set up more visits. Thanks go out to Lt. Paterson and those who have assisted him.

Recruiting remains the crucial factor in getting the Regiment to expand and to prepare for the 1991 reunion. Anything you can do to help, whether it is bringing someone down, putting us in touch with someone to set up a display or even just putting up a poster in a prominent place would be greatly appreciated. If you have any ideas as to how we can improve our recruiting effort please feel free to drop a note to the Regiment, attention Major Johnson.

While the Delta company has had its share of problems this year, I perceive the future as bright for the Company and therefore, the Regiment.

Time and again I have seen the Dileas spirit in D Company personnel. The GMT Course is full of keen and eager young men. Hopefully when they leave D Company and move on they will take with them that



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spirit. I believe that Delta Company is the spark that one day grows to a flame.

#### COMPANY PERSONNEL

OC, Major D.S. Johnson; 21C, Capt. G.D. Turner; CSM, WO MacDonald, R.; CQ, Sgt. Ross, PC; 10 P1 Comd, 21TR. Armstrong; 10 P1 21C, Sgt. J. Van De Vegte; Sec Comd 10 P1, MCpl McKenzie, AWG; Sec Comd 10 P1, MCpl G. Jones; Sec Comd 11 P1, MCpl J. Roswell; Sec Comd 11 P1, MCpl Karr, CD; Sec Comd 11 P1, Cpl R. Kierstead; RECRUITING SECTION, 2Lt J. MacCallum; OCDT M. Walker; 2Lt T. Bright.

#### PRSTP & FALLEX '89, West Germany

The summer began for me on a hot day in June. Eleven 48th Highlander candidates and two more combined platoons of Toronto Scottish, Royal Regiment of Canada, and 7th Field Engineer candidates began their recruit course at Fort York armouries. For most of the candidates this was the first time they had ever had a taste of military life. Drill, small arms training, and NBC warefare was taught to and enjoyed by all. The staff organized a good schedule of events and training began at 3:00 p.m. with an inspection followed by physical training. Drill was taught to us by M/Cpl. MacIntyre. The rest of the evening was lectures and weapons training, finishing with a terrific (ha, ha) catered meal. This course lasted a total of ten days and then we were all shipped off to CFB Borden for the next three courses in our summer schedule.

The next course we started was General Military Training. Here infanteer regiments were mixed with armoured, artillery and medical regiments for the common goal of teaching us fieldcraft, advanced drill, and military law, and conduct under the watchful eye of Warrant Officer Fitzgerald. This course lasted three weeks through what seemed to be the hottest July of our lives. However, during this course all the infanteer candidates were an opportunity to go to Germany and train with the regular forces. Forty eight infantry candidates signed up and we entered our third and final course of the summer before heading to Germany.

This third course was our basic training. All the 48th chose to take BTT infantry. The infanteer candidates were split into three platoons with the added members coming from the Queens Own Rifles and the Hasting and Prince Edward Regiments. All the candidates for Germany were placed into the first platoon and soon all became familiar (from morning P.T.) with the face of Lieutenant Patterson. Our BTT not only taught us the art of the infanteer, but taught us as well how to take ten needles in the arm in one afternoon. This course, also served as a selection process for Germany candidates and we often were excluded from training for weekly medical preparations.

Fortunately before leaving for Germany Mr. Patterson, Sgt. Reese and M/Cpl. MacIntyre got balmorals for the three of us heading to Germany.

Germany was a reality on August 16 when we touched down at Lahr. We stayed in Baden Sollignen and after two days of base clearing we were granted five days leave to tour Germany and Europe.

After our five days leave, we left the base as mechanized infantry in M113's. First was a two week training period in Hoehfields. This training consisted of Section, platoon, battalion, combat team, and diversion attacks. We trained with all the new weapons and Canadian "Leopard" tanks.

The next stage of the exercise was a welcome one, fighting American and German troops. Here we witnessed all of NATO's best military kit; F-15 Eagles, German "martyr" armoured personnel carrier — we saw it all. We travelled from town to town and often did patrols or observation posts right in the city streets.

All the militia personnel worked very hard and were congratulated by 3 R.C.R. Battalion on a fine contribution to a hard fought but excellent exercise. In my own opinion, last summer was the most exciting time of my life.

*Pte. Lance Knight*



