

THE FALCON

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This publication is issued under the authority of Lt. Col. Hamish K. Macintosh, M.B.E., 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.

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Remembrance Day each year should be one of the most important days to every Canadian. All too briefly we remember those who gave their lives in two World Wars for freedom and peace. We forget so easily; out of sight, out of mind is true concerning frail humanity.

On Sunday, November 6, we remember at our memorial in Queen's Park. At the sergeants' annual dinner on October 29 we will remember and, if we think, we will remember on countless occasions in the Regiment and in our daily work and pleasure. Col. McCrae's famous poem, the result of his experience in World War I, will stand as a classic expression of all free people as long as there are free men on this earth.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands we throw
The Torch; be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

ONLY SEEING IS BELIEVING

Someone said or wrote the other day that the kilt is a key to Scottish character. Pursuing researches into its ancestry to determine why this is so, we have discovered that it means "tucked up" and is, as we know it, an immutable version of the rectangular plaid in which the Highlander wrapped himself -- a protection so effective that he even rolled himself in water on bedding down in the mountain night, whereupon the resulting steam kept him warm.

But from the unlimited individualism which this wrap-around technique betokens, the kilt somehow became fixed and standardized in its dimensions, however much it might vary in its tartan. Thus, a kilt below the knee is unheard-of; conversely, a kilt cut shorter would be a kilt no longer. Plainly, somewhere in its evolution its designers lost their nerve.

These findings are brought into sharp focus by the editorial verdict of the Peterborough Examiner that shorts now amount to a change in fashion. It says New York's expensive men's shops sell more shorts than other trousers, and that every class from lawyers to milkmen is wearing them. If this animated picture certified an authentic repentance, the ninety-degree heat which hastened it might well have justified itself. For theoretically any man with the nerve to bare his knees would have the brains to stop choking himself, and we would therefore be nicely on the road to emancipation.

But amid the very heroism with which it hails the change, the Examiner pauses to remark that in its own city it saw two men "otherwise conventionally dressed (that is, they had ties and subdued shirts) wearing neat shorts". This seems to expose the equivocation of the whole shorts adventure. A "subdued" shirt is nothing more or less than an unreformed shirt worn by a subdued owner, as proved by the fact that he retreated inside his tie. And "neat shorts" sound ominously like the kind on which a shrewd manufacturer might lavish enough harness and gimmicks to bring them, along with pocket contents, up to the approved three or four pounds per garment which a man calls for.

No, the transition from foppery to freedom, from tweeds to muslins, and from multiplicity to simplicity of garments will not be lightly accomplished. The law of compensation still applies--meaning that for whatever a man takes off in one part he puts something extra on elsewhere. Thus he graduated with ease, even with alacrity, from the hair shirt to the cut-throat collar. This seemingly ineradicable trait stands firmly athwart any worthwhile revolution in haberdashery. If we seem gloomy in this premise, it is a courageous gloom which holds that in matters of physique we are all born unequal, and that in dress it is a man's inalienable right to do as he is told.

THE BRAVE, BEAUTIFUL KILT

There was little laughter from the spectators who saw the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) advancing toward them in World War I. "Ladies from hell," was the description.

The two young recruits of the Essex-Kent Scottish Regiment who said they were afraid their friends might laugh at them if they appeared in a kilt might reflect the sight of bare knees has caused other knees to tremble. And, in peace time, fair hearts to flutter.

The kilt has an ancient, honorable, belligerent and romantic history. In the wars in which Scottish regiments wore the kilt in action, the appearance of the kilt was notice to the enemy that confronting him was a breed of tough, dauntless, fiercely fighting men. In peace, the sound of the bagpipes heralds the approach of as stirring and gallant a parade as eyes can hope to see.

People that would laugh at a kilt can be dismissed as inhuman, lacking sensibility and sensitivity. The soldier who is entitled to the privilege of wearing a kilt can pity them.



"No, you dope-- I said 'raise your backsight'!"

RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Our membership attending O.R.A. and D.C.R.A. matches was decidedly lower than last year.

We are still in need of active militia personnel to fill team entries designated especially in the service rifle matches at Ottawa. These matches are keenly contested among regiments and are a worthy challenge to members in uniform.

At Ottawa's Connaught ranges, Lt. Gilmour Boa (G.M.), holder of the Empire's most coveted prize "The Kings (now the Queens) Medal, at Bisley; King's medals in service matches, International Worlds Championship and prize winner at Olympic Games, was so far ahead of anyone that it must be a new Canadian record. 175 shots on record at ranges from 200 to 900 yds., scoring 159 bullseyes, 15 inners, 1 mag., no outers. He tops the list in the Bisley Aggregate, The Grand Agg., The All-Comers Agg., The Gibson Agg., and 2nd in The Connaught and then to top it all by winning the Governor General's Match in one of the highest winds recorded in recent years, a post of rain to finish in.

Wind allowances recorded during the final matches 900 and 1000 yds was anywhere from 12 to 20 minutes of angle or 15 feet right wind.

The announcement of his win was made in a downpour of rain but did not deter his team mates who, led by his dad, proudly carried him in the conventional chair behind the band with a full military escort of the three services following, to the pavilions where he was introduced to Major-Gen. H. F. C. Letson, C.B.E., M.C., E.D., C.D., by the chief range officer, Major C. A. Vickery, and was in turn presented to Lt. Gen. G. G. Simmonds, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief of the General Staff, who presented the prize.

Your Rifle Association teams did well with Gilmour's help to win 1st in the Woods, 2nd in the Gordon Highlanders, 2nd in the Imperial Tobacco, 2nd in the Lansdowne, 3rd in the Sherwood, 4th in the Macdonald Brier, 5th in the Gillespie at Ottawa, and 1st in the city of Toronto match at Long Branch. Other matches yet to be computed.

15 members competed, 10 made the second stage of the Governor General's Match.

OBSERVATIONS: The following brief, gathered from experience and facts as presented by experts, has been read, amended and approved by Lt. J and Gilmour Boa and the regimental training officer and is submitted in the hope that members of the regiment and all interested in shooting, both military and sporting, will benefit.

Experience gained by attendance at recent rifle matches has convinced many marksmen that metal fouling in barrels using current military ammunition has been an important cause of spreading shots. This seems to be caused by barrels with slight roughness, perhaps due to imperfect finish in manufacture or by allowing barrels to become rough through rust or improper methods of cleaning. When the bullet travels through the barrel it leaves part of its jacket attached to these rough spots, thereby causing the successive bullets to overcome extra stress. This continually piles up until unaccountable errors are shown on the target pattern.

The above could possibly be explained by a professor of ballistics referring to the vibration of barrel vs. delay or effect of particles at aperture of muzzle and many things that alter the flight of bullets. This naturally effects barrels of all weapons.

Lt. Jim Boa has added some expert data which we reprint under the heading of BULLETS MARK VII

"Prior to, and in the early stages of World War II, Dominion Arsenal at Quebec City manufactured .303 Mark VII bullets with Crupo Nickle jackets, lead cores and aluminium tips. These bullets were known to give extreme accuracy in good barrels and properly breached actions in weapons designed for this cartridge, without the slightest trouble with metallic fouling.

As the war progressed, with increased demands for S.A.A., shortages of certain metals appeared, among other crupo nickle.

The next step was to find some others suitable substitute. Gilding metal was discovered to be suitable and adopted by factories making S.A.A. This also became scarce as time went along and caused a critical period in production. Chemical experts were called into the picture to produce jackets made from steel as a substitute for the first two and finally produced jackets made from steel with a gilding metal skin. Here is where the trouble started and continues to give trouble. The skin rubs off on rough spots and also in tight barrels even if they are reasonable smooth".

The following method of cleaning is designed, not to stop metal fouling, or nickleing as it is sometimes called, but to minimize the trouble. Once a barrel picks up fouling it will continue to do so, so keep it clean as long as you can. If you have a new barrel in your rifle, treat it with strict kindness.

Never use coarse abrasives.

Never use metal brushes except in extreme cases. Note, the army metal gauge is valuable in war service but not for your match rifle.

Barrel abrasives are sold but should be used sparingly and only after advice from someone who is qualified to give it.

Ammonia will assist in cleaning barrels and likely is the safest way to remove fouling, but it must be removed a very short time after.

Cleaning of rifles: 1. Between and after matches pull through with dry bristle brush and dry 4x2 cloth.

2. After daily firing (a) oil 4x2 and clean, (b) Anti-fouling paste if needed on a 4xl cloth followed by stiff bristle brush, (c) Wash out barrel with varsol, and dry, (d) Ammonia with 4xl cloth, leave a few minutes and dry thoroughly, and (e) oil.

3. If to be stored for more than a week. Clean with oil regularly each day for at least three days. Finish with vaselene or heavy grease.

4. Wash brushes and kit in varsol before putting away.

5. Cleaning kit should consist of: 1. Lubrication oil, 2. 4x2 cloth, 3. Parker Hale cleaning rod, .303, 4. Bristle and brass brushes, .303, 5. Pull through with bristle brush attached., 6. Anti-fouling paste B.S.A., 7. Ammonia, 8. Varsol, 9. Wiper cloth.

TARTANS

Tartan retains its popularity with Scots both at home and abroad whilst its gay colours and attractive appearance fascinate the peoples of other nations. Never before have so many people shown so much interest in tartans although from time to time during the past century the wearing of tartan became fashionable throughout the country.

What is tartan? Tartan is a woven material, generally of wool, having stripes of different colours and varying in breadth. The arrangement of colours is alike in warp and weft---that is, in length and width--and when woven, has the appearance of being a number of squares intersected by stripes which cross each other. By changing the colours and varying the width and number of stripes, different patterns are evolved. Tartan patterns are called "setts" and by this is meant the complete pattern, and a length of tartan is made by repeating the pattern, or sett, over and over again.

The history of tartan, while interesting, is also controversial, and from time to time discussion has arisen regarding the antiquity of Clan tartans. Arguments are generally involved and can only be understood by those who have studied the subject.

References to tartan in early literature supply ample proof that tartan was worn many centuries ago. What may be the earliest written reference to tartan is contained in the accounts of the treasurer to King James III in the year 1471 where mention is made of tartan purchased for the use of the King and Queen.

It is improbable that the early tartans were as gaily coloured or as tastefully arranged as were the tartans of later years. The skill of the weaver and the availability of plants likely to supply vegetable dyes, were the chief factors in determining the sett of a tartan. Colours used would be restricted to the plant dyes found within the various districts. As chemical dyes became more common, the weavers enlarged their range of colours and introduced more colourful variations to the old patterns. When limited to vegetable dyes, the people of each district were forced by circumstances to use the same colours in their tartans and it is probable that the people of the various districts were recognized by the colours in their tartans. District tartans, as these early patterns are called, might also have served as the Clan tartan, because the people inhabiting Clan districts were, as a rule, members of the same Clan. By adding a stripe of different colour or by varying the arrangement of colours it is thought that branches of the Clan evolved their own tartans, yet by the similarity of pattern, they displayed their kinship with the main Clan.

What may be the earliest recorded reference to a Clan tartan appears in a Crown Charter of 1587 to Hector Maclean of Duart, wherein the few duty payable on the lands of Narraboll, Islay, is stated to be sixty ells of cloth, of white, black and green colours. These colours correspond to the colours in the tartan we now call Maclean hunting, but it is doubtful if their exact arrangement was the same as that in use at the present time.

Written evidence regarding the use of CLAN tartans prior to the Battle of Culloden are not available. It is generally supposed that each Clan had a special pattern of its own which was worn by the clansmen of the Clan as a means of identification and as a symbol of Clan kinship.

From this absence of written proof, critics maintain that CLAN tartans as we know them to-day are modern inventions, probably dating from the Battle of Culloden. These critics also aver that while tartan cloth is undoubtedly ancient, it has no Clan meaning and that the clansmen wore the tartan of their fancy and that inside each Clan the people wore a medley of tartans. The evidence of the oil paintings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is sometimes accepted as proof to support the critics' claims. Many genuine oil paintings show figures in Highland dress, but the dress displays different tartans in vests, coats and plaids. It should, therefore, be pointed out that the figures depicted are usually gentlemen of importance and it is well known that gentlemen dressed differently from the ordinary clansmen. One famous painting does show ordinary clansmen. This painting was executed at the command of the Duke of Cumberland and was painted by the French artist Morier. The scene depicts an encounter between regular troops of the British Army and some Highland clansmen. Jacobite prisoners were taken from the Tower of London to pose for this picture. Here again the Highlanders are shown wearing a variety of tartans in coats, vests and kilts, not one pattern being recognizable and all unlike any tartan known to-day. Too much importance should not be placed on this painting. The brutal treatment of the Jacobite prisoners of war, who were often stripped of their clothing, makes it highly improbable that the men were wearing their own clothing. It is unlikely that the captors would have taken the trouble to supply the men with their own Clan tartans. While this painting is interesting as illustrative of Highland dress of the period, and the artist had the reputation of being accurate in copying details, it should not be accepted as irrefutable proof that there were no Clan tartans.

Several writers have given descriptions of tartan which might infer that Clan tartans were worn before the Battle of Culloden, although they do not call them Clan tartans. Martin in his Description of the Western Islands of Scotland, published in 1706, tells us, "...Every Isle differs from each other in their fancy of making Plaids, as to the Stripes in Breadth and Colours. This Humour is as different thro the main Land of the Highlands, in-so-far that they who have seen those Places, are able, at the first view of a Man's Plaid, to guess the Place of his Residence..." These words would seem to imply that the people of each isle and district wore a common pattern whereby a stranger might identify their Clan district.

After the Jacobite defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 the Government determined to purge the Highlands of all unlawful elements and to destroy the Clan system. Accordingly an Act of Parliament was passed which not only aimed at the complete disarming of the Highland Clans but made the wearing of tartans a penal offence. This section of the act was strictly enforced. In 1782 the ban on tartans was removed, but by this time the Highlander had become accustomed to the dress worn in other parts of the country and showed no great enthusiasm to rush into tartan clothing. Tartan had, in fact, become only a memory. Many of the old weavers had died out and with their passing old patterns were forgotten. Interested gentlemen and organizations collected the old tartans wherever these could be found, and it is from these early collections that the most reliable information can be found.

In 1822 King George IV visited Edinburgh and the Highland chiefs were persuaded to attend the levies and other functions, all attired in their Clan tartans. Almost overnight tartan became popular and families, who probably had never before worn tartan, became the proud possessors of family tartans. Tailors and manufacturers alike were seldom at a loss to "find" a Clan or family tartan, but the bitter truth is that these so-called ancient tartans were invented for the occasion. Two gentlemen, known as the Sobieski-Stuart brothers, and who claimed to be grandsons of Prince Charlie, supplied details of tartans to many Clan chiefs and heads of families, claiming to have obtained their information from some sixteenth century manuscripts in possession. Their failure to produce the manuscripts for examination cast doubts upon their information and when in 1842 they published a book on tartans called the Vestiarium Scoticum it was dubbed a forgery. Many of the tartans in use to-day have no greater authority than this book, but their acceptance during the past 100 years has given them an antiquity of their own.

During the second half of the nineteenth century many books were published giving descriptions and illustrations of tartans all the authors claiming that the patterns given were old and genuine. To distinguish between true and bogus was becoming more and more difficult. Towards the end of the century many new tartans were invented, but of these it can be said no claims to antiquity were ever advanced.

To-day the confusion of fifty years ago has been regulated into some semblance of order and patterns are now, more or less, standardised into recognized settings.

Although many old patterns have been preserved these merely show the beauty of the old vegetable dyes and the hard-spun weaving of the eighteenth century. Very few of them are now recognizable as Clan tartans. The greatest number of our tartans to-day are less than 100 years old; a fairly large number may be dated to the opening years of the nineteenth century, while only a very small number are of more ancient date.

Tartans are described according to the purpose for which they are named.

CLAN TARTANS are patterns for general use by clanspeople. It is not uncommon to find a Clan tartan of recent origin described as "Ancient Clan tartan." The use of the word "ancient" is most misleading, as it is merely an indication that the tartan has been woven in lighter coloured shades.

DRESS TARTANS were originally worn by the ladies of the Clan who desired lighter coloured patterns. As a rule they had white as the background colour and were variations of the Clan pattern. Wearing of dress tartan is now confined to functions and other dress occasions. At one time **MOURNING** tartans were worn for the purpose for which they were named. They were generally of black and white.

Many are now worn as dress tartans. In recent years there has been a tendency to refer to Clan tartans woven in light weight material as "Dress" tartan. This causes confusion and should be avoided. Clans who do not possess a dress tartan usually wear the Clan pattern, in light weight material, as a dress tartan, but this does not justify the description of a Clan tartan as a "Dress" tartan.

HUNTING TARTANS are worn for sport and outdoor activities. Brown is generally the predominant colour. When a Clan possessed a brightly coloured tartan it was found unsuitable for hunting purposes, and hunting setts were devised to make the wearer less conspicuous. The colours are arranged so that when concealed in the heather, the tartan blended with the surroundings.

CHIEF TARTANS are the personal tartans of the Chiefs and should never be worn except by the Chief and his immediate family.

DISTRICT TARTANS are probably the oldest of our tartans from which Clan tartans may have developed. There are a number of District tartans which are, nowadays, worn by the people residing in, or having their place of origin in the district, always provided they are not entitled to wear a Clan tartan.

While tartan continues to excite the admiration of peoples everywhere, it is impossible to lay down hard and fast rules regarding choice of tartans. In all probability the would-be wearer of tartan will select the "tartan of his fancy." One caution may be voiced. The Royal tartans are for the use of the Royal family and should not be worn by anyone outside the Royal family except by consent. Military tartans are for military use only.

CADET CORPS

In this addition of the Falcon we would like to tell the readers a little bit about our Cadet Corps, it's training, organization and administration.

This year we have drawn up a training schedule which consists of a variety of subjects such as: Light Machine Gun, Rifle, Drill, Fundamentals, Elementary Tactics, Fieldcraft and many more. This training is divided into three divisions: (a) Recruit Course, (b) Cadet Second Class, (c) Cadet First Class.

We have instructors training each of these groups. The instructors are boys who have had training at Camp Ipperwash for two or three years and have grading of A and B which in both cases qualifies them as Junior NCOs in the Reserve Unit. The job of these instructors is to teach and supervise the cadets.

Training is on both Tuesday and Friday Evenings and consists of two periods, 45 minutes long.

When a cadet joins the corps, he is given third class cadet or recruit training which is held on both Tuesdays and Fridays. After completing this course he is given a test to see if he is qualified for Cadet Second Class. Cadet Second Class Training is held on Friday only. On Tuesday he is given an opportunity to take up a special subject such as Mortar, Bren, Anti-tank, First Aid, Signals or Range Course.

Although outdoor exercises are conducted in spring by the corps. Schemes are only allowed to those cadets who are invited by one of the Company Commanders who conducts schemes for their Company.

Senior Leaders and Junior NCOs Courses are conducted on Sunday afternoons. In these courses recapitulation on all cadet training is taken, along with more advanced training such as Gas, Grenades and Technique of Instructing.

Entertainment is provided throughout the year such as dancing, bowling, Sports and amateur show, etc.

The question has been aroused a number of times as to whether or not some of the lads in our Corps are too young. But I assure you that there are, to our knowledge, only two cadets under age. The age is fourteen to eighteen inclusive. Boys under five foot four are put into a platoon of their own, known as Bantam Platoon. The rest of the cadets are then divided into two other platoons. First Platoon for Senior Cadets qualifying for First and Second Class Cadets. Second Platoon for Recruits undergoing Third Class or Recruit Training.

Equipment for our training is obtained from the Reserve who's wonderful co-operation has made our cadet corps worthwhile.

"A" COY. NEWS

"A" Coy had a tough time at Camp this year, as all the N.C.O.s except Cpl. McCabe and two Sgts, were in courses with the Regular Army. (Speaking of the regular Army, which N.C.O. will ever forget Sgt. Paquin?). But they still were a close thing to C Coy for the pennant and besides everyone enjoyed themselves. As in the previous year, we had our Camp party with Don Coy, and nobody can say they didn't have a good night, even the Padre was heard to laugh. We should have more Company get-togethers. A Vote of Thanks goes to the Queen's Own Rifles and The Irish Regiment for standing in for the 48th Jnr. N.C.O.s on a night scheme so that we could attend our Coy Party.

We were sorry to see Mjr. Cunningham leave the Coy., but he had to go to Pakistan for U.N.O. We shall miss him but wish him all the best of luck. Mr. Potts has been promoted to Cpl. and temporary Coy Cmdr., We would like to see him hold the position permanent as he has done a lot of good work for A Coy in such a short time.

We have two new fathers in the Coy. Cpl. Winnal's wife had a brand new baby boy and Pte. White's wife presented him with a daughter. We hope mothers and children are all doing very well.

The O.R.A. Competition was held on 16th of October, The 48th turned out to a man even though it was a wet dirty day, and nobody can be ashamed of any score they got.

We would like to welcome our new recruits, Pte. Wooldridge, Pte. Wylde, the brothers Libby and Pte. Clarkson. We hope you will all stay a long time and be part of Canada's greatest Regiment.

"B" COY NEWS

Welcome back and here we are ready to start another training season. Needless to say those who couldn't attend Summer Camp missed one of the highlights of the year. Everyone worked very hard this year to make it a success, and it was. Unfortunately Pte. Sperry sprained his ankle on the first day and pressed blankets for a number of days after. The only other casualty during camp was Pte. G. Reid who together with the sun and Buffalo had a very rosy complexion. One of the real highlights was "Mounting Guard" by the 48th which took place at Fort George. Baker Coy was ably represented with Cpls Quinn, Beaumont, and Ptes Ferguson, Shaw, Johnson. It was a grand show fellows! Sports Day again showed a fine lot of teamwork and although we didn't win we came close and I think the 48th can take a loss as well as a win in a Sportsman-like way. Baker Coy was chosen to put on a wiring demonstration for the Battalion. Everything came off successfully and can be attributed to the fine cooperation between members of Baker Coy.

Of course there were a few excursions to Buffalo and Niagara Falls which made the evenings very pleasant. Our Company party at Camp was a success and we have no intentions of arguing with Pte. Reid as to whether Scotland should be an independent nation. Also included on the programme were stories by celebrities and a sing song. Next evening (during the Reel O'Tulloch) we knew we had had a good time.

Congratulations are in order to Cpls. Andrews and Cpl. Beaumont who successfully passed their H.C.O.s courses.

During the summer a few of the lads took a trip to Syracuse for the Highland Games. They even rated a picture in the local newspaper and by odd coincidence it was taken in front of a liquor store. Fan mail is still coming from that fair town to two of our members, Ptes. Guisepe and Reid. We heard many funny stories from this trip and believe that everyone had a terrific time.

On behalf of the whole Company I would like to extend to L/Cpl. Sinclair and his bride our best wishes for a long and successful marriage. Also a hearty welcome to our new recruits McGuire, Flarity, Spates and Muise.

Looking at the Syllabus, this looks like a very interesting year, thanks to the efforts of Major Brown, and with everyone doing his part I'm sure we will all get something out of this year.

"C" COY NEWS

Welcome back for another season fellows. After such a long rest you should all be raring to start the fall training period. It certainly was a wonderful turnout for the first parade, just keep it up and we will be back up there in first place once more.

There is one outstanding feat of valour, courage, endurance, call it what you may, that took place at Camp Niagara this year. That I'm sure will be remembered for a long time by the Regiment and of course most of all by everyone in "C" Coy that is the 880 yard relay in which there were four streaks of lightning from "C" Coy, who raced over the finish line for the glory of the 48th. They were behind at the 440 yard mark when Pte. Turpin put on such a spectacular burst of speed