



THE FALCON YEARBOOK 2018

JOURNAL OF THE
48TH HIGHLANDERS
OF CANADA





ON THE COVER:

The new 15th Battalion Project Vimy Cross Monument, erected and dedicated in the fall of 2018, by BGEN Greg Young and other members of the Project Team, in the town of Ecurie, France, near Vimy Ridge.

This issue of The FALCON produced by



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

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



YEARBOOK 2018 - FEATURING:

- *The 15th Battalion Legacy*
 - *The Battle of Ortona revisited*
 - *A 1st Battalion 1942 Training Tragedy*
 - *The Regiment Changes Command*
 - *The Biography of RSM Vic Jackson*
 - *The story of ECHO COMPANY - 1968*
 - *Revelations about Great War Decorations*
 - *In Remembrance - 2018*
 - *Farewell to some well known Highlanders*
- And - much more about the REGIMENT - past and present.*

**The due date for material for the next issue of the Falcon is:
TUESDAY 01 OCTOBER, 2019**



PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE – PROVIDED BY Geordie Beal, Adam Bernard, Ashley Bonnell, Guy Bowie, Cpl M. J. Choi, Patricia Farquhar, Capt M. Federico, MWO J. Hanson, Luke Hendry, Duncan Hodgeson, Brian Jackson, Pte J. Kalabic, Dianne Love, Ian MacDonald, LT J. J. Malcolm, Paul Mosey (SAC), Danielle Reesor, Capt I. Steingaszner, MAJ T. Wentzell, Greg Young - 48th IODE, 15th BN Memorial Project, (WFA) "The Maple Leaf", 32 CBG PAff O

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

Greetings to all Highlanders!

As we head into 2019, I'd like to start by wishing everyone a safe and prosperous New Year.

This edition of the FALCON is the 2018 Yearbook; it gives us a chance to reflect on the past year as well as look forward to the next.

Let's start by looking back at some of the highlights of what we accomplished as a Regiment in 2018:

In March, we conducted a live fire field training exercise in Fort Drum New York. While this was predominantly a 48 Highlander exercise, we invited soldiers from the other Infantry Units to participate in "fire-and-movement" using live ammunition in a new training area and environment. Although the weather was not great, this was an invaluable training experience for soldiers and officers at all levels.

As of 1 April 2018, the training switched to defensive operations, and we were grouped with the Tor Scot R and the Lorne Scots to form a Tactical Training Group. This means that our exercises are jointly conducted.

Also in April, our Church Parade saw the return of the Vimy Cross to the Regimental Museum. A special ceremony was added to the service to commemorate this event.

Members of the Regiment participated in the Fergus Highland Games – the Pipes & Drums, and a team entered in the Tug-O-War competition.

The Regiment had 4 subalterns successfully complete their initial course, and three more were qualified as Infantry Platoon Commanders. We also had 7 soldiers promoted to MCpl, and one qualified to Warrant Officer.

In October and November, we participated in a series of defensive exercises culminating in a section live fire complete with C-6 machines guns, grenade launchers and shotguns. Again, the weather added to the challenges of both of these exercises, but the training value was excellent.

The Unit was tasked to conduct the training for the 32 CBG Canadian Patrol Competition Team. These soldiers underwent a lengthy and strenuous training program led by WO Corea, completed the validation exercise, and successfully completed the 72-hour competition. Although not every member of the section sized team was a Highlander, the Regiment was well represented by the Section Commander, second-in-command and 3 other soldiers.

The Pipes and Drums conducted another successful Indoor Games for Pipers and the Pipe Band Society Toronto Branch.

The all-volunteer Military Band continue to provide excellent support to the Regiment.

The 48th Highland Cadet Corps had a change of Command Parade, are strong, and continue to promote excellence among the

young Canadians who are part of the program. The 12th Annual Elms Memorial Invitational Tartan Shoot was an outstanding success – over 250 participants from 39 Cadet Corps participated.

As we head into 2019, we are continuing to grow the Active Regiment. Recruiting continues to be very high on our priority list, along with increasing the skills and knowledge of all ranks. To achieve this, we have commenced a Professional Development program, and will continue to build on the challenging exercises conducted so far.

Training continues to be very demanding – both at the Regiment, and the individual training that officers, NCOs and soldiers are required to complete. Giving the time and effort required demands a great deal of sacrifice – both on the part of the soldiers, and that of their families. Service to Canada comes at a cost; but, in return, our soldiers and officers expect that we will provide them with challenging and effective training opportunities.

I would be remiss if I didn't comment on the outstanding, and greatly appreciated, support, to the Active Regiment, from the Officers' Association, the Continuing Sergeant's Association, The Old Comrades Association, the IODE, and the P&D Association.

On a personal note, I am honoured and excited to have been appointed CO in October. I look forward to a challenging, exciting and rewarding 3 years of working with our soldiers, officers and all branches of the Regimental Family. I reaffirm my commitment, to all of you, to use all of my skills, abilities, knowledge and experience to further the success of our Regiment and our soldiers.

Bring on 2019, I am confident that we will have a great year.

DILEAS GU BRATH

*R. ALKEMA
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
COMMANDING OFFICER*



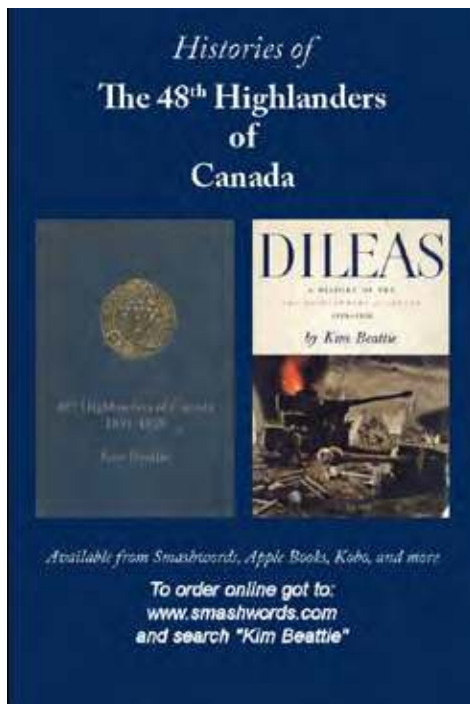
A Message from the Honorary Colonel

Another Vintage Year

Like a fine wine our Regiment continues to get better with age.

The year 2018 was another with many highlights for the unit and the Regimental Family. From a historical point of view the centenary of the end of the First World War saw the Regiment participating in several special ceremonies and the completion of a major project commemorating the service of the 15th Battalion in Flanders. The project to place a replica of our Vimy Cross close to the site where the original cross was erected in 1917 was a major undertaking. A special thank you to BGen Greg Young for his leadership and the hard work of his team in seeing this project to a very successful conclusion.

We were also pleased to e-publish the two outstanding histories of the Regiment by Kim Beattie covering the periods 1914-18 and 1939-45. These books have been out of print for decades and are now once again easily accessible, in electronic format, to members of the Regiment and the public.



Without question the major event of the year was the Change of Command held in October. This ceremony was a chance to thank LCol Harry Pedwell for his leadership and service. During his tenure the Regiment grew significantly in size and carried out an intensive and very effective training program. We now have a new CO, LCol Ron Alkema, who will without doubt carry on LCol Pedwell's great work and continue to grow the Regiment and make it stronger still.

I would like to thank all the members of the Active Battalion and the Regimental Family for your commitment, dedication and hard work in 2018. Your contributions ensured that we had another successful year.

I'm sure we're all looking forward to another great year in 2019!

DILEAS!

MICHAEL D. SCOTT CM CD
HONORARY COLONEL



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF



The 48th Brooch worn by the Colonel-in-Chief

CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE



REFLECTING ON THE CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE

By Capt K.P. Delaney, CD

On 12 October 2018, the Regiment held an impressive Change of Command Parade.

Several rows of seats were filled in anticipation of the change from LCol Harry Pedwell to his successor, LCol Ron Alkema.

The parade's movements were well-rehearsed and focused, and the atmosphere was spot-on. As per their reputation, the 48th Highlanders of Canada's bands played wonderfully, extending the parade's commemorative sound to the audience, permitting all in attendance to share in the camaraderie that those close to LCol Pedwell felt upon his departure.

The quality of LCol Pedwell's three and a half years in command was evident in the dedication and appreciation of his soldiers and in the several excellent speeches delivered, particularly those given by Brigade Commander, Col Daniel Stepaniuk and HCol Scott.

Upon completing the signing of documents and, more officially, shaking hands with his successor, LCol Pedwell took the salute from a Battalion march past, then departed, to the beat of Highland Laddie, one last time, as he moved along the parade square in front of the soldiers he had commanded and an admiring and grateful audience.

Concluding the ceremony, the new Commanding Officer, LCol Alkema, carrying, for the first time, the newly presented (by former HCol Geordie Elms) C O's Claymore, took command of the 48th Highlanders of Canada for the first time and closed the evening's events with an address to the Regiment expressing his excitement and an eagerness to begin his new job.

The bands then played their final tunes and the Parade was dismissed.

It was a wonderful evening for everyone in attendance, as the Regiment once again demonstrated their commitment to integrity, loyalty, courage, stewardship, and excellence.

Dileas Gu Brath!



CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE



ACTIVE BATTALION

RSM's REVIEW

By RSM (CWO) Brian Kwok, CD

Greetings fellow Highlanders, the last year of 2018 has been very challenging and exciting.

To recap some of the highlights, we began working with the other Scottish Regiments in 32 Brigade to form a Tactical Training Group (TTG). This allows us to now pool resources, as well as field a larger contingent on exercise. As we work through the growing pains, it's evident that the pros outweigh the cons.

We also took on the task of creating a Brigade team for the Canadian Patrol Concentration. The training was all led by WO Corea, who did an excellent job, and I'm proud to say that over half the team came from the 48th. All members have obtained invaluable advanced reconnaissance skills from this training and have commendably done so in a very short period of time. What makes this even more impressive is the fact that the team was made up of junior leaders and junior soldiers who successfully performed tasks far beyond the expectations of their experience!

Besides our excellent work in the field, our ability to recognize our history is also important. This year saw us commemorating the return of the Vimy Cross to St. Andrew's Church and the 100th Anniversary of the First World War ending.

Our work in the public eye was also showcased this year through continued requests for Flag Parties at sporting events and the relentless effort of the 48th Pipes and Drums who keep our name prominent in the public's consciousness.

One significant event in the life of any Regiment is the Change of Commanding Officer which we saw last October when LCol Alkema, CD, took over from LCol Pedwell, CD. He is the first CO in the 48th to work his way up to RSM from Pte then commission and work his way up again, this time to CO. Along with his years of experience, he also brings new vigour and vision to build on our successes of the past. Under his leadership, we will focus on "Recruiting, Retaining, Refocusing and Reinforcing" our Regiment. These are not easy tasks, but necessities in order to grow and keep the 48th strong.



We had 7 soldiers last year complete their leadership training and be promoted to MCpl as well as a Sgt who completed his WO course. We also had the pleasure of promoting WO Smintich to Master Warrant Officer. This year we could see these numbers grow as 12 Cpls have stepped up to challenge to take their Junior Leadership Course, 3 Mcpls are taking the Sgt's course, and one Sgt is taking her WO's course.

Leadership is not a right, it is a privilege, and I have no doubt that these hardworking soldiers are the right people to become the leadership our Regiment deserves! This leads to my challenge for you- bringing in recruits for them to lead! Every soldier can be a recruiter, so I challenge you to bring in one friend and show him or her what you love about the Army!

Echoing the sentiments of the CO, I appreciate all the support from the Regimental Family to the Active soldiers. Thank you for your ongoing involvement. I look forward to another challenging and exciting year in 2019!



ACTIVE BATTALION



RSM and CO at the 48th Christmas Dinner



RSM at Fort Drum, NY, February 2018

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS 2018

PTE to CPL:

Reid

CPL to MCPL:

Turner
Brown
Hogan

MacLachlan
McKenzie Mardelli
Van Lingen
Kwan

SGT to WO

Potapenko

WO to MWO:

Smintich

OCDT to 2LT:

Crandall
Weryha

2LT to LT:

Malcolm
Papalia
Van der Toorn

MAJ to LCOL:

Alkema

DECORATION:

Capt Kelly Delaney - Awarded CD

ACTIVE BATTALION

C COMPANY REPORT

By Major Kristofer Fisher, CD OC C Coy

What a year it has been for Charlie Company. We started with LCol Pedwell and we are finishing with LCol Alkema.

We continue to work within our training tactical group (partnered with the Toronto Scottish Regiment and Lorne Scottish Regiment) for all exercises and it has allowed the officers and NCOs to work with full sections/ platoons as well as get the opportunity to work with peers and make new friendships with soldiers from other Scottish units.



Cpl Rahman preps flash bang grenade while Hldr Mayer covers an assault on the BOR



C9 gunners conduct handling drills in the gun park



C9 gunners conduct handling drills in the gun park Cpl Best and Hldrs Padolina, Akbari and Ouroumis lead the charge during combat PT

We started the year off with two quick IBTS weekends and then hit training road fast with three tactical Defensive training weekends (think crawl, walk, run). Our Basic Winter Warfare course braved one of the coldest weather conditions in several years (-41C at night & -25C by day) up in CFB Burwash followed by Meaford in February.

We contributed members to the Canadian Patrolling Competition team, sent members on Basic Mountain Operations course, fully trained 3 new Lieutenants, and one new Warrant officer, extensive First Aide training for all, continuous Professional Development training for all leadership, and sent 7 Corporals to begin their pre-PLQ training as junior leaders.

Finally, we sent C Coy soldiers down to Fort Drum NY to train with elements from all over 32 BDE in an annual live fire defensive exercise that always gets rave reviews from the attendees.



Cpl Bender overwhelms enemy force while Hldr Mayer covers the PW



Cpl Bender reviews tactics ahead of clearing the BOR

Additional courses that we look forward to getting our hands on would be Basic and Advanced Recce, Urban Ops Instructor, and always looking for Jump Courses.

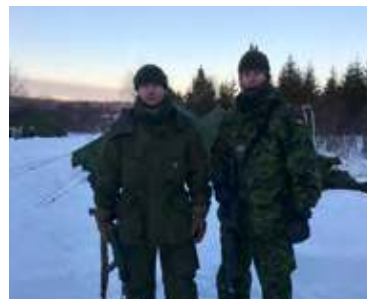
Although the lead of the TTG rotates, the Highlanders and specifically C Coy seem to continually fill the lion's share of the leadership positions thereby allowing our young LTs and NCOs to lead troops from the other two regiments. This has given our Junior NCOs a fantastic opportunity to get and maintain very valuable leadership experience in front of a larger body of trained troops.



MCpl Robertson instructs troops while MCpl Boyden observes.



1PI, C Coy poses for End Ex photo beneath the Regiment's battle honours



Acting Platoon WO Robertson and Section Commander MCpl Gillespie discuss strategy ahead of the relay race



C Coy consolidates between stands on Ex Cold Start I



Lt van der Toorn and his pose for the camera between stands

ACTIVE BATTALION

DELTA COMPANY YEAR IN REVIEW

By Capt Lawrence Blake, OC D COY

The past training year has been a busy one for the Regiment's leadership and training company.

Upon the completion of Summer, 2018, we saw eight Corporals successfully appointed to the rank of Master Corporal, taking on key positions of leadership both within the Unit and at 32CBG Battle School. This was due to the hard work and proficiency of our staff leading the Pre-IJLC program within the Company, under the leadership of Sgt Mike Bradbury. This year, we have eighteen soldiers being prepared for junior leadership courses – with most of them expected to complete the Infantry Junior Leadership Course in Summer, 2019. (Insert Picture 1)



Orders for PrePLQ 2 Feb 2018

D Company has been the lead on the Basic Winter Warfare (BWW) qualification since December of 2018, with three sections deploying on exercises meant to teach the tactics, techniques, and procedures necessary to live, fight, and win on operations in the Canadian Shield and Arctic. As Canadian Infantrymen, this is a requisite skill base that ensures competency and excellence on both expeditionary and domestic operations. The course culminated in a demonstration, enabled by 32CER, of snow-defensive work penetration utilizing small arms in 4CDTC Meaford.

Two Delta Company personnel were integral members of the Brigade contribution to the Canadian Patrol Competition. MCpl Van Lingen and MCpl MacLaughlin both served in leadership capacities along the



Wpns clearing Feb 2018

gruelling 70km trace patrolled in CFB Wainwright this past Winter. Their leadership, tactical acumen, and determination saw the patrol through all key stands and events. (Insert Picture 2).

With six Sub-alterns within the Company, the training and development of future platoon commanders is an integral component of the training calendar. Two officers will attend the Dismounted Platoon Commanders Course this Summer at the Infantry School, with another four attending their Basic Military Officer Qualification – Army at the Combat Training Center. Last year, every officer sent on the difficult Dismounted Infantry course came back as a qualified Lieutenant.

As we look forward to the new training year, D Coy will continue to force generate not just leaders, but also Highlanders to re-muster as part of the Rifle Company in Fall 2019. With over 40 soldiers on the Basic Training list, their successful completion of DP 1.2 will ensure the Regiment continues to commit soldiers on Operations overseas, domestically, and in support of our Regular Force counterparts, 3RCR, on the Road to High Readiness.

The citizens of Toronto and the GTA continue to join the 48th Highlanders, ensuring that the spirit and memory of those that joined the 15th, 134th, 92nd, and 1st Bn (1st Cdn Div) is perpetuated

ADMIN COMPANY REPORT

By Maj Scott Savage, OC Admin Co

As we look back on the 2018 calendar year, Admin Coy continues to be fully engaged in support of Regimental training.

We have recently completed 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.

We are currently in the midst of supporting Charlie and Delta Coy Winter Warfare activities, and have recently helped run a very successful LOSV course in Burwash.

Under the supervision of the RQMS, Sgt Kinkaid, Admin Coy is pre-occupied with all the additional support, kit and equipment required with the recent addition of a sub-unit.

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

Many thanks to the DCO and RSM who remain instrumental in procuring some much needed additional Regimental kit, which certainly keeps our main stores civilian volunteer Brian Rogerson quite busy and in his usual good spirits.

We look forward to continuing to support the Regiment in preparation for our Tactical Training Group FTX's this Spring with a view towards Regional Summer Training activities, including Ex Stalwart Guardian

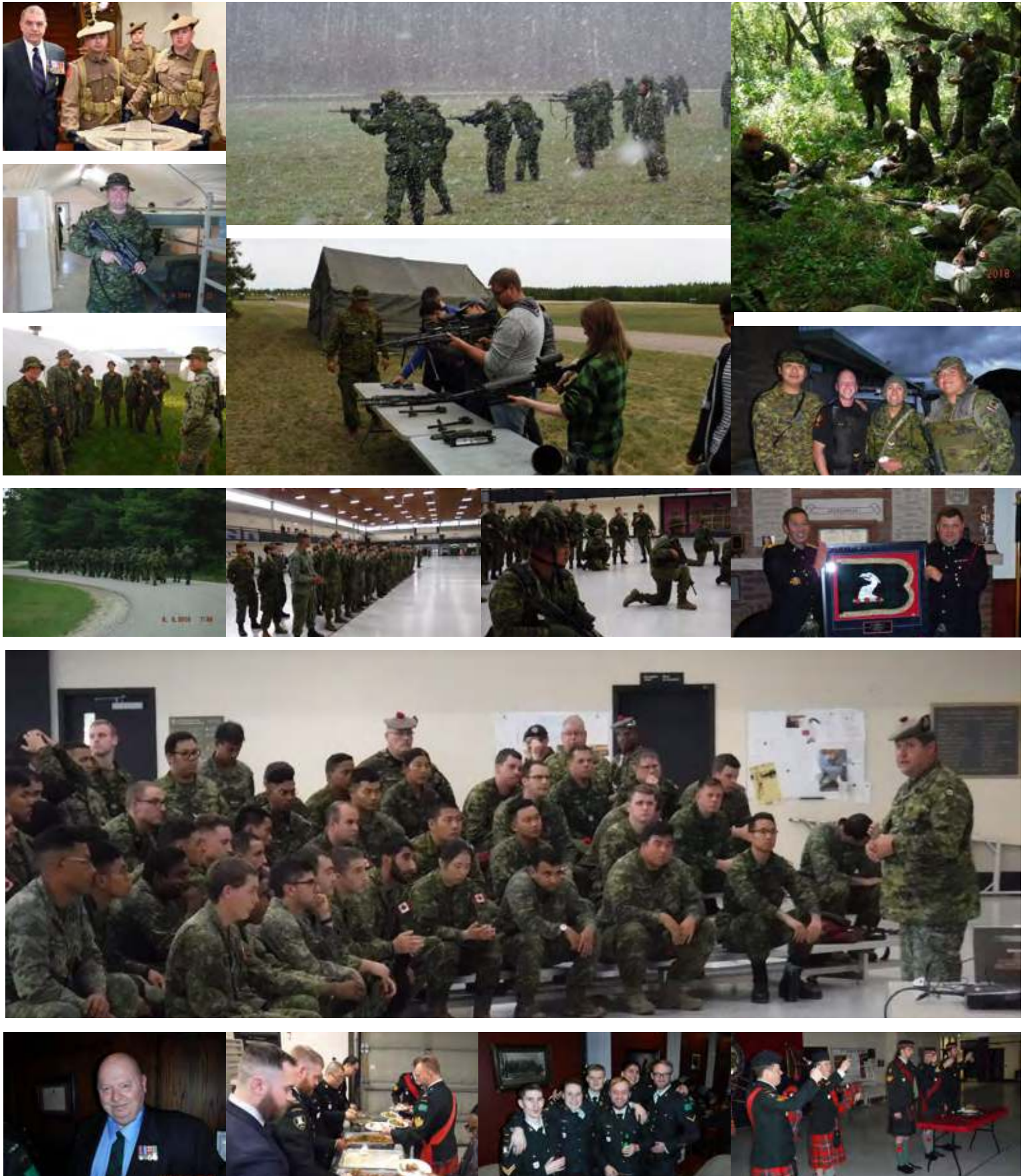


23 Sept 2018 - Composite Coy - 48th - Lorne - TSR

ACTIVE BATTALION



ACTIVE BATTALION



ACTIVE BATTALION

48th PIPES & DRUMS

By Drum Major (MWO) Chris Reesor, CD

The 48th Pipes and Drums continue to provide our core mandate of connecting with Canadians and supporting the Regiment and the Canadian Armed Forces.

In total for the year, we provided support to 100 different events including 28 during the week of Remembrance, 4 of which were on Nov 11 itself including the entire Band on parade with the Regiment and four 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.

2018 started on a somber note. While the Unit and Band were still on stand-down, we received word that Johnny Bower (Toronto Maple Leafs Hall of Fame goalkeeper) had passed away and that MLSE was requesting a band for the ceremony on 3 Jan. Despite it being holiday time, and several members away on vacation, we were still able to provide a band of 14 for this important event.

Our January also consisted of

February involved the Band joining forces with the Royals for the annual "collective training" at the Davidson Challenge. We again supported the TEMA dinner with a small band. We are treated very well at this worthwhile cause raising funds to support PTSD and OSI treatment for first responders including Military Personnel.

This year for the Garrison Ball, since it was hosted by the Toronto Scottish, we were only asked to provide drummers in support.



Garrison Ball Pipers, Drummers & Dancers
(Photo courtesy Toronto Scottish Regiment Pipes and Drums)

Drmr Litherland represented us on this event.

On Easter Weekend in April, we hosted the Indoor Games again at Moss Park Armoury. This was a highly successful event again for the Pipes and Drums. This year the competition took on a concert format which was well received by



Johnny Bower Memorial Tribute 2018
(Photo Courtesy of MLSE)

re-qualification's for IBTS, First Aid courses as well as Burn's dinners and other events. And two of our members qualified for the LOSV (Snowmobile) licence.

the attendees.

Church Parade soon followed on April 22 which was a bitter sweet day as we also said goodbye to Lead Drummer, John Bridge. John had volunteered for 25 years with the 48th Pipes and Drums.



The Pipes and Drums, in addition to hosting the Games, also had a recruiting table set up

For July 1st Canada Day this year, a small contingent of the

Following this short weekend away in New Brunswick, the annual trek to Ottawa for Fortissimo took place. With a van full of equipment and band members, we headed out. This is a great week of collective training at the Ceremonial Guard which allows pipe band members from across Canada the opportunity to work together towards a common event – the Beating Retreat on Parliament Hill. We also had three members attached to CG for the summer – MCpl Brian Turner and Cpls Brown and McKenzie-Mardelli. All three of whom had just completed their first leadership course prior to heading to Ottawa.

In August we again supported the Old Comrades and paraded at the Warrior's Day parade at the CNE.

The fall saw the Pipes and Drums busy again with events or training on every weekend from September until December.

A new event for us this year was performing for the CIBC Run for the Cure.

In October, we once again journeyed onto the Ice at the newly renamed Scotiabank Arena for the



The Pipes and Drums outside St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church as the Regiment enters



Saying Goodbye to Lead Drummer, John Bridge.

Pipes and Drums travelled to New Brunswick with the Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada for a Parade and Concert in St. Andrew's By the Sea. It was a great event honouring veterans from the New Brunswick communities around St. Andrews.

home opener of the Toronto Maple Leafs season. We are proud of our long association with the Toronto Maple Leafs Organization, though of late we are being pushed further afield from the opening ceremonies and just participating in the pre-skate events.

ACTIVE BATTALION



Opening Maple Leafs Game, Scotiabank Arena, 3 October 2018



The Maple Leafs Home Opener was a good opportunity for both the Pipes & Drums and the Military Band to work out music we would need for the Change of Command parade later in October.

leading into Nov 11 itself. On the 11th, in addition to the Pipes and Drums leading the Regiment to the Church, we had a piper at the Provincial Legislature, Old City Hall, a piper co-located with the Artillery salute station on the North side of the Legislature and a piper at the Garrison Commons near Old Fort York.



Both bands put out a large showing in support of the change from LCol Pedwell to LCol Alkema. Soon after this parade, the Pipes & Drums were on stage at the Glenn Gould Studio at the CBC building in Toronto with the Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada for what is becoming our annual joint concert. It was very well attended and met with great enthusiasm amongst those who attended.

The 100th anniversary of the WWI Armistice occurred this year on Nov 11th. The demands on our pipers were as great as ever. We conducted solo piping and bugling events all across Toronto the week

The St. Andrew's Ball was again a long night for the Pipes and Drums, but it wouldn't be November without it. And although it is not a race, you can clearly see that the Pipe Major is



Warrior's day parade



The Pipes and Drums and Military band at the Change of CO Parade.



MCpl Alex Brown playing the Lament at the Province of Ontario Remembrance Day Ceremony 11 Nov. Photo Courtesy of the LG of Ontario office. Also in the photo is P01 David Pottinger, HMCS York.



Glenn Gould Studio concert with the Royal Regiment of Canada (Photo Credit Danielle Reesor Photography)



The Drum Major bugling Last Post at the Scotiabank Remember armistice event at the RCMI

ACTIVE BATTALION



The Pipe Major's Toast St. Andrew's Charity ball November 2018



Half of the Pipe Band entering the Canadian Room to begin another dance.

ahead of the CO in drinking his dram.

In December, in addition to our own Regimental Dinner, we had pipers play for several other Christmas Dinners within the GTA. Cpl Weir-McPherson and MCpl Brown both played for Christmas dinners at Denison for one of the lodger units there and MCpl Brown also represented the Pipe Major (who was on vacation) at the annual Lieutenant Governor's Household staff dinner. Unfortunately shortly after this

dinner, MCpl Brown accepted a full time civilian job in Saskatchewan so we had to (reluctantly) say goodbye for now to him. We hope he will find a better civilian job offer in the GTA and will return soon.



48TH HIGHLANDERS MILITARY BAND

By Capt Lawrence Blake, OC D COY

The 48th Military Band soldiers on!

This year marked another milestone in the multi-generational renewal of the Military Band as the BSM was proud to take to the ice at The Scotiabank Centre in October 2018 with a band that included, for the first time, his eldest son!

This follows a long Regimental musical tradition exemplified in the Pipes & Drums by the Hardings – father and son, and of course, the Dewar clan – three generations and counting – and in the Military Band by such illustrious names as West – father and son, MacInnes – father and three sons, Reesor – father and daughter, and now Murray – pere et fils!

After a successful Fall of supporting such Regimental priorities as Remembrance Day, Christmas Dinner and the aforementioned Toronto Maple Leafs' Home Opener, the Military Band is entering its customary period of winter rebuilding.

Recruiting is always a top priority as we ramp up for the Regimental Church Parade and other Spring events.

Members of the Regimental Family who are musically inclined or know someone who is (or who is easily tricked!) are encouraged to contact the BSM – WO Murray, the Director of Music – Capt. van der Bank (Retd), the Drum Major or Pipe Major, who will happily ensure that all enquiries are speedily pursued.



Proud father BSM (WO) Murray with his newest recruit Musician J. Murray, Jr. take to the ice at the Leafs' Home Opener.

ACTIVE BATTALION

48th Regimental Hockey Team - Ranger Cup Tournament

By MCpl Max Boyden



Game winning celebration: MCpl Gillespie (goalie), Sgt Kinkaid (white helmet), Capt Laurella (#13), and MCpl Boyden

On 30 Dec, 18 the 48th Highlanders Regimental Hockey Team competed in the Ranger Cup hockey tournament, the annual championship for 32 Brigade.

The first game of the tournament was played against the Lorne Scots and this was the first time the 48th team played together this year and was a big learning experience for the team.

The next game the team played the Toronto Scottish and the 48th Highlanders played a very strong game and improved tremendously from the first game. Unfortunately we were on the losing side of the first two games. Both of these teams play regularly in a men's hockey league.

Our final game we played the 32 Service Battalion and we made some adjustments and learned from the previous games. The 48th won by a score of 7-2 with the help of our coach Captain Darling and some tremendous saves from our goalie MCpl Gillespie. The 48th placed 3rd in our division and did not advance through to the semi finals.

We had the luxury of using two goalies in the tournament with MCpl Gillespie and Highlander Svirydau splitting the games played. Our defensive group was lead by Capt. Laurella with the assistance of Hldr Berto, Capt Hook (Retd), Bill Darling jr., and Hldr Hutchinson. Our offensive group was lead by LCol McEwen and assisted by MCpl Boyden, MCpl Smith, Sgt Dewar, C, Sgt Dewar J, Sgt Kinkaid, Cpl Bender, MCpl Sherry and Cpl Tucci.

Special thanks to our awesome Head Coach Capt Darling for leading us in the tournament, to Capt Laurella for organizing the team and to Danielle Reesor for her professional photography services.



Clearing the zone, MCpl Boyden



Coach Darling exhorts the troops between periods

A great save by MCpl Gillespie



Aggressive forecheck with Sgt C. Dewar and MCpl Sherry

CHRISTMAS TOYS - 2018

By Lt John Malcolm

It is true that all of us Highlanders, both current and former serving members, joined the Regiment with individual reasons and aspirations behind this ambition.

Some of us wanted a personal challenge and adventure, some of us desired the comradeship unique to the profession of arms, and still some the satisfaction of knowing they're doing what many others simply cannot do.

Ultimately though, what can be said about all of us is that we joined the 48th Highlanders of Canada to make a difference in the world and in our community.

Through hard work on our parade nights and field exercises, through dedicated training, and through managing stores and administration, we enable ourselves and the Regiment to be in a position to help others.

One proud tradition the 48th Highlanders has maintained for many years is its relationship with St. Andrew's Church and the St. Andrew's Society.

Each year, the Regiment, in concert with the St. Andrew's Society, raises donations to provide less fortunate families in the community with the means to have a good Christmas. A big part of this is the annual Christmas Toy Drive.

This year, I was fortunate enough to be the unit representative for our delivery of the toys to CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish. Accompanying Mr. Bill Sayers, President of the St. Andrew's Society, we delivered a very large number of toys, all destined to go to families and make their Christmases that much brighter.

Mr. Sayers emphasized the importance of helping others, and giving back to the community. Besides the inherent value of helping others, the biggest lesson to take away from this is that our specialty skillset as infantry soldiers does not limit our capacity to help others through charity and giving.

We must be upstanding members of the community on as well as off the parade square. I encourage all of you to donate next year!



OPERATION WARMING: 32 Brigade Responds to Their City's Plight

By Cpl Ross Blair

More than three weeks after the doors to one of the most prominent military locales in downtown Toronto opened to shelter some of the city's most vulnerable citizens, Moss Park Armoury's parade square once again returns to its normal state of familiar emptiness.

But for the 50 plus soldiers and their command team who answered the call, it will be a sullen – yet enthralling – reminder of all the events that transpired on that hollow square every time they walk across it.

In early January, 2018, the City of Toronto sent a "Request for Assistance" to the Federal Government due to the extreme cold weather that struck most of Ontario. As temperatures reached -29C with wind chill, the 32 Canadian Brigade Group responded by opening Moss Park Armoury to those in need of shelter from the bone-chilling conditions, and activating a Domestic Response Company to support the City of Toronto in their mission.

During the operation, soldiers were tasked with important duties throughout. Sentries ensured the safeguarding of the facilities as well as the clients staying within it. They provided assistance to the City of Toronto staff and the Salvation Army, who provided food and support to Toronto's homeless. Meanwhile, the 48th Highlanders, as well as all other units out of Moss Park Armoury, had to relocate their training and most of their administrative efforts to Denison Armoury for the duration of the operation.

Despite the limited responsibilities and interactions that the soldiers had over the 120-plus clients that occupied the Moss Park Armoury warming center, there was a need for constant vigilance in order to complete our mission: to alleviate the suffering of Canadian citizens. And the soldiers of the 32 CBG Domestic Response Company approached that mission with the same esprit de corps and dedication as they would any combat mission.

Thanks to their incredible efforts, along with the cooperative and hardworking members of the City of Toronto staff, lives were potentially saved, criminal activity was reported and disrupted, injuries and illnesses were noticed and treated, and the adversities of our city's, and our country's, residents were mitigated.

Of the more than 50 soldiers who made up the 32 CBG DRC, 11 were members of the 48th Highlanders. These commendable individuals are as follows: Maj. Tyler Wentzell, Capt. Lawrence Blake, WO Peter Ross, Cpl Chris Aldana-Garcia, Cpl Ross Blair, Cpl James Hogan, Cpl Tony Kwan, Cpl Harris Rahman, Cpl Thomas Van Lingen, Pte Brian Cunti, and Pte Tommy Koulias. These soldiers were supported by the 48th BOR staff including Sgt Awer Ater, Sgt Helio Li, Cpl Aali Syed, and Candice Bryan, as well as the RQ staff, Sgt Iain Kinkaid, Cpl Sean McKenzie, and Cpl James Hogan.

Once again, the 48th had one of the highest turnouts for a domestic response task of any unit in the brigade, and those who stepped up to the plate should be commended for committing their time and efforts into this operation.

As the closing date of the Warming Shelter approached, the City of Toronto announced the opening of two more permanent shelters within the city, thus creating a more permanent solution to the crisis and ending the involvement of the Canadian Armed Forces.

However, the kind words of thanks, the genuine gratitude expressed by both city staff and clients alike, was enough for the soldiers to feel like they had done what all of them had joined the Army to do – serve Canada and her citizens. To the men and women of the 32 CBG DRC: mission accomplished.



Pte Cunti receives a Brigade Commander's Coin from Colonel Stepaniuk for a job well done. Cpl Blair and Major Wentzell also received coins.



Minister of National Defence, The Hon Harjit Sajjan, MP, (centre) takes a tour of the

48TH HIGHLANDERS CADET CORP



Cadets conduct Cold Weather Pre-Winter Indoc training at MPA



Cadets and staff conduct Pre-Winter Indoc Training at MPA, learning about Arctic toboggans



December 2018 – Lt. Johanna Wong receives her CD1



Cadets and staff conduct Pre-Winter Indoc Training at MPA, learning about proper clothing and bedding



December 2018 – Welcome Visitors from Branch 11 Royal Canadian Legion who presented a cheque for \$1500 to the Cadet Unit



Cadets and staff conduct Pre-Winter Indoc Training at MPA, learning about snowshoeing



November 2018 – Cadets tour the 48th Highlands Museum at St. Andrew's Church (Tour guided by Geordie Beal and Stan Milne)



December 2018 – Cadets and Staff recreational skating at Nathan Phillips Square



October 2018 – Cadet Field Training Exercise at Woodland Trails Scout Camp

AFFILIATED CADET CORPS

SAC 142 (ARMY) CADET CORP



REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

Saint Andrew's Ball 2018

By 2Lt Sadman Khan

Not long after they join, all officers of the 48th Highlanders of Canada become keenly aware of the Regiment's affiliation with the St Andrew's Society of Toronto. It is a relationship that goes back to the founding of the 48th in 1891.

This connection is evident every year in the lead-up to the biggest event on the officers' social calendar, the St Andrew's Charity Ball.

You know the Ball is near when ceilidh dancers take over the Parade Square at Moss Park Armoury and people in highland attire are energetically practicing traditional Scottish country dances such as Blue Bonnets and Strip the Willow, followed by whisky tastings in the Officers' Mess.

For the first timer, the night of the Ball will be full of surprises. This past year, people of Scottish heritage and friends of all persuasions gathered at the Fairmount Royal York Hotel in the heart of downtown Toronto on Saturday, November 24th.

After partaking of drinks in a private suite, guests enjoyed the spectacular Pipes and Drums of 48th Highlanders to start off the night, followed by Drum Major Reesor's amazing "Address to a Haggis" originally penned by Scotland's famous bard, Robert Burns.

This year, hockey fans especially enjoyed keynote speaker Glenn Healy, as he recounted the importance of his Scottish roots as a young immigrant to Toronto.

The night finished with more pipes and drums accompanying ceilidh dancing late into the night, with everyone already looking forward to next year's Ball!



REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

48th CONTINUING SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION (CSA)

By Sgt Al Kowalenko (Retd), CSA Chairman/President

2018 Highlights

The 48th Continuing Sergeants Association (CSA) currently represents more than 120 retired Warrant Officers and Sergeants who have served the 48th Highlanders from the 1940s to the present day.

The CSA's key goals are to support the RSM and Active WO/Sgts Mess with their various public events, to help preserve our Regimental history and traditions, and to connect the generations of former serving 48th SrNCOs. Our oldest member is 98 and youngest in their 40s.

During 2018, members of the CSA participated in a number of activities including the Mackenzie Shoot (April 20), the Pachino Day Parade in Belleville (July 10), the CNE Warriors Day Parade (August 18), the WO/Sgts Mess Dinner (October 13) and Remembrance Day (Nov 11) ceremonies at Mount Pleasant Cemetery and St Andrew's Church.

In terms of structure, the CSA has changed its membership criteria and dues. As of the beginning of 2018, any individual who served and retired from the 48th Highlanders and attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer, Master Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer or Sergeant becomes an automatic life member of the CSA. Also membership dues are not collected going forward. This system has been replaced by voluntary donations which this past year surpassed what we normally would have collected in dues.

A new and attractive CSA lapel pin was created and is now available to members via the Chairman. As well, a new permanent membership card is currently under review with the Active Mess for production in the coming year. Our CSA Newsletter "The Basil" is also distributed to members three times per year and has full information on parades and events.

CSA Executive Committee

The CSA Executive Committee is comprised of long serving volunteers who promote the membership and activities of the Association. For 2018-2019, members include (all ranks retired):

- Chairman/President: 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, Sgt Gord Holmes
- Past Chairman: MWO Larry Fullerton

Our thanks to all members of the CSA Executive Committee for their dedication to the task, and for their commitment to the history and ideals of the Regiment over many decades.

WO/Sgts Mess Dinner

At the annual WO/Sgts Mess Dinner held on October 13th, the CSA Chairman, Sgt Al Kowalenko, in his reply to the toast to the CSA commented:

- The CSA acknowledges and supports the new Commanding Officer, LCol Ron Alkema, CD, who began his term in October and who previously served as RSM of the 48th Highlanders from 2002-2006. This is the first time in the Regiment's 127 history that a former RSM has assumed the role of Commanding Officer. This is truly a milestone and a testament to LCol Alkema's leadership and dedication during his successful military career.

- We recognize the passing of one of our long time CSA members, CQMS Alf Delaney who passed away on September 28th at the age of 92. He served with the 48th Highlanders from the mid-1940s to mid-1950s and was a good friend and best man to Sgt Max MacDougall, also a well-known CSA member who passed away in 2016.

- As 2018 was the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI, and the 75th Anniversary of the start of the WWII Italian Campaign, we recognize our two oldest veterans and CSA members: CQMS Herb Pike (94), our last front-line combat veteran of 1943-45 in Italy and Holland, and WO George MacLean (98), a WWII training NCO. Both these Highlanders have exhibited the strong and lasting spirit of the Regiment through the past 75 years and we are honored to have them as our senior CSA members.

Plans for 2019

For 2019, our new CSA Active Mess Liaison Representative will be Sgt Jeremy Moore, the current Mess Secretary. He will be assisting in developing the CSA membership database with new additions from the past two decades of those SrNCO who retired from the Regiment. Our goal is to increase our membership representation to 150 and beyond during the next few years.

There are plans for a new "CSA Wine/Beer&Cheese Social" to take place in mid-June in the WO/Sgts Mess at a modest ticket price. It will be open to the entire Regimental Family and promises to be a fun event as well as educational since it will feature many special wines and craft beers.



Largest group of RSMs assemble at the Mess Dinner



OCA reps receives Warriors Day Award 2018

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

48th OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (OCA)



OCA Life Members Lunch, December, 2018

By MWO Mark McVety, CD (Retd), OCA President

This past year has been a reasonable success for the 48th OCA.

April began our normal program with the logistically challenging double events on the same day. Sunday April 29th started with both a Church Parade and the commemoration of the Battle of York Parade.

We started off at Victoria Square where the Drill Team and members of the OCA Executive participated in a small service which this year was lead by Padre Atichson. We hold this event for the Newfoundland Fencibles (now the Royal Newfoundland Regiment) the troops who defended the Town of York during the American attack in April of 1813.

June started with our "D Day Dodgers" Life-Members Luncheon which was held on June 5th in the Sergeants' Mess. We had about 30 people at the event and it was a good time shared by all. Everyone had a good time socializing and it was a well spent couple of hours.

July brought us to two events to honour the members who participated in the Italian Campaign of 1943 to 1945. The first event was on Sunday July 8th at Toronto City Hall. We held a small service at the Italian Campaign Monument which was placed there by the Peace through Valour group. This monument is a rendition of the Town of Ortona from December of 1943 and is located on the west side of City Hall near the Sir Winston Churchill statue.

Tuesday July 10th was our annual pilgrimage to Belleville to commemorate the 1st Brigade of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division containing the 1st Battalion of the 48th Highlanders landing on Pachino Beach in Sicily. Geordie Elms was the Commander of the Parade and Mark McVety was the parade RSM. The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment did their usual fine job of providing a great spaghetti lunch and cold libations.

August saw us participate in the Annual Warriors' Day Parade. I want to thank Al Kowalenko along with Bill Carlisle of the Black Watch Association who convinced the parade staff to put us in the right full position near the front, instead of to the rear of the parade.

October's main event was the Change of Command of LCol Harry Pedwell to LCol Ron Alkema. The OCA wishes LCol Alkema great success ahead, as Commanding Officer of the

Regiment. We also wish LCol Pedwell all the best and hope he comes out to as many OCA events as he is able.

November as always was a busy month especially around Remembrance Weekend and this past year was no exception. Saturday November 10th started off with the Annual Remembrance Parade to Mount Pleasant. The day was cold and crisp but about 50 Highlanders, including the band, attended the service lead by the Padre. I want to thank all those who attended including the spectators who came to support the members on parade.

Later that evening we held our Annual Remembrance Dinner. The dinner was held at The Boulevard Club. The dinner was a great success. Drum Major MWO Chris Reesor gave a resounding rendition of Robert Burns' "Ode to a Haggis". I want to thank Mr. James Cassie and the staff of the Boulevard Club for a great evening. The Boulevard Club's Veterans were very happy with the function and we would like to include them in this year's dinner as we will return to the Boulevard Club on November 9th.

Sunday November 11th brought us to St. Andrews for the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1. The Regiment came to church, as the Memorial at the top of Queens Park Circle was under repair. The church service was very moving. The regiment including the Drill Team marched back to Moss Park Armoury. The OCA formed up on Simcoe Street and marched around the corner to give the traditional "EYES RIGHT" to the Honorary Colonel in front of St. Andrews and then dismissed on Emily Street.

December wrapped up our year with two events. First was our Life-members Christmas Luncheon which was held in the Sergeants' Mess on Tuesday December 4th. The people who attended had a great time. The lunch was good and the libations were cold and plentiful. We had an average turnout by the OCA members and a number of the Active Battalion's day staff came and had lunch with us. Candice Bryan did a great job encouraging her compadres to come and enjoy the lunch. As well, I want to thank Mark Bossi for his work in getting this event together.

The next event was the Children's' Christmas party which the OCA supports by providing the pizza for the little people. This event is for all the children of the Regimental Family and the committee does a great job providing crafts, food, entertainment and of course Santa Claus to hand out presents and gift bags. I want to thank Karen Barker and her committee for their hard work in organizing and putting on a great function every year.

2019 should be a promising year and we hope to see as many people out to events as possible. Thanks for supporting our events and let's hope we have a great year this year.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIMINGS	DRESS
Apr 28	Battle of York	Victoria Square	0900	Blues and Greys
Apr 28	Church Parade	St. Andrews	1000	Blues and Greys
June 4	Life-Members Luncheon	Sgts Mess	1130	Mufti
July 7	Italian Campaign	City Hall	1030	Blues and Greys
July 7	Italian Campaign	City Hall	1030	Blues and Greys
July 10	Pachino Day	Belleville	1030	Whites and Greys
Aug 17	Warriors' Day Parade	CNE Toronto	1030	Whites and Greys
Nov 9	Remembrance	Mount Pleasant	1030	Blues and Greys
Nov 9	Remembrance Dinner	Boulevard Club	1800	Formal
Nov 10	Remembrance Parade	TBD	1000	Blues and Greys
Dec 3	Life-Members Luncheon	Sgts Mess	1130	Civilian Attire

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

15TH BATTALION VIMY CROSS REPLICA AT ECURIE FRANCE

Memorial project adds 'Vimy 1917' to battle honours locations

By BGEN Greg Young, OMM, MSM, CD (RETD)

The 15th Battalion's original Vimy cross was erected on 10 April 1917 at CA35 where 35 of the unit's Fallen had been collected for mass burial. Following the Armistice, the dead were exhumed and along with the cross, relocated to nearby Nine Elms Military Cemetery. It remained there until 1923 when it was returned to the 48th Highlanders.

Since that time the cross was housed in The Armoury on University Street, the Old Comrades Club and at the Regimental museum in St. Andrew's Church where it remains to this day. In 2017, the cross returned to Vimy and was on exhibit for the opening of the new Vimy Visitor Education Centre for the Centenary where it remained until April 2018. This journey was the subject of a CBC documentary that aired during the coverage of the Centenary event at Vimy and can be viewed at:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/rare-battlefield-cross-returns-to-vimy-1.4062100> The cross returned to Canada in April 2018 and was welcomed home in a large ceremony at St. Andrews Church, Toronto.

As a result of all the research done on the cross by the 15th Battalion Memorial Project team, especially pinpointing the exact location of CA35 where it had been erected in 1917, it was decided to move forward with a project for a new memorial near that location that would incorporate a 1:1 scale replica of the original cross.

On 22 September 2018, in a new park on the edge of the village of Ecurie slightly south of CA35 and Nine Elms Cemetery, the granite Vimy cross memorial was unveiled and dedicated in a ceremony attended by French and Canadian VIPs, the local community, representatives of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and the 15th Battalion Memorial Project Team. Two story boards were also installed on site that explain the story of the 15th Battalion at Vimy, the men who fell during the battle and especially the men whose names appear on the cross.



DONOR RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

On 10 April 1917 in the hours following their successful assault against German positions on the right flank of Vimy ridge near Thelus, the 15th Battalion erected a wooden cross bearing the names of many of the men who had fallen mere hours before. On 22 September 2018, a 1:1 scale granite replica of that Vimy cross was erected in a new park in the town of Ecurie slightly south of where that original cross had stood at CA35 over the graves of Highlanders killed at Vimy. Accompanying the granite memorial are two large all weather story boards that tell the story of the 15th Battalion and its men – especially the Fallen – in that most iconic of all battles in which the Canadian Corps took part.

Of all of the now ten 15th Battalion memorials that mark the Commemoration Trail along the Western Front from Ypres in the north to the Canal du Nord in the south, the newest memorial at Ecurie is the largest and most elaborate. The beautiful site was graciously donated by the town of Ecurie and in the months following the dedication, town officials already report that as a result of significant volumes of visitors to the new memorial, they will be building a new bus and car parking area to accommodate the traffic.

As with the previous memorials, the tremendous success of the Ecurie memorial would not have been possible without the generous support of the many private donors, corporate donors and the Town of Ecurie all of whom stepped forward to support the Vimy cross project - to them we are most appreciative and Forever thankful.

The Town of Ecurie, France The Toronto Foundation Calamor Fund DHL and Purolator Courier HGH Granite

Don Aitchison	Trish Colley	Janet Gran
Diane Love	Robert Ronan	Colin Stark
James Baillie	Beth Crook	Brian Jackson
Richard Merritt	Colin Rainsbury	William Stark
Wayne Brown	Martin Forgie	Al Kowalenko
John Newman	Richard Read	Tommy Thompson
Thomas Chipman	Susan Goodwin	James Cassie
George Pearce	Dennis Sewell	Don Greer

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS



Ecurie plaque 1



Ecurie plaque 2



Santa Claus entertains the little ones at the 48th Highlanders Regimental Christmas Party

48th Highlanders IODE

By Karen Barker, IODE Honourary Vice President

Santa Claus is coming ...

On December 16th the WO/Sgts Mess was filled with children and their parents for the 48th Highlanders of Canada's Regimental Children's Christmas Party. The Regiment puts on a party every year for the kids.

The children arrived at noon and started their day with arts and crafts. The favourite is the decorating of gingerbread men, followed by pizza lunch.

The parents enjoyed a lovely pot luck luncheon. Following lunch

the kids were entertained by Reptilia. The children were able to touch the snakes and spiders and other reptiles and ask questions...an opportunity many children might never have.

Once the reptiles were packed up in their bins the children waited for the main event – Santa Claus. The jolly man was piped in by Iain Dewar.

When Santa was seated at the front of the room, the children were called up one at a time to receive their gifts and a goody bag. This year we had 34 children ranging from the ages of 3 months to 12 years.

The mess was alive with laughter and running. Thanks to all who participated in the event – Kirsty, Tansia, Natasha, Kevin, Marge, Shane, Alexandria, Karen and of course Santa Claus!



IODE Trench Lunch - Oct 27/18

HISTORIC HIGHLANDER MOMENTS



MID-MORNING OF THE LANDING AT PACHINO, 10 JULY 1943.

LCLs (Landing Craft Infantry) remain grounded on sandbars as smaller craft begin to transfer supplies after the 1st Brigade moved inland. On the beach are an anti-tank gun, trucks, a bulldozer and one of the few personnel carriers offloaded before the ships dispersed under an air attack, taking with them the Regiment's equipment and personal kitbags. Through the entire Sicilian campaign, the 48th, who took pride in their uniforms and had been nicknamed the "Glamour Boys" by the other battalions in the 1st Brigade, fought in what they wore and without their carriers. Their kit caught up on 6 August.



SERGEANT WILLIAM SIMPSON FARQUHAR ARRIVES IN GERMANY, 1951:

Having served in the 48th Highlanders of Canada in WWII, Sgt Farquar was also an original member of the 1ST Canadian Highlander Battalion in Germany and of the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group (1951-1953).



1st Battalion Highlanders attending a 1946 Reunion at the Regimental Club.

HISTORIC HIGHLANDER MOMENTS

'SO THAT'S THEIR BLOOMIN' OLD RHINE, EH..'



EARLY DECEMBER, 1918 – CROSSING THE RHINE:

Two sketches by 15th Battalion Officer, Lt JE Banton, both reflecting how the event was viewed by men of the Battalion who were there.



SGT ALF DELANEY (right side) with **SGT MAX MCDUGALL** on the left, preparing to take part in the Ode to the Haggis Address, at the St Andrew's Ball - Royal York Hotel, early 1950s.



REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

WO1 Victor George Jackson, MM, MID
48th Highlanders of Canada
1st Canada Infantry Division
Holland - 1945

A TRIBUTE TO A FAMOUS FALCON EDITOR

REMEMBERING MAJOR J. A. BROWN CD

By Major George L. Pearce CD (Retd)

One never gets a second chance to make a first good impression.

So goes the saying and the subject of this verbal sketch may serve as a good example. Private John Andrew Brown of Arbroath, Scotland, made a memorable impression at University Avenue Armoury for the first time in the uniform of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. In preparation he had taken his issue boots to a local shoemaker and had a double soul added. His entry via the heavy door to the room of "B" Company revealed the presence of the Company Commander, Major H.F. Brown MC (no relation) which brought a thundering crash from the new boots as the new arrival came to attention. The turbulence of air from the salute which followed caused several to look for the source, seeking perhaps an unseen electric fan. It didn't take the perception of a genius to recognize the arrival of a soldier.

In due course the writer learned that John Brown had achieved three important goals on the very first day that he arrived in Canada. He found a place in which to live, he got a job and he joined the 48th Highlanders. Here was surely the sign that this man was not one to be distracted from achievement. He had served in the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in the British Army and had brought with him, among many other skills, a high degree of dress, deportment, discipline and marksmanship. A routine check of his educational qualifications from Scotland revealed that he possessed more than the minimum requirements for officer candidates for the Canadian Army.

During the relatively short period in which he was recommended for officer training he was enrolled in a Senior NCO course in which he finished first. He never looked back in subsequent courses including the one for his commission. Second place was never an option in his lexicon.

John's first Canadian Christmas was shared in the newly purchased first home of the Pearce family which included a new four-seat chesterfield which, not by intention, would provide great overnight comfort for anyone of

six feet height or more. He arrived after our four children were bedded down, unaware of our visitor. Christmas morning began with our younger son Kim awakening his mother who asked, "Has Santa been yet?" to which came the unforgettable response: "Yes and he's still here! He's asleep on the chesterfield!"

Thus began an affinity for young people which generated into great fun and humour at the family cottage in Haliburton where "Mr. Brown" presented hilarity by involving the kids in role-playing situations. Nor was he without surprises including his arrival one day wearing a helmet and leathers astride a new Honda Goldwing motorcycle, having completed a trip from Toronto which takes about 4 hours by motor car.

Ever the keen observer and a stickler for detail he was sent by his UK employer to India (before emigrating to Canada). Upon embarkation he became aware of an artist at Greenock who painted pictures of ocean liners for passengers. The day of his departure was February 6, 1952, the day on which H.M. King George VI died.

Accordingly, John had the artist paint the ship's union jack at half-mast.

On another occasion he returned to Scotland from Canada and paid a visit to the depot of our allied regiment, the Gordon Highlanders. On arrival he observed that the Union Flag was upside down (a universal signal of distress). He pointed this out to the sergeant of the guard who called the orderly officer by telephone and reported, "Sir, there's a Canadian officer at the gate and he says our flag is upside down. He seems to ken wha' he's talkin' about Sir."

The orderly officer arrived promptly and had the flag lowered and raised right side up, thanked the visitor and invited him to the Mess for a wee dram.

If there ever had been a significant award for achievement as a single parent John Brown would have been a lead contender. Encouragement, not enforcement, was his watchword in providing guidance to his son and daughter. For David, service in the Gordon Highlanders with distinction and, later, in the police force and for Kathy, graduation from Queen's University and a Master's Degree from York.

John's regimental contributions and achievements were long and lasting even during the period that he transferred to the Supplementary Reserve. They included the birth of a new "Falcon" to replace a former newsletter whose pages were laboriously type-written and stapled together. He was asked to resurrect the regimental cadet corps which had lain dormant for years. Its success in the service and promotion of its "graduates" can be seen to this day. His appointment as President of the Officers' Mess Committee (PMC) was undertaken with equal alacrity during which time the terms of reference for the planning, organization and conduct of the Annual Officers' Dinner were clearly established as the entire responsibility of the Officers' Association. Further recognition of significant merit came with the recommendation and approval of his appointment of aide-de-camp (ADC) to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

In all of this Major Brown was a Highlander. His own moment of consummate honour had come much earlier. It was July 1st, 1959 when, as a 2nd Lieutenant with (then) 2Lt K.G. (Tim) McVittie, both were selected as Ensigns to receive new Queen's and Regimental Colours respectively from our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty The Queen on Parliament Hill on that most memorable Canada Day.



History tells us that Tecumseh, the great Shawnee Chief, said in admiration of British General Sir Isaac Brock, "Ho! This is a man!"

With comparable admiration, it can be truthfully said of John Andrew Brown, by those who knew him best, "Here was a lovely man!"

HIGHLANDER PROFILES

THE FIRST OF MANY EDITORIALS IN MAJOR JOHN BROWN'S 1981 "REVAMPED FALCON REGIMENTAL JOURNAL"



THE FALCON

THE JOURNAL OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

MAY 1981

EDITORIAL

by Major JA Brown, CD

This is the first issue of the revamped Regimental Journal "The Falcon" and I hope it has your approval. Much hard work has gone into this issue, and it is largely due to the efforts of Mr. Douglas Graves, a Journalism student at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, that an ambition has become a reality. On behalf of all the Regimental Family, I would like to thank him for making this possible. I would also like to thank you, the members of the Family, for accepting Doug as an erstwhile Highlander, and for giving him your cooperation and contributions.

We intend to publish twice a year, in June, and at Christmas, and this must be a Regimental effort — we need your contributions, photographs, ideas, and constructive criticism to make this a worthwhile Journal. We would also welcome letters to the Editor. All contributions or letters should please be sent to The Editor, "The Falcon", 48th Highlanders of Canada, Moss Park Armoury, 130 Queen St. East, Toronto.

Unfortunately, not all members of our Regimental Family have contributed to this issue, but we realize that much extra work has to be done to get ready for the 90th Anniversary Reunion, and there are only so many hours in a day.

May we hear from you?

Managing Editor Major JA Brown, CD
Editor Douglas Graves

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"THE FALCON" is published every six months with an issue coming out in June and December. Contributions both large and small should be sent to the Editor at Moss Park Armouries. All contributions are welcome.

HIGHLANDER PROFILES

15TH BATTALION PROFILES:

Sgt Henry Ralph

"Each man in battle is a little world to himself"

Researched and written by BGen Greg Young (Retd)
of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project
for the family of Sgt Ralph.

Henry Ralph was born in Goodnestone, Dover, Kent, England on 18 November 1885. He was the son of Daniel and Sarah Ralph and had two brothers and four sisters. As a young man, he worked for a time as a footman in Chelsea, London, before emigrating to Canada- arriving onboard the SS St. Paul in January 1908. Later that same year on 1 June, Henry Ralph married Jean Ann Stephen who had been born on 26 Mar 1885 in Scotland. The Ralph family would, overtime, grow to include three children: Ellen Jean (Vida), Lorna and Albert. After arrival in Canada in 1908, Henry Ralph lived in Toronto for the remainder of his life at three different addresses: initially at 789 Markham Street, on Attestation at 134 Marchmont Road, and following the war and until the time of his death in 1948, at 62 Tyrell Avenue.

Henry joined the 48th Highlanders of the Active Militia and had achieved the rank of Sergeant prior to 1914. Upon Attestation into the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 20 Sept 1914, he was 28 years of age and listed his occupation as salesman. His 15th Battalion Record of Services card records his occupation as a tobacconist and his religion as Presbyterian. At the outbreak of war in August 1914, the volunteers from the 48th Highlanders assembled at Long Branch Ranges before departing Toronto's Don Station by train on 2 Sept 1914 to join the 1st Canadian Contingent that was assembling at Valcartier, Quebec.



Sgt Ralph Larkhill camp, Salisbury 1914

When the 15th Battalion was formed at Valcartier, he was initially in E Company but later upon reorganization in England from an eight company battalion to a 'double strength' four company battalion, Ralph was assigned to No. 2 Company. After a brief period of training and organization, the units of the 1st Contingent departed Valcartier for

Quebec City where they boarded transport ships sailing to rendezvous with the convoy and its escorts that was assembling in the Gaspé. The convoy, including Ralph's 15th Battalion onboard the SS Megantic, sailed from Canada on 30 September arriving at Portsmouth, England on 16 October.

The unit spent the period between 16 October and 12 February 1915 training on Salisbury Plain - first at West Down South camp and later at Larkhill camp - before sailing for France on 12 Feb 1915 onboard the SS Mount Temple. After landing at Nazaire, the units of the 1st Canadian Division spent Feb and March being familiarized with the tactics and routine of trench warfare in the area near Armentières before moving to front line duty near Fromelles, Fleurbaix and Neuve Chapelle.

In April 1915, the Canadians moved to Belgium and into front line trenches outside the city of Ypres near the town of St. Julien. It was here that the 1st Canadian Division, the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) and Sgt Henry Ralph were to experience their first significant battle of the war - their 'baptism of fire'. For Henry Ralph and many thousands of other Canadians, it would prove to be their date with destiny and effectively the end of their war.

The 2nd Battle of Ypres began on 22 Apr when the Germans, behind a wall of chlorine gas, attacked French positions on the left flank of the Canadian line between Poelkapelle and Langemarck. The gas collapsed the French line, exposing the entire flank of the Canadian front line to enfilade fire from the assaulting German units. By the morning of 24 April the German penetration had forced the Canadian line to fold in on itself to protect its exposed flank, leaving the 15th Battalion's forward positions at the very apex of the salient. Sgt Ralph's No. 2 Company had been located behind the forward trench positions in the town of St. Julien where it formed the battalion's reserve force. However, when the Germans penetrated the French line on the 2 April, the company was moved just outside the town - on the road to Poelkapelle - as part of a hasty new defensive line on the exposed left flank.

In the early morning hours of 24 April, a second gas attack fell on the forward Canadian positions with the heaviest concentration falling on the section of the line held by No. 1, 3 and 4 Companies of the 15th Battalion. The effect was disastrous as the three forward companies were overwhelmed by the gas and the survivors forced back. The attack against positions at St. Julien although stubbornly resisted, was also successful and the survivors of No. 2 Company were also overwhelmed and forced to surrender.

Although Sergeant Ralph's 1918 letter provides few details of the attack, in a somewhat off hand manner it does reveal hints of how the battalion was enfiladed by the German artillery fire from the collapsed French flank, cut off by the gas, isolated and overrun by the follow-on assault:

"It is no use telling you about the battle. You will have read it in a hundred different ways heard the stories told by other hundreds, each man in battle is a little world to himself & his conception may be entirely different to that of a man a few yards on his right or left, and everyone thinks that his particular fight was the greatest one of the War. I have listened to stories & arguments by the thousands until one gets heartily sick of hearing them, We were here & the Germans there. This was the Horseshoe! We was here when the Gas came over. The Froggies beat it & let us down! Where was you when they got behind us with that Whiz Bang battery & so on and so forth. You people at home are going to be pestered to death for fifty years after this War is finished by stories of how it was done"

Although the German penetration was eventually halted by reinforcing units, the 15th Battalion was effectively destroyed - suffering the highest single day casualties of any Canadian unit. The unit had gone into the line with a field strength of 912 men all ranks and suffered 654 casualties of which 223 were killed in action and 248 were taken prisoner. One of the

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many Canadians who became a POW that morning was Sgt Henry Ralph. His war in the trenches had come to a brief end but his long war as a POW had just begun. In that 1918 letter to his friend Jack, Ralph describes his initial reaction on becoming a POW, "as soon as I find myself a Prisoner, that is after my mind was clear enough to understand it....my soul filled up with humiliation." His war in the trenches had come to a brief end at St. Julien but his long war as a POW had just begun.

Like all the Canadians captured at 2nd Ypres, they were initially taken into the German rear area and held in temporary locations before being shipped to POW camps (Kriegsgefangenenlager). In Ralph's case, he records that they were moved to an unidentified town and held in the cellar of the town's hall before being crammed into a railway box car with standing room only for a 42 hour journey without food and no access to a lavatory.

The letters and diaries of many Canadian POWs frequently make mention of their move by train into Germany during which they were subjected to harsh treatment as well as abuse from the local population along the route. Ralph wrote, "We were locked in and at every big station we stopped and the Germans opened the doors and raised Hell... besides general abuse."

On 4 May 1915, Ralph eventually arrived at a Giessen POW camp near Frankfurt in Hesse called Giessen which held Allied enlisted men (Mannschaftslager) and was controlled by XVIII Army Corps. He was given POW # 2655 and assigned to a standard barrack style hut housing about 60 men. Relatively speaking, Giessen was one of the more well ordered and sanitary camps and as well as a church, it boasted a makeshift artists' studio for the inmates to use. However, in his 1918 letter, Ralph reported that although his first impression of the camp was positive, his initial six weeks at Giessen turned out to be "the most miserable existence possible."

Allied POWs were frequently removed from their camps and required to do forced manual labour such as work on farms, roads, factories and mines. While at Giessen, Ralph was sent out for periods of what he described as "pick and shovel work" at Runethal in Westphalia and Ghertakustein near Baden-Baden. It was during one such labour outing that he became separated from his friend 27596 Sgt Ernest Pay who was also in No. 2 Company and captured at St Julien.

Ralph spent his first Christmas in captivity at Giessen before being transferred to Soltau (Mannschaftslager) near Hannover run by X Army Corps. This camp held 35,000 POWs with another 15,000 in its work camps one which was Lichtenhorst on Luneburg Heath where Ralph was sent in January 1916. Ralph wrote that it "gave me a very, very miserable impression...there was nothing but heather to be seen for miles in any direction...the barracks were simply alive with rats and two fellows died the first week." The work at this camp was predominately agricultural and as a Senior NCO, Ralph was put in charge of a 25 man work party. Despite the hard labour and meagre conditions in the camp, strangely enough, Ralph recorded there was time for sports and that it "was the best time I had in Germany."

In November 1916, the POWs at Lichtenhorst were sent to Bohmte where they refused to work on a nearby canal and were subjected to reprisal punishment drills before being moved once again to an NCO camp at Grossenwedemorn in Jan 1917. As NCOs were not required to do manual labour, Ralph's routine at this new camp at first was more of a stereotypical interned prisoner. However, here too, they were subjected to reprisals such as drills, stoppage of mail and removal of beds for not 'volunteering' to work. Faced with such hardships, they eventually agreed to work and settled into camp life hoping for another move possibly even repatriation - to neutral Holland. By late 1917, the Allied naval blockade had put a huge strain on the German economy

and the logistics of looking after hundreds of thousands of Allied POWs was becoming a significant burden. As a result, the Germans began repatriating Allied POWs on the condition that they remain interned in neutral countries such as Holland and Switzerland.

The move Ralph hoped for finally came in March 1918 when he was sent to Aachen (Aix la Chapelle) and from there to Holland on 23 March. Conditions in Holland were much better than they had been in Germany: He wrote "the real stuff (in Germany) I'm sure would make anyone with the half of heart at all shed tears of blood to hear about it: but here we are tickled to death to be here."

Despite no longer being a POW, the conditions of repatriation meant that Allied POWs were still interned in Holland with restrictions and would remain so until the war ended. Ralph spoke of his new situation: "here in Holland ...we are just as cramped, just as much shut in as ever we were while in Germany and so we hope for something further to happen."

With the Armistice in November 1918, the war effectively came to an end and POWs, including those interned in Holland began to be returned to England for eventual repatriation home to Canada. However, some POWs agreed to remain in Europe to assist with the repatriation process. Among them was a number of 15th Battalion Officers and NCOs, including Sergeant Henry Ralph who was assigned to No. 6 Group located in Belgium at 422 Fahrenheit Street in The Hague.

In January 1919, Ralph himself was returned to England where he spent several months at Rippon camp, Witley, before finally being repatriated to Canada in March 1919 onboard the RMS Scotian. He returned to Toronto and was on strength of Military District No. 2 before being demobilized and discharged from the CEF on 6 April 1919.

Henry Ralph returned to civilian life as a clerk and like many of the veterans of the 15th Battalion, he remained in the 48th Highlanders in the post war years - rising to the rank of Warrant Officer.

In 1931, Ralph testified before a Commission looking into the treatment of Canadian POWs by the Germans during the war. He himself was dealing with the lingering effects of the 2nd Ypres chlorine gas and harsh treatment during his time as a POW in Germany.

In 1934, he was part of a veterans' guard that The Regiment sent to take part in ceremonies at 1934 World's Fair in Chicago. In 1937, CSM Henry Ralph was one of sixteen Highlanders awarded The Coronation Medal by The King.



Sgt Ralph - Regimental Cenotaph 1925

In 1939, another generation of Canadians was called upon to come to Britain's aid with the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939. When the order to mobilize was received on 1 Sept, once again the

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Sgt Ralph (2nd left) & 15th Bn vets 1930's (1)

48th Highlanders called for volunteers from its ranks to form a battalion for service in Europe. Despite their age, many of the men who answered that call were veterans of the 1914-1918 war— including 54 year old B73417 CQMS (Warrant Officer) Henry Ralph.

What compelled Henry Ralph to once again face fate on the battlefield against the Germans we likely will never know but his 1918 letter to Jack maybe provide hints:

"...my soul filled up with humiliation & after three years of thinking it over I find that the feeling has only been intensified, & while I'm not personally responsible for being a Prisoner at all, I suppose we have got to stand for all the indignity attached to that condition, which looks as though it intends to stick with us for the rest of our natural lives.

I'm equally as sure that every man here is perfectly willing to get into it again if there is the least possible chance not that anyone has a liking for the business, a man is an absolute fool who says he has, but we all have the feeling that it simply must be done and then for us there is the additional incentive of being able to reassert oneself that it is the great thing. After nearly four years taken out of ones life. After the four years of slipping backward, after four years of what might have been prosperity, or at least promotion, or glory, or death, to come from Germany fearful of the past & scared to death from the future to be told that you can go in again & make yourself would give impetus to ones being & show us a way out of the awful muddle we find ourselves in."

Once the recruit establishment had been reached, the new battalion relocated to the Horse Palace at the CNE to complete its organization and start training. At this point CSM Ralph was appointed the battalion's RQMS. On 17 Dec 1939 the battalion entrained for Halifax and transport by convoy to England. Once again Henry Ralph was crossing the Atlantic bound for European battlefields. After landing at Glasgow on 30 Dec, the battalion moved south by train to Salisbury Plain and Corunna Barracks. As part of the 1st Brigade, the battalion relocated to Salisbury plain in May and prepared for possible action in France in support of British forces at Dunkirk.

However, after the defeat and evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force, the German army launched a second offensive against the remainder of the French army south of the Seine and Marne rivers on 5 June. The British War Cabinet organized a second expeditionary force



4 - CQMS Ralph (2nd left) Atlantic crossing 1939

which included the 1st Canadian Division. Ten years after the end of the last war, the 48th Highlanders and Sgt Henry Ralph would be returning to the front. The 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade arrived at the French port of Brest on 13 June. The following day, the battalions of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade moved by rail toward Le Mans, and the 48th Highlanders had advanced well forward reaching the town of Sable-sur-Sathe. The German army entered Paris on 17 June 1940 and the French government requested an armistice. As a result, the second British Expeditionary Force - including the Canadian 1st Infantry Brigade - immediately withdrew and, by 18 June, had boarded troopships in Brest and St. Malo and returned to Britain. Fortunately, the rest of 1st Canadian Division had never left England. The Canadian Brigade was forced to abandon most of its brand new vehicles, but it was able to save all of its artillery.

The Canadians spent the next three years in England reorganizing, training and preparing for the inevitable return to Europe. It was during this time period that due to ill health Warrant Officer Ralph was replaced as RQMS, returned to Canada and discharged from the CASF returning to civilian life once more. He remained an active member of the 48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association and was its President for the inauguration by the Governor-General in 1946.

Ralph's health had been deteriorating since his return to Canada during the war and in 1948, he died of broncho-pneumonia and cerebral thrombosis on 18 January at Christie Street Hospital. His military Circumstances of Death Card records that his death was due to Service. He is buried in Toronto at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Lot 327 Section 29.

It is an interesting note that Henry Ralph's daughter Ellen Jean married future Defense Minister Paul Hellyer who, in the early 1960s, made the decision to have a new Armoury constructed in Toronto at Moss Park. The 48th Highlanders of Canada, Henry Ralph's Regiment, moved into Moss Park Armoury when it opened and remain garrisoned there to the present day.

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VIMY CROSS TOUR – SEPTEMBER, 2018

By Sgt Guy Bowie, CD (Retd)

More than 100 years after the momentous events that witnessed soldiers of the 15th Battalion CEF (48th Highlanders of Canada) take part in the successful assault on Vimy Ridge (April 9-12, 1917), a gathering took place in the little town of Ecurie, France.

A large group of local towns people, dignitaries and members of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project team, paid homage to the men of the Battalion who fought and died during that fateful assault. I was privileged to be there as part of the team, and to represent the Continuing Sergeants Association of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

I arrived in France on Friday morning, Sept. 21st, along with BGen Greg Young (Retd), Captain (and former RSM) Vic Goldman (Retd) and with my two brothers who were excited to be part of this event on their first visit to the battlefields of France. We rented a couple of vehicles and headed north from the airport toward Arras where we would be staying for the next several days.

The date for the unveiling of the 15th Battalion Vimy Cross memorial was set for Saturday, Sept 22nd in the small village of Ecurie. A bit of background is necessary here. The original location was to have been next to the Nine Elms military cemetery, close to where the original cross stood over 100 years ago.

Several weeks before the scheduled unveiling, and due to some last-minute bureaucratic hiccups within the CWGC (Canadian War Graves Commission), a new location needed to be secured. Fortunately, and thanks to the efforts of BGen Young and our man on the ground in France, Mr. Simon Godley, a connection was made with the Mayor of Ecurie who was thrilled at the idea of placing the memorial in his village. A suitable spot was scouted, a council vote was held, and the memorial had a new home.

On the afternoon of the 22nd, a group of us met up in Ecurie to do a final check on preparations, and to assist where needed. The weather was pretty gloomy with a lot of rain coming down. This necessitated the erecting of a few small tents to provide some shelter during the ceremony. Later, in the early evening, we assembled near the town centre in front of the church. A brief ceremony honouring the locals who had perished during the war was held prior to us moving up the road to our memorial site.



It was a touching sight as the large group of citizens and dignitaries decided to walk in the rain up the road to where the ceremony would be held. The fact that we had a piper and a bugler accompanying us made for a memorable moment as we listened to the sound of the pipes while we made our way.

Upon arriving at the memorial site, people gathered around and took shelter from the rain as best they could. The Vimy Cross stood, shrouded with a Canadian flag and fronted with small crosses in the ground bearing the pictures and names of many of the fallen men whose names appear on the granite cross.



The memorial site is well situated just off the main road leading through town to a major highway, and it overlooks a wide open field to the West. The local trades did a great job erecting the memorial and preparing the ground. We are told that the town will be creating a small parking area so that visitors can get out of their cars to read the 2 interpretive podiums that are situated in front of the memorial cross.



The unveiling ceremony went very well, with speeches made by several dignitaries and members of the 15th Battalion project team. At the close of the proceedings, the gathering returned along the road back to the town community centre where a fantastic spread of local beers, cheeses, sandwiches and desserts were served up to all in attendance.

It would be hard to overstate the incredible amount of effort, energy and resources that went into making this event possible. There were many hands involved in pulling this off, but without question this could not have been possible without the dedication of BGen Young and his commitment to making this a reality. Truly a culmination of all the work that he and Capt Goldman have done to honour the service and sacrifice of these soldiers who fought and suffered so long ago.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been a witness to this event, and I hope that one day all of you will have a chance to see this excellent tribute to the Canadian effort, and the sacrifice laid down by the men of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) CEF.

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AFGHANISTAN TOUR 2010

By Cpl Myong-ho Joseph Choi

(Editorial Note: The following Q&A interview was conducted recently with Cpl Choi who describes his 2010 tour in Afghanistan.)

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

My tour was Task Force 1-10 OP Athena. I arrived in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in April of 2010 and left November the same year.

Where were you stationed in Afghanistan?

I was stationed in Kandahar Airfield (KAF). I also spent many days in various Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) across Kandahar Province and within Kandahar City.

What were your specific duties during the mission?

I was a part of the Operational Mentor Liaison Team (OMLT). The first month of my tour my duties were to aid in the training of Afghan Army troops at Camp Hero (an Afghan Army Base just outside of KAF), specifically with the C7 rifle.

The Canadian government had donated C7 rifles to the Afghan Army and we were obligated to train them on the rifles. I was later reassigned to the OMLT SECFOR (Security Force) which secured the movement of OMLT HQ staff (mainly the CO and RSM of the OMLT).

Who did you report to in the Chain of Command?

SECFOR was commanded by Capt Bissonnette of The Royal Canadian Dragoons, and had 3 NCO's, Sgt Mulcaster, Mcpl Galloway both RCD's and Mcpl Knapp of 4 RCR.

We would report to commander of whatever vehicle/dismount team you were assigned to that day, which would sometimes rotate.

Due to the small size of our unit (smaller than a platoon) we didn't have the conventional structure of a section/platoon. Instead we had vehicle crews consisting of a driver, gunner, and crew commander, as well as a dismount crew consisting of usually 3 troops, 1 medic and our dog handler (who was a private contractor).

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

During my pre-deployment (August 2009 – March 2010) I had completed a few courses required of my position which was Gunner/Dismount (I would rotate between roles but was mainly a gunner). I had learned to operate the Remote Weapons System (a system that allows for a machine gun to be operated inside the vehicle via a camera, screen and joystick, which could also dispense smoke grenades) for the RG-31 as well as the TLAV (and upgraded M113).

I had also completed the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) course and had various classes on local languages, history and culture of Afghanistan.

The major field portion of our pre-deployment training took place at the US Army's National Training Centre in Fort Irwin, California. Looking back, Fort Irwin provided an amazing training ground in order to prepare for a place like Kandahar Afghanistan. Located in the Mojave Desert it had similar terrain to Kandahar, a desert with mountains. There would large towns built up, filled with actors that

spoke Pashtun (the local language of Kandahar), really making it feel as if you were in Afghanistan.

What was the physical environment like in Afghanistan?

Since my deployment was during the Summer time, the environment was really hot... Hot and dusty. It certainly helped that it was a dry heat, I'd take a 40+ degree day in Kandahar over a 35 degree day in Ontario!



Most of Kandahar was a desert with a city in the middle, but there were quite a few spots of dense vegetation, particularly in the Arghandab and Panjwayi districts of Kandahar.

My personal environment in KAF was amazing though, I lived in relative luxury. I had my own air conditioned room in a 2 story living complex at KAF; it was also close to the Tim Hortons on base. I even had WiFi in my room which I paid a company on base a high monthly fee for, but of course it was worth it.

What were your daily routines like?

We had a regular routine in SECFOR since we pretty much did the same thing everyday, move from Kandahar Airfield to someplace within the province (usually to visit one of the many Liaison Teams scattered throughout the province).

The mornings consisted of the usual ablutions then breakfast (usually an omelette made to order) at one of the many dining facilities (DFAC, run by contractors) in KAF.

We'd then move on to prepping our vehicles and gear for the day and head on out to where ever we were going. We'd usually be heading to secure compounds or FOB's so when got to a place we'd usually just "hang around" there while the CO was in a meeting. Sometimes we'd send the dismount crew with the CO to take a walk around the villages with the local liaison team in the AO (area of operations).

When the CO was done, we'd head back to KAF, refuel our vehicles, clean our weapons and head to dinner at one of the DFAC's or maybe even get some fast food at the board walk (the commercial/social hub of the base) in KAF. Sometimes we'd stay at one of these FOB's or compounds for a few days or maybe even a week or two, but it didn't really change what we did, just the amenities.



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What type of weapons did you use during the tour?

The weapons I carried were a C8A3 rifle, a Browning Hi-Power pistol, with a couple of frag grenades and smoke grenades. On our vehicles we had a M2 .50 Cal machine gun or a C6 GPMG connected to the RWS. We also carried several M72's rocket launchers in our vehicles as well as a Remington 870 shotgun.

Did you have contact with the local Afghan people?

I had a lot of contact with the local Afghans. They would often be employed on bases as cleaning staff or as merchants. We'd of course see locals whenever we'd take walks around the AO and had many opportunities to interact with them. I had a couple of minor occasions dealing with captured suspected Taliban.



Pic with local

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

Just as with the locals, I had a lot of interaction with other militaries, since ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) Afghanistan was of course a NATO mission.

You would see soldiers from all across NATO in Afghanistan, particularly in KAF (where you'd see US, British, French, Romanian, Slovakian, and Dutch troops just to name a few...even non-NATO troops from Australia, and Singapore).

We particularly worked a lot with US forces either directly (having US troops with us on patrol) or indirectly (exercise syncing our road moves with American route clearance convoys) throughout the AO.

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

I was lucky on my tour and didn't experience much in the way of Taliban attacks, although I still had a few. I had a mortar land about 15-20 meters away from me in KAF, luckily it landed behind a concrete barrier designed for such a thing. We had one incident on a road move where we were shot at with an RPG, luckily it had just missed our middle vehicle, flying over the hood of it.



Right after IED me in center kneeling

apparently contained 60 pounds worth of high explosive material. We were all very lucky that day.

Near the end of my tour I had my only experience with an IED on a foot patrol. During a simple presence patrol of a town in Dand District we had an IED blow up in the middle of our patrol, which I was about 20 meters away from. Luckily only the detonator had gone off, making it look like training pyrotechnics. The IED was buried in Goat manure and

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

My unit was very lucky and didn't experience any casualties or suffer any serious injuries.

How did the tour affect you psychologically or emotionally?

I wouldn't say that the tour itself affected me at all psychologically or emotionally in a meaningful way.

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

One memory that stands out for me about my tour was when I was temporarily assigned to assist in the handling of witnesses to the Captain Semrau trial (the CF officer charged in the "mercy killing" incident) that partly took place in Afghanistan. It was interesting getting to meet the people involved in the incident including Captain Semrau, who I have positive impression of.

I had managed to set up a meeting between Captain Semrau and an Afghan Army Captain who was mentored by Captain Semrau during the time of the incident and was a key witness to the case. The Afghan Captain had asked me over lunch if he could meet with Capt Semrau, as they were good friends that hadn't seen each other since the end of Capt Semrau's tour. Later that day I then casually asked the Judge of the trial, while on break, to see if a meeting was possible. He allowed it under supervision, and I got to see them meet which they were both very happy about. This memory stands out to me because the case was getting a lot attention back home and it's kind of "neat" knowing I had some tiny role in the trial.

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

The main lesson I have for troops based on my experiences is: be prepared to be versatile. During my pre-deployment I had trained to be a part of a regular OMLT team that would be attached to an Afghan Army Company. When I got to Afghanistan that had changed due to some rejigging on NATO's end, I was assigned to teach Afghan troops weapons drills. As a Private, I had to quickly learn from my peers on how to teach effectively. I was then reassigned to a unit (SECFOR) that had a completely different role and was full of new faces that I had to learn to work with. Everything is constantly changing, and you need to be prepared for that. What I found that helped me was to try to really understand what it is and why you're doing something.

Did you feel your Afghan tour was successful?

I feel that my Afghan tour was successful in terms of my unit, and my coming home safe and physically unharmed.



Getting my Medal

Do I feel my tour (the mission in general) was successful in overall aiding the country of Afghanistan in terms of security and stability? Looking at the news coming out of Afghanistan nearly ten years later... No.

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RSM (WOI) VICTOR GEORGE JACKSON MM

By Lieutenant-Colonel Brian G Jackson MSM CD (Retd)

In December 1944 following the medical repatriation to Canada of RSM Bill Crossley, Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Don Mackenzie selected CSM Victor George Jackson to be the RSM of the 48th Highlanders. This promotion to WOI and appointment to RSM of the Regiment he joined in September 1939 was made just weeks before his 26th birthday; reportedly making Vic Jackson the youngest RSM in the Canadian Army, at that time.

Pre-War

Victor George Jackson was born in Toronto on 17 December 1918. Arriving a month after the end of WWI, Arthur and Elsie Jackson named their new son Victor to mark the 11 November 1918 victory over Imperial Germany and George V, the British monarch of the day. Victor was the fourth child (and third son) of Arthur and Elsie who went on to have a family of five children.

The early years of Victor's life were spent living in the Toronto area. However, when he was 8 years of age the family moved back to Montreal to be closer to the larger Jackson family. Residing in a French-speaking neighbourhood of Montreal, the Anglo-Saxon Jackson children were clearly in the minority. Victor recounted many stories of the Jackson brothers along with the other Anglo boys in the neighbourhood having to stand their ground with their Quebecois counterparts. In addition to ingraining a strong personal resolve and the skills to stand-one's-ground, the other benefit living in Montreal was that the Jackson children became fluent French-speakers. On leaving high school during the height of the Great Depression, Victor gained employment as a miner in the Sudbury, Timmins and Copper Cliff area. Here, he earned good money but for hard work.



RSM (WOI) Victor George Jackson MM MID



Arthur Jackson Snr with his children,
L-R: Arthur Jr (KIA), Alice, Harold, Victor Snr, Albert

World War II

On the outbreak of war in September 1939, a wave of young Canadians (including Victor) volunteered to serve. No doubt patriotism (King and Country) was a factor, but many (as Victor later would described it) were looking for adventure. Victor and a friend, took the train to Toronto, then made their way to University Armouries. Having no knowledge of the military, they lined up to join the artillery. While standing in line to begin the artillery in-processing, in marched the 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums. Having a strong Scot for a mother, combined with the pomp of it all, Victor and his companion left the artillery line-up and started across the armouries floor with a view to joining those who were lined up to become 48th Highlanders. They were abruptly stopped by an artillery sergeant who ordered them back into line; something they refused to do. Seeing this commotion, an artillery officer intervened to enquire as to the issue. Victor replied "we want to join them." Pointing to the Highlanders. The artillery officer replied "well if that's what you want then away you go and good luck to you boys – they are infantry and you'll need it."

The remainder of the autumn and early winter of 1939 was spent living in the CNE Horse Palace and being indoctrinated into a rapidly mobilizing Canadian Army. That Armistice Day the Highlanders paraded to their regimental cenotaph on University Armouries for what would be a final opportunity to remember those who had served the regiment and Canada in prior conflicts, before they themselves went off to war. Many of those who gathered to view the ceremony were World War I 48th Highlander veterans. At a time during the ceremony one vet commented to his friend, loudly enough for those in ranks to hear, that "they didn't look much like the boys of 1914." To which someone from within the ranks replied "that's right – and it won't take us four years to finish this one." Seemed he was wrong. Not long afterwards, Victor boarded the troop train, and with his regiment, travelled to Halifax from where they sailed to England.

In May 1940 the 1st Canadian Brigade was hastily dispatched to France in an impractical attempt to draw pressure from the retreating French and British forces. Participating in this ill-conceived foray, Vic Jackson was a simple soldier. However, being a French-speaker, he gained a broader insight into the unfolding situation during the times their train was stopped and he was able use his French to speak with local people.



Private VG Jackson - CNE Grounds, 1939.

After the fall of France, the Canadian Army got on with the business of preparing for war. A war which by now they knew would not be the same as the last one. Three and a half years in England was to see the regiment develop into a force that would be capable of sustaining its initial encounters with a formidable enemy. Then learning from these fights, the

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Highlanders had the leadership and possessed the resolve to develop into a tough and effective fighting force. During this time in England Victor Jackson also matured both as a man and as a soldier.

In addition to becoming skilled in the basics of soldiering and adapting to the rhythm of military life which enveloped all members of the regiment, Vic Jackson spent much of his time in England in the Bren Gun Carrier Platoon. He had a knack for the mechanical aspects of the job and enjoyed the opportunities to roam around and race through the south English countryside in their carriers. He also earned a reputation for taking his knocks and learning from his experiences. Not the least of which was the reduction in rank from corporal to private and serving 28 days in a British Army detention barracks (known the Glass House). This, for taking responsibility for the poaching, cooking and consuming of a local hen known by its kindly owner as Nellie. Although not directly involved in the act, he took the hit for those in his section who actually did the deed and enjoyed the meal. In addition to a forfeiture of pay and allowances while in detention, Private Jackson was also ordered to pay £4 7s 4p (see receipt below) for the purchase of a replacement chicken. As detailed in Dileas, this incident earned him the nickname Bad Boy Jackson. But the punishment reinforced in him and served to encourage others to understand that with command comes responsibilities. By June 1943 Sgt Jackson was the platoon sergeant of the Carrier Platoon.

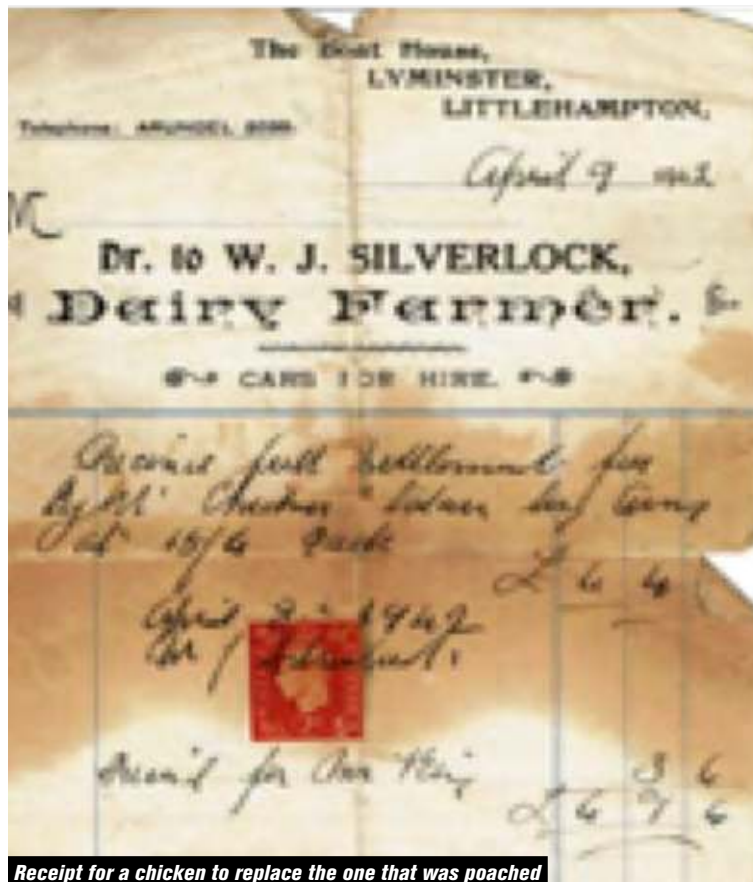
do. The outcome of this encounter was his new bride taking the train back to Kingswood alone while Corporal Jackson was taken in custody. There he remained overnight and was released the next day without charges. The futility of arguing with a military policeman notwithstanding, this incident served to demonstrated an inner strength of Victor Jackson; that of standing-one's-ground. In February 1943, four months prior to boarding a ship that would separate her from her husband for more than two years, Ruth Jackson gave birth to a baby girl (Valerie Sherwood Jackson).



Cpl Jackson with his brother Signalman AJ Jackson (KIA) - England 1941



Ruth Jackson with her husband (Sgt Jackson) and baby daughter Valerie. Kingwoods, Surrey in Spring 1943 prior to sailing for Sicily.



Receipt for a chicken to replace the one that was poached

Similar to many other Canadian soldiers, Vic Jackson met, courted and married a local Surrey girl, Mabel Elsie Ruth Sherwood, who resided in Lynwood house on St Monica's Road in the Village of Kingswood. Victor and Ruth were married in July 1942. While on their brief honeymoon in London, a military policeman stopped them as they enjoyed walking in the warm summer sunshine. The MP ordered Corporal Jackson to do up the top button of his battle dress blouse; something which he refused to

During the night of 4-5 July 1943, while en route to participate in Operation Husky (the invasion of Sicily) the SS City of Venice (along with one other transport ship) was attacked by a German U-boat. The City of Venice, which was carrying a number of Highlanders, over 500 vehicles (including all the battalion's Bren gun carriers) and over 40 guns, burned rather than sink immediately. Despite the loss of just over 50 personnel (including one Highlander) most of the passengers and crew escaped. Sergeant Victor Jackson of the Carrier Platoon was on deck at the time of the attack and assisted with the evacuation onto the available life boats and rafts. What followed was described later by Victor as twenty men on a ten-man raft for what seemed (at least) a very long time. Some time later, they were picked up by a British ocean-going tug and taken to Algeria. Once on the dock and while the group were sorting themselves out, they were approached by a British Army sergeant. Seeing Sergeant Jackson as the only one in any form of recognizable uniform, the Brit came up to him and asked "so what have you got here Sarge, Jerries or Eyeties?" Thinking, of course, Vic was responsible for a group of prisoners. Those rescued from the sunk ships remained in close quarters in Algeria until the Sicily landings were complete.

Quickly catching up with the regiment in Sicily after the landing, and with the Bren gun carriers now being at the bottom of the Mediterranean, Sgt Jackson was assigned as Platoon Sergeant for the Scouts and Snipers Platoon. This was a position which he would fulfill for almost year, until the start of the Liri Valley and Hitler Line battles in May 1944. Patrolling and sniping afforded Sergeant Jackson an opportunity to demonstrate his leadership, prowess, steadiness under difficult circumstances, a determination to see things through, marksmanship and his understanding of the larger dimensions of a military engagement. In October 1943 Sergeant Jackson led two patrols across the Biferno River, the results of which provided significant information in formulating the resultant attack that led to the capture of Torella. Later that year in December, following the successful set-piece advance of Morning Glory, Sgt Jackson was leading a patrol north of the area just captured. Suddenly coming under heavy machine gun fire from a German strongpoint across the valley the patrol went to ground. Finding themselves in a very exposed position Sgt Jackson and the two others in his patrol took

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advantage of what little cover they could. Witnessing this, a soldier from a different patrol returned to unit lines for help. Help eventually arrived in the form of a Sherman tank which provided covering fire that allowed the patrol to extricate itself to safer ground. While returning to BHQ to make his report, Sgt Jackson encountered Padre Stewart East who was leading a stretcher party. "Sgt Jackson" the Padre said calmly "I heard of your circumstances and I was just coming to collect you."



48th Highlanders Pipers & Drums

In the spring of 1944 Sgt Jackson was moved from Scouts and Snipers to be the platoon sergeant of a Dog Company rifle platoon lead by Lt Charlie Seagram. Advancing up the Liri Valley, the Highlanders encountered and defeated the outer elements of the German Hitler Line defences. And on 23 May, when the main brigade assault lead by the RCR and Hastings bogged down on the Highlanders' left flank, Dog Company, along with Bravo and Charlie Companies, broke through the German defences to gain the high ground looking into Pontecorvo. During the following days the 48th Highlanders would participate in the pursuit through the Liri Valley.



Charcoal sketch by war artist TR MacDonald, 1 February 1945. This sketch was made as he was recipient of the MM. The Original is held at the Canadian War Museum and has been on public display

As the Regiment regrouped following the Liri Valley battles and redeployed back to the Adriatic Coast, Sgt Victor Jackson was promoted to WOII and became CSM Charlie Company. That August and September the Gothic Line Battles were fought against a determined enemy. While the Regiment was attempting to advance past the Rimini Airfield, Charlie Company came under heavy and accurate fire from a German strong-point sited on a ridge to the west. Having suffered significant casualties, the company had no ability to press forward. CSM Jackson, using a 2-inch mortar, using HE ammunition caused significant casualties to the Germans, then using smoke created and maintained a screen which provided sufficient cover from view to allow the company (including all their wounded)

to pull back to safe ground. CSM Jackson was last to leave. His actions earned him the Military Medal.

The fighting on the Adriatic Coast continued through the fall of 1944 and into the early winter of 1945. On 4-5 December the RCR and Hastings assaulted across the flooded and fast-flowing Lamone River but, unable to hold the ground taken, were forced back across the river, suffering heavy casualties. This contributed to the overall failure of the larger divisional attack. The 48th Highlanders (as part of the next divisional attempt) were next in the slot for 1st Brigade. After a successful night crossing on 10 December, the Highlanders encountered a strong German force. During the fight a number of German soldiers were taken prisoner and sent back across the Lamone where they were kept under guard. These were good soldiers who still had much fight left in them. Coming back to the battalion rear to attend to supply issues CSM Jackson was approached by a newly arrived reinforcement who had been detailed to guard the POWs. The soldier was concerned the Germans were conspiring to make an escape. Confronting the ringleader, the CSM swiftly made it clear to him (and by example his fellow prisoners) to settle down because for them the war was over.

As December progressed, as previously noted, Victor Jackson was selected to replace the repatriated Bill Crossley as RSM. Much of RSM Jackson's job during the remainder of the 1944 winter and early spring of 1945, which the regiment spent doing the costly business of patrolling and countering enemy patrols, involved maintaining discipline, boosting morale and balancing troop strengths between seriously under-strength companies. Hard living in a low-lying region of Italy during a cold and wet winter resulted a large number of non-effectives due to illness and added to the continuing toll of battle casualties. All the while, the European Theatre (not surprisingly) dominated the headlines, in addition to taking priority for troop reinforcements, supplies and ammunition.



**Holland May 1945
RSM Vic Jackson (L)
CSM Bert McKissok (R)**

To no one's surprise but everyone's relief, in February 1945 the Regiment was taken out of the line. They then travelled in the back of trucks to the port city of Livorno, where they boarded troop ships and were transported to Marseilles. As is exceptionally well described in pages 732 to 735 of Dileas, the road journey took these men through areas of Italy over which they had fought and achieved success. In war success comes at a dear cost and the Highlanders were leaving more than 300 of their comrades

to forever lie in the hard-fought-for Italian soil. After disembarking in France, they travelled by road north through France to billets in Belgium (before moving forward into Kranenburg, Germany). Here, they become part of the First Canadian Army.

The intervening weeks before the impending battle to take Holland allowed for an opportunity to visit and walk the ground where a previous generation of 48th Highlanders had fought, distinguished themselves, brought credit to their regiment and helped define their country to the world. An understanding of what the Boys of 1914 had endured was reinforced when RSM Jackson arranged a visit by the CSMs and RQMS to Vimy Ridge. Traveling through the Belgian and French countryside they were struck (as one still is today) by the sheer number of well-tended Commonwealth, French and German WWI cemeteries. Standing on the heights of Vimy Ridge, on that magnificent monument, gave these men

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an even greater sense of pride for their country and its generations of fighting men; in which they had by now well earned their place.

During this brief respite before the final push to victory, RSM Jackson was able to take a short leave and return to England. However, Ruth and their now two-year-old daughter Valerie had already sailed for Canada along with many other war-brides. Arriving in Halifax, Ruth and Valerie then journeyed by train to Montreal where they were met and taken in by the Jackson family. But during his brief leave Victor was able to visit with his in-laws and enjoy some peace before the fighting that was quickly approaching.

On 13 April 1945 the 48th Highlanders began their final battle of the war by crossing the IJssel River at first light. Over the course of the next nine days they would fight and wrest the villages of Wilp and Twello and the city of Appeldorn from a retreating but still formidable enemy. While everyone knew they were in the final days of a five-year global conflict, they also knew that it was fight that needed to be finished and there would be casualties. When the Highlanders were taken out of action at Stroe, Holland on 25 April 1945 their most recent losses, included their much-respected Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Don MacKenzie DSO. The Colonel was killed on 13 April by an anti-tank round while moving forward to make contact with his leading elements. Colonel MacKenzie was buried in a temporary gravesite on the top of a dyke in the village of Wilp, along with those of his men who also died during those last days of fighting. The Regiment would later return to Wilp and RSM Jackson would parade them to that site where they would bid a final and fitting farewell to a



highly respected and much-loved officer, as well as, to their comrades who fought bravely even knowing the end was in sight.

With the German surrender on 6 May 1945 came the matter of repatriation of an almost a million men and women to Canada, then reintegrating them back into civil society. The interests of retaining unit/regimental identity competed with the desire of just wanting to get back home after (for many) almost six years of separation from family and peace-time occupations. In the end, expediency won out and many soldiers returned to Canada on the basis of seniority of time served away from home. As the old hands began to repatriate, RSM Jackson along with a number of original officers and NCOs remained with the Regiment. Their task was to maintain good order and discipline in a unit which was rapidly and increasingly becoming populated with men whose regimental connections were limited and who also just wanted to get back home. Tasks assigned to the Regiment included guarding German soldiers whose duties included collecting and stockpiling German weapons and ammunition.

Post War

In September 1945 when the Regiment's turn came to return to Canada and with most of the old hands already repatriated, Victor Jackson opted to return directly to Montreal. Here, he would join his wife and daughter (whom he not seen since sailing for Sicily in June 1943), and his family. Then came the question of what next? As with the majority of men who fought in Canada's two world wars, military service was seen as both an adventure and a duty to serve their country for the achievement of a greater good. At the age of 26 years Victor Jackson had proven himself to be a good soldier, a fierce fighter, as well as, a trusted and respected leader; now holding the substantive rank of WO1. A career in what would be a post-war/peacetime army (especially having two years of combat under his belt) was not where he saw his future. And, if he was to become a member of the Regular Army it would be necessary for him to take a reduction in rank to sergeant (his King's Warrant notwithstanding). Now a family man, he needed to look to their long-term future in a post-war Canada.



September 1966 - Thornhill Ont.
Jackson family prior to Bob (with) going off to Royal Roads Military College

Deciding to take advantage of the Toronto roots of the 48th Highlanders, Victor and Ruth Jackson moved from Montreal to Toronto. Here, on 4 February 1946 RSM (WO1) Victor G Jackson MM MID was honourably discharged from the Canadian Army. He then applied for and was accepted as a police officer with the Forest Hill Police Force. When issuing Constable Jackson with his service revolver, his Police Chief (knowing of his war-time service) said "I am confident you know how to use this weapon – but let me take some time to explain when you can use it." When the greater-Toronto municipalities amalgamated into Metropolitan Toronto, Constable Jackson became a member of the Metro Toronto Police. Not long afterwards he was accepted into the Detective Branch of the



1970 - RMC Kingston Ont.
Victor and Ruth Jackson attend the Graduation Finner for their son Victor Robert Jackson from the Royal Military College, Kingston

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force. After a time, he was promoted to Detective Sergeant and later was selected to head the Toronto Hold-up Squad. He retired from the Metro Toronto Police in October 1981 after more than 30 years of service.



Remembrance Day - Toronto
RSM (WO1) Victor Jackson leading the 48th Highlanders Old Commanders

In time, their five children left home to begin their own lives. All married and have produced many grandchildren. As their children got on with their own lives, Ruth and Vic instituted a practice of the family gathering at their home each Boxing Day, Easter Sunday and Thanksgiving. Still, after these many years, the ever-increasing Jackson clan continues to gather for these get-togethers.

Throughout their marriage Ruth and Victor returned to England a number of times. Being the place where they met, had a war-time romance and began a strong and lasting marriage, England was always a special place for them.



Thornhill Ont.
Victor and Ruth Jackson at Home

Other European travels included Italy where Victor was able to walk once again on some of the ground over which he and fellow Highlanders had fought. Later, when his son Brian was serving with HQ Land Forces Central Region (HQ LANDCENT) in Heidelberg, Victor visited twice. On his first trip they travelled around Germany, France, Belgium and Holland. The second visit included Victor accompanying a group of the Canadians posted to LANDCENT on a study of some of the Italian battlefields on which he had fought, including Melfa River, Ortona/Cemetery Ridge, Hitler Line, Gothic Line, Rimini and the Lamone River.

Throughout the post-war years, RSM Jackson attended the annual Regimental Old Comrades' Dinners, paraded with his former comrades in the Remembrance Day services at the Avenue Road Cenotaph and participated in other special events.

In December 1998 Ruth and Victor's five children and their spouses gathered in Boston where, with Victor present, spent a weekend celebrating his 80th birthday. He was alert and extremely pleased to mark this occasion with all his children present. The only sad note was that Ruth could not be with the family as she had passed away in September 1994. Victor returned to Toronto in good spirits several days after this gathering. Then, to everyone's shock he died suddenly but peacefully on 23 December 1998. As the family gathered and began to understand this loss, a consensus formed that a sudden and peaceful passing is very much what Victor Jackson would have wished. It was readily acknowledged that a slow and progressive loss of his faculties and freedom is not what he would have wanted.

On the cold and clear 4th of January 1998 RSM (WO1) – Detective Sergeant Victor George Jackson MM MID was buried together with Ruth, his wife and the mother of their five children, in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto. At their request, the epitaph on their headstone reads "Family is our greatest legacy." For Victor this included both his blood family and his Regimental brothers-in-arms.

*BRIAN G JACKSON MSM CD
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL (RETIRED)
8TH CANADIAN HUSSARS (PRINCESS LOUISE'S)*



HIGHLANDER PROFILES

A RETIRED HIGHLANDER HONOURS HIS GRANDFATHER'S GREAT WAR SERVICE

By Piper Duncan Hodgson (Retd)

EDITORIAL NOTE: Duncan Hodgson joined the 48th Highland Cadet Corps in 1982 and served as a Cadet piper. In 1985, he transferred to the Regiment and completed recruit and basic training before transferring to the Pipes and Drums, where he served as a piper until 1989.

Remembrance. As members of the 48th family, this is something that we all take very seriously. The 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War, tends to reinforce this.

On a more personal note, it is also the 100th anniversary of when my grandfather, Joshua Hodgson was wounded by a shell burst. According to Archives of Canada records, on October 4th, 1918, he sustained a "GSW head" (I presume this to mean gunshot wound, head) and was evacuated to hospital, thereby ending his war. He had served prior to the war with the 48th Highlanders but transferred to serve with the 2nd battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps France. After the war, he returned to serve as a piper with the 48th Highlanders for many years, thereby establishing a family tradition of regimental service that was followed by my father Joshua, my 2 uncles, Fred and Harry as well as my brother, Joshua and myself.

So how to pay tribute? This is something which had weighed on me for some time.

My passion in life is running. Most of my running I do alone, because it allows for many hours of quiet reflection. When circumstances allow and I can run with others, the camaraderie is first rate. I felt that through this, I could pay honour in a way that felt honest and true to my being.

I this connection, a fortunate crossing of paths occurred, for me, about one year ago.

While walking to the start line of the 2017 Toronto Waterfront Marathon, I bumped into Major Alkema (as his rank was then). I recognized the uniform and the name tag and started a conversation with him. I explained that I wished to do something special to honour both the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice as well as the memory of my grand-father. He was keen to help and suggested I contact him closer to the time, in 2018.

Next came the tricky part.

The goal was to run a marathon in late 2018 to pay tribute. The past year had not been kind. I had run 21 marathons and completed 3 half and 1 full iron man triathlons. As such, one more marathon should be no big deal, right? No sir.

Back in January 2018, I started suffering from heel pain which just would not subside. Loads of physio therapy later, the problem finally started to settle in late September. The dream never died, but it was in severe jeopardy. By mid- October I was able to run 18 miles - close to my goal. It was time to decide. I had considered running a half marathon, but a half marathon is just that. Half of something. Why bother? Thus, I enrolled for the Hamilton Road2Hope full marathon on November 4th. This was the last full GTA marathon of 2018 and it would allow for a somewhat truncated period of preparation and tapering.

Talk about cutting it close. Celtic frugality would allow no turning back now. Next step: reach out to the Regiment. Three weeks prior to the start, I swung by Moss Park Armouries and asked to speak to Major Alkema in hopes that he would remember our Queen Street conversation. Now Lieutenant Colonel Alkema and the new CO, he did indeed remember said exchange and suggested I speak with the DCO, Major Morische, to sort out whatever needed to be done.

Major Morische enthusiastically welcomed me and said that the Regiment would be happy to support me in this endeavour. He provided me with a Regimental t-shirt and was most keen to hear about the experience.

Excellent! Now, time to get ready to race.

The race weekend arrived. I travelled to Hamilton with my oldest son in tow. We booked a hotel room in town to allow for minimal race day headaches. A good pasta supper the night before and a decent night's sleep was most welcome. The morning was cool and bright. Considering that it was early November, one really couldn't ask for a nicer day.

Just prior to the start of the race, I heard a voice behind me, asking "Are you with the 48th Highlanders?" I turned around and there is former RSM, Paul McIntyre, outfitted and ready to race. What a neat coincidence.

It was show time now and away we went.

This is a test of endurance and it is important to maintain pace discipline and not start like a jack rabbit. Settling into a reasonable pace, around the 1 km mark I exchange pleasantries with a young gentleman named Darren, who was running his first full marathon. We were of similar pace and the conversation flowed easily. Youthful exuberance meets a little bit of experience. One by one, the kilometer marker boards disappeared behind us.

Around the 14km mark, the dodgy foot started to gently remind me that it was there. Nothing requiring any change of approach, but something to keep an eye on.

At the half way point we were faced with a long downhill stretch with a rather unpleasant head wind. Around 28 km, the downhill changed to an uphill but the wind is still there. If there was a low point in the race, this was it. The legs are unhappy and there is still a long way to go. Thinking about what grand-dad must have endured on the Western Front is sobering. It was time to just put one foot in front of the other. Left, right, left, right, left, right, left.

At about 30 km we hit the waterfront section.

It was there that, while chatting with Darren, I mentioned why I was doing this race. It turned out that he was in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. It was certainly enjoyable sharing our experiences in the Reserves.

By the 35km mark, we were both at that stage in the race where our legs were truly shot, but we were close enough that it was just a matter of sealing the deal.

And there it finally was - the finish line.

Four hours and 11 minutes. Not a time to set the world on fire with but it was nice to be back in the sport that I love.

The camaraderie shared with my new friend, Darren, was much like that I experienced during my days with the 48th. The opportunity that this experience gave me, to engage in some quiet reflection and honour my Grand-Dad and all of those who served is a privilege that I am truly grateful for.



Darren and Duncan at the Hamilton Road2Hope Marathon – 04 November 2018

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

15TH BATTALION - 48TH HIGHLANDERS

TORONTO MILITIA REGIMENT RAISED THREE BATTALIONS

AND EARNED 21 BATTLE HONOURS

"The tale of their might of arms will be forever fresh. Time, the enemy of fame, shall not dim the lustre of their deeds."

By BGEN Greg Young (Retd)

The 48th Highlanders of Canada raised three infantry battalions – the 15th, 92nd and 134th – for service during The Great War as well as providing large drafts of officers and men for other CEF units – principally the 19th, 35th, 58th, 73rd and 74th Battalions.

Of the three "48th" battalions, the 15th was the only one to reach the front serving continuously from 1914 to 1919 as one of the four units of the 3rd Infantry Brigade of the 1st Canadian Division. Upon formation at Valcartier in September 1914, the new unit became the 15th Battalion and later upon reaching the UK, it was officially named the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) reflecting the fact that the majority of its 1,283-man establishment was made up of 836 men from the 48th Highlanders Militia Regiment. Although viewed as a "Toronto" battalion, the balance of its original establishment contained significant numbers of men from other Ontario and Quebec Militia regiments: large contingents from the 31st Grey and 97th (Algonquin Rifles) Regiments as well as smaller groups from the 2nd Dragoons, 13th Scottish Light Dragoons and 26th Stanstead Dragoons.



48th Highlanders contingent departing marching to Don Railway Station to embark for Valcartier 2 Sept 1914.

Following the terrible losses suffered by the battalion at 2nd Ypres in April 1915, the 15th's composition, like all CEF battalions, gradually and steadily changed over the course of the war as casualties were replaced by reinforcements from many other CEF units. Research to-date indicates that more than 60 units contributed reinforcement drafts to the 15th Battalion. The result was that despite its "Toronto" roots, the battalion's composition became much more "national" with men from virtually every part of the country and many from the USA. The Battalion's last Nominal Roll taken at Bas Oha, Belgium in 1919, prior to embarkation for the UK, listed less than 100 men of the original 15th Battalion still on strength. However, throughout the war the connection to the 48th Highlanders remained strong with the most visible evidence of this being the 48th pattern badges, insignia, Pipes & Drums and, of course, the Davidson tartan kilts worn by all ranks. Additionally, large numbers of

the reinforcements to the 15th came from its sister "48th" battalions, the 92nd and 134th, who also maintained their connections to and the traditions of their common parent regiment. Hence, throughout the war it was common practice for the 15th Battalion to frequently be simply referred to as "the 48th Highlanders".

As part of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, the 15th Battalion participated in all the actions in which the 1st Canadian Division was engaged from the early days of 1915 through to the battles of the 100 Days campaign in late 1918.

For its service during The Great War, the 15th Battalion was awarded 21 Battle Honours in 1928 by His Majesty the King. Those in bold were chosen to be emblazoned on The Regimental Colour of the The 48th Highlanders of Canada which perpetuates the 15th Battalion:

- **Ypres 1915, 1917**
- Gravenstafel
- St Julien
- **Festubert 1915**
- **Mount Sorrel**
- **Somme 1916**
- Pozieres
- Thiepval
- Ancre Heights
- Arras 1917 1918
- **Vimy 1917**
- Arleux
- **Hill 70**
- **Amiens**
- Scarpe 1917 1918
- **Passchendaele**
- **Drocourt-Queant**
- Hindenburg Line
- **Canal du Nord**
- Pursuit to Mons
- France and Flanders 1915- 1918

Between 15 Feb 1915 and 1918, approximately 6300 Officers and men passed through the 15th Battalion and of those, 61 officers and 1, 406 non-commissioned officers and men died while serving with the battalion.



Battalion cross to the Fallen at Vimy 1917

The battalion crossed the Rhine in December 1918 and was garrisoned at Engelskirchen, Germany as part of the Occupation Force holding the Cologne bridgehead until 5 Jan 1919 when it departed for Bas Oha,

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Belgium. The 15th left Belgium in March and, following a short stay in the UK, sailed for Canada on board the RMS Baltic returning home to Toronto in a triumphant parade through the city in May 1919.

Between Feb 1915 and 13 Jan 1919, the decorations awarded to members of the 15th Battalion were as follows: CMG – 1; DSO – 5 + 2 bars; MC – 35 + 1 bar; CdG France – 1; DCM – 26 + 3 bar; MM – 162 + 11 bar; MSM – 2; CdG Belgium – 3. More honours and Awards came in the immediate post war years – mainly but not exclusively to repatriated POWs.

The 15th Battalion had three commanding officers during the war: Lt. Col J.A. Currie was the first CO and was returned to Canada following 2nd Ypres; the DCO, Lt. Col. W.R. Marshall, DSO, replaced him but was killed at Hill 60 in May 1916; Lt. Col. C.E. Bent, CMG, DSO, a reinforcement officer from the 17th Battalion, assumed command after Marshall's death, remained CO for the duration of the war and the Occupation and brought the battalion home in 1919. When on extended leave or when he was severely wounded at Amiens in August 1918, Majors W.J. Forbes, DSO and J.P. Girvan, CBE, DSO, MC, VD were Officers Commanding until Bent returned to command in late September. Of note is the fact that Maj. Girvan, a private soldier at 2nd Ypres in 1915 and commissioned from the rank of Sergeant, commanded his battalion at The Crow's Nest, The Drocourt Queant Line and the Canal du Nord in Sept 1918. He commanded the 48th Highlanders twice in the post war years and was promoted to Brigadier General during WW2.



Coming out of the line after Hill 70

Like many CEF units, the 15th Battalion had a battalion mascot; in fact they had two. When the battalion entrained for Valcartier in 1914, their mascot Max, a large retriever, accompanied them and then sailed with the unit for the UK. The fate of Max is not known but he did not go with the battalion to France in 1915. While the unit was in line near The Piggeries (Ploegsteert) in August 1915, Lt. Col. Marshall adopted a stray Belgian sheepdog, Bruno, who would remain the battalion mascot for the rest of the war and appears in many period photographs. When Marshall was killed, Lt. Col. Bent adopted Bruno and brought him home at the war's end to his farm in Paradise, NS. There was also an unofficial mascot known affectionately as Fritz who was a German officer's horse captured during the assault on The Crow's Nest in September 1918. When the officer who had captured Fritz was later killed in action at the Canal du Nord, Lt. Col. Bent adopted Fritz and brought him home as well at the

end of the war to live out his days in the apple orchards on his farm with Bruno.

Following a weekend of festivities on the battalion's return to Toronto and a parade to hand over its Colours to The Regiment, the men of that great wartime unit departed for home. Although not officially disbanded until 30 August 1920, the 15th Battalion was no more. In the words of author Kim Beattie, "the Battalion of which they were so justly proud had dissolved and vanished, leaving only a glorious memory."



LCol Bent and senior officers from other units.

In an effort to keep that glorious memory alive and with the approach of the 100th anniversary of The First World War, the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project was initiated in 2007. The project was envisioned to be a vehicle to acknowledge the part that the 15th Battalion played in Canada's contribution to the war effort on the battlefields of the Western Front. The Project proposed to do this through a series of memorials erected in locations where the 15th Battalion won a number of the 21 Battle Honours it was awarded for actions during the Great War. To-date, nine memorials have been erected: three in Belgium, at St Julien, Gravenstafel ridge (2nd Ypres) and Observatory ridge (Mount Sorrel); and six in France, at Festubert, Hill 70, The Crow's Nest at Hendecourt (D-Q Line), Warvillers (Amiens), Courcellette (Thiepval –Ancre Heights) and Marquion (Canal du Nord). On 22 September 2018, the 10th memorial will be erected at Nine Elms, Thelus for Vimy 1917.

Brigadier General Greg Young, OMM, MSM, CD, (Retd) is chair of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project. For more information visit their website at www.15thbattalioncef.ca.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY



In trenches near Neuve Chapelle Jan-Feb 1915



LtCol Bent and officers following assault on Regina Trench, Somme Sept 1916



Battalion's Senior NCOs Salisbury 1914. Most would not survive 2nd Ypres in April 1915

REGIMENTAL HISTORY



Coming out of the line near Ploegsteert 1916



REGIMENTAL HISTORY



PIP, SQUEAK AND WILFRED

By Capt Ian Steingaszner, CD

As 2018 came to a close, the final centennial commemorative services of the Great War came to an end. Most veterans of the 15th Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) at this time a century ago were looking forward to getting home, getting on with life, probably very grateful that they had survived and were receiving their one campaign medal. Recognizing close to four years of hard fighting with a single campaign medal didn't seem quite fair. Through no master plan whatsoever, this was eventually increased to three medals. The trio, comprised of the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory medal, were referred to as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred. But, as late as 1917, members of the CEF weren't eligible to receive any campaign medals at all!



recognize those who had actually served under fire or who had operated within range of enemy mobile artillery in France or Belgium during that period. Approximately 378,000 medals and 145,000 clasps were issued. The exact number of clasps is unknown since the clasp had to be claimed personally by recipients, many of whom had either died before 1919 or just never got around to applying for it.

The majority of recipients were members of the pre-war British regular army which comprised the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), also known as the Old Contemptibles, who first engaged the enemy in France and took part in the Retreat from Mons. From this action, the medal was nicknamed the "Mons Star". No Canadian combat units were eligible for the award of this medal as they were still back in Canada. 160 medals were awarded to members of the 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital who served with the British Expeditionary Force during this period.

The award of the 1914 Star to members of the BEF led to demands from other governments of the British Empire for recognition of the contributions that their own troops had made in the conflict. The Australians argued strongly for the creation of the Gallipoli Star for their original contingents which had fought at Gallipoli as members of the now legendary Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACs). After much controversy, the Gallipoli Star was never awarded. Instead, the 1914-15 Star was instituted in December 1918. It offered wider eligibility, being awarded to members of the British and Imperial forces who had served against the Central European Powers in any theatre of the Great War between August 5th 1914 and December 31st, 1915, provided they had not already received the 1914 Star. The period of eligibility was prior to the Military Service Act 1916, which introduced conscription in Britain. Oddly, it has exactly the same ribbon as that of the 1914 Star.



Approximately 2.3 million 1914-15 Stars were awarded to servicemen and supporting personnel of British military forces and the various forces of the British Dominions, India and the Colonies. This included 71,150 to Canadians.



This medal was followed in 1919 by the British War Medal. It was awarded to those who had rendered service between August 5th, 1914 and the armistice of November 11th, 1918. Two versions of the medal were produced in silver and bronze. The bronze medals were awarded to formations such as the Chinese, Maltese and Indian Labour Corps. Approximately 428,000 silver medals were awarded to Canadians.

Two separate committees, one from the Army and the other from the Navy, considered the matter of clasps for the British War Medal. The clasps were classified according to their respective theatres of war, and included the following clasps for France and Belgium:

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Mons [1914]	Oppy [1917]	Mount Sorrel [1916]
Le Cateau [1914]	Bullecourt [1917]	Somme, 1916
Le Cateau [1918]	Hill 70 [1917]	Somme, 1918
Retreat from	Cambrai, 1917	Bapaume, 1917
Mons [1914]	Villers	Arras, 1917
Marne, 1914	Bretonneux [1918]	Amiens [1918]
Marne, 1918	Lys [1918]	Hindenburg
Aisne, 1914	Ypres, 1917	Line [1918]
Aisne, 1918	Ypres, 1918	Courtrai [1918]
Antwerp [1914]	Festubert, 1914	Selle [1918]
La Bassee, 1914	Festubert, 1915	Valenciennes [1918]
Messines, 1914	Givenchy, 1914	Sambre [1918]
Messines, 1917	Neuve Chapell [1915]	Pursuit to
Armentieres, 1914	Hill 60 [1915]	Mons [1918]
Ypres, 1914	Aubers [1915]	
Ypres, 1915	Hooge, 1915	
Arras, 1918	Loos [1915]	

Kingdom or the British Empire, or with certain recognized voluntary organizations, and have entered any theatre of war between August 5th, 1914 and November 11th, 1918.



From a Canadian viewpoint, it is interesting to note that Vimy 1917 is missing from this list while the more strategic Hill 70 is included. Area clasps were to be awarded to those who performed “essential duties in a theatre of war without actually being engaged in active operations and ... who have served in fighting units without having the good fortune to earn a battle clasp....” Any person who earned a battle clasp could not be eligible for the area clasps in that theater.

Manufacturing and administering the distribution of bars for the estimated 6.5 million British War Medals issued was going to be expensive. While the final list from the Navy was actually approved by King George V, the issue of any clasps at all was finally abandoned on the grounds of excessive cost. Although having won the war, the British Government was desperately short of cash. Rationing was still in place in Britain and didn't fully end until 1920 when key commodities like butter were finally removed from the rationing system. Peace was proving to be a tremendous struggle.



When the Great War medals were actually issued in the 1920's, it coincided with a popular comic strip published by the Daily Mirror newspaper. The three medals were sometimes referred to as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred after three comic strip characters, a dog, a penguin and a rabbit, which were popular in the immediate post-war era. Pip represented either of the two Stars, Squeak represented the British War Medal and Wilfred represented the Victory Medal. One wonders

whether this was from a sense of affection, irreverence or even bitterness. Perhaps there was a tinge of bitterness because there was nothing distinctive to the group. They looked exactly like everyone else's medals. Imagine if clasps to the British War Medal had actually been awarded. For an original member of the 15th CEF who was part of the first contingent, survived the first gas attack at Ypres in 1915 all the way through to the Pursuit to Mons in 1918, their medal could have visibly connected them to the ten new battle honours emblazoned on the Regimental Colour. Sadly, for purely financial reasons, this did not come to pass. To get a serviceman's full story, requires reference

to the soldier's service papers. Since every medal from the Great War is named, each has a hidden personal story which is worth looking into.



The last of the trio, the Victory Medal (also called the Inter-Allied Victory Medal) was recommended by an inter-allied committee in 1919. Each allied nation would design a 'Victory Medal' for award to their own nationals, all issues having certain common features, including a winged figure of victory on the obverse and sharing the same ribbon. Fifteen countries finally awarded the medal. The Victory Medal (United Kingdom) was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or the 1914-15 Star, and to most of those

who were awarded the British War Medal. It was not awarded singly. To qualify, recipients needed to have served in the armed forces of the United



REGIMENTAL HISTORY

ECHO COMPANY 1968

A UNIQUE OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR THE REGIMENT

This story about a special 48th Mobile Command (MOBCOM) Reserve rifle company (designated ECHO in its Composite Battalion ORBAT), was first told in a Falcon article, published in the late 1960s. The original authors, Cpls J.A. Redmon and T. Welsh, both served in the sub unit.

This modified version of their original article was researched, edited and updated by Call Sign ECHO 3 Alpha with photos provided by Call Sign ECHO 3 Charlie, both of whom also served in this Company throughout 1968.

It was early January 1968 – the Regiment received their new operational and training role. It was tasked to Mobile Command (MOBCOM) Reserve in direct support of Canada's regular Armed Forces. It turned out to be a special opportunity for Highlanders, not only to expand and develop their individual and collective military knowledge and skills, but also to achieve the unique honour of winning, not just one, but a total of three Militia Trophies in one training year.

In this new role, the Regiment was directed to provide a fully staffed rifle company (designated as "E" or ECHO COY). Other regiments also tasked to provide similar companies to the composite Battalion were the Royal Regiment of Canada, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, the Highland Fusiliers, the Lorne Scots and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

With so many Highland and Scottish units involved, it was most fitting that a former 48th Officer, who had gone on to serve in the RCR, LCol Jim Cowan, was appointed CO of this MOBCOM Reserve unit.

ECHO Company's three sub units 13, 14 and 15 platoons were drawn from, in numerical order, Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Companies of the 48th; in addition, there was also a Mortar Platoon provided by the members of Headquarters – Support Company.

Our training was excellent, set up in 3 phases and overseen and directed by a Regular Force Command Cell, consisting of LCol Cowan, his DCO, Adjutant and RSM, all from the RCR. We also had additional NCOs and officers, provide by 1 RCR, to coach and guide us whenever we deployed to the field as ECHO Company.

Phase I consisted of train the trainer instructional sessions for our officers and senior NCOs.

Phases II and III involved the full Company deploying on weekend exercises, usually held in Camp Borden. During these phases we were exposed to new (at that time) weapons such as the Carl Gustav medium antitank weapon (MAW for

short). We also bivouacked in the field and got the opportunity, to practice section and platoon fire and movement drills and to dig and camouflage proper defensive positions; we also gained practical soldier experience in dealing with blisters, sore feet and, in a few cases, exposure to poison ivy.



**MOBCOM training in CFB Borden
Spring / 68**

The final phase of our training involved our entire MOBCOM Battalion deploying to CFB Petawawa for a full week of field training and testing.

There, we got to take part in live firing of all our personal weapons, including the FNC1 and CD rifles, the SMG (Sub Machine Gun). Many of us also had the chance to fire, for the first time, the recently acquired M72 Rocket Launcher. There was also a live fire demonstration by our regular force instructors that allowed many of us to see, for the first time, the 81 mm mortar, Carl Gustav and the Artillery's 105 howitzer in action. And, we had the special opportunity, to see and explore the new Regular Army



APC familiarization "CFB Petawawa – Summer – 68"

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Armoured Personal Carriers (M113).

However, our best training event of the entire week was the chance each platoon got to shoot at "Open House," an underground bunker system, which afforded a Vietnam War type defensive position on a hill overlooking simulated rice paddies and a river. Targets were placed along the riverbank to indicate an enemy advance on the position. Platoons were given orders to open fire, and to add to the realism of the simulated battle, explosives were set off and phosphorus grenades were thrown just in front of our bunkers, by our regular force instructors. Each of the ECHO Company sub units participated individually in this exciting exercise and fifteen platoon achieved the best shooting results, chopping up lots of targets.



**"Open House"
bunker and phosphorus grenade
explosion**



Our Petawawa deployment concluded with two competitions and Fifteen Platoon, under the leadership of Lt Kerr and Sgt Young rounded off the week by winning first the Bayonet Trophy, for best platoon in our MOBCOM Battalion and the Kitching Trophy, for best platoon in our MOBCOM Brigade. Their achievement was an important contribution in insuring that the 48th won the Gzowski Trophy, as the Best Militia Regiment in Canada for a third year in a row.



The Bayonet Trophy



ECHO Coy - 15 Platoon Leadership Group



The Kitching Trophy

ECHO Company, although not popular with many senior members of the Regiment, was the best tactical and operational training opportunity those of us who joined up in the mid to late 1960s had ever experienced up to that time in our young Reserve careers; because of our exposure to the learning opportunities it offered, we grew and developed as better soldiers better leaders and better Highlanders. While ECHO Company, as an organization lasted for only two years, its legacy has survived in the formed rifle companies that deploy annually from each Reserve infantry unit and group together to create Composite Battalions of the kind ECHO Company was a part of.

The concept that created ECHO Company, back in the late 1960s, was sound. Its validity and success is evident at every annual Reserve concentration in the Military Districts across Canada.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

VOICES OF CHRISTMAS ORTONA 1944

PREFACE

In December 1944 the 1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders, as part of the 1st Canadian Division, was advancing on Ortona on the Adriatic coast of Italy. Much has been written of the magnificent performance by the 2nd Brigade in the town of Ortona. The exploits of the 48th Highlanders and the 1st Brigade to the west of Ortona are well told in *Dileas*, our regimental history, but poorly in other sources.

What follows are the voices of 48th Highlanders who were there for Christmas 1944. These voices tell the story from their perspective. Three sources of quotations have been used:

- From *Hell & High Water* the words of Sgt. Herb Pike and Cpl. Gord Oathwaite
- From *Dileas* the words of Lt.Col. Ian Johnston, Lt. Ian MacDonald and the F.O.O., Major A. A. Hawker, 57th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery
- From some of the 1058 letters of Capt. George Beal wrote home to his wife over his five years overseas with the 48th

These voices from Ortona form the narrative of what follows. I have shown the actions of the 48th Highlanders 1st Battalion in italicized, bullet form to provide context and flow.

But it is their voices that tell the story.

HCol George Beal, CD (Retd)

VOICES OF CHRISTMAS 1944

20 DECEMBER 1944

- 1430 hrs Loyal Edmonton Regiment advances toward Ortona
- Seaforth Highlanders join up at outskirts of town
- Vicious house to house fighting begins as Germans have dominance over the streets

Sgt. Herb Pike: *"That's where mouse holing was invented. Remember it's an ancient town and the streets weren't boulevards such as we're used to and the homes were all joined together. And you couldn't get out on the streets; snipers would get you so the fellas would blow a hole. When you cleared a house you always cleared the top first and worked your way down. So they'd run in and get upstairs. They'd clear that and clear the bottom, then they'd blow a hole in the wall to the next one, so that way they wouldn't have to go out to the street."*

22 DECEMBER

- General Vokes calls on 1st Brigade to take pressure off the 2nd Brigade by flanking the town

Sgt. Herb Pike: *"We had to go to the left to cut off the main road into Ortona and Pescara. If you cut that road off, Jerry couldn't bring any more reinforcements in to Ortona. So we were told to go to the left through these small towns and clear that out and cut the road off."*



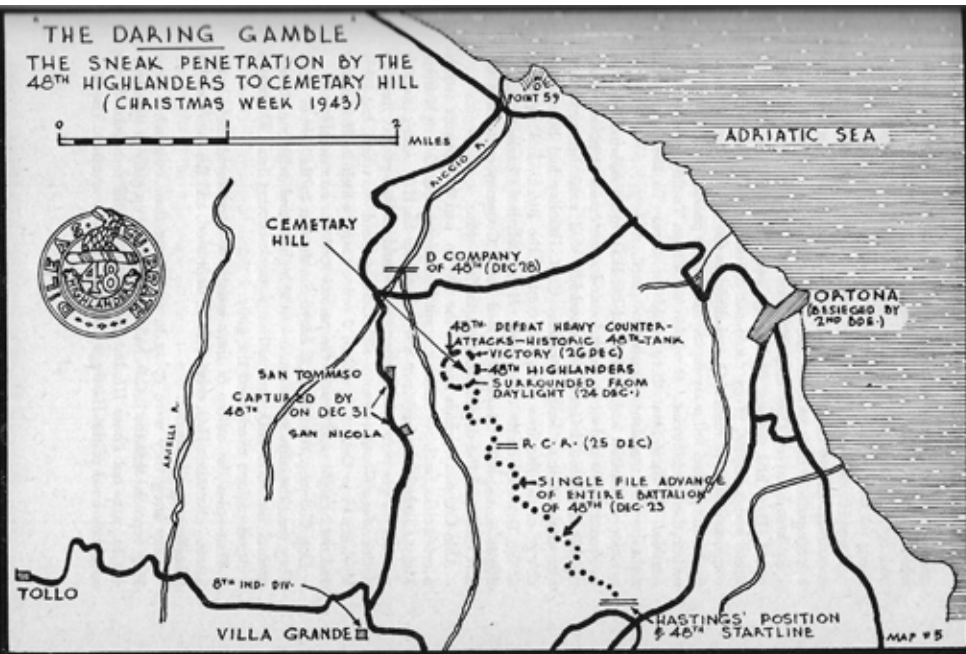
23 DECEMBER

- Phase I: 0830 start by Hasting and Prince Edward regiment to seize the intermediate ground
- Phase II: 48th to advance through and take dominating ground near the small town of San Tommaso
- Hastings advance stopped near start line. Supporting tanks unable to advance through mud and mines
- Battle plan put on hold as darkness fell. Then 48th ordered to advance as planned, unsupported.
- Lt.Col. Johnston changed the 48th plan of attack. The 48th would go single file, in the dark and the rain, through the German lines over 1 ½ km to their objective. They would carry only rifles, Brens, Tommy guns and grenades.
- "Good Christ, the Glamour Boys have gone crazy." was the response across the Brigade.
- As they snuck forward they captured, without a sound, two houses full of Germans of the 3rd Paratroop Regiment preparing for Christmas or sleeping. The prisoners were escorted back to the Hasty P lines.
- Objective near San Tommaso reached without alerting the enemy

Sgt. Herb Pike: *"Well they had the crack troops against us all the time."*

- Cpl. Gord Oathwaite: *"Wherever we went, they moved their [best troops] the same way. You got to understand, these were professional people. These Germans were well trained and they were really good soldiers." [Paratroopers were German volunteers. Other units were conscripts.]*

REGIMENTAL HISTORY



24 DECEMBER

Battalion digs in an all-round defence in the dark

- Enemy surprised in early morning when laughed at by the 48th then dove for cover when shelled for good measure
- Sporadic sniping during the day as German command develops plans of attack, unable to draw troops engaged in defending Ortona
- Serious counter-attack beaten off as dusk fell. Sharp enemy patrols through the night foretold a build-up

Cpl. Gord Oathwaite: "I was in a gun pit with one of our Bren gunners. Everything was sort of quiet; we could hear the Bren guns popping off, because they were not that quick at firing. Then all of a sudden this cheese cutter opened up, which is an MG 42. Jerry fires fifteen hundred rounds a minute, and it waves like this (up and down). If you happened to be in the wave you're all right, but if it comes back down, you've had it. I shook for ten minutes after that, and I wasn't even near it. Well I heard it, it just echoed right in your head."

25 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY – MORNING

- 48th now ringed by paratroopers, 88s and MGs
- CO decides that growing German concentration to right-front needed "the fear of God and the 48th Highlanders" to disrupt and delay the coming attack.
- 9 Platoon under Lt. Jack Pickering was selected. As he prepared Lt. Ian MacDonald of 8 Platoon volunteered his platoon.

Lt. Ian MacDonald: "Look here Jack, both platoons should go. One can't do it alone."

- Following close behind a plastering by British 25 pounders, the 2 platoons cleared sniper nests and drove the Germans out of likely HQ houses. Then under enfilade fire by machine guns they returned to lines.

- Lt. Pickering thanked Lt. MacDonald for his support.

Lt. Ian MacDonald: "Hell, if you had gone alone, you wouldn't have got there so we would have had to follow anyway."

Capt. George Beal (letter #678): "The battalion is about a mile from here but we have been unable to get to them for forty eight hours due to enemy being in between us and them. As I write this letter the situation is critical but we will get out of it somehow. I couldn't imagine a worse situation for Xmas day but there is no sign of Xmas here. The battalion is fighting for its existence but we will come through I know. I have been in touch with them by wireless but just now the communication died as their battery sets have gone dead due to the fact that we can't get fresh ones to them. We are now trying to drop them their essentials by plane."

25 DECEMBER – AFTERNOON

- Attempt by RCR to close up stalls 1000 yards short of 48th
- Enemy SPs and mortars appear showing German reinforcements had arrived

- At dusk the CO orders aggressive night patrolling to disrupt and monitor the enemy
- Artillery used all afternoon to break-up German concentrations ringing the 48th on all four sides.

Major A. A. Hawker, F.O.O. when his co-ordinates were questioned by his gunners:

"Just keep shooting. Imagine we're an island."

25 DECEMBER – NIGHT

Capt. George Beal (letter # 682): "Remember I told you that the battalion



Lt. Ian MacDonald, with binoculars, San Leonardo di Ortona, 10 December 1943

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

was cut off with Germans on four sides of them. They hadn't had any food for forty eight hours and their ammunition was nearly gone so we had to do something. Well that night I took one hundred and fifty men of the Saskatoon Light Infantry as a carrying party plus the stretchers to carry out the wounded and started off. Luckily it was a pitch black night but dear I was really worried whether or not I could get through. We got through though, right through the enemy lines without losing a man or a bit of the essential stuff we were taking in [Ammunition, batteries and rum]. We got out the wounded also. When I arrived at the battalion at five minutes to midnite on Xmas day believe me dearest was I a Santa Claus."

Lt. Col. Ian Johnston: "Did you get all the party through?"



Capt. Beal: "No, not yet, Sir, but they're coming. I've only got about half of them. We started with about 150 SLI people. Don't worry Sir, don't worry. The Padre's bringing up the rear."

- Padre Stuart East shortly arrived with the balance. He had organized the remaining SLI after the line had broken in the dark and then led the advance
- Once on the Battalion position Padre East visits every 48th Highlander in their trenches

SLI Corporal: "I was so surprised to find that tall 48th officer was a Padre. He stopped being nice and stormed at us like a sergeant-major."

CO, to Capt. Beal: "You forgot to bring a tank. Tell him [Col. Spry, Brigade CO] to send us just one tank and we'll massacre 'em."

Capt. Beal: "I will tell him the 48th didn't ask for relief, or reinforcements. They want a Sherman for Christmas."

CO: "That's right. One Sherman."

- Colonel Johnston's comments "We'll massacre 'em." Was a frustration held by every man in the 48th, and the entire 1st Division. From Sicily onward the 48th Highlanders were always on the attack, against skillful defences and daunting terrain. The rule that it required 3 times the force to attack than defend was usually ignored when attacks went in.

The odds were never that good and were often one-to-one. Just once the soldiers wanted to be defenders.

26 DECEMBER - MORNING

- German artillery shelling at dawn signals their preparation for an attack
- Counter-shelling breaks up two assembly areas
- 0930 hrs, the Intelligence Officer, Lt. John Clarkson leaves in full daylight to go back through German lines for tanks
- 1000 hrs, Germans begin major assault on Able Company
- 226 Fd Artillery plasters German advance starting just 100 metres out, reducing number of guns as they draw back on Able's position, ending with one gun firing right on 48th well protected in trenches
- Able holds fire until Paratroopers just metres away; German advance stutters but continues
- Sections hold positions with incredible discipline, protecting each other with fire, quick counters and individual acts of bravery
- Hand to hand ensues. Germans infiltrate lines but are stopped by Able company HQ
- Germans withdraw
- Two more assaults on Able repulsed before noon

26 DECEMBER - AFTERNOON

- Noon: Germans assembling for another major assault
- Lt. Clarkson arrives with 3 tanks of Ontario Regiment
- CO immediately orders attacks on German strongpoints, in a novel tank/infantry approach
- Tanks first, shooting up everything then drawing aside for a 48th company charge followed by artillery hammering the fleeing enemy in the open
- Able Company's front was first; then Dog Company repeated the rout on their front
- 1800 hours, last shelling from German artillery, then silence

Baker Company Sgt.: "It felt like the end of the war, the contrast was so great, but we soon found out it wasn't, and just got on with the war."

REGIMENTAL HISTORY



HCapt. Padre Stuart East with his boys, Caltagirone, Sicily 1943

26 DECEMBER

- German casualties for the total day, killed and captured estimated at over 120
- 48th Highlanders' casualties – eight!

26 DECEMBER – NIGHT

- Another relief party arrives

Capt. Beal (letter #683): “The following night I took in through the same route with the enemy still there one hundred and thirty five men with rations plus ammunition plus heavy machine guns [Vickers] and now today the situation is cleared up and due to the good work of the 48th there is a big breakthrough and the Germans have drawn well back leaving behind heavy casualties. We are all proud of the way the regiment did their part and they are the talk of the whole Eighth army.”

27 DECEMBER

- Sporadic sniping from Germans during the day
- Padre East buries German troops and names the site “Cemetery Hill”
- Heavy German artillery, 105s, toward night as Paratroopers withdraw
- Germans withdraw from Ortona during night of 27/28 December. 2nd Brigade takes town.

28 DECEMBER 1943 TO 1 JANUARY 1944

- 3rd Brigade takes on task of chasing the enemy
- 48th have clearing tasks, near Riccio River and towns of San Tommaso and San Nicola
- Casualties high as 48th are once more on the attack with German rear guards defending and heavy shelling

- Casualties close to 100 for the four days.
- Total 48th Highlanders casualties from 24 December to 31 December were 126; 44 killed and 82 wounded. Just twenty percent were in their defence of Cemetery Hill from 28 to 27 December, eighty percent on the advance that followed.
- LCol Johnston’s “Let them attack us and we’ll massacre em” was right on. The 48th and Canadian army had proved their skill, innovation and determination while on constant attack against a dug-in and well sited enemy in Sicily and southern Italy. In defence they demonstrated again why the German high command always moved their best troops, the Paratroopers, to face the Canadians who they declared their most dangerous foe in Italy.

2 JANUARY 1944

Capt. Beal (letter # 684): “The fighting here has lessened in intensity thank heavens and we are sort of sitting on our gained position. The country is a mess tho and there is hardly a house left standing for cover. We are going to have our Xmas on Jan 5 again this year but this time it will be right in the front line with the Germans about a thousand yards away. Nice eh?”

4 JANUARY 1944

Capt. Beal (letter # 686): “A nice quiet day today for a change. Tomorrow everyone is going to have a bath, a change of clothing, a bottle of beer and their parcels so the old morale should rise to great heights. The battalion for the last month has been living with nothing but their battle dress and a gas cape which isn’t much is it dear. However it shows what a tough outfit they are. Everyone is pretty tired though and do need a rest badly.

There is a twenty five pounder gun going off about twenty yards from the shack I am writing in and every time it goes off half the plaster from the ceiling drops down on me. So if this form looks a bit dirty that is the reason.

Tomorrow as I told you everyone is going to get a bath etc. and the officers all get a bottle of whisky each so we will try to imagine it is Xmas again although it is a bit difficult.”

POSTSCRIPT:

On 9 January 1944, the 48th Highlanders were pulled back, to a rest area south of the Arielli River, having been in battle 34 consecutive days.

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Dileas by Kim Beattie x*Letters Home* by Major George Beal, MC

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

"A Costly Lesson"

The story, in three parts, of the Regiment's most serious training accident in England during World War II.

"Early in 1942 the Canadian Army in England went Battle Drill mad.

Assault courses, live ammunition exercises and speed marches dominated the lives of all infantrymen ..."

Strome Galloway, "The General Who Never Was"

"War is mainly a catalogue of blunders."

Winston Churchill



Canadian Troops conducting a rapid Obstacle Crossing Battle Drill in Sussex England

PART 1: The written account in "Dileas" – Volume 2, Pages 163 – 164:

"An eternal watch had been kept on the Channel coast since 1940.

Pill boxes and defence positions were in place along the full length of the coastline, with sentries and patrols always alert, especially at night; they expected surprise raids. The Highlanders regularly manned positions along the Littlehampton coast. Each stretch of their beach which might give access to a raiding party was wired and mined, and some dangerous ground extended close to areas used by the Highlanders for training. One patch of this deadly ground was now responsible for the most serious training accident the 48th Highlanders suffered in England.

The unfortunate episode took place near the Windmill, outside Littlehampton. No.8 Platoon, commanded by Lt. W. A. Beatty, had just been declared winner of a Brigade contest, based on a questionnaire on army-air co-operation, with a one-day "at home" at Odiham Airport as the prize. They were now on a Battle Drill exercise with the rest of A Company, when they entered a mine field by some evil chance. They climbed over, or through the barbed wire surrounding the danger area, and at least two mines were exploded by ill fated feet. Three men were killed: Cpl. W. S. Pierce and Privates R. McKeown and T. A. Partridge, and Pte. Bert (A. T.) Hendry had both legs broken and mangled. He was also seriously shocked. Two other men went to hospital with shock.



Pte Bert (A.T.) Hendry

The entire Battalion was upset; all would have attended the funeral of the three victims of the accident if it could have been arranged, but Brookwood is a long distance from Littlehampton. As it was, the largest group of Highlanders to attend a funeral service in England traveled north to Brookwood: Lt. -Col. Hendrie, Capt. Don Banton, the Adjutant, and A Company in full strength. The service was taken by Padre Nicoll, and Brigade H.Q. and all 1st Brigade units sent representatives.

The enquiry ordered by Brigadier Rod Keller, with Lt. -Col. Howard Graham, C.O. of the Hastings, as Chairman, was held three days later. No blame for the accident could be attributed to anyone. The Battalion did not need the renewed instruction on care with such danger areas; it had been a costly lesson."

PART 2: From the Report of the Official Enquiry ordered by Brigadier R.F.L. Keller, Commander 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade:

Lieut. W. L. Beatty, having been duly sworn, states:

Q.1 - Are you now, and have you at all times material here to be an officer of the 48th Highlanders of Canada?

A.1 - Yes sir.

Q.2 - On what date did this accident occur?

A.2 - Friday 15 February 1942.

Q.3 - Where did it occur

A.3 - Vicinity of the Windmill 450205.

Q.4 - Who were the men who were killed?

A.4 - I don't know their numbers.

Q.5 - Were they B.72880 L/Cpl. PEARCE, W.S., B.75808 Pte. PARTRIDGE, T.A., B.73754 Pte. McKOWN, R. all of "A" Coy 48th Highlanders of Canada?

A.5 - Yes sir.

Q.5- And was the man who was injured B.73118 Pte. HENDRY,

A.T. of "A" Coy 48th Highlanders or Canada

A.6 - Yes sir.

Q.7 - How were these men killed and injured?

A. 7 - By explosion or land mines.

Q.8 - At what time of day and it happen?

A.8 - At approx. 1482 hrs.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Q.9- Will you tell the court in your own words what your job was, and what happened?

A. 9 - I had been detailed by "A" Coy Comd. to be Battle Drill Instructor for the company. I had completed the training of my own platoon, No.9 Pl, and had a day on the grounds with No.8 Pl. On Friday the 13th February, No. 8 Pl reported to me in the morning, and I put them through some preliminary training as a refresher. They again reported to be at 1400 hrs in the afternoon on a space just north of the main road running east to LITTLEHAMPTON. I there gave them an explanation or rehash of drill procedure for planning a pincer movement. Having done this I issued orders to the effect that the platoon would attack and capture the Windmill using a pincer movement as instructed. No.4 Sec was detailed to do the left flanking movement, No.5 Sec was detailed for the right, and No.6 Sec to act as stop section, myself and Mr. Cassels to move with No.6 Sec. My orders were completed by 1410 hrs and I gave them the times to assault for flanking sections to make their assault as 1435 hrs. The platoon started or go the north side of the road and when they had crossed the road at 445213, from this point the sections went to the flanks and started the pincer movement on the Windmill.

Q.10 -From that point the sections moved independently under command of their section leaders

A.10 -Yes sir.

Q.11 -It was No. 4 Sec on the left flank that got into the mine field

A.11 -Yes sir.

Q.12 - Who was in command of No.4 Sec?

A.12 - L/Cpl. Pearce.

Q.13 - Had you carried out any exercises over the same ground prior to this one?

A. 13 - No sir, not over the identical ground.

Q.14 - Had you any exercises over the same ground with the Windmill as the objective prior to this one?

A. 14 - No sir.

Q.15 - As an officer of "A" Coy did you know of the existence of land mine fields in this area?

A.15 - I knew there were land mines in the area of the beach but did not know the exact location of the mines.

Q.16. - Did you know that there were mines inland from the beach and near the Windmill?

A.16 - No sir.

Q.17 - You got up to the point where the section left independently, now go on from there. A.17 - After crossing the road, No.5 Sec moved under cover to the right, and proceeded under cover to make their attack on the Windmill. They were closely followed by myself and the stop section which moved under protective fire of other section. After crossing the road No.4 Sec moved to east and got into cover moving a general direction south east of the Windmill. .

Q.18 - Their intention was to come in from the left or east of the Windmill in the left flanking movement that they were doing?"

A.18 - Yes sir.

Q.19 - What happened next?

A. 19 - The right section had got into posn where they were to make their final assault approx. 250 yds west of the Windmill. I was at this time, together with Lieut. H. Cassels about 250 yards north of the section, I was moving in to the Windmill, so I could get a good picture of the sections in their final assault. I was on a spot about 200 yds from the Windmill when I heard 3 distinct explosions. I continued to move towards the Windmill and was unaware anything was wrong until I was met by a woman who came running towards me shouting that some of my men had been blown up. I immediately doubled forward to the scene, closely followed by Mr. Cassels.

Q.20 - What intervals were there between these explosions?

A. 20 - They went off with three distinct explosions one right after the other.

Q.21 - Go on now and tell us what happened when you went forward?

A.21 - I went forward to see what had happened and found L/Cpl.

Pearce had been destroyed, Pte. McKown destroyed, and Pte. Partridge destroyed also.

Q.22 - How did you know at that time who had been killed?

A.22 - I could not identify them except Pte. McKown, but I was told by one of the sections who was still alive.

Q.23 - What about Pte. Hendry?

A.23 - He was alive, and I spoke to him and asked him how he felt. He said he thought he had lost a leg. I then made every effort to get to him, and finally the engineers got to him, and put a tourniquet on his leg. The telephone had been blown out by the explosion, so I sent a runner to "B" Coy H.Q. to put a report through to BHQ & the RAP.

The Findings of the Court of Enquiry:

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

The Court finds:

(a) That the following members of 48th Highs of Canada:

B72880 L/Cpl. Pearce, W.S., - B73808 Pte. Partridge, T.A., and 373734 Pte. Mckown, met their death and B73118 Pte. Hendry, A.T. was injured in the performance of their duty whilst on active service. Time - approximately 1430 s., 13 Feb. 42. Place - 453205 (sheet 133)

(b) The deaths and injury were caused by the explosion of three anti-personnel and mines.

(c) The mines were completely wired in with single apron fence and signs were posted as indicated in sketch (Ex "A") attached hereto. The men entered the mine field at the point marked "A" on sketch. The explosion took place at points marked in red on sketch.

(d) The men in their enthusiasm to carry out the task assigned to them by their Pl. Comd failed to see the signs and crossed the wire without difficulty.

(e) Neither the men nor the officers in charge of the exercise knew of the existence of that particular mine field which was some 300 yards in land from the beach.

(f) As to injuries sustained by B73118 Pte. Hendry, A.T. - He is at present in hospital and I expected to recover without loss of limbs and probably no permanent disability.



The Court Recommends:

(a) That no field training be carried out within 800 yards of the beaches.

(b) That no other training or work be undertaken within 800 yards of the beaches without a thorough recce to locate mine fields and definitely warn the troops of the location of such mines.

BRIGADE COMMANDERS REMARKS

Having visited the scene of the accident the following morning and having read the evidence and finding of the Court, I am of the opinion, that these three soldiers were accidentally killed and Pte Hendry A.T. accidentally wounded whilst on duty, and that no blame can be attached to them. It would further appear to be that the unfortunate Section Leader (L/Cpl Pearce) led his Section at a very fast rate of movement into the minefield, at about the one and only place where it is NOT possible to see the warning signs.

As regards the recommendations of the Court, I cannot agree with the wording "That no Field Training be carried out within 800 yds of the beaches", as in my opinion it is of vital importance that units and subunits know this area and can operate there surely and safely, despite the existence of mine fields.

(R.F.L. KELLER)

BRIGADIER

COMD, L CDN INF BDE

HQ I CDN INF BDE

IN THE FIELD

PART 3: Reflections and comments from 1st Battalion Highlander Norm Cromie, who was present at the time of the accident:

(The following are notes from a 2008 interview of the late Norm Cromie (48th 1st Battalion; joined the Regiment 13 Sep, 1939) with journalist Luke Hendry (grandson of wounded Highlander Pte A.T. (Bert) Hendry).



Norm Cromie's comments on the incident (paraphrased, by the interviewer, unless in quotations):

The accident in Littlehampton occurred near the beach

"The Regiment left Kingswood and went to Littlehampton"

"A couple of our platoons were stationed right near the beach"

They were near Ford Airport near a river

"We were stationed at a house on the bridge"

"You walk over the bridge ... and there should be a road running to the right in a bunch of fields, and that road went right down to the ocean, which the people used to use during the holiday season. They were empty fields.

The minefield was about 400 yards from the ocean.

What they had were British antipersonnel mines."

"The whole place was mined; they were expecting a German invasion"

When the accident happened:

"When one of them set off, the others ran back."

More explosions followed

"There'd be a couple 'em (explosions)"

"They were running in all different directions"

"They didn't know what had happened, of course"

"Right away the word spread like wildfire, because they had to bring in a military ambulance."

"It was a barbed-wire-enclosed area. If I remember, (there were) bits of uniform on the wire"

"They may have loaded them on jeeps and gotten them out of there"

"It'd be a long time before someone got there"

"Lt. Beatty was the officer that led them into minefield. It was a terrible mistake on the part of the officer, really."

"War is the unfolding of miscalculations"

Barbara Tuchman

Sources:

Luke Hendry - Journalist and Grandson of Pte Bert (A.T.) Hendry;

Dileas -History of the 48th Highlanders of Canada 1929 - 1956, by

Kim Beattie;

The Military Quotation Book, Edited by James Charlton;

Six Years of War, by C.P. Stacey.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

48TH Highlanders Calendar of Key Regimental Events 2019

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / TIMING (Hrs)
Fri 26 Apr	Mackenzie Shoot (Sr NCOs/Oftrs)	MPA Ranges (1900)
Sat 27 Apr	48th Officers' Mess Dinner	Officers' Mess (1800)
Sun 28 Apr	OCA Battle of York Parade	Victoria Square, Toronto (0900)
Sun 28 Apr	Regimental Church Parade	St. Andrew's Church (1030)
Sun 05 May	Pipes & Drums Wine & Cheese	WO/Sgts Mess (1300)
10-12 May	Field Training Exercise	
31 May – 02 Jun	Field Training Exercise	
Tue 04 June	OCA Life-Members Luncheon	WO/Sgts Mess (1100-1400)
Fri 14 June	Regimental Stand-Down Parade	MPA (2000)
Sat 15 June	Regimental Wine & Cheese Social	WO/Sgts Mess (1300)
Sun 07 July	OCA WWII Italian Campaign Memorial	Toronto City Hall (1100)
Tue 10 July	OCAWWII Pachino Day Parade	Belleville Armoury (1000)
09-10 Aug	Fergus Highland Games	Fergus, Ontario
10-25 Aug	Ex STALWART GUARDIAN	
Sat 17 Aug	Warriors Day Parade (OCA)	CNE, Toronto (1000)
Fri 06 Sept	Regimental Stand-To Parade	MPA (2000)
20-22 Sept	Field Training Exercise	
Sat 05 Oct	48th WO/Sgts Mess Dinner	Officers' Mess (1800)
18 – 20 Oct	Field Training Exercise	
Sat 03 Nov	IODE Trench Lunch (WWII)	WO/Sgts Mess (1200)
Sat 09 Nov	OCA Remembrance Service	Mount Pleasant Cemetery (1030)
Sat 09 Nov	OCA Remembrance Dinner	Blvd Club (1700)
Sun 10 Nov	Remembrance Day Parade	Queen's Park, Toronto (1030)
23-25 Nov	Field Training Exercise	
Sat 30 Nov	St. Andrew's Ball	The Carlu, Toronto (1800)
Tue 03 Dec	OCA Life-Members Luncheon	WO/Sgts Mess (1100-1400)

IN REMEMBRANCE - NOV 2018



IN REMEMBRANCE - NOV 2018



IN REMEMBRANCE - NOV 2018



IN REMEMBRANCE - NOV 2018



SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL

Capt Alec Shipman, CD

@ Dorothy Macham Building (next to K Wing) in Section G2, Room #21

WO Robert Taylor, CD

@ L Wing, 2nd Street, Room #218

Neither of these gentlemen have a room telephone connection and
can only be reached by a personal visit.

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 2019





DILEAS GU BRATH



IN MEMORIAM

John Andrew Brown.....	Kingston.....	13 Sep, 2018
Beatrice Margaret Corbett....	Kingston.....	15 Nov, 2018
William Davidson.....	Toronto.....	14 Sep, 2018
Alfred Delaney	Belleville.....	28 Sep, 2018
Larry Fullerton	Toronto.....	18 Mar, 2019

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

APRIL 2019

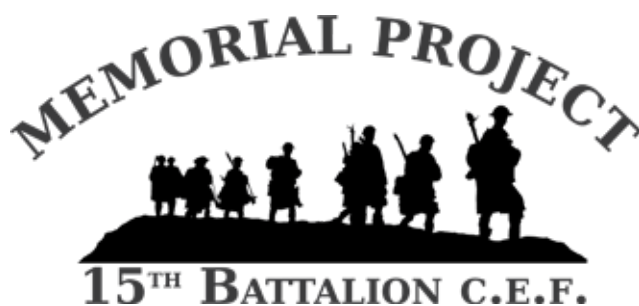
IN MEMORY OF THE VALOUR OF THE HIGHLANDERS OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF



1915 – 2nd Ypres
Gravenstafel Ridge



1916 – The Somme
Ancre Heights / Thiepval Ridge



1917 – Hill 70



1918 – Canal du Nord