



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Colonel-In-Chief, 48th Highlanders of Canada

Commanding Officer's Message

1999 will be a year that I will remember for the rest of my life. It has been a proud year, my first as your Commanding Officer, although it has not been without some distress. This because of the fine traditions and caliber of past Commanding Officers, whose achievements I must now live up to. After one week in this position, I was no longer concerned. I knew my strengths and tried to use them to my advantage and my weaknesses were minimized by the high quality of Officers and Senior NCO's around me. Their strengths outweighed my deficiencies, and produced a very effective year for the Regiment.

Although the strength of the Regiment is down from the previous year, morale is at a much higher level. This was evident during CRE training imposed by higher Headquarters. Our two Platoons were evaluated as effective during Steadfast Warrior. Our attendance at camp was the highest of any infantry unit, even combining the strengths of two, they in the Brigade did not match our number of troops. This increased morale was also evident during the Company assessment phase which I call the "Bragging" weekend. A cold, rainy, sleety, snowy weekend in October in Meaford where the Company performed to their highest standard and was very effective.

A fighting unit cannot sustain in operations if their Administration is not in order. Our Administration, like our fighting capability is also at a high standard. As expected, our Annual Staff Assistance visit saw only a few minor observations.

In 1999, ties with our allied regiment were renewed. Sixteen Highlanders participated in a two-week exercise with the 1st Bn Highlanders in CFB Wainwright. The training was challenging and exciting and offered an opportunity for increased morale in the unit. A follow up visit in July by the RSM also proved rewarding.

Although we were invited to train with the 3rd Bn Highlanders (now 51st Highland Regiment) in September conflicts prevented us from going. I am happy to say that the 51st Highland Regiment will be sending over a Platoon next summer to participate in Steadfast Warrior.

In November, the Regiment changed RSM's. CWO Gillie, whom I have known and worked with for many years, has stepped down and CWO Darling has taken his position. To CWO Gillie thank you for your dedication and devotion to this unit over your many years of service, and in particular as my RSM. To CWO Darling, I look forward to working with you as my new RSM.

The 48th Highlanders is not only a Regiment, but a family. I would like to thank all of the family members, the 48th Highlanders Cadets, IODE, Ladies Auxillary, Old Commrades and Officer's Associations for their support throughout the year and in years to come. To St. Andrews College, and in particular Maj John Stevens, thank you for reaffirming your family place with the Regiment. We will see you again next year.

As we move into the new millennium, the Regiment still faces the same concerns as we have had in the past. LFRR is still ongoing, but if we as Highlanders do our jobs to the best of our abilities any changes will not affect us. I know the Regiment will perpetuate beyond the Year 2000.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be your Commanding Officer. I look forward to continuing to do so in the future.

DILEAS GU BRATH



Regimental Sergeant Major's Message

I'm finding it hard to convey all the sentiments that I would like to express after twenty-odd years as a 48th Highlander so I'll keep this brief and to the point.

The last three years have been fast-paced, interesting and challenging. For over 110 years our Regiment has struggled against a foe (sometimes easily recognizable sometimes not) and there is no doubt that the 48th's standards must be maintained, and even exceeded, if the conflicts of the future are to be won.

It is our traditions and values that are the common threads that bind us together. Our 48th ideals that foster an ethos that is significantly different from other units both regular and reserve. This spirit creates unparalleled dedica-

tion, leadership and pride and it enables us to prove that we are up to the challenge.

To every Highlander in the regimental family I would like to say thank you for your hard work and your support during my appointment as RSM.

Diles Gu Brath

W.P. Gillie, CD
CWO



CWO Gillie receives a gift from the JR's mess

THE FALCON

Journal of the 48th Highlanders of Canada

Editor's Thoughts and Reflections

It took an incredibly long time to put together this edition of The Falcon for many reasons. The first and foremost being people not getting their articles in on time. When a deadline is mentioned, it is mentioned for a reason. It is a painstaking task putting this book together and since I want it to be perfect I expect you'll adhere to the deadlines for the next edition.

The next reason is personal. The Falcon for me has been a long standing Regimental tradition that allows new members to look back at the Regiment as it was years ago and reflect on the soldiers and their tasks and to compare their Regimental experience with those of long ago. The Falcon is the past, present and future of the Regiment just as every soldier makes it so. Without this historical paper we could not look proudly back upon our Regimental family.

I would like to thank all of the people who contributed to this year's edition of The Falcon with either articles, pictures or both. I would also like to thank Traciann Sharp who did most of the editing, as well as the layout and design.

I would like to request that people start writing articles and taking pictures for next year's Falcon as soon as possible. Please forward them to myself on disk in Word format or e-mail them at mcsharp@connection.com.

WO P.W.G. McIntyre, CD

DILEAS

CONTENTS

Commanding Officer's Message
Regimental Sergeant Major's Message
From the Editor and Contents
Extracurricular Photos
Men's Christmas Dinner
Levy 1999
Mega Storm
Davidson Cup Challenge
QL4 Comms Course
QL4 Machine Gunner's Course
Exercise Steadfast Meaford
QL2/QL3
138 Course
Op Palladium
Southern Drive
Steadfast Warrior
Officer's Mess
Sergeant's Mess
Junior Rank's Mess
Ladies Auxiliary
Cadets
Pipes and Drums
The Truant Falcons
Pylon Hill
Eaton Trophy Winners
"Those were the Days" - A Photo Collection
Honours and Colours
The Regimental Monument

The Falcon

Extra Curricular Activities



Sgts Martin, Brogan, Smintich and Pryce participate in Adventure Training while on exercise in Wainwright. Luckily, no bones were broken.

Thankfully WO Pankatz knew some people and was able to get helicopters for his platoon as well as the rest of the company during Steadfast Warrior in Petawawa.



The Running Team from left to right: Capt. McEwen, MCpl Kwok, Capt. Walker, Sgt Ireland, Capt. Sanderson, MWO Alkema, MCpl Westrop, WO McIntyre, Cpl Irani, Sgt Brogan and Cpl Shannon.

Men's Christmas Dinner

MCpl Westrop

This year's Christmas dinner got off to a flying start with members of all three messes starting the annual festivities in the Sgt's and WO's Mess. Pre-dinner smoking, joking and drinking was done for an hour before Sergeant Major Darling was able to coax people out of the mess and down to the parade square for dinner. The procession of already jovial soldiers was preceded by the Pipe Band and with a few shouts, shoves and pokes by Senior NCO's, all were seated. The padre began dinner with his traditional Christmas blessing (I'm sure many on the floor fully understood the message even though it was in Gaelic). After that, the show was finally on as Senior NCO's and Officers began serving the food and much anticipated wine (there are probably still a few bottles stashed around the parade square in anticipation of this year's dinner!). While soldiers ate, the bands played Christmas carols giving atmosphere to the event and Cpl. Mason did the troops proud by leading a popular selection of Star Wars music.

This year's dinner also unveiled a new sign above the BOR with a centerpiece cap badge surrounded by the 21 unit Battle Honours emblazoned on the colours. The sign was a Christmas gift from WO McIntyre and his elves .. er.. QM staff and was proudly received by members of the Regiment. Unfortunately, it was decided to add all of the Battle Honours to the sign and the QM staff began a second QL4 course on wood working and routing (in case you are wondering, it has taken a year for the skin on MCpl Westrops' hands to regenerate)!!

The dinner concluded with the Regimental toasts, Company Marches and the CO's good cheer message. After this, the Senior NCO's and Officers began the arduous task of cleaning the chaos left by 120 jovial Highlanders while members of the Junior Rank's adjourned to their mess to continue with Christmas spirits and good cheer!!

The party after dinner was great and led to many a Christmas hangover the next morning (especially for staff and students of the Comms Course). The festivities of the evening did not end with the party – MCpl Kwok airmailed a gift to the parade square and Santa Claus came early delivering a lump of coal to the Recruiting Office. If you ask me, it was just Sgt. Smintich marking his unclaimed and future territory (right Cpl Vienneau????).

DILEAS GU BRATH



Sgt Brogan and Sgt Tescione at "tying one on" at levee.

New Year's Levy

Sgt. Brogan

"Did someone say six o'clock in the morning?!! Wondering if I would still be coherent after my New Year's Eve I arrived at the Sgt's and WO's mess and was greeted by a host of hungry on lookers with words of encouragement - "about time junior!" and "hurry up with the breakfast new guy." This being my first introduction to the mess.

The process is quite simple, the junior sergeant cooks breakfast on New Years morning for the mess and it's guests. (While still trying to recover from copious amounts of celebration the night before. Easy! We've done it so many times before). I had asked WO McIntyre for a rough number to expect, he said plan for twenty-five and all should be fine. Or so we had thought.

Sgt Vicich had been tasked to bring the food for the visitation period but mistakenly brought breakfast like myself, which turned out to be one of the best things that could have happened, due to our numbers swelling to around forty. Being the cook and token new guy, the last thing I wanted was to run out of food with this crowd, it would be like sending a lamb to the slaughter. At this time I would like to thank Sgt Vicich for his contribution and saving my neck. There also are a few other people that need to be recognized for having sympathy for the "junior". One individual was Sgt. Traci Sharp from 709 Comm Regt (Mac's wife) or as I would like to refer to her -"SAUCY SPICE" (due to the union jack styled apron she was wearing). Another individual that helped out was Sgt Tescione commonly known as "TESS". This was the first levee he has been ABLE to attend, because in the past he has never been physically fit to make it! Without the help of my generous and caring co-workers the day would have been lost.

Enter the Officer's - it is a standing tradition that the CO, LCol Cameron and the RSM, CWO Gillie, exchange jokes in the mess. The unknowing WO McIntyre partaking in a festive beverage

was the RSM's secret weapon. When the RSM had taken center stage to respond he eloquently told the company of his lack of joke telling abilities and how this year "Mac" was going to tell the joke. Now a surprised WO McIntyre approached the stage to deliver his joke amidst the laughter. Never to be out done, Mac, armed only with his good looks and razor sharp wit was able to adapt and overcome.

The next activity on our early morning agenda was to board buses for the Honorary Colonel's house. We entered the unsuspecting and still sleeping neighborhood of LCol Read, formed up and followed the squirl of the pipes into his house where his "junior's" (son and daughter) were preparing the moose milk. Once the festive greetings and introductions were complete it was again time for the jokes. The only difference from the Sgt's mess was the RSM decided to choose one of his junior sergeant's - me! Upon hearing the news I thought Tess would have to help me lift my jaw from the floor. Thankfully the RSM just wanted to see the look on my face, which was sheer panic!! Upon completion of the jokes, moose milk and presentation of flowers to Mrs. Read, it was time to return to the armouries.

At the armouries it was time to greet incoming guests and for the RSM to send out his visiting parties. After visiting a few messes and the Navy Club, the day was finally coming to an end. I hope this year is just as eventful as last.

Just a quick reminder to Sgt Tescione from the "junior guy", this year remember your sash, medal and tie.

DILEAS!

Mega Storm for a Mega City Hldr Carvalho

It was called Toronto's storm of the century. According to weather statistics, the storm dumped a total of 118.2 cm of snow on the evening of 7 January 1999, compared to the record high of 114.4 cm in 1870. This storm gave the forecasters plenty of warning but Toronto citizens were already tired from the battle against the white stuff that had already fallen on the first days of the year. The Mayor of Toronto was quick to "surrender" and round up all the resources he could to deal with possible emergencies. His plan not only involved City staff but also police officers and the military, including Reservists.

It was reported in the news that the majority of military personnel on call had been instrumental in Quebec at the time of last year's ice storm and in Winnipeg for the floods. This experience would be used in Toronto if similar emergency situations occurred. Finally, our expertise would be used for real life situations. We all braced ourselves for the worst: power failures, collapsing structures, avalanches, and all those images that a declared "state of emergency" brings to mind.

I am happy and relieved to report that the most useful thing we were delegated to do was to advise residents that their cars had to be moved in order for snowplows to remove snow banks. We were also the focus of the media's attention when we took up arms, oops, I mean shovels, to clean street corners, bus shelters, fire hydrants, and the sidewalks in front of the homes of senior citizens and the physically challenged who usually get help from City staff. This time around there was just too many places to get to and they all screamed "help now!" It is no exaggeration to say that to anyone having to use public transportation or to an elderly person having to get their passage cleared, we were heroes for a day.

The army tanks also came to town and made heads turn as they rolled along the streets of Toronto. Whether people laughed, waved or made fun of them, it didn't matter. What mattered was that they instilled a feeling of comfort because people knew that if help was needed, it was close by.

And help was needed. Just one example was the army vehicles that got through where ambulances couldn't. To those people that needed to go to a hospital, it was no laughing matter, and I'm sure they were very thankful that there was a quick and safe way to do it. The Mayor was heard saying that he doesn't agree with the law that says he must declare a "state of emergency" before asking the military for assistance. Many would disagree. After all, the army's job is not to crack ice, put up barricades against floods, or shovel snow, it is to train soldiers to be ready and able to defend their country. I must also add that if a job needs to be done and the military has the time, the people and the resources to do it, why not put their training to good use for the citizens of our country?

I am proud of the way we came to the assistance of the people who needed it most. At first I didn't understand why drivers were honking, but then I realized that it was the people's way of showing their support. There was also a different attitude when people realized that the only way to overcome this obstacle was through teamwork and we, the military, are experts at this.

It was an experience I will never forget. There I was doing something meaningful for the city that I live in and the community that I love. For the record let me just say that I am happy that we were ready, willing and able to help beat the winter wolf to its mean old game.

The Davidson Cup Challenge Hldr Will

On 4 February, 1999 it was once again time for the annual Davidson Cup Challenge between the 48th Highlanders of Canada and the (weak-kneed) Royal Regiment of Canada. The 48th marched into Old Fort York in classic Highlander style with the pipes blaring and the CO leading. After we, the Highlanders, were formed up, the Royals put on some pathetic display of drill, where there were five people dressed in colonial battle attire, I believe they were referred to as Grenadiers. They marched around a bit and fired off their muskets in a pathetic attempt to rally their troops. The events were briefly described by someone who no one could hear and after a talk with the CO, the games began.

With representatives from both regiments at each event to ensure fairness, my team was off to our first challenge – floor hockey. We tied this event with the Royals, one to one. However, I got the feeling that the other 48th teams were doing very well in this event because they always seemed to be celebrating whenever I had the opportunity to observe them. Our goalie came up with some magnificent saves, as did the British goalie the Royals were using. Next was the toboggan race. Our team was divided into four three-person teams with the object of the event being for two people to tow one person around a snow packed course on a winter toboggan. This was done in four successive heats head to head against the Royals. Our team was victorious in this event.

One of the strangest events at the Davidson Cup was the four-person ski race. To win this event the first team must make its way down to the other end of the straight course. When the first team reaches the end of the course they switch off with the second team and the second team switches off with the third. The group whose third team finishes first wins. The team I was on once again won this event.

Next we moved onto dodgeball. This was a very standard event not unlike the version I had played in gym class. There is not much to say about this event except that our team lost, this was the only event that the team I was on lost. The final team event was the chain push-ups. This event required the entire team to lie on their stomachs with their feet linked over the shoulders of the person behind them. To win this event everyone on the team must break from the chain and slide under and jump over each person in the chain. This requires the chain to move up and down in push-up style to accommodate the runner that has to go over and under the members of the chain. After everyone in that chain has been the runner, everyone in the group had to get into the sitting position. The team I was on won this event.

The closing event of the evening, tug-of-war, was by far the longest and most controversial event. The event was set up in a square with each team being broken in half. The two halves were situated opposite each other and from what I could gather the object was to turn the square into a trapezoid so that the rope would touch the CO of the opposing regiment. I still don't know who actually won. I do know that the 48th won back their trophy and that's all that counts.

The 48th were, as usual, victorious and after a bit of gloating on the parade square we made ourselves right at home in the Royals mess for a free issue of beer and pizza. To make a quick summation of this year's Davidson Cup, I would have to say it was good because we won, received free food and drinks and the Regiment gave us really cool t-shirts.

Dileas Gu Brath.

QL4 Comms Course Sgt Smintich

This training year saw the 48th Highlanders tasked to administer and run 32 Brigade's QL4 Basic Communicator's Course. To carry out the training of the brigade's future infantry communicators, a team of capable staff and eager candidates was assembled from a variety of formations. Alpha Company provided both WO Pankatz (who "worked tirelessly" in the computer room), to fill the course 21C position and MCpl Smintich (who stressed the dual importance of code security and proper filing technique) as a candidate/instructor. BHQ assigned MCpl Lauder (as an instructor/QOL supervisor), and Cpl Luna and Cpl Westrop as storesmen.

Cpl O'Brien, RCR regular support staff from the Royal Regiment of Canada, (a constant source of humorous anecdotes from his "day job") and Pte Campos from the Toronto Scottish Regiment (our in-house phonetic pronunciation expert) rounded out the rest of the assigned course instructors. The course officer was Capt. Foster from 709 (Tor) Comm Regt. This connection to the Comms unit proved to be quite useful, especially when it was combined with the RQ's own intimate and direct connection to 709. A wealth of radio, code and line knowledge was passed on to the candidates from a variety of "Jimmy's" who were on hand for many of the practical exercises.

The candidates were a motley crew of privates (RRC and TSR), riflemen (QOR) and highlanders (48th) who persevered through an intensive 6 weekend schedule from mid-November to late January, which included weathering hangovers from the 48th Men's Christmas Dinner and the aftermath of Toronto's "Storm of the Century".

These soldiers learned the art of combat communication at a time when the CF is phasing in a new generation of encryption capable radios to replace the venerable AN/PRC 25 and 77 sets. As comms qualified soldiers, they will play an important role in passing on their knowledge of this new system's capabilities to their peers.

DILEAS!

QL4 Machine Gunner's Course Hldr Carvalho

The QL4 Machine Gunner's Course taught the fundamentals of operating a machine gun and, in my opinion, should be a mandatory course for all light infantry soldiers in the CF. This course demonstrated how powerful the guns really are. Before the course, I would have thought it would be safe to run for cover behind a brick wall, now I know that it would be as quick as "up he sees me find other cover"; the brick wall would be gone.

When I was on my QL3 course I saw the C9 light machine gun and thought I had seen it all, but when I was introduced to the C6 and the sustain kit, I realized that I still had a lot to learn. We did the usual shoots with the figure 11 targets, which moved up and down for evaluating who had the top shot. We also had competitions and this was when it got interesting. Imagine running and shooting metal plates with snow shoes on, and balloons on a windy day, and finally, a single mannequin head. We got five cars from the junk yard with the windows still intact and using the C6 in the sustain fire at rapid rate, we destroyed all cars, blew one up and had to put out the fire.

Then we were introduced to the 50-caliber machine gun, which needs three men to carry it. After familiarizing ourselves with possibly the best gun ever created, we were able to use it in the anti-aircraft mount. This mount lets you use it in a 360-degree turn and shoot it 60 degrees straight up. We shot at remote controlled airplanes in consecutive bursts of 100 rounds minimum. At one point we had the 50 cal and the C6 (which is shot from the hip) on the range and I was able to shoot an airplane down using the C6. What a rush!

With machine guns ripping rounds down range, I don't think I would fix my bayonet and charge down range as happened at Steadfast in 1998. The course taught me a lot and I had a great time on the range, even at the BBQ and the course party.

Exercise Steadfast Meaford Cpl Tasca

On 14 May 1999, members of the 48th Highlanders packed up their kit and set out for Meaford to participate in Ex Steadfast Warrior.

Attendance was mandatory due to the threats of reserve restructuring that would see many of the units in 32 Brigade either amalgamated or eliminated. After what seemed like a long bus ride and several missed McDonald's stops we finally hit the ground. Once ammo, pyro and other needed supplies were gathered up, the troops retreated into the tree line for their precious three hours of sleep. At 0400 hrs Saturday morning the enemy force set out to take their positions waiting for the arrival of the still somewhat tired but eager troops. After waiting around for a few hours we (the enemy force) finally saw signs of life – Show Time! The first few section attacks were spent ironing out some of the wrinkles that had gathered after a couple of years of being in the defensive. But after lunch everyone knew what had to be done and definite improvement was seen, it was on to the platoon attacks. Once again it took a few attempts to get everyone on track with what was happening, but the troops worked together and carried out their jobs effectively.

After an exhausting twelve hours everyone met back at the biv site for a surprisingly good hay-box dinner. From there, once again, the enemy force set out to their position and Alpha Company got their orders for what was going to be happening that night. Once arriving at our position, the enemy force sat and marveled at the tent contraption the Lt. King had brought up with him. He may have been out of the army for a couple of years but I must say that he did know how to stay comfortable. We also had to throw a few sarcastic remarks at new 2Lt Best who had just taken the **LARGE** leap from the ranks to the stripes. From there we took turns getting some rack time and waiting for the big attack that was to occur early Sunday morning.

Just as the sun was beginning to rise we took our positions in a pile of ruins and waited for Alpha Company to attack.

They came at us full force, showing no mercy. I found myself rolling out of the way of a T-flash that was thrown by someone that will remain nameless (Sgt Martin). After a quick debrief, everyone headed back to the biv site, got their "oh so tasty" CF boxed lunch and waited the mandatory couple of hours for the busses to show up.

Finally, it was on the bus and back to Toronto where after a bit of a cleaning it was up to the mess for a few cold ones (did I mention that the CO bought a round)? The weekend was a welcome change considering that we had not had a field exercise in quite some time. Although Hawkyard may not agree considering he went home Saturday with his leg in a cast. Everyone worked hard and did an excellent job and showed now only ourselves but the rest of the Brigade that we are here to stay. Did I mention that we had the best turnout for the weekend?

DILEAS!



Troops move up into extended line to set up a fire base for the platoon attack.

QL2/QL3

Hldr Thomas

This summer 15 recruits headed off to Meaford to start the second part of their QL2/3 Infantry Course. The course was two months long, from June 27 to August 18. The 48th Highlander recruits, were members of Bravo Company, 3 Platoon. The Platoon Commander, Capt Rankin and the Platoon Warrant, MWO Ewing, were both from the Royal Regiment of Canada. The 48th Highlander recruits made up parts of one, three, and four sections. The Section Commanders for these sections were MCpl Bowers, Cpl Behan, MCpl McNeil, MCpl Mark, MCpl Norman and Cpl Gamble.

During the summer we learned all of our basic infantry skills including the C7 rifle and the C9 LMG. We also learned how to throw grenades and fire the M72 Rocket Launcher. In my opinion, learning about these weapons and throwing the grenades was the best part of the summer.

There were many lectures this summer where more than half of us would fall asleep and have to stand up in the back of the classroom. Our lecture on mines and booby traps was particularly bad. It would get so bad that we would walk into the classroom and directly stand at the back because we knew we would fall asleep. It was always the hardest to stay awake right after we'd had a meal.

The summer was long. The weather in Meaford was unpredictable; the temperature would range from -5 degrees C to 35 degrees C.

We had three exercises during the course. The first exercise involved all night recce's and patrols which left little time for sleep. The recce patrols we did helped us to locate the enemy so that we could either do an ambush or a raid depending upon our orders. Our fighting patrol was an excellent experience overall.

The second exercise was even more physically demanding than the first. This consisted of advance to contact drills which left most of us with really bad knees by the end. Fire and movement can really take its toll on a soldier, I can just imagine if they added enemy fire how many of us would have made it through.

The third and final exercise was a bag drive. The weather was certainly typical Meaford weather, it would be sunny and warm one minute and pouring rain the next, the weather stayed like that for most of the exercise. This exercise was five days long, the first two days consisted of platoon attack after platoon attack, it was physically and mentally exhausting. The last three days we were on the defensive in trenches. The night we were digging the trenches, it was pouring down rain so most of our trenches were mud puddles. We had very little sleep during the defensive and the trenches were freezing cold. The hardest part of the exercise was the final attack, which was done with rucksacks on.

All in all, we had a great time this summer. It was an interesting, but different experience for everyone. We all had fun but I doubt anyone would want to do it again. We went to Meaford with 15 recruits and came back with 15 recruits. The most satisfying part of our course was when we could remove our berets and put on our balmorals. Everyone was glad to get their QL 2/3 completed and become Highlanders.

Dileas Gu Brath!!

The Falcon

138 Course

Hldr Naidoo

Millennium fever seems to have everyone's insides in a knot. Every supermarket and their aunt seem to be having a sale. Civilians are stocking up on canned foods, particularly beans – of which there seems to be no shortage, and then there is Operation Abacus. This is the name given to the scenario that could arise with the coming of the new Millennium. Under this scenario, defense troops may be called upon to provide humanitarian aide and guard Canada's critical infrastructure in the wake of a Y2K related disaster, such as a power blackout. This operation would be the largest peacetime deployment of military troops in Canadian history. Currently, numerous preparations are underway in the case of a civil emergency.

As part of these preparations, two soldiers from each unit within 32 CBG have been attached to 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiment until the duration of Operation Abacus. This tasking was effective from 4 October 1999 and to date these soldiers have been heavily involved in training on the new AN/PRC-138 radios. This radio's most distinguishable feature is that it is a high frequency radio with the ability to program through a computer linkup and use the radio as a data interface. Also, the benefits of the radio can be seen at the platoon level all the way up to the command post. For the purposes of Op Abacus training, the radio has mostly been vehicle mounted.

The exact role of the 32 CBG soldiers is not formally known but the intent is to have them integrated into 709 (Toronto) Communication Regiments' Radio Troop where they will assist in ensuring a reliable communication network exists within the country.

In addition to working with the AN/PRC-138, the 32 CBG soldiers have also been exposed to communication equipment dependent on satellites.

This tasking has not only provided the opportunity for the 32 CBG soldiers to become familiar with the new equipment in the system, but on a lighter note has provided troops from different units and different MOC's the opportunity to work together, an opportunity that does not frequently present itself. Once Op Abacus is over and these troops are returned to their respective home units, they will be expected to assist in the introduction and familiarization of the AN/PRC-138 to their fellow soldiers. The two representatives from the 48th Highlanders of Canada are Cpl Pavlovic and Cpl Naidoo.

To date, the training has been very exciting and the hospitable nature of 709 Comm Regt. has been cited as outstanding.

DILEAS!



MCpl Lauder teaches theory during the QL4 Comms Course.

Op Palladium Roto 3 Sgt. Ronaldson

OP Palladium Roto 3 saw 3 RCR augmented by a large number of 48th Highlanders.

Pre-training lasted for four months and occurred in such exotic locales as Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, more northern climates like the Ottawa Valley, and the ever-pleasant Petawawa region. The training consisted of PT, weapons, euchre, and late nights at Que Pasa (Sassy's by any other name...).

The SFOR (Stabilization Force) Canadian Contingent area of responsibility (AOR) was part of the UK sector in the north west region of Bosnia. The tour itself found our venerable Highlanders spread throughout the half dozen camps and platoon houses that existed in the AOR.

Camp Drvar enjoyed the highest concentration of 48th personnel. MCpl John Martin was part of 5 Platoon and was originally stationed at this camp. 6 Platoon, according to MCpl Martin, was the camp workhorse and as such was later detailed to the platoon house at Bosanska Grahovo. Pte Jimmy Alban also spent his tour at Drvar, his quarters affectionately known as Castle Greyskull. According to Jimmy, the most eventful occurrence of his time overseas was a modifying furlough to Captain Jacks in Budapest. Private's Pawel Dabrowski and Maxim Mikhailov were also stationed at Camp Drvar as part of 5 Platoon, N Coy. Their tour was spent in pursuit of physical perfection, utilizing character building "vitamin supplements" to help achieve this goal.

MCpl Nathan Ronaldson was stationed at Camp Holopina, this being the location of the Battle Group Headquarters. Working as a medic, he spent much of his tour working in humanitarian clinics. His time also included illuminating trips to the local hospital operating room in the town of Bihac.

The last Highlander, Cpl Innessa Bauer, was located at the National Support Element whose Blackbear Camp was in the town of Velika Kladusa. She was a welcome addition to the element, who, when not working in the finance office, enjoyed her time as the camp morale NCO.

Overall, the Highlanders felt that their time overseas was a satisfying experience and look forward to utilizing their experiences for the betterment of the Regiment.

Do vidjenja

DILEAS!



Southern Drive MWO Alkema

Prior to Christmas standdown in December of 1998, the usual Wng O was received by all sub-units of the Regiment: canvas all your troops to see how many are interested in attending Exercise Southern Drive. A few of the fair weather soldiers withdrew their names when the location was announced as Fort Knox, Kentucky as opposed to Florida which had been the training location for the last few years.

As usual the Honchos at 32 CBGHQ had to get their fingers in the pot and approve almost every soldier who attended the EX by name. The result was that several of the command appointments were identified after the recess had taken place. All leaders in B COY (the 32 CBG composite coy) attended the O Grp at Georgetown Armoury prior to deployment. The RV for the Coy was at 2 FER lines where the deployment drills were FUBAR, as usual.

However, we did get on the bus, and aside from losing a kitbag out of the luggage compartment before getting on Hwy 427, the 12 hour trip was uneventful. At each smoke break and coffee stop the RSM kept telling anyone who would listen that he was having a fantastic time watching all the girlie movies on the bus with all the clerks and Sigs, like – Titanic, The Wedding Singer and Grease.

We were met and assigned shacks by WO McIntyre. The platoons quickly got things sorted out as the 2IC's and sect commanders motivated their soldiers. By the end of the day we were ready to train.

And train we did. Group and zero all weapons, qualification shoots on all weapons, grenades, the weapons dets fired all the platoon support weapons, pairs fire and movement both dry and live, a night obstacle crossing with live fire overhead, all of which culminated in live fire sect attacks.

There were also the obligatory parades laid on by BHQ, to go along with the frozen lunches that we seemed to get every day. But every soldier that I spoke to had a great time on the EX. Soldiers of the correct rank level filled all positions, all the units in the brigade sent their best people, and the training was challenging.

All members of the Regiment are to be congratulated for doing their best. Hldr Arguello partied so hard that he was thrown out of the bar, and all the rest of us made such an impression on MCpl Duncan and Cpl Ross that they had to transfer to the Regiment to ensure they kept training with the best Regiment in 32 CBG.

DILEAS!



MWO Alkema basks in the sunlight on Southern Drive.

The Falcon

Steadfast Warrior Capt. McEwen

Once again the 48th Highlanders joined its fellow Toronto units for the summer concentration at CFB Petawawa. Once again, the 48th Highlanders were one of the biggest units on the ground with members attached to 32 Brigade HQ, 25 Svc Bn and for most of us, D Coy.

The exercise began with the usual chaos of soldiers arriving at the armouries and NCO's trying to build their sections and platoons from scratch. Officer's spent the night working on their 10th iterations of orbats and fielding calls from a worried BN HQ (Tor Scots).

Remarkably, by the light of day the entire D Coy (less a Tor Scot platoon) was formed up and ready to deploy to "Pet".

Once it became apparent that the Tor Scots would not provide the third platoon for D Coy we began to look forward to another exercise as an autonomous company. This dream was shattered once in Pet when the rumour mill started to grind and we heard that D Coy would be broken up and the platoons added to other companies. Luckily this idea was as short-lived as the Buttpack debacle. Instead, D Coy picked up a Grey and Simcoe Forester Platoon (Cpl. Mason picked up much more) and the 48th picked up three solid junior NCO's.

After the first night, D Coy prepared for a rather ambitious training schedule. One day each of section attacks, platoon attacks and company attacks under blazing sun quickly wiped us out. The nights were actually quiet (except for WO McIntyre and Cpl. Schultz) with some helicopter training for variety. The rust of several years in defensive operations was quickly shaken off and replaced by gallons of water from the water buffalo that followed us wherever we went.

Water was key on this exercise, both for drinking and swimming. With the potential of an assault water crossing everyone had to pass the CF Swim test at Black Bear Beach. This led to a variety of very trying days of lying around on the beach and demonstrating to a couple of lifeguards our ability not to drown.

The start of the FTX was not auspicious. With less than 12 hours to H-hour we still did not have any orders and did not know if we were to cross the water on assault boats or in a nice dry helicopter. We trained on the assault boats and discovered from the Engineers that most of their engines were falling apart. This led to an even greater desire to cross in helicopters. We got our wish at zero dark thirty and began to shuttle to our LZ.

The dreams of the company 2IC (Capt. McEwen) came true and the chalk with the Company Commander (Major Patterson) was dropped at the wrong location. The company consolidated and just seconds before we were to move a figure came up the beach to our LZ and gave the correct password. Maj. Patterson had returned and the CSM (MWO Alkema) had to console Capt. McEwen. The movement to our first objective was well covered by Mother Nature, a thick fog had settled in and it allowed us to place the firebase and assault elements unnoticed. The fog also had the decency to lift just minutes before the attack allowing the firebase to rake the enemy position with a hail of machine gun fire.

Once the position was taken, we settled in for a long wait. The armoured units still had to conduct their attack and the timetable was staggered so that the observers could watch each attack separately. Hours passed before we were able to carry on with the advance. A couple of platoon attacks later we faced our most dangerous obstacle, Highway 17. With the help of

The Falcon

some MP's, we crossed without getting run over and moved into a hide to prepare for a raid the next day. (My mother told me that if I could not say something nice, I should say nothing at all, so I will skip the raid and move on to end ex.)

For the post ex drills, all units moved down to the Mattawa and the 48th were placed in the worst possible spot. For the previous six days D Coy conducted itself in an exemplary fashion but now that it was time to kick back and relax we were bivvied right between Bn HQ and the military police platoon. Luckily for all of us, the CO and RSM kept everyone and everything in line. The G & SF, who spent much of the week with us were also bivvied next to us which made the impromptu wedding that much easier to arrange. Cpl Mason may never get a better offer so it was difficult to understand why he bolted from the altar so quickly.

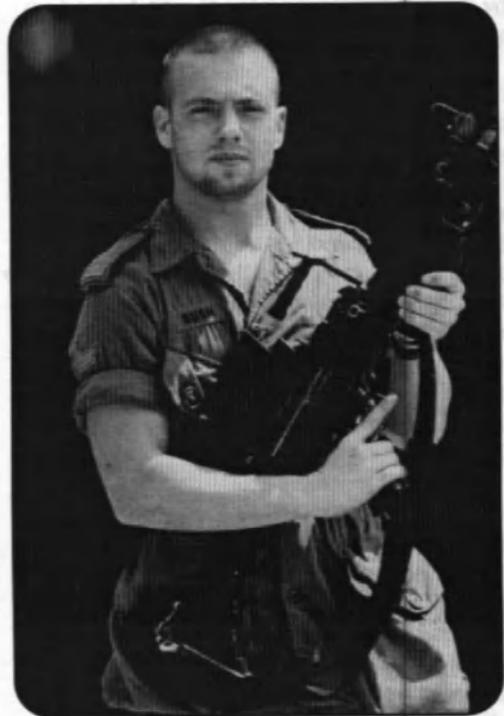
I should close with saying a lot of hard work by everyone in the 48th once again allowed us to show just how strong of a unit we have.



Cpl Irani finally manages to get a date while on exercise in Wainwright.



CSM Darling explains to the troops that when he takes over as RSM, they'll have no choice but to listen to his stories.



McpI Bush with Betty I mean his C9.

The Officer's Mess Capt Hill

1999 has been a busy year for the Officer's of the Mess. The year kicked off with a well attended Levee which as usual started slow and picked up pace thanks to the fortifying effects of Athol Brose.

The change of command between LCol Ian Cameron, CD and LCol George Turner, CD saw the Mess filled to capacity with friends and family to wish the outgoing CO well. LCol Cameron has already found himself working hard with the Regimental Senate.

This year's Officer's Association dinner was fortunate to have BGen W. Holmes, MBE, CD in attendance. The general was treated with typical 48th hospitality and by all reports had an excellent time, even though he took snuff for the first time.

We also bade farewell to the following Officers: Captains John Parsons, David Tsuchiya, and Brian Lewis, Lieutenant Phil Turcotte, Second Lieutenants Matt McGuire, Chris Schiffman and Leroy. We wish you success in your future endeavors.

The Mess also had the pleasure of welcoming Captain Harley Rubisch (PPCLI) as the Regiment's Regular Force Cadre and Captain Brian Flower as the new Padre.

Once again the Mess hosted a Robbie Burns Dinner to celebrate the immortal bard's day and show our guests some highland hospitality.

A truly great success was the St Andrews Ball which has been regaining strength in attendance for the past few years and this year sold out at 1000 tickets. If you plan to attend next year order your tickets early.

As 1999 draws to a close and we look forward to 2000, I would like to wish all members of the Regimental family and our allied Regiment a safe and prosperous New Year, from the Officers of the Mess.

"George, I thought you said there were going to be women here. So far all I have seen is naked men around the pool."

"You're right, Ian. I'm starting to get a funny feeling."



The Falcon

The Sergeant's Mess Sgt D. Martin

Another year has begun and the Sgt's mess is as usual undergoing great changes. This year we witnessed a change of RSM from CWO Gillie, CD, to CWO Darling, CD. We wish CWO Gillie the best in his continuing military career as the Ops O for 32 CBG Battle School.

The mess received a large influx of new Sgt's this year including Sgt Lauder, Sgt Pryce, Sgt Martin J.B.N., Sgt Brogan, Sgt Smintich and Sgt Doucette.

We would also like to welcome WO Bly, CD, who transferred into the Regiment from 1 RCR, Sgt. Compton who transferred in from 7 Toronto Regt. RCA, and Sgt Bernard who transferred in from the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. And, welcome back to CSM (WO) Ross, CD, who has finally returned after a long stint with the medical company.

Unfortunately, the mess lost some members this year including Sgt Jones, CD, Sgt Buckle and WO Romard, CD. We wish them the best in their future endeavours.

The mess is also very grateful to CWO Gillie, CD who was kind enough to donate his cache of weapons to the mess in hopes of saving us a great deal of money when these weapons are required for special events such as Remembrance Day.

The mess looks forward to it's continued commitment to supporting the Regiment in the new millenium.

DILEAS GU BRATH BOARD FOR 2000

PMC	CSM (WO) P.C. ROSS CD
VPMC	SGT K. BROGAN
TRES	SGT I. STEINGAZNER CD
SEC	SGT N. RONALDSON
MANAGER:	MWO (RET'D) C. HARDING CD



As per usual, only half of the members of the mess showed up for the meeting!

The Junior Ranks Mess MCpl Westrop

1998-1999 has seen many changes to the Junior Ranks Mess. The fourth quarter of 1998 saw the JR's Mess undergo a facelift. The three units who belong to the Combined Mess (48th Highlanders, Queen's Own Rifles and 7 Toronto RCA) undertook efforts to bring the mess up to a higher standard than other Junior Ranks Messes within the area. A massive facelift of the facilities was conducted which saw the mess divided into a quasi lounge and open "snake pit" area designed for future projects such as a pool table or a foosball table.

The 48th reclaimed its old Corporals corner and with the assistance of many Junior Ranks painted the wall and reinstalled the display cases of old. In the lounge area money was spent installing track lighting, painting unit cap badges and framing and matting unit pictures. The interior of the mess was not the only thing that has changed in the past year.

The mess has passed many of its members up the chain of command into both the Sergeants and Officer's messes (or down the popularity chain). The JR's wish to congratulate Sgt's Brogan, Doucette, Lauder, Martin J., Pryce and Smintich. They also ant to acknowledge 2Lt Best's hasty departure (best of luck ... with map and compass to you too sir!!!). The mess committee was also changed mid stream and are as follows:

1998-1999

PMC	MCpl Doucette
VPMC	Cpl Westrop
TRES	Cpl Novachkoff
SEC	Cpl Tasca

1999-2000

PMC	MCpl Carswell
VPMC	MCpl Westrop
TRES	Cpl Stibbard
SEC	Cpl Tasca

In terms of functions, 1998-1999 has been a relatively slow year as a result of continual Steadfast Exercises (the troops haven't had a real breather yet). The Christmas Dinner had a large turn out and following dinner, the Regiment retired to the JR's Mess to carry on with Christmas cheer. The New Year's levy was a success although judging by the turnout (Sergeant's are forced to attend), most of the Junior Ranks had a great New Year's Eve and were in the midst of recovering. The mess was lively in February following the change of Commanding Officer's parade and the first of many "free issues" from the new CO, LCol Turner. The JR's would like to wish the outgoing CO, LCol Cameron the best of luck with his future endeavours and would like to thank LCol Turner for making most of the current exercises a blur with his end of the weekend special!!

The normally docile summer months found the JR's Mess hosting several hundred American Marines during Toronto's week long Caribana festival (I'm not sure if they found the AWOL marines yet, but they sure did like to party)!

Finally, the new training year has brought new hope to the mess and for the first time in a number of years, the Combined Mess hosted a Halloween Party. It was a roaring success with several hundred guests and a few tired mess stewards ... let's hope the next few are as good or better!!

The Falcon

The Ladies Auxiliary Patricia Ritchie

The Ladies Auxiliary celebrated their 50th anniversary on 18 September 1999. We had a great turn out from most of our members.

Those who were unable to attend were missed, but not forgotten, they were within our hearts. We presented one of our ladies, Ms. Jenny Evers, who was the only original member from when we were the Willing Workers back in 1948, with a corsage.

Most of the day was spent looking back throughout our golden years, which brought back many heartfelt memories with few tears and lots of laughs.

Throughout the years we have continued to work with the Old Comrades Association, Veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital, the Regiment and the IODE to benefit all of our family. We look forward to continuing to support and serve our family members of the 48th Highlanders in the future.

We wish to thank all those who have supported the Ladies Auxiliary for the past 50 years.

I would like to congratulate our new President, Mrs. Violet Pett, for the year 2000. I wish Violet and her executive all the very best for a successful and prosperous year. As well, all the best to all of our family members.



Continuing Sergeant's Association Sgt Frank MacKay (Ret'd)

While most regiments have some form of association for their retired NCO's, the 48th is unique in that ours is specifically named the 'Continuing Sergeants Association'. The name was chosen many years ago to make it clear that a senior NCO, whether serving with the active Regiment or not, would always be a member of the family and is expected to be involved in the life of the Mess. The many activities conducted throughout the year confirm this, and some members remark that they have become so involved in Mess affairs that they may as well not have bothered retiring at all!

The CSA Committee, under the leadership of its Chairman, CWO Jim Boggiss CD, has begun a recruiting campaign to increase our membership and thus assume an even more prominent role in the affairs of the Mess. Ongoing efforts are under way to locate and make contact with the hundreds, possibly thousands, of senior NCO's who have served the Regiment over the years. They are all aware of the existence of the CSA, but many may not be aware that their service as a 48th senior NCO entitles them to membership. While 67 members are currently paid up, efforts continue and more straggle back in from the pasture on a monthly basis.

Last year, I was appointed to create a newsletter which could be mailed to all members in order to spread the word about key dates, functions, etc., and in which news from lifelong comrades could be posted. Now in its fifth issue, it seems to be regarded highly and enjoyed by all readers. My only complaint is that getting personal sitreps from all our many widely dispersed members is often like pulling teeth. The CSA Executive has resolved to keep the newsletter going permanently and to issue it on an irregular basis to provide advance notification of important upcoming parades, mess

functions and other news, but it will only be issued to members of the CSA and NCO's of the serving Regiment who have paid dues.

CWO Dave Crook CD, joined the CSA Executive in December and promptly set to work constructing a Sergeants Mess Fund which would be operated as a separate entity within the Regimental Trust. Capital equipment costs and the Mess's famous original issue furniture had prompted calls for a program which could marshal funds from all segments of the Mess family to aid in upkeep. The program has met with great success thus far and collected a sizeable sum toward much needed repairs. Generous donations have streamed in and are credited with tax deductible charitable donation receipts issued by the Regimental Trust. All members are strongly urged to consider donating, as charity really does begin at home.

CWO Jim Boggiss CD has announced his intention to step down as Chairman of the CSA after providing inspired leadership to the Association for six years. He'll be sorely missed but he has stressed that this is only due to his having moved out of town; he does not intend to become any less active in the Association or in the life of the Mess.

Elections of a new Executive council will be conducted in May and at press time, CWO Dave Crook CD had been nominated as Chairman and CWO Kevin McGuffin CD, as Vice Chairman.

It is a truism that old soldiers never die...they just show up once a month acting like they own the place and lecturing you on how different things were in the old days and 'how it was done in my day'.



Unfortunately, Sgt Brogan could not find a cowboy hat big enough for his huge "Heed".

Sgt Brogan is on Adventure Training in Wainwright.

Mr. Best still wants to be one of the boys and has no problem sitting on the ground with all of his friends.

The Regiment on exercise in Meaford is enjoying a relax- ing moment.



While on exercise in Meaford, the gang stops to immortalize themselves.

It's a good thing that Sgt James has a helmet on because I am sure he hasn't had a chance to comb his hair!



Cadet Corps

Capt McCue

The 48th Highlanders Army Cadet Corps continued to train in the classroom and in the field, maintain an active community presence and encourage physical fitness in our young members of the Regimental Family. Parade nights were stable in attendance, with numbers in the 50 mark and the Corps reached a high point in the spring with 65 Cadets on the roll.

The year began with a winter survival training exercise in CFB Borden in which the Cadets worked in section groups challenging the frozen terrain. Although, once again the distinct lack of snow hindered the ski and snowshoe training that had been planned, but the Cadets enjoyed some late night patrol practice donned in their winter white wind suits. Later in February, the Corps participated in the Change of Command parade from LCol Cameron to LCol Turner. This occasion was most meaningful to the Cadets as it was the first time in years that the Corps had been part of such a distinctly Regimental parade.

The first senior leadership weekend was conducted at a local facility in March and was represented by special guests, Abner Lico from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award office and PT Instructor Christine Harris, from the East York Swim Club. The weekend event focused on leadership training, team building exercises, small party tasking and physical training. The session was deemed a success and has now become an annual event. Cadets from both the 48th and the 142 St. Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps developed their leadership abilities in the spectacular setting of the Haliburton Highlands.

Exercise Falcon Frenzy saw the Cadets back in the field at Base Borden in late April. The late arrival of the CO and the Cadet RSM provided an excellent opportunity to check the efficiency

of the sentries on duty. After successfully breaking into the biv site and cutting down two hoochies, Drum Major Westbrook fouled the plan and a chase through the woods ensued. Not realizing who the bandits were, Highlander Williams was mortified to discover that he had given a flying tackle to the CO, Capt. McCue. The game was called to a halt due to excessive laughter and all the Cadets went to ground.

Blue Jays Day offered an opportunity for the Corps to attend a baseball game at the SkyDome as well as a great PR event for the Pipe Band. Pipe Major for the massed Army Cadet Pipes and Drums was A/Sgt. Brad Stimpson and Lead Drummer was Highlander Brent Gratton. The band came on with a fine performance and proved the strength of the Highlanders in music as well as in the field.

This past summer, Army Cadet Training Centre Blackdown was home to 29 Cadets and two officers, Capt. McCue (OC K Coy – Pipes and Drums) and our newest officer, OCdt Rebecca Newhook (A Coy/Drill and Ceremonial). Enduring a hot, dusty training camp for upwards of eight weeks, the Highlanders had a tremendously successful "go" and not a single RTU (return to unit) occurred. Almost every course had representatives from the Highlanders including Basic Training, Cadet Leader, CLI Adventure (MCpl Laba, WO Nugent), CLI Drill and Ceremonial (Sgts Takatsch and Okell), CLI Quartermaster (MCpl S. Van Wissen), CLI Pipes and Drums (Sgt Dickson), CLI Marksman (Sgt Norton), and CLI Adventure/Expedition (WO Holloway).

Following the summer training camp, two of our Cadets (Sgt Dickson and Cpl Babcock) ventured to Edmonton to participate in the first National Cadet Tattoo at the Edmonton

SkyReach Centre. Hundreds of Cadets joined forces to put together a two-hour extravaganza which even had Cadets rappelling from balconies. Capt. McCue has been named the Assistant Director for the National Millennium Tattoo to take place this August in Hamilton.

The Cadet Corps is saddened yet proud to have to say goodbye to RSM Van Wissen who has left us to make a career in the Royal Marines. Having recently spoken to him, he reports that the training is grueling yet manageable however he feels that they are being broken in gradually and expects weeks of challenges ahead. Van Wissen promises to post his 48th insignia banner wherever he travels. Best wishes to you on behalf of the Cadets and Officers. The Corps is now in the capable hands of RSM Gavin Henriques. Gavin has been active in the corps since he was twelve years old and it seems only fitting that as he reaches his nineteenth birthday that he hold the Senior Cadet reigns. His experience and dedication will be a valued asset during his time as Cadet RSM.

Still upcoming is Exercise Highland Laddie, planned for the first weekend in December. This weekend is intended as a marksmanship training exercise and will host a .22 shoot as well as C7 training for the seniors, which has recently been authorized in order to better train our future Highlanders. The help of the Regiment allows this type of training to occur and is essential to the energy of the Corps training program.

The 142 St. Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps has had a tremendously active year celebrating its 100th anniversary with a variety of parades, dinners and its Annual Inspection. Since 1906, the College and the 48th Highlanders have shared a bond and it is with great enthusiasm that one mission of the school is to encourage Cadet traditions through to the new millennium. Much energy has been expended in the last nine months to build a strong training program at the school. Under the direction of

Commanding Officer Maj John Stephens and Deputy Commanding Officer Capt Brian McCue (CO.48th Highlanders Cadet Corps), the students continue to develop their leadership abilities through battalion training. With unit strength of over 500 cadets, the Corps celebrates a vibrant tradition and continues to proudly parade in their Gordon tartan kilts and scarlet tunics.

DILEAS GU BRATH



Top: Cadets on inspection for the Change of CO's parade.
Bottom: Cadets after a long training weekend.

The Pipes and Drums Sgt Lang, CD

The Pipes and Drums are in many ways relieved to see the end of 1999. The past year has been a year a phantom trips. A possible early touch of the Y2K bug perhaps? Three major trips were cancelled, one while travelling to the location. While not travelling abroad as much as expected, the band was still able to keep busy at home with the usual array of engagements around Toronto. The end of 1999 also brings to an end the 1900's. Many changes have occurred over the band's history, and to the environment around the band, and in spite of everything the Pipes and Drums are strong.

The Stone Mountain Tattoo, in Atlanta originally scheduled for October 1999 was cancelled when the building used for the show was condemned. This was a fortunate development as hurricane Irene brought very foul weather to the Atlanta area. The Gander Tattoo was cancelled two weeks before the May show dates when all the available aircraft were tasked to fly Kosovo refugees to Canada. Then in September, the Spirit of Victory Tattoo in Norfolk, Virginia was cancelled due to flooding caused by hurricane Dennis. The band had driven to just outside Erie, Pennsylvania when a cell phone rang relaying the message to turn around. So much for the old adage that once you are on the bus, the trip is a go! In October, yet another event was removed from the calendar, The Royal Winter Fair.

The highlight of 1999 for the Pipes and Drums occurred in February. The Toronto Maple Leafs said goodbye to Maple Leaf Gardens and, as it was at the opening in 1931, the 48th were there to help them. The Pipes and Drums and Military Band performed at the closing ceremonies for the Gardens, playing all the alumni out onto the ice. While waiting for the closing ceremonies at Maple Leaf Gardens the band was privileged to meet the many alumni await-

ing their entrance. Pte Gary Grattan was able to fill his drumhead with alumni signatures, demonstrating to Gary how important reading really is. In all fairness to Pte Grattan, he is gladly donating the drumhead to the Bands' Mess for display as a memento of this historical occasion. A week later, with help from Leaf's goaltender and resident piper, Glen Healey, the bands lead a parade down Yonge Street to the new Air Canada Centre where they played the first NHL hockey game in that facility, continuing the tradition started in 1931. With the media coverage accorded to these events the band earned valuable international exposure for themselves and the Regiment. We took to the ice again in October to open the first full regular NHL season at the ACC.

Many members of the Pipe Band have been with us for several years, many serving with the Band before and after their service as a member of the Canadian Forces. In February, Pte George Boast and Sgt Iain Lang both received the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) for 12 years of service to the CF. In February the bands' performed, for a third year, for the successful annual concert at the Minkler Auditorium, Seneca College. The following week the bands played the Change of Command parade for the Regiment welcoming LCol Turner as their new CO. The bands also welcomed a piper of the 3rd Battalion Highlanders, LCpl Paul Kellett, who was sent over to participate in the Change of Command parade by our allied regiment. We hope to be able to reciprocate the goodwill some time in the future (possibly a band trip Colonel?)

In March Sgt Lang, Sgt Reesor and MCpl Dewar travelled to Fort Hood, Texas with the CF Command and Staff College to entertain the officers, men and residents of Fort Hood and nearby Copperascope. While readily available, they also gave demonstrations to

The Falcon

five local schools on piping, drumming, Scottish Regiments and the Canadian Forces. In June, by popular demand, the three of them were asked back by the Officer's from the CFCSO to play for thirty of their fellow students being promoted to LCol. Needless to say the promotion festivities were a grand success.

The Pipes and Drums provided music for dancing at the Regimental Ball in April. After returning from a four day Drum Major's Workshop, taught by former Drum Major Norm Mackenzie, Drum Major Reesor was unable to demonstrate his new abilities as the Emcee for the Regimental Ball but was seen admiring his new drill shoes between dances!

1999 was a busy training year for some members of the Pipes and Drums. In June, the Pipes and Drums had the honour of congratulating Private Recruit Gary Grattan, CD on his successful completion of his QL2. Later in the summer he completed his QL3 and 4 in drumming, and will no doubt soon be a Cpl after 15 years of faithful and undying service to the 48th and in particular the Pipes and Drums. His son Brent, along with Pipe Major Dewar's son James and new comer, Brad Stimpson, who all currently play in the band, will be joining the Regiment. Pte Mike Brown completed his QL3 and 4 in piping and Pte Jonah Hirshberg, completed his QL3 at the CF Music Centre in Borden.

In July the Pipes and Drums finally got a break and actually made it to their destination. The Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada and the 48th Pipes and Drums travelled to Victoria, BC. Their show was well received, as was the weather in Victoria. The show was on the Saturday and Sunday and the flight back could only be arranged for the following Friday. During the week the members of the band fanned out to spread good cheer amongst the locals and take in the many sites of Vancouver Island.

While Drum Major watching was entertaining, whale watching and playing pipes at the Esquimaux Legion proved to be some of the more popular activities. Drummer Brent Grattan was seen running from a bowling alley, apparently due to the fact that he is not yet quite as charming as his father. A small contingent travelled to Whistler for a performance to break up the monotony of the work-week. Cpl Brendan Vallee of the Essex and Kent Scottish Pipes and Drums is currently being attached and possibly transferred to the Pipes and Drums while he attends Humber College for Advertising. We wish to welcome him to the band and hope that he decides that the 48th is the place for a Highlander to be!

The schedule of performances seems to get larger every year (129+ in 1999) and the year 2000 is shaping up to be another busy year for the band. Possible trips to Holland and Atlanta again, as well as the many other unforeseen engagements, all have peaked the members' interest. On February 20th, the Pipes and Drums, Military Band and the Royal Marines Association Band of Cobourg, will host the 4th Annual Military Band Spectacular at Minkler Auditorium, Seneca College. With the new millennium on the way, the band is poised to welcome it and the new challenges it brings.

The Falcon

The Truant Falcons

Sgt. Tucker, CD (ret'd)

Your Regimental Museum has now ALMOST a complete set of FALCONS dating from The Old Bird's birthday (October 1949) to the present... a wonderful, continuing record of your Regiment over the entire last half of this century! Can YOU help make that qualifier "ALMOST" disappear?

Following is a list of missing issues:

1955 – Volume 6 – Number 4

1956 – Volume 7 – Number 2-3-4

1959 – Volume 10 – Number 1-3

1976 to 1980 – No FALCONS appear to have been published. Are we correct?

1989 – "ditto"

1990 – "ditto"

If you can help please let your museum know at (416)596-1382, or contact Sergeant Lloyd Tucker at (416)223-7513.

Photocopies can be made for the museum archives should you wish to retain the original.

Oh, yes. Over the many years various sub-units of the Regiment as well as other members of the Regimental Family have periodically brought out interesting publications of their own... ABLE AIRS, BAKER BLURBS, SUPORT SHUTTERS, RIFLES & RUCK-SACKS, THE RED TOORIE and many more... all these provide a valuable, continuing record of "THE FAMILY" and your Museum would welcome any available copies (photocopies could be made in this instance, too.) Check through your basement hideaways, attics, drawers etc, when you have a chance, Thanks!

Two cases in point... your Museum now possesses complete sets of Wally Moore's YELLOW PERIL and Cam Fraser's GERI-ATRIC PERIL... what a wonderful mirror to the past these are indeed!

DILEAS!



48th Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums at the Fergus Highland Games in the mid-1950's.

Gather round in a circle lads, and I'll tell you a Charlie tale, Of the shifting sands, and the frozen winds, and the battle of Pylon Hill.

Now, Pylon Hill is a spectacle, like no other in the land, You can search in vain for earth and rocks, and all you'll find is sand. Yes, sand through all the ages, since earth's first glimmering year, was gathered in a bucket and dumped no where but here. King Tut's tomb, the Pharaoh's gold, with a Mastodon or two, were sure to be located if the sand were sifted through. There's an ancient Indian legend, by it's folklore we are told that on Pylon Hill, exclusively, can the strongest winds be blowed.

And so to this location, Camp Borden's barren ground, the redoubtable men of Company "C" on Saturday were bound. With arctic tents and sleeping bags and rations by the ton, the gear was dumped on sandy soil, and sheepskins were put on. And when the men were disembarked and all had gathered near, instructions they were given, the rules were all made clear. Divided into sections, for competition's aim, they sought out likely campsites, in the sparse but sleety rain. Their tents were raised in daylight while their vision yet was clear, they were taken to the ranges and fired their muskets there. Many a "rooks" for the first time out, with cheeks and shoulders sore, fired his service rifle with a 7.62 bore. After the ranges came supper, with a dash of sand or two, and what sand escaped the coffee, was captured in the stew.

But now as darkness falls, and twilight shades grow dim, and the last man has his supper, scooped out of a ration tin. The evening winds grow stronger, and the rain it turns to snow, the sections are assembled by the lantern's flickering glow. With rifles slung and loaded after blanks had passed around, To the very summit of Pylon Hill these marching men were bound,

Onto the top, assembled there, on sands that glowed pale white, they watched a demonstration, a section attack at night, But what they thought was a section turned out to be just two, And so they learned what deceptions, and darkness can really do.

Next, they're put on tight defense, along the crest's bald rim, Peering beyond their rifles into night as black as sin. "Keep watch for the coming enemy", was the word that passed around. Four sections in extended line lay flat upon the ground.

At last the first bright muzzle flash, the attack was coming in, the sections all returned the fire and louder grew the din. Two sections held the centre against the main attack, While Morlock's Marauders on the left determined to hit back.

So down into the valley, they met the enemy there, And the rattle of their musketry was terrible to hear. On the right was Section four, which was by Orviss led, He struck the enemy on his left and promptly shot them dead. Cattenacci's Commando's exchanged them blow for blows. And even checked the bodies to witness deathly throes.

The Falcon

Noonan first and Sershall, surrounded by sturdy men, held the ground right smartly they were given to defend. At last the attack was over, the enemy there confounded, the lessons were summed up, and the reasons for them sounded. They had learned to move in darkness, while sections covering fired. Co-operation between units was soundly thus inspired.

Next came the lantern stalk, a weird and ghostly sport, requiring stealth and stamina of the most exacting sort. Picture if you can, a wild and stormy night, With a hillock on the summit, and there a lantern bright. While over the ghostly dunes, toward the orange glow, Dark shadows are creeping there, through gusts of flaky snow. But watchful eyes on defense, observe them drawing near, And through the wind - a warning, shouted loud and clear.

In two's and three's and bunches, the aggressors charged the hill, like wolves being tired of circling, closing for the kill. In all that cold, wild country devoid of house or town, a tiny speck of orange light, with figures struggling 'round. Oaths and curses, yells and screams, frequently were heard, battle shouts and thudding feet, the action was superb.

Defeat was never thought upon, to surrender brought contempt, Never a more determined bunch was Hell for Glory bent. But the lantern in its innocence remained in a safe retreat, the defense was insurmountable and turned away defeat. Active and alert, admitting of no surprise, foiling every attempt the enemy could devise, and so the action battered on 'til umpires called an end, the skirmish finally died away, and silence ruled again.

Mustered at the hillock, in the covered yellow light, I'm sure one and all agreed, it had been a lively night. Like so many spectres in the sand and howling wind, they marched off to their areas, and finally were turned in.

Tomorrow, they'd be risen to the pipes and bugle call, Tomorrow, mortar firing, with H. E. bombs and all. Tomorrow, rifle cleaning, and with equipment loaded on, back to Fort York Armouries, the weekend nearly gone.

There's some who'll forget the battle, and others never will, but if you find sand in your stockings, remember Pylon Hill.

Cpl W.J. Shaw "C" Company



Hldr Vujic poses for the paparazzi during Steadfast Warrior in Petawawa.

Eaton Trophy Winners

This year's Eaton Trophy Winners were a completely different crew from previous years. All winners worked hard for their awards and deserve recognition. This year's winners are:

OUTSTANDING SUBALTERN -

Lt. Morische

OUTSTANDING WO/SGT. -

Sgt. Brogan

OUTSTANDING MCPL/CPL -

MCpl Kwok

CARPENTER AWARD -

Cpl Irani

SOUTH AFRICA TROPHY -

B Company





LCol Turner, CD gets a congratulatory handshake from Col Young, CD at his Change of Command parade from LCol Cameron, CD.

Maj. Poles wonders, "What else could possibly go wrong this week-end?"

An MLVW tire blows during the Combat Readiness Evaluation in Meaford.



Sgt Bernard is on the unit cenataph dressed as a World War II combat soldier.



Cpl Vienneau lets loose a burst of C-9 fire to keep the enemies head down during a live fire section attack in Meaford.

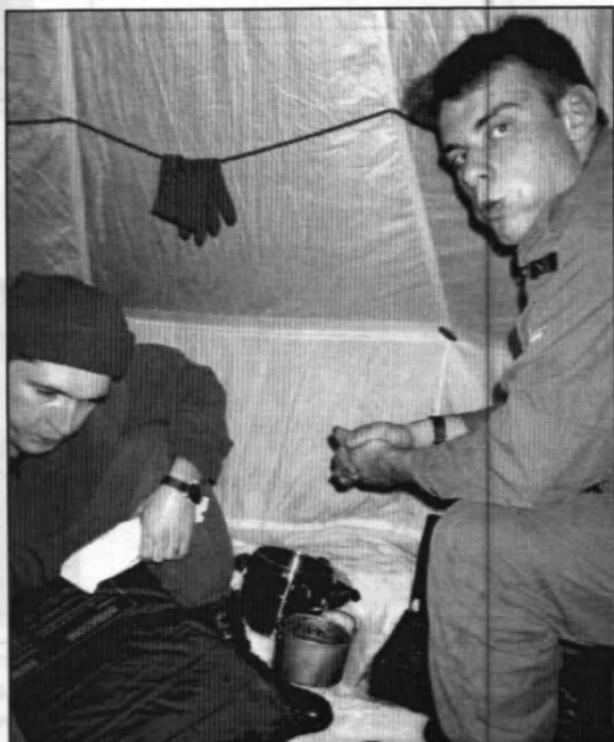


Is there a pattern emerging here from MCpl Smith and Sgt Ronaldson? Open mouth, closed eyes..... and their hands no where to be seen!!



Col Young checks to see if Cpl Mason is really the Pillsbury Dough Boy at the Change of Command parade.

Hldr's Farr and Avdagic enjoy the creature comforts during winter exercise in Meaford.



The Falcon

The Colours

Colours have been carried into battle since the beginning of history. The bible mentions standards of "silk and damask" carried by armies and their tribes prior to the Christian era. Roman legions used metal standards topped with a Roman eagle. Napoleon Bonaparte's forces used the same thing to rally around, in their dreams of a French Empire.

In more recent times, Regiments carried Colours into battle as a visible rallying point, close to the commanders. The advent of modern warfare forced a halt to the carrying of the Colours into battle. The Colours symbolize the history and spirit of the Regiment, for on them are borne the battle honours granted to the Regiment in commemoration of gallant deeds.

On 24 May 1892, the fledgling Highlanders were presented with their first Colours by His Excellency Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor General of Canada. These were retired, a new set were commissioned in 1925 after the First World War, by Lord Byng of Vimy, Governor General of Canada. These Colours were also retired and laid to rest in St. Andrew's Church in Toronto on 18 October 1959, where they can be seen today. In 1991 General De Chastelaine presented a new set of Colours.

The present Queen's and Regimental Colours are kept in the 48th Highlanders Officer's Mess, the customary keeping place, and although these proud symbols are no longer carried into battle, they are carried by young subalterns of the Regiment on all formal parades, a woven history of victory and honour.





BATTLE HONOURS

OF

THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

(Battle Honours in capital letters are emblazoned on the Regimental Colours)

SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1900

YPRES, 1915-17

Graavenstal

St. Julien

FESTUBERT, 1915

MOUNT SORREL

SOMME, 1916

Pozières

Thiepval

Ancre Heights

Arras, 1917 - 18

VIMY, 1917

Arleux

Scarpe, 1917-18

HILL 70

PASSCHENDALE

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

The Gully

ORTONA

San Nicola-San Tomasso

Cassino II

Gustav Line

IRI VALLEY

HITLER LINE

GOTHIC LINE

Misano Ridge

RIMINI LINE

San Martino-San Lorenzo

LAMONE CROSSING

Fosso Vecchio

Italy 1943-45

APELDOORN

Northwest Europe 1945



**The Monument
of the
48th Highlanders of Canada**