



PHOTOGRAPH BY/PHOTOGRAPHIE PAR JOHN EVANS

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, COLONEL-IN-CHIEF, 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA



BATTLE HONOURS

of

the 48th Highlanders of Canada

(those Battle Honours in capitals are emblazoned on the Regimental Colour)

SOUTH AFRICA 1899 - 1900

YPRES, 1915, '17
Gravenstavel
St. Julien
FESTUBERT, 1915
MOUNT SORREL
SOMME, 1916
Poizieres
Thiepval
Ancre Heights
Arras, 1917, '18
VIMY, 1917
Arleux
Scarpe, 1917, '18
HILL 70
PASSCHENDAELE
AMIENS

DROCOURT-QUEANT
Hindenburg Line
CANAL DU NORD
Pursuit To Mons
France And Flanders,
1915-'18
LANDING IN SICILY
Valguarnera
ASSORO
Agira
Adrano
Regalbuto
Sicily, 1943
Landing At Reggio
CAMPOBASSO
San Nicola-San Tommaso
Cassino II

Gustav Line
LIRI VALLEY
HITLER LINE
GOTHIC LINE
LAMONE CROSSING
Misano Ridge
RIMINI LINE
Torella
San Leonardo
The Gully
ORTONA
San Martino-San Lorenzo
Fosso Vecchio
Italy, 1943 - '45
APELDOORN
Northwest Europe, 1945



THE REGIMENT

Colonel in Chief
Honorary Colonel
Honorary Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
Regimental Headquarters
Cadet Corps
Associated Cadet Corps
Affiliated Regiment
Regimental Associations

Regimental Museum

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Colonel FF McEachren, CVO, CM, CStJ, ED, CD, ADC
Lieutenant Colonel DC Haldenby, CD
Lieutenant Colonel AW Jensen, CD
Toronto, Ontario
48th Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps
St Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps
The Gordon Highlanders
Continuing Sergeants' Association, IODE, Ladies' Auxiliary, Life Members,
Officers' Association, Old Comrades' Association, Pipes and Drums Association
284 King Street East, Toronto.



THE FALCON

THE JOURNAL OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

JUNE, 1982

The Falcon

page 1

EDITORIAL

In these days when families, in all meanings of the word, appear to be getting weaker, it is heartening to know of one family tie which is getting stronger — the tie, or alliance, we have with the Gordon Highlanders.

Our alliance with the Gordons was authorised on 27 June 1904, and was published in 48th Regimental Order no. 98 on 23 September 1904, and so is 78 years old this year.

Since then, several events of importance have taken place between the Gordons and the 48th.

Prior to World War I, then Corporal James R Fraser, who had completed 21 years with the Gordons, and had been wounded while fighting in the battle of Dargai with the Gordons, came to Canada and joined the 48th, becoming one of our comparatively few Pipe Majors.

General Sir Ian Hamilton of the Gordons, was appointed our Honorary Colonel, and in 1941 was the Reviewing Officer when the 48th trooped the Colour at Redhill, Surrey, England.

After World War II, the tie seemed to slip a bit, until rejuvenated by our respective Cadet Corps when in 1975, our Corps visited the Gordon Cadets. Since that time, there have been several visits, back and forth, between the two Corps.

In 1980, a detachment of Gordons visited us for a period of snowless winter training.

In April of this year, the Guest of Honour at the annual Officers' dinner was Brigadier JRA MacMillan, CBE, the present Colonel of the Regiment (equivalent to our Honorary Colonel), the Gordon Highlanders.

And so you can see, the link is again getting stronger, and it is up to each and every one of us to ensure this continues.

When you are in Scotland, go and visit the Regimental Headquarters in Aberdeen; you will be welcomed as a Highlander, as a member of the Family.

Similarly, we hope all Gordons, past and present, will visit us when in Toronto.

Editor Maj JA Brown, CD
Assistant OCdt B Carbert
Advertising Lt RF Buller

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COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY



To say that I am honoured and proud to become the Commanding Officer of this famous Canadian Regiment would be an understatement. Having served in three infantry regiments and in two Militia Area Headquarters, I can still speak with a certain amount of objectivity when I say that the 48th Highlanders is "something very special". This fact was highlighted on my first Church Parade with the Regiment as, while we marched past City Hall, onlookers spontaneously applauded and cheered. What a super feeling!

I continue to feel that way every time I consider the true dedication and capabilities of the Officers and Men of the active battalion. I am very impressed with the size, diversity and strength of the Regimental family — all those people who support the Regiment directly or indirectly with their time, talents and donations. Most of you do it with little or no recognition. I would like to thank you for all that you have done in the past and to express the hope that you will continue your strong support of the Regiment.

The Militia is going through difficult times: lack of moral support and understanding from the public at large, shortages of money and equipment, the problems of attracting and retaining young men and the burdens of an increasingly complex administrative system have all had their impact on the Militia in general. It is clear to me that, despite these influences, the 48th Highlanders remains one of the best and strongest units. I intend to do my utmost to follow the capable examples of my predecessors and to ensure that we remain one of the premier Militia Units in Canada.

AW Jensen
AW Jensen
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

LETTERS

Editor,
The Falcon

Unionville, Ontario
April 6, 1982

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the copy of The Falcon which you delivered to me personally after the first printing before any others were mailed. I enjoyed it very much. I particularly liked the parts in which I had some small part to contribute. You did a first class job.

Thank you very much also for mailing me a copy with the regular mailing to all officers in the Officers' Association. I was surprised to receive two copies.

Please accept my thanks once again for the additional copy of The Falcon which you sent attached to your letter regarding advertising in the Regimental Journal. It was very kind of you to furnish me with three copies.

A few months ago I received a fourth copy of the Falcon from the Old Comrades' Association. I really feel that I have received enough copies of the Falcon even though it was a good edition.

The paper war between commanders and higher formations is not new. The Duke of Wellington experienced frustration with administrative bureaucracy as well, as the following letter indicates:

**Wellington to Secretary of State
for War-1810**

My Lord,

I attempted to answer the mass of futile correspondence that surrounds me, I should be debarred from all serious business of the campaign.

I must remind your Lordship, for the last time, that so long as I retain an independent position, I shall see that no Officer under my command is debarred by the futile quill-driving in your Lordship's office, from attending to his first duty, which is, and always has been, so to train the private men under his command that they may, without question, defeat any force opposed to them in the field.

I am, my Lord
Your Obedient Servant
Wellington

Imagine my surprise when, just a few weeks ago, I received a copy from person or persons unknown from the Battalion Orderly Room with a note to say that "this complimentary copy of the Falcon is being passed on to you in case you didn't receive a copy" ----- very thoughtful but Good Grief!

Last week I received a copy of the Falcon from the L.O.D.E. For pete's sake can somebody turn off the Sorcerer's bleeding apprentice?

Today I received by mail a copy of The Falcon from the Pipes and Drums Association. If this keeps up I'll be able to start my own library, re-cycling depot, or aviary.

Would you please be kind enough to convey my appreciation to all and sundry but CALL OFF THE FALCON DELIVERIES. The only groups that haven't sent me a Falcon are the Ladies' Auxiliaries of the O.C.A. and the Womens' Drill Team.

Holy cow! Am I fed up with FALCONS.

Any more and I won't have room for the feathers.
ENOUGH is ENOUGH.

Yours truly

GL Pearce, Major

FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank all members of the non-active Regiment, both Regimental Associations and individuals, for their support in submitting articles for this issue of THE FALCON.

Unfortunately, the response from the active Regiment leaves something to be desired. My feeling is that if, for instance, D Company and the Cadets can contribute to each and every issue, there is no reason why the other sub units cannot contribute too. What about it for the next issue?

Please remember:

- that articles for the December 1982 issue should reach me no later than 30 September.
- that articles be typewritten and double spaced on 8-1/2" x 11" paper.
- that as many photographs be submitted as possible, complete with captions advising names of the people or scene involved. These will be returned provided your name is on the back of the photograph(s).

Finally, some of you, by being on the mailing list of more than one Regimental Association, may be receiving more than one copy of The Falcon (see letters to the Editor). If this is the case, would you please advise me, by letter to the Armouries, your name and the names of each Regimental Association from which you received a copy. Your cooperation in this matter will be very much appreciated.

CORPORAL JONATHAN (JON) GIBB 1918-1981

Corporal Jon Gibb died on 1 August 1981 after a lengthy illness. To his wife, Jean, and his family, we extend our sincere sympathy.

We felt the following article, published in an English newspaper shortly after his death, would be of interest to all Highlanders:

THANKS TO BIG BRAVE JOHN

They will raise their glasses today at The California pub to the memory of Jonathan "Big John" Gibb, and at an informal little ceremony will unveil a bronze plaque bearing his name.

For "Big John" became a local legend in his lifetime for an amazing feat of strength.

It was around 8 p.m. on a fine April evening in 1941, and Private Gibb of the 48th Canadian Highlanders stepped off a bus and was heading towards The California, in Brighton Road, Belmont, Surrey for a couple of pints.

Suddenly there was a tremendous explosion: a stray German bomb had landed on the old coaching inn.

Gibb, a 6 ft. 6 in. lumberjack, rushed forward and in the tumult saw that a young woman was trapped by the legs directly beneath a mass of mortar, stone and oak beams which was slowly beginning to topple.

He fought his way through the wreckage and, half blinded by dust and smoke, put his massive shoulders under one of the beams.

Then for three hours, standing astride the trapped woman and with his back nearly breaking with the strain, he held back the huge weight of rubble to give rescuers time to get her clear.

After the war Private Gibb, who married an English girl, returned to his native Ontario where he died last year at 64.

Back in England his wartime drinking companions decided that at The California there should be a permanent reminder of his incredible feat of strength and bravery for which he was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Among those companions at The California to see the plaque unveiled by a representative of the Canadian High Commission will be 66-year-old Mr Tom Moore who, like Gibb, was billeted at the time at the Kingswood Golf Club.

Mr Moore, who lives in Blackthorne Road, Great Bookham said: "At camp we explained that we were late because there had been an explosion.

"We were told that wasn't a good enough excuse and were confined to camp for a week. John didn't



mention his part — he was very modest."

The plaque at The California, which was not rebuilt until 1955, bears the name Jonathan Gibb, Private B73494. It also bears the citation for his British Empire Medal.

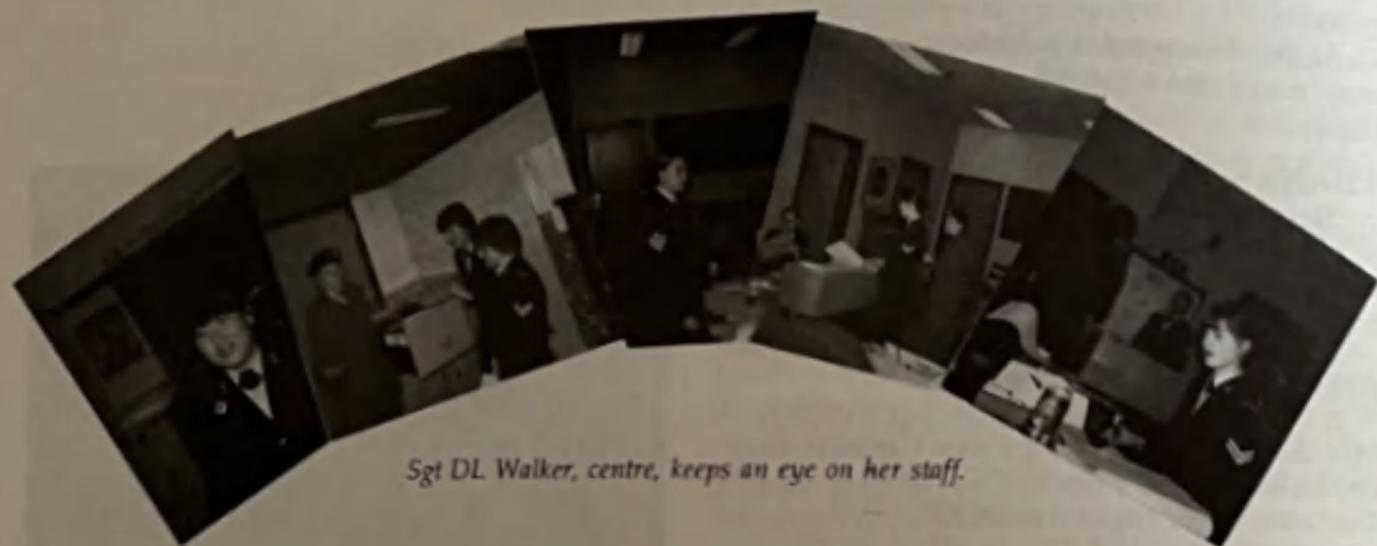
DONATIONS

The Editor gratefully acknowledges donations to THE FALCON from the following Highlanders:

Maj TM Buchanan CD
Lt RF Buller
LCol RG Darling CD
H/Maj SB East MBE, MC
Maj JAM MacNeil
Lt WE Parker
2Lt BS Patterson
Col JE Willis ED

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

by Maj (now LCol) AW Jensen CD



Sgt DL Walker, centre, keeps an eye on her staff.

Battalion Headquarters is made up of a number of hardworking people who get little recognition for their efforts. Our Chief Clerk, Sgt Donna Walker, is a good example. On full time callout for the last three years, Sgt Walker works during the day alongside her Regular Force counterpart Sgt Bill Mitchell, who joined us in September 1981. Not only does she live a military life for five days a week, but on Tuesday and Friday nights, you will find Sgt Walker putting away files, and locking up at eleven o'clock or later. The amazing thing is, after a 14-16 hour day, that she is still able to have sense of humour and to perform her job professionally. In the Battalion Orderly Room, Sgt Walker is ably assisted by some equally dedicated clerks: Cpl Joyce Van de Vegte, Pte Dawna Petsche and Pte Alicia Visser. These people all work long hours typing and filing and, because of their efforts, the administration of the Regiment runs smoothly.

Another part of BHQ is the Training Office. Here Maj Peter Featherstone and MWO Vic Goldman move mounds of paper across their desks. Maj Featherstone is principally responsible for the planning and conduct of exercises while MWO Goldman, who is also the Drill Sergeant Major, looks after course nominations and course loading. Our Regular Force Unit Training Assistant, MWO Bob Damjanoff, looks after things during the day and provides expert instruction and advice on week-ends. Buried underneath the piles of paper that these three produce is Cpl Jeanette Goguen, the Training Office Clerk and another unsung hero.

In the Recruiting Office are the Assistant Recruiting Officer, 2Lt John Stewart, and Recruiting Clerks MCpl Liz Price and Pte "Sookie" Ham. Directed by Captain John Sandham, this merry band cheerfully completes the twenty or so forms it takes to enroll each and every new recruit. They also arrange medicals, issue of uniforms and coordinate the many procedures that are required to take new Highlanders on strength.

The Pay Office is crewed by a resolute team of people who look after travel claims and our pay budget, in addition to recording attendance and issuing cheques. MWO "Chuck" Harding is assisted by MCpls Karen MacFee and Carl Hiralel and by Pte Lucy Bourdon. MCpl MacFee is also responsible for operations of the Regiment's microcomputer. This space age equipment was acquired by the unit to keep personnel data and to produce nominal rolls and statistical information. It also functions as a word processor. The 48th was the first unit in Canada (Regular or Militia) to have such a machine — and we installed it all ourselves!

Capt Laz Tollas is our Unit Support Officer (USO) who, along with MWO Damjanoff, Sgt Mitchell and Cpl Warren McLeod, make up our Regular Support Staff. Capt Tollas, who joined us from the Airborne Regiment last Fall, is responsible for assisting and advising the unit with administration and training.

Finally, there is the "Head Shed", the CO, the DCO, Lt Bob Parry (the Adjutant) and CWO Mike Barnes, the RSM. With all of the work the other people in BHQ are doing, this group only has to stand around and supervise!

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BANK OF COMMERCE

COUNT ON THE COMMERCE.

D COMPANY

by OCdt B Carbert

The Delta Company story is a story of growth and achievement. As of the end of April, 'D' Company can boast 42 all ranks; the Company plays a crucial role in the Regiment. As Recruit Company, new Highlanders must pass through it. It is here that we train them in the art of war and the craft of soldiering. At present, there are twenty men in 11 platoon, under the command of 2Lt GD Turner, working hard for their TQ1 (Trade Qualification Infantryman). There are fifteen more, in 12 platoon commanded by OCDT BR Carbert, who are learning the basics of drill and weapons handling. Training such as this would be impossible without NCOs with the experience and the skill of those of 'D' Company. The Company Sergeant Major, MWO McGuffin (who deserves congratulations on his recent promotion) runs the Company training. His insistence upon intensive physical training will turn Delta Company into the fittest men in the Regiment. Right there with him is always Sergeant Shalapata, experienced at putting new recruits through the grind of basic training.

MCpls Bean and Meredith, two of the most experienced junior NCOs in the unit, are essential to the life of 'D' Company as section commanders. Cpl Yong is in Petawawa on a weapons technician course but will return in time for summer concentration. The newest section commander is Cpl McConnell. All of these men give their best to produce good soldiers and dedicated Highlanders.

But there has been more to 'D' Company than Friday nights at Moss Park. Soldiers learn best in the field. Winter Indoctrination in January saw 21 men of 'D' Company brave the cold and snow of CFTA Meaford to learn winter survival skills, patrolling, and how to sleep in small town Legion Halls. Charlie Company never did find us that night! The Turner Shoot in February saw another success: all of us take pride in Private Cymbrak's award for the best individual score. Many of 'D' Company qualified on the FNC1 and fired the SMG and 9 mm. March saw a build-up towards the big event — March Break Training from the 20th to the 26th. Two days were spent in Moss Park learning the survival skills and five days were spent at CFB Borden practising them. What a week! No one will forget killing, plucking, cleaning, cooking and, especially, eating the chickens. LCol Stark's chickens never met such an enemy as 'D' Company. It was tough, but good training and 'D' Company will never starve! The 36-hour survival exercise had the

men building their own shelters and living on Oxo cubes and birch-bark soup. Days on the ranges let Privates Cymbrak, Lavenuik, LeBlanc, MacDonald, Marshall, Mastathis, McFee, Pollock, Rodas, Sherrett, Smith, Smith, and Theodorakidis qualify at the second level of the FNC1. All the men got to use pyrotechnics and throw grenades. But the climax of the week was the patrolling exercise, when Private DL Smith found and successfully unhooked a boobytrapped SMG.

continued on page 22

FROM THE PADRE

by Maj HF Roberts ADC

I write this note at Easter.

I cannot put pen to paper at this time without thinking of the mighty workings of God Almighty in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The message of Easter is a message of hope. It is the realization that the struggles of Jesus' passion did not end in eternal death but rather in new life; eternal life! Many of the men and women who fill the ranks these days are non-believers. I don't mean non-Christian, I mean they don't seem to have any belief at all in any god.

Last summer when I visited Israel, I was talking with our guide. We had just viewed the enormous cemetery that covers several square miles of land in the Kidron Valley to the east of Jerusalem. Our guide was as he said "a non-religious" Israelite. We asked him if they cremated people in Israel and his response was immediate and spoken with conviction. No! When we asked why, he explained that people in Israel were wrapped in a shroud and placed in a tomb. Nothing was done to disturb the body. Again when we asked why, he said "because of the resurrection". This to me was most surprising. A non-religious Israelite who believed in the resurrection?

There are many non-religious who believe in "things religious"; a god, a tiki, a charm, good living, and yes, even the resurrection. But this is like seeing a cold beer on a hot day. Only looking at the glass or bottle does not quench the thirst. You have to pick up the beverage and drink it before its full potential is realized.

The padre's role in a unit is to somehow bring a spiritual presence to the men and women whom he serves. Each person must develop their own spiritual life wherever God calls them to be.

At this time of year I lay that thought before you to challenge and to remind you of rich opportunity.

May God bless you all.

CADETS

by Cdt Lt S Seles

The 48th Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps has won the Strathcona Shield for the Central Ontario Region. It is the second time this prestigious award has been presented to our Corps since its reformation under Major JA Brown back in 1971.

The Strathcona Shield was presented to the Cadet Corps on November 6, 1981, during the Remembrance Day formal dismissal parade. Everybody affiliated with the Corps thought the award well deserved.

During the 1981-1982 cadet year, the Corps participated in many activities, both in training and public service activities. Some of the exercises done were: "Exercise Freeze", which was a winter familiarization exercise; a Borden weekend which was used to conduct fieldcraft training and range work. In the public service area, the Cadet Pipes and Drums frequently played for war veterans at Sunnybrook Medical Centre. Cadets also participated as a corps in major Toronto wide fund raising activities such as the Muscular Dystrophy Bike-a-thon. Other accomplishments of the Corps were, the passing of the first two gold star cadets in four years, and first two cadet officers in the corps for some years.

Speaking on the behalf of the Corps, I can say it definitely has been a good year. Many thanks to the 48th Highlanders of Canada, our sponsor, and the Old Comrades' Association for all their support in the past year. A special thanks to Captain C Calverley CD, our Commanding Officer, and all of the officers and CIs of the Corps both past and present, for contributing to the achieving of this award.

The Corps is well on its way to winning the 1981-1982 Strathcona with more public service activities and training exercises already planned, some already completed.



Cadets — number!



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OFFICERS' MESS

by Maj JA Brown, CD, PMC



The CO shows the guests a framed drum decal he is about to present to the Brigadier.



Brigadier JRA MacMillan CBE, Colonel of the Regiment, The Gordon Highlanders.



The Brigadier has just accepted a 48th Officer print from the Officers' Association.



L to R, LCol DG Temple, Lt GL Cassaday, Maj SHRH Monro.



LCol Cam Fraser had just presented the Brigadier with a Gordons Ladies brooch for Mrs. MacMillan.



LCol Bill Stark accepts snuff from his son, 2Lt Colin Stark.

The main event in Mess life since the last issue of THE FALCON was the visit of Brigadier John RA MacMillan, CBE, Colonel of the Regiment, the Gordon Highlanders, as the Guest of Honour at the Annual Officers' Dinner on 17 April.

In spite of our preparations to transport the Brigadier from London by Canadian Armed Forces Boeing 707, he was at the last minute "bumped" by Her Majesty the Queen, and for 48 hours or so, transportation was pretty uncertain. However, with a tremendous amount of cooperation from Colonel Quinn and Major Swan at NDHQ, Ottawa, the Brigadier was accommodated on Her Majesty's back up plane, and so travelled in royal style, complete with bed. Apparently he was the only passenger from London to Lahr! Brigadier John, as he is affectionately called in his own Regiment, gave a most interesting

address on THE GORDON FAMILY, and was extremely well received by the 96 Associate and active Officers in attendance.

The Brigadier presented us, from the Gordons, with a bronze replica of the Gordon Officer which was given to HRH The Prince of Wales on the occasion of his marriage last July; this statuette will be on the head table at every mess dinner from now on.

We in the Mess were delighted to see so many Associate Officers, seventy one all told, among them being MGen Arthur Potts, Colonel Ed Willis, and Captain George Elms. We were sorry however, that General Sir Neil Ritchie, who was to have attended, had to cancel due to illness.

On behalf of all officers, Associate and active, I would like to say to Brigadier John — "haste ye back".



150 years ago, in the
Merchant's Exchange Coffee House
in Halifax
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had its beginnings.

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land, and far beyond
our borders into 45 countries.

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played a role in the life
and commerce of Canada
for a century and a half.

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SERGEANTS' MESS

by Sgt DL Walker

The 48th Sergeants' Mess has been active and growing in past months. Since July 1981 there have been four new members: Sgt Jim Jenkins, Sgt Donna Walker, Sgt Paul Fitzgerald and Sgt Andrew Webster. Some familiar faces that have left include Sgt Larry Cormack, who retired after many years of active service and Sgt Dave Harrison, who was transferred to another province in his civilian career.

The Mess has participated in a number of events this year, beginning with the traditional New Year's Day Levee. A number of brave but bleary eyed Sr NCOs turned out and were received by the Officers in their Mess to start the year "early".

The MacKenzie Shoot between the officers and Sr NCOs took place on 12 Jan 82, and was followed by a dinner hosted by our Mess. The winner of the shoot was...ask any officer.

The active Sergeants were however triumphant in the MacIntosh shoot against the OCA on 28 Feb 82 winning the shooting, (with WO Ron Short as top shot) and the cribbage. The OCA, in a "team" effort

won the darts portion.

The annual shoot between the Queen's Own Rifles and 48th Senior NCOs was revived this year by RSM Barnes and RSM McCabe. OCA and active members combined forces on 14 Mar 82 which resulted in a Queen's Own victory. WO Short was once again top shot for the 48th with MWO Chuck Harding winning the booby prize for low 48th score. Considering that WO Harding's prize includes free drinks in the QOR Sgt's Mess for a year....who was the real winner? CWO Jim Boggiss scored the highest in the OCA.

The Continuing Sergeants' Night in the Mess took place on 5 Mar 82. Many familiar faces turned up to enjoy an evening of renewing old acquaintances, making new ones, exchanging ideas, and of course sipping a brew or two. It was a successful event, which will continue in future, hopefully with even more continuing members in attendance.

There has been one promotion recently — that of MWO J Kevin McGuffin, promoted effective 19 Oct 81. Congratulations go out to him.

The Regimental Ball is tentatively scheduled to take place sometime in the fall. Details will be forthcoming. The Annual Sergeants' Mess Dinner will take place on 16 October 1982.

JUNIOR RANKS' MESS

by MCpl F MacKay

The 1981-82 year was a particularly lively one in the Junior Ranks' Mess, and saw many changes and improvements implemented. Entirely due to the efforts of 48th members, the mess was painted yet again in a lighter and somewhat more washable colour.

Although we are forced to share the mess facilities with two other units, the 48th purchased a great number of pictures depicting 48th soldiers in various dress at different points in our history, thus giving the decor a predominantly Highland feeling.

In an unprecedented show of initiative, former PMC MCpl Stephen Meredith rented several video machines and had them installed near the bar. "Space Invaders" and the ever popular "Pacman" proved to be a great success with the membership, and showed signs of making vast amounts of money for the mess fund. Unfortunately, both machines were smashed and vandalised by unknown members of another unit just a few months after their installation.

The addition of a high class match quality dart board and even more advanced stereo equipment made the mess an even more pleasant place to unwind after a hard night's work. On a more unpleasant note, attendance in the mess went down considerably because higher authority has been forcing the mess to close at early hours. This causes the men to go to civilian bars or just simply go home. The traditionally high spirit and exuberance of the junior ranks has suffered considerably because of these early closings, and it is a practice that must cease if the mess is to survive.

All in all, it was another good year and the Junior Rank's mess continues to be a vital, vibrant part of regimental life.

Our hearty thanks must be expressed to former PMC MCpl Steve Meredith who had to resign his office due to his upcoming job with the Calgary Police department. Our grateful thanks and best wishes go with him.

Members of the Mess Committee

Mess President MCpl Arthur Jenkins
 Vice President (acting) . . . MCpl Frank McKay
 Secretary-treasurer Cpl Stephen Love
 House Members MCpl Bob Bean
 MCpl Bill Kingston
 Cpl Trevor Yong
 Cpl Alia Smythe

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DA MACKENZIE DSO, DSC



The following article, by Star writer Frank Jones, appeared in The Toronto Star on 31 March 1982, and is reprinted with their permission.

THE WAR CAUGHT UP TO DON MACKENZIE

Don was a big, strapping guy, maybe six-two. Played centre on the football team at Ridley. Runner up in the boxing competition. Heavyweight. But kind of shy.

"He was a hell of a guy. I guess I was the one talked him into joining the 48th Highlanders with me right after he left Ridley." It's Trumbull Warren, retired now, talking from Florida last week about his old buddy Don MacKenzie.

"It was '34 and no one had any money. Don, as I remember it, was working as a teller in the bank on Parliament. We were just Friday night soldiers. It was a good club.

"We took girls out, went to parties, did a lot of skiing. The kind of things young fellows do. Then the war came and we signed up the next day. Scared? The only thing we were scared of was they would be full up before we could get down to University Armories. It was a big adventure.

"We signed up Sept. 5 and Don was usher at my wedding Sept. 9. We went overseas in December. Don was transportation officer when we were supposed to go to France just before Dunkirk. He got there with the trucks but by then France had collapsed.

continued on page 22

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Scroll presented to the deputation of veterans of the 48th Highlanders of Canada on the occasion of the unveiling of a memorial stone at the Dutch Reformed Church at Wilp in the municipality of Voorst in the Netherlands by His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and the unveiling of the street name sign at "MACKENZIEPLAATS" in Wilp by Mr. Robert A. Mackenzie

The Dutch text on the memorial stone reads in English:



in memory of the



48th Highlanders of Canada

19 of whom fell in and around the municipality of Voorst, including the commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Donald A. Mackenzie DSO DSC born on 9th July 1914 in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada killed in action on 12th April 1945 at Wilp in the municipality of Voorst

Wilp, 16th April 1982

Burgomaster and aldermen of the municipality of Voorst

M. B. van der ..., Deputy Mayor

J. van der ..., Town Clerk

48TH VETERANS HONOUR LT COL DONALD A MACKENZIE DSO DSC by Lt Col ME George CD

Led by Lt Col Michael E George and accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert MacKenzie, brother of Lt Col Don MacKenzie 16 Highlanders set out from Trenton on Sunday, April 11th by Canadian Forces Air for Lahr, Germany. The Highlanders were greeted at the Trenton Air Force Base by Brighton's roving reporter Lt Colonel KCB Corbett.

Arriving in Lahr at 1200 hours on Monday (European time) the Highlanders embarked by Sharer's Motor Coach for the long journey to Amsterdam — some 500 miles, arriving at the Novotel Hotel by 2330 hours.

Tuesday, April 13th was a free day in Amsterdam and the Highlanders scattered to pursue their respective interests — some by day taking the traditional boat trip through the canals, some by night and some both. Throughout the evening the pub in the Novotel Hotel resounded to the skirl of the pipes.

Wednesday morning the Highlanders, now 23 strong, left the Novotel Hotel at 1000 hours proceeding to Scheveningen and The Hague via the tulip fields and a stopover at the world famous Keukenhof Gardens. The visit to the gardens, while well worthwhile, was about two weeks too early for the flowers to be in full bloom. Scheveningen is the seaside resort for The Hague with a huge pier extending into the sea and a very wide paved promenade. Here the visiting Highlanders had lunch in an open-air cafe before proceeding to explore The Hague for a few hours, some taking advantage of the opportunity to visit Madurodam, the miniature city.

The coach driver was German and spoke very little English. Throughout the day various Highlanders had tried to get the message across that the holding tank for the on board toilet was full to overflowing and therefore could not be used. The driver stated he somehow had to get the vital part of the coach over a catch basin in order to make the toilet operational again. As he appeared to be doing nothing about it, some Highlanders again got after him. Finally, in desperation, on one of the main streets of The Hague he pulled the plug and let everything go. At that point it seemed very prudent for the Highlanders to make a speedy exit and head for Apeldoorn. Arriving in Apeldoorn at 1730 hours the Highlanders checked in to the Keizerskroon Hotel which was to be their headquarters for the next three days.

On Thursday morning a memorial service for the 48th Highlanders killed in action in Holland during

the months of April and May, 1945 was held at Holten Canadian Military Cemetery. Situated about three miles from the small town of Holten, the cemetery is completely surrounded by woods, with flowering shrubs planted throughout. It was a beautiful, bright sunny day as the Highlanders formed up to march into the cemetery led by Sgt Major John Taylor and preceded by Pipe Major Archie Dewar and five pipers. There are twenty 48th graves in all, sixteen of which are in a line, with the headstone for Lt Colonel MacKenzie in the centre; two other graves are nearby, and the remaining two are in different parts of the cemetery. It had always been understood that nineteen 48th graves were in this cemetery, but in reading the headstones after the service another was found some distance away — that of Pte SJ Motkaluk, killed on the 2nd of May, 1945 which would have made him if not the last, then nearly the last 48th Highlander killed in action in World War II.

To conduct the service the Highlanders were fortunate in obtaining the services of Lt Colonel MJ Van Reenen, a padre from the Netherlands Army. He delivered an excellent sermon in English, and it was apparent to all present that he had done a lot of work preparing his text. The service opened with Wally Peddle reading a prayer that had been prepared specially for this service by Major Harold Roberts, Padre of the Regiment. Then the names of the fallen were read by former Regimental Sgt Major Doug Chappell, followed by the placing of bouquets of flowers by the Highlanders at each of the gravesides, the laying of a wreath on behalf of the Province of Ontario by Mr. Omar Delaurier, and another wreath by Mrs. Nora Wissemma, Acting Burgomaster of the Municipality of Voorst. The municipality then laid individual bouquets on each grave. The bouquets laid by the Highlanders had been lovingly prepared the night before by Mrs. Carla Sterken and Mrs. Ann Steeman, the wives of Lt Colonel Henk Sterken and Lt Colonel Tom Steeman. A trumpeter provided by the Johan Willem Friso Band played the Last Post followed by the Flowers of the Forest, a minutes silence and Reveille. During the silence the only sound heard was the birds singing in the blue sky above. Each Highlander then paid his personal respects by stepping forward and saluting, followed by the Pipers marching across the rows of graves and saluting as one, with the final salute given by Lt Colonel Michael George. Following the benediction by the padre, the Highlanders reformed ranks and marched off to the Regimental March. For Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie, the Highlanders and the many Dutch friends present it

was a moving and emotional experience, and no one felt ashamed of the tears that flowed so freely down the cheeks of many of those present.

Lunch was held at a cafe in Deventer and at that time suitable Regimental presents were given; to Mr. Robbert de Bruin the decal of the Battle Honours and the print of the Pipe Major, and to Lt Colonel Henk Sterken a plaque and from the Pipe Band the framed decal of the Regiment's Battle Honours that appear on the drums.

Friday, April 16th was the day for the ceremonies to take place in the village of Wilp. Another fine sunny day greeted the Highlanders as they left Apeldoorn by motor coach, arriving at the Town Hall of Twello at 1000 hours. Here they were greeted by Mrs. Nora Wissema and members of the Town Council of the Municipality of Voorst, of which Wilp is a part. In the company of the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Georges Henri Brouin and Mrs. Brouin an informal reception was held at which coffee and cake were served. Then on to the village of Wilp where the Highlanders formed up at the outskirts of the village and marched to the Dutch Reform Church, halted and faced a wall of the church on which a draped plaque was in place. Already in position was the Johan

Willem Friso Band and two groups of school children from the local school. MWO Sandy Dewar and Drum Major Larry Fullerton had earlier taken up sentry positions guarding the veiled plaque. Next to arrive was General Sir Michael Gow, Army Commander N.W. Europe in company with Lt General GLJ Huyser, Commander the 1st Netherlands Corps. On the arrival of the Canadian Ambassador and staff the Military Band, together with the school children, played and sang O Canada. The arrival of HRH Prince Bernhard was greeted by drum rolls and the playing of the Dutch National Anthem. After speeches given in both Dutch and English by Mrs. Wissema and General Huyser the Ambassador spoke in English, and at the unveiling of the plaque by Prince Bernhard, accompanied by Mr. Robert MacKenzie, the band played Heiland Laddie and Abide with Me.

Next we marched 600 yards to a newer part of the village for the unveiling of the street sign "MacKenzieplaats" by Mr. Robert MacKenzie.

Just as the unveiling was taking place two events occurred, one dramatic and one filled with emotion. A private citizen had rented a plane and flew overhead just at the appropriate moment trailing a sign in large letters which read "THANK YOU CANADIANS". The emotional and heart tugging event was the school children, accompanied by the Johan Willem Friso Band, singing the song especially composed two years ago for the Amsterdam remembrance, "Thank you Canada". For the second time in two days many present were caught up in the sincere sentiment being expressed by these young Dutch voices and again the tears flowed freely.

Marching behind the pipes, the Highlanders moved off, heading for the school where an excellent exhibition of the underground movement during the last war was on display. Here everything became very informal as the Highlanders distributed Maple Leaf lapel pins to the appreciative school children who gathered round. Many of the villagers who had been present at the time of liberation 37 years ago mingled with the Highlanders, and reminisced in broken English about the terrible years of the occupation and the happy day of liberation by the Canadian soldiers.

Lunch was held at the one cafe in the village, preceded by an informal reception at which Prince Bernhard, General Sir Michael Gow, Lt General Huyser and the Canadian Ambassador mingled with and talked to the 48th Highlanders. Cliff Weir, President of the Old Comrades Association, had brought over a gallon jug of maple syrup which was presented to Prince Bernhard. The Prince responded by

stating that his family enjoyed waffles and pancakes, so that the present would be put to good use.

At the lunch formal greetings were extended to the Highlanders by Mrs. Wissema on behalf of the Municipality and by General Huyser on behalf of the 1st Netherlands Corps. Mrs. Wissema made a presentation to the Regiment of a scroll in English commemorating the event, and each Highlander present was given a replica together with extracts from the Official War Diary pertaining to the events of April, 1945. Lt Colonel George in turn presented Mrs. Wissema with a regimental plaque and a bouquet of flowers. Lt Colonel Steeman then presented Mrs. Wissema with a 48th badge which he had carved out of wood. After lunch several of the Highlanders were taken by private car around the area in which the fighting had taken place.

At 1700 hours the 48th Highlanders hosted a reception, sponsored by the Canadian Government, at the Kaiserskroon Hotel for all the Dutch people who had helped in the planning of the events of April 15th and 16th and the event to take place in Apeldoorn Saturday the 17th of April.

At 1000 hours on Saturday morning the Highlanders found themselves once again being entertained by their Dutch friends, this time as guests of Beelaerts van Blokland, Burgomaster of Apeldoorn and his aldermen in a reception room of the Opera House. The occasion was the celebration of Liberation Day for Apeldoorn, combined with the presentation of the second edition of a book entitled "IK DRAAG U OP" dealing with the resistance movement in and around Apeldoorn. This presentation was made by the author who gave copies to the Burgomaster, Lt General Huyser and Lt Colonel Michael George who accepted on behalf of the Regiment.

Across the square from the Opera House Lt General Guy Simonds had planted a maple tree in September, 1945. A plaque placed alongside described the event and it was here that the Burgomaster gave his liberation day address to the assembled citizens. At the request of the Burgomaster Lt Colonel George spoke on behalf of the visiting Highlanders. Present and introduced to the Highlanders was Mr. Pieter van Vollenhove, husband of Princess Marguerite, the Canadian born daughter of Queen Juliana.

With the pipers marching in front of it, the Johan Willem Friso Band played as the Highlanders marched to the old Town Hall. Here, a band concert was held with the pipes joining in on the final number, Heiland Laddie. This was followed by another reception where Lt General Huyser presented a painting of a

large scale map showing the advance and capture of Apeldoorn to the Burgomaster to hang in the Town Hall.

The pipers were then requested to play a set, and as a reward, Lt Colonel Sterken produced a bottle of Johnny Walker scotch which he proceeded to pour with a very heavy hand into five glasses for a toast to the pipers. Needless to say, in true Highland tradition, they were equal to the occasion.

A light lunch was provided by the Municipality at which the Burgomaster spoke and Lt Colonel George responded for his third speech of the day. Afterwards the atmosphere became very informal, with singing and a presentation to the Burgomaster by Bud Lloyd on behalf of the Mayor of Scarborough and at the same time, out of his ample coat pockets, Bud deluged the Burgomaster with Canadian pennies.

After three event-filled days it was time for the Highlanders to say goodbye to their wonderful Dutch hosts and friends. After much picture taking, hand shaking and (a certain amount of) kissing Dutch style, the Highlanders boarded their motor coach bound for the city of Mainz in Germany.

continued on page 21

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HOLLAND



The Kirk at Wilp where plaque to the 48th was unveiled on 16 April 1982.



Mr. & Mrs. Robert MacKenzie with LCol George at the opening of MacKenzieplaats.



Pipers pay their respects at graveside at Holten cemetery.



The 48th contingent at the graveside at Holten Cemetery.



LCol George with Dutch friends from 1945.



The boys who served with LCol MacKenzie in April 1945.

This page made possible by a donation to the 48th Highlanders of Canada by CANADIAN CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED

APRIL 1982



Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands speaks to Mr. Robert MacKenzie, brother of LCol Donald MacKenzie after the unveiling of the plaque.



48th contingent marches from Wilp Church to schoolhouse.



LCol ME George pays his respects on behalf of the 48th at Holten Cemetery.



Wally Peddle remembers his comrades at Holten Cemetery.



Dutch school children at Wilp Church.



48th Ladies and Highlanders at town of Wilp reception.

This page made possible by a grant to the 48th Highlanders Trusts by THE EATON FOUNDATION

**ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH RESTORES 48th
HIGHLANDERS' BOOK OF MEMORY**
by Dr. Douglas Stewart, Honorary Chaplain

Cleo Boyd, a professional Palaeographer in the Congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church attracted the attention of officials of both the Church and the Regiment to deteriorating conditions with regard to the 48th Highlanders' Book of Remembrance that reposes in the westerly abutment of the Memorial Altar in the chancel of the church. As a result of her scholarly advise the 48th Book of Remembrance is presently in a wonderfully restored condition. The cost of this work has been undertaken by the Congregation of the St. Andrew's Church.

Cleo Boyd gives highest praise to the work of Mr. Emrys Evans of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library for his work in re-editing the book the estimated value of which runs into many thousands of dollars. This library is part of John P Robarts library complex which houses The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Mr. Evans, a master codicologist, has completed the reconstruction of the sixteen illuminated

folios which comprise the original book. Although the manuscript cannot be restored to its original luminance, Mr. Evans has done a superb job of cleaning and reconditioning the vellum.

The book should be in its new binding, bearing the crest of the Regiment in the very near future. Proper binding of the folios was deemed imperative in order to prevent further warping of the vellum, to prevent tearing and wearing along the edges and to obviate further wrinkling of the vellum occasioned by the fact that it was not properly stretched and conditioned before the work was begun. Until the altar abutment where the book reposes is properly vacuum sealed, the Book of Remembrance will remain in the controlled and secure environment of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

Note:

A palaeographer is one with special knowledge in the science of describing and deciphering ancient writings. Paleography includes also a thorough knowledge of all types of parchments writing materials and inks.

A codicologist is one with special knowledge in the science of

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REGIMENTAL PADRE'S ADDENDUM

It has been announced that Dr. H Douglas Stewart plans to retire as minister of St. Andrew's Church, effective the end of August. I cannot let this occasion pass without thanking our Honorary Chaplain for his warm help and hospitality over the past eight years and wishing him every rich blessing in his retirement.



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OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

by Lt GL Cassaday, President

The annual dinner of the Officers' Association was held in the Mess on 17 April 1982, and if numbers of attendees are meaningful, it was one of the most successful dinners in recent memory. Normally we have sixty to sixty-five in attendance, but this year experienced a fifty percent increase, in all probability due to the guest speaker.

Brigadier JRA MacMillan, CBE, Colonel of the Regiment, The Gordon Highlanders was our guest speaker. We were especially honoured to learn this was his first visit to any of the affiliated regiments in the Commonwealth. In his address, our guest brought us up to date on the status of The Gordon Family, including the affiliated regiments in South Africa and Australia.

Brigadier MacMillan is the son of General Sir Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan, and is a regular army officer having just completed a tour of duty as Chief of Staff, 1st British Corps, BAOR, who on 5 May, 1982 was promoted to Major General to command Eastern District, England.

A great man, a great evening, a great Regiment.

IODE

by Mrs. WB Turner, Regent

The year 1982 is a very important one in the life of the Chapter. On 7 May 1982 we were 75 years old — making us the second "oldest" member of the 48th Family.

At the time of submitting this article for the Falcon, plans were being completed for the reception at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite, Queen's Park, Toronto, on Thursday 6 May 1982.



Mrs. Helen White seems to be having trouble — should it go on or come off?

It is sincerely hoped that we will have some pictures of this event for the December issue of the Falcon.

One of our fund raising projects was our Fashion Show held on Saturday, 3 April 1982. It was a success due to the hard work put into it by Mrs. D Johnson (Phyllis) the Convenor. She arranged for the models, door prizes, refreshments, etc. and a great time was had by all.



Mrs. Gerry Turner models an outfit.

The Chapter is holding a Garage Sale on Saturday, 5 June at the home of Mrs. George Jeffrey.

A bazaar is planned for the Fall and more details about this will be in the Yellow Peril.

LADIES' AUXILIARY

by Mrs. M Ritchie, President

The Ladies' Auxiliary had a very busy year in 1981 under the leadership of our Past President Margaret Attwells and we are looking forward to a successful year in 1982. We rejuvenated the Ladies' Powder on the main floor and the one on the third floor. Donated over \$3,000.00 to the O.C.A. as well as supplying food for the Friday & Sunday of the re-union week-end and our annual Memorial Dinner and luncheon. We also celebrated our own re-union which was a big event and we are looking forward to our next. Our Sunnybrook convenor, Mrs. Gladys Selzer, arranged entertainment on three Sundays for the veterans in Sunnybrook, a Garden Party and bingos. This on top of visiting our men every month. Due to ill health, Mrs. Selzer has had to resign from our committee but will be keeping an interest in what goes on.

Our Marching Unit also celebrated their fifth anniversary last year. This group of Ladies has done exceptionally well since being formed. They have come first every year in Niagara Falls in their category. They also took first prize in St. Mary's. This year they will try again in London and Niagara Falls.



Ladies Marching Unit in Niagara Falls.

We are hoping this year to be able to increase our monetary support to the O.C.A. for their major project.

OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

by C Weir, President

It is timely, I believe, to remind all members of the 48th Highlanders families which make up the 48th HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION of the fact that the MEMORIAL HALL is owned by the 48th Highlanders Association.

The Old Comrades were charged with the responsibility of managing the daily operation of the Memorial Hall and the club rooms to provide a place where members and their friends could enjoy the usual privileges, advantages, accommodations and conveniences of a club and to promote friendly and social intercourse among its members. I believe that this responsibility has been carried on in the spirit that it was intended to this very day and will continue as long as there is a 48th Highlander in existence.

We should all be thankful for the foresight that five responsible and dedicated members of the FIFTEENTH BATTALION had in forming the original FIFTEENTH BATTALION ASSOCIATION which they later re-named the 48th HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION. Those five men were JOHN EDMONDSON, GEORGE MERVIN CHRISTIE PERRY, GEORGE WILLIAM LOVEGROVE, JOHN CHARLES DICKSON and ARTHUR ADAMS SCULLY.

From the very first day the Memorial Hall was opened on Church St. and subsequently our current location at 284 King St. E., the Old Comrades have been able to manage the operation at a level where sufficient income has been generated to meet all

expenditures of operational and capital nature without any debts.

In order to assist in covering part of the expense of replacing the heating and air conditioning system at a cost of approximately \$40,000.00 we are planning many activities this year, one of which will be a draw. We are hoping to sell 5,000 tickets and expect to have some vacation trips donated as prizes and we are working on obtaining a car as first prize. We will be soliciting the support of all to assist in meeting our target and will be contacting you as soon as the details are finalized.

You will notice on the inside back cover a full page advertisement promoting the rental of the rooms within the Memorial Hall and the catering service provided by our Ladies' Auxiliary who always put on a top notch meal at a price that no one else can compete with. Please remember the facilities available to you at YOUR Memorial Hall and let your friends know when you hear them planning any special function. This income is another method of gaining those dollars which we need to maintain the Memorial Hall.

Remember to put in your plans a visit to us when you are in or near downtown Toronto and give yourself enough time to browse through the Regimental Museum which is continually being updated by our very active Museum Committee. The Museum is located on the upper floor of the Memorial Hall.

On behalf of the Old Comrades' Association I wish you good health and a very enjoyable summer and fall.

DONALD A MACKENZIE

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Sunday morning was spent walking around the old section of Mainz, visiting St. Martins Cathedral built in the 13th century, and the exhibition of early printing in the Gutenberg Museum.

The final night was spent in beautiful Baden Baden at Bad-Hotel zum Kirsch, which has been operated by the same family since 1689. In the evening a visit to the world famous casino resulted in some winners and some losers at the tables. Monday morning the short run was made to Lahr, with the Highlanders taking off at 1500 hours and arriving back in Trenton at 1730 hours Canadian time.

It had been a memorable visit, one that all who participated will never forget, the kindness of our Dutch hosts, the fellowship and the emotional moments. The Highlanders who made the trip felt very honoured that they had the opportunity to represent all 48th Highlanders at this important Regimental event.

THE WAR CAUGHT UP....

continued from page 11

"Don was the only officer and he had all those trucks. He did a smart thing. He didn't want them to fall into German hands so he put 'em all in a field and blew 'em up. Then he and his men made their way to the coast. Smart move."

For a while MacKenzie relieved Warren as personal assistant to General Montgomery, then fought through Italy with the regiment, eventually becoming Commanding Officer.

Sitting in dugout

"I remember being sent out to Italy as his second in command," said George Rennison, today Canadian chairman of W.H. Smith. "I found him sitting in a dugout just 150 yards from the enemy. They were using flamethrowers, hand grenades, everything. We were so close we could hear the Germans talking."

Then MacKenzie, who had got married to a Canadian girl, Louise Oxley early in the war, took the regiment through France to Belgium and Holland.

As the Highlanders prepared for their thrust across Holland, Trumbull Warren had Don over to Monty's HQ for dinner. "After dinner we sat in my caravan drinking until about five in the morning. Finally I said, 'Don, did you ever think when we signed up that you would be taking the regiment back to Canada as C.O.?'"

"'Trum,' he said, 'I'm not going home.' We didn't talk any more. We went to bed. I don't know what to think. Add it up any way you like."

The night of April 11, 1945, Lieut. Jack Pickering went to MacKenzie's little caravan to report. The C.O. wanted to talk. "The war was nearly over. Next day we were going into what might be the last battle. And he was worried that, with the whole thing almost over, a number of Highlanders might buy it," said Pickering, retired and farming in a small way near Colborne.

The worry bore on him. "He was a great soldier," said Rennison. "His reputation was legendary. If you stayed with him you were a winner. He'd lasted longer than any other commander in action. They were just going to make him a brigadier. But his luck had run out."

Giving out the news

MacKenzie fumed the following morning at not being able to find out how his men were doing in action up ahead. Pestered by Brigade for news, he shoved the phone into Pickering's hands. "You talk to him. Tell him anything you like — anything!" he snapped.

In the early afternoon he made his decision: He would move his HQ closer to the action. He set off with Pickering to pick a spot near the tiny village of Wilp.

Two weeks from now 25 of MacKenzie's old comrades will gather in Wilp where Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands will unveil a plaque to Don's memory on the church wall. Then, after Don's brother Robert, a Toronto consulting engineer, gives a short talk, a sign will be unveiled naming a new street in Wilp, "MacKenzieplaats."

The memorial is the inspiration of Robert de Bruin, a former Dutch Air Force officer living in England who has studied the Canadian battles in eastern and central Holland, and Lieut. Col. Hein Sterken of the Dutch army.

'Extraordinary, gratifying'

"It's extraordinary and very gratifying that he is being remembered nearly 40 years later," said Mike George who is going over for the ceremony and who was one of MacKenzie's company commanders.

Jack Pickering can't be there for the ceremony. But he doesn't have to go to remember those few moments in a field outside Wilp nearly 40 years ago.

Their jeep came up on a group of tanks which were under fire. MacKenzie buttonholed Capt. Bill Leadbeater and got him to climb into a tank to try to get radio news of what was happening up ahead.

A house nearby offered shelter, but MacKenzie couldn't be bothered going inside. He stood in the front yard with Pickering studying the map. The shell hurled them to the ground. Pickering wounded, leaned over MacKenzie who was lying inert as the earth still rained down on them.

"See where I'm hit, Jack," MacKenzie said faintly. "I took off his helmet," said Pickering. "I only had time to notice he had no head injuries and then that dreadful marble look came over his face."

Half an hour later George Rennison, then in command of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, came through and saw MacKenzie's body beside the road. "I couldn't even stop. I just saluted."

Damned war.

D COMPANY

continued from page 6

Company activities have included a Company dance at the end of March, which saw the Company and friends gathered at the OCA Hall for an evening of merriment. Another important event was the 'D' Company reunion on April 3, which let some of today's men meet veteran Highlanders. This was well attended and entertainment was provided in a speech

full of memories by Captain Ruthven, a former Company Quartermaster.

'D' Company's role is to provide trained soldiers for the unit and this it is doing. By June, 20 men will be qualified infantrymen and at least 15 will be through the recruit course. We look forward to putting 50 men on the floor for the change of command and to a week of real soldiering at concentration this summer. What really makes the Company is people. People with the constant good humour of Cpl (W) Love, who will be giving us a future Delta soldier in a matter of months. Administration runs smoothly under Captain Wright, the 2IC. Morale in 'D' Company is excellent, a real bond is present and will remain with these people once they pass out from basic training. It is instructors like MWO McGuffin, Sergeant Shalapata, MCpls Bean and Meredith, Cpls Yong and McConnell who ensure a high standard of training and who are determined to bring out the best in each man in the Company. 'D' Company continues to grow and continues to serve both the Regiment and the Regimental family. All we ask for in return are recruits, as many as possible.

LIFE MEMBERS

by JM Rae, Chairman

I don't intend to steal our esteemed secretary's thunder, but, to relieve some of the pressure on a hard working man in our organization, I do so now. We have a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, 1st Vice President and bar steward in the following order: myself, Jim Brannan, Al Young, Bill Mulholland, Don Bain. To keep all in order, John Taylor as a past Chairman.

Our numbers fluctuate up and down as the case may be, mostly up. Comradeship, sick reports and as little work as possible our main aim. We have talent galore, all ranks are welcome, provided the following rules are observed; you have reached the age of 65 and have been a paid up member of the OCA for the previous five years.

Various undertakings are carried out during the year, speakers, visits to other veterans' branches, trips, usually organized by the indefatigable Stan Lamb. We are ready to assist the OCA in performance of necessary duties, for example, assistance in mailing literature in connection with OCA activities or any

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other pertinent matter. We have former Officers of the Regiment as part of our membership and this is indicative of our high standard.



L to R Jim Rae, Art Connor, Wally Peddle, Tommy Church.

In our musical moments, which are many, we have (always) Pipe Major Archie Dewar and also piano players of note.

Refreshments both solid and liquid are always on hand.

Mrs. Dorothy Brannan sees that the solids are always available, thanks be. Don Bain is an able and willing purveyor of liquid refreshment and his prices would make any Scot delirious with sheer joy.



L to R Ken Rennie, Jim Rae.

Let no member of the 48th Highlanders Old Comrades' Association ever feel sad when he reaches age 65; he is then sworn in as a young recruit in "The Life Members". There he can attain any age or ambition which has formerly eluded him. Just think fellows, you become eligible for any office in the "Life Members" with no salary of course, but unlimited prestige and are still a part of "The Regiment".

PIPES & DRUMS ASSOCIATION by LCol CE Fraser CD

This Association is off to a good start for 1982 and events opened with the Annual Dinner in the Memorial Hall during January. There were over 60 out to dinner and it was a mixed bag who gathered for the event. Some had come into the Regiment under the late Pipe Major James Fraser in the 20's, others were new arrivals but they all had one thing in common, The Pipes and Drums.

The Guest Speaker was Mr. Henry Shannon, famous for his Sunday evening "Men of Brass" program of CHFI. Mr. Shannon accompanied our bands to Wembley last year and was the official commentator for The Canadian portion of the Tattoo. At the dinner, Mr. Shannon spoke on the Tattoo, the visit of the Canadian Bands to Buckingham Palace, and a reception by the Royal Family. It was a most entertaining evening and of particular interest to those present, as at one time or another over the past sixty years they they had all played in many tattoos, both large and small.

Henry Shannon mentioned that this was the first time that 48th Bands had played at Wembley, but Bill Elms, the President, was quick to put this right. He recalled a visit by the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion in 1940 when the base drummer slipped and fell and let the many thousands in the stands know just what a drummer had under the kilt. Some members of the 1940 band were at the dinner and a picture of them accompanies this article.

The next activity was assisting Pipe Major Reay MacKay with the competition for Junior pipers and drummers. Those eligible to compete must be members of the 48th Pipes and Drums or the Cadet Band. For many years Colonel Iain MacKay was the driving force behind this annual competition and now the administrative details have been assumed by the Pipes and Drums Association. This leaves Pipe Major MacKay free to look after the purely technical aspects such as rules, and judging.

The Regimental Sergeant Major, Mike Barnes, made the Sergeants' Mess available and the thirsty workers really welcomed the bar. An added feature this year was coffee and sandwiches donated and served by The Ladies' Auxiliary of The Old Comrades' Association, and these good ladies are always there when needed.

This year there were several competitors from the Regimental Pipes and Drums and Harry Hodgins had a few from the Cadet Band. It is competitions such as

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PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

We are pleased to announce the results of the photographic competition referred to in the last issue of The Falcon.

WINNER: OCdt B Carbert
RUNNER UP: LCol RJ Simmons CD
Cheques for \$50 and \$35 respectively are being sent to these Highlanders along with our congratulations.



48th Winter Indoctrination — 1982.
(OCdt B Carbert)



48th Drum Major's Baldrick.
(LCol RJ Simmons)

PIPES & DRUMS

continued from page 24

this, for beginners, which help keep up the very high standard always expected from the Pipes and Drums of the 48th Highlanders.



Wembley 1940 band members Archie Dewar, Cam Fraser, George Baker, Alec Dewar, Bill Elms.

Once again this Association will provide "ad hoc" bands to play for The Old Comrades' Association Drill Team and The Ladies' Auxiliary Marching Unit in parades at Niagara Falls and in London, Ontario. The responsibility for recruiting a pipe band each summer for these parades is delegated to a sub-committee of Archie Dewar and Cam Fraser. They happily report that they have no problem in finding enough pipers and drummers to make up an adequate band for each occasion. The Association get a lot of satisfaction from getting up a band for two other groups in



The Annual Dinner Jan. 82. Former Piper Bill Baird thanking Guest Speaker Henry Shannon.

the Regimental Family. In providing these bands they not only show their support for the Ladies' Auxiliary and Drill Team, but also take some of the heavy duty load off the Regimental Pipes and Drums, giving members a couple of Saturdays with their loving wives and children. Rumour has it that most of the wives are not really enchanted by this but then you can't please them all.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY REGIMENTS

by BGen IS Johnston CBE, DSO, ED, CD, QC

Throughout recorded history morale of the troops has been recognized as an essential element for victory.

Military history is a repetition of incidents where the general who could maintain high morale in his troops gained final victory over the general who neglected or was unable to arouse morale.

"A la guerre, les trois quarts sont des affaires morales, la balance des forces réelles n'est que pour un autre quart." (Napoleon).

But is morale still a vital factor? In this technical age there are those who hope that wars will be won by technology. But in recent history that hope has proven to be false. In 1914 it was hoped that artillery would win the War. In 1939 it was hoped that the heavy bomber would win the War. Both wars were in fact won by the common soldier, ably assisted by the other armed services. But still, they weren't the wars of the future.

Today, a whole country can be wiped out by a few bombs. But is it the object of any war to conquer a country and people so destroyed as to be a liability? It is something more than wishful thinking to suggest that the wars of the future will be of a guerilla type, at least on one side. The governments involved in the discussions of humanitarian law at the United Nations and Geneva seem to accept that general premise. In a guerilla type war, morale is all important, both on the insurgent side and on the organized side.

We can't foretell the future, but events since 1945 indicate that the tremendous recent technical developments have not been winning wars. In fact, one could argue that those who concentrate on technology neglect the morale of the common soldier, and are defeated both militarily and politically.

So, one can deduce that while wars are fought with modern weapons they are still fought by men. The final objective must still be to put men with cold steel in their hands in possession of the enemy's vital points, and the morale of the men is still a matter of major importance.

In modern western civilization the maintenance of morale will be more difficult than ever before. We have been taught to question. Patriotism is no longer given blindly and political questions are too complex to provide a rousing cause. It is therefore essential to make use of any proven method of maintaining morale.

The danger is that those who concentrate on technology forget the human side. They tend to treat men as things, mere numbers or computer cards. A great fuss is made about such matters as good food, medical attention and other physical requirements of man maintenance, but little attention is given to the psychological requirements of the man. Some entertainment is provided, but on a mass basis; and how many new friends do you make while attending a theatre? With a false idea of democracy, all men in the Army are treated as the same — just another man — just one of the numbers. The way the term "body count" is used is an abomination. Why not take to drugs? Why not go berserk and shoot up some of these peasants? Does a man who is a nothing care if there is a scandal?

All men have an urge to belong where they can be recognized as an individual personality. From the cub pack to the Rideau Club it is the same.

Modern sociologists are worried about the effect of constant change on the average citizen. Let us think about the effect of change on the civilian soldier. Man does not accept change gracefully. Inherently he is a tribalist seeking the security of the family cave. Many Canadians have been brought up on a farm or in a small town, have their roots well established, and know nothing of the beyond. Even some men brought up in big cities have a very parochial outlook — if you live in Mimico where in hell is Scarborough?

It will be very disturbing to some men to be pulled from their parochial background and sent to another part of Canada. A man from Calgary may suffer acute homesickness in Barrie. Then, if he is sent to a foreign land to fight he will have no stomach for the fight — if he is a stranger among strangers. If he is to have any stomach for the fight he must be in a place where he can "belong" in a close social relationship with others, a place where he is recognized as an individual personality.

At what level can this recognition be found? Being a member of a Division is about as personal as being a member of the Union Station. At Brigade level there may be some camaraderie among the officers, but this doesn't seep down to the rank and file. Battalion or Regiment is the highest level where the sense of belonging can be inculcated and encouraged — and it must be encouraged even at the expense of some efficiency, and even though it might require some effort on the part of the staff.

If a man is to have a sense of belonging to the Regiment it will not be a Regiment with a number for a name and made up of men from across the country. It

will be a Regiment of men from the same community, who talk his language with the same local idiosyncrasies as he does. A Regiment he can join with a group of friends and with assurance they will not be separated. A Regiment where his officers might know the name of his home town and maybe even his family. A Regiment whose activities will be reported in the local paper and of which the Ladies' Auxiliary know all the gossip. It will help if the Regiment has some history and traditions. Traditions are useful if properly used to create a family feeling and sense of belonging, but must not be allowed to encumber our response to changing circumstances. You know, new traditions can be created virtually overnight, and forgotten the next, so that in the hands of a good CO, only the best traditions will be maintained.

Community Regiments have another beneficial effect in that they relate the troops to the local community, and the sympathy of the civilians is thereby improved, and the civilians must be sympathetic if the troops are to have high morale. Soldiers sympathetic to the civilian population are unlikely to respond to the call for a military coup d'état that Mackenzie King used to fear.

A close continuing relationship between the armed forces and the local community becomes of special importance when the army is called upon to assist the civil power in maintaining public order. The importance of this function of the Reserve Forces is forgotten most of the time; but we wake up when we find it has become necessary to invoke the War Measures Act.

In performing the role of maintaining order nothing is more important than that those in uniform should feel some kinship with those out of uniform and vice versa. People do not shout "fascist pigs" at those who are recognized as the sons of friends and neighbours. The task of the army in such circumstances is not so much to suppress violence as to prevent it.

In the maintenance of morale it is tremendously important that the men have assurance that if they go out sick or wounded, every effort will be made to see that they are returned to their own unit. This is a pain in the neck to the super efficient staff officer, but the wise commander will see that the effort is made.

I have spoken of a proven method of maintaining morale. In my opinion the community regimental system is a proven method, and the proof lies in the fact that those combat troops who have had an opportunity to taste the system have gone to great lengths to maintain it. About ninety years ago the British Army tried to simplify their administration by numbering their Regiments, but they soon realized they had

made a mistake, and they returned to the "county" system of naming their Regiments. In 1914 Sir Sam Hughes, for administrative purposes, decided to adopt the numerical system, but he met with much opposition and the CEF was recruited and reinforced on the community basis, and at the end of the war the Regiments resumed their old names. In 1917 the French Army, on the numerical system, mutinied, but the British and Canadian Regiments stood fast even though they weren't fighting for their own homeland. In 1939 the administrators tried to simplify their task by making us all look alike in battle dress with no personality, but within a few months regimental quiffs crept in and you could tell a man's unit from 100 yards.

The politicians and exalted brass must realize that they are a breed apart from ordinary humans. The jet set don't know how the ordinary man lives and functions, but a good commander will try to understand. A very senior officer recently expressed the wish that the cadets of all three environments be in one service. Obviously, he has forgotten his own cadet service, if any, and the sense of recognition in an elite group in friendly competition with other groups. Fortunately, he has left the Armed Services.

It will be appreciated that I have been talking only of combat land forces to be recruited on mobilization from the militia or civilians. The sea and air personnel do not indulge in hand to hand combat but are engaged in manning technical pieces of equipment and have little opportunity to surrender to turn tail and run. Therefore, with them, morale is not so important, but it is interesting to remember that in 1939-45 both the Navy and Air Force did endeavour to establish civilian community relationship with various formations.

In our small Regular Force it is impossible to establish a community system across the country, but the men have been living together for years and have formed their own community. Unfortunately, they are perhaps set apart from the civilian community. It is important however that they maintain their Regimental identity for time of need, and they would be well advised to foster some association with some civilian community.

It is for these reasons that the community regimental system is basically, rather than sentimentally, of great importance, and should be nourished with tradition and sentiment where possible. The weapon of morale is not costly to maintain, it does not become obsolete, and, in fact, improves with age.

God forbid that any Canadian be just a number in the technological body count.

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE HIGHLAND CADET CORPS

by Maj D Inglis CD

The St. Andrew's College Highland Cadet Corps is proud of its longstanding affiliation with the 48th Highlanders of Canada. When the corps was formed in 1905 it was decided the ceremonial dress would consist of a scarlet tunic, as worn by the 48th Highlanders and Gordon tartan, as worn by the Gordon Highlanders. Despite the very high costs of maintaining and replacing this uniform we are still proud to be able to parade about 350 cadets in scarlet.

Phase One training started in September at the beginning of the academic year, and the corps was subdivided into various groups based on level of experience, within the corps and special interests which cadets may have. Every new cadet is required to undergo a basic training programme consisting of training in drill, first aid, map using and small arms. Level II cadets at this time may select a special activity from a wide range of courses such as archery, tactics, electronics, typing, community services, auto mechanics, life saving, photography and woodworking. Levels III and IV cadets may select one of these activities or join the officer/NCO training programme. During this first phase of training, instruction is largely carried out by those cadets who are in this training programme.



Winners—Best Closed Corps—Strathcona Shield 1980-81.

A Highland Regiment would of course find it difficult to function without a pipe band and we are indeed fortunate that enough cadets each year volunteer to spend many hours practising on chanters, pipes and drums to allow us to parade a pipe band 30 strong. Two years ago the Commanding Officer

decided that we would also create a military band and we were delighted when seven members of this band were invited to play with the Military Band of the 48th Highlanders at The Wembley Tattoo last year. We recognize that our bands do not come close to the standard of the bands of our affiliated Regiment but we were most proud and grateful last year when our inspecting officer, The Honourable John B Aird, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, was so impressed with our bands that he asked that he be allowed to purchase a new bass drum for the pipe band and that his insignia be displayed on it.

Phase Two training will commence on April 6th when basically the corps prepares for the Annual Church Parade and the Annual Inspection. The Church Parade will be held on April 25th when the corps will form up at Branksome Hall, our sister school, and march to St. Paul's Church. The following Friday, April 30th, the Annual Inspection will be held and we are honoured to have LCol DG Temple, CD as our Inspecting Officer. LCol Temple has been most supportive and has attended each of our church parades and inspections during his term of command, so we are indeed grateful that he is prepared to take time to inspect us before the Change of Command takes place this year.

For the last two years under the commands of Cdt LCol JW Sedgwick and Cdt LCol PE Stanborough, our corps has won the Strathcona Shield as the Best Closed Corps in Central Ontario Area. This year, under the command of Cdt LCol WSR Ardill we hope to make it three in a row.

1st BN THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

by Maj AIG Kennedy

The Battalion returned from Belize bronzed and fit, and it needed to be. In the three months before Christmas the Inter-Company Competition, which had lain dormant whilst the Battalion had been dispersed, got under way with a vengeance.

D Company, beaten into second place by A Company in the last competition, were determined to get revenge.

The Jocks found themselves involved in fights to the death, disguised as Orienteering, Tug of War, Basketball and various other sports. As the competition intensified, the weather worsened. A fall of snow preceded the Cross Country race but it did not take the heat out of the competition. Most of the 250 who took part found it difficult to keep their balance let alone keep up with the leaders. It was eventually



Lt Col GH Peebles OBE, Capt Scott, the Battalion MO, and The Colonel of The Regiment, Brigadier JRA MacMillan CBE watching First Aid Training.

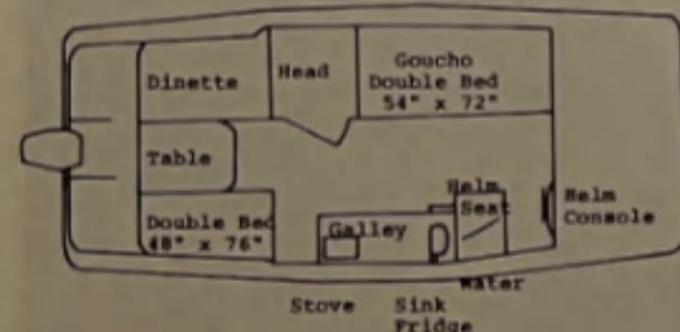
won by Corporal Gillies for whom the experience of taking part in the New York Marathon, (he came in in the top 40), obviously helped. If during the period the Jocks began to doubt the sanity of the Officers and Sergeants Mess, those doubts were fuelled by the Football match between the two Messes. (After it they must have been sure they were all mad). The game, which started off resembling football played in Britain soon developed into a game which had more in common with that played in America. It would be churlish to suggest that some old scores were settled but rumour had it that at least one officer, the Battalion Second in Command, was even tackled by his own side! No-one really knows who won the game, the score fluctuating, depending on whichever side offered the referee the largest bribe.

It wasn't all sport — there was time for some serious shooting on the ranges, and the culmination of the Inter-Company Competition was a Battalion March and Shoot. This also took place after a fall of snow, rendering an already difficult course almost impossible. However the winning Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Woods from D Company, came in 7

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minutes ahead of its rivals. Perhaps with efforts like that being made it is not surprising that D Company won the Inter-Company Competition.

If the cold weather before Christmas had been considered severe it was only a portent of what was to come. Just before the Battalion returned from leave in January an extremely hard frost wreaked havoc with the camp central heating system. It ceased to work and in one night over 200 radiators burst. Ritchie Camp was no longer habitable. The immediate consequence was that the Battalion went on an extra week's leave and on its return found that it was to spend the next 2 months at Redford Cavalry Barracks in Edinburgh with a proportion remaining at Ritchie Camp. This was a blessing in disguise, for the Battalion had been about to embark on a period of intensive individual training, and the facilities at Redford were far superior to those at Ritchie Camp. Various cadres including JNCOs, and Support Weapons Platoons were organized. As the training progressed so did the repairs to the camp so that by the middle of March the Battalion were back complete in Ritchie Camp. The highlight of this period was the visit in early March of The Colonel of The Regiment, Brigadier JRA MacMillan CBE who with his wife spent 4 days with the 1st Battalion and was able to see at first hand the varied training then being undertaken. During his visit he presented Commander British Forces Belize's Commendations to 2 young officers, Lieutenants Innell and Dodson for their conduct in Belize during a period of heightened tension with Guatemala prior to Belize's Independence; and a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sergeant Smith of the Military Band. The Colonel of The Regiment also attended Regimental Kirk at which Padre WGA Wright MBE, who had been the Battalion Chaplain during the operational tour in Borneo in the 1960s, preached. The Colonel of The Regiment, himself a keen runner, also heard during his visit that the Battalion had reached the Army Cross Country Championship Finals for the first time in many years. Although the Battalion Team was not amongst the prizewinners it wasn't for lack of trying — a piper was even on hand to encourage the team in.

Another important visitor in March was Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, Mr. Jerry Wiggan MP, who came to see Ritchie Camp for himself. He expressed surprise at the poor conditions and left with a vivid impression of just how cold it can be in a hutted camp near Edinburgh in winter. As a result of his visit he has taken swift action to improve our lot. The completion of individual training at the end of

March signalled the start of preparations for a busy period of Public Duties. This Summer the Battalion will mount the Edinburgh Castle Guard every day; will find a Guard of Honour and Step-Lining Party for the opening of The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; will mount Guard on The Palace of Holyrood House during Assembly Week and during Her Majesty The Queen's visit to Edinburgh in late June. On the 13th August the Battalion will be on parade for the Installation Ceremony for the new Governor of Edinburgh Castle (Lieutenant General ASC Boswell CBE, late Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders); at the same time The Royal Guard for Her Majesty The Queen's stay at Balmoral will mount for 2-1/2 months found by the Battalion. Finally the Battalion will provide most of the administrative support for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1982 — the Drums and Pipes and Military Band will actually be taking part.

The next article for The Falcon will relate some of the experiences of these prestigious and exciting tasks, and will look forward to our conversion to the mechanised role for our move to BAOR in March 1983.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS ARMY CADET FORCE

by Maj VAJ Cowie TD

Greetings to all our Canadian friends from Lt Col DA Young TD BA, the officers, adults and cadets of the Gordons ACF. We extend a warm handshake across the ocean that separates us.

During the last six months the battalion has been busily involved in normal winter training. This is based on a star grading system, which is geared to produce at the end of a four year period a well motivated, confident and skilled young man, who has enjoyed team and individual challenges. A total of eleven Company weekends devoted to star training at 1 & 2 star level have taken place producing 93 one star passes and 37 two star passes.

In addition to adult training within the battalion, officers and adults are required to attend courses held at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park in England. These courses are designed to prepare Officers and adults at every level in all aspects of cadet instruction and supervision.

Our shooting team which is coached by Lt D MacMillan has achieved a number of successes recently, noteworthy among them is the Cadet Hundred Competition, which is a postal shoot throughout the United Kingdom.

Five cadets from the battalion won through to the top 100 cadets in the United Kingdom, in this competition. Four of the scores added together, earned the battalion 1st place in Scotland as a team and 5th in the U.K. A total of 195 teams participated.

In a recent Inter Cadet Sports held at the Scottish Infantry Depot in Aberdeen, where teams from the Combined Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps along with the Army Cadet Force, competed in a number of events which included shooting, the Gordons ACF won the shooting event. Future events include the "Scott Cup" Competition for units in Scotland which will be taking place in Perth on the 27th March and a pre-Bisley Full Bore Competition held in May. We are optimistic that we will gain successes there also.

Our cadets thoroughly enjoy visiting the Regular Army and among recent trips a visit to 1 Gordons at Kirknewton near Edinburgh was attended by a party of 38 cadets with Major Dougie Reid in command.

The visit was a great success and the cadets were able to sample a variety of training which included Driver Training, Assault Courses, Range Work, a Sniper Stalk and a Night Patrol Exercise.

Another visit is planned for the 2nd, 3rd & 4th April. Cadets have been involved in a number of visits to places of interest which include the County Police

HQ, Regimental HQ and TA units.

A local TA unit 'B' Coy 15 Para were involved in hosting an American airborne unit, ten cadets from the Para Platoon in the battalion were hoping to get a trip up in the balloon cage to watch parachuting from the start of the descent rather than the finish, unfortunately weather conditions were unfavourable, however they were given the opportunity to fire the American weapons on the range and cemented friendly relations with the American and British soldiers present.

Future visits include a visit by 10 cadets to BAOR on 13th to 23rd April. The host unit is the Kings Own Scottish Borderers, stationed in Osnabruck. This party will be led by Captain George Shearer the 2/IC of 'A' Company.

We look forward to Annual Camp which is being held at Stirling from 18 — 31st July.

It is anticipated that 225 cadets, 34 officers and 35 adults will attend. Activities which can take place in the area include Abseiling, Canoeing, Watermanship Training (assault boats) Aerial Ropeway, Range Work, Swimming and other sports as well as a variety of places of interest to visit, which include Stirling Castle.

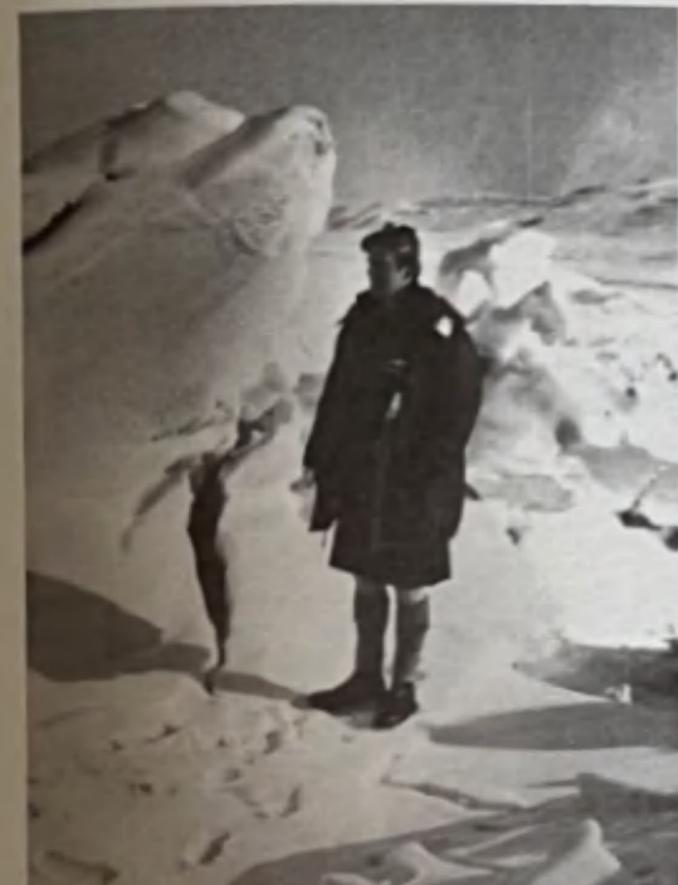
Major John Beeton the Cadet Executive Officer who takes on this appointment in April, will be sending a report on Camp for the next issue of 'THE FALCON'.



Gordon Cadets Visit 1 Gordons at Ritchie Camp, Kirknewton near Edinburgh.

KILT ACROSS THE ARCTIC

by Maj SHRH Monro, The Queen's Own Highlanders



EDITOR'S NOTE: Major Seymour Monro, a regular Officer in the Queen's Own Highlanders, British Army, is in Toronto on a one year course at the Staff College. During that time, he has been a frequent visitor to the 48th, and we have been delighted to welcome him as a "temporary" Highlander. We asked him to write an article for THE FALCON on his recent brass monkey trip to the Arctic — in a kilt!!!

Here it is:

Donald Davidson couldn't believe his ears when he heard there was a mad Scotsman in a kilt outside — nor his eyes when he saw me wearing it. It was 30°C below. We were in Nanisivik, 73°N, a long way from Canal Road, Inverness, which Donald had left some 30 years before.

Nanisivik was the half way point of our 5-day tour of the Arctic, the highlight of the year for Allied officers at the Canadian Staff College. 30 of us left Toronto on Sunday 4th April in a Hercules fitted mercifully, with commercial seats. My overnight bag contained 40 ozs of Whisky Mac and my kilt — both ready for the Arctic air. Six hours and 2 consecutive Grand Slams (I bid neither!) later we arrived at Cold Lake, Alberta, the largest Canadian Air Base and

where the latest Cruise Missiles are currently being tested.

Next morning we flew northwards to Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories. We toured the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre, which has superb displays on the Dene (Indians, who live south of the tree-line) and the Inuit (Eskimo, who live north of it), the inhabitants of these lands; and on the Euro-Canadians, who have explored and developed them. We then visited the Husky Breeding Kennels and hoped to see some dog teams in action shortly. Sadly, we were to discover that most Inuits are now mechanised and hunt on 'skidoos'. That evening we dined sumptuously on the salmon-like Arctic Char.

We crossed the Arctic Circle on Tuesday morning to the popping of champagne corks, and landed at Tuktoyaktuk. Here were the headquarters of Dome Petroleum, the major Canadian oil firm in the Beaufort Sea, which is frozen over for 8 out of 12 months of the year. I met my first Inuit. His name was...Angus! From 'Tuk' we flew to MacKinley Bay where the aircraft actually landed on the ice-covered sea. Assured that the ice was 63 inches thick and that a Hercules needs a mere 47 inches, our disembarkation was nevertheless swift! Here, completely ice-bound were 4 towering drill ships, some dredgers and a dry-dock. As if that was not a fantastic enough sight in itself, a most incredible display was to follow. A brand-new icebreaker had just arrived and started to clear a passage towards us. Breaking a channel about 30 metres long at each short charge, we decided to retreat rapidly when the ice shuddered and the breaker's enormous red bow was a mere 40 metres from us. Although it had been an unforgettably powerful sight at close range, the icebreaker and all the other ships looked like matchbox toys from the air as we took off, surrounded as they were by miles upon miles of snow-covered ice and barren tundra.

From MacKinley Bay, we flew to Inuvik at 500 ft above the frozen Mackenzie River with its double track ice road, patrolled that evening by a pack of wolves. Inuvik lies almost on the Alaska-Canada Border. That night the local delicacy was musk ox and caribou — rather like vintage venison. It was still light at 10 pm when we turned our televisions on to watch the latest news on the faraway Falklands.

On Wednesday morning I was up early and walking along the main street of Inuvik — MacKenzie Drive — in kilt, boots, puttees and parka. The connection between the street name and this extraordinary foreigner's garb was undoubtedly lost on the incredulous local Inuits. Our next leg was across the top of Canada

to Nanisivik, on the northwestern tip of Baffin Island. The landscape we flew over now had many more features than we had seen so far, indeed, the sounds and inlets often reminded me of the West Coast. Nanisivik is there because of the enormous lead and zinc mine, located deep below 600 metres of permafrost. Here, in a great white wilderness, man has built a vast mining plant which the 50,000 ton ore tankers can only reach during two months of the year.

In this community of 204 people (20% of them Inuits) were two from the Regimental Area — Donald Davidson from Inverness, already introduced, and George Mitchell from Archieston, both thrilled to see the kilt again. Donald had been there for 5 years and was a founder member of Nanisivik. After a long blether with him over dinner, we flew northwest to Resolute. This was our most northerly halt — nearly 75° N, some 180 miles southeast of the Magnetic North Pole and about 900 miles south of the North Pole, which two days later was to be reached by Captain Sir Ranulph Twistleton-Wickham-Fiennes and his 'skidoo' expedition. The temperature was -35°C and a light wind was blowing putting the chill factor up to around -50°C. My bare knees moved themselves speedily towards the warmth of the small cluster of huts, grandly named "AirportInn". My room was in the MacLachlan wing.

Our visit to this small communications base coincided with that of a group of hairy Alaskan miners and geologists chaperoned (?) by a recent Mrs. USA! Propping-up the bar was ex-Pte Alan Cameron, A Coy, 1 Seaforths from Lossiemouth. He had served in Germany with the Battalion from 1945-1948. A most northerly ceilidh then happened. I quickly learnt the Inuit word for 'Cheers' — namukpuglotit. Resolute's only bar had an extension for one hour that night, an event which the old hands could not remember ever having happened before!

Our departure the following day was delayed (not I hasten to add due to any hangovers — extremely cold, dry air works better than Alka Seltzers) because our Canadian conducting officer slipped on the runway and broke his wrist — the only casualty of the trip.

We now headed southwards to Cambridge Bay, a DEW line site just north of the Arctic Circle. If my meetings with Scots had been surprising, here the French Army officer's was 'vraiment incroyable'. He was collected from the airstrip by a driver who came from the same small village in Brittany as he did.

After only a brief stop we flew on to Churchill on the edge of Hudson bay and from there back to

Toronto.

In 5 days we had covered more than 7,000 miles over some of the most beautifully stark landscape in the world. We heard another description for 'Land of the Midnight Sun' — 'Land of the 4 Month Night'. We had eaten "exotic" food and consumed gallons of Whisky Mac. We had met Dene and Inuit, Scotsmen and Frenchmen, Mounties and miners, though sadly no polar bears or penguins.

What a very white trip it had been! It also demonstrated that if you're mad enough, kilt, boots, puttees and parka not only attract considerable attention, but also, aided by a little Whisky Mac, will keep you alive at 50°C below — just!

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