

THE FALCON

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This publication is issued under the authority of Lt. Col. Hamish K. MacIntosh, M.B.E., E.D., 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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Message from The Commanding Officer - Lt. Col. Hamish K. MacIntosh, M.B.E., E.D.

This is the first time that I have broken into print in the "Falcon" although you are all no doubt aware of the many words that I have written in the orders which have been issued since I took command of the Regiment some three years ago.

As my tour as Commanding Officer draws to a close, perhaps it is fitting that we should look back on the last three years to see what we have accomplished, and take a small view of the future.

When I took command we were a Regiment which had done much, and you and I were very pleased with the results. I believe that the three years in which we have worked together have been very fruitful and have produced a much stronger and better organized Regiment.

The first step which was taken was to insist on "Quality" and not "Quantity". This was started by striking off our rolls over 100 personnel who for many reasons were not attending parades regularly. From there our programme of returning the Regiment to "Full Dress" went ahead at full steam. What started out to be a three year programme was accomplished in just over a year, and culminated in "Trooping The Colour" on June 2nd, 1956. The blood, sweat and tears that were expended by all ranks, to make these events possible, is something which I shall never forget.

The reputation of this Regiment has always been good with other Units in the Toronto Garrison, but I don't believe it has ever been higher in the post war period than on that June 2nd when 25,000 people came to see us at the C.N.E. Grandstand. It was a day to be remembered, for I do not believe a larger audience, in one stand, has ever witnessed any ceremonial the Highlanders have staged.

During the balance of 1956 the work of training and strengthening continued, and early in 1957 it was decided to "Troop" again. These "Troops" are of course only rehearsals for the time when we expect our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to present the Regiment with new Colours, possibly in 1959.

Following a highly successful "Troop" on June 1st, the Regiment went to camp at Niagara, taking a new group with us known as "Summer Recruits". When the Fall came these "Recruits" were Highlanders and today fill the ranks of "B" Coy.

In the Fall of 1957 certain changes in Militia Training were announced by almost anyone who could get the newspapermen to listen. This created a feeling of uncertainty which lasted only until we realized that the Highlanders have been, and always will be, the Highlanders, regardless of what happens and who says it. If anything, the whole messed up publicity given to Civil Defence drew us closer together and made the Regiment stronger.

The Regimental History (1929-1956) was, of course, published in December and gave everyone an insight into what the Regiment means to a Highlander, young or old. The definition of "Dileas" given by a Corporal is one of the finest things I have ever read.

Now 1958 has started and my time draws to a close and will terminate on April 18th when I hand over command to our new Commanding Officer. The future looks bright for the Regiment, but it is always our own individual desires which will make this come true, no one else can do it for us.

These last years as your Commanding Officer have been the most rewarding I have ever experienced with the Regiment. We have all worked hard and have played harder. I shall never forget your help, co-operation, willingness and above all, your desire to make this Regiment what it is today.

May you continue on to make the Regiment prosper with the good wishes of myself and all other Highlanders. Dileas Gi Brath.

A well-known Caithness farmer bought a Rolls Royce to impress his neighbours. The dealer afterwards asked him if he was fully satisfied with it.

"Aye Man" he replied, "An a'm fair taken wi' 'at glass parteeshan ye pit 'atween 'e front an' back seits!"

"Oh, why is that", enquired the dealer.

"Weel" explained the farmer, "I'd stops 'e peegs an' sheep fae lickin' 'e back o' ma neck fan a'm takin' them in til' 'e Mart at Thirsa!"

The 15th Battalion C.E.F. Leaves Germany, 1919

narrative supplied by the Historical Section, Army Headquarters, Ottawa - from
The Canadian Army Journal for October, 1957

In the First World War the 48th Highlanders of Canada raised three battalions for service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Two of these (the 92nd and 134th Battalions) got only as far as England, being used as reinforcement battalions. The 15th Battalion served in France and Flanders from February 1915 onward, with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Canadian Division.

After the Armistice, the 1st and 2nd Canadian Divisions served for a time in the Allied force which was sent to Germany to ensure that the Armistice terms were observed. With pipes playing "Blue Bonnets over the Border", the 15th Battalion marched across the German frontier from Belgium on the cold, dry morning of 7 December 1918. These were the first kilted troops which the onlooking Germans had yet seen. Six days later the Highlanders crossed the Rhine at Cologne, in which area they remained on occupation duty for the next three and a half weeks. On 7 January 1919 the 15th Battalion's part of the Cologne Bridgehead was divided between two British battalions. On the morning of that day, the Highlanders staged their second-last ceremonial parade on German soil. Their courteous and soldierly conduct had so impressed the German civilians that many, who at first had been sullen and suspicious, lined the route to bid them a warm farewell. Next day the Battalion entrained for Belgium at Bensberg. It returned to Canada four months later.

DILEAS - A Review by Gregory Clark, from the Telegram, January 18, 1958.

To no publisher but to a military unit goes the credit for having produced one of the most remarkable books published in Canada for many a year.

DILEAS, pronounced Dilly-us, is the narrative of a famous Canadian regiment in the last war. Dileas gu brath is the inscription on the 48th badge: faithful forever.

DILEAS is a massive book. It weighs three pounds, ten ounces. It is a beautiful book, beautifully bound, printed in deluxe fashion, with 32 pages of photographs and eleven maps--a total of 814 pages.

It sells for \$4.75 and only 3,000 copies have been printed.

I give you these statistics first so that you will be saved the shock I experienced, as an old reader of regimental stories, when I opened the volume and found, almost at the first page, that here was something not to be set, memorially, on a shelf; but to be read.

The preparation and writing of a regimental war history is usually a sorry job. It is often done by devoted amateurs. Or else professional writers are hired who haven't a clue as to the realities, the stark, the cold, the warm, the lovable realities that involve some hundreds of officers and some thousands of men who come and go, one way or the other, in a regiment at war.

Captain Kim Beattie who wrote Dileas, is an officer of the 48th. He was a private soldier of the regiment, the 15th Battalion, in the First War, a runaway boy of 16, who celebrated his 16th birthday in Floegsteert, Flanders, and whose real age was not discovered until two years later, age 18, when he was wounded at Passchendaele. Therefore, since boyhood he knows about war and soldiers.

In the Second War, commissioned, he was a public relations officer attached to First Corps. Therefore, in middle-age, he knew about this last war.

In peace, he started as a young poet. He became a newspaperman for years. And now he is again a public relations man, serving industry. A better equipped man to help create this beautiful book could hardly be imagined.

The first step taken towards Dileas was soon after the regiment got home from the war. The several commanding officers were requested to prepare, quite apart from the official war diaries possessed by the regiment, a personal narrative of their recollections of the unit during their command.

With these to start with, Kim Beattie was instructed to begin, eight of the 12 years ago, to collect material, by letter, by personal interview with hundreds of visitors to his home and his office, from officers, especially non-commissioned officers, and man, a monumental record of personal experience.

Brigadier Ian Strachan Johnston, who commanded the 48th from the period of the final training in Scotland in 1943 to close to the end of the Italian campaign, was chairman of the regimental committee concerned with the history, and not only stood by Kim Beattie's side all through the job, but was the stern hand, Kim tells me, who restrained Kim from making the book weigh seven pounds instead of three ten.

Kim says the book could not have been done without Ian Johnston. And Ian Johnston says Dileas couldn't have been done without Kim. But a gifted writer and a distinguished soldier, both of them notable for their gusto, quad erat demonstrandum, have produced not only a history, which should satisfy every man who served in the 48th, which, I suppose, is the first function of a regimental history; but a narrative of extraordinary human interest to readers who don't know a butt salute from a trooping of the colour.

What of the long wait in Britain? How do some thousands of men boil down to the fighting machine that breached the Hitler Line?

It is done man by man. And Dileas is a book, man by man, a story on every page. Clergymen, churchgoers, will thrill to the share the great 48th padre, Stewart East, has in it. Doctors will rouse a little from their fatigue to read of the medical officer, Capt. F. L. Skinner, whose fatigue never showed.

I have never read a war history with so many human beings in it.

The cost of publishing this unique book has been borne by the 48th regimental associations. The price was set to make it available to every member of the unit who wants it. It can be bought by anyone at the publication office mentioned in the heading; at the 48th orderly room in the University Avenue Armouries, and at book stores. There is bound to be a scramble for it.

About the Author of Dileas - Captain Kim Beattie.

"What soul but stirred and leapt when gallant story

Was added to the lore of mighty deeds?

What lad but dreamed of days of storm and glory?

What youthful blood but sang to dauntless deeds?"

This is one verse from the World War I poems of Kim Beattie. It is included in a slim volume of rhymes inspired by his service in the trenches which commenced in 1915 when he was 15 years old. The book, published in 1929, was called "And You" after the soldier's favourite retort to the taunts of his comrades.

The verse is recalled here because it is a clue to the spirit in which Kim Beattie has told the story of his regiment. To him the "gallant stories" to be "added to the lore of mighty deeds" are stories of individual men and groups of men--not of huge armies moving in the impersonal design of grand strategy.

Men--not events--are what count for Beattie and he is able to find noble qualities in the most barefaced of lead-swinging rascals.

There is another verse of Kim's which explains a little why he has the knack of transmuting factual military history into a warm, human document. It goes:

"I do not seek to stir an old stern sorrow

Nor probe old wounds of grieving and of pain:

I only write that my old mates may borrow

A glimpse along their old trails once again."

In an adjoining article above, Kim Beattie's history of the 48th "Dileas" is described by Gregory Clark who, as a war correspondent, was in the neighbourhood of a great many of the events Kim relates, Greg, too, has been captivated by the lovely, often lyrical, language in which Kim tells about some of the MEN who fought a war.

Our only excuse for wanting to supplement what Greg Clark has written is a personal (and sentimental) one. Kim has been a friend of long, long standing. We have always believed that he was one of Canada's finest writers. There are great passages in "Dileas" which confirm it. This one, for example, describing the wait for a barrage preceding zero hour for operation Morning Glory, an attack just south of Ortona, Italy, in Dec., 1943:

"The drizzle had almost stopped, but the morning was still dull and overcast as the Highlanders crouched into the mud and waited in silence for the stupendous sound that was soon to break above, in front and all around them. The forced jeers were done...The fear-defying raillery between friends in such taut times was over. No one dared speak now lest a voice give away nerves. Just before the barrage cracked, the whole front fell quiet, a strange waiting stillness for the last seconds, as if the grey sky knew. It was like the pause that is said to come before an earthquake, with nature holding her breath in a sort of terrified anticipation of the violence to come. There was that last interminable moment filled with awful menace...and then the violence came.

"The backlines of the whole Canadian front suddenly flamed with a great orange flash....

"There may have been whistles blown when the platoon and section leaders' synchronized watches touched the second to go. But they were not heard. There was a pause and a leap in the tone and tempo of the barrage thunder...and then (the men) were all up, all going forward, though they never knew how. Their soldier's instinct was in command.

"They crossed the start line at 8.20 a.m. and were on their way."

"Dileas" is intended as a formal, regimental record--an addition to military archives. But it rises far above that function. It has a right to a proud place in our nation's literature. -- L. M. McKechnie.

The title of Kim Beattie's history of the 48th is derived, of course, from the first word of the Regiment's Gaelic motto "Dileas Gu Brath" (faithful forever). But Mr. Beattie reports a better translation--one a 48th corporal was overheard explaining to a new recruit. Here it is:

"Dileas?" Why, man, that's the Regiment's heart, lungs and guts. It makes us tick. It's why a 48th Highlander fights. It's how he walks and how he behaves. It's how he acts and how he thinks. It's spirit, morale, discipline, pride... anything you like. It's everything. Man, it's the Regiment."

O'Leary's wife awoke in the middle of the night to hear her husband creeping about in the kitchen.

"What might ye be looking for, darling?" she called out.

"Nothing," called back O'Leary. "Just nothing."

"Oh!" said his wife cheerfully. "Then you'll find it in the bottle where the whisky used to be."

A magistrate was discussing beverages with a friend.

"Have you ever tried gin and ginger beer?" asked the friend.

"No," replied the magistrate, "but I've tried a lot of folks who have."

He: "Whisper those three little words that will make me walk on air."

She: "Go hang yourself."

Officers' Mess - Theatre Night

On the snowy evening of January 18, 195 of the officers and sergeants met at 5.30 in the R.C.A.S.C. Officers' Mess for cocktails. We then adjourned to our Officers' Mess for a buffet supper. At approximately 8 o'clock we gathered at the Tivoli theatre where we saw "Around The World In Eighty Days", with appropriate comments throughout by Captain Keeling. Following the picture, the Officers' Mess was host to any who wished to return there.

Notes from the Pipes and Drums -

It is some time since this part of the Regiment has been heard from but contrary to the prevalent rumour that we were sent en masse to Whitehorse after the results of the Maxville Games were announced. We hasten to add such was not the case.

Going back over the past few months the main event which stands out more than any other was Summer Camp. This year's camp was a record in many ways for the Pipes and Drums. We had the largest band at Camp in the memory of the Senior NCO's (and man, that's real far gone!) - thirty-six men were on hand for the first four days and thirty one for the full time. No doubt everyone will agree that the most rigorous effort was required by all to orient themselves on that first Sunday morning. In spite of the clear blue sky and shining sun a heavy 'fog' persisted. In fact so heavy was this 'fog' in certain quarters that it took a certain bass drummer an hour and a half to find his way back to the lines after going after his bass drum for reveille. In fact if the drum major had not discovered him talking incoherently and wandering aimlessly around the parade square and taken compassion on him, gently leading him back to the fold, he would probably be there yet! As a condition such as this could not continue a high level conference resulted in a regular early morning inoculation, under supervision of the Pipe Major, of "BAFD" Mark I" - the main base of which is reputed to be drambuie - a few days later it was necessary owing to 'exigencies of the service' to resort to "BAFD Mark II", which according to the formula has a rum base but according to experience must contain a liberal portion of Hydrochloric Acid and razor blades in equal portions. (for the benefit of the uninitiated 'BAFD' stands for "beverage alcoholic fog dispensing").

From thence forward our presence became felt in many activities from Buffalo to the men's canteen and back. A certain 'agent' apparently booked the group into a very exclusive night club in Buffalo but difficulties arose as one of our "artists" was half way through his number (too bad he neglected to get an 'ava' clearance, it could have been a good act). The (financial) setback suffered by our group on this occasion resulted in their nocturnal activities being confined to the men's canteen for the balance of the week. ("It will cost you a dollar to sit down here").

As the Buffalo event took place on the night before the Sports Day we were all but written off by the other entrants however such was not the case, the Pipes and Drums coming through with more than their share of glory. The sight of our Jousting Team (Drummer John Parks, Piper Dave Buchan) standing knee deep in their adversaries and looking for more was something to behold.

Aside from regular daily duties (and irregular night duties) the Pipes and Drums gave two displays during the week - on Sunday afternoon for the visitors and an evening performance on the occasion of the Officers' Dinner. On both occasions the dancing teams under S/Sgt. Stewart gave the spectators a display of Highland Dancing. This was the first opportunity that many of the men of the Regiment had had of seeing this activity of the band.

Soldiering really began in earnest when the boys (with some coaxing) decided to try and win the best lines - whitewash appeared in copious quantities and as Major Brown remarked " _____ " They are outguarding the guards, it is the

first time I have seen anyone whitewashing coal". The enthusiasm of the man with the brush (Piper 'Pete' Gordon) knew no bounds. As Drummer John Parks will testify we have not been able to figure out the resemblance between John's feet hanging over the end of the bed and a nearby tent peg. Perhaps it was the angle of the view.

As S/Sgt. Stewart on his hands and knees was labouriously completing the word "drums" in small whitewashed pebbles...A voice was heard to say in an enquiring manner "who are the Pipes and Drums". This remark had an electrifying effect on the 'staff', the R.S.M. and the "Drummie" who were standing nearby. It is doubtful if any 2/Lieut. ever had such an opportunity to learn so much regimental history in such a short time. (We also won the pennant!) However, all good things must end and with regret we said goodbye for another year (we hope!) with our memories to carry us over the gap. Unanswered queries -- "Who is Corporal Grouch", Is it true that "Pipsey" and "Drummie" are trying to talk Major MacKay into a partnership on the latter's famous 'pile drivers?'?", "Is it true that the monstrous apparition seen in the lines after dark bearing a huge emblazoned banner was the Ghost of Ghengis Khan leading his legions (or was it 'Big John' with his supporters, or should we say guides?)".

However back to the salt mines and competitions, the 1957 season was not a complete victory but it was one of the best, both as a band and in the individual field with Cpl's. Gilmour and MacKay coming through in fine style in the individual field.

The year's results were as follows:

Band Competitions:

Embro Games - 1st prize open march, Strathspey and Reel

1st " " Slow March.

Maxville Games - 2nd prize - March Strathspey and Reel

(actually a tie on total points)

2nd prize Open Slow March.

Hamilton Games - 1st prize Open March Strathspey and Reel

1st " " Slow March

1st " Best Drum section

Fergus Games - 1st Open March Strathspey and Reel

1st Open Slow March

As the last notes die away at the season's closing Games we begin thinking and planning for the next year and the beginning of the new year will find us hard at work on the 1958 set.

Earlier this passed year Columbia records Ltd. released their 12" L.P. record of the Pipes and Drums and according to the correspondence coming in from all parts of the world it is certainly well distributed. Letters and enquiries have been received from South America, U.S.A., South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain, and more arriving each week.

During the season the Pipes and Drums have played several outstanding public engagements of which the most outstanding was the performance for the Dave Garroway Show at the C.N.E. A television performance carried on some thirty North American T.V. networks. Our most recent appearance was the Grey Cup Parade which we have led for the past two years. Just how this is accomplished after a night at the Officers' Ball will have to remain a trade secret, but it is not true that the Drum Major and Capt. Keeling were seen introducing each other to themselves as if strangers the next morning (what did happen to the first six blocks of the march?).

Since our last notes we have welcomed several new Pipers and Drummers to the band. Increases this year to the pipe section have been Pipers: R. Dewar, G. Halligan and P. Mulvenna. Drummers: H. Clarke, F. Laird, J. Parks, J. Pombiere, K. West.

There have been also some other additions to the band 'family' (if not for a few years to the band) during the year. Cpl. Charles Spence has become the proud father of a girl and pipers 'Pete' Gordon and Jim Macpherson have become the proud fathers of boys - (Pipers, no doubt!).

During the summer Drummer 'Sandy' Leil decided to go along with the majority and is now a happily married man.

We are pleased to see Drummers Al Carter and Ken West back in our midst after their sessions in hospital.

Before closing we would like to mention that we now have an official ex-members contact man, in the person of Ex-Drummer Bill Lee. Any ex-member of Pipes and Drums who would like to keep in touch with our activities in the future should give Bill a call and leave his address or phone number.

Cadet Corps:

The 48th Highlanders of Canada Open Cadet Corps has been working very hard this year trying to rebuild itself into a unit that will be worthy of its sponsoring regiment.

To begin with, the instructional staff was completely changed in September upon the retirement of Messrs. Lang, Robertson, and MacLachlan. Captain J. Grant Carscallen, CS of C was appointed Chief Instructor, with Lt. Hollis B. Arnold as Adjutant, and Lt. Paul Drummond as Quartermaster. In December, 2/Lt. Erwin Pliva was appointed as Training Officer. All these gentlemen are qualified Cadet Training Officers with previous experience in School Cadet Corps. Captain Carscallen was Chief Instructor of New Toronto Secondary School Cadet Corps for three years prior to his present appointment.

Since September the instructional staff has been endeavouring to rebuild the membership of the Corps as well as introducing a new, and, we hope, interesting syllabus. Several of the old Cadets dropped out in the late fall, some to the regiment, others simply because they were overage or were moving out of town. This has hurt the Corps, undoubtedly, but since January we have been pleased to recruit a few more lads. However, we are in desperate need of many more boys and would welcome any worthy prospects between the ages of 14 and 18.

In closing, I should like to draw attention to our very fine Pipe Band under the able direction of Mr. Finlayson. The band has been practicing faithfully since September, and proof of its calibre was made known last week when several members were asked to parade with the Regiment's Pipe Band.

Two Texas oilmen were making a visit to the big city. They swaggered into an automobile showroom.

"How much is that one in the window?" one of them asked the salesman, pointing to a very special job.

"Ten thousand," was the reply.

"I'll take it," drawled the Texan as he pulled out a huge bankroll.

At this point his companion took hold of his arm and said, "Oh, no, I'll get it. You bought the lunch."

A traveling salesman held up in the Orkney Islands by a bad storm, telegraphed to his firm in Aberdeen: "Marooned by storm. Wire instruction as of yesterday."

The reply came: "Start summer vacation."

"B" Coy notes:

We are pleased to welcome the following to the Company. Officer Cadet Scott, Ptes. Bow, Middleton, Rabb and Vaskoja.

At the beginning of December several members of the Company went to Meaford for the weekend for instruction and practice in M.M.G., and 75 recciless rifle. We were pleased to observe that the safety of the Armouries is now assured.

We held a Company party before Christmas and the success of the evening was added to by the show put on by Pte. Langcaster and his two brothers.

Congratulations to Mr. Pearce on his promotion to Lieutenant and we hope he doesn't wield his Claymore "like a b----- pitchfork" in future.

Thanks are due to several stalwarts for their work on the redecoration of the Company room during the Christmas recess.

We are now conducting Highland Dancing lessons under Staff Sergeant Stewart most Friday nights after parade, and we would like to thank him and his two pipers and drummer for their efforts.

Congratulations to Cpl. Shaw on his being entered for the Sr. N.C.O. Course and to Ptes. Glenn and Walker for the Jr. N.C. O. Course.

Condolences to C.S.M. Wignall and Sgt. Martin who are endeavouring to "examine arms from the order" with the new C. I. rifle. (one-not I).

Sgt. "Hopalong" Andrews is back with us and we couldn't understand why he wasn't too keen on coming with us on

Operation Polar Bear which was held on Sunday, 16th February. This march was a "howling and frigid" success and Major LeMesurier, Madore, Rabb and Wellman, also Ptes. Murray and Gilmour from Support Company and Cadet Sergeant Breck managed to battle against Antarctic conditions for over 16 miles. Officer Cadet Benson, in the role of enemy, was completely and utterly obliterated (if only for the reasons 1. that we were 40 minutes late and 180° off course. 2. that he was away looking for us when we attacked him and 3. that even blank firing Brens do not fire without breechblocks.) Pte. Millier of Support Company did noble work as mobile canteen manager, and we would like to thank Mrs. LeMesurier for preparing hot (and it was the only hot thing of the day) coffee and chocolate without which we might have felt a bit chilly!!

"C" COY reports:

Since the last issue of the Falcon there has been a considerable change in Charlie Company. However, before reporting the changes the company would like to welcome back as its new commander, Capt. P.A.G. Cameron. Previously Capt. Cameron was a subaltern with the company. Last spring when he was promoted to his present rank he left us to take a tour of duty as adjutant. Since his return to the Company he has inspired us with a new and enlightening spirit. The company also extends its best wishes to Maj. Heighington our previous company commander who has recently left the Regiment.

The most prominent change in Charlie Company is the number of new members. Due to the efforts of Capt. Cameron, Mr. Oster, and Sgt. Maj. Kelley, the company has undertaken an extensive recruiting programme. Many of the new faces are former members of the company who now belong to 7 platoon. The company cordially welcomes back these members. There are also several new recruits who are now being inducted to the Regimental way of life in 8 platoon. The company also extends a welcome to them.

At the end of the fall term H.Q. Coy evicted Charlie Coy from its old quarters. As a result the company has now taken up residence next door in Room 125. Under the direction of Mr. Stack, alterations to our new room are now taking place.

The ceiling is being lowered, recessed lights are going to replace the old bare light bulbs, the walls are to be painted, the floor is to be varnished and waxed and anyone who butts out a cigarette on the floor will be doing ten push-ups. As a result of our new premises, new members and a new company commander, the character of Charlie Company has taken another and a better change.

Regarding training the company is carrying on its regular military training under the two platoon system, a trained platoon, and a recruit platoon. The company is also looking forward to the new Army Rescue Training programme. The company is sure that it will be soon enlightened on this subject by Sgt. Maj. Kelley and Cpl. Beaumont. Cpl. Beaumont is also on the Junior N.C.O.'s course.

Last but not least the company had a dance last December in the Men's Canteen. Although the attendance was small, a ball was had by all who were there. Sgt. Saunderson and Cpl. Tonks were both noted for their fine performance in the Strip the Willow. It was also noted by a few that Mr. Oster was struck blind by a black sheath dress! The company extends its thanks to Cpl. Dunne who was responsible for organizing the party.

In conclusion the company is in a fine state of health and is taking a long look forward to a prosperous and enlightening year in 1958.

"D" Coy news:

I am happy to report that "D" Coy is back into full swing following quite a long break in parading at Christmas. The activity of the Company did not, however, cease during this break.

The Social Committee worked hard planning a party for the night of Sat., December 14, 1957. The gayly decorated canteen was comfortably filled by couples from the other companies as well as "D" Coy and their ladies. To say the least it was a very enjoyable and successful evening.

The company has a very good representation on the Jr. N.C.O. Course in the persons of: L/Cpl. Brady, Pte. N. Ballantyne, Pte. W. E. Dinsmore, Pte. T. H. Martin, and Pte. T. E. Parker. Cpl. Melville will be attending a Sr. N.C.O.'s Course.

The responsibility of training has, since the Christmas break, been assumed by individual companies.

Training within "D" Company has been planned and is currently being run on a competitive basis, with three groups under the charge of Sgt. Cole, L/Sgt. Eden, and Cpl. Melville respectively. Each group will proceed at a pace determined by how fast the subjects are mastered. There will be constant competition between these groups, thus, providing an opportunity for each man to show his progress.

The Regiment has just procured a number of gym mats which will enable us to begin the judo programme which was proposed last Fall.

It is Maj. Brown's intention to run at least one scheme per month during the Spring Training period.

In addition to the regular training programme, the Civil Defence Training will supply us with an opportunity and a challenge. This is an opportunity to do something new; a stimulus which the Militia has always needed. The challenge of doing something which is necessary and of which only the Militia is sufficiently organized to do, will be met with the same enthusiasm and good spirit with which this Regiment, and in particular this Company has met all its challenges.

We have been very fortunate in having the Padre, H/Capt. Ross K. Cameron, spend so much of his time with us, both in the Company Orderly Room and on formal dismissals. Maj. Brown was overheard to say, though, that he was not sure as to whether the Padre was fond of us as a company or whether he is trying to keep us out of trouble.

I am certain that "D" Coy looks forward to further success and enjoyment in the months that lie ahead.

Support Coy Reports:

Well another issue of the Falcon rolls around and so does the news from Support Company. The big news is "RECRUITS, RECRUITS, RECRUITS," our Company now has on strength eighty-four men, all ranks, which is larger than any other Company in the battalion and we stand "second to none".

As well as having MORTAR, MACHINE GUN, ANTI TANK, TRANSPORT AND SIGNAL COURSES going, we also have large numbers of men on the Junior and Senior N.C.O. Courses and Civil Defence Course, with two men on the C. I. Rifle Course. With this amount of activity and training, it is small wonder we are so big. Our Company clerk Cpl. Parkman is greying a bit on top trying to keep track of all the new men.

As everyone must have noticed by now, Support Company has a new H.Q. room 119, also rooms 120 and 121, house our other Platoons, C.S.M. Jones is looking into the possibility of a fourth room for our weapons. All these rooms are undergoing a face-lifting job of painting, sanding and general repair of all cupboards and lockers.

When we Troop the Colour in May our Company will supply the first two guards of forty men each.

Our Meaford scheme was a huge success all around. The meals were excellent, training was tops, and spirits were high. The snow storm that came up on Saturday called a halt to the firing for awhile but with lectures and indoor demonstrations and cleaning to be done we had lots to do. Attached to our Company for the scheme were a contingent from "B" Coy as well as a "ROOF A TROOPER" from "D" Coy, namely Pte. "BIGTOM JUMPER MARTIN". He put on quite a demonstration of jumping for a few of the early risers (3.30 a.m.). The Platoon of R.C.R.'s which were there with us said he was quite good? I think I can still hear them laughing. Only one sick man on the scheme and that was Pte. (THE COAT) WOZNICA with a slight touch of the flu. THE BOBBSEY TWINS put on their usual exhibition of "SODDERY". Namely, Pte. LUSHY LUTTRELL and Pte. BOOZER LITTLE.

Our Christmas dinner went over real big with champagne cocktails being served before the dinner. The Colonel arrived at 5 p.m. and it was not until the Queen was played that he left. This is the only time he has ever done this. Our entertainment committee was quite honoured. The turn out for the dance was tremendous and everyone had a good time.

Our three carriers have recently been completely overhauled and are in top running condition, and there is keen competition among the Platoons to get theirs looking the best. All the men are working hard at painting them and keeping the insides spotless, so as to be ready for one of those SNAP inspections of Major Lowndes.

Well that's all from Support Company for now, but always remember, look to Support for leaders, a good social life and above all---Exprit-de-Corps.

P.S. EVERY MAN IN SUPPORT COMPANY IS A POTENTIAL N.C.O.