



THE FALCON
YEARBOOK 2017

JOURNAL OF THE
48TH HIGHLANDERS
OF CANADA





ON THE COVER:

**Her Majesty,
Queen Elizabeth II,
Colonel-in-Chief,
48th Highlanders of Canada,
Since 7 December, 1947**

See Pages 6 and 7 for photos and text regarding
the recent visit to the Colonel-in-Chief by the
Commanding Officer and Honorary Appointments

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The due date for material for the next issue of the Falcon is 27 April, 2018

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

falcon_newsletter@hotmail.com

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



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Welcome to FALCON YEARBOOK, 2017.

In this latest Issue, we review and highlight a year of Unit expansion, Royal encounters, stories of individual Highlander adventures around the World, changes in Senior Regimental Leadership and remembrance of Battle Honours won long ago.

For the Active Battalion, 2017 was all about forming, recruiting and training a newly allocated (by Higher HQ) deployable Rifle Company. We focus on the training and development efforts to achieve this task, while also meeting the need to achieve ongoing battle task standard requirements for the existing ready sub unit, C Company. We also cover the activities and achievements of our Pipes and Drums and Military Band.

Along with this, we also feature a photo and written account of a recent visit to our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, by our Commanding Officer and Honorary Appointments, as well as other accounts and photos of members of both of our Affiliated Cadet Corps participating in last September's "Toronto Invictus Games" under the guidance and sponsorship of HRH Prince Harry.

Our "Highlander Profiles" section offers a variety of individual personal accounts by several, well known, members and friends of the Regiment including: a visit to the Vimy 100 Ceremonies in France, the story of two serving members of the Active Battalion on special training in New Zealand, accounts describing operational deployments to both Bosnia and Afghanistan and the reflections of a recently retired Highlander after 40 years of service.

We also highlight the changes in Senior Regimental Appointments (Honorary and RSM), which took effect last Fall.

And, as in every Yearbook, we remember Highlanders who left us too soon in 2017, recognize the 100th Anniversary of three of our Great War Battle Honors and recount our November Remembrance events.

Thanks, as always, to all who made contributions to this Issue of the FALCON and a special note of deep appreciation to the continuously hard working Editorial Staff, without whose ongoing efforts this publication would be impossible to achieve.

*DILEAS,
STEVE GILBERT, CAPT (RETD)
EDITOR*

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THE 15TH BATTALION'S VIMY CROSS COMES HOME FROM THE FRONT – AGAIN



On 10 April 1917 following the assault on Vimy ridge, the 15th Battalion erected a Regimental style celtic cross at one of the 1st Division's designated collective burial sites map coded as CA35. The names of fifty-seven of the battalion's dead were inscribed on the cross. Following the Armistice, the remains at CA35 were exhumed and reburied nearby at Nine Elms Military Cemetery and the cross was relocated there as well. In 1923 the Regiment acquired the cross from the CWGC and it was returned to Toronto where it has remained on display ever since. The cross was loaned to Veteran's Affairs Canada and sent back to France where it was on display at the new Vimy Visitor Education Centre for the Centenary of Vimy ridge from April 2017 to April 2018.

The cross will be officially welcomed home and back into the Regiment's care in a ceremony at St Andrew's Church at 10:30 AM on Sunday, 22 April 2018 during The Regiment's Annual Church Parade.

Join the Active Battalion, The Regimental Associations, the congregation of St Andrew's Church and many of the families whose relatives are named on the cross in welcoming home this revered historic Regimental artifact.



PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE – PROVIDED BY: Adam Bernard, Ashley Bonnell, Mark Bossi, Sgt A. Chin, Geordie Elms, MWO J. Hanson, Cpl J. Kalabic, Cpl V. Koziol, Ken Le Croix, Maj B. McCue, Ian McDonald, Danielle Reesor, Dick Read, Bill Stark, Capt I. Steingaszner, Jane Westlake, Army Cadet Sitrep, Lazy Poet Creative, Paul Mosey, St Andrew's College, St Andrew's Society, The 15th Battalion Memorial Project.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

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

www.48highlanders.com

A Message from the Commanding Officer

Highlanders! It is a pleasure once again to have the opportunity, through the CO's message, to provide the Regimental Family with an update on what the Active Battalion has been doing and what we will be concentrating on in the coming year. The main themes that I would like to cover in this message are recruiting, leadership development, training and operations.

Concerning recruiting, the Battalion has been very active over the past year. We are seeing a healthy upswing in unit strength, thanks to both efforts at Brigade to direct soldiers to the 48th Highlanders of Canada under the "Strengthening the Army Reserve" program as well as from the efforts of a small but dedicated group of recruiters within the Unit. Recruiting is one of the main focuses of the current Army Commander and the Reserves now benefit greatly because of this. The Army has implemented changes in recruit attraction and has streamlined recruiting processing over the past year which sets us up well for future growth.

Regarding leadership, the 48th Highlanders have one of the most qualified and capable Officer and Senior NCO corps within the reserves. We continue to build on this and, as a result, are currently experiencing significant success at the junior leadership level. Two years ago, we implemented a yearlong Section Commander development program (Pre-PLQ), which has resulted in our soldiers being highly successful on their courses. This was continued in 2017 and we are again expecting a high success rate, in junior leader qualifications this coming summer. In addition, the Battalion has also been very successful in recruiting junior officers. All of our officer candidate positions are currently filled and we are anticipating a large group of newly qualified junior officers next September.



Training this past year has focused on defensive operations at the Section and Platoon level. Defensive operations have been and continue to be a relearning experience for both the Battalion and the Army as a whole. We were the 32 Canadian Brigade Group lead for its Territorial Battle Group throughout the past twelve months. It was an excellent experience for everyone involved. The Highlander lead headquarters successfully conducted four major training events including Stalwart Guardian 2017 (Offensive Company Operations), Trillium Dragon 2017 (Domestic Operations HQ Exercise) and Stalwart Shooter 2018 (Defensive Section/Platoon Live Fire). In the coming year we will be refocusing our efforts and will begin to train in a Training Group environment, jointly, with the Toronto Scottish and Lorne Scots.

Operationally, this past year continued to be busy, with soldiers deployed both internationally and domestically.

Internationally, the Battalion deployed soldiers to both the Ukraine and Iraq. Domestically, we deployed twice; one of those times was to assist in establishing a cold weather shelter at Moss Park Armouries. This found us heavily involved in the shelter operations with the unit BOR providing administrative support, the unit RQ supplying logistical support and many of our soldiers and leaders directly involved in executing the operation itself. The Unit was proactively involved throughout and has been recognized as being instrumental in the shelter's success.

I would like to close by saying that, as Commanding Officer, it is both an honour and pleasure to lead such dedicated and capable highlanders as those in the Battalion today. Our troops and leaders continue to be second to none.

Skilled, Fit, Ready!

DILEAS GU BRATH

*H.S. PEDWELL
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
COMMANDING OFFICER*



A SPECIAL VISIT TO THE REGIMENT'S COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF'S REGIMENTAL PLATINUM JUBILEE

HHRH The Princess Elizabeth, heiress presumptive, on 7 December 1947, became the Colonel-in-Chief of the 48th Highlanders of Canada on that day. This, along with her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment de la Chaudière, on the same day, were the first appointments accepted by HM as Colonel-in-Chief.

It is worth noting that, prior to that time, members of the Royal Family often held Royal Colonel appointments in the regiments of the Brigade of Guards. In accepting the appointment HM became our Regiment's first and only Colonel-in-Chief since the Regiment was founded in 1891. The Queen has now served 70 years as a Highlander.

The Colonel-in-Chief first visited her Highlanders in 1951. Throughout the past seven decades HM has visited her Regiment on several occasions. Most notable among these was 1959 when HM presented new Colours to The Regiment in Ottawa and they were trooped in her presence.

In 1997 HM officially opened the new Regimental Museum in St Andrew's Church, and her last visit was in 2010.

Traditionally the Honorary Colonel corresponds with HM to provide her with an annual update on the activities of her Regiment and with greetings on special occasions and anniversaries. HM will also when possible welcome a visit from the Honorary Colonels and Commanding Office, as happened in November, when the CO along with HCol and HLCol were received by HM at Buckingham Palace.

Following her appointment in 1947 the Regiment received two signed portraits of their new Colonel-in-Chief that had been taken in May 1947 by noted portrait photographer Dorothy Wilding.

During her first visit to the Regiment in 1951 RSM Wigmore took these to the Royal Train, just prior to its departure from Union Station, and the Colonel-in-Chief signed them. They were prominently displayed until the 1980s, when they were replaced



by updated (1977 Silver Jubilee) versions. Both portraits remain in the Regimental collection today and are located in the CO's office and the entry to the WO's and Sgts Mess.

To mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee as Colonel-in-Chief, the Honorary Colonels, with the support of our Regimental Senate, arranged to commission a Platinum Jubilee Portrait of the Colonel-in-Chief wearing the platinum and diamond brooch presented to Her Majesty on her first visit to The Regiment.

Her Majesty enthusiastically agreed to sit for a new official Regimental Portrait and after some coordination, our Regimental Photographer, Mr Ian Macdonald, completed the task in March 2017 at Windsor Castle. More on this story is found elsewhere in this Falcon Yearbook and, of course, on the Front Cover.

A second version of the Portrait, which has both Davidson and Fingask tartans used as elements in the background, was specially done for the Pipes and Drums.

In honour of The Colonel-in-Chief's Platinum Jubilee copies of the portrait are being placed in Messes, unit lines, the Regimental Museum and St Andrew's Church.



Photos, top corner and above: The Commanding Officer and our Honourary Appointments meet our Colonel-in-Chief

A SPECIAL VISIT TO THE REGIMENT'S COLONEL-IN-CHIEF



1947 - HRH Princess Elizabeth appointed Colonel-in-Chief.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Master Warrant Officer M. G. McVety CD,
President,
48th Highlanders of Canada Old Comrades Association.

Please convey my warm thanks to all current and former
Members of 48th Highlanders of Canada Old Comrades Association
for their letter of congratulations sent on the occasion of the Seventieth
Anniversary of my becoming Colonel-in-Chief of 48th Highlanders
of Canada.

Your kind words and thoughtfulness in writing as you did are
much appreciated and, in return, I send my best wishes to you and all
concerned.

ELIZABETH R.

8th December, 2017.

THE REGIMENT WELCOMES NEW HONORARY APPOINTMENTS AND BIDS GOODBYE TO OUTGOING HCOL GEORDIE ELMS

A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM HCOL GEORDIE ELMS

Throughout the pages in this third edition of the Falcon Yearbook, I hope you will find pictures and passages that evoke memories of your Regiment. Hopefully they will remind you that the expression “once a Highlander” is more than a social media slogan.

Today the Active Regiment continues along the path to grow a second rifle company under the “Strengthening the Arms Reserve Programme (StAR)”.

At the same time, our volunteers from across the Regimental Family have achieved some amazing things from our 125th Anniversary Celebrations to the visible ways we have been able to commemorate our Regiment’s service and sacrifice in the First World War on Peacekeeping and in Afghanistan. I know that they will continue to find ways to support our serving Highlanders and uphold the Dileas Spirit of those who have gone before.

Looking ahead, July of 2018 will mark 70 years since 1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders landed in Sicily and in November we will mark 100 years since the guns stopped and 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) rested at Somain.

This year marked the Platinum Jubilee of the appointment of Her Majesty as our Colonel-in-Chief. The official Regimental Portrait that marks HM’s 70 years of service as a Highlander is shown on the cover of this year’s Falcon and elsewhere within its pages. In October along with HCol Scott and LCol Pedwell and the Regimental Photographer, Ian MacDonald, we were honoured to visit Buckingham Palace and bring her your best wishes on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee as Colonel-in-Chief and her Sapphire Jubilee as Queen.

It is 50 years since I first put on the badge of the 48th Pipes & Drums.



I still wear that badge...and on occasion that glengarry and the band room will continue to be my favourite “haunt” at Moss Park Armoury. Those first years provide me with some of the greatest memories of my Regimental family. I was very proud to return to serve with a Regiment that is the home in which I began 43 years of military service - a Regiment in which I was christened, met and married my wife and which buried both my parents.

Over the past six years as HLCOL and HCol, I have been privileged to work with two fine COs, LCol Best and Pedwell, and two outstanding RSMs, CWOs Ray Joseph and Derek Murphy, as well as many other dedicated active and associate Highlanders, to all of whom I extend my deepest appreciation.

In December I turned over to Honorary Colonel Mike Scott. Although we only met a few years ago, he and his wife Manuela are now counted, by Shirley and I, among our closest friends.

I know Mike and our new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, John MacIntyre, will continue to serve our Regiment with dedication and enthusiasm.

Today, as our membership continues to write new chapters in our Unit’s history, it is, indeed, a great time to be a Highlander!

DILEAS GU BRATH - FAITHFULL FOREVER!
RGE

FALCON MESSAGE FROM HLCOL

I am honored to be appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the 48th Highlanders and hope to serve the Regiment productively, both the active soldiers, and the Regimental Family.

My military experience is limited to the last few years as a member of the Regimental Senate and the Trust, but I am very aware of the history and reputation of the 48th. Being part of a highland regiment has a special meaning for me. My family roots are in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and all my ancestors are from the Scottish Highlands, so I have a deep personal affinity for my highland heritage and that of the Regiment. My grandparents spoke only Gaelic until they started school, and my parents spoke Gaelic fluently as well.

The 48th is an important part of Toronto’s history and its future. For me personally the city has always been a significant part of my life, through my business activities and my community work with the Toronto Foundation. I was a director of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment for 10 years starting in 1994, and the presence of the 48th on every opening night is a powerful memory, and I think a terrific recognition of the strong connection of the Regiment to Toronto.

I look forward too being a part of the 48th Highlanders in the coming years and to helping the Regiment be successful in many ways.

JOHN MACINTYRE HLCOL



A special presentation from the New HCOL to his predecessor



1970 RSM Elms and son, Piper Geordie Elms



Col Elms relaxes at the Officers Mess Bar after the Change of HCOLs Ceremony



A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW HONORARY COLONEL

I am writing to you for the first time as your Honorary Colonel.

As I start my appointment I can't help but think about those who have gone before me. Our first Honorary Colonel, and our longest serving one, was Major General Sir Ian Hamilton, GCB, GCMG, DSO. He held the position for 36 years, much different than the three-year term we are now appointed for.

In May of 1904 His Majesty King Edward VII granted permission for an alliance between the 48th and The Gordon Highlanders of the British Army, the first official alliance in the Commonwealth. At that time General Hamilton was the Colonel of the Regiment of the Gordons. Seven years later in 1911 the Regiment asked General Hamilton if he would become our Honorary Colonel.

Major General Hamilton was a distinguished soldier. In 1871 after graduating from Royal Military College he joined the Gordon Highlanders in India and served in the 2nd Afghan War. He went on to serve in the First Boer War (1880-81), then as part of the Nile Expedition for the relief of Khartoum (1884-85). In subsequent years he served in Burma and India and as the British Military Attaché to the Japanese Army during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05). During the 2nd Boer War he was promoted to Major General and commanded the infantry component of the Natal Field Force. Winston Churchill wrote about this period in his book "Ian Hamilton's March". His final command was the Allied Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli in 1915. He retired from the army in 1920.

Needless to say - I am humbled and honoured to follow in the footsteps of one so distinguished as General Hamilton and all the other wonderful Honorary Colonels that our Regiment has been blessed with over its 126 years of service

I would, particularly, like to thank my predecessor, Colonel Geordie Elms, for his advice and support in my role as HLCOL and for his friendship, which I value greatly.

The year 2017 was a great one for us, highlighted by our visit with the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty the Queen, an occasion I will never forget.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next three years, to grow the Regiment and add to its already sterling reputation.

Dileas

MICHAEL D. SCOTT CM CD
HONORARY COLONEL



THE REGIMENT THANKS ITS OUTGOING RSM AND WELCOMES HIS SUCCESSOR

RSM'S REVIEW – OUTGOING

By RSM (CWO) Derek Murphy, CD

Yes, my time as Regimental Sergeant Major has come to an end, and as I said when I took over the appointment, it has been an absolute honour and a privilege to serve as your RSM over the last four years. I am fiercely proud of what you have done individually and collectively, and this sentiment is shared by many who are associated with the Regiment. The future for the 48th Highlanders is bright, and these past years have been marked with jobs well done. The success achieved was because of the work and support of an excellent team of NCMs and Officers.

As many of you can appreciate, the time seems to have flown by. During my tenure, we have seen the unit in a state of constant change because of the realities of the 21st century. Today the members of the unit are critical to the sustainability of Canadian Forces operations. The participation of the regiment on international operations continues, and the unit was also called upon to aid civil authorities on several occasions. I wish to thank all of the soldiers for the way that they have distinguished themselves in all operations. In terms of leadership, we have developed a team that will lead the Regiment through current and future challenges.



RSM Murphy on parade

In the past year there have been some notable highlights, and whilst it would be wrong to focus on any specifically, the effort in the training and development of the NCM core was a resounding success. The Regiment's commitment to the development of our junior leaders was an example to the entire Brigade. Looking forward, the next few years will be no less challenging. The Regiment as you know will grow in size and it is important that we continue to move the NCM Corps to a new level of growth and focus. With everyone's involvement, we will leave a positive legacy for the next generation of Highlanders.

What has not changed during my time as the RSM is the spirit and pride in being part of such a historic and accomplished unit. The service continues – that is the real story. This regiment is the embodiment of our community. At present, about 250 soldiers serve as reservists in the regiment, and they are anything but weekend warriors. Finally, it is equally crucial that I thank the broader Regimental Family – which comprises serving ERE Highlanders, members of all of the Associations, the IODE, and Friends of the Regiment. I have come to realize that your support is the key to the success of the Regiment.

Thanks to everyone for keeping me on my toes – day and night – and reminding me that 48th stand second to none.

DILEAS GU BRATH



Newly promoted MWO Hanson at the Change of RSMs Ceremony



Outgoing RSM Murphy receive the Commander's Commendation in recognition of his service



Celebrating



Celebrating the Change at the WOs and Sgts Annual Mess Dinner the following evening

RSM'S REVIEW – INCOMING

By RSM (CWO) Brian Kwok, CD

I took the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major in late October, 2017, and had to hit the ground running.

Although CWO Murphy did his best to prepare me for my new role, experiencing the pace of it first hand was immense. Having had a little time now to settle in, I'm ready to take on the challenges ahead!

The new year offers the exciting challenge of unprecedented growth. This is the first time in my 26 years with the Canadian Forces that there have been such fantastic recruiting opportunities!

Canada's new defense policy, "Strong, Secure, and Engaged (SSE)", has mandated the Regular Force to grow by 3,500 members and the Reserves to grow by another 1,500.

This year alone, we have over 40 new recruits in the 48th Highlanders, making the Training Company larger than the Fighting Company for the first time in my memory.

As I mentioned earlier, there are of course challenges that come with an opportunity like this. Every member of our Regiment must rise to the occasion.



As the number of new recruits grows, so must the ranks of our leadership, starting at the Master Corporal (MCpl) level. Last Summer was very successful- qualifying 6 new MCpls. Another 9 members have heard the call, and accepted the task of training this Summer!

This will not be easy, but I'm confident that despite the traditionally high failure rates associated with this course, they're well prepared to successfully achieve their goals and become our next junior leaders.

Another set of roles from SSE that are being dispersed amongst the nation's Reserve Units are the new mission tasks that will "give full-time capability through part-time service."

These tasks will see Reservists deploy side by side with the Regular Force. There will be a permanent place for Reservists on all tours, and we look forward to learning what our assignment will be.

Whatever it may be, it will be accomplished in true 48th fashion. We will set the bar for the other Reserve units.

I look forward to being the RSM of the 48th Highlanders during this transformational time.

DILEAS GU BRATH



Former RSMs with the Outgoing and Incoming RSM

ACTIVE BATTALION

C Company Report

By Capt Vince Laurella

This was an exciting year for Charlie Company. As we had completed all our annual training in the Spring, and had also completed an intensive week-long August "Advance to Contact" exercise up the west side of Meaford, we were able to hit the ground running in September!!!

Live fire jungle lanes, section live fire attacks, and Platoon hasty attacks were all the main effort. Occupation of patrol hides and night reconnaissance parties helped define the enemy for the next day's activities, while intense enemy counter attacks kicked off each morning.

This flowed into exercises with section and platoon attacks in Borden giving our junior leaders and new platoon commanders valuable experience in their roles. I would say the troops have seen a lot this year and accordingly we take a tactical break and rotate back into the defensive.



Ex TARTAN CABER I (20-22 Oct) CFB Borden - Maj Fisher addresses the troops



Ex TARTAN CABER I (20-22 Oct) CFB Borden - Final AAR after a successful training weekend

Starting this past November, we rotated into the defensive, dug in a full Company defensive position with the RHLI (Royal Hamilton Light Infantry), complete with C6 trenches.

The troop faced the worst that Meaford could bring to bear (snow, rain, freezing rain, 30km winds, water filled trenches, standard issue IMPs, etc) and were able to repel a rather lengthy attack by WO Hanson and a full enemy platoon. A very nice culmination before the Christmas break.

Next up for the C Coy soldiers is a formal "Basic Winter Warfare" course in a



Ex TARTAN CABER I (20-22 Oct) CFB Borden - Sgt Rukman sites the GPMG during a platoon attack

defensive context and recce patrols. During the Winter months, the Coy has detached some of our personnel to D Coy to conduct a Basic Winter Warfare course, while attaching the pre-PLQ members of D Coy to C Coy.

Troops will be conducting navigation exercises and reconnaissance patrols with the pre-PLQ leading the patrols and the remainder of C Coy filling in the patrol member spots.

We will be in Fort Drum for our March FTX, using the American live-fire defensive ranges that we don't have in Canada.

Following that, we will move into IBTS, and the personal skills that are required to be completed annually, prepare to send soldiers off to Summer training and start to get ready for another challenging training year.

Admin Company Report

By Capt Bill Darling, DC Admin Coy

As the calendar year of 2017 draws to a close, Admin Coy continues to be fully engaged in support of the Regimental training year.

We are also actively preparing for our annual Staff Assistance Visit from 32 CBG and our Annual Technical Inspections from 4CDSG, all while getting back to normal from recovering kit, equipment and vehicles from a busy Autumn training program.

Admin Coy continues with support to Charlie and Delta Coy Winter Warfare activities leading into upcoming Regional Summer Training activities. April 2018 will also see the Regiment handing over the reigns as the TBG lead.

Under the supervision of the RQMS, Sgt Kinkaid, Admin Coy continues with preparations of the Regiment gaining a new sub-unit. More of the full impacts, in terms of kit, equipment and vehicles are being further communicated to the Regiment and this is driving changes to our infrastructure within Moss Park. A busy time for all.

Regimental Stores have been very active with kitting out our newest soldiers in Regimentals as the main task, with a busy Autumn including Remembrance Day and a Change of RSM parade.

The DCO and the RSM have been instrumental in procuring some much needed additional Regimental kit and that has kept our main stores volunteer Brian Rogerson busy and in his usual good cheer. Adding to Brian's good cheer is the impending arrival of new storage lockers for Regimental tunics that the RQ was able to squeeze out of the annual operating budget.

Delta Company Year in Review

By Captain Edward R. Gorham, DC D Coy

This has been a busy year, with many accomplishments for Delta Company.

Our crowning achievement has been seven of the corporals on our preparatory course successfully completed PLQ and were appointed Master Corporal. They have since assumed leadership roles in both Charlie and Delta Company, imparting their knowledge and professionalism to the next cohort.

In January, D Coy ran the Basic Winter Warfare (BWW) course during Exercise "HIGHLAND BLIZZARD 1" which served to indoctrinate candidates on how to operate and survive in the punishing Canadian winter.

With only ten candidates on the course, we were able to run this in parallel with tactical training without too much strain, although the snow situation was not co-operating. Also in January, the pre-PLQ course focused on battle procedure, and prep and delivery of orders for the conduct of four-man recce patrols, a major performance objective on the course. The candidates were clearly inspired by Sgt Corea's instruction,

ACTIVE BATTALION

poring over the material on their own time and spending extra hours during the garrison training weekend.

For the exercise at the end of February, D Coy traveled to Burwash for Exercise "HIGHLAND BLIZZARD 2" in hopes of finding snow for the conduct of our recce patrols and completion of BWV. Although there was snow, the weather was warmer than expected and provided a different set of challenges to the troops, like dealing with overheating and dehydration in the Winter.

Due to resource constraints, Charlie and Delta Coy tactical training was amalgamated and saw both the fighting and the training company conducting recce patrols. All BWV candidates completed the course successfully, and pre-PLQ candidates had the opportunity to lead a recce patrol or be assessed in the 2IC role.

In March, the Regiment traveled to Meaford to conduct section attacks in preparation for the live-fire exercise in Fort Drum, Exercise "HIGHLAND SHOOTER", later that month. The range in Fort Drum ended up being a static live-fire range, due to a misunderstanding by the range of our requirements and the presence of unexploded ordinance (UXO) forward of the firing line.

Nonetheless, there was an abundance of ammo brought by the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment, who had incidentally booked the range alongside us which made for a healthy Canadian occupation of the US Army range that weekend.

April to June saw the company return focus on IBTS, with the hopes of completing all requisite BTS by September, up to level 2 (section) live. Exercises "HIGHLAND WARRIOR 1" at the beginning of April and "HIGHLAND WARRIOR 2" at the beginning of June both took place in Borden, with the first exercise focusing on PWT3 on individual weapon systems, and the second focusing on pairs and group live.

September's Exercise "HIGHLAND WARRIOR 3" was the confirmation of the Regiment's ability to conduct section live-fire section attacks, this time in Meaford. With that task done, Delta Company turned its attention to the next set of candidates for Pre-PLQ, seeking to build upon last year's success.

October and November have been formative months for the troops on the course, bringing their basic soldiering skills up to the level required for their Infantry Junior Leadership Course (IJLC), the new name for PLQ. So far, they have been taught how to give lessons on skill, drill and knowledge subjects, and have had basic exposure to battle procedure and prep and delivery of orders.

We wouldn't be the 48th without our usual pomp and circumstance. Church Parade was held on 23 April; our Remembrance Day parade took place on 11 November and coincided with many other events occurring at Queens Park.

Delta Company was in strong attendance during the change of Regimental Sergeant Major on 27 October, bidding farewell to CWO Derek Murphy and welcoming CWO Brian Kwok.

On top of usual annual parades, we had a number of footprint in the community type events. Here are a few of the events that Delta Company

personnel took part in, elevating the visibility of the Regiment:

Flag Party for Toronto Raptors CAF appreciation (01 Mar 17; MWO Hanson, Sgts Avdagic, Chin and Kowalenko)

- Flag Party for Toronto Football Club (TFC) Opening Game (MWO Hanson, Sgt Chin, Sgt Avdagic)

- Guard Member for Battle of Vimy Ridge 100th (31 Mar-12 Apr 17; Cpl Hogan)

- Flag Party and period dress for TFC Vimy Ridge game (8 Apr 17; flag party: MWO Hanson, Sgt Chin, Sgt Avdagic; period dress: Cpl Thompson)

- Flag Party Blue Jays Home Opener (11 Apr 17; MWO Hanson, Sgt Avdagic)

- Flag Party Blue Jays Canada Day (01 Jul 17; MWO Hanson, Sgt Chin)

- Flag Party TFC Eastern Final (MWO Hanson, Sgt Chin, Sgt Avdagic)

At the time of writing, our numbers stand at 86 all ranks, with more still trickling through the door. The health of Delta Company, and the overall Regiment, is strong, with a renewed spirit and focus: to grow to fill our second task element.



48th Flag Party March Past



Sgt Duff supervises weapons handing drills at EX Highland Warrior II - 16-17 Sept

MUSIC AT ST. ANDREW'S

DID YOU KNOW?

Raised by the 48th Highlanders in the hours after the assault on Vimy Ridge, the **Vimy Cross** memorializes the soldiers of the 15th Battalion who died in this iconic WWI battle - a defining victory that cost thousands of Canadian lives. See this rare battlefield artefact on May 5.

FOR KING & COUNTRY

SONGS ABOUT CANADIANS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

World Premiere By **TONY QUARRINGTON & FRIENDS**

SAT. MAY 5 / 7:30 PM
St. Andrew's Church / King & Simcoe St.

TICKETS \$25
Advance tickets & group discounts: standrewstrento.org

MEET PARTNERS

ACTIVE BATTALION

48th PIPES & DRUMS

By Drum Major (MWD) Chris Reesor, CD

The Pipes and Drums continue to provide our core mandate of connecting with Canadians and supporting the Regiment and the Canadian Armed Forces.

This past Fall may have been one of the busiest in recent years with someone from the band tasked to an event every weekend from September until December stand down.

In total for the year, we provided support to 100 different events including 28 during the week of Remembrance, four of which were on Nov 11 itself including the entire

A week following this tasking, the Pipes and Drums provided a mini band to the opening ceremonies of the TEMA Foundation dinner. This is an organization dedicated to PTSD treatment of First Responders and Military. It was an honor to be able to support them for this event.

In March, Cpl McKenzie-Mardelli was tasked to provide support to the Canadian Forces International Women's Day at the Staff College. As always, he did a great job. And still in March, the Pipes and Drums provided support to the family of Col Lowndes for his funeral service at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church.

At the Church parade this year, we said good bye to Cpl Tom Cuming from our Drum corps. It was great to have Tom in

transferred to the Nova Scotia Highlanders. No doubt our paths will cross again in a countermarch somewhere.

Cpl Scott McIntyre was loaded on his PLQ (JLC for those who know it by that name) but was only able to get time off from his civilian employer for part of the course and we are waiting to get him loaded on another course to get him qualified. In the meantime, Scott has taken a job offer to work in Blackdown for the Cadets there as a storesman. This is a three year contract but despite that, he continues to attend practices and jobs when he is able.

Johnny Bower in January of 2018. We are working on an appropriate occasion to say thank-you to



Marilyn for all of her support over the years.

While we said good bye to some members, we also welcomed several new members to the Pipes and Drums.

Continuing a long family tradition, we welcomed Piper Andrew Dewar to the band (officially at the Warrior's Day Parade). Andrew brought with him a friend who was playing with him



And in November, Marilyn Willis decided that the St. Andrew's Ball would be her last event with the Pipes and Drums. She will still remain active with the Association and the IODE so she is not completely gone from us. In fact, she would come back to assist us with the funeral for

in the Ryan Russell Memorial Pipes and Drums with the Toronto Police. Dylan Kite has been a great addition to our team of Bass Drummers (working alongside MCpl Joe Blake). And Piper Duncan Scott moved to Toronto from Alberta and has joined the Pipes and Drums as a civilian volunteer (for now) with hopes of joining the Regiment officially in 2018.

This is a welcome start to growing the band and we will welcome pipers and drummers of any age provided they meet our standards for performance and drill.

And in case you missed all of the fun the band had in the Fall, here are some photos of the highlights of our very busy fall.



Band on parade with the Regiment and three other pipers dispersed across the GTA for other events at the same time. No other Pipe Band in the GTA could provide this kind of support.

2017 started with the usual Burn's Dinner events but we were also tasked with providing musical support and entertainment to the Conference of American Armies in Toronto. One of the major requests was for the Drum Salute to be performed under Black Light. The drummers stepped up and did a great job of this in a very cramped performance space.

our corps and he will be missed. Unfortunately, Tom graduated from Humber College's Music program in the spring of 2017 and living in Toronto is expensive so he moved home to Halifax and



ACTIVE BATTALION



ACTIVE BATTALION

THE REGIMENTAL HOCKEY TEAM IN ACTION



By MCpl Max Boyden – Team Member

On December 30th, 2017, the 48th Highlanders Hockey Team took part in the Ranger Cup Hockey Tournament. The tournament was a great team building experience.

In the first game, the 48th squared off against the Queens Own Rifles. Corporal Bender was a solid goalie for us and an anchor for our defense. We were also playing a team with a great goaltender and lost the first game 3-0.

In our second game, we played against the Queens York Rangers, another team with a great goalie and strong defenders. We tied this game 1-1 with MCpl Boyden scoring our only goal of the tournament.

Having lost a game and not winning the second, we were unable to make it past the round robin and our tournament was over. Who says Offense wins Games while Defense wins Championships?

Capt Vincent Laurella led the defensive core of the team playing scrappy hard-nosed hockey. LCol McEwen crashed the net bringing back old school hockey tactics to both games.

Our forward lines featured MCpl Boyden, Cpl Tucci, Sgt Dewar, C., Sgt. Dewar, J., MCpl Pett and Sgt Kinkaid. And our Defense included Cpl Kirton, LCol McEwen and Capt Laurella. The team was also augmented by former members of the Regiment including Cpl Bush (Retd) and Capt Hook (Retd).

The team will look to build on our efforts at the Tournament and we will only get stronger and tougher. Your team won the highly competitive Toronto Police Tournament – fights and all, yet victory here continues to evade!

A big thank you to Maj Wentzell who stepped up and did great job as the Tournament Director.

It is also noteworthy that 32 Brigade has adopted this Event as its official Hockey Tournament, following up the great work of our former HCol John Newman, who founded this competition a few years ago.



Team Bench.



Cpl Tucci rings one off the post.



Sgt Dewar handling the puck.



Taking a shot

48TH HIGHLANDERS MILITARY BAND

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

2017 was yet another eventful year for the 48th Military Band and its members.

With the Regiment's 125th Anniversary celebrations completed, Capt A. Michael Lawson, CD (Retd) decided that it was finally time to hang up his baton after over a decade at the head of the Band.

A lengthy and thorough search process followed, concluding with the appointment of Capt Paul van der Bank, CD (Retd) as only the ninth Director of Music (DOM) in the history of the Regiment. For whatever reason, DOMs tend to stay for quite a while, a fact that the Band members greatly appreciate!

Capt van der Bank began his military career in the 48th, reaching the rank of WO and serving as a member and assistant conductor of the Military Band for several years under the batons of Capt Thomas Whiteside, CD, Capt William Hughes and Capt Roland G. White.

After a time away serving as an infantry officer with The Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment, Capt van der Bank has returned to his roots and a grateful Military Band, who are looking to enjoy and learn from his leadership for many years to come.

Throughout the search for a new leader, the Military Band soldiered on. Typical engagements included the Regimental Church Parade at St. Andrew's, the Orillia Scottish Festival Parade and concerts following at



Capt A. Michael Lawson, CD (Retd) - Gone but not forgotten!

ACTIVE BATTALION

Branch 34 Royal Canadian Legion, the annual Leafs Season Opener with the Pipes and Drums “on ice” at the Air Canada Centre, Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Regimental Memorial and Old Comrades Association Dinner and closing out the year with the annual Regimental Christmas Dinner.

Special events this year included the Change of RSM Parade in late October where the Regiment bid farewell to RSM Derek Murphy, CD and welcomed RSM Brian Kwok, CD.

This was of particular note to the writer – the Band Sergeant Major – who found himself at the head of the Band wielding a baton instead of in his usual position lurking in the rear wielding a trumpet, due to a professional commitment on the part of the DOM. The band members were colossal good sports about the whole thing and the BSM followed them very well, resulting, happily, in a fairly seamless performance!

Looking forward to 2018, the Military Band will be starting the year with a full-scale recruiting drive, both to support the “Old Salts” who continue to soldier on, and to groom the new generation of musicians for “Canada’s Famous Military Band.”

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS CADET CORPS – 2017

By Capt Ashley Bonnell

The members of the 48th Highlanders Cadet Corps were involved in the following Ceremonial, Training and Support to Special Military related events throughout 2017:

Vimy 100: Sunday 9 April 2017. 100th Vimy Remembrance & Celebration Service at the East York Civic Centre

Cadet Ball 2017: 13 May 2017. 7th Annual Cadet Ball on the Mariposa Cruises Showboat. The purpose for this event is to congratulate the Staff & Cadets on the completion of the Training Year. Some significant highlights are promotions, star level achievements and the “Ode to the Haggis” presented by Cadet Sgt Markus Wong. Special Thanks to Piper, Cpl McKenzie and special guests, HCol G. Elms and his wife Shirley Ann Elms.

Annual Ceremonial Review: 31 May 2017. Each Cadet Corps must undertake an Annual Review in the spring each year. The purpose of the review is to allow the parents of the Cadets and dignitaries see the Cadets on parade and while undergoing training. It also consists of an awards ceremony and small reception after the parade. Thank you HCol Elms for being our Reviewing Officer!

Senior NCO Team Building Day: 16 Sept 2017. The Staff & Senior NCOs of the Cadet Corps took part in a Treetop Trekking Day as a team building initiative before the training year stars.

Invictus Games: 22-23 Sept 2017: The following 48th Cadets took part in the Opening Ceremonies of the Invictus Games: Highlander Barker, WO Somji, WO Shah, WO Lalldatt, WO Waines and MWO Aguilar. They were accompanied by the 48th Highlanders Cadet Corps Commanding Officer, Captain Bonnell.

Fall Field Training Exercise: Cadets of the 48th Highlanders Army Cadet Corps require to train and practice Field skills during a Field Training Exercise to meet the requirements of the Star Level Training Program. This year we also underwent some CAF Familiarization Training provided by Cpl Novak, Cpl Gundert and Cpl Melo of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.



Orienteering is a sport that combines physical fitness with the ability to navigate through wilderness using a map and compass. It can be both an individual or team challenge. As such, it touches on several aspects of cadet training – physical fitness, the ability to make decisions, navigation skill, map reading ability, travelling in the outdoors, confidence and discipline. Congratulations Team on a job well done! Special recognition to WO Waines who received a 1st Place medal for Male Composite Team and he later qualified for the Regional Orienteering Competition in November.

Congratulations to all 48th Highlander Cadets for their hard-work and diligent dedication during the 2017 Training Year.



VIMY 100



Cadet Ball



Fall FTX



Annual Review



Invictus Games

ACTIVE BATTALION

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS DINNER - DECEMBER 8, 2017



ACTIVE BATTALION



ACTIVE BATTALION FALL PROMOTIONS (OCTOBER – DECEMBER / 2017)

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| TO HCOL | HLCOL MIKE SCOTT |
| TO HLCOL | MR. JOHN MACINTYRE |
| TO MAJOR | CAPT KRIS FISHER |
| TO CWO | MWO BRIAN KWOK |
| TO MWO | WO JASON HANSON |
| TO WO | SGT ASHAN COREA |
| TO SGT | MCPL MIKE BRADBURY |

KEY REGIMENTAL APPOINTMENTS 2017-18

CO – LCOL HARRY PEDWELL
DCO – MAJ RON ALKEMA
Ops O – MAJ SCOTT SAVAGE
RSM – CWO BRIAN KWOK
ADJT – CAPT KELLY DELANEY
PADRE – CAPT DON AITCHISON
OC C Coy – MAJ KRIS FISHER
CSM C Coy – WO KRESMIR SMINTICH
OC D Coy – CAPT ED GORHAM
CSM D Coy – MWO JASON HANSON
OC ADMIN COY – CAPT BILL DARLING
CSM ADMIN COY – WO PETER ROSS
RQMS – SGT IAIN KINKAID
PIPE MAJOR – MWO IAIN LANG
DRUM MAJOR – MWO CHRIS REESOR
HCOL – HCOL MIKE SCOTT
HLCOL – HLCOL JOHN MACINTYRE

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

48TH HIGHLANDERS CALENDAR OF KEY REGIMENTAL EVENTS 2018

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION / TIMING (HRS) |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Fri 20 April | Mackenzie Shoot (WO/Sgts/Oftrs) | MPA Ranges (1900) |
| Sat 21 April | 48th Officers' Mess Dinner | Officers' Mess, MPA (1800) |
| Sun 22 April | Regimental Church Parade | St Andrew's Church (1030) |
| Sun 22 April | Battle of York Parade (OCA) | Victoria Square, Toronto (1300) |
| Sun 06 May | Pipes & Drums Wine & Cheese | WO/Sgts Mess (1300) |
| Tue 05 June | OCA Life-Members Luncheon | WO/Sgts Mess, MPA (1100-1400) |
| Fri 15 June | Regimental Stand-Down Parade | MPA (2000) |
| Sun 08 July | OCA WWII Italian Campaign Commemoration | Toronto City Hall (1100) |
| Tue 10 July | WWII Pachino Day Parade (OCA) | Belleville Armoury (1000) |
| Sat 18 August | Warriors Day (OCA + Regt) | CNE, Toronto (1000) |
| Fri 07 September | Regimental Stand-To Parade | MPA (2000) |
| Fri 14 September* | Change of Command Parade | MPA (2000) |
| Sat TBA September | 48th CSA Wine & Cheese Event | WO/Sgts Mess (1300) |
| Sat 20 October | 48th WO/Sgts Mess Dinner | Officers Mess, MPA (1800 hrs) |
| Sat 27 October | IODE Trench Lunch (WWI) | WO/Sgts Mess (1200) |
| Sat 10 November | OCA Remembrance Service | Mount Pleasant Cemetery (1030) |
| Sat 10 November | OCA Remembrance Dinner | Banquet Hall TBA (1700) |
| Sun 11 November | Remembrance Day Parade | Queen's Park, Toronto (1030) |
| Sat 24 November | St. Andrew's Ball | Royal York Hotel, Toronto (1800) |
| Tue 04 December | OCA Life-Members Luncheon | WO/Sgts Mess, MPA (1100-1400) |

(*May also possibly be held on Friday, 12 October – To Be Confirmed)

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

ST ANDREW'S BALL



Guest group at the Ball



Maj Alkema at the podium



Head Table Guests



48th Pipers at the Ball



DM (MWO) Reesor's address to the haggis

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

48TH CONTINUING SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION (CSA)

By Sgt Al Kowalenko (Retd), CSA Chairman

2017 Highlights

The 48th Continuing Sergeants Association had an active year in 2017 and participated in a number of key Regimental events in support of the WO/Sgts Mess and the OCA.

At the Mackenzie Shoot (April 24), CSA members helped the Active Mess re-capture the Mackenzie trophy from the Officers' Mess at the MPA ranges. The follow-up social gathering in the Mess was a welcomed highlight of the event to promote camaraderie between the two messes.

During the Summer and Fall period, our members participated at the Pachino Day Parade (July 10) in Belleville, the CNE Warriors Day Parade (August 29), and Remembrance Day (Nov 11) at Queen's Park. We marched with the OCA as part of their guard on each occasion and had good interaction with our participating veterans after each parade.

New CSA Executive Committee

At the CSA Annual General Meeting on September 8th, the following were elected to the Executive Committee for the coming year (all ranks retired):

- Chairman: Sgt Al Kowalenko
- Vice-Chairman: MWO Mark McVety
- Treasurer: WO Ron Denham
- Secretary/Newsletter: Sgt Guy Bowie
- Membership Lists: WO Dianne Love
- Members At Large: WO Alex MacKinnon and Sgt Gord Holmes
- Past Chairman: MWO Larry Fullerton.

The Executive Committee expressed their sincere thanks to MWO Fullerton for his stellar work as Chairman during the 2011-17 period and look forward to his continuing participation as an advisor.

Change of RSMs

The Change of RSMs Parade was held on October 27th at Moss Park Armoury and we said farewell to RSM (CWO) Derek Murphy and welcomed the new RSM (CWO) Brian Kwok.

RSM Murphy was thanked for his dedicated service and hard work over the past several years.

As well, we look forward to RSM Kwok's new tenure in helping to guide the strong cadre of WOs and Sgts currently serving in the Regiment.

WO/Sgts Mess Dinner

At the WO/Sgts Mess Dinner on October 27th, the new CSA Chairman, Sgt Al Kowalenko, as part of his reply to the toast to the CSA, commented:

"The 48th Highlanders Continuing Sergeants Association currently represents more than 120 retired Warrant Officers and Sergeants who have served the Regiment over the past 80 years.

We have an Executive Committee of eight dedicated volunteers who guide our activities and strive to promote good communications with all retired SrNCOs of the unit.



The objectives of our Association are: to support the RSM and Active Mess in their public endeavors, to preserve Regimental history, and to connect the generations of SrNCOs who have served the Regiment in war and peacetime."

During his address, the CSA Chairman also acknowledged the loss of four distinguished Mess members who passed away since the last WO/Sgts Mess Dinner of 2016. They included: **RSM (CWO) Doug Chappell**, a Korean War veteran who served as RSM from 1979-81; **Pipe Major (CWO) Reay MacKay** 48th Regimental Pipe Major from 1975-85; **Sgt Don Antoine** a veteran of the WWII Italian Campaign (1943-45) and the Liberation of Holland (1945); and **Sgt Max McDougall** an instructor with the 48th on the home front during WWII and later a QM in Regimental Stores.

He noted that all Mess members were sad at the passing of these four well known individuals but that they will be remembered for their many years of service Regiment and for their friendship.

As well, the CSA Chairman also paid tribute to the oldest veterans attending the Mess Dinner – WO George Maclean and Sgt Herb Pike - two of only nine remaining 48th WWII era veterans. There was a great round of applause for both gentlemen, acknowledging their long standing service and dedication to the Regiment since the end of WWII, more than 70 years ago.



Plans for 2018.

The plans of the CSA Executive Committee for 2018 include introduction of a new donation based membership campaign, new permanent membership cards, and new jacket crests (currently under review with the Active Mess).

Going forward, new liaison personnel have been assigned from the Active Mess to the CSA and include WO Peter Ross (PMC) and Sgt Ferdinand General (Mess Secretary) to facilitate better communications between active and retired NCOs, and to help direct joint projects together such as integrated databases and upgrades to the Mess décor.

And back by popular demand, the CSA will stage a Wine & Cheese Event for September, 2018 (date TBA), to rival the last one held in 2016. The Executive Committee welcomes all members of the 48th Regimental Family to attend this social event and have a great time!

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

48TH OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

By MWO Mark McVety, CD (Retd), President

This past year of 2017 has been very active for the 48th Old Comrades Association.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II completed her 70th year as our Colonel-in-Chief. A note of congratulations was sent to the Palace and we received a note back (see separate letter to this article.)

During April, we had our regular events of Church Parade and the Battle of York Parade. The Life-Members Luncheon was held on June 6th in the WO/Sergeants' Mess with a good attendance.

The WWII Italian Campaign Wreath laying was competed in July 9th at Toronto City Hall, followed the next day with our annual trip to Belleville to parade for Pachino Day. This coming year of 2018 will be the 75th anniversary of the allied landings in Sicily (July 10, 1943).

The Summer ended with the Warriors' Day Parade in August at the CNE. We had a strong turnout on a warm day. November 11th this past year was on a Saturday and we had the Remembrance Parade during the day and our annual OCA Dinner at night. At the dinner, a special presentation was made to the 48th Highlanders Museum by Bill Elms



48th OCA Life Members at the December Luncheon

and graciously accepted by HCol Geordie Beal (Retd), Museum Manager.

We closed the year off with the Life-Members Luncheon in December where 30 members of the OCA attended and had a great time socializing. We are hoping for a larger turnout this coming June.

There were several events that the OCA Drill Team attended on behalf of the Association. As always, they made us proud. Members of the Drill Teams Colour Party went to Europe and were participants in several events including a service at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium.

We wish Gord Smith of the Drill Team a quick and successful recover from his recent illness and have faith that John Perkins and John Stevens will do an outstanding job covering for him.

During 2018, the OCA is trying to arrange an event between the OCA and the WO/Sergeants' Mess. We will patiently see how that develops in the future. Phil Richmond and Neil Leggat are the OCA members responsible for organizing the get-together for us.

We have lost a number of our members to the Upper Camp this past year and all of them will be missed. We will especially miss RSM (CWO) Doug Chappell whose email blasts kept us informed of good news and sad news throughout the year.



48th OCA Events for 2018:

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | TIMINGS |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Apr 22 | Church Parade | St Andrews | 1030 |
| Apr 29 | Battle of York Parade | Victoria Square | 1300 |
| Jun 5 | Life-Members Luncheon | MPA/Sgts' Mess | 1100 - 1400 |
| Jul 8 | Italian Campaign Commemoration | Tor City Hall | 1100 |
| Jul 10 | Pachino Day | Belleville | 1030 |
| Aug 18 | Warriors' Day | CNE | 1000 |
| Nov 10 | Remembrance Service | Mt Pleasant | 1030 |
| Nov 10 | Remembrance Dinner | TBA | 1700 |
| Nov 11 | Remembrance Parade | Queens Park | 1030 |
| Dec 4 | Life-members Luncheon | MPA/Sgts' Mess | 1100 - 1400 |

The 48th Museum at St. Andrews Church is going along on a regular basis. Rafe Wulf has joined the staff along with Alex McKinnon. Their time spent at the museum is very much appreciated. All are welcome to visit during the day (Wednesdays and Thursdays). The displays are well signed and conversations are cheerful.

Re: OCA membership in 2018, we are no longer collecting annual dues! We are asking that members in lieu of dues donate to the Regimental Trust on behalf of the OCA. Members who donate to the OCA account will receive a permanent membership card. We are hoping that through this method we can fund our annual expenses through your donations.

IODE TRENCH LUNCH



By Ashley Bonnell

Membership Officer

A Trench Lunch was hosted by the IODE on Oct 21, 2017 in the WO and Sgts Mess. It was an extraordinary time where we had the opportunity to listen to BGEN (Retd) Greg Young's presentation on trenches during the First World War. Special Thanks to RSM, Derek Murphy who created a Trench Display for the event. Each guest left with a belly full of trench stew, a sampling of 15th Battalion items from World War I and an enhanced knowledge of both our National and Regimental History.

Thank you to those that attended and/or assisted to make the Trench Lunch a most successful event.



IODE Christmas Luncheon

By Beth Crook

We had over 30 members and guests at our December 3rd Luncheon in the Officers' Mess. It was a delicious meal catered by Karen Barker and Lynda Rogerson. Members brought warm mitts, hats, scarves etc. to go to a downtown women's shelter

This is an ongoing project in the winter months.



CADETS AT THE INVICTUS GAMES

INSPIRATION AT INVICTUS GAMES

Written By Maj. Brian McCue Commanding Officer,
142 RCACC Aurora

One of my proudest “CIC moments” happened this past September when my unit, #142 RCACC St. Andrew’s College in Aurora, Ont, was tasked to provide ceremonial support for the burgeoning Invictus Games, held this year in Toronto. Led by Prince Harry, the Invictus Games is an international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick Service men and women. The focus is on using sport “to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for those who serve their country.”

Our Cadets, resplendent in scarlet tunics and Gordon tartan kilts at the Air Canada Centre in downtown Toronto, had several duties. They provided an Honour Guard on stage for the national anthem. They acted as escorts when the Team Captains met Prince Harry and they were the Canadian banner carriers during the opening and closing ceremonies.

In addition to our group from #142 St. Andrew’s College Cadet Corps there were 35 Cadets from the following units that participated as banner carriers in the opening ceremonies:

**Sea - #18, #272 Army - #48 and #2736
Air - #618 and #818**

The event was televised worldwide, so obviously we put our very best foot forward. Fiftysix Cadets volunteered to be part of our team; the task of preparing uniforms and drill began weeks in advance. In addition to our team, thirty-six Cadets around from the Greater Toronto Area also took part in the opening ceremonies.

Rehearsals for the opening ceremony consisted of a walk-through the day before the show, followed by a full dress rehearsal the afternoon of the event. By the end of that, we were more than ready for our 8pm start. The boys executed their duties confidently and with smiles. I was a very proud Commanding Officer!

While being backstage with the Prime Minister or Sarah McLaughlin was thrilling, the biggest thrill came when our Cadets were able to mingle and meet with the athletes from all over the world. These inspiring

men and women, many in wheelchairs and many who didn’t speak English, befriended and cheered for our Cadets as they carried their country banners and flags.

The backstage area was alive with spirit and energy, like an international party. The opportunity to meet these exceptional service personnel was a life-changing and inspirational experience.

The closing ceremonies brought new excitement and opportunities, as we were able to watch Bruce Springsteen and Bryan Adams up close during their sound checks. Once again however, it was carrying the flags and escorting the Invictus Team Captains on stage to meet Prince Harry, that was truly memorable. The Air Canada Centre, at full capacity, roared loudly as the team leaders appeared, led by our Cadets. The Canadian flag, entered last, carried proudly by our youngest Cadet on parade, LCpl. Colton Philips, currently a Green Star Cadet in Grade 8.

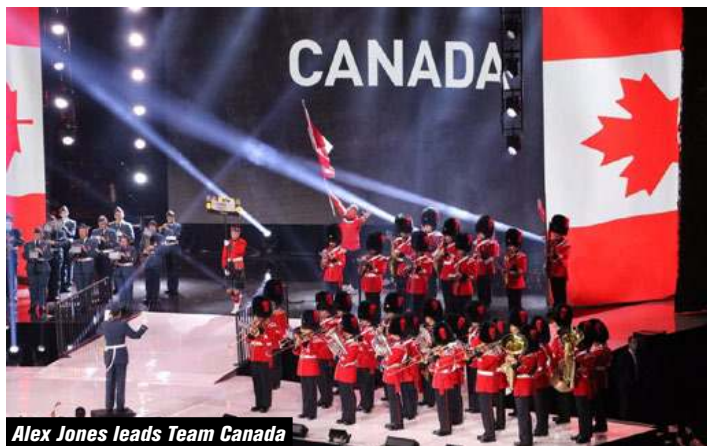
The moving, Invictus spirit infected many during that September week in Toronto. It lives on for the St. Andrew’s Cadets who took part.



Invictus Closing Ceremony



Prince Harry and Cadet Mikey Bahen



Alex Jones leads Team Canada



Land, Sea and Air Cadets at the Invictus Games

CADETS AT THE INVICTUS GAMES



Honour Guard

SAC CADETS REFLECT ABOUT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE INVICTUS GAMES

C/Sgt Sterling Cochran:

I was a flag carrier for the Afghanistan Team in the Invictus Games Closing Ceremony where I walked the Team Captain to the stage where he received a medal from Prince Harry. It was one of the most eye-opening experiences I have had in my life. My Team Captain was wounded, so he was in a wheelchair. Even though he didn't speak English, I could tell from the way he smiled that he was very happy. While we were waiting to head towards the stage he just couldn't stop smiling. Meeting him really showed me how much meaning life has, and how much I take for granted every day! Even though I will never see that man again in my life, he taught me that no matter what happens in life, I need to remember that there is always something to smile about.

As a bonus I was also able to stand 3 feet away from Prince Harry on stage which was amazing. I was also in the Honour Guard for the Opening Ceremony, which was an incredible experience all in itself.

I have the utmost respect for all the members who participated in the Invictus Games and I will never forget that amazing experience.

C/Sgt Mike Bahen:

Being part of the Invictus Games in Toronto was an unforgettable experience. It was tremendous being part of the SAC Honour Guard, carrying the Union Jack for the British Team, hearing the crowds cheer for Canada - the loudest support I've ever heard - and the chance to experience the cool presence of Bruce Springsteen and Prince Harry.

However, I will cherish most spending time and getting to know Army Major Bernie Broads, three-time Invictus Games Athlete of the British Team.

Team Captain Broads lost both his legs in Afghanistan in 2009. It was Broads' strength and character that is the best example of why the Invictus



Cadet Jalen Gu closing ceremony

Games matter. Injured and disabled, he had thought his usefulness and purpose in life was over. Through sports, and participating in the Invictus Games, his leadership shines as an example that both able and disabled veterans and civilians, can admire and honour.

C/LCpl Colton Phillips:

During the Invictus Games Opening Ceremonies, I was involved in the Honour Guard. We walked onto the stage and formed up into ranks, then stood at attention as the Anthem was played.

During the closing ceremonies, I was assigned to hold one of the bow banners during the Anthem. Then, shortly after that, I marched in front of Team Canada's Captain, while holding the Canadian flag. The most memorable part of this was walking on and hearing the roar of the crowd. It was something I will never forget, that was truly spectacular. Meeting the different members of the teams, was really eye opening. I saw a few soldiers in the hall, one that stood out to me was a soldier that had no legs. It made me think about how awful war is, and how pointless it is. The things war does to people are horrible. It really made me think - why can't we just have peace?

HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT

AFGHANISTAN TOUR 2005

By Sgt Allan Chin, CD

(A/Editor's Note: The following Q&A interview was conducted recently with Sgt Chin who describes his tour during Roto O in Afghanistan.)

When was your tour in Afghanistan and how long did it last?

My initial deployment was to be on Op Athena Roto 4 in Southwest Asia, at Camp Mirage, however it became a split deployment to both Southwest Asia and Op Archer Roto 0 in Afghanistan, from May 2005 for seven and a half months.

Where were you stationed in Afghanistan?

My deployment was unique as I was stationed at 3 different camps; Camp Mirage in the U.A.E., Camp Julien in Kabul, and Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar.

What were your specific duties during the mission?

I was a section commander with the Defense & Security platoon for the Theater Support Element (TSE) which was responsible for the security of Camp Mirage and the Airfield. However upon arrival in theater, the platoon which was comprised of 4 sections was split up, with 2 sections in Camp Mirage and 2 sections in Afghanistan.

These sections would rotate throughout the tour. The sections in Afghanistan were attached to Golf Company 2 RCR which fell under Task Force Kabul (TFK). Those sections augmented the company manning multiple roles, which primarily consisted of force protection of Camp Julien. However, we also did mounted and dismounted patrols in Kabul.

In the latter half of the tour the Government of Canada formed the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (KPRT) in August 2005 at Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar City. We were sent to Kandahar and were attached to B Coy, 3 PPCLI at the KPRT.

Like Kabul the sections augmented the company filling multiple roles, primarily force protection of Camp Nathan Smith, but again not limited to that task and also conducted mounted and dismounted patrols in Kandahar.



Who did you report to in the Chain of Command?

In camp Mirage, we were part of TSE and in Kabul we were part of Task Force Kabul, which both had a Canadian Chain of Command. In August 2005, Op Archer was also ongoing, and when we were deployed to the Kandahar PRT, we changed from Op Athena to Op Archer and were part of Regional Command South (RC South) which was under U.S. command by the 173rd (US) Airborne Brigade.

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

In February 2005, soldiers from various reserve Regiments reported to Echo Company, 1 RCR stationed at CFB Petawawa. The pre-deployment training was relatively short, but intense, comprising of only 3 months due to a rapidly evolving mission in Afghanistan.

All spectrums of war were covered. Two weeks were also spent at the Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) - CFB Kingston covering several topics such as; Hazardous Environment Training, Individual Pre-Deployment Training, Security Force Advisory Training, Information Operations, and an intro to Psychological Operations.

What was the physical environment like in Afghanistan?

Having travelled between the two countries over the course of 8 months, we experienced the intense heat in the Persian Gulf, reaching a high of 51 degrees Celsius with a humidex of 62C. The average daily

temperature was 39C.

In Kabul we were at an elevation of 1800 m and in some places above 2000 m. For comparison, Toronto sits at an elevation of 76 m, so physical work was definitely taxing. During the Winter months in Kandahar, it got down below 0C at night.

What were your daily routines like?

At all three camps, force protection was our primary responsibility ranging from manning the gates, overwatch towers, searching of vehicles and personnel, overall layout of the camp. In addition, the troops would augment the regular force platoons on mounted and dismounted patrols.

One of my priorities was to maintain a high level of shooting, and conducted ranges on a regular basis. Prior to our Roto, the previous sections worked 8 hour shifts, however during the tour I implemented 12 hour rotations with increased time off which proved beneficial to the mission and the soldiers morale.



HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT

What type of weapons did you use during the tour?

The section was a standard infantry section comprised 8 soldiers, with two C9's, 6 C7's and 4 Browning 9-mm pistols. The battle load for each soldier was 10 C7 mags, 2 fragmentation grenades, 2 smoke grenades, and 8 boxes of C9 ammo distributed among the section. Depending on the camp, the section was also responsible for the C6's.

In Kabul, the section was crossed trained on the LAV III as the main gate had an assigned LAV at all times. In Kandahar, the section was also trained on the 50 cal. HMG as the PPCLI had them mounted on the G Wagons. The G Wagons also carried the M72 also known as the Short-Range Anti-Armour Weapon - Light SRAAW(L).

Did you have contact with the local Afghan people?

At all three Camps, the Canadian Government made a commitment to employ local Afghans in the camps. We interacted with the locals on a daily basis as we checked them entering the camps, while working with local interpreters alongside us. We all also worked with retired Nepali Ghurkhas who were part of the K9 unit.

At the KPRT, the Afghan forces were integrated with the Force Protection Unit at times, to develop a working relationship as well as hands on training with the Canadians.

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

Camp Mirage was a joint task force made up of Australians and New Zealanders who we worked with as an integrated force protection unit. At Camp Julien we worked Romanian troops who provided overwatch of the camp from the Queen's Palace, and at the PRT we worked with American service personnel.

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

Our first night at the Kandahar Airfield,



Ready to depart on the last day of deployment

there were several rocket attacks, luckily with no fatalities. There was the occasional RPG over the PRT. Members of the section experienced both IED's and suicide bombers in Kandahar.



Working with the Romanians

Did you witness any casualties, or suffer any injuries yourself in any fire fights?

I made it through my tour without injury, but sadly the section experienced the ramp ceremony for Private Braun Scott Woodfield, 24, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, who died in a LAV roll over in Kandahar. We had worked with him earlier in the tour when we were in Kabul.

How did the tour affect you psychologically or emotionally?

The psychological and emotional toll a tour

can have on an individual is overwhelming, and can be long lasting. For me, my integration back into Canadian life was seamless, except for the first week I remember getting a parking ticket and getting angry for such a trivial matter, but realized it was a first world problem.

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

With the constant rotation between Camps, we logged several miles on the CC130's. I had the privileged to command a Quarter Guard for the CDS at the time, General Rick Hillier (Retd), at Camp Mirage and the next day we were flying into Kandahar with him. I was also the first to use at the time, Canada's newest portable electronic jammer on a foot patrol in Kandahar, luckily with no side effects.

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

Pre-training for an operation only touches on aspects of the mission for a short period of time; however doing certain jobs on a daily basis becomes monotonous and tiresome. Remaining motivated and vigilant prevents complacency which prevents accidents or worse, deaths. Reminding yourself of the overall mission helps fight through those mundane times.

Did you feel your Afghan tour was successful?

My tour was only a small piece of the puzzle, and only time will tell if Canada along with its allies made progress in a very old and tribal country.

For our time spent there, we can look at who we immediately helped, through medical treatment to local women and children, or the prevention of attacks on the Camps because we presented a hard target to the enemy.

HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT



THE MARIPOSA PIPES AND DRUMS VISIT WORLD WAR 1 BATTLEFIELDS

By LCol Bill Stark CD (Retd)

(Reflections of one of our former commanding Officers)

Last June, I was privileged to lead a group of 31 to Belgium and France to tour the battlefields and memorials of WW1. Our group included our pipe band, Mariposa P&D, of 21 players who played every day at various venues.

We started at Juno Beach. We walked on the sands in the footsteps of thousands of allied soldiers, inspected the German bunkers and spent memorable time in the vast information centre (museum), a truly incredible collection of artefacts and stories of heroism, death and celebration.

We moved next to Ieper (Ypres) where, after settling in, we spent the next 3 days touring the Ypres, Vimy and the Somme battlefields,



visiting and playing at the huge memorials of Vimy Ridge and Thiepval (Somme), small and vast cemeteries such as Tyne Cot and Essex Farm, as well as many areas of victory and despair

of our 15th Bn. We saw and touched, at the Vimy information centre, the cross which was erected at Vimy Ridge 9 April, 1917 with the names of those killed in that battle, taken back to our museum and now on loan back at Vimy Ridge.

As a pipe band we could not miss the opportunity of playing a tune for P/M James Richardson, VC of the Canadian Scottish at his grave at Adanac Military cemetery near Albert,

and, as far as I can tell, we were the only band ever to play the lament as a full band instead of the usual solo piper. Such an honour for all of us.

There wasn't a lot of free time but we gave a performance in the town square at Ieper which was incredibly well received by tourists and towns people alike.



One of the highlights of our trip was our visit to the caverns of Maison Blanche souterrain. We were astounded to see, in person, our badges, (15th, 92nd, 134th) and those of other regiments as well as interesting graffiti, perfectly carved into the chalk walls 100 years ago. The fact that soldiers lived in these caverns for weeks at a time, particularly prior to the battle of Vimy Ridge, was, in itself, an amazing feeling.

Earlier this year I read, again, what is known as "The Blue Dileas", the history of our regiment from inception until the 1930s. When Mariposa P&D visited the battlefields of WW1 we "lived" the battles, the devastation, the victories and the losses of our soldiers. We stood where they stood, walked where they walked, saw where they fought, and where they fell and where so many died.

You may be interested in 2 poems which I was inspired to write in anticipation of our trip and which I deposited, one for those with no known grave, names carved on a wall, at the Vimy Ridge Memorial and at the Menin Gate and the other for the unknown soldiers of the

France. Our guide, Carl, who I would highly recommend to anyone planning such a visit, was a storehouse of information. Although he provides guide service to groups from many different lands, he zeroed in on the Canadian aspect of the war for our benefit. We had the privilege of playing at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ieper

15th who were buried and "Known Only to God" at various cemeteries. I am by no means a poet, as you can see, but I was



Who Am I?

*Who am I? It matters not
That peace was broken, and the thought
That this war would surely be
"To end all wars, just wait and see."*

*I'm just a name carved on a wall
But not alone as with all
My comrades here in this distant land
Who volunteered to lend a hand.*

*No thought of danger, just reckless boys
Too old by now for children's toys
Adventure bound we knew not where
Just some beleaguered land "over there".*

*But by and by months stretched to years
The world in conflict and those in tears
When we marched off to foreign lands
To wipe the blood from conquered hands.*

*Four years of conflict, blood and death
The agony and the final breath
Of so many brave soldiers too young to die
No grave for loved ones to stop by.*

*O, victory was ours and joy returned
But millions died and loved ones yearned
To see again brave dads and sons
Get off those trains....the lucky ones.*

*But here am I, no grave to see
I'm with my comrades who died with me
With mud and gas the trenches filled
I'm just one of millions killed.*

*So weep not for me, but for mankind
And for those we left behind
As following years would surely yield
Yet another bloody battlefield.*

*William Stark, LCol (Ret'd)
48th Highlanders of Canada*

overwhelmed by the experience.

It was indeed a whirlwind tour of history, which every Canadian, given the opportunity, should take. The four Canadian Divisions played such a huge part in the victories of WW1, where our country was baptized and truly became a nation.

DILEAS GU BRATH

HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT

FOLLOWING THE 15TH BATTALION ON GREAT WAR BATTLEFIELDS

By Cpl Graham Robertson – D Company

(Reflections of a serving member of the Active Battalion)

This past April, I had the opportunity to travel to Europe for ten days. The goal of the trip was to follow the steps of our forefathers in the Great War.

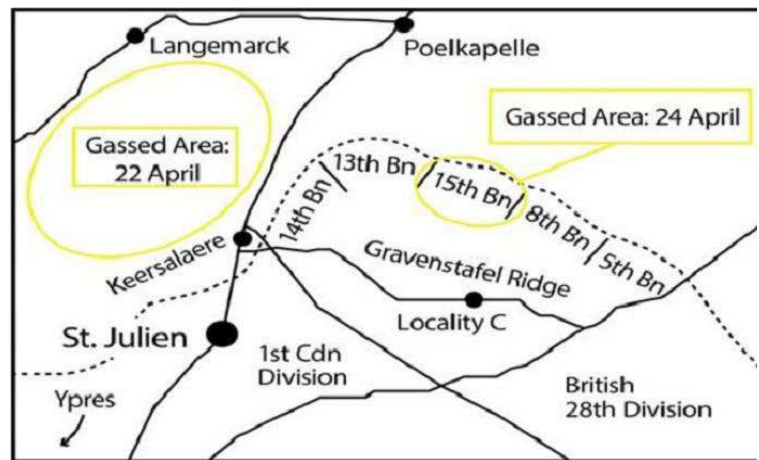
I had grown up on stories of my great grandfathers in the war, all of whom were Highlanders. James Robertson had been gassed at Ypres with the Royal Scots but would continue to fight until 1919. Donald Sutherland (Pipe Major of the Black Watch of Canada during WW2) had been shot through the shoulder at Neuve Chapelle with the HLI. So when my friends and I, MCpl Humphrey from the Queens Own Rifles and Cpl Andres Lapena from the Royal Regiment of Canada, had expressed interest in following their regiment, the 3rd Battalion in the Great War, we had decided the trip would be a go. The best part about the trip is one of our close Dutch friends, Dennis Neelen from Ossendrecht, and a fellow re-enactor, offered to put us up in his place for the entire trip. Dutch hospitality is a story on its own. Due to logistical reasons, we were unable to visit all of battlefields of the Great War in sequence with the years they took place. We were able to visit the battles of Ypres and Gravenstafel Ridge, the small field at Festubert, Mount Sorrel and Observatory Ridge, Thiepval Ridge and Regina Trench, Maison Blanche and Vimy, Bois Hugo at Hill 70, Passchendale, Chateau Wood and the Crows Nest at the Drocourt-Queant Line, Sans Les Marquion and Canal du Nord and finally Somain where the 15th battalion would end the war.



We would eventually make our way to Ypres. This was an exceptionally emotional experience for me as my great grandfather had been gassed here and where our regiment had faced its almost complete destruction.



Again, using the maps provided in Kim Beatie's book we managed to find the forward "trenches" east of St Julien. We saw the old windmill where the 15th had a forward HQ, managed to find locality C and the memorial there, where the 15th had taken up a secondary defensive position. We would then move back to St Julien and find roughly where No. 2 company had set up its defensive position. Later we moved to the start point where the 10th and 16th battalion had counter attacked at Kitchener's Wood. To end our day in Ypres, we decided to go for the tallest beers we could find in the courtyard of Ypres. Here we saw the cloth tower, a church where men of the 15th would have seen pre and post artillery bombardment by the Germans and the Menin gate. Seeing the Menin gate was an overwhelming feeling, knowing that many men of the 15th would march through this gate never to return. I managed to find the 15th battalions plaque on the wall and saw a J. Robertson. A member of the 15th with the same last name who was never found.



As an infantry soldier, I find it completely astonishing how brave our Highlanders performed on those few days in late April 1915. From being gassed, receiving concentrated artillery, waves of infantry, conducting counter attacks, attempting to fight with faulty Ross Rifles and Colt Machine guns and knowing that the enemy is breaking through the line.

I wish I could write about the other battlefields we managed to see, but there would not be enough room in this article. If I could summarize this trip it would be the overwhelming feeling of how costly the Great War truly was and how brave our Highlanders performed, literally walking into death at times.

Seeing the graves of our family of Highlanders, I reflected on the privilege I have of serving with our Regimental Family today. As we arrived in the airport, we would be the typical Canadians and get ourselves a cup of timmies coffee. We sat for a solid hour and reflected on what we had seen and in an almost disbelief of how well we as Canadians performed and sacrificed during the Great War.

HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT



UNITED NATIONS TOUR: CROATIA, 1994

By MWO Jason Hanson, CD

In 1994, I was working for a security company at a condominium. This was my first job after my first tour overseas to Somalia. I was barely making ends meet between my civilian job and being a Weapons Detachment Commander in Alpha Company.

At this point in time, the 48th was getting the new C-7s to be issued with the new C-79 sights. The C-7s with iron sights were gone. However, the C-79 sights were yet to be issued.

When on exercise we had lots of snow in Meaford for our Winter training. We were using the clothing before the I.C.E. issued clothing and CADPAT. This was also the time before the Base was built up and the H-huts were the main structures up top.

The talk at the time was about the deployments to the former Yugoslavia under the United Nations. It was going to be a battle group from Ontario that was to be formed in the Fall.

Many if not all 48th Highlanders were willing to show interest in deploying except me. The unit was looking for people to commit 100% to the mission for 1 RCR and names were being collected. Most of the hands that went up were no longer up and the 48th were building a list of 15-20 people.

The word came down that higher up was looking for only Corporals and Privates. When the final count came down, the 48th had ten positions to send on pre-training to CFB Petawawa. The authority came down to send Cpl Brogan, Cpl Mason, Cpl Owoh and Cpl Smith. It was a surprise that the rest of us did not all go on pre-training together.

A week later the remainder of Cpl Bush, Cpl Smintich, Cpl Tesione and Cpl Vienneau went up to CFB Petawawa in the unit van. When we arrived to 1 RCR's new home in Y-101 we began to be processed in the gym.

We were broken down to different sub units. Recce was Cpl Brogan, Cpl Owoh, Cpl Bush. AAP – Anti Armour Platoon, Cpl Smith. HQ – Photography Cpl Mason. Bravo Company Cpl Smintich and Cpl Vienneau. Charlies Company Cpl Tesione.

I am sure you are now asking where am I in this organization? My step-father's last name is Vienneau. In 2008, I had to have my birth certificate and passport identification to match. This was a new direction from the Ontario Security Guard's licensing rules. I decided to return to using the last name Hanson after about 30 years.

The first group that arrived to "Pet" ended up in the very new shacks in G-101 with the Reg Force guys. They got the best rooms. It was one or

two guys in a room. Two rooms shared one shower/toilet with two sinks.

The rest of us were in of O-19 located behind CANEX, the furthest from Y-101. Now it's an empty lot, last time I looked. All of the overflow of Reservist stayed in O-19 on the second and third floor. My room was Cpl Smintich, Cpl Tesione and Cpl Van Kalbin from the RRC.

We began our pre-training in May-June 1994 and began deploying to Croatia in October 1994. Our time with 1 RCR in CFB Petawawa was filled with all of the adjustments and stories of Regular force life.

In many cases, it was not easy following all of the discipline that was expected but it was important for us to adapt and overcome to complete our job. We were given lots of briefings and information.

Our instruction consisted of new techniques in mine warfare, history, working on M-113s, track maintenance and keeping up on Physical Training. In other events, it was a Summer of crazy "socials, weekends and stories". We had the rugby in the hall of O-19, hanging out at Banana Pete's and the last call runs to the River Club in Quebec.

Some of the items that we were issued for this mission were the UN beret with cap badge, UN baseball cap, UN toque, painted UN helmet that was Kevlar, the new Load Bearing Vest that was one piece that fit over the old flack jacket and the new Gortex jacket. I'm probably missing more items but I'm sure that I have pictures of them...that was before Digital Cameras.

Our deployments to theatre were on commercial airliners. Once on the ground in Split, Croatia, we crammed into buses and went to another location.

At that location we were issued weapons, EIS, ammo and loaded our buses donning our flack jackets, Full Fighting Order with our Blue helmets.

We drove up the coast just south of Zader and were stopped at a Croatian checkpoint. We drove past UN checkpoints SC 52 and SC 53 manned by D Coy PPCLI. We continued on to our HQ camp or Rastivic.

We eventually got to Bravo Company's camp and were assigned to our "ISSO" trailers. The one I was in had three beds with mattresses, a single with bunk beds. I grabbed the single.

We had a full locker each and the room had a heater. We had local ladies on camp to clean our laundry and some work in the kitchen with the Canadian Military cooks.

We had at least six Observation Posts, daily work party's, camp security and QRF for our AOR. The OPs where mostly isolated. We used M-113's with extra armour on the outside. The M-113's we were using were as old as our CSM.

The weather was nice but that would soon change moving into the Winter months. Things would get better and worse over the course of this tour.

At this point in the Mission we had a bigger group of Highlanders than had deployed in many years. Most of the other tours in the past involved smaller groups or one individual on the tour.

It was exciting that we survived pre-training and were now facing the risks involved in this UN mission.

The Canadians main job was to monitor the zone of separation between two groups of people that had been fighting a long time. Many of the local villages had been damaged by shelling.

It was October when we deployed to Croatia and it would be my second time on tour during Christmas. Despite that fact most of the 48th were in all different areas, it was very exciting when we had the chance to meet up again at different points during this mission.



HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT

FLASHBACK 1977-2017: A 40 YEAR ADVENTURE IN THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

By Major Mark Bossi, CD (Retd)



Just like “Throwback Thursday”, let’s take a quick look back at first impressions, memories, lessons learned, lasting impressions, and life long friendships, during my four decades with the Regiment.

One of the Falcon covers decades ago said “It’s Not A Job, It’s an Adventure”; so, let’s look back at my adventure that lasted 40 years!

When Sgt Al Kowalenko asked me, at the Remembrance Dinner 2017, if I’d write a story for the 2017 Falcon Yearbook, I laughed. This was because I was the Editor of the Falcon a few decades ago and, knowing that Capt Steve Gilbert is now the Editor, I replied “It’s all Gilbert’s fault”, and then explained that he was to blame, since it was him who had asked me, back in 1977, during my first year as a Private in the Regiment, whether I’d be interested in becoming an officer; a suggestion I eventually acted on.

Early lesson learned: I’ve always joked “my life was spared” by “Sgt Kevin McGuffin” (long before he became RSM). He and the entire platoon were gathered around me in the woods of Camp Borden, looking down at me when I woke up from a nap after lunch ... and then ... he growled at all the others “I TOLD ALL OF YOU TO REST AFTER LUNCH, AND BOSSI WAS THE ONLY ONE SMART ENOUGH TO GET SOME SLEEP.” Honestly – I thought I was goners ... but then ... no problem!

Another lesson learned: Wood floats ... especially when it’s the pallet from the bottom of a trench on a range in Borden. After it rained so much on a range weekend, it floated to the very top ... where it ambushed a Newbie on his very first brass party as he reached for a casing on the other side of the rain-filled trench!

Witnesses said they heard a noise, turned around, and “Bossi had vanished” ... because I was now underwater ... and “Sgt Mary-Anne Valenti” remembers I looked like a drowned rat in the range hut waiting for the bus to take us home to Moss Park Armoury.

My uniform in 1977? FNC1A1 rifle, and black coveralls faded to gray, washed so many times but still issued by the Clothing Stores outlet in the basement of MPA. New recruits are now issued CADPAT on the first weekend of their BMQ course and then learn to wear it right away.

Back then, we had to wait a few weeks for Base Supply to pick and ship

our OD combats, 52 pattern webbing, and steel helmet from the old CFB Downsview to MPA.

Another lesson learned early on – write your name on everything, otherwise Capt J.W.N. Leatch would delight in carving his name on it. This is why I remember his initials, as well as those of Adjt, Capt K.G.E. Wright, and Capt J.B.J. Legge, “the den mothers” assigned to teach us, the Unit’s new young Officers - 2Lts Mike Scott, D.B. Beaton, Doug Johnson, J.D. Stewart and Me – and, boy, did we ever learn!

Things like mandatory reading lists on parade nights, TEWTS while



Maj Andrew “The Roo” puffed on his pipe ... and Maj Peter “Feathers” Featherstone growling at us if the food we brought down to the Officers Mess for Friday night messing was ANYTHING except roast beef!

Remembering Remembrance Day: One year, when I was the 48th Public Affairs Officer,

we were on the front page of every Toronto newspaper. All the other regiments in Toronto cursed but the Glamour Boys had struck once again!

And ... remembering how we once we recruited 85 candidates for a Summer Recruit Course, at a time before CFRC took on that task for the Reserves.



Up to year 40 (time flies when you’re having fun) ... courses galore...

I completed a Jump Course when it was at CABC Edmonton in 1982, a Young Officers Tactics Course, a Senior Officers’ Staff Course where I was the only candidate with a computer - they actually held a vote to decide if it was fair to let me use it!



In addition, I did a Command and Staff Course in Kingston and then returned, as a guest lecturer, years later. I also spent four years as a member of the Directing Staff at the Command and Staff College in Toronto, followed by a year in England.

And, I was lucky to be the first 48th Officer to deploy to Afghanistan, on ROTO 0 of Op ATHENA, back in 2003.

The last few years saw me as Chief Instructor at the 32 CBG Battle School ... and ... I’m out of time, both in this article and my army career – 40 years, many postings, but, always only one cap badge - 48th.

But, I’m still kicking around at our Museum and, maybe one day, with one of our two affiliated Cadet Corps.

DILEAS GU BRATH!

HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT

REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES

By Ian McDonald – Regimental Photographer

The year 2017 was an exciting and historic one for the 48th.

In March through a request by HCol Elms and HLCol Scott, an invitation from Her Majesty was extended to me to attend her at Windsor Castle and take an official portrait (displayed on the Front Cover of this Falcon Yearbook) of our Colonel-in-Chief. My proposals for the sitting with Her Majesty wearing the 48th Brooch, presented to Her when visiting the Regiment in 1951, were reviewed and The Queen personally agreed to the ideas.

This portrait celebrates the Platinum Anniversary of her appointment, as our Colonel-in-Chief, made just weeks after Her wedding to HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

At the sitting, I also did portraits of her wearing the brooches of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, for a new history book on that Regiment and of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

Her Majesty also asked me to take a photo of her wearing the Late Queen Mother's Maple Leaf Brooch, to be used as Her official portrait to celebrate Canada's 150th. The day of the sitting was the 15th anniversary of The Queen Mother's passing and The Queen enjoyed hearing my recollections of photographing The Queen Mother in Montreal during her last visit to Canada in 1989.

During the sitting, Her Majesty commented that she could not believe she has been Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment for 70 years.

I also had the opportunity to inform her about accomplishments of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project, the Regiment's 125th Anniversary celebrations, our Second World War veterans and when speaking of one of our characters she gave a beautiful smile, which became the official portrait. It was clear that she is very proud of her first Canadian appointment and could not have been kinder and accommodating. It is difficult to believe Her Majesty will be 92 this year. She obviously has Her mother's strong Scottish genes. As one of our veterans said when he saw the portrait: "She's as gorgeous as ever".

I was also thrilled to cover The Invictus Games and their Patron, HRH Prince Harry.

The Games were held the last week of September in Toronto. I know the sentiment was thrown about a lot, but it truly was a life-changing event that showed the resiliency of members of the 17 nations that participated.

One of our pipers played at the official flag raising and the Pipes and Drums played both the opening and closing ceremonies accompanied by 48th and St. Andrew Cadets who led in the athletes.

Time and again, during the week of these games, regardless of where the soldiers and families were from, the need for comradeship and the importance of learning from speaking with elders and veterans who know the struggles and sacrifices, offered the Games participants a priceless bond that will last a lifetime.



In October I presented the finished portraits to Her Majesty at a private audience at Buckingham Palace with the Commanding Officer and both of our Honourary Appointments. I also gave her some photos from the Games and she told us how she had watched the Invictus events with great interest and was amazed by all the athletes. In a letter I gave her, I mentioned in detail my experiences with the athletes and the portraits I took. The Colonel-in-Chief's response was most positive.

Her Majesty's interest and curiosity in the Regiment is genuine, and it was very clear to me that she is very proud of her 48th Highlanders of Canada.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

DILEAS GU BRATH!

A HIGHLANDER AND FRIENDS GET TOGETHER TO HELP THE CAUSE OF "WOUNDED WARRIORS"

By Drum Major (MWO) Chris Reesor, CD

Recently, it was a great honour for me to be involved in a musical fund-raising production to financially assist Wounded Warriors.

A member of the GGHG band, Cpl William Right, had composed three songs and he asked if I could be the drummer for in a CD recording session which he had arranged to hold.



I agreed to do this given because it will support PTSD recovery for our soldiers.

The intent is that the profits from CD sales will go towards the Toronto MFRC and Wounded Warriors Canada.

The CD launch, where we performed live, had great support from the CBC. They sent a team to the studio to interview William and video the session and again sent a team to the CD launch and it was on the 11pm CBC News.



The CD is available via CD baby <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/williamright>

HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

A personal reflection by Jane Westlake, friend of the Regiment

In early April 2017, one lovely spring morning in the French countryside, I stood weeping. Overwhelmed by sadness, I was overcome with immense grief for those unknown to me, the youth of a different nationality who suffered such immense losses during the devastation of warfare a century ago. I was standing in the Neuville St.Vaast Cemetery where, between 1914 and 1918, 44,833 German soldiers lost their lives and were buried. Extending as far as the eye could see are crosses; beneath each one lie four bodies where, often, names, dates of birth and death are missing.

Such was my introduction to the staggering number of lives sacrificed in WW1 while participating in the Government of Canada's Delegation to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, a watershed moment for our nation when all four divisions of the Canadian Corps, soldiers from coast to coast, collaborated in combat for the first time.

During the days that followed, Delegation events consisted of visits to many sites, memorials of sadness, loss and honour and each a tribute to the hundreds of thousands of young men laid to rest in the area. Notable were the Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Ring of Remembrance and Notre Dame de Lorette French National Cemetery, Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing in Belgium (Passchendaele) Canadian Cemetery #2 Vimy site, Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial (Battle of the Somme), the Menin Gate (Ypres), tunnels and trenches at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and Walter Allward's magnificent Vimy monument itself, reflecting pastel shades at dawn and dusk, gleaming ivory under the sun during the day.

What was both striking and poignant at every location was a reminder of the staggering human cost of warfare. There were 3598 of these boots, representing those who made the ultimate sacrifice at Vimy. Countless lists of countless names were inscribed on every arch or monument, 1500 individual soldiers on each one of the 500 panels at the Ring of Remembrance, for instance. A surprising detail during WW2 was Adolph Hitler's instruction to his forces to preserve all above named memorials and cemeteries during attacks.

Further expressions of commemoration through the Canadian lens of remembrance included a reception at the Canadian War Museum exhibit "Witness - Fields of Battle Through Canadian Eyes" at the Musee de Beaux-Arts in Arras, hosted by our Governor General. The show features many magnificent canvasses including several painted by Group of Seven members. Outstanding works included a young Victoria Cross recipient, a peaceful moonlit cemetery, Arthur Lismer's Olympic and one very disturbing piece depicting animal carnage on the battlefield. This event was followed by a marvellous, inspiring military pipes and drums outdoor concert and a spectacular, colourful sound

and light show at Place des Heros where the affection for Canada was palpable. Sunrise and sunset ceremonies at the Vimy Memorial also expanded the mood of remembering, reflection and hope throughout the delegation.

It was a great privilege to be included in this marvellous, national commemorative event, thanks to my friend Former Commanding Officer (1970-1973) Colonel Richard Read who was selected as its delegate by his Regiment, the 48th Highlanders of Canada.



Organized by Veteran's Affairs Canada, the delegation included Veterans and Indigenous Representatives, Regimental Association Veteran Representatives, Youth and Youth Leaders, Special Guests (family member of WW1 Silver Cross Mother) Caregivers, DVA Conducting and Medical Staff.

Col. Read's father, Captain Charles Read was wounded at the end of WW1, served at Vimy Ridge, received the Military Cross at Passchendaele and was recommended for a bar at Amiens. He was only TWENTY years old at the time.

Now back home again, I regularly reflect on this lifetime watershed historical experience, almost incomprehensible considering a quarter million Canadians wounded and losing lives in WW1. Our population was roughly 8 million at that time. My Vimy pilgrimage has been an inspiring challenge to assimilate and share, considering aspects of bloodshed, loss of a generation, countless graves, sacrifice, gratitude (and love) for Canadians, collaboration of countries, appreciation of delegates, security measures, welcome and organization by VAC, veterans' shared memories, inclusion of indigenous vets and youth and our ongoing quest for peace today.

What can be the take away? Often mentioned throughout the commemorative ceremonies was the passing of the torch and from what I observed, it was our youth, the 26 delegates representing provinces and territories who conveyed this bright light of hope and inspiration for the future. They engaged, told and remembered the stories with grace, intelligence and respect for all those who served 100 years ago.

I can believe those who gave their lives may be able to rest more peacefully knowing that their sacrifices are being held in very safe, most competent and grateful hands.



"WE WILL NOT FORGET THEM."

'DILEAS GUBRATH'



HIGHLANDER PROFILES - PAST AND PRESENT

OVERLOOKING HILL 70 CAPTAIN WILLIAM PROUDFOOT 15TH BATTALION CEF

By Capt Ian Steingaszner, CD

The public outpouring of pride and participation in acts of remembrance commemorating Vimy Ridge in 2017 was overwhelming. Television specials, remembrance parades and commemorations coast-to-coast brought this battle to the forefront of the Canadian consciousness.

If one looks closely at the 48th Highlanders Regimental Colours, quietly nestled opposite the battle honour 'Vimy 1917' is one entitled 'Hill 70'. As opposed to Vimy Ridge, most Canadians have never even heard of Hill 70, despite the fact that it played a far more significant role in the ultimate allied victory on the Western Front.

Unimaginatively named Hill 70 because it rose 70 metres above sea level, this was the high ground near the village of Lens which General Arthur Currie had been directed to capture. Currie felt it critical to capture Hill 70 before he attacked Lens. He knew that the enemy would do its utmost to push the Canadians off the hill as it was the key to controlling Lens.

The plan was simple. The Canadian Corps would take its slopes with a surprise assault, then quickly consolidate defences to be ready for the counterattacks that would inevitably be launched. The enemy knew the value of this hill and would never allow it to remain in Allied hands.

As it turned out, over the course of this 10 day battle, the Canadians withstood a total of 21 counterattacks involving five divisions of the German 6th Army. They all failed. Even after three years of fighting on the Western Front, the fighting for Hill 70 was noted as being "remarkably brutal to even the most battle-hardened of soldiers".

The 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) was in the thick of it. One man who lived through those days and distinguished himself in the process was William Proudfoot.

William Proudfoot was born on 22 March 1889 in Goderich, Ontario to William Proudfoot and Marion Forest Dickson. After graduating from the University of Toronto as a lawyer, he worked at his father's law firm in Goderich, Ontario.

As one of the many who comprised 'Kitchener's Army' – those volunteers from the Empire who formed the 'New Army' starting in 1914, he volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in October, 1915.

His enlistment papers state the following: Age at enlistment: 26; Height: 5 Feet 8 Inches; Chest: 37 Inches; Expansion: 3 Inches; Religion: Church of England.

Commissioned as a Lieutenant, he went overseas in the early part of 1916 with the 33rd Battalion (Huron) Regiment. Shortly after his arrival in theatre, he was transferred to the 15th Battalion as yet another replacement to make up for losses.

He participated in many major battles, including Ypres, Vimy, Passchendale, Somme, Hill 70, Avion and Lens. Not surprisingly, he was wounded several times during the course of his service. His record dryly states – Wounded: Courcellette, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Cite St Pierre.

Being one of the lucky ones to return home, he got on with life. In

September 1923, he married Gertrude Marjorie Cook in York, Ontario, Canada and picked up his legal career where he had left off, eventually being bestowed with the coveted Queen's Counsel (QC) designation.

The QC designation is bestowed upon lawyers whose "careers demonstrate leadership in their professional lives, raise the esteem of the legal profession, and make outstanding contributions to the development of law".

He never forgot his old comrades from the 15th Battalion, both living and dead. For the living, he was the lawyer involved in the formation of the veterans' association which was the forerunner of the current 48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association. For the dead, he returned to France with them in mind.

In his Chapter on Hill 70, the Regimental historian, Kim Beattie, noted that for those comrades whose graves had been hastily dug and marked near the front lines while under fire, many of the markers had been obliterated by artillery shells. He goes on to state that "Many years afterwards, Capt. Proudfoot, on a visit to the battlefields, was able to direct a member of the War Graves Commission to the exact spot where these men were buried."

For his actions at Hill 70, William Proudfoot was awarded the Military Cross (MC). His citation reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when an intelligence officer at headquarters. Owing to heavy casualties he volunteered to go forward and take charge of a platoon, and showed the soundest judgment in placing his men to defend the position against repeated counter-attacks. When the enemy gained a footing in the trench, he personally led his men in driving them out, and, although wounded by a bomb (hand grenade), remained at duty for twenty-four hours until all lost ground was retaken. He only left when it became apparent that he could carry on no longer. His pluck won the admiration of all ranks".

The award was announced in Battalion Daily Orders on September 30, 1917 and in the London Gazette 30340 on October 18, 1917.

The Military Cross is issued unnamed. In this case, his MC was privately engraved on the back "Lieut. W. Proudfoot/15th Battalion/ 48th Highlanders of Canada/15th August 1917.

He also received the British War Medal, 1914-18 and the Allied Victory Medal (also nicknamed Mutt and Jeff), impressed "Capt.W.Proudfoot".

At the age of 75, Captain William Proudfoot passed away on 15 December 1964.

His headstone is adorned with the falcon followed by the inscription William Proudfoot, MC, QC, Captain, 48th Highlanders of Canada.

At the bottom of the headstone in two lines, is the following: Ypres – Vimy – Passchendale/Somme – Hill 70 – Avion – Lens.

If the grass isn't properly trimmed, this inscription could easily be overlooked, just like the action of Hill 70 itself.



HIGHLANDER PROFILES – PAST AND PRESENT

BASIL LACROIX 1ST BATTALION HIGHLANDER (1943-45)

By His Son – Ken LaCroix

My Dad, according to his discharge certificate, enlisted in the Canadian Infantry Corps (Irish Regiment of Canada) on October 27, 1942 at age 19, after completing his basic and advanced training from June of that year on. He subsequently went on to receive specialist training as a signalman

However, it wasn't until July 1943 that he left Canada on the Queen Mary for overseas service.

He landed at Greenock Scotland and was posted at Aldershot for deployment. In October 1943, he embarked on the Santa Elena at Liverpool and sailed up to the north Atlantic to join a large convoy heading for Italy.

On November 6th, 1943, his ship was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean. It wasn't a good start for Dad. After hours in the water, he and others were rescued by the SS Monterey and brought to Naples. He had lost all his belongings and was again outfitted at Avelino.

It was at this point, on December 24th, 1943, that he was transferred and posted to the 48th Highlanders, as a replacement signaler. The Regiment had taken significant losses at Ortona and needed signalers.

This is where he joined Able Company and Geordie Beal's father, who was his Company Commander. He remained with the company until Sept 1944, at which time he was put on sick leave with malaria and dysentery.

It wasn't until early November 1944 that he returned to Able Company. He was with them in December when the 1st Battalion crossed the Lamone River.

Still with Able Company, he left Italy in March 1945, on board a ship heading for Marseille and fought through France and the liberation of Holland. As the War in Europe concluded, my Dad was posted to Headquarters Company.

I've attached a photo of the actual message form, in my father's handwriting, announcing the end of the war which he kept for all these years.

I've also attached some pictures of my Dad because I'm proud of the man.

One picture, titled "Hill charge" is from another Second World War book that my Dad owns. It depicts some troops advancing on



| ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large) | | MESSAGE FORM | | Register No. |
|--|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Call | Srl. No. | Priority | Transmission Instructions | |
| ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY. | | | | |
| FROM (A) | Originator | Date-Time of Origin | Office Date Stamp | |
| | For Action. | 07 0850 | | |
| TO | All Camp AdjT | | | |
| Originator's No. N.A.1 | | | | |
| Unconditional Surrender of German forces was signed at 090141 G. The offensive 090001 @ all offensive action by AEF finished | | | | |

a ridge before Rome. My father remembers this as being near Pontecorvo.

If you expand the photo, you can see a small white house half way up the ridge. Dad remembers Major Beal, Geordie's Father calling in the artillery barrage you see in the photo, using Dad's signal radio. He says Major Beal was an expert at pinpointing such barrages.

Dad has only talked about the war in the last 10 years or so, and then only in bits and pieces. Some of the attached photos I've only just seen for the first time myself recently. I bought him a copy of your book "Family of Volunteers" and he has read the World War II section several times. In fact, it jogged his memory so that he could recall some of the above details in this article.

It is always interesting to hear his recollections of the Italian and Northwest European campaigns, as a member of the 1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders of Canada.



HIGHLANDER PROFILES – REGIMENTAL HISTORY

EXERCISE STEADFAST CROSS JOINT EXERCISE IN NEW ZEALAND

By Corporal Victor Koziol

The 48th Highlanders of Canada sent two members of the Active Battalion to New Zealand in February 2017, to participate in a multi-national interoperability exercise for a duration of approximately two weeks.

Corporal Koziol and Corporal Miaco were part of larger group of an all-trades contingent from the 32 Brigade Battle Group.

The training took part at Waiouru Military Camp, which is the camp of the New Zealand Army in the central North Island of New Zealand near Waiouru.

Upon arriving on the military base, the Canadian contingent was assigned to train with 5/7 New Zealand Regiment (an amalgamated unit).

The two members of the 48th as well as the rest of the Canadian contingent were able to work comfortably due to the similarity of the weapons of the two armies. However, there was one weapon system, the STEYR AUG, that provided a brilliantly new and unique experience which was used regularly throughout the exercise.

This particular service rifle is a bullpup firearm, a characteristic which gives it its distinctness from our current service rifle the C7 A2. It is a firearm with its action and magazine behind its trigger group unlike the C7 A2.

In addition to the many similar or identical weapon systems, much of the standard operating procedures were also alike.

We hope that this great relationship with our commonwealth ally continues and it is always a great opportunity to be able to train with our allies.



THREE 1917 BATTLE HONOURS:

Text and photos courtesy – 15th Battalion Project Website

HILL 70

In June 1917, Field Marshal Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force, ordered the First Army to capture the coal mining centre of Lens while the Second Army exploited its victory at Messines Ridge, further north in Flanders. First Army Headquarters charged the Canadian Corps, under command of Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie, with the operation. Rather than strike Lens directly, Currie persuaded the First Army commander to authorize an assault against Hill 70, a key terrain feature that dominated the town from the north. The 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions were responsible for the capture of Hill 70. The 15 Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada), of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, assaulted on the critical hinge of the attack on the extreme left flank of the 1st Division, parallel to the northern slope of Hill 70. The battalion rehearsed its role for the pending attack on a training ground near Bully Grenay over a six-day period in July.

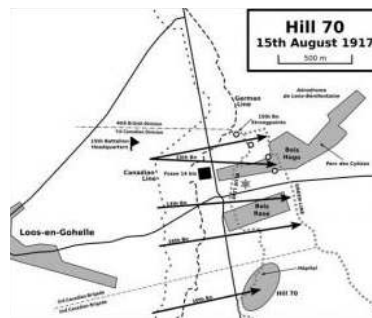
According to a detailed plan, the 15th Battalion was to capture two phase lines – 'Blue' and 'Green' – and then construct a series of defensive



strongpoints on the objectives. At 04:25 on the morning of August 15, the attack commenced under cover of an artillery barrage and drums of liquid fire hurled across no-man's-land by improvised mortars. The battalion reached the Blue Line in

a matter of minutes, overrunning a strongpoint at Puits 14 Bis with minimal casualties. After a brief pause, the attack reached the Green Line, where the men consolidated their gains. Trench mortars and machine guns were brought forward to meet the anticipated counterattack. Abandoned German support weapons were turned about and used to reinforce the battalion's new front line.

Canadian artillery batteries inflicted heavy losses against enemy forces massing around Bois Hugo for a counterattack. German troops nevertheless launched a series of attacks against the battalion's new position. The fighting was extremely intense, featuring protracted grenade duels. A small enemy force reached the Battalion headquarters dugout, only to be repelled in a sharp encounter at close quarters.



Further counterattacks continued throughout that day, while German artillery fire restricted the flow of ammunition and supplies up to the new Canadian front line. Despite shortages of ammunition and grenades, the battalion repulsed all counterattacks and held the objectives throughout the night of August 15-16, until relieved the following morning.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY



VIMY

The 15th Battalion earned the Vimy Battle Honour for its role as part of the Canadian Corps in the capture of Vimy Ridge (9-12 April, 1917), a well-established German defensive position, which dominated the Douai Plain to its east and Arras countryside to its west. The men of 15th Battalion, having previously carefully rehearsed all aspects of their assigned operational tasks, moved, on Easter Sunday, 8 April, 1917, into their Start Line positions in the Douai Tunnel and in shallow ditches and craters, that were just ahead of their Front Line location. At H Hour, 5:30 AM on Easter Monday, the Highlanders began their advance through driving sleet, closely following a creeping artillery barrage, with Number 4 Company on the right, 1 on the left, 2 in direct support and 3 in reserve. Pushing through the immediate German Front Line, they assaulted down a slow slope towards their first objective, the Black Line. Seizing and consolidating this position on time, they took a brief tactical pause of 40 minutes, then resumed their advance and took their second objective, the Red Line, well ahead of the assigned time of 7:00 AM. Throughout their advance, the Highlanders were quick, efficient and successful in eliminating pockets of enemy sniper and machine gun resistance in order to effectively take control of both of their objectives and allow the battalions of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade to pass through the new 15th lines and successfully continue the Canadian advance to the final objective, the Blue Line. The actions of the 15th Battalion were an important part of the Victory achieved at Vimy, but there was a high cost, 90 Highlanders killed and 175 wounded.



Map from the *Regimental History of the 48th Highlanders of Canada 1893-1929* by K. Beattie

Vimy Cross" erected following 9 April 1917 assault on Vimy Ridge to memorialize 15th Bn casualties of the engagement.



PASSCHENDAELE

Passchendaele, one of the most costly operations in Canadian military history, was fought in the Ypres Salient (26 Oct – 11 Nov, 1917) on a battlefield which was a morass of deep slimy mud, water filled shell craters and dead bodies. For the soldiers of 15th Battalion it was a very different battle experience, one that demanded logistical more than tactical skill, as they undertook a Corps support role along with the other units of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade. Struggling through constant rain, mud and enemy artillery and aerial bombardment, the Highlanders completed road repairs and transported rations, water, ammunition and trench equipment to Front Line units. They also dug artillery gun pits, prepared sandbags to reinforce trenches and provided security for key rear area positions, such as Wurst Farm. However, their greatest contribution to this fight was as stretcher bearers for the wounded, a task which often found them struggling through mud and water for hours to get Canadian casualties to battlefield medical aid stations. Suffering many losses, as in previous engagements, the 15th Battalion earned this Battle Honour performing their support duties to the same high standard as they had their combat tasks in earlier battles.



REGIMENTAL HISTORY

HIGHLANDERS ON THE SIMPSON MEMORIAL

By Maj T.D. Wentzell

On the northeast corner of Bay and Queen Street, just across the road from the Old City Hall cenotaph, stands a rarely noticed memorial. It is tucked away on the ground floor of The Bay, by the elevators closest to the watches and jewellery. Written on it are the names of 52 soldiers, sailors, and airmen killed during the Second World War. They were employees of the long-gone Simpsons Department Store, and two were soldiers of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. This is the story of Private Roy Andrews and Lieutenant Edward Glass, two Highlanders who might be otherwise forgotten, but like many others deserve to be known and honoured for their sacrifice.



LIEUTENANT EDWARD DREW GLASS

Edward Murdock Glass had served in Toronto in the 48th Highlanders of Canada from 1909 until 1914, and fought overseas with the 15th Battalion during the First World War. It was almost a foregone conclusion that his only son, Edward Drew Glass, would follow in his footsteps. The young Glass joined the 48th Highlanders as soon as he could. He began parading with the unit in 1937 at the age of 16. He was a physically fit soldier, avidly swimming and playing basketball. Glass got his first job at

Pte. WARREN E. EADES, ROYAL REGT.
Pte. DAVID J. WOODS, ROYAL REGT.
F/O FRANCIS O. GILMORE, R.C.A.F.
Lieut. EDWARD D. GLASS, 48TH HIGHLANDERS
Pte. R. W. BENSON, ROYAL REGT.
P/O WM. J. DOUGHTY, R.C.A.F.
Gnr. WM. MIDDLETON, CAN. ARMORED CORPS
Pte. CHARLES R. GRAY, IRISH REGT.

Simpsons Department Store in the spring of 1939. He was 18 years old and was going to attend classes at the University of Toronto that fall. The German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 interrupted those plans. Britain declared war two days later, and it seemed likely that Canada would declare war shortly. Glass withdrew from university, quit his job at Simpsons, and reported to the University Avenue Armoury to volunteer for active duty with the 48th Highlanders on September 5, 1939. He said goodbye to his father and sister; his mother had passed away a few years earlier. By the spring of 1940, Glass had completed his training in England and was assigned as an anti-tank gunner for the battalion's anti-tank platoon.

As Glass and the 48th trained in England, the war earned the nickname of the "phoney war." Little had happened since Germany's invasion of Poland. This quiet period came to a halt in April 1940 with Germany's invasion of Norway and Denmark. Then in May, Germany invaded France and sent the French Army and the British Expeditionary Force reeling. In the 10 days from May 26 to June 4, the British, trapped against the beaches of Dunkirk, were evacuated by Royal Navy destroyers and a ragtag flotilla of pleasure craft. The "Miracle at Dunkirk" preserved much of the British Expeditionary Force, but it was readily apparent that the battle for France would be lost. Regardless, Prime Minister Winston Churchill sent back to France what few troops he could muster, including the 48th Highlanders. Glass deployed with the rest of the battalion as part of a recoilless rifle team when the 48th went ashore on June 13, 1940. The battalion travelled 300 kilometres inland before turning around. The 48th Highlanders, along with the rest of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade, withdrew from France on June 16.

Glass was identified as a competent soldier and leader. He quickly rose through the ranks and was selected for officer training. He was an acting sergeant by May 1943, after which he was sent back to Canada for training in platoon leadership and tactics, hygiene and sanitation, and battle drill instruction. His officer training evaluation described him as "a very fine type, splendid experience in army, straightforward, highly intelligent and definitely the leader type." He returned to England in late May 1944.

The 48th Highlanders had been fighting in Italy for nearly a year by the time Glass returned to England. He would not join the 48th in Italy. Instead, Glass was assigned to the CANLOAN program, essentially an exchange officer program. Canada had produced a surplus of junior officers who needed combat experience, while the British needed more junior officers. Canadian junior officers were "loaned" to their allied regiments whenever possible in the hopes that they would gain valuable experience that they could share with their home units. Glass was assigned as a platoon commander in D Company of 1st Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders in early July 1944.

The 1st Battalion of the Gordons had gone ashore at Juno Beach, the Canadian beach, in the Normandy invasion. As part of the 51st Highland Division, the Gordons were soon attached to II Canadian Corps as they fought their way inland. The Gordons were heavily engaged in pushing on to the town of Falaise in early August to prevent the escape of German Army Group B. The Battle of Falaise Gap, as it was called, was one of the most important operations of the Normandy



REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Campaign. Glass commanded his platoon through the Norman bocage as they drove towards Falaise fighting alongside Canadian units.

On the night of August 14th, the Gordons survived an air raid outside the village of Fierville. The bombers belonged to the Allies; it was one of many accidental uses of Allied airpower against their own forces. The Gordons, fortunately, did not take any casualties that night. The battalion resumed its advance at 5 a.m. on the morning of August 15th, clearing German positions around the village, and then continued the advance to St. Sylvain. As the Gordons began digging in for the night, a German air raid attacked their position. D Company was hit hard; Glass and two others were killed. Twenty soldiers were wounded.



Glass was initially buried outside St. Sylvain. After the Battle of Falaise Gap, the fallen from the Gordons and the other Canadian and British units were transferred to the Commonwealth cemetery at Bretteville-Sur-Laize. Glass' father selected the following epitaph for his son's tombstone:

Gone to join his mother.

Edward Murdock Glass, a veteran of the 15th Battalion in the Great War, outlived his wife and only son.

PRIVATE ROY ANDREWS

Roy Andrews was a packer at Simpsons when the war broke out in September 1939. Andrews had left school after grade five and begun working at Simpsons at the age of 15. Andrews needed the work to support his mother, older sister, and five-year old brother. He was the family's primary bread-winner; in the midst of the Depression, Andrews' father had abandoned the family. He needed to work to make ends meet. Andrew was later described as, "clean-cut. Intelligent. Anxious to please."

Andrews joined the Canadian Army in January 1942. He asked to join the infantry and was assigned to the 48th Highlanders of Canada. He sent \$40 home to his mother every month following his enlistment. Andrews proceeded overseas after completing his training in Guelph and Borden; he joined the battalion in England in June 1942.

Andrews was part of the 48th's collective training as they prepared for combat in an undisclosed location in the summer of 1943. He, like the other soldiers of the battalion, had no idea where they were going when they quietly boarded ships at the end of June. On the ships, the Highlanders learned that they were going to Sicily. They engaged in fast-paced map studies and other preparations as their ships sailed towards the Mediterranean.

As the massive convoy passed Gibraltar on July 4, they came under attack from German U-boats. Two of the ships carrying members of the

48th were sunk. Incredibly, only one soldier from the 48th was killed in these attacks: Corporal William Stagg. Andrews and the other members of the 48th were taken to Algiers until other transport could be arranged. The 48th landed in Sicily with the rest of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division on July 9.

After a number of hard-won fights in Sicily, the 48th went ashore in mainland Italy in early September 1943. They fought their way north until they had seized the town of Campobasso which would become the main Canadian administration center. However, Campobasso was still within range of the German guns, and so the 48th were tasked with attacking the German positions at Torella and pushing them out of range. First, they had to determine the best routes to cross the Biferno River.

Andrews was now a member of No. 4 (Scout) Platoon. The Scout Platoon played a key role in identifying the best routes across the wide, fast flowing Biferno River. Two patrols went out on the night of October 22. One patrol successfully reached and crossed the river. The second patrol did not make it to the river at all.

Sergeant Midge (Gordon) Major led the second patrol of five soldiers, including Andrews. The patrol entered a German minefield before they reached the river. Corporal George Ardagh hit a trip wire, detonating a mine which in turn caused a phosphorous grenade he was carrying to explode. More mines were tripped in the ensuing confusion. Only Sergeant Major survived. He crawled away, passing out, then waking up, and crawling further until he was discovered by a patrol from The Royal Canadian Regiment. When the 48th moved into the area the next day, they found Private Ronald Ward still alive. Ward died from wounds soon after. Andrews and the other members of the patrol had been killed in the minefield.

Andrews and the others were buried near the Biferno River shortly after their bodies were recovered. They were later reburied in the Moro River Cemetery. Andrews had the following inscribed on his tombstone at his mother's request:

*Oft we see his smiling face
As he bade his last good-bye
And left his home forever
In a distant land to die.*

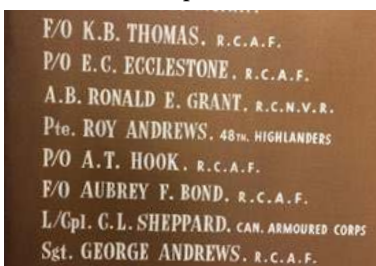
CONCLUSION

All too often, we fall into the habit of commemorating the winners of valorous decorations, or leaders who commanded large bodies of soldiers. It is easy to forget that in the day-in, day-out grind of war, soldiers die in air raids. Soldiers die in minefields on patrols. They die on days that are noted in war diaries as being otherwise quiet. Their sacrifice is no less important.

The City of Toronto is decorated with monuments that bear the name of 48th Highlanders who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, who served their country and died in the course of their service. They were citizen soldiers. They left behind loved ones and jobs. They made a sacrifice in choosing to serve. Many made the ultimate sacrifice in the course of their service, and their names are inscribed in a variety of lesser known monuments all around the city.

The Simpsons Department Store monument is but one example. There are others. When passing by such monuments, consider taking a moment to reflect on each name. Consider that each name is a person with a story and a family, and worthy of at least a moment of reflection. And the next time you find yourself near Bay and Queen, consider taking a moment to remember 48th Highlanders Private Andrews and Lieutenant Glass and their sacrifice. They died so that we may be free.

DILEAS GU BRATH.



REGIMENTAL HISTORY

CANON FREDERICK SCOTT – GREAT WAR

By Padre Don Aitchison

Last year I wrote about our great WWII Chaplain - Padre Stuart East - so, for this article, I thought it would be interesting to go back in time and look at one of the padres who served the regiment in WWI, Canon Scott.



When the 15th Battalion set out for Valcartier in the fall of 1914, their honorary chaplain, the Rev'd Thomas Crawford Brown, was not allowed to go with them due to poor health. Instead, they brought along the Rev'd Louis Wilfred Moffit, a 27 year old Methodist preacher and school teacher from Toronto, who was sworn in on 22 September. As fate would have it, Moffit was loaned out frequently once the Regiment got overseas.

Another chaplain who was enrolled on that same September day in Valcartier would turn out to have a very significant impact on the 15th Battalion over the course of the war. Unbeknownst to the troops, they had already received his ministrations at the Church Parade held two days earlier, on Sunday, September 20, 1914. His name was Canon Frederick George Scott.

Born in Montreal in 1861, Scott grew up as an ardent imperialist with a strong spiritual streak and a way with words. He was ordained in 1886 and eventually was posted to St Matthew's Anglican Church in Quebec City.

There, he occasionally served as padre to the 8th Royal Rifles. On 30 October, 1899 he preached a rousing sermon to the soldiers departing for South Africa and won national and won national media attention.

By the time the Great War began, Scott was 53 and a father of six, a much published poet, a canon of the church and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In his autobiographical account of the war, prosaically titled "The Great War as I Saw It", he recounts his efforts to get overseas himself this time.

He made his way out to Valcartier on 22 August with other volunteers from Quebec City, but to his dismay, the CO of the Rifles had brought another chaplain to the camp and Scott felt out of place and unwanted, questioning whether he should return to his parish. He was convinced to carry on by his friend, General R.E.W. Turner, VC, soon to be commander of the 3rd Brigade. On 28 September he departed for Europe, attached to the 14th Battalion.

In the new year, Scott and his fellow chaplains, learned that General Kitchener had originally only directed that five chaplains would be allowed to travel with the contingent to France from Salisbury. Scott met with the British Chaplain General in an effort to argue for a greater presence. The General suggested that the Canadian chaplains were not very effective. "They tell me that of all the troops in England the Canadians are the most disorderly and undisciplined, and they have got thirty-one chaplains." "But", Scott replied, "you ought to see what they would have been like, if we had brought only five." In the end, they were allowed to bring eleven.

Days later, Scott was horrified to learn that he had not been chosen as one of the eleven, and had instead been assigned to No. 2 General Hospital, Salisbury.



He was determined not to be left behind, and so smuggled himself aboard the transport ship and made his way to France. After travelling inland, he found himself in Caestre with the 15th and 16th Battalions. When confronted by the Brigade Major and asked to explain his presence there, he replied that he was looking for No. 2 General Hospital.

Rather than sending him back, he was instructed to report to General Alderson for a temporary assignment. He was told he could hang out with the 3rd Brigade HQ - but he was not to go to the trenches.

On Saturday, 20 February, Colonel Currie, the CO of the 15th Battalion, recalled that:

In the afternoon ... I met Canon Scott, who had lost his way and had come up to the Front with the troops ... I took him on the strength of our battalion from that night.

On Sunday, February 21st, I arranged that Canon Scott should preach to the regiment in the morning. We marched out to a green field about a quarter of a mile from the village and formed up in a hollow square. There was no wind and to the northeast of us, about three or four miles away, a terrible battle was going on. The drum fire of the guns shook the earth, and sometimes the good Canon could hardly be heard. He remarked about this unique experience of holding his first service in Flanders within sound of cannon. We sang the hymns quite cheerfully and then he left to attend another service.

Scott's remark on the occasion made it into his memoirs, he wrote, "We were delighted during the service to hear in the distance the sound of guns and shells. As the war went on we preferred church parades when we could not hear guns and shells."

In Armentieres, the Canadians were paired up with British units for training in trench warfare. Scott was hanging out with a company of 48th Highlanders when they went out to the trenches for the first time. Scott saw his chance and followed them. That same evening, he ran into a couple of officers.

"They then came up to me and the first one peered at me in the darkness and said in abrupt military fashion, "Who are you?" I told him I was a chaplain with the Canadians. "Did you come over with the men?" "Yes", I said. "Capital", he replied, "Won't you come and have lunch with me tomorrow?" "Where do you live?" I said.

The other officer came up to my rescue at this moment and said, "The General's Headquarters are in such and such a place in Armentieres," "Good Heavens", I whispered in a low tone to the officer, "Is he a general?" "Yes" he said. "I hope

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

my deportment was all that it ought to have been in the presence of a general," I replied. "It was excellent, Padre," he said, with a laugh. So I arranged to go and have luncheon with him two days afterwards, for I was to spend forty-eight hours in the trenches. The first officer turned out to be General Congreve, V.C., a most gallant man."

Six weeks later, following Neuve Chapelle, the Canadians were in Ypres. Scott held a church parade for the 15th Battalion on Sunday, 18 April 1915. Colonel Currie noted, "He was so zealous, and such a charming character, he made an ideal chaplain. No hour was too late, no road too long for him."

On Tuesday, 20 April, Canon Scott went in to Ypres with two officers of the 15th Battalion to see a house that had been shelled the day before. The officers were Captain Trumbull Warren and Lt. F.W. MacDonald.

Warren and MacDonald were keen to pick up some comforts for the men going in to the trenches, and broke off to the Cloth Square while Scott continued on to see the damaged house. While he was inspecting it, he heard a shell crash into the square. He ran to see what had happened, and learned upon his arrival that Trumbull Warren had been wounded. He hurried to the hospital, just in time to say a prayer for the dying. The next day, Scott arranged for him to be buried in a section of the new British cemetery in the Plain d'Amour by one of the canals.

In August of 1915, Scott was appointed Senior Chaplain of the 1st Division. He was told that he could continue to visit his beloved 3rd Brigade as often as he pleased, but he knew that as Division chaplain, he could not show favouritism. The timing was providential, for in his new role, Scott could advocate for the kind of chaplaincy he had been practicing.

The whole conception of the position of an army chaplain was undergoing a great and beneficial change. The rules which hitherto had fenced off the chaplains, as being officers, from easy intercourse with the men were being relaxed. Chaplains were being looked upon more as parish priests to their battalions. They could be visited freely by the men, and could also have meals with the men when they saw fit. I am convinced that it is a mistake to lay stress upon the chaplain's office as a military one. The chaplain is not a soldier, and has no men, as a doctor has, under his command. His office being a spiritual one ought to be quite outside military rank. To both officers and men, he holds a unique position, enabling him to become the friend and companion of all.

In October 1916, Scott experienced personal tragedy when his son Harry was killed at the battle of Ancre Heights. In the heat of battle, his son's body had been left unburied. A few weeks later, Scott arranged to go and find his son's remains. Taking a runner with him, Scott made his way out to the Regina Trench until he found a little white cross marking the general area. They began making exploratory holes in the mud until he "came upon something white. It was my son's left hand, with his signet ring upon it."

Scott quickly read the burial service and with help from the runner, built up the grave some more. Not long after that, a working party retrieved the body and he was able to go and preside over a proper burial in the cemetery at Tara Hill.

In August 1917, a 48th Highlander serving with the 92nd Battalion, Donald Cleal was wounded. His brother, George, was killed at 2nd Ypres, and a third brother, Paul, was in the 134th. In a letter to the Toronto Star, Cleal wrote:

We have a chaplain here, Canon Scott, of Quebec, who has several medals. He earned them too. He is the Divisional Chaplain and entitled to stay in the rear. But no matter how thick the fight is, he is always to be seen wherever the boys are. I wish the slackers could hear him speak.



In January 1918, the battalion was sent to Bruay. As the regimental history records, "One of the feature events of that three week stay in Bruay was the lecture given by Lt.-Col. The Rev. Canon F.G. Scott, C.M.G., on "What are we fighting for?" It was held in the large Bruay theatre and the entire Battalion attended and enjoyed the well-loved padre's address."

In March, he conducted an Easter service for the battalion in the chalk caves at Arras. In September, he was quartered near the 3rd Division at Warlus and preached to the battalion on the 14th. On the 29th of that month, his luck ran out. He sustained a serious leg injury when a shell burst near him and he ended up in a London hospital. Thus he was in England when the armistice was signed and recalled the city bells ringing 'their joyous peals'.



1923 Adanac Cemetery Canon Scott and his wife visit the gravesite of his son. When Scott heard his son had been killed, he went into no-man's-land and dug his body out of the mud to bury it in a proper cemetery.

© McCord Museum

Scott died on 19 January 1944 in Quebec City.

Inspired by his deep spirituality, Lt Col the Rev'd Canon Frederick George Scott, CMG, DSO, overcame obstacles and orders to become the dean of Canadian First World War chaplains. Relegated to a rear-party role, he was just insubordinate enough to find his way to the front and eventually the 1st Division Headquarters. He was honoured with the Distinguished Service Order and the Order of St Michael and St George. Along the way, he touched the life of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) at key points and proved himself Dileas.

He returned to Canada in May of 1919, but travelled back to the Western Front in 1923, to visit his son's burial site.

Sources:

Currie, John Allister "The Red Watch": With the First Canadian Division in Flanders.

Hustak, Alan Faith Under Fire: Frederick G. Scott, Canada's Extraordinary Chaplain of the Great War. Montreal, PQ: Véhicule Press: Montreal; 2014. Scott, Frederick George The Great War As I Saw It. Ottawa, Ont: CEF Books; 2000.

IN REMEMBRANCE

HELP US TELL THEIR STORY

In sight of the open field where the 15th Battalion's original Vimy Cross was first raised on 10 April 1917 and alongside Nine Elms Military Cemetery where it was relocated after The Armistice, a new granite replica of the original cross will be raised in September 2018.

This new memorial will be located near Thelus, France on that portion of the Vimy battlefield assaulted and captured by the 15th Battalion and within sight of the actual location where the cross was erected over the mass grave where many of its Fallen were buried.

The 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project is now raising funds to help finance the manufacture and installation of this memorial which will tell the story of the 15th Battalion at Vimy ridge in April 1917 and commemorate all those who served in that action, especially those who gave their lives. You may wish to make a donation in memory of a relative who served in the 15th Battalion, possibly a relative who fell in the attack on Vimy ridge or another action during the war.

You can help us tell their story and to commemorate their sacrifice by making a tax deductible donation to support the project. All donations go directly towards the manufacture and installation of the granite cross and the two storyboards which will be located on the site. Our target goal is \$20,000 Canadian and donations have already been received.

For details on how to make a donation, contact the Project Chairman a 15thbncef@gmail.com



Representation of the new memorial at Nine Elms Military Cemetery, Thelus, France

IN REMEMBRANCE



PADRE AITCHISON'S REMEMBRANCE DAY HOMILY

On behalf of the Commanding Officer of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, we want to thank you for being with us this morning as we commemorate our fallen comrades. When the Scottish community in Toronto raised this regiment in 1891, it was their hope that the traditions and spirit of the Highland soldier would inspire its members to serve this country with courage and valour. They were not disappointed. Today, as Canadians recall the sacrifices made in the wars, we remember particularly the 1467 Highlanders killed in WWI; and the 317 who lost their lives in WWII.

In December 1916, as the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) were preparing for their Christmas celebrations, the Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Bent sent the following message to the Regiment:

"The Commanding Officer extends heartiest greetings to all members of the Battalion and hopes that the New Year will bring us fresh laurels and victory, so that next Christmas may be spent at Our Ain Fireside."

His wish was to come partly true. 1917 would not see them home, but it was to be a year of signal victories and several battle honours, three of which are emblazoned on our Regimental Colour: VIMY, HILL 70 and PASSCHENDAELE.

January and February were spent in the usual cycle of training, time in reserve and time in the line. The routine was broken at the end of February by some daring raids, intended to capture prisoners in retaliation for a captured Highlander.

In March, the battalion returned to Vimy Ridge in preparation for the assault of April 9th. Nightly working parties were offset by days resting in the famous Maison Blanche caves. One of the heroes of this period was the Medical Officer, Capt. Shaw – who was badly wounded while digging some men out of a collapsed tunnel. Then began the meticulous training for the assault on the ridge. Though well known to us today, it was a new experience for the troops – who had found the previous year's battle on the Somme "a haphazard, hammering affair."

Then came Zero hour. In the words of Kim Beattie from our Regimental History "Dileas":

To envision the 15th Battalion, then, on the eve of the great battle which was to shine in the annals of British arms as one of the most

tactically brilliant and striking incidents of the entire war, is to see a battalion of men in crowded trenches, weary, most of them, from constant shelling and from plodding trenches knee-deep in slime; nervous, as all men are who wait for the momentous hour, but sure that their objective would be taken and unafraid of their destiny at dawn.

Lt. Eric Haldenby, the Adjutant, (who would later design this monument) had issued the operation orders of the O.C. for the battle at the time the Battalion moved into the front-line. The started with the simple and historic statement that: "The Canadian Corps will take the Vimy Ridge."

And take it they did – although at some cost: – 90 Highlanders killed, 175 wounded. The dead were buried in the shadow of a regimental cross that now has its home in the Museum at St Andrew's Church; and which earlier this year made the return trip to Vimy for the 100th anniversary ceremonies.

In July, after a few months of consolidation around the Ridge, the battalion moved to Loos and received orders to take Hill 70. 17,000 British soldiers, including their Highlanders, had died trying to take the area in 1915. Now the Canadian Highlanders would have an opportunity to redeem the loss.

Early in the morning on August 15th the battle began and, once again, the Canadians achieved their objective despite having to repel several powerful counter-attacks that lasted into the evening. The 15th battalion was on the hinge and faced the most direct threats – but held their ground at the cost of more than 225 killed or wounded.

Later that night Col Bent wrote: Our stock will be high, many congratulations will pour in, but we, who are interested, care for naught of that. The mere fact that we have done our duty is enough. This has been the greatest day in this history of the regiment. Many dear, good, brave lads have fallen but not in vain.

In late October, they returned to Ypres – the site of the regiments first, fateful and fatal battle. Once again, the Canadians were being called upon to take an un-takeable ridge: Passchendaele. This time the regiment was not asked to lead the assault – but rather to give support: fixing roads and carrying stretchers through the sea of mud.

One hundred years ago today they left the Ypres sector for the last time. The rest of the year was fairly quiet and they celebrated Christmas back at Lens and not at home, warmed no doubt by the knowledge that they had lived up to the regimental motto and been Dileas, faithful. May we who follow in their footsteps be inspired and challenged by their sacrifices to also be "Dileas Gu Brath" – Faithful Forever.

Closing Prayers

We give thanks for all of our veterans and their families, whose service and sacrifice have preserved our freedom, and defended our nation's values. And we commend to you, especially, O God, all those whose service to our nation has left them wounded or worn in body, mind or spirit; and we pray that you would grant to them your healing, your renewing hope, and our abiding respect and care.

We pray all who continue the tradition of service in the Canadian Armed Forces today; and for the families that support them in their calling.

We ask your blessing on our Sovereign Lady, Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada in this, her 70th year as our Colonel-in-Chief. And we pray for the Government of Canada, that we may be led well and wisely.

Give peace in our time, O God, and evermore mightily defend us.

Amen

IN REMEMBRANCE

142 (ARMY) ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE CADET CORPS HOLDS ITS ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT ITS AURORA ONTARIO CAMPUS



Corps DCO Capt Burton and the Cadet Officers and Flag Party



Capt Gilbert saluting during the playing of the Last Post



Lone Piper from the SAC Pipes and Drums Band

IN REMEMBRANCE

142 (ARMY) ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE CADET CORPS HOLDS ITS ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



A Corps Cadet Officer tells the story of a SAC graduate killed in action during World War I



A SAC Pipe holds the photo of a fallen SAC alumnus



Preparing to march on parade to honour the Fallen



Battalion Trg 0, Cadet Maj Dylan Henderson draws his Claymore for the Last Post Salute



The Corps Flag Party

REMEMBRANCE DAY - 11 NOV 2017



REMEMBRANCE DAY - 11 NOV 2017



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

RSM (CWO) DP CHAPPELL, CD (1931-2017) REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR - 1979-1981

RSM Doug Chappell began his service with the 48th Highlanders when he joined up as a cadet, in the Toronto Rotary Highlanders, during the Second World War. He lost his father, who was killed in action following D Day, during that conflict.

Following the War, as soon as he was as he was old enough, Doug joined the Regiment.

When the Korean War began, he was among the first Highlanders to enlist in the Canadian Army Special Force – where he became a Signaller, serving in Korea as a member of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

Returning to civilian life Doug joined Bell Canada and that took him to Montreal where he returned to service in the Militia and served as RSM of 11 Signals Regiment. His career with Bell eventually brought him back to Toronto and to the Highlanders during the 1960s.

Subsequently, he served as a CSM, DSM and, in 1979, became Regimental Sergeant Major.

On his return to Toronto, he met his wife Stella, who also worked at Bell. They became very close friends with RQMS Bill Turner and his wife Gerry who stood up for them when they were married and remained close friends.

Doug and Stella were married for 52 years. In later years, they often spent several weeks, during winter months, travelling the World.

In retirement, Doug remained a very active Highlander with the OCA, CSA and particularly with the Regimental Museum. He was the de-facto Regimental photographer at all Regimental events. He also created the first “Regimental Email List” and constantly kept Highlanders around the world up to date on Regimental activities.

RSM Doug Chappell passed to the “Upper Camp” on 11 September 2017.

DILEAS GU BRATH!

Major Robert Nuttall 48th WWII Veteran and RCR Korean War Veteran

The following excerpts are from a eulogy message delivered by Sgt Al Kowalenko (Retd) at the official memorial service for Maj Nuttall on August 30, 2017, in Kingston, Ontario.

I am honored today to pay tribute to Major Robert Nuttall, CD, (World War II and Korean War veteran) on behalf of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, Old Comrades Association, of which Bob was a Life Member

I met Bob in 2010 during a lengthy film interview with him for our Regiment’s 2011 historical documentary about 48th Highlanders



who served in the WWII Italian Campaign (1943-45). I had a great time talking to him about his war experiences and his love of military history.

Bob also contributed a detailed article about his time in Italy for our Regimental journal “The Falcon” in 2014. He was very proud of his involvement with the 48th Highlanders and his Second War service in Europe which he considered one of the top highlights of his life.

He was a special 48th Highlander due to his service in two wars and also because he was

one of our last two surviving 48th officers from WWII.

Bob was from a military family and we know that his father was a Regimental Sergeant Major with the Lancashire Fusiliers during World War I who was wounded at Gallipoli

He always said his father instilled in him a “strong military tradition and ethic”. These values were very important to Bob and he carried them on well during his lifetime in both wars.

After local militia service in the Kingston area, Bob joined the regular military when he was 18 in 1942 and was sent to Officer Training School and later commissioned in the Canadian Army with the rank of Lieutenant.

When he turned 19, he was sent to England to begin additional infantry training and later joined the main body of the 48th Highlanders in late 1944 in Italy, as part of the First Canadian Division.

He was assigned as a platoon commander with the 48th Abel Company. His company commander was the highly respected Major Geordie Beal Sr, father of our Regiment’s current historian, HCol Geordie Beal Jr (Retd), who also has met Bob on several occasions.

One of Bob’s top NCOs in 1944 was Sgt Herb Pike, a 48th WWII legend, who is currently still with us in Toronto and at the age of 93 sends his condolences to the Nuttall family as well.

Bob was involved during the Lamone River Crossing in December, 1944, and was tasked to secure the areas near the river from possible German counterattacks; he was involved in constant night patrols and reconnaissance of enemy positions which was often very dangerous and a number of Canadian soldiers were killed.

At that time, mortar fire was a major concern with a large number of Canadian soldiers injured due to shrapnel wounds. One time Bob was nearly hit in a farm house defensive position by an 88 artillery shell that went right through the house; on another occasion he narrowly missed being hit by a German mortar explosion.

The 48th Highlanders left Italy in February, 1945, and proceeded to Holland via France and Belgium. The weather there was a lot colder and the ground hard.

As part of the “Liberation of Holland”, Bob’s platoon helped clear large pockets of German soldiers in Holland who did not want to give in during the final phase of the war and were die hard fanatics.

Unfortunately, near the towns of Wilp and Twillo, close to Apeldoorn, Bob was shot at and wounded in his right hand when he tried to take in some German prisoners who suddenly turned on his platoon with hidden weapons.

As a result he was removed from the field and sent to hospital in

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

England for recovery; as a rare coincidence he also found out that his two brothers had also been wounded and recovering in hospital as well. In the hospital, he learned via radio that World War II had ended on May 7th, 1945.

Despite wounding, Bob felt his experiences in Italy and Holland were positive. He said that he was “extremely lucky to have served with the 48th Highlanders, a unit he called “a great bunch of guys” who he had bonded with for life. He was on hand to witness the 48th victory parade on October 1, 1945, in Toronto.

Bob said of his war participation: “In World War II, we all believed it was a great cause we were fighting for and that we had done a good job 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.”

In closing, the 48th Highlanders of Canada owes a large debt of gratitude to Bob for his World War II service that helped us retain our rights and freedoms. It is in this light that the 48th Highlanders would like to pay our best tribute to Bob’s valuable service to his country and to thank him for being steadfastly “Dileas Gu Brath: Faithful Forever”. Bob was a great Canadian... we will miss him and will always remember him.

(Postscript: Maj Nuttall also volunteered to serve in the Korean War with The Royal Canadian Regiment during 1951-52, and was a veteran of the Battle of Chail-Li. After that War he was very active with the Royal Canadian Legion in Prescott and Brockville, as well as with the 48th OCA and The RCR Association.)

DILEAS GU BRATH!

CYRIL VICTOR (“VIC”) COOPER

Vic Cooper passed away on December 29, 2019, aged 93, at the Sunnybrook Hospital Veterans Centre where he had been resident for several years.

He had served with the 48th Highlanders during WWII in the Italian Campaign and later became a member of the Military Police. After the War, He returned to Canada to serve as a police officer in Toronto and Pickering.

Vic was the beloved husband of Kathleen Cooper and father to seven children – Victor, Dennis, Norman, Karen, Gary, Jack and Herb. He also had a large extended family with 20 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Also, Vic is sadly missed by his sister, Gloria, and was pre-deceased by his brothers Herbert and Jack, and his sister, Audrey.

The 48th Highlanders OCA would like to acknowledge Vic for his WWII service, as well as for his police service during civilian life. He was a fine credit to his family and community.

REST IN PEACE, VIC.....DILEAS GU BRATH



Vic Cooper

REMEMBERING BOB FRASER

“The following tribute is part of a speech given by CSA Chairman Sgt Al Kowalenko (Retd), when this painting was presented to the WOs and Sgts Mess, November 11, 2017.”

Today we have a special presentation of a Bob Fraser painting to the 48th Highlanders WO/Sgts Mess on behalf of the Fraser family of Toronto.

This is an important presentation to commemorate Remembrance Day during our Canada 150 celebration year.

As a bit of background, Bob Fraser was one of our distinguished 48th veterans of WWII, serving during the Italian Campaign and the Liberation of Holland. Bob passed away April 17th, 2017, at the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre at the age of 93.

In addition to being a war veteran, Bob was also a professional artist and during his 50 year career, he painted more than 150 paintings of high quality, many of which depict community life in the Beaches area of east end Toronto.

Bob Fraser’s last official painting before he passed away was “48th Comrades” which was highlighted in the June, 2017, issue of The Falcon.

The painting features six 48th Highlander veterans – three from WWII and three from the post war era. Included in the WWII group are Bob Fraser, Herb Pike and Bill DeHarte, all well-known war veterans to the Regimental Family.



The painting is also significant because it reflects Bob’s love for the Regiment and his desire to leave a legacy item which could be enjoyed by all who visit the Mess.

With us today, is Bob’s nephew, Doug Fraser, who previously donated the painting to the 48th Highlanders Museum which in turn has loaned the painting for long term display in the WO/Sgts Mess.

Note: At this point, Doug Fraser provided a response from the Fraser family and presented the painting to RSM (CWO) Brian Kwok, CD, who accepted it on behalf of the 48th Highlanders WO/Sgts Mess.

SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL - VETERANS WING

Alec Shipman (Lieutenant, Retd)

L Wing / K2W Rm 33

OTHER LOCATIONS

John Brown, CD (Major, Retd)

Helen Henderson Care Centre / Rm 24 / Amherst Rd / Loyalist ON K7N 1V3 / 613-766-2149

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.

APRIL 2018





DILEAS GU BRATH



IN MEMORIAM

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Walter (Wally) Moore..... | Toronto..... | 20 Jan, 2017 |
| John Montgomery Lowndes .. | Toronto..... | 24 Feb, 2017 |
| Reay Sutherland MacKay | Toronto..... | 14 Mar, 2017 |
| Don Antoine | Toronto..... | 31 Mar, 2017 |
| Robert "Bob" Fraser | Toronto..... | 17 Apr, 2017 |
| Douglas Gardiner | Toronto..... | 7 May, 2017 |
| Bob Nuttall..... | Toronto..... | 21 Aug, 2017 |
| Douglas Chappell | Toronto..... | 11 Sep, 2017 |
| Victor (Vic) Cooper..... | Toronto..... | 29 Dec, 2017 |

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

APRIL 2018

HIGHLANDERS ON OPERATIONS AND TRAINING, AROUND THE WORLD, IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Cpls Koziol and Maico with the New Zealand Army (2017)



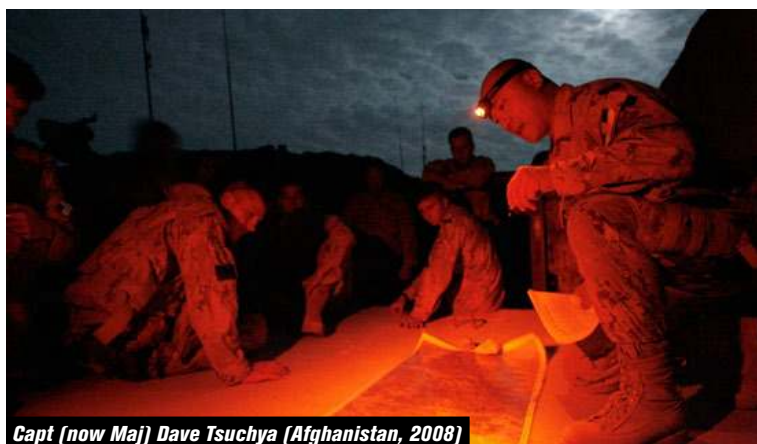
On patrol with the New Zealand Army (2017)



CWO Ron Alkema (now DCO) In Sierra Leone (2007)



CWO Bill Darling (now Capt) and WO Marcus Pankatz in Bosnia (2005)



Capt (now Maj) Dave Tsuchya (Afghanistan, 2008)



48th reunion: Capt Allan Best, Sgt Nathan Ronaldson, Capt Chris Blencowe (now 2RCR), Capt David Tsuchya. KAF. (2008)



MWO Carswell in Kuwait (2015)



The entire multi-national contingent of 7 SCOTS, 48th Highrs and 48th ICBT soldiers after the completion of the exercise in Inverness, Scotland. (2013)