



THE FALCON

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CONTENTS

The Spirit of Christmas -	Anonymous
Symbols of Unity - Brig. Ian S. Johnston, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.; Chevalier, Legion of Honour; Croix de Guerre. Reprinted from The Veterans' Advocate for July, 1959.	
The Queen and The Commonwealth -	
From The Globe and Mail for July 4, 1959	
Regimental Colours -	A Sermon by The Padre
On Churchill's Greatness -	
The Veterans' Advocate for October, 1959	
Headquarters Company -	L/Cpl. Eric Chambers
Old Comrades News -	Wally Moore, Secretary



# Season's Greetings

## THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the world's most celebrated day. It is often marked by people whose religions do not recognize the divinity of Christ, and it is widely observed by all persons who are not religious at all.

During the Christmas season the spirit of Bethlehem crosses the borders of race and creed, and spreads its message of peace and good will towards men everywhere. Even all-out war has been halted while the opposing armies celebrated Christmas.

There are the cynical who observe that our colourful Christmas trees and the gaily wrapped gifts are but empty symbols of commercialism. How wrong they are! The Christmas season has a deep, sincere, spiritual background. This Christmas spirit melts the flint-stones of our hearts and for the time being at least, we treat all as brothers.

Unfortunately, this spirit of good will -- tolerance -- friendship, which permeates the universe during the Christmas season is too often like a beautiful flower which suddenly bursts forth into full bloom, then quickly fades and dies.

The flower has not bloomed in vain. We have seen a glimpse of the peaceful and happy life we all could enjoy without fear of an "A" bomb or "H" bomb if all peoples of the world would accept the principle of Christmas every day of the year.

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This thoughtful article about a Canadian flag appeared in The Veterans' Advocate for July of this year. It is written by a former C.O. of The 48th and deserves every Canadian's consideration. - Editor.

### SYMBOL OF UNITY

The racial shake-up accompanying the rapid growth Canada has experienced since the Hitler War, has made it urgent to improve understanding between our different racial, religious and cultural groups as quickly as possible. Canada now has seventeen million people, but two million of them are not native-born. That means a serious leavening problem for the assimilation is complicated by our growing pains, but Canada is in fact a country with an honourable past where the problems of religious and racial differences have already been resolved. Canadians have developed a greater tolerance than we perhaps ourselves realize.

Few factors could be more effective in fostering, and enhancing this than a thoughtful appraisal of the elements embodied in the Canadian Ensign, which has played the role of our official Canadian flag since before the Kaiser War.

When its design is examined dispassionately without prejudice or unreasoned emotion, it can be seen that every desire of our multiple religious, racial and cultural backgrounds is answered.

If we aspire to religious and racial tolerance and the attainment of our national objective by negotiation, while maintaining loyalty to ideals rather than narrow nationalism, then our Canadian Ensign represents us in a manner that no simple combination of colours or numbers could do.

A flag with great depth of meaning capable of representing our complex idealism, it also represents our varied traditions and cultures, but single aspiration of the Canadian people as a whole, in a manner which a new design could not possibly match.

By understanding the Ensign through a study of the elements in the flag, we may better understand ourselves, and will see that all of us can proclaim it as our symbol of unity, the ideal flag for a country like ours.

It should be noted that England, Scotland and Ireland claimed as their Patron Saints men who were not nationals of their own country, but men chosen for their deeds and ideals. St. George was a Macedonian, and many persons claim the chivalrous Saint as their patron. St. Andrew was a Jew, claimed as the patron of many countries, including the old regime of Russia, and only legend says that his relics were transported to Scotland. St. Patrick did go to Ireland, but in the first place as a prisoner and later as a missionary. These men are acknowledged as men of good deeds not only by all Christian churches but by historians and philosophers throughout the civilized world.

At the masthead we have a union of the Crosses of these three ancient Saints: St. George, the patron saint of chivalry; St. Andrew, one of Christ's apostles who was martyred for his faith; St. Patrick, a missionary who spread among the Irish the civilization learnt in France.

It is the union of these three crosses that gives special significance to the Ensign as a national flag for Canada.

Union through negotiation means the compromise of narrow nationalism, the method we have followed, as the United Kingdom did before us. Neither French nor British claim purity of lineage or to being a master race. The very word "British" implies a union of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. In the history of these countries we find a melting pot of Britons, Angles, Saxons, Picts, Scots, Romans and French, sometimes absorbed peacefully and sometimes by the sword. Since the dawn of history, attempts to conquer by the sword have ultimately failed.

To us, the importance of the union symbolized by the three crosses is that it was a union negotiated with honour under the symbol of the Crown, and that is why it still exists.

The ideal of unity by negotiation is also the very basis of our country, Canada. First, our French forefathers negotiated The Quebec Act which guaranteed the religion, language and civil law of the French. Then our British forefathers refused to join in rebellion and decided to settle their differences with their King by negotiation. They knew that the British system of justice was a tradition of great value, and to save it they were prepared to abandon their homesteads and start anew in Canada in order to work out their difficulties by constitutional means rather than by disloyal. Our freedom was obtained by loyal and honourable means.

In the same spirit, our forebears of both races later joined in one loyal federation. Those who have settled here since then chose this country because of the traditions so established and which are the foundation of our aspirations.

Both English and French speaking elements can ponder with understanding the union of the crosses of the Saints. For the French there is a special twist in the name "Union Jack." When James VI of Scotland became James I of England he ordered that his ships should fly a flag combining the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George, and the order was signed with the name "Jacques", thus proving that at that time French was the polite language of Britain. (To forestall naval critics it should be pointed out that the jack-staff takes its name from the flag, not the flag from the staff.)

A flag should be emblematic of its people, and this is clearly achieved. In the fly we have the shield from our Coat of Arms emblazoned in five parts: the Three Lions of England derived from the Standard of William of Normandy; the Lion Rampant of Scotland representing nobility; the Harp of Ireland representing the arts; the Fleur de Lis of France emblematic of royalty; the Maple Leaf representing the bounties of nature bestowed on our land.

The elements of the shield on the Canadian Ensign again denote unity by agreement and the abandonment of narrow nationalism in favour of the brotherhood of man. Again we have a union of the symbols of England, Scotland and Ireland--and in addition symbols of France -- and again we find that the symbols used were not originally chosen for nationalistic reasons.

Heraldry was an international language and leopards, lions and fleurs de lis were probably the most common devices used throughout the civilized world. These symbols were the personal insignia of Kings who fought as companions in the Crusades. The three lions of England were once leopards and derive from the French Duke who founded the present British monarchical system, the system under which the modern concept of the freedom of the individual was conceived. The Fleurs de Lis as symbols of the old French monarchy, were borne on the Standards of the English Kings who claimed to call the French Kings "brother". The lion rampant on the Ensign is surrounded by fleurs de lis.

How often were attempts made to unify Britain and France, and how often did they fail because of narrow nationalism? Let us pray God that in this new land negotiation with honour will prevail.

The origin of the red field is lost in antiquity. Perhaps it is derived from the "oraflamme", the scarlet silk flag of the French kings. It was the principal flag of the British Navy at a time when the English and French kings each claimed title to the other's throne.

No matter what the origin of the red background of the Canadian Ensign, it has an honourable history. In the days of little ships the British Navy put to sea in three squadrons--the van under the Vice-Admiral with a white ensign, the rear under the Rear-Admiral with a blue ensign, and the main fleet under the Admiral-in-Chief with a red ensign. The red ensign, therefore, denotes the place of honour.

In more recent times the Merchant Marine have sailed under the Red Ensign, but they can claim no monopoly, and it is an honour to share an insignia with a body of men who have done so much to carry western civilization to the far corners of the earth.

Why is this group of devices called an "ensign" rather than a flag? A flag is a piece of cloth used for signalling or other purposes such as denoting danger, surrender, pestilence or all clear. An ensign may be a flag or other device, but it has the special function of denoting identity and is a rallying point. In our case it is interesting to note that the word is derived through the French word "enseigne".

The very complexity of our flag is a virtue. It represents ideals, and ideals are not simple matters. Here is a flag that has a wealth of meaning and inspiration for each one of us according to our bent. A true student of heraldry can discover in it far more than is suggested above.

The people who own to this flag are the independent sons of the partnership of great peoples. The religious and racial tolerances we represent were achieved only at great cost.

While we negotiate, we do so only with honour and remain loyal to the death of our ideals. If civilization is to survive Canada must cherish her spirit of brotherhood, and lead the way against narrow nationalism.

Twice, without hesitation, our young men have fought under this flag and given their lives for the righteous cause against narrow nationalism.

Our interest is the common good, the brotherhood of man--a modern concept to be achieved only in a country held in reserve by the Creator for just such a people.

This is what we are--that is what our ensign proclaims us to be.

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Checking a no parking zone, a policeman found a car occupied by two elderly women and asked them sternly: "Do you ladies want a ticket?"

After a whispered consultation, one answered politely, "No thank you, young man. Because you see, we never win a thing!"

THE QUEEN AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Perhaps the chief benefit of the Royal Visit to Canada is its reminder to the Canadian people of their Commonwealth association. Canadians do not stand alone in the world; they belong to a great family of nations which Her Majesty the Queen represents and heads. This Commonwealth covers one-quarter of the earth's surface, and embraces one-quarter of the earth's population. It is the most effective, perhaps the only politically effective, collective organization in the world today.

Canada is a nation of only 17 million people. But our Commonwealth membership closely relates us to some 600 million other people, and so makes us that much larger. Of all the things that contribute to Canada's present status as a Middle Power, our Commonwealth link is by far the most important. We have connections--highly valuable connections which reach all over the world, into every continent, among people of every creed and colour.

Canadians do not sufficiently appreciate their commonwealth membership; they do not make sufficient use of it. This is one reason perhaps, why the British Commonwealth is not sufficiently appreciated in the United States. Canadians have not--as is their opportunity and duty--brought home to their friends below the line the Commonwealth's tremendous strength and flexibility, its potentialities for peace, progress and prosperity.

A large number of Americans still view the Commonwealth with old-fashioned notions of "colonialism". They do not comprehend what vast changes have taken place in the last two decades. Before the war, the British Commonwealth had a total population of 500 million. Of these, 75 million lived in self-governing countries; the remaining 425 million were in colonial areas administered from London. Today, the total population of the British Commonwealth is some 650 million. More than 550 million of these live in self-governing countries.

There is no parallel in history for this voluntary transfer of power. What makes it all the more remarkable is that it was not forced either by defeat in war or by successful rebellion. Britain freely and honorably granted independence to all these peoples as soon as they were ready to make use of it--in some cases, slightly sooner.

This is the Commonwealth as Americans (and certainly Canadians) should see it. It is the only truly successful experiment in the evolution of peoples to freedom; the only place where nations which have achieved independence have retained democratic forms--retaining them, in some cases, under enormous handicaps of poverty and illiteracy.

The failure of Americans to appreciate the Commonwealth may, as we say, reflect the failure of Canadians to appreciate the Commonwealth themselves. Yet there is no question about Canadians' appreciation of the dedicated young woman who heads and represents the Commonwealth. There is no question about their allegiance to the queen. This has been demonstrated by the welcome Canadians gave her from the moment she arrived, a welcome that has followed her halfway across the Dominion.

The measure of the Queen's dedication is in the exhaustive, exhausting nature of her present cross-Canada visit. This newspaper disapproved of such gruelling tours. But the Queen has cheerfully accepted her present itinerary; she has graciously surrendered to the wishes and demands of her Canadian subjects. This is in accord with what Premier Frost called at Monday night's State Dinner "her utter devotion to the great cause and principles for which she stands." It accords with the assurance she gave as Princess Elizabeth on her 21st birthday:

I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong.

Six years later, in her Christmas message as Queen Elizabeth, she stressed the transformation which the British Commonwealth had undergone. It bore no resemblance,

she declared, to the empires of the past, but was  
....built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty, and  
the desire for freedom and peace. To that new conception of an equal partnership  
of nations and races, I shall give myself, heart and soul, every day of my life.

This sacrificial spirit is one of the many qualities which Canadians recognize  
in the Queen, which they applaud in her. But recognition and applause are not enough,  
gifts and affirmations of loyalty are not enough. The most useful tribute which  
Canadians can pay to the head of the Commonwealth is to understand the Commonwealth  
and the great advantages it confers upon Canada; to believe in the Commonwealth and  
speak up for it wherever they may go. Let them bring to its great and generous con-  
cept some small measure of their Queen's dedication.

Sermon preached by The Regimental Chaplain at the service for Laying-Up of The  
Colours in St. Andrew's Church on Sunday, October 18, 1959.

Text: Numbers 2: 2 "Every man of the Children of Israel shall pitch by his  
standard with the ensign of their father's house."

These words are taken from the record of the battle between Israel and The  
Philistines in which for the first time, the Ark of The Covenant was carried at the  
head of the Israelitish army. In their way of thinking their tribal God, Gabeveh,  
was in that ark. If they were victorious it meant that their God was stronger than  
their enemy's god. Perhaps Israel learned this from the Egyptians who had a fairly  
well developed system of flags, emblems and standards. However that may be we are  
lead to believe that the earliest flags used by men were religious in their signi-  
ficance and purpose. The mighty Roman Army which, for 800 years was known for its  
discipline and administration of justice, developed significant military flags, em-  
blems and standards. Our familiar Union Jack, as we all know, is composed of a com-  
bination of three religious flags -- St. George, St. Patrick and St. Andrew the patron  
saints of the three kingdoms in The United Kingdom.

Symbols are sacred things. The national flag should be dear to every true citi-  
zen of the country it represents. Men rally round a flag and are prepared to die  
for it. Many have died, in the course of history, for our flag and this makes it  
for us a sacramental thing marked by the blood of sacrifice.

The Romans guarded their military flags with a religious veneration placing them  
in their temples for safe-keeping. Christian people followed this example first  
with their religious flags and later with their national and military flags.

Last July 1 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Colonel-in-Chief of our Regiment,  
saw fit to present to the Regiment new colours. To-day we are engaged in the solemn  
ceremony of laying up the old colours. The new ones will be carried proudly in  
our formal parades.

What do regimental colours mean? Each regiment has two flags known as The  
Queen's Colour and The Regiment's Colour. The former is the symbol of our pledge  
of loyalty to The Sovereign; the latter is the symbol of the honour and integrity  
of The Regiment with all its pride in past achievements, its remembrance of the lives  
given for freedom in its ranks and the inspiration and incentive to be worthy of  
this precious heritage in the future.

Specifically these flags together are symbols of our determination to be true  
to our British way of life and our firm belief in freedom, in peace founded on justice  
and righteousness, our vow to protect these precious realities and our conviction  
that every man's greatest privilege and responsibility is to serve God and his fellow-  
men. These colours should remind every 48th Highlander that a great regiment is  
founded on the recognition that duty to Queen and Country comes first always and self  
second. By sustaining the honour of the Regiment we can make our best contribution  
to our country's welfare.

Regimental flags and colours bearing significant emblems and symbols are very  
ancient. In the maelstrom of battle they marked the positions of various regiments  
and served as a rallying point for those carried away in the tide of battle. Never

again will regimental colours be carried in battle but none the less they will serve as a rallying point for the Regiment and always will be cherished for the precious memories they recall--memories of brave, gallant comrades, noble deeds, courage beyond the call of duty and responsibilities to Sovereign and country accepted willingly by freedom-loving men. A glorious record is represented by the colours we lay up in this holy place to-day.

Here is a moving account of the laying up of the colours of 40 Scottish regiments in The Church of St. Giles in Edinburgh. They were moved from the Castle to the church on November 14, 1883. "The multitude raised a shout and cheered, but the impulse was but momentary, for at sight of the array of tattered rags the noise of the tumult died away and a half-suppressed sound was heard as through the hearts of the people there flashed a thrill of mingled pride and pain. Those who saw it will never forget the scene. In the centre the tattered silk of the colours and on the fringe and in the background a wonder-stricken crowd as, past uncovered heads, past dimmed eyes and quivering lips, the old flags were carried."

So it will ever be; so it is to-day. With the Psalmist we say now in this Church "In the name of the Lord we will set up our banners." They were blessed when given; they are blessed now when received again. They are a testimony that we believe that our success and the greatness of our nation are from God--"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power, the victory and the majesty. Both riches and honour come of Thee and in Thine hand it is to make great and to give strength unto all." In that spirit, please God, we place these emblems of a regiment's success and strength and service in this Church. The associations which cluster around them in our minds are the tenderest and most touching.

There are soldiers here who, as they look on these flags, remember the former days with their dear comrades in many a perilous hour. The old flag has a meaning so deep and ponderous that it cannot be put into words. It means Queen, country, Commonwealth, honour, truth, loyalty and heroism.

The peaceful civilian, when he looks on these sacred flags, should recall precious things that are good to remember--the story of British freedom and justice, the lives of brave men given that this heritage might continue and grow and he should remember, too, God's guidance to the country and Commonwealth.

May the sight of these colours inspire every soldier who looks on them to hand on the name they bear without blemish. Should the day ever come when, because of sloth and luxury, we are tempted to give up the protection of the holy things of God's Kingdom may these emblems stir us to a true recognition of the necessity of emulating our noble sires.

Let the undiminished dignity and influence of a justly proud Regiment, in its loyalty and service and sacrifice, be remembered always when men come to worship in this holy place.

#### ON CHURCHILL'S GREATNESS

We have been convinced ever since 1940 that Winston Churchill became the greatest Englishman that ever lived when, after Dunkirk, he rallied the far-flung British peoples with the ringing defiance and challenge of his words and personality. All seemed lost, but he made articulate how the British peoples really felt. It was leadership at its greatest.

Field Marshall, the Viscount Montgomery explained this magnificently in his Memoirs:

"Never has any land found any leader who so matched the hour as did Sir Winston Churchill.

"When he spoke--in words that range and thundered like the Psalms--we all said: 'That is how we feel' and 'That is how we shall bear ourselves.'

"There was--there is--a moral magnificence about him which transforms the lead of lesser men into gold; he inspired us all."

We are still too close to that grim hour to measure the greatness of Churchill, as history will measure him. A century hence Churchill will have emerged as one of the greatest leaders of nations of all time.

We are not so close, however, that we cannot sense something of that stature he will take in history. He already looms high over Stalin and Roosevelt. In perpetuity, he will be the man of this century.

It required an objector to bring our full realization of this. We found ourselves feeling pity recently for a Canadian magazine editor. He is a pseudo-intellectual who struggles hard to appear a literary high-brow, and who must have sold the CBC on the idea for he is frequently chosen for its panel on literary quotations. He pettishly pouted: "Oh, I am sick of all this adulation for Winston Churchill--I don't agree with it."

He would have kept his moustach'd mouth shut had he realized thousands of viewers knew he had devastatingly disclosed to them the small mind of a superficial little man who resents true greatness in another.

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A psychiatrist was interviewing an applicant for the job of secretary. A sweet young thing, she hung eagerly on his words as he explained about the types of patients who came to the office.

"Now for instance," he said, "a patient was in here the other day who thought some little men were following him. I suggested that he open the door a little way, slip through quickly and shut the door, and the little men would not get through but would stay behind."

"And did they?" asked the girl breathlessly.

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After a convivial evening with some friends, he was making his weaving way home when he ran smack into a tree.

Cautiously he backed off and tried once again. Again he collided. Tightening his jaw, he made another attempt; then still another. It was no use. Each time his wobbling feet brought him back up against that tree.

Finally he sank down in a dejected huddle at its base, muttering in confusion: "Lost, lost, in an impenetrable forest!"

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A farmer was taking a physical examination for life insurance and the doctor asked him if he had ever had a serious accident.

"No."

"Ever had any accident."

"No."

"Never had a single accident in your life?" the doctor asked in surprise.

"Can't say as I have. But last spring when I was out in the pasture, a bull tossed me over the fence."

"Don't you call that an accident?" the doctor persisted.

"Nope," answered the farmer. "I'm sure that durned bull did it on purpose."

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A man went to his doctor and requested treatment for his ankle. After a careful examination the doctor inquired: "How long have you been going about in this condition?"

"Two weeks."

"Why man, your ankle is broken! How you have managed to get around at all is a mystery. Why didn't you come to me before?"

"Well, doctor, every time I tell her that anything is wrong with me, my wife insists I'll have to stop smoking."

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

I will start this month's entry by reminding you all of the dinner and dance that will be held in the Men's Canteen on December 19, and urge all Company members to make a point of attending. For Company members there will be no charge. The Dinner is planned for around 1800 hours and the Dance 2000 hours. Definite times will be given to you later.

As it is impossible for everyone in the Regiment to be accommodated at the Dinner, the dinner has been planned for Company members only.

However, we extend to the other Companies a very warm invitation to our Dance. Tickets, \$1.00 per couple, there will be a Buffet supper laid on and we promise all who attend a very good time.

H.Q. Company Social Committee has been working and still are working very hard making preparations for this Party, so show them that you appreciate their hard work and turn out in full, with your wife or girl friend, or both if you can get away with it. ....See any member of the Committee for further information!

Our last party in lecture room "A" did not go off as well as expected due mainly to lack of publicity. As "word of mouth advertising always seems to be the best kind, the next time a party is planned "SPREAD THE WORD" and invite your friends from the other Companies to join us.

H. Q. Coy DARTS TEAM

GLORY, GLORY, GLORY, to the five stalwart men who gave a "crushing defeat" to the Old Comrades Team, on November 19 in the Pine Room at the Club.

Our team of "honourable gentlemen" are as follows:

L/Cpl. Chambers, (Spares)

Cpl. Deacon, L/Sgt. Brooks

L/Cpl. Ionson Pte. Bruner

Pnr. Martin, and last, but not the least, Pte. Turner, who

Cpl. McLeary, gave us our start on the path to VICTORY, Unfortunately I can't remember all the names of the Old Comrades' team, but they were a very "formidable foe" and a great bunch of lads.

Thanks Old Comrades for a wonderful time, let's have a return match soon.

Final Score: H.Q.COY 3 OLD COMRADES 2

H. Q. COY SHOOTING CLUB

Great progress is being made in the Club and we are beginning to turn out some excellent shots.

As this is mainly an event for the young lads in the Company the Social Committee is planning to make the "Hot dogs and pop" party after the Shoot a regular thing. Our last two winners:

October 27 - Cpl. McLeary November 17 - Pte. Hiscott.

PIONEER PLATOON

In the past few months the Pioneer Platoon has greatly increased in numbers and at present stands as the strongest platoon in the Company.

As everyone will probably know by now the Platoon has acquired two pioneer swords which were carried at one time by Pioneers in the Regiment, and have lain dormant in Regimental stores for many, many years.

It is the greatest hope of the Platoon that they carry these swords also the double-headed axe. We have been given the opportunity to do this but we must first prove to the Regiment that we deserve this great honour.

Preparations are well under way to building the Platoon to the required strength, but to have 20 men on paper is not good enough...we need them on parade Friday nights...EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT. So stick in Pioneers, check everything, Dress, Conduct etc., and live up to the Motto we have given ourselves. "OUT FRONT".

TRANSPORT PLATOON

Great news for you lads in Transport, after many long years of waiting you are now getting the opportunity to qualify for your trades pay and get that "old wheel" sewn on the sleeve. I believe that this is to take place on Sunday, Dec. 13, so get cracking and let's see you all qualify.

The platoon said farewell to Pte. Donnelly a couple of weeks ago, who, due to pressure at work has been forced to leave us. Good luck, Mike, and try and get back soon.

SIGNALS PLATOON

Signals platoon are sorely in need of men, If you know of anyone who has had any signals experience bring him down, we can certainly use him. Anyone interested in signals work would be most welcome.

Cpl. Deacon is attending the course at Fort York Armouries, along with a new arrival to Sigs. Cpl. McLeary, who transferred from Pioneers. From what I hear they, and Pte. Martin and Pte. Colville, two sturdy Pioneers who are also attending the course, are doing a good job, keep it up lads, and see if you can get us some recruits from Fort York.

Before closing I would like to remind you all of the Drill Competition after Pay Parade, Friday, Dec. 11. Since we know that everyone will turn out that night let's win this competition. Remember that individuals won't win it, so work as a team, and practise those turns and halts. Don't forget the timing, click, click, click.

Well that's it for this month, but we will have more to tell next issue and before I forget, congratulations Lt. Newman on your recent promotion, also Cpl. McLeary, good luck for the future to both of you.

In closing I would like to wish you all on behalf of the Officers and men of H.Q. Company, a very Merry Christmas and a GUID NEW YEAR TAE ANE AN A'

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY      BEFORE ALL OTHERS      HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

OLD COMRADES NEWS

Aye, it's awful hard upon the purse,  
Aroon the Christmas Season,  
The money spent on cards alone,  
Is really out of reason.  
We've thought and pondered ways and means,  
Of cutting doon expenses,  
And fixing up the gaping holes,  
In our financial fences,  
Ye ken, we like to send our friends,  
The very best of greetings,  
But lots of them we never see,  
At our regular monthly meetings.  
We argued with the Padre until he would agree  
To print this season's greeting and put it in  
"For Free",  
Fae a' us lads to a' you lads,  
May your troubles a' be few,  
May your plates be full of turkey,  
And your glasses run with "Dew"  
May you all enjoy the best of health,  
Wives, Kids and Sweethearts too,  
May the best things that you dream of,  
Eventually come true.

- Wally "Sandy" McClause.

Ho! HO! Ho! A friendly greeting from your Club.

The last meeting of the season will be held at the Club on Thursday, Dec. 10. We hope you made the effort to be on hand, especially the boys from the Regiment. Jog the memory of your pals to attend these meetings. Good entertainment, food, etc., is laid on for your enjoyment.

At the last meeting the members elected the following officers to run the affairs of your Club next year:-

President	-	Jim Lawrie
Vice-Pres.	-	Jim Brannan
Secretary	-	Wally Moore
Treasurer	-	George Lovegrove
Marshal	-	Morris Tracy
Executive	-	Sam Leake, Joe McPhail, Bob Nicholson, Ken Craig, Hugo Goldberg, Dick Kenzie and Ken Matheson.

These men have offered to give unstintingly of their time in order to conduct an efficient operation of the affairs of your Club. You elected them - all they ask of you is your support. You cannot do this by staying at home on a regular meeting night. You have to attend to accomplish anything.

The winter activities around the Club are in full swing. Darts and Crib Teams (inter-city and the House Leagues) are having quite a season. Bob Nicholson has posted in the Billiard Room, posters for any member to sign his name thereto if he is interested in competing in billiards, skittles, snooker, cribbage, darts, etc. He would like all names to be in before the first week in January in order that he may get started on these competitions -- so if you're interested - drop into the Club and sign on. You'll have a helluva lot of fun, and who knows, you may end up CHAMP or CHUMP.

The Club is having a lucky turkey shoot for members only. You may fire away at the Armouries on any of the following dates - (8.00 to 10.00 p.m.) - Dec. 8, Dec. 15 or Dec. 18th. If you are lucky you may get a FOWL prize.

Joe McPhail informs me that on the Saturday afternoon of the Christmas Tree Draw to be held at the Club on Dec. 19, we are in for one of those old sessions we used to have at the Club many years ago. Club talent comes from the floor and everybody joins in - a real jam session. So inform the good lady about this date and arrange to get a pass huh? Speaking of draws - I do hope you have sent in your returns. It is for a very worthy cause. Prizes will be drawn for on the 19th and we do hope that you will be one of the lucky people.

The kiddies Christmas Tree Party will be held at the Club on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 2.00 p.m. If you have not mailed in your card before now...you've had it! The age limit for children is 12 and please, as much as we would like to look after them, no grandchildren.

New Year's Party - Thursday, Dec. 31. Tickets may be procured from Mr. Art Johnston, chairman of the entertainment committee. All seats will be reserved. The damage is \$8.00 per couple. Dinner will be served at 6.30 p.m. All members are requested to pick up their tickets before Dec. 23rd. After that, it is first come, first served. Don't say we didn't give you plenty of warning on this. I might add that it is usually a terrific "do".

Annual Burns Supper - Saturday, Jan. 23. This is a mixed affair and you are reminded to make arrangements regarding purchasing your ticket (\$2.50 per person) as soon as possible. Festivities get under way at 6.30 p.m. Our guest speaker for the evening will be none other than the beloved padre of the Regiment, Rev. Ross K. Cameron. Hope you'll be on hand to take part in this affair.

Here's a quickie for you:- Harry Shepherd (on the phone) - "Say, I got a leak in my basement!"

Plumber: "Well, go ahead; it's your basement!"

Cheerio for now. Best wishes from your pals at the club for a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

If you are drinking, leave the car at home.-- please, think about it and then do it!