

THE FALCON

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This publication is issued under the authority of Lt Col J.M. Lowndes CD, Commanding Officer of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. The contents have been edited and approved by the Padre, Capt A.C.G. Muir assisted by Capt George Day.

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Greetings at Christmas



COMMANDING OFFICER'S CHRISTMAS GREETING

This past year has, I feel, been one of the most successful in the Regiment's history during peacetime. I am extremely grateful to all ranks for the time and effort you have all put in and as it is impossible to thank each one of you individually, I thought it would be quite proper to express my thanks to you all in the Commanding Officer's Christmas Message.

In the Spring of 1966 we had several schemes and exercises including flights with the RCAF, range classifications, Garrison Church parade and training exercises. Those on qualifying courses were quite outstanding and all ranks from Maj to the newest recruit attended the necessary lectures and our passing percentage was phenomenal.

On May 20, 1966 we marched from Fort York Armoury to our new home in Moss Park. This was an exceptionally fine parade and was a milestone in our seventy-five year history. You may recall that when the Honourable Paul Hellyer officially opened the Armouries on September 17th I said that we had had three miserable years in the Militia in Toronto. All Units except ours were very badly affected—their strength fell off and their morale and enthusiasm dropped to a low level. The morale and strength of our Unit was not unduly affected and I attribute this solely to the unflinching efforts of the Officers, NCO's and men. You all deserve credit for this accomplishment.

The training at Petwawa Summer Camp was excellent and numerous accolades were received from the Camp Commander and his staff for the enthusiasm of all those in the Unit who attended and the excellence of our training programme. We were the largest Unit during the three week camp and I am sure we all benefitted from the lessons learned. Our attendance, however, (just between ourselves) was really not satisfactory even though we had a number of officers and men on other courses who could not attend. This Camp was by far the best we have had since the War and I sincerely hope that you will all attend the next Summer Camp in 1968. I assume it will again be at Petwawa which is a far better area than Niagara for our purposes.

CO Greeting Cont'd

The Reunion provided us with a little entertainment during the summer and we can all feel proud of our part in the Freedom of the City presentation ceremony in Nathan Phillips Square on 19 Aug, the Warriors Day Parade on 20 Aug and the Memorial Service on 21 Aug 66. Our turnout was excellent and our attendance was appreciated by the Old Comrades. I fully realize that many of you gave up your holidays to attend this function and all I can again do is to sincerely thank you.

The Fall brought about the usual schemes, range practices and courses and we seem to be busily progressing. I would ask you all to ensure you attend your qualifying courses and complete your next qualification as quickly as possible. The regulations are being strictly interpreted and enforced by the Regular Force and unless you have completed your courses, promotion is not possible.

I have been unjustly accused by persons outside the Regimental Family (and even some within) of enthusiastically embellishing our accomplishments. Some have even accused me of bragging a little. I was delighted to be completely vindicated by the Canadian Infantry Association recently when we were awarded for the first time the Sir Casimir Gzowski Trophy for the most efficient Militia Infantry Unit in Canada during the year 1966. We should all be very proud of this accomplishment for it reflects credit on every single Officer, NCO and man in the Unit.

Next year will again be a busy year for the Regiment. In the early Spring we will hold the usual training schemes and the Change of Command will take place on Friday, 14 Apr 67. I know you will continue to support Maj Cameron in the same manner you have supported me. On July 1, 1967 we will Troop the Colour in Varsity Stadium and our Spring training will, of necessity, be aimed toward this goal. This is the major military parade in this area for the Centennial Year and although it will mean a considerable amount of work, it is quite an honour to be told "you are the only unit who can Troop properly". For this effort we must be up to full strength, so start your recruiting campaigns now.

I apologize for being so long winded this year but this will be my last opportunity to express to you (by way of the Falcon) my sincere appreciation for the continued support I have received from all ranks during these past three years. The time spent has been fun but it has been a difficult and strenuous period for us all. I cannot name individuals or particular organizations but everyone has contributed to make my term a wonderful three years.

We will now be taking off four weeks to celebrate and recover from the Holiday festivities. I would like to extend to you all and your families my hope that you will have a very merry and happy Christmas and a most prosperous and excellent New Year.

JM Lowndes, Lt Col

EDITORIAL

The Falcon Committee is very grateful for all the news submitted regularly by the Pipes and Drums, B. H. Q. and all the companies. This section of Regimental news always forms a part of any issue of "The Falcon". Captain George Day has recently come across the first three issues of the Falcon and we were interested to note that in those days the whole magazine was made up of Regimental News. When the present Editor took over in 1960 he found that a number of articles were imported from outside sources and that the number of submissions from within the Regiment had declined.

In the early Falcons there were, in addition to the contributors that we still have, contributions from the Officers' Mess, the Sergeants Mess, the Brass Band, the Rifle Association, and the 48th Highlanders Association. If we can again have active participation from all the groups and organizations associated with the Regiment it will greatly enrich the content of the Falcon.

We have also noted that, when the Falcon was formed, there was an Editor and eight associates forming the Falcon Committee. Now there are only two of us, Capt G.C.E. Day and Capt A.C.G. Muir. Captain Day has been a tremendous help both through his personal contributions and his assistance in gathering news, and having pictures printed. It seems to us, however, that if we could enlarge our committee again we could produce an even better Regimental Magazine.

HQ/SP Coy boys have come up with a good idea which others might adopt. They plan to begin a Falcon File into which they will put items of news as it happens along with any other articles, jokes or anecdotes that might be of interest to all our readers, then when the deadline date arrives they will be ready with a whole file full of lively literature.

When this magazine first appeared in June 1949 the first editorial said two or three things that we would like to pass on to you again in 1966.

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

"We would like to see 'The Falcon' become a fairly impressive record of the life of the Regiment and its affiliated organizations".

"We want constructive criticism, we want ideas and suggestions; we want contributions".

Whatever else may have changed over the past 17 years these policy statements of the Falcon have not changed.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Billy Graham (Guideposts December 1966)

There are three symbols which mean Christmas - the real meaning of Christmas.

The first is a CRADLE. There, in Bethlehem, were cradled the hopes and dreams of a dying world. Those chubby little hands that clasped the straw in His manger crib were soon to open blind eyes, unstop deaf ears and still the troubled seas. That echoing voice was soon to teach men of the Way and to raise the dead. Those tiny feet were to take Him to the sick and needy and were to be pierced on Calvary's cross.

That manger crib in remote Bethlehem became the link that bound a lost world to a loving God.

A Christmas Message Cont'd

The CROSS. There were both light and shadow of that First Christmas. There was joy with overtones of sadness, for Jesus was born to die. Jesus, approaching the cross, said, 'To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world'. To Christians the joy of Christmas is not limited to His birth. It was His death and resurrection that gave meaning to His birth.

It is in the cross that the world can find a solution to its pressing problems.

The CROWN. Jesus was crowned with a crown of thorns and enthroned on a cruel cross, yet His assassins did something, perhaps unwittingly. They placed a super-
scription over His cross in Greek, Latin and Hebrew: "This is the King."

Yes, Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords, and He is coming back someday. He will come not as a babe in Bethlehem's manger. The next time He comes it will be in a blaze of glory and He will be crowned Lord of all.

CRADLE - CROSS - CROWN. Let them speak to you. Let the power of Him who came to us at Christmas grip you, and He will surely change your life.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Charles Duthie (British Weekly)

While Christ is the risen and living Lord, we must keep returning to the Scriptural witness borne to Him, if we are to understand who He is and what He has to say to us. When we do so we find that on several important issues Christians are divided not only against unbelievers but among themselves. The question then arises whether it is possible to hold fast to the substance of the faith while conceding something to reasonable doubt.

There is controversy about how the life of Jesus began. The 'doctrine' of the Virgin Birth builds upon the stories of Matthew and Luke, cites the clause 'born of the Virgin Mary' from the Apostles' Creed and is defended theologically by the plea that it was appropriate that our Lord should become man by special divine act. Most Christians believe in it, despite the silence of the majority of New Testament writers. Many would say that without it, it is difficult if not impossible to believe in a full incarnation.

On the other side there are many who believe that the doctrine of the Virgin Birth cannot be made an article of faith. They take the Scriptural evidence to be inconclusive. They think the belief may have arisen more to assert that Christ was really born than to deny that He had a human father. They see the doctrine as the first step in a development that led to the exaltation of Mary to a place which threatens the preeminence of her Son.

Some would add that if Jesus was truly human He must have had a human father and mother. Such a birth, they would say, does not preclude a special action of the Holy Ghost.

Between these extremes there must be many Christians who give a grudging assent to the doctrine while many others remain uncertain. What are we to say?

Emil Brunner is surely right when he tells us that it is the fact of the Incarnation and not its mode that matters. Jesus Christ is the Son of God who took our manhood upon Himself whatever the truth may be about the Virgin Birth. We can neither prove nor disprove the doctrine.

REUNION REPORT

The occasion of the 75th birthday in August this year for the 48th Highlanders of Canada was indeed a family affair as former comrades in arms converged on Toronto from all across Canada and from many parts of the United States. It was one of those rare opportunities to get together as the Regiment; as those who participated served in one or more of several battalions of the Regiment spread over many years. The Regiment is people and over 1000 mingled together for the three day period, renewing old acquaintances and having the opportunity of meeting the new young Highlanders of the present day militia.

As chairman of the Reunion Committee I wish at this time to thank all members of the committee for their great help and in particular to the present commanding officer Lt Colonel J.M. Lowndes CD who so generously gave of his time and co-operated by making the serving members of the Regiment available to play such a stirring part in all Reunion activities. This provided for a great mix of Highlanders with an age spread of up to 70 years between the youngest and the oldest present. Welcome participants in the Reunion were some Gordon Highlanders who were rounded up by Mr. James Pletich.

The 48th veterans - many of them seeing their Regiment on parade in full dress for the first time, were both thrilled and proud of the Friday night show in front of the new City Hall. The Freedom of the City was the citizens opportunity to pay their tribute to the Regiment, and a good crowd was on hand to witness this once in a lifetime event. For many veterans the urge to parade behind the Regimental Pipes and Drums and the military band proved irresistible and the parade of veterans grew far beyond the original plan of two platoons. Being an understanding 48th Highlander, Col Lowndes bowed to the inevitable and was no doubt delighted at the enthusiasm shown by old Highlanders to be on parade once again. After the official ceremony the march up Yonge Street to the Memorial Hall was witnessed by a great throng of the citizens of Toronto - the applause received en route was generous and appreciated.

Once at the Memorial Hall the veterans got down to the serious purpose of the Reunion, the grand get together, aided by a plentiful supply of liquid refreshment.

Not wishing to miss anything the serving Battalion and 48th veterans were out in full strength at the Canadian National Exhibition early Saturday morning to participate as the Guests of Honour in the annual Warriors Day Parade with the Honourary Colonel, Brigadier Eric Haldenby taking the salute for the whole parade - followed by the Honourary Lt Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Ian Johnston giving a fighting speech at the Directors Luncheon. It was a real 48th day.

Who but the "Dileas Boys" could sit down to a dinner on the Saturday night at Moss Park Armoury to the fine military airs played by the Military Band under the able direction of Captain Donald Keeling. The dinner tables were arranged in a manner that permitted the Pipes and Drums to march and play in amongst the diners, this they did some 50 strong and Pipe Major Ross Stewart's finale with the highland dancing was enthusiastically received.

For a Regiment that has been blest with beloved and outstanding war time commanders some of whom were introduced at the dinner, it was none the less appropriate that the greatest applause of the evening was given to Mr Hugh Rose who enlisted with the 48th Highlanders of Canada back in 1908. It was an emotional few minutes for Mr. Rose which he was to experience again on the Sunday as he laid the Regimental wreath on behalf of all Highlanders at the Regimental Memorial at the head of Queens Park.

Reunion Report Cont'd

Blest with perfect summer weather the Sunday service at the Regimental Memorial was moving and poignant with memories for the many veterans present. There was Stewart East wearing his serge tunic complete with the red patches on his sleeves - conducting the service - what a flood of memories that evoked for the second war veterans. The Padre's arrival at the Regiment when they were stationed at Uckfield in Sussex - his Communion Service held aboard the Derbyshire on the hot July evening prior to the landing - the heat of Sicily and marching with the boys along the dusty roads sharing his oversize waterbottle with many. Later the wet and cold of central Italy, Torella, San Tommaso, Cemetery Hill - making his headquarters at the Regimental Aid Post and working forward from there. Recording so faithfully the regimental casualties in his little black book - Finally the Padre wounded at the Hitler Line hobbling around with the aid of stick in order to say goodbye to his boys before being evacuated. The Padre by his own example was instrumental in forging a Regimental Loyalty and Esprit de Corps that is as strong today as it was 23 years ago. The Military Cross and the MBE were little enough tangible recognition for this truly great man.

As the Pipes and Drums played "the Flowers of the Forest" a second war veteran could not help but bring to mind some of those gallant 48th Highlanders who made it all possible. - How well the Regiment know death is no respecter of rank - Colonel Billy Marshall killed in the First War and Colonel Donald MacKenzie taken from us in the closing days of the war in Holland - Major Freddie MacLaren, son of a former Commanding Officer of the Regiment killed near the banks of the Lamone River - Captain Jack Wilson at the Hitler Line - Eddie MacLachlan, the first officer killed in Sicily - Private Besserman and Lt Murray Hoffman buried under the Star of David. Sgt. Roger Mulholland, Johnnie Berry - Bill Hopkins whose father and brother Rod served alongside him in the Regiment - what a privilege to have been with them as Commander in Arms and memories of the 48th Highlanders such as these and so many more are not readily and it is to be sincerely hoped ever forgotten.

For the final Sunday ceremony on the drill floor of the new home of the Regiment - Moss Park Armoury - Major Ross Cameron former Padre of the Regiment conducted a short service. This was followed by a few words from Colonel Lowndes addressed to the 48th Veterans. The fine reception he received was their way of acknowledging that after being in close contact with the serving Battalion over the past three event filled days they considered their Regiment was in good hands. No one knows better than Colonel Lowndes that Militia Units in Canada today stand on their own feet - they cannot survive on the past glories of their predecessors. This was the most important thought in many minds - for it was realized that while the same group would never parade together again, other 48th Highlanders would be there to take their place, thereby perpetuating a Regiment that has been awarded a total of 49 Battle Honours won at a cost in lives of some 1600 men - wearers of the Falcon badge and Davidson kilt.

Now it was almost over as the serving Battalion formed two ranks by the exit from the armouries facing each other at the "Present" - thus forming a corridor for the veterans to pass through. The order "Quick March" given by the Commander of the 48th veterans and the few minutes that followed will remain indelibly imprinted on his mind and indeed the minds of all who participated or witnessed from the galleries this final piece of drama. To the tune of "Boys of the Old Brigade" played by the Military Band a tired but extremely proud group of 48th Highlanders marched with heads erect and arms swinging through the ranks of their worthy successors.

This Sam doesn't make the kilts too long!

Lotta Dempsey
Toronto Daily Star

A year or so ago Sam Sniderman was on a bus en route to Erie, Penn., when a short, pleasant Irishman sat down beside him.

"What do you do?" asked the newcomer, after an exchange of pleasantries.

"I'm a Jewish kiltmaker in Toronto," Sam told me he replied, with a chuckle, waiting for the surprise.

Instead, his seatmate went into long and ancient history of the Scottish and Jewish people running back to biblical times in which he found a relationship between the Celts and the Israelites.

"The tribes of Israel had tribal crests; the crest of Judah is almost identical to the Bowes-Lyon crest (that of the Queen Mother's family); and phonetically Gaelic is very similar to Hebrew."

Be that as it may, how Sam Sniderman came to be Toronto's leading kiltmaker for the past 21 years is an interesting story.

ONCE A YEAR

Particularly with the St. Andrew's Ball Friday bringing kilts out of mothballs for those who wear them only on such gala occasions.

I crouched on a box of Scottish material fresh from the old country while Sam brought out various tartans as he explained their clans, in a crowded small workroom in the Fort York armouies. It is here that the skilled and painstaking work and measuring for kilts of the 48th Highlanders and the Metro Police Pipe Band are done day after day.

About that Pennsylvania commission the tailors fame has spread abroad, and he was commissioned to outfit a U.S. non-military group.

"There was just about every nationality you could imagine," he said with a smile. "There might even have been a Scotsman or two."

CRAFT KILTS

Since I have run across a number of men, and women too, who say they would love to wear a kilt, I wanted to know if this were a widespread desire.

"Quite a number of men in this province like to wear the kilt, especially of their own clan, for walking or golfing or loafing, particularly in the country," he said. "If properly made and fitted, it's a very comfortable garment, although of course it has its peculiarities."

For instance, many wives ask for an extra length of material to have matching shorts made for their husbands.

"Women have them made, too, but strictly speaking they're not supposed to wear them."

Sam's own daughters, two attractive girls of 20 (Ruth) and 17 (Betty), keep begging the master craftsman to make them kilts.

"I'm just too busy to get around to it."

Sam's Kilts Cont'd

While not working on Regimentals, Sam carries on for a private clientele. A Japanese gentleman in Toronto, who enjoys Scottish dancing, is one customer.

Gordon Sinclair clings affectionately to a kilt Sam made years ago.

FALSE ALARM

Gordon came in one day in great distress. He had lent his kilt to someone for quite a period of time and when he got it back found it much too small. He thought he had gained a lot of weight.

"But when I examined it, I found his friend had taken a big pleat. He was relieved."

Sniderman once made a kilt for Sir Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and also fitted and designed one for Lord Thomson of Fleet, the international press baron.

A Harris tweed jacket is proper wear with the non-military, non-dress kilt.

Sniderman once had a valet shop opposite City Hall.

He joined the army during World War II and was a regimental tailor in the Canadian Army Service Corps. After demobilization, Cpl Sniderman as he was then, dropped into the University armouries and asked the late Sgt Alec Smith if a regimental tailor were needed.

"He grabbed me and put me right to work - on kilts! I've been at it ever since," he said.

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The husband and wife had spent two hours in the automobile showroom. "It didn't always take you this long to make up your mind," the wife complained. "Why, you married me a week after you met me!"

"My dear," replied the husband, "Buying a car is a serious business."

The husband, an insurance adjuster by vocation, was teaching his wife to drive when the car's brakes failed on a downhill grade.

"There are no brakes!" Shouted the wife. "What will I do?"

"Hang on tight," advised the husband, "And aim for something cheap."

"Doctor," said the patient, I'm still suffering from insomnia. I still can't get a good night's rest."

"Just before you go to bed," advised the doctor, "Have a cup of tea and some toast, or a glass of milk and a sandwich."

"But, Doctor," commented the patient, "Six months ago you told me to go to bed fasting."

"True, sir, but medical science has made tremendous strides since then."

Jimmy, six, youngest of eleven children, was taken to the hospital to see his father who was quite ill. Jimmy was quiet, almost reverent, until time came for him to leave. Then he tiptoed up to the bedside and whispered in his father's ear:

"Kin I see the baby now?"

I. The band welcomes piper Stan Robertson, who successfully hurdled summer camp and survived a tremendous if somewhat exhausting trip south.

II. The pipes and drums held their family picnic last summer for the first time in several years. Corporal G. Rankin, who spent many hours organizing the events and making sure that everything rolled along in a smooth and enjoyable manner, got everything rolling along in a smooth and enjoyable manner and organized the events, undaunted by a minor hurricane. The picnic was held at the farm of Mildred and George Lewis, where there was plenty of room for the games and tuning of pipes. All the kids who participated in the races were awarded prizes, regardless of whether they finished first or last. This precaution cheered up Pat Mulvenna who was a little bitter about being beaten in the Karate contest by George Walker's daughters. For the adults there were balloon-gouging and egg-throwing contests, in which the eggs were half full of water and the balloons were hard-boiled. A confusing mixed shoe-kicking game ended up with Bill Booker hobbling through the afternoon in size five heels. Mrs. Stu. White and Mrs. Pat Mulvenna supervised a game of rounders for the girls, while the dads and sons had rousing games of baseball and volleyball. Pipe Major Stewart had a ripping good time. Everyone laughed when he played in his shorts, but when he bent over, they split. A practical lesson in the Advantages of the Kilt. President Gordie Rankin brought out the goodies, milk and ice cream, and while the ladies were preparing lunch, a small band played some bagpipe music. The day was a great success and we thank Gordie Rankin and his assistants for making it so.

III. Some of the events which filled in the time between practices were: the White Heather concerts at Massey Hall in September, the opening hockey game in October, the Royal Winter Fair and Santa Claus parade in November, the camp in July, The Reunion in August, the summer shows in the parks, the bandshell concerts in the Exhibition, trips to Ottawa and New Orleans and numerous other engagements.

IV. It is with a feeling of great loss that the band reports the passing of Mr. John King at Sunnybrook Hospital on November 16. John served for many years as a piper in the band and for a long time was our faithful bartender. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and many friends.

V. In recent competitions: at Renfrew, Ken Bice won a third in the march, Sandy Dewar captured second in the open strathspey and reel as well as first in the march. At Fergus the band got a third in the slow march and piper A Dewar a second in the march. The quartet, made up of Reay McKay, Jimmy Cooperwhite, Darby McCarroll and Sandy Dewar, placed fourth in the Hamilton Indoor Games, where Fred Fisher's drummers received a first and Norm MacKenzie was declared top drum major. Congratulations.

VI. On Friday November 4, Angus Laing was the right marker and when he marched out into his position you could hear the years tumbling in his mind and the memories of more of the band than almost anyone and the hundreds of parades and the old armouries and the years and the million million grace notes and the parties in the mess and honour and the years. His last official parade made the pipe major sentimentally reminisce, but after such a long fine time it's really quite impossible to leave. Angus will be back in his familiar spot now and then to remind us.

Pipes and Drums Cont'd

VII. Much to the pleasure of all the band members who enjoyed the free rounds, Reay McKay and Fred Fisher were both promoted to staff sergeant in October.

VIII. Gu Brath

bandey goes chumping down jarvis
 with bombboom squeeze
 bombboom skirll
 and farewell to the skittish hearse
 played with two luarths
 and many birds
 only to receive the grand elbow
 from eyes right goldbuttons.
 pass it back to drumdeedelums
 who ratatatat precise as a pin.
 plaideresque ribbons
 flying in circus of redyellow
 high in the percular music of pipeness
 our bandey goes chumping

IX. The band affectionately recalls some of the famous members of the regiment: Major Disaster, Corporal Punishment, General Chaos, Private Property, No Trespassing, Captain Crunch not to mention Sergeant Tea and Flick Spray.

X. After a year's postponement and months of preparation, the pipes and drums mounted a plane on September 17, 1966, which would later deposit them in the quiet, peaceful, puritan town of New Orleans. Along with the band came the Colonel and Adjutant, who presumably were looking for a week's rest away from the wild, relentless life of Toronto. At the airport the band was greeted by matronly women in long black robes and lacey shawls who formally welcomed them to the village. Once settled in the cozy rooms of a quaint little southern hotel, the band members congregated in the pipe major's quarters for afternoon tea, exchanging repartee. Sponsored by a large downtown department store much like Eaton's, the band performed twice a day, at noon and five. Large crowds gathered on the route from the hotel to the store, along which the band marched in the warm Louisiana sun. In the evenings the visiting musicians partook of the pleasant social life of New Orleans. Sandy Lyle, overcome by the sheer beauty of the town, tried to dismantle Bourbon Street signs as little mementoes of the occasion. Kim Berry made remarkable progress in acquainting himself with the native inhabitants, perhaps as research for a sociology report. At such agreeable night clubs as Father Joseph's (named after Joe Pomblere), and the Scarlet Stocking Supporter, the band members whiled away the hours. Darby McCarroll added bagpipes to a jazz quartet. Patrons of the place were as pleased with this as they were with the entertainment provided by The Dancing Sergeants, Angus Laing, Bob Taylor and Ken Wells, not to mention Tom McKean's popular exhibition of talent. The week was historic: Sandy Dewar discovered the telephone, Lorne Campbell discovered the SSS, and a hotel staff bedroom cleaner Fred Fisher. The band's playing was a great success and has led to tentative offers from the south country for more engagements. During the oft'interrupted trip home, you could hear the vocal chords of the band blending in perfect harmony as they sang, among others the following little numbah:

PIPES AND DRUMS Cont'd

The Band Played On (sung to the tune of the The Band Played On)

The sun in New Orleans was terribly hot
 But the band played on.
 The nights at the Gahtah got hottah and hottah
 The band played on.
 Some brains were so loaded they nearly exploded
 While forming the St. Andrew cross.
 But don't waste the beer, we'll be back in a year
 And the band played on.

XI. Merry Christmas, W'all.

Bob Read

HELLYER TUNE CUTS PAY FOR PIPERS

Edmonton - The Defense Department's disinclination to pay the piper has drawn the predictable reaction from Edmonton Scots.

"Absolutely ridiculous," Malcolm MacCrimmon said yesterday when he learned that pipers are placed in a lower category than musicians in the new armed forces pay scale.

Mr. MacCrimmon is the official piper for Clan MacLeod in Scotland.

A Department official said musicians in the forces are expected to know more about music than pipers.

"It's the bagpiper who's at the head of the troops in battle," said Mr. MacCrimmon. "They don't send up a trumpeter."

The Toronto Evening Telegram

Perhaps some one should draw to Mr. Hellyer's attention the following excerpt from the first issue of The Falcon June 1949. With regard to our 48th Pipe Band it says:

"The Pipe Band has been rated by the People's Journal of Dundee as the largest Military Pipe Band in the British Empire, and by the Canadian Army Command, as the most efficient military band of all classes in Canada including Brass, Bugle, Fife and Pipe Bands."

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After a very hard day at the office the businessman was met with the bad news that the family's once-a-week cleaning lady had quit.

"Now what was the trouble this time?" he wearily asked his wife.

"You are!" she replied in an accusatory tone. "She said you used very insulting language to her on the telephone when you called at noon."

"Darling," he said, contritely, "I'm terribly sorry. I thought I was talking to you!"

BATTALION HEADQUARTER NOTES

Another summer and fall has come and gone, along with the many and varied activities concerned with the running of the Orderly Room. Since the merry month of May, two new faces have appeared in the same place in the following order, Private Gledhill of the C W A C, and Sgt Reg Turner the new P O R A who does the bulk of the work during the day. Private Gledhill enlisted in May and Sgt Turner joined us here during the month of September. A hectic time ensued in August owing to much administrative work in connection with the Regiment's Seventy Fifth Anniversary celebrations which as everyone remembered took in three very big parades. Two of these were in full dress, while the third involved only summer dress although your scribe had a pair of somewhat sore feet after. Thank heavens this fell during his summer vacation, although it was a rather uncomfortable way to break in a new pair of dress shoes it seemed.

We were sorry to hear that Cpl Frank Brady has undergone a couple of spells in hospital, but is now back on parade once more.

ALPHA AIRS

The training year so far has seen many changes, as far as Alpha Company is concerned. These changes have come on the heels of a very busy August, with the three rehearsals and the three parades of the Reunion, when the company took an active and prominent part in the efforts of the Regiment.

With the exception of Mr. Cameron, we have had a complete change of officers in the company. Maj Johnston has moved to HQ/SP, and was replaced briefly by Capt Osler. Maj Stark is now our Company Commander, and is quickly getting to know all ranks very well. Our best wishes go to those who have left us.

Lt Kerr, recently of the First Hussars in London, has joined the company, and we have welcomed back Lt Roberts who was with us for a time last year. Congratulations to Mr. Roberts on his second 'Pip'.

Sgt Shalapata has gone to the Recruiting Office and Sgt Moze to HQ/SP, being replaced by Sgts Docherty and Gledhill, to whom we add our congratulations on their new rank.

A considerable number of new recruits have joined the company as well, including Ptes Boucher, Carter, Clodd, Daniels, Dyer, Enright, Jarrett, Joseph, Krasinski, Molin, Seaman, Stock, Watson RA, and Wilson. Ptes Dyer, Seaman and Wilson are all members of what are known as "Cpl Headley's Mau Maus." In addition, Ptes Closs, McGloin, and Wood come to us from the Field Engineer Cadets at Fort York (remember that place?) after a summer at Camp Ipperwash. They are the guys who used to have that blasted drum on Friday nights.

The new company members as well as the old timers have had numerous opportunities for public appearances; The official (and, for us, the third) march-in to the Moss Park Armouries, the Regimental Church Parade, Remembrance Day Parade, and the Honour Guard for the Lieutenant-Governor at the Royal Winter Fair.

Everyone is getting used to our new quarters at Moss Park, and most are satisfied. It is nice to have space of our own again.

Alpha Airs Cont'd

CSM Chapell is planning, according to "usually reliable reports," to start his own hair styling salon. We understand he leans towards the bowl-on-the-head method of hair cutting.

Plans are under way for a winter company scheme, sometime after Christmas. On the social side, a sleigh ride is being planned for the company in the near future.

Early in the new year, the MacGregor Shoot will be run once again, and we cordially invite all Highlanders to attend.

At the time of writing, we have just learned that the Regiment has won the Sir Casimir Gzowski Trophy, emblematic of the best infantry unit in the Canadian Army Militia, which is to be presented to the Regiment on December 9.

"B" COY NEWS AND VIEWS

Since the last edition of the 'Falcon' the regiment has surely been in the public eye. The re-union and the presentation of the freedom of the city was of course the out-standing part of our activities in the past year. As we are all aware, this was quite an entailment. But, as per usual the 'Highlanders' carried it out in their excellent fashion. 'B' coy did their bit in the effort. We had very good attendance at all of the functions and carried out all of our assignments with good spirit. We supplied the Orderly Officer and Orderly Sgt for the City Hall ceremony. Also we were represented at the re-union memorial service at the cenotaph. Remember that sentry in the dinky shorts and white knees? At least he was the coolest (temperature wise) sentry that day. We do not wish to boast about what we do. Just point out the facts as they are.

Training-wise the coy was well represented at all the training exercises. We also conducted the recruit and trained militia-man's courses. As you can see our people were really busy. Now they deserve a rest before plunging into what promises to be a busy Spring.

Regarding training, I must relate this account of a field exercise that 4 pltn held in the Spring. The coy refers to this incident as 'The Battle of Raglan'.

The O C 4 pltn (the Lt Roberts) and the pltn Sgt (Sgt Cormack, yours truly) decided that we should have a week-end exercise as a section in the field. We gathered together the following people from the pltn: Sgt Gledhill (then Cpl), his son Pte Gledhill (att. from 'C' coy for this exercise), L/Cpl Potten, L/Cpl Forrest, Pte Scott, Pte Shoults, Pte Allan.

After the usual running around we managed to get a 2½ ton truck, rifles, 2 stirlings and blank ammo. for the rifles. None for the stirlings.

The convoy, consisting of the truck, Lt Robert's station wagon and my little bug, proceeded to Raglan. Somehow we all arrived at the same place and proceeded to set up camp. After that chore was done we began working in the field.

During the afternoon a column of vehicles drove by us going further into the area. We identified them as a recon. unit. To be sure that we would be out of their way, we decided to move our camp to another area. We picked the old ruined barn which is probably familiar to the Battalion as that is one of the places that the Battalion has had their exercises in the past.

"B" Coy News and Views Cont'd

After dinner the section started working a part of the road that runs near the ruin. A jeep came roaring down the road and the section stopped it. After examining the occupants papers and questioning same, they allowed the jeep to continue on its business.

It was not long after this that the section came under fire from a sniper using an automatic weapon. L/Cpl Potten, who was closest to the sniper, decided to be a hero and take the sniper. Meanwhile the rest of the section lost touch with L/Cpl Potten and assumed that he was captured. They searched the area but found no one there. On returning to camp they found that L/Cpl Potten had got there before them. No need to repeat the greeting that he got.

The section had a little refreshment then retired for the night, very tired after their arduous day. Due to the fact that there was hostile troops in the area, a sentry was posted. The vehicles were drawn up in a hollow square, facing out. The section bedded down in a little hollow beside the ruins (I believe that that was where the dung heap had been at one time) and about 10 yds from the vehicles.

Lt Roberts was on the ground next to his wagon and I climbed into the back of my car. Getting too old to sleep on the damp ground.

Several times in the night the sentry who was on duty would come and wake me to tell me that he heard a noise outside the camp. I would sweep the area with a light but to no avail. I was starting to suspect a conspiracy to keep me awake all night. Never the less, around midnight while Sgt Gledhill was on watch, he heard someone climbing over or under the wire fence which was approx 50 yds to our flank. Sgt Gledhill then awakened Lt Roberts (my previous remarks must have taken effect), then he proceeded to turn on the truck lights which were facing the direction of the fence. There, silhouetted in the head light glare were six people in the process of attacking our camp. They were dressed in coveralls and carried stirlings. At this sight, Sgt Gledhill shouted "Highlanders Attack!" The section immediately leaped to their feet, grabbed their weapons and rushed towards the intruders.

In the excitement some of the section forgot that there was a wire fence right beside where they were sleeping. After charging the fence and being thrown backwards (some of them tried it twice) it dawned on them that it would be easier to go over it. The words that were uttered should have melted the wire.

By this time the attackers have recovered from the shock of the lights and were laying down heavy fire on the vehicles apparently thinking that the section was there. The glare of the lights prevented the enemy from seeing our men who were approaching them on their flank. Our men were on top of them before they knew what was happening. Then the hand to hand combat started.

Meanwhile I had wakened up and had taken stock of the situation. I could see that the men had the situation well in hand and so I sat back and enjoyed the sight. About 15 feet from me was Lt Roberts, in his P.J.s, struggling with one of the enemy and demanding that he surrender. The trouble was that Lt Roberts had a strangle hold on the man so that he could not say whether he wanted to surrender or not. Sgt Gledhill had another one pinned to the ground and was demanding that he give up his weapon only the man was lying on top of the weapon and under Sgt Gledhill.

I was rather taken aback at the fierceness of our men's attack. It reminded me of some of the accounts, that I have read, of the fierce way that the Highlanders of old attacked their enemies.

"B" Coy News and Views Cont'd

The enemy put up quite a struggle but it was to no avail. They were all made captive and marched into camp where they were relieved of their weapons and ammo. Lt Roberts and myself interrogated the prisoners one by one. We found that we had captured an officer and 6 Sgts. The officer kept maintaining that we had more men than were present. We of course informed him that the Highlanders did not need as many men to do a job as any other unit would. L/Cpl Potten gathered all the enemies' ammo. (which we kept for our own use) then returned their weapons.

After extracting a promise not to bother us again that night and giving them a little refreshment, we sent them on their way.

We feel that the name of the regiment involved should be kept secret so as not to cause them any embarrassment. This is one of the 'elite' rgt.s and they have a certain prestige to uphold. They know who we are though.

And so, that was the 'Battle of Raglan'. A limited engagement I'll grant but it indicated that the 'Fighting Forty-Eights' are still what they were before.

We have had a few changes in the coy. Sgt Gledhill is to be congratulated on his promotion also L/Cpl Dooley. We had quite a few men who have been up-graded and must be congratulated on passing their courses.

Due to non voluntary transfers to other coys, we lost Sgt Gledhill, Lt Roberts and Lt Beal. To replace these members we have Lt Temple (5 Pltn), Lt Munroe (4 pltn) and Lt Iverson (an ex member returned). With us, on a temporary basis, is Sgt Cattenacci from 'C' coy. I wonder how 'C' coy is doing without him!

We have had a few come and go in the ranks but the old hands are still in there pitching. They are the ones who have kept up our high standard.

There is a lot more I could tell but time and space is short. This I would like to say though. How about more news from you other coys? Let us know about your different activities, your views (within limits mind you). I am sure that the other coys would be interested in hearing from each other.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the O C, Officers, N C Os and men of 'B' coy, to extend our good wishes to the CO Lt Col Lowndes, Officers, N C Os and men of the Battalion a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours.

Safe Holidays

Yours aye,
Sgt Cormack R.L.

"CHARLIE CHATTER"

Greetings once again from C Company. As Christmas rolls around once more we realize how quickly time has gone. Charlie has been busy, as usual, with many courses. During the summer two courses affected C Company.

S M (1): Our course started on the 4th of July - that great American holiday. Our first day of training set a pattern for the remainder of the course. We were inspired by the presence of a recruit from the Jewish Light Infantry in whom we had the greatest respect and admiration. His constant overbearing presence led us to breathe the air of greater heights. Our course was climaxed by a company assault on the R.C.A. in which they were all washed out. We would sincerely like to add our deep appreciation for our corporals. Their constant guidance and surveillance developed our characters and taught us to ____. We still want a picture of SGT. BARNES!

Charlie Chatter Cont'd

Jr. N.C.O.: -Ptes. Attwood, Billings, Carnaghan, Gibson, Edgeworth, Ingram, Jackson, Reynolds, Miller, Witmore, Greave, and Dennis attended Camp Niagara-on-the-Lake for the six glorious weeks. For the first four weeks we took instruction, during which we caught up on our sleep. The last two weeks we spent tromping through the fields borrowing peaches, pears, cherries and apples.

-There were two parades in which the candidates were given the parade appointments and two Highlanders were chosen. Pte Ingram was made Platoon Sergeant, and Pte Jackson was made Company Sergeant Major which was a great honour for our regiment.

-One of the more persuasive boys (Pte Edgeworth) was going around with the brigadier's daughter (that's one way to get promoted, or demoted).

-In all it was a very enlightening course during which all of us learned very much and enjoyed it! Although you may hear stories which contradict the above statement - don't believe them.

New courses are being run as well. Lt D.G. McCrossan is running a Militia Infantryman Group I course and Lt R.P. Buller is running a Recruit and Trained Militiaman course.

The spring looks busy with at least one Air Force scheme and other battalion exercises. We'll see you next June.

HEADQUARTER SUPPORT COMPANY NOTES

The fall season for HQ/SP Coy has been particularly active with regards to training, recruiting and the reallocation of personnel. The Coy is sorry to see the departure of Major 'Bill' Stark and wishes him success with his new duties as O C A Coy.

Among the new faces welcomed to the Coy are Maj D.S. Johnston our new Company Commander, Capt Simmons our new 2 I/C and Lt Beal. Lt Beal together with S Sgt Watson have been running an excellent Sigs Course for the Regiment and it is hoped that a large number of qualified signallers will graduate from this course.

Lt Shipman our Transport Officer has acquired additional transport for the regiment including two 2½ tons, five 3/4 tons and two ½ ton vehicles. Sgt Harding who just recently got married and L/Cpl Brewer have been busy instructing new drivers. We hope L/Cpl Brewer will successfully ~~successfully~~ complete the current Jr NCO course. With regards to the Transport Section the trip to Petwawa was interesting and trying. However, in spite of many broken fan belts, steaming radiators, 10 vehicles successfully completed the 24 hour trip to camp.

With regards to future events the Coy is looking forward to the Turner Shoot at Ipperwash on 16/17/18 Dec 66, - to the forth coming mortar course and to a couple of winter schemes.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOGMANAY TO ALL!!

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The officer candidate was being inducted into the army.

"Did you go to grade school?" asked the sergeant.

"Yes, sir," said the applicant, "Then I went to high school, graduated from college, and took another year to get my master's degree."

The sergeant shuffled the applicant's papers, reached for a rubber stamp and marked down one word, "Literate".

LEST WE FORGET

(17)

135 Tyndall Ave.,
Apt 708,
Toronto 3, Ontario

Rev. A.C.G. Muir,
38 Elfreda Blvd.,
Scarborough, Ontario.

Dear Padre:

It is with deep sense of loss that I report the passing of so many 48th Highlanders during the period from May 25th to November 25th, 1966.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to those who notified me of the death of 48th Veterans, also to those who so kindly acknowledged the flowers sent by the Old Comrades Association.

Yours truly,
Bill Starr,
Sick Committee.

48th Highlanders' Deaths from May 25th to November 25th, 1966

Daunt, John E.	May 31, 1966	48th -39er
Neville, James D.	" 31, "	15th
Brodie, Walter	June 7, "	92nd Draft
Bunting, T.A.	" 8, "	48th -39er
Morgan, M.T. Capt.	" 10, "	134th -15th
Kerr, Peter	" 16, "	LGW -48th -39er
Buckingham, C.T.	" 26, "	92nd
Hall, W.M.	July 8, "	92nd Draft
Fortner, G.H.	" 18, "	48th - 39er
Didsbury, H.	" 31, "	48th -39er
Meldrum, Robt.	Aug 2, "	48th
Adams, P.R.	" 11, "	48th
Tidy, P.C. LT Col., M.C.	" 12, "	48th -4th C.M.R.
Bailey, J.	" 15, "	15th
McCreath, Hugh	" 16, "	48th
Gibson, Wm.	" 21, "	48th -39er
Campbell, John	" 25, "	134th
Gledhill, Stanley G.	Sept 8, "	95th -48th
Atkinson, Howard	" 23, "	48th - 39er
Olies, Conrad	Oct 4, "	92nd - Engineers
Young, C.W.	" 7, "	48th - 39er
McNeil, Hugh	" 10, "	48th - 39er
Burnett, J.E.	" 10, "	15th
Morrison, Geo. A.	" 11, "	15th
Frost, A.A.	" 13, "	15th
King, Geo. A.	" 13, "	48th - 39er
Richardson, J.	" 14, "	134th - 15th
Bone, Frederick	" 17, "	15th
Chatfield, Thos.	" 20, "	15th
Pethick, T.H.	" 27, "	Q.O.R. WWI - 48th - 39er
McCarrol, Da vid	Nov 1, "	48th - 39er
Towan, W.	" 9, "	48th - 39er
Williams, John K.	" 12, "	92nd Draft
King, Robt. J.	" 16, "	48th Pipe Band
MacNeill, J.C.	" 16, "	15th