



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

#### COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

1996, the 105th Anniversary of the founding of our Regiment and I quote a famous author, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times".

A somewhat ominous statement for my first message as commanding officer to members of the Regiment, members of the Regimental Family and friends of the Regiment. While this year marks our 105th Anniversary, you will all be aware of the concern surrounding the future of the Reserves in Canada and more importantly the future of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, our Regiment! Let me say at the outset of this message, our Regiment is currently one of the strongest in Ontario and possibly in Canada. This is in no small part due to the legacy of strength left me by my predecessors when I assumed command in June of 1995.

"It was the best of times..."

The Reunion Committee is currently in the process of finalising arrangements for our 105th Anniversary Celebrations. The Reunion weekend will consist of the Regimental Ball on Friday, May 17th, a Regimental Sports Day on the 18th followed by a "Smoker" at the Club and the Parade to the Monument on Sunday the 19th. This edition is the 105th Anniversary Edition and contains details, timings, events and location of Reunion events and registration details. I look forward to seeing as many serving and former Highlanders as possible at the 105th, it promises to be an event not to be missed! Should you require further information, please contact the BOR at 973-2181.

When one looks back at the 105 years of service our Regiment has provided, I am reminded of all those Highlanders who have and are currently serving our Regiment. While I am not familiar with all their names, ranks or years of service, I have to believe that there were many famous Highlanders who went before the confident that all have distinguished themselves well, both in war and in peace. The most difficult job facing the Highlanders of today is trying to live up to the standards that have been set by those who have gone before us. To all those Highlanders who have gone before us, I assure you that we will continue that tradition of excellence that you have established.

"... It was the worst of times"

The Regiment has a strength today of about 196, all



LCol I.A.G. Cameron

ranks. The current level of scrutiny and interest by our political masters have forced many of my soldiers to ask me, why are they training and what are they training for? I have to confess that I don't know how many times I have asked myself that question. However, I came up with two answers:

- 1) to continue the traditions, history and spirit of our Regiment, and
- 2) to ensure the protection of our families and friends in times of national crisis.

This may sound like a platitude or a motherhood statement, but in the final analysis I believe that it is the only tangible reason to belong to our Regiment. We are underfunded, under equipped, administratively over tasked and forced to endure a dogmatic training regimen that tests the resolve of today's Highlanders. Gone are the days when the 48th could devise and execute its own training plan, we are constantly being monitored and assessed to perform both operationally and administratively. The potential consequences of non performance risks the future of our Regiment. However, rest assured, today's Highlanders will continue to serve as best as we can maintaining the traditions, history and spirit of our Regiment.

I am proud and honoured to be your Commanding Officer and I wish to express my appreciation, in advance, to all elements of the active Regiment and Regimental Family for your dedication and devotion to the Regiment, you will make my job as Commanding Officer easier than expected! However, it should be said upfront that in the days, months and years to come, this will be the toughest test the Regiment has faced in many years but I fundamentally believe that all of you are up to this task! To those who previously served the Regiment and those presently serving remember our motto "Dileas Gu Brath", as we continue the tradition of excellence into our next 105 years of service. I look forward to serving with you in the years to come!

DILEAS GU BRATH

## 105TH REUNION WEEKEND

17-19 MAY 1996

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

17 May 1996

Memorial Hall

1200-1700 Pick-up Registration Packages

Moss Park Armoury

1800-0100 105th Reunion Regimental Ball

18 May 1996

Moss Park Armoury

1100-1700 Regimental Sports Day (All Welcome)

Memorial Hall

1100-0100 Barbecue and Smoker (Regiment Arrives 1700)

19 May 1996

1100 Parade at Monument

Fall-in South side Queen's Park @ 1030

Transport Available from Moss Park with last run departing at 1000





ALLIED WITH  
THE HIGHLANDERS (SEAFORTH, GORDONS AND CAMERONS)

THE 105th REUNION FALCON  
JOURNAL OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA - Vol. 47

EDITOR'S SPACE

It is with great trepidation that I put pen to paper (or in this case fingers to keyboard) attempting to fill this space as the editor of this years Falcon. No doubt others more eloquent or artistically inclined than myself have held this position before. Whether it be the first editor of the Falcon, Major Stewart Reid or any of the many others up to and including my immediate predecessor Captain Mark Bossi.

What I hope to accomplish as I am sure all those before sought to accomplish is to provide an informative publication that all Highlanders can enjoy and feel connected with.

As this years editor I am indebted to all those contributors who submitted their articles on time. To those of you who were late, I wish this position on you in the future.

*Dileas Gu Braith!*

Editor: Capt A.G. Poles  
Assistant Editor: Capt D.B. Beaton, CD

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Lieutenant Colonel I.A.G. Cameron, CD  
Commanding Officer

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BHQ

by Capt DB Beaton

"I looked along the line; it was enough to assure me. The steady determined scowl of my companions assured my heart and gave me determination"

A Soldier of the Peninsular War

Battalion Headquarters is composed of the Command element, the Training Office, the Battalion Orderly Room, the Finance Office and the Recruiting Office. Its function, in many ways, is to ensure all members of the Regiment see that "steady determined scowl" whenever they happen to look along the line of their fellows.



Starting at the top, this year saw a Change of Command for the 48th when LCol K.J. McBeay, CD handed over command to the new CO, LCol I.A.G. Cameron, CD on the 24th of June, 1995. The Regiment wishes the outgoing CO every success in the future and looks forward to serving under the new CO in the coming years. To assist the CO in his task, Maj G.D. Turner has been appointed DCO, and CWO J.K. McGuffin remains as RSM for another year. Another addition to the "head shed" this year is our new Padre, Maj Barry Brown, who has been attached to

us from the 2/10 Medium Regt, Royal Australian Artillery while he is on a sabbatical in Canada. Together, these advisors help the CO provide the leadership and direction to the Regiment. Since his handover, this task has been a daunting one for the CO, given the unsettled situation in the Army, but LCol Cameron has managed to keep the Regiment on a steady footing and determined to take on the next challenge in stride.

Marking the route and clearing the obstacles is the job of the Ops Office. Capt Mark Toma continues to work diligently to make sure all our training activities come off as planned. With WO Davidson at the start of the year, and then MWO Akema for his Trg WO, Capt Toma has had to adapt to a whole new method of operating as more financial responsibilities have been placed on the shoulders of the unit. While handling these new requirements, the Ops O has successfully guided the unit through another campaign of IBTS and BTS "WARRIOR" training in 1995/96.

The next section of BHQ is the BOR. Behind the line perhaps, but working no less for the good of the troops, the BOR works under the Adjutant, Capt Beaton. He is assisted by a new addition to the 48th, Lt Kevin "Gopher" Darby as A/Adj. Lt Darby has transferred to us from the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment and brings some amusing anecdotes with him (you are forewarned!). Also new in town is our Regular Force Administrator, PO2 B.D. Thomas (the guy in white) and a new clerk, Cpl Lamont; both of whom come to us from LFCAHQ "up North". The BOR also has our one remaining veteran, Cpl Armbruster who is able to handle any admin task given her, whether in front of a

typewriter or behind the wheel of an LSVW (But not in the snow? Well no, not in the snow!). The BOR scored very well on this year's Admin Inspection and continues to work hard to clear up our NES problems and keep everyone's promotions and other paperwork flowing smoothly.

Also vital to the welfare and morale of the troops is the work of the Finance Office. Under the Fin O, 2Lt S.L. Anderson, the fin clics, Cpl Burrell, Pte Bauer, and Pte Dibai-irani have worked hard, with the long distance help of Sgt Alten, to see that pay problems are kept to a minimum. The Fin O got high marks for its work in this year's Admin Insp and should get even better as Cpl Burrell learns more and more of the trade's day-to-day work methods and procedures. A big hurdle this year could come from the implementation of the new IRPPS computer software and the RIIP system as they come "on-line", but we're confident the Fin O can handle it easily.

The last section of BHQ to discuss is the Recruiting Office. It is their job to make sure the Regiment is continually supplied with new members to fill any blank files and thinning ranks and hopefully even to extend our lines of "steady, determined scowls". Working under Lt John Parsons, the Recruiters included MWO Alkema, Sgt Heaney and MCpl Martin. While we were thwarted in our plans to recruit a large group of recruits this year, we will hopefully get a large intake in the fall as recruiting is to continue throughout the summer months (Pass the word!).

This past year has seen the departure of some well-known members of the 48th who put in

many years of faithful service to the Regiment. We wish the best to Maj Johnson, who transferred to the Lorne Scots in November and has been appointed their DCO. Also to be missed, and who has served selflessly for the Regiment over many years, WO Dianne Love has put away her typewriter ribbon and closed her RPDT manual for the last time. WO Love, daughter of Sgt MacDougall, is married to a former member of the Regiment, and is coaxing her son through the Cadets (on his way to the unit?) as well. No doubt you will continue to see her helping out in some capacity in the years to come and we wish her the best in all her endeavours.

Some of our Regular Force Cadre have also departed this year or are leaving this summer and should be mentioned and thanked for their efforts while at the unit. Already gone are WO Ken Saunders, and Sgt Jackie Bourdeau. As Trg WO, WO Saunders showed us his wry sense of humour and his ability to get the job done (and deftly handle a puck too!). Sgt Bourdeau worked miracles with a typewriter when called upon, and could put in her "two-cents worth" of advice (sometimes without even being asked!). Departing this summer are Capt Mark Toma and MCpl Tim McDonald. Capt Toma has been a faithful officer to the unit, to the point of bearing all while wearing a kilt (only after a struggle). He is going to ATC Meaford in the summer so we should see him in our travels, now and then. MCpl McDonald has spent much of his time with us on the hunt for gold in sports and now has some different gold to show, having recently become a newlywed. We wish him and his new bride the best as they go to his new posting out west.

#### ALPHA COMPANY

by Maj ADC Paterson

Training year 95/96 ushered in a number of changes for A Company. Although Maj Paterson remained as the OC and Capt Sargeant continued as 2i/c, most of the other positions within the Company Headquarters changed. In September MWO Gillie, just back from his attachment to 25 Medical Company, took over the reigns of CSM from MWO Alkema. Mid way through the fall, the Regiment, and A Company in particular, was asked to once again assist and provide competent leadership to TD Headquarters, in this case the Battle School. MWO Gillie was asked to take over as Training Sergeant-Major for the Battle School. Given the commitment that was needed by MWO Gillie to straighten out the Battle School, it was agreed that the combined responsibilities of the Battle School and A Company would be excessive for MWO Gillie. Further it was decided that WO Darling needed break from dealing with "paper pushers", and WO Darling took over as CSM for A Company.

This training year also marked a first for A Company. Due to the heavy demands placed on the Company for instructors on the numerous District Courses, the Company found itself wanting for a CQ. At the same time the OC and the CSM had become tired and annoyed by MCpl Ronaldson's and MCpl Martin's constant complaints that they had no where to store their medical equipment. As a result, in a truly innovative and effective move, MCpl Ronaldson was appointed CQ. Initially thrilled by the thought of all the space now available for the storage of medical supplies, MCpl Ronaldson soon discovered that those "pesky" infantry stores got in the

way of his plans for a Hospital in CQ Stores. It was not long though, before MCpl Ronaldson became comfortable with his new job, and there have even been rumours he was considering a re-muster to supply.

With respect to training, the Company continues to "soldier" through the Warrior or ICS or IBTS training (whichever name is "in vogue" with Headquarters this year), and has now moved into preparation stages for the CCS test. This year the unit, and in reality A Company will be tested on its Defensive Skills. The test, scheduled for early May, will see two platoons preparing positions and going through the defensive routine for 48 hours. All this training will lead up to the summer concentration this year, now named "Trillium Phoenix", which will see the entire Company (designated C Company for the exercise - for all those former C Company soldiers) operate in the defense as part of a TD Battalion. All indications are that this will be an excellent exercise, with good resources and support, including a number of helicopters provided by our friends from that big "Province" south of the border.



**A COY - 1 PLATOON**

by Lt PEG Kyle

Exercise "Frigid Beaver", consisting of the Turner shoot and a platoon winter skills competition got underway in the usual fashion of chaos and confusion. "Where is everybody?!" Get on the phone and find 'em!" Hey Sergeant, when are we drawing weapons?" "What's the deal for tonight?" "Sergeant-Major I need to update the parade state. Three more of my troops showed up." Despite this and the low numbers in One Platoon due to a large number of the men being on courses or with school paper due dates just around the corner, it would prove to be a victorious weekend none the less.

Bright and early Saturday morning (well it wasn't exactly bright; the sun hadn't come up yet) we boarded our usual yellow helicopters which swiftly delivered us to the rifle ranges at Borden.

As soon as we got on the ground the ranges were set up for IBTS ("Warrior") testing. All those who hadn't fired for the record or who were refiring would shoot first. This took up most of the morning. Lunch was served by our cheerful CQ staff (who I believe went to McDonalds for their own lunch). After lunch the range was set up for the Turner shoot. This is an annual event where the platoons and other organizations within the regiment try to outshoot one another. Surprising no one, 1 Platoon came out on top. *Ed. note the top shot in the Turner shoot was Pte Susnar from 3 Platoon.*

The evening was dedicated to a floor hockey tournament. Two teams of soldiers, one team of Senior NCO's and one team of Officers

played elimination games. The outcome was not as important as the fun and exercise gained from the sport. All right! All right! Using trickery and deception the Senior NCO's won.



Sunday morning we jumped on the trucks and rode out to the training area to practice setting up winter tents. After we got the setup routine down and a small but fierce snowball fight ended, we got down to the real reason for being out there... The platoon competition! The events that morning were the toboggan run and tent setup race, the stretcher race, and the chain of command race. Even though One Platoon was handicapped with plastic tent pegs and a booby trapped jerry can in the stretcher race, we remained in first place overall, which as the number implies, is where 1 Platoon will always be!

**A COY - 2 PLATOON**

by Cpl KPG Henry &amp; Capt ME Sanderson

Since this time last year, only one of the leadership positions is still held by the same person within Two Platoon. Capt Sanderson has taken over as the platoon commander, Sgt Jones is the 2i/c, and Cpl Bush, Cpl Henry and MCpl Tescione (now Sgt) as 1, 2 and 3 section commanders respectively. That is a lot of changes to a small group of people, but things seem to be working out well.

With our training cycle now in the defensive phase of operations, exercises have been a little different than what we are used to. There has been more patrolling since January than we've done in the last three or four years, and its a welcome change.

inexplicably absent from exercise weekends. And if this wasn't enough, those that attended the exercises always ran the risk of being lit on fire in their arctic tent by a pyromaniac from 3 section who will remain nameless.



A Coy's performance last year during the ICS testing resulted in a third place finish in LFCA and this was no accident. This was a demonstration of the ability each member of the regiment possesses to perform his or her task, be it as a rifleman, driver, storesman or leader. We all have something to be proud of, and there is no doubt that 2 platoon will again perform to a high standard during this years IBTS testing in the defensive.

The year's training is still not complete and a number of challenges face 2 platoon in the future. We are ready for them.



The training hasn't gone without its hiccups though. A mysterious illness seems to plague certain members of the platoon, keeping them

**A COY - 3 PLATOON**

*by Pte CJ Harvie  
with comments by Sgt AR Percival*

When I was asked, make that ordered to write this item, I realized that I don't really read *The Falcon*. I spend my time looking for photos of myself, or my name in print. Which brings me to the one clause in this item - I have been directed to mention as many names as possible. *So far I think that Pte Harvie is trying his hand at shock, to catch the reader's attention. Such statements as "I don't read The Falcon", can't possibly be true. His statement "ordered to write this", must also be a literary embellishment. I seem to recall throwing the idea out to the Platoon and Pte Harvie grasping for it like a drowning man. I think he also mumbled, at the time, his intention not to go unmentioned again in the platoon article.*



First, I'd like to dispel one myth: That 3 Platoon has an attendance problem, often leading us to be called "3 Section" of various other platoons. A well informed source tells me that members who don't put in regular

appearances are on undisclosed special assignments. I can't say much about it - though it includes civilian dress and weekend nightlife. *I wish someone had told me, I thought they were AWOL.*



We got a few new faces this year, including Pte's Gogh, Martin, Paulus, Susnar, Stern and Hottgenroth (who came and went faster than you could pronounce his name). Lt Pedwell from the Lincoln and Welland came to replace Lt Kyle who came to replace Lt Tsuchiya - and so on and so on... A recently promoted Sgt Percival has jumped into the office of platoon 2i/c after Sgt Pankatz left us for greener, nay olive drabber pastures with A Coy Stores. *We still haven't quite got Gogh's name straightened out sometimes its Go, Gug, Goh. We have so many Martins in the unit that we were thinking of calling ourselves the 48 Martins of Toronto. Paulus after losing his job at Stalingrad has decided to take up the less stressful life of a Private. Susnar, all I can say is that I'm practising my dart throwing, so watch it. The position of platoon commander over the last year has been a bit*

*of a revolving door to the point that the troops don't say "Sir" they say "Sirs". Nice touch Harvie, I like that bit about "jumped into the office", it makes me read like a man of action, very smooth buttering on your part.*



The familiar faces are still going strong including Cpl Lauder, waiting with baited breath for Trillium Phoenix - so he can attain the stature that is Master Corporal. Cpl's Briers and Kinkaid are platoon regulars, along with myself and Pte's Hartwig, Smintich and MacDonald who are on the machine gunners and driver wheeled courses. Cpl Smith is still trying to impress his idea for a private army on me. As a point of interest I found out that we ~~do~~ have a weapons det! Cpl Prosser really does exist! Cpl Waterman has assumed the daunting task of commanding the three man third section and with him as always is Cpl Segovia. Cpl Wylie is getting disturbing calls from the CSM (as acted by Cpl Waterman) \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \* Harvie I don't know what some of these last statements mean, it's probably better that I don't. You forgot to mention Cpl Vienneau, but I'm sure he'll remind you up in your Mess. Cpl Vienneau is just back from a concert tour in East Africa

*which was met with mixed reviews from the critics. Pte's Stanley, Smith, Crimless and Leahy were not mentioned I guess because they were on that "special assignment".*

That's all from us little guys, Dileas. *Harvie a.k.a. Young Jedi Knight or Young Master Luke has certainly proven himself to be strong with the force, but impetuous in ending the article so quickly. What he failed to mention is that by a unanimous decision of the platoon, it has been unofficially named Ortona. The lads were slipping through Capt Beattie's short work? When we came upon the chapter on Cemetery Hill seeing similarities between the plight of the platoon and that of the unit in '43 the name was adopted. We're holding our own and waiting for recruiting to slip through a troop of new faces. One final thought for Harvie, we haven't submitted any photos and the names are not in bold so I guess this is one article you'll have to read in full.*



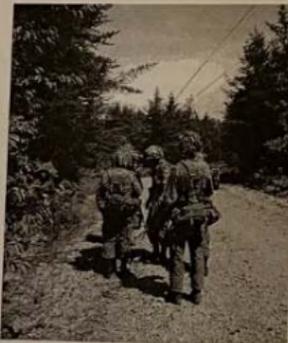
**ADMINISTRATION COMPANY***by Capt AG Poles*

1995-1996 has been an exceptionally busy year for Administration Company. First of all a new Commanding Officer for the Regiment ushered in a number of changes for the Company. First the new name, a change from Headquarters Company, bringing the Regiment into the mainstream of Canadian doctrine. With the new name came an almost completely new staff. The new OC is Captain Poles, the new 2i/c is Capt Tsuchiya, the new CSM is -TU get back to that, the new QM is Capt Walker, the new Transport and Maintenance Officer is Lt McEwen with Sgt Langstroth as the new 2i/c of this platoon, the new Transport Sergeant, Sgt McIntyre, the new Maintenance Sergeant, Sgt Mastathis and last but not least the new RQMS is Sgt Reece. Now back to the new CSM, the year started with WO Darling as CSM of Adm Coy, however come December time Adm Coy was asked to take one for the team and give up our very able CSM to help out A Coy. CSM Darling leaving meant a new CSM was required, at that point the CO assigned MWO Alkema to that position, while still requiring him to be the Regiments full time Recruiting NCO. MWO Alkema did yeoman work two-hatted through December and January, when there was another shuffle, with WO Davidson being moved into the position of CSM Adm to allow MWO Alkema to focus on recruiting.

While many changes came to Administration Company during this year don't let the name fool you. Although the Company's primary task is to support A Company that doesn't prevent us from soldiering well. Just ask the platoons from A Company which tried to attack Adm Company on the November

patrolling exercise. Not only did the Adm Company patrols track not one but two A Company patrols (well done Sgt McIntyre and MCpl MacDonald), but during the Sunday morning attacks A Company ran into the rude surprise of Adm Company taking its C-6 Machine guns to the field, while the attacking platoons didn't bother taking their Machine guns out of the arsenal. (Hint to A Coy: when conducting platoon attacks always remember to take your platoon support weapons with you).

All in all it has been a busy year for Adm Company, with many members of the Company being double and triple hatted, with their Regimental duties, on top of either being on or teaching courses, as well as filling other staff positions. Additionally, preparing for the Adm inspection twice (thanks to all of you who helped prepare) Administration Company has not lost sight of its primary mission to support the Regiments performance in any way it can.

**QM***by Capt MJ Walker*

Great changes were made in the operation of the supply side of the 48th Highlanders of Canada this year, both internally and externally. With the closure of CFB Toronto, many more support responsibilities were downloaded to the individual units in Toronto forcing the QM staff at the 48th to rethink how they do business.

In June 1995, in expectation of new things to come, the first changes were made to the QM staff. I was appointed to the position of QM and the very experienced Sgt Oswald Reece took over as the RQMS. Extra full-time help came with MCpl Tim Macdonald, our regular force visitor from the PPCLI, being assigned to assist. As greater responsibility went to all levels we decided to "steal" three experienced corporals from A-Coy. The lucky few chosen to work down in the Batcave were Cpl Jay Doucette, Cpl Brent Hayes, and Cpl Lori Shannon. Cpl Hayes even went so far as to further his education with a Driver Wheel Course. The last addition to our happy family came as a pleasant surprise. Pte Eric Davis, a medic from Ottawa transferred to the 48th. As Pte Davis was actually qualified Supply Tech, he of course eagerly volunteered to work in the QM. Of course we cannot forget a very important part of our staff and that is those handling Regimental Stores. CSM Chuck Harding, Sgt Max McDougal, and Sgt Dave Heaney deal with all things of a regimental matter.

One of the biggest chores QM staff had this year was the moving of all regimental clothing stores in with the CF clothing, and all technical stores off on their own. I don't know

what was more difficult to do, the actual move or convincing the DCO that it was the right thing to do. The move itself went very smoothly thanks to the help of all the full-time staff. Everything took a day to move and only a couple of weeks to set up the way we wanted it. By Christmas everything was ready for the changes that were going to be implemented in the new year. The QM staff all attended the Men's Christmas dinner and even had a bit of pre-party down in the Batcave before the actual dinner took place.

In January the effect of CFB Toronto closing finally hit. Our QM was now responsible for all clothing requirements for the unit. All clothing documentation was now unit responsibility and Sgt Reece and MCpl Macdonald took a week long course at the Base to learn how to administer it. With this wonderful task also came a large quantity of clothing to be used for exchanges at the unit level. Of course Toronto District was generous to give us a whole two weeks to get organized before the unit's Annual Technical Inspection. Despite the limited time, the QM did very well on the ATI, BOTH TIMES! Many thanks to the extras that came in during the day to assist in the preparation.

As things are now finally beginning to run smoothly, the QM is now divided into two separate areas, Clothing Stores and Tech Stores. The Staff are now getting ready for supplying summer training, and getting enough full dress for the 105th anniversary. Although this year was an incredibly busy one, special thanks to all staff for making it run a lot smoother than it could have gone.

**TRANSPORT/MAINTENANCE***by Lt JMC McEwen*

Transport and Maintenance Platoons are once again under Lt McEwen and Sgt Langstroth. With the loss of the Unit's weapons technicians (due to a directive from Headquarters) Maintenance Platoon was reduced to only vehicle techs so the amalgamation was a logical (don't look so surprised!) one. The learning curve has been steep for Sgt McIntyre, Sgt Mastathis and myself as we move from Combat Arms to Combat Service Support positions. The first thing we had to learn was which gas stations had the best coffee. The second was to learn to appreciate Cpl Cowper's taste in music.



Cpl Cowper illustrates what is wrong with the CF these days. Even though he is in the same Company as the Quartermaster he is simply unable to get enough Canadian Kit to last him a weekend exercise. On numerous occasions he has had to resort to civilian attire to make up for a lack of warm (cool) CF clothing.

Early in the season the platoon traded away Cpl Burrell to the Finance Section in exchange for some high draft picks. However drugs are not tolerated in the Forces so the draft picks were sent back to the Recruiting Centre. This year the platoon said goodbye to Cpl Augustin, who transferred jut before his library card was revoked, as well as Ptes Thomson, Wikramavarathan and Vessey. We also welcomed back Pte Sajgalik who is learning that Grease Nipples are not found on a grease monkey but on trucks.

I've left Cpl Schilling, our dispatcher, until the end because he is so quiet. He knows his job and hasn't done anything this year to make fun of. However, as any conscientious platoon commander would have done, I've managed to obtain some incriminating photographs of Cpl Schilling at the Christmas party with a Lemon Meringue pie. Copies are on sale in Transport.



*Boy I hope the trucks get here soon!*

**PIPES & DRUMS***by MCpl IW Lang*

The Pipes and Drums have once again completed another year of training, practicing, contests and performances. Since the last issue the band has had a rather docile year in comparison to 1994. While the band continued to appear throughout the city on a regular basis their travels abroad diminished slightly. The routine life of a regimental band was once again resumed with the completion of the VE Celebrations in Holland.

Thirty members travelled to Holland for the 50th Anniversary of VE Day between 27 April and 10 May 1995. The hospitality of the Dutch people was overwhelming. The many rehearsals over the previous four months was rewarded with the excellent sound and presentation of the Pipes and Drums and Military Band at every performance. The highlights of the trip included a very emotionally moving ceremony at Holten War Cemetery and the National Parade at Apeldoorn. The bands of the 48th led the parade watched by half a million people and shown worldwide on television. The bands performance from a remembrance ceremony in Baarn, attended by the Dutch Queen Mother, brought the first applause at the silent service in fifty years. At a Tattoo for the Princess at Het Loo (the royal palace) in Apeldoorn the bands again performed well, this time accompanied by the Pipes and Drums of the 48th Highlanders of Holland dressed in 1945 uniforms.

The bands stayed at the Koning Willem III Police Barracks in Apeldoorn and kept the base humming for the fourteen days they were there. The band entertained many people in

the taverns of downtown Apeldoorn until they closed at 0400 hrs. The guards at the gate came to expect a never ending parade of Highlanders at all hours of the night/morning. The pipers were seen playing on tables, bars, bicycles and even out the roofs of cars. The people came to expect the nightly performances as much as the scheduled daytime ones. The band also travelled to Amsterdam, Gronigan, The Hague and Arnhem to spread their good cheer during some of the free time granted to them.

Upon returning to Canada Sgt Fraser Clark and MCpl Iain Lang once again left for Ottawa to prepare the Ceremonial Guard for the arrival of an additional seven pipers from highland regiments across Canada including Cpl Tom Fullerton from the 48th. With the help of Pipe Major John Macdonald of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa the Guards were well trained in the protocol required to accord proper respect to a Highlander. This year the Band saw three sections commanded by pipers proving that pipers can do something other than drink and play pipes. Sgt Clark was unfortunate enough to break his leg and miss nearly three weeks of public duties while lying in bed, however, he did do more than his share of extra duties. The pipers seemed to draw more extras than any other section of the CG, yet, they still found time to go white water rafting with the DMUS's mattress and revive the fire extinguisher drill team this year led by MCpl Lang not Sgt Clark. Sgt Clark is once again returning to Ottawa in 1996.

Ken Cole, James Carscadden and Colin Dewar, all pipers in the Band for a number of years, came of age to join the militia and completed their basic military training. Sgt

Clark completed his SLC in June. Cpl Hill completed the first part of CLC and is scheduled to complete the second part in June. Pte Wilcox and Pte I. Dewar were both promoted to Corporal in the past year.



The CFSMUS Centre at Borden saw many 48th Highlanders in training during the summer. Pte Dewar, Cpl Wilcox, Cpl Donaldson, Cpl Churches, Cpl Hill and Cpl Crocker all joined the Pipe Major who was the School CWO for the summer.

July saw the Pipes and Drums at Fort Ticonderoga, keeping the Highlanders in the public eye. The historic location and atmosphere added to the excellent performance given by the Pipes and Drums. The Band was well received by the crowds and all recollections of this journey indicate that an enjoyable time was had by all.

The Band also opened the new training facilities at Meaford with the GGHG Band. This summer the Pipes and Drums will be

featured at CFB Borden. The Fergus Highland Games also presented the 48th Combined Bands in their annual Tattoo. The Bands presented the show assembled for the celebrations in Holland.

In October the Band travelled to the Stone Mountain Scottish Festival, Atlanta, Georgia, for a fourth year. The band preformed in the annual tattoo and opening ceremonies. The other Canadian bands consisted of The Black Watch and the Royal Regiment of Canada. The five day trip once again included ample free time in Atlanta and a day at the games were the 48th enjoyed the fabulous hospitality of their hosts; one of many reasons this trip has become a favourite.



In November the Pipes and Drums performed at Massey Hall in Toronto as the opening act for the Past Forgetting Tour by the Canadian Forces Band Ottawa. The performance featured many of the favourite pieces recorded on the last recording done by the band.

The 48th Highlanders lost a long time member of the Pipes and Drums in late 1995. Pipe Major Archie Dewar died after serving from 1928 to 1965. Archie spent time overseas during WW II as both a piper and as Pipe Major and in 1952 took over as Pipe Major from James R. Fraser in a parade covered live by the CBC across Canada. Archie led the band into competition and set the standard for pipe bands for over two decades capturing three North American Pipe Band Championship titles. Archie left to the 48th our current Pipe Major, CWO Sandy Dewar and Iain and Colin both members of the Regiment and already seasoned pipers with the 48th. There are no doubt more Dewars to follow in the years to come. He will be greatly missed by all members of the 48th and by pipers everywhere.

The competition scene saw the Grade II Band promoted to Grade I, a welcome return to the premiere grade after a fourteen year absence. While not taking many prizes this year in Grade I, competition against world class bands allowed the Pipes and Drums to prove that they are definitely a world class band in their own right. The games in Fergus saw the band in 1st place. The summer of 1996 promises to be even better as the band steadily improves. The Grade III band also hit the field last summer keeping the 48th presence prominent at the highland games.

In September Pipe Major Dewar took over as the top Pipe Major of the Canadian Forces. While remaining Pipe Major of the 48th, he now works full time at the CFSMUS Det Borden to administer the training and standards of all pipers and pipe bands of the Canadian Regular and Reserve Forces. His posting doubles his responsibilities while

taking up a great deal of time, as he is required to travel frequently to remote locations such as Europe, Winnipeg and Hawaii for performances and band inspections. MCpl Lang has joined him in Borden to assist the Pipe Major with his duties over the coming year.

Sgt Clark has gone south for graduate school, attending the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He is also assisting Maj Sandy Jones in the instruction of the pipe band at the school.

The Pipes and Drums joined the World Wide Web with a page at <http://www.inforamp.net/~ilang/pipeband.html> administered by MCpl Lang. The page includes sound clips and performance dates as well as a brief history of the Pipes and Drums. If you are online check it out!

Future engagements include a return to Atlanta, Casa Loma on July 1st, the Opening Blue Jays game as well as contests in Cambridge, Maxville and Fergus and the Fergus Tattoo.

DILEAS!

**MILITARY BAND***by Capt RG White*

The article from the Military Band in the last issue of THE FALCON, dated July, 1995 ended with the report of the Bands visit together with the Pipes and Drums to Holland. This article carries on with a continued review of the Military Bands activities from that most successful engagement to the present time; this report being written in the early part of April 1996.

Within a matter of days following the Bands return to Canada, we had the privilege, together with our other peer musicians of the 48th Highlanders of Canada the Pipes and Drums of parading the Regiment to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, for our 1995 Annual Church Parade and Service. In June the Mess Band performed at the Mess Dinner at CFB Toronto, where a very enjoyable evening was had by all.



The Month of August was a little busier, starting with the Military Band again joining forces with our partners the Pipes and Drums and journeying to Fergus Ontario were we performed at the Fergus Highland Games. Following this engagement the Military Bands next engagement was once again in partnership with the Pipes and Drums as we all paraded for the 1995 C.N.E. Warriors Day Parade. This was immediately followed by the C.N.E. Tattoo. This was held in the main Bandshell in the C.N.E. The Military Band for this engagement joined with the other Toronto District Military Bands of the Royal Regiment of Canada, the Governor Generals Horse Guards, The Queens Own Rifles of Canada and the Royal Artillery, and finally in the month of August the Mess Band performed at an anniversary reception in Willowdale.

In October, the full Military Band performed at the Harbour Castle for Certified Management Accountants Graduation Ceremonies. This engagement was followed by our Annual performance, again of The Toronto Maple Leafs, 1995-1996 Hockey Season. Next, the Mess Band had the privilege of performing for our own as the band played for our Sergeants at the Sergeants Mess Dinner, here at M.P.A. One lonely musician had still one more engagement to carry out to end October, that being a trumpeter who performed at a Church Service, at St. John's Presbyterian Church.

November started with the 48th Highlanders Ball, at the Royal York Hotel, when a slightly larger Mess Band performed for the enjoyment (we hope) of the assembled company. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the DCO Maj Turner,

for his appropriate signals, for us to either start or stop playing. Thank you Sir! We would also like to thank the Pipes and Drums for their performances, thereby giving the Military Band a breather now and then. THANKS. Next came three single musician engagements, each requiring the talent of single trumpeters, for Services of Remembrance. The first was at CFB Toronto, the second at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and thirdly at the Law Society of Upper Canada. Ending November the Combined Bands Military and Pipes and Drums performed along with the Regiment and opening ceremony for The Royal Winter Fair, with a Guard and Band.

Now to December: The Military Bands first engagement was that of a Christmas Concert at St John's Presbyterian Church. We are planning on making this an annual event, but there are problems attached to such a plan, as was found last year. The IBTS ("Warrior") program leaves us with a famine of rehearsal time for such an undertaking. Our next performance was once again for the pleasure of our own as we supplied background music for the Regimental Christmas Dinner.

Here endeth the year 1995.  
So onto 1996.

The Bands first engagement was at the end of January when it again the Mess Band performed at CF Staff College for a Burn's Night Dinner. The Band on this occasion was under the direction of WO Paul Van Der Bank, the assistant Director of Music. Following this the next band performance was in February at The Skydome for the opening of the 1996 Auto Show, where during the ceremonies we were able to combine with our

Pipe Major CWO Sandy Dewar to bring the VIPS onto the stage. So into March.

Our first engagement was once again combined with the Pipes and Drums as we had the pleasure of performing for our own at The Cadillac Draw Night Festivities. March was a month that found the band performing only for our own, and one must be careful how one words the next engagement. It was a pleasure to perform for the event, but at the same time the evening was one which involved mixed feelings, for it is always sad to say cheerio to family members. This was the occasion, when the Officers Mess Dined Out two Senior family Members: Major Tom White and Capt John Bradfield. All members of the Military Band wish these two all the very best for their futures. I personally would like to thank them both for their kindness and support.

So to the present month April 1996

Easter Sunday saw the bands Brass Quartet playing for the mornings service at St Timothy's Anglican Church. On April 9th 1996, in combination with the Pipes and Drums, we performed for the home opener of The Blue Jays at The Skydome.

By the time this goes to print no doubt some of the following will have come and gone. On the 26th of April the Military Band is holding its second annual fund raising night being known as GALA '96 105th Anniversary, the evening includes: Wine and Cheese, Dance and Silent Auction. The evening is held at the West Rouge Community Centre.

In May we have the 105th Anniversary Weekend, when we again will enjoy the privilege of performing for our own.

In August this year, the Military Band will combine and perform with the Pipes and Drums at the Fergus Highland Games.

In closing let me welcome and introduce you to the two newest and youngest members of the Band; Musician Scott MacInnes, Bass Trombone. Scott is the son of the Band Sgt Major Brian MacInnes and Musician Ryan Thorsley, Tuba/Bass. Ryan is a school friend of Scott's.

I and all the members of the Band welcome these two fine young musicians to the Band family.

Last, but, by no means least, I, on behalf of the Band wish to Thank all members of the Regiment for their continued encouragement and support toward the military Band. I do assure you all that neither your support or encouragement is taken lightly or for granted.

THANK YOU ALL MOST SINCERELY.

DILEAS!



## FTUC

by WO B Davidson and PO2 B Thomas

This is another report on a fun filled, action packed year with the 48th. This reporting period starts the summer of 95, because this marked the arrival of these two reporters to the unit.

The summer started with some old blood being replaced by new blood. That is to say a fond farewell to Sgt Bordeau and WO Saunders (ret'd) and the hearty welcome of PO Barry Thomas (chief clerk) and WO Bruce Davidson (OPs WO/CSM Admin Coy).

PO2 Thomas arrived at the unit in July, coming from two years within the lofty world of Fort Finch (as LFCAHQ has lovingly come to be known by all that admire her greatness). So far, so good. It was a bit of a change, considering the way that things are done at LFCAHQ, personnel at the unit seem to bond more closely with each other (a slit trench can do that). We have promised to keep the navy jokes to a minimum but if opportunity knocks, who knows.

In November, PO2 Thomas went on the winter exercise to Meaford with the unit and participated in a patrol with Lt Parsons and Cpl Burrell. Since there was no way the PO or Cpl were going to carry the C6, they decided to take an officer with them to act as the pack mule for the C6.

Along with the weekend exercises, the PO arrived at the unit with some information that was possibly deemed useful to the unit (what it was has not yet been figured out). With the assistance of Cpl Armbruster, the PO made a somewhat smooth transition from the soft

world of Headquarters life, to the work for your paycheck life of the reserve unit.



August found WO Davidson right back in picturesque CFB Petawawa getting his first taste of the unit by being employed as CQ for TG 95. To say the least - an eye opener. Besides the change in positions from OP's WO to Admin Coy CSM, and that old stumbling block of "this is the way we've always done it" things have been running along pretty smoothly, if nothing else the ball hockey skills have improved somewhat (thank god for lunch hour). The next 3 years should be interesting to say the least.

Although MCpl Tim MacDonald's (yes MCpl as of Nov 95) absence from the ex was felt throughout the unit, he was being gainfully employed back in Toronto (when he could be found). Proving once again that he is an intricate part of this well running unit who's day to day operations would grind to a halt without his hard work and dedication (just ask

him). Unfortunately with his promotion came a posting so we'll be saying goodbye to Tim, his new wife Shaney and as yet to be named new baby, this summer. (wagons west yo!)  
GOOD LUCK!

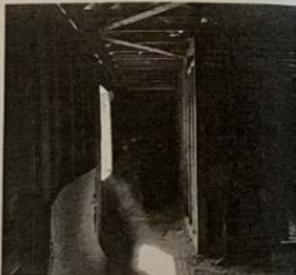


Now to get to the nemesis (ask any 48th young Lt/Capt) of the unit and most reliable forward of the FTUC and day staff lunch hour ball hockey team, Capt Toma, who we all stand behind 100%, waiting for his always well thought out command (it must be PER time).

Capt Mark Toma has been with the unit for 3 yrs but like all good things, this too must come to an end. He'll be posted July 96 to the Meaford Triangle when we're sure he'll be greatly missed by the whole unit. All kidding aside he has brought some excellent ideas and good training to the unit which will ensure his presence is felt long after he's gone. So goodbye and goodluck to Mark and Sasha, we

know we'll be seeing you sometime in the future.

So in closing, we feel it is safe to state that the regular force staff felt that they again, with considerable help from the full time class B personnel, were a very key ingredient in the successful and more often than not, worthwhile training conducted by the unit. We are always ready, willing, (boy this is hard to write) and able to tackle another year with the 48th Highlanders of Canada.



### TRILLIUM GUARD 95

by Capt AG Poles

Trillium Guard 95 proved to be an interesting exercise. This year due to a paid ceiling cap the 48th was tasked to provide 2 platoons and a Company headquarters which would be combined with a platoon of Toronto Scottish and a company weapons detachment to round out the company. The B Company structure therefore was set out as follows; Capt Poles (48th) as OC, newly commissioned Capt Traynor (TSR, formerly CWO) as 2/c, MWO Alkema (48th) as CSM, WO Davidson (RCR, FTUC with the 48th) as CQMS, and Lt McEwen (48th) as 1 platoon commander, Lt Tsuchiya (48th) as 2 platoon commander and Lt Skronski (TSR) as 3 platoon commander.

This years training was to be the culmination of the two year "Warrior" training cycle which emphasized offensive operations. However as this is the major exercise scheduled for Reservists in the training year somebody up the chain decided to incorporate both offensive and defensive operations into the exercise to tie into the next training cycle which is emphasising defensive operations. Therefore in a seven day field portion the company was given orders for the following operations. Within 16 hours of arriving in Petawawa in the mid-afternoon, the company had completed its first mission, a deliberate attack against an enemy in a built-up area; upon completion of this attack and return to our bivouac, the company received its safety, environmental and other briefings. The next task given to the company was to conduct a relief in place with the QOR/RRgtC company. This relief in place was to be conducted on our second night on the ground. This was followed by a 36 hour period where

we continued digging in the company defensive position, and improving the obstacle plans. As this was the first time many of the soldiers had conducted defensive operations this turned out to be a teaching rather than a doing portion of the exercise. After being in the defensive for almost two days the order came to "abandon" the position and conduct a company advance to contact. Upon completion of the advance to contact, after waiting for "dignitaries" who didn't show up and putting out a fire started by the profligate use of smoke grenades on dry grass by the enemy force the company returned to the defensive position which it had abandoned that morning. During that night the company was involved in yet another relief in place, this time having the Lorne Scot/G&S Foresters company as the incoming force.



This let B company move into a company hide as a prelude to conducting a company ambush patrol. Up until this point the company had been performing beautifully, however, the ambush turned out to be an exercise in frustration, with timings being changed, a ORV location being misplaced and an enemy waiting in the ambush site. Despite these problems the ambush was a learning experience (reminder to the OC **never let a Tor Scot do the route recon or site the ORV**). At this point endex was called and all pers were involved in backfilling the trenches. While this was going on the exercise debrief was conducted. It was at this point that the understatement of the exercise occurred. The exercise coordinator, the CO of 3 RCR said that it was a great exercise, but that he may have crammed in too much activity as "**battle procedure was somewhat compressed**". As some of the company commanders had to give orders for their patrols and deliberate attacks on route to the objectives due to the short timings all who heard this statement had their jaws hit the floor.

At this point the buses finally arrived, and following a long bus ride the company returned to Toronto, with thoughts of next year in their head.

#### ONE PLATOON

by Lt JMC McEwen

Once again, I had the distinct pleasure (or was it torture) of leading/following another platoon through a CAC. Overall the training was good, hard and fast paced. The Company had four tasks to complete with a minimum of preparation time yet carried on in true Highlander fashion. Although it was a

composite Company, I can say Highlander as the 48th were augmented by a Toronto Scottish platoon to form a full Company.

Our first task was a recon in force (4 C6's) culminating in some FIBUA. Thanks to some quick thinking by Sgts McIntyre and Palermo, we surprised the enemy force with our point of entry and nearly overturned the DS's table for coffee.



The second task was to occupy a defensive position where it rained all night and the next day rose to over 30 degrees Celsius once we started digging. Enough said on that. Next was A to C where some of our keener soldiers tried to avoid doing an assault by flushing out their enemy with a brush fire. Luckily, we were far away from air conditioning so the Liaison Council missed that one.

This year, there were no helicopters but that was just as well since they couldn't have landed in the swamps where we spent most of our time anyhow. 1 Platoon was told there would be very little materiel support from either CFB Petawawa or 2 CMBG as COP

COBRA was running concurrently but we had no idea how bad things were until our enemy force for the Company ambush arrived in a Honeysucker. Needless to say, all the noise from the ambush woke this Platoon Commander from his slumber in time for a forced march back to our hide to fill in some holes we dug the day before and wait for a bus driver who couldn't tell time. All in all I wouldn't have missed it even if I had a choice.

Until next year.



#### TWO PLATOON

by Lt D Tsuchiya

The Regiment was tasked to provide two platoons for Exercise Trillium Guard (aka CAC '95). The command elements for 2 Platoon were Lt Dave Tsuchiya; Sgts Greg Jones; Dave Heaney, Guy Bowie; MCpl Lance Knight; and Cpl John Martin. For a short while, Pt Kresimir Smitich served as 3 Section commander and provided highly effective in this capacity.

The exercise began with extremely fragmented orders from the top and remained that way for a week. Although this led to the growing exasperation of those who were used to the 17 steps of battle procedure and proper orders format, it did not break the spirit of the platoon. However, it was discovered that some unusual practices were used by 2 platoon in the offensive.

During the re-organization after a company attack, which was supposed to be observed by members of the Civil-Military Employment Council under sweltering heat and sun, CSM Ron Alkema, much to his dismay, noticed the command elements of 2 platoon standing around with their combat pants dropped to their ankles, and other states of undress, in an attempt to cool off. It would be a recurring theme for the platoon commander.

In the defensive phase, 2 platoon activity was minimal due to the static requirements of this stand. However, one notable incident did not involve the platoon in question, but 3 platoon (not from our unit) who were lost for several

hours enroute to the company RV (which was located in open ground). The final phase of the exercise was a company-sized ambush patrol.

2 Platoon was tasked as part of the assault group. The route to the objective, marked out by 3 PL, appeared to be quite direct...on the map. However, the patrol was led down a swampy trail for nearly 12 km. The patrol marched farther south than planned and had to double-back. This manoeuvre took approximately 6 hours to complete. Enroute, the company maintained good patrolling discipline at all times: ensuring to step off the trail when relieving themselves; only knocking down large, dead trees to distract the enemy; and sparking up cigars to act as improvised beacons for the patrol. As well, proper technique for extracting themselves from swampy bogs was used by vigorously pumping one's foot in and out of the mud. This produced the desired "sucking" sound commonly found in marsh-filled woods. One notable incident occurred when Sgt Bowie was accidentally clubbed in the head by Pte Eric Hartwig who was adjusting his C7 rifle.

Word originally got out that a fight had broken out. Bets were about to be made when the truth was revealed, much to the dismay of the platoon. The patrol's ORV had been resited by 3 platoon so it was now located in the fire zone. Despite the sudden loss of the company commander, Capt Andre Poles (who was killed while siting his security teams), the mission carried on. 2 platoon was sited in a choice ambush position and successfully combined patrolling skills with a high degree of forced rest and berry-picking.



The ambush went in several hours after the platoon was sited. Recollections were hazy. Pte Chris Harvie and Sgt Bowie remember waking up and seeing their platoon commander lying on his side, radio on his back, twisted over appearing to be looking at something on the ground. In fact, Lt Tsuchiya was, shock, "asleep at the wheel".

Nonetheless, the ambush went through and was launched against a civie-pattern pick-up truck that stopped to retrieve an outhouse. The driver was oblivious to the vicious roar of gun fire and carried out his duties with total disregard to his personal safety, not to mention his outhouse. Although, the ambush may not have been a text example of keen soldiering, I looked at the brighter side of things: in the end, and "it all comes out in the end", the berries were pretty good.

#### EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED by Capt V Goldman

As in previous years there are a large number of 48th Highlanders who are employed outside the active battalion.

**LCol G. Young**, whose last unit appointment was as the Commanding Officer from 1989 to 1992, is the Deputy Commander of the Toronto District. He also serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations (DCOS OPS). One of his primary tasking this year is the planning of Trillium Phoenix; the two week concentration for all reserve soldiers in Land Forces Central Area.

**LCol D. Temple**, whose last unit appointment was as the Commanding Officer from 1979 to 1982, is the Toronto Coordinator for the Militia Command and Staff Course. He is also the coordinator for all officer and NCO training and development in the Toronto District.

**Maj D. Nelson** has been double hatted for the last few years, but officially he is the Toronto District Padre. Padre Nelson has also continued to serve as the regimental padre during this period of time.

**Capt M. Bossi**, whose last regimental appointment was as the 2i/c of Headquarters Company from 1994-1995, is currently serving as a Public Affairs Officer at LFCA HQ.

**Capt S. Gilbert**, whose last appointment was as the Regimental Adjutant from 1990-1993, is serving at Toronto District HQ as a Public Affairs Officer.

**Capt J. Leach** was last employed as a company 2i/c in the late seventies. He is currently employed in the G1 branch at district HQ as the officer in charge of Honours and Awards.

**Capt V. Goldman**, whose last regimental appointment was as the Regimental Sergeant Major from 1984-1991, is serving at Toronto District HQ as the Administration Officer for the Militia Command and Staff Course. He is also the G3 Competitions Officer for the district and served at Trillium Guard as a Public Affairs Officer.

**Lt T. Birchall**, whose last unit appointment was as the Quarter Master from 1989-1991, is the Comptroller for the Toronto District.

**Lt. J. McEwen**, served as a Platoon Commander at Trillium Guard 95 and is the unit Transportation Officer. His official position however, is as a Staff Officer at Toronto District HQ on the planning staff for Trillium Phoenix.

**CWO M. Barnes**, whose last unit employment was as the Regimental Sergeant Major from 1981-1984, has come out of retirement and is serving as the RSM of the Toronto District Battle School. Mr. Barnes previously retired in 1994 as the District RSM.

**MWO W. Gillie** is another Highlander who is double hatted, but his official position is the Sergeant Major of the Toronto District Battle School.

Of the fifteen reserve officers at Toronto District HQ, eight are 48th Highlanders. Of the two key NCO positions at the Battle

School, both are held by 48th Highlanders. The unit is well served by Highlanders soldering on outside the unit. The Dileas spirit is alive and well.

#### OFFICERS MESS

by Maj GD Turner

The training year beginning in June 1995 saw many changes in the Officers Mess, commencing with a Change of Command occurring in June 1995 and lastly seeing the mugging out of four former officers in March 1996.

Social events that occurred during the year were:

The Annual Mixed Mess barbecue at Col Warrens place in Puslinch. This was the first social event after the June Change of Command. All Officers enjoyed themselves with the highlight for all Junior Officers the ceremonial throwing into the pool of all Senior Officers (bathing suits optional). I believe next year all Senior Officers will arrive with bathing suits on.

The Officers/Senior NCO's dining-in, was the next mess function which took place in September. This was a relaxed dinner and gave all Officers and Senior NCO's a chance to get to know their counterparts from the upcoming training year.

The hosting of the 1995 48th Highlanders-St. Andrews Ball was held in November 1995. Although attendance was down to approximately 670 the dinner and dancing was delightful. Special thanks should be made to Grant Distillery (Glenfiddich) for

their support in this endeavour and to our two bands; the Pipes and Drums and the Military band.

The Mixed Mess Robbie Burns dinner was held in January 1996. For this dinner all Officers invited another Officer and a guest from another unit to attend. In total 76 people sat down to dinner and quite enjoyed the mystic highland traditions and dancing.

The Cadillac Draw in which all 100 tickets were sold (thanks to the last minute purchase by Major Joe Potts). This years big winners included one former Commanding Officer, one Active Major, one former Captain and a former Armoured Commanding Officer. Each winning \$1,000.00. Ancillary winners included the Military band and the Ladies Auxiliary.

The dining out for Major Tom White, Major Doug Johnson, Capt John Bradfield and Lt Matthew Anderson occurred on March 8, 1996. Tom White our PMC for the last 9 years will be missed by all. Tom's behind the scenes getting it done has been noticed by all officers and especially the new PMC. On behalf of all officers Tom, I send Best Wishes to you and Gunta for all future endeavours.

In addition to the 4 departing officers the mess welcomed:

Lt. Harry Pedwell (transfer from the Lincoln & Welland Regiment) and Lt. Kevin Darby (transfer from the Essex & Kent Regiment), and saw the promotions of: Capt Dave Tsuchiya and Capt Marcus Sanderson.

#### JUNIOR RANKS MESS

by MCpl NW Ronaldson

The JR's Mess of the 48th Highlanders has had a long, and somewhat convoluted history. Every few years interest in the mess resurfaces and a new committee is resurrected from the ashes of its predecessors. The reasons for these committee's untimely demise is lost in unrecorded obscurity but I can only suppose it is due to the lack of involvement.

This unfortunate situation is about to occur again if you, the members don't start to get involved in the messing activities and functions. The mess is a selfish creature in that it will only give back what is put into it, and at the moment that isn't much.

The last thing I want is for this article to sound like a lecture but a strong Junior Ranks Mess makes the core of a strong Regiment, something that is extremely important in these uncertain times. Granted we have had a few good years but a general apathy is starting to seep into mess affairs.

It doesn't take much, something as simple as paying mess dues, and the potential is there so it is now a matter of seeing what you can do for the mess. Lets look forward to the new training year and show those other messes what we are capable of.



#### OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

by G Outhwaite

The 48th Highlanders of Canada in the thirties was one of the strongest Militia Units in Canada. Their home was the University Armoury in Toronto, Ontario. They paraded every Friday night and were known as the Friday night soldiers. In 1934 they were invited to attend the Chicago World Fair, which they did in grand style. It was a hot summer with the temperature holding at 106 degrees in the shade. Six Hundred Highlanders in scarlet doublet and feather bonnet were on parade, and in spite of the hot sun their performance was excellent. A parade long remembered by all who attended. The Regiment suffered the loss of many doublets due to perspiration.



The Regiment maintained its strength until the Second World War, a difficult task because they were all volunteers and not being paid. On September 3rd 1939 England declared war against Germany. England then requested the support of Canada in this conflict. The 48th Highlanders under command of LCol Chipman mustered over Six Hundred men on the floor of University Armoury and made the following announcement.

"This Regiment, the 48th Highlanders of Canada has been called to war by the Canadian Government and is to be sent to support England in its war against Germany. All Highlanders wishing to turn active may do so by taking one step forward. Those not wishing to turn active stand fast."

When the command to move was given Ninety Five Percent (95%) of the Regiment took one pace forward. On September 10th 1939 Canada Declared war on Germany.

The 48th Highlanders of Canada, now an active Regiment made the necessary preparations to leave Canada, boarding the train December 16th 1939, headed for England and the theatre of war. The excitement and anticipation of the soldiers on the train was high. The families, loved ones and friends said their goodbyes. All with tears in their eyes. Unnoticed by the crowds of family and well wishers was a small group of young highlanders, 17 and 18 years of age, disappointed at not being on the train and going over seas with the regiment because of their age. The regiment landed in Glasgow December 31 1939 but did not leave the ship until January 1st 1940. The regiment went to France in June 1940 returning to England from St. Malo a few days later. After more

intensive training the regiment was ordered to Sicily in July 1943, then to Italy, leaving Italy at the leghorn and onto Apeldoorn Holland; their last Battle. The regiment returned to Canada September 29 1945, arrived in Toronto October 1 1945 to a grand welcome of thousands who stood in the rain to greet them and wish them well.



On Sunday May 26 1946 the 48th Highlanders Memorial Hall at 519 Church Street was officially opened by Field Marshall Earl Harold Alexander of Tunis K.G. G.C.B. G.C.M.G. C.S.I. D.S.O. M.C. The regiment was commanded by LCol J.E. Ganong. The club became the watering hole for the veterans of WWI and WWII and the young soldiers of the regiment until late in 1974. We moved to 284 King Street East. The official opening early in 1975. On February 8 1988 we made one more move and we are now located at 29 Leslie Street at Easton Ave.

When the regiment returned home in 45 we were fortunate to acquire a temporary home at 93 Yonge St. I am sure we will all remember the stairs (23 or 25 straight up) leading to our

club rooms. The fear of a fast descent was enough to keep most of us sober.



The 48th Highlanders Memorial Hall. The Old Comrades Association, "The Club" has many Highlanders pass through its doors in the past 50 years. Time has taken its toll and membership has declined to a point of great concern. The club at 29 Leslie St. will be closing its doors February 1998 a sad ending for the Veterans of a great and most famous regiment which has served Canada with Honour and respect for One Hundred and Five years.



## IODE

by G Edgar

Since its inception in the year 1900, the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire "IODE", has never lost sight of the fact, human needs are constant and above material objectives. Its members have worked tirelessly to further the important causes of education, social services and citizenship. Their efforts to keep this reality in mind has made a significant contribution to national stability and national unity.

Your 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE was established on May 3, 1907 by Mrs. Davidson, wife of the first Col of the 48th, and is the oldest and only active Military chapter. For the past 89 years it has fulfilled its initial pledge to confine its efforts to the benefit and welfare of the Regiment while assisting in some of the projects of the Municipal, Provincial and National Chapters.

Over the years the members who were and are related to a 48th Highlander have assisted the Regiment by supplying volunteer services, visitations to veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital, Bursaries for education to Highlanders as well as students related to members of the Regiment and trophies and awards to encourage its members to excel in their military training.

During the war years of both WWI and WWII and more recently the conflicts in Europe, food parcels, knitted garments, medical supplies and news of home were sent to our soldiers overseas and at home.

Prior to the 100th Anniversary of the Regiment, new Tooties and Garter Knots were

made and distributed to members of the Regiment. Volunteers were also on hand to assist where needed during the celebrations of this momentous occasion.

These include, a yearly garage sale, Birthday luncheon, Chocolate and Craft making demonstrations and sales and a well attended Christmas Luncheon.

In October 1995, a Wine and Cheese party was held in conjunction with the 95th Anniversary of the National Chapter of the IODE. Held in the Sergeants' Mess, it was arranged and hosted by our regent Karen Barker. Our guests including the Officers and their wives were treated to a display of the many projects and services performed by the IODE members to assist the 48th Highlanders.

The displays consisted of the contents of the Christmas parcels given to our war veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital and the materials sent to our adopted school located in Goose Bay Labrador.

Donations of funds are made each year to the North York Children's Hospital, the Officer's Mess, the Sergeant's Mess and the Regimental Museum as well as other different charities in Toronto and Labrador.

Our 48th Highlander's Chapter is looking forward to May 3, 1997 when it will celebrate its 90th Anniversary. We encourage and welcome all who may be interested, to join with us to help celebrate this historic date in our history.

Listed below are the names of the past and present Regents from post WWII who over the years have played a significant role and

gave so freely of their time in the support and development of our 48th Highlander's Chapter IODE, during their term of the office.

1937-1939	Mrs. J. Chipman
1940	Mrs. E. Haldenby
1941	Mrs. W. Southam
1942-1943	Mrs. A. Sinclair
1944	Mrs. W. Southam
1945	Mrs. J. Banton
1946	Mrs. M. Merry
1947-1949	Mrs. H. Darling
1950-1952	Mrs. R. George
1953-1954	Mrs. P. Robinson
1955-1956	Miss W. Cameron
1957	Mrs. M. Gillies
1958	Mrs. M. MacIntosh
1959	Mrs. E. Robinson
1960-1961	Mrs. E. Kielling
1962-1963	Mrs. C. Dickey
1964-1965	Mrs. M. Haldenby
1966-1967	Mrs. B. Corbett
1968-1969	Mrs. S. Cameron
1970-1971	Mrs. E. Kielling
1972-1974	Mrs. N. Elms
1975-1976	Mrs. J. Crook
1977-1984	Mrs. G. Turner
1985-1993	Mrs. M. Harding
1994-	Ms. K. Barker

#### LADIES AUXILIARY

Once upon a time a group of 48th Highlanders wives got together and formed the Womens Auxiliary, which was later changed to the Ladies Auxiliary to the 48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association. This is a short diary of the last 47 years.

The main purpose for the Ladies Auxiliary was to assist the O.C.A. and to support all other branches of the family. Our first

president was Margaret Hobson and under the guidance of LCol W.W.G. Daring, a constitution was formed and rules and regulations laid down. The first "Club" for us was at 519 Church St. We held theme dances (on the best dance floor in Toronto), we served dinners, held fashion shows, sold meat pies at the jamborees, while the men sang and entertained. Our "domain" on Church St was the kitchen located on the second floor front. In 1972, President Germaine Spence, introduced to the Ladies Auxiliary uniforms, and in 1974 our marching unit was formed, organized by President Dorothy Shiers, assisted by Constance Wood (I.P.P. 1995) and Rhoda Stea, President 1996. The unit went on to win many first prizes.



When the club moved to 284 King St E, the Ladies held their first Reunion. Our guest of honour was the Honourable Pauline McGibbon, Lt Governor General of Ontario, who, when asked by President Marie Nelson to become our Honourary member of the Ladies Auxiliary, graciously consented. The first Veterans club to do so. Mrs. McGibbon was received in the new St. Julian Room which had been set aside for the ladies. At this time our dinners had turned into Wedding receptions, retirements, Christmas parties

promotions etc. and we still continued with our Bazaars, Children's Christmas Tree dances and the list goes on. We put on two plays, "It Was the Night Before Christmas" and "Scrooge" under the direction of Past President Patricia Ritchie. In 1980 O.C.A. President Bob Harding invited the Ladies President Margaret Attwells to sit at the head table for a Robbie Burns Dinner. This was a first for the Ladies Auxiliary and continued at King St and 29 Leslie St.



In 1991 our President Margaret Ritchie was busy on the 100th Reunion Committee. She organized a 6:00 A.M. breakfast for the Regiment on Parade, enlisted some ladies Auxiliary to serve as ushers at Varsity Stadium and served lunch later in the day for everyone. All this was done without a kitchen on Leslie St, and here it is 1996 and our new President Rhoda Stea is faced with another reunion. It will be a challenge, but we will not fail. The Ladies Auxiliary has eight families of Highlanders with two or more members, Alexander, (Gordon Highlanders) Attwells, Bleecowe, Gibb, Pett, Stephens, Taylor and Willcocks.

We have lost approximately seventy members in the last thirty years, but none will be missed more than our 1995 President Jean Waylett. Jean died while in office and we will remember her always along with our other special seventy ladies.

We would like to thank the O.C.A. for their help through the years and a special thanks to Mr. Robert Lavergne, the husbands and the sons who have worked so hard for the ladies, without them our work would be far more difficult.

#### OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

by Capt J Barclay

Last April at our Annual Mess Dinner, (the 50th Anniversary to the ending of WWII), we especially remembered those who had served with the Regiment, Overseas. This year we celebrate our 75th Annual Mess Dinner, on Sat April 27th. At that time LCol C.W. Darling commanded the Regiment and LCol K.R. Marshal was 2nd in command. LCol J.F. Michie was the Honourary Colonel. We duplicated the dinner that was served in the King Edward Hotel. Needless to say this required some research as to how to prepare items that are not served to day.

Lt Charles Tidy gave the toast to the Regiment. Our special guest was the Consul General of the Netherlands, Mr. Paul W.A. Schellekens. At the dinner he was made an Honourary member of the Officers' Association.

In June, last year we distributed the photograph of the annual mess dinner, all be it, later than we had promised. It was an

excellent photograph, and a number of those who attended ordered one.

Our annual golf tournament was held at the Toronto Golf Club on Thurs Sept 14 1995. Our numbers have fallen but there are still those who enjoy the tournament which was won this year by Maj L.S. O'Brian and the hidden hole by Capt D.B. Osler, followed by an excellent dinner. Great fun, if you would like to play in the tournament please let us know.



Our Annual Meeting was held on Thurs Oct 26th 1995 in our Mess. The existing executive was reelected. The Format was changed to include a light supper, which was excellent. Following the dinner we enjoyed interesting reports from the Colonel and Honouraries as to the Regiments' well being and the possible future of Militia Units in Canada.

At the request of Reserves 2000, a personal letter was sent to a number of our members asking them to write a letter to the Prime

Minister, the Minister of National Defense and their local MP regarding the unacceptable proposals that had been made. Certainly our efforts and those of other Militia Associations had a significant effect in having a further review undertaken. At this time we are hopeful that some of the drastic changes will be modified.

One of our most active committee Chairmen is Lt. Mike Ogden who is constantly trying to keep our mailing list up to date both adding and removing names and changing addresses. The cost of mailing and printing due to Defense Budget restraints has now fallen on our Association. Your continued support is needed.

We have had taken a professional photograph of the painting of Dargai, that hangs in the Officers' Mess. It is an excellent reproduction shot of that famous painting. We are planning to offer for sale posters and prints suitable for framing as well as correspondence notes with Dargai on the front cover.

The Officers' Association through its members continues to value and keep those traditions alive that are so much a part of the Regimental Spirit.

#### 48TH CADET CORPS

by Capt S Boast

After a year restructuring and rebuilding the 48th Highlanders Army Cadet Corps has begun to grow and attract many new recruits. The Corps current strength is higher than it has been in a number of years and more recruits are showing up all the time. Much of this impressive growth can be attributed to the

very active schedule that the corps has maintained throughout this training year.

Cadets have participated in a wide variety of exercises ranging from a rappelling exercise at Rattlesnake point in Milton to a "Discover SCUBA" course were selected to attend the full course in February. The majority of the cadets also participated in the Central Region Cadet Garrison Exercise at CFB Borden. During this exercise, which included cadets from all across the region, 17 of our cadets qualified for their star levels.

The Regiment has been very supportive of the cadet corps at all levels of training. Without the vehicles and equipment provided by the Regiment, many of these exercises would not have been possible.

The 48th Highlanders has always been a well staffed cadet corps. We currently have 3 officers and 2 civilian instructors. Through the hard work and dedication of these people, the corps has prospered throughout the past year. Unfortunately, several of the officers will be leaving the corps this year. As a result, the corps will be looking for equally dedicated replacements. Anyone interested in joining the staff or providing assistance with training or exercises, please call the cadet office at (416) 360-3717.

## FAREWELL TO THE VETERAN'S COLONEL

by Capt J Findlay and others

LCol Michael Ernest (Mike) George, CD

It is with sincere regret that we advise you of the untimely death of Mike George, the Veteran's Colonel.



Mike was seriously injured in an automobile accident in Florida and succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday April 17, 1996. Ruby George was with Mike and fortunately her injuries were not life threatening.

At this time, with a very short time limit to meet the publication date for The Falcon, it is impossible to do proper justice to a remembrance for Mike. For a later issue of The Falcon, we will do a complete and thorough biography of the man who has been the heart and soul of the Highlanders, revered by all who served with him or wished they had.

For now let us tell you of at least two things

for which Mike was so justly proud. First he and Jim Counsell were the only two officers who fought in every battle of the Regiment from Sicily to Holland. Secondly, after Jim Counsell died, Mike took over as the Veteran's Colonel and led them in every Remembrance Day Parade and in the Warriors' Day Parade at the CNE. Isn't it ironic that this year the Warriors' Day Parade is honouring our Regiment as the lead unit in this magnificent pageant.

Mike has been the treasurer of the Regimental Trust since 1950, a job which he did with deep sincerity and dedication.

Let us all give thanks that we who are left are blessed to have been associated with such a true Officer and Gentleman.

### MIKE GEORGE "A SOLDIER'S OFFICER"

by BGen PAG Cameron, HCOL

Cannon Elliot, Ladies Gentlemen, Fellow-Highlanders and friends of Michael Ernest George.

I am honoured to have been asked by the family to say a few words about our friend, Mike George -- a man whose friendship I was privileged to enjoy for the past twenty-five years or so, and a man with whom I worked closely to establish a sound financial footing for our Regiment. A man who was a former Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel, a member of the 48th Highlanders Trustees, and of the Regimental Senate. A man whose name was legend for his wartime leadership from Sicily to War's end when I joined the Regiment as a brand new Lieutenant forty-three years ago.

A man whose total dedication, loyalty, and indeed "raison d'être" was for the welfare and well-being of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. A man who in his modest way never sought leadership positions yet, when called upon to provide it, gave it unstintingly, efficiently, quietly and with unerring certainty! A man whose not inconsiderable success in the world outside the Regiment went largely unremarked simply because he did not feel it important enough to talk about. A man who in my mind was "A Soldier's Officer".

What do I mean by "A Soldier's Officer"? With apologies to so many of you present today for whom no explanation is needed, let me try to explain what I think it means. It means, in the words of one war-time colleague who served under Mike: "Off duty, I felt I could call him Mike. On duty, he was my commander. Simple as that". In the words of his peers: "He was a quiet man -- I never heard him raise his voice. But he was a strong man -- nerves of steel, superb judgement, excellent tactician, highly respected as a commander". And in another: "He had a quiet but devastating sense of humour which I could glimpse from time-to-time, but beware fouling up on an assignment. He never said much but one glance from those steely blue eyes, and you knew you better not foul-up again!"

It means he cared about his men. One young Lieutenant with no battle experience joined Mike's company in the midst of the heaviest fighting in the Italian campaign. He said Mike was like an older brother to him until he found his feet. Mike never denied another incident but which in his heart he undoubtedly approved. This also took place in the heavy-going in Italy. Another new young Lieutenant

having given his "O" group to his platoon leaders, finished with the customary: "Those are your orders. Any questions or comments?" The response came from an experienced, battle-hardened NCO: "Yes Sir. Let's go back 100 yards and talk about it!". In the weeks after war's end, Mike continued to care about his men. His CQMS of the day relates how the quality and quantity of our rations suddenly deteriorated while enemy prisoners housed a mile away continued to "live like Kings". Determined that this wrong should be righted, the CQMS on his own initiative, and with a few hand-picked men, went over to the enemy encampment for a serious, although off-the-record discussion. Quite suddenly, our rations improved! A few weeks later, while waiting to fall-in for a Church parade, Mike turned and with that quizzical smile and twinkle in his eye said: "Quarters, our rations seem to have improved a bit lately, haven't they?"

"A Soldier's Officer" means one who will not shirk dangerous assignments, but having accepted responsibility for them, will plan their execution to minimize potential loss of life. It means an officer who is skilled in the use of battle tactics -- picking the right route to the objective or the best siting of a defensive position. "A Soldier's Officer" is one who subordinates want to serve with because he quite simply represents their best chance of survival.

Such a man was Mike George.

After the war, Mike resumed a civilian career as an executive with the Imperial Bank, leaving them in 1966 to accept a position as Treasurer of the Art Gallery of Ontario. He served until his retirement in 1980 with great

distinction. A former colleague from those days observed that his tenure was marked by two qualities he brought home from the war -- one was his ability to bring focus to the Gallery's activities; the other was to ensure "things ran like clockwork".

During the early years of this period, Mike served as Commanding Officer of the Regiment, now back home in University Avenue Armouries, and afterwards began the second phase of his long and dedicated service to the Highlanders. He became a member of Senate and a Trustee and Treasurer of the Trusts. At the time of his death, he still held these positions and was the longest-serving member of both organizations. He used his significant influence to help his former soldiers in administering the affairs of the Old Comrades Association. He was a long-time director of the Association itself and one of the founders and major driving forces behind the creation of the Regimental Museum. But, although he never said so, I think the position of which he was most proud was that conferred on him by his war-time colleagues - their "Soldier's Officer" would lead them on all major Regimental occasions, parades and ceremonies. He never missed one of them, and I know he was looking forward to leading them at the 105th and again on Warrior's Day this year when the Unit will be in the place of honour.

One other area which characterized his service to the Regiment since the War was his interest in preserving the ties formed by the Regiment with the Dutch people of Apeldoorn. Mike made many trips to Holland in order to help preserve this connection -- both official and unofficial. Therefore, it was entirely fitting that he should lead our contingent last year to

the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Liberation of Holland. I should tell you now that his many friends there are aware of and saddened by Mike's death and, as we speak, are planning something permanent to honour his memory. Meanwhile today in Apeldoorn and in the small communities surrounding it, all flags are flying at half-staff in memory of Mike.

Mike was fortunate in his choice of wife, Ruby, and later, his two daughters, and then the entire family encouraged, supported and actively assisted him in all of his endeavours. In my own work with Mike, no call was ever too late to take -- Ruby was always there -- cheerful and courteous on the other end of the phone. No receipt owing to a donor in our fund-raising campaigns ever went astray, and no minute for the minute-book was ever formalized without her vigilant screening. Ruby, to you and all the family go our deepest sympathies. No one can ever take the place of Mike but remember you have a larger family -- The Regimental Family -- and we, all of us, are there whenever you need us.

Mike died on the 51st anniversary of the Liberation of Apeldoorn, 17 April '45 in which his company -- "B" Coy -- played a vital role. Our friend, Mike, this fine "Soldier's Officer", has gone on to rejoin the men of his beloved "B" Coy who passed this way before.

We will miss him.

*The above is the text of the eulogy given by Brigadier General PAG Cameon, Honourary Colonel of the Regiment at a Memorial Service for Lieutenant Colonel Michael Ernest George on April 25, 1996 at Christ Church - Deer Park Anglican Church.*

## FAREWELL TO A BELOVED PADRE... by LCol ME George

With the death, in early July 1995 of Major the Reverend Stewart B. East MBE, MC, the 48th Highlanders lost their beloved and much respected War time Padre. A legend to all who had served with him in the 1st BN especially those who fought in Sicily and Italy.



The Padre was posted to the 1st BN in October 1943 while the Regiment was stationed at Uckfield in England. Kim Beattie, the author of "DILEAS" had this to say of his arrival at the 1st BN "a tall man, with an intent face and kindly eyes, he had not come to preach, but to merge his life with the Regiment's...no one sensed at first that this man would become one of the most beloved and valuable 48th personalities in the Regiment's history". While in England and later when the 1st BN was training in Scotland he moved among the companies making a point of getting to know all the men,

and they in turn felt very comfortable in their relationship with him.

One story, while the BN was still stationed in England, relates to the Padre forming a choir and again I am going to let Kim Beattie tell the tale.

"It may have been an accident that the Padre was standing in the middle of the Hailsham road on a dark night just after the Pub closing time on a pay night. He was there as a tipsy hilarious group of Highlanders came singing home. The Blackout was resounding to a particular ribald chorus when one of them yelled "pipe down its the Padre". He had recognized the tall form in the dark. They stopped in embarrassment, however there was no need for that. "You fellows have such grand voices I'd like every one of you for my choir next sunday, how about it boys?" and that's how the Padre got his choir."

In the early days in Sicily as the BN advanced inland, everyone suffered from the intense heat and water was a commodity in short supply. The Regimental Water Wagon had been topped up in Scotland, but not yet caught up to the weary thirsty Highlanders. The Padre was the one that finally located the truck. Proceeding to scrounge some extra water bottles he slung them over his shoulder and was able to provide the men some appreciated water to some of the men. For this thoughtful act he was nicknamed "Gunga Din".

May 22nd 1944 was the day the BN successfully attacked the heavily fortified and vaulted Hitler Line and it was here that the Padre was wounded not once, but twice. The Padre was to return to the BN in September

and remained with the BN until January 1945. By now he had to be evacuated suffering from a near breakdown. The end was inevitable, the continuous conducting of burial services for the men he had got to know became a very difficult task he had to perform. One could only take so much of what had become of necessity, a way of life. When the Highlanders looked back through the months and the battles behind them they realized the Padre's whole War life had been spent with wounds and death. In action he lived at the regimental Aid Post, which was always well forward, ever since Pacino in Sicily. He had been a leader of stretcher Bearer Parties in battle and a tireless searcher for the 48th dead. Not one Highlander was marked as Missing.



In the years following the War the Padre was in great demand to conduct the Marriage Service on behalf of his wartime comrades. Later as the years slipped by he found himself

conducting very moving and emotional Funeral Services for his 48th boys...he remembered them all..

Among his papers was found the following:

A Prayer Before Going into Action,

"Loving Father,  
Protect me in all Danger.  
Watch Over my Loved Ones and my Comrades.  
Trusting in Thee for Forgiveness and for Life,  
I Commend Myself into Thy Hands.  
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord,  
AMEN."

#### THE END OF AN ERA

by LCol ME George

In December 1995 and January 1996 the Regiment lost two of the surviving members of the 15th BN C.E.F. (48th Highlanders). Regretfully no records are at hand to know if any of their war time comrades are still alive today.

#### Victor G. Howard 1895 - 1996

Victor G. Howard, regimental number 27205 first served in the Militia with the 97th Algonquin Regiment. He came to Toronto at the outbreak of war in 1914 enlisted in the 48th Highlanders of Canada, later to be known as the 15th BN C.E.F. (48th Highlanders)

He embarked with the BN from Valcartier, trained in England and proceeded to France 1915. While in the line on the 14th of March he was slightly wounded, but recovered to be

with B Coy of the BN at the second battle of YPRES in April 1915. Here he was gassed and taken a Prisoner of War. During his captivity the Germans had him working underground in the salt mines at Bienboode. This affected his health and in August 1919 he was sent to Switzerland in an exchange of prisoners.

Before the war Victor had been working as a logger in Northern Ontario weighing 180 pounds, by the time he became a free man again he was down to some 90 pounds and in poor health. In 1935 he applied to the government for and was granted a disability pension.

In the Second World War he served for a time in the Home Guard and later was to work with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires.

At a party given in his honour on the occasion of his 100th birthday, while walking with the aid of a cane his mind remained very alert. Several members of the Old Comrades Association, accompanied by a piper were in attendance at his funeral service.

#### William Creech 1896 - 1995

Bill enlisted at the age of 19 joining the 134BN C.E.F. Initially stationed at the Horse Palace, CNE Grounds, later the Battalion moved to Niagra on the lake and later still to a new camp, Camp Borden. Proceeding Overseas in August 1915 the Battalion carried out training in the Bramshott area. In November he was on the first draft to be posted to the 15th BN. The Battalion had suffered very heavy casualties in the battle of the SOMME. Bill was to serve with the Battalion throughout the war including

surviving the battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917 which he came through unscathed.

After the war he worked for Gordon MacKay, clothing merchants as paymaster. A Bachelor all his life he was an active mason, a Past President of his Lodge and served as Treasurer from 1938 - 1988. Bill died in late 1995 in his 100th year.

Interviewed by the Toronto Star in November 1991 he was quoted as follows:

"War was something I had to do...it was my duty...but it is a stupid way to settle things...War never really solved anything...it always lead to another War...it seems people just do not learn any lesson from War. "... Leaders of today's Governments could well have paid attention to the words of this old soldier.

#### DILEAS!





## 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

Gravenstafel

St. Julien

FESTUBERT, 1915

MOUNT SORREL

SOMME, 1916

Pozières

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

Valguamera

ASSORO

Agira

Regalbuto

Adrano

Sicily, 1943

Landing At Reggio

CAMPOBASSO

Torella

San Leonardo

The Gully

ORTONA

San Nicola-San Tommaso

Cassino II

Gustav Line

LIRI VALLEY

HITLER LINE

GOTHIC LINE

Misano Ridge

RIMINI LINE

San Martino-San Lorenzo

LAMONE CROSSING

Fosso Vecchio

Italy, 1943-'45

APELDOORN

Northwest Europe, 1945