

THE FALCON

Volume 12, Number 1

May 1961

This publication is issued under the authority of Lt. Col. D.C. Haldenby CD, Commanding Officer of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. The contents of this publication have been edited and approved by the Padre Hon/Capt. A.C.G. Muir.

CONTENTS

The Change of Command	The Editor
The Change of Regimental Sergeant Majors	The Editor
Summer Camp 1961	
Scots Wha Hae Wi' Machiavelli Schemed	Andrew MacFarlane reprinted from The Telegram, Toronto
Those Rush Hour Guards	submitted by George H. Eyles reprinted from a London paper
George Stewart "The Man of Steel"	G. N. Ruttle
The Pipe Band	
<u>Company News</u>	
"A" Company	Glen Darueil
"B" Company	
"D" Company	
As The Padre Sees It	The Editor

THE CHANGE OF COMMAND

Amid all the glory and splendour of Highlanders on parade a packed Armouries watched as the command of our Regiment passed from Lt.Col. K.C.B. Corbett C.D. to Lt. Col. D.C. Haldenby C.D. on Friday evening, April 14th. The guest of honour for the occasion was Major-General H.A. Sparling C.B.E., D.S.O. of Central Command, who inspected the battalion.

With the official handing over the Command a three year period marked by fine service and some very notable events came to an end.

Colonel Corbett took command from Colonel H.K. MacIntosh in the spring of 1958. In the same year the Trooping of the Colour took place at Varsity Stadium. In 1951 during the Royal Tour of Canada our Colonel-in-Chief Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was present for a Royal Review at the C.N.E. grounds. To these outstanding events were added a great many lesser but nonetheless important routine tasks carried out in the great tradition of the 48th Highlanders.

For those who may not know, Colonel Corbett was born in Toronto on May 22, 1920. He received public school education in Montreal but returned to Toronto's Upper Canada College for High School studies, completing his academic training at Queen's University, Kingston Ontario.

His military history began with Upper Canada College Cadet Corps from 1935-39 where he was commissioned in 1938. From 1939-42 he belonged to the C.O.T.C. of Queen's University where he was commissioned in 1941. His active service commenced in May 1942 when he joined the C.A.S.F. He took Officer's Training at Gordon Head B.C. and at A-10 Training Centre Camp Borden. He instructed at No. 26 Basic Training Centre, Newmarket Ontario until February 1943. He then proceeded overseas in March of the same year. In January 1944 he embarked from Clydesdale Scotland as second reinforcement officer for the "48th" Sicilian Landing. After the landing he was posted as liaison officer in Sicily between the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade and the 1st Canadian Infantry Division. On July 25th he was captured by the enemy and held in P.O.W. camps in Italy, Germany and Alsace. He was finally released near Munich on April 29, 1945 by troops of General George Patton.

Upon his return to Canada he joined the reserve force and has served with the Regiment ever since. In 1953 he represented the Regiment at the Coronation of our Colonel-in-Chief Queen Elizabeth II. Many fine tributes could be made to "Casey" but perhaps none is more sincere than that of one fellow officer who said, "Casey is one of the few 'Old Sweats' left in the Regiment now!" One of the few remaining who for many years in war and peace gave strong and loyal leadership in his beloved 48th.

The new Commanding Officer Lt. Colonel D.C. Haldenby C.D. is also a native of Toronto and truly a son of the Regiment. His father, Brigadier Eric W. Haldenby C.B.E. M.C. V.D. was the distinguished Commanding Officer who took the 1st Battalion overseas in December 1939 and who is well and favourably known for many reasons.

"Doug" began his military career in Upper Canada College Cadet Corps (1938-43) attaining the rank of 2 I/C as Major. He enlisted in the CA(Active) as a private on 2 August 1943. He served in the R.C.I.C. as a private until 1944 when he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He was released with the rank of Lieutenant on September 22, 1945.

Change of Command cont'd

On October 8, 1946 he enlisted in the CA (Militia) as a lieutenant. On 15 October 1948 he was promoted to Captain and appointed Adjutant on 13 October 1950. On May 20, 1951 he was promoted to the rank of Major and on 1 April 1958 he was appointed Second-in-Command. On 1 April 1961 he was promoted to A/Lt. Colonel.

It is an important and significant fact that Colonel Haldenby has commanded at some time, just about every branch of the Regiment.

His many friends wish him every success as he undertakes the heavy and exacting responsibility of commanding his famous regiment rich in tradition and succeeding so many great Commanding Officers.

THE CHANGE OF REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS

Friday February 17 was another eventful night in the ever lengthening story of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. With Brigadier Ian S. Johnston C.B.E. D.S.O. & Bar, C.D. as inspecting officer, the important post of Regimental Sergeant passed from Stuart (Stu) Montgomery M.M. C.D. to W.P. "Bill" Elms C.D. The ceremonial drill was of the high order we have come to expect from our Regiment accompanied by an excellent performance by our pipe and military bands. It was a memorable occasion for all present. (This arrangement was of particular interest and significance since both RSM Montgomery and RSM Elms served under Brigadier Johnston during the war.)

Sgt. Major Montgomery enlisted with the 48th in 1934 and has served continuously with the Regiment until his retirement in February. He was among the first to enlist when the call for active service came in 1939 and proceeded overseas with the Regiment in December of the same year. He saw service in the United Kingdom, Africa, Italy and North West Europe.

In September 1944, Sgt. Montgomery was awarded the Military Medal for his gallant action at Rimini Airport in Italy. A vivid account of this action is given in our Regimental history "Dileas" by Kim Beattie on pages 657-58.

Of his 26 years with the 48th Highlanders 20 have been spent with "B" Company. In 1956 he was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major in which post he carried out his duties with all the excellence that has marked his many years as a 48th Highlander.

RSM Montgomery's successor is another man who is every inch a soldier and a Highlander, W.P. "Bill" Elms C.D. He enlisted in the Regiment in 1936 and has also served continuously since that time. Like his predecessor he proceeded overseas with the battalion in December 1939. He saw service in the United Kingdom, Sicily and Italy. When he returned to Canada in 1945 he continued his service in the then 2nd Battalion.

While RSM Elms is often associated very largely with the Pipe band, he has actually had a very wide experience in the Regiment. He has served in "A", "C", "H.Q." and Support Companies carrying out various duties. For the past five years he has held the position of Drum Major which role he has carried out with very great distinction.

RSM cont'd

For many years Mr. Elms has been an enthusiastic student of military history. He is a member of our Regimental Museum committee. In addition to his interest in his own unit's history and dress he is a member of the Military Historical Society and the Society for Army Historical Research, both in Great Britain. His collection of military badges and Canadian military insignia is one of the finest in existence.

With this vast knowledge of military history and customs, his excellent military record and his unfailing devotion to his Regiment, he will be of great and continuous assistance to the 48th Highlanders in his appointment as Regimental Sergeant Major.

SUMMER CAMP AT NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE JULY 15 - 22

Again this summer the Regiment will go to Camp. Every man who possibly can, should be on hand. It is an experience for recruits and veterans which is unequalled and unforgettable. Make sure YOU are included!

A temperance reformer was conducting a campaign outside a public house. As one man came out of the door exuding alcohol fumes, she put a hand on his arm and said: "Reflect; if you arrive at the gates of Heaven with your breath reeking of liquor, do you think St. Peter will let you in?"

"My good woman," said the man, "when I go to Heaven I expect to leave my breath behind."

Hostess: "I have a lonesome bachelor I'd like you girls to meet"

Athletic girl: "What can he do?"

Chorus girl: "How much money does he have?"

Society girl: "Who is his family?"

Religious girl: "What church does he attend?"

Secretary: "Where is he?"

SCOTS WHA HAE WI' MACHIAVELLI SCHEMED

Do I detect a trace of the Clan Machiavelli around the St. Andrew's Society these days? Or has someone been putting happiness dust in the snuff mull?

Certainly, the evidence is perplexing.

On the one hand, we have the proud and venerable Society only two years younger than the city itself, devoted all these years to safeguarding the prerogatives and carrying out the responsibilities of those blessed with some trace, however faint, of Scots blood.

The Society was formed on May 5, 1836, at a meeting in the old District Schoolhouse. Its initial task was to check on the circumstances of Scottish immigrants arriving in the city--some of them destitute and in need of help.

Since then, it has continued to play an important part in the charitable works of Toronto.

Membership has been rigidly restricted to "only Scotsmen and male descendants of Scotsmen".

This is not a snobbish attitude. For we Scots are a modest people. Our modesty is, in fact, well known. WE TALK OF IT OFTEN.

It is rather, a practical recognition of the fact that, given the choice, everyone on earth would elect to be Scots, and the facilities of the Society just couldn't stand it.

Now, against all this we have a proposal by the executive that would amend the membership requirements to read:

"Only Scotsmen, male descendants of Scots and male persons who are or have been members of any Scottish Regiment of Her Majesty's Commonwealth and Empire forces shall be admitted as members...."

Why has this happened?

Officials point out the long association between their Society and Highland Regiments, particularly the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

The Society and the 48th are alternate hosts at the St. Andrew's Day Ball, Toronto's most glittering annual social event.

But surely this is not reason enough for such liberal distribution of Scots heritage.

The Scots have been running most of England's banks for many generations--but this did not incite them to extend citizenship to all their English depositors.

No, I think we must search for a more subtle motive. How about this?

The 48th is one of five regiments fighting to save the University Avenue Armouries from Metro--which wants to tear it down to make way for a courthouse.

Prominent among the leaders of that fight is Lt. Colonel Hamish MacIntosh, a former Commanding Officer.

The 48th is a distinguished regiment, whose history is in the best Scots tradition. Many of the excellent fighting men who have given it that tradition, and are carrying it on, are unfortunately Scots by inclination only.

The Regiment includes among its most valued men those of Polish, Italian, Russian, Chinese and many other proud racial backgrounds.

Now if these citizen soldiers are allowed to join the Society Then:

Scots Wha Hae cont'd

Poles wha hae wi' Hamish sweat
Finn, Chinese and Dane and Lott--
Russian, Slav and ENGLISH yet--
Scotsmen all will be.

With these new official Scots swelling its membership, the St. Andrew's Society will swing into the fight to save the Armouries. And of course, they will win. Not even Metro could withstand the hatewave that any group of Scots worthy of the name can generate over a football match--never mind a military shrine.

Long before a single bulldozer moves on the Armouries, they'll be serving Fred Gardiner's head for a haggis at the annual Burns Nicht. With perhaps a little lasagna on the side.

THOSE RUSH HOUR GUARDS

Mr. Langford-Holt, Conservative MP for Shrewsbury, is to ask the Secretary for War on July 13 "why, during the daily march to the Bank of England, the picket does not honour the Highway Code?" Julian Holland marched with them to see just to what extent they infringed the Code...

It was an eye-opener. The 16 men from the Household Brigade in their black bearskins and scarlet jackets went through the traffic with all the nippiness of a little red scooter.

They went the whole distance from Wellington Barracks to the Bank of England without stopping, without slowing down.

Traffic lights at red. Pedestrian crossings. No entries. Traffic jams. It made no difference. If the way was blocked, they marched on to the pavement and went straight on.

Cars pulled up for them, pedestrians scurried out of their way, buses were cowed by the little band no bigger than one of those lengthy American cars.

It was as though they had been wound up and nothing could halt their progress until the mechanism ran down when they reached the Bank. They covered the distance in under the hour. That can be fast going even in a car during the rush hour.

I got my first hint that the picket considered itself to be a law unto itself when the men went through a traffic-light on the Embankment at Charing Cross while it showed amber.

At Temple Station they ignored a pedestrian crossing (a tricky point--is a marching body made up of "pedestrians") and walked over it although people were waiting to cross. And had I been a "driving" examiner, I would have faulted them for not keeping as close to the nearside kerb as they might have done.

But the first real shock came at Temple Stairs. Without any warning, without any hesitation they marched straight through the traffic-lights at red. Sooner or later there will be an accident, I thought. But I hadn't bargained for the happenings at Blackfriars Bridge.

It was about 5:45-- a busy time. But it was no matter to the picket.

Those Rush Hour Guards cont'd

Resolutely they marched straight through the red lights, cut across the bows of a small cream Ford which had the right of way, and made a big black Bentley brake hard.

It was at the six-way intersection with Cannon-street that they pulled off a manoeuvre that left me cut off and gasping with admiration.

As they approached the traffic-light (at red) they were blocked by a waiting line of cars. Nonplussed, they wheeled on to the pavement by the fire station, marched 20 yards to the corner while civilian pedestrians cowered on the edge of the pavement, turned the corner on the inside of the Tube entrance, and right-wheeled to march down Cannon-street on the wrong side of the road, across the centre of the intersection and on up Queen Victoria-street before you could draw breath.

They pulled off exactly the same manoeuvre at the busy intersection with Poultry. "They do it whenever the traffic is blocking them", said the news-vendor on the corner. "They never stop".

They arrived at the Bank ten minutes early. No wonder.

Is it all necessary? you will ask. If they fear being held up by the traffic there would seem to be no reason why they should not set out a little earlier...just like we all do.

As for the law, they infringe the Highway Code with almost every step. But the Highway Code is not law. I discussed the Picket's road behaviour with the police. "Will you tell us exactly what law they are breaking?" I was blandly asked.

Queen's Regulations is in no doubt about it. Paragraph 1459 (Traffic Precautions by marching Troops) states quite clearly: Troops marching in formed bodies will observe traffic signals in the same manner as other road user.

You don't need to invoke the Highway Code, Mr. Langford-Holt. Queen's Regulations should be enough.

A professor coming to his class a little late found a most uncomplimentary caricature of himself drawn on the board. Turning to the student nearest him he angrily inquired: "Do you know who is responsible for this atrocity?"

"No sir, I don't, but I strongly suspect his parents."

A lively young lady shocked her very proper beau by drawing on her gloves as they started down the street on their first date.

"Where I come from," chided the young man, "people would as soon see a young woman put on her stockings in public as her gloves."

"Where I come from", retorted the young lady, "they'd rather."

370 Runnymede Rd.
Toronto 9 Ont.

Officers and Men of the 48th Highlanders of Canada
519 Church Street
Toronto Ontario

Sirs:

On March 1st, 1871 George Stewart was born in Scotland. Twenty years later, on October 16, 1891, the 48th Highlanders was born in Toronto sired chiefly by Capt. W. Henderson and Alexander Fraser, and, as the "48th Highlanders of Canada" appeared in the military lists.

A few years later, George Stewart came to Toronto and joined the civilians, who on occasion camouflaged themselves as soldiers in scarlet tunics and flaring green kilts and marched to the skirl of pipes. This beginning was to become the most widely known, best loved and most highly honoured Regiment of our fair Dominion.

You may be justly proud of the honour and glory you have brought to the British Empire, and to Canada in particular, but too often while basking in the light of great accomplishments we fail to note that much of that light comes from the men before us. So, at times we should look backward, back to the fathers of the last century who laid the solid foundation on which you have built so well, back to the men who cut the first notches in the steep hill-side and gave you the foothold which aided you in reaching the pinnacle on which you now stand.

However, it is not my intention to give you the history of the glorious 48th of Toronto, but rather to give you a reminder of the accomplishments of a few men in the early days of the 48th, long before most of you were born.

All those men of yesteryear must have worked hard and diligently to earn the right to be classed as soldiers, not only in drill, but in a wide use of arms. Fortunately, in the person of Sgt. Williams they had a most efficient Instructor of Military Gymnastics. In a surprisingly short time those erstwhile civilians were real soldiers trained in all manner of fighting.

In 1897 England was preparing to hold the greatest Military Tournament of all time, with competition from all parts of the empire. The 48th Highlanders of Toronto sent a team of ten men, including and led by Sgt. Instructor Williams. They were: Ptes. Wasson, McLean, Rae, McCheyne, Campbell, Rankin, DeLisle, Wallbridge and Stewart the man of steel. Only two men over 5' 10".

Upon arrival in England, Major Henderson who had accompanied them, was informed that there was no competition for bayonet fighting except for the Regulars. He expressed his disappointment in no uncertain terms and went to see Colonel John Ward, Secretary of the Royal Military Tournament. Previously under pressure from the School of Arms, Colonel Ward had agreed to a team match between the School and a team to be selected from the Regulars by Capt. Hanbury, Inspector of Gymnasia. Apparently, to prove to the Secretary of the School of Arms that he had no right to permit Volunteers or Militia to meet in combat with Regulars, he picked a team from the Guards, which had every reason to be the best in England since no other unit had the time to spare in the practice of the bayonet.

Man of Steel cont'd

sword and other Military gymnastics, also they were all large men of six feet and over.

To pacify Major Henderson, Colonel Ward agreed to permit the Canadians to meet the winner of the above mentioned bout, which the Guards later won in a walk.

The night before the 48th were to meet the Guards, Stewart was standing in the hall when someone seeing him asked, "Who is the Kiltie?" the reply was, "Why, that's one of the men you fellows have to meet tomorrow night." Then there was hearty laughter.

Stewart said afterwards that it made him mad, and right then he decided to win or die trying.

When the two teams met the following evening, the British Military Authorities received the greatest shock in peacetime history. Their crack bayonet fighting team was soundly beaten by a Militia team. Even the audience was so stunned it was some time before they recovered enough to applaud the victors.

However, there were a few who had the handwriting on the wall. After some switching of barracks, the 48th were stationed at Winchester where they had training facilities. The Colonel of the Hampshire Regiment, also stationed there, thought so much of the Canadians practice, one day he brought about 100 recruits into the gymnasium, saying he wanted them to see what real bayonet fighting was like; that there was no better in England. Their instructor, who had won the Championship of Ireland with the bayonet, when he saw Stewart and Wasson in practice, said he would not care to meet either.

In addition to the team match, the 48th had done much better than expected in bayonet vs. sword; sword vs. bayonet; and quarter-staff vs. quarter-staff. Each man deserved great praise.

After four days of competition, the last, and what was considered to be the principal event of the Royal Military Tournament at Islington, would bring it to a conclusion, bayonet vs. bayonet, open to all forces of the Empire, Regulars, Militia and Volunteers.

In this Diamond Jubilee Celebration, the presence of the Austrians and Canadians greatly increased the interest, especially after the surprising win of the 48th team, which received thunderous applause after the audience had recovered from the shock, and that the seemingly unbelievable was a fact. The doings of the Canadians recorded in the London papers had been scarcely noticed as it was thought they would all be weeded out long before the finals. How wrong they were. Pte. Stewart of the 48th, standing but 5' 8" weighing only 185 pounds, fought through twenty strenuous conflicts, repeatedly overcoming man after man, mostly over 6 feet and 200 pounds, all highly trained and hardened athletes. Time after time he had been cheered long and loud, which showed the true spirit of Old England for the underdog, in this case, the little Kiltie from Canada who apparently didn't have a chance.

At long last came the final bout between Pte. Stewart and the best bayonet fighter in the British forces. There was an enormous attendance, and as the two men entered the arena and saluted the huge assemblage of blue-bloods, High Brass, etc, they were heartily cheered but this fell to a silent hush as the two men were called to engage.

Man of Steel cont'd

The faith of the spectators in the acknowledged superiority of the British bayonet fighters had been somewhat shaken by Stewart's previous victories, which had shown speed, strength and endurance beyond their understanding. However, it appeared to most that the little man from Toronto would have but small chance against this formidable opponent who so far surpassed him in height, weight, reach and experience.

In spite of the fact that one of Stewart's thumbs had been badly wrenched and several fingers severely damaged in his previous conflicts, he took the offensive and scored the first point; his opponent got the next.

But during the twenty minutes the strenuous conflict raged with speed, power and clash of steel, it seemed as though the British Crown might be at stake, for in the death-like stillness, the tension of the thousands of spectators was so great that men turned pale and ladies fainted, before George Stewart of the 48th Highlanders of Toronto became the Champion Bayonet Fighter of the World, winning by three points to one.

When the fight was over and pent up feelings released, the crowd went wild in a frenzy of cheering never before witnessed on English soil, and it was a full five minutes before the announcer could make himself heard.

The highest award, The Empire Medal or the "Queen's Medal" was presented to Stewart by the Duchess of Connaught in the presence of the Duke and others of high rank.

When the heroic group of Highlanders returned to Toronto, they were given the greatest reception in the history of Canada. The tremendous crowds at the station made it difficult to start the parade, and over 60,000 people gathered in Queens Park in celebration.

Now, Gentlemen, this record of the 48th from out of the dim past is but a sample of the stepping stones I referred to, a portion of the foundation on which you have built a living monument of which we are all proud, shrouded as it is in both honour and glory.

The late George Stewart was a particular friend of mine, but far too often the hero of today is forgotten tomorrow unless we stop at times and look backward to the footprints made in yesterday.

Since for me the Sands of Time are running low, I felt some younger men might wish to share in my knowledge of the above mentioned events, and now with my best wishes for the 48th, I am,

An old soldier and Sgt. Instructor of Musketry, Bayonet fighting and Physical Training,

George Ruttle.

P.S.

Having received permission to visit Scotland after the Empire Tournament George Stewart competed in the Caledonian Games held in Kildrummie, Craigievair, Ballater, Edsall, Inchmorlie, Lumphannon and Turphanes.

These were all professional competitions with fair cash prizes drawing some of the best heavy weight athletes in the world. How Stewart upheld the honour of Canada and the 48th in other fields than bayonet fighting is proven by his record in the Caledonian Games.

Man of Steel cont'd

Stewart placed	FIRST	19	times
"	SECOND	24	"
"	THIRD	18	"
In the money		61	"

This was remarkable when competing with such men as Johnson, Gilbert and other well known professionals in shot-put, hammer-throwing, caber tossing etc. and speaks volumes for him. Had it not been for Gilbert, Stewart's wins would have been about doubled. This is the more surprising when you recall that Stewart was but a small man for the heavy-weight division, and had well earned the appellation, "The Man of Steel".

THE PIPE BAND

Two important changes have taken place in the Pipe Band since last we reported--the promotion of Drum Major Elms to WO 1 RSM and of Sergeant Fletcher to Drum Major. Sincere congratulations were extended to both men.

The social season began with a bang with the marriage of Sergeant R. MacKay to the popular Miss Joan Little. Another gay and joyous occasion was the marriage of Francis Dewar (Pipe Major Dewar's daughter) to Mr. Donald Lawrie.

Our New Year's Day Open House once again saw many old friendships renewed and old members welcomed. Among our guests was Pipe Major Fraser, looking very fit.

The Annual Band banquet in January was a great success--the candlelight and wine evoked many favourable comments. The Ball followed soon after and was very well attended this year; this pleased the hard working band members greatly. The indoor Highland Games were held in March and the Band was well represented, with Norman Nash winning first prize in drumming.

Sergeant F. Fisher was given a stag on Thursday, March 30, in honour of his approaching marriage to the attractive Miss Shirley Scott on Saturday, April 15. Our best wishes have been extended to the happy couple.

The Band has been invited to participate in the Vancouver Military Tattoo in July and is looking forward with great pleasure to this trip.

See you all at the Re-union ! !

"A" COMPANY NEWS

"A" Company can boast of another successful year. In the fall we started with some twenty-five men--all veterans of at least a year in the Company, and all who had enjoyed a most successful Summer Camp. We built our numbers slowly during the training season and by Christmas, had some thirty-eight men, all ranks.

The Christmas Party under the very capable direction of George Fowlie, was a vast improvement over last year's effort. An estimated two hundred and thirty people attended and everyone had a wonderful time. Pte. Headley was especially notable for his performance in the Scottish dancing--to those of us who enjoyed his performance, it seemed like a combination of the Eightsome Reel and a Hindu Snake Charmer dance! Pte. Fowlie deserved a great deal of credit for all the work he put into making the dance such a big success.

Over Christmas, we were most upset to learn that three of our senior NCO's would be leaving us--Sgt. Cane owing to illness, Sgt. Gilmore, pressure of business, and popular CSM George Venton for the same reason. Although somewhat light in senior NCO's, the Company continued to grow and now numbers approximately fifty men, all ranks. With this good complement of men, the most successful McGregor Shoot in the history of the Company was run on March 11th. Prizes for all--with a special prize donated by George Elms for the worst shot in the Company which went to Pte. Macrae.

Training has proved most interesting this year. In the fall, the Trained Militiaman Course took Basic Rescue, and the Company posted a 77% passing average. Block II of the Course was run this spring and of thirty-one all ranks who sat the examination, fully seventeen of them were members of "A" Company. The Company Commander was most pleased with this result !!!

With the Regimental Re-Union in sight, all ranks are working hard to win the enviable prize to be the Escort for the Colours. We understand Captain Binnie will be the Escort Commander and Lieutenant Young, the Ensign. Congratulations sirs--we hope we can be with you that day!

In closing, all of the members of "A" Company would like to wish Padre Muir success in his new capacity as Editor of the FALCON. We can assure him as long as he lets us know whenever he intends to publish, "A" Company will always have some news for him.

"B" COMPANY EVENTS

As with the rest of the battalion, our Company events occur frequently and at close intervals throughout the training season of 1960-61, and the question is, where to begin. About the best starting point to be had is the most important of all events that can happen to a militia unit and that being the summer camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake during the week of July 10 - 16 1960.

The morning of Sunday, July 10 was a busy one. The Regiment was assembled in the Armouries, loaded into buses and upon their arrival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, each Company was assigned to its own row or rows of bell tents and this was known as their "Company lines". No sooner was this done than we were hit by a tremendous thunderstorm which poured down solid for 45 minutes, drenching the ground, the tents and anyone who was unlucky enough not to be under shelter. Immediately after this rain we received our first camp instructions on how to tighten or loosen tent ropes in order to meet weather conditions. The rest of the day we fried under a hot, bright sun; the men were examined by the M. O. and found to be all healthy specimens. They were then given odd jobs to do until the evening when they were issued bedding and at last they settled down for the night. Many of them were spending a night in a military camp for the first time in their lives.

The ungodly racket of intermingled pipe, brass and bugle bands all up and down the camp met us as we staggered out of our warm beds for reveille on Monday morning. The more alert bodies were awake by the end of the P.T. exercises, and the rest were pounded into wakefulness by the sound of wooden mallets on tent pegs as the Company lines were straightened and put into order during the morning. Drill and basic knowledge of the rifle was taught to the men through a very hot and humid afternoon. In the cool of the evening kilts and coveralls were issued to those who didn't have any.

On Tuesday morning we were given our exercise in the form of a battalion march to the ranges where we fired our rifles and set the sights, then marched back to camp for lunch. Due to the issue of new boots, there were 5 cases of blistered feet in the Company. These individuals were glad to discover that transportation by truck was provided in the afternoon when we returned to the ranges for National Survival Training. On return to camp there was a very welcome "shower break" laid on for our Company to refresh us. "B" Company retired early on Tuesday evening due to a necessary early rising next morning because of kitchen duties. They went to sleep with the sound of gun-fire in their ears as the other companies carried out nocturnal patrols. However, the extra rest paid off on Wednesday as the men of the Company under the encouragement of a fire-eating Cpl. Chambers of HQ and Support Companies set a new record in speed and efficiency in carrying out the various chores around the kitchen and messing tents. After kitchen duties Baker bodies relaxed by witnessing a "retreat ceremony" put on by the Pipe Band in the evening to entertain the visiting American army personnel.

Around the witching hour of Wednesday night and on until the small hours of Thursday morning the rain Gods frowned upon us and we were struck by another great and terrible thunderstorm, much to the discomfort of Privates Ratnick and Pajur, who occupied a leaky tent.

"B" Coy cont'd

On this evening we were visited by our CSM Saunders who came up to see us along with Cpl. K. Watson who was taken on strength for the duration of the camp.

Thursday morning the Company was back to taking drill and range discipline with the rifle, but at 10:00 hours time was taken out for a short sharp little scheme in which Lieutenant Osler and Sgt. Gaston took the part of the enemy. Sgt. Gaston was captured and made a very well-behaved P.O.W. The afternoon was spent in firing rifles at the ranges.

Drill occupied only 2 periods on Friday morning, the rest of the time being spent on battle practices in which we attacked a formidable line of straw bales in 3 assaulting waves under Cpls. Watson, Shields and Gomm. This was followed by a short exercise in the finer points of a right flanking movement with a platoon. In the afternoon a pay and swim parade were held and during the evening a "weiner roast" was held with the Student Militia in a nearby park.

Saturday morning we turned in our bedding and from then until the afternoon we attended many and varied work parties. Finally the Company was paraded with the battalion with personal kit intact loaded onto trucks and the journey to Toronto began. Upon arrival at the Armouries the equipment and rifles were put away and the Company was finally dismissed by 16:15 hours.

Private Ratnick was presented with the "Dileas" by Major Lemesieur for being the best turned out soldier in the Company for the duration of the camp.

The winter training season began on Friday, September 23, 1960 and one of the first moves accomplished was to outfit the Company in scarlet doublet. This dress the Company wore with splendour for the occasions of the Annual Regimental Church Parade on Sunday, October 16, 1960, the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday November 6, 1960 and the "changing over" of the RSM's parade held on Friday, February 17, 1961.

Every shoot has had its contingent of "B" personnel. Company practice with the .22 calibre rifle was held on October 25, 1960 in which Pte. McKeown proved to be a marksman, and the men also took part in a "Turkey shoot" on December 6th in the indoor ranges. On Saturday March 11, a "B" Company team consisting of Major Lemesieur, Capt. Stark, CSM Saunders, Lt. Crutcher, Sgts. Gaston and Shaw and Ptes. Bale, Bell, Borgwordt, and Lingard, firing again with the small bore rifle, came a very close 2nd in team standing at the "Archie McGregor" shoot. Of this team Lt. Crutcher won the cup for the highest individual score.

Firing with the large bore rifle on the outdoor ranges, although not occurring as frequently, has also been steadily attended. On Sunday, November 13, another Company team consisting of Major Lemesieur, Sgts. Shaw and Gaston, Ptes. Borgwordt, Bell Lingard and Peacock took part in the regimental qualification shoot at Winona, and scored good shots. About a month later, and farther south on Lake Ontario's shore at the Niagara-on-the-Lake ranges, men of Baker Company also contested their skill in the

"B" Coy cont'd

"Al Turner" shoot, which occurred on the 10th and 11th of December. Here the men on the firing line were at a great disadvantage as a strong, freezing wind blew right off the lake and into their faces, the result of this being that eyes trying to look through sights were made to water and fingers became numb. Not to mention the fact that "run-down" practices were twice as difficult in heavy winter clothing. The people in the buttes also had their problems for the glue froze on the targets, making patching very difficult and fires had to be lit to cause a little warmth. Most of the competitors spent the night in tents on the camp field by "Butler's Barracks" and were taken back to Toronto by bus the next day after firing a few rounds out of pistols there.

On the night of Saturday, November 19, 1960 the Company held its Christmas Dance, most of the work and preparation for this being done by Cpls. Gomm and Watson and Ptes. Yates, Ash and Peacock. It was a tremendous success, and not only did it consist of food, drink, and dancing, but it was climaxed by a hearty big sing-song at the end in which all took part.

On Friday November 18, for the first time this year during the battalion dismissal parade, foot drill and arm movements that will be used in the "Trooping" manoeuvres was sprung on us and of course the Company will be practiced extensively in that regard until June.

#5 Platoon of "B" Company spent the day of Sunday, March 19 in the Armouries doing intensified training on the subjects of map reading, drill and rifle and are showing improvement in this direction.

That is about all for now except that on the Company sick list are the names of Cpl. Gomm and Ptes. Peacock and Ash. We wish these people good luck and a speedy recovery so that we may see them again soon.

"D" Company News

At 5:35 P.M. on the 30th March 1961, a new Highlander entered the world and the Regiment in the person of young David Andrew Brown. Congratulations are extended to the justly proud father, Lt. Brown, who informs us that his fine son's first spoken words were "Dileas Gu Brath" !

Other great things have been happening to the Company since the last issue of this publication. Under the leadership of our Company Commander, Captain J. I. B. MacFarlane, our ranks have swelled with capable new recruits and we now enjoy the distinction of having the best attendance record in the Regiment.

"D" Coy cont'd

Congratulations to a "D" Company alumnus, RQMS Ballantine on his appointment and to Cpl. F.L. Taylor and L/Cpls. Roussel, Thorpe Murray, and Thornbury on their promotions. Unfortunately L/Cpl. Thorpe has had to leave us temporarily but we are looking forward to seeing him back with us again in the near future.

"D" Company expects to put forth the best showing yet at summer camp this year. Pte. Stevenson, our cook, who is reputed to be a "chef par excellence", will surely have his work cut out for him when the hungry hordes descend upon his kitchen after a vigorous day's training.

For the enlightenment of those who are reading the FALCON for the first time and are interested in entering "The Regiment" "D" Company consists of a group of men representing a varied number of extra-curricular, cultural and recreational activities, e.g.: Judo and Karate men, football players, motion picture stars, sky divers, frogmen, squash and tennis players, racing car enthusiasts, animal trainers and motion picture photographers, to mention only a few.

AS THE PADRE SEES IT

It is almost a year now since my first parade as Padre of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. For me this was quite a new experience and a most interesting one. As some of you know, my previous military service had been as an infantry soldier and as a piper, and from those days I can recall a great many experiences, most of them good.

The Garrison Church Parade last May reminded me vividly of my first parades in the Pipe Band under Pipe-Major Fraser. As we swung up University Avenue, I thought of the struggles to keep in step, and to keep in line, not to mention to keep on the tune. As practice brought more ease and I hope some improvement, it became a most thrilling event to be on parade up front with the pipes and drums. It seems somewhat like a demotion now to be away back with the Second-in-Command.

Camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake last July was another occasion when the routines of 20 years ago came to life again as we marched smartly out to the ranges and hobbled back on our new born blisters. It was a good camp even though training for National Survival seemed quite a contrast to bayonet fighting, the commando courses and mid-night schemes of other days.

For me, however, about the most enjoyable event was the Old Comrades Dinner at the Church Street Memorial Hall last November. Here I was in my element. Here were the men I felt at home with even if some were complete strangers.

The first Memorial Service at the Cenotaph and the service at St. Andrew's Church were of course, parades of great significance for the Padre.

As the Padre sees it cont'd

The St. Andrew's Ball and the New Year's activity with the members of the Sergeants' Mess are also memorable if in a different vein.

In short, it is good to be back in the kilt again as a member of those 48th Highlanders proudly wearing our noble motto written in the language of Heaven, "Dileas Gu Brath".

At the risk of seeming to steal words from one of our notable civic servants, I will be happy to be considered as the Padre of all the Highlanders. By this I mean that while my duties may seem to attach me more closely to the men presently serving in the Regiment, I want all members of our 48th family to feel free to call upon me if at any time I may be of service to them.

God bless you all and we will hope to see you at the Reunion.

P.S.

In this my first edition of the FALCON I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have made contributions. Especially do I wish to thank my immediate predecessor, Padre Ross K. Cameron for his guidance, advice and encouragement in carrying out this task.

It has taken some time to learn the ropes to pull for action with respect to collecting articles. Experience is a good teacher and we trust that the next issue may be brought forth more quickly and we dare to hope less painfully

The basic information for "The Change of Command" and "The Change of Sergeant Majors" was supplied by Captain W. Ware and is gratefully acknowledged. Credit for other articles has been given on the Title Page.