

THE FALCON

Volume 4, Number 4

December, 1953

This publication is issued under the authority of Lt. Col. G.A. Fraser, Commanding Officer of The 48th Highlanders of Canada. The contents of this publication have been edited and approved by Hon./Capt. R. K. Cameron, Padre of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

CONTENTS

The Commanding Officer's Christmas Message	
Why Christmas?	Editorial
"The Day" and Its Recognition	Editor
Two Cadets Prove Their Citizenship	Capt. W. T. Gresham
The R.S.M.'s Message	Mr. Wigmore
Quarter-Master Stores	Capt. Ed. Ruthven
The Sergeants' Mess	S/M. J. E. Irvine
The Pipe Band	Drummer L. Tucker ✓
The Cadet Corps News	Capt. W. T. Gresham
The 48th Association	Frank Jamieson
Companies News:	
"A" Coy	Sergeant G. T. Wignall
Charlie Chatter	C.S.M. M. Parmiter
Dog Coy	Sergeant Len Stephen
Support Coy	Capt. J. Lowndes
True and False.	



WISHING YOU

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

As we come to the close of a memorable year in the history of the Regiment I would like to convey to all ranks my sincere appreciation for your cooperation in making it a most successful year and extend to all members of The Regiment and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

G. A. Fraser, Lt. Col.

WHY CHRISTMAS?

Christmas has a wonderful meaning, significance and purpose. Sometimes, in the midst of the festivities attendant upon it every year, we are apt to lose that. Without fail, as it comes round, somebody points that out to us. It is so commercialized that the real purpose and meaning of giving is perverted and lost altogether.

The Santa Claus legend is wonderful and should never be covered over. Children's minds grasp in story and legend the wonder and happiness of the real spirit of Christmas which is the spirit of giving. Essentially it springs from our Christian belief in the gift of Christ. As God gave Him for men's salvation so we commemorate and symbolize that supreme gift in our gifts to others. The word "Christmas", of course, is a combination of two religious words - "Christ" and "Mass". It is the festival of Christ and hence should be the most joyous and happiest event in our Christian year.

But Christmas really is the happiest time for children. All the events and decorations, customs and gifts bring real joy to them. On Christmas morning the children's faces reflect the wonder and mystery, the happiness and real pleasure and the sense of security which the love of a Christian home can provide. Santa Claus came mysteriously while they slept and left them wonderful gifts. The colour, brightness and festivity of Christmas Day in a Christian home should be linked forever with the real Christian meaning of this happiest of all festivals.

"THE DAY"

The celebrations of "The Day" were most successful. November 30 is a date to be conjured with because it is St. Andrew's Day and St. Andrew, being the patron saint of Scotland, that date is assured of adequate recognition wherever there are Scotsmen throughout the world of civilized men.

Toronto has a large number who are native sons or who claim allegiance because of their parentage. It seems that the Scots and Irish have emigrated in such numbers to Canada as to give it certain characteristics peculiar to this strong race (for, after all, they are one race). It is no accident that Canadians on leave in Britain during the war found that Scotland was a most congenial place. The quality of democracy and the friendliness of the people reminded them of life at home.

The celebrations of Scotland's Day this year were adequate and very well arranged beginning with the Regiment's Annual Ball on Friday, November 27 at The Royal York Hotel. As usual this was largely attended and everybody enjoyed himself and herself from beginning to end. The Mess Dinner for the officers and ladies was a pleasant prelude. There was almost continual Scottish dancing for all who enjoy it and the division of the Pipe Band into two sections under Piper Major Dewar and Pipe Sergeant Stewart respectively was an ingenious and happy arrangement. The physical stamina of Scots is an amazing fact! The Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Briethaupt were received at the appointed hour by Col. and Mrs. Marshall, Brigadier and Mrs. Haldenby, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Fraser, and Major and Mrs. John M. Catto, Major Catto is president of The St. Andrew's Society.

On Sunday, November 29 a large number of the members of The St. Andrew's Society attended the morning service in Dovercourt Road Presbyterian Church. Major Catto read the lesson and The Rev. Ross K. Cameron, one of the Society's four chaplains preached the sermon.

Then on The Day itself the St. Andrew's Society Dinner was a memorable event. The Ode to the Haggis was recited by Frank Jamieson in his own inimitable style. The precious "chieftain of the puddin' race" was born aloft on the sturdy shoulders of Mr. Wigmore, R.S.M. of the 48th and Mr. Turner, president of the Sergeants' Mess. These were the sturdy "rustics, haggis fed" referred to in Burns' Ode.

Major Catto presided at the dinner and the toast to "Canada, the land we live in" was most admirably proposed by Mr. W. M. V. Ash and responded to by The Hon. Mr. Justice J. Keiller MacKay, D.S.O., LL.B., General Sir Neil Ritchie, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., proposed the toast to "The Day an' a' Wha Honour It" and the response was made by Mr. Leonard W. Brockington, C.M.G., 2.C., LL.D. This, of course, was the address of the occasion and was one more of the superb expressions by which Mr. Brockington has become recognized as one of Canada's greatest speakers. His wide knowledge, his finished form of expression and his intellectual integrity are the marks of this outstanding Welsh-Canadian. The audience rose to its feet at the conclusion of the address and continued its applause for long minutes. The thanks of the Society and its guests was expressed by the Vice-Presidents, Mr. Donald I. MacLeod and Major George A. McGillivray.

For the first time since its presentation the very large flag bearing the St. Andrew's Cross was hung behind the head table. This is a splendid and welcome gift bringing before our minds in its symbolism the whole colourful, heroic pageantry of Scottish history.

These were the events in celebration of Scotland's Annual Day and, with Mr. Brockington, we, too, hope that some day Canada and Scotland will be so closely joined in spirit and fact that there in the land of mists and mountains and glens and strong, courageous, freedom-loving people Canada's national holiday may be celebrated.

TWO CADETS PROVE THEIR CITIZENSHIP:

Recently the molestation by numbers of lawless citizens and the disregard by others of the difficulties involving arrests and refusal to help police officers has caused law-abiding citizens considerable concern. The following is a refreshing incident which proves the value to every boy of cadet and army training. They are to be highly commended for their prompt, resourceful action.

A recent robbery committed in downtown Toronto, was observed by two members of the 48th Highlanders, who showed exceptional initiative by trailing the robbers to a Hotel, where one kept guard, and the other phoned the police. The thieves were arrested and over \$500.00 in cash was recovered.

Cadet/Sgt. Don Waddell, and Cadet/Cpl. Robert Thornhill, have received suitable recognition by the Mayor of Toronto, who presented them with a Bulova Watch a piece, suitably inscribed on behalf of the City. The Toronto Police further rewarded them with a gift of money, as did the person robbed.

THE R.S.M.'S MESSAGE:

To all ranks on duty at the 48th Highlanders' Ball, Major MacIntosh expresses his sincere thanks for a job well done.

- The R.S.M. must have had some Naval training—"the silent service" is terse and to the point - or is it? That may be another of the myths which guide us. ---Editor.

The Falcon welcomes to its pages the following contribution from our hard-working, efficient Quarter-Master, Capt. Ed. Ruthven. It's quite conceivable that heretofore he has been too busy to write something but recently we put him right on the spot and in an amazingly brief time he came across with the following splendid account of his work in Q.M. Stores. We hope he will be a regular contributor in the future.---Editor.

QUARTER MASTER STORES

Boots, bottles water, belts and braces. Cans water, cartridges, carriers and caps--goggles, greatcoats, gloves and guns--shovels, straps, spanners and skirts (CWAC)! That's the Q.M. Stores. With the close of another year we put down our brooms, hide the rifle bolts again and look back at a long string of inspections that kept us on the bit for the past six months.

One would venture to say that the 48th Highlanders are the most inspected Unit in the Canadian Army. Things are such now that you can eat off our floors and shave in the brass work at any time. The clothing stores now look like Ed Provans even ten minutes after the last recruit has gone.

Of course, we can't always give perfect fits as stacks do run down. The story goes that early last week a new recruit was stripped on the parade square when he failed to salute a Captain. The Captain pulled him up pointing to his own shoulder, "Well! Haven't you noticed this uniform!" The bewildered lad replied as he fingered the officers' jacket, "Gee! did you get a good fit - you should see the one I got!"

Another year has gone - we look forward to the new one. Each one brings something different but at least interesting. It is our job to keep the wheels turning and with the continued co operation of all ranks we shall.

When the last one has left and the swing doors are silent. You'll find the stores still with their funnels, face pieces, flags and forms - pans, pouches, pliers and pullthrough - shoes, screwdrivers, 6-pounders and stockings (CWAC).

SERGEANTS' MESS

We were fortunate to have Lt. Col. J.R.O. Counsell as guest speaker at our annual Dinner. Despite the humorous vein running through his all too brief talk, Col. Counsell managed to put across a very impressive message. Remarks such as he made give the older members of the Mess cause to think and to our junior sergeants offer inspiration.

CSM O.P. Ardagh, M.B.E., who has now completed fifty years continuous service with the Regiment was presented with a radio as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the Mess. Congratulations Plug as you enter your second half century with the Regiment.

As predicted we were successful in defeating the Argylls' in a bitterly fought game of baseball (so called). Jack Cooke could use some of our outstanding stars with the Leafs. That is unless he has a full replacement of water boys.

The Regiment lost a very good soldier with the retirement of CSM I.J. Fullerton. We are sorry indeed CSM Fullerton was compelled to sever his active connection with the Mess but hope to see him as a continuing member for many years to come.

A shoot was held Sunday, November 22 with the Sergeants of the Queen's Own Rifles. To our great disgust we lost.

A full turn-out of all members, active and continuing, is urged for our Remembrance Service New Year's Morning. Last year was the best yet - let's surpass it.

Following the service Open House will be held in the Mess at which time we will entertain our officers.

Members are reminded dues can be paid on that day.

The Sergeants Mess Ball will be held in the Royal York, Friday, February 12. All ranks are invited to attend. Tickets may be obtained from Company representatives.

And now Seasons Greetings and a Guid New Year to yies and a'.

THE PIPE BAND

Since last issue we victimized the Toronto Scots Pipe Band in our first cribbage meet of the season -- and right in Fort York Armouries, too! There is no truth to the rumour that Piper Jim Cruickshank put knock-out drops in the Scottish's Coca-Cola. We won this one on our merits.

November 14th was the occasion of our final get-together for the season at the Long Branch Hut. Once again Corporal Bill Elms did a fine job with the organization of the affair and we would like to thank all the volunteers who pitched in and helped make the evening a success.

The Officers' Ball on November 27th saw the Pipe Band split in two so that continuous Highland Dancing might be featured in the main ballroom. This gave rise to some friendly rivalry between "A" and "B" Bands, members of "B" Band claiming that "B" stood for "Best" and "A" for "Awful".

With the Highland Battalion of the 27th Brigade now home on leave we have had recent visits from three ex-members of our Pipe Band, Keith Lee, Bob Taylor and Henry Marr. Bob brings us word of another ex-piper Bern Hardy who is now serving with the Kenya Police in Nyeri, Kenya, having recently completed five years as a piper in the Scots Guards.

The Band Room, if present plans materialize should be sporting a "new look" by New Year's Day. Speaking of New Year's Day reminds us that we'd better start looking for that punch recipe.

Keep these dates in mind: January 16th, The Annual Pipe Band Dinner - Dance at the War Amps Club; February 21st - The Annual Pipe Band Ball at the Royal York. Best wishes for the holiday season from The Pipe Band.

THE CADET CORPS

Highlanders sons make good cadets. The officers and N.C.O.S of the Corps and the whole Regiment would be glad to see large numbers of boys, 14 years of age, enlisting. Good training awaits them. Report to Capt. Gresham, O.C. of Cadets any Tuesday and Friday at 8 p.m. at The University Avenue Armouries.

On December 8 the Corps will enter a shooting competition with the cadets of Port Credit High School at the Armouries. A team of 6 will be chosen from each Corps. S/M. Len Falconer, the moving spirit of the 48th Highlanders Rifle Association, kindly donates from that association 4 silver spoons to be given to the best 2 shots in each team. This is very much appreciated by the Corps and The Regiment.

The Cadets will hold their Christmas Party with movies, entertainment and, of course, FOOD at the 48th Memorial Hall, Church Street on the evening of December 19. Don't miss this!

One of the men who has the success and welfare of the whole Regiment and The 48th Association at heart is Frank Jamieson who has seen many years of fine soldiering and who was, during World War 2, R.S.M. The following is the first we have had from him in the Falcon and we would welcome many more articles from one who writes from long experience and deep interest. Sorry we can't print the excellent picture of Frank addressing the Haggis at the St. Andrew's Dinner which appeared in the newspapers the next day. It was a good one.

THE 48TH HIGHLANDER'S ASSOCIATION

The club has had a very successful season, first event being the Church Parade to Padre East's Church in Islington, the following Saturday, Armistice Dinner, there being a large attendance at both events, also the Parade to the Memorial in Queen's Park. Most of the Executive Members for 1953 were re-elected again for 1954 with one or two changes: One being Wally Moore as Recording Secretary. Coming events are the Big Hogemany Dance on New Year's Eve, also there is going to be a Burns' Supper in January so keep these dates open. Our genial Secretary George Lovegrove has had a short spell in the hospital but I understand is about due to start work again. We all wish George a speedy recovery.

President Shepperd the Executive and all members of the Association extend the Season's Greetings to all readers of the Falcon.

4<sup>th</sup> COY

Congratulations are in order for L/Cpls Metcalfe, Scott and Henry who received their long waited-for first stripe.

The welcome mat goes out this month for Granger, Thomson, Milroy, LaTour, Johnson, Johnson and Lowndes. Welcome to the company fellows.

A week-end scheme was held out at Pickering Township on October 17 and 18 by A Coy. The scheme proved to be most successful and was enjoyed by all including Metcalfe who received a broken wrist. The story that we got from Jack and the story we got from the enemy (Capt. Cunningham) do not seem to coincide. We know who got the broken wrist, but who captured who (or should it be whom)?

Practices have been held by our floor hockey and ball teams and both teams seem to be in very good shape. I know they will put up a very stiff battle that will be hard to beat by any opposing teams. That's a challenge fellows!

Don't forget our Christmas Party and Dance coming on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the 48th Hut, Long Branch rifle ranges. Bring your wife or girl friend and plan for a good time.

The MacGregor Rifle Club will hold their annual shoot sometime early in February, 1954 so prepare yourself for a good time and a good shoot. The shoot is fired and controlled from the verandah of The 48th Hut (Long Branch) so if its dirty weather you don't have to worry about wet feet. The prizes range from The MacGregor Trophy for the finest shot to a wee sma bottle for the poorest shot with plenty of other prizes in between.

As this year draws to a close we look forward to a bigger and better year in 1954. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

### CHARLIE CHATTER

The face of C Coy is changing greatly every week. Recruits are pouring in so fast that it is practically impossible to list all our new men. Welcome to you all.

We enjoyed a very good weekend in the environ of St. Andrew's College following our bridge-building scheme. What with sleeping in a barn, eating in restaurants and driving around the country in a bus, we had a varied weekend.

Then came our Sunday shoot at Long Branch. A good turn out ensured a lot of practices from which Pte. Speight emerged the victor. He claims the cup enhances the flavour of "Teacher's Highland Cream" no end.

Our Coy party at the Pine Room, 48th Club, November 26 was a roaring success. Apparently our "Mario Lanza" Richardson has been hiding his light under a bushel.

This about sums up our doings for the past two months. May we in C Coy take this opportunity of wishing all our friends in the Bn. the very best for Christmas and the coming New Year.

### EXTRACTS FROM DOG COY

A most hearty welcome goes out to our new C.S.M. George Venton, who, not only is a very fine fellow, but one who we are sure will make a fine impression on our company.

Incidentally fellows, our C.S.M. has a fine record for musketry, so pay attention you smoke-pole handlers.

We regretted to see our former C.S.M. Tommy Fullerton retire from the Regiment. Although we have lost his fine capabilities of a good soldier, we shall still retain him as a very good friend and still hope to see him around the old place. We are sorry to hear of Mrs. Fullerton's illness of the past few weeks, and a speedy recovery is certainly hoped for.

Congratulations are in order for our own Sgt. Cam Cole, who was awarded the Coronation Medal. Nice going MacCole. By the way soldiers, you should see Sgt. Cole, entertaining T.T.C. passengers with Haggis, along with Sgt. (third alarm) Stephen - and the C.Coy C.S.M. "A HA - who's got the pot, ho-hum" after the ball was over.

FLASH: Sgt. Len Stephen and Mr. Len Falkner win dart tournament. "HOORAY"

Another FLASH: D Coy THE Coy took the lead in the annual memorial day parade. Bully for you, men, keep it up. Also our range scores were not bad for the past year, but lets hope our average will be twice as good, next year. Bend an ear to our C.S.M. for pointers on shooting. As for our attendance race, Pte. Turner is leading so far and looks like he might win, so come on you other chappies, make him fight for first prize. Pte. Boggis is doing a fine job of running a close second, and coming along nicely are Ptes. Elley Sr. O'Prey and Bayal. Cpl. Appleton, our temporarily coy clerk has been doing a wonderful job, nice going.

A warm welcome to a former D Coy man, Cpl. Lloyd who has just returned from 27th Brigade. Also a warm welcome to our new recruits, glad to have you in the company fellows, I'm sure you will enjoy your stay, and become a credit to D Coy, THE Company.

The Big item, mainly our Coy party, to be held in the men's mess on December 19th. Remember this is our party, so let's make it a real smashing, wing-ding, howling success, of a party for the fading year. Bring your sweethearts wives (or somebody else's), chums and potential recruits. Let's go men, give it all you've got and let's really enjoy ourselves, okay?

Your undaunted, spying reported, Sneaky!

#### SUPPORT COY

Well gang not too much news this time so we will start right off by congratulating Cpl. Turner and Sgt. Smith now, Willett on their transfers to Anti-Tank platoon. We're very sorry to have to say goodbye to Sgt. Ayres. His promotion at his job is quite a big jump, best of luck Webb Ayres.

Also congrats to Sgt. Bill Grant on his promotion.

Coy Party is on December 18 and should be a real good 'do'.

Anti-Tank is having their party on December 5.

Support Coy also had a very good scheme at Meaford a few weeks ago and everyone had a good time.

Sgt. Willett's wife gave birth to another Highlander on November 14, 1953. 8 lbs. 2 ozs. Don't train the poor chap too strenuously there Sgt. Well that's all this time, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

#### TRUE AND FALSE:

An Englishman motoring in Scotland came fast around a curve and collided with a car driven by a Scotsman. Both drivers, being unhurt, climbed out to view the wreckage. The Scot produced a flask and handed it to the Englishman who politely took a sip. "Tak a guid drink, man; ye need it", said the Scot. The Englishman did and handed the flask back. The Scot promptly put it in his pocket. Surprised, the Englishman said: "Don't you need a drink too; aren't you going to drink with me?" "Och, aye", said the Scot, "after the police arrive".

Mr. Brockington, in his St. Andrews address: "The music of the pipes always makes me feel like marching, but I'm not saying in which direction".

Young Billy was having prunes for his supper and was finally coaxed into eating all but two. But there he stopped and attempted bribe after bribe could not induce him to go farther. Finally, as a clinching argument, his mother explained that God would be very angry. But young Billy remained unmoved. Triumphant, if disgraced, he was hurried off to bed.

Later a terrific storm broke out and, fearful that the erring boy would be terrified, his mother stole into his darkened room. There was young Billy standing at the window untroubled by the flashing fury without. Between the crashes of thunder the mother heard him speaking an, forgetting her own nervousness, she tip-toed behind him. He was muttering in disgust: "Such a fuss—over two prunes.

"You say these two men were arrested for being drunk?" the magistrate asked the young policeman. "How did you know?"

"By what they said, Your Honour."

"But they are both very Scotch. Perhaps that confused you. Perhaps you didn't understand. What makes you so sure they were drunk?"

"Just felt sure, Your Honour. You see, one of them was offering money to the other and he, if you can believe it, was refusing."

The old shopkeeper was dying and his family was gathered about him. Before he lost consciousness he asked: "Is mamma here?"

"Yes, poppa," answered the wife.

"Is Jakey here?"

"Yes, poppa."

"Is Rifke here?"

"Yes, poppa--right here."

"Is my nephew Milton here?" he asked, labouredly.

"Yes Uncle--we're all here."

"All of you!" cried the dying man. "Then who's minding the store?"

The bus driver had met with an accident that put his bus out of commission and necessitated finding other means of transport for his passengers. He managed the detail but, later, filling out the report of the happening had him completely bewildered. He had worked down through "Location of accident,"

"Nature of accident," "Injury to passengers," and had come to the line, "Disposition of passengers."

He considered that for some time then wrote, with ill-concealed impatience, "Mad as hornets."

SUBJECT

The bus driver had met with an accident that put his bus out of commission and necessitated finding other means of transport for his passengers. He managed the detail but, later, filling out the report of the happening had him completely bewildered. He had worked down through "Location of accident," "Nature of accident," "Injury to passengers," and had come to the line, "Disposition of passengers."

He considered that for some time then wrote, with ill-concealed impatience, "Mad as hornets."

SUBJECT

The bus driver had met with an accident that put his bus out of commission and necessitated finding other means of transport for his passengers. He managed the detail but, later, filling out the report of the happening had him completely bewildered. He had worked down through "Location of accident," "Nature of accident," "Injury to passengers," and had come to the line, "Disposition of passengers."