



THE FALCON

GREAT WAR CENTENARY EDITION

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

SUMMER/FALL 2014

HIGHLANDER ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITION



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THANK YOU to all those who made submissions to this issue.

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HAVE YOU SEEN THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

A colour version of this issue is available at the Regimental website

www.48highlanders.com



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A Message from the Commanding Officer FALL 2014

My message to you, as your Commanding Officer, is written in the shadow of this year's Remembrance Day Commemorations, which witnessed a record number of citizens participating across Canada. This renewed interest is likely the result of the recent tragic events in Ottawa and Quebec, as well as the Nation's on-going focus on the 100th Anniversary of the First World War. As Highlanders, we have done our part for over a Century to defend Canada, be it on active operations overseas, or training on the home front. The past six months have been no different.

Following the completion of various Summer courses, as well as support to the Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa, the Active Battalion came together in August for Ex STALWART GUARDIAN 2014. tasked with leading a Multi-National Light Infantry Battle Group. This important training event took place over ten days along the Welland Canal in the Niagara Region. All levels of the Unit's leadership were tested during land and maritime operations, which also witnessed participation by Allied personnel from the US and UK.

Later, the Fall Calendar began in earnest, with a return to individual Unit run Field Training Exercises in both Meaford and Borden. Very successful community outreach events also took place under the Pipes & Drums, as well as the Military Band, highlighted by the Toronto Maple Leafs Home Opener and the RCMI Annual Concert.

Looking to another significant event for our Unit, this December marks the end of HCol John Newman's tenure as the Regiment's Honorary Colonel. Throughout the past six years, he has been instrumental in shaping the 48th Highlanders' public footprint, both at home and abroad. His vision and resourcefulness have allowed multiple Regimental monuments to be constructed in Europe, while, at home, his efforts have touched all aspects of the Regimental Family. He has selflessly given his time to mentor and support the Unit's affiliated Cadet Corps, and has represented the Regiment at countless events on the National and International stage.

On a personal note, HCol Newman has become both a mentor and trusted confidant for me, as Commanding Officer. We thank



him for his service as Honorary Colonel and look forward to working with him on future Regimental Family projects.

We are, at the same time, pleased to welcome our incoming Honorary, Col Geordie Elms, who brings a lifetime of military and Highlander Family experience back to his Regiment.

On a final note, I must address the impact of recent tragic events and their effects on our larger citizenry. The Parliament Building assault in Ottawa in particular struck at the very heart of our Nation. Within 72 hours, two comrades-in-arms lay dead, by the actions of delusional assailants, simply for wearing their uniform.

Throughout our history, Canada, and in particular our Regiment, has dealt with adversity in all its forms. This time is no different. Our solution moving forward will be what it always has been: a focus on combat readiness while respecting the virtues of human dignity and freedom. This is the content of our character as Canadians and as citizen soldiers. It is the Highlander way. It is our way.

My best wishes for a safe and prosperous Holiday Season to everyone..

DILEAS!

ALAN BEST
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
COMMANDING OFFICER
48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA 🇨🇦

EDITORIAL: Are You a Canadian Armed Forces Veteran?

Who is considered to be a Veteran in Canada today? The meaning of the term has changed significantly, in recent years.

In 2001, the then Minister of Veterans Affairs announced that henceforth all former members of the Canadian Forces, including those who served in the Reserve Force, special duty areas and on domestic duty, would be recognized as Veterans provided they had met their occupational classification training requirements and had been honourably released. The definition was adopted in recognition of "... the potential risk that all Canadian Forces members are exposed to when they swear the Oath of Allegiance and don a Canadian uniform." The definition was revised in 2008, replacing the requirement for completion of occupational training to that of simply basic training, and, to this day, stands as the official Government of Canada definition of a veteran for commemoration purposes.

Given this updated policy, our total veteran population in Canada has taken a quantum leap forward and is now comprised of hundreds of thousands of individuals. Indeed, in 2013 (latest available information), Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) released statistics that provided a snapshot of the total number of veterans identified in Canada. The total, 695,600 individuals, currently recognized as veterans, indicates clearly that those who became veterans since the mid-1950s outnumber the remaining WWII and Korean War veterans by a ratio of nearly 6:1.

In this connection, last year, VAC confirmed that it had a clientele base of 220,000 veterans as well as 6,000 RCMP, and the numbers are growing annually.

With these changes, it is important that members of the Canadian Armed forces (CAF) Primary Reserves become aware of what assistance is available for them from VAC.

For example, if you are a former CAF member and have sustained any injuries from your time in service, whether Regular Force or Reserve, then VAC will review your case and provide assistance where required.

With the changing times, the new, younger demographic of veterans in Canada can be sure that they are part of a strong growing sector of veterans and their families and that their service did count. 🇨🇦

DEPLOYED OVERSEAS - 1947 to 2014
 GERMANY
 27 CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE
 1st CANADIAN HIGHLAND BATTALION
 1951-1953

ADAM G PTE ANDERSON JR PTE ARMINGO HC PTE ARMSTRONG GN SGT ATKINSON AR PTE ALCOCK G PTE BAIRD JH WOH BAIRD JP PTE BAILEY GR PTE BAILEY WR PTE BAURER DM PTE BASQUE S PTE BLANEY PA PTE BLOOR WE PTE BONKAR GT PTE BOWEN CJ PTE BRADBOURGH CBS PTE BRANN TA PTE BRENN JA PTE BRIDGEWATER D PTE BRIGHT H PTE BROWN RH PTE BRYAN J PTE BRYAN CG LCPL BLAIN HBL CPL BRIGGS CD LCPL	BROWN WC LCPL BURTON JA LCPL CABON CR PTE CAIN RD PTE CALDWELL WS PTE CAMPBELL LM PTE CANE R PTE CARROLL RO PTE CARTER TF PTE CHARLTON D PTE CHRASSON J PTE CHIPMAN TB 2ND LIEUT CHOPP A PTE CLARKE D PTE CLARKE JF PTE CLARKE RP PTE CLARKE SAC WOII CLEVELAND CW PTE COHEN L PTE COOPER D PTE CROZIER JH PTE CONNELL BA CPL CONNELLY DC CPL CRONE WJ SGT DALESSANDRO AJ PTE DAVIDSON GH PTE DAVIDSON N PTE	DELL S PTE DREYER PJ PTE EST ON PTE ELGIE IW PTE FARGHIAN RS SGT FILLION LS PTE FITZPATRICK CE PTE FLETCHER DM CPL FLEICHER HE PTE FORBES EB PTE FORBES WF LCPL FUBLOTTE DJ PTE GALBRAITH JF PTE GALLANT JJ PTE GALLANT RJ PTE GARDNER RR PTE GARNETT RD LCPL GARRETT JG PTE GORDON JA PTE GOSGON AW PTE GRANGER JS SGT HANNA A PTE HARVEY A PTE HENRY A PTE HOGG JOF LCPL HOLLAND DJ PTE	HOLLIDAY TF LCPL HOSER R PTE HOUGH RL LCPL HOWARD JJ PTE HUCKSTEP G PTE HUNT TK PTE IRVING WS PTE ISABELLE RJ PTE JACKSON NG PTE JOHNSON JE SGT JOHNSON SA CPL JOHNSON RA PTE JOHNSTONE PC PTE KEECH JS PTE KEELER A PTE KING WE PTE KINGSMORE S PTE LAMB S PTE LANGRY WF PTE LANE DA PTE LAPRIERE MA PTE LANDRELL ST SSGT LEE SA SGT LEE K CPL LEWIS WJ CPL LLOYD WJ PTE LUSCOMB WJ PTE	LETTRELL KR CPL MACKENZIE CPL AR MACKDOUGALL SM PTE MCCRAY WH PTE MCPHERSON GC PTE MCATEE N SGT MCCANN LJ CPL MCARTHUR GB PTE MCCOURT L PTE MCDERMOTT S PTE MCDERMOTT SJ PTE MCGARRT TC PTE MCKENZIE RJ PTE MCKEOWN RS PTE MCKINNON RA PTE MCLAN JE PTE MCLAN W PTE MANNING DE PTE MARTIN JH PTE MARTIN RL PTE MARANDA JAJ PTE MARR B PTE MILLER A PTE MOORE Y CAPT MURPHY LJ PTE	NANCE JA PTE NOBELL R PTE O'BRIAN ES LIEUT O'PREY SJ PTE OSBORNE IR PTE OSBORNE RB PTE O'DERRICK W PTE O'DEN RA 2ND LIEUT PARKS J PTE PAYNE LHC MAJ PERRY GR PTE PHILLIPS WL PTE PINCOR WA CAPT PREGST RO PTE PRINEAU CJ PTE RADFORD JT PTE REIDR DE SGT REID GM CPL ROBERTS GH PTE ROBINS EG PTE ROCKWELL GW PTE ROOT B PTE RODGERS GV SGT SHILSON H PTE SHILLINGTON JL CPL SHORTT BN PTE	SINCLAIR DA LIEUT SMITH CG LCPL SMITH J PTE SMITH LV PTE SPENCE R CPL SPRY FC PTE SPRY JA PTE STARK VR CPL STEAD DF PTE STEPHOUSE GR PTE STEVENSON RD PTE STEVENSON WH CPL STEWART DE PTE STOREN RN PTE SUTHERLAND JM SGT SYMINGTON RF PTE SYFLESKI F PTE TAYLOR RF CPL TAYLOR RH PTE THOMAS BH PTE THOMHILL GT PTE THOMPSON RH PTE THOMPSON RW PTE THOMPSON DA SGT TILLER AM PTE TITUS WE PTE	TOEMIE BN PTE TORRIS M PTE TOWNLEY BP PTE TREBLE NE PTE TIE RA PTE VATERS GA PTE VALGRIAN JW PTE WALSH JC PTE WALTON LF PTE WARE WT LIEUT WARNER RW PTE WATERFIELD RO PTE WATERFIELD SP PTE WATSON CM PTE WELDON JO LCPL WHITE CG PTE WHITEHEAD JC CPL WHITING M PTE WILLIAMSON JH PTE WILLIAMS RE PTE WILLIAMSON RC PTE WILKINS RE PTE WOOD D SGT WOODOCK WW PTE WRIGHT HJ CPL WYLIE J PTE
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INDO-CHINA CUNNINGHAM RE CAPT 1955-56 ROSA PE SGT 1992-1993	CYPRUS ALKEHA RA WO 1968-1986, 1992 BAILEY GE CAPT (REV) 2009 BASSINGTHWAITE S PTE 1992 GILLIE WF SGT 1988-1986 HEECE GA MCPL 1983-1986 SCOTT TG SGT 1988-1986 WEBBER J CPL 1970-1970 CARSWELL PE WO 2011	MIDDLE EAST BRANDENBURG A SGT 1975-76 JOSEPH R CWO 2013 MARR H SGT 1975-76 MCKINNON S SGT 1993 SMITH G PTE 1975-76 VALENTI MA CPL 1975-76	NAMIBIA DUNNETT S PTE 1989-1990 ROSA PE SGT 1989-1990	SOMALIA KNIGHT L PTE 1992-1993 VIENNEAU J PTE 1992-1993
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FORMER REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

ADKINS M CPL 1992-1993 ALBAN J PTE 1998-1999 AYDAGIC A CPL 2003-2004 BAPTISTE R CPL 2003-2004 BAUER I PTE 1998-1999 BAHADUR J CPL 2000-2001 BEST AR CAPT 2003-2004 BRADLEY KS CPL 2000-2001	BROGAN K PTE 1994-1995 CARSWELL PE SGT 2003-2004 CARVALHO V MCPL 2003-2004 CHIN A PTE 1998-1999 DARLING WM CWO 2004-2005 DIBAEI-IRANI M CPL 1999-2000 DOBROWSKI P PTE 1998-1999 DOUCETTE J SGT 2003-2004	DOYLE A MCPL 2003-2004 DUNCAN A MCPL 2000-2001 FAHR S CPL 2000-2001 IBRAHIM M CPL 2000-2001 KARASOEV E MCPL 2003-2004 KINKAID IR CPL 2003-2004 LATT Z CPL 2003-2004 LEANDRO J CPL 2003-2004	MCCRAY K CPL 2003-2004 MARTIN J MCPL 1998-1999 MASON R PTE 1994-1995, 2000 MIKAROV M PTE 1998-1999 OSBORN R PTE 1994-1993 PANKATZ M WO 2004-2005 PAYLOVIC P CPL 2000-2001 RONALDSON M MCPL 1998-1999 SHANNON L CPL 1999-2000
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SIERRA LEONE ALKEHA RA CWO 2006-2007 MCEWEN JMC MAJ 2006	AFGHANISTAN AND SOUTHWEST ASIA ALBAN JH CPL 2008-2009 ALKEHA RA CAPT 2008-2009 BAILEY GE CAPT (REV) 2007 BEST AR CAPT 2007 BOSSI M CAPT 2003-2004 BRADBURY M/JN CPL 2010 BRADLEY KS CPL 2010 BROWN GA PTE 2006 BUZNY NE CPL 2008-2009 CAIN AB MCPL 2005 CHOI RH PTE 2010 CHOI WY PTE 2010	CHUNG PPY CPL 2008-2009 DAVID J CPL 2008-2009 DIBAEI-IRANI M CPL 2004, 2004-2005, 2006, 2007-2008 DOMINIQUE SJ CPL 2008-2009 DOYLE AR SGT 2008-2009 FRANK BG CPL 2005, 2008-2009 GREENE TA CPL 2005 HSUNG JR LT 2010-2011 HUM JR CPL 2008-2009 IVENS ED CPL 2005	JASKIEWICZ JAN CPL 2008-2009 JEGANATHAN M CPL 2005 KHORRAMI SO CPL 2001-2002, 2004, 2004-2005 KINKAID IR MCPL 2010 KOWALENKO KG CPL 2008-2009 KWOK BR WO 2006, 2010 LAMIE FD CAPT 2011	MAI JA CPL 2011 MARGA I CPL 2007-2008, MARGA O MCPL 2010 MARRKOWSKI AR CPL 2006 MARTIN DA SGT 2006 MARTINIS P CAPT 2008-2009 MCEWEN JMC LCOL 2012 MCCRAY RL CPL 2007-2008 MORISCHE JA CAPT 2010 OLIVYKOV IF SGT 2010, 2012 PANKATZ WO M 2010	PARK JW CPL 2010 PARK M MCPL 2010 PATERSON ADC LCOL 2010 PETROVIC RV PTE 2004-2005 PRIMERANO MA CPL 2010 RONALDSON NW SGT 2003-2004, 2004-2005 SHORTT RM CPL 2003-2004 THOMAS BC CPL 2010 TSCHEBNA D CAPT 2007 YOUNG GA BGEN 2006-2007
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EDITORIAL NOTE:

The Modern Operations Mural was proposed as a way to recognize the service of those Highlanders who have deployed on Overseas Operations since the end of World War 2. The design was based on a similar mural produced for The Calgary Highlanders by Rod MacLeod of AFPP-International in Calgary and modified by him for The Regiment.

BGen (Ret) Greg Young was the Project Director and was assisted, in historical research, by HLCOL Geordie Elms and Maj Ron Alkema. The design process and name verification took a number of months to complete.

A reduced scale prototype of the Mural was displayed at the Ceremony at Moss Park Armory on 6 September, 2014. The full scale final version was later formally unveiled at the Armory, during the Regiment's Annual Remembrance Day Parade on 9 November, 2014.



BGen (Ret) Greg Young addressing the media, 9 Nov 2014



The 48th Highlanders Overseas Service Pin

The Overseas Service Pin (OSP) has been created as a Regimental award to recognize those Highlanders who have deployed overseas on operations.

Although it was introduced during the Modern Operations event on 6 September, 2014, its award is not limited to those Highlanders whose names are on the Roll of Service. The OSP is a silver badge based on the Regimental badge with a scroll underneath that reads “OVERSEAS SERVICE”

ELIGIBILITY: ANY HIGHLANDER WHO HAS SERVED ON OVERSEAS OPERATIONS SINCE 1939 IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE AWARD WHETHER THEY DEPLOYED AS A HIGHLANDER, LEFT TO SERVE IN ANOTHER REGIMENT (KOREA) OR BROUGHT THEIR OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO THE HIGHLANDERS AFTER SERVING ON OPERATIONS WITH ANOTHER UNIT.



Afghanistan Vets Group Shot

This year the Commanding Officer introduced the first of what we hope will be an annual “Modern Ops Commemorative Event” to be held in conjunction with the Active Battalion’s “Stand – To” weekend.

Several Highlanders received the Modern Ops Service Pin marking their service overseas. The first two awarded went to WO (Ret) Bob Taylor and Lt(Ret) Liam OBrian, who served with B Coy (48th Highlanders) 1st Canadian Highland Battalion as part of Canada’s first NATO deployment to Germany in 1951.

Next year the intention is to try to add elements that allow some more social interaction - maybe a barbecue/picnic.

On that occasion we will present Modern Ops Pins to honour those in attendance who served as Highlanders overseas.

Every year going forward, we will honour and commemorate at least one (probably two) aspects of the Regiment’s service to Canada since 1945, so if you have an idea for something that deserves commemoration (eg:The Gzowski Trophy Years) bring it up and we’ll see what we can do with it. 🦅



DCO With WO (Retd) Bob Taylor and Lt (Retd) Liam OBrien ...27 Cdn Brigade - First Recipients of the Regimental Overseas Service Pin



Afghan Veterans formed up to receive the OSP



Maj Ron Alkema - Cyprus, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan



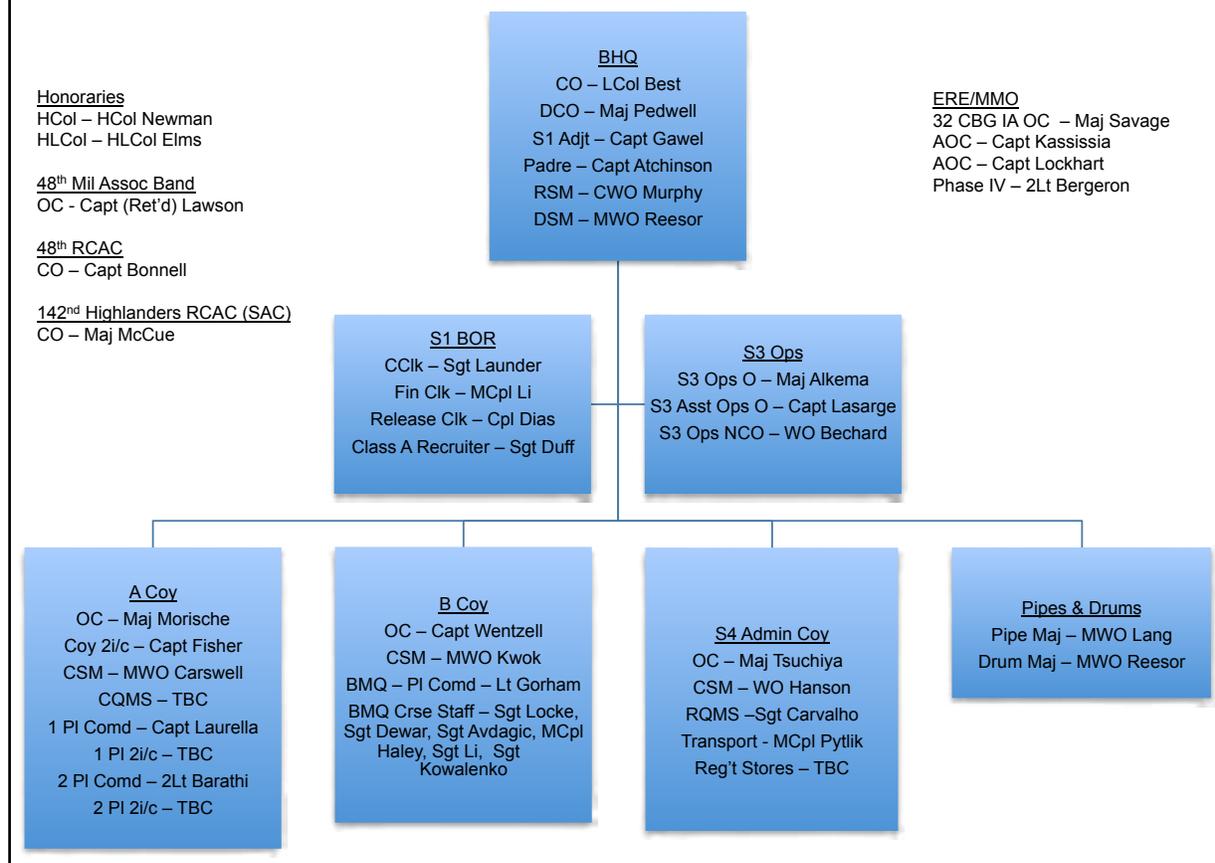
WO Hansen receives the OSP to mark his service on numerous overseas tours



Padre Greg Bailey receives the OSP for his service in Afghanistan and Cyprus

THE ACTIVE UNIT

48th Highlanders of Canada 2014/2015 Key Leadership ORBAT - Effective 31 Aug 2014



48TH CALENDAR OF KEY REGIMENTAL EVENTS - JANUARY TO JULY, 2015

1 Jan 15	New Year's Levee - Officers' Mess and WO/Sgts' Mess	MPA
9-11 Jan 15	Ex HIGHLAND THRASHER (48 IBCT)	Georgia, USA (Tent.)
22 Jan 15	Officers' Mess Robbie Burns Dinner	MPA
23-25 Jan 15	Ex FROZEN CLAYMORE I (Winter FTX)	CFB Borden
13-22 Feb 15	Ex TRILLIUM RESPONSE (4 th Cdn Div Arctic DOMOPS FTX)	
20-22 Feb 15	Ex FROZEN CLAYMORE II (Winter FTX)	CFB Borden
6-8 Mar 15	Ex TARTAN CABER III (FTX)	4 CDTC Meaford
28 Mar 15	Toronto Garrison Ball	
17-19 Apr 15	Ex NEPTUNE PEGASUS I (FTX)	4 CDTC Meaford (Tent.)
25 Apr 15	Officers' Mess Dinner	MPA
26 Apr 15	Regimental Church Parade	St. Andrew's
28 Apr 15	Mackenzie Shoot	MPA
8-10 May 15	Ex NEPTUNE PEGASUS II (FTX)	4 CDTC Meaford (Tent.)
29-30 May 15	Ex HIGHLAND STRYKER (IBTS)	Winona Ranges
7 Jun 15	Regimental Change of Command Parade	St. Andrew's College
12 Jun 15	Regimental Stand-Down Parade	MPA

AWARDS, MEDALS, PROMOTIONS SINCE THE LAST FALCON

DEPART WITH DIGNITY

Sgt Philpot, P

GENERAL CAMPAIGN STAR - SOUTH WEST ASIA

Rotation Bar for over 210 days in
Afghanistan:

Sgt Kowalenko, K

THE ARMY CADET SERVICE MEDAL

CWO Best, A

WO Fodor, J

CANADIAN FORCES' DECORATION

Capt C. Fisher

Cpl Green, T

MCpl Li, H

CANADIAN FORCES DECORATION 1ST CLASP

MWO Kwok, B

CANADIAN FORCES DECORATION 2ND CLASP

CWO D. Murphy

BSM Murray, J

PROMOTIONS SINCE AUGUST 2014

(New rank indicated)

HCol R. G. Elms

HLCol M. Scott

Maj. D. Tsuchiya

Capt V. Laurella

Sgt Li, H

Sgt Kowalenko, K

Sgt Moore, J

Sgt McCubbin-Freer, T

Sgt Moosazadeh, M

Cpl Kwan, T

Cpl Russell-Picano, J



ABOVE: Sgt Kowalenko receiving his Rotation Bar from the CO.



LEFT: CWO Best receiving his Army Cadet Service medal from Lieutenant-Colonel Best.



ABOVE: CWO Murphy receiving his Canadian Forces 2nd Clasp.



LEFT: Sgt Moore receiving his promotion to Sergeant.

EXERCISE STALWART GUARDIAN – AUGUST, 2014

By Sergeant Taylor McCubbin-Freer

In August 2014, three Canadian Armed Forces Brigades conducted one of the largest exercises on civilian land in recent history.

The 48th Highlanders of Canada led the way throughout this nine-day exercise, providing a battlegroup headquarters, a company headquarters and a full platoon of soldiers.

While the 48th's flag flew proud and high at the camp, situated just across from the Welland International Flatwater Center, the various infantry and support units set up in a gravel parking lot and the field beyond it for the first time.

That sunny Saturday afternoon, 50 soldiers from the US Army National Guard's 48th Infantry Combat Brigade were also arriving to join 8 members of the 7th Scottish Regiment as part of the international contingent of the exercise.



Sgt McCubbin-Freer



Sgt Avdagic brings his Section ashore

Once all of the soldiers had been outfitted with the Weapons Effects Simulators (WES system), which uses lasers to register 'hits on target', the real work began in earnest to prepare for the first missions on this exercise.

As the second-in-command of a section in the 48th platoon, I had the distinct pleasure of working with Sergeant Naughton of the 7th Scottish Regiment (7 Scots, formerly the Gordon Highlanders).

This Scottish veteran of the Afghanistan War displayed all of the professionalism and good humour that we have come to expect from our

sister regiment, since the renewed visits and unit exchanges we have enjoyed with them have increased in the past ten years.

On our first mission of the exercise, our platoon leaders, Lt. Gorham and WO Smitich, led us into the town of Welland, where we conducted a presence patrol/route reconnaissance in town, meeting with many members of the Welland community along the way.

Happily, these encounters were entirely positive and friendly in nature, and our day was a pleasant one. But the real work was yet to come!

Later that week, we conducted a partisan link up at the Niagara Regional Airport, where members of the influence activities company met with locals to discuss the enemy situation in the area, and its effects on the airport's day to day operation.

This resulted in information which indicated the enemy was in fact operating in the area, and with that we prepared to assault the enemy position.

The attack was a success, and the Americans (who formed a



MND Rob Nicholson addressing 48 HIGHRS BG



RCD Coyote attached to the 48 HIGHRS BG



THE ACTIVE UNIT



Pte Lydia Radewych behind her C-9 - 48 Highrs



Highlanders on the move

section within our platoon) displayed a high level of enthusiasm to meet the enemy on the battlefield, assaulting forwards at a ferocious pace.

The time between our missions was spent preparing, learning more about our counterparts from Scotland and the US, and occasionally swimming down at the river for a shower parade.

Finally the preparations at section, platoon and company level were complete and it was time to conduct the battlegroup-level (3 companies at once, 9 platoons) attack on the last remaining enemy positions further down the canal in Port Colborne.

Our OC, Major Morische, led all three platoons of our Foxtrot Company into the Battlegroup rendezvous, where we baked in the hot sun awaiting our time to shine. Locals gathered, curious, and took photos with the soldiers who were not otherwise engaged.

While the troops were waiting patiently, the CO Lieutenant-Colonel Best and RSM Murphy passed by, offering encouraging words of "get ready boys and girls, it's almost time".

And, as these things happen, all of the sudden it was on!

The battle began with our other companies in the advance positions, meeting enemy resistance in the rubble and crater-filled peninsula of the canal. It wouldn't end for another five hours until our platoon had ended up at the very front of the action, clearing the last remaining 200 metres of the enemy position.

The exciting end to the exercise was very hard-earned, and all found themselves challenged in this scenario, fighting crater-to-crater amidst the sound of machine guns and all levels of leadership yelling.

We will not forget the chance we had to work with our American and Scottish brothers, and the sunshine and good times we shared this Summer exercise. 🦅 (more photos and graphics on the next page)



UKCA pers come ashore



Lt Gorham (rear right) with his USCAUK platoon coming ashore



F Coy Stalwart Guardian 2014

EXERCISE STALWART GUARDIAN - AUGUST, 2014

PHOTOS AND COMMAND STRUCTURE CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



WO2 McPhee - 7 SCOTS



Rapid field movement



Covering while the remaining 48 IBCT Pers come ashore



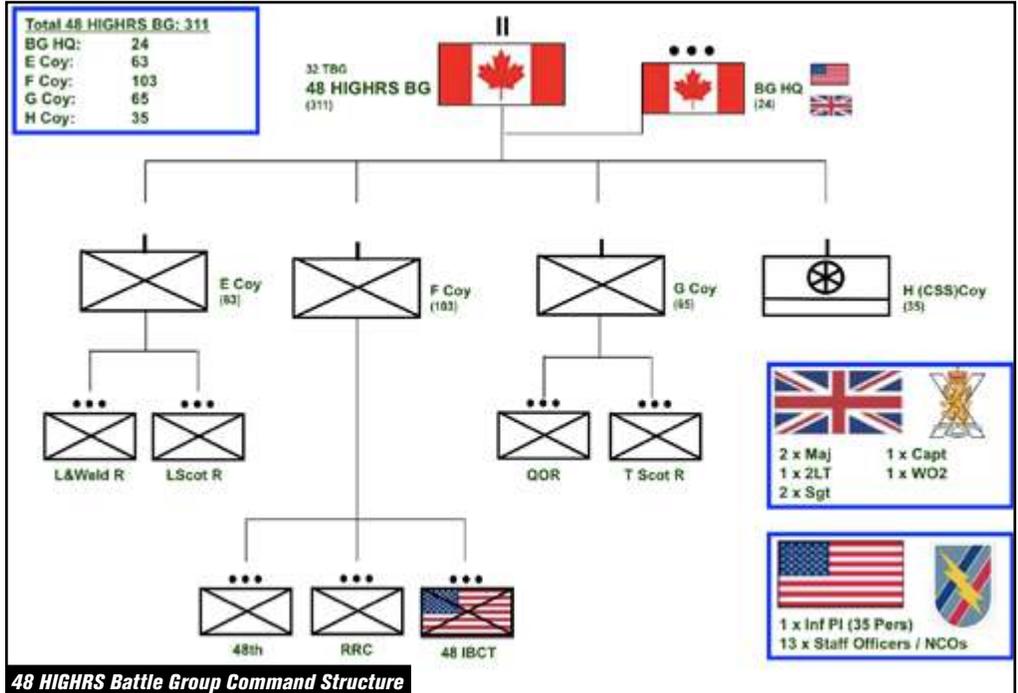
USCA pers ready to come ashore



RCN Hurricane moving CAUK pers ashore



48 IBCT Pers come ashore





RSM'S REVIEW

By RSM (CWO) Derek Murphy, CD

As always, it is a privilege to be able to address the Regimental family through *The Falcon*.

Since my last article, it has been an extremely busy time for the Regiment.

As the lead Regiment for the 32 Brigade Battle Group, we have been focused validating the Brigade's readiness for domestic capability.

The 48th Battle Group, comprised of all of the units in the Brigade, and led by our Regiment, conducted several training events culminating in exercise *Stalwart Guardian 2014* in the Niagara Region.

The Regiment is now on a major recruiting campaign, as we have been granted the authority to recruit up to 34 new soldiers. This should really bring our Regiment's strength up and hopefully we will be successful in this endeavor.

The Canadian Forces, in general, and the Army in particular, is suffering from a lack of Junior and mid-level leadership, resulting in what has been termed the "Hollow Army".

This means that the development of MCpls, Sgts and WOs is fast becoming the Army's top priority.

The 48th are not immune from this "Hollow Army", so it is a priority for the Regiment to get the soldiers ready to take their next career course.

Since the last edition of *The Falcon*, we have gained two newly promoted Sergeants with more on the way.

It is essential to the overall effectiveness of the Regiment that we place the welfare of the soldiers in experienced leaders.

As such, it is also important that we encourage new leaders to gain professional experience vicariously through the experience of others.

With this in mind, I encourage all of the Regimental family to stay involved with the Regiment so that you can help us to develop our future.

DILEAS
CWO DEREK MURPHY, RSM

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OFFICERS AND NCMs

By RSM (CWO) Derek Murphy, CD

A strong relationship between Officers and Non Commissioned Members (NCMs) is essential to the success of the Canadian Forces (CF) and remains one of the most important initiatives in NCM development.

In the future, the relationship will continue to evolve as NCMs assume more non-traditional roles such as working with non-governmental organizations while on operations.

The current variety of training and deployments requires us to adjust the way we do things as leaders. The increasing demands of training, maintaining, and fighting a military unit exceed the grasp of one individual and these must now be a shared responsibility.

A strong officer/NCM team is essential for operational effectiveness and the well-being of the profession of arms as a whole.

Officers and NCMs must share a common vision for the Canadian Forces and its mission, with reciprocal confidence, respect and trust.

NCMs and WOs will coach and contribute to the development of junior officers. As well, WOs often share with senior officers the responsibilities and challenges of leadership.

The leadership team will continually inspire and motivate their subordinates

The changes in the education and social structure of our soldiers, as well as the increase in information technology and the overall technological environment only increase the importance of the officer-NCM relationship.

This will require the intellectual gap between officer and NCM to be lessened so that there will be a greater capacity to rapidly implement the Commander's decisions.

With this in mind we must ensure that the development systems for officers and the

NCMs complement each other so that we can build an effective team that works together co-operatively and transmits a positive impression to the soldiers.

The system must also be flexible so that it can offer broad and general training to both parties which is interrelated and mutually supporting, as this will ensure that there is much less stress on the structure and that the leadership will continue to inspire and motivate their subordinates.

The team of officer and NCM should embody the ideal working relationship at every level of the organization. The officer-NCM relationship represents the nexus between the officers and the troops and the quality of this relationship determines the overall success of the hierarchy.

If the officer and NCM can work together co-operatively and transmit a positive impression to the soldiers and to those higher in the hierarchy, there is much less stress on the structure.

We must ensure that we are all a cohesive team.

There is the feeling by some on both the officer and the NCM side that some things are only done by officers and other things only done by sergeants, what we sometimes refer to as officer or NCM "business," as if there was some imaginary boundary line imposed due to the rank we wear.

There is only one kind of business - "leader business" - and all NCM's and officers alike are

leaders and as such must be concerned with all things that occur.

I don't believe in the concept of NCM or officer business. This is usually the *carte blanche* excuse for one to deflect something that needs to be done or corrected elsewhere. Of course, this is almost always a mistake. Any business in the military, especially, is the responsibility of all.

Both the success and failure of the unit is a result of the relationship between the officers and the NCM's. **R**



RSM Murphy on parade



The 53 candidates on BMQ 1345 stand at attention during morning inspection while course staff assess their attention to detail

BRAVO COMPANY REPORT

By Lt Edward Gorham, B Coy 2iC

As the Skills Company, Bravo Company has the duty of training new recruits into soldiers of the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as helping Highlanders on the next steps of their military career.

Our main effort this year is the conduct of BMQ serial 1345, on which we will have four new Highlanders - OCdt Pim Van Der Toorn, Pte(r) Francesco Falvo, Pte(r) Graham Robertson, Pte(r) Ali Syed..

Add to this list, four candidates on the BMQ already under way (Private Recruits Guenther, Peralta, Schratz and Won).

Between these two BMQ courses and the upcoming co-op course in the New Year, we are continuing to build our family of Highlanders.

Our BMQ serial, which commenced 31 October, has the best instructors of the Regiment, along with three instructors from the QOR, to help train the 50 candidates enrolled.

Collectively, our staff has at least a decade of experience instructing on BMQ. We count some new blood among our staff with a passion for teaching and fresh ideas on how to keep this latest generation of troops engaged.

Our section commanders are Sgt Avdagic, Sgt Lauder, Sgt Moosazadeh, MCpl Kowalenko and from the QOR MCpl Mehmood.

As Section 2iCs, we have MCpl Ater, MCpl Haley, and MCpl Li, with MCpl Ortega and Cpl Franssen-Tingley from the QOR. MWO Kwok is the course second-in-command and I have the privilege of being the course officer.

Our own Pipes and Drums are playing their part - Sgt Locke is our swing NCO and MCpl Birdsell is the admin NCO for this course. Sgt Locke has instructed on RST in the past, and MCpl Birdsell is a high

school teacher in his civilian career. Their contributions will undoubtedly benefit the course.

The format of this year's BMQ courses is different than in the past, requiring three weekends a month and Tuesday evenings, from now until the first weekend of March, inclusive.

The candidates will be excellent at personal time management following this course, having to juggle school or work along with their commitment to the course and the occasional take-home assignment.

The focus is on basic soldiering skills: foot drill, dress and deportment, maintenance and firing of the C7 service rifle.

The knowledge component of their training is probably the most difficult hurdle for the candidates, instilling the Canadian Armed Forces military ethos and the sense of

"Mission, Men, Myself."

Looking back to my time as a recruit, I learned I was part of something much larger than my selfish aspirations, part of an entity that ultimately reported to all Canadians and commanded unlimited liability.

Learning to put the needs of someone else (your fire team partner, your section, your commander, your country) ahead of yours (I need to eat, I need to sleep) was a lesson hard earned.

This selflessness is what all good soldiers display, and my staff is no different. They are leading by example, showing enthusiasm and dedication despite the enormous personal sacrifice of their personal time.

I want to officially thank my staff and their families for supporting them through the duration of this course. 🇨🇦



MCpl Li provides overwatch while Sgt Avdagic inspects 1 Section of BMQ serial 1345, run out of Moss Park Armoury

ADMIN COMPANY REPORT

By: Major David Tsuchiya, CD

The 2014-15 training year began with some changes to Admin Coy, both with tasks and personnel.

Capt Mankis was released from the CAF in order to fully concentrate on his studies in geology at the University of Toronto.

A rotation of CSMs in the unit resulted in the return of CSM (WO) Jason Hanson to the Coy. After several years at 32 CBG HQ, and a short stint with 4 CdnDiv HQ, Maj David Tsuchiya returned to the unit as the OC.

Admin Coy remains a small cadre of primarily Class A reservists.

As the new training began, Admin Coy immediately was occupied with preparing for the Annual Technical Inspection (ATI) and Staff Inspection Visit (SIV).

Scheduled a short four-and-a-half weeks after Ex STALWART GUARDIAN, the annual Summer concentration, the ATI was the first major concern for Admin Coy.

With only two full-time staff, Sgt Victor Carvalho (RQ) and MCpl Tim Pytlik (Tn), the Coy was hard pressed to get things ready.

With a surge of personnel from Alpha and Bravo Coys, the P&D and Mil Band, the unit



Highlanders receive a Remembrance Tribute: Recently at 4 Canadian Division HQ, Grade 4 teacher, Ms Nuphar Shiewitz, from Anne Frank Public School, dropped in to deliver to Maj Dave Tsuchiya (OC Admin Coy) and Cpl Ross Blair (Mbr A Coy) a thank-you card made by her students as part of their Remembrance Day project. On each finger of each hand, the students wrote down why they were thankful to the Canadian Forces.

was able to meet its task and passed the ATI with a very high score.

Many thanks to all who helped with the preparations and the inspection!

It was mentioned that some of observations made by the ATI inspectors would be incorporated into their standards by which they would measure all units.

This could be either a good thing or bad, since we now have to maintain that high standard for the future.

The SIV is the next major hurdle and, again, Admin Coy will have its work cut out for it:

The RQ is currently on course (Intermediate Leadership Program), so the Coy will have to do more with less.

In addition to the usual Autumn inspections, the Regiment was tasked to run an in-house BMQ/BMOQ course. This means that Admin Coy's job will be to support both Alpha Coy training as well as the BMQ course.

With new CQs and priorities, Admin Coy instituted a monthly coordination meeting for all CQs in the Regiment.

The intent was to plan ahead, "de-conflict" any problems, and empower the CQs with the view to developing their own corporate knowledge about logistics.

Time will tell if these meetings are helpful.



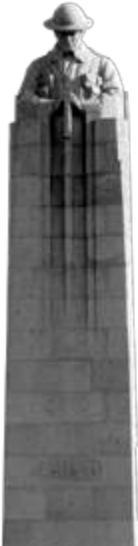


The Toronto Black Watch Association 

requests the pleasure of your company at our

87th Annual Red Hackle Dinner

To honour the memory of all Canadians who fought at the Battle of Ypres, 1915



Keynote Speaker:
Major (Ret.) Michael Boire, CD, MA
History Department
Royal Military College, Kingston
Honorary Vice-President
Toronto Black Watch Association.

The York Banquet & Event Center
1100 Millwood Road
(Corner of Millwood Rd & Overlea Blvd)

Saturday, January 10th, 2015
7:30 P.M. (Reception 6:30 P.M.)

Black Tie, Mess Kit & Miniatures
(Ladies - cocktail dress)

RSVP:
Linda Rogerson
Secretary-Treasurer
30 Turner Court
Bradford, Ontario L3Z 2W8

PHONE: (905) 715-2675
EMAIL: tbwa@sympatico.ca

Order Tickets Online:
www.blackwatchcanada.com/rhd2015.html

Tariff:
\$70 /person
We regret that we can only consider an invitation accepted upon receipt of payment

Please advise of any special meal requirements or allergies

48th Highlanders Chapter IODE presents:

"Blow the Whistle on Illiteracy Programme"

Proceeds in support of IODE programmes that support youth literacy and the 48th Highlanders Cadets.

Fox 40 Whistle - \$5 ea Contact Shirley Elms - saelms@me.com



ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE 59

1. The Peace Tower, Ottawa
2. The Unknown Soldier
3. A sunbeam illuminates it.
4. The Lady Byng Memorial Trophy (named for the wife of Viscount Julian Byng of Vimy)
5. 22
6. False. They were buried near the battlefields where they had fallen.
7. The Memorial Cup
8. Viscount Julian Byng of Vimy
9. True
10. All four divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together for the first time.

REFLECTIONS ON THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN A NEW SERIES FEATURING 48TH AFGHAN VETERANS

Editor's Note: The Falcon is presenting a new series of articles on the experience of 48th Highlanders who served in the Afghanistan War (2002-2013). Members of the Regiment will present reflections on their service time in Afghanistan and what it meant to them in terms of training, personal development and contribution to the War effort.

Our first article features Afghan veteran **MWO Brian Kwok, CD**, who completed two tours and talks about his key experiences. He was interviewed recently by Assistant Editor, Sgt (Ret) Al Kowalenko, a Cold War veteran of the late 1960s/early '70s. It is one era veteran asking another about duty and service in a hostile environment.

THE INTERVIEW WITH MWO KWOK:

Sgt (Ret) Kowalenko -When was your tour in Afghanistan and how long did it last?

MWO Kwok: I went over in 2006 for 7 months and again in 2010 for 8 months

-Where were you stationed in Afghanistan?

I was stationed in Kandahar for both tours.

-What were your duties during the mission?

In 2006 I was part of the NCE Security Platoon responsible for security of Kandahar Airfield.

We were responsible for checking both Afghan personnel and vehicles that entered the base either for work or delivering supplies.

In 2010 I was part of the PSYOPS Pl as part of Task Force Kandahar HQ (TFK HQ) and worked directly with Regional Control South (RC South).

My responsibilities included supporting the Tactical PSYOPS teams throughout the Area of Operations and working closely with our Allies at both the Task Force level and Regional Command South.

Among my other responsibilities was the task of sourcing and coordinating

multi media outlets run by the local nationals including management of the contracts.

-Who did you report to in the Chain of Command?

In 2006 we reported to the Canadian Provost Marshall (the top MP) but we also worked in conjunction with American chain of command who were overall in charge of security.

It was a multi national responsibility which also included the Dutch and Romanians.

In 2010 we were part of TFK HQ and reported to Chief Effects who reported directly to the Task Force Commander.

We had teams working not only with the Canadian Battle Group but also other American Units in the Area of Operations (AO).

-What special training did you complete prior to going on tour?

In 2010 we did specialized employment training that was geared towards PSYOPS for 5 months prior to starting regular pre-training with the 1 RCR battle group which as another 7 months.

-Did you have contact with the local Afghan people?

On the first tour we interacted daily with the Local Nationals as we were checking them everyday as they entered the camp.

On both tours we had Language Assistants (interpreters) and on the second tour we also had Afghans that were Canadian citizens as our Cultural advisors.

I also had to deal with local business owners to get billboards put up, posters made, radio spots played and other media that we could reach out to the locals.

-Did you have interaction with the military of other UN countries?

We worked side by side with allies from all over including Americans, British, Dutch just to name a few.

-Did you experience IEDs or other lethal devices set up by the enemy?

Rocket attacks were very common to the point that they became a nuisance more than anything else. Some landed within 100 m which would have earned me a medal in the US army!



MWO Brian Kwok (centre) manning the gate during his 1st tour

-Did you witness any casualties, or suffer any injuries yourself?

During our first rocket attack which was less than 2 weeks into our tour, one of the MCpls in our platoon was hit and died on the operating table. Unfortunately, the extremely skilled surgeons were not able to revive him and save his life.

-How did the tour affect you psychologically or emotionally?

It gave me a greater appreciation of the life we have here in Canada.

-Are there any key memories about your tour that stand out, positive or negative?

During my first tour as I was going about my tasks checking locals entering the base, one of them said "Thank you".

When I asked why he replied "I know that in Canada you live a very comfortable life. You are willing to leave that behind and risk your life to improve ours, so thanks to you."

-What key lessons did you learn during the tour that you could pass on to the 48th troops on the home front?

It can be very difficult to keep motivated and vigilant when your only measure of success is that nothing happened during your watch.

Presenting a hard target can discourage attacks even if you don't see it. Trust your training, as Canadians are some of the best trained soldiers in the world.

-Did you feel your Afghan tour was successful?

It is up to history to decide whether we were successful, but I can say that we all came home and we can all hold our heads high knowing that we did our job with honor and valor. 🇨🇦

A MODERN SOLDIER'S KIT

By WO Jason Hanson, CD

Soldiers forever have used various types of weapons in battle.

In the beginning, we have seen in museums and movies how sticks, staffs, bow and arrows and swords have dominated our history.

Today, however, we have advanced from centurions and armoured elephants.

The newest helmet is Kevlar and light weight. Add a Cadpat cover and individually made scrim and it is always effective.

The "TV" or Tactical Vest comes in a few different sizes. It is based on a general adjustment to consider flak jackets or body armour and cold weather clothing.

Some of the functions on the Tac Vest are built in pockets for 4 x 30 round magazines, pouches in the front for gloves, first aid items, camouflage paint, KFS, muzzle cover, glow sticks, magazine charger, 550 cord, suntan lotion and bug juice.

There are two built in pockets that will carry the issued smoke grenades and two pockets for the issued M67 grenades.

I sometimes use these pockets for my GPS, cans of pop and whatever a Highlander could come with for a need.

The side pockets are modular. You can have one for a standard canteen or a larger one that is the size of the C-9 – 200 round box.

The 2 QT blatter for water fits well in this pouch too. The side pouches are used for a variety of things other than ammo.

Some put orders formats, snacks, hats, canteens, and anything else they can think of in the pouches. Some have even placed the larger pouch on the side to put binoculars, Night Vision gear or ammunition.

The large pouches have fastex clips for attaching to the Tac Vest, small pack and rucksack quickly.

Gone are the days of carrying rucksacks and packs that make a soldier look like camels.

The new small pack is the size of the 82 pattern ruck main pack. With the standard valise attached to the small pack it is the same volume of the 82 pattern ruck.

The main Rucksack or Burgan is intended only for the Infantry. It will hold large volumes of kit.

We have even seen soldier be carried in it when first issued. My opinion is that the kit is designed to outperform the soldier.

The new C-7 A2 weapon is also capable to do more. It has a rail system for attaching lights, lasers, infra-red lasers and some other toys. It has a collapsible stock for vehicles and close spaces.

The new C-9 A2 weapon has a rail system, shorter barrel on the spare barrel for close quarter fighting and also a collapsible stock. These advances make fighting so much easier from the climbing in and out of carriers in the 1990s.

These are just some of the current changes completed. There are more changes pending.

The new uniforms are slowing coming out. You may even see some of the soldiers walking around with the new boot.

What are they coming out with next... perhaps a Cadpat balmoral? 🐼



Rucksack- inf only



Tac vest - pockets



Big radio



Wire cutters open-closed



C-9-handle-rail-short barrel



C-9-handle-rail-short barrel close up



C-7 A2



C7-A2 with Bayonet



Old binos

2014. 11. 22

48TH HIGHLANDERS PIPES AND DRUMS

Drum Major (MWO) Reesor, CD

Hello once again to another update on the life of the Regimental Pipes and Drums.

Since the last issue of *The Falcon*, the Pipes and Drums have been busy as usual.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI. Despite it being a horrific war, there are many events planned to mark this historic date in hopes we never have to repeat what happened in France and Belgium during the 1914-18 era.

The first of the bands' events to focus on WWI was the Canadian International Military Tattoo in Hamilton in June. That started what would become another busy Summer.

In July, the band travelled to Ottawa for the Fortissimo Beat Retreat on Parliament Hill. This requires a week long tasking of rehearsals and performances, along with learning all of the music that is unique to this show.

Upon our return from this task, we were right into a week of rehearsals and a show at Varsity Stadium marking the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI.

This July 31st event was staged as part of a lecture series hosted by the Monck School of Business at the University of Toronto. Canada Company helped facilitate the military involvement, and despite a short rehearsal time with all elements together in one place, a fantastic event was produced.

August saw some of the band continue a long standing tradition of performing at the Fergus Tattoo, while others were off on other taskings.

The band again participated in the Warrior's Day Parade on August 16th at the Canadian National Exhibition and then a small break before the hectic Fall season.

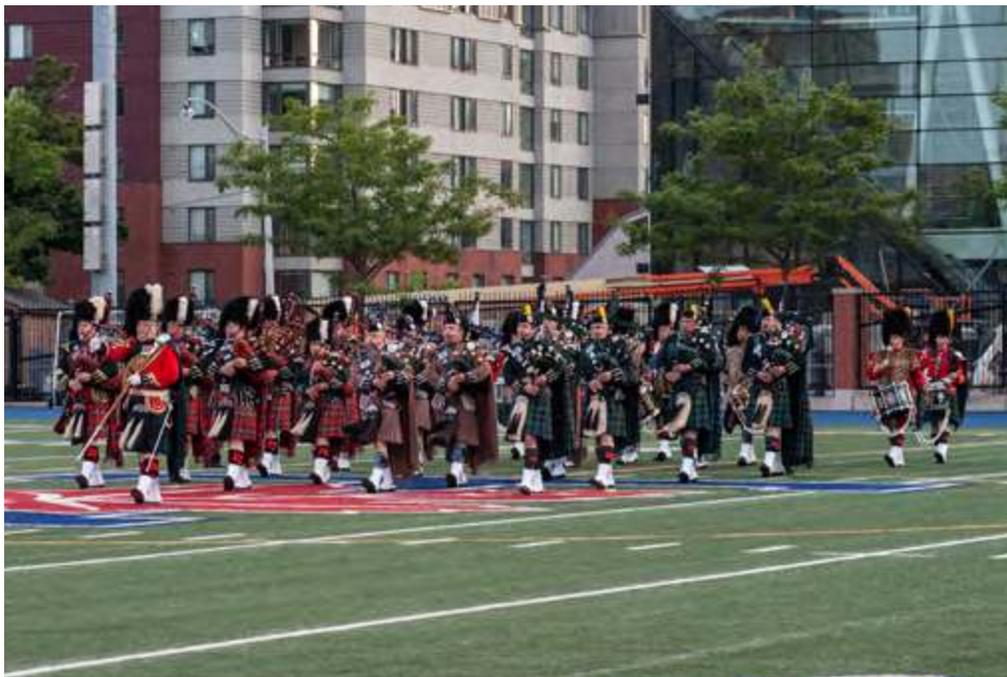
September saw the band again completing our annual military qualifications, performing at the Toronto Maple Leafs home opener, the CMA Graduation, Sgts Mess Dinner, RCMC concert and The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

And, of course, nearly 25 Remembrance Week solo piping events were completed, including the City of Toronto official ceremony and our own Regimental events at Queen's Park.

However, within all of this, we were asked to participate in something we would have never thought would happen to us.

During October, a young soldier was killed while guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa.

Cpl Nathan Cirillo was a member of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada



48th Pipes and Drums on parade at Varsity Stadium

(ASHofC) and given the high profile of the funeral, pipes and drums from across Ontario were asked to provide support to a massed Pipes and Drums to lead the uniformed mourners who wanted to participate outside of the actual ASHofC family.

I am extremely proud of the 48th Pipes and Drums for our showing of support to this tribute.

With just a few days' notice, and with the funeral on a Tuesday mid-week, we were able to contribute 22 personnel to the massed Pipes and Drums.

It was a long day that started very early and lasted quite late. It was at times very emotional mixed with moments of extreme pride, and everyone did a fantastic job. We hope we never have to do that tasking again under the same circumstances.

We are now into full swing of St. Andrews' Ball rehearsals with the Ball just days away. That will be followed closely by the Mens' Christmas dinner and then a well-deserved break...but not for long.

As the New Year starts, we hope to be sending some personnel on First Aid Instructor and Driver Wheel courses. The CO has asked if the Pipes and Drums can become the Regiment's instructor pool for First Aid and Driver examinations within our lines. We have some keen young people willing to take on the challenge.

We have also been asked to participate more widely with providing instructors to a BMQ that the Regiment is running, providing enemy force for regimentally run exercises, all the while keeping our own commitments to our outreach activities.

Cpl Andrew Appleby and Cpl Brian Turner passed their QL6A drummer courses and Sgt Dan Locke passed his QL7 Admin course in Borden at the school of music this Summer.

Pte Sampson went on tasking to CG along with Pte Keaton Weir-McPheron and both passed their QL3 Pipers while there.

Cpl Turner went to Blackdown to work as an instructor for the Cadet Music Program and Cpl Appleby remained at the School of Music as an instructor for the remainder of the Summer.

Both Cpl Appleby and Cpl Turner also compete with the Toronto Police Pipes and Drums and travelled to Scotland for the World Championships.

Pte Alex Brown passed his BMQ and BMQ-Land this Summer in Meaford and will be working towards his QL3 Piper this fall.

And, we said goodbye to Cpl Sherret at the end of August. He has decided his civilian work is taking too much time away from his practicing and ability to attend rehearsals. We wish him well in his future work and will welcome him back when the time is right for him.

As I write this, Sgt Dan Locke is again in Europe as part of the Veterans Affairs official contingent to Italy marking the end of WWII hostilities in that part of the world.

As you can clearly see, the 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums continue to remain true to the Regimental Motto – Dileas Gu Brath – Faithful Forever – and are willing and capable of supporting the Regimental goals of training and outreach activities.

The Pipes and Drums remain strong and continues to grow. 🎉

48TH HIGHLANDERS MILITARY BAND

By: BSM (WO) J. W. Murray, CD

The 48th Military Band continued its hectic schedule with a very busy Summer and Fall.

Warriors' Day at the CNE followed hard on the heels of a touching July 31 tribute to the start of the First World War hosted by the University of Toronto at Varsity Stadium.

Fall proper began with our annual skating party on the ice at the Air Canada Centre, as we performed for the Toronto Maple Leafs' season opener.

Then, before we knew it, Remembrance Day was upon us. The Band provided buglers for Mount Pleasant Cemetery and the Old Comrades Association Dinner.

We joined the Pipes & Drums with a full band for the Regimental Parade to the 48th Highlanders monument (Queen's Park) and the annual Remembrance service at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

A new function this Fall also related to the start of the First World War.

For many years, members of the 48th Military Band have supported the annual Remembrance Day observance of the Law Society of Upper Canada – the licensing and self-regulatory authority for lawyers and paralegals in the Province of Ontario.

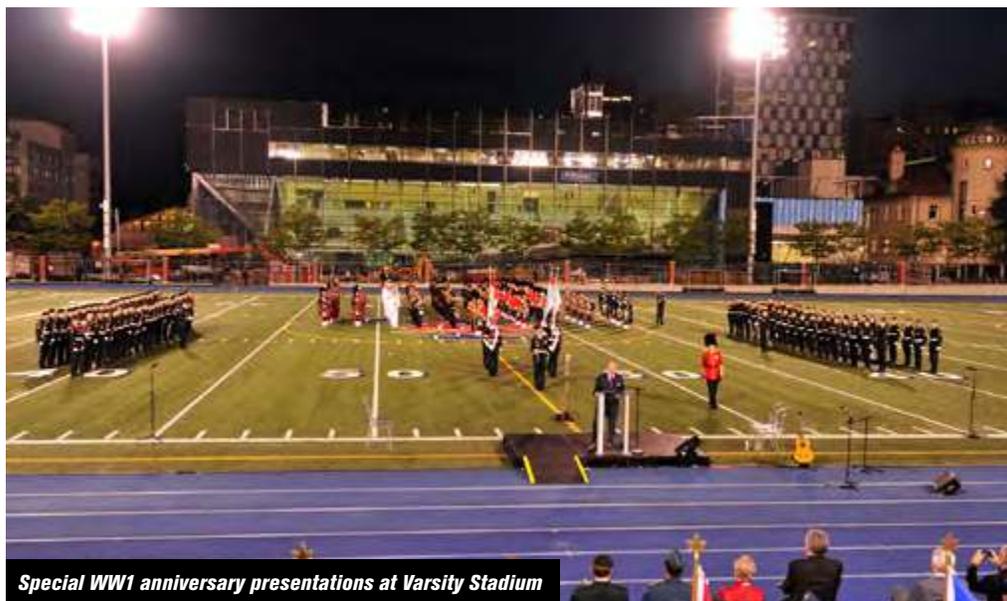
As part of this moving ceremony, the Treasurer of the Society reads aloud the names of the many lawyers and law students who went to war in 1914 – 1918 and never came back.

In the case of students who were killed before becoming full-fledged lawyers, each name is followed by the designation "never called" [to the bar].

This year, at a special ceremony before the usual Act of Remembrance, the Treasurer and Benchers of the Society formally called each of these students to the bar of the Province, making each, finally, a full-fledged lawyer.

Thanks to research performed by Capt (Ret) Patrick Shea, many family members of these former law students were on hand to hear their ancestors honored, and to join the Benchers and various military and legal dignitaries for a gala dinner (featuring entertainment by the Military Band!).

Looking forward, we are dusting off Christmas music in preparation for the annual 48th Men's Dinner on 12 December (including, yes, Star Wars) and look forward to the coming New Year. 🦋



Special WW1 anniversary presentations at Varsity Stadium



48th Military band accompanies Regular force troops during ceremonies.



Massed bands tribute to WW1 soldiers

THE ACTIVE UNIT

RCMI - 25TH MASSED MILITARY BAND - ROY THOMPSON HALL - OCTOBER 2014



A TOAST TO THE REGIMENT – WO AND SGTS MESS DINNER, 18 OCT 2014

By: WO Kresimir (Kres) Smintich CD
(B Coy 48th Highlanders of Canada)

Tonight the distinct honour of toasting the Regiment falls to me.

In reflecting on our Regiment's history during the past few overcast and rainy days of October, I have gravitated to certain birthday milestone events that mark symbolic anniversaries in the regiment's life. This practice is common in many social circles and military life is no different.

Now the Regiment is approaching its 124th Anniversary, but I will endeavour to keep my words brief and keep to certain events mostly in and around October.

This year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War. After the declaration of war, the 48th answered the nation's call and fielded a full battalion, the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders).

After the initial shake out in Valcartier Quebec, members of the Battalion found themselves shipped to the Salisbury plain, England in October 1914, embarking on months of training for the then unknown horrors of the First World War.

The Highlanders of 100 years ago were Faithfull in answering their nation's call.

Only 30 years after the start of the Great War, in October of 1943, the Regiment found itself greatly under strength, enduring rains of shrapnel and lead in the face of a determined enemy-which included paratroops and 88 mm guns- in and around Campobasso in the Abruzzi Hills of Italy.



WO Kres Smintich on parade

The 48th of 70 years ago remained "Dileas" to each other in surviving the bloody fighting and the bloody fighting yet to come.

In the relative peace of the early Cold War years, 60 years ago, the 48th Highlanders answered a call for help from their neighbourhoods, when Mother Nature released a torrent of rain in and around

Southern Ontario over a few short hours. Hurricane Hazel struck Toronto on 15 October 1954.

In a weekend after the flooding subsided, the 48th Highlanders fielded 350 soldiers, more than three-quarters of their effective strength, in carrying out a search for lost souls amongst the ravines and debris fields.

Toronto had called out for help and the 48th were faithful in answering the call.

This year, after several years of operational deployments to Afghanistan, the 48th Highlanders were among many Canadian Army units that answered the nation's call and provided volunteers for service in this far away land, with approximately 30% of the unit's effective strength participating in these deployments.

The Prime Minister's office awarded the 48th and other Canadian units the Battle Honour "Afghanistan".

Today, the Regiment demonstrates to Canada, to the Old Comrades, and to each other that it remains faithful.

There is an old Chinese expression, some call it a curse, but it amounts to a wish of "May you live in interesting times..."

This Fall, with a fear of Ebola spreading in Western Africa; a so-called 'Islamic state' threatening civilians and innocents on the doorstep of a NATO ally, Turkey; Russian adventurism in eastern Ukraine; global warming 'extreme weather events' and possible terror threats, these are interesting times indeed.

Canada and the citizens of Toronto can rest assured the 48th Highlanders have, and will remain faithful, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow...Faithful forever...DILEAS GU BRATH!

I invite you to, rise..., and join me in a Toast to the Regiment...The REGIMENT! 🍷



48th Highlanders Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

By OGDt Lt (Ret) R. Bruce Boyden

THE STATE OF THE CORPS

The state of the Corps is healthy and thriving!

For those in the Regimental Family who are at Moss Park Armoury on a Tuesday night, you will witness over 40 young people between the ages of 12 and 18 doing drill and other training activities. The easiest way to determine the wellbeing of a cadet corps is to observe the numbers on parade. It has been many years since our Corps paraded this number of cadets. Recently, at a sports night, a member of the active battalion asked if we were hosting other cadet corps that evening.

The health and vigor of any organization is a gauge of the vision, ability and excellence of its leadership. The CO of the Corps, Capt. Ashley Bonnell, has brought knowledge, enthusiasm, ambition and purpose to her role as CO. She, together with her excellent cadre of CIC officers, is providing the kind of program which engages the youth who come in the door and motivate them to stay and become cadets. The other officers include the Trg O and DCO Lt. Kim Risdic, Asst Trg O Lt. Johanna Wong, Admin O Lt. Court Elliott, Musketry O Lt. Cindy Luk, Capt. Dave Rule, Sup O OGDt Keisha Ormsby, plus volunteers Basil and Jessica, and members of the Support Committee.

The leadership of a cadet corps necessarily includes the cadet principals, who have a major influence on the vigor of the Corps. Regimental Sergeant Major Best and Drill Sergeant Major Fedore are excellent role models for the emerging leaders of the Corps, who are in the 3rd and 4th year training rotations known as the Silver Star and Gold Star Training Levels.

The cadet program teaches youth to become strong leaders in society through its excellent training regime. For example, the Gold Star Program covers Citizenship and the Canadian legal system; community service; goal setting; creating and monitoring a personal activity plan; acting as a team leader including motivation, communication, feedback, identifying and meeting team members' needs; command responsibilities; how to teach a lesson; the history and structure of the Canadian Army; outdoor and survival skills; and planning and performing an Expedition. Any young person would benefit from exposure to this unique and valuable knowledge base and skill set.

In 1973, I remember being a young member of the active battalion, helping out with the



CWO Wright hands over the Corps to RSM Adrian Best on a regular training night Spring, 2014.

48th Highrs Cadet Corps, with a fellow, young subaltern, then OCdt, now HLCOL (Col Ret'd) Geordie Elms. Geordie is a lifelong member of the Regimental Family, who lives and breathes Dileas, and whose father, RSM Bill Elms, was one of the finest leaders and role models I have ever known. At 18, I was a neophyte as I had been introduced to the Regiment 3 years prior when I was enrolled in the Student Summer Militia Training Program by my father, an Irish Regiment veteran who wanted me to be with a fine, kilted, infantry regiment. Now, 40 years later, I have re-enrolled in the Canadian Army, this time as a CIC officer. Today, I recognize the value and importance of the cadet movement, especially in our Moss Park neighbourhood, something that I did not fully appreciate in 1973.

The Corps is quite proud to recognize recent leaders of the 48th Corps who have enrolled in the active battalion. These include cRSM Guitarde and cDSM Rigg. Both of these soldiers have distinguished themselves in their initial training with the Forces. Both kept their heads down, worked hard and were quiet leaders. Josh Rigg was selected top candidate on his Basic Military Qualification Course!

This article opened with the theme of strong leadership at the top. Behind the scenes,



A group photo of cadets at the 2014 Cadet Ball held in May.



RSM Adrian Best receiving a presentation from the CO, Capt. Ashley Bonnell and HLCOL Geordie Elms at the 2014 Cadet Ball.

the Corp's most loyal and tireless supporter is HCOL John Newman. HCOL Newman has been unstinting in his fundraising efforts for the Corps. He has also worked to ensure that the CIC officers learn about the history of the Regiment and the role of the Regimental Family, and that they become integrated into the activities of the Regiment.

DILEAS! 🐉



CRSM Adrien Best, in centre, at the Cdt Basic Para Crse Graduation - 2 Aug 2014



The 48th Cadet Corps on parade at the Genotaph, November, 2014.



Some of the costumes at the 2014 Halloween Party.



How I Passed the Basic Parachutist Course

By C/RSM Adrien Best

Despite my former CO, Captain Rule, nudging me in the Airborne direction since I completed the Expedition Instructor Course two years ago, I didn't sit down and really consider actually doing the Basic Parachutist Course until the summer training choices were in front of me, around January, and I had to make a decision before the training night was over. I put that as my first choice, not completely sure of what I was going to have to do but knowing I enjoy pushing my limits and boundaries. What happened over the four weeks of the course pushed my limits higher than I ever thought they could go and gave me an experience I will never forget.

From morning PT at 0525 to getting changed from DU's to Combats in 4 minutes to push up circles (read "team building exercise"), each day of the pre-course - an extra week of training designed to mentally and physically prepare cadets for the rigorous training of the actual CF course - was a challenge. However, each day brought more stories, more experience, and of course, more muscle gains. I felt that the week was essential, for when we already started the actual course, we were already working as a team and had a slightly better idea of what we were about to go through.

Any misconceptions we had of the course that still remained, however, were quickly removed as reality set in - whether from having to do sets of 25 for having a harness too loose or getting "motivated" for not being motivated enough, we learned the ins and outs of what

to do. Putting drive into everything, staying motivated, helping each other out, and always going all the way were just a few lessons we learnt on the course - apart from the actual parachuting, of course.

Still, the idea of actually jumping out of a plane didn't hit most of us - myself included - until after we passed our pre-j-stage (a.k.a. jump week, the actual week of jumping out of planes) Performance Objective checks. Whether jumping from the mock tower with the 30 lbs back attached over your legs or hanging from the flight rafters performing emergency drills, PO day was for me the most stressful. After three weeks of getting bested and learning how to parachute, that fateful Friday was the day we would either make it or break. I, along with everyone else, spent many hours of our "free time" in preparation for our tests, and for the majority, it paid off.

Unfortunately, jumping was postponed on the first day due to weather reasons, but I believe that helped with nerves: on the second day, all of us just wanted to jump. I'll never forget the mix of nervousness and excitement I had while looking at the jump master to signal "Go!" And the flash of the light as it changed from orange (I find the lights in the Hercules are more orange than red) to green. I think I was more worried about doing my drills correctly and throwing my snap fastener fully aft (in order to make sure jumpers behind you don't get caught up in your static line) then of the idea of actually jumping out of a plane.

And, of course, who could forget seeing the translucent shades of green of the opened canopy above their heads? Or the continuous rush of adrenaline as you realise what you're doing and then remembering you have more drills to carry out (not least of importance, landing!)? I will always remember my first jump, but my favourite jump was the night jump: jumping into the darkness, only to land and realise you are not only still alive but also there is an entire galaxy of stars above you.

After 5 successful exits from the aircraft, we were Airborne, and that is that an amazing feeling. After doing some administrative work and having our "Wing Ceremony" we were all too soon on our separate ways home.

The Basic Parachutist Course left a permanent mark on me - in my demeanour, in my experience, and on my outlook of life. Even if I don't get to jump again, I will use this experience and remember the lessons I learnt while on course to continue pushing my limits and strive for higher things. I know all of the new Airborne feel that anything is possible with enough drive and motivation, and under the condition that we (as quoted by our Course Warrant) "don't shut 'er down!" 🇨🇦

A MESSAGE FROM HONOURARY COLONEL JOHN NEWMAN

Since I reported to you in the last Edition of the Falcon, our Active Battalion and various elements of the Regimental Family have been extremely busy, with a large number of activities, throughout the Summer and Fall. Things, Regimental, have been as busy as I have experienced, since my appointment as Honourary Colonel.

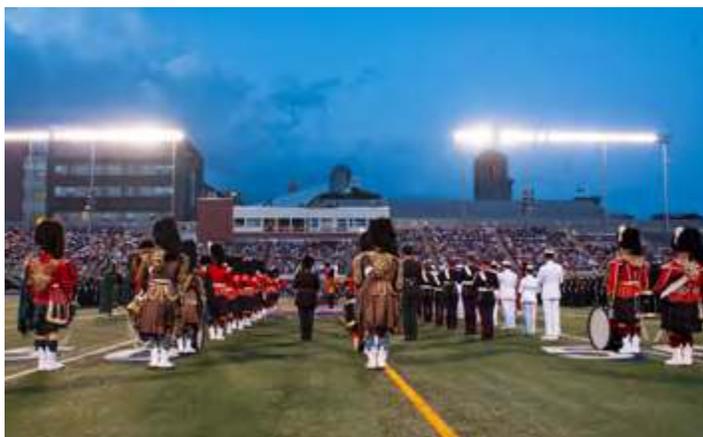
The Unit's activities are described elsewhere, so I will attempt to highlight here only a few of our other events.

The 1914-1918 In Memoriam Ceremony, hosted and sponsored by the University of Toronto at Varsity Stadium on the evening of July 31, was attended by over 5000 spectators who were treated to a Last Post Ceremony with embellishments, including an Honour guard made up of soldiers from 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and 32 Canadian Brigade Group accompanied by massed military bands and pipes and drums.

This Ceremony would not have happened without support from the 4th Canadian Division. RBC Wealth Management, Varsity Stadium, the University of Toronto, the Bill Graham Center, Trinity College, the Monk School of Global Affairs, the City of Toronto, Canada Company, the 48th Highlanders Foundation, the 15th Battalion Memorial Project and the Members of the Event Advisory Committee, who were:

Blake Goldring (The Chair), Omer Lavoie, Robert Chamberlain, Tom Jenkins, John Newman, William Graham, John English, Janice Gross Stein, Sandra Shaul, Michel Lavigne, Bill Mighton, Nina Boric, Janet Russell, Sarah Namer, Samantha Smith and Greg Young.

All involved can, and should, be justifiably proud of the spectacular achievement that resulted on the Varsity Stadium Field.



Subsequently, on October 4, St Andrew's Church, in Toronto, hosted "Voices of War Dreams of Peace" (covered in detail in the 15th Battalion Project pages of this Issue), a production about the Great War and its impact on contemporary members of the Congregation (1914-18). It was a highly professional presentation, with content so well performed that it could have sold out on Broadway!

Reverend Will Ingraham (also Honourary Padre of the Officers Association) and his volunteer team from the Church did a superb job in putting together and carrying out the Performance, with the vital assistance of Geordie Beal, Greg Young and our Regimental museum Staff.

On Sunday, November 2, "A Solemn High Mass of all

Saints with the 48th Highlanders of Canada" was celebrated at St Mark's English Church in Florence Italy (this event is covered in detail in the "Remembrance" section of this Issue). It included the dedication of a Memorial to those Highlanders who served in the liberation of Italy (1943 - 45). This marble Memorial Plaque was donated by Sandra, Philip and Eugenia Seagram Annovazzi, with the enthusiastic support of the Canadian Military Attache in Italy, Colonel Mike Hazelton and St mark's Padre, Father William Lister. The mass, conducted by Father William, was delivered to a



AROUND THE REGIMENT

packed Church

At the Reception, held afterward in the St mark's Great Hall, a beautiful Oil Painting was presented to the Regiment, as a permanent reminder of the gratitude of both the Congregation and the Citizens of Florence

A week later, on the evening of November 9, in North Bay Ontario, at the Fort Chippewa Senior Ranks Mess, the Algonquin Regiment hosted a Remembrance Dinner and Event to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the Great War and to recognize the contribution of the soldiers from their Regiment, who volunteered to join the 15th Battalion and fight in Europe as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

To symbolize the ongoing friendship between our two Units, I presented, on behalf of all 48th Highlanders, and in my role as your Honourary Colonel, a Highland Quaich to the Algonquin Honourary Colonel Victor Fedeli. Significantly, this presentation took place in the presence of both the Commander, 4th Canadian Division 3 Joint Task Force Central, BGen Lowell Thomas and the Algonquin Regiment's Commanding Officer, LCol Pat Bryden.

Following a very enjoyable Mess dinner, LCol Bryden ushered his guests down to the Parade Square where a very realistic mock-up of the Bunker system at the 1915 2nd Battle of Ypres covered the entire floor, complete with smoke, flares and the sounds of battle. Prominently featured in this display was the Mannequin of a 15th Battalion soldier in World War uniform, donated by Jim Cassie, Tom Thompson and Jean Miso and dressed and assembled by Mark McVety.

I want to express a very special thank you to all of those who volunteered their time and effort to create this eventful and unforgettable experience in North Bay.

... continued on next page



The Highland Quaich, presented to the Algonquin Regt



The Algonquin Mess Dinner



Algonquin Regt Colours



15th Bn Mannequin



Guests exploring the Display



A mock-up of the Bunker system at the 1915 2nd Battle of Ypres

AROUND THE REGIMENT

On November 11 at 11:00 AM, First Canadian Place held its first ever Remembrance Day Ceremony sponsored by Brookfield Properties and attended by over 400 people.

Mark McVety, Ron Denham, Jean Miso, Robert Harrison. Jim McGillivray (St Andrew's College), Bugler Dan Boyles (Military Band), Alissa Rankin and Brian West (of F.C.P.) all participated in this important Ceremony. Geordie Beal and Greg Young provided the Artifacts and Images that filled the First Canadian Place Lobby.

In this connection, I want to offer a special note of thanks to Tom Chipman for arranging for and agreeing to the permanent loan to the Regimental Trusts of Capt Richard Austin Brown's World War I grave marker, a rare and most valuable artifact, discovered and retrieved, from the Brown Family Mausoleum, at Mt pleasant Cemetery, by Greg Young.

Thanks also to those who participated in the many other Regimental events and activities, which I have not mentioned in my message.

On a closing note of sadness, elsewhere in this Falcon are the Obituaries of two of our former Commanding Officers, each of whom served, in their own way, the best interests of the Regiment – *We Will Remember Them.*

Wishing you all the Best of the Season!

J.B.N.

DILEAS GU BRATH

P.S.

I would also like to thank, in advance, all of those who turn out New Year's Day to support the 48th Hockey Team Competing in the 32 Brigade Ranger Cup Hockey Tournament. 🐾



The November 11 Remembrance Ceremony at First Canadian Place



AROUND THE REGIMENT



32 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters
The LCol George Taylor Denison III Armoury
1 Yukon Lane
Toronto, ON M3K 0A1



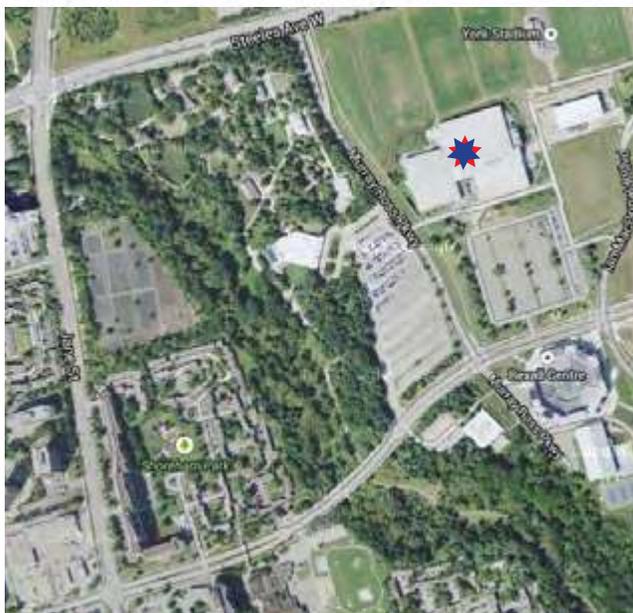
Quartier général du 32^{ème} Groupe-brigade du Canada
Maison LCol George Taylor Denison III
1, Rue Yvon
Toronto, ON M3K 0A1

We are looking forward to seeing you at the
1st Annual 32 Canadian Brigade Group Ranger Cup Hockey Tournament
January 1st, 2015 at 10:00 AM - Canlan Ice Sports York

Timetable of Events:

10:00 AM - Games 1 and 2
11:00 AM - Games 3 and 4
12:00 PM - Games 5 and 6
1:00 PM - Championship and consolation games
2:00-3:00 PM - Open ice family skate

Location of Venue:



Canlan Ice Sports York
989 Murray Ross
Parkway, North York

<http://www.icesports.com/york/home.aspx>

The closest major intersection is Jane St and Steeles Ave W.

Donation Information:

Donations can be made by cheque to the Toronto Scottish Regimental Foundation or to the Regimental Foundation of the team of your choice. Online donations can be made through <http://www.firstgiving.com/397114/the-ranger-cup-level-ice-hockey-tournament>.



Jean Miso, author of the book "Their Duty, Our Pride," is awarded the Veterans Affairs Commendation by Minister Julian Fantino.



48th OCA Veterans on parade in Belleville. Standing L - R: Mark McVety, Don Norris, Dave Perkins, Gord Smith, Nick Birch, Al Kowalenko. Seated L - R: George MacLean, Herb Pike, Dick Read, Norm Gogo, Don Denham, Don Antoine.

48TH OCA SUMMER EVENTS

PACHINO DAY:

July 10th in Belleville. A small contingent of Highlanders attended the event. A short parade and a small service of remembrance took place.

We had three veterans from WW2 in attendance; Don Antoine (who actually landed at Sicily), Herb Pike and Norm Gogo.

The RCR commanded the parade. Next year the 48th takes its turn to command this event and we are hoping that we will get a large turnout.

The event will be on Friday July 10th, 2015, so why not start a long weekend by going to Belleville and enjoy all the different aspects of the region on a Summer's weekend. The OCA is hoping that there will be enough interest to charter a bus.

48TH OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

By: MWO (Ret) Mark McVety, CD, OCA President

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OCA

A special general meeting of the 48th Old Comrades Association was held on Sunday November 30th in the Sergeants' Mess.

The gathering started with a buffet lunch at noon. There was an hour of socializing before the meeting which started at 1 pm.

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Geordie Elms chaired the meeting as Honorary Colonel John Newman was delayed. Hon LCol Elms spoke on the importance of the meeting and congratulated the interim Executive of the OCA for organizing the meeting.

The meeting began with three motions which are intended to align the OCA for the future.

The first motion was to solidify the term for this Executive Committee which will be in office from now until April 2017 barring any unforeseen circumstances. This will help with the planning and support for the 125th Anniversary of the Regiment.

The second motion allows for the expansion of our membership base by now including the progeny, spouses or partners of former or current members of the regiment from any era. This is intended to be a more inclusive and family organization.

The third motion caused a little bit more of a debate as some contradictory views were expressed. The motion was approved for which active members of the Regiment; Master Corporal and below are granted membership and will not have to pay membership dues.

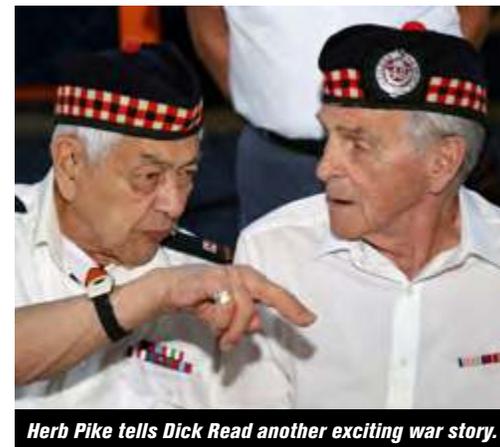
Once the person is promoted to Sergeant and above or leaves the regiment they are to pay the current annual subscription. This motion is to encourage active members of the battalion to become more involved in OCA events.

The final piece of business was the confirmation of the OCA Executive the members are:

- President..... Mark McVety
- Vice-President..... Brian Rogerson
- Past-President..... Tom White
- Secretary..... Colin Rainsbury
- Treasurer..... Ken Brice
- Membership..... Brian Rogerson
- Communications..... Linda Rogerson
- Sick and Welfare..... Ron Denham
- and Max MacDougall
- Drill Team..... Gord Smith
- Members.... Larry Fullerton, Neil Leggatt,
- Phil Richmond and Mark Bossi

A special thank to the members who attended the meeting to support the constitutional process and properly elect the Executive.

There will be a regular general meeting of the OCA on Sunday April 12th at 1300 hours in the Sergeants' Mess.



Herb Pike tells Dick Read another exciting war story.

WARRIORS' DAY:

“Thank You” to the 13 members of the Drill team and the 10 members of the Association at large that showed up for the parade on Saturday, August 16th. WO Bob Taylor got to ride in a motorcycle sidecar and Herb Pike took the trip in a WW2 truck. 🇺🇸

48TH CONTINUING SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION

By: MWO (Ret) Larry Fullerton, CD, Chairman

This Fall has been an interesting time for the 48th Continuing Sergeants Association with well supported activities and social functions.

The Chili Night (Friday, September 5th) on the first parade after the Summer stand down was a success with Mark McVety cooking even more chili than last year – and watching it all disappear. WOs and Sgts of the Active Battalion appreciated members of the CSA Executive Committee serving them chili and welcoming them to a new training year.

CQMS (Ret) Herb Pike joined us again this year and it was also great to say hello to Sgt (Ret) Don Antoine who had driven from Ottawa to join us. Don is the last of our WWII veteran members who was in the landing in Sicily. He told us some good stories and everyone had a fun evening.

Chili Night was followed by the annual CSA Wine, Cheese, and Beer afternoon on Saturday, September 27th. Guy Bowie still had time to organize this event for the third year while running for city council.

The attendance at the event was up and the addition of beer was welcomed by many of the guests. This Wine & Cheese event is open to all members of the 48th Regimental Family and their friends so you should take early note of the event in 2015.

We have a new project in development for the 48th Highlanders 125th Anniversary Reunion which will take place in 2016.

In addition to participating in the various events planned over the Reunion year, the CSA is presenting proposals to the active members of the WO & Sgts Mess for changes to the Mess décor.

The “history of the Mess” is the theme, and members of the Executive Committee – Sgt (Ret) Peter Philpot and WO (Ret) Alex MacKinnon – are busy scrounging around for additional artifacts and pictures that represent the various eras of the Sergeants and Warrant Officers Mess. This will be a slow process that should be completed by the climax of the Reunion year.

The CSA will be involved in the coming Reunion year by adding our own events to the main functions of the active Regiment.

We hope to put a ‘125’ spin on all our events similar to the Wine, Cheese, and Beer gathering that featured the beers of Belgium and the wines of France.

Luckily, through the research of Guy, we did not have to suffer tasting the ‘red plonk’ so common in the trenches of WWI. We had a fine selection of French reds and whites for those who did not prefer the premium beers on offer.

We have two official representatives on the 125th Reunion Committee and a few more from our common memberships in the Regimental Family. If any members have ideas for functions during, or directions for, the Reunion please forward them to myself or Guy Bowie so that we can present them to the rest of the Reunion Committee.

We will be letting CSA members know of our progress, our needs and our involvement in the reunion events as more information becomes available.

Hopefully our members will have a strong showing on the January 1st Levee day this year and in April 2015, we look forward to seeing more of you at all of the start of celebrations associated with our 125th year.



Guest enjoy a fine selection of wines, beers and cheeses in the Mess celebrating the 100th anniversary of WWI.



Members of the CSA Executive Committee and organizers of the Wine & Cheese event. L-R (all Ret) Sgt Guy Bowie, Sgt Al Kowalenko, MWO Larry Fullerton, WO Ron Denham, Sgt Peter Philpot, MWO Mark McVety.



RSM Derek Murphy welcomes all the guests to the Wine & Cheese and compliments the CSA on a first rate social event for the WO & Sgts Mess.



L-R (Ret) Sgt Max McDougall and CQMS Herb Pike review historic WWII Sgt photos at the Wine & Cheese event.

LICENCE PLATE "48TH" - A BIT OF REGIMENTAL HISTORY

By: Sgt (Ret) Gord Holmes, Support Coy,
Mortar Platoon (1953-1962)

I responded, recently, to an email from former RSM Doug Chappell, about Ontario license plate "48th", something that I tried to acquire many years ago, but was unable to obtain, as it was already taken.

By whom, I did not know and, for years, I have often wondered about it.

Doug's email said that it was available if anyone was interested in acquiring it, because the owner was no longer able to drive and was now in a nursing home, quite ill.

I jumped at the chance and got in touch with the owner, Maj (Ret) John Brown, a name I should have recognized but didn't.

However, when I got in touch with him by phone, he asked when I served in the Regiment and I said mid 50's early 60's. He responded that he also served during that time period and the lights went on. I asked him if he used to live at 2239 Eglinton Ave in Scarborough and was he tall with red hair?

There was complete silence at the other end of the line and, after a brief pause, he said "Yes I do - how do you know?" I replied that I also lived at the the same address back then.

The memories came flowing back to both of us and we chatted for quite some time about our shared years in the 48th Active Battalion.

When we spoke about the license plate, he agreed that I could have it, on the condition that it would never be placed on a vehicle.

I agreed and my intentions were to frame it and hang it on the wall in my home, with my other 48th memorabilia.

However, once I got the plate and examined it, I felt that it is too rare an item for just me to have and decided that it should be displayed in the 48th Regimental Museum for all



*Sgt (Ret). Gord Holmes presenting the Frame Plate to
Museum Staff Member WO (Ret) Ron Denham*



to see.

I then called retired WO, Ron Dunham, a member of the Museum Staff and he said that they would be glad to have it.

So I had it framed and a suitable plaque made up saying "Donated by Major John Brown C.D.Regimental # TB18239 Served 1956-1988". (For the record, he also served as Aide de Camp, to two Lieutenant Governors of Ontario, between 1990-1999).

This 48th Plate was on six of his cars for 30 years between 1984 and 2014.

I am very pleased to have made the decision, with John's approval, to donate it to our Museum, so all Highlanders and visitors can see this special piece of Regimental memorabilia.

As a closing note, and also for the record, as I couldn't get that particular "48th" license plate, I opted for license plate "4848", which I have had for many years and always displayed with great pride. 🇨🇦



Doug and Hugh 48th Polo Team 2015

CHESS AT 30 MPH - 48TH HIGHLANDERS UK POLO TEAM

By: Doug Ross (WO Peter Ross' brother)

We started the 48th Highlanders UK Polo Team mostly because it is fun, but also because it reminds us of the time we served in our units. It is largely made up of ex-Highlanders in the South of England.

As in the Regiment, all polo success is based on two concepts: strategy (direction, situation assessment, foresight, etc) and implementation (leadership, control, speed, team etc).

The bravery, skill, and expertise of our competing teams demand speed and maneuverability and great team interaction.

We are just starting to practice for 2015 and attached is a photo of Doug Ross (48th) and Hugh McKie (Argyll and Sutherland) at the



ABOVE PHOTO: The 48th team with Maj. (Ret) Thornloe (Rupert's father) and Mrs. Thornloe presenting the cup with 'Dileas' the dog the team mascot at their side.

Sussex Polo Club this Autumn.

Two years ago, we hosted a tournament to raise funds for The Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal Fund in memory of Rupert Thornloe MBE who was killed in action on 1 July 2009.

LCol Thornloe was killed near Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province, in southern Afghanistan and is the highest-ranking British Army officer to be killed in action since LCol H. Jones's death in 1982 during the Falklands War.

He served in Northern Ireland, commanded a company in Bosnia, was deployed to Iraq and became Commanding Officer of his battalion just before it deployed to Afghanistan in 2008.

LCol Thornloe was killed by the Taliban in "Operation Panther's Claw" during a resupply mission

BOTTOM PHOTO: Members of the Welsh Guards at the prize table where the trophy for the winners were claymores and Canadian whisky.

when an improvised explosive device exploded under his BvS 10 Viking armoured vehicle.

The explosion also killed Trooper Joshua Hammond of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and injured six other soldiers.

LCol Thornloe's parents presented the trophy and we raised over £3,000 for the appeal at this event.

If you are over on vacation please feel free to contact Doug who can arrange a polo lesson for you, even if you have never ridden a horse before! 🐎



15TH BATTALION PROJECT



Illustration above by Mike Chappell The Canadian Army at War Osprey Publications.
Cover illustration by Lt. J.B. Barton, 15th Battalion 1919

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



JOYEUX NOËL ET BONNE ANNÉE

MEMORIAL PROJECT

15th BATTALION C.E.F.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PROJECT
LE MERCI POUR SOUTENIR LE PROJET

On behalf of all the members of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those individuals and organizations, both here in Canada and abroad, who have supported the work of the Project. However, you chose to assist our Project - whether that support was in the form of a donation to help fund one of the memorial plaques erected in Europe; donations to support the operation of the website and ongoing research; or to send us artifacts, photographs and documents related to men of the 15th Battalion for our archives – we want you to know how essential your help has been to the overall success of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project.

I would also like to thank the many relatives of men who served in the 15th Battalion who have contacted the Project over the last year not to seek information on their relatives but also to generously share their artifacts, letters, photographs and dairies all of which help us to expand our knowledge on the Battalion and its men. I would encourage any readers who may have or you know someone who may have, materials related to someone who served in the 15th Battalion (also the 92nd and 134th Battalions) to consider sharing them with us for the purposes of reproduction and research.

I urge you to follow the future progress of the Project by visiting our website at www.15thbattalion.ca and reading the articles in the 15th Battalion section of this and future issues of The Falcon.

On behalf of the Team, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

DILEAS GU BRATH

BRIGADIER-GENERAL (RET) GREG YOUNG OMM, MSM, CD
CHAIRMAN AND PROJECT TEAM LEADER
15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT

15TH BATTALION PROJECT

RECENT 15TH BATTALION ACQUISITIONS FOR THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM



Captain Richard Austin Brown MC



Original grave marker from Lijssenthoek Military cemetery, Belgium now at 48th Highlanders Regimental Museum



Original grave marker had been resting at Mount Pleasant Cemetery mausoleum in front of the crypts of his parents.



Heather Weir and Ian Young of Mount Pleasant Cemetery transfer cross to BGen Greg Young of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project. Sept 2014



ABOVE: German bunker where Capt RA Brown was mortally wounded. Passchendaele 14 Nov 1917.

FAR RIGHT: Lt RA Brown 1915

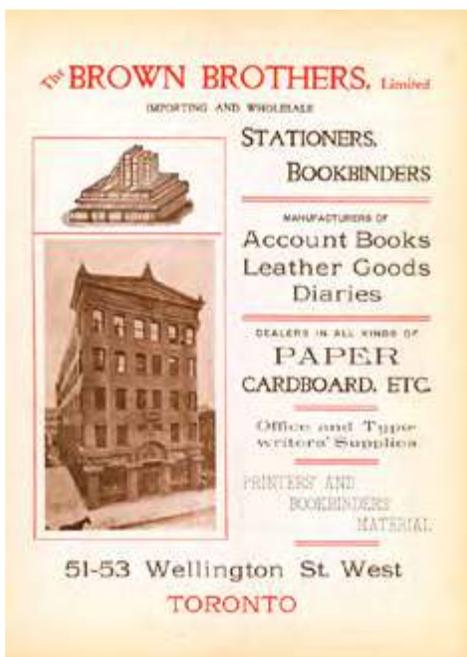
MIDDLE: Poster for Brown Brothers Ltd Family business

CAPTAIN RICHARD AUSTIN BROWN MC NO. 3 COMPANY 15TH BATTALION C.E.F.

by BGen Greg Young

Richard Austin Brown was born on 21 October 1896 the son of Thomas and Mary Jane (nee' Bickle) Brown owners of the Toronto company Brown Brothers Limited on 51 Wellington Street. He was an outstanding scholar and an accomplished athlete at every school he attended – Rosedale Public School, St. Andrew's College and University College Toronto. He was a Corporal in the University of Toronto C.O.T.C. and in May 1915 was commissioned into the 48th Highlanders as a Lieutenant. Lieutenant Brown was placed in draft to the 58th Battalion CEF and went overseas with them in 1915. In November of that same year, he was sent to the 15th Battalion CEF then in Belgium at Ploegsteert and St. Eloi. Lieutenant Brown was wounded at Observatory Ridge (Mount Sorrel) in June 1916 and sent to Canada to recover. He returned to his Battalion and fought at Vimy Ridge in April 1917 winning the Military Cross; Hill 70 in August 1917; and finally at Passchendaele where he was wounded again and died of wounds received on 14 November 1917. He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military cemetery near Poperinghe, Belgium.

At some point following the war, the Brown family obtained the original grave marker from their son's grave at Lijssenthoek when the Commonwealth War Graves Commission removed all the wartime markers and replaced them with the standard headstones seen there today. Captain Brown's cross was located at the family crypt in the mausoleum at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto in 2013 by Bgen Greg Young and Maj Bud Gillie of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project Team. In 2014 after locating and receiving the permission of the surviving members of Captain Brown's family and with the cooperation of Mount Pleasant Cemetery, the cross was transferred on long term loan to the Regimental Museum of the 48th Highlanders of Canada who raised and perpetuate the 15th Battalion CEF. 🇺🇸



15TH BATTALION PROJECT

RECENT 15TH BATTALION ACQUISITIONS FOR THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM



Lts. B Henderson, E, Ryrie, RA Brown – 1916



Varsity Honour Roll – Capt RA Brown – TOP LEFT



Captain RA Brown representative cross at St. Andrew's College annual 11 November Remembrance service.





ABOVE: Buglers of the 48th Highlanders at Camp Petawawa August 1914. Although not identified, Bugler Dudley is most certainly in this Group.

CENTRE: Wartime grave marker of Pte Morgan Dudley from Lancashire Cottage Cemetery, Ploegsteert, Belgium

BOTTOM RIGHT: Headstone of Bugler M. Dudley Lancashire Cottage Cemetery, Ploegsteert, Belgium



28111 PRIVATE (BUGLER) MORGAN DUDLEY

By BGen Greg Young

Bugler Morgan Dudley attested into the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) at Valcartier camp in Quebec on September 22, 1914. His attestation papers state that he was born in Birmingham, England and that he had served three years in the Canadian Militia with the 48th Highlanders. His residence was listed as 707 Pape Avenue Toronto and his father Henry Charles Dudley was listed as next-of-kin. Bugler Dudley was originally posted to H Company but following the unit's reorganization from the pre-war eight company structure to the new British four company or 'double company' organization, he was posted to No. 4 Company.

Following the battles of 2nd Ypres in April and Festubert in May 1915, the 15th Battalion in September of that same year was in the line at Ploegsteert Wood, Belgium. On September 29, 1915 Private Morgan Dudley was killed in action by shrapnel from German artillery near the convent of St Yves at the south end of Ploegsteert Wood. His body was carried out of the line to Battalion HQ and he was buried in a cemetery to the rear of that location. Following the war that cemetery became the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery known as Lancashire Cottage Cemetery. Private Dudley lies in Plot II. Row D. Grave 7.

At the time of his wartime burial a simple wood cross with a metal tag containing his particulars was erected over his grave. Following the war, these markers were replaced with the standard headstones of the CWGC seen in their cemeteries to this day. Although the details are not known, the family of Private Dudley obtained his wartime wooden grave marker, donated it to Pape Avenue Public School, in his honour and at some point thereafter when the school closed it became the property of the Toronto District School Board which has graciously loaned the artifact to the Regimental Museum to be on display during the centenary of the Great War.

As a point of interest, Private Dudley gave no year of birth on his Attestation record and his Battalion Record of Services card has no record of his age. His grave marker indicates that he was 17 years of age when he was killed. Boys under 18 could enlist with their parents' permission but Private Dudley must have been at least 16 years of age when he joined the 15th Battalion making him one of the Battalion's youngest Fallen.

Note: The author first became aware of Bugler Dudley's grave marker after reading an article about the TDSB archives and identifying the cross in the accompanying photographs. Following discussions with archivist Greg MacKinnon and conservator David Sowerbutts, a long term loan agreement was established whereby the cross would be transferred to the Regimental museum to be on display throughout the Centenary of The Great War. 🇨🇦



15TH BATTALION PROJECT

RECENT 15TH BATTALION ACQUISITIONS FOR THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM



TOP: Trench map showing locations of St Yves convent, 15th Battalion HQ and Lancashire Cottage cemetery. 1916

MIDDLE: Google Earth view showing same locations 2014.

ABOVE LEFT: Convent of St Yves, Belgium 1916
ABOVE RIGHT: Convent - now church - of St Yves 2014.

15TH BATTALION PROJECT

RECENT 15TH BATTALION ACQUISITIONS FOR THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

SGT. ALEXANDER R. KEITH Pipe Major 15th Battalion C.E.F .

by BGen Greg Young

Mr. Jeremy Hodgkinson of Sussex, UK recently placed a post on the website of The Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group regarding artifacts related to the 15th Battalion's Pipe Major, Sgt Alexander R. Keith, that were in his possession. Mr. Hodgkinson's aunt had been the friend of Alexander Keith's sister Maggie Keith and when she died they had cleared her effects. Among those effects were Pipe Major Keith's artifacts which Mr. Hodgkinson retained and looked after for the last 50 years. Motivated by the interest in The Great War now being generated by The Centenary, he searched the internet for information on Alexander Keith and was surprised by all that he found. His post to the CEFSG website forum expressed a desire to donate Pipe Major Keith's effects to a museum/organization where they would be appreciated and possibly displayed. The post was spotted by CEFSG member Scott Stothers (great nephew of John Canon Stothers, 15th Battalion) who immediately phoned Project Chairman Bgen Greg Young with the information and he in turn contacted Mt. Hodgkinson with a proposal to donate Pipe Major Keith's medals to The Regimental museum of the 48th Highlanders of Canada in Toronto. Within days the artifacts arrived by post and they will soon be on display in the museum. Through the generosity of Mr. Hodgkinson these artifacts are coming 'home' to Pipe Major's Keith's Battalion and his Regiment to help tell another part of their story in The Great War. 🇨🇦



TOP CENTER:
*Piper AR Keith Gordon
Highlanders
Boer War*

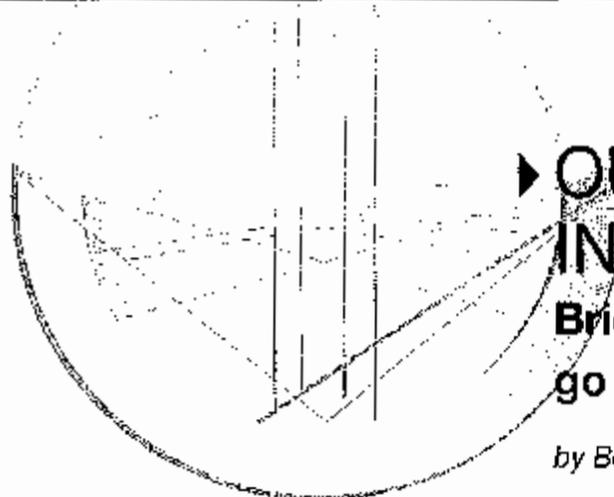
TOP RIGHT:
*Pipe Major AR Keith
15th Battalion CEF*

**27021 Sgt Alexander R. Keith
Pipe Major 15th Battalion CEF**



THIS ARTICLE FIRST APPEARED IN THE DECEMBER, 2014 ISSUE OF ESPRIT DE CORPS:

PERSPECTIVES



▶ OUT OF THE PAST & INTO THE FUTURE: Bricks and mortar museums must go digital to remain relevant

by Bob Gordon

FOUNDED IN THE late 19th century, the 48th Highlanders of Canada are sailing into the 21st century on a digital wave. The 48th Highlanders Museum (www.48highlanders.com) first opened in 1957 at the Old Comrades Memorial Hall, on 519 Church Street in Toronto, Ontario. In 1997, the museum moved to St. Andrew's Church on King Street, also in Toronto, and was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on June 29. The church played an integral role in the regiment's founding in 1891, and its annual Church Parade still concludes there.

The museum's impressive collection includes a World War II-era necktie with a bullet hole through the knot, the bugle that announced the 1918 Armistice to the battalion, and the uniform of the bugler, Bugle Major Warring Tooze. According to former Honorary Colonel George Beal, "the battalion was in a rest area and many of the soldiers did not know what the call meant. He was dismayed when they lined up at the cookhouse with mess tins expecting an early meal."

The 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) Canadian Expeditionary Force's (CEF) Vimy Cross, a temporary wooden marker erected in the immediate wake of the battle — eventually replaced with permanent resting places under the auspices of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission — is also prominently displayed. "To our knowledge there are only three original crosses remaining in Canada, ours being one. It was sent to us, and two other regiments the same, when the new Vimy Memorial was built and opened in 1936. The rest were destroyed," Beal notes.

The museum also includes an archival collection of photographs and documents recording the regiment's history. Currently, this collection, as it pertains to the Regiment's service in World War I (as 15th Battalion, CEF) — is being digitized. Eventually, the digital archive will include photographs, links to publicly available documents such as the unit's War Diaries, held at the Library and Archive of Canada, and personal letters and diaries available only in the unit's archive. Researchers, writers, and students will



have access to this unique, regimental resource from anywhere in the world.

It is a bold step out of the past and into the future. It represents high tech regimental history. The 15th Battalion Memorial Project's digitization of parts of the museum's collection constitutes fulfillment of an integral element of the museum's mission statement: "Further the museum exists to develop programs that broaden, and deepen the appreciation and understanding of the 48th Highlanders, stimulate interest in and maintain the relevance of the Regiment's past for future generations."

Reaching future generations — even the present generation — means that bricks and mortar museums must go digital. Together the 48th Highlanders Museum and the 15th Battalion Memorial Project (www.15thbattalioncef.ca) exemplify that trend. Their cooperation is a model for other units hoping to preserve their history and make it accessible into the digital era. Its importance cannot be overemphasized. ✪

The photograph above is from a series of images taken on August 19, 1917 as the 15th Battalion was coming out of the line following the Battle of Hill 70. (48th HIGHLANDERS MUSEUM AND 15th BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT)

NOTE: The author would like to thank BGen (ret'd) Greg Young and the unit's former Honorary Colonel, Gaordie Beal, for generously sharing their time and knowledge.



Private JP Girvan 1914

CANADA'S SOLDIER: CBC TV DOCUMENTARY

Recently the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial project provided assistance to CBC TV in the production of a documentary entitled 'Canada's Soldier' which aired on 11 November. The documentary was narrated by Peter Mansbridge and one of the featured soldier's stories was that of the John Pollands Girvan. It followed him from his beginnings in the 15th battalion as a private in 1914 to the end of the war when he was an Acting Lieutenant Colonel commanding the Battalion at the Crow's Nest, the D-Q Line, and the Canal du Nord during the final stages of the 100 Days campaign. 15th Battalion European Project Team member Simon Godly in France and supporter Freddy DeClerk in Belgium assisted Mr. Mansbridge when CBC filmed in Europe and Project Chairman BGen Greg Young provided support to the producers for the Canadian segments. If you missed the program, it can viewed in its entirety in-line at <http://www.cbc.ca/player/News/TV%20Shows/The%20National/ID/2595140092/>



Major JP Girvan 1919

MEMORY, EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION OF MEMORY

By: Christopher Harvey

(Editorial Note: This article was first published in www.centenarynews.com)

The "Canada and the First World War" Symposium of 28 September was an opportunity for fine minds of military history to share their aspect on the war's centenary.

Moss Park Armoury is an unimpressive plainly rectangular building squatting in deep downtown Toronto. Its drab style reflects the period of its build, the late 1960's when it was constructed to house four Canadian Army Reserve units, two of infantry and one each of artillery and medical services. On a quiet, calm Sunday morning I had made my way from the subway station at Queen St, a familiar walk through a gritty, dusty little nook of the city and found myself alone, contemplative, in the Officer's Mess of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, standing in the exact spot where I had been sworn into the Regiment a little over twenty years ago. It was fitting my day began with personal reflection as I had come to attend a symposium dedicated to commemoration.

SUPPORTING MEMORY PROJECTS

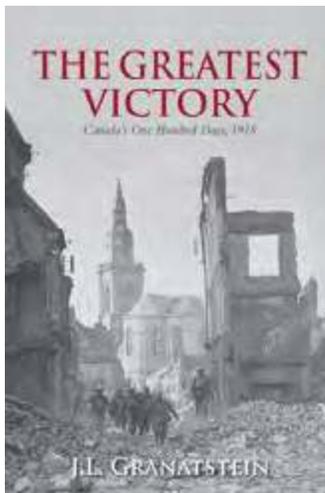
The Symposium of "Canada and the First World War" was an all day event featuring book and art sales, displays of military antiques and a selection of speakers, some of whom are the giants of Canadian military history. Organised with the cooperation between the Queen's Own Rifles Regimental Museum and the 15th Bn (48 Highrs) CEF Memorial Project the event was of a limited attendance which allowed for a much more intimate feel between speakers and audience; with plenty of time between lectures to mingle and chat candidly with them.

The QOR Museum, located at the Toronto landmark Casa Loma displays the history of one of Canada's oldest still standing regiments. Operated by retired members of the 48th Highlanders, the 15th Bn Memorial Project has sought to install informative plaques at actual battle sites where the battalion

saw action in France and Flanders; including most notable at 2nd Ypres where it experienced the highest one day loss of a single Canadian battalion in the entire war.

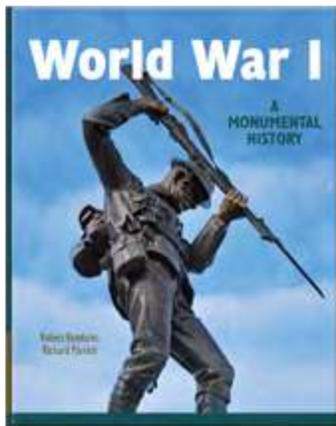
IDENTIFYING THE MISSING

Television presenter, historian and author Andrew Robertshaw led off the morning. Perhaps best known for his work with the BBC on "Finding the Fallen", Mr Robertshaw related the importance of identifying human remains from Europe's battlefields. "Keen," as he says, "to make people think about the past" in an address passionately delivered with a lot of jovial asides, Mr Robertshaw insists that painstaking efforts to prove identity "all matters tremendously." In light of the news of four Canadians recently named from discovered remains, his message was timely. But with no dedicated teams actively seeking to recover such a terrible number of missing Mr Robertshaw insists that there are "huge gaps in the process." Modern development threatening the destruction and loss of remains is akin to "killing a man twice."



MONUMENTAL HISTORY

He was followed by Robert Konduros and Richard Parrish, amateur photographers who spoke at length of the process that went into their book "WWI, a Monumental History." Travelling throughout Europe and Canada the pair had taken pictures of various monuments to Canada in the war. Highlights included the only monument to Canadian nursing sisters, of whom 46 died in WWI and that of foreign internments. Messrs Konduros and Parrish were pleased to announce that statues of John McCrae, author of 'In Flanders' Fields' would be unveiled next year.



PURPOSE BEHIND THE EVENT

During lunch, which was catered using recipes from Mr Robertshaw's book "Feeding Tommy, Recipes from the First World War", I spoke with Lt Colonel (ret.) John Fotheringham one of the symposium's organisers.

He had wanted to put together an event to two purposes, to raise funds for the memorial projects and to commemorate the centenary of the war. When asked if disappointed that the event had been undersubscribed, Col Fotheringham disagreed.

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“Commemoration was the primary goal; fundraising a secondary concern.” Above all, the idea was “to put on a good event.” It was projected that the attendance would be sufficient to cover expenses.

A long break for lunch allowed me ample time to seek out the various exhibits and sales which had been set up in the Senior NCO’s Messes of MPA’s various regiments. Above all, I was particularly taken with artwork presented by painter Brian Lorimer. On display were framed paper and canvas prints, books and art cards. These prints offered for sale were stirring, revealing in the artist’s words a “fresh approach, explosive in colour and energy” as juxtaposition to traditional monochrome photographs and muted post war paintings. Lorimer’s oils are stark and incompletely rendered visions as of a dreamscape.

MISSING MEN, MISSING GRAVES

Norm Christie, author, TV presenter and battlefield tour operator continued the theme of commemoration and the human cost of the war. Mr Christie relied on his prior experience as Records Officer with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to impart the difficulty and desire to create a suitable memorial for each person as his view of history is that he’s “interested in individuals.” It is no easy feat as he illustrates. “Of 700 000 Commonwealth deaths half have no known grave, and a quarter of that number have not been found.” In his three years as R.O. with the CWGC, Mr Christie was instrumental in the identification of fifty men; a matter of pride but a long way to go involving some 16 000 sites around the world, thousands of cemeteries as well as isolated graves.

Mr Christie, whose television series “For King and Empire” is a touchstone for modern Canadian interpretation of WWI, believes that



each of the CWGC sites is a “time capsule of history.” The study and understanding of the lives of those kept therein helps to “find answers to questions never asked.”

His latest project is the investigation of and search for a burial plot, designated as CA40. It is known to be the last resting place of 44 individuals of the 16th Bn (Canadian Scottish). The exact location having been lost over time, it is believed to be a mass grave made from a mine crater in no man’s land somewhere in the Vimy area of operations. With adequate funding the possibility of surveying with ground penetrating radar might provide the exact location, probably at a depth of 7-10 metres.

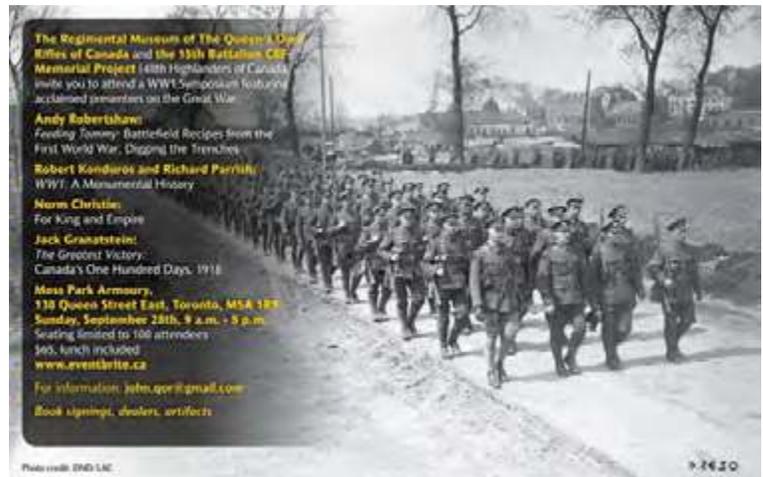
INSPIRING TO EDUCATE

The day was capped off by a resounding lecture given by Professor Jack Granatstein, perhaps the dominant name in Canadian military history. His numerous books and his

tenure (from which he is retired) at York University have been a dedication to the education of Canada’s martial heritage. It was to this theme that he spoke, elevating the messages of commemoration of the previous guests to move with his notion that understanding the context of a historical event is critical, and sadly that it is lacking in school curriculum at present. Prof Granatstein gave as evidence that shortly after he became Director and CEO of the Canadian War Museum, a survey of the collections revealed a 35 page report on factual errors. For him, the understanding of history and its lack has been a top down problem.

The system of educating history, he says, is “out of whack.” In true form of a university lecturer, Prof Granatstein further illustrated this notion with a point by point reasoning of why the actions of the Canadian Corps in the “100 Days” at the close of the war was “without question the greatest success of Canadians in battle.” Without dedicated programs of study this and other messages of Canada’s war are being lost. For example, there has not been a military history program at York University in the years since his retirement, and only a small number of universities have any such program. This in turn is reflected in the level of education received by those training to be teachers which in turn affects the understanding of our past by students at all levels. The talk given by Prof Granatstein was met with resounding applause and spontaneous shouts of “hear, hear”, though it must be said, he was preaching to the choir.

Insisting that the teaching of Canadian history needs to change, it was to this audience that the Professor made the challenge to “resurrect and honour (our history) at a grassroots level,” that we be instrumental in inspiring others to “go, listen, read and reflect.”



VOICES OF WAR, DREAMS OF PEACE: THE LEGACY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

By Ian L. Macdonald, Member,
15th Battalion Memorial Project

On October 4th, 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project team members joined Her Honour Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, members of the Regimental family and the public for an evening of remembrance at St. Andrew's Church.

The event featured readings of letters from the Front, songs and music of the time as well as insights from Rick Phillips and Brian Stewart into life in Toronto during the war and the lasting effects on the city that still resonate today. Afterwards, in the great hall photographs and items pertaining to the project were on display for the public to view and discuss. The Regimental Museum volunteers were also on hand so many could explore the museum with its glorious history.

The evening began with a visual display of photographs; many provided by the 15th project with period songs played on the church's grand piano. Some of the images included those whose names would be read in the list of the fallen. Rev. Dr. Robert Faris pointed out that many of the fallen from the kirk may well have sat where we now did. Some family members of the fallen were among us for the event and donated some of the images of their loved ones. During the war members of the congregation worked tirelessly for the war effort: knitting,



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, TORONTO PRESENTS
Foreign correspondent Brian Stewart, classical music expert Rick Phillips and friends in an evening of talks, dramatic readings, music and a visual show about the First World War and our community.

*Voices of War,
Dreams of Peace:
The Legacy of the First World War*

OCTOBER 4, 2014, 7:30 P.M.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
KING ST. W. & SIMCOE ST. (opposite Roy Thomson Hall)

Adults \$20/Students \$10/Advance Tickets available at standrewstoronto.org
or payment by cash or credit card at the door/Info: 416.593.5600 ext.231/Wheelchair accessible
Nearest TTC subway station is St. Andrew [facebook.com/pages/Life-Music-at-St-Andrews](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Life-Music-at-St-Andrews)



sewing, baking, writing letters to the front, all the while praying not to receive a dreaded telegram themselves. The threads of the Great War still weave into our lives today. Fewer are left to tell us first-hand about their dads, brothers or uncles.

My involvement with the 15th project stems from my grandfather, Donald Macdonald and his younger brother Angus. When they tried to enlist as pipers in the 15th they were told "You are too small, go home and eat some porridge." After the battle at Ypres, they were welcomed in. When grandpa and Angus arrived home with the 15th, they dug up the back garden of the house and slept in the dirt for days, unable

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15TH BATTALION PROJECT



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previous page

to relax enough to sleep indoors or in a bed. Angus, whose lungs were damaged by gas would live another 13 years, grandpa another 49. He remained part of the Old Comrades and taught dozens of men to play the pipes.

While television, films and images have desensitized us, those heading to Europe would have no idea of the horrors they would see which would remain with them for the rest of their lives. There is a special bond with highlanders who have served in combat.

As the Lieutenant Governor remarked in her speech, "The congregation of St Andrews, the Regimental Church of the 48th have never needed historians or writers to tell them the meaning of sacrifice in a noble cause. One-quarter of the congregation enlisted, and twenty-eight did not come home. This evening it is our duty to celebrate their sacrifice and to thank them for their role in building a free, democratic society that is today's Canada, and to promise never to forget. I also convey on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, greetings and condolences to the families of those who fell in The Great War." Her Honour also reminded us that many took up the torch, including nursing sisters, and over four thousand First Nations brothers.

Opera singers Geoffrey Sirett and Allison Angelo sang "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" and "Keep The Home Fires Burning." There were dramatic readings of letters from Lt. Francis (Frank) Malloch Gibson by Benjamin Muir whose resemblance to Gibson was striking. Actors portraying his parents and sister illustrated the impact his words and his final letter home had on his family then and today.

B.Gen. Young (Ret) and Cpt. Gilbert (Ret) did a masterful job in creating visual displays in the Church's great hall where some members of the audience were visibly moved by what they saw. Amongst the displays were the field crosses of Cpt. Richard Brown and Pte. (Bugler) Morgan Dudley which will be displayed next to the

Vimy Cross in the museum.

Through thousands of hours of work, the 15th Battalion Memorial project team has done remarkable work. We have been able to compile, identify and load to the project website long forgotten photographs and documents bringing the men and their stories 'back to life'. There have been many amazing discoveries and connections thorough our journey. At almost every event whether it be a plaque unveiling in Europe or in Toronto, family members or the public often bring items asking the team to help in identification or to show proudly. My grandfather was fiercely proud of the regiment, and I am honoured to be part of a team who have worked tirelessly to honour those who were prepared to lay down their lives for all of us. God Save The Queen, Bless the Regiment, Dileas Gu Brath. 🇨🇦



THE CODE OF HONOUR BATTLEFIELD CHIVALRY AT 2ND YPRES 1915

By BGen (Ret) Greg Young

For Western civilization, The Great War was most certainly a brutal introduction to the horrors of modern, industrialized warfare and on a scale that no one at the time could have foreseen. Trench warfare, chemical weapons, machine guns, mines and high explosive artillery were more than a match for the bravery of individual soldiers. Cut down by machine guns, vaporized into 'pink mist' or buried alive by artillery shells, swallowed by the mud, riddled by shrapnel, asphyxiated and blinded by poison gas, blasted by mortars and grenades or felled by a single bullet, men died in the millions.

However, despite the dehumanizing and almost hopeless reality of the war, there are countless stories of individual acts of bravery, heroism, loyalty and self-sacrifice that clearly show that, the human spirit often showed itself at its best despite the circumstances.

The 5th Century BC Greek tragic dramatist Aeschylus wrote: "In war, truth is the first casualty" and during WW1 both the Allies and the Central Powers made extensive use of propaganda to depict the enemy in the worst light possible—hence the Germans became The Huns and thereby associated with the barbarity of those ancient invaders. This is the story of one act of basic decency that was brought to light recently during research into the dusty archival documents of the 15th Battalion and possibly what makes this story interesting is that it was an act of honour, in the midst of the first use of chlorine gas, shown to several 15th Battalion Fallen ---by the enemy.

At 4:30 AM on the morning of 24 April



Pte W. Roscoe Roselare
Communal Cemetery



Lt Gavin Ince Langmuir



Capt AR MacGregor

1915 the 15th Battalion was at the apex of the collapsed Canadian salient near Poelkapelle, Belgium and about to be engulfed by heavy artillery bombardment, poison chlorine gas and assaulting German infantry. In a few short hours the once proud battalion would be almost annihilated. Captain Archibald MacGregor (commanding No. 1 Company) and Lt Gavin Langmuir (commanding # 2 Platoon of No. 1 Company) were in the forward lines held by the 15th Battalion on the extreme right flank of the position. No. 1 Company and No. 3 Company (with exception of Lt Smith and No. 12 Platoon) on its immediate left were both overrun and the Germans penetrated the Canadian line. In the Official History of the Canadian Forces in The Great War 1914-1918, Col AF Duguid wrote:

'exactly what happened in the Stroombeek valley behind the right of the 15th will never be known; but it is certain from individual documents that the battalion casualties, most of them suffered on this day, amounted to 647, of whom 249 were killed in action or died of wounds, including 33 recorded as having "died of gas"—and but for the gas many of the helpless wounded would have survived. No other Canadian battalion, and few British battalions, ever suffered so heavily in so short a time.'

Three of the casualties that morning were Captain MacGregor, Lt Langmuir and Pte W. Roscoe all from No. 1 Company and all reported as Missing in Action.

Captain Archibald Robert MacGregor, age 43, was born in Martintown, Glengarry County, Ontario and had served in the 48th Highlanders for 22 years when he attested into the



Capt AR MacGregor Perth (China Wall) Cemetery

15th Battalion in 1914. He had served in the Boer War being awarded four clasps, rose from Private to the rank of Colour Sergeant, was commissioned to Lieutenant and promoted to Captain just prior to the outbreak of the war. He was single, an athlete and marksman and represented the regiment in England twice—first as a member of the Regiment's Coronation contingent and then to the Gordon Highlanders in Scotland. He lived in Toronto and worked for Rice-Lewis & Company.

Lt Langmuir, age 23, came from a prominent Toronto family and was the son of A.D. Langmuir of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation. He was single, educated at Trinity College School Port Hope, worked in the family business as an Assistant Inspector and was a member of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club. He joined the 48th
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Lt G Langmuir Menin Gate

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the war, was commissioned as a Lieutenant at Long Branch and attested into the 15th Battalion at Valcartier.

Little is known of Pte William Roscoe, single and age unknown, other than his next-of-kin in England and previous service with the Militia in the 7th Western Ontario Regiment in London, Ontario both listed on his papers when he attested into the 15th Battalion at Valcartier.

The German formation immediately opposite the 15th Battalion positions that day was the German 26th Reserve Corps, 51st Reserve Division, 2nd Reserve Brigade and in that formation was Hauptmann (Captain) Rheinhold Trevianus of the 2nd Artillery Battalion. Prior to the war, in 1912 he had married an English girl named Olive (Fran) Godson the daughter of Alice Godson of Westgate-on-Sea, England.

A series of letters uncovered in regimental archives tells the story of an act of kindness by Hauptmann Trevianus who, on 29 April, found the bodies of three 15th Battalion men—Captain MacGregor, Lt Langmuir and Pte Roscoe—and ordered his men to bury the Canadians and erect a cross over their graves. He wrote to his wife in Germany not only telling her of the incident but enclosing in the letter objects he had removed from the bodies and descriptions of identifying marks on one of the bodies. Two photographs from the tunic pocket of one officer; a piece of material from the inside of the macintosh coat of the other officer where his name was written; and a tattoo on the arm of the same officer. All were identified as 48th Highlanders by uniform insignia as 15th Battalion specific insignia had not been issued at that point in the war.

Hauptmann Trevianus asked his wife to send the information and objects to her mother in England so that authorities and families might learn of the fate of the men and that they had been properly buried.

Through a contact in neutral Holland, his wife contacted her mother in England who in turn contacted Canadian authorities in London.

The correspondence reveals that once notified from England of Mrs Godson's communication, the Langmuir family in Toronto confirmed that the name on the coat fragment was that of their son Gavin and that the photographs found in the other officer's tunic were that of Captain MacGregor and their daughter Mary Langmuir. With this information confirmed in Toronto by the Langmuir family and the Regiment, MacGregor's relatives in the United States (WS MacGregor, Director of The Minneapolis Dry Goods Co. had been writing to the 48th

inquiring about the fate of his cousin Archie) were also informed of the news. There is no correspondence indicating how or if Private Roscoe's relatives in England were informed. Eventually Graves Registry and Circumstances of Death records all accepted the information from Mrs. Godson and official records were amended to include the details she provided. This simple act of kindness on the part of an enemy Officer helped to bring closure to three grieving families.

“If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins them.”

SIR FRANCIS BACON

POSTSCRIPT:

Following the war, Captain MacGregor and Private Roscoe's remains were recovered. The former is buried in Perth (China Wall) Cemetery and the latter in Roselare Communal Cemetery. Lt Langmuir's remains were never recovered and he is memorialized on the Menin Gate. It is not known if Hauptmann Trevianus survived the war.

Author's note: Research by the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project Team has to-date failed to locate any living relatives of either Captain MacGregor or Lt Langmuir to obtain further details on the story or uncover any of the artifacts connected to it.

FIRST FATAL CASUALTY

By Capt (Ret) V. Goldman

The town of Armentieres, located in northern France, near the border with Belgium, is a landmark of the Great War. Not only did the Mademoiselle made famous in song hail from this community, but it is near this location that the 15th Bn (48th Highlanders of Canada) was introduced to front line service and suffered their first casualties.

On 24 February 1915 the unit was paired with a British unit, the Sherwood Foresters and over the next few days participated in short rotations into trenches built above the ground due to wet soggy soil conditions that



prohibited digging.

On the afternoon of the 26th Pte William Cecil Ford, who transferred to the 15th from the 9th Bn while in England, was wounded in the leg. His Record of Service card states he was transferred back to England on 4 March for hospitalization. The card shows no record of him ever returning to the battalion. Ford was one of the first of many reinforcements to the 15th and was our first casualty of the Great War.

At dawn the next day the unit experienced their first fatal casualty. 27587 Pte Frank Ferland, a 9 year veteran of the U.S. Navy and a militiaman from Quebec City who joined the 15th while at Valcartier, was killed by a sniper. He, the first of 1205 fatal casualties for the 15th Bn was buried with his section standing by his grave.

Recently, Simon Godley, of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project Team, visited Pte Ferland's grave at Houpline's Communal Cemetery Extension and took the photo that accompanies this article. 📷

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHAMP OF THE MEGANTIC?

by BGen (Ret) Greg Young

Several heavy weight champion boxers served in the military during their careers. The 'Brown Bomber' Joe Louis was champion from 1937 to 1949 and during WW2 was a Technical Sergeant in the US Army.

Max Schmeling was a multiple European champion and world champion from 1930 to 1932 and during WW2 he served in the Fallschirmjager (paratroops) being wounded in Crete in 1941. Both champs survived the war to continue their boxing careers before finally retiring from the ring.

The 15th Battalion had its own boxing 'champ' – 28057 Private Charles McRae who won several fights on board the Battalion's troopship RMS Megantic during the crossing of the Atlantic by the 1st Contingent convoy. What happened to this boxer following his bouts during the crossing is quite a different story.

Private Charles McRae had no previous military service when he attested into the 15th Battalion at Valcartier on 22 September 1914 and was assigned to the battalion's F Company. The battalion left Quebec on

30 September onboard the RMS Megantic as part of the 1st Contingent convoy which would travel down the St. Lawrence River to marshall in the Gaspé Bay before crossing the Atlantic arriving in Plymouth naval yard on 16 October 1914. During that crossing, Private McRae, a former prize fighter, fought and won at least two bouts. Photographs

Cemetery, Toronto His name is listed as being one of The Fallen from The Great War (cause unknown but attributable to military service) but his unit of service listed on his grave marker is The Canadian Forestry Corps. What happened to McRae after arriving in the UK as a member of the 15th battalion?

Many original members of the 15th Battalion went on to serve, and many died, with other CEF units, so was this the simple case with McCrae? The answer would come from several pieces of 15th Battalion correspondence filed away in regimental archives and uncovered during the course of research for the 15th battalion CEF Memorial Project. Two pieces of correspondence from LtCol JA Currie revealed that Private McCrae was in fact discharged from the 15th Battalion while at Salisbury and subsequently imprisoned and returned to Canada following serving of his sentence. Currie's notes indicate that although his conduct initially was good, in England McCrae had been habitually AWOL, refused to drill and train and had become "disreputable". He was sentenced to 28 days in Gosport Prison following which he was discharged from the CEF and returned to Canada.

But McCrae's military story did not end with his return to Canada. A search of Library and Archives Canada records showed that he tried to

re-enlist in the CEF three more times and his files contain a total of four different sets of Attestation records and four different service numbers. He enlisted in the 84th Battalion (service number 163645) on 9 August 1915 and then with the 123rd Battalion (service number 766641) on 6 December 1915. He was discharged from both units before making his fourth attestation with the Canadian Railway Troops (service number 2499497 on 6 June 1916. A detailed search of his complete service records would be necessary to explain how he ended up with the Canadian Forestry Corps and where exactly he served.

However, despite a failed career with the 15th battalion and a somewhat 'unusual' career thereafter, the former 'champ' of the Megantic in the end redeemed himself becoming one of the honoured Fallen. 🦅





LORD BADEN POWELL & THE 15TH BATTALION

By BGen (Ret) Greg Young

There are currently several retired senior members of The Regiment who have been very active with the Boy Scout Movement over a number of years. But how many of them are aware that Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout Movement had a connection with the 15th Battalion CEF?

The 15th Battalion sailed from Liverpool, England on 29 April 1919 onboard the White Star Liner RMS Baltic and landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 7 May. Travelling with the Battalion was none other than Major-General Lord Robert Stephenson Smythe Baden-Powell OM, GCMG, GCVO, KCB, writer, soldier and founder of the Boy Scout Movement. Like the 15th Battalion, he and Lady Baden-Powell were heading to Toronto, the Battalion to a homecoming and demobilization and the Baden-Powells to a Scout rally at Casa Loma.

Baden-Powell had read in the English newspapers about the exploits of the 15th Battalion at Hill 70 in August 1917, specifically about the bravery of Lt Col Bent and his HQ in beating back a German counter attack that had nearly surrounded his HQ.

He apparently was so pleased to find himself travelling with Bent and the Battalion that during the crossing he wrote a poem about them which he autographed and gave to the battalion.

The whereabouts of that original poem is not known but it is reproduced here from a printing in the Toronto Daily Star of 9 May 1919. 🐾



"The Bonnie Red Patch Topped With Blue."
 The Germans came down like a wolf on the fold,
 A lot of strong choppers had rendered them bold,
 They made for a spot marked "Battalion H.Q.";
 Its sign is a red patch with a top mark of blue.
 They thought they'd a cushy job making a haul
 Of colonel, officers, and staff, batmen and all.
 Don't count out your eggs before they hatch doesn't do,
 Especially eggs with the bonnie red patch topped with blue.
 But suddenly forth from the dugout there comes
 The colonel quite peevishly hurling out bombs,
 And clerks who had hitherto shone with the pen
 Proved equally mighty as sword-wielding men.
 But the thing that made Wilhelm run for his life was the cook
 With a bally great ham-cutting knife.
 The Boches discovered they'd met with their match, and flew
 When they tackled the staff of the bonnie red patch topped with blue.
 They'd come in quite fast, but they went out much faster,
 When they found that their prey was really their master.
 And when they were getting away on the run
 They got the kai-bosh from a smart Lewis gun.
 So none of them ever survived to get back
 To tell of their wunderbar tapfer attack.
 Fritz found out that the colonel and cooks were their match, for they slew
 When they wore on their shoulder the bonnie red patch topped with blue.
 —Robert Baden Powell.

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN BRUNO'S STORY

By BGen (Ret) Greg Young

Readers will recall that several issues of The Falcon have contained articles on Bruno, the Belgian sheepdog adopted in 1915 by Lt Col William Marshall as the 15th Battalion's mascot while the Unit was out of the line in billets at Grande Munque Farm near Ploegstreet in Belgium. Just when it appeared that there was little else left to uncover about Bruno, several seemingly mundane documents recently located in Library and Archives Canada and the Regimental museum have shed even more light on the mascot's story.

From LAC, a letter dated 31 July 1919 from the Commanding Officer of the 48th Highlanders, Lt Col Darling, to the Assistant Adjutant General of Military District No. 2 reveals that Bruno did not come home with the 15th Battalion onboard RMS Baltic. The dog had been shipped from France on 28 April 1919 but arrived too late to return with the battalion and as of 31 July 1919 (long after the battalion had returned to Toronto and demobilized) was still being held in quarantine in Liverpool. Darling was seeking the assistance of higher HQ in bringing Bruno home to be reunited with Lt Col Bent.

From the boxes of documents in the archives of the Regimental Museum came a series of seven telegrams between Lt Cols Darling and Bent located in the course of research by the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project. These telegrams show the back and forth between the two Officers with questions and directions for where to send the dog – Pugwash, Nova Scotia. So contrary to the Regimental history entry that says the dog returned with Bent to the Annapolis Valley near Kentville, in fact it would appear that Bruno was eventually shipped from the UK, reunited with Bent in Pugwash and at some point thereafter, they relocated to Paradise in the Annapolis Valley. 🐾

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

Lieut-Col. C.E. Bent.
Pugwash. N.S.

The following cablegram has been received by the General Officer Commanding this District, who requests your instructions.

"Regimental dog still in quarantine waiting your instructions please reply our letter May Tenth"

Please wire me your instructions collect if I can be of any assistance.

C.W. Darling. Lieut-Col.



Pipe Major Keith - SS Megantic 1914

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

Colonel C.E. Bent. D.S.O.
Pugwash. N.S.

Your wire received but as we have no information to work on from here will be glad if you will cable full particulars to London regarding shipment of dog to your address.

Officers here insist paying all expenses in connection therewith so please govern yourself accordingly. Will write you soon.

C.W. Darling. Lieut-Col.



Salisbury Plain 1915

WAS THERE A MASCOT BEFORE BRUNO?

By BGen (Ret) Greg Young

Throughout the Regimental history and over the entire course of the war, there is only one 15th Battalion mascot, the one mentioned by Kim Beattie; and that, of course, is the beloved Belgian sheepdog Bruno first adopted by LtCol Marshall at the Piggeries when the unit was in the line at Ploegsteert, Belgium. Bruno has been the subject of research by the 15th battalion CEF Memorial Project and several articles on him have appeared in earlier issues of the Falcon – so he is no stranger to readers.

The recent acquisition of artifacts from the UK that belonged to Pipe Major Alexander Keith (covered elsewhere in this issue of The Falcon) have raised the question of where Bruno was the only or the first 15th Battalion mascot. Although Beattie made no mention of an earlier mascot in his book, we have long been aware of a photograph showing a kilted soldier of an unidentified unit of the 1st Contingent,

taken at Salisbury in 1914 and it shows him with a large retriever type dog. Although the 1st Canadian Contingent only had three kilted units (13th Battalion – Royal Highlanders; 15th Battalion – 48th Highlanders; and the 16th Battalion – The Canadian Scottish) it was not possible to tell which unit the soldier was from because his kilt is covered by an apron and there are no clear insignia on his tunic. The type of glengarry he is wearing rules out the 13th Battalion, but as the photograph is not in colour and the cap badge is not visible, he could be from either the 15th or 16th Battalion.

However, when the Project received Pipe Major (Sgt Alexander Keith's artifacts) amongst them were a number of photographs, one of which was taken onboard the SS Megantic during the crossing from Quebec to the UK in 1914. The Pipe Major is shown standing alongside what appears to be the same dog that is in the Salisbury photograph mentioned earlier. The 16th Battalion did not travel in the convoy on the same ship as the 15th Battalion which now leads us to suggest that the soldier with that same dog in the Salisbury photograph is in fact a 15th Battalion man. Additionally,

when you consider that one of PM Keith's later tasks in France and Belgium was to be the guardian of Bruno whenever the Commanding Officer was away, it begs the question whether he is shown in the photograph performing that same task but with an earlier mascot the unit brought with them from Canada.

Did the Battalion bring this dog with them from Canada in 1914? Did they leave the dog in the UK when they went to the France in February and if so what happened to him? Possibly the answer awaits in the dusty documents yet to be uncovered in Regimental archives or in artifacts yet to be turned over to the Project. 🐾

ORIGINALS SURVIVE THE GREAT WAR

By Capt (Ret) V. Goldman

One Hundred Years ago this fall 1169 officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 15th Bn (48th Highlanders of Canada) left Canada for training in England before heading to France the following spring. Of this number very few of these originals stood on parade with the battalion in November 1918 when the war came to an end. Five officers and 86 enlisted personnel were all that remained from that proud number who sailed for Europe in 1914.

Capt John Duguid was the only remaining original officer as the other four were all Privates in 1914. Major John P. Girvan D.S.O. and Bar, M.C., French Croix de Guerre, commanded the unit as an Acting Lt. Col. during the fighting at the Crow's Nest, the Drocourt Queant Line and the Canal du Nord. Major W. Maybin M.C., M.M. a former Company Sergeant Major briefly commanded the unit as a Captain following Lt Col Bent's wounding during the battle of Amiens. Lt J.M. Henderson D.C.M. and Lt W.W. Keele also started the war as Privates and were commissioned from the ranks and are listed on the 30 November 1918 nominal roll as well as the 1914 Valcartier nominal roll.

WO1 (R.S.M.) Gledhill D.C.M. and Bar, Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant J. Mutimer, Company Sergeants Major P.R. Edmonston, H.O. Matthews, and T. Cunningham, Company Quarter Master Sergeants A.C. Bedford and C.L. Ross, and eight

Sergeants including the Pipe Major, Pipe Sgt Keith served the entire war with the unit as well as did 71 Privates and Corporals.

Many of these individuals had been wounded and returned to the battalion more than once during the four years of war. Others had spent time on course or on temporary duty. Towards the end of the war there was a tendency to place these seasoned warriors in "bomb proof" or safe positions away from the front. For instance Pte W. Allen was at 3rd Brigade H.Q., while Cpl E. Atwell was with 1st Division Traffic Control, and Pte G.W. Bryce was with 1st Divisional Baths.

Despite courses and safe postings it is still remarkable that so many originals appeared on the nominal roll after four years of conflict. 🇨🇦



Pte Gledhill (at extreme left) at Valcartier



Girvan (front row, 8 from left) at Salsbury Plain



Gledhill 1917



Girvan in a trench

THE OWEN BROTHERS – THREE UNDERAGE ALBERTANS WITH THE 15TH BN

By Capt (Ret) Vic Goldman

Dan Black and John Boileau's recent book "Old Enough to Fight" tells the story of the estimated fifteen to twenty thousand underage soldiers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the Great War. The 15th Bn (48th Highlanders of Canada) had its own fair share of these underage soldiers and The Falcon has previously identified many of these individuals including 16 year old John Jenken, our youngest fatal casualty. This new publication draws attention to Jenken and others in the 15th including the Owen brothers from North Cooking Lake, Alberta.

The authors go into detail telling the story of twin brothers Cecil and Iorwerth and their younger brother James. Regimental Record of Service Cards show all three enlisted together in the 51st Bn (Edmonton) in the



summer of 1915 with consecutive Service Numbers 437643, 44, and 45. False ages are on these cards but Black and Boileau's research shows James was fifteen while the twins were seventeen at time of enlistment. All three were posted to the 15th Bn on 9 June 1916 as replacements for casualties suffered during the fighting on Observatory Ridge the previous week. James was still only 15 when he first entered the trenches in the Ypres Salient.

The brothers spent the summer months rotating in and out of the line in the Ypres sector in Belgium before moving to the Somme in late August. They participated in the action at Pozieres at the beginning of September when the Canadian Corps took over from the Australians and again during the attack on Regina Trench on 26 September during the battle of Theipval Ridge.

The authors describe this assault and the resulting actions in great detail. During this engagement, which had the second highest single day casualty rate in the war for the 15th, James was injured by

shrapnel. He was lying in a trench badly bleeding but fate somehow stepped in and Cecil was suddenly by his side bandaging his brother's wounds. James was ordered to the rear and was one of only two from his twelve man section who answered roll call the next day.

Regimental Record of Service Cards held by the 48th Highlanders Museum and scanned by the 15th Bn Memorial Project Team indicate that James was struck off strength on 29 September and sent to hospital in England and survived the war. Cecil survived the attack on Regina Trench and in fact is clearly listed on the 30 November 1918 Nominal Roll recently examined by the Project Team. Iorwerth was horribly wounded in this attack and died in hospital just behind the front lines on 29 September and is buried at Contay British Cemetery a location visited a number of times by the Project Team.

In all slightly over 200 members of the 51st (Edmonton) Bn served with the 15th Bn and 66 died while on active service or of war related wounds.

Thanks to Dan Black and John Boileau for an outstanding piece of social history and of course to the Regimental Museum for preserving irreplaceable documents. 🇨🇦



(WIKIPEDIA)

Although there is no definitive list of members of the Regiment's 15th, 92nd or 134th Battalions CEF that transferred to either the RFC or the RNAS during the Great War, research to date has identified at least seven men who left the infantry to become pilots. Lest anyone think that a transfer to the RFC or RNAS was a way to leave behind the horrors of trench warfare and the inevitable heavy casualties suffered by "the poor bloody infantry", consider that of these seven men, four were subsequently killed in action.

- 27897 Pte Frank Gooderich 15th Bn: Captain Frank Goodrich MC 20 Sqn RFC. KIA 12 Sept 1916
- 150026 Pte Walter Bannister 15th Bn: Lt Walter Banister RAF
- 28795 Pte Charles Dalkeith-Scott 15th Bn: Lt Charles Dalkeith-Scott 70 Sqn RFC. KIA 30 Sept 1917
- 192293 Pte Elmer Mackenzie 92nd Bn: Lt Elmer Mackenzie RFC
- Lt Montague Bird 134th Bn: Lt Montague Bird 1st Bn RAF. KIA 9 July 1918
- Lt RW Nicholson 15th Bn: Lt RW Nicholson RFC
- Lt J. Adrian 48th Highlanders: Maj J Adrian RFC: KIA 08 Apr 1917



'Balloon Busting'-Lt H Botterill No. 8 Sqn RNAS-No.208 Sqn RAF, brother of 15th Bn Capt ES Botterill

KILTED KNIGHTS OF THE AIR

By BGen (Ret) Greg Young

The Royal Flying Corps was formed 13 April 1912 to fulfill a perceived need, common before World War I in European countries, to participate in the expanding field aviation. It comprised a military wing, a naval wing (later the the Royal Naval Air Service) and a flying school. RFC tasks included reconnaissance, bombing, observation for the artillery, co-operation with the infantry in attacking enemy positions, supply drops and observation for the Royal Navy.

When WWI began, Canada did not have its own air force and, until the RFC established training camps in Canada in January 1917, the only way for a Canadian to become a war pilot was to enlist in the CEF or RCN and try to transfer to the air service, or to travel at his own expense to England and attempt to enlist directly.

It is impossible to determine the exact number of Canadians who joined the RFC, but it is estimated that over 20,000 Canadians had joined the British flying services by the end of WWI. Many of these became pilots, among them the Canadian "aces" Lt-Col W.A.Bishop, Lt-Col R.Collishaw, Lt-Col W.G.Barker, Maj D.R. MACLAREN. Lt W May and others.

(CANADIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA)

The Royal Flying Corps Canada was established by the RFC in 1917 to train aircrew in Canada. Air stations were established in southern Ontario at the following locations:

- Camp Borden 1917-1918
- Armour Heights Field 1917-1918 (pilot training, School of Special Flying to train instructors)
- Leaside Aerodrome 1917-1918 (Artillery Cooperation School)
- Long Branch Aerodrome 1917-1918
- Curtiss School of Aviation (flying-boat station with temporary wooden hangar on the beach at Hanlan's Point on Toronto Island 1915-1918; main school, airstrip and metal hangar facilities at Long Branch)
- Camp Rathbun, Deseronto 1917-1918 (pilot training)
- Camp Mohawk (now Tyendinaga (Mohawk) Airport) – located at the Tyendinaga Indian Reserve (now Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory) near Belleville 1917-1918 (pilot training)
- Hamilton (Armament School) 1917-1918
- Beamsville Camp (Aerial fighting)



Lt Bird KIA RFC - former Lt 134th Bn & 13th Bn.



Capt F. Goodrich MC KIA RFC - former 27897 Pte 15th Bn



Lt EM Mackenzie RFC - former Pte 92nd Bn & Sgt 42nd Bn.



Lt G Thomson RFC-former 77562 Pte 15th Bn & Lt KOSB.

HOW THE DREADED NEWS REACHED A LOVED ONE 'THE PEN WAS MIGHTIER THAN THE TELEGRAM'

By BGen (Ret) Greg Young

"On the 29th, Saturday, the Battalion paraded and said farewell to Long Branch, their first wartime camp. They proceeded to the Armouries, dismissed, and assembled again at one o'clock, Where, after the momentous "Fallin"—the last time many of them were ever to hear the silver echoes of the bugle on University Ave..... Easily 100,000 people were assembled in the downpour; they overflowed the Don River bridge and the nearby streets to wish Godspeed to the Highlanders who were off to war. If mothers felt the clutch of dread at their hearts, they bravely hid it."

REGIMENTAL HISTORY – K. BEATTIE

It would be almost five years before the 15th Battalion would return to Toronto and it would be a very different unit than the one that left that in the late summer of 1914. The majority of those men who came to be known as 'the Originals', as well as many more who would replace them, became casualties over the course of the war. The strain on families who waited throughout those years for news of their loved ones was an ever present and relentless burden.

The communications of the day was essentially limited to post service and telegrams and the former was slow, often late and subject to censorship. Would it be a letter or postcard with word that someone was still alive or would it be the dreaded telegram reporting a death?

For the families and loved ones of 1,467 Officers and men who fell while serving in the 15th Battalion, the news of their deaths came in a telegram from the Records Office – "regret deeplyis officially reported killed in action." The terse nature of the telegram coupled with the reality that none of the fallen would be repatriated must have been heart breaking. However, for many some measure of comfort and closure often did come in the form of a personal letter written by a Commanding Officer, platoon commander, or comrade who was able to give more details about the fallen soldier, often including more information about the circumstances of his death. These were words of comfort and closure to a grieving family, from someone who had been close to their lost one, sometimes with him in last moments.

Attached here are copies of a standard Records Office telegram containing notification of a death and a letter written to the parents of 193093 Pte Michael Kennelly, who died of wounds received at Passchendaele in 1917, by the nursing sister who cared for him in his last moments.

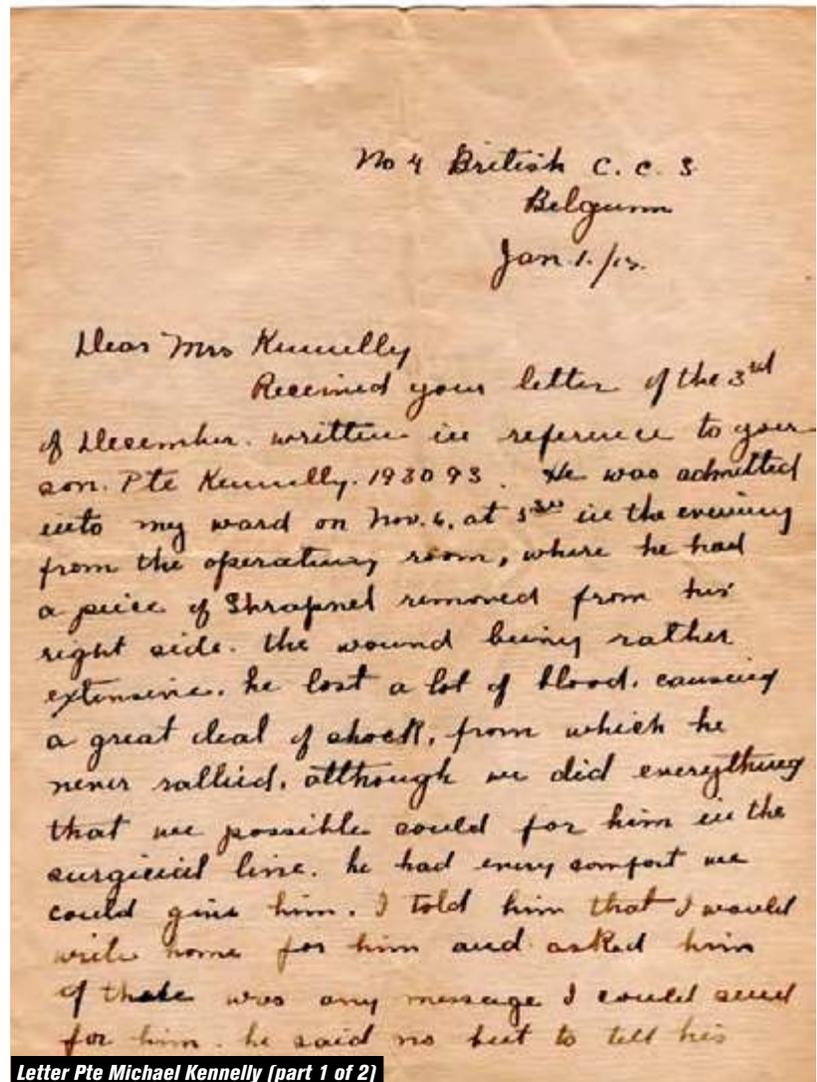
The letter written by nursing sister Louise MacDonald must certainly brought much comfort to Pte Kennelly's parents and the letter is the treasured possession to this day of the Kennelly descendants who provided the letter to the 15th Battalion Memorial Project.



Pte Michael Kennelly Dozinghem Cemetery Belgium



Pte Michael Kennelly (seated right)



Letter Pte Michael Kennelly (part 1 of 2)

*"THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT."
JOHN MILTON 1652*

... continued on next page

... continued from previous page

mother that he sent her is best love
 he had been visited by the Roman
 Catholic Chaplain and he died peacefully
 and suffered very little. In regards
 to his personal belongings, everything
 he had on him when he was brought in
 was collected and sent down to the
 military authorities down at the base,
 where all military like things would be
 gone through. and anything personal
 would be sent on to England, and then
 to his next of Kin, so essentially his
 mother will all his personal belongings
 Hoping that his mother has
 recovered somewhat from the shock
 of his death
 I remain
 yours sincerely
 Louise Macdonald M.S.
 C.A.M.C.

Letter Pte Michael Kennelly (part 2 of 2)

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN - REGIMENTAL HEADSTONES

By BGen (Ret) Greg Young

The graves of men who fell in France and Belgium during the actual war years 1914-1918 were usually marked by a simple wooden cross. However, in the more secure cemeteries in areas to the rear of the lines it was not unusual to find more elaborate versions of the traditional cross. The man's particulars were painted on the cross or stamped on a metal band nailed to it. Examples of both types from Belgian cemeteries were recently located by the 15th Battalion Memorial Project Team and are now on display in the Regimental museum. They are the cross of Captain Richard Austin Brown MC from Lijessenthoek and that of Private (Bugler) Morgan Dudley from Lancashire Cottage. The former is an example of the painted more elaborate grave marker from a cemetery located adjacent to a major field hospital well to the rear while the latter is of the simple metal tagged version from a cemetery close to the front lines. An article on both grave markers also appears in this issue of *The Falcon*.



Bugler M Dudley

Following the end of the war in 1918, the work of the Imperial War Graves Commission, headed-up by Major-General Julian Ware, aimed "to commemorate the fallen properly and in perpetuity." The task of doing so for those men whose remains were missing would go on for some years but for those remains were located and had known resting places the task of erecting suitable permanent headstones could be handled much more quickly.

"the standard commission headstone is a vertical, flat-faced stone with a slightly curved top set on a concrete base. Most are cut from white Portland stone quarried from Portland Island off the English coast a special machine designed in 1923 could engrave 4,000 stones a week because the stones were attractive to algae and mosses each stone is washed with a special chemical mix once or twice a year. Stones with inscriptions which can no longer be easily read are replaced in situ those in more serious condition are replaced and also for new graves botticino, a marble like stone from Brescia, Italy is used.



All stones are uniform in shape and placement without distinction in positioning or rank, Regimental emblems for the British and national emblems for the others, the maple leaf for Canada....."

(PASSCHENDAELE 1917 BY F. BOSTYN):

Anyone who has visited or seen pictures of the CWGC Great War cemeteries in France and Belgium will readily recall the rows of standard headstones as described above and, if they are searching for Canadians, be instantly drawn those stones bearing the distinctive maple leaf.

However documents uncovered in regimental archives reveal that in early 1918, possibly with the end of the war in sight, discussion of



Telegram - Pte George Kearslake



Private George Kearslake

CHRONICLES OF THE 15TH BATTALION



Captain ES Botterill

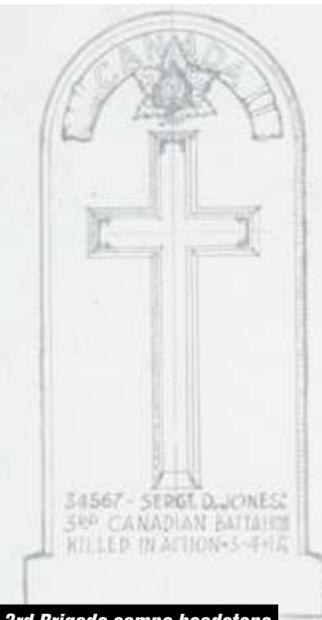


LtCol WR Marshall

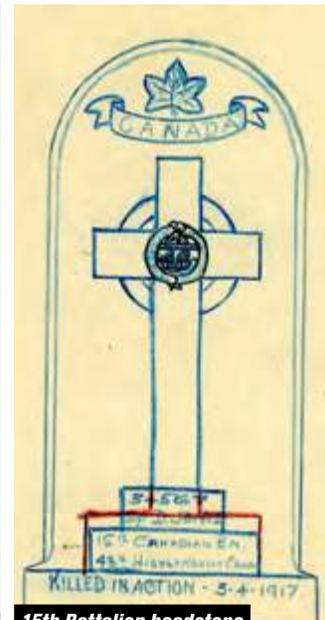


Vimy Cross 1917

standardizing grave markers became a topic within the Canadian Corps. On 22 February 1918 a message from HQ 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade to its four infantry battalions asked each to submit their preferences for regimental inscriptions on headstones for their fallen. Attached to the message was an illustrated example that showed what would appear – a Christian cross, uniform individual particulars, shape and dimensions, CANADA and a maple leaf. However, allowance was made for additional specific regimental/unit inscriptions such as cap badges. Several days later the 15th Battalion



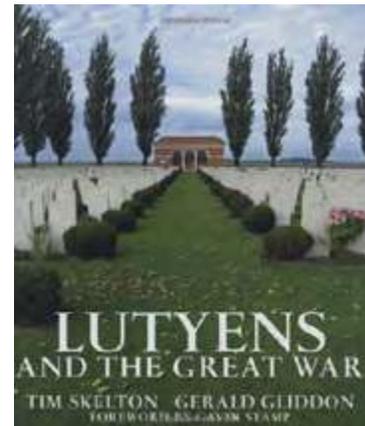
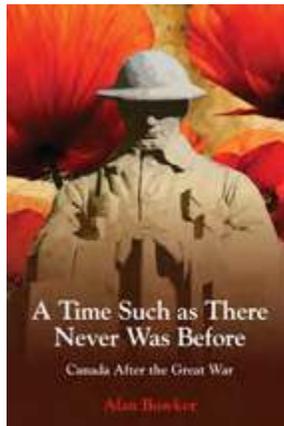
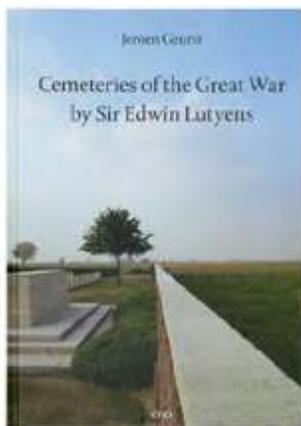
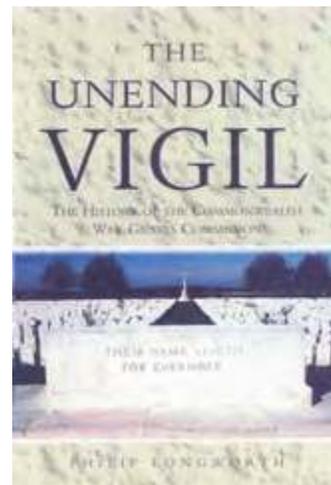
3rd Brigade sample headstone



15th Battalion headstone

submitted its design which contained a Celtic style Christian cross and the cap badge of the 48th Highlanders. Given the Scots traditions of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) the Celtic cross is not surprising and the unit had used it during the war to mark its dead – see the photographs that accompany this article of the Vimy Cross 1917 and the grave markers of LtCol WR Marshall and Capt ES Botterill 1916.

The documentary trail in regimental archives runs cold after the Battalion's design was submitted and it is not known how far the concept of specific regimental headstones progressed. However, at some point the decision was made to adopt the standard national headstone common to all the Canadian fallen. 🇨🇦



LOTHIAN, NORMAN BRUCE (b. 1889).
George Watson's College; First XV and Athletics. Cadet Corps 1905-8. Student of Arts, 1908-12; M.A. (Hons. Engl) 1912. Pres., Diagnostic Society. O.T.C. Infantry, Dec. 1909 to Feb. 1913, Cadet. 15th and 48th King's Canadian Highlanders, Private Sept. 1914. France 1915. Died of wounds received at Ypres on 21st May 1915. PL XLV.

Pte Norman Bruce Lothian DOW received at Festubert 21 May 1915. Note the name of his battalion.

“THE THOUGHTFUL CANADIAN”

by BGen (Ret) Greg Young

By August of 1916 Sgt Claude Ashling had been a Prisoner of War at Gottingen camp in Germany for over a year. He and his brother Sgt Harold Ashling had both been in Number 4 Company at the 2nd Battle of Ypres in April 1915 when during the chlorine gas attack, the 15th Battalion was overrun and 248 men became POWs. The Regimental history provides very little information about the 15th Battalion POWs but fortunately research in the Regimental museum’s archives has uncovered a wealth of period artifacts and documents from both Officers and Men who were POWs: annotated photograph albums belonging to Sgts Harold and Claude Ashling, Sgt Dunbar, Major Ewert Osborne, and Lt Hugh Barwick; the extensive diary of Sgt Claude Ashling; and numerous postcards and letters (well over 100 postcards from Sgt Claude Ashling alone. All these materials have helped to put names to faces of long unidentified POWs and to give a very detailed look at the life and environment of these POWs. The details of what is often a forgotten story are now coming to light.

Among the artifacts in Sgt Claude Ashling’s photograph album was letter written in November 1916 by a Mrs. Betty Kennedy the wife of Australian Captain AH. Kennedy who had died while interned as a POW at Gottingen camp. Like many Officers’ wives she was living in London during the war. An annotation made in August 1916 in Sgt Ashling’s diary mentions POWs from the failed Somme offensive being brought into the camp with many “wounded and in bad condition.” He goes on to write that later one of these POWs, an Australian officer, died and the Germans allowed them to give him a military funeral. The photograph album contained several photographs of this military funeral with Captain Kennedy’s name clear visible on the banner attached to flowers on his casket. 15th Battalion NCOs Sgts Harold Ashling, Rodgers and Russ are in the photograph escorting the casket.

Captain Kennedy must have written to his wife before he died because her letter mentions that he told her of “the wonderful kindness of the Canadians”



and she wanted to thank them for looking after him and for sending her a photograph of his grave. (also in Ashling’s album).

Her heartfelt letter is addressed to “the thoughtful Canadian” and goes to say “ perhaps some day when this cruel war is afar I will have the pleasure of being able to thank some of you in person and to hear from you of the last moments of my gallant husband. With many thanks for your kindness.”

An act of kindness and military courtesy amongst allied POWs from two sides of the globe. Sgt Claude Ashling compiled his massive diary sometime well after the war likely from a collection of diaries/writings made earlier. There is no mention in Sgt Claude Ashling’s diary of whether he ever met Mrs. Kennedy following his repatriation to the UK in 1919. 🇨🇦

“THIS IS QUITE A CHANGE OF SCENE.”

By BGen (Ret) Greg Young

On the 18th of April 1915, the 15th Battalion had just moved into billets in the city of Ypres awaiting the move forward into the front lines just beyond the town of St Julian. The officers were quartered in an abandoned lawyer’s ‘chateau de ville’ on Canton Street in the very heart of Ypres several blocks north of the Menin gate. The Battalion itself was billeted to the north on the edge of the city at La Brique the site today of La Brique Military Cemetery No. 1. The letters of Lt Francis Gibson – then commanding # 8 Platoon of No. 2 Company – speak of the comfortable conditions in the chateau:

You enter the front door into a hall and on left is a drawing room and dining room.....which is our Mess and sitting room is a fine oak table and side furniture and a number of chairs. Then to complete our comfort, is a fireplace and piano... three more rooms and a spacious Kitchen

Despite being out of the trenches and in the temporary comforts of billets in the city, Ypres was already proving to be a dangerous place even in those days before the coming German offensive and gas attack. German artillery would claim No. 2 Company’s second in command, Captain Trumbell Warren, near the main square on the 20th and on the 19th Lt Gibson was wounded by shell fragments in the knee when the chateau received a direct hit. He spent that night in a field ambulance station in Ypres and the following day he was evacuated for further treatment to a clearing hospital at Mont des Cats near the town of [Godewaersvelde](#), just over the Belgian-French border in [French Flanders](#). His first letter home from Mont des Cats begins: “This is quite a change of scene” and following surgery to remove the shell splinters, Lt Gibson remained in this location to recuperate. As luck would have it, fate had spared the young officer (at least for a few more months) because while at Mont des Cats the Germans had struck the Canadian positions at St Julian with chlorine gas and his battalion was being decimated.

A little over a year later another young officer would also find himself at Mont des Cats. Lt Ian Sinclair had joined the 48th Highlanders at the outbreak of the war and was part of the 15th Battalion at Valcartier. However, as the 15th Battalion’s officer compliment was full, Sinclair transferred to 13th Battalion hoping to insure he would be in a battalion going overseas in the 1st Contingent. Lt Sinclair was hospitalized at Mont des Cats from 28 May to 03 June 1916 with a severe case of the flu. Like Gibson before him, fate also now spared Sinclair who was recovering there when the German offensive struck at Mount Sorrel on 02 June.



Mont des Cats - Now

From Lt Gibson’s letters we learn that Mont des Cats was “a big monastery on a high hill.” A quick Goggle earth search reveals that Mont des Cats is a large and imposing medieval abbey situated on a hill that provides spectacular views of the surrounding French Flanders countryside. One could hardly envision a better location and facility in which wounded and ill soldiers could recuperate.



Lt FM Gibson - KIA 19 Aug 1915

However, what Gibson’s letters and Sinclair’s diary do not tell us is that Mont des Cats was more than just another abbey – it was a long established Trappist monastery well known for its cheese and Trappist brewery. The name had nothing to do with cats and derives from the Germanic Chatti tribe that settled the area after the fall of the Roman Empire in the 5th Century. The Abbey of Mont-des-Cats, or Abbaye Sainte-Marie-du-Mont is located on a hill also known as Mont des Cats or Katsberg in Dutch and was first settled in 1650 by a community of Hospital Brothers of St. Anthony. It functioned until 1792 when it was closed during the French Revolution. In 1826, a new community of monks took over the abbey and like other Trappist monasteries, it was economically self-sufficient thanks to farming and cattle breeding. Cheese was made from herd’s milk to meet the needs of the community and to this day the abbey is still quite famous for its cheese.



Canadian memorial plaque - Mont des Cats

In 1848 the monastery added a brewery and as with all Trappist brews, a brown, strong, and tasty beer was initially only for the personal use of the monks. However, visitors liked the beer so much that in 1896 the brewery was modernized and commercialization began– including more brew varieties. In April 1918, during bombing raids, the monastery and the brewery were completely destroyed. Although the brewery was never rebuilt, in 2011 in cooperation with the nearby brewery at the abbey of Scourmont, a new Trappist beer labelled Mont des Cats once again became available to be sold along with the Abbey’s famous cheese.



Mont des Cats beer

It is probable that the abbey of Mont des Cats was selected as an ideal location for a convalescent hospital during The Great War because of the space the facility provided as well as the fact that it was behind the lines and near the main route into and out of the Ypres salient. However, one can only imagine if the abbey’s other features – notably the beer and cheese – also helped many an injured soldier relax and recuperate from their wounds before returning to the Front. 🐉

15TH BATTALION PROJECT: THEN AND NOW

THEN AND NOW

by BGen (Ret) Greg Young

A visual essay that compares the world of the 15th Battalion CEF with that same world as it is now.



Then - Pte TL Bell, Tynecot, Belgium



Now - Pte TL Bell, Tynecot, Belgium



Then - Capt ES Botterill, Lijssenthoek, Belgium



Now - Capt ES Botterill, Lijssenthoek, Belgium



Then - LtCol WR Marshall, Lijssenthoek



Now - LtCol WR Marshall, Lijssenthoek, Belgium



Then - Pte F Smith, St Martins Switzerland



Now - Pte F Smith, St Martin's, Switzerland



Maj FW Forbes DSO



Forbes Road - Winnipeg named after Maj FW Forbes DSO



Then - Canal du Nord crossing site 1918 by Lt Banton



Now - 15th Battalion Project Team - Canal du Nord crossing site 2012

15TH BATTALION PROJECT: THEN AND NOW

THEN AND NOW



Then - 15th Battalion sentry at Schloss-Ehreshoven 1919



Now - Schloss-Ehreshoven



Then - Observatory Ridge 1916



Now - 15th Battalion memorial Observatory Ridge 2011



Then - LtCol Bent at Moha Castle 1919



Now - Moha Castle, Belgium



Then - church in Courcelette 1916



Now - church in Courcelette



Then - Puits 14 Hill 70



Now - 15th Battalion Project Team Puit 14 Hill 70 2012



Then - Convent of St Ives 1916



Now - Church of St Eves Ploegsteert, Belgium

15TH BATTALION PROJECT: THEN AND NOW



Then - 134th Battalion Officers - Hindhead Golf Course 1917



Now - Hindhead Golf Course Surrey



Then - 15th Bn POW Pte Murphy second from right on skates Seeburg, Switzerland



Now - Seeburg, Switzerland



Then - ruins of Demuin 1918



Now - Demuin from Demuin British Cemetery 2012



Camera - Red Lodge Ploegsteert, Belgium



Sketch - Red Lodge - 1919

15TH BATTALION PROJECT: THEN AND NOW



Camera - Survivors of 2nd Ypres 1915



The Roll Call - After 2nd Battle of Ypres - 1915 - 47th Highlanders.

Sketch - Survivors of 2nd Ypres - Lt JB Banton 1919



Camera - Plank Road Passchendaele 1917



— THE MARCH TO THE RHINE —

Camera - 15th Battalion leaving Germany 1919



(YOUR FEET BE SORE AT FIRST TIME.)

Sketch - 15th Bn leaving Germany 1919

... ON THE RATIONS WERE GETTING ...



The Plank Road at Passchendaele

Sketch - Plank Road at Passchendaele 1917 Lt JB Banton

YPRES AND THE MENIN GATE – REMEMBRANCE DAY 1993

By Maj (Ret) John Brown

(Editorial Note: This article, written by a former, and highly regarded, Editor of the Falcon, was originally published more than 2 decades ago, but, as its author has rightly observed, its content doesn't get dated.)

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, the temperature is in the mid 50s F 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 shop front 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 they were very disappointed, and surprised, when I said I didn't know her!

The scheduled time of 11 AM 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 a 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 sounds 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 WW I Veterans, marching, unaided except for canes and one wheelchair, to the music of the Belgian Army band playing “the Boys of the Old Brigade. Eight 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 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” - “OP God Our Help in Ages Past” - “O Valiant Hearts.” I want to sing, but can't, I am so choked with emotion. Now Reveille. Now a five 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.

✎

A GREAT WAR QUIZ

TEN THINGS THAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CANADA'S CONNECTION TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Prepared by Maj (Ret) George Pearce

Do You Know?

1. Canada's original Book of Remembrance, which records the names of more than 66,000 Canadians who died in or because of the First World War, is displayed in the Memorial Chamber of what Canadian landmark?
2. This celebrated Canadian soldier's remains were exhumed from a war cemetery near Vimy Ridge in 2000 and reinterred* in Canada at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. Who is he?
3. The Canadian War Museum's Memorial Hall in Ottawa contains the headstone of Canada's Unknown Soldier. What happens to this grave marker every Remembrance Day at exactly 11 a.m. weather permitting?
4. What National Hockey League trophy has ties to a Vimy Ridge hero and goes to the most gentlemanly and skilled player of the year?
5. A group of bronze figures representing the response of all branches of the Canadian Armed Forces to service in the Great War is shown marching through the arch of the National War Memorial. How many figures are depicted?
6. True or False. During and after the First World War, countries of the British Empire collected their dead from battlefields and shipped them to their home countries.
7. In 1915, James T. Sutherland, president of the Ontario Hockey Association made an impassioned speech urging young hockey players to exchange their sticks and pucks for rifles and bayonets in order to rid the world of the oppressors of humanity. What major annual cup tournament did this Hockey Hall of Famer help to create in 1919?
8. This well-loved British general commanded the Canadian Corps at Vimy Ridge and was later the first Governor General of Canada to break tradition by appointing Canadian Forces officers as his aides-de-camp.
9. True or False. Out of more than 125 Canadian place names that commemorate First World War battles, Vimy Ridge occurs most frequently.
10. Apart from the fact that soldiers of other countries were unsuccessful in their attempts to capture Vimy Ridge, what was unique about the Canadian triumph?

See page 13 for the answers.



HELP US TELL THEIR STORY

The 15th Battalion Memorial Project has amassed an extensive collection of photographs and documents 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 Veteran's Affairs Virtual Memorial and numerous on-line internet sites.

As a direct result of the increasing visibility of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project website (www.15thbattalioncef.ca) created two years ago, more and more relatives of men who served in the 15th Battalion have contacted us seeking information about their relatives and to share their artifacts – photographs, letters, diaries, postcards, medals, etc. Faces have been given to individuals that were only names on lists, nominal rolls or headstones; the details of wartime events have become clearer from first hand accounts and descriptions uncovered in letters and diaries; and relatives in return have discovered more information about their relatives, many of whose stories and identity had become lost to the tides of time.

As these materials are collected they are analyzed, cross referenced, catalogued and organized into the Project's photographic and documentary archives for ongoing Project research; provision of support to the media and/or organizations working on Great War commemorative events and projects; 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 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 (also the 92nd or 134th Battalions) during World War I? If so, and you are willing to share them with the Project, please contact us at www.15thbncef@gmail.com.

BATTLE HONOURS

By Major (Ret) George L. Pearce CD

(Editorial Note: This extensive, in depth essay, provides for all Highlanders a clear understanding of both the historical and administrative processes by which our Regiment has come to receive its previous and most recent Battle Honours)

ORIGIN

Unlike the origins of awarding medals for bravery in military campaigns, which are all but lost in antiquity, the origins of conferring battle honours to regiments have a much more recent beginning. The first known evidence of a metal token for valour was found among the relics of Alexander the Great in the 4th Century B.C.E. Subsequently, battle honours, like most of our Canadian military customs and traditions, originated in the British Army in the 17th Century and have been perpetuated to a large degree from the earliest days of the British Empire to the present day regiments of the Commonwealth of Nations.

The oldest battle honour in the British Army is Tangier 1662-1680. It belongs to The Queen's Royal Regiment, 2nd of Foot and is perpetuated today by The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).

A battle honour, in simple terms, is a recorded title commemorating a battle or campaign in which a specific regiment of infantry or cavalry (later armour) fought with distinction.

The honour takes the form of a battle title being the name of a country, region or city often accompanied by a date, and always recommended at the conclusion of hostilities by a special committee.

ENTITLEMENT

There have been many guidelines over the years governing the granting of Battle Honours, many of which have been open to interpretation and many others which, because of the nature of committees, have not been rigidly adhered to over time.

Battles which were deemed to be "inconclusive" or those which represented a withdrawal or retreat were originally ruled an obstacle to



the granting of the honour.

This assumed detriment became modified with the realization that if, in the face of defeat, the battle action clearly reflected honourably on the valour and integrity of the unit(s) involved, the Battle Honour would be justified. Examples such as the battles of Hong Kong in December 1941 and the Dieppe Raid in August 1942 stood as strong exceptions to the original rule of exclusion.

Battle Honours were primarily granted only to units in which the majority of the battalion or regimental strength was engaged, which meant the headquarters and at least half of the sub-units of infantry companies or squadrons of cavalry/armoured regiments.

Veterans of the Korean War (1950-53) have pointed out the anomaly that, while some units in the Second World War received Battle Honours for actions fought by only one or two companies of a battalion, units which fought in Korea were denied Battle Honours, because only three of four companies were involved. As well, companies operating independently of their units could qualify for a Battle Honour if

fifty per cent of this sub-unit was engaged. As an example, the Princess Louise Fusiliers (after considerable investigative research) were awarded, in 1999, the Battle Honour ARNHEM 1945, despite the fact that the regiment was represented in this battle by only a single independent machine gun company.

EMBLAZONMENTS AND LIMITS

Battle Honour Committees that were convened after the First World War, Second World War and the Korean War have determined the Battle Honours to be granted but the process is not quick, due to the volume of research required. Once granted, each regiment decides what Battle Honours are to be emblazoned, being those which have brought the highest distinction to the regiment in terms of the achievement of its strategic task in support of the aim of the brigade or higher formation, to which it was an integral part. The combination of leadership and valour, at all levels during the battle action, is of paramount importance.

Emblazonments refer to those battle titles which are added to the Regimental Colour,

The Queen's Pipe Banner carried by the Pipe Major, the Drum Major's baldric and the drum shells.

The number of Battle Honours granted to Canadian regiments has led to restrictions being placed on the number of emblazoned honours permitted, as follows:

1. Prior to the First World War - no limit
2. First World War - maximum of 10
3. Second World War - maximum of 10
4. Korean War - maximum of 2

DISPLAY

Battle Honours awarded a regiment, in whole or in part, are traditionally displayed as an award to the regiment as a whole. For example, the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's

Canadian Light Infantry earned the Battle Honour KAPYONG in 1951, for heroic action in Korea, but the honour was granted to the regiment and so appears on the Colours of all three battalions. (It should be noted that 2 PPCLI was awarded the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation by President Harry Truman for this action, which brings

EMBLAZONED BATTLE HONOURS of the 48th HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

South Africa 1899-1900 - First and Oldest Battle Honour

First World War (10 of 21 awarded) **Second World War** (10 of 27 awarded)

Ypres 1915. '17

Festubert 1915

Mount Sorrel

Somme, 1916

Vimy, 1917

Hill 70

Passchendaele

Amiens

Drocourt-Queant

Canal du Nord

Landing in Sicily

Assoro

Campobasso

Ortona

Liri Valley

Hitler Line

Gothic Line

Lamone Crossing

Rimini Line

Apeldoorn



a special badge worn on the shoulder of every soldier of the Second Battalion, a privilege NOT authorized for anyone else in any other battalion of the regiment.)

In a few cases Reserve regiments carry a battalion designation for a regular regiment, as a secondary title, such as the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (4th Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry). The Reserve unit is NOT entitled to the Battle Honours of its allied Regular Force regiment and is entitled to display only its own Battle Honours. However,

when two regiments amalgamate, the new unit is entitled to the Battle Honours of both predecessors.

CONTROVERSY AND RETROACTIVE REVISION

Throughout the 20th Century, there has been some controversy with respect to the research and granting of Battle Honours to some regiments of the Canadian Army and some Battle Honours have been granted well after the official committees finished their work. When the Honours Committee was allocating First World War Battle Honours, some regiments submitted the point that their contributions to the field forces during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and the Boer War had been somewhat overlooked. The 1st Hussars, for example, received the Battle Honour South Africa 1900 in 1933, to reflect this earlier oversight.

Not every battle fought will automatically bring the granting of a Battle Honour. Conversely, regiments or battalions have consistently demonstrated that their valour can bring more than one Battle Honour over the course of a larger campaign. Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry earned "KAPYONG" for the Battle of Kapyong as well as "KOREA 1951-1953" for the overall period of the war. Another example is the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, awarded "TUMBLEDOWN MOUNTAIN" specifically for the Battle of Tumbledown and "FALKLAND ISLANDS 1982" for the overall conflict. From the time of the original British Battle Honours System, committees were guided by a fine but somewhat ambiguous difference between a specific Battle Honour and the closely associated Theatre Honour, the latter being judged as not suitable for emblazonment. Recently,

Theatre Honours are now seen to be more appropriate, if not definitive, due to major changes in modern day combat and the advanced weaponry of smaller battle groups deployed in more expansive areas of the operational region.

The British square of the Zulu Wars was inappropriate in the trenches of the First World War, just as the static trenches dividing No Man's Land were nowhere to be seen in the Second World War. Today's enemy comprises smaller groups concentrated over large regions, which provide natural protection and concealment. While fire and movement is still the doctrine of trained infantry, today's soldiers must be trained to deploy

over very large areas, to face an ever mobile enemy, who is very often invisible.

Students of military history can perhaps be excused for the confusion that occurs when they see existing Battle Honours which seem better defined as Theatre Honours, as in the case of:

North-West Canada 1885	Italy 1944
South Africa 1899-1900	North-West Europe 1944-45
South-East Asia 1941	Korea 1950-53

In March 2014, Canada's operations in Afghanistan, the longest armed conflict in

Canada's history, came to a close. Over the past 12 years more than 40,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen served in the South-West Asia region, in the largest deployment of Canadian troops since the Second World War. Canada is committed to recognizing the dedication, duty and sacrifice made by all of her men and women in uniform who served in the conflict in Afghanistan. Accordingly, eligible units of the

Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force and the Canadian Special Operations Forces that participated in the South-West Asia theatre have been bestowed with the "ARABIAN SEA" or "AFGHANISTAN" Theatre Honour. The process, simply put, requires the Battle Honours Committee to decide on the merit of each exemplary action and pass its recommendation to the Chief of Defence Staff whose concurrence would then require forwarding to the Governor General who, as The Queen's official representative in Canada, grants Royal approval, thus maintaining the time-honoured custom of Battle Honours being conferred by the Sovereign

... continued on next page

Canadian Army Units Receiving the Battle Honour "Afghanistan"

FROM THE CANADIAN FORCES
GENERAL ORDER (CANFORGEN)
077/14 SOUTH-WEST ASIA -
THEATRE HONOURS

"Afghanistan" Theatre Honour

Units of the Canadian Army will be granted the Theatre Honour "Afghanistan" if their cumulative contribution of personnel reached a minimum level of 20 per cent of the effective strength of the originating unit in the geographical area of Afghanistan.

... continued from previous page

Afghanistan holds a long and sorry history of toil and strife whose complex problems in a volatile region are unresolved to date. Battle Honours of at least twenty storied regiments of the British Army attest to the struggle as shown by The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, whose Afghanistan Battle Honours go back to 1839. The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and four or five other cavalry regiments have Afghanistan emblazoned for 1879-1880. Famous infantry regiments like The Queen's Regiment, 2nd of Foot and The Light Infantry (of today) were awarded the Afghanistan Battle Honour with attached date 1839 and at least ten others have the dates 1878 - 1880 including our allied regiment, The Gordon Highlanders.

The 48th Highlanders of Canada have received a total of 50 honours to date for duty and distinction discharged in battles against cruel and vicious enemies. Their valour was forged in fire in theatre. In view of the dated efforts of our predecessors above, it would seem most appropriate to add the dates of Canada's longest armed conflict as it should appear emblazoned on the Regimental Colour :

AFGHANISTAN 2002 - 2014

The service and sacrifice of Canada's volunteer warriors deserve no less. 🇨🇦

SGT (RET) DON ANTOINE

and other 48th Highlander veterans of the Italian Campaign (1943-45) recently received, from the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Awards of Excellence, recognizing their Second World War service.



A VIEW OF TWO WARS

A 48TH OFFICER LOOKS BACK AT HIS TIME IN WWII AND THE KOREAN WAR

By Major (Ret) Nuttall

(Editorial Note: Major Nuttall currently resides at the Chartwell Conservatory Pond Residence in Kingston Ontario and still retains his wry sense of humor and positive outlook on life. He and CQMS Herb Pike, who both served in the Italian Campaign, celebrated their 90th birthdays last February, a milestone recorded in the last issue of The Falcon.)

My greetings to the 48th Highlanders Regimental Family and I appreciate the opportunity to provide some reminiscences of my time serving with the Regiment in World War II, as well as with the RCR in the Korean War.

As far as I can tell, I'm probably the only commissioned officer currently alive from the 48th Highlanders to serve in both WWII and Korea.

The two wars I participated in took place a long time ago but certain memories do stand out and certain individuals loom larger than life. I will try to convey some of my feelings of the conflicts and how the two wars compared to each other.

BRIEF BACKGROUND

I was born in Lancashire, England, on February 27, 1924, which means I turned 90 this year. My father who had been a Regimental Sergeant Major in the Lancashire Fusilier Regiment in WWI moved our family to Kingston, Ontario, in 1925. He instilled in me a strong military tradition and ethic. As new Canadians we were expected to serve Canada in war if necessary, as my father believed during the 1930s that war was inevitable in the future.

After home front service with the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, I was activated for overseas service in 1942 and sent to Officers' Training Centre where I was commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant at the age of 18.

THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

Following service in England, in late 1944, I accepted the call to join the 48th Highlanders as Number 7 Platoon commander "A" Company, under Major Geordie Beal, Sr., father of HCol(Ret) Geordie Beal, the current Regimental historian.

This was around the time of the Lamone Crossing and the 48th was tasked to secure the areas near the river from any possible German counter attacks. Most of our activity was concentrated on night patrols and reconnaissance of German positions in the area. Mortar fire was a constant concern for both sides, and fighting patrols were the order of the day.

In one instance, I remember setting up a Bren gun on fixed mounting in the upstairs room of a farmhouse to assist the RCR attack on an enemy position. The result was the firing of a German 88 artillery round through the house from the banks of the Senio River.

I do remember the "Moaning Minnies" which were projectiles like mortars...a type of flying bomb which made a high pitched sound and produced casualties.

The 48th were not up to full strength. "A" Company had three platoons



Major (Ret) Nuttall in his military blazer with medals

and a HQ group. My platoon had about 35 men and we were supplemented by some officers who came over from the Artillery. Personnel shortages were constant during late 1944.

Morale in the 48th was always extremely high and I can honestly say that the soldiers were a wonderful bunch of men. Everyone was very friendly to me personally including officers, NCOs and the regular ranks. We looked after each other vigilantly.

Major Geordie Beal made a big impression on me at the time. He was strict but very fair... when he gave an order you knew he meant it. I learned a fair bit from him about leadership.

My first platoon NCO, Sgt Ken Connors was also a great support and he actually helped keep me alive one time by getting me out of a house that was being shelled by German mortars. His successor, Sgt Herb Pike, was similarly highly competent in all areas, with outstanding man management skills.

For the most part, the Italian people were wonderful to us. They were very helpful and always wanted to be of service. They exhibited no belligerence and could be trusted.

The weather in Italy was extremely hot in the Summers but there was an awful lot of mud during their rainy periods. We were always on call during the awful rains and there was one time when I had to keep my wet boots on for 29 days! Also, the sight of dead horses and cows, hugely bloated, were common in the countryside.

THE LIBERATION OF HOLLAND

The 48th left Italy in February, 1945, and proceeded to Holland via France and Belgium.

We found a great change in the weather which was colder in Holland but the ground was solid. It turned out that March and April

became a pleasant Spring.

At first we were told that the War was winding down and that things were pretty well over. This was not exactly true. There were a large number of pockets of German soldiers who did not want to give in. We were near the towns of Wilp and Twello, close to Apeldoorn when we met with some stiff resistance. Unfortunately, LCol Mackenzie was killed during this period as well.

In one particular instance, there was a civilian who reported that a group of Germans wanted to surrender by a farm house. When I took one of my platoons to investigate, we engaged the enemy who looked like they wanted to surrender but this turned out to be ruse. In an exchange of gunfire, I was wounded in my right hand and eventually was taken out of the line and sent to a hospital in England for recovery.

Despite my wounding, I felt my experience in Italy and Holland was positive. I was extremely lucky to have served with the 48th Highlanders, a great bunch of guys, who were called the Glamour Boys by other regiments.

In WWII, we all believed it was a great cause we were fighting for and that we had done a good job in defeating the enemy. Although I was overseas, I personally felt I was protecting my family in Kingston and that everything we were doing was a worthwhile effort.

KOREAN WAR

Between the end of WWII and the Korean War, I had repatriated to Canada and was posted to the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa as a training officer in the rank of Captain. I later rejoined my first unit, the PWOR, as a training officer and adjutant, until volunteering for the Royal Canadian Regiment Special Force destined for Korea.

During the Summer of 1952 when the Korean War was still in full swing, I was shipped to the Pusan area as the 2IC of Support Company, part of the RCR 2nd Battalion. The first thing we noticed at Pusan was the awful smell... a combination of decaying bodies and bad sanitation. It actually made many of our troops sick to their stomachs to experience this constantly.

Our first major action was at Chail-Li where we were in defensive positions by a village area near a mountain. We repelled various attacks

by Chinese forces. They used to come at us in waves....the first wave of troops were not armed....the second wave carried bamboo sticks and knives....the third wave had basic weapons. All the waves were accompanied by great noise and ballyhoo. We held fast and repelled their attacks whatever they tried.

One time we took the offensive and did a brigade attack on the Chinese while they were in the hill areas but after inconclusive fighting withdrew back to our defensive positions, aided by the Royal 22nd Regiment.

The Korean land was mostly hills and rice paddies, and the Chinese often mined the pathways between the rice paddies, so vigilance was required constantly.

The morale among the RCR troops was quite good and many South Koreans served with us. We even adopted a 5-year old Korean boy (nick named "Willy Royal") who had lost his family.

Needless to say, our enemy was primarily the Communist Chinese troops who had a different style of combat as it pertained to the enemy in world war two..That was wave after wave of consecutive attacks.

We had Vickers Machine Guns mounted on jeeps and saw more patrol attacks by the Chinese, in much larger formations and following waves of troops.

During my tour of duty, I was impressed with the leadership of Brigadier-General Rockingham who worked as hard as any of the troops especially in the attack phases of battle.

After a year of attacks and counter attacks the War ended in the Summer of 1953. Unfortunately, Korea is still officially at war even though there has been a 60-year cease fire in place. This is unlike WWII which was completely over in 1945.

I still believe our Korean involvement was an honourable mission for our Canadian troops, and I was proud to serve.

After Korea, I was posted to NDHQ in Ottawa as a staff Captain, Directorate of Organization, and later qualified to the rank of Major. I later retired to civilian life in the late 1950s and began a business career.

My experience in two wars convinced me that our causes were worth fighting for and the outcomes honorable. My experiences and training with the 48th Highlanders held me in good stead and still keeps me "Dileas" to this day. 🦅



As a young officer during WW II

A HIGHLANDER IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS SERVING IN THE VIETNAM WAR IN THE 1960S

By Master Sergeant (Ret) Fred Romano, USMC

(Editorial Note: In the last Issue of the Falcon, Fred Romano told the story of his early years as a Highlander Cadet and young soldier in the Regiment and of the impact that time had on him. In this follow up account, he describes his subsequent years in the United States Marine Corps)

My Marine Corps training in 1960 was like what you see in that old movie "The DI" (Drill Instructor) starring Jack Webb from 1957. Just like it. ...long on drill and ceremonies, and short on sleep.

We did some field training in Boot Camp but not too much like they do today. Matter of fact I had more field training at Ipperwash and Niagara on the Lake than I did in boot camp.

Then, after boot camp, we had to go to what's called ITR (Infantry Training Regiment) just outside Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for 3 weeks.

That was the time we crawled under barbed wire with live machine fire and learned the ropes about being an infantryman. I also learned that every man and woman in the Marine Corps, regardless of status, has to qualify with his rifle and personal weapon (.45 cal. pistol) every year. That includes generals and pilots.

Later, I was issued the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle), since, because I was short, they figured I could get a hole dug faster and place my weapon on target more effectively. Just imagine 12 fully loaded Mags around my waist and on the weapon, when I only weighed in at 125 lbs. at the time. Well, anyway, I lived through it.

As time went on the ominous war in Asia was heating up and in 1964 I was assigned to Airborne school at the Ft Bragg, North Carolina, (at that time the Airborne school at Ft Benning was full up). We had to run at least 8 miles every day, in order to get into that



A young Sgt second row in the middle



Fred, with Capt Chris Fisher, at Toronto City Hall 11 Nov, 2014



Gunnery Sgt Romano



Visiting the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbour

school. The Marine Corps would not let any Marine go to an Army school who might make the Corps look bad.

For me, running the 8 miles was nothing. I always did 100 push-ups and set-ups, as well and, being a light weight, I was pretty proud of myself.

What was so good about being at Ft Bragg was that I had 10 Marines with me and we

were all in top shape. We ran for miles as the army guys passed out along the road.

The only other guys that were always with us were the SEALs. Now those guys were tough! After 6 weeks of PT and floating on air we passed, qualified for Army Jump Wings and went back to Camp Lejeune.

Of course the Marines didn't believe we had jumped out of perfectly good aircraft, so we had to prove once again that we all were airborne qualified. Got to love the Marine Corps!

Then, I was given orders to proceed to California for training prior to Vietnam. ... Hell no one ever heard of the place back then.

I was promoted to Sgt and was put in charge of forward observation for mortars, Artillery and naval Bombardment.

After a month of all that training we went

to Okinawa. ..this time to train on landing off of submarines at night and climbing cliffs.

Then we landed on Danang Beach. From hearing the officer's talk we might be shot at...found out around the Danang air base that there were Chinese mercenaries in towers guarding parts of the base.

The NVA (North Vietnamese Army) were good fighters. They always knew the ropes in the jungle and mountains. Being lightly numbered they always picked their battles.

The VC (Viet Cong) were also good but couldn't shoot straight. On my first Patrol we were ambushed by them. We fired back at them but they knew the area and we lost them. Thank the lord for little favors.

For the better part of our mission there, we were all over Vietnam from Danang to the Rock Pile including the city of Hue. Talk about an Imperial City... it was beautiful.

My worst experience in this war was during a major operation (Harvest Moon), the radio operator and my CO were behind a tank when it was hit by a RPG. We had so much fire coming into us that we couldn't get the bodies of the skipper and the radio operator out until two days later.

As the platoon Sgt, I had to go in and identify my skipper from the body they had picked up. That was and to this day is the saddest day I ever had in my life. That man was like a father to us and if you didn't cry about that you had ice running through your veins.

All of us received the Combat action ribbons, I was just fortunate enough to receive the bronze Star with a combat 'V'. All the rest are, to me, goody goody medals, because I didn't get into trouble during my years in the Corps.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

I'd say the 48th taught me to be self-reliant enough to keep my head in combat. Not to say I was scared. Yes, I was, but not as bad as some of the other men. When we were in a defensive position some guys used to fly their state flag. I flew my Union Jack to let the NVA know they were fighting Canada too!

From what I've heard 40,000 Canadians were in the Vietnam War. Hard to believe but the War went on from 1960 to 1975. That's enough time.

When I got back to the States, I went to DI school to train recruits at 'Camp Hollywood' San Diego California. I did that for a while and then back to the east coast I went. There I met my future wife and she's been tagging along with me for almost 47 years now. Not bad for a young Marine, eh!

My overall assessment of the military is that both Armies, Canadian and American, are committed to making it a better place for the enlisted personnel, while promoting professionalism.

The Marine Corps has always been that way...it's just their way of life...never make the Marine Corps look bad in the eyes of someone else.

Now that I'm retired, I like to do garden work and I belong to The Royal Canadian Legion, The American Legion, The Marine Corp League and the Community Emergency Reaction Team in Currituck North Carolina. All that, and Meals on Wheels to the Senior centers keep me quite busy these days.

Each year, I try to make it up to Toronto in November for the 48th Remembrance ceremonies and see old comrades...like Bill Dance, Doug Chappell and Max McDougall...to name a few. They have always been like my personal family, and I always think about them and would do anything for them.

"Dileas Gu Brath" to all my friends in the 48th and see you all again soon! 🇨🇦

SIX HIGHLANDERS WHO ANSWERED THE CALL

1. ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO AT THE START OF WORLD WAR I IN 1914:

Pte (CO, by 1918) John Girvan and Pte (RSM, by 1918) Fred Gledhill



2. SEVENTY FIVE YEARS AGO AT THE START OF WORLD WAR II IN 1939:

Pte (later S/Sgt) Sid Redgrave and Pte (later Sgt) Bill DeHarte



3. TO THE CYPRUS PEACEKEEPING MISSION (1985), WHICH STARTED FIFTY YEARS AGO IN 1964:

Maj (then MCpl) Ron Alkema (and a second time in 1992) and Sgt Tom Scott



THE SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

St Mark's English Church,
Florence Italy – Sunday,
November 2nd, 2014

(Comments and Reflections from the Reverend William Lister, Chaplain of St. Mark's Church)

OPENING REMARKS TO THE CONGREGATION:

Welcome to all here as we remember those past and present of the 48th Highlanders of Canada in this 70th Anniversary year of the Liberation of Italy, and especially to those who are here for the first time or who have travelled a long way to be with us today.

Thanks to their Excellencies, Peter McGovern of Canada and Christopher Prentice of UK, for supporting us today and also to Brigadier General Robert Mazzolin, the Director General of Canadian Information Management Operations.

A special welcome also to the Defence Attaches present, of Canada, the United Kingdom, The United States of America, and of Poland; all representing armed forces that played significant and important roles in the Liberation of Italy, 1943-45.

We are also delighted to welcome Monsignor Timothy Verdon, representing Cardinal Betori and the Archdiocese of Florence, the Commandant Carabinieri di Firenze (who have provided today's bugler), Canon David Greenwood and all visiting clergy.

We have been sent good wishes for our service today from our sister churches in the Chaplaincy, Siena and Bologna, and also from our partner church, St. James' Masuku in Malawi. Fr Matthews Kachala wishes us all God's grace and blessing as we gather here this morning.

Finally, we have one matter of correspondence, initiated by letter of loyal greeting sent by Col John B. Newman and I would like to read that to you now the following response today: it reads....and is signed ELIZABETH REGINA and dated 2nd November 2014.



Presentation of the Painting. L -R, Cdn Ambassador Peyer McGovern, HCol Newman, Father William and Br Ambassador Christopher Prentice



Philip and Eugenia Seagram Annovazzi with the Plaque and the Memorial Wreaths



The Memorial Plaque

We will now observe a few moments silence before our service begins. Thank you.

THOUGHTS ON THE PAINTING PRESENTED TO THE REGIMENT BY ST MARK'S CHURCH:

At this point, I want to give an appraisal of the painting. From the start of the idea, we considered various ways of depicting this moment of history. From my own experience, I was aware that most historical paintings in Regimental Messes show the place, often in graphic detail, perhaps of a battlefield or conspicuous action etc. I was very clear that I felt this painting, on the other hand, should be more about Canada than Italy.

Hence we decided to look at images from 'home' that conveyed the sentiments involved. I suggested falling maple leaves and a visiting Canadian preacher (and friend of St. Marks) gave a sermon around that time about the national animal – the beaver. The canvas was 'set' as they say. The falling maple leaves over a Canadian lake at sunset, and the beaver – perhaps looking slightly hacked off – is thinking that time has come to get rebuilding his home before winter sets in.

The choice of frame was very specific to me as well. It had to 'blend in' with other pictures in a Mess. It is therefore



Sandra Seagram Annovazzi, Mr & Mrs Philip Seagram Annovazzi and Father William Lister at St Mark's after the Service


 The Ambassador of Canada
Peter McGovern,
 requests the pleasure of

At the dedication of a memorial plaque to the 48th Highlanders of Canada on All Souls Day, by the Honourary Colonel of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, John B Newman, CD and Mrs Sandra Seagram Annovazzi. This ceremony will be held during the Sunday service with the kind permission of Fr William Lister Chaplain of the Saint Marks Anglican Church of England, Florence.

Sunday, November 2nd, 2014
at 10:30 hrs

Location: St Marks Anglican Church of England Florence
Via Maggio, 16, 50125 Firenze, Italy

R.S.V.P.
06 854443210

Cdn Ambassador's Invitation

an antique frame – rebuilt to fit this painting – and re-gilded with 24ct gold leaf. It is also ‘aged’ in the finish, to help blend in with other frames around it.

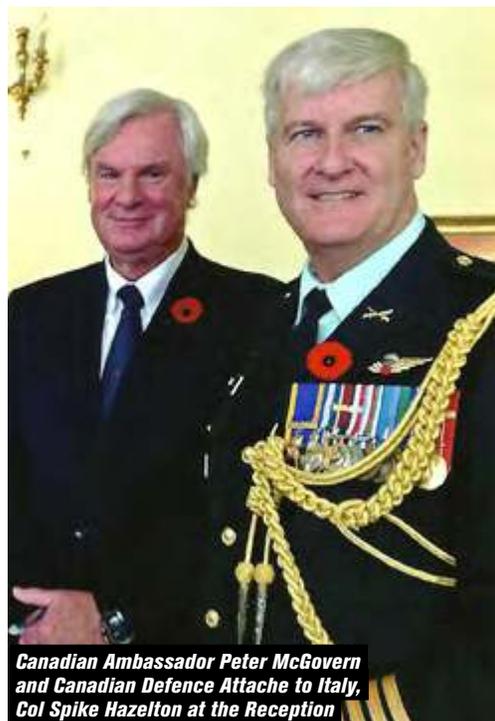
The proposed wording for an inscription is:

“PRESENTED TO THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA, ON THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF ITALY, BY ST. MARK’S ENGLISH CHURCH, FLORENCE.”

Finally, we toasted Her Majesty the Queen, the 48th Highlanders and St. Mark’s Church, and enjoyed some excellent aperativos, courtesy of the 48th!

FINAL THOUGHTS:

A truly great day. Thank you, John, for all your drive and commitment in this special commemoration. The tablet is a lasting memorial here (in Carrera white marble – as all the others here – overseen by our Sculptor in Residence, Jason Arkles), and we hope the painting will be a lasting and reciprocal memorial in the Regiment’s ongoing life and history. 🇨🇦



Canadian Ambassador Peter McGovern and Canadian Defence Attache to Italy, Col Spike Hazelton at the Reception


 BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Colonel John Newman,
48th Highlanders of Canada.

Please convey my warm thanks to all ranks of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and all those present today at St. Mark’s English Church, Florence, for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of the dedication of a memorial to the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, 1st Brigade, 1st Canadian Division who served, and those who fell, during the liberation of Italy from 1943 to 1945.

I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my good wishes to you all for a most memorable gathering.

ELIZABETH R.

2nd November, 2014.

The Queen’s Message of thanks to HCol Newman

48TH HIGHLANDERS OCA REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND - NOVEMBER 8-9, 2014

By: MWO (Ret) Mark McVety, CD, OCA President

SATURDAY AT MOUNT PLEASANT

Our Remembrance Saturday, November 8th, started out as a cloudy and drizzly day. A total of 75 Highlanders, including members of the 48th Pipes and Drums, gathered at the east side of Toronto's Mount Pleasant Cemetery at 10:30 in the morning.

The group formed up in threes with the Pipes and Drums leading and halted in front of the small monument. The Padre led us in the service including the Regimental Prayer. A wreath was laid by Herb Pike and Don Antoine, two of our World War II Veterans (Don was one of the Highlanders, who landed at Pachino, Sicily, on July 10th, 1943).

After the Ceremony, the Parade dismissed and we all headed off to get ready for the evening's dinner.

OCA REMEMBRANCE DINNER

Our Remembrance Dinner on the Saturday evening was attended by 110 people and it was a very good night.

The OCA Executive provided a complimentary dinner to all of our World War II era veterans, in order to show our appreciation not only for their service, but also for a lifetime of support they have given to the Association and the Regiment.

MWO Brian Kwok gave a stirring rendition of "Burn's Address to a Haggis" and Herb Pike did his usual rendition of a stanza of Byron's "Ode to the Fallen". Later, Don Antoine replied to the Toast to the Veterans. Warrant Officer Jason Hanson gave the "Toast to the Regiment" and the Commanding Officer, LCol Alan Best, replied.

Padre (Ret) Harold Roberts then gave a very emotional presentation on his time as an Active Highlander and the help he and his wife Janice received from members of the Regiment, during and after Hurricane Katrina made a direct hit on his Mississippi parish in 2006.

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Sunday, November 9th, was a clear cold day, but better than the day before.

As in previous years, the OCA contingent, led by the 48th Highlanders Military Band, were at the front of the Regimental parade to the Monument, where Padre Aitchison conducted the service

At the conclusion of the Service we marched back to the bottom of Queen's Park led by a trio from the Pipes and Drums, including Pipe Major Ian Laing. We gave a smart "Eyes Right", to Honorary Colonel John Newman and then boarded to the bus for the crowded ride back.

A while later, in response to the command "March off the Old Comrades," we passed by the front of the Regiment and out the back door of the Armoury, to officially conclude our 2014 Remembrance Parade.

On the whole, the weekend was a great time to meet old friends, swap some stories and enjoy some fellowship. We hope to have as good a time again next year.

Thanks to all of you who attended and supported the Weekend. It is because of your participation that these Regimental Events become special. 🦅



Excerpts of the Dinner Speech of Former Regimental Padre, Major (Ret) Harold Roberts



It is great to be with my 48th Regimental Family tonight. It has been some time since I have been back.

Thanks to the work of a fellow Highlander Patrick Shea, I am here in Toronto to attend a special Remembrance Service at Osgood Hall on Monday evening. But because of several Regimental connections, which I will talk about in a few minutes, I was invited to join you tonight and to say a few words. I am delighted to be able to do so.

I came to join the 48th in October 1965. I wanted to learn to play the pipes, but, as I entered Fort York Armory, I met Jim Murray, who was a Lieutenant, and whom I had known as a sailor at Sturgeon Lake. Jim marched me in to meet with Col Lowndes and, shortly thereafter, I became a second lieutenant and went on to serve as a line officer from October 1965 to November 1969.

By then I had married and was in my second year of university.

In May, 1973, I attended the change of command from LCol. Dick Read to LCol. Bill Stark and, while there, encountered then Maj. Bob Darling, who was the incoming DCO. He asked me what I was doing and, when I told him I was about to be ordained in the Anglican Church, he said "Oh, good... we need a Padre." That was the start of my second journey with the 48th.

I served as Unit Padre from 1973 to 1984, when orders from on high said that I could no longer serve as Padre and wear the kilt. Since I was by now an Aide de Camp for the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, I retired from my Regimental Padre position and continued to be a 48 Highlander, as an A de C, until February 1997, when I moved on to become the Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Biloxi, Mississippi.

As a result, I am able to say that I served as a 48th Highlander from 1965 until 1997. Unlike some members of the current Regimental family, whose service in places like Afghanistan has resulted in a new Regimental Battle Honour, I, like many others, served in peace time, but I am comforted by the words of Milton, "They also serve who only stand and wait."

...On this Remembrance Weekend, we traditionally say thank you to the families of those who died in war. The 48th has a rich history, bought with blood and sacrifice; now including "Afganistan."

But, there is another side to the Regimental Family.

To all intents and purposes, I concluded my active service to the Battalion in 1984. Later, in March, 1997, Jan and I moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, when I was invited to become the Rector of the historic Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.



Above photo of Major Harold Roberts taken from the 2006 Spring issue of the Falcon: "Miracle in the rubble. Katrina topples church, but left window intact!"



On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. Hundreds of thousands lost everything including Jan and I.

Within days of the storm, I received a call from Tom McKeen, Brian Patterson, and some other Highlanders who wanted to send help. Initial efforts proved unsuccessful, but not long afterward, arrangements were made by the Senate of the Regiment for then HCol. Geordie Beal to coordinate the collection and forwarding of gifts from Canada to help my parish, Jan and myself, in our recovery.

We were overwhelmed! I had been away from the Regimental Family from 1984 to 2005 - 21 years! And yet the 48th Family remembered and responded. And you were generous! Jan and I kept meticulous notes and I believe we wrote to say thank you to everyone personally, but this is the first time that I have had the opportunity to say a collective thank you to everyone.

And so to this gathering and to the whole Regimental Family, Jan and I and the whole Redeemer Family, say five words - "Thank you; God bless you."

DILEAS GU BRATH - FAITHFUL FOREVER. NOT ONLY IN WAR, BUT ALSO IN PEACE.

REMEMBRANCE PARADE • 9 NOV 2014



REMEMBRANCE PARADE • 9 NOV 2014



From the Remembrance Parade Invocation Delivered by Regimental Padre Capt D. M. Aitchison

On the Honour Rolls of our Churches and on the Cenotaphs of our land, are written in proud and everlasting memory the names of those who gave their lives for Canada and in defence of the sacred liberties of all humanity.

Today, we remember, before God, those members of the 48th Highlanders who fell during the great battles of the past 123 years. We thank God for their courage, their willingness to serve and for what they achieved with the forfeit of their lives. 🇨🇦

REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR HIGHLANDERS AT SUNNYBROOK



Alfred Payton



Stanley Leonard



Jim Shontaler



Vic Cooper

HIGHLANDERS CONFINED TO BARRACKS

SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL - VETERANS WING



COOPER, Vic. LGSE 37 647-341-8573

LEONARD, Stanley LGE 23

PAYTON, Alfred LFSE 22 416-487-1624 alfpayton@AOL.com

SHONTALER Jim K2C 27 416-483-4349

SPECIAL CARE UNITS

GREEN, Stuart. Not Listed

These Highlanders will be pleased to hear from you.

*A special thanks to our Visiting Party and their
special efforts to stay in touch with them.*

DECEMBER 2014





BGEN PETER ALFRED GORDON CAMERON, OMM, CSTJ, CD

BGen Peter Cameron, former Commanding Officer and former Honorary Colonel of the 48th Highlanders of Canada passed away on November 29, 2014. The following "Words of Remembrance" were given by HCol (Ret) Geordie Beal, CD at the service at Christ Church Deer Park on December 03, 2014.

The list of Peter's accomplishments is impressive. Scholar – at Appleby, McGill, London School of Economics; Business – CEO Canadian Corporate Management, Chairman and CEO of Chromalox, acting CEO of Diversey, Chairman of Canada Post and many directorships; Military reserves – CO and Honorary Colonel of 48th Highlanders, Commander Montreal District, Chief of Reserves Council, Advisor to the Minister of National Defence on Canada's Industrial Defence Preparedness and Co-Chair and co-founder of Reserves 2000; Community leader – Vice Chair of St John Ambulance- Quebec, Chairman of the Board of Sunnybrook and then the Sunnybrook Foundation. I could go on.

But those are accomplishments. Let me share with you through stories in which I was a participant Peter Cameron the person.

I first met Peter Cameron in 1959. Well, that's not really true. He was a voice on the telephone asking me if, as the son of a 48th Highlander, I would like to join the regiment. I declined politely explaining that the next

four years of studying the sciences would take up all my time. I thought that would be the end of it. However, every six months for the next four years I received a call, either from Peter or another senior Highlander, asking again. Finally, six months into my first job after university and yet another phone call I decided to go down to the armoury in person to tell Peter I wasn't interested. I joined the next week. And I'm still involved. That's when I learned that Peter Cameron believed in the principle of steadfastness, sticking to his goals when he believed they were right and his ability to bring you to his point of view by logic and personality.

My years as an officer in the 48th Highlanders were blessed with great leaders. It needed to be. It was the time of major cutbacks to the reserves in both allowable strength and in funding. The challenge was to keep our soldiers at the peak of training with minimal support and motivate them to stay and commit their personal time to the 48th Highlanders and the reserves. Peter was my second commanding officer. He followed Colonel John Lowndes under whose leadership the regiment had just won two consecutive Gzowski Trophies, signifying the best reserve infantry unit in Canada. Peter followed this up with three more in a row. However during that time Peter knew that unit morale and motivation needed more than tough and dedicated training. So he proposed to hold a Tattoo, in Maple Leaf Gardens. Just what we needed, more work on top of a gruelling schedule. Peter was undeterred. He put together a team, outlined the goals and set about making it happen. And we had a great time, working harder than ever, coming out days and nights that were not part of the paid training schedule. The soldiers loved it. It was unusual and they were given responsibilities and challenges that stretched their capabilities. Leading it all was Peter doing it in such a way that everyone felt it was their idea, that their part was the key. That's when I saw another element of Peter Cameron, his belief that people should be engaged for what they could contribute, that their contributions were valued, that they should understand the goal and then be given the latitude to succeed. Valuing people, another deeply held principle of Peter Cameron. The Tattoo was a huge success. Maple Leaf Gardens was packed to standing room only. And we turned away 8000 more. Proceeds went to the Cancer Society and once again Peter gave credit to everyone but himself.

More recently, in 1997 the regiment was informed that Her Majesty was coming to Toronto. Members of the regiment and the regimental family felt that Her fiftieth anniversary as Colonel-in-Chief should be

recognized. The problem was that Her formal itinerary was set and changing it would, shall we say, "upset" both the Provincial government and the senior military command. Peter at that time was Honorary Colonel. He told us there was nothing to be done. Several weeks later, and to our total surprise, we were informed that Her Majesty was adding 30 minutes to Her travel time between two official events. She would open our new regimental museum as a family event, not a public event. The solution was remarkable. No official event had been created and no-one in the Provincial government or military chain of command had been embarrassed. The request had come from the Palace. Although Peter never talked about how it happened I'm sure Peter knew communicating directly with our Colonel in Chief was our right and the name Sir Robin Janvren, The Queen's Secretary was mentioned. I'm sure also that no-one in either the government or the military was surprised. They had been kept informed. Peter's belief in respecting others and respecting their positions was evident. Yet another principle by which he guided his life.

Peter set the goals for the visit to the museum. We then practiced to make it last just 30 minutes. I was Chair of the museum; another assignment that Peter told me would last just a few weeks. On June 29, precisely on time, Her Majesty's car arrived at the front of St Andrew's Church. She was greeted by a Guard from the Regiment then entered the museum. I had the privilege of guiding Her Majesty around the museum, stopping to introduce the heads of our Regimental family and their spouses – the Ladies Auxiliary, the 48th IODE, the Pipes and Drums and Military Band, the CO and RSM of the active regiment, the minister of our Regimental church and the Old Comrades. Peter followed behind, with Prince Philip, doing similar introductions. But in his left hand, where only he could see it, he had his pocket watch. As Her Majesty was talking to each member of the Regimental family Peter would signal to me – speed up or slow down. Her Majesty left the museum and entered Her car, 29 minutes and 45 seconds from the time She had arrived.

Peter Alfred Gordon Cameron, the man, the person. For me these were the qualities and principles of his life: Steadfastness, Valuing people, Reason and Understanding, Respect for others, Dignity and love of family.

I sum it up in one word, *Gentleman*. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that word Gentleman would have said it all. Peter held these values and these principles. They remain relevant to this day. We could do no better than to live by his example. 🦋

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HWG MOWAT CD

1947-2014

Commanding Officer
1985-1988

By Brigadier General (Ret) Greg Young

*'Time like an ever
flowing stream, Bears
its sons away.'*



When Hugh Mowat assumed command in 1985, he had only been with The Regiment for about a year and a half, having been brought over from The Lorne Scots, as a Major, to serve as Lieutenant Colonel Bill Jensen's Deputy Commanding Officer and earmarked as his successor. Hugh recognized that his time with the 48th would be short and he said of himself, "I knew I was a caretaker CO." He had been parachuted into the 48th (a potentially difficult role for anyone) to fill a leadership gap – to buy time for the Regiment's senior officers to develop more depth and help in their development. When his term of command ended, work and family took Hugh away from the Toronto area and as time passed opportunities to be back at The Regiment became increasingly infrequent. So for those who did not know or have the pleasure to serve with Hugh Mowat, regrettably he may be only one of the faces on the wall in the Officer's Mess of a former Commanding Officer from a time before theirs. But for those of us who did know and serve with him, we will remember the CO with the infectious laugh, the ever present smile and the confidence to trust his Officers and men to not only know their jobs but to let them do those jobs. He may have seen himself as a caretaker but to the young leaders of The Regiment, his personal leadership style introduced us first hand to 'mission command' and we (and The Regiment) were all better for it.

Hugh Mowat was born in Montreal in 1947 and came from a family with a military background. He joined the Victoria Rifles Cadet Corps in 1960 and became Commanding Officer in 1964 before transferring to the 48th Field Engineers Cadet Corps where he was awarded the Gold Star and Lord Strathcona Medal. After graduating from high school, Hugh joined the Regular Army in 1966 and served with the 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch

(Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada; the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment and 3 Mechanized Commando. He served in Gagetown, Cyprus and Germany and had appointments as Platoon Commander, Assistant Adjutant, Company 2IC, Operations Officer, Mortar Platoon Commander and instructor at the Infantry School. Hugh's last regular posting was to the Royal Regiment of Canada as their USO and that is where many of us met and worked with him for the first time.

When Hugh retired from the Regular Force in 1980, he transferred to the Reserve serving first with the Royal Regiment as their Adjutant and then later as a Major, Company Commander,

with The Lorne Scots. He was commanding a mechanized infantry company in Borden on summer concentration when I got to know him quite well as I was tasked to his sub-unit as his second –in-command. Working for Hugh was a real pleasure as he was very personable, had a laid back leadership style and above all he trusted his subordinates to do what they had been trained to do. He recognized capability and experience and gave us the command freedom to execute and show initiative. It was a leadership style that could be seen by some as a 'hands-off' approach but to those who served with him it was mission command at its best.

So, in 1984, when Hugh was brought to the 48th to serve as Bill Jensen's DCO, many of us were pleased to be working with and eventually for him once again. He brought with him that same leadership style and his gentle mocking sense of humour and as he himself said later "I wanted to shepherd The Regiment through those three years without having any major impact but leaving it fit and ready (for the future)."

AS DCO he headed up arrangements for Her Majesty's visit. During his tenure as CO, he was closely involved in the move of the Memorial Hall to Leaside; he commanded the Area Training Centre in Meaford commuting during the week to duties at the 48th; he commanded

the TMD Battle group at summer concentration; accompanied the Winter Indoctrination Team to the 107th ACR training in Ohio; and when he gave up command in 1988 Hugh left behind a strong regimental leadership core of both Officers and NCOs and again as he himself said afterwards – added to his goal of leaving the unit fit and ready, "I also wanted to have a good time. I think I succeeded on both counts". I think he did too and in the process so did we.

As I said earlier, after command and leaving his civilian employer here in Toronto, Hugh, his wife Lee and their two children Tara and Jason relocated to St Mary's, Ontario. New employment, community involvement, his undivided focus on his family and distance gradually drew Hugh Mowat in a new direction and his appearances at The Regiment became increasingly less frequent. We stayed in touch and he remained interested in his Regiment to the end. His phone calls were looked forward to and were only surpassed by his surprise 'out-of-blue' visits. He attended an Officer's Association annual dinner several years ago and for a few hours with that infectious laugh and smile it was like the old days – you were glad that he was there – home again. Hugh had a way of making you feel good about yourself.

So it was a sombre day when his former RSM, Captain (Ret) Vic Goldman and I travelled to St. Mary's for his funeral, in August. Hugh had contracted pneumonia and passed away suddenly while in hospital. We were joined by Brigadier General Gary Thompson and Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Praysner from the Royal Regiment as well as Pipe Major Lang and a bugler and the

family was very much appreciative that Hugh's Regimental family was there to pay respects to their former Commanding Officer and friend. The funeral service was very well attended by the many friends Hugh had made in the St. Mary's community and their recollections of the man they knew as a neighbour, community activist and friend were amazingly reflective of the man we knew as our comrade, Commanding Officer and friend. Hugh had not changed, he had just hung up his uniform

Hugh loved to play golf and when he left the Regiment he rejected the traditional farewell gift of drinking horns in favour of a Ping set of gold clubs. He said at the time "Every time I hit a sweet shot, I think of the 48th...ping!" For all you golfers out there, whenever you hear a ping...think of Hugh.

DILEAS GU BRATH 🦋



LCol Mowat - turret. Maj Young - driver. Meaford



Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent
10 -20-2014



Corporal Nathan Cirillo
10-22-2014

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



DILEAS GU BRATH



IN MEMORIAM

- William (Bill) Routliffe Brampton 13 Jul, 2014
- LCol H.W.G. (Hugh) Mowat St Marys 16 Aug, 2014
- Ernest S. Wilson Hamilton 29 Aug, 2014
- John Dunne Whitby 15 Sept, 2014
- Thomas Keightley Toronto 18 Sept, 2014
- Alex Scagnetti Lakewood, California . 25 Sept, 2014
- James Cowan Davidson Bracebridge 12 Oct, 2014
- Robert (Bob) Harbinson Ottawa 14 Oct, 2014
- Peter Alfred Gordon Cameron Toronto 29 Nov, 2014

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We will remember them. 🇨🇦*