



# THE FALCON

The Regiment Marching up Yonge Street, 1926

ISSUE NO. 25

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL FAMILY

FALL 2012

## EXERCISE STEADFAST WARRIOR 2012

### SUMMER EX: A GRUNT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Cpl Brian Fong

The 48th Highlanders were out in force on Exercise Steadfast Warrior this August in Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. The nine day exercise was the culmination of the year-long defensive ops training undertaken by all units of 32 Canadian Brigade Group. It included international participation from American forces with the 56th Stryker Brigade based out of Pennsylvania. It was also the first exercise for many of our Highlanders as newly qualified infantrymen and gave them a taste of things.



**ABOVE:** 48th Weapons Det (L-R Cpl Austin Koziol, Cpl Victor Choi and Pte Victor Koziol) on the move during Ex Steadfast Warrior

The unit hit the ground running from day one, sending soldiers from Bravo Company to play COEFOR (Enemy Force), while twenty-four of us formed a platoon, as part of the primary training audience, led by Lt. Hook. We packed our kit, and headed for a bivouac site in the Petawawa training area. Once on the ground, Cpl McCubbin-Freer's section was detached to an American platoon, while a U.S. squad, complete with a Stryker IFV, was attached to the 48th platoon.

Once everyone settled in, the exercise scenario began, starting with a daytime ambush. The platoon manoeuvred, tactically, uphill over rough terrain to the objective, and took the enemy by surprise with a linear ambush along a black track. The U.S. Army Sergeant First Class acting as Observer-Controller commended the 48th on our navigation, field craft and contact drills and Cpl. Palma on his swamp self-extraction drills.

After some hasty goodbyes and trading of flags and patches, the American squad returned to their unit and we turned our focus to defensive operations. Our company moved to relieve a U.S. Stryker company occupying a blocking position. We re-oriented the position for our dismounted company and quickly began digging shell scrapes through the suitcase-sized rocks and shale. Luckily, 32 Combat Engineer Regiment was ready, that night, with a backhoe to help us dig down to proper Stage 2 trenches.

After our 2-up, 1-back, company position was confirmed, each soldier became immersed in defensive routine. We worked long hours, improving our trenches and building overhead protection,

laying low wire obstacles and field phones, rehearsing drills, manning observation posts, disposing of garbage and getting water, despite the heat and dust.

All of the preparation was put to the test on the second-last night, when a battalion-minus sized COEFOR launched attacks on all three of our battalion's companies, with simulated artillery and small arms fire. The effects were very realistic and were followed quickly by a platoon attack on the 48th's right flank. Cpl. Choi and Pte. Ciafaloni, using their initiative, moved the C6 to cover alternate arcs and cut down an enemy section with one long burst. Soldiers from the depth sections and platoons were able to execute countermoves and push the enemy off of our position. Many valuable lessons were learned at all levels.

The tactical portion of Steadfast

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## A Message from the Commanding Officer

### HIGHLANDERS:

It has been a busy summer with several Highlanders deployed across North America and the United Kingdom.

The Regiment sent several troops and instructors to various Reserve Summer Training (RST) courses run throughout the province, while members of the Pipes & Drums band performed for a month at the Edinburgh Tattoo beginning in July.

August saw members of the Unit work alongside their US National Guard counterparts at CFB Petawawa during Ex Steadfast Warrior. September brought about the start of the new training year.

Perhaps the most exciting upcoming news, for many of our young soldiers, is the chance to deploy to Aberdeen in late-November and train with the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

This year has also witnessed the on-going commemoration of two unique milestones in Canada's collective history: Her Majesty's 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee, as well as the War of 1812's bicentennial.

To date, 20 members of the Active Battalion and Regimental Family have been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, which are being distributed through both the Army and various Members of Parliament. Several more are expected in the coming months, as different government selection committees make their recommendations.

My comments for this issue are being written near the hurricane ravaged shores of New Jersey, while conducting disaster assistance relief for the U.S. Presidential election. It is a somber reminder of how quickly life can change and how much we must value those around us despite our differences.

I was tremendously proud of how the Regiment closed ranks in June following the loss of one of our own in Gagetown. In that vein, it is important to remember all the Canadian Forces personnel serving overseas in harm's way including A Coy's Sgt Oliynykov.

Once again, a warm thank you to all groups of the larger Regimental family, including our Honoraries, the Military Association Band, OCA, CSA, OA, IODE, Cadets and Regimental Museum, as well as the countless other groups and individuals who make commanding our Regiment such an honour.

*DILEAS!*

*ALLAN BEST  
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL  
COMMANDING OFFICER*



## PROMOTIONS AND COMMENDATIONS

### ★★ PROMOTIONS ★★

Pte - Cpl Boyden 553

Pte - Cpl Gallella

Pte - Cpl Hartono

Pte - Cpl Hroch

Pte - Cpl Long

Pte - Cpl Lucas

Pte - Cpl Merkulyev

Pte - Cpl Pellegrino

Pte - Cpl Robinson

Pte - Cpl Satkunanandan

Pte - Cpl Sevier

Pte - Cpl Wiggins

Pte - Cpl Zasadko

Pte - Cpl Peebles

Cpl - MCpl McCubbin-Freer

MCpl - Sgt Avdagic

Sgt - WO Jeapes

Cpl - 2nd Lt Gouveia

### ★★★ COMMENDATIONS ★★★

#### CO'S COIN:

MCpl Marga I.

#### CANADIAN DECORATION:

Maj McCue (CO SAC 142 Army Cdts)

CD2

MWO McVety - CD2

MCpl Marga I. - CD

Cpl Buzny - CD

Cpl Green - CD

Pte Sajgalic - CD1

WO Rioux - CD1

#### MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF ST JOHN:

HCol Newman

#### QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL:

#### From the Army:

WO Kwok

WO Reesor

MWO Lang

MCpl Marga I

MCpl Pett

Pte Willis

Sgt Bennett

Sgt Leandro

Sgt Launder

Cpl Mai

Cpl Phillips

2Lt Gouveia

#### From MPs and MPPs:

HCol Newman

HLCol Elms

Maj Pedwell

Capt Zhang

Lt Lockhart

Cpl Thomas

MCpl Kowalenko

Capt Lamie

Capt Savage

Lt Hsung

Capt Wentzell

MCpl Kinkaid

Mil Band Mbr, Mike Lawson

Padre, Capt Aitchison

BGen (Ret) Young

Capt (Ret) Goldman

Capt (Ret) Shea

Sgt (Ret) Kowalenko

## A Message from Honourary Colonel John Newman

As Honourary Colonel, it is my privilege to acknowledge and thank those involved in three ongoing initiatives that recognize the important contributions of Highlanders who served in both World Wars.

Phase Three of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project is reviewed in detail elsewhere in this issue. However, I would like to once again thank the Project Team, BGen (Ret) Greg Young, Capt (Ret) Vic Goldman and Steve Gilbert, Simon Godley (our vital man on the ground in France), Sgt (Ret) Guy Bowie, and Ian Mac Donald, for their superb execution of this latest phase. In addition, I offer my deepest thanks to Sponsors, Jim Cassie, David Mirvish, Katherine Newman, Jean Miso and LCol (Ret) George Turner, for their invaluable generosity in providing the financial support to all cost areas of this phase of the Project.

You will also find, elsewhere in this issue, brief descriptions of two other Memorial initiatives, Operation Husky, 2013 and the OCA's Project Blue Puttees, both of which have events planned in Sicily during the week from July 29 to August 3 next summer. These events will coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Sicily during the Second World War.

In connection with these initiatives, those who are interested will also find, enclosed in this issue, an insert describing the details of Canada Company's proposed Operation Husky Tour. At this point, The Hastings and Prince Edwards Regiment and The Seaforth Highlanders have indicated that they are working towards separate tour arrangements for their members, who wish to be in Sicily during that week and the 48th may well participate with them, if enough interest is shown. More information on these tour opportunities will be forthcoming as plans are solidified and I ask everyone to please pass on any indications of interest in them to an appropriate member of the OCA.

It is my hope that all members of the Regiment will support these Memorial initiatives, in their own chosen way. They are important opportunities, for all of us, to honour the memory of past Highlanders who served and, in many cases, sacrificed for Canada.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*

*JBN*



*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

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**www.adambernard.ca**

***We hope that you enjoy this expanded electronic version of our latest issue. It will be posted on the Regimental Website in the near future.***

***www.48highlanders.com***

***PLEASE NOTE: THE DUE DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE FALCON IS:***

***FRIDAY, 31 MAY, 2013***

## A COMMAND PERSPECTIVE

By Major Harry Pedwell, DCO



This year's concentration, Exercise STEADFAST WARRIOR 2012, was conducted in August at CFB Petawawa. As most of you are aware, the 48th Highlanders lead last year's concentration, Ex Maple Defender.

The 2011-2012 training year was a transition year for the Regiment with the 48th changing training groups within 32 Canadian Brigade Group (32CBG) and taking a much needed operational rest. Given our recent experience at running Battle Group exercises, the 48th Highlanders were able to make significant contributions to STEADFAST DEFENDER which included manning and mentoring the Battle Group HQ, assisting and organizing enemy force activities, and providing a platoon of soldiers to the primary training audience.

The focus of Exercise STEADFAST WARRIOR 2012 was on defensive operations with the exercise itself being the culmination of a year of hard work and effort by sub-units of 32CBG.

The exercise was conducted under the auspices of 32 Battle Group (32BG), a training vehicle composed of a Battle Group Headquarters, two light infantry companies from 32CBG, one light infantry company from 31CBG, an armoured recon troop (GGHG/QYR), an artillery battery (7Tor/56Fld), an engineer troop (32CER), an admin company (32Svc) and various supporting arms (Signals-32Sigs, MP-32 MP PI, etc). Lead for 32BG was assigned to the Lorne Scots under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Andre Phelps.

Given the Army's focus on Afghanistan, it has literally been over a decade since Canadian reservists last conducted any form of large scale defensive operations. As a result, significant knowledge gaps existed at the soldier and junior leader level. Effort was therefore concentrated on reviewing and practicing the basic soldier and leadership skills needed to successfully



TOP: US National Guard and 48th Joint patrol. ABOVE: Ambush left drill. MIDDLE: Sgt Frank PI 2ic. NEXT PAGE MIDDLE RIGHT: Lt Hook PI Comd BOTTOM RIGHT: The American 'Stryker' equipped regiment crossing.



conduct defensive operations.

Work up training for the exercise was spread across the training year and consisted of a Battle Group Command Post Exercise in December, a one week Company and Battle Group Headquarters field training exercise in March (Ex Southern Drive) and two field training weekends in April and May.

Unique to Exercise Steadfast Warrior was the opportunity for soldiers to integrate and train with members of the 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Working with this Stryker equipped force afforded many of our young soldiers and junior leaders the opportunity to work closely with an allied nation for the first time.

The primary focus of the exercise remained on developing soldier, section and platoon skills within the Battle Group. These goals were achieved primarily via a series of stand or "stick" training activities and practiced during the final exercise where 32BG conducted a relief in place, routine in the defence and withdrawal under pressure over a three to four day period.

The exercise was successful in achieving its goals. Both the exercise itself and the work up training prior to deployment significantly improved defensive skills at the individual to company level. Practice however does not make perfect and with the army transitioning from an Afghanistan centred to general purpose combat training focus, the need to continually practice and develop basic war fighting skills is glaring.

Significant institutional knowledge fade occurred in the last decade as the army remained mission focused on Afghanistan. As that chapter in our military history closes the army is moving forward and readying itself to combat the next threat. Exercises like STEADFAST WARRIOR and last years MAPLE DEFENDER are the means by which the Reserves will achieve this aim.



## EXERCISE COLLABORATIVE SUNSET

Lt Col John Newman came and prepares to take part in Exercise Collaborative Sunset (25 May, 2012), a unique opportunity for Honorary Appointments and Business Leaders to become aware of and experience hard soldier skills, while under the tutelage of Combat Arms Officers and NCOs at MTC Meaford. It was, by all accounts, a day of very rigorous and memorable training enjoyed by everyone involved.



### SUMMER EX - A GRUNTS PERSPECTIVE ...continued from page 1

Warrior finished promptly after the final assault. The next two hours were spent tearing down the position it had taken five days to build. The troops saw their first shower in 10 days, and were treated to a free issue of beer from the CO and a BBQ to congratulate them on a job well done.

Speaking to the Unit on the last day of the Exercise, Lt Col Best passed on his congratulations to all involved on a job very well done. He also informed us that Exercise Highland Spirit would be taking place in Scotland in November. Everyone was excited to hear about this and felt motivated and confident heading into the 2012-2013 training year.

DILEAS GU BRATH!

## SLING LOADS AND ELBOWS...

2Lt Ed Gorham, A Coy

The New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) arranged an opportunity for Canadian Reservists in 31 and 32 Brigade to train with them on an Air Assault course run by the US Military Academy out of Camp Smith this past July. Only two spots were offered and I was fortunate to be nominated by the 48th Highlanders to go. The other spot went to Sergeant Brad Hillmer of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

The format of the course was simple: three days of helicopter knowledge and safety, three days of sling load operations, and three days of rappel, with a final 12-mile ruck march on the morning of the tenth day, prior to graduation.

In order to be on the course, though, one had to pass Day Zero: a grueling test of fitness that saw candidates woken before dawn, exercised in a medley of workouts for two hours then thrown onto an obstacle course featuring a 30-foot confidence climb (think: overgrown ladder with 5-foot rung spacing) and an obstacle aptly named The Tough One: a 15 foot rope climb, horizontal ladder crossing, A-frame climb over a bar and down a cargo net. The total complement of 9 obstacles were capped off with a timed 2-mile run; the bottom ten candidates were dropped from the course.

We were tested on our ability to function as a team, our knowledge of the different airframes available for sling loads, the most common loads, how they are slung, and the best part, rappelling out of UH-60 Blackhawks.

Run by one of the Air Assault instructor cadre of the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the course was professional, intense, and rewarding. The instructors were not only knowledgeable, but were all seasoned veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, some with as many as six tours of duty.

SSgt Tyrone Harvey was the candidates' favorite, a loud voice with an imposing figure, he demanded nothing but the best of his students. SSgt Matthew Connolly, a Combat Engineer in his prior life, brought a different perspective to the course, at times light-hearted but never aloof.



**ABOVE:** Sgt Brad Hillmer, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, and 2Lt Edward Gorham, 48th Highlanders of Canada, the two Canadians on AASIT 703-12.

Both instructors drilled home through personal example the importance of this course: to learn how to resupply troops in difficult terrain when no other means will do.

Of the 193 that started the course, 180 graduated, earning the US Army Air Assault wings, or affectionately referred to as "the Bullwinkle" due to the insignia's resemblance to the cartoon character.

For myself, this course served two purposes: the obvious, to learn a useful skill that will benefit my unit during deployment both domestic and overseas; the second, it was a cultural exchange. It was a fantastic opportunity to work with the US Army, both regular and reserve components.

I am very thankful to our NYARNG hosts: SGT Rose, who ensured Sgt Hillmer's and my integration; SFC Eldred, a 10th Mountain Division regular turned guardsman, he took the time to run us through the obstacles we would face on day zero and brush up on our rope climb technique; and SFC Fisher, who was instrumental in offering this opportunity to the CF 31 and 32 Brigades.

As token of our thanks, we gave bottles of maple syrup, a definite hit with the Americans, and a commemorative plaque denoting the course number (AASLT 703-12). This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience!



**ABOVE:** UH-60 Blackhawk hovers 90 feet in the air for the final rappel. Each candidate must complete two rappels to earn their Air Assault qualification

**BELOW:** 193 candidates on the lawn of West Point Academy waiting for transfer to Camp Smith. 180 candidates graduated from the course 10 days later.



## A BUSY YEAR FOR THE PIPE AND DRUMS

By Pipe Major (MWO) Iain Lang, CD & Piper Tyler Bridge

This has been a busy and successful year for the Pipes and Drums. We have had the opportunity to send personnel to Virginia, Warsaw, Gettysburg, Hamilton and Edinburgh while still fulfilling the usually full schedule the band has every year.

In April, Drum Major Reesor was asked to be the Senior Pipe Band Drum Major for the Virginia International Military Tattoo, in Norfolk Virginia.

In May, Pipe Major Lang and Cpl Scott McIntyre travelled to Warsaw Poland for ceremonies honouring the allied efforts at Monte Cassino. Also in May, with GGHG Band, three pipers debuted a new version of Highland Cathedral written by the Lt Gov. of Ontario, David Onley and sung by his wife at the Queens Jubilee Concert at Deer Park Church in Toronto.

In June the band sent 12 members to Gettysburg and Mount St Mary's University to perform with the Royal Regiment of Canada Band. The two bands work well together and this trip was no exception, with two concerts and parades that left the area residents asking for the bands to return soon.

Also in June, Pipe Major Lang was the Senior Piper Major for the Canadian International Tattoo in Hamilton. This performance has become a regular date for the Pipes and Drums and everyone enjoys the weekend long stay at Mohawk College.

Sgt Lock was once again the piping instructor for the summer, at the CF School of Music in Borden.

August is always busy, but even so, while a small contingent of the band travelled to Scotland, the remainder performed for the Fergus Tattoo, the CF Musical Salute and Warriors Day parade, taking 1st Place in the Pipe Band category for the second year running.

In September, we gained two new pipers; Cpl Kylie Penny transferred from 1 Nova Scotia Highlanders and Cpl Sean Mackenzie-Mardelli is now attached posted from the Black Watch. The Band also reopened Maple Leaf Gardens for Ryerson University.

In October the Royal Canadian Military Institute's annual concert was once again on the schedule at Roy Thomson Hall. Pipe Major Lang is the Senior Pipe Major and this year's show featured 17 members of the 48th and 6 from the other bands. The show was a success, some say one of the best yet.

### The 48th Highlanders in Edinburgh

The Highlight of the year for seven lucky members, was being selected to go to Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) as part of the Canadian Army Pipes and Drums, which also consisted of members of the Argyle and Southerland Highlanders of Canada, and the Calgary Highlanders. All three regiments have Queen Elizabeth as their Colonel in Chief and were invited to the Tattoo as part of the Queen's Diamond

Jubilee celebrations. The members representing the 48th were: Pipe Major MWO Iain Lang, Corporal David Sherrett, Private Brian Turner, Linda Lang, Paul Turner, Tom Litherland, and Tyler Bridge. From July 27th to August 26th, these representatives exhibited the professionalism and preparedness that has long been associated with our Pipes and Drums.

After one night in Trenton to prepare together, the contingent arrived in Scotland. We were housed in the comfortable surroundings of the University of Edinburgh's Pollok Halls. Everyone was assigned a private room with an attached bathroom and many of the Canadians enjoyed a view of Arthur's Seat and the Salisbury Crags from their bedroom. Luxury accommodation indeed, especially when considering the alternative of a bunk at Redford barracks.

Travelling to a different climate is always challenging for the bagpipe and with three Regimental bands coming together, the task of producing a consistent and professional sound was even more difficult. Pipe Major Lang persevered and, in the end, the Canadian contingent achieved the desired pitch with a very nice sound. The head Pipe Major of the British Army even praised the Canadians on one occasion, saying that we had the best sound he had heard all day.

Two days after arriving in Scotland, we started the first rehearsals. No one knew what to expect, but we were prepared for whatever would be thrown at us. Major Steven Small, Director of Army Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, and Pipe Major WO1 Jason Sumner, Senior Pipe Major of the British Army, were in charge of the REMT piping and drumming. Major Small had all the bands form one big circle and play through all the music for the Tattoo. Pipe Major Sumner walked around and watched fingers to insure that everyone knew the music. Of course, the Canadian contingent knew all of the music before arriving in Scotland.

On the Second day of rehearsal, we had our first opportunity to play through the music for the finale with the brass bands. A new version of Highland Cathedral was passed out and we were told that we might have to learn it. Not wanting to be caught unprepared, members of the 48th were the first of all bands in the Tattoo to have the new music learned.

The third day of rehearsals consisted mainly of learning the formations and drill. The parade square at Redford Barracks was mocked up to resemble the layout of Edinburgh Castle's Esplanade, allowing us to run through the entire show. However, there is no substitute for the real thing and that evening,



**48th Band Members inside Edinburgh Castle**

we got our first opportunity to run through our performance on the esplanade. I am sure the first time marching through the castle gate and stepping on to the esplanade was a surreal experience for all of the Canadians. We only got a single run through, as time on the esplanade was limited. That evening consisted of general kit maintenance and everyone made sure to have uniforms in order. The next day would be our first dress rehearsal and media would be present. Everyone had to be well turned out. We ran through the entire show twice on the day of the dress rehearsals. The second time was with a full audience and with media present. It gave us our first taste of what to expect for the next three weeks of shows.

We soon settled into the routine of playing one show every night and performances started getting better and better. The formations, the playing, and the tone of the pipes steadily improved as the month progressed. On a typical day we had the morning and afternoon free to clean and maintain uniforms or go into town and take in the Edinburgh Festival. Downtown Edinburgh is within walking distance of Pollock Halls and everyone took full advantage of it. But when it came to show time, it was all business. Every night, we were in Full Dress on the bus at 1830.

The hardest part was standing through the 20 minute finale. But the highlight of the show for many, was the final march off and the opportunity to march down the high street to the tunes Black Bear and Scotland the Brave. Then it was back to Pollock Halls to hang up uniforms and head over to the cast pub for a few social beverages.

REMT was an incredible experience. The friendships and connections made with the Scottish regiments, throughout the trip, serve to strengthen the bond between Canada and Scotland and between their army pipe bands. The trip served as a learning experience for everyone and the professionalism exhibited helped promote Canada and the Regiment. While in Scotland, we never lost sight of what we were there to do and what we were representing. Here's to a job well done.

VIVAT!

# AROUND THE REGIMENT



**ABOVE:** This summer during a leadership recce in Scotland for Ex HIGHLAND SPIRIT, the CO and RSM with their partners had the rare opportunity for a surprise private audience with the Regimental Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The meeting with Her Majesty consisted of an update on the Regiment, discussions about Prince Harry's "Walking with the Wounded" program, and the Queen's 007 entrance during the London Olympic opening ceremony. Directly from Her Majesty: "Please tell my Highlanders I am fiercely proud of them and hope to see the Regiment in Scotland soon"

**CENTRE NEXT PAGE:** At the Annual Officer's Mess dinner in May, Ian MacDonald, a member of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project, presents a photo of Her Majesty, which he took during the Colonel in Chief's visit to the Regiment in 1984.

**TOP MIDDLE NEXT PAGE:** Last Spring, Capt Martinis led an escort task for the CDS, with Cpl Gillies & McCubbin-Freer in support as drivers. All were coined by the CDS for a job well done.

**BELOW:** St Andrew's College Number 142 Army Cadet Corp on parade during its Annual Inspection, May 5, 2012. Reprinted with permission of Peter Northcott.

# AROUND THE REGIMENT



**TOP RIGHT:** Following her lecture on World War One ordnance, at the RCMI last Spring, Charlotte Deschamps presents David Archer, Manager of the Regimental Museum with a shell casing, recovered near Passchendaele Belgium, to add to the Museum's collection. BGen Greg Young, Chairman of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project and HCol John Newman are also present.

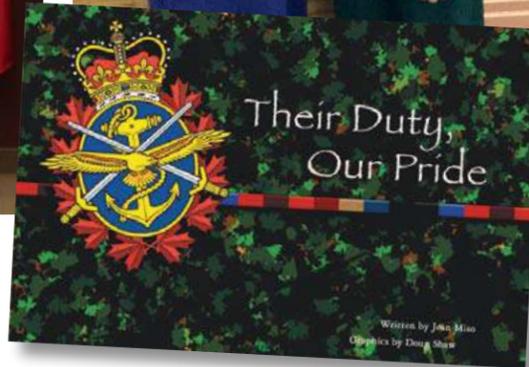


**ABOVE:** On April 22, 2012, members of the Active Battalion and of the OCA took part in a ceremony for the 1813 Battle of York. Capt Wheeler and MWO Short, from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, were also present.





ABOVE: As part of the action plan to make citizenship more meaningful to new and established Canadians, Honourary Colonel John Newman and Teacher / Author Jean Miso attended several ceremonies. At the invitation of Citizenship Judge Renata Brum Bozzi, Jean Miso sang the signature song from her new book "Their Duty Our Pride" to new Canadians and their families at these important events. TOP RIGHT: Jean Miso receiving LFCA Comd's coin.



**48<sup>th</sup> HIGHLANDERS**  
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**48TH HIGHLANDERS  
 ARMY CADETS AT THE  
 2012 CABBAGETOWN  
 FESTIVAL**

By: Lt J. Courtland Elliott II

For the past 30 plus years, one of Downtown Toronto's most interesting neighborhoods, Cabbagetown, holds a Festival. This year, not only was there an Arts & Crafts Fair (including a Juried Art Show) and lots of fabulous treats to sample, the Cadets of the 48th Highlanders of Canada were also present to take part.

On September 8 and 9, 2012, our Cadets were requested to assist with the local Museum's Booth, at this Festival. They acquitted themselves very well in setting up and maintaining the Museum's tent, under some challenging conditions. In addition, there were many tents and displays that had been damaged by storms the previous night, and our Cadets effectively assisted in the recuperation and cleanup.

The next day, they created and operated a Booth on Parliament Street, which displayed some of their Army Cadet skills, as well as some of the equipment used during their time in the Field while on exercise.

Cadet RSM Guitard, assisted by several others, provided the Public with a good view of what our Army Cadets do during the Training Year, also offering a taste of the Cadet Summer Camp experience. Passersby were invited to try on the Cadet Summer Uniform, complete with Web Belt and a Rucksack! Many parents were impressed with the range of skills training available and a large number of the community, mostly kids, tried on the gear and got their pictures taken in full field regalia. RSM Guitard also proved popular as a subject for those wanting photographs.

We appreciate the support of several Old Comrades, who came by and complimented the Cadets - one fellow's father had served with the 48th in WWI, and he was given the particulars of the Museum, so that he could make a connection with it.

Our thanks go to HCol Newman for arranging for us to have this opportunity and also to the Staff of the Cabbagetown BIA, the Cabbagetown Arts & Crafts Festival and the Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum for the support that they gave us. A special thanks must also go to the Family of Lt Wong, for allowing us to stash our gear in their house for two nights.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: Cpl Bharati, RSM Guitard, Cpl Andru, Sgt Best, Cdt HIndr Brackett



Sgt Leandro with his newly pinned Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

## QUEEN ELIZABETH II - DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL AWARDS 2012, A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Al Kowalenko, Sgt (Ret),  
Executive Committee, 48th Highlanders  
Continuing Sergeants Association

In early October, the Toronto media announced that "Thirty Local Heroes" would be receiving Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals in the central city riding of Willowdale.

The media specifically mentioned that the award "pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth's 60 years on the throne, would be given to Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to their community and country".

I was fortunate enough to be selected as one of these 30 recipients of a Diamond Jubilee Medal and attended a special medal presentation ceremony on Friday, October 12, 2012, at the North York Civic Centre, Council Chambers.

The medals were presented by Member of Parliament for Willowdale, Mr. Chungsen Leung, who is also the Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism. Recipients were piped into the chambers by the Legion Branch 66 Pipe Band and seated in individual council chamber chairs near a centre array of official flags. About 200 family and friends attended the ceremony.

Mr. Leung stressed how competitive it had been in the riding of Willowdale for medal nominations. More than 100 worthy applications had been received but only 30 could be selected for the award. This was due to the fact that all MPs across Canada were only given 30 medals each to distribute in their riding.

The selection process was by a formal Committee and Mr. Leung pointed out that there was absolutely no favoritism during the selection process. Medals were given to a wide range of individuals with usually 20 to 50+



years of community service who had proven they had made a difference in their volunteer efforts.

In my particular case, I have been involved in 40 years of volunteer service, primarily with multiple-handicapped adults (Deaf-Blind Association of Toronto), as well as done significant work with the ongoing blood donor program (Canadian Red Cross Society) and with the palliative care advisory committee (Sunnybrook Hospital). Also, in 2011, the DBAT Board of Directors established the "Al Kowalenko Volunteer Award" which is now presented annually to the individual who has made the greatest contribution to the deaf-blind community in the Greater Toronto Area. It was the Board's way of recognizing my four decades of work and support of multiple handicapped

adults who are challenged every day with the dual problem of hearing and sight loss.

Of the 30 medal recipients, MP Leung noted there was a very diverse range of volunteer services represented from those who worked with disadvantaged youths, scout troop leaders, medical researchers, support workers for the homeless, workers with various categories of handicapped adults, organized sport coaches, educators, event organizers, etc. In every case, each individual had given many years of volunteer service and had been recognized and nominated by their peers.

As part of the ceremony, each Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient in turn was called to the front of the Council Chamber where highlights of their service were announced and a photo was taken with MP Leung beside an array of banners including the Canadian, Union Jack and special white Diamond Jubilee flags.

Needless to say, it was a thrilling experience to receive this type of recognition from a Member of Parliament in front of a large audience of family, friends and media. It was probably the most photographed I have been in my life with camera flashes going constantly before, during and after the ceremony.

In reflecting back on the Diamond Jubilee Medal ceremony, I can honestly say it was

one of the highlights of my life. I have always felt it was a valuable thing to give back to the community as a way of saying "thank you" for living in a great city like Toronto, and a great country like Canada. I certainly was very honored to be selected for a medal and humbled to be in the presence of so many "local heroes" who unselfishly devoted their efforts to making our community a better place to live.

At the Regimental level, the Commanding Officer of the 48th, LCOL Best, has also recently awarded Diamond Jubilee Medals to a number of the active serving members of the unit for their dedication and service to the Canadian Forces and their country. There are also several retired members of the Regiment who have received the award for their contributions to the community. A complete list of medal recipients is included in this issue of the Falcon.

In closing, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our Diamond Jubilee Medal recipients for their exemplary service, and for enhancing our Canadian society with their outstanding efforts.

For our Regimental Family, this is truly another example of how the "Dileas Spirit" continues to manifest itself in our current times.

And as it says on the back of the Diamond Jubilee Medal - "Vivat Regina" - Latin for "Long Live the Queen"!

We wish Her Majesty well and hope to celebrate her 70th Anniversary (Platinum Jubilee) in 2022, at that will no doubt be an amazing event. 🇨🇦

## A LOST TRAIL FROM LEGION MAGAZINE

**HOLLAND**—Stokkum, near Markelo, April to mid June 1945. Boy named Joe, 10, was sheltered by Cdn. soldiers, possibly 2nd Cdn. Div., on campsite of Huisken farm. One soldier nicknamed "Flip". When they left Apeldoorn they drove 100 kilometres to his home in Hilversum in military Chevrolet. Those who knew him sought. Marleen Oderken, Boelekade 50 2806, Al Gouda, The Netherlands.  
[marleen\\_odekerken@hotmail.com](mailto:marleen_odekerken@hotmail.com)

On July 10th 1943, Canadian soldiers landed at Pachino, Sicily, marking the beginning of the Sicilian Campaign. While this campaign is little known, "Operation Husky" represented the first independent role for Canadian soldiers in the Second World War. They fought with courage and knocked the pins out of the German defences in Sicily. Their success came at a cost of over 560 men.

In honour of those who fought and those who fell, we are organizing a memorial campaign for the operation's 70th anniversary. Our campaign begins on the beaches of Pachino on July 10th, 2013 and features two main ceremonies;

**JULY 10th PACHINO**

A commemoration of the Allied landing in Sicily.

**JULY 30th AGIRA**

A morning roll call at the Canadian War Cemetery followed in the evening by a re-enactment of the famous concert by the Seaforth Highlanders Pipe Band in the Town Square.

In addition to the ceremonies, a small group of marchers will also re-trace the exact path taken by the 1st Canadian Infantry Division 70 years earlier. This group will conduct a daily ceremony at 11:00 AM honouring each of the fallen on the exact day that they fell.

## Stephen Gregory

Executive Committee Member of Canada Company and Founder of Operation Husky 2013

## OPÉRATION HUSKY 2013



**TOP:** Attendees at the Oct cocktail party in the Regiment's Officers Mess, held to support Operation Husky, 2013. L-R Steve Gregory, BGen Omer Lavoie, Mark Clearhue, Drew Davis, BGen Julian Chapman and Tom Foulds.  
**ABOVE:** Op Husky Cocktail Party attendees examine the equipment on display as part of the event.  
**BOTTOM LEFT:** Jim Cassie, Jean Miso and HLCOL Geordie Elms at the Op Husky, 2013 event.

## PROJECT BLUE PUTTEES



**P**roject Blue Puttees was established by the Old Comrades Association, under the leadership of Jim Cassie and Tommy Thompson, who took as their concept model the already existing and highly successful 15th Battalion Memorial Project. Its aim is to commemorate the Highlanders who served and, in particular, those who perished during the Italian Campaign by establishing memorials to them at suitable locations throughout Sicily and Italy.

This coming summer, as part of Operation Husky, 2013, new Memorials will be established and dedicated at Palermo, Assoro and Pachino and a permanent Canadian display will be installed in the War Museum at Catania.



## The Mission

Honour the men who fought and those who fell in Sicily, in the summer of 1943.

Bring 562, Canadians back to Sicily



## The Inspiration



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## OPÉRATION HUSKY

### OPÉRATION HUSKY 2013



Visit the magnificent Sicily and discover its cultural treasures in following the steps of the heroes of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division. Commemorate with us the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Sicily by the Canadians.

**Our price includes:** Roundtrip air transportation Toronto – Catania – Toronto; roundtrip transfers from Catania airport to your hotel; accommodation for 6 nights in a 3\* hotel; 6 breakfasts; 1 full day guided tour; entrance fee for the Historical Museum of the Sicily campaign; roundtrip transfers from your hotel to Agira for the commemorative ceremony at the Canadian war cemetery; roundtrip transfers from your hotel to Agira for the concert "Under the Stars".

**Our price does not include :** Insurance; meals not indicated in our quotation; tips; baggage handling; personal expenses; local city tax of 3 euros per person per day, payable locally; all that is not expressly mentioned above.

6-NIGHT PACKAGE STARTING AT \$2,499

## OPERATION HUSKY

### DAY 1 – JULY 26

Departure from Toronto Pearson International Airport.

### DAY 2 – JULY 27

Arrival in Catania. Transportation to hotel. Free day.

### DAY 3 – JULY 28

One day touring Sicilian cultural points of interest. Transportation included.

### DAY 4 – JULY 29 – AM – FREE, PM

Visit of Catania war museum, including a presentation on Operation Husky by a Canadian historian. Transportation included.

### DAY 5 – JULY 30

AM - Participation to the commemorative ceremony at Agira's Canadian military cemetery, PM- free, Evening – Attendance to the Seaforth Highlanders concert «Under the Stars». Transportation included.

### DAY 6 – AUGUST 1 – FREE

### DAY 7

Return to Toronto from Catania Fontanarossa Airport.

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# 15TH BATTALION PROJECT UPDATE

## HILL 70 AND CANAL DU NORD MEMORIALS DEDICATED

By BGen G Young OMM, MSM, CD (Ret)

***"Never was I prouder of my dear old Battalion than I am today. My heart is too full for words. I feel sure that never in history was a more gallant, heroic and stubborn stand made by any battalion than was made by this grand old outfit today....Many dear, good, brave lads have fallen, but not in vain"***

LCOL BENT TO MAJ GIRVAN HILL 70 15 AUGUST 1917

***"It had been a glorious finale for the Highlanders."***

CANAL DU NORD 27 SEPTEMBER 1918

Phase Three of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project was successfully completed with the recent dedications at Hill 70 near Benifontaine/Lens on 22 September and at the Canal du Nord in Marquion on 24 September 2012. As with Phases One and Two, once again the mission was completed on schedule and on budget bringing the total to seven memorials erected in three years. The Project Team's advance party consisting of BGen G Young and Capts Vic Goldman and Steve Gilbert arrived in France on 18 September and moved to Arras. Almost equidistant between Hill 70 to the north and Canal du Nord to the south, Arras served as the Project Team's base of operations for the entire trip.

Once on the ground, resident team member Simon Godly quickly joined us and final preparations for the dedications began. I must say at this point that the Project and the Regiment owes a huge debt of gratitude to Simon who, as our man on the ground in France, was the key organizer for the project for both memorials. All the in-country administrative and logistical work and liaison with local officials, community groups, contractors, agencies and authorities was handled by Simon without whom the success of this phase would not have been possible.

Over the next three days the remaining members of the Project Team ( Honorary Colonel John Newman, Sgt Guy Bowie (ret) and Ian MacDonald) arrived in Arras with two of the project's major donors (Mr Jim Cassie – accompanied by Tommy Thompson -and LCol George Turner (ret). Cpl Peter Seinwicz (ret) and his wife from the UK were the final arrivals and on the eve of the first dedication the complete delegation had a pre-dedication dinner



LEFT: Hill 70 Memorial.  
ABOVE: James Cassie and Tommy Thompson lay a wreath at Hill 70, on behalf of the OCA.  
BELOW: The Canadian Flag on Display at Canal Du Nord.

in Arras at which Simon Godly became an Honorary member of the Officer's Association in recognition of his contributions.

The ceremonies at the Hill 70 memorial got underway at 10:00hrs the following morning and the weather was perfect. The site is perfectly situated on the 15th Battalion's axis of advance approximately halfway between Puit 14 (mine pit), which they captured, and Bois Hugo their main objective. As with previous dedications, the ceremony was very well attended: The Somme Battlefield Pipe Band provided their Pipe Major for The Lament and a Bugler for the Last Post and Reveille; a band from the host town of Benifontaine provided the traditional fanfares, Aux Morts (French equivalent of the Last Post) and national anthems; the CommunApole of Lens-Lieven was represented by M. Jean-Pierre Kuchieda and Mayor Jacques Jakuboszczak represented the town of Benifontaine; Mr Bruno Hamel and the Military Attache' from the Canadian Embassy in Paris represented Canada; The Department of Veteran's Affairs was respresented by Ms Arelene King from the Vimy Ridge National site; representatives from the British Legion and local French Veteran's groups including members of the Honour Guard from the French National Cemetery at Notre Dame de Lorette were on parade; members of the Loos Museum; and numerous people from



the local communities and organizations.

Simon Godly, the only fluently bilingual member of the Project Team as well as the chief organizer of the event, was master of ceremonies. He delivered the historical overview of the Hill 70 battle and then insured that all the prerequisite traditions and customs for an event of this nature were conducted as they should be. Speeches were short , relevant and heartfelt and 45 minutes after it started all in attendance agreed it had been a moving and well conducted ceremony.

Following the ceremony, the 48th delegation placed a wreath at the Benifontaine memorial and then attended the post dedication reception and exhibit which were held in the town hall of our gracious host, Mayor Jacques Jakuboszczak . It should be noted that the main business in this very small town is the famous Ch'Ti Brewery – needless to say they supported the event. Once again speeches were short, gifts of gratitude were exchanged and everyone enjoyed the comradeship. As with our previous host communities in both France and Belgium, the support and cooperation provided by the Benifontaine community was outstanding and instrumental with respect to obtaining the memorial site. Another strong connection was established and will be maintained. The Mayor also arranged for a flight over the Vimy area in an aircraft from the local Benifontaine airfield and Simon, George Turner and Guy Bowie had a thrilling tour from the air. (Rumour has it no barf bags were required in flight.)

The Team then shifted south of Arras to Marquion to prepare for the Canal du Nord dedication scheduled for the 24th. On the Sunday prior to the ceremony, Simon arranged for us to meet the Mayor of Marquion, M. Julien Oliver, and members of the local community who had agreed to join us for an early morning walk of the route taken by the 15th Battalion from where they ...CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

crossed the canal to where they cleared the town of Marquion itself. As battlefield guide, Simon lead our Team, the Mayor and about 30 community members along the entire route stopping to explain the actions that took place and key points of interest related to the 15th Battalion's actions that day in 1918. The tour ended at the town hall with some beer and champagne to bolster our spirits after the brisk morning walk. That afternoon the team returned to nearby Hendecourt-les-Cagnicourt to visit the Crow's Nest memorial erected in 2010 and a brief liaison visit to the owners of the adjacent Chateau and Chateau Wood to maintain our connection with them.

The weather on dedication was not as cooperative as it had been at Hill 70 two days earlier as it was now windy, overcast and threatening rain for the late afternoon ceremony. The first annual Canal du Nord commemorative canoe race scheduled to take place just prior to



**ABOVE: The 48th delegation lays a wreath and pays respects at the Benifontaine memorial, prior to the Hill 70 reception.**

**BELOW: Piper & Buglar at Canal du Nord Ceremony** of Marquion, M. Julien Oliver represented the community; M. Jean-Pierre Defresne, Regional Director of Voies Navigables de France represented the Canal du Nord authorities; the Military Attache' from the Canadian Embassy in Paris again represented Canada as did Ms. Arlene King for Veteran's Affairs and the British Legion and local French Veteran's groups. The local Marquion musicians provided excellent support with music, fanfares, Aux Morts and National Anthems as did the Pipe Major and bugler from the Somme Battlefield Pipe Band. Once again numerous members of the local community came out to take part and show their support as did a group of English battlefield tourists and there was also a sail past of the site by a young local supporter in a kayak flying the Canadian flag.

As with Benifontaine, Marquion hosted a post dedication reception in their town hall where gifts were exchanged, speeches were short and comradeship was high. Another close link with the local community established.

Following the Marquion dedication, members of the 48th delegation and Project Team started 'thinning out' and returning to Canada leaving the Advance Party to become the Rear Party and carry on with three more days of ground reces for future memorial sites, cemetery research and liaison visits.

The 15th Battalion's August 8-9th 1917 Amiens battlefield route and locations were scouted and several very promising locations for a future memorial were identified, surveyed and photographed. We returned to Hendecourt to visit and maintain contact with M. Bruno Marquaille the owner of the Crow's Nest property. A number of CWGC cemeteries in the Arras-Cambrai-Amiens areas were visited to locate 15th Battalion burials and add photographs of those respective headstones to the Project's database of the Fallen. We were also very fortunate to receive an invitation from a Mr. Gorzynski, who had attended the Marquion dedication, to visit his private museum in Flesquieres near Cambrai. Housed there is 'Deborah' - a Mark IV Female British



the dedication had to be cancelled as conditions on the water were hazardous. But the Project Team presented the 15th Battalion Trophy plaque to the Marquion Canoe and Boat Club and the first race will be rescheduled for 2013. Even the arrival of the Canadian Chaplin from SHAPE HQ could not hold off the heavens and just as everyone assembled in front of the flag draped memorial, the skies opened and the rain poured. Fortunately it did not last long and despite being somewhat wet, the spirits of the assembled participants remained high and the ceremony went ahead as scheduled.

The ceremony followed the same traditional format as that at Hill 70 two days earlier and was similarly very well attended: the Mayor

tank lost in action in November 1917 and unearthed nearby by M. Gorczynski after years of research and digging.

The operational part of Phase Three of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project ended on 28 Sept as the Team returned to Canada having concluded an extremely successful and enjoyable dedication trip.

The participation of virtually the entire expanded team, as well as several key donors and supporters, to the Regimental delegation provided an opportunity for more firsthand exposure to the work being done by The Project and increased the sense of comradeship amongst all taking part. My sincere thanks to all involved and once again special thanks to Simon Godly for long hours, numerous meetings and many miles travelled over the last year.

## AN APPEAL TO OUR READERS AND B

The 15th Battalion Memorial Project has amassed an extensive collection of photographs and other materials related to the Battalion and its members. A significant number have been scanned from the Regimental Museum's archives but a very large number have also come from other sources such as Library and Archives Canada, the Virtual Memorial, numerous on-line internet sites and in particular, from many individuals who had relatives in the 15th Battalion who became aware of the Memorial Project and contacted us to share their heirlooms.

As these materials are collected they are analyzed, cross referenced, catalogued and organized into the Project's photographic or documentary archives for ongoing Project research; uploading to on-line Virtual Memorial files; copying for the archives of The Regimental museum; uploading to the new Memorial Project's website database at [www.15thbattalioncef.ca](http://www.15thbattalioncef.ca) and sharing with academics, researchers and family members requesting information.

Do you or possibly someone you know have any period photographs, letters, diaries or documents connected to someone who served in the 15th Battalion CEF during World War I? If so, and you are willing to share them with the Project, please contact us at [www.15thbncef@gmail.com](mailto:www.15thbncef@gmail.com).



## UNKNOWN SOLDIERS OF THE 15TH BATTALION

by Capt (Ret) V. Goldman, CD

The Menin Gate in Belgium and the Vimy Memorial in France are inscribed with the names of members of the Canadian Corps who fell in the Great War and have no known grave. The Menin Gate bears the names of 258 members of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) while 202 names are found on the Vimy Memorial.

Over the past six years, members of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project Team have discovered a few grave markers with a Maple Leaf and the heading "Unknown Soldier of the Great War 15th Bn Canadian Inf". One can only speculate as to whom among our 460 unknown warriors lie in that grave.

At Poelcapelle British Cemetery in Belgium, there were 12 such graves as well as similarly marked graves for the 13th Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada). Our deduction was that these were soldiers killed at 2nd Ypres on 24 April 1915 and buried in their trenches by the Germans. Following the war, bodies were recovered and buried in this location. Individual names were lost to history but a collar badge or shoulder title identified the unit.

At Dominion Cemetery in France lie many of the dead from our successful assault on the Crow's Nest on 1 September 1918, and the cracking of the Drocourt-Queant Line the following day. In this cemetery one grave stands out as it bears an inscription identifying the unit but also the date 4 September 1918. An examination of the war diary indicates there were no casualties that day. Speculation leads us to believe that this unknown soldier was killed on the 1st or 2nd of Sept and his body discovered on the 4th. The Vimy Memorials lists the names of five members of the 15th Battalion who died during this time period. Perhaps this grave holds the remains of Privates A.T. Paul, F.C. Saunders, J.L. Jamieson, T.H.R. Gazey or W. Wood?

In St. Mary's Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery lie three members of the unit killed during August 1917 Battle of Hill 70. Two of these graves are identified. The third bears the inscription "Unknown Officer of the Great War 15th Bn Canadian Inf". Is this the grave of Lt Donald Wallace McDonald or Lt James Archibald Wylie as they are the only officers killed during this time period who have no known grave.

Let us remember all those of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) who



died, in particular those who through the fate of war were denied a known grave.

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!

## FRITZ THE WAR HORSE!

Previous issues of the Falcon told the story of Fritz the war horse of the 15th Battalion and the uncovering last year of a photograph of the him with Col Bent's granddaughter in Nova Scotia. Just before going to press, while scanning and analyzing photos from the Regimental Museum archives, BGen Young discovered and identified a second photograph of Fritz - this one a wartime image. The photo was taken some time after the Armistice in 1918 and shows Col Bent mounted on Fritz accompanied by the DCO, Major Girvan, also mounted.



**ABOVE: The Bent Family standing before LCol Bent's portrait in the Officers Mess.**

**BELOW: BGen Young with LCol Bent's son and LCol Bent's uniform, which his Family donated to the Regimental Museum at the Officers Mess Dinner in May.**



CREATING A MONUMENT

By Simon Godly

“Aux Morts!”

With these words I set in motion the final stage of the unveiling of our monument at Marquion. But how much planning goes into putting a bronze plaque on a red brick wall?

The work started in April 2011 when I received information packs from General Young concerning the Battles of Hill 70 and the Canal du Nord.

My initial recce at Hill 70 (about 90km from where I live) discovered a perfect location in the parking area of the Parc des Cytises opposite the old mine. From there it would be possible to follow the Highlanders' attack as they swept across the ground in front.

At Marquion (even further away) I decided upon a site alongside the canal where the Highlanders had entered the town. Easily seen from the main Arras – Cambrai Road, it offered a parking area and would also be in view of the water traffic.

Lens-Liévin Agglomeration Council (CALL) confirmed that the Parc des Cytises site was on their ground, and Voies navigables de France (VnF) the Canals' Authority said that the Marquion location belonged to them.

By the beginning of December, things were progressing. General Young had been over for the Festubert inauguration in October and whilst here approved both locations. With funding for both plaques secured I began writing proposals. Each covered the background history to the battle, complete with maps, the Canadian Corps' action, the part played by the 15th Battalion, a description of the monument and its proposed location.

There is also a soldier from amongst the casualties to symbolise all the Highlanders. The monument serves as a reminder, of what young (and some, not so young) Canadians sacrificed.

The presentations are in French and I learned long ago that I cannot always rely on native speakers for either correct grammar or spelling – just as not everyone is able to write excellent English, like what I can!

By the middle of March 2012 these had been compiled and forwarded to the CALL and the VnF. Marquion posed a particular problem of protocol. We needed, Alain Lebek the Director for the Cambrai Sub-Division of VnF, to grant us access and have Julien Olivier, the town's Maire, to say they were interested.

Fortunately M Lebek's only concern was that the monument did not impede the Emergency Services. An official request was all that he required.

The Behrends Foundry in Canada requires six weeks to cast the plaques and the 'chicken and egg' enigma eventually raises its head. The Canadian party needs to organise their flights. For that they need dates, which I can't go firm on until I know that the Canadians can get here.

At the end of May I received a letter from Jean-Pierre Kucheida, President of the CALL giving the project a green light.

That letter led to my first meeting with David Pierru for the CALL and Jacques Jakuboszczak, Maire of Bénifontaine, an exuberant seventy year old who was thrilled to be having the monument erected in his commune.

My next stop that day was Marquion and a meeting with Julien Olivier, another enthusiastic historian. The inauguration there was pencilled in for the evening of 24th September, a few days before the battle's anniversary.

The final port of call was with Alain Lebek at Cambrai. The General's letter, or more importantly my translation, covered all the required points. Our official confirmation from VnF was with me within a week.

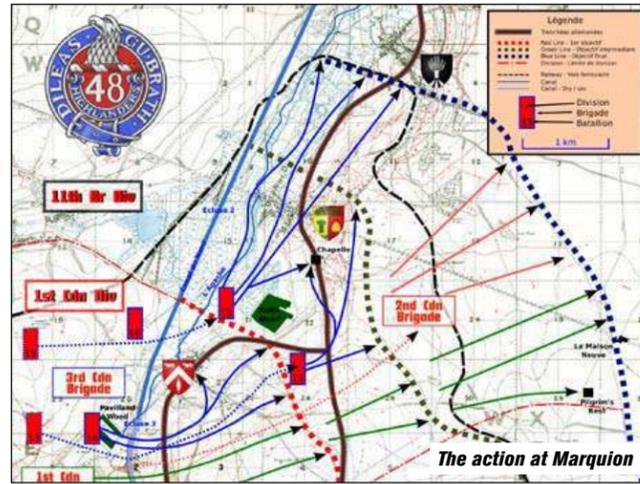
So, we would be having our two inaugurations in late September. The respective bands had been notified; builders had been contacted; the reception catering (and beer) ordered; I had the invitations drafted. I now needed the Canadian party to go firm on the dates.

My work now turned to drafting the two plaques. I had insisted from the start that I wanted them to contain a map and an account of the action in French. I prepare the maps, and this year had one of the English texts to write, as well as both to translate.

In French I try to include anything that is going to be of local interest. Certainly M Olivier will now look at the chapel, twenty metres from his house, and think of it as a machine gun position.

Summer was approaching and most of my French contacts were going on holiday. Our deadline with Behrends was the 19th July and that announcement forced another flurry of meetings in both towns.

The following week I received the final proofs for the plaques. Horror of horrors! The text looked good but both maps were faulty. Two annotated graphics showing what was awry were quickly but accurately created and fired



back to Canada.

With that stage behind me I began organising other things for us to do during the Canadian party's stay.

The CALL was offering to take us out to see the prestigious new Louvre-Lens site as it neared its completion.

The Loos Museum were opening for us and facilitating a visit to the two huge mining spoil heaps that dominate the surrounding battlefields. Through M Jakuboszczak I was able to offer a flight from the local aerodrome over Vimy.

The St Germain brewery at Aix-Noulette is a small brewery famous for the quality of its Page 24 range of beers and they were going to give us a tour and tasting.

For Marquion I had invited the local rambling club to join us in a walk across the battlefields whilst at Hill 70 I had arranged with the site foreman of the former pit buildings to allow us access to it and the quarry behind, both of which featured in the Highlanders' assault in 1917.

I was a wee bit disappointed on my recce to find that it was going to be impossible to cross the Agache stream at Marquion as the battalion had done in 1918; it was just too wide. We wouldn't want the Colonel falling in.

The next job was creating two expositions. For Hill 70, the Loos Museum were lending me displays showing some of the Canadian inscriptions in the tunnels under the town, including relatives of LCol George Turner.

My own work consists of preparing eighteen A3 sheets for each location. I cover the general background of the battle, details on how the Canadian Corps was organised, our traditions, descriptions of the battlefield and, to maintain the human aspect, photos and details of some of the casualties.

Then there were two speeches to write in French, as I would be the only person to speak on behalf of the Memorial Project, and the running orders.



CLOCKWISE STARTING TOP LEFT:

The Hill 70 Reception Room.

Afternoon prayers at the St Germain Brasserie

Vic Goldman and Julien Olivier, Maire of Marquion, enjoy some refreshment after the battlefield walk.

BGen Young meets Alf, the Irish Setter, at the home of Stephane Danel.

Simon discusses the construction of the Hill 70 monument with M. Godart, M. Jakuboszczak and BGen Young.

The Highlanders' battle-field seen from the air the much enlarged quarry.jpg

Adding new meaning to the Royal Irish Fusiliers 'war cry' clear the way, the site foreman provides access to the quarry near the new Hill 70 monument.

The ceremonies are conducted in French with a mixture of French and Canadian ceremonial traditions. For example. The band will play 'Aux Morts', the French ceremonial equivalent of the Last Post. That is followed by For the Fallen read in English by one of us and then in French by a villager; we then sound the Last Post.

Pietro Valentin, Bénifontaine's director of music wanted to play the official 'fanfare' for the arrival of General Young and was disappointed to find that the General was a very hands-on sort of guy and would probably be on site long before the rest of us.

Our plaques arrived in France on 6th September and the following day I set out for Marquion to give our builder, James Leclercq the first one. The following Monday was the turn of Bénifontaine.

Our builder there, Nicolas Godart, explained that, because of thefts in the area, the wall would be hollow. The plaque would be inset and secured by bolts; decorative steel clamps would be added. Finally the cavity would be filled with concrete and the cover fitted. The extra work would be borne by himself as his contribution to the project.



For a number of days my battered old A3 Epson printer had been grinding out the pages for the expositions. Each takes about twenty-five minutes and there were thirty-six of them to print.

On the 18th September I went to my final meeting with the Canals' staff at VnF in Cambrai. They very kindly sorted out a pile of information and photos about the construction of the canal for me to include in our display.

On the way home I passed through Arras, so pulled up on the Grand' Place to see if I could come across General Young and his party. There they were coming across the cobblestones looking a happy if slightly jet-lagged trio.

All that was left for me to do now was set up the two expositions, finish my two speeches in French, conduct two battlefield walks and ensure that everything else went to plan, or at least didn't stray too far away from it.

It had been a long year and a very hectic final few months, but I hope that all those who attended from both nations enjoyed the events and found them informative. A lot of work had gone into them.



## MAISON BLANCHE - CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD TUNNELS NEAR VIMY RIDGE

By Anthony Goddard

Last October whilst David Mills and I were visiting Flanders we met a group of retired Canadian army officers, amongst them was Brigadier General Greg Young. I mentioned the story in the April "Sandbag" and that General Young had gained for us an invitation to go down into the tunnels at Maison Blanche near Vimy Ridge.

The tunnels were used by the Canadian Corps to shelter in 1917 before they attacked the German stronghold on the ridge and were linked to the attack trenches. The troops lived for some time in the tunnels before going into action and they were equipped with many facilities including bunk beds and living accommodations.

It was in these tunnels that my great uncle Ted Skeats of the 48th Highlanders of Canada stayed and waited to attack with his regiment. It was also in these tunnels that Ted Skeats wrote his name next to the regiment's badge carved in the rock before he went into action, an action which left him with severe head wounds, which he survived.

The site is currently being excavated and documented by archaeologists from Canada and Britain. They are only in France for two weeks this year so our visit had to be strictly coordinated and took place between 7th and 10th June.

Immediately, when we arrived at the tunnels, we were met and escorted down into a very strange somewhat eerie atmosphere of torchlight and dust. But when we finally got down deep enough to see the soldiers' living area, what an amazing sight greeted us. Over many of the walls was graffiti left by the Canadian soldiers 95 years ago, names of loved ones, their hometown names and epitaphs to fallen comrades.

At one point they had even carved out a "letter box" for sending letters home, there were many badges along with nostalgic, patriotic and religious sentiment. The

writings were high on the walls too and this was explained to us by the fact that bunk beds had been placed in the tunnels and were obviously written whilst the soldier was on his bed.

As I wrote in the April "Sandbag" it would have been these soldiers who attacked the Germans entrenched on the high ground of Vimy Ridge and accomplished an astounding victory which had eluded Allied forces for more than two years previously.

I have to confess that until about two years ago I was not totally familiar with the history of Canadian actions until I met a charming Frenchman on one of our visits. Of course I was fully aware of the Vimy Ridge action and how Canada immediately joined Great Britain at the very outset of the Great War in 1914.

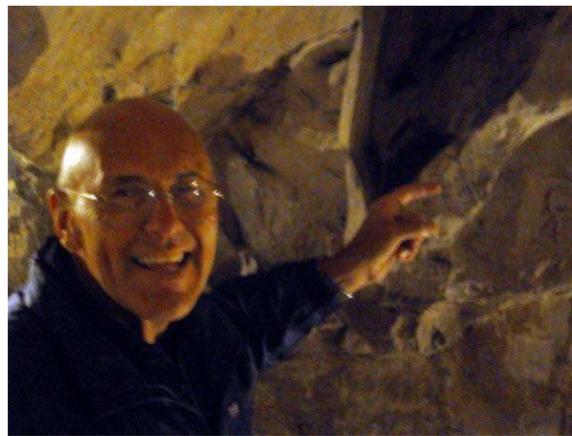
Our French friend lives near Loos and is deeply interested in the history of his area in the war and over the years as a hobby he had often escorted Canadian tourists. What was to follow over the coming days in France was an exciting and enlightening tour over the Canadian battlefields.

As well as being in the Ypres Salient of Flanders, the Canadians had undertaken many epic actions around Loos and in fact several Victoria Crosses were won by Canadian soldiers in that very area.

Customarily David and I take wreaths to the graves of our local soldiers in France and Belgium. On this recent trip I had a supply of such wreaths and poppy crosses for the purpose of not only visiting two of our own soldier's graves but to place wreaths at Canadian sites around Loos and Vimy.

In the unusually named Cabaret Rouge Cemetery (named after a house which stood at that spot) are many Canadian and British burials but there is a very poignant spot, which is an empty grave which once contained an unknown Canadian soldier. His body was exhumed in 2000 and has now been reburied at the Canadian War Memorial in Ottawa – The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Evidence of the Canadians is everywhere



Anthony Goddard points to Cpl Edward Skeats' inscription in Maison Blanche

in the area and our French friend took us to the garrison town of Bouvigny-Boyeffles on the edge of the Loos battlefield. It was here behind the lines that was a rest area for the troops which was not heavily damaged in the war and still can be seen much Canadian and British graffiti.

Loos is a coal mining area and as we left the village a remarkable panorama of the whole Loos battlefield emerged complete with coal slag heaps which British troops fought around in 1915.

The whole area of Loos has to me a mystic ring to it, as so much heroism and bravery has been seen there. It was nearby that the famous British air ace, Captain Albert Ball VC is buried - in a German cemetery. It is also nearby where he crashed after being shot down by Lothar von Richtofen (the Red Baron's brother), a memorial to him was erected by his family on the spot.

Several holders of the Victoria Cross are buried in the area but one unusual story emerged whilst we were in Loos. It is that of Cpl. Filip Konowal VC a Ukrainian-Canadian who won the VC in an extraordinary brave action in August 1917 at Hill 70 when he stormed singlehandedly a German machine gun position. Filip Konowal ranks amongst the few (if not the only) Victoria Cross holder to stand trial for murder. He was acquitted on the grounds of him being mentally unstable after the war wounds he received.

## THE FORGOTTEN HEROES

Lt (Ret) Thomas Birchall, CD

"Lest we forget" took on a whole new meaning for me this summer as I had the privilege of representing the Regiment at a rather unusual monument unveiling.

While our story could've started many centuries ago, for me it started with a journalist in Halifax, Richard Foote, who contacted BGen G Young regarding a story he (Richard) was working on about a young boy in Bass River, Nova Scotia. (Bass River is located on the Bay of Fundy about an hour and half north-west of Halifax with a permanent population of about 300.)

Noah Tremblay, a grade six student, had just completed a class project on the importance of animals and their sacrifice serving Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen during the Great War. Noah, a self-described animal lover, discovered that there was no permanent monument to service animals killed during conflicts. This didn't seem right to Noah.

Noah had a plan and after more research started the process of raising funds to build a lasting monument to the "Forgotten Heroes". Noah reached out to businesses, the community, the federal government and he also did fundraisers. Slowly the fund grew. Along with a number of MP's, local politicians, military and policing groups, Veterans Affairs also donated to the cause. Eventually the project came to the attention of the local media and finally to the attention of the 15th Bn Memorial Project and BGen Young.

Concurrently the 15th Bn Memorial Project team had been working on the story of LCol Charles Bent and his horse (Fritz) and dog (Bruno). LCol Bent, a former Commanding Officer of the Regiment, hailed from Nova Scotia and is buried in Lawrencetown which, like Bass River, is located on the shores of the Bay of Fundy.

It didn't take long before the Regiment and Noah connected resulting in a donation to Noah's Forgotten Heroes Monument project. After more than a year's work, Noah raised \$21,000 to pay for the project. Not bad for a 12 year old!

I awoke on Canada Day, 2012 to an absolutely perfect day, warm (actually hot) and cloudless, donned my regimental kit, and headed with my wife off to Bass River for the official unveiling of the "Forgotten Heroes" monument as a representative of the Regiment.

The Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River is spectacular with monuments to the two world wars, UN peacekeeping missions, Afghanistan

and the Merchant Marine.

Over two hundred people attended the unveiling, most from outside the community and representing all walks of life including local and national policing forces, military personnel (current and retired) as well as the usual politicians. The programme featured a picture of LCol Bent riding Fritz with Bruno alongside. Each speaker had a part to play and spoke well of Noah's accomplishments and the importance of the monument;

however, it was Noah and his younger brother who stole the show. Noah's brother acted as MC and did an outstanding job. Noah spoke beautifully from a prepared script and then it was time for the official unveiling.

Noah led the group from the main podium to a quiet part of the park off to the side near a towering maple tree. There the monument was unveiled.

The monument is stunning and very tastefully done. It would not have happened without the support of the 48th. The monument itself has four sides each captioned differently: Trust, Loyalty, Honour and Bravery. Inscribed on the monument are those animals who served. On one side, about halfway down are the names Fritz and Bruno.

The day ended with a reception at the local Junior High School which was a fitting location as it was here the project really started. For me it brought a deeper understanding of our collar insignia and the relationship of animals and birds (i.e. Falcons) that support us in times of strife.

As a result of Noah's efforts the Federal Government is now looking at a similar monument in Ottawa to commemorate those Forgotten Heroes. Noah has been asked to assist in the project.

LEST WE FORGET.....



ABOVE: Tom, Noah and others at the dedication ceremony.





# MORE 48TH WAR HORSES



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**  
 1 - LCol A Miller 134th Bn 1916  
 2 - Capt FM Ross 134th Bn 1916  
 4 - Maj R Sheill 134th Bn 1916  
 3 - Capt FM Murphy 134th 1916

# HIGHLANDER BIKERS AT WAR



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**  
 1 - Lt Dean 134th Bn 1916 on an Indian  
 2 - Pte Hackett 134th Bn 1916 on an Indian  
 3 - LCpl H McDowell on a Norton. Sicily 1943  
 4 - BGen G Young on a Kawasaki. Afghanistan 2006  
 5 - Ptes JC Owen & PW Cooper, Sgt RW Dooley and Cpl BE MacDonald on Nortons. Sicily 1943

REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND 2012  
**MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETARY**  
10 NOV 2012



REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND 2012  
**OCA DINNER**  
10 NOV 2012



# REMEMBRANCE DAY • 11 NOV 2012



# REMEMBRANCE DAY • 11 NOV 2012



Photos by Nick Birch, David Archer, Ian Macdonald & Adam Bernard

## THE DAY WAS COLD

Nancy A. Lawson & Patricia A. Lawson

The day was cold, cloudy and windy, but that did not affect the many people from the town of Apeldoorn who came to make their annual vigil for those young Canadian soldiers who saved their town from the continued terror of the war. The captivity by the Germans and loss of their freedom and proud heritage were difficult times.

I made a trip to visit my daughter in Edinburgh and we met in Amsterdam, which gave me time to deliver some music to the 48th Highlanders of Holland. Upon hearing of our visit, Tonnie van Amersfoort immediately invited us to the April 15 Freedom of the City Remembrance ceremonies at Holten Memorial Cemetery.

We were both honoured to be invited as guests by the town's people and most especially by Tonnie van Amersfoort, the Business Manager for the 48th Highlanders of Holland and the Pipes & Drums of the 48th H.O.H.

The Drum Major and his wife Berber kindly offered to pick us up from the train station in Apeldoorn and drive us to the memorial ceremonies. As we were awaiting the commencement of the ceremonies Tonnie led us to the newly completed (this spring of 2012) Memorial Museum, adjacent to the cemetery. In this building all memorabilia about the 48th Highlanders of Canada and other regiments from Canada were on display.

Most memorabilia came from the families of the soldiers. There were also numerous TV and video presentations of the war and most especially of the Canadian troops. Binders of letters received by family members from fallen soldiers were nicely documented and protected. A binder was laid out on individual round tables that existed in the open area of the museum. Large maps on the wall showed the lines of war and where Apeldoorn was located. If anyone has been to Vimy, the centre was smaller yet of similar professional calibre. It truly made one feel proud to be a Canadian and to be so well represented by a humble and gracious people.

Other guests, who visited the ceremony, were the Halton Police Pipes & Drums as well as students from Burlington High School in Ontario. Burlington is the sister city in Canada for Apeldoorn.

The ceremony began with the parading in of the Halton Police Pipe & Drum band, positioning themselves in front of the first few lines of graves that represented the 48th Highlanders fallen soldiers. They played music for the crowd until the dignitaries arrived. When the dignitaries arrived (all with poppies), they first paused at the entrance for a moment of silence.



Then they were brought in to the ceremonies lead by the 48th HOH and proceeded to line up on the side of the 48th Highlanders soldiers' graves while the 48th HOH stood in front of the Halton Police Pipes & Drums.

I was invited to join the dignitaries which followed with a special introduction and good words about our 48th Highlanders of Canada.

Stellar heart warming speeches were given in both English and Dutch. They were well-spoken and directed specifically from the heart. Dr. Pieter Beelarts van Blokland was the honoured speaker. He gave a speech first in



English, then in Dutch. It appeared the Dutch was longer and more passionate by the way his arms and voice elevated. His comments to the people were:

"We are here to salute the 48th Highlanders but also there are members from other regiments who were fighting in Europe and especially North West Europe for us, to give us our freedom.

If I remember, that when you speak in numbers, that for only the North West Europe 11,000 Canadians gave their lives. But the number is not of importance. It is the faces of human beings with their friends and members of their family who died in a foreign country and never came back.

Even one of the members of the 48th Highlanders, was like a student, 18 years old and he died and also gave up his life, [adds in Dutch] "would any of you send your children away to a foreign country, not even reachable by land, across a large body of water to fight for others' freedom?."

If you realize how sad it is that you are a real high target for which you may have to give your life for what you have to do. The meaning is really there, because our dark time was often. Too often to say where the terror was.

To give one illustration, there was a strike in Netherlands in May '43. The youngest victim, who the occupied soldiers shot own for no reason at all, was a boy only 13 years old.

So you see, a war is a state of inhumanity. And so we are not to start a war, only we have to fight when the humanity goes away."

In Dutch he continues to mention:

"Good people get together, to remember young people, and continue the process of remembering. Old people know, but it is good



to see the young do not forget. We have a great relationship with Canada for many years and it's beautiful to see that we come together in harmony. It's friendship that never ends and we need to keep it alive.

People are still coming here to see their son's grave and no words can fully describe this act of remembrance. What the Canadians have done for our freedom is incredible. We desire that our remembrance increases and that no one forgets.

Thanks to everyone who cares, young and old."

Once the speeches were over the bugler and bass drummer from 48th HOH laid a rose on every grave with an appropriate salute to each one of them. The lament was played prior to the laying of the roses by two of the pipers of

the 48th HOH, the Pipe Major Dirk Goudkuil and another young HOH piper.

The dignitaries and crowd proceeded to the cenotaph where the standing soldiers kept guard at the four corners. Buglers played last post, followed by two minutes of silence. Many wreaths were laid by locals and Canadians. Had I been aware of this invitation, I too would have laid one for our regiment.

The truly touching and emotional time was when the children from the Burlington School made their statements about "war" and what they thought of it. One reported this as a letter written by a soldier. It was excellently done and very moving. Every thought was different but was a dramatic and wonderful realization of how our Canadian children feel. It was mentioned to me later by Tonnie that every

Christmas Eve, the children of Apeldoorn give honour to our fallen soldiers with a candle being laid down on every grave.

The ceremony was extremely well done and showed that this town has a heart of gold. Their welcoming was overwhelming and friendly. Our regiment through our regimental bands (48th HOC and 48th HOH) and the town truly have a bond that should never be forgotten. The town and their children will pass this message on for many years.

This visit was our second appearance at the Holten cemetery and both times the ceremony made everyone concentrate on young Canadian men losing their lives in a foreign country with few words from back home being received. They never really had a life as we know it. During the war, their life was always fighting and terror, in a country far from home. We must keep this bond with Apeldoorn, its people and most especially the young men we've left behind at Holten. These people do, and so should we, because our youth died for the cause of freedom.

As the monument says "Their name liveth for evermore"

## A VISIT TO BRAMSHOTT

By Maj (Ret) George Pearce

48th Highlanders are well aware of the care exhibited by the people of the Netherlands in tending the grave sites of Canadian soldiers who liberated their country in 1945. This ongoing act of remembrance is passed on from generation to generation and is particularly important to the children who are taught to remember. Not so well known is the fact that similar commemorative ceremonies are conducted all over the United Kingdom near towns and villages where Canada's soldiers left their footprints in both World Wars.

In St Mary's Churchyard in the village of Bramshott\*, Hampshire, lie 318 Canadian soldiers, who died there during, or soon after World War I (many of them victims of the influenza pandemic which struck in 1918-19). Among them is the grave marker of Pte. A. E. Bailey, 15th Canadian Infantry Battalion - a 48th Highlander who began his service by enlisting in our 134th Battalion. On November 7th (2011), as part of a trip to the UK, we visited Bramshott and stopped at Pte. Bailey's grave. We laid a Canadian poppy in remembrance. To our astonishment, the date on his marker was November 7th (1918).

Care and remembrance of those who served and sacrificed is now entrenched in the moral conscience of the United Kingdom and is widely

...CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

...CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

known as The Military Covenant. It is best expressed by the brilliant work of Dr Andrew Murrison in his (recently published) book "Tommy This An' Tommy That: The Military Covenant." Dr Murrison, MP, is British Prime Minister David Cameron's OPI for the 100th Anniversary, in 2014, commemorating the beginning of the Great War.

Below is a short reflection on visiting Bramshott by Cecile Suchal.

## REMEMBRANCE

By Cecile Suchal

It's November. The sky is heavy and grey. Leaves colour the ground between the identical headstones. Row on row, the markers dot the churchyard of St Mary's Parish Church in Bramshott, near Liphook, southwest Hampshire. There are not nearly as many maple leaves carved into the individual headstones as there are carpeting the damp hallowed grounds. Each embossed leaf is lying within a rectangular limestone marker at the resting place of a Canadian soldier aged 18, 19, 20 years young, who died serving his country in the Great War so far away from home. The tall Cross, symbol of all military cemeteries, dominates the churchyard. It is dwarfed by a magnificent yew tree, like those that dot so many English country scenes. An old yew standing guard over each young man ... Canadian volunteers with family names such as Bailey, Hood, Johnson, Nelson, Obre; and two Canadian nursing sisters and other medical personnel who died here, many, victims of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic.

1918. A turning point in world history. Just three years after "In Flanders Fields" by Dr. John McCrae, Canada's beloved war poet, was published in a popular London magazine. One year after Vimy Ridge. And just five years after Rupert Brooke, the English war poet, visited Canada (1913). He had a short career in the Royal Navy but an eternal legacy as a poet. Could he ever have imagined that Canadian soldiers would die serving in his native land and be buried in this small corner of England? He wrote that famous verse in "The Soldier" (1914) - "In that rich earth a richer dust concealed" - without ever knowing that many, who had survived the fighting on the battlefields of France and Flanders would succumb to the killer that attacked the healthy and the young and would be laid to rest in Bramshott.

Once a year, on July 1st, Canada Day, not on the 11th day of the 11th month, the sun shines brilliantly on St Mary's Churchyard and the 318 Canadians resting there. Representatives from the surrounding communities, officials from



TOP: The tall Cross in St Mary's Parish Church, Bramshott  
 ABOVE: The grave of Pte A.E. Bailey, originally 134th Battalion, 48th Highlanders of Canada

the Royal British Legion, the Royal Canadian Legion, clergy and dignitaries from the Canadian High Commission raise their voices in public prayer and song. The fallen Canadians are remembered ... those "with glowing hearts" who stood on guard to ensure victory in WWI, the war to end all wars... to secure what was precious to them ... the human spirit and thirst for freedom, so well-documented in Andrew Murrison's book "Tommy This An' Tommy That".

School children come to tend the graves, lay flowers on the green grass and shrubs, and plant small red and white Canadian flags - more

maple leaves. They re-consecrate the collective memory of those who have come and gone before them.

It's November now and the sun is hiding behind the church tower. The ground is covered with dry leaves that crinkle beneath our feet. The sea breeze breathes over the stillness. We placed round, red and black poppies and Canadian flag pins on gravestones and at the foot of the great Cross of Sacrifice to mark our pilgrimage.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

## REST IN PEACE: CORPORAL MERKULYEV

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Corporal Yakov (Yasha) Merkulyev, 1st June 2012 at CTC Gagetown. Corporal Merkulyev joined the Canadian Forces, as a member of The 48th Highlanders of Canada, on the 16th of February 2010 through the Co-Op Program. He completed his BMQ and BMQ Land Courses and finished his basic training at LFCA TC-Meaford in August 2010. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on the 16th February 2012.

Corporal Merkulyev was a member of 1 Platoon in Alpha Company. He was a very skilled and excellent soldier, who was positive, had a



great sense of humour and always a smile on his face. He enjoyed both field and garrison duty, taking on tasks regardless of how physical they were. He inspired his peers to work hard by setting an outstanding example through his personal initiative.

Corporal Merkulyev's fellow Highlanders respected him deeply. He will be missed by his friends, family and Regiment.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

DILEAS

# HIGHLANDERS CONFINED TO BARRACKS

## SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL - VETERANS WING

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| COOPER, Vic . . . . .      | LGSE 37 . 647-341-8573 |
| LEONARD, Stanley . . . . . | .LGE 23                |
| McKENNA, Jack . . . . .    | K2E 02 . 647-349-0669  |
| McMAHON, Jim . . . . .     | L2E 216                |
| SHONTALER Jim . . . . .    | K2C 27 . 416-483-4349  |
| SOPER Ken . . . . .        | K1W 27 . 416-487-2990  |

## SPECIAL CARE UNITS

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| GREEN, Stuart . . . . . | Not Listed |
|-------------------------|------------|

## CONFINED AT HOME - PROBLEMS GETTING AROUND

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

*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.*



DECEMBER 2012

# DILEAS GU BRATH



## IN MEMORIAM

Clifford William Carter . . . . .	Toronto . . . . .	4 March 2010
William E. Phillips . . . . .	Thunder Bay . . . . .	June 2011
Gordon M. Ross . . . . .	Fort Erie . . . . .	June 2011
Alastair Wilson . . . . .	Toronto . . . . .	Sept 2011
John W. Beckett . . . . .	West Bloomfield, USA . . . . .	Nov 2011
Stanley Oleschuk . . . . .	Toronto . . . . .	Jan 2012
Joe Estrin . . . . .	Toronto . . . . .	27 February 2012
Norman Bell . . . . .	Toronto . . . . .	Spring 2012
Yakov (Yasha) Merkulyev . . . . .	Toronto . . . . .	June 2012
Ian Williamson . . . . .	Toronto . . . . .	Aug 2012
Dave Fowler . . . . .	Toronto . . . . .	October 2012

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

