



48th HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

UNIVERSITY ARMOURIES, TORONTO

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October, 1949



HOW (NOT) TO USE THE RIFLE SLING

SUMMER CAMP

3-10 July, 1949

Those who attended Camp in 1948 could not but help notice the improvement in training at Petewawa this year. Fortunately the Highlanders were not subjected to the first week of training as they were the year before, and the kinks that crop up at the beginning of summer were well ironed out by the time the 125 odd Highlanders reported in Sunday afternoon.

The long week-end before Camp gave those who went POMC the opportunity to take in some sightseeing, the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa were no exception. Two Officers who toured the Buildings counted approximately 20 Highlanders brandishing Candid Cameras and their best Colgate smiles for the benefit of the American tourists. They seemed as much of an attraction as the Buildings themselves

THE FALCON

REGIMENTAL PUBLICATION
of
THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

Editor - - - - -	Lt. W. T. Ware
Assist. Edit. - - - -	Lt. J. Cowan
- - - - -	2/Lt. MacLeod
- - - - -	CSM. L. Falconer
- - - - -	Cpl. Lapham
- - - - -	(Boar
- - - - -) Ptes: MacKay
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according to envious Mounted
Policemen.

All were welcomed at Camp by Capt. Smith who for the second year was Camp Commandant. The majority of the courses paraded Sunday evening to be instructed in their syllabus and procedure for the following week and once again the 48th Glen Garries outnumbered any other single unit on parade with approximately 125 all ranks.

The Pipe Band, as busy as they were with Contests to be won in every part of the Province and the U.S.A., was represented by 8 Pipers and Drummers. Under the guidance of Cpl. Lee they paraded throughout the men's lines and in front of the Officers' Mess every evening. One Armoured Corps Officer was overheard saying "Those darn Scotchmen can't live a week up here without bringing their

bagpipes and skirts".

The Highlanders distinguished themselves in many more ways than dress and Pipers. In the Recruit Course Part 1 the Trophy for the most "Outstanding Recruit" was awarded to Pte. T. J. Shaughnessy and the "Outstanding Recruit" cup for the Recruit Course Part 2 was brought home by Pte. R. Fisher. Pte. K. M. Brodie not only showed a keen interest in Camp by staying over for an extra week but brought Honour to himself and the 48th by winning the Part 1 Trophy for his course the second week.

On the firing line a Highland Anti-tank Crew, consisting of Ptes Shaughnessy, Fisher, Brodie and Hodgson, were distinguished by being the most efficient Anti-tank Crew at Petawawa to that date.

The Esprit de Corp was seen at its best on two occasions. The evening of the Governor General's Horse Guards vs 48th Highlanders Officers' Baseball Game was probably the most marked of the two. The 48th Officers, whose prowess on the Baseball Diamond that evening was a little under par, due, no doubt, to their hard work in the field that day, were losing. The Pipers, doing their utmost to either weaken the "G.G.'s", or encourage the 48th gathered with little difficulty a cheering section of Highlanders and marched down to the Diamond to the lilt of "Heilan' Laddie". It was support

enough to completely break the morale of the Horse Guards and push the Officers on to a one-run victory.

In the Men vs Officers' Game the men's morale was high and could only be equalled by their strikes that were being carefully counted by the Umpire CSM Duckett and the Officers. The result of the game was summed by Pte. Patterson's remark in the last inning - "Well, we'll beat 'em next summer."

The reports from Camp show that in training 17 Highlanders have been named as "above average" on their courses, which should be considered a good average out of 125, all ranks.

Those who attended Camp for the first time this year must realize like the veterans of Petawawa the importance of the six days of training they received. Never was so much practical knowledge and training crammed into one enjoyable week.

LAMENT

The Officers, NCO's and men wish to extend to the relatives and friends of Pte. Don Pierce, their sincerest sympathies at this time. The news of Pte. Pierce's sudden death came as a shock to us all.

THE REGIMENT

Since the last issue of THE FALCON hit the streets there have been numerous activities throughout the unit. At the annual Newmarket Pilgrimage a Platoon of Scarlet and one of Khaki paraded. The march-past after the service was taken by Mj.Gen. Vokes where the hospitality and applause received by the Highlanders from the Newmarketers shall be long remembered.

An explanation can finally be given for the sudden change in the Russian General Staff. A new threat has been added to the Arms of the World. For many weeks during the Winter and Spring numerous Highlanders have had little time to themselves. With their noses in books, pamphlets and maps and with the aid of Capt. Smith and his battery of lecturing Officers and NCO's every Sunday afternoon, many of these men have qualified for their NCO stripes after writing stiff examinations.

The second week-end in June the Regiment carried out its final training scheme before Camp. Setting sail from Toronto early Saturday afternoon and disembarking at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the unit was divided into two Forces consisting of Blue and Red Companies. Throughout the week-end both forces had the opportunity to carry out attack and defence plans,

scouting, signals and put into practical use the fieldcraft they had been studying during the winter. Many mistakes were made by all concerned which was to be expected, but it laid the groundwork for future schemes to be carried out on a larger scale. It showed the Junior Officer the importance of control within his unit and the necessity of signals. It gave the men, particularly the newer Recruits, an insight of what actual day and night fighting against a hostile force can be. For many it was the first experience they had had of night patrols and listening posts and the value of a parachute flare. From the point of view of experience for all the Scheme was considered a great success.

On Saturday, August 13th a combined Army, Navy and Air Force scheme was carried out without a shot being fired. For two hours the Highlanders developed their sea-legs as they cruised Lake Ontario aboard HMCS Portage, before transferring from the Minesweeper to Harbour Craft to put in a landing attack around HMCS York. As the Portage approached the objective six hostile RCAF Airplanes dive-bombed and strafed the landing party. The Planes, coming out of the Sun gave the Highlanders a thrill as the ship manoeuvred to repel the enemy. After carrying out presumably enough attacks to disable the ship the Air Force reverted to the role of aerial support to soften up the objective as the attack moved in.

At the conclusion of the scheme the 48th were entertained both in the Wardroom and the Canteen much to the delight of the Navy who seemed to enjoy the bagpipes and Highland dancing.

By the time this issue of THE FALCON has come off the Press the first fall scheme will have been carried out and the Regiment will be well into its Fall training period. We need only look back over the past few years to see the increase in strength and training and plans have been made for greater sporting activities and competitions for the remaining months of 1949 and the New Year.

EXTRA

A Note from the Sergeants' Mess

Everyone has some kind of a hobby, most of them are crack-pots. We have some of the best crack-pots however. According to the Grapevine we have no less than four collectors of badges, ribbons and medals in the Regiment. There are probably more but so far we only know about CSM Stuart, Sgt. Weed, Sgt. MacLean and Drummer Elms who all have interesting collections worth seeing and who will talk shop or swap old for new or new for old or what have you. Look them up. You will be surprised what you can learn from a cap badge, about the History of the Regiment it belongs to.

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HQ COY HIGHLIGHTS

There have been many changes in the personnel of the Coy since our last parade season. We welcomed our new Coy Commander, Capt. Connelly also 2/Lt. Owen, who, after a short stay with us, has been transferred to Baker Coy. Taking his place will be Lt. Cunningham who has been given the arduous task of supervising recruit training with the able assistance of Sgt. Archie MacMillan and staff. A/Sgt. Dick Kenzie, after being with us since last Oct. has now transferred to Support Coy.

It has been heard there will be an increase of personnel in our Signals Section under Lt. Cooper and Cpl. Sawdy and that a fine programme of training has been laid on.

An excellent showing was made by our recruits at Petawawa Summer Camp. Four of the five cups awarded for efficiency, smartness and appearance on and off parade went to the following recruits: Shaughnessy, Fisher, Brodie and Hodgson as top men of their respective courses.

Please note all other Companies: Support Coy turned out 100% for the assault of HMCS York and you can bet your bottom dollar we will have 100% strength on the Borden scheme.

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ABLE AIRS

It is hardly fair for Support Coy to take the credit for Pte. Ken Brodie's winning of the Best Recruit's Cup as he was an "A" Coy man when he won the Trophy.

Three "A" Coy men, Pte. Sutherland and the two Redfords stayed over at Camp for a second week's training.

Ken Porter and Ken Brodie have transferred to HQ Signals and Charlie Watson to Mortars. Mr. Cowan can be thankful he will have one "A" Coy man at least.

Congratulations and welcome to Pte's Watson and Allen who both proved their worth at Camp in Baseball this summer.

Jim Pidgeon finally got his wish; he has transferred to Mortar Transport at last. Cpl. Pat Johnson is now a proud possessor of his Instructor's Certificate and Don Antoine has his Sergeant's Qualifications.

The death of Pte. Don Pierce last August was a great loss to the Coy and his pals. Don, who was overseas with the Regiment has, since the war, been a very enthusiastic Friday Nighter and a great support to this Coy and our Regiment.

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BAKER BLUNDERS

Good Luck to Cpl. "Cam" Cole who has left Baker Coy as a Sgt. to help out Don Coy. Congratulations to Cpl. Murray Parmenter and Sgt. Art Johnson for winning their Sergeant's Qualifications.

We are glad to see Pte. Dave Thorburn survive one evening of revelry in the Canteen at Petawawa and we appreciate his tucking us all in afterwards till about 12:30 a.m.

The sharp wit of Pte. Fitkins was missed at Camp. How about next year "Buck"?

"B" Coy welcomes 2/Lt. Owen to the best Coy in the Regiment.

With the beginning of Fall parade we are glad to see so many old faces back in the Coy. Best of luck in the future to Cpl. Taylor, Todd, Lappin, Forbes, Charyk, Dodds, Davis and CSM Montgomery with his new tunic, ribbons, brass arm badge and all the rest.

CHARLIE CHAT

We in "Charlie" Coy wish to extend to the relatives and friends of Pte. Don Pierce of "Able" Coy our deepest sympathies in their loss of a good soldier and a swell fellow.

"C" Coy has the enviable record of having the highest number

of candidates pass last season's Jr. NCO classes. Congratulations are in order to the following: L/Cpl's Paterson and Soper, Pte's Carmichael, Carr, Hodgson, Hyde and Saunders. A goal to better next year fellows.

We would like to welcome back to the Coy Pte Currie after a serious operation and a siege in the hospital. Pte. Currie attended our last parade but this is our first chance to say "Hello".

The Fall season is under way. HOW MANY RECRUITS HAVE YOU BROUGHT INTO THE COMPANY? If each man brings along at least two recruits we will have the largest and obviously remain the finest Coy in the Regiment. We did it last year, let's do it again.

Rumour has it that Pte. Puckett, due to surrounding influences, is thinking of having a drape put in his Kilt and that Pte Carr might be another Papa Dionne. The leading question of the Coy is: would Pte Wright like another Open House night? We are sure Pte L. from "Able" Coy would.

DOGGEREL

The "Don" Coy activity has been quite limited this summer, no births or such. Most of "D" Coy attended summer camp.

Lt. Lowndes (who recently came to us) had a very interesting summer spending two months or so on the Continent. (How about that) Lt. Lowndes traveled mostly by foot. We wonder how he liked the French lassies or how the French lassies liked him.

The "Don" Coy "sharp shooters" (which includes the greater portion of the Coy) are "champing at the bit" ... a good turn-out is expected at Long Branch this October 10th.

There have been some promotions of interest in "D" Coy. L/Cpl. Duncan has been made a full Cpl. Pte. Boyer and Bourrie have qualified as L/Cpl's. Nice going boys.

We are happy to welcome Sgt. Cole from "Baker" Coy. Pte. Armstrong who used to be with "D" Coy a year or so ago is coming back to the fold we hear. He left the 48th a short time ago and joined the Essex Scottish where he acquired two stripes. He soon got homesick and guess what Coy he is going to join?

SUPPORT STUMPERS

The highlights of the summer took place in the maternity ward. On July 1st Sgt. Delaney became the proud father of Mitchell Frederick Steven Delaney. Cpl. Brown is recovering nicely

after the birth of his daughter Bonnie Heather Brown. As usual, Support Coy is outstanding in everything.

Support Coy welcomes back Sgt. Weed after a rather strenuous summer. Sgt. Weed, while at Petawawa injured his elbow and after spending considerable time at the Camp Hospital returned home to spend two weeks at Chorley Park. Also we wish to extend our sympathy to Pte. Kelly and Burke who both met with mishaps during training at Camp.

A note of congratulations to Mr. Hill for writing and qualifying in his exams for his second pip and to Cpl. Wood, Gillam and MacIver for their promotions to Cpl. and to Cpl. Smith MT for his Sergeant's qualifications.

Taylor deserves a word of Thanks and Congratulations for leading all Support Coy parades at Camp this summer. Never did he veer off the beaten track. The shortest route was always taken between the "H" hut and the Canteen.

THE PIPE BAND

In the eight weeks between July 1st and August 31st the Band competed in seven Highland Games as a Class "A" Pipe Band. These contests were Zorra, Hami-

lton, Cornwall, Maxville, Detroit, Fergus and Buffalo. Out of these seven contests we entered into a total of 15 open competitions for Class "A" Senior Bands.

Thirty-seven different Bands played in Competition in these Games and although many played in Class "B" all were eligible to enter Class "A" and so they all directly or indirectly competed against the Pipe Band of the 48th Highlanders. Many of these Bands were from as far North as Kirkland Lake and on the South to Pittsburgh, and from Chicago on the West to Manchester, Connecticut on the East.

We played in fifteen senior competitions and received eleven firsts, three seconds and one third prize.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The highlight of the summer season was our trip to Hamilton. Although our hosts the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders won the historic Baseball Trophy, much to our surprise, the hospitality and entertainment were of the finest and everyone tottered home safely in the "Wee sma" hours of the morning. It will be a long time before we forget the extended hand and winning smile of RSM Peter McGinley and members of his Mess.

Our picnic was a great success and many a prize was carried home.

The Jones family won the youngest baby prize donated by RSM Steven. The Delaney family missed out on the prize by missing the picnic. Mrs. S. Montgomery won the prize for being the youngest Mother, not too hard on the eyes either. We made many new friends and renewed numerous old acquaintances and oh yes, we played a game -- some say it was Baseball, where West End beat East End.

Hello again to RSM Crosbey, M.B.E., just home from England -- you can start eating again Bill. Some of the younger members such as Sgt. H. Linkie, who joined the Regiment in 1891 and was discharged 20 years later as a Sgt., has been living in Windsor for many years. Another of the really younger boys is Sgt. A. Monroe who served in the Pipe Band in 1892 and later joined the Brass Band. These chaps were making Regimental History long before most of us were born.

There is a large Fall programme ahead with commencement of Fall training and a long list of social activities. A few dates to remember are: Corporals Night, 23 Sept.; Ladies Night, 24 Sept.; Annual Dinner, 8 Oct.; commemorating the founding of the Regiment. The Weiner Roast, 22 Oct.; and last on the list and our pride and joy, the Annual Ball at the Royal York Hotel on 11 Nov. A cordial invitation is extended to all WO's and Sergeants of every Regiment in Uniform.

THE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The summer shooting has been well attended. An average of 36 shooting every Saturday. It is very gratifying to see so many of the active members of the Regiment taking an interest in the Association and hope that in 1950 we will see many more on the ranges. During the winter months anyone interested in shooting is welcome to join us on the Armoury Ranges and practice with a .22 small-bore rifle to be ready for the 303 in the spring.

During the past summer the 48th Rifle Association was well represented at all the matches. The O.R.A. at Long Branch was attended by 43 of our members, more than twice as many as any other Association. Five of our members were in the first 10 in the Aggregate. Len Falkner and Jim Stevenson shot themselves out of the Tyro list and won free transportation to the D.C.R.A. at Ottawa.

In August, 39 members, again more than any other unit, attended the D.C.R.A. matches in Ottawa. These matches enable a senior to shoot for a place on the Bisley Team and this year five of our Association distinguished themselves by qualifying for the 1950 Bisley shoot. These men were Maj. D. MacLeod, Maj. D. Burke, Lt. G. Boa, Lt. D. O. White and Lt. J. C. Boa.

The Highlight of the D.C.R. A. Shoot was the winning of the King's Medal by Lt. Gil Boa. This Medal represents the Service Rifle Championship of Canada. Congratulations to Gil Boa and Good Luck at Bisley next year.

At Long Branch our teams won the Tait Brassey and came second in the Old Chum. At Ottawa, Wood's Aggregate first; Lansdown, second; Bankers, second; Gordon Highlanders, second; and Gillespie, second. Over 30 Teams competed for each of these honours.

The standards set by the 48th Highlanders of years gone by were held up throughout the year. It is interesting to note that we were the strongest unit in Canada both in the Provincial and Dominion Meets. Scores were higher at Ottawa this year and those who found themselves in the 40th to 50th places in the Grand Aggregate had scores that would have made them eligible for the Bisley Team in previous years. Our members have collected 170 cash prizes during the summer.

Congratulations to Sgt. G. O. Boast on winning the City of Hamilton Match and cheers for an old Highlander, well-known among the old soldiers, Sgt. Harold Wall, for qualifying for the 1950 Bisley Team.

We would like to remind you that among our members there are some of the best shots in the British Empire who are willing to assist anyone seriously interested in marksmanship. We ask only one qualification for the new member; that he show an interest in the sport.

A good marksman is both an asset to his Company and a credit to his Regiment and can develop this sport into an interesting and profitable hobby.

Many thanks to Len Falconer for bringing back the priceless cartoon on "How not to use the rifle sling".

THE DILEAS BOYS

Pipe Major J. R. Fraser

A long time ago, in 1892 to be exact, "Pipey" joined the Gordon Highlanders. During his 21 years of service with the Gordons he took part in many battles in the Northwest Frontier and South Africa. He has the honour of being one of the six pipers to pipe the Gordon Highlanders to victory at Darghai. At the turn of the Century he piped the Gordon Highlanders along the sandy roads of South Africa.

In ¹⁹¹³~~1921~~ he resigned from the Gordons as a Cpl. Piper to come to Canada as Pipe Major of the 48th Highlanders. During the past years with the Highlanders he has

served under 14 Colonels and has seen two Wars started and finished.

During his Thirty-seven years with this Regiment he has built up a Pipe Band that is both a credit to the Highlanders and Canada.



Pipe Major J. R. Fraser

Those who work with him know that at the end of a long day it is always "Pipey" Fraser who is still going strong. In developing one of the finest Bands in the British Empire he has unconsciously become a tradition of the Regiment and a splendid example to all Recruits.

THE BRASS BAND

One section of the 48th Highlanders of Canada which is well known to hundreds of thousands of people throughout Canada is the Brass Band.

It has a record of which our unit should be very proud. The Band dates back to the organization of the Regiment. In that

time, only three conductors have trained the hundreds of men who have passed through its ranks. The one best remembered by the unit and public alike is, of course, that genial dean of bandmasters, Capt. John Slatter, M. B.E., V.D., who had the honour of conducting the band for 50 years continually, a record which has never been surpassed in Canada. The band was the first kilted band to ever appear in the United States travelling over 50,000 miles in three consecutive years. Capt. Slatter started his career in the navy at the age of 12 years, transferred to the army at the age of 14 and until he retired because of health, served for 72 years in His Majesties Forces.

The present bandmaster, W. O. Albert Dobney, was appointed on the recommendation of Capt. Slatter and has a grand record. He has had a varied experience in music, having played in Military bands, all brass bands and orchestras both amateur and professional.

The band played on four occasions for dances at Bonn, Germany for H.R.H. Prince of Wales, also Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig and several other notables.

The band plays to over 500,000 people in a year on their various engagements, which keeps the name of our Regiment in front

of the public all year round. It is an advertisement which could not be bought by money. The majority of bandmen own their own instruments, keep them in repair and give freely of their services to any worth while cause. They play each year for the 48th club at the Red Chevron Club, Institute of the Blind and Sunnybrook Hospital.

The spirit of the band is a credit to any unit and they annually have their get together and forget all other things and look after the inner man as only bandmen can do.

The men of the 48th Regiment should get to know the men of the Brass Band and see what a good bunch of fellows they are. They are not too proud to say Cheerio to anyone of the boys and would indeed be delighted to. They are a credit to our unit and you can depend on them keeping the good old 48th Highlanders of Canada before the public.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

Congratulations have been received from a very distant reader of THE FALCON in South Africa by the Colonel for Maj. Reid and his associates on a job well done on the first issue of the paper.

Maj. Reid, the founder of THE FALCON was unable to lead his troop of reporters on to greater

fields of success due to being already burdened with the writing of the New Regimental history. There are no doubts, since the first issue of the paper, that the new history will be equally as successful as THE FALCON.

THE CADETS

In the Fall of 1940 the Toronto Rotary Club, in order to further the War effort, conceived the idea of forming a Cadet Corps. The Corps was organized and the Toronto Rotary Highlanders came into being. Through efforts of Maj. C. Reid, M.C., an arrangement of affiliation with a great Regiment, the 48th Highlanders of Canada, also came about.

During the War years, many of the Cadets enlisted in the Regiment and served in various theatres of War, many with distinction.

At the close of War the Cadet Unit was taken over, as a junior Unit of the Regiment and from that time on it has been helping to build up the parent Unit with recruits. Some of the present NCO's received their basic training in the Cadet Corp -- in fact, three of the Commissioned junior Officers, at present, with the Regiment, started in the ranks as Cadets.

By order of Lt. Col. M. George
The Cadets are now parading with the Regiment on Friday evenings

where they can take full advantage of the equipment and training put at their disposal by the unit.

It was a proud night for the officers responsible for the training of the Cadets and the Cadets themselves when on Friday evening, Sept. 16, 1949, they paraded with the Regiment. It is, therefore, the hope of all the Cadet Officers that they can build up the Cadet Corp so that the real objective can be realized -- that of training more and more young lads who will eventually take their places in the ranks of the Regiment and in so doing, keep the 48th Highlanders of Canada the foremost Regiment in Canada.

CAPT. J. SLATTER, M.B.E., V.D.

The Brass Band and old friends were visited by Capt. Slatter on our first Fall parade. A welcome visitor to all especially those who served under him many years ago.

NOTE OF APOLOGY

To all the Associations affiliated with the Regiment who we were not able to contact for write-ups; stick with us, you will be hearing from the Editor before long regarding our Christmas issue of THE FALCON.

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