



THE FALCON

ISSUE NO. 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL FAMILY

FALL 2004

Remembering 'the forgotten cause', the 48th in Italy:

Michele Mandel reminds us of the 93,000 Canuck soldiers who fought in the Italian Campaign

By MICHELE MANDEL, TORONTO SUN - October 17, 2004

THEY ARE veterans of the forgotten war. They fought for their country as valiantly as any other Canadian soldier, took leave of their families and their futures to cross the ocean and battle the Nazis with the same fortitude and bravery. Yet still they languish in the shadow of D-Day. "Every time we hear about D-Day we get a little bit uptight because we had been in Italy for a year already," confesses Douglas Langtree, an 85-year-old lance bombardier with the Royal Canadian Artillery. "If we hadn't been fighting the elite of the German army, they never would have been able to land in Normandy."

From July 1943 to February 1945, more than 93,000 Canadian soldiers fought their way from Sicily through to the northern border of Italy with nearly 6,000 losing their lives. Next week, Langtree and 44 other veterans are being flown back to Italy by Veterans Affairs Canada to mark the 60th anniversary of Canada's role in the Italian Campaign. To finally receive the recognition they have gone so long without.

SICILIAN LANDING FORCE

"When a fella's killed in Italy, he's just as dead as a fella killed in Normandy," says James Raffan, a spry 83-year-old former sergeant with the 48th Highlanders. He was part of the original Sicilian landing force that early morning of July 10, 1943, when Canadian and British troops joined the Americans in launching one of the largest seaborne invasions in military

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Tom Thompson at the Dominion Cemetery outside of Cagnicourt in France, Sept. 2003. 4 of the names on these tomb stones are:

- 192749 - C.S.M. A. Muir, died 2 Sept. 1918
- 799171 - Pte. H. B. Anderson, died 2 Sept. 1918
- 678872 - Pte. W. Madget, died 2 Sept. 1918
- 437272 - Pte. T. Williams, died 2 Sept. 1918

OCA TRIP TO ITALY 2004

By TOM THOMPSON, OCA Secretary

The OCA trip to Italy was a trip of a lifetime for veterans and non-veterans alike. The tour started near the Moro River Crossing (Dec 43), then toured the Gully and Cemetery Ridge outside of Ortona right thru to the final day of Dec 44 to the Lamone River.

Continued on page 2

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2004

By TOM THOMPSON, OCA Secretary

This is when all Highlanders should take time to pay tribute to those who served in the past. Many are buried in Commonwealth Cemeteries in France, Belgium, Italy and Holland. There is nothing more humbling than to visit one of these cemeteries, locate the markers of 48th Highlanders, be it 15th Battalion from WW1 or 48th Highlanders from WW 2. Please make a special effort to join your fellow Highlanders for our act of remembrance Nov. 6th & 7th.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY NOV. 6: Meet at Mount Pleasant Cemetery at 10:30 for service at the memorial. The memorial is located in the cemetery section east of Mount Pleasant Ave. The entrance is north of St. Clair and south of Davisville. We meet just inside the gates, do a service and lay a wreath.

REMEMBRANCE DAY DINNER: The cost is \$40, cocktails at 6 PM, with supper at 7 PM. Location is the York Reception Centre, 1100 Millwood Road, Toronto.

SUNDAY NOV. 7: Service at the 48th Highlanders of Canada Regimental War Memorial. Meet at the Moss Park Armoury. We have a bus scheduled for 10 AM to take us to Queens Park for the service at 11 AM. After the service we return by bus to the Armoury, while the Active unit marches back to Moss Park Armoury. March onto the parade square with the Regiment. We will have the Scarborough Pipes & Drums as our band (OCA).

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From the CO

Greetings from the active unit. The Regiment began the new training year with the annual individual soldier competency training. The 48th, Royals and Queen's Own each ran one of three weekends of ranges so that all the soldiers in our half of the Brigade could complete the majority of the tasks. A few people who attended more than one of the weekends commented to me that ours was the smoothest run and succeeding in providing soldiers with the opportunity to complete a high number of the elements of this qualification. Congratulations to **Maj Hill** and **CSM Tolton** from A Coy on the rifle range, **Capt Aggus** and **Sgt Duncan** from BHQ on the field firing range and Sgt Lauder at the navigation site for executing the plan in a calm and efficient manner. **Lt Karpinski** and **Sgt JBN Martin** were also off to a great start on the grenade range until the first dud grenade. Due to newly stringent safety rules the Engineers were not permitted to dispose of the unexploded grenade and the range had to be shut down leaving many disappointed soldiers.

With the majority of the unit well on the way to completing the individual training, the next few exercises will concentrate on collective training in the offensive phase of war. A Coy will be start training at the section and then platoon level, leading up to sub-unit tasks in the new year. Meanwhile B Coy will be providing preparatory training to those selected for future leadership courses while providing instructors for the recruit courses running out of the Brigade Battle School. In addition a reconnaissance detachment in B Coy will pro-

vide enhanced training for a small group of soldiers. Admin Coy will provide the all important support for all elements.

Given the construction site atmosphere at Moss Park, the Pipes & Drums have arranged to rehearse off site for the next few months, while the Military Band has switched their practices to Tuesday nights to avoid conflict for facilities with the rest of the Regiment. We expect to be back in our office space before Christmas but the messes and classrooms are most likely to be shut until well into the new year. We are learning to adapt and overcome.

Upcoming ceremonial events will be a guard of honour for the opening of the Horse Show at the Royal Winter Fair on November 5th, Remembrance Day parade on November 7th and the St Andrew's Ball on November 27th. We am welcoming everyone to attend the Remembrance Day parade at Queen's Park, however, due to the state of the Armoury only the Junior Ranks Mess will be open following the parade. Although, it will be open to all ranks and their guests, space will be severely limited with several units parading that day.

As always, the Regiment is actively recruiting new soldiers and officers for courses starting in January. If you know anyone who is interested or might make a good Highlander send them down to see **Sgt Duncan** as soon as possible. It can take anywhere from two to twelve months to clear through the Recruiting Centre, so don't delay.

We remain Dileas Gu Brath.

LT. COL. I.C.R. SARGEANT

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Sat 06 Nov 04 | • OCA Service of Remembrance at Mt Pleasant Cemetery |
| | • WO & SGT Annual Mess Mtg |
| | • OCA Dinner of Remembrance |
| Sun 07 Nov 04 | • Regimental Remembrance Day Parade |

FUTURE HIGHLANDERS:

RSM and **Ruth Alkema** are expecting the birth of a new child at the end of October. Also **Sgt** and **Lena Lauder** are expecting a child.

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS:

The RSM was personally requested to judge the Ceremonial Drill Competition in Ottawa on 12-14 Aug 04. He was one of 2 individuals selected from across Canada to perform this duty.

PROMOTIONS:

2Lt Graves to Lt	WO Lang (Pipe Sgt) to MWO
Sgt Tolton to WO	MCpl Stibbard to Sgt

MEDALS:

Sgt Westrop, CD	Sgt Martin SJ, CD
Cpl Kinkaid, CD	Sgt Lauder, CD

OCA TRIP TO ITALY ...Continued from page 1

The OCA would like to thank Honourary **Lt. Col. Geordie Beal** for his letters from his father (about Italy), the battle maps that he brought and his knowledge of Regimental history which on many occasions put the tour right on the spots that the 48th had passed through.

The tour brought back many memories to those who were there during the war.

While in Italy the OCA visited these cemeteries and made the following presentations (in this order):

CASSINO

prayers: Geordie Beal, wreath: George Duff

MORO RIVER

prayers: Bill Jensen, wreath: John Stephens

CORIANNO RIDGE

prayers: James Cassie, wreath: Tom Thompson

CESENA

prayers: Geordie Beal, flowers: Harry Wignall

RAVENNA

prayers: Geordie Beal, wreath: Gord Outhwaite

Sgt at Arms, all: Herb Pike Piper: Tom McKean

The OCA also presented a plaque to the Town Square of San Nicola (outside of Ortona), presented by Herb Pike. Another plaque was presented to the Museum at Coriano Ridge (outside of Rimini), presented by Gord Outhwaite. A sash was presented to the Ortona Museum by Herb Pike. Another one was presented to the Coriano Ridge Museum by Harry Wignall. A book was presented to the Ortona Museum by Geordie Beal.

Below is a list of all who were on the tour:

Geordie & Nancey Beal	
Nick Birch	Jim Cassie
George Duff	
Bill and Donna Jensen	
Max McDougall	John McDougall†
Linda & Tom McKean	
Brenda & Jim McMahon ^x	
Gord Outhwaite*	Herb Pike*
Sid & Isabel Redgrave*	
George Simpson*	
John Stephens & Michelle MacKay	
Irene & Morris Tracy*	
Gladys & Tom Thompson	
Harry Wignall	Debbie & Raf Wulff

* - 48th Veterans, † - with Medical Corp.
^x - with Anti Tank R.C.A.

MORE TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

From the RSM

Greetings, fellow Highlanders. Welcome back to another training year. I hope that you all had a good summer, spent a bit of time relaxing, and are good to go again for this year. As usual, we will be busy. Let me bring you up to speed on what is going on with the Regiment.

• **MPA Renovations** - are still not complete. As a matter of fact, Phase I, (our lines) is still not complete. The Parade Square is half filled with storage of equipment, all the classrooms are being used as temporary BOR's, and the Messes are now out of commission. The target date for the repairs being completed is now sometime in Feb 05, but it is quite possible that this will be pushed back yet again.

• **EX STALWART GUARDIAN 04** - The Regiment provided 2 rifle platoons, a Coy HQ and other personnel (Adj, RSM, CQMS Adm, several Clerks) for the composite 32LIB at EX SG 04. There were in excess of 80 Highlanders in attendance, more than from Units within 32CBG that have a second mission-tasked element. In addition to this, E Coy (based on the 48 Highrs) was by far and away the most effective Coy in the LIB. Well done.

On the NCO side of the house, there have been several changes:

• **MWO McIntyre** is posted to the 32CBG BSL as CSM Soldier Skills Coy

• **Sgt Ronaldson, Sgt Martin SJ** and **Cpl Shannon** have been transferred to 23 Fd Amb. This was a directive from the CFMG, and unfortunately, we had to comply. These 3 have been Highlanders since they joined the Canadian Forces. We will miss them, and wish them the best in their new Unit.

• **Sgt Martin DA** has been transferred to the LFCA CIMIC Det for 3 years.

• The SR NCO's in each Coy are as follows:

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| A COY | WO Tolton |
| | SGT Martin JBN |
| | SGT Kwok |
| | SGT Carswell |
| | SGT Lauder |
| B COY | WO Smintich |
| | SGT Westrop |
| | SGT Bush |
| | SGT Mason |
| | SGT Doucette |
| | SGT Stibbard |
| ADM COY | WO Pankatz |

WO Ross
SGT Farr

BHQ
CWO Alkema
WO Reesor
SGT Duncan
SGT Benson

There are currently 135 all ranks in the active Regiment. We are by no means the largest Unit, but we are not the smallest either, and we have increased in size from this time last year.

The Coy missions are:

- A Coy - the trained Rifle Coy
- B Coy - the training coy: basic training, leadership training, and advanced skills
- Adm Coy - support A & B Coys (stores, transport, Regimental)
- BHQ - Regimental Command, Ops & Training, Recruiting, BOR

I hope that this gives you a good idea of where we, as the active Regiment, stand. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions. I look forward to seeing you on Remembrance Day.

DILEAS GU BRATH
9C Out.
CWO R.A. ALKEMA

48th Highlanders of Canada Military Band

By Musician L. West

This summer's stand down parade on 6 June 2004 marked the successful completion of the Military Band's first year under the baton of **Captain Brian MacInnes**, CD, as Regimental Director of Music. Though a newcomer to this role, Captain MacInnes is no stranger to either the Military Band or the Regimental family, having been Band Sgt. Major over 25 years and a member of the active Regiment for well over thirty! Indeed, Captain MacInnes served as acting Director of Music in 1985 during the "Liberation '45" celebrations in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands; and again in 2000 - 2001 prior to the appointment of **Captain Denny Ringler**, CD. Captain MacInnes also holds the Jubilee Medal and in 1994, received a District Commander's commendation recognizing his valued and long-term commitment.

WO John Murray, CD, a member of the

Ladies Auxiliary

by Marg Ritchie

The Ladies had a very successful Wine and Cheese fund raiser. With special thanks to the Men of the O. C. A. and the Drill Team. Special thanks to **Tom Thompson**, **Mr. Keigghtley**, for his generous donation, **Sylvia** and **Ernie Ernest** for selling tickets for us. And to all the men that sent money in for tickets and for various reasons were unable to attend. Thanks to the men and ladies who did come and for buying some of our cheese. It was good to see you all. It was certainly a bigger success than we dreamed of.

This year the Ladies Auxiliary is 55 years old, and hope to continue for another 30 or more.

We have had 25 presidents in the 55 years of service to the O. C. A. and at this time there are nine of us still living. In the next newsletter I will write up a little bit of history of the Ladies as I understand some of the younger men are not sure who or what we are or do.

Once again thank you all for your support, it was really appreciated.

For information about the Ladies Auxiliary, please contact **Marg Ritchie at 416-423-1552**.

Band and active Regiment since 1980, was appointed to replace Captain MacInnes as Regimental Band Sergeant-Major in September of 2003.

As a very public face of the Regiment, the role of the Military Band is threefold - to attract public attention to the Regiment, to promote the Regiment and the Canadian Forces generally, and to support Regimental and other military functions and taskings.

Since September 2003, the band has performed in various military and civilian parades and other engagements, both at Moss Park Armories, and before the public. Key activities for the year include the following:

2003

- October 11** National Hockey League Opening Game, Air Canada Centre (together with the Pipes & Drums)
- October 18** Sgts. Mess Dinner, Moss Park
- October 26** RCMI Massed Military Band Spectacular, Roy Thompson Hall (with other bands from

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From the Vaults of the 48th Museum

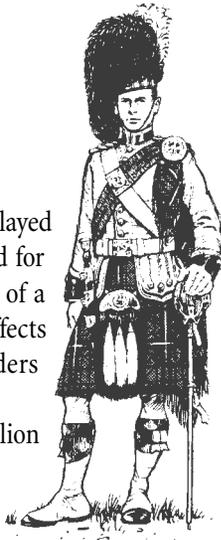
by WD Anthony Percival

One of the special groups of artifacts that are displayed in any museum are Medals. Medals are awarded for various reasons and each mark events in the life of a person. Lieutenant Bell's medals and personal effects were recently donated to the 48th Highlanders Museum and tell many a tale.

Medals of William Richard Bell, 15th Battalion C.E.F.

William Bell joined September 19, 1914 as a Private in E Company, 15th Battalion CEF at the age of 18. He had been working as a clerk in Weston for the Algonquin Council of Telephone Pioneers prior to joining. In October after receiving basic training at Valcartier he sailed for Europe aboard the SS Megantic. The 1914-1915 Star marks Private Bell as one of "the Originals".

Wounded at the 2nd Battle of Ypres in April 1915, Private Bell returned to active duty a month later in June. Private Bell was wounded again in Sept 1916 while on the Somme when shrapnel tore into his



Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal and the 1936 Canadian Legion, Vimy Pilgrimage Medal (unofficial)

left leg at the thigh. He was evacuated to England and put through a series of hospital before returning to the 15th Battalion the following year in March. Promoted to Corporal in May, Lance Sergeant in July and was a Sergeant by Oct 1917. In June of that year Sergeant Bell had been wounded a third time put not taken out of the field.

During the Battle of Amiens for his battlefield leadership of 6 Platoon as Platoon Commander and Company Sergeant Major of 2 Company he was awarded the Distinguish Conduct Medal in Nov 1918 and later commissioned to Lieutenant.

While advancing through a wood in close support of the main attack the platoon which this non-commissioned officer commanded met an enemy machine-gun nest of two guns which the first wave had passed. He made a skilful flank attack, killing both crews. On reaching the final objective, the Colour Sergeant-Major having been wounded, this N.C.O. superintended the reorganization and consolidation under heavy fire. He displayed brilliant leadership throughout the day.

With demobilization following the war William Bell returned to work at the Algonquin Telephone Council where he rose to the position of district super-intendant.

In July 1936 Lieutenant Bell was one of four 15th Battalion veterans that composed the Canadian Ex-Service man guard of honour at the unveiling of Vimy Memorial, France.

March 14, 1939 he died suddenly and is buried at Prospect Cemetery, Toronto.

...This is but a taste of what you will discover at the 48th Highlanders Museum open Tues & Wed 10 to 3 or on the web at www.48highlanders.com/museum_cover.html



Officer & NCO's of 6 Platoon 1917, (Sgt Bell seated on the left side)

Warriors Day 2004

by Douglass Chappell

Well it was another great Warriors Day parade at the CNE this year. If you recall, last year's event got blacked out. This year we could not have asked for a better day, perfectly clear and not too hot. We marched from the FUP across from the Fort York Armouries through the Princess' gate along the main drag and did a right wheel and into the Ricoh Coliseum. This

building is brand new this year and made for an excellent venue to watch the veteran marchers. The parade route was much shorter than in previous years and was much appreciated by the veterans. Following the march past and salute to the reviewing officer Lt. Col. The Honourably Barny Danson PC OC we took our seats for the show "Salute To The Heroes".

Henry Shannon was the MC for the show which celebrated the 80th anniversary of the RCAF and the 60th anniversary of D Day. The military bands put on an excellent show for the

crowd and there was good audience reaction. As usual the 48th Highlanders stole the lime-light but were well supported by those other guys.

WANTED!

Volunteers for the 48th Highlanders Museum. This is a good way to meet people and learn about the history of this great Regiment.

Wednesdays or Thursdays.

CONTACT Tom Thompson AT 705-722-0250

WARRIORS DAY PARADE - 21 AUGUST, 2004



THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS FAMILY PICNIC AND BARBEQUE



THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS FAMILY PICNIC AND BARBEQUE





Members of 2 section lay down suppressive fire while the rest of the section move during live fire urban warfare exercises (in Florida, see page 9).



Cpl Valenzuela attempts bag piping with little success (Florida).



Hldr Frank (front) & Cpl Greene along with two other members of the regiment practice urban warfare drill prior to live fire exercises (Florida).



OCA President Tom White presents the OCA trophy for best shot at the Cadet Inspection.



Sgt Duncan, Cpl Thomson, Hldr Frank, Cpl Wourinen, Hldr Morrell, Cpl Parr receive American Sharp Shooter badges (Florida).



A chalk drawing outside the 48th museum, Victor's last name is unknown.



AMERICAN, CANADIAN EXERCISE BUILDS COHESION, JUNE 7-27, 2004

Story by Spc. Charles L. Westmoreland
133rd MPAD, Kentucky Army National Guard

Waking up to the tune of “Revelry” before the break of dawn is a common occurrence for Army soldiers. Waking up to the sound of Revelry being played on bagpipes outside the barracks window at 5 a.m. isn’t. When training alongside a foreign army, new things must be expected.

As part of an annual training exercise in the humid forests of the Florida panhandle, Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry trained alongside their Canadian counterparts, the 48th Highlanders, an airborne based in Toronto .

The combination of “First Foot” and the 48th came about in an unusual fashion.

Captain Mike J. Walker, platoon commander with the Highlanders, said the commune was put into action when a senior member of the 48th visited Georgia and heard that an element of the 48th Brigade Combat Team was deploying for training to Camp Blanding . Seeing that their units shared the same nomenclature, plans were put into action to bring them together, Walker said. Six months later the Americans and Canadians found themselves trudging through the humidity and heat performing combat exercises as one element.

Before their joint endeavor, the 48th trained on Military Operations and Urban Training (MOUT) at Fort Drum , New York.

Neither side knew what to expect once together, although both units were optimistic about the professionalism and technical proficiency they would find in their counterparts.

“Before meeting [the 48th Highlanders] I figured they would be a squared away unit from things I heard in the past, and they were,” said Capt. Anthony Fournier, who com-

mands 1st Battalion’s Company C. “They’re as professional as any unit I’ve seen.”

The 48th quickly proved its self equal to the Americans on the weapons qualification ranges. However, when squad level training began, minor differences started unfolded.

Fournier said he wanted to intermix the squads to combine tactics while enhancing unit cohesion. Both sides quickly realized that, although they perform many infantry drills in the same fashion, a language barrier strained their ability to communicate with each another.

“We use different terminology on the ranges, so we had to help them out a little with understanding how we speak,” said Pfc. Gregory Miller, a Company C infantryman.

The 48th also quickly picked up on the acronyms American forces use in their everyday language.



Capt Walker and Sgt Duncan talk over the last attack during urban warfare training.

“Because of the difference in military terminology, we started with a walk phase to get them familiar and minimize confusion,” added Staff Sgt. Samuel Larsh, an American squad leader. “By the time we were at the run phase everything was smooth.”

Once the kinks had been worked out of their “MILSPEAK,” the units began running squad-level exercises intermixing Canadian and American troops, each taking their turn leading. Canadian forces often use buddy-team movements whereas Americans use larger section movements at the squad level when assaulting an enemy force, Walker and Larsh agreed.

“It’s very impressive how well we’ve learned from each other,” Larsh said. “When

we put our squads together we were able to combine tactics and find solutions to the things we needed to improve on.”

“I wanted our soldiers to see how our allies trained,” Walker added. “I knew that combining our styles would create a greater cohesion between our militaries.”



Cpl Moosazadeh in Florida foliage.

The Highlanders also were looking forward to training with new equipment such as the computerized M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV) simulator, said Cpl. Richard G. Mitchell, a Highlanders rifleman.

As if tactical and semantic differences were not enough, gender differences presented themselves to the U.S. troops. Two of the 31 Canadians were female, something never seen in an American combat arms unit. Walker said women have been serving in Canada’s combat arms for 12 years. Of the 170 soldiers serving in the 48th, eight are women, he added.

Pte Anna Podvornaia, a grenadier with the 48th, admitted to never thinking about the gender issue before deploying to Camp Blanding . In Canada , she said, a woman serving in a combat unit is nothing out of the ordinary.

The general consensus among the soldiers of Company C was that the female soldiers were every bit as proficient and capable as their male counterparts, American and Canadian.

“The concept of females in the infantry took a little while to get used to,” admitted Spc. Ron Chapman, infantryman, C. Co., 1/121st. “But when watching them in action you couldn’t tell a difference. They’re held to the exact same standard as the men.”

Despite any differences, the two units found what they sought: superb training, team cohesion and a new appreciation for each other. As a display of gratitude, the Highlanders woke up their American brethren to a familiar tune one morning, the Army song.

“It’s awesome seeing a bagpiper in a kilt playing revelry each morning, but I doubt I’ll ever wake up to one playing the Army song again,” Larsh said.

The Canuck soldiers who fought in the Italian Campaign ...Continued from page 1

history. Raffan, a bagpiper with the regiment, would have to trade in his instrument for bandages and morphine as the stretcher bearer tended to a multitude of wounded.

"You'd see fellas dying and you did what you could," recalls Raffan, who would go on to serve with the Toronto Police for 41 years before retiring in 1986. "Sometimes they're in a great deal of pain and you have to give them a shot of morphine and wait for an opportune moment to get them



Jimmy Raffan on the left was a Sergeant with the 48th Highlanders in Italy during WWII.

to safety." The invasion of Sicily lasted more than four weeks and cost 600 Canadian lives. Then began the painstaking crawl up the Italian mainland as the Germans dug in with land mines and machine-gun nests. The Allies battled heat and malaria and then rain and cold as they advanced higher into the rugged mountainous terrain.

The Italian countryside is scarred with cemeteries where thousands of Canadians lie buried. Raffan was almost one of them. "I got a bit of a wound," he recalls with some understatement. "They sent a telegraph home and it worried my mother to no end." Hit in the right leg when their position was mortared by the Germans, Raffan was shipped off for treatment in North Africa. He returned in time to join the battle of Ortona, one of Canada's costliest victories. Ortona was an ancient town of castles and narrow streets carved into the hillside overlooking the Adriatic Sea. With little room to manoeuvre tanks, it meant seven ferocious days of house-to-house fighting

before the Canadians captured the port.

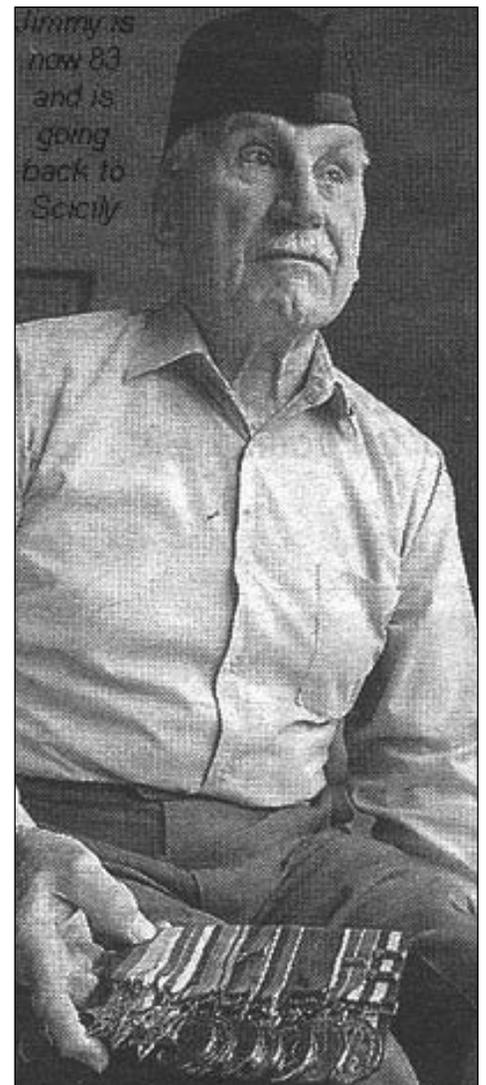
It was where another veteran, Douglas Langtree, would lose a buddy. They had met up outside a bombed-out church to pray in the shadow of the shelling. "Three days later, he bought the farm," he says quietly. "It hurts -- but you've got to carry on." For his service in Italy, Langtree was awarded the Military Medal for bravely keeping his post under fire

in December 1944. As part of an observation team, it was his job to take a position closer to the German line and report back to the Canadian guns behind him on how to direct their fire. "We were the eyes of the guns."

He was at the top of a three-storey building near the town of Ravenna when he came under attack for six straight days, with one direct hit on the roof blowing him down from his attic lookout. "I thought I'd be buried alive in that darned house," he says, laughing. He carefully unfolds the yellowed letter notifying him of his medal. "At no time during even the most intense enemy fire did Lance Bombardier Douglas Langtree consider retreating."

There is so much the retired postmaster remembers of that campaign, so much that we don't know: "The appalling conditions that war always brings, the bone-chilling cold, the gut-wrenching fear and indescribable filth," he writes in a speech he likes to give students. "It is not pleasant crouched in a wretched hole clawed out of the muck. This is real, not Hollywood. But we do remember the comradeship of men we knew who died, sometimes in our arms. Many unique relationships were formed that only war can bring."

Next week, he and Raffan and others will



James Raffan is now 83 and is going back to Sicily, return to Italy for the first time since the war, to stand on the hillsides and see the names of friends carved into white tombstones. "Those guys were 19, 21 years of age, cut off in the prime of life -- there, but for the grace of God, go I," Langtree says. "I was lucky." He only hopes that we, too, will remember them after he is gone. "We were the forgotten cause," he says. Now it is our duty to ensure that is no longer the case.

48th Military Band ...Continued from page 3

the Toronto Garrison)

November 9 Regimental Remembrance Day Parade, Queen's Park

December 12 Regimental Christmas Dinner, Moss Park

2004

February 13 Davidson Challenge, Moss Park

March 19 Cadillac Dinner and Draw, Moss Park

April 26 Royal Gala in Honour of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, held in

The Carlu, Toronto

May 9 Regimental Church Parade

June 6 D-Day Parade & Celebration

As the careers of Captain MacInnes and BSM Murray indicate, Military Band members tend to join and stay. This is generally good from a recruiting perspective. However, as with the rest of the Regimental family, membership has a cycle. In the past year the Military Band has seen a number of long-time members hang up their spats. Accordingly, the Band is on the lookout for new recruits in all instruments. Members of

the Regimental family, friends, children or other relatives who play brass, woodwind or percussion instruments and are interested in military music and the traditions of the Regiment are encouraged to contact the Director of Music, the BSM, the Drum Major or any other Band member, and are welcome to attend rehearsals. As the Band enjoys "association" status, individuals who are outside the normal age range for CF membership are also welcome.

Dileas.

LAST POST

The following Highlanders passed away during the year of 2003:

Pte John R. Arnold	Moncton	
Cpl Frank G. Davis	Owen Sound	
Sgt Lloyd T. Edwards	Brantford	
James Findlay	Burlington	Was an OCA member
William Ford	Grand Bend	
Pte Robert J. Harding	Toronto, Todmorden Br.	Was an OCA member
Charles J. Harper	Owen Sound	
Albert Jobin	Haliburton	
Pte Richard McGuigan	Toronto, Brig D. M. Martin Br.	
Cpl Lloyd E. Meisner	Nova Scotia	
Pte John A. Mickle	London	
Pte Harry Osbourne	Orillia	
Pte Stanley W. Pick	New Brunswick	
John Ratcliffe	Bobcaygeon	
Earl S. Richardson	Petawawa	

The following Highlanders passed away during the year of 2004:

James T. Alderman	Brantford
Pte Jalmont J. F. Dionne	North York
Lt Col Douglas C. Haldenby CD	Toronto

JOIN THE **OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION**
ONLY \$10 TO JOIN,

includes a free mailing of this newsletter as well as the occasional extra newsletter. Membership is open to all ranks, as long as you are or were an active member of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. This is a good way to stay informed about the Regiment and in touch with your fellow O.C.A. members.

CONTACT Tom Thompson AT 705-722-0250

All issues of the **FALCON** are also available through e-mail as an Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF), contact your Association or e-mail Adam Bernard at falcon48@sympatico.ca

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers for the OCA Drill Team. This is a good way to stay active and in touch with your fellow OCA members.

CONTACT Tom Thompson AT 705-722-0250

CONFINED TO BARRACKS

At Sunnybrook Hospital, We now have 7 Highlanders in Sunnybrook. **Ted Gane** the latest addition is recovering from a stroke he suffered on July 9th.

Tom Kelly is now in St. John Regional Hospital, Address of the hospital is P.O. Box 2100, Saint Johns, New Brunswick, E2L 4L2. Tom has been an active member of the 48th and came to Toronto for many events.

Dave Logan was please to hear from some of the fellows after we listed him on the sick list.
Phone # 416-762-8809

Jack Vaughan, Parkinsons disease, does not get out much. Phone # 905-354-8842

Dick Kenzie, move to Westmount Nursing Home, 200 David Bergey Dr., Kitchener, N2E 3Y4.
Phone # 519-570-2115, ext. # 317.

Lloyd Tucker, let's not forget Lloyd. You can't talk to him on the phone but you can call his wife Pat at 416-223-7513 and ask her when you could visit him at the Baycrest Hospital, on the west side of Bathurst St. just south of the 401.

Jack Smale is at home with a badly bruised leg.

Bud Hartwell in Orillia is fighting lung cancer.

Don McCron, recovering from a stroke.

George Morley, a former Highlander with Support Company during WW2 is at a nursing home in Bradford called Bradford Valley. He is in the Cottage House section on the 3rd floor.

Maybe you could take a minute and call these Highlanders or possibly send them a card. It might brighten their day.



17 September 2004, Kabul, Afghanistan

Private Grant Ellsworth, of the Reconnaissance Squadron, lines up the sights of a C-6 machine gun mounted on the Gelaendenwagon (G Wagon).

Some G Wagons, with turret modifications, arrived at Camp Julien on 11 September 2004. The G-Wagons, from Mercedes Benz, deployed to Operation Athena in March 2004, are augmenting the 19 year old Iltis vehicles.

G-Wagons are used to provide tactical control transport in the fields of command and control, liaison, military police and reconnaissance.

Photo by Cpl Robert Bottrill, Canadian Forces Combat Camera



SCHEDULE OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL FAMILY

Tuesday Nov 2	OCA Life Members Meeting at Noon. RCL Branch 66 in Willowdale, Spring Garden & Yonge St.
Tuesday Nov 2	OCA Drill Team Meeting at 7:30 PM. RCL Branch 73 at 2 Robinson Avenue at the Danforth.
Friday Nov 5	Honour Guard for the Horse Show at the Royal Winter Fair
Saturday Nov 6	Remembrance Service, 10:30 AM at Mount Pleasant Cemetery
Saturday Nov 6	Remembrance Dinner at York Reception Centre 1100 Millwood Rd, 6 PM Cocktails, 7 PM Dinner
Sunday Nov 7	Remembrance Service at 10:30, Queens Park
Saturday Nov 27	St. Andrews' Ball, no further info available
Tuesday Dec 7	OCA Life Members Meeting, Christmas Party at Noon. Legion Branch 66 in Willowdale
Tuesday Dec 7	OCA Drill Team Xmas Party 7:30 PM. RCL Branch 101 on the Lakeshore, just west of Brownsline
Friday Dec 10	48th Regimental Christmas Dinner

D R O C O U R T Q U E A N T V
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DILEAS SEARCH-A-WORD

by Sgt. Frank MacKay,
 Continuing Sergeants Association
 Find The WW1 and WW2 48th Battle Honours

VALGUARNERA	ASSORO	DROCOURT QUEANT
CANAL DU NORD	AMIENS	HINDENBURG (LINE)
ADRANO	AGIRA	ARLEUX
	VIMY	

ATTENTION: ARTISTS or CARTOONISTS, if you have any army related artwork that you've made feel free to submit it for printing in the next issue of the Falcon.

World War I, Battlefield Tours

From *The Friends of the Canadian War Museum Newsletter* Sept 2004. Voyages la Chaudiere Inc. is offering a 2 week tour of WW 1 battlefields, April 3 to 16. The total cost is \$4,329 per person. Flights, tour vans, accommodations, breakfasts, dinners, taxes and service charges are included. Price is also based on double occupancy in hotels. For more info contact André Cadieux (of Voyages la Chaudiere) at 1-800-661-6271.

This issue of the FALCON published by:

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Sgt Adam Bernard *Design & Layout*

Capt Brian MacInnes *Co-Editor*

Marg Ritchie *Co-Editor*

Please note if you received more than one of these in the mail please contact your association so that we can arrange to have JUST one mailed to you.

As well if you would like to contribute to future issues please e-mail your stories and pictures to: falcon48@sympatico.ca

AND CC: tom.thompson@sympatico.ca OR

call Adam Bernard @ 416-652-6121 OR Tom Thompson @ 705-722-0250

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 26th.