



# The FALCON



L. Tucker

48th HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

UNIVERSITY ARMOURIES, TORONTO

VOL.1 NO.3

DECEMBER, 1949.

### Message from the Commanding Officer

It affords me great pleasure to have the opportunity through the medium of the Regimental Magazine "The Falcon" to thank all Officers, NCO's and men for their very excellent work with the Regiment throughout the year 1949.

I feel confident that with the help, cooperation and hard work of all of you the Regiment in 1950 will continue to show steady improvement in all directions.

May I at this time wish you and your families the traditional year end greeting of

**Best Wishes for a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Bright  
Prosperous New Year**



This publication is issued under the authority of Lt Col M.E. George Commanding Officer 48th Highlanders of Canada. The contents of this publication have been edited and approved by W.T. Ware (Lt)

THE FALCONREGIMENTAL PUBLICATION  
of  
THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

Editor - - - - - Lt. W. T. Ware  
 Assist. Edit. - - - Lt. J. Cowan  
 - - - - - 2/Lt. MacLeod  
 - - - - - CSM. L. Falkoner  
 - - - - - Cpl. Lapham  
 - - - - - ( Boar  
 - - - - - ) Ptes: MacKay  
 - - - - - ) Bover

of over 1,000 members, it now includes all veterans who served with the Highlanders in any Battalion in either of the World Wars.

To assist the Old Comrades' Association in matters pertaining to comforts, welfare work etc., is the Women's Auxiliary to the Old Comrades' Association.

The 48th Highlanders' Chapter I.O.D.E. is another group of ladies who help in matters pertaining to welfare. They concern themselves with helping members of both the active Regiment and ex-service personnel.

THE 48th HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION

Over a period of years several strong organizations have sprung from the 48th Highlanders of Canada Regiment, which this year have been drawn together and incorporated under the title of "The 48th Highlanders Association".

The Regiment is, of course, the centre around which the other organizations function. In time of peace, the Regiment plays a prominent part in the Militia of Canada. In times of war, the Regiment expands to two or more Battalions, one of which is the home Battalion, the others active service Battalions, which have in the past served with distinction on many a battle field of Europe.

The strongest of the Regimental organizations is the Old Comrades' Association, which is a successor to the 15th Battalion Old Comrades' Club. With a membership this year

The 5th organization of the Association is the Ex-officers Association, which as its name implies, has as members all Officers who at any time served with the Regiment.

The 48th Highlanders Association is the owner of Memorial Hall at 519 Church Street, Toronto, which serves as a club house and meeting place for all Highlanders. The Hall, the envy of every veterans' organization and unit in the Toronto Garrison, was purchased in the fall of 1945 and was completely paid for by donations received from friends of the Regiment, together with substantial donations from the Old Comrades Association, the Ex-officers Association and the 48th Highlanders Chapter I.O.D.E. The Hall is ideally suited for any type of party from a Platoon get-together to a Veterans' Dinner or Regimental Dance.

The Commanding Officer of the Active Regiment is automatically President of the 48th Highlanders Assoc. To assist and advise him is

A board of directors composed of two elected members from each of the five organizations. The one exception is The Old Comrades' Assoc., which has four elected members on the Board, the reason being that the Old Comrades have undertaken the operation of the Hall on behalf of the Association.

To the many who worked hard and long to bring the 48th Highlanders Association into being, all credit is due. They have done a tremendous job of maintaining and keeping alive friendships formed as comrades-in-arms. They have made it possible that we may all say with justifiable pride, "Once a Highlander, always a Highlander."

#### FLASH

Piper J. Baird, formerly of our Pipe Band, and father of our present Piper W. Baird has imported a most interesting item of news.

While holidaying in Aberdeen, he witnessed the ceremony wherein our parent regiment "The Gordons" were given the freedom of the City.

This ceremony was held last August and was attended by all the Territorial Units of the Gordons. The 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders came home from the Army of Occupation to receive this great honour, and to enjoy the hospitality of the City that was extended to the full to all who took part in the ceremony.

#### OFFICERS' BASEBALL

Have you raised your eyes lately to the score board over the Sgts' Gallery? There for all to see is the proof of the "Dileas" spirit. Four wins, no losses, no ties! Nice showing Highlanders and great work Maj Fraser- it takes Managers like you to chalk up scores like that.

Our recent member of the Mess Lt J.M. Lowndes may not have alarmed our opponents too much to date, but give him another year and just watch!

May we, editorially speaking, hereby present a bouquet to Maj Eardley Wright, staunchest supporter of the team. We guarantee to underwrite his laryngeal treatments for the season.

#### HQ HIGHLIGHTS

We have welcomed to the Coy one of those confusing brothers, who are so hard to tell apart, but we believe that it is our good fortune that Lt D.S. Barclay is now with HQ Coy. (Would it be possible to put one of them into a Stewart tartan kilt for the sake of identification?) Our new recruits should be well whipped into shape now, as Mr. Barclay is well qualified to supervise recruit training.

With Capt Connolly and Lt Cunningham on leave these days we feel rather lonesome, but it won't be long now.

In the past few months many new recruits have been attested, also some of our old sods have returned.

We welcome back Pte Appleton, formerly of Don Coy, along with the others. They're all bound to come back to the finest Regiment sooner or later! Who can tell, there may be a Guardsman among them.

Although old HQ works like a concertina at times, it is very gratifying to find ourselves the largest Coy on parade. (Recruits and all).

Why are the sigs strutting around with expanded chests these days? Is it the new sigs equipment, or is it their new gongs? It could be all the new wireless sets Lt Cooper, Cpls Sawdy, Gilham and Smith have. The section is growing fast and will be needing a bit more room for expansion soon.

With so much scarlet and white shells these days, memories of pre 1939 days come back with a bang, and to watch the keen spirit in which the Highlanders snap into whatever job comes up, certainly boars out our motto "DILEAS GU BRATH".

#### SUPPORT STRUTTERS

An apology is in order, re the names given to The Falcon last issue of the Anti-tank gun crew who won the Silver Cup at Camp this last summer. They should have read: Cpl D.R.A. Spence, L/Cpl K. Luttrell, L/Cpl E. Luttrell, and Pte. K. Rose.

Best wishes to Sgt D.R. Weed on

his recovery from an operation at Sunnybrook.

On Oct. 5th the Anti-Tank Platoon, which, of course is the best platoon in the Coy, had a very successful manoeuvre, carrying out an attack against a fortified enemy position.

Apology Number 2. It seems we conveyed a rather unnecessary second stripe on Cpl Wood in our last issue. His new title is actually "Assistant Instructor in the Carrier". Sorry Corporal!

The newest addition to the list is Pte R.A. "MOOSE" Fisher - Welcome to the best Coy "Moose".

#### ABLE AIRS

Another memo of a Coy's doings for the past quarter year.

At Camp Borden where the Regiment practised a river crossing scheme, "A" Coy had the roughest spot to cross, as usual. Those who were there will remember the six-foot high clay bank we ran into on the other side. There were certainly a lot of tired boys when the scheme was over.

In our "Extra" department, namely sports, we again did the impossible by defeating all challengers in volley ball and baseball. Not all the credit should go to the team however; we must tip our bonnets to Maj Kilgour's cheering section. A lot of credit should go to Joe Watson and Pete Sutherland who turned in some terrific games. Leave us not forget the umpiring!!

We all received a pleasant surprise this Fall when we saw the white shells and blue patrol in the color party Memorial Sunday.

We hope it will not be too long before the Companies try them on for size.

We welcome Larry McCabe and Peter Walker to our Coy and hope they will have a long, happy stay.

#### BAKER BLUNDERS

Baker Coy is planning another smashing stag. The riot and accident squads of the City have been warned and all A.R.P. personnel have been called up.

Congratulations to Sgt Parmer on his third hook, Murray and a cracking good Corporal and we're sure he will make an excellent Sgt.

Baker Coy is happy to welcome some more "Red Patch" men, Pte. Bird and Pte Deldre.

Baker Coy would like to wish the Regiment and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### CHARLIE CHATTER

There is much activity in the "C" Coy orderly room these days. The old room is getting a face-lifting. We've been rummaging around and came up with some very interesting things, among all the old cobwebs, such as outdated pans, old beer bottles, etc. We even found papers that

were A.W.O.L. from the Regimental Archives, namely some old written orders, dated 1900-1904 and signed by Maj A.M. Cosby, Ajt. We also found a recruiting sign 30 years old.

In the last few months a few changes have been made in the ranks of the Company. CSM Taylor, a very fine soldier, retired from army life and we will miss him greatly. Sgt. Clark, a veteran, is now our new CSM. We feel he will ably fill the position of the man who does most to keep "C" Coy the best Coy in the Unit. We also have a new Sgt in the name of Sgt. Lowe, an overseas Veteran, who has returned to army life.

#### WITH "C" COY NEAR BORDEN

We are now waiting to cross the Nottawasaga River. Everybody is tense from the suspense of the last few hours. It's beginning to tell on some of the men. I now see staggering—er—marching down towards the boats the first platoon; there is the occasional splash, curse, and the sound of someone—er—coughing. It is beginning to play on my nerves. Every once in a while a stray shellburst (probably from our own artillery) lights the surrounding area, and I see the bloodshot terror-filled eyes of the man next to me. Suddenly I hear the high pitched voice of the Coy sign man calling over his wireless set. "Come in Able 2, speak to me, say something". Through the extra set of phones I heard a muffled voice explain, "Burr".

All kidding aside, this Coy got a lot out of the scheme (whether

it was a hangover, is beside the point). We were eating "a la cave-man" after an acute shortage of silverware (did I say silverware?) cropped up.

Attention! Those men in "C" Coy who have not yet received their "Petawawa Doublecross" the decoration for "Absence beyond the line of duty", please contact Cpl Patterson immediately. The new ribbon is of a yellow hue with browned-off edges.

### DOGGEREL

On Thurs. night Oct. 27th "D" Coy had one of their famous parties, which everyone felt the next morning must have been a great success.

A most enjoyable dinner was held at the Memorial Hall on Church St., which was followed by a route march accompanied by two pipers and a drum down Church St., to the Maple Leaf Gardens where we occupied ringside seats to witness the "Grunt and Groan" boys really throw themselves around - there were lots of good laughs. After the festivity, the Coy returned to the Hall for a few sociable "Pale browns". Even though we were a little crowded for space due to the many activities that go on up there of an evening, we managed to find a piano and do a bit of crooning.

We were delighted to see so many ex-members of "D" Coy turn out, such as CSM Falkener, CSM Frank North and CSM Stan Lamb. CSM Benner gave a very inspiring after-dinner talk which everyone greatly appreciated.

"D" Coy is pleased to welcome a new Officer, Lt Woolley, to the fold. Lt Woolley served overseas with the 48th and recently rejoined us.

As a parting thought, it is pleasing to note that Don Coy is (as usual) the largest Rifle Coy on parade. As a matter of fact, Maj Reid collected on a small bet he had with Maj Corbett of Charlie. The bet was that "D" Coy would have a larger strength on the Memorial Sunday Parade than "C" Coy. Take note Charlie Coy. Not only did we have more men on parade, but Maj Reid had quite a few drinks at the expense of your Company Commander.

### "- HALF A PIE -"

A few years ago, 1904 to be exact, Orders were sent to the Coys about a Thanksgiving Day Manoeuvre, and went like this:

THANKSGIVING DAY MANOEUVRE  
The Regiment will parade on Thurs., Nov. 17, in drill order (trews and leggings) with haversacks at 8:45 A.M. for the purpose of taking part in the Thanksgiving Day Manoeuvres.

Transportation will be furnished from the armouries to the point of rendezvous at Davenport. Greatcoats will be carried in the Coy Wagons which will accompany the Regiment.

Luncheon (one large Sandwich, half a pie and hot coffee) will be supplied by the Regiment. Each man, however, is required to carry something more with him in his haversack.

A bicycle Detachment of about two men per Company is required for the purpose of scouting, etc. Men willing to volunteer for this will report to Sgt Maj Kirkness, after parade this evening.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

To commemorate the fifty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Regiment, the Sergeants held their Annual Dinner on Oct. 8th in the Men's Canteen. Guest of Honor was our Honorary Lt-Col K.R. Marshall CMG, DSO, ADC. The Mess was also privileged to have the War-time Padre Maj S.B. East MBE, MC, as a guest speaker. Introduced by Capt Ross K. Cameron, he spoke stirringly to the guests, once again demonstrating the qualities that made him beloved by all ranks during his service with the Battalion overseas. Following the dinner entertainment was presented in the Mess.

Votes the most successful party yet, the Annual Weiner Roast at Long Branch on Oct. 22nd was a wow, in spite of the cool weather.

The Mess was well represented at the Islington United Church, Sunday, Oct. 23, some 20 active members being present for Padre East's annual memorial service.

This year's Annual Ball at the Royal York Hotel on Fri. Nov. 11, was by far the finest since pre-war days. The Mess is indebted to the Commanding Officer for the fine support given by him and his Off-

icers.

The sympathy of the entire Mess was extended to the Regimental Sergeant Major whose father, Mr. G.M. Stephen Sr. passed away, recently at the age of 82.

### 48th HIGHRS. CHAPT. I.O.D.E

The 48th Highlanders Chapter I.O.D.E. was formed on May 3rd, 1907, through the efforts of Mrs. John I. Davidson, wife of the first Commanding Officer of The Regiment. Permission was granted to organize by Col. D.M. Robertson, the C.O. at that time, on the understanding that the efforts of the Chapter were to be confined largely to the Regiment, for the benefit and welfare of the men, the membership to be limited to wives, mothers and sisters of the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and men of The Regiment. The Chapter adopted the Motto of the Regiment, "DILEAS GO BRATH", "Faithful forever".

The purpose of the I.O.D.E. is to draw together the women of our land in true allegiance to one flag in peace and in war alike. Thus the Chapter and the Regiment are serving a common cause. It is the desire of the Chapter to have as members the wife, mother and sisters of every man in the Regiment, and in working together, to achieve a closer harmony and understanding between the two organizations, with the resulting benefits to all concerned.

Poppy Fund is an organization which looks after the welfare of the

families of 39,000 veterans without pensions. The Chapter for some years has been assigned the largest district in Toronto on Poppy Day, and once more this year created a record, by collecting over \$2,400.00. This splendid result was only made possible by the wholehearted cooperation given to the Chapter by the Regiment.

#### 48th RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The Rifle Association finished it's 1949 outdoor activities on the 17th of September with a very successful match. Present were 49 members and 18 visitors from the Rifle and Revolver Club of Buffalo, N.Y. Good scores were posted, and good stories told. Those who did not do so well, had good excuses.

Some of the Buffalo folk had been at the Connaught Ranges at Ottawa, making the main topic of conversation mutual.

The visitors used their Springfield service rifles with service sight and were at a slight disadvantage, as we were equipped with the improved Parker Hale sight. Despite the handicap, 10 of their number received prizes, as well as each visitor receiving a Falcon collar badge mounted on a square of tartan as a memento of good will.

The top score was posted by Merye Watson of Leaside, with a score of 122 out of a possible 125; 15 rounds at 200yds, and 10 rounds at 600yds. The prizes were presented by the President.

Dinner was served in the Mess

Hall, and toasts were made to the King, The Regiment and Maj Burke. A few of the guests were Lt. Jim Boa, Mr. A. Purring of Buffalo, Mr. Schultz, President of the R. & R.C. of Buffalo. CSM Tom Young told us of the trials and tribulations of a rifle shot, in his usual witty manner. Mr. Young, with 60 years of rifle shooting behind him, is still one of our crack shots.

The Rifle Association will conduct rifle practice on the miniature ranges in the University Armory every Saturday during the winter months, at which all active and ex-members of The Regiment are welcome. Matches will be arranged later, if attendance is large enough. "Spoon Shots" will be held once a month. Members will be divided into various graded classes so that every shot will have a fair chance.

#### 48th HIGHLAND CADETS

Have you noticed how smart the cadets are looking on parade these Friday nights? We feel we are a real part of the Regiment now, which means more intensive training and a chance to follow through as per syllabus.

Number 1 Platoon has been learning how to handle the mortar - their instructor an ex-cadet, Lt. J. Cowan is quite enthused about the lads. He claims we are really becoming soldiers.

The pipe band has been issued with Davidson kilts and we hope to be able to get kilts for the boys

in the not too distant future. The Commanding Officer has arranged for an instructor to train our Drum Section. It won't be long now before we have two good Bands on Parade.

The Lads made a real impression in the parade to the Cenotaph on November 13th. We did our best to make an impression on the Coffee and doughnuts as well.

Wednesday evening, Oct. 19th, the Cadet Corps paraded to the Maple Leaf Gardens for the Lear-Cahadian game. The hot dogs and soda pop really suffered a bombardment that night. QUESTION:—"When do we do it again, Sir?"

With Christmas so close, we would like to take this opportunity to extend to Lt-Col George, his Officers, N.C.O's and men the very "Best Wishes for the Season", from the instructors and members of the Cadet Corps.

#### APPLY TO

Here's one on the HQ boys - so the story goes.

It seems a private of the Royal Scots (just over from the Old Country, and still wearing his dress uniform) wandered into the BCR to sign his name on the dotted line (attestation card). The noise and turmoil of the BCR ceased, as all present snapped to attention and paid compliments to the smartly dressed private. It seems the uniform confused the BCR boys into thinking he was "A Brass".

#### DILEAS BOYS

Number 3: Sgt Maj O.P. Ardagh.

Oscar Pryor Ardagh joined the 48th Highlanders in 1903 and in the years intervening, has entwined himself into the traditions of the Regiment.

Due to serious injuries entailed in a railway accident prior to the first war, Sgt. Maj Ardagh was not accepted for overseas duty in either war, but there are few men who, with or without this handicap have managed to chalk up such a reputation for long-termed loyalty and perseverance in Army Life.

As a private, Sgt. Maj Ardagh was a bugler. Promoted to the rank of Sgt in 1914, he served in this capacity until he was promoted to the rank of RQMS in 1921, holding this position until 1939.

It may come as a bit of a shock to some members of the Regiment, that in his role as Civil Engineer, he has taken a leading part in the planning of our fair city's thoroughfares.

The shock however can only be in the minds surface, for hundreds of recruits of all ranks who have passed through it's portals, the Orderly Room brings up just one picture; the pipe, the smile and the sympathetic and never-failing efficiency of Sgt Maj Ardagh.

#### LAMENT

It is with profound regret that

the Regiment learned of the sudden passing of their former RSM Tom Cotton, on Thursday, December the first. His many friends and former comrades in the Regiment would like to take this opportunity to extend to his relatives their deepest sympathies.

#### WINTER FAIR

On Tuesday, November 22nd. the 48th enjoyed a signal privilege of providing the Guard of Honour for Field Marshall, The Right Honourable Lord Mavell, who was most impressed by a sight which he had not seen since before the war: men in white shells, with the Officers in blue patrols.

#### KUDOS COLUMN

Congratulations to Mr. Aleck Marr on his appointment to the position of manager of the Memorial Hall.

Aleck joined the Regiment as a Drummer in the Pipe Band in 1931, and had the great honour of heading the 48th Drum Section that participated in the Vimy Pilgrimage in 1936.

In 1939 he went overseas, and at the war's end was RSM.

As the New Year approaches, your many friends wish you all success Aleck in your new endeavour.

#### 48TH HIGHLANDERS BALL

Stealing material from the "Kudos Column", we insist on

forwarding bouquets to the many Officers who, due to their combined efforts, produced a memorable occasion on the night of Friday, November 25th. A special vote of thanks is extended wholeheartedly at this time by the Officers' Mess to the Sergeants, who gave such splendid co-operation on this occasion. There is no doubt that once more it was the "Ball of the Year", and we would like to thank Maj Reid, for such a hard job well done, in fulfilling his position as OC Ball.

#### THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The annual Memorial Parade to the Regiment's Memorial in Queen's Park, was held on Sunday, Nov. 13th.

In spite of the depressing state of the weather, there was a splendid turnout for a peacetime parade. It is a tribute to the traditional bonds which cement the Regiment together, that there were some 270 veterans on parade. Led by Lt Col J.R.O. Consell, they were an impressive sight, especially when they passed through the active Regiment following the March Past. Hon Maj the Very Rev. S.C. Parker, ED, and our new Chaplain, 2/Capt Ross K. Cameron officiated at the service, and among the wreaths presented were those of: The Regiment, 15th Bn. 92En, 134Bn, The 48th Highlanders Assoc., 48th Highlanders Chapter I.C.D. Ladies Auxiliary.