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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL FAMILY

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MENTORING OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN: A PERSONAL REFLECTION

By Capt Dave Tsuchiya, CD

In a previous issue, Captain Allan Best mentioned the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT). This article will delve a little further into my personal experience with this unique unit.

As far as the Canadian Forces is concerned, training and advising foreign militaries is a relatively new concept. Other NATO countries, such as the United States and Britain, are very experienced, but for Canada the practice of embedding advisors into an operational foreign military unit began in late 2006. The concept was to attach a team of mentors to an Afghan National Army (ANA) infantry company in order to provide professional guidance, advice, and instruction to the key Afghan positions. This step is the next phase after formal training for Afghan soldiers, non-commissioned and commissioned officers at the Afghan National Training Center in Kabul. In effect, the OMLT concept provides On-the-Job training.

The OMLT consisted of an initial compliment of 64 personnel, mostly Officers and Senior NCOs, and was divided into two basic elements: support/administration and the Kandak (Pashto for "battalion"). The former consisted of a small administration cell, a two-man Quartermaster store, plus an 18-man security force whose role was to conduct combat logistical support and armoured convoy escort to the Kandak element. The Kandak mentoring group was sub-divided into four six-man teams and a single eight-man

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Photo: Orienting the map before orders. Forward Operating Base Ma'Sum Ghar, Afghanistan. Photo courtesy of Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters.

MAJOR HARRY FAULKNER-BROWN

On September 18th 1944, Harry Brown's world was defined by the interior of a Douglas C47 Dakota aircraft carrying [part of his Troop of] airborne sappers that he commanded in the rank of Captain, Royal Engineers.

His world expanded to allow glimpses of the North Sea below soon to be framed by the coast of Holland. It was his very first trip abroad and the destination – Arnhem – would change his world forever.

This was part of Operation "Market Garden", the largest airborne armada ever mounted comprising two U.S. Divisions and the 1st British Airborne Division, each of about 10,000 paratroopers. The objective was three-fold, to capture the bridges over the Rivers Mass, Waal and Lower Rhine, in order to allow Allied Forces to make a concerted push to

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SICILY'S TERRAIN SET CANADIAN TACTICS FOR THE 1943-44 ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

By HCol Geordie Beal

In the display being opened at the Juno Beach Centre this May the experiences of Canadian troops in the mountainous central ridge of Sicily are the first thing the public sees. Here the visitor learns of the battle tactics developed in Sicily and used for the 18 month campaign that followed up the length of Italy. The following are extracts from the lead panel on the lessons of Sicily.

TERRAIN:

ALWAYS ON THE ATTACK, THE CANADIANS WERE FORCED TO FIGHT THE ENEMY ENTRENCHED ON HIGH GROUND OF HIS CHOOSING

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CO

It seems a bit odd to me to be opening my message with “congratulations on an exceptional year”, but since this is the end of the Regiment’s annual training cycle it is very appropriate. It is also very appropriate to be congratulating everyone for an exceptional year, because it has been just that.

The 2007 – 2008 training year marks my third and final year as Commanding Officer, as I expect to be handing over command of the Regiment in October. I feel rewarded that my last year in command has been such a great one. There were so many successes for the Regiment that I cannot begin to highlight them all, however I will comment on a few.

Over the weekends April 25 – 27, and May 2 – 4 2008, the Regiment led 32 Canadian Brigade Group’s composite Battle Group (BG 32-08) on Exercise **Iron Talon**. This exercise marks the culmination of the Brigade and Regiment’s training cycle, and it offers the only opportunity during the year to train at battalion level. Because it is a composite exercise (i.e. all the units of the Brigade participating together), only one unit has the opportunity to plan it and lead the composite Battle Group. This year the 48th Highlanders were selected for this honour. I am proud to report that it was unanimously agreed that our Regiment planned and executed the most successful of these annual exercises yet held in 32 Brigade. I have to congratulate my Battalion HQ, and in particular Captain Dave Tsuchiya and Warrant Officer Dave Rioux, for their exceptional work preparing the exercise. I also want to extend my congratulations and thanks to the officers, NCOs and Highlanders of A, B and Admin companies for making **Iron Talon** so successful. Without question, our Highlanders demonstrated that they are the best soldiers in the Brigade.

Not only did the Regiment lead the

Brigade’s composite Battle Group, but it was also selected to plan and lead Moss Park Armoury’s training Battle Group (BG A). This Battle Group consists of the Regiment, the Queen’s Own Rifles, 7 Toronto RCA and 32 Combat Engineer Regiment. The lead unit is responsible for organising and supervising four field-training exercises (**Able Warrior** 1 and 2, and **Aggressive Viper** 1 and 2), which the Battle Group undertakes in the fall and winter to prepare for **Iron Talon** in the spring. Because of the effort required to plan and lead the annual composite exercise, the Brigade Commander does not normally select the same unit as the lead for both the work-up training and **Iron Talon**. However, for the first time, we were given this honour and our soldiers performed in an outstanding manner.

Finally I would like to recognise the great sacrifices made by active Highlanders who have been deployed overseas in the service of Canada through the past few years. In this connection, I want to specifically recognise Master Corporal Adrien Markowski, who has been awarded the Medal of Bravery for his actions while in Afghanistan. Master Corporal Markowski is the third Highlander to earn the Medal of Bravery during the last 10 years. The previous two were Sergeant Peter Stibbard (now with the Grey & Simcoe Foresters) and Captain Peter Martinis. It should be noted that Captain Peter Martinis recently deployed to Afghanistan, only one of many Highlanders who continue to step forward to serve Canada overseas.

DILEAS GU BRATH

*ANDREW DC PATERSON, CD
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
COMMANDING OFFICER*

If you would like to contribute to future issues, please e-mail your stories and pictures to:

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A MESSAGE FROM THE RSM

Recently, the Regiment has been very busy conducting some first-rate training. Section and platoon live fire attacks were conducted and this achievement qualifies the unit to level 3 of field firing. The 48th are the first unit within 32 CBG to attain this level of training. Very few regular force units (and no other reserve units) have reached this level and it is only a requirement when preparing to deploy on international operations. In addition, this allows us to conduct more advanced field firing training exercises.

By the time most of you have received the Falcon, members of the Active Battalion will have crossed the border to train in Fort Drum, NY, USA (the home of the 10th Mountain Division). While in Ft Drum we will hone our short range shooting skills in daylight using iron sights and at night using helmet mounted night vision goggles and laser sights. Other training includes the use of the “kill house” for live-fire house clearing. Again it is important to note that few reserve units have achieved this level of competence.

On the “Campaign Against Terrorism” more than a dozen soldiers are completing workup training for the next rotation (TF 03-08) to Afghanistan. While I cannot go into specifics, some are not scheduled to return to Canada until after Christmas 2008. Our support program began at The Regimental Ball, which was their send-off. I am counting on and appreciate your support in the endeavor. DILEAS.

I end this message by describing the heroic actions of Corporal Adrian Markowski, a Highlander who was recently awarded the Medal of Bravery for his actions in Afghanistan.

On 3 October 2006, Corporal Markowski’s Combat Logistics Patrol was traveling west of Kandahar Afghanistan. A suicide bomber

attacked the Patrol. The explosion disabled Cpl Markowski's vehicle, quickly engulfing it in flames. He recognized that the possible uncontrolled detonation of the ammunition in his vehicle posed a deadly threat to the patrol and to gathering local Afghans. Despite the growing inferno and having to cross through the flames, he and three fellow soldiers, repeatedly returned to the vehicle to offload ammunition and mission essential cargo. Corporal Markowski's selfless actions prevented a massive explosion and saved the lives of fellow soldiers and Afghan civilians.

As I have constantly said, "In combat you don't rise to the occasion, you sink to the level of training".

DILEAS GU BRATH

*P.W.G. MCINTYRE, CD
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR*

FORMER 48TH HIGHLANDER COMPANY COMMANDER ORDAINED

Major (ret) J. Brian Bartley, CD was ordained an Anglican priest on April 2nd this year. Brian, a Chartered Financial Consultant, received his Master of Divinity from Trinity College, University of Toronto, in 2006.

While working as a financial planner, since receiving his BA at the U of T in 1971, Brian has been an active volunteer in organizations helping children and the disadvantaged. Upon retiring from the Regiment in 1989, Brian served on The Beaches Separate Support Group followed by the King Bay Chaplaincy (Workplace Ministry), where he led the



Photo: Brian Bartley (on the left) after ordination as an Anglican Priest – April 2, 2008

re-establishment of Operation Bootstrap, a support and re-employment program for unemployed knowledge workers. For the last decade, Brian has been a director of the Trust Board of India Christian Mission in Sri Lanka, with primary responsibility for the Paynter Children's home.

Brian joined the 48th Highlanders in 1969 as an officer cadet, while still at university. As a junior officer he held the roles of Platoon Commander, Signals and Transport Officer and as OC of the Summer Militia course. Later, Brian served on staff at Central Militia Area HQ and upon returning to the 48th became OC HQ/SP Company. After his promotion to Major, and following completion of the Militia Command and Staff course, he commanded the trained Mobile Command Tasked Company.

48TH CADETS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

by HCol Geordie Beal CD

To expand their successful marksmanship program in 2008, our 48th Highlander Cadet Corps needs funds for equipment. Support of \$4200 will meet base requirements. The ideal level will take a further \$3400. They are requesting help from the 48th Highlanders Regimental family.

In the 2006-07 year, the 48th Cadets Marksmanship Program qualified for the Provincial Championships for the first time in its history, and one cadet went on to the National Championships, placing in the top 10. This year the team won first place at the Zone Competition and will again be participating in the Provincial Competition. Encouraged by this success, and high interest by all cadets in the shooting program, our 48th Corps wish to add a junior marksmanship program in addition to the existing shooting team comprised of those cadets showing the most promise and skill.

New equipment to support the expansion will raise capabilities to 10 shooting positions from the current 3. A SCATT training system (a system that records scores electronically rather than from live fire) is the largest

request. It will allow cadets to train weekly and hone their skills with the feedback on not only the accuracy of shots, but a display of errors being made before, during and after the shot breaks. [For more information on the SCATT system, go to www.scatt.com/default.htm]

The following, when added to current equipment, will enable the program to be expanded this year. Preferred suppliers have been identified.

Item	Base Quantity	Total Cost
Shooting Jackets	4	\$596
Gloves	7	\$280
Slings	5	\$100
Glasses	3	\$54
Scopes	2	\$400
Scope Stands	2	\$380
Mats	2	\$164
Equipment bags	5	\$375
Hats	4	\$72
Support materials		\$180
SCATT System	1	\$1625

To support the 48th Highlanders Cadets shooting program donations can be made to the "48th Highlanders Trusts" and mailed to LCol George Turner, Secretary-Treasurer, 1780 Listowel Crescent, Pickering, Ontario, L1V 2Y3.

Please indicate with your donation which 48th Highlander Association you belong to, so that we can inform your Association executive of your support. Tax receipts will be issued by the Trusts.

IODE MUNICIPAL CHAPTER ANNUAL DINNER MEETING, MARCH 26, 2008



Berlin and end the war before Christmas. The boldness of this operation was underscored by the fact that 30,000 paratroopers would be dropped into Holland 60 miles behind enemy lines.

In his memoirs *A Sapper at Arnhem* (R.N. Sigmond Publishing 2006) the author paints a riveting picture of the battle and the principal players whose legendary leadership has passed in review to earn a hallowed place in military history. We are given an in-depth flashback of his extensive military training beginning with "some rather tame activity in the Durham University Officers' Training Corps" before his call-up as a private in the Durham Light Infantry, in which he became a trained infantryman and NCO, and, because he had passed his fourth year exams at the School of Architecture, his admission to an OCTU of the Royal Engineers at Aldershot, the Corps in which he was commissioned.

Arnhem was the summit of his wartime service. It was here that his unwavering leadership under fire was recognized in the award of the Military Cross, third highest decoration for valour in the British (and Commonwealth) honours system.

When Harry Brown came to Canada with his wife Maxine and family in 1947 to expand his architectural experience with Mathers and Haldenby, both Brigadier Eric Haldenby and his son Douglas (later LCol) of the 48th

Highlanders encouraged Harry to join the Regiment. During the twelve years of his residence in Toronto his architectural contribution to the national fabric of Canada was outstanding. Among his many achievements the following are of particular interest:

- Resident architect for the 25 storey Head Office building of the Bank of Nova Scotia (Toronto) in charge of the rebuilding and restoration of the precious Library of Parliament in Ottawa after fire/water damage in 1952.
- The Caribbean Head Office of the Bank of Nova Scotia (Kingston, Jamaica)
- Design of a new sports facility to house all three venues when the Toronto Cricket Club amalgamated with Toronto's Skating Club and Curling Club, which also included a cricket pitch and squash courts, to create a unique complex.
- The design of a new prayer hall at Upper Canada College (Toronto), his last project before returning to England in 1959

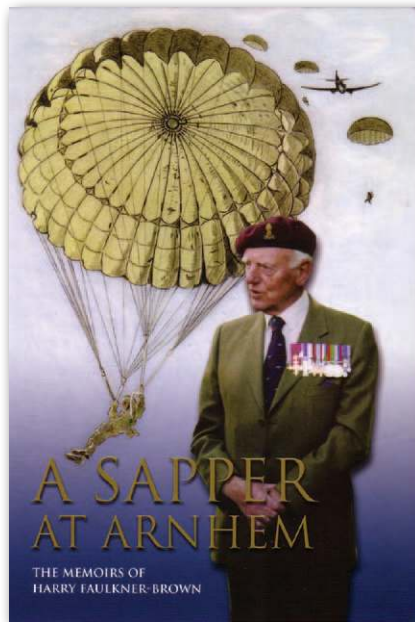
As adjutant and later officer commanding "B" Company with CSM Stuart Montgomery MM, we saw the best combination of leadership by example.

When he was adjutant, one of his many duties was to inspect the Pipes and Drums and Military

Band. A stickler for detail, his critical glance from bonnet to boots might bring the comment to (then) Pipe Major Archie Dewar, "There's a good turnout" filling one rear rank drummer with enormous pride. He was admired and respected by all ranks. The men affectionately nicknamed him "Squire Brown".

As company commander [in the rank of major] he selected this writer to be his 2IC. I was a newly commissioned subaltern and despite the honour I expressed doubts about filling the appointment of an experienced captain.

He instantly inspired my confidence by saying, "It's very easy George. You just do what I tell you to do." Therein lay the epitome of man management.



His organizational skills, imaginative training exercises and innovations endeared him to his men. His physical fitness was evident on more than one recce of the hills at Brigadier Johnston's farm in Aurora all the while carrying daughter Jane on his shoulders.

No one had been assigned to provide rations in the field on one occasion but hot chicken duly arrived, magically, from a private caterer arranged for by the Squire himself. One of his aims was to outfit every man in the company with a blue patrol jacket (not issued). Impressive progress was made in this project through creative fund-raising, with the result that several Highlanders were able to attend the Regimental Ball in their new blues.

He had a special style of leadership. Criticism was always constructive. In advising junior officers, it took the form of, "I wouldn't have done it quite that way." If asked what he *would* do, he would repeat "I would not have done it *that* way", challenging the junior to think it through to come up with a better solution on his own. Telling isn't teaching. One learns by experience. End of lesson.

Wartime service as a regimental officer brought, from Harry Brown, a wealth of experience to the Regiment over 5 short years. He never had to consult "the book" on matters of Queen's Regulations and Orders, infantry tactics, military law, administration or ceremonial. He was an astute judge of character; his perception never failed to see leadership potential (or the lack of it) particularly in officer candidates.

A devoted father, I often heard him decline invitations or appointments by saying, "No, I have promised the children something special on that day and I won't disappoint them."

He adored his daughters, Jane, Jennifer and Louise. The tragedy of the death of his youngest daughter Louise from a nut allergy was devastating for the entire family for a very long time.

In 1983, Her Majesty The Queen presented him with the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for service to architecture and social services.

The President of Iceland conferred the Knight's Cross of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon – (It is purely coincidental but appropriate that the falcon is the crest of the regimental badge).

In 1998 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from Newcastle University.

In 1990, in his 70's, he parachuted from 10,000 feet into the sea at Poole Harbour to raise money for airborne charities on the 50th anniversary of Airborne Forces. Incredible!

His appointments in architectural and social services combined with his design and consultative achievements, particularly in public libraries internationally, would fill a book.

He has said that, "Perhaps the greatest honour to come my way was to be the Leader of the Remembrance Pilgrimage at the 2003 commemorations of the Arnhem/Oosterbeek Battle in Holland."

His passing on February 10, 2008 in his 87th year, has been deeply felt by many who cherished his friendship, his good humour, his guidance and the artistic influence of his myriad contributions to the skill he loved.

He was, in my humble opinion, the Finest of the Best. His epitaph might well read:

MAJOR HARRY FAULKNER-BROWN
OBE, MC

TO THE WORLD THE CONSUMMATE
ARCHITECT, SOLDIER AND MENTOR
TO THOSE OF US WHO KNEW HIM –
THE WORLD

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
GEORGE L. PEARCE, CD
MAJOR (RET)



PHOTO: Assoro perched 350 metres above the Dittaino valley. The 48th climbed this south face during the night of 21 July 1943 and cut off German troops encircling the Hasty P's who had scaled the east cliffs the previous night.

The rugged terrain of central Sicily was dotted by hilltop towns and dissected by the roads that ran through the valleys. Narrow, switchback roads climbed steep hills to the towns, which sat to one side of the road with the main street forming a T-junction with the highway. The hillsides had long been carved into rocky terraces providing the local farmers with bits of land for their crops. These terraced hillsides seemed like staircases built for giants – they made formidable barriers to the infantryman and forced the tanks and vehicles to stay on the roads in plain sight of the enemy. Deep ravines and dry riverbeds, traversed by goat tracks, denied passage to tanks and carriers, leaving the infantry to advance on foot without support armour.

THE EXPERIENCED GERMAN DEFENDERS USED EVERY ADVANTAGE OF TERRAIN

The Germans, excelling in defensive tactics, always selected the highest points from which to meet attacks. Central Sicily offered commanding views over the Canadian path of advance, and the Germans ranged their artillery, mortar and machine guns on constricted sections of road or easily recognized features

and buildings. The high points and folds of ground enabled the Germans to resist at long range with artillery and at close quarters with well-concealed positions. They understood the conventional rule of warfare that attackers should outnumber defenders by odds of three to one – the advantages of terrain tipped the scales even more in favour of the wily German defenders.

CANADIAN PLANS OF ATTACK DEPENDED ON SURPRISE

Faced with an experienced enemy holding the advantage of terrain, the Canadians relied on the cover of night to occupy assault positions and to block the enemy's avenues of retreat. The Canadian lines of advance often looped around the enemy, as infantry companies were sent in opposite directions to work their way around or to pinch in from two sides. Scaling cliffs, regarded as inaccessible by the Germans, highlighted Canadian operations in Sicily and led the Germans to acknowledge the Canadians' skill in infiltration and night attacks.

The Canadians moved in daylight only in areas safe from enemy observation. Soldiers and vehicles proceeded in long, open columns

to avoid presenting concentrated targets for German artillerymen. When launching attacks in daylight, the Canadian commanders soon learned that massive, coordinated artillery bombardments were necessary to suppress the German defenders as the Canadian infantry moved forward.

CANADIAN TROOPS SERVED A HARD APPRENTICESHIP IN SICILY AGAINST A SKILLED ENEMY

In a letter dated 26 July, just two weeks after the landings at Pachino, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Johnston gave this summation to the 48th's home battalion in Toronto:

"For the first few days Jerry let us hit him in defensive position then when we teed up an attack he faded leaving us a little silly but for the last week he has been standing and is a pretty formidable customer. He is good – there is no doubt about it – and has lots of experience, but that is the only place he can touch our boys. Our men make a damn site better soldier than Jerry does and they are learning awful quick." 🦅



Photo: Capt David Tsuchiya and an ANA sentry. This was taken at BP 102 on my first trip out of KAF Panjaway, Afghanistan.

Kandak/OMLT Headquarters. Each six-man team were divided evenly between mentors and supporters. The mentors consisted of a Company Commander advisor (holding a Captain's rank), a Company Sergeant-Major mentor (Warrant Officer), and a Senior NCO mentor (Sergeant to Warrant). The SNCO mentor usually embedded with a platoon and advised either the Platoon Commander or the Platoon 2IC. The supporters consisted of a Gunner/Driver, a Signals Operator, and a Medic. The ranks of the supporters ranged from Private to Master Corporal. When the OMLT took on additional mentoring responsibilities, the compliment expanded to approximately 80 people, all ranks.

I volunteered for the OMLT (also referred as the "omelette") in early September 2006 and was initially slated as the Brigade Liaison Officer. This changed during pre-deployment training and I arrived in Afghanistan as the Adjutant/Senior Duty Officer. To whom I was senior to was unclear since I was the only duty officer on the team.

As the Adjutant/Duty Officer, my role was to oversee the operation of the OMLT's command post, which was based in Kandahar Airfield. In the end, I performed very little Adjutant-related work, with the exception of handling our two casualties, honours/awards applications, and field promotions. Due to the operational tempo, my role was effectively that of an Assistant Operations/Duty Officer. I was required to maintain overall situational awareness of Canadian Battle Group, ANA, and OMLT operations and I would also brief the Task Force Chief of Staff of Operations (ChOPs)

as well as the OMLT Commanding Officer on a daily basis. Occasionally, I would brief the Task Force Commander and the Task Force Chief of Staff.

In May 2007, I assumed the duties of Aviation Liaison Officer where I coordinated air movement requests on behalf of our

"The Afghan troops proved to be extremely good fighters. Ironically in the end, it was only the OMLT support element's security force (SECFOR) that ended up embedded with an Afghan company in the middle of nowhere."

OMLT as well as the Dutch OMLT and the American Logistical Support Teams. This required networking with the J3 Aviation cell at Regional Command (South) Headquarters, the Netherlands aviation squadron, the U.S. helicopter support squadron, the U.S. Special Forces Aviation Liaison Officer, as well as air service providers such as KAMCO and the PAX office.

Very early into the tour, the OMLT took on additional mentoring duties by assuming the responsibility of headquarters for 1st Brigade, 205th Corps (ANA). This was a significant event as it demonstrated Canada's emerging role in contributing to the Global War on Terror. As well, this event provided a boost to national confidence in that we assumed this mentorship from the United States Embedded Training Team. However, there was an ulterior motive behind the Americans' handover. Their

"powers-that-be" realized that the need to develop the Afghan police force was critical. But in order to accomplish this goal, they had to extricate themselves from advising the Afghan army. With NATO partners, such as the British, Canadians, and Dutch taking on the task of military advising, the Americans could re-allocate their resources to focus on the nascent Afghan National Police. Regardless, the assumption of a Brigade Headquarters, as well as a deployed battalion, allowed for a show of confidence amongst the Canadians as well as a vote of confidence from the United States.

At the end of June 2007, a further reorganization occurred and the OMLT took on the mentorship of two additional battalions in 1st Brigade. We were now advising two infantry battalions (one of which was deployed, the other in pre-deployment training), a Brigade headquarters, and a Combat Service Support battalion. The Dutch were mentoring the third infantry battalion, while the American Embedded Training Team continued to mentor the Brigade's combat support battalion. The CS battalion, the 4th Kandak, was unique in that most of its companies were deployed around the province and further north. Americans (field artillery), Australians (engineers with the Aussie Reconstruction Team), and Canadians (partnered with a reconnaissance troop from the Royal Canadian Dragoons) mentored these companies.

For the most part, the OMLT (CA) did not function as we originally envisioned it. Our only form of information about embedded advisors came from books about the Vietnam War and a couple of news items about the British OMLT



in Afghanistan. None of this information was good. We imagined our teams in the middle of the desert, working with little or no combat support/supplies, and with an indigenous army that had no stomach for a fight. Instead, the mentor teams worked in conjunction with the Canadian Battle Group which had embedded Afghan troops who proved to be extremely good fighters. Ironically in the end, it was only the OMLT support element's security force (SECFOR) that ended up embedded with an Afghan company in the middle of nowhere.

Around the middle of the summer, the insurgency realized that Coalition Forces (CF) and the Afghan Army could not be everywhere and began a concerted effort to strike poorly held locations. Their aim was to instill a sense of fear in the local nationals and score propaganda points, all without holding target locations for any length of time. The insurgents would attack and pillage, then vacate once the CF

"The Afghan police fled, leaving the insurgents free to pillage. In one report, a 16-year old boy was publicly beheaded and his father hanged because the former had worked as a cook for the ANSF."

and ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) reacted. One such locale bordered on the extremity of the Canadians' area of operation. It was little patrolled and neither the Coalition nor ANSF had a permanent presence. As a result, the insurgents used the area as a staging point for rest and re-supply. It allowed them to



Photo: 48th reunion: Capt Allan Best, Sgt Nathan Ronaldson, Capt Chris Blencowe (now 2RCR), Capt David Tsuchiya, KAF.

re-group and re-launch into the hotly contested parts of southern Afghanistan. In essence, the situation was similar to way that the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of northern Pakistan are in relation to the southeast area of Afghanistan.

In mid-June, insurgents attacked a local district center in the vicinity of Ghorak, which is near the border of Helmand and Kandahar provinces. The Afghan police fled, leaving the insurgents free to pillage. In one report, a 16-year old boy was publicly beheaded and his father hanged because the former had worked as a cook for the ANSF. Afghan reaction to this attack reached up to the highest level. Kabul issued direction to the ANA to re-occupy the Ghorak District Center as soon as possible. 1-205 Brigade was tasked to complete the job because the district center fell within its area of responsibility. The operation was to last only 48-hours, but the Ghorak situation became a bit of an albatross, requiring CF/ANSF elements to deploy there several times to chase and re-occupy the D.C. It was a cat-and-mouse game.

In early July, I took over temporary command of the OMLT's security force (SECFOR) team; the primary OC, Capt Mike Gough (LdSH), was on short leave. SECFOR's 2IC, Sgt Duane Adams (RCR), was also on leave and would not return for another week. In fact, during this brief period, all experienced SECFOR leaders were on leave. The most senior ranks in SECFOR were Cpls Jay Young (1RCR) and Mike Garon (2CER). However, the crew were mature and well trained by this time; I was the only untested person. Although I did not expect much to happen over this six-day period, SECFOR was dispatched on five missions. On

two tasks, we escorted the incoming Afghan Brigade Commander to the forward operating bases so that he could visit his troops. One other task involved a last minute decision that required us to take the OMLT Commanding Officer, who was also the CO for 3 PPCLI, to FOB Sperwan Ghar, in order for him to visit one of his companies, which had just experienced a tragic event - six Patricias were killed by an improvised explosive device.

During one run, we were tasked to exchange one of our spare RG-31 Nayala vehicles with one belonging to one of the mentoring teams. Their RG was acting up and repairs could only be done at the motor pool in KAF. The job was routine and we drove to Sperwan Ghar in the early hours of the morning. After the switch, we stopped at FOB Ma'Sum Ghar in order to wait for nightfall. For me, getting out of KAF was always a good break. It was like going to the cottage. On this day, some of us were either snoozing or playing cards and I took the opportunity to grab some shut-eye. At around 1530hrs, Capt Nathaniel Ng (RCA) - the Kandak element's S2 mentor - woke me. "Dave, Major Grandy wants to talk to you on the (tactical satellite kit)." I got up, still a bit dazed, and headed over to the small room, which was used as a make-shift office and living quarters.

Over the past few weeks, the Ghorak situation was still festering and I asked Nat if that was the nature of Major Grandy's call. "Yeah", was all he said. I expected to be tasked to take SECFOR up to Ghorak. I wasn't looking forward to it since the OMLT's first mission to the DC resulted in SECFOR getting trapped in a wadi some 25 kms inside insurgent country by enemy small arms and mortar fire. And then

they discovered that there was no air support or quick reaction force from the Battle Group available to help. Ghorak was another 15-20 clicks north of that location. I sat down in front of the laptop and looked at the image of my boss:

"Dave, insurgents have retaken Ghorak. President Karzai has directed that the ANA will go in and reoccupy it. 1-205 has been tasked and they're going to launch a company from 3 Kandak sometime tonight. The plan is to have Chris (Blencowe) and a crew from SECFOR accompany the ANA. Chris will be leaving KAF and should link up with you in about two hours. I want you and SECFOR to escort him to Maywand District Center. At Maywand, you'll link up with Hotel Company (2RCR). Chris and one of your SECFOR crews will join the combat

"This may have been the first time since perhaps the Second World War where a couple of 48th Officers worked together on an operation."

team and they'll head up to Ghorak. Once the link-up is complete, I want you and the rest of SECFOR to return to KAF".

I told the Major that I was thinking of detaching Cpl Young's crew. He agreed, but also mentioned Mike Garon. Both were switched on and they had the necessary experience. They were part of the first mission to Ghorak and were familiar with the terrain. Either crew would have been fine.

I went outside and briefed the team. We were all pretty subdued and quietly discussed what had to be done in the next couple of hours. Given what had occurred the first time out and the cynicism that arose in its aftermath, no one wanted to go

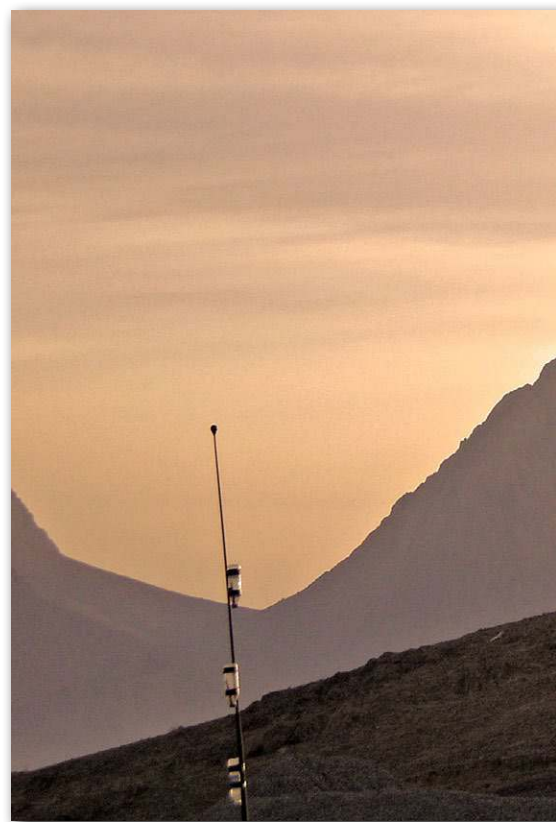
back but they accepted it as part of the job. While the troops got on with preparations, I went into the OMLT command post to discuss the mission with Major Price, the OC of the Kandak element and Kandak Commander Mentor. For my part, there wasn't much for me to do. There was no requirement to draw up formal orders. The men had been to the Maywand before and were familiar with the route. They'd practised their counter-ambush drills and were all topped up with first line ammo: ten magazines of 5.56mm ball, four frag grenades, and smoke. Four of the RGs were mounted with the 7.62mm C6 machine gun, while one had the .50 cal. By now, battle procedure was greatly compressed due to the limitations of time and space. SECFOR would receive a mission and basic concept of operations. They would prep, conduct a final brief, and then launch.

At around 1830hrs, Capt Chris Blencowe arrived at the FOB. Chris is a former officer of the 48th; he served with us during the mid-late '90s. He spent a few years in the British Coldstream Guards and ended up in 2 RCR. Originally a Battle Group Liaison Officer, he joined the OMLT as 3 Kandak's S3 m e n t o r .

It was interesting that this may have been the first time since perhaps the Second World War where a couple of 48th



Photo : Afghan interpreter, Mike, speaks with Capt Chris Blencowe, Afghan Coy Commander, CSM, and Wpns PI Comd. Ghorak District Center, Afghanistan.



Officers worked together on an operation. "What's going on" he asked. "All I was told was to pack my things and get to (Ma'Sum Ghar)." Things tended to happen at a moment's notice and we operated like a fire station. I briefed him on as much as I knew.

During the previous day, Hotel Company combat team dispatched to the Maywand area (approximately 20 kms from the Battle Group's main FOB) in order to assist the ANP, who were engaged in a situation with insurgents. According to the ANP, they were being attacked by hundreds of bad guys. Who knows? Their

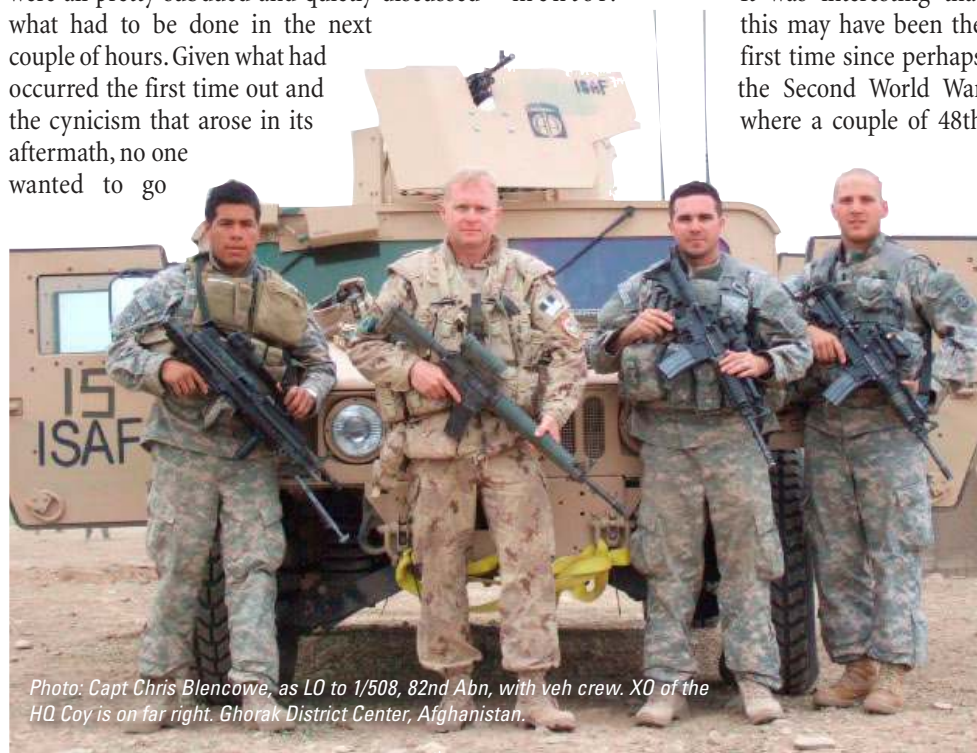


Photo: Capt Chris Blencowe, as LO to 1/508, 82nd Abn, with veh crew. XO of the HQ Coy is on far right. Ghorak District Center, Afghanistan.

reports tended to overestimate enemy numbers. As we ramped up and headed out of the gate, I heard the conversation between the Battle Group command post and Hotel Coy's OC over the radio. Call-sign '0' was trying to brief H Coy on what was going to happen, The Coy was to remain at the Maywand DC and wait for us to show up.

By this time, it was a little late for H Coy to hold position because they were already on their way back to their patrol base to rest and re-supply. Some of their personnel were close to heat exhaustion, especially those in the armoured troop, and they were short on rations and water. They had just completed a last minute task to relieve the



Photo: Battle Position (BP 102), aka Three-Tank Hill, Panjawayi, Afghanistan. Photo by MCpl Donald Deans (2 CMBG HQ/Sigs Sqn).



Photo: An OP at Forward Operating Base Ma'Sum Ghar, Afghanistan.



ANP. '0' then instructed me to link up with H Coy at Patrol Base Wilson, instead. Luckily, our convoy had just passed PBW, so it wasn't an inconvenience. As H Coy combat team passed through a village called Howz-e-Madad, which lies between PBW and the Maywand DC, a roadside IED detonated. Fortunately, there was little damage to the company and there were no casualties. I believe, though, that had our convoy continued to the original objective, we would have struck that bomb. It's hard to say.

Regardless, the link-up was done at Patrol Base Wilson. LAVs and RGs rolled through the

"Fortunately, there was little damage to the company and there were no casualties. I believe, though, that had our convoy continued to the original objective, we would have struck that bomb. It's hard to say."

gate. The Leopards continued to Ma'Sum Ghar, just across the river. It was an impressive sight. I got to meet the OC, Major Huff, and see their command post. The Company Sergeant-Major was great. As soon as we arrived, he welcomed us and made sure we all got water. We stuck around until the plan for Chris was sorted out. Then we left Jay and Chris there and headed into the night for KAF. Even though I never met any of the H Coy people before, there was this sense of camaraderie amongst everyone who was there, including us. I guess it's because we're all Canadian. It was a different atmosphere when we took the CO to Sperwan Ghar, but that's another story. 🦅

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WAR STORIES OF 48TH VETS

WOW SERVING SOLDIERS

by Capt (ret) Steve Gilbert, CD

One of my last tasks as Adjutant of 32 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters was to make a special presentation on the Canadian Army's 1943 Invasion of Sicily to a group of mostly younger Headquarters' personnel, who were about to embark on trip to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. From the outset, as a former history teacher, I knew that, while I had many sources of information available to include in what I hope was a slick power point package, the only sure way to provide an accurate picture of what happened during this very significant event and to describe how it actually occurred was, if at all possible, to provide my audience with the first hand recollections of soldiers who were actually there.

Fortunately, there were two such veterans readily available. Our own Gord Outhwaite and Herb Pike, who both fought in the Italian Campaign. They generously gave of their time and volunteered to assist me by recounting, quite vividly, their memories of events long ago. The audience, consisting of both regular and reserve soldiers, listened in rapt attention to Gord as he related his recollection of climbing down the side of a ship into a landing craft rising and falling in thirty foot swells and to the terror he felt when facing his first enemy air attack on a Sicilian road. Herb's reflections on his deep respect for the skill



and tenacity of the German paratroopers, who confronted the Canadians throughout the battles in Italy, and his anecdotes about some of the humorous events that occurred, even in the heat of combat, equally held the audience spellbound. There was a rush, by all in attendance, to buy drinks for, and to talk with these two distinguished individuals during the informal follow up session in the Denison Armoury Officers Mess.

I extend my personal appreciation to them and to Sgt Maj Mark McVety, who provided their transport for the evening. Senior Highlanders, like Gord and Herb, provide a vital link, for all of us, to the Canadian Army's living history.

*THANKS FOR THE INVALUABLE
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EX MOVING TARGET

Fort Drum, NY
By MCpl Jeffrey Leandro

"Left okay. Right okay. Room clear," and the stack proceeded to clear the next room.

Urban operations: challenging, complex and real. That is why members of the 48th Highlanders took part in Exercise Moving Target, a three-night exercise that took place across the border in Fort Drum, NY the weekend of 27-30 March 2008.

It is essential that a military's tactics and training keep pace with the nature of the operations it finds itself involved in. Today, this requirement translates into a focus on urban operations. What was once known as Fighting In Built Up Areas (FIBUA) has developed into a more complex and methodical way of combating an enemy. Gone are the days of entering buildings with exploding grenades and loose triggers. Civilian casualties and other collateral damage have become an increasing concern and can have an enormous effect on the support from locals and from those back home.

Exercise Moving Target provided members of the active battalion with an opportunity to hone their skills in areas of tactics and training such as room entry drills, advanced "gunfighter" and pistol drills. During the exercise the soldiers conducted personal weapons testing for the 9mm Browning pistol

"Gone are the days of entering buildings with exploding grenades and loose triggers. Civilian casualties and other collateral damage can have an enormous effect on the support from locals and from those back home."

and the newly introduced PWT 4 for the C7 rifle. The PWT 4 places a new emphasis on speed and shot accountability and tests a soldier's ability to fire from positions other than those traditionally used on conventional ranges in the past.

Upon completion of the weapons testing, members progressed to conducting hours of training on room entry and clearing drills primarily in four person stacks. They began

their training by slowly walking through the "glass house", a series of short walls laid out based on the floor plan of a more elaborate building. The "glass house" allows soldiers to have a better view of how they conduct their drills and allows them to learn not only from their individual drills but also from those of other members of their platoon. Once these small groups of four known as stacks had successfully conducted their drills in the glass house, they moved to the full "kill house", a complete building of rooms, doors and hallways. Once in the kill house, soldiers continued to improve their drills by using blank ammunition. The culminating point of the exercise was to have all members successfully run through the kill house using live ammunition, a feat that was accomplished thanks to the support of many and the commitment of the soldiers themselves.

The weekend training was a great success and all members of the 48th Highlanders at all levels benefited from this Exercise. Though none of us wish to ever use the skills we develop in training, exercises such as this one make us confident that we are prepared in case we are ever called upon to do our job. 🇨🇦

JUNO BEACH MUSEUM IN NORMANDY FEATURES ITALIAN CAMPAIGN AND 48TH HIGHLANDERS

By HCol Geordie Beal

Opening on 17 May this year, the Juno Beach Museum on the Normandy Beaches at Courseulles-sur-Mer in France will feature a major exhibit entitled: "Italy - Canada's Other D-Day". The exhibit will be on display for 15 months until September 2009.

The board of the museum, headed by Garth Webb, felt that the Italian campaign, lasting from 10 July 1943 until the end of the war, deserved to be understood and seen as a source of national pride for all Canadians. The landing at Pachino in Sicily was the largest amphibious invasion in history and the ensuing campaign was the longest continuous combat for Canadians in the Second World War. Over 93,000 Canadians served in Italy and 5,900 remain buried in war cemeteries there. The 1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders of Canada were front and centre in the Italian Campaign, as members, along with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and The Royal Canadian Regiment, of the 1st Brigade, 1st Canadian Division. Twenty-five of the twenty-seven Battle Honours earned by the 48th in the

Second World War were awarded for the Italian campaign.

The Italian campaign display in the Juno Beach museum occupies one-third of the total museum space, the balance being the permanent displays of the D-Day landings. Placed on the walls are photographs, maps and text of the Italian campaign, leading the visitor in a counter-clockwise direction from the entrance. In the centre are two major self-standing exhibits, one on Ortona and the other on Sicily.

The Ortona exhibit is a full-scale tableau of three upper story rooms in a house in Ortona, showing Canadian soldiers "mouse-holing" the walls to attack German infantry in the next room. The public can walk through two rooms and peer via a mouse-hole into the third.

The Sicily exhibit features the 48th Highlanders to demonstrate the challenges of mountainous terrain and tropical heat, both found in Sicily and faced by Canadian troops in the Italian campaign that followed. The 48th Sicily exhibit occupies a four meter square on the floor, with panels 2 meters high forming a T-shape. All panels have massive background photos, 3 meters long and 2 meters high, filling the entire panel. The first panel seen by the visitor has text and smaller photos giving a brief history of the 48th Highlanders, with emphasis on the Italian campaign, and images of newspaper articles from the Toronto press highlighting the

battles of Sicily. On the interior of the T-shape one side is devoted to terrain, with a full size mannequin of a Highlander climbing a rock-faced crop terrace. There are also photos, again the full two meters high, supported by text, maps and smaller images relating to *Battle Tactics*, the soldier in *Fighting Formation* and the assault on the heights of *Assoro*. On the second side of the T-shape weather is the focus. Here text and smaller images illustrate *Heat and Drought*, *Dress in Battle* and *First Aid in the Field*. A piper, wearing a Red Cross armband in recognition of his role as a stretcher-bearer, sits on an oil drum playing the pipes. With both the Terrain and Weather tableaus are two display cabinets of smaller artifacts. These cabinets are cleverly designed to represent stacks of Bren gun cases and 303 ammo boxes. Items in the cabinets and the uniforms on the two mannequins are all artifacts on loan from the 48th Highlanders museum as are the photos and images of the display. I was requested to write the text for the 48th exhibit and lead our portion of the design with Eric McGeer, a history Master at St. Clements School, who was responsible for the entire Italian exhibit.

For those planning a battlefield tour to Europe this year or next, be sure to visit the Juno Beach museum. The magnificent service of Canadian soldiers, and our 1st Battalion 48th Highlanders, makes a memorable visit. 🇨🇦

REBUILDING AFGHANISTAN

Editors note: Details in this article are drawn from an information sheet provided by the Government of Canada in February 2008. More information can be found at:

www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca

Just reading our national newspapers and watching or listening to our national newscasts does not provide all of the relevant facts about our involvement in Afghanistan, both militarily and otherwise. There are many accomplishments that we can be proud of in the areas of Development, Governance and Security. Some examples:

DEVELOPMENT

- Close to 6 million children (1/3 of them girls) enrolled in school in 2007-2008

- Canada directly supports the establishment of 4000 community-based schools and the training of 9000 teachers (4000 of the women)

- In the economic realm, the per capita income has doubled between 2004 and 2007 and Canada is the top micro-finance program donor, with more than 418,000 people (more than 2/3 of them women) accessing small loans and savings services in 23 provinces, including Kandahar

- Canadian support to Community Development and Infrastructure has assisted in the election of more than 19,300 Community Development Councils and approval of more than 33,600 local infrastructure projects approved nationwide (more than 16,500 completed, including 1200 wells, 500 culverts and 150 km of irrigation systems and canals in Kandahar province)

- In the area of Health, 83% of Afghans now have access to basic medical care compared to only 9% in 2004 and Canada has directly supported the vaccination of more than 7 million children against polio (350,000 in Kandahar province)

- More than 5 million Refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002 (including more than 365,000 in 2007 alone, with the assistance of the Canadian-supported United Nations



photos from: www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca

High Commissioner for Refugees) and 90% of them found jobs within six months of their return

GOVERNANCE

- More than 10 million Afghans registered to vote in free and fair elections for President (2004) and Parliament (2005); 347 women were candidates for the lower house of Parliament

- Canada has directly supported the justice sector by training more than 70 prosecutors, 68 public defenders and 200 judges, thereby increasing knowledge in three major fields of law (criminal, civil and procedural)

- More than 600 Afghan National Police (ANP) members have received training through the Canadian Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team

- Support has been provided to Freedom of Expression through the 7 television and 40 radio outlets now broadcasting in Afghanistan and the Canadian forces have established a radio station in Kandahar

- Civilian correctional experts now deliver training and provide mentoring to Afghan prison staff and administrators

SECURITY

- For the Afghan National Army (ANA) Canada directly supports the training of soldiers at the Afghan National Training Centre in Kabul (helped train more than 35,000 graduates), mentoring of 3 ANA infantry and 1 ANA combat service support battalion in Kandahar province, ongoing combined operations,

with the ANA and ANP, against the Taliban and other enemy forces in the Kandahar area and construction of multiple ANA strong points to increase security presence in the Zhari District

- Canada has assisted with Mine Clearance, helping to achieve a 55% reduction in monthly victims from levels just five years ago

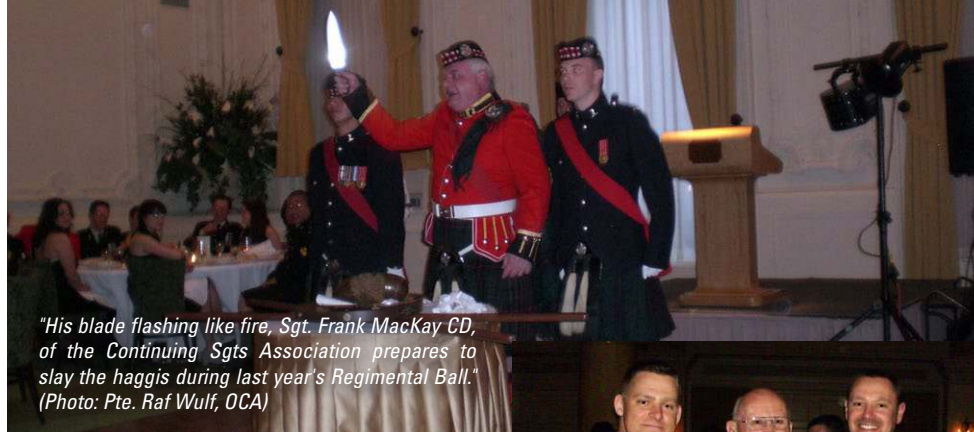
- Canada also supports Disarmament work, helping to collect and secure 85,000 light and 16,000 heavy weapons from former combatants

Guiding Canada's efforts in Afghanistan is the Afghan compact, which is a five-year blueprint for coordinating the work of the Afghan government and 60 United Nations and international partners in the areas of development, governance and security.



THE REGIMENTAL BALL 2008

By Sgt Jason Venieau, CD



"His blade flashing like fire, Sgt. Frank MacKay CD, of the Continuing Sgts Association prepares to slay the haggis during last year's Regimental Ball." (Photo: Pte. Raf Wulf, OCA)

On Friday night 18 April 2008, after dinner in the WO and Sgts Mess, the CO announced to everyone that the Sr NCO's had won the Mackenzie shoot. Conversation then turned to who was going to the Regimental Ball. Most of those present were going to attend.

For myself, the following Saturday involved dropping off the Regimental pictures at the hotel in the afternoon and later getting ready. Before walking out my door to a waiting taxi, I checked for money, Military ID, Glengarry, Gloves, tickets and most important my Regimental COIN. My girlfriend looked great as always and we departed. The cab ride was quick and it was a short walk up to the second floor of the King Edward Hotel.

The foyer filled quickly with people from all branches of the Regimental Family. They included the Honorary Appointments, CO, DCO, RSM, DSM, OCA and IODE members, former Highlanders, all ranks of the Regimental Bands, all in various uniforms and attire. All of the guests were well turned out for a great night. The Vice PMC was handed the task of Master of Ceremonies and did it well. Good job Sgt Lauder!

Frank McKay carried out the Address to the Haggis. I know Sgt Chin and I enjoyed the Dram at the end of the Address, but next year maybe we will see some new faces for Frank to break in.

The CO and RSM had a few words for everyone and wished Highlanders on the next Mission to Afghanistan a safe journey and return. From that group, there were in attendance at the Ball Cpl Bradley, Cpl Jaskiewicz and Cpl Frank. Cpl Frank was also recognized as Top Cpl in the Brigade and received the RSM's coin.

After a short break following dinner,



Cpl Kinkaid CD, Max McDougal CD, Kevin Brogan CD (Photo: Sgt Vienneau)



HCol Bear, Mrs. Darling and ex HCol Darling CD (Photo: Sgt Vienneau)

the Pipes and Drums began the evening of dancing with the Gay Gordon. The CO led with his guest and the Pipes and Drums kept the dance floor filled as they played. During breaks in the dancing people had a chance to look at the Regiment's pictures in the foyer.

Around midnight the DJ began with a mix of music from the 1960's to present. For those that stayed the night became relaxed, a chance to catch up with friends, drink and dance into the wee hours of the morning. From my understanding WO Ross was not needed to smooth anything over the next day. I believe that for everyone, but a few without their Regimental coins, the night was enjoyed by all.

For everyone's information, I heard that the RSM has picked 4 April 2009 at the King Edward Hotel for next years Ball. 🐉

48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA MILITARY BAND

WO J. Murray, CD
Band Sergeant Major

Under the leadership of Director of Music Capt. (Ret'd.) Mike Lawson, CD, the Military Band of the 48th Highlanders of Canada continues its 116-year tradition of service to the Regiment. This year, usual military parade duties for Regiment and Brigade and our usual public performances (i.e. at the Toronto Maple Leafs' season opener at Air Canada Centre – an annual event for the Military Band and Pipes & Drums since the 1930s, and the annual military music spectacular at Roy Thompson Hall) were augmented by new public engagements. These included, a park concert for the City of Aurora, a retirement dinner for BGen Young, CD at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, and, together with other bands from the Toronto Garrison, the opening of the "Under 20" World Cup at BMO Field.

Highlights of the winter months included, in addition to formal dismissals, Christmas dinner and regular rehearsals, a return to more traditional soldiering as each of the on-strength members was required to pass (and did!) the battle fitness and musketry tests – though there was a definite scent of mothballs on the square when some of the Band NCOs were required to parade in CADPAT! In late April, the Military Band joined the Regimental Pipes & Drums in hosting the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes & Drums for an evening of music and fellowship here at Moss Park Armoury.

Earlier this year, the Band bid farewell to Cpl. S. Hum, who transferred to the Foot Guards in Ottawa (something about a girlfriend?) and after Christmas, Cpl. J. Langridge went ED & T to fulfil a temporary position with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra. Accordingly, the Band is in full recruiting mode – members of the Regiment are encouraged to refer friends, acquaintances and family members who play traditional band instruments to the Director of Music or the Band Sergeant Major.

On 30 March, both bands welcomed to the mess over 70 friends, and current and former members dating back to the 1960s, in an afternoon of celebration and friendship to recognize the recent retirement from the Regiment of Capt. Brian W. MacInnes, CD. (see photo) Capt. MacInnes joined the Military Band and the Regiment in 1972, and



On 30 March, both bands welcomed to the mess over 70 friends, and current and former members dating back to the 1960s, in an afternoon of celebration and friendship to recognize the recent retirement from the Regiment of Capt. Brian W. MacInnes, CD. (see photo)

served the Band as Band Sergeant Major for 26 years, before accepting the appointment as Director of Music in 2003. His retirement from this position in 2005 marked the culmination of 33 years of devoted, formal service to the Regiment, though he continues today to assist the bands of the Toronto Garrison with the annual Military Band Spectacular at Roy Thompson Hall. Also present at this event were a number of former Commanding Officers, RSMs and Honourary Cols. and LCol. – evidence of the esteem in which Capt. MacInnes was held by all.

As the summer approaches, the Military Band looks forward to a full season of public performances at the head of the Regiment on parade, with the Pipes & Drums, and on its own. This summer, as in each of the past 115 summers, the Military Band of the 48th Highlanders of Canada will continue to uphold our regimental motto –

DILEAS GU BRATH.

FROM THE 48TH ARCHIVES EVENTS IN SPRINGTIMES PAST

By HCol Geordie Beal

115 Years Ago – On the 10th of March 1893 the Sergeant’s Mess held their first annual dinner at the Arlington Hotel in downtown Toronto. Guests invited by Sergeant Major Alfred Robertson included officers and NCOs of other Toronto regiments and friends of the 48th Highlanders.

110 Years Ago – On 16 March 1898, Lt. Col. John I. Davidson, first Commanding Officer of the Regiment, retired after 6 years of building and shaping the 48th Highlanders into a leadership position in Militia District No. 2. In recognition of his service he was made the first Honorary Lt. Col. serving in that capacity until his death in 1910.

95 Years Ago – In 1913, the pipers of the 48th Highlanders Pipes & Drums exchanged the Davidson tartan for the Stewart of Fingask. The change, which had been suggested by the newly appointed Pipe Major James R. Fraser, when he arrived in May after 21 years of service with the Gordon Highlanders of Aberdeenshire, was authorized by the Commanding Officer, LCol William Hendrie. The rationale for the selection of the colourful Fingask tartan has remained hidden in history. However, The Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Edinburgh offered the following when questioned in 1952 by Drummer Corporal Bill Elms (later to become RSM of the 48th). “The tartan was used in a cloak said to have been worn by Prince Charles Edward and left by him at Fingask Castle. He went on to wonder if Colonel Michie, who had been Honorary Colonel in 1913, might have “had Jacobite leanings, once visited Fingask and took note of the sett of the tartan.” As King of Arms he noted further “This tartan should be called the Fingask, rather than the Stuart of Fingask”.

55 Years Ago – On 10 July 1943, in total darkness, the 1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders loaded into landing craft for the first assault onto the beaches of Pachino, Sicily. They were part of an initial Allied force of 160,000. The landings were virtually unopposed as the German high command had misread where the Allies were most likely to attack first. However, Sicily with its mountainous terrain and the crack German troops of the Herman Goering Division were to challenge the 48th and the 1st Canadian Division. These challenges turned Sicily into a training ground, as if the lessons drilled into Canadian troops

for the prior three years in England were being extended on the battlefield. Assigned a route down the mountainous centre of Sicily, with General Bernard Montgomery’s 8th Army on the coastal plains to their right and General George Patton’s 45th American (Thunderbolt) Division on the opposite coast to their left, the Canadians would earn the respect of their German foes as a skilful, imaginative and formidable fighting force and soldiers. For the men of the 48th Highlanders they would fight for the next month in the uniforms they wore upon landing. Their supply ship, under attack by u-boats, had been ordered to sea carrying away everything they owned but what they carried in their haversacks and pockets. Battle honours earned by the 48th recognized their successes at the towns of *Valguanera*, *Assoro*, *Agira*, *Adrano* and *Regalbuto*, in addition to *Landing in Sicily* and *Sicily 1943*.

On 10 July 1943, in total darkness, the 1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders loaded into landing craft for the first assault onto the beaches of Pachino, Sicily. They were part of an initial Allied force of 160,000.

10 Years Ago – On 4 January 1998, eastern Ontario, Quebec and parts of the Maritime provinces came to a standstill. The worst ice storm of the century denied electrical power to a quarter of a million Ontarians as transmission towers and poles collapsed under the weight. In Quebec, six times as many people were left without power, many trapped in freezing temperatures, isolated from food or essential medical help. The military, under Aid to the Civil Power, was called out across Canada. Regular and reserve personnel totaling 15,875 responded, serving for two weeks in Canadian towns and countryside. Twenty-eight Highlanders, part of 624 reservists from 32 Brigade, found themselves at McDonalds Corners in Lanark township, in Brockville and in the surrounding hamlets. Putting combat lessons aside, Highlanders applied their ingenuity and leadership in clearing trees, moving citizens to shelters, guarding the scarce portable generators and delivering emergency supplies. In March, the *Canadian Geographic* magazine noted: “As for the soldiers, they were impressively organized, competent, disciplined and equipped for whatever the weather might throw at them.” 🦅

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SCHEDULE of the 48th Highlanders of Canada REGIMENTAL FAMILY

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	DRESS
1 June 08	Church Parade	MPA	Full Dress
6-8 June 08	Highland Stryker (Employer/DCA day)	GFB Borden	Cbts
7 June 08	Turner Shoot		More Info to Follow
14 June 08	OP Highlander Home Front	MPA 1400 hrs	RSM to dir.
26 July 08	48th Highlanders Annual Family Picnic	RCL Acton On 1230 hrs	Casual
25 Oct 08	Sgt's and WO's Annual Mess Dinner	MPA	Mess Kit or Appropriate attire

LAST POST

The following Highlanders passed away recently:

GIRDLESTONE, Frank	January 29, 2008	Fort Erie	Ont.
SEAGRAM, Charles Joseph	January 29, 2008	Barrie	Ont.
THOMPSON, Bruce	February 4, 2008	Orangeville	Ont.
PHILLIPS, Travis	January, 2008		
FAULKNER-BROWN, Harry	February 10, 2008	England	G.B.
CONNOR, Arthur	March 1, 2008	Pictou	Ont.
FELL, Charles Edward	March 20, 2008	Winnipeg	Man.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning We will remember them.

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SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE RSM; ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY PLEASE NOTE:

OPERATION HIGHLANDER HOME FRONT

Is designed to support those members of the active battalion about to deploy overseas. It starts with a BBQ at Moss Park Armoury, 14 Jun at 1400 hours, and will continue until such time as all of these Highlanders return home to Canada.

DILEAS

CONFINED TO BARRACKS

1) SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL

– VETERANS WING

- John Jack Follett - K3W Room 88
- Nelson Liston - K3E Room 21
- Jim McCallen - K2E Room 33
- Bill Waterson - K1W Room 21

2) BAYCREST HOSPITAL

– 3560 BATHURST STREET

- Lloyd Tucker - 7th floor

3) SPECIAL CARE UNITS

- BILLINGS - Henry David,
- CARTER - Clifford W.,
- JACKSON - Keith (KC),
- McCRON - Don,
- PICKERING - Jack,
- VIRAG - Wendell,
- WALKER - George

4) CONFINED AT HOME

– PROBLEMS GETTING AROUND

- COLTON - G.E.,
- FOREST - Ed,
- McKENNA - Jack,
- SOPER - Kenneth.

For addresses and/or telephone numbers of above Highlanders, please contact
OCA President John Dunne at
905-839-6487 or john063@webtv.net

These Highlanders will be
pleased to hear from you.

Give them a call or better still,
pay them a visit.

Don't forget, they are Dileas, as are we.

