

The FALCON

48th Highlanders of Canada

University Armouries Toronto



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THE HAND-OVER PARADE, 8 APR. 49

LT-COL M.E. GEORGE

Our new Commanding-Officer, Lt-Col M.E. George, graduated from "Maybin's Military Academy" and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt in June 1940. He joined the overseas battalion at Littlehampton in March 1941 and was appointed a pl comdr in C Coy. When the battalion embarked for Sicily he took on the onerous duties of Transport Officer, a post he faithfully held through all the uncertainty and difficulties of Sicily and Southern Italy till finally in January 1944 after another very short spell as a pl comdr, this time with D Coy, he joined B Coy as 2nd in command. With the exception of a short spell as OC Carrier Platoon he was to remain with B Coy throughout the rest of the War, taking command permanently on Xmas Day, 1944. He returned to Canada just ahead of the unit in June 1945 and rejoined the Regiment in September 1947 as 2nd in command to Lt-Col W.W.G. Darling DSO, ED.

THE FALCON

Regimental Publication

of

The 48th Highlanders of Canada

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EDITORIAL

A Regimental newspaper or magazine serves many purposes. It can unite old comrades and new; it can gain and keep men's interest and can help to build regimental tradition.

This, to the best of our rather recent 48th memories, is the first attempt that this regiment has made on a unit scale to produce it's own newspaper. This is the first issue, and it is the sincere hope and desire of the editorial staff that it will be torn apart and criticised by all ranks and by the old comrades who are no longer serving but still retain an interest in the Regiment. We want constructive criticism, we want ideas and suggestions; we want contributions.

It is the present intention to publish the second issue in the early fall. We would like to see "The Falcon" become a fairly impressive monthly or at least quarterly record of the life of the Regiment and it's affiliated organizations. It may be that in order to accomplish this object "The Falcon" will eventually have to seek advertisers, and have to make some small nominal charge to subscribers. These are things we do not as yet know but will find out through trial and error as we go. Bear with us and give us your helping hands and we are confident that something will have been added to the tradition of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

THE REGIMENT

It is not the purpose of this column to delve back into the pages of history. We will endeavour only to tell of the highlights of regimental activity since the fall of 1948 and in future issues we hope under a different heading to point-up the "Glorious Past" of the unit but in this column to present only those newsworthy items occurring since the previous issue.

In September 1948 the Regiment returned to parade rejuvenated as usual by it's months of inactivity since camp at Fetawawa. Last year we had allotted the teaching of one or two of the normal Support company subjects to each rifle company and had no actual Support company in the battalion. Now we returned to the old system, with a full Support company and four infantry rifle companies. Unfortunately, the change meant that in some cases the rifle companies were denuded of some of their best men, but in every instance they managed to withstand at least partially the efforts of the newly formed company and retain a few of their favourites. The new training basis soon began to show results in increased company spirit as all ranks began to realize that they were now forming more permanent attachments.

Hitherto, recruits had been coming in straight to companies. Late in the fall however, it was decided to revive the almost defunct Headquarters Company, and to give it the job, in addition to normal supervision of QM stores, bands and the like, of initially taking in the raw recruits and training them up to basic rifle company standards. This was done and has been working successfully. Today the new recruit spends anywhere from one to six weeks in HQ company learning the fundamentals and so the rifle companies are left free to train their men in rather more advanced work.

An inter-company baseball league that functioned occasionally during the fall ended in a tie between C and D companies, and an inter-company drill competition in the spring was won by B company with the newly-formed Support company (composed however, of many "old sweats") a close 2nd.

Two church parades were held by the Regiment, one on the Sunday after Armistice Day in the Fall and the other on the 8th of May. The Garrison Church Parade of pre-War days was also revived this year on the 5th of June and

the 48th, together with its veterans and cadets, formed a large and colourful group.

A regimental dance for all ranks at the Memorial Hall in the Spring was very popular and will be repeated.

We paraded to Long Branch ranges twice in the Fall, and once in the Spring, and proved to ourselves that the name of the 48th as a "shootin' regiment" has not been entirely lost! Various companies also had their own independent shoots, and of course the indoor ranges at the Armouries were in use all Winter.

A Fall scheme for the officers and Winter courses for officers, sgt.s, and corporals were extremely well attended, and the results were excellent. The whole battalion is going to its old pre-War stamping grounds at Niagara-on-the-Lake for a week-end scheme on the 11th-12th June, and it is expected that some 150 of all ranks will take the voluntary camp at Petawawa this summer.

One of the highlights of the Spring was, of course, the change of command. This took place on the 8th of April, a normal Friday parade night. The battalion was on parade to a man, and many hundreds of its supporters came out with their wives and friends to see Lt-Col W.W.G. Darling, D.S.O., E.D. turn over command of the unit to Lt-Col M.E. George. After the parade the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes entertained, and the guests of the men were made welcome in the Mens' Canteen.

May 15th-22nd was decreed to be Army Week throughout the Command and the 48th, of course, played a prominent part. Our bands were in the Massed Band Concert held at Maple Leaf Gardens on the two Sundays and our vehicles joined the Army caravan. The University Armouries was open to the public on the Tuesday and Friday and our lads put on a display of drill in full dress.

LAMENT

The Regiment felt very keenly the departure, after twenty years of service, of Lt-Col W.W.G. Darling, D.S.O., E.D. "The Falcon" requested Lt-Col Darling to write a few words in the form of a valedictory and this he has done.

"With the exception of my wife and children, nothing in my life has given me so much as

my association with the 48th Highlanders of Canada. I joined the unit as a very junior subaltern in 1929 and from then until the outbreak of War ten years later the pattern of Friday night parades. Tuesday night conferences and Summer Camps became as normal and as much a pleasure-giving part of my life as eating and sleeping. My greatest regret in my association with the 48th was that, although I went overseas with them in 1939 and remained with them for part of their stay in England, I was eventually called away from the battalion to another job. My greatest thrill came when, on the unit's return, I was accorded the privilege of becoming first 2i/c and later Commanding Officer. After twenty years I will miss it greatly.

"I can have only one message -- Do your bit by the regiment, join to the full in its varied activities and interests, give yourself to it and you will be repayed a thousand-fold."

W.W.G. Darling, Lt-Col

BHQ BALLYHOO

The big news from this hotspot is of course the fact that we have a new CO, Lt-Col M.E. George and that Major George Fraser is now 2i/c. Capt Connolly relinquished the post of Adjutant to move to HQ Coy and Capt Featherstone took over.

Sgt Alec Smith our Regt tailor, has received his first clasp to the Canadian Efficiency Medal. Congratulations to you Sgt Smith; it takes a lot of service to get the medal, let alone the clasp.

Good old CSM "Plug" Ardagh is still with us and every quavery recruit passes first under his watchful eye.

HQ COY HIGHLIGHTS

The newly reformed HQ Coy is getting quite proud of itself! Capt Corbett got us off to a flying start but MAJOR Corbett left us recently to go to Charley Coy, and we're under the capable hand of Capt Connolly. CSM Stewart and Sgts McMillan and Kenzie assist in training the Regt recruits, all of whom are now

posted through this Coy.

We lost Staff Stainsbury as our PF type and have an old 48th -- former CSM MacArthur back in his place.

The Pipe Band is resplendent in new green doublets and by Fall it is hoped that the new scarlet tunics will have arrived for the Brass Band.

Our new QM Capt Howard came to us from Support Coy and is whipping Stores into shape while Lt Cooper trains Bn Signals' personnel, and also those of the Cadet Corps. Capt Howard incidentally, must have looked over G1098 and put in an indent, as he now has a new and bouncing baby boy, while Lt Cooper's Signals have produced for him a bonny bride!!

ABLE AIRS

Private "Able" says that it is only too right that considerable space should be given to the finest Coy in the Regt in the first post-war edition of the Coy - Oops! - Regimental paper. The young punks aren't what their fathers were (Thank God), but Sgt George Venton won the McGregor Trophy as the best A Coy shot; incidentally, he was the best in the Regimental Shoot.

Able is mighty glad to have Piper Stewart posted to the Coy and for good reason, as his pibroch has carried as far as England and bonny Scotland itself, luring Scots and Sassenachs and even the Ptes Porter who seem to take turns staying on strength!

In an effort to remove the last fifty years of grime from the Coy Orderly Room, Cpls Johnston and Antoine and a few of the other interior decorators are doing a face lifting job, but have been warned that if the finished product bears any resemblance to the ladies boudoir next door they will be moved right over to the "Truss" Coy.

BAKER BONERS

Like most, we have had our changes. Capt Pickering left us in the Fall and Capt Pincoe is now the arbitrar of our woes! Having been given the job of organising a Regimental Inter-Coy Drill Competition, darned if he didn't drill us so darn well we won the thing!

Most of us are going to Camp at Petawawa on the 3rd of July, and we hope to take the rest in the usual Inter-Coy baseball games - and in fact anything else that anyone wants to dream up!

CHARLEY CHAT

Our Coy Cmdr says the most important news this Coy has is the fact that Major Corbett has replaced Major Fraser as OC "C" Coy!!! Of course we think that the fact that we won the Inter-Coy recruiting competition last Fall rates a line or two as well -- especially as the fifty dollars we received as a prize went to help make our March Coy party such a success; we dined in the Canteen and then attended a Varsity Arena Match of the Mercantile Hockey League; great fun was had by all. Seriously - we're sorry to see Major Fraser leave us for the exalted position of Bn 21/c and yet happy with our new Boss - and CSM Bill Taylor to give him a hand.

DOGGEREL

"Len" Falconer, one of the most faithful of all 48th, ceased to be our CSM and we have former CQMS, now CSM Fullerton barking at us! We are still CQ-less which may or may not have its advantages, but Sgt Hood does all that is necessary in that line. Cpl Cromie took the Sgt's course and nearly everyone in the Coy took the Cpl's course - what a hope! L/Cpl Duncan took his promotion like a man, and just within the last week we recruited Sgt Jones from Support Coy.

Pte Tomlin is going to have a fling at Summer resorts, but most of us are heading for Petawawa in July. We've lost a lot and gained a lot of characters, including one new officer - Mr. Lowmde.

SUPPORT STUTTERS

Like HQ Coy reformed as a sub-unit after a period of oblivion, Support Coy had the advantage of being able within limits, to pick and choose, and got off to a fine start this year under Capt, now Major, Douglas. With Carrier, Atk and 3" mortar platoons Support Coy has been able to lend considerable aid to the battalion recruiting drive by putting on specialist demonstrations in the various public parks and

at the same time throw a considerable scare into the Rifle Coys by coming 2nd in the Inter-Coy Drill Competition.

THE 48th HIGHLANDERS' ASSOCIATION

It was decided early last Fall that the Fifteenth Battalion Old Comrades Social Club should be the medium whereby not only that very considerable body itself, but all other clubs and associations allied with the 48th should be united under the leadership of one organization. Thanks mainly to the considerable efforts of Capt Proudfoot and Lt-Col Cassels, an amendment has now been secured to the Charter of the Club and the 48th Highlanders' Association is in being! Its objects are to promote the interests of the Regt and its associated organizations, and to link together the men - and the women who have given so much of themselves to the Regt. The Association will be governed by a Board of twelve Directors who will be representatives in due proportion of the Regt, the Old Comrades, the I.O.D.E., the Ex-Officers Association and the Ladies Auxiliary. The Association has the title to the Memorial Hall and membership in the Association - and the use of the Hall - will be governed by membership in one of these affiliated organizations. The first general meeting of the Association is at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday the 14th June. This is US chum, so get out of your shell and be there!

NOTE

The Old Comrades, the Ex-Officers Association, the I.O.D.E. and the Ladies Auxiliary are integral parts of the 48th Highlanders' Association and of the Regimental past, present and future. It was not possible in this issue of "The Falcon" to contact each in time to enable them to contribute separately and the editors deeply regret this obvious fault. We would very much like each of these organisations to make arrangements to have some material ready for our Fall issue. They belong to us and we to them.

THE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Since the date of its formation, the Regiment has always been interested in any one of the top units in the Commonwealth at Marks-

manship. The Rifle Association of the 48th Highlanders has won world renown - it is many years since at least one member of the Association failed to make the Canadian Bisley team. This year there are five of our members on the team and don't be surprised if one of them comes back with the highest honour in the Commonwealth for rifle shooting!

Every and any member or ex-member of the Regiment regardless of rank or experience is entitled to join the Association. Shooting takes place at Long Branch ranges every Saturday and the odd week-day evening throughout the Summer, and everyone enjoys himself.

THE SGTS MESS

One of the pleasant but lesser known duties of the good Sergeant and, collectively, the Sergeants' Mess, is to foster inter-regimental relationships, thereby leading to better understanding and co-operation in the field. Your Sgts' Mess is not lacking in its performance of this function.

We tackled the Toronto Scottish in our annual cribbage, indoor shooting and darts match, and for the third year in a row had little trouble in retaining the cribbage trophy. However, the less said about the indoor shooting and darts the better - although we did manage to win one dart game.

The annual shoot against the QOR for the celebrated SEAT was won for the third year in a row by the 48th, and the usual silver spoons were presented to the high scorers on each side, our winners being Continuing Staff Sgt Al Young, Hon Mem R.S.M. Frank Jamieson and C.S.M. Emslie.

The annual baseball game with the Argyl & Sutherland Highlanders had to be cancelled this year when that Regt suffered such a terrible loss through a bus accident involving many of its members.

We visited and were visited by the members of many other regimental messes, including that of the Ontario Regiment in Oshawa where the usual unmentionable ceremonies were performed with all due solemnity.

We even went so far as to challenge the officers to an indoor shoot and are ashamed to admit that the officers won by the narrow margin of one Medical Sgt.

THE OFFICERS' MESS

Probably the main point of importance to be noted is the fact that the Mess has been entirely re-decorated, largely through the generous contributions of our Associate Members.

The usual considerable number of annual and other functions were held - notably a Mess dinner before the St. Andrew's Ball, a reception for the Armistice Day Church Parade, a New Year's Eve Dance, the New Year's Morn breakfast (OOOH!), several Mess Dinners etc. On the occasion of the Change of Command there was a particularly impressive turn-out of ex-officers and their ladies.

The Garrison League baseball team did not distinguish itself, but the team and its supporters enjoyed themselves immensely and on occasion - such as in the game against the Queens Own Rifles, and again against the RHLI and against our own ex-officers, played ball probably far above their heads, to such an extent that they won all three games handily.

We have a very happy Mess at the moment - come down and see a C v D Coy football game some Friday night! We welcome ex-officers of all and any vintage and promise some rousing reminiscences. But we're working hard too - just ask anyone taking the Command Staff Course - and eight of us are - how many nights a week they can spare the time to say a word or two to their wives!

THE PIPE BAND

The Pipe Band has been rated by the Peoples' Journal of Dundee as the largest military pipe band in the Br. Emp., and by the Canadian Army Command, as the most efficient military band of all classes in Canada including Brass, Bugle, Fife and Pipe Bands. For the past 37 years it has been under the able leadership of Pipe Major James R. Fraser (Corporal - 2nd Gordons).

During the summer of 1948 the band entered as a Class "A" Band in the six open competitions and won nine firsts and three seconds.

The annual Pipe Band Dance was held in the largest ballroom in Toronto and was filled to overflowing with 1145 guests. Guests of the evening included Brig. Gen Ganong, Col Darling, Controller J. Innes, as well as parties from the Argyll and Sutherland (PI) of Hamilton and the H.L.I. of Galt.

THE DILEAS BOYS

In each issue we hope to present a short portrayal, including if possible a picture or cartoon, of a well-known and esteemed member of the active bn. In this issue we give you:-



R.S.M., G.M. Stephen

"Stevie" was born a long time ago in Aberdeen and came to Canada in 1905. He had two years at the University of Saskatchewan but did not take to Campus life. 1910 found "Stevie" a pte in the 12th Regt, York Rangers but he transferred to the 48th in 1913, went overseas with the 15th Bn in August 1914 and stayed with them the whole pace till 1918 being twice wounded in the process. He was on the 1st re-organization parade in 1921 and by 1939 was a platoon Sgt. He became a PSM W.O.11 but was taken off the 48th draft the day the unit left for overseas. This didn't keep our man out; he re-enlisted as a pte, got overseas with a reinforcement unit and eventually saw the whole Sicilian and Italian campaigns as a CSM. "Stevie" was back in the ranks of the 48th the day after his discharge from the Active Army and took over as RSM from Tom Cotton in April 1948.