



THE FALCON

ISSUE NO. 23

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL FAMILY

FALL 2011

“DILEAS 120” REUNION WEEKEND 4-6 NOV, 2011 DETAILS INSIDE

48TH HIGHLANDERS DVD HISTORY PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION FOR DILEAS 120

By: Sgt. (ret'd) Al Kowalenko

After nearly two years of work, the 48th Highlanders DVD history project is nearing completion. Countless hours of meetings, WWII veteran interviews, script preparation and production editing have been involved in this technically challenging process.

The result will be a superlative DVD entitled “That Dileas Spirit: 48th Highlanders of Canada at War- 1939-1945” which will be available for sale during the Regiment’s 120th Anniversary celebrations this November. As well, the DVD will be a fitting tribute to our WWII veterans, whose sacrifices for Canada should never be forgotten.

Our sincere thanks goes to the 48th Video History Legacy (VHL) Committee for their excellent work in producing the first ever DVD to document a critical phase of the Regiment’s history.

VHL Committee members from the Regiment included former serving members Geordie Beal, Al Kowalenko, Steve Gilbert, Dave Archer and Don Norris. Professional assistance was provided by a group of technical consultants, sound

technicians, film editors and narrators, who contributed to the project on volunteer time or at minimum cost.

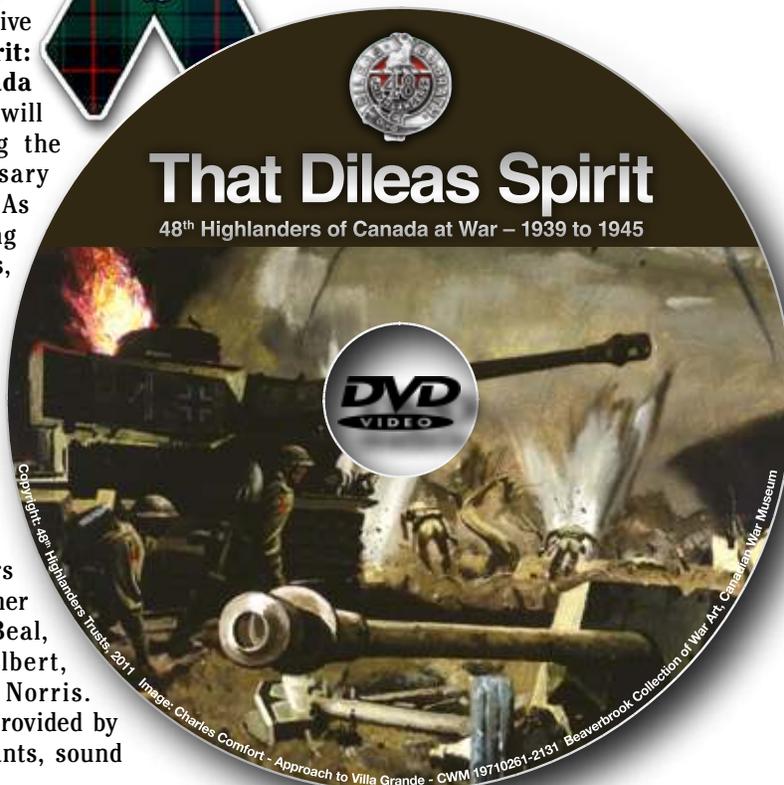
“That Dileas Spirit” includes colourful commentary by 23 of our own WWII veterans, who fought in the overseas campaign, authentic Canadian Army Newsreels of the war, and great documentary photographs from the 48th Museum archives.

The DVD presents three major episodes, covering all aspects of the 48th Highlanders experience during the 1939 to 1945 era. Its running time will be more than four hours and the DVD will contain hundreds of stirring

war images and first hand commentary never before assembled on video. It will undoubtedly be one of the best visual histories of a serving Canadian regiment.

As a special promotion, the DVD will be available for sale at the 120th Anniversary celebrations this November for the low price of \$10 per copy (cash only, no tax). The VHL Committee wants everyone in the Regimental Family to own a copy of “That Dileas Spirit”. It will also make an excellent gift for family and friends at all special occasions.

For further information on the DVD see the flyer included in this issue of The Falcon, or contact Al Kowalenko, ursa77@rogers.com, Tel: 416-219-4967.



DILEAS 120 YEAR THEMES

Serving since 1891 in peace and in war... at home and abroad

Honour the legacy of highlanders who served 1939 to 1945

Re-connecting with highlanders who have served in the 60s/70s/80s

48th Highlanders homecoming 4-6 November - it's a family gathering - be there!

...SEE PAGE 7 FOR MORE DETAILS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

FELLOW HIGHLANDERS,

This will be my final opportunity as Commanding Officer to write to you through the Falcon. The past few years have seen tremendous changes as well as opportunities for the 48th Highlanders and your soldiers have demonstrated a knack for coming through regardless of the task at hand. This year we recognize "120 Years of Service to Canada" and our leaders will ensure that our record of service remains unparalleled going forward.

We have seen a large number of our soldiers deployed overseas on operations and in particular to Task Force Afghanistan. Our soldiers were again out in front on Domestic Operations in the Arctic as well as during the G8/G20 summits last summer. Taking advantage of these opportunities has resulted in an Officers Mess and Sergeants Mess that are the strongest they have been in many years. However, we must remember that the strength of a unit is in its Junior NCOs. Our Junior NCOs are some of the best trained and most experienced soldiers in the CF and continue to impress me with their dedication and resilience.

Most recently the 48th Highlanders were asked to lead an Infantry Battlegroup during EX MAPLE DEFENDER at CMTC Wainwright. RSM Joseph and I were fortunate to lead this composite Battalion of over 600 soldiers. It was a privilege to not only work with soldiers from units across Canada, who we rarely get to see, but also to see our own Highlanders, particularly our junior members, meeting each challenge thrown at them.

This summer I was also able to see our Pipes and Drum band in action at various festivals. They continue to do an admirable job representing the unit in the public eye. The Military Band, the Museum, the Website maintainers and Falcon volunteers also continue to keep our public face a positive one and my thanks to all of them.

Being Commanding Officer has been a humbling and exhausting experience but it has also always been rewarding. As we look forward to celebrating our 120th anniversary together, I hope I will get a chance to thank, individually, each one of you for your dedication and service.

DILEAS

J. McEWEN
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
COMMANDING OFFICER 

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

PROMOTIONS SINCE 01 MAY

TO CPL

Pte McCrae 31 Jul 11
 Pte Kalabic 11 May 11
 Pte Ellis 17 Apr 11
 Pte Thompson 19 Apr 11
 Pte Wakelam 5 Apr 11
 Pte Leung 14 Jun 11

TO SGT

MCpl Park 17 Jun 11
 MCpl Frank 13 May 11
 MCpl Corea 1 Apr 11
 MCpl Bennett 1 Apr 11

TO WO

Sgt Hanson 14 Jun 11

TO MWO

WO Carswell 14 Jun 11

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

BGen (ret'd) G. Young - Afghanistan, 2006-2007

SERVICE MEDALS

Capt Alkema - Operation Service Medal
 Sierra Leone 5 Jul 11
 LCol McEwen - Operation Service Medal
 Sierra Leone 5 Jul 11

GENERAL CAMPAIGN STAR 1ST ROTATION BAR - OP ATHENA ROTO 9, KANDAHAR

Cpl Bradbury 25 Feb 11
 Cpl Choi M. 15 Apr 11
 Cpl Choi V. 19 Jan 11
 MCpl Chung P.P.Y. 6 May 11
 Lt Hsiung 2 Jun 11
 MCpl Marga D 15 Apr 11
 Capt Morische 15 Apr 11
 MCpl Kinkaid 25 Feb 11
 Sgt Olyinykov 6 May 11
 Cpl Primerano 19 Jan 11
 MCpl Thomas 4 Apr 11

COMMENDATIONS

RSM MWO R. Joseph - Canada Command
 Commendation 28 Feb 11 for OP NANOOK
 Maj A Best - Canada Command Certificate of
 Achievement 16 May 11 for OP NANOOK



HONOURARY COLONEL PRESENTS A SECOND PIPE BANNER TO THE ST. ANDREW'S CORPS



L to R: Maj Brian McCue, SAC Cadet Corps Commanding Officer, Sgt (ret'd) Herb Pike, holding the new Pipe Banner, HCOL John Newman and Cadet Pipe Major Arun Partridge

Honourary Colonel John Newman gave the following speech to the Cadet Corps on the occasion of this presentation.

"On the 17th of April, 1945 the 48th Highlanders of Canada, together with other elements of the First Canadian Division, liberated the city of Apeldoorn Holland from Nazi occupation. Every year since then the citizens of Apeldoorn have celebrated their freedom on or close to the anniversary of their liberation. Last year, some 65 years later, May the 8th was the date set for their annual celebrations of this event. The 48th Highlanders Pipe and Drums and members of the Old Comrades Association were invited to attend. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, our pipe band was not able to be there. However, representatives of the Old Comrades Association including Sgt. Herb Pike, who participated in the liberation of Apeldoorn in 1945 and who is with us here today, returned to represent the Regiment in the celebrations. Fortunately, they were also supported by the Pipes and Drums of the St. Andrews College #142 Cadet Corps, who stood in for the 48th Pipes and Drums. Due to remarkably fortuitous planning by the School's leadership they were scheduled to be in Holland at the same time!

Today, Herb and I are here to present a pipe banner, which is a customized replica of the one carried by our Regimental band, as a thank you to the St. Andrews Pipes and Drums for supporting us so well at the Apledoorn freedom events.

Please accept this pipe banner with the Regiment's congratulations on a job well done."



48TH RAISES MONEY FOR THE TMFRC



L to R, BGEN Fred Lewis, author Jean Miso, Karen Barker, Christie Blatchford, LCOL John McEwen and HCOL John Newman hold Jean's Book We'll Never Forget. At the time of publication of this issue of the Falcon, Jean had successfully sold 2114 copies of her book.

On Thursday, March 24, 2011 the Toronto Military Family Resource Centre (TMFRC) held a gala event to support the centre's military families. The Black Tie event was held at the Canadian Forces College, 215 Yonge Blvd. The evening commenced with the piping in of the Master of Ceremonies, Ken Shaw from CTV by our own 48th Pipe Major Iain Lang. Hot and cold appetizers, delicious desserts and wine were served to the guests. Military and civilian attendees strolled around the fabulous silent auction items placing their bids in hopes of taking home the prize. Guest speaker Christie Blatchford from the Globe and Mail relived her trip to Afghanistan with poignant stories of life on the base. Christie is very supportive of our military. The 48th Highlanders Regiment was well represented at this event with the C.O. Lt. Col. John McEwen, Hon. Col. John Newman, Pipe Major Iain Lang and 48th Highlanders Chapter IODE Regent and Vice-Chair of the TMFRC Karen Barker. Jean Miso, author of *We'll Never Forget*, was present to autograph copies of her book and took the opportunity to pose for a picture with fellow author Christie Blatchford.



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

falcon_newsletter@hotmail.com

Thank you to all those who made submissions to this issue.

This issue of the **FALCON** published by

Capt Steve Gilbert - Editor
Sgt (ret'd) Adam Bernard - Design

for more info about Adam Bernard's graphic design services please visit:
www.adambernard.ca or call **647-428-5817**



That Dileas Spirit

48th Highlanders of Canada at War – 1939 to 1945



Copyright: 48th Highlanders Trusts 2011



That Dileas Spirit tells the story of the 48th Highlanders of Canada through 6 years of war from 1939 to 1945. In Sicily, Italy and Holland as part of the 1st Brigade the 48th faced the best the enemy had to offer. They were renowned for achieving objectives on time and as planned, succeeding where others had

failed, or dared not go. On the battlefield they were never out of control and cool under stress regardless of the surprises that arose.

That Dileas Spirit is the story of the men who embodied the spirit they called "***Dileas***", a word taken from their regiment's motto ***Dileas gu Brath***, Gaelic for Faithful Forever.

The story is told by 48th Highlander veterans in their own words against the backdrop of images from Canadian Army Newsreels of the war period and photographs from museum archives and Highlanders' personal collections.

EPISODE 1: PREPARATION AND LEARNING begins with the mobilization of the 48th Highlanders' 1st Battalion in September 1939. It follows them through training in England to the battles of Sicily and southern Italy in 1943.

EPISODE 2: MASTERS ON THE BATTLEFIELD covers the major and eventful battles of central and northern Italy, including the Hitler Line, Gothic and Rimini Lines and the rivers of the north during 1943 and 1944.

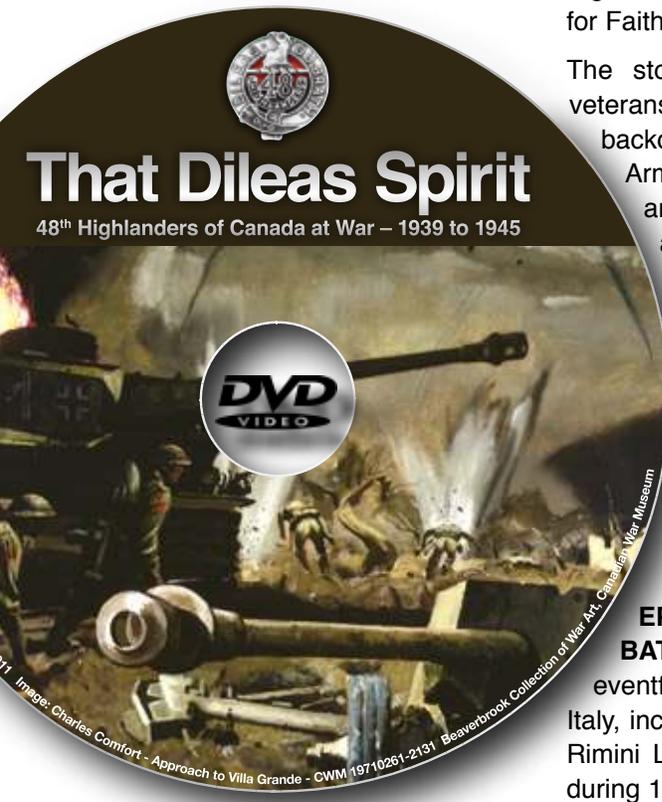
EPISODE 3: VICTORY, HONOUR AND HOME sees the 48th transferred to participate in the final liberation of The Netherlands and their return home in 1945.

**Own a piece of
48th Highlanders
history by purchasing
a copy of
"That Dileas Spirit"**

The DVD will be available for a special promotional price of just **\$10** (cash only, no tax) at the

**"Dileas 120" Anniversary
celebrations, Moss
Park Armoury, Toronto,
November 4-6, 2011.**

*Pre-orders will be taken during the October 14-16 weekend, Moss Park Armoury, by Regimental Kit Shop staff or members of the Video History Legacy (VHL) Committee.



THE ACTIVE BATTALION

EXERCISE MAPLE DEFENDER

By Capt Alexander Gawel, Adjt

This summer, the 48th Highlanders of Canada was the Battle Group lead, commanded by LCol J.M.C. McEwen, for Ex MAPLE DEFENDER 1101 (Ex MD). This was the Army's major collective training opportunity for the Reserve Forces. For the first time, the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC) at CFB Wainwright, Alberta, focused on a non-Afghanistan scenario as a result of the draw down of Canada's combat role in Afghanistan. Ex MD's scenario was derived from the Common Contemporary Training Scenario, which focuses on failed state and conventional operations.

The 48th Highlanders and other units from across Canada formed four Light Infantry Companies and a Battle Group (BG) Headquarters, which totalled approximately 500 soldiers. Ex MD 1101 was a 10 day field training exercise in which the BG was tasked to clear its Area of Operation. It culminated in a final BG attack on a fixed enemy position. During the exercise, soldiers honed and improved their skills while learning to operate within a BG structure. Overall, Exercise MAPLE DEFENDER was well received by the soldiers and our Unit demonstrated its ability to lead a composite Reserve battalion.

Clockwise from top right: 1) An aerial view of Objective Royal Fortune. 2) Final debrief of the exercise. Cpl Richardson, Sgt Leandro, Sgt Corea, Sgt Park. 3) Operating in a built up environment. 4) Sgt Leandro, Sgt Park. 5) MCpl Kinkaid and Cpl Choi. 6) Returning home.



THE ACTIVE BATTALION



DILEAS 120 REUNION EVENTS



16 OCT 11 – REGIMENTAL CHANGE OF COMMAND

LOCATION: Moss Park Armoury
TIMINGS: 1300 for 1400
for details contact the BOR
416-635-2765

4 NOV 11 REGIMENTAL FAMILY MEET & GREET

LOCATION: Moss Park Armouries
TIMINGS: 1900 on
MESSES OPEN
Come out and mingle with fellow members of the Regimental Family

05 NOV 11 MOUNT PLEASANT REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

LOCATION: Mount Pleasant Cemetery, east entrance off Mt. Pleasant Rd.
TIMINGS: 1030 parade assembles
DRESS: Regimental Blazer, medals, Glengarry
CONTACT: John Dunne
905-839-6487
48thOCA@gmail.com

05 NOV 11 – OCA REMEMBRANCE DINNER

LOCATION: York Reception Centre
TIMINGS: 1700 – 2359
DRESS: Mess Kit, Blues, DEU, Suit
COST: \$55 per person
CONTACT: John Dunne
905-839-6487
48thOCA@gmail.com

06 NOV 11 – REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

LOCATION: Queen's Park Circle
TIMINGS: 0930 OCA buses at MPA
1030 form up on Wellesley Street
Messes open at MPA after March back
DRESS: Old Comrades: Blazer, tie, medals
CONTACT: 48th Highrs BOR,
416-635-2765 or
John Dunne
905-839-6487
48thOCA@gmail.com

BILL REISTMA SUCCEEDED BY ANS VAN AMERONGEN AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 48TH IN APELDOORN

By Col (ret'd) Geordie Beal

For almost a decade, Reitse Reitsma, known as Bill by his many 48th Highlander friends, has been the representative appointed by the burgemeester of Voorst (and Apeldoorn) in The Netherlands to lead the honouring of 48th Highlanders past and present in official ceremonies. These annual ceremonies include a Silent March held on May 4 from the center of Twello to the monument "For those who fell in 1940-1945" and the laying of a wreath on behalf of the 48th Highlanders. There are also ceremonies at that time and at Christmas at the Holten Cemetery in which Lt Col Donald Mackenzie and 19 Highlanders are buried.

In the Silent March in 2010 Ritze indicated that as he had reached eighty years he felt he should retire from his official position.

The burgemeester accepted Bill's request and asked Ans von Amerongen if she would be willing to assume the responsibilities. Ans accepted, stating: "It was a tremendous honor to be allowed to do so."

Ans von Amerongen lives in Steenkamer, very close to Wilp in the province of Gelderland in the eastern part of the Netherlands. Ans and her husband Kees have been married for over 30 years and have a son Adriaan 24 and a daughter Annemarike 20. Ans is a business broker and also councillor in the municipality of Voorst. Kees is a lecturer at the Police Academy in Apeldoorn. Their son is a police officer in Utrecht and their daughter is studying nursing.

Highlanders who have met Bill Reitsma know him as a great friend, dedicated to all 48th Highlanders - veterans, current members and family descendants. In one of the recent celebrations held in Apeldoorn our veterans presented Bill with a 48th Glengarry to recognize that we consider him part of the 48th family. We thank him from the depths of our hearts and know that Bill will continue to be part of our lives



**PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM: 1) Ans von Amerongen
2) Silent March in Twello - May 4 2010
3) A Dutch youth lays flowers on Lt Col Mackenzie's grave in Holten - Christmas 2010. This tradition began in 1945 and continues every year Holten Cemetery on
4) Christmas Eve 2010. Candles placed by Dutch children in a ceremony held by families and citizens of Voorst**

and events.

Ans von Amerongen also has deep ties with the 48th Highlanders and is well known to many veterans and members of the Old Comrades. Her story is below We welcome her in her new official role.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

By Ans van Amerongen

(Ans van Amerongen was asked how her relationships with the 48th Highlanders began. Ans wrote the following for The Falcon.)

In the eighties we had friends in the city of Apeldoorn named Iet and Eef Gerritsen. Eef was owner of a large taxi company. They were also friends with Jhr. Mr. Pieter Beelaerts van Blokland, at that period the mayor of Apeldoorn.

Eef Gerritsen was in the committee "We do remember". That committee and Apeldoorn were making preparations for the first big parade for the Canadian Liberators in May 1985. A number of Canadians (Michael George, Cliff Weir, John Oliver and others of the 48th Highlanders) had come to Apeldoorn on their own before the official celebrations with the Canadian liberators began. Since we were going on holiday to Canada Mr. Pieter Beelaerts asked Eef to take photos from that visit with us and mail them in a post office in Canada.

During that holiday we stayed in Guelph in the house of Eef Gerritsen's uncle, called Herman. He and his wife Grada emigrated to Canada after the war. He carried the resistance memorial cross for his work with the resistance in the Netherlands during WW2.

We saw on the package with photos that it was addressed to the 48th Highlanders of Canada in Toronto. Uncle Herman approached the 48th Highlanders in Toronto asking where we should bring the photos to. An hour later we were called back and requested to visit the "Apeldoorn Room" in your veterans building. There we were welcomed by at least 40 veterans.

In the museum we showed some of the men on the map that we live very close to Wilp and that the 48th freed also Wilp en Steenkamer, where my mother and my grandparents also lived. I remember the stories of my grandfather: they had one-man holes in the garden, some kind of bomb shelters, where my grandfather, grandmother and my mother were hiding



during the bombarding and battle. During one of these battles a Canadian soldier (probably 48th) suddenly opened the lid and held a gun pointing at my grandfather. They thought the Germans were still hiding. Of course they were extremely happy that it was a Canadian, meaning that the war was over!

It was funny to discover that maybe we were face to face with the liberators of my mother and her parents.

At the same time we were deeply moved to see how it touched the veterans present. After all, during those days in April '45 their commanding officer was killed in Wilp. Was the circle round by now? Was there a meaning for this to happen? In any case, it was a great afternoon, we will never forget!

That was the beginning of long friendships. Afterwards we went back in Canada, with Michael George and his wife Ruby sailing on Lake Ontario. We stayed in the cottage on an island of Cliff Weir. We stayed for some weeks in the house of Bud Lloyd. When 48th Highlanders visited Holland, they stayed in our place. Wonderful men like Bud Lloyd and Bob Harding.

In 1985 and 1990 were the big parades in Apeldoorn and commemorations in Holten, Wilp etc. A lot of veterans stayed in Holland

during those days, mostly with host families. There was a special Canadian Club located in downtown Apeldoorn, a meeting place for Canadians and Dutch. I assisted in the office where veterans registered and my husband Kees went along as guide during all trips. We organized bus trips to places such as the flower fields. They were wonderful times.

Every year on April 17 there was, and still is, a commemoration in the Holten War Cemetery (liberation Apeldoorn). Then on May 4 we have a silent march to the War Memorial (Memorial Day) and ending on May 5, the traditional liberation celebrations in the Netherlands.

When I became active in politics in the municipality of Voorst I came in contact with former Mayor Johannes van Blommesteijn. He also had warm ties with the Canadian veterans and the 48th Highlanders in particular.

The veterans continued to arrive every year even though there were no official events with our Canadian liberators.

Last year was the final year in The Netherlands of official commemorations with the Canadian veterans. In 2010 once again many ceremonies were organized with and for our liberators, including an official commemoration in the town of Wilp.

The secretary of Mr. Jos Penninx (mayor of Voorst) contacted Jan Koorenhof (for many years very active with the 48th Highlanders) to see if there was a possibility that some veterans would visit Wilp. We learned that veterans of the 48th Highlanders led by HCol George Beal would visit Wilp to donate a sum of money to provide for the renovation of the organ in the church. The church and organ were severely damaged by German fire [during the battle in which Lt Col Mackenzie was killed]. Mayor Penninx decided to officially receive the 48th Highlanders at Wilp. We were also honoured with the visit of the students of Owen Sound Collegiate. [Mackenzie had attended the collegiate as a youth – ed] The ceremonies at Holten, Wilp and Twello were heart-warming and moving. The highlight last year was the parade in Apeldoorn.

SO FAR MY STORY... ANS



HISTORICA-DOMINION INSTITUTE



A project of **The Historica-Dominion Institute, The Memory Project** brings veterans' stories to Canadians in classrooms and online through its Speakers Bureau and vast oral history Archive. Which contains more than 2,500 Second World War and Korean War testimonials. To share your story, or to become a speaker, please call **1-866-701-1867** or visit **www.thememoryproject.com**

48TH HIGHLANDER'S PIPES & DRUMS

PIPES AND DRUMS ACTIVITIES 2011

The Pipes and Drums have had a very busy summer with a lot of travel and a lot of new tunes to learn. In addition to our trip to Virginia as part of the CF contingent to this event, the Pipes and Drums were again the driving force of the Canadian International Tattoo in Hamilton with the Pipe Major, MWO Iain Lang, being the Senior Pipe Major for involved. Also, filling in for an ill Senior Drum Major on the Saturday rehearsals and performance was our Drum Major, (WO) Chris Reesor. The 48th are quickly becoming the main contributor of band personnel for



this show.

In Late July the Pipes and Drums had a small contingent play at the annual Regimental Picnic at Old Fort York. This was followed closely by the annual Fergus Highland Games Tattoo performance in August, the CF Musical Salute at the CNE Band Shell and the official opening of the CNE and Warriors' Day Parade. The 48th were again very well received at the Fergus Tattoo where we performed with the Royal Regiment of Canada band.

The 48th were asked specifically to take part in the official opening of the CNE this year as the focus was the anniversary of the Band Shell. The Highlanders have performed in this location more than any other band in its history. And, we were also the first to do so.

Following this, on Saturday August 20, our bands were again privileged to lead the 48th contingent (and the entire Warriors' day parade) through the Princes' Gates.

As always, we are honoured and humbled to be able to support our 48th vets in this fashion.

In September, the Pipes and Drums travelled to Trenton to take part in the second annual Trenton Military Tattoo in support of the Trenton Scottish and Irish Festival. This required the members to take a day off work on a Friday to rehearse and do the show. The 8 Wing Trenton Pipes and Drums were great hosts and provided good accommodations



and excellent rations for our members. The following Saturday morning saw the band take part in the parade to officially open the festival, before a mid afternoon return trip to Toronto. It was a short visit, but one enjoyed by all.

By the time you will be reading this issue, the Pipes and Drums will likely have already performed for the opening of the Maple Leafs hockey season on October 6th and possibly have played for the Change of Command Parade (October 16). We will then prepare to take part in the annual RCMI concert at Roy Thomson Hall (October 23) the 120th Reunion Weekend (4 - 6 Nov), the Remembrance Day Week activities, the St. Andrews' Ball (Nov 26) and the Men's Christmas Dinner in December.



THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA PERFORM AT THE VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

By Cpl Kerry Buker, Pipes and Drums

On Saturday April 23, 2011 band members of various reserve units converged at Denison Armouries. The contingent comprised musicians from local units such as Lorne Scots, Toronto Scottish, Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada, and the 48th Highlanders of Canada. They were effectively led by our Pipe Major, Iain Lang. In Virginia,

these units would be joined by members of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa and 8 Wing based out of CFB Trenton. This impressive assembly of musicians was to form the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Canadian Forces for the Virginia International Tattoo.

After much anticipation, the long-awaited morning of departure finally arrived. The orders were to be at the armoury for 6:30AM to catch the bus to Norfolk Virginia. At such an early hour, it became evident that many of us were used to being in bed when the sun is rising, certainly not climbing aboard a bus. However, despite the early hour, there were no stragglers to wait for and we soon had personal kit and instruments quickly stowed in the bowels of the military highway coach.

Soon the bus was carrying us south towards the Canada/US border. The border crossing was uneventful, apart from the standard security checks. Once clearing the crossing however, the trip began to take an eventful turn when P/M Terry Cleland pulled out his practice chanter and tattoo music. I knew right away that this would not be good. Terry is the Pipe Major of 400 Squadron Pipes and Drums and I had the distinct pleasure of serving with that unit for approximately 16 years. Thus, I had a sense of what was to follow - a 6 hour chanter practice ensued! This was something that most of the pipers were definitely not use to. Wedged between the sound of familiar tunes, I began to recognize other, less familiar sounds. The moans and groans of various pipers, some still bleary-eyed from the early morning rise, became more frequent and distinct as the practise continued. Consistent with Terry's exacting leadership as a Pipe Major, tunes were practised again and again...and again. I believe there were various lengths of time in which P/M Iain Dewar was actually sleeping, even as his fingers continued to play the tunes. This was quite impressive and, when you're on a 14-16 hour bus trip, what else is there to do but work on the music?

The bus pulled into the Hampton Inn at approximately 10:30pm and we quickly checked in, were issued our allotment of "Barney Bucks" to purchase meals at local restaurants and retired for the night.

The Senior Drum Major for the tattoo was the 48th Highlanders own, D/M Chris Reesor, who imposed his experienced leadership on the effective coordination of activities, timings and drill.

The next 5 days involved rehearsal after rehearsal, fine tuning the drill, nailing the

48TH HIGHLANDER'S PIPES & DRUMS

attacks and cut-offs and playing the music over and over again.

The U.S. Marine Corps Conductor CWO Szabo coined an interesting term.

In typical Marine Corps fashion the phrase "Bag It" was introduced. Members of the CF contingent got a good chuckle and used the term fairly liberally over the course of the next several days.

This term became so endearing to Tyler Bridge and Scott McIntyre that they spent some very creative time at the back of the bus brainstorming lyrics for the "Bag It" term, sung to the popular Kenny Rogers tune "The Gambler".

By the time the first show began, we were ready. Hours of practise and the commitment of everyone involved paid off in the quality of the tattoo and the confidence displayed by all of the participants. The 48th contingent consistently demonstrated a very high level of drill precision and the musicianship was excellent. The professionalism demonstrated by all members of the unit was on display throughout the trip and I personally was very proud to wear the Stuart of Fingask tartan and represent the fine traditions of the Regiment.



NEW! A Great New Lapel Pin Only Available From The 48th Highlanders Continuing Sergeants Association



Available at all
Regimental Events
or the WO and
Sgts Mess!

Show your ***Patriotism*** and
Support for our Troops
and
Regimental Pride
ALL IN ONE!

Only \$5 while supplies last!



100% of profits go to
the Charities of the
48th Highlanders
Sergeants Mess Fund!

48TH HIGHLANDER'S MUSEUM



OUR MUSEUM'S DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

By Dave Archer

As many Highlanders know the Regimental Museum's doors are always open to visitors on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the year. What you may not know is that once a year the Museum participates in Doors Open Toronto.

Doors Open Toronto is a two-day city wide event that takes place one weekend a year. During this event, Toronto's most significant historical, architectural or cultural buildings are open to the public.

This year our Museum opened its doors, and hundreds of eager visitors were anxious to spend some time with us. With this year's theme being Photography, some of the gems of our collection were put on display. A photo album showing the members of the Sgt's Mess from 1900, photo scrapbooks from the 134th Battalion from WWI and the 1st Battalion scrapbook highlighting the Italian Campaign in WWII were taken out of

storage for the visitors to see. The Museum's recent addition of our Book of Remembrance shows photos of many Highlanders that made the supreme sacrifice during WWI and WWII and was very well received by the public. Some visitors took the time to look at every photo in the book.

One photo hanging in an inconspicuous place that is often overlooked for its importance is a post-WWI photo of Collin Fraser Barron. The photo shows CSM Barron in his full 48th Highlanders uniform, proudly wearing his Victoria Cross. Barron served with the 48th prior to WWI and returned to the Regiment after the war. During that war, he served with Royal Regiment of Canada where he received the VC.

At the end of Doors Open Toronto tour everyone involved came away surprised at depth our collection and had a better understanding of the 48th Highlanders rich link to Toronto's historic past.

So remember Highlanders, this is your Museum. Drop by and see us sometime and see what the general public saw at Doors Open



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Jan Jansen, Gord Smith, Ron Denham, Jim Cassie 2) Victoria Cross winner Collin Barron 3) Gord Smith, John Stephens 4) Visitors Dimitry Kirner, Nicole, Erika 4) Herb Pike, Jim Cassie, Tom Thompson

48TH HIGHLANDER'S MUSEUM

FAMILY OF PTE BERRY, DRIVER TO COLONEL JOHNSTON IN ITALY, DONATES MEDALS TO MUSEUM

On Sunday June 5 as part of the service at St Andrew's Church seven of the family members of Pte John Smith Berry donated his Second War medals to the 48th Highlanders Museum. HCol (ret'd) Geordie Beal accepted the medals on behalf of all Highlanders. Berry, driver to Lt Col Ian Johnston in the Italian campaign, was killed when his jeep ran over a mine.

Attending from their homes in Ottawa were the nephew of Pte Berry, Charles Reid, his wife Marion and his sister Elizabeth Goldstein; Kyle Reid great nephew and his wife Nathalie and their two sons Justin age 11 and Gabriel age 4.

The Reids sat their family pew, that of Peter Berry, father to Pte John Berry.

Speaking for the family Charles said that they felt strongly that the medals should be public rather than kept in their home. He believed that the medals belonged with the regiment that meant so much to John Berry.

In accepting the medals Colonel Beal's made the following remarks to the family and the congregation:

"I am honoured to receive the medals of Pte John Smith Berry on behalf of the 48th Highlanders museum, Pte Berry's Regiment and his church St Andrews. I am also delighted to welcome members of the Berry family to their larger family, that of the 48 Highlanders."

Colonel Beal continued: *"Some explanation is in order, beyond that in the Church service bulletin.*

The museum often has tours from high school students, seniors and community groups. When conducting the tours we at the museum tend to split the group into two for reasons of size, and to allow us to be more personal. Half starts in the church and half in the museum. Then we rotate.

I like to do the church to show our visitors how the 48th Highlanders are integrated into the fabric of St Andrews, our church since our founding in 1891. I usually start with the two Stands of Colours hanging in the apse, the Communion Table – donated by WWI Sgts and NCOs and designed by Dr John Pearson, member of the church, a Sgt and architect of the present Parliament buildings and Peace Tower, and then the stained glass 48th Highlander window with a Highlander in full scarlet dress flanked by Joshua and David, two great soldiers of the Old Testament.

I always end with the plaque to Pte John Berry as it best illustrates the bond between Highlanders, a bond like that in a family, but even more – perhaps somewhat spiritual.

The plaque reads:

To the glory of god
And in pleasant memory of
Pte John Smith Berry
48th Highlanders of Canada
Who gave his life in action in Italy
5th October 1944

The Tribute of a Comrade
"Jonathon delighted much in David"

1 Samuel 19:2

Those of us in the Regiment know the story of Pte Berry. Pte Berry was the driver for Lt Col Ian Johnston – Commanding Officer of the 48th from the landings at Pachino in Sicily through the breaking of the Hitler Line south of Rome. They were close. Colonel Johnston had been best man at Berry's wedding in England. In battle, they were always together. In one battle, south of Ortona, our history tells of Johnston calmly perched on his jeep driving down the main country road, totally in the open, in the middle of the battle, close up to the lead companies. Of course, driving the jeep was Berry.

When Johnston was promoted to Brigadier of 11 Brigade, Pte Berry asked if he could go with him as his driver. Johnston agreed and they left the regiment together. Not too long later Berry's jeep hit a mine, killing him and another 48th officer David Dickie.

After the war Brig Johnston placed the plaque on the church

wall.

When I was a Jr. Officer, I overheard another officer asking Johnston why his name was not on the plaque honouring Pte Berry. His answer was simple – "He was my friend, the honour is his."

To me the plaque, what it says and the story is the best way to explain to visitors about the bond between Highlanders. Here was Lt Col Johnston – the highest rank in the regiment – and Pte Berry – the lowest rank in the regiment. Their bond was, and is, beyond mere words.

However, when I read the plaque – I see that it is signed by Johnston. It says clearly: 'The Tribute of a Comrade'

To the family of John Berry here today, your gift of his medals means to us that: John Berry is with his comrades; John Berry is with his church, and, John Berry's story, of his service and his comradeship, will be told again and again by his regiment.

We thank you."



Charles Reid presents Pte John Berry's medals and photos to then HCol Beal

15TH BATTALION PROJECT UPDATE



15TH BATTALION MEMORIAL PROJECT: PHASE TWO ACHIEVED

BGen (ret'd) G. Young OMM CD

Following on from the success of Phase One in 2010, the 15th Battalion Memorial Project will complete Phase Two in October 2011. Readers will recall that Phase One resulted in three permanent memorials being erected in Europe: two in Belgium in the Ypres salient at St Julien and Gravenstafel Ridge; and one in France at The Crow's Nest in Hendecourt-les-Cagnicourt. Phase Two will be completed ahead of schedule and on budget chiefly because of the lessons learned and contacts made during Phase One. The newest memorials to the 15th Battalion are currently under construction on Observatory Ridge near Ypres and at Festubert with the former scheduled for unveiling and dedication on 22 October, 2011 and the latter on 23 October, 2011.

The Observatory Ridge memorial commemorates the 02 June 1916 counterattack on the ridge by the 15th and 14th Battalions during the early stages of the battle for Mount Sorrel. Festubert memorial commemorates the 20 May 1915 attack on the North Breastworks and Canadian Orchard by the 15th and 16th Battalions.

As the Falcon goes to press, the 15th Battalion Memorial

SPECIAL MUSEUM REQUEST

THE 15TH BATTALION PROJECT is looking for a variety of world war I memorabilia for display in museum locations (for example: the Passchendaele Museum in Ypres Belgium) with which the project has become associated.

Possible items of interest include: letters, photographs etc.

Currently one of the project's key priorities in this area is for uniforms and accoutrements of a 15TH BATTALION Sgt who served circa 1916.

Anyone able to assist us is asked to contact a member of the project team (HCol Newman, BGen (ret'd) Young or Cpts (ret'd) Goldman Or Gilbert)

15thbncef@gmail.com

Project is putting the finishing touches on the unveiling and dedication ceremonies and preparing to depart for Europe. The trip will not be all ceremonial however as the Project Team will be conducting recces for Phase Three sites at Marquion, Hill 70 and the Somme. The next issue of the Falcon will contain articles covering all the Phase two ceremonies and activities.



The 15th Battalion C.E.F Memorial Project (48th Highlanders of Canada)

&

The City of Ieper (Ypres)

Cordially invite you and a guest

To the unveiling & dedication of a memorial to the 15th Battalion C.E.F

*On Observatory Ridge near Ieper (Ypres), Belgium
Zandvoordestraat & Schachteweidestraat south of Zillebeke
On the 22nd of October 2011.*

16:00hrs Observatory Ridge memorial Zandvoordestraat

17:00hrs reception Cloth Hall Ieper (Ypres)

19:30hrs march to Menin Gate

20:00hrs Menin Gate Last Post ceremony

RSVP by the 30th of September 2011

*BRIGADIER-GENERAL (ret'd) GREGORY YOUNG OMM, CD
CHAIRMAN 15TH BATTALION MEMORIAL PROJECT*

bgenyoung@hotmail.com

The 15th Battalion C.E.F Memorial Project (48th Highlanders of Canada)

&

The Town of Festubert

Cordially invite you and a guest

To the unveiling & dedication of a memorial to the 15th Battalion C.E.F

In the Town of Festubert, France

Rue de Lille & Rue Tailles

At 15:00hrs on the 23rd of October 2011

RSVP by the 30th of September 2011

*BRIGADIER-GENERAL (ret'd) GREGORY YOUNG OMM, CD
CHAIRMAN 15TH BATTALION MEMORIAL PROJECT*

bgenyoung@hotmail.com

THE SPOILS OF WAR – A HORSE NAMED ‘FRITZ’

By BGen (ret'd) G Young

We know how his story ended – buried in a simple grave alongside his pal Bruno. But how did it begin? It was a long way from the steppes of Russia to the battlefields of the Western Front before he finished his days on a fruit farm in Nova Scotia.

The previous edition of the Falcon contained a short story on Bruno, the stray Belgian sheepdog that was adopted in 1916 by the 15th Battalion's Commanding Officer, LCol WR Marshall DSO, as the Unit's mascot. Readers learned that when LCol Marshall was killed in 1916, his successor LCol Charles Bent DSO, retained Bruno and took him home at the war's end. When Bruno finally died, he was buried on the Colonel's fruit farm in Nova Scotia alongside Fritz. This is Fritz's story.

In late 1918 the Canadian Corps was engaged in arguably its most successful operation of the war – The Hundred Days which saw them advance in a series of offensives from Amiens to Mons at the war's conclusion. During the advance on the Drocourt-Queant Line in late August-early September, the 15th Battalion was tasked to assault and capture a formidable German strongpoint called 'The Crow's Nest' at Hendecourt-les-Cagnicourt. It was the last and arguably the strongest of a series of forward German positions that barred the way to the D-Q Line. It had to be taken in order to clear the way and secure 'jump-off' positions for the main assault on the D-Q Line itself. In the early morning of 01 September the 15th Battalion assaulted The Crow's Nest and held it against three determined German counterattacks.

Fritz's story begins here in the hours following the capture of The Crow's Nest. The Regimental history records the following:

"Shortly after nightfall, a German officer, returning from leave, came trotting down the road and trotted straight into the arms of Captain Winniffrith and No 4 Company, orderly and all. These 'verdamnt' Canadians! Where was his battery? It had been on the Crow's Nest. He, the commander of it, had been away some time and was unaware of the extent to which ground had been changing hands. He was mounted on a splendid dark bay – a typical cavalry mount which had been captured from the Russians in the east. When Lt-Col Bent returned, he adopted the horse..." 1

There is no mention of the horse again until after the war when the Battalion had returned to Belgium from their stint with the occupation force in Germany and was preparing for their

return to Canada:

"In March 1919 at Bas Oha, Belgium the Bn turned in its transport and horses in preparation for embarkation to England and then from there to Canada. "Lt-Col Bent was permitted however to retain Fritz, the German horse captured at The Crow's Nest."

Somewhere after The Crow's Nest this Russian horse, who had become a German POW who had become a Canadian POW, had become the adopted mount of LCol Bent and been appropriately renamed 'Fritz'.

Upon return to Canada and demobilization, LCol Bent returned home to his fruit farm in Nova Scotia and took Bruno and Fritz with him. The final regimental history entry regarding Fritz states; "years later he was buried beside Bruno on the Colonels's fruit farm near Kentville, N.S."

Unlike Bruno, there are no known photographs of Fritz or accounts of him with LCol Bent during their years together on the farm. And so the tale of a horse named Fritz, like the dog named Bruno, seems to have ended on a quiet farm in the Annapolis Valley. Or has it – the 15th Battalion Memorial Project Team with the assistance of Acadia University Archives is attempting to locate LCol Bent's farm in Paradise NS and any of his descendants with the hope of locating the final resting place of Bruno and Fritz.

Author's Notes:

1. *Captain Gordon Stevenson Winniffrith MC was killed several weeks later leading scout platoon during the assault on the Canal du Nord*
2. *LCol Charles Edward Bent, CMG, DSO was the longest serving CO of the 15th Bn. Born in Pugwash NS, he came from the 17th Bn in April 1915 as part of the over 400 reinforcements transferred from the 17th (Nova Scotia) and 30th Battalions (British Columbia) to the 15th Bn to rebuild it after 2nd Ypres. He became CO after LCol William Renwick Marshall DSO, originally from the 13th Royal Regiment, was KIA in 1916. He brought the Battalion home in 1919, returned to his farm in Paradise NS, died 27 Oct 1955 in Halifax and is buried in Lawrence Town NS.*



BRUNO'S BEGINNINGS UNCOVERED?

By BGen (ret'd) G Young

The previous edition of the Falcon contained a short article on Bruno the Belgian sheepdog adopted by LCol WR Marshall DSO as the mascot of the 15th Battalion. Unlike Fritz the captured German horse that LCol bent brought home to Canada along with Bruno, there are a number of photographs of Bruno in Regimental archives. However, all those photos show Bruno as a large mature black dog usually posing in group photos with members of the 15th Battalion.

Recently the 15 Battalion Project Team uncovered a photograph in archives of what may be Bruno around the time he was adopted as a puppy. The photograph that accompanies this article shows a group of eight 15th Battalion members (several of who are clearly Officers) having a meal in the field somewhere in France or Belgium. The Officer in the right foreground is almost certainly Major CE Bent who was a Major from May 1915 to May 1916 when he replaced LCol Marshall who was killed in action. It was in August of 1915 that Bruno became the Battalion mascot as recounted in the Regimental History. If you look at the photograph closely you will see that Maj Bent is holding a black puppy – could this be Bruno the new mascot of the 15th?

As the photograph (above) is not labelled with any period identification, the identity of the puppy cannot be positively taken as that of Bruno – but there is a very high probability that it is indeed him.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY AS EXPERIENCED BY A HIGHLANDER:

YPRES AND THE MENIN GATE REMEMBRANCE DAY 1993

by Major (ret'd) John Brown CD

Today, November 11th 1993, is the 75th anniversary of the end of "the war to end all wars". It is a glorious day with a clear blue sky, and the temperature is in the mid-50sF, and we have arrived in Ypres early to ensure getting a good vantage point. This city is dominated by three things, the Cathedral, the Cloth Hall and the Menin Gate.

The Menin Gate at Ypres is a Memorial to all soldiers of Great Britain and the British Empire who fought and died at and around Ypres, and who have no known grave. This Memorial is built over the Ypres-Menin Road along which the Tommies had to walk to reach the trenches. It was built, after the war, by Britain but paid for by Germany, as a form of reparation.

As I walk towards the Gate, I am conscious of many languages being spoken - English from Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland and North America, each with its own dialect, French, German, Flemish and many others I don't recognize. Everyone has obviously made the effort to dress for the occasion - no one is scruffy, and most men over 25 are wearing jackets and ties. I am in my blazer with Regimental badge, grey flannels and 48th glengarry, so I feel I am representing our Regiment properly. No coat today it is so mild.

I have a good vantage point up on a shopfront step, so I am a head over the crowd. The chap next to me is wearing a small German flag in his lapel - ironic to think that 75 years ago today, we would each have been trying to kill the other. Instead we are talking. Turns out that his father was killed here - on the "other side" - and he comes here every year.

At one point two women came up to me, and asked me, with a broad Welsh accent, if I was Scottish. I answered "yes, Canadian Scottish, can I help you?" It turned out that they wanted to know something about The Black Watch and their involvement at Ypres, but I couldn't help them unfortunately. When I told them I came from Toronto, one of them said "oh you must know Megan Davies", and were very disappointed, and surprised, when I said I didn't know her!

The scheduled time of 11am has passed with no sign of anything happening. "Typical Belgian

sense of urgency" said the German "this happens every year". I must admit I had to agree with him as I couldn't imagine the Ceremony at the Cenotaph in London starting late. Finally at 11.30 we hear the stirring martial music of a band playing "Colonel Bogey". This turns out to be some English county regimental band, whose badge I didn't recognise, complete with Colours. This is followed by a Belgian Army unit, in blue beret and combat uniform... by a French unit complete with band... by what turns out to be the South Wales Male Voice Choir, here as guests to sing at the Service... followed by the Pipes and Drums of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders... and then the Ypres Fire Brigade. This sound odd, but buglers from the fire brigade have played Last Post at the Menin Gate every evening, at sundown, since the Armistice was signed on November 11th, 1918. Finally, here come the Veterans, first, World War II, and then World War I. Eight WWI Veterans, marching unaided except for canes and one wheelchair, to the music of the Belgian Army band playing "the Boys of the Old Brigade". 8 Veterans whose ages total 810 years we are told... three of them are 103... the youngest is 98! (I am writing this 24 hours later and my eyes are full just thinking about this). Then the dignitaries, a British full General - is it the CGS I wonder - his ADC, some obviously British gents complete with medals, bowler hats and umbrellas (a clear blue sky), and the Mayor of Ypres.

At 2 minutes to 12, an hour late, the Last Post is sounded by the 5 buglers of the Ypres Fire Brigade, and I don't think I've ever heard it played better. During the laying of wreaths, thousands of poppies are placed through the opening in the top of the Gate, to float down to create a carpet of red on the road. The Belgian Army band plays "Abide with Me" - "Amazing Grace" - "O God Our Help in Ages Past" - "O Valiant Heart". I want to sing, but can't, I am so choked with emotion. Now Reveille. Now a 5 gun salute - after each BOOM the crowd shouts '1914', BOOM - '1915' - BOOM - '1916' - BOOM - '1917' - BOOM - '1918'. A prayer, "They shall grow not old... .." and God Save the Queen.

Here we are, in the middle of Belgium, singing God Save the Queen - everyone, an estimated crowd of 10,000, singing the British National Anthem, including the German next to me whose father had been killed by a soldier of the King.

Have you ever sung God Save the Queen, in Ypres, in Belgium on November 11th? I haven't before, but I fervently hope I do again.

THE 15TH BATTALION'S COMMANDING OFFICERS

'ONE FROM HOME. THREE FROM AWAY. AND ONE UP FROM THE RANKS.'

BGen (ret) G Young

The Regimental History 1891-1928 and the various historical accounts of The Regiment written after it record that the 15th Battalion had five Commanding Officers from its stand-up in August 1914 to its demobilization in April 1919. But who were these men who took the 15th Battalion overseas; lead it during four years of bloody fighting on The Western Front; and brought it home again with 21 Battle Honours.

LCol J.A Currie VD was born in Nottawa and had been with the 48th Highlanders since The Regiment was founded. In 1892 he was a Captain Company Officer. Prior to the war Currie had been an author, journalist and Member of Parliament for Simcoe North. He was the Commanding Officer of the 48th at the outbreak of the war and subsequently became the first CO of the 15th Battalion C.E.F when it formed at Valcartier in 1914 as part of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division. He took the Battalion to Salisbury, England for initial training before it went to Belgium in February 1915. LCol Currie was replaced as CO after the Canadian's first major battle at 2nd Ypres and returned to Canada where he was promoted Colonel and made Commandant of Camp Borden. In 1916 he authored 'The Red Watch: with the First Canadian Division in Flanders'. Following the war he ran third in the 1921 election for Mayor of Toronto; and between 1922 and 1929 he was the MLA for Toronto Southeast and St Patrick's. Col Currie died on 28 June 1931.

LCol W.R Marshall, DSO, VD was born in Hamilton On; attended Upper Canada College and was already a long serving veteran officer by the time he joined the 15th Battalion in Valcartier in October 1914 as a Major. He had served as a Lieutenant in the 13th Royal Regiment from Hamilton; as a Captain with the Canadian Mounted Rifles in South Africa during the Boer War; been on the HQ Staff of the 2nd Military District; and was appointed Deputy Commanding Officer upon joining the 15th Battalion. For his actions during the gas attack at 2nd Ypres, Marshall was awarded the DSO and appointed Commanding Officer almost immediately following the battle. LCol Marshall led the Battalion in the fierce fighting at Festubert in 1915 and Mount Sorrel in 1916 before he was killed in action on 19 May 1916. Physically fit, always at the Front and possessing a commanding presence, Marshall was revered by all ranks of the 15th, including Bruno the

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

STORIES OF THE 15TH BATTALION



Major Bent in trenches 1915

mascot he adopted, and his death hit the Battalion hard. He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium.

LCol C.E.Bent,CMG, DSO and bar, VD was born in Pugwash NS and prior to the war he was a Customs Collector. He was the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 15th Bn when in May 1915 he replaced LCol Marshall and with exception of short absences from the Battalion – to command 3rd Brigade, for leave in 1917 and after being wounded in 1918 – remained the Commanding Officer until the Battalion was demobilized. Like Marshall, he too was already an experienced officer by the time he came to the 15th Battalion in 1915. He was part of the over 400 reinforcements mainly from the 17th Battalion (Nova Scotia) and the 30th Battalion (British Columbia) sent to rebuild the 15th Battalion after it was nearly destroyed at 2nd Ypres. Before the war Bent had served in the 93rd Cumberland Regiment from Nova Scotia and then as a Captain and Adjutant of the 17th Battalion

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Many readers will be familiar with the more formal portrait type photographs of these COs found in the Officer's Mess and the Regimental Histories. So I have included some period photographs of them as they were 'then' at the Front.



LCol Marshall's current grave Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery 2010



15th Bn Officers & Bruno Hill 70 1917. 2nd row Maj Forbes 4th and LCol Bent 5th from left. Top row Capt Girvan 4th from left



LCol Bent and 15th Bn Officers



HQ 15th Bn Belgium 1915. Left to right- Adjt Capt Darling, CO LCol Currie, DCO Maj Marshall



LCol Marshall leading the 15th near Ploegsteert 1916 (2)



LCol Bent

STORIES OF THE 15TH BATTALION

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

C.E.F when the war started. He became a platoon commander with 15th and following Festubert was made Deputy Commanding Officer. LCol Bent lead the Battalion at the Somme where he won a Croix de Guerre, Vimy, Hill 70, and Amiens. He was awarded a DSO in 1917 for leadership in the field. Bent commanded during the post war occupation in Germany; brought the Battalion home in 1919 and then returned to Nova Scotia where he was a fruit farmer in Paradise. LCol Bent died on 27 October 1955 and is buried in Fairview Cemetery in Lawrence Town, NS.

LCol J.W.Forbes, DSO was born in Moncton NB and had served in the 106th Regiment of the pre-war militia. He came to the 15th Battalion after 2nd Ypres as a Captain from the 17th Battalion with the same reinforcement drafts that included LCol Bent. Major Forbes served in every major engagement the 15th Bn was involved in and was wounded in action twice He was awarded a DSO in 1917 for leadership in the field and three times he was Mentioned in Dispatches. He was in command of the 15th Battalion twice for short periods: first in October 1917 as Officer Commanding when LCol Bent commanded the 3rd Brigade; and in December 1917 as Commanding Officer and Acting LCol while so employed when LCol Bent was on a three month leave to Canada. Each time he reverted to Major when Bent returned. Following the war he returned to Manitoba and was appointed Demobilization Officer for Manitoba and Western Ontario before eventually resuming his pre-war employment at the Custom & Excise Department. He later became Commissioner of the Manitoba Red Cross and is believed to have died in 1937.

LCol J.P. Girvan DSO, MC, VD was born in Scotland, raised in Toronto, worked as a postal clerk and was a multi championship rower. He joined the 15th Battalion as 27071 Private Girvin J.P and was a Sergeant when commissioned from the ranks in 1915. Having been in every major engagement of the war, he was a decorated (MC awarded at Hill 70), wounded in action, battle experienced Officer by the time he was appointed to Command the 15th Battalion in August 1918 and promoted to LCol while so employed. Major Maybin (a Sgt-Maj also commissioned from the ranks) had been temporarily Officer Commanding the 15th Bn since LCol Bent had been severely wounded by shrapnel during the battle of Amiens in August. Major Girvin arrived from the UK and assumed command as the Arras operations commenced. He led the Battalion at the Crow's Nest, the Drocourt-Queant Line and the Canal du Nord operations of the Hundred Days and until the war's end in November 1918. He was awarded the DSO for his leadership at the D-Q line. LCol Girvin reverted to Major when LCol Bent returned after recovering from his wounds. Following the war he returned to the Post Office rising through its ranks to become



LCol Marshall's family memorial, Hamilton Cemetery



LCol Marshall's war time grave Lijssenthoek Cemetery 1916

Assistant Postal Director and he remained with the 48th becoming CO again from 1932 to 1936. In 1940 Girvan became a CO for third time as the first CO of the 2nd (Home) Bn before being put in charge of No 1 Training Centre in Camp Borden. He was promoted to Brigadier, moved to the Directorate of Military Training in Ottawa and awarded the CBE by the war's end. He died in Georgetown ON in May 1961 and is buried there in Greenwood Cemetery.



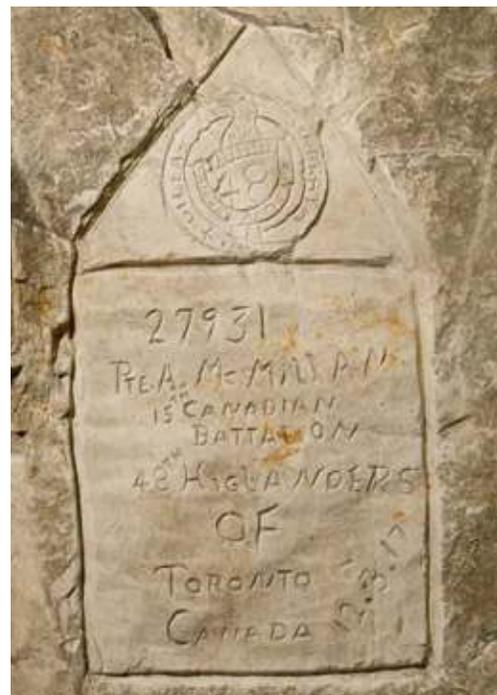
Grave of BGen JP Girvan CBE, DSO & Bar, MC, VD, Croix de Guerre, Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown ON

THE CANADIGM PROJECT

The Canadian Historical Documentation and Imaging Group, known as CANADIGM, is a not-for profit group consisting of logistics, technology, media specialists, graphic and visual artists, and photographers. CANADIGM'S mission is to digitally document, in a non-invasive manner, Canadian historical artifacts, objects, and locations where access to the public is limited or nonexistent, or where such objects and artifacts may be lost to history permanently. In May 2011, armed with a vertical camera boom specifically designed for the project, affectionately nicknamed "Le Gizmo", the group mapped the locations of the images created by the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the first World War (WW1).

The project began when a television program aired in 2009 about the tunnels and souterraines (underground quarry) in France that featured carvings and drawings created by soldiers during WW1. As a visual artist with a long-standing interest in the World Wars, a project that would preserve history by scanning, replicating, documenting, and exhibiting the work in these tunnels was envisioned. In this way, Canadians and others would have the opportunity to see the work Canadian soldiers created and learn about the brave soldiers who fought for this country.

The final outcome of the project would provide Canadians and others the opportunity to see the work Canadian soldiers created and left behind, as well as learn about who they were prior to volunteering to fight for a country's freedom.



STORIES OF THE 15TH BATTALION



findings. In 2007, the Ambler Family visited the site and subsequently had moulds made of their grandfather's carvings. The replicas were donated to the Military Museum in Calgary. This information helped shape the work to follow.

A connection was made with the Durand Group two years ago. Subsequently, preparations began for the CANADIGM group to travel to the site known as Maison Blanche located in the VIMY



area. The Maison Blanche Souterrain holds images related to many battalions and includes the 15th battalion. Cap badge carvings of the 48th, 92nd and 134th Highlanders and names connected with the 15th are written on the walls throughout the souterrain. Thus, the purpose of the May 2011 trip was to begin the documentation process and launch the Souterraine Impressions Project.

Now that the preliminary images have been obtained, historical documents are being searched in order to link the soldiers' names with their service records, and eventually tell their story. In the next phase, these souterrain walls will be scanned using a laser scanner capable of creating a 3D image file that will be used in either a 3D printer or a Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machine for reproduction. This method will allow capturing the image without touching the surface and destroying the patina developed over more than 90 years.

In the final phase of the project, the reproduced images will become part of an interactive educational display for the touring Canada-wide exhibition. The goal is also to complete 3D laser scan of the souterrain in order to provide a virtual walk through for the public.

As the centenary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

approaches (2017), with this multi-phased project, the expressions, and what proved to be in many cases, the final testimonials of soldiers who subsequently gave their lives in forging Canada's identity during WW1, will be made accessible to the public.

CANADIGM is currently seeking funding and donations to support the project. To-date, the team has completed its work using personal resources and commitment. Funding will help make it possible for the CANADIGM team to return to Maison Blanche in May 2012 for the next project phase. Images reprinted with permission from CANADIGM.

*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
ZENON ANDRUSYSZYN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CANADIGM*

In preparing for the project, it is interesting to note that in 2001, M. Dominique Faivre, a member of the Association de Recherches Historiques et Archéologiques Militaires (ARHAM), through her research, found the location of the entrance used in WW1 by Canadian troops. Five years later, in 2006, Judy Ruzyllo, a researcher employed by a film company, again determined the exact location of the souterrain and gained access to the site by negotiating a filming agreement with the landowner. At that point, the Durand Group, a voluntary association of specialists dedicated to the investigation and recording of military subterranean features, was called in to assess the site and determine the quality of the images. Most of the Durand Group's work to date has entailed accessing Great War tunnels, dugouts, and souterrains in northern France and documenting the



STORIES OF THE 15TH BATTALION

SERVICE UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME

Capt (ret'd) V.R. Goldman CD

During the Great War numerous individuals used a fictitious name to enlist. Many were under age recruits who did not want a parent to find them, some enlisted to escape an unhappy marriage or perhaps a criminal record, while others were well over the age of legal enlistment. Whatever their reason for taking a different name, the ranks of the Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1918 had hundreds who enlisted using an assumed name.

The casualty rolls of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) from the Great War contain the names of ten men who served honourably under an assumed name and only in death and often years later was their true identity discovered. Whatever their reason for enlistment, they paid the supreme sacrifice and need to be recognized along with others whose identity was never revealed.

Lance Corporal John Fulton was killed in action at Vimy Ridge on 9 April 1917. Following the engagement he was buried alongside his fellow comrades in the 15th Battalion's regimental cemetery. A regimental Cross bearing their names was erected to mark their place and recognize the sacrifice. Fulton's name however does not appear on the Vimy Cross which now stands proudly in the Regimental Museum. It was not an oversight of the time for John Fulton, who enlisted in Port Arthur, Ontario on 18 December 1914 was serving under the assumed name of Fred Valley. The mystery is even deeper as Fulton filled out two different sets of Attestation Papers that day, the first listing his year of birth as 1881 and the second as 1894.

Private William Duff served as Peter MACDONALD. He enlisted with the 15th Bn on 7 September 1914 stating he was 36 years when in reality he was much older. After surviving the 2nd Battle of Ypres he was killed 21 May 1915 during the battle of Festubert. He has no known grave and is thus commemorated on the Vimy Memorial.

Private James Wilde served as James MORAN. He enlisted at Camp Niagara on 24 June 1915 with the 37th Bn. After transfer to the 15th Bn he was killed 3 June 1916 during the unit's counter attack at Observatory Ridge during the Battle of Mount Sorrel. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate.

Private J.C. Girdner who served as POTTER was an American who enlisted in Vancouver on 3 November 1915 with the 62nd (British Columbia) Bn. After transfer to the 15th Bn he was killed 2 August 1916 in the Ypres sector. He is buried behind the old front lines at Railway Dugouts Burial Ground with 40 other members of the regiment.

Private Carl Hall served as James Edward ROBERTSON. An American, he enlisted in Edmonton on 3 November 1915 stating he was 19 years old when in reality he was underage. He was severely wounded during the Somme campaign and died on 10 October 1916. He was buried at Ste. Marie Cemetery which was established near the large hospital complex at Le Havre, France.

Private T. Jones who served as Thomas DRISCOLL enlisted in Victoria on 7 November 1914 with the 30th (2nd British Columbia) Bn. He was killed 21 December 1917 and is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial.

Private John Lewis served under the name Jack SMITH. He was an American who enlisted in Montreal on 1 June 1915. He died 9 August 1918 during the Battle of Amiens. He is buried in the Communal Cemetery in the small village of Rosieres located 3 km east of Amiens.

Private F.G. Gilday who served as DENTON enlisted in Windsor on 16 March 1916. He was killed 1 September 1918 during the successful assault at the Crow's Nest. He is buried at Ligny-St. Flochel British Cemetery located at Averdoint, France.



Private I.S. Smith who served as ILLINGER enlisted in Toronto on 21 August 1917 stating he was 20 years old when in reality he was 17. He was killed 20 October 1918 during the final weeks of the war. He is buried at Auberchicourt British Cemetery with three other members of the unit also killed on the same date.

Private William L. Rottier shaved a few years off his true age and served under the surname LEWIS. He died 30 July 1920 at age 52 of illness contracted while on active service. He is buried at St. John's Norway Cemetery in Toronto.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM!



REFLECTIONS ON HIGHLANDERS LOST

By the Editor, with words from Sgt (ret'd) Frank MacKay CD and Maj (ret'd) George Pearce CD

It is hard to recall a time, in recent years, when so many well known and highly regarded Highlanders have been lost to us in such a short period of time:

MWO Chuck Harding CD, a former Transport NCO, RQMS and Paymaster, later President of the CNE Warriors' Day Council, someone with whom I served during my own younger years with the Regiment.

CWO Pedro Rosa CD, who rose to the rank of Sgt with the Regiment and went on to serve on several UN tours and then become a legendary RQMS, whose services were much in demand across the Brigade, and eventually RSM of the 7th Toronto Artillery.

Lt George (Leo) Cassaday, a distinguished gentleman, who after serving as a Section Commander in the World War 2 Italian campaign then rising to commissioned rank, returned to his Regiment many times, in subsequent years, to take on important leadership roles in various of its Associations, providing sound guidance to many a new young officer.

Sgt Wayne Sershall, A stalwart leader and instructor of teenaged Student Militiamen in the 1960s and a fellow Senior NCO of some of that decades new Sgts named Young, Barnes, Goldman and Gilbert.

John 'Blackie' Allan, honorary member of the Sgt's Mess, a former piper, who was a tireless worker for his Regiment, as a key staff member at the Museum, volunteer in Stores and with the CNE Warriors' Day Council and worker with the Band in several capacities.

Capt Rolly White, a musicians musician, who is remembered by Maj (ret'd) George Pearce in the following words of tribute:

'Rolly was as dedicated to his bands as he was gifted to his profession and throughout his life he studiously avoided praise and recognition for his many achievements. I took pleasure seeking him out and sitting with him at many a mess dinner just to hear his modest accounts of service in the Royal Marines including happy times spent on board HMY Britannia.

He was very proud of his bands but never took credit for their standard of excellence, always deflecting compliments from himself to his musicians. When the Cobourg band was granted the title "The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Association (Ontario)"

I was with him when he told me, rather quietly, that this was now an official band linked to the Royal Marines. It was a quiet moment



CWO (RSM) Dave Crook with the other Instructors of the 1975 Summer Recruit Course, who were some of the many young soldiers he guided and influenced:

L-R, as they were then, starting in the front row: WO Vic Goldman (later RSM and Capt); Capt John Sandham (later CO); CWO Dave Crook (RSM); MWO Greg Young (later CO and BGEN) Back row L-R: Cpl Dave Wong; Cpl Rick (Skippy) Crawford; Cpl Greg Ewing (later Sgt, RCAF); Sgt Mark McVety (later MWO) Sgt Kevin McGuffin (later RSM); and Sgt Howie Michitsch (later Maj, PPCLI)

but the pride on his face was enormous. Rolly will always be remembered as a gentleman who earned enormous respect for the standard he set for himself and the standard that was achieved by his musicians.'

And others, **Norman Ballantyne, Ralph Edwin Fisher, James Brock Chisholm, Freddie Forester** a 100 year old veteran of the first batallion in WW2 and former **Regimental Sergeant Major Dave Crook**, a leader who touched the lives of so many of us throughout his years with the Regiment. As a tribute to Dave and, symbolically, all of the fine Highlanders lost to us this year, we include here the eulogy given at his funeral by BGen (ret'd) Greg Young.

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING -*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!



TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN HIGHLANDER

By Bgen (ret'd) Greg Young OMM, CD

There are far too many distinguished individuals and representatives from various organizations, so if you will allow me - Ladies and gentlemen - family, comrades, Highlanders and friends of RSM CWO David Crook, CD.

The number of people who have gathered here today to pay their final respects to Dave Crook speaks itself to the esteem in which this man is held by all who served with him, knew him or knew of him.

Shakespeare wrote "all the world's a stage. And all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances. And one man in his time plays many parts."

Dave certainly played many parts and he played them all exceptionally well. Husband, father, grandfather, soldier, RSM, sailing captain, veteran, mentor, Highlander, friend.

I consider it a very great privilege to have been asked by Dave's family to speak on behalf of all those who knew Dave through the military, especially those from his beloved Regiment, The 48th Highlanders of Canada.

LAST POST

This is quite a task as his military life spanned a considerable period of time -36 years- and the 48th do not have an exclusive claim to Dave's time in uniform, so do 2 RCR, 2 PPCLI, and the Toronto Scottish.

Many of the people in Dave's military life are in the ranks here today on his final parade. Regardless of how long you knew him or how close you worked with him while in uniform or out of it, each of you will have your own memories and stories of Dave. I can only hope that some of my comments will help us all recall this exceptional man; this soldier's soldier; this forever faithful Highlander. There will be time for each one of us in our own way to mourn Dave's passing and collectively as a military family we are here today to support Dave's family. But today is also very much about paying tribute to a comrade in the time honoured tradition – and tradition was something that was very much part of the fibre of Dave Crook. It is also about celebrating our time with him and acknowledging his service and the impact that he had. And I am certain that Dave would insist that today, at some point, should also be about comradery and story telling and yes over a beer or two.

Dave came to the 48th in 1967 but prior to that he had been a cadet in the Toronto Scottish for five years before enlisting with the Canadian Army Special Force in 1951 serving with 2 RCR and 2PPCLI. He was immensely and justifiably proud of his US Presidential Unit Citation which the Patricia's were awarded for their actions at Kapyong, Korea. Many of you will have seen Dave recall his memories of those days when he returned to Korea as one of the veterans in Norm Christie's documentary 'In Korea'. I can recall listening to Dave honestly and with difficulty try to recall the confusion and haze of battle through the eyes of an 18 year soldier. In many ways His was the most believable portion of the documentary.

Following his release from active service in 1952, Dave returned to the Toronto Scottish and served with them until 1967 when as a WO2 he saw the light and transferred to the 48th. Five years later in 1972 Dave became the RSM, a position he held for 7 years before retiring in 1979. Although I had known Dave since his arrival at the 48th, for me as young Sgt Maj and a great many others here, it was during his years as RSM that we really came to know Dave and to be shaped by this man that we referred to simply as 'The R'.

It was of course our abbreviation for RSM but it was to us much more than that – it was one of those unofficial soldier's terms of affection and respect that is used freely although almost never in the presence of the individual himself. It was never used again after Dave retired – there could be one "R".

In the early 70s the Army and especially the Militia was undergoing quiet but significant change as the makeup of units underwent the inevitable generational changes that naturally occur over time and can often be a difficult thing for institutions steeped in tradition. By character, temperament, leadership style and background Dave was without question the right man and as RSM he was in the perfect position to balance the preservation of Regimental tradition with the realities of this new army.

Dave was RSM for seven years, considerably longer than the normal three year term. There is little doubt that the four Commanding Officers he served under benefited from his advice and counsel. And although the officers most certainly benefited from their exposure to RSM Crook, it was with the development of the enlisted ranks, most especially the Snr and Jnr NCOs, that he made his greatest impact on The Regiment - the effects of which remain to this day.

In the Regimental history written in 1991 Dave is included in a chapter on the Unit's RSMs that the author titled "Men with Loud Voices". Ironic because other than on the parade square, I cannot recall RSM Crook ever raising his voice once. Not once – not ever. It's not that he couldn't – it's that he didn't have to. Dave was first and foremost a professional leader. He could motivate without the need to be coercive; he could discipline without resorting to humiliation; he understood the need for hard work to be tempered with fun; counselling and career development was a personal commitment; leadership was by example; and above all Dave knew how to listen – to borrow an Army phrase – 'he knew how to put the radio on receive not permanent send.'

And so quietly and personally he lead and shaped not just that nucleus of

senior and junior NCOs of the 1970s but through them several generations of new NCOs that would come to form the NCO backbone of The Regiment for years after he had left. Dave was in a way The Regiment's version of Northern Dancer – from his line came six RSMs; two District and Brigade Sgt Maj's; one Area Sgt Maj; and one General. I believe that everyone one of them would acknowledge the impact that Dave had directly on their careers and more importantly on their leadership style – which was Dave's style - because Dave lead first and foremost by example. When Dave was RSM he still taught on summer recruit courses along with much younger instructors; he completed his scuba course with the young NCOs from the Unit; and he proudly completed the parachute course at 48 years of age. He provided what every young soldier, every young NCO, every young leader needs – a role model. So Dave's impact reached well beyond the Regiment and into the broader Army Reserve.

Upon retirement in 1978 Dave and Jean left for the Caribbean where he captained his sail boat Dileas and ran a charter business in the US Virgin islands but even at a distance he maintained his link with The Regimental family. When he returned in the late 90s, Dave once again immersed himself in The Regimental family through the OCA and especially the CSA and true to form he once again became the quiet mentor to a new generation of RSMs right up to the current serving RSM. He was actively involved in The Korean War Veterans and the Royal Canadian Legion and I have no doubt that both of those organizations benefited substantially from his experience and active membership.

Contact with Dave obviously became less frequent after he retired. There were of course the Regimental functions that brought us back together on many occasions but somehow Dave kept us on his radar screen. In my case he managed to appear with his usual quiet and private words of encouragement when I took command of 32 Brigade; when I took command of the Area; before I deployed to Afghanistan; and he was a quiet but keen supporter of the 15th Bn Memorial Project.

On Saturday morning when I learned of his passing I got out some old army photo albums and looked for pictures of those days with Dave. Among the pictures I found a yellowed piece of paper with a small speech I had written 32 years ago when Dave retired as RSM. Every word of it was true then and everything that Dave did since then makes them still true now. I would like to read a portion of that speech;

"the 48th Highlanders of Canada have had 22 RSMs and every one of those men reached that position because he excelled in his service to the Regiment. RSMs are a select group within any Unit; they are a well defined cut above the ordinary and there is no need to dwell upon their qualifications because to anyone in the military the very title RSM is synonymous with excellence. However, each RSM is also an individual and after seven years as the highest ranking Senior NCO it would be impossible to not leave some personal stamp on the Regiment and the men he served. The rank of RSM brings with it unquestioned authority and respect. But respect for the rank and respect for the man are not the same thing. One comes with rank upon promotion, the other has to be earned. There was never any doubt that Dave always had both. The stamp that he will leave behind more than any other will be that the lesson that authority must be tempered with understanding and that those who lead must also listen. He always made time for you and he never lectured. Dave gave real meaning to the phrase 'The Regiment is a family' because only true families listen to and respect all their members. Dave Crook never had our blind respect but he always had our complete respect."

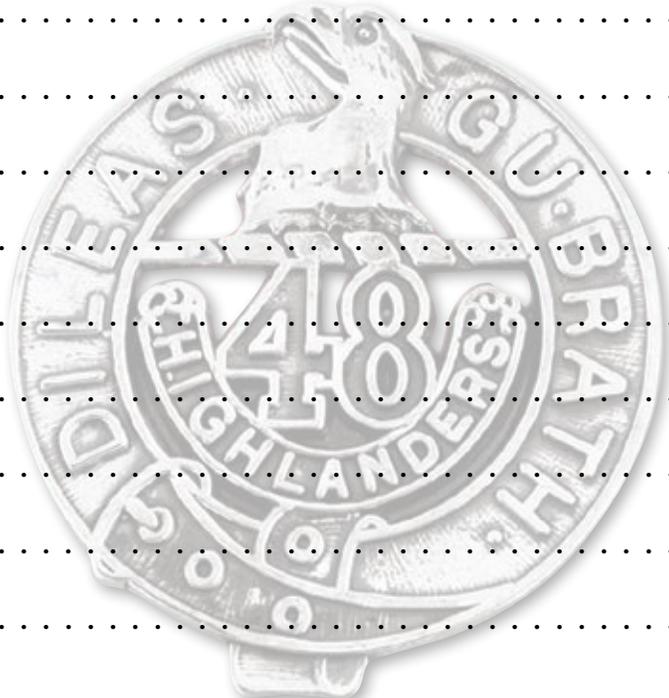
On Sunday I mentioned to a former 48th Officer living now living out West that Mr Crook had passed away. He wrote back "I joined The Regiment after Mr Crook had left but I knew of the legend."

Dave's legacy isn't left anywhere in words or stone – it was left in the people he touched. If you are looking for any evidence of it – just look around this Church.

RSM, CWO David William Crook CD - "Dave"- Dileas Gu Brath –
Faithful Forever 

HIGHLANDERS CONFINED TO BARRACKS

SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL - VETERANS WING



BELL, Norman	K2E 27 . .416-487-5611
COOPER, Vic	L3E 325 . 647-341-8573
ESTRIN, Joe	K1W 16 . 416-932-2372
LEONARD, StanleyLGE 23
McCRON, DonaldK2W 23
McKENNA, Jack	K2E 02 . 647-349-0669
McMAHON, Jim	L2E 216
SHALAPATA, PaulK2E 04
SHONTALER Jim	K2C 21 . 416-483-4349
SOPER Ken	K1W 27 . 416-487-2990

SPECIAL CARE UNITS

GREEN, Stuart	Not Listed
CARTER, Cliffordc/o Susan Hampson 519-424-9784

CONFINED AT HOME - PROBLEMS GETTING AROUND

COLTON, G.E.	819-683-2323
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*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.*



DILEAS GU BRATH



IN MEMORIAM

Norman Ballantyne	February 22, 2011	Toronto ON
Freddie Forester	April 8, 2011	Guelph ON
Chuck Harding	April 23, 2011	Toronto ON
John 'Blackie' Allan	May 2, 2011	Oakville ON
George (Leo) Cassaday	May 25, 2011	Oakville ON
Pedro Rosa	June 5, 2011	Toronto ON
Ralph Edwin Fisher	June 9, 2011	Toronto ON
Wayne Sershall	July 13, 2011	London ON
Dave Crook	July 16, 2011	Port Perry ON
James Brock Chisholm	July 12, 2011	Keewatin ON
Rolly White	August 22, 2011	Cobourg ON

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



OCTOBER 2011