



Change of Command

hereby relinquish command of
The 48th Highlanders of Canada
to
LCol J.A. Morische, CD

LCol R.A. Alkema, CD

hereby accept command of
The 48th Highlanders of Canada
from
LCol R.A. Alkema, CD

LCol J.A. Morische, CD

I hereby certify that the Change of
Command of The 48th Highlanders
of Canada between LCol R.A. Alkema, CD
and LCol J.A. Morische, CD was con-
ducted in our presence at Moss
Park Armoury, Toronto, Ontario
this 17th day of October, 2021.

LCol J.M.C. McEwen, CD
Commander, 32 CMLG

Col J.B. MacIntyre
Honourary Colonel



THE FALCON
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2021





A screen grab from the 48th Highlanders online virtual ceremony. [click here to see the video on YouTube.](#)

ON THE COVER:

The change of command scroll presented to the incoming Commanding Officer: Lt Colonel J.A. Morische CD, on 17 October 2021.

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK:

Welcome to our latest Virtual Falcon. Special thanks to all contributors: the CO, HCOL, RSM and many other serving members of the Active Battalion, also to Maj Brian McCue, CO of the SAC Cdt Corps, and to the following retired members – BGEN Greg Young, LCOL Brian Jackson, former HCOL Geordie Beal and IODE members. Without all of your efforts and assistance, this Falcon would not have been possible.

BRAVO ZULU for all that each of you contributed!

DILEAS,

SG, CAPT (RET), EDITOR



A screen grab from 48th Highlanders of Canada virtual ceremony. [click here to see the video on YouTube.](#)



The Falcon, the Journal of the 48th Highlanders of Canada's Regimental Family, is published by the 48th Highlanders Trusts.

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If you would like to contribute to future issues, please e-mail your stories and pictures to:

falcon_newsletter@hotmail.com

Thank you to all those who made submissions to this issue.



Annual celebration of 130 years of service, 16 October 2021



Annual Remembrance day ceremony at the Cenotaph north of

This issue of The FALCON produced by:



Capt (Ret) Steve Gilbert, CD
Editor



Sgt (Ret) Adam Bernard, CD
Design & Digital Manager

FALL 2021 - FEATURING:

- Farewell Msg from the past CO
- Special Msg from the Colonel-in-Chief
 - Msg from the new CO
 - Msg from the RSM
 - Change of Command
- Promotions and Awards
- Remembrance Day 2021
- Saint Andrews Cadets
- Lt Col Bent's Colt returns home
- The Spirit of Christmas Past
- Sept 11, 2001 in Pakistan
 - IODE - 48th Chapter
- Remembering Colonel Don Greer
- Highlanders in Korea & Germany

**And - much more about the Regiment -
past and present.**



PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE - PROVIDED BY Maj B. McCue, BGen G. Young, Geordie Beal, Capt J. Lau,
Regimental Command Cell, IODE, Lt B. Fernandez, LCol B. Jackson, HCol J. MacIntyre

Fall 2021 – CO's Farewell Message

Greetings Highlanders.

This will be the final time that I get to address you using that cautionary word of command.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a Regiment as “a military unit consisting of two or more battalions.”. We all know that a Regiment is much more than that – it is a living, breathing organism. It is made up of soldiers and officers who are drawn to being part of an organization that embodies service to our Nation and to Canadians. It becomes part of us as we become part of it. It gets ingrained in us. We develop a strong sense of pride in our Regiment, and strong sense of belonging to our Regiment. It gives us purpose. We develop almost unbreakable bonds with those we serve with. While the Regiment may not define us, it most definitely becomes part of who we are.

A Regiment has a Commanding Officer – an individual who is both responsible and accountable for everything that happens in the Regiment. Responsibility is the duty to complete the mission, to make the decisions; accountability is the ownership of the results of the actions and decisions.

For the past 40 years, I have been a member of our Regiment – I have been part of the finest Reserve Infantry Regiment in our nation, the 48th Highlanders of Canada. And for the past three years I've had the honour, privilege, and pleasure of commanding our Regiment.

I've worked with some excellent – truly outstanding, officers, NCOs, and soldiers. I have always been impressed by the dedication, level of commitment, love of the Regiment and service of all members of the Regiment. I have seen the excitement and pride in the eyes of young soldiers when they are presented with their balmoral and get to put it on for the first time. I have seen NCOs carry a rucksack for a tired or hurt soldier in their section. I have seen officers take an extra stove watch shift in an arctic tent so that soldiers in their platoon can get an extra hour of sleep. These – and thousands more examples make me proud to be a 48th Highlander, and proud to be the CO.

My time as CO was definitely not what I expected – the global COVID pandemic changed the world, and with it, the 48th Highlanders. We reacted quickly, and implemented a remote training program allowing the Regiment to continue working and training. Concurrently, we deployed 70 soldiers on OP LENTUS, assisting and supporting Canadians during the pandemic, including some of our most vulnerable citizens – those living in retirement communities. We were able to conduct several scaled back tactical exercises. We came up with innovative ways to honour our Fallen and maintain Regimental traditions with dignity and respect using video recordings and social media; which included:

- Remembrance Day,
- Change of Regimental Sergeant Major,
- Change of Honorary Appointments,
- Two Act of Remembrance Parades,
- 130th Anniversary of the founding of the Regiment, and
- Change of Command between LCol Morische and myself.

We were able to recognize the accomplishments of our soldiers – qualifications, promotions, awards, retirements, and presentations. We were able to maintain the sense of family, of comradeship, of belonging to the Regiment, despite COVID. The best example of this is our strength – the Regiment was 238 strong when COVID hit, and we were 241 strong when I handed over command. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all the soldiers, NCOs, and officers of the Regiment.

Simultaneously, we were able to use the time during COVID to restructure the Regimental Association, update the website, and improve our social media profile. These are significant achievements that will benefit all 48th Highlanders – serving members, former members,



Regimental Family, and friends of the Regiment. Thanks again, to all who spearheaded and helped with these projects.

Speaking of thanks, there are more than a few individuals whom I need to recognize:

For starters, the soldiers, NCOs and officers of the Regiment – keep pushing, learning and training. You are the Regiment, and working with you has been one of the biggest joys in my life. I'm proud of you all.

Members of the Regimental Association – your unwavering support of the soldiers and the Regiment is vital. Thanks for all you do.

HCol Scott, HCol MacIntyre and HLCOL Darling for your leadership of the Regimental Association, your wisdom and advice

Capt Delaney – the Adj. We tackled some interesting problems together, and you've always had the best interests of the Regiment at heart.

RSM (now Capt) Kwok and RSM Reesor - my fire team partners, you always promoted the welfare and development of the soldiers – they were always your prime consideration in any decision or action.

As my time as Commanding Officer draws to a close; as my time serving with the Regiment ends and I move on, I recall the old proverb: “Soldiers die, wars end, but the Regiment lives on.”

I will always cherish my time with the 48th Highlanders of Canada. The Regiment has had a huge impact on my life – it has given me experiences and opportunities beyond my wildest imagination, it has supported me during difficult times of my life, and celebrated milestone events with me. The Regiment has made me who I am today. And for that, I will forever be grateful.

While my service with the 48th Highlanders of Canada ends, I will never stop being a 48th Highlander.

*ALL HIGHLANDERS – THIS IS NINER.
END OF MISSION.
DILEAS GU BRATH
NINER OUT*

*R.A. ALKEMA
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
COMMANDING OFFICER*



BALMORAL CASTLE

Lieutenant Colonel Ron Alkema,
Commanding Officer,
48th Highlanders of Canada.

On the occasion of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Anniversary of the Formation of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, I send my best wishes to all those associated with the Regiment.

As your Colonel-in-Chief, I was interested to learn that a short video is being created to celebrate your history, which is being shared today.

I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and hope you have a most enjoyable day marking this notable Anniversary.

ELIZABETH R.

15th October, 2021.

A Message from the Commanding Officer

Highlanders and members of the Regimental Family,

It has been roughly one month since I assumed command of the Regiment, and it has certainly been an interesting time. For those who are not active members I will give you the following brief overview.

We have thankfully returned to in-person training again. Not only has it been good to see each other, it has been a relief to finally get back to hands-on training in garrison and in the field. In October A Coy conducted an exercise at 4 Canadian Division Training Centre (4CDTC) Meaford focused on platoon-level offensive operations. The effort shown at all levels showed that despite the lengthy lock-down periods, showed that highlanders step-up when given a challenge and demonstrate incredible motivation and professionalism. Members came up with valuable lessons learned which are being carried forward into new plans and exercises. At the same time, B Coy began its tough task of running courses for new personnel as well as the Rifle Section Commanders Course (RSCC) which is the final qualification for our MCpls and prepares them for eventual promotion to Sgt when the time is right. Both are essential to ensuring the well-being of the Regiment.

November brought us to Remembrance Day, and what I hope will be a final virtual ceremony. I will underline my earlier message, that I intend to conduct a proper regimental parade next year to honour our fallen. I hope that all members of the Regiment, past and present, will mark 6 November, the Sunday before Remembrance Day 2022, in their calendars in order to make sure that they are there. I would also like to thank those who helped to organize, and those who attended the smaller ceremony on November 11th at our monument in order to mark the day once now that more restrictions had been lifted. The number of civilians who approached me afterwards showed that you all deserve a hearty thanks for your quick work.

Following this more sombre event, highlanders were able to return to the field and complete section-level live fire (one of our many required tasks). Despite the challenging weather the staff and leadership kept the range moving while highlanders of all ranks once again displayed their warrior skills closing with and destroying the enemies on the range. I was personally impressed with the focused aggression of many young highlanders on the range and hope to see more of it as we push forward into future training.

Now, for those highlanders active in the Regiment, there are a couple of significant challenges that we face and need to overcome in order to ensure the best possible future for the Regiment and each of you.

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and our return to in-person training we need each of you to get your fellow highlanders back to Moss Park and out on exercise. We are trending in the right direction on this front with more people attending each exercise since September. If we continue as we have been, this will give us more latitude to conduct more aggressive and challenging training. As more people parade more often we will be able to knock-off the mandatory training and focus on greater skill and capacity building efforts. This means both exercises and courses. When people complete all of the foundational training we can get to the complex tactical training that so many of you say that you want. We have the plans, but we need more of you to help check some of the boxes before we can launch. You're doing well, so keep at this.

Next, and perhaps most importantly, we all know that the Canadian Armed Forces is going through a significant period of



LCpl Morische in the foreground

change. The cultural change that people speak of is one that should have happened a long time ago. We have, as an institution, been insular and closed-minded to change. That is not the way forward. There are many traditions and practices that we must hold on to, both as a Regiment and as infants, however there are also some that only serve to hurt members and the institution as a whole. Be brave and call out those things you know to be wrong. Be strong, and advocate for change. But also, be proud to preserve those things which we need to maintain the history of the Regiment, as well as those skills and qualities that are necessary to make us an effective fighting force. You are all professionals; this is another opportunity to show it.

I will close by reminding everyone that Christmas is around the corner. The annual dinner for serving soldiers will be held on Friday December 10th. Following that we will be stood down until Tuesday January 4th, 2022. I will have a message to post closer to the holidays, but want everyone to make plans to enjoy the time off with friends and family as much as possible. When we start back in January we will be busy and need all of you to show the same level of drive that you have been showing thus far.

I look forward to the new year and the opportunities that will come with it.

DILEAS GU BRATH!

J. A. MORISCHE
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
COMMANDING OFFICER
48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

ACTIVE BATTALION

FROM THE RSM

Hello Regimental Family and current soldiers,

This is my second letter to you all as RSM for the annual Falcon. A lot has happened during this past year.

While we are still under many restrictions related to COVID, and as I'm writing this the new variant OMICRON is beginning to spread, we have been able to return to some in person training and events.

There are many challenges facing the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) right now and we need to be ready to assist when and where necessary. With major weather events in both BC and the Atlantic Provinces happening simultaneously, there is a greater need for support to infrastructure and to assist our fellow Canadians. For those serving members, make sure all of your paperwork is in good order so you can respond if able. This includes FORCE tests. These requests will come with short notice so there is little time to get this done when called. Be proactive. This spring could bring about another set of floods to parts of Ontario so be ready if we are needed.

The CAF are also in the midst of culture changes to address systemic issues from our past. We need to participate and be part of the solution to better reflect what Canadians and society expect from us. The best mantra is to treat others as you would expect to be treated yourself.

From an NCO perspective, we have many moving parts right now with our MCpls and Sgts. We currently have 10 MCpls on their Sgts qualification. This course is being changed for a newer course so this is the last chance for many of them to get their qualification. And in the new year, we will have two Sgts on their WOs distance learning course and two WOs on their MWO distance learning course.

MCpl Robertson has returned from his deployment to Jordan with renewed energy to share what he learned. And WO Rukman has been working outside the country for the past 6 months with her civilian employer. We look forward to her return as CSM A Coy.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the hard work Sgt Haley has done over the course of the past year. Last fall Sgt Haley was the enemy force commander for the Advanced Recce Patrol Course in Gagetown for three months. He was assessed in that role mistakenly as a Reg Force Sgt and was assessed as exceptional. No surprise to us at the unit. In the spring, Sgt Haley was able to attend the 3B Infantry WOs course and passed with ease. Following a summer of support to the Reserve Summer Training program in Meaford, Sgt Haley returned to Gagetown for the Advanced Recce Patrol course. Last week Sgt Haley graduated from the course as fully qualified. He has taken the past year off his civilian employment to get these qualifications while he could. Kudos to him for doing that. It sets the Regiment up for success in the future and the skills he is bringing back will be beneficial to many.

With many of our leadership away on courses and taskings, others have had to step up and work in roles much higher than their rank would dictate. I would like to thank several here now. Sgt Bradbury for acting as the CSM for A Coy, Sgt Kowalenko for stepping up to be the CSM for B Coy, MCpls Sosa and van Overdijk for stepping into the roles of Pl WOs. Still others have stepped up to be section commanders as Cpls without any formal leadership training to prepare them. Well done to all for your efforts and for your excellent work. From what I have observed from many of you, we are setting ourselves up for success in the New Year.

We have also had a number of soldiers working away from the unit with 1 RCR and other units in various capacities. MWO Hanson is currently the DSM at the Battle School. MCpl Gundert went up to Petawawa to assist with a course up there because 1 RCR are also having challenges with their Jr NCOs being promoted. Cpl Hamilton, Hldr Syed



and Hldr Jackson have been working with 1 RCR as they prepare for their validation for expeditionary Ops in the coming year. And Cpl Jan and Williams worked with CANSOFCOM this fall supporting their valuable training. Sgt Cunti has been working in Meaford for the past year in support of Regular Force Basic Military Qualification courses as they have moved to a dispersed training model to keep the numbers down in St Jean at the recruit school.

More Highlanders will be heading up to Petawawa in the New Year to support 1 RCR on the work up training and on the actual FTX Maple Resolve. They are all gaining exceptional experience working alongside 1 RCR in the mechanized role with the LAV's. I look forward to what they bring back with them and sharing it with their fellow highlanders.

Overall the unit remains strong and ready to work, whether in support of Domestic Operations, in support of 1 RCR and integration with our Regular Force affiliated unit, volunteering for Operations overseas or for much needed courses that either build our capacity or our capabilities. Continue to step up to the challenges presented and we will continue to support you as best we can.

To the Regimental Family, we miss interacting with you all. We are very hopeful for a return to in-person events and parades so we can welcome you all home to Moss Park. Time and the Government's posture with regards to any variants of concern will dictate when that will be. The CO and I are optimistic it will be for the annual Sunday of Remembrance Parade to St. Andrew's Church in April. More details will come as we progress towards that date.

That's all I have for now. I hope you are all keeping healthy and safe.

DGB

9C out

ACTIVE BATTALION

CHANGE OF COMMAND - 17 OCTOBER 2021

The commanding officer of a regiment is responsible for the whole of the regimental organization. This includes the safety of the unit, its assets, and members.

With the attendance of Col McEwen, the commanding officer of 32 Canadian Brigade Group, LCol Fraser, the commanding officer of Lorne Scots regiment and HCol MacIntyre, LCol Alkema relinquished the command of the 48th Highlanders to LCol Morische in a change of command ceremony on the 17th of October, 2021 under the COVID-19 restrictions.

The ceremony involved signing of Change of command scroll, ceremonial exchange of commanding officer's Claymore, Dirk, Sgian-Dubh, and Commanding Officer's Pipe Banner.

You can watch the recorded ceremony on the "videos" tab of regimental facebook page or by [clicking here!](#)



LCol Morische addressing those in attendance



LCol Alkema



32 Brigade Commander Col McEwen



48th Honourary Colonel MacIntyre

ACTIVE BATTALION



With LCol Alkema observing Col McEwen presents the Commanding Officers claymore to LCol Morische.



Commanding Officer's Pipe Banner



Commanding Officer's Dirk



Col McEwen changing LCol Morische's shoulder flashes



Commanding Officer's Sgian-Dubh

HONOURS, PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS 2021



MCPL TO SGT

Turner BWA
Brown A

Wang
Blair

Cunti



Sergeant Wang received a certificate of appreciation from premier Doug Ford and a thank you letter from JTF-C for her assistance on OP Laser.



PTE/CPL TO MCPL

Clark
Berto

Akbari
Sitek



PTE TO CPL

Brown C
Svirydau
Clue
McLeod
Mousseau
Di Grado

Ram
Chuanteu
Mahmud
Hamilton
Ng
MacEachern

Price

Cpl Berto (Now MCpl) was awarded a 32 Canadian Brigade Group commendation from the LCol Alkema, the CO of 48th Highlanders of Canada himself. Congratulations to Master Corporal Berto on receiving the commendation.



CANADIAN FORCES DECORATION

Cpl Morrell: CD 1

Sgt Pawlus: CD 1

MCpl: Thompson: CD 1

Cpl Demke: CD 1

Cpl Choi: CD 1



Congratulations to Master Corporal Thompson, Corporal Demke, and Choi, these individuals have been awarded the Canadian Forces' decoration. Canadian Forces' decoration are awarded to those who have been serving with Canadian Armed Forces for more than 12 years.

COs COMMENDATION

Captain W.M. Darling, MMM, CD

Pipe Major (MWO) I.W. Lang, CD

Brigadier General A.G. Young,
OMM, MSM, CD (Retired)

Colonel R.G. Elms, MSM, CD
(Retired)

Colonel A.W. Jensen, CD (Retired)

Sergeant A.J. Bernard, CD (Retired)

Recently, Sgt Haley completed his ARP (Advanced Reconnaissance Patroller) course, known to be one of the most challenging courses an infantry soldier can go through at the infantry school. Congratulations Sgt Haley!



More photos of promotions & awards can be found online at 48thhighlanders.ca, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

HONOURS, PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMMENDATIONS

On Friday 10 September at the 15th Bn tree in Coronation Park near the Princes' Gates in Toronto the Commanding Officer the RSM presented the following serving and Retired members of the 48th with a Commanding Officer's Commendation:

Captain W.M. Darling, MMM, CD

On the occasion of his retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces, and to commend his loyalty and dedication to the Regiment.

Captain Darling served the 48th Highlanders of Canada for over 40 years and embodies the Regimental motto:

"DILEAS GU BRATH" - FAITHFUL FOREVER



Pipe Major (MWO) I.W. Lang, CD

On the occasion of the relinquishment of his appointment as Pipe Major, and to commend his loyalty and dedication to the 48th Highlanders.

MWO Lang maintained the highest standard of Piping in the Regiment, and his level of commitment and service embodies the Regimental motto:

"DILEAS GU BRATH" - FAITHFUL FOREVER



Brigadier General A.G. Young, OMM, MSM, CD (Retired)

For outstanding support and dedication to the Regiment. BGen Young (Retired) was instrumental in restructuring the Regimental Association to ensure that it meets the needs of the current and former soldiers, NCOs and Officers of the Regiment. His commitment and diligence to this project embodies the Regimental motto:

"DILEAS GU BRATH" - FAITHFUL FOREVER



Colonel R.G. Elms, MSM, CD (Retired)

For outstanding support and dedication to the Regiment. Col Elms (Retired) was instrumental in restructuring the Regimental Association to ensure that it meets the needs of the current and former soldiers, NCOs and Officers of the Regiment. His commitment and diligence to this project embodies the Regimental motto:

"DILEAS GU BRATH" - FAITHFUL FOREVER

Sergeant A.J. Bernard, CD (Retired)

For outstanding support and dedication to the Regiment. Sgt Bernard (Retired) was instrumental in developing a new website and electronic communication platform for the Regiment, ensuring that they met the needs of the current and former soldiers, NCOs and Officers. His commitment and diligence to this project embodies the Regimental motto:

"DILEAS GU BRATH" - FAITHFUL FOREVER



Colonel A.W. Jensen, CD (Retired)

For outstanding support and dedication to the Regiment. Col Jensen (Retired) was instrumental in developing a new website and electronic communication platform for the Regiment, ensuring that they met the needs of the current and former soldiers, NCOs and Officers. His commitment and diligence to this project embodies the Regimental motto:

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REMEMBRANCE DAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2021

48TH HIGHLANDERS GUARDING THE OLD CITY HALL CENOTAPH FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY



REMEMBRANCE DAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2021

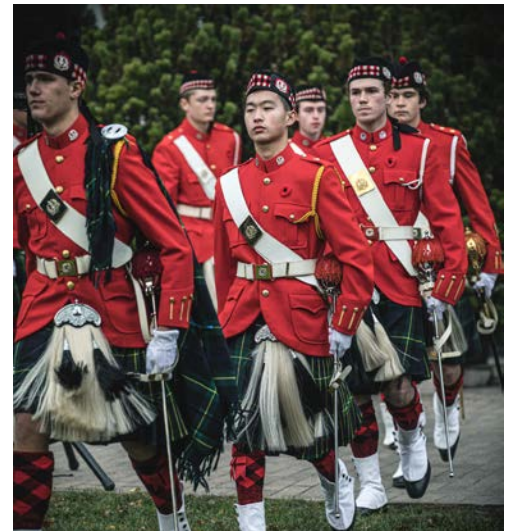
Due to COVID-19 and its social distancing measures, the regiment was unable to hold an annual Remembrance Day ceremony this year. However, small group of former and current members of the regiment were at the regimental cenotaph to pay their respects to the fallen yesterday. Some of the members in the photos below came directly from work to be part of an informal gathering.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.



LCol Morische in the foreground

REMEMBRANCE DAY: SAINT ANDREWS CADETS



REMEMBRANCE DAY: SAINT ANDREWS CADETS



THE 15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BENT'S COLT 1ST CONTINGENT PISTOL RETURNS 'HOME'

By Greg Young, 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project

After reading Donald Lever's article on Lieutenant Gibson's Webley in the recent Fall issue of the Maple Leaf, I thought readers might be interested in the return 'home' of another named CEF Officer's pistol.

When the war broke out in 1914 and the number of soldiers rapidly increased for the 1st Contingent assembling at Valcartier camp in Quebec, Canada found itself in short supply of certain weapons, such as machine guns and pistols.

In the case of pistols, issued mainly but not exclusively to Officers, the Canadian government purchased 5,000 Colt 1911 .45 caliber ACP pistols that had been manufactured for Colt's 1914 'Commercial' sale - hence the "C" prefixing the serial numbers on the slides of these pistols. This handgun was Colt's 'state-of-the-art' model having a high polish "oven blue" finish rather than the parkerized finish of pistols made for military contracts and finely checkered walnut handgrips. The pistols were not acquired in solid blocks of numbers and were not issued marked. However, the seven round capacity magazines were stamped with the standard Canadian issue mark - broad arrow inside C - on the bottom forward of the lanyard loop.

The same year, the government also purchased a Mills pattern holster for the Colt which was manufactured by the Mills Equipment Company in the US. However, all the holsters seen in period photographs of 15th Battalion Officers are of a leather pattern of the type that came with the Colt that is the subject of this article.

Research indicates that the first 2000 pistols were shipped to the Department of Militia while the remaining 3000 were shipped in three batches to H.W.Brown, Quebec. Some were issued in Valcartier before the 1st Contingent departed but the majority were forwarded to Britain for issue there. Some sources state that 'officers were expected to buy their own handgun' which they suggest explains why numbers of them are found today with the owner's name inscribed on the mainspring housing or



15th Bn Officers at Salisbury Plain 1914 -
all wearing the newly issued Colt .45 pistols



LtCol Bent's Colt



LtCol Bent's Colt

the right side of the slide.

However, period 15th Battalion sources state that the Colts were 'issued' not purchased. LtCol John Currie, Commanding Officer of the 15th Battalion wrote in his book 'The Red Watch' that "the Government had kindly issued to the officers Colt automatic pistols" and in a letter home in November 1914 from West Down Camp South, Lt Frank Gibson wrote, "just got my Colt 45 automatic issued to me today...hope to be able to test it soon." But the Colt was most certainly issued to certain NCOs and the Military Police with whom it remained the primary pistol for the duration of the war.

The Colt 1911 .45 ACP pistol is arguably one of, if not the most, respected military handguns ever produced with a much deserved reputation for its 'stopping power' in close quarter fighting. The disastrous performance of the .38 caliber handguns used during the Philippine Insurrection 1899-1902 had forced the US Army to re-issue the 1873 Colt Single Action Cavalry Revolver because of the better 'stopping power' of its .45 caliber cartridge. Following that conflict, the 1904 Thompson-LeGarde tests by the US military

(including firing tests on live cattle) determined that the .45 caliber round was the optimal round for its service pistols and subsequently in

THE 15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT



COs of the 13th, 15th (Bent), 16th and 14th Battalions post Armistice 1918.

became a company commander following Festubert in May of that year and by Christmas he was the battalion's second-in-command.

Bent assumed command in May 1916 when LtCol William Marshall DSO was KIA at Hill 60 and he remained the battalion's commanding officer for the duration of the war, the post armistice Occupation of Germany and brought the unit home in May 1919. Post war he returned to Pugwash eventually retiring and relocating to an apple farm in Paradise, NS. Bent returned to service in WW2 as a Colonel and the first Commanding Officer of the 3rd Pioneer Battalion which was redesignated the 3rd Battalion RCE in 1940.

Several years ago a MCpl serving in The Reserve with the Cameron Highlanders of Canada purchased one of those 1914 Canadian Colts from a

1911 the Army adopted the new Colt ACP pistol.

Period 15th Battalion documents indicate that the Colt was popular with the Canadians. Possibly reflecting reports of the weapon's effect on the test cattle, LtCol John Currie wrote, "the Automatic Colt 45, which all the Canadian officers carried, is a good weapon at close quarters. Its bullet would stop an ox." Similarly, Lt Frank Gibson wrote from Salisbury Plain on 1 February 1915 "I had a practice with my Colt automatic pistol today for the first time and like everyone else, am very pleased with it. The shock of the recoil is taken on a slide which draws back and coming forward loads the next shell, so there is very little recoil.....they are such good shooters that everyone has great confidence in them. They are well balanced and are loaded in clips of 7 which fit into the handle. We carry 3 or 4 of these clips which are quickly changed".

The Colt would be eventually, and reluctantly, be replaced for general issue by the Smith & Wesson 2nd Model "hand ejector" revolver as well as, but to a lesser degree, the British Webley Mk VI revolver (both in .455 caliber) in order to standardize ammunition supply. However, many Canadians, including LtCol Charles Edward Bent DSO and Bar, CMG – Commanding Officer of the 15th Battalion - continued to carry their Colts for the duration of the war. Indeed many Officers, like Bent, brought theirs home and retained them after demobilization – this fact giving credence to the view that many officers indeed purchased their Colts and as such they were personal not Crown property.

One such pistol was Colt .45 ACP pistol C7862 which in 1914 had been issued to/purchased by then Captain Charles Bent, Adjutant of the 17th Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders) - a Customs Collector from Pugwash, NS who had served pre-war in the 93rd Cumberland Regiment of the Militia. Following 2nd Ypres, Bent came to the 15th Battalion on 26 April 1915 as a platoon commander with a reinforcement draft of Officers and men from the 17th Battalion in the UK. He

gun store in Ottawa and this one was named to a decorated senior officer---none other than Col CE Bent, 15th Battalion. The checkered walnut hand grips had been beautifully carved with a 15th Battalion cap badge on one side and Col Bent's name on the other and the leather holster had his name inscribed on the inside of the flap. The pistol itself was in very good condition showing only holster wear and was complete with holster and magazines. Recognizing the significance of the pistol, he made contact with me through the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project website and offered to sell the handgun. Financial support came quickly from several Regimental donors and within days the pistol was purchased with it's ultimate destination being the Regimental Museum of the 48th Highlanders in Toronto. There the pistol was to be reunited with Col Bent's wartime 15th Battalion uniform donated by his family, who still reside in Paradise, and other items connected to him in a dedicated display case at the museum. Although Col Bent's 90 year old son Donald (a WW2 veteran) recalled when he was young seeing his father with the pistol on the farm, the family had no recollection of what had happened to it. How the pistol came to be in an Ottawa gun store is not known and will likely remain a mystery. However, a rare artifact of both Canadian military and Regimental history found its way home to help tell the story of that war of which it was a part.

15TH BATTALION

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST

by Brigadier General (ret) Greg Young OMM, MSM, CD
Chairman, 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project

“We go into the front line on Sunday night for the last time before we come out for Christmas. That certainly won’t make any of us mad to get away from this mess.”

LIEUTENANT MAURICE “MIKE” MALONE DECEMBER 3, 1915

As Highlanders and readers of The Falcon prepare to celebrate Christmas and enjoy time with family and friends, it is fitting to look back and reflect on what Christmas was like for the men of the 15th Battalion during the Great War 1914-1918.

Where a unit happened to be at Christmas or New Years was something well beyond its ability to influence. Generally speaking, although the weather at that time of year made offensive operations difficult, the deadly routine of trench tours continued uninterrupted. The normal trench tour rotation SOP for Canadian infantry battalions was a series of rotating tours with four days in the front line and four days in reserve followed by time in rear area billets. Of course this could easily change depending on the nature of operations. For example, units might be ‘out-of-the-line’ for much longer periods of time as they prepared/trained for future operations or ‘in-the-line’ for longer periods as they reacted to enemy actions. Usually Brigade HQs tried to see to it that if a unit was in the line for Christmas that where possible it would be out-of-the-line for New Years and vice versa. Christmas traditions were maintained whenever possible. Many units created their own Christmas cards for the men to send home and in this regard the 15th Battalion was no exception with many examples having survived. Many current units, including the 48th Highlanders continue the Regimental Christmas card tradition to this day. And of course Christmas saw an understandably significant increase in parcels and letters from home.

The origin of the Christmas dinner tradition with role reversals that see Officers and Senior NCOs serving the Enlisted Men cannot be traced to a specific event or time period but there is little doubt that by the time of The Great War 1914-1918 it was an established practice in the British Army and by extension to the units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. When a unit did find itself out-of-the-line over the Holidays, Christmas dinners for the men with the Officers and Senior NCOs serving was common practice and a much anticipated occasion with units securing additional rations and ‘treats’ to bolster morale. As poultry was always scarce, the main course was almost always pork. Christmas dinners remain to this day in the units of the Canadian Army and certainly all Highlanders are familiar with this unbroken tradition. Where possible and the situation allowed, men might even be given Christmas or New Year’s leave although it would be strictly controlled to insure that the battalion always remained operational in terms of its strength.

The 15th Battalion was fortunate in that between 1914 and 1918 the ‘luck-of-the-rotation’ saw it spend every Christmas out-of-the line. Christmas and New Year’s 1914 and 1919 were exceptions to the years of Christmas ‘in the trenches’ in that during the former the battalion was still in the UK while the later happened after The Armistice.

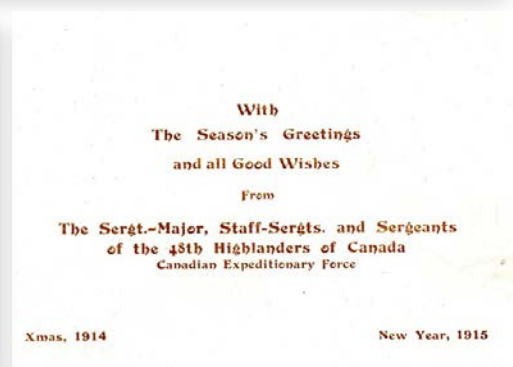
Christmas 1914: Just before Christmas in 1914 the battalion moved from the muddy tent encampment on Salisbury Plain at West Down Camp South where it had been since its arrival in the UK in October to barrack buildings at Larkhill Camp not far from Stonehedge. Leave was granted for the entire battalion with half the strength going for the week of Christmas and the other half for New Year’s. Officer’s had Christmas dinner with their companies: the football team travelled to Glasgow for a New Year’s Day match against The Highland Light Infantry which they lost: the rowing team went to the Boxing Day boat races Richmond on the Thames and rowed for Canada vs. England and on New Year’s Day unit personnel who had been members of the Argonaut Rowing Club in Canada competed against a Winnipeg team at Putney.

“Got into London Tuesday night... there are over 10 of our officers there... and took a midnight train to Glasgow for Christmas... then to Edinburgh... back to London tomorrow and back to Salisbury Tuesday... we will have a merry gathering in our hut for New Years.”

LIEUTENANT FRANK GIBSON DECEMBER 27, 1914

“I received seven days Christmas leave and visited Manchester..I enjoyed my leave very much, it was such a pleasure to get away from the mud and rain of Salisbury Plain.”

SERGEANT CLAUDE ASHLING DECEMBER 30, 1914



15TH BATTALION

Christmas 1915: It had been a rough year with 2nd Ypres and Festubert as well as heavy trench tours mainly in Belgium and much of the original battalion was gone. In December, the battalion was in the Ploegsteert sector of the Ypres salient area in trenches 138-141 along the Messines Road with familiar forward locations like King Edward Terrace, Fort Osborne and Ration Farm. The rotation schedule saw the unit at various rear area billets in Courte Dreve, Locre, Kemmel, Kortepyp and Neuve Eglise. In Brigade reserve, it was a very wet out-of-the-line Christmas that year but there were extra rations of beer and rum and a pork dinner with all the 'fixings' served by the Officers and Senior NCOs. The pork had been acquired from the nearby 'Piggeries' where the battalion mascot Bruno had originated earlier that year. Packages and letters from Canada arrived and the Officers were hosted by the Senior NCOs for dinner with the Company Officers purchasing chickens and ducks for the main course. Unlike Christmas 1914, there was no truce or exchange of greetings with the opposing Germans. In fact, when the battalion rotated back into the forward line for New Year's, the Germans and Canadians exchanged reciprocal artillery bombardments at midnight to ring in the New Year.

"We got back to reserve billets on Christmas Eve... Christmas parcels were waiting for us and that helped a lot... we bought a whopping big pig for the men... at twelve o'clock the boys started singing Christmas carols... we had our Christmas dinner the next day at seven o'clock and thought of you all just about coming home from Church... we certainly had some feed."

LIEUTENANT MAURICE "MIKE" MALONE DECEMBER 27, 1915

However, for the many Officers and Men of the 15th Battalion who had been captured at 2nd Ypres in April, that first Christmas 'in German Prisoner of War camps was a very different experience. Yet even in captivity Christmas traditions continued as parcels and 'treats' came from home and Christmas day was observed with trees and dinners, even if they were somewhat more sparse than normal

"We received wonderful parcels from friends and relatives, they contained all the usual things of the Festive season. We decorated a little and for the time being were able to forget where we were...a small Christmas tree was placed in each hut, we decorated it with fish bones and lumps of black bread."

SERGEANT CLAUDE ASHLING DECEMBER 25, 1915



15th Battalion Senior NCO POWs Gottingen, Germany Christmas 1915

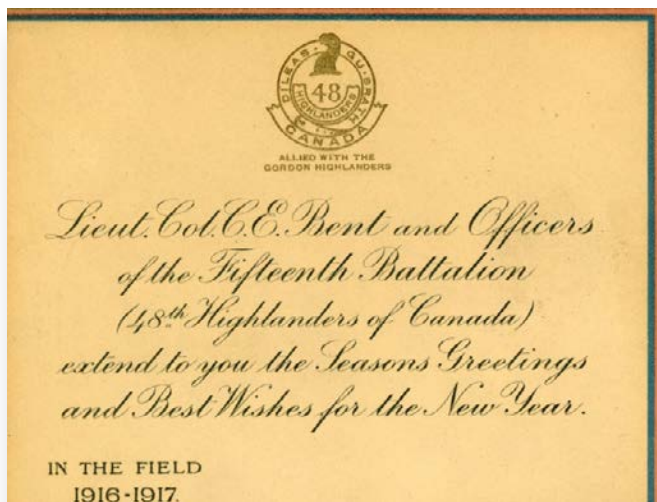
Christmas 1916: It was another hard year with Mount Sorrel and The Somme plus numerous trench tours in both France and Belgium. The 1st Division left The Somme on December 21st and was put into reserve for a month out-of-the-line. On December 22nd the 15th Battalion left Gouy Servins and marched 20 miles to billets in Haillicourt for what was recorded as a memorable Christmas. There was an extra 20 francs pay for every man. The City of Toronto sent a \$1500 gift and the home Regiment sent an additional \$500. A Regimental Christmas card was produced and sent home by the hundreds. The Officers and Senior NCOs of each company even produced their own cards. There were many letters and parcels from home and greetings from The King and the Canadian Command. A marquee tent was erected in a muddy field for the Officers and Senior NCO's dinner which was attended by Brigade staff and senior

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officers and COs from other battalions. Purchasing parties went to Bruay for local purchases to augment the Men's Christmas dinner which was held at Company level in separate locations. The Officers dined with their companies and the CO and Adjutant visited them all. Training was conducted between Christmas and New Years and resumed again after New Year's Day.

"I received the box you sent me and everything was in good shape... the fellows wanted to know who made the candy for they said to tell her to send some more for it was the best we have had. We fared pretty well at Christmas. Mrs. Cutts, ...sent me a nice pair of mitts her little girl knitted at school and a Christmas card... and we got some Santa Clause stockings from Hamilton."

PRIVATE DAVID MCLEAN DECEMBER 31, 1916

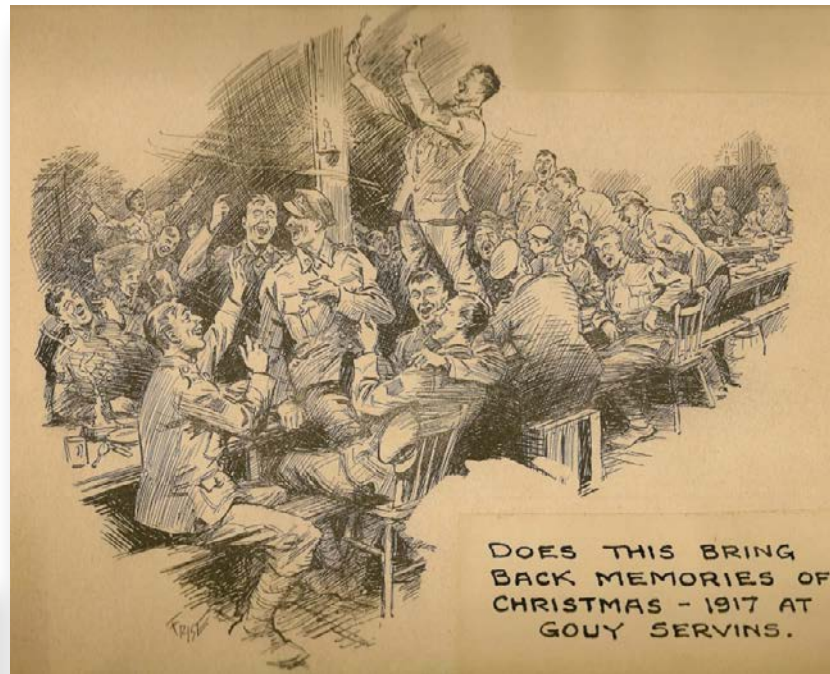


Battalion coming out-of-the-line for Christmas 1916

Christmas 1917: It had been another heavy year with Vimy, Hill 70 and Passchendaele as well as trench tours again in Belgium and France. On December 23rd the 49th Battalion relieved the 15th in the front lines and battalion returned to Gouy Servins Chateau and prepared to march to Lozinghem for Christmas. Advance parties had gone ahead to purchase Christmas 'fixings' but orders changed and the battalion remained at The Chateau in Gouy forcing the advance parties to return empty handed. Rotating detail and Company dinners were held in the Church Army hut and a shed behind the chateau starting at 10:30 AM and completed by late afternoon. The CO, Lieutenant Colonel Bent, attended each one before departing for leave in Canada on the 29th.

"I can hardly realize that Tuesday is Xmas. We were just talking about it today... but still it did not seem like the time of year it is."

PRIVATE L. CURRELL DECEMBER 22, 1917



Sketch by Lieutenant J.E. Banton 15th Battalion

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Christmas 1918: Trench tours in France dominated the first part of the year but in August the Canadian Corps spearheaded the 100 Days Campaign that saw the battalion engaged at Amiens in August and the D-Q Line and the Canal du Nord in September followed by the pursuit to Mons, the Armistice, the march to and the crossing of The Rhine and the Occupation of Germany. The battalion was in the Cologne bridgehead with its outpost line positions in and around the town of Engelskirchen. It was a white Christmas with the surrounding area in many ways reminiscent of Canada. The CASC could not get poultry forward for Christmas dinners so the Battalion Officers went locally and purchased pigs. The men dined by companies in their outpost Line positions and the Officers dined in Engelskirchen at Schloss (castle) Ehreshoven which was captured in a sketch by Lieutenant J.E. Banton. Led by the Pipes and Drums, New Year's Day saw the battalion parade through the streets of the town carrying the home Regiment's Colours which had arrived from Canada on the 29th. The Troops started staggered leaves to Cologne on Jan 2nd and on January 4th news arrived that the 1st Canadian Division would to be relieved by 41st British Division and thus the long journey home would begin.

"I have been working on the Officer's Mess Dinner... went to Cologne and did a lot of shopping...we are in an old Chateau and the dining room is just a picture... we used 200 candles, it was a grand sight and all the pictures decorated with holly and three Christmas trees all lit up. Then the meal started... three pipers came in followed by our cook carrying a whole roasted pig on a silver platter. That sure brought the house down."

LIEUTENANT GERALD MALONE MC DECEMBER 26, 1918



So throughout the war Christmas remained a time in which the customary traditions of the Season, both civil and military, continued regardless of the circumstances or the location and for a time – no matter how brief – soldiers could forget the war, remember Fallen comrades and think of better times in the past and hopefully in the future.

"Christmas night I will think of you all."

LIEUTENANT MAURICE 'MIKE' MALONE



Sketch by Lieutenant J.E. Banton 15th Battalion

Sketch by Lieutenant J.E. Banton 15th Battalion

REFLECTIONS ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

SEPT 11, 2001 PAKISTAN

by Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Brian G
Jackson MSM CD

On 11 September 2001, I was just beginning my second year as the Canadian Defence Advisor (CDA) to Pakistan at the Canadian High Commission in Islamabad. The day had been spent gathering information about the assassination of Shah Ahmad Masood, the nominal leader of the Afghan Northern Alliance, in order to write a classified report to send to NDHQ in Ottawa. News had arrived earlier in the morning that Masood had been assassinated on 10 September in his Panjshir Valley stronghold. The assassins were two Al Qaeda suicide bombers, who had been posing as a television journalist team. After several rewrites and some solid input from Political Affairs Head, Glyn Berry, I sent the report by classified e-mail to Ottawa at 6:00 PM. Of note, sadly, Glyn was killed by a suicide bomber on 15 January 2006 in Kandahar; he was a good friend.

Later, after driving to our home in Sector E-7 of Islamabad, Jackie and I were relaxing after dinner on our front porch. Our six-month-old field spaniel Kaalii was running around on the lawn enjoying the evening coolness. The TV was on in our media room and Jackie had just gone in to turn it off when she called me to say that an airplane had hit a building in New York City and I should come to see. Then, watching the screen and as we wondered what had happened, we saw the second plane approach then slam into the other tower. We knew then that our lives had changed; along with much of the rest of the world. The other thought that immediately entered my mind was that Pakistan (although not necessarily the government) had something to do with this and/or Pakistan was going to play a pivotal role in what happened next.

Then another thing came to mind, as the letters OBL began to be bandied about. It was something that a Pakistan Army brigadier had said to me four days previously during the evening of Friday, 7 September. Jackie and I were at a dinner hosted by the British DA at his residence. Typically it was a small group, of whom one of the other guests was this brigadier. I had met him earlier in the year at a function on the very active Islamabad diplomatic cocktail circuit. At that time, he had just been posted to the ISI. I didn't know his exact position but it required him to mingle with the diplomats and foreign defence attachés who gather at these events. My being a graduate of the 1991 Pakistan Army Command and Staff College, Quetta gave the two of us something in common. So during our encounters at various functions that summer Quetta served as an opener for something to chat about. However, on this evening of 7 September 2001 at the British DA's residence, we had a long conversation during which he was quite upset and uncharacteristically frank. He disclosed that he had just returned from Kandahar where he had been meeting with the (then) Taliban leadership. He had gone there with instructions from his chain of command (the ISI) to have the Taliban hand over Bin Laden; something, as we know, they refused to do. He summed up our discussion by saying, "These Taliban, what do



Islamabad Police – Diplomatic Enclave

they know about running a country? They are just a bunch of thirty-year-olds."

But on that evening of 11 September, immediately following the second impact, the phone calls began. Everyone within the Canadian and attaché circles checked on everyone else commenting on what we had all just witnessed, asking if there was there other information and what happens now? I phoned my Administration Assistant (Sgt Robert Greenwood). He was at the Canadian Club, which is located on the grounds of the Canadian High Commission Housing Compound

Lieutenant-Colonel Brian G Jackson MSM CD joined the 48th Highlanders in May 1965 and achieved the rank of warrant officer. His last appointment before transferring to the Regular Army in February 1971 was CSM C Company. After serving two years as an infantry soldier with 1 PPCLI in Currie Barracks Calgary, he was selected for officer training in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps; 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's). His career of 35 years in the Regular Army saw him undertake two postings of regimental at CFB Petawawa, three postings to the Armour School at CFB Gagetown plus two other postings to staff jobs at CTC, each for less than a year. Other Canada-based postings were three years in Kingston (where he commanded the Peace Support Training Centre) and a year in Ottawa at the CF Language School studying Thai language. Foreign postings included two years as an exchange officer at the Royal Australian Armoured Centre at Puckapunyal, two years in the Middle East with UNTSO (Lebanon and Syria), a year in Quetta Pakistan as the Canadian exchange student at the Pakistan Army Command and Staff College, 10 months in Sarajevo during 1992-93 as Senior Operations Officer for UNPROFOR Sector Sarajevo (for his service he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal), three years in Heidelberg Germany as a war planner with NATO Headquarters Land Forces Central Region (which included six months in Sarajevo with SFOR), three years as the Canadian Defence Advisor in Islamabad Pakistan (also accredited to Afghanistan and Bangladesh) and two years in Bangkok as the Canadian Defence Attaché (with accreditation to Vietnam, Cambodia and Singapore). Following his retirement from the Canadian Army in September 2006, he returned to Pakistan for three years as a diplomat at the Canadian High Commission in Islamabad.



Islamabad Police – Diplomatic Enclave

C. I was the Club President and Sgt Greenwood was the Club Manager. He mentioned he had also seen the second plane strike the tower. He then said (without giving the nationalities of those in question) that some of those in the Club were cheering the hijackers. I told him to kick them immediately (they were not allowed back – ever) and to close the Club. I also told him to inform the Club staff that the International Happy Hour, slated for the coming Friday would be cancelled. In the coming days, there would more restrictions on access to and use of the Club.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

The next few days were busy (as were the following four months), but also very uncertain. The diplomatic missions in Islamabad knew that this attack was going to have real significance to their circumstances within Pakistan, but nobody knew what would be the specifics. Many embassies/high commissions began immediate evacuations of dependents and non-essential staff (including Australia). While others made offers of voluntary evacuation to dependents. Canada took a more wait-and-see approach. But it was within an atmosphere of tension and uncertainty. Perhaps one of the reasons for Canada taking more of a wait-and-see approach was because the first day on the job of our new High Commissioner/Head of Mission (HOM) was 10 September; the day before 9/11. Being newly arrived and having no pre-judgements he did not rush to a conclusion. As well and except for the two RCMP officers, the Heads of Programme (Administration, Immigration, Political, CIDA and myself in Defence) had worked together for a year and we were a cohesive group with a very broad range of experiences and perspectives.

One thing that did become clear rather quickly was that in the event we were ordered to evacuate, there was no plan to do that. Given my position as a senior army officer and, therefore, someone who had produced many plans, I volunteered to write the Mission Evacuation Plan. There was virtually no DFAIT documentation that dealt with the evacuation of a diplomatic mission. But I did manage to determine that the process involved four steps/phases: 1 - Apprehension; 2 - Warning; 3 - Protection; and 4 - Withdrawal. But there was no explanation in any detail. But using these phases I came up with (in broad terms) the following plan:

- Phase 1. The key element of this phase is preparation; be prepared to leave quickly, keep aware of the situation, take note of one's circumstances and be aware of any changes, keep telephone lines at home free (this being pre-cellphone and few had meaningful internet at home), stock up on basic food items, keep your privately-owned vehicle fully fuelled, make arrangements for pets, don't talk to the media, and when told go home, go immediately and stay there.

- Phase 2. This is implemented when the situation has deteriorated to the point where the HOM advises Canadians living in Pakistan to leave while commercial transportation is available. Some dependants and non-essential high commission staff would likely leave during this phase.

- Phase 3. This phase is implemented when the situation has deteriorated to the point where the evacuation of Canadians is necessary. Any dependents of Canadian diplomats still in the country and all CBS who were deemed non-essential will be evacuated.



A Compound – Chancellery



A Compound – Official Residence



C Compound – Canadian Club

- Phase 4. This would see the closure of the mission and the departure of any remaining CBS.

I completed this plan on 19 September 2001 and later in the afternoon all CBS and dependents were called to the HOM's residence (which is located within A Compound, adjacent to the Chancellery Building). It was now eight days since 9/11 and with the mission evacuation/security plan just written, approved and distributed to all CBS, it was time to discuss it. However, beginning immediately after 9/11 the HOM had initiated briefings and community meetings to ensure that everyone was kept up to date on the situation, explanations were given on how things could unfold and rumours were dealt with. At this meeting on 19 September, the HOM stood at the head of the group flanked by his Programme Managers and other principals. The Consular staff explained the procedure for those CBS who wished to leave voluntarily (the dependants of one CBS were the only ones who chose to do so), I explained the Evacuation Plan then took questions and the other programme heads gave their inputs. At this time there was no real consensus that could be gained from looking at what other missions were doing: the Americans were evacuating families/dependents, the Brits were making it voluntary, and the Australians were by now long down to essential staff only. And we were being asked by other missions what we were doing; it was all very circular.

No doubt there was much uncertainty and nobody knew what if anything would or might happen. The Pakistan government was controlled by the Pakistan military under the leadership of General Pervez Musharraf, who had seized control of the government in October 1999 and exiled then prime minister Nawaz Sharif. Unlike the situation in Pakistan during the First Gulf War in 1991 (the year that Jackie and I were in Quetta when I was a student at the Pakistan Army Command and Staff College), there was not much public support for what had happened on 9/11. Most embassies put restrictions on travel outside of Islamabad. Canada controlled access to the Canada Club, where alcohol was served; the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is a dry country. And all missions

instructed their staff and families to stay close to home. However, the cocktail circuit continued with events in the Marriott Hotel (the only higher-end hotel in the capital at that time) and as did private dinners in individual residences.

Within the Canadian mission, the HOM very quickly directed that a single/consolidated report would be sent to Ottawa at the end of the day. Initially, based on my reporting during the previous year, I was tasked to produce this consolidated report. This took a fair amount of effort and meant putting in extra hours well into the evenings to get it out in time for Ottawa to receive it early in their workday. After a week or so, at my

REFLECTIONS ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

request, the HOM agreed that I hand this over to a political officer that Ottawa had been sent to help us out. Thus allowing me more time to focus on purely defence issues.

As mentioned, the situation was uncertain. What was certain, however, was that this attack had been ordered/influenced/financed in some way or other by Osama Bin-Laden (OBL). The same person whom the Saudis, under pressure from the US and assisted by the Pakistan ISI, had been trying to have Mullah Omar of the Taliban hand over. And, being only a bunch of thirty-year-olds, could not see past their culture of Pashtoon Wali (hospitality to guest in one's house). Clearly, the Americans were going to respond but where, when and how? And how would that response affect our situation? So we worked away in Islamabad tracking down sources, following leads, sharing with our friends, plugging away at formulating insights and writing reports. And watching our backs.

It occurred to me, however, after I caught my breath about two weeks after 9/11, that we had become completely focused on the situation in Islamabad. Which, like any national capital, is not indicative of what is happening in the wider country/population. A national capital very much functions in a bubble. No doubt, during these two weeks since 9/11 we had developed a bunker mentality; being overly concerned with personal security and limiting ourselves to information that circulated within the diplomatic fishbowl. What was happening, I thought, outside the capital? By this time, after a year in Islamabad, I had travelled (both on my own and with organized trips for the defence attaché community sponsored by the ISI) throughout much of Pakistan; through the stunning Karakorum and Himalayan ranges in the far north, south to the Arabian Sea and the stark Makran Coast, east to and along the Indian border, west to the Afghan border and throughout Baluchistan, and most other places in between. So, I thought, it's time to get out of the bubble and see what is going on out there. A good way to do that would be to make a day trip to Peshawar and back travelling on the historic and always interesting Grand Trunk Road (GTR). The one-way distance was about 230 km with a driving time of four to five hours.

Upon my arrival in Islamabad a year previously I initiated the practice of using Thursdays to get out and explore the area around Islamabad. Although I needed ISI authority to leave the greater Islamabad area, I rarely asked. By doing this and taking longer trips, now after a year on the job (as stated) I had travelled throughout much of Pakistan and had made the trip to Peshawar and back many times, using various routes. By seeing daily life in our current post-9/11 circumstances and comparing it to my impressions/observations from pre-9/11 trips I felt I would be able to gain a better understanding of how things outside the Islamabad bubble were developing.

Thursday, 27 September 2001 was a sunny day with the post-monsoonal morning air refreshingly cool. After taking care of some business at the high commission and briefing Sgt Greenwood on my plans for the day and allocating him some tasks, I met up with my driver for the day and we departed at 8:00 AM. We left Islamabad on the Kashmir Highway which by-passes the sprawling Rawalpindi and then joins the GTR. Until October 2007, the GTR was the main route to Peshawar. The GTR is a historic and ancient road that has connected Bangladesh, through India and (now) Pakistan to Afghanistan for more than 2500 years. I had travelled it many times in both directions since my first time in 1991 and would ply it many more times in the following



Demonstration – Faisal Mosque

years. Over the years the road has been expanded from a busy two-lane highway to (now in 2001) a busy/congested four-lane road.

Along the way to Peshawar, we passed through the Margalla Pass, went past Taxila (home of the Pakistan Army's Heavy Industries Taxila where tanks and other armoured vehicles are produced). Then came Wah (home of the Pakistan Ordnance Factories which makes small arms and ammunition), next is Hasan Abdul which is the site of a significant Sikh temple and bathing pools formed from a natural spring, and further along is Pakistan Airforce Base Kamra which produces and

maintains fighter aircraft for the PAF. At Kamra I did notice some new perimeter defensive positions comprising earthwork sentry posts which were manned by armed soldiers. As well, there were some anti-aircraft guns I hadn't previously seen. My driver and I did not stop at our usual place at Attock where, while taking our tea, we could take in the view of the muddy coffee-coloured waters of the Kabul River mixing with the pristine turquoise coloured-Indus River. The Indus, due to the silt with which it is infused as it flows from the Himalayas and other mountain ranges, is also coffee-coloured for most of its journey south to the large dam at Tarbella. However, when the mud/silt-infused water enters the Tarbella Dam headband and stops moving, the silt sinks to the bottom exposing the water's natural alpine colouring. Crossing the rough bridge over the Indus one can also take in the view of the imposing 16th century Attock Fort, which dominates the old fording area of the Indus.

Paralleling the Kabul River, it was then on to and through sprawling Nowshera, home of the Pakistan Army School of Armour and School of Artillery. The land then becomes flat and increasing agricultural which meant we had entered the fertile Vale of Peshawar. Then it was into the chaos of Peshawar; the frontier city. As we entered the city centre we passed below the brick-faced ramparts of the great fort Balla Hissar which dominates the approaches to the military cantonment. Sadly, this fortress is increasingly surrounded by encroaching development and smoky, noisy traffic. This fort houses the headquarters for the Frontier Corps – NWFP (now KP/Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa); the paramilitary force that controls the border with Afghanistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

Our first stop, just beyond and overlooked by the Balla Hissar, was the PC Hotel. Over the years I have stayed at the PC Hotel many times and always enjoyed the atmosphere. As well, it is the only establishment of any western standard in the city/region. While having a tea and a snack in the hotel restaurant I noticed a significant number of foreign journalists hanging around; very much similar to the situation in Islamabad where the journalists had taken over the Meridien Hotel.

Asim and I then drove around Peshawar during which I tried to get an impression of the atmosphere of the city. After about half an hour my impression, which was similar to that of Asim, was that there was nothing much different from the previous times I had been in Peshawar. This was consistent with what we had seen/experienced both on the drive from Islamabad to Peshawar and during our return.

Back at the high commission, I spoke briefly with the HOM and then wrote a report which I sent to Ottawa. It was a good trip and just refreshing to be out and away from Islamabad and to see daily life outside of the bubble; the real Pakistan. That evening Jackie and I hosted the HOM, the Berry's and several other Canadians for dinner at our residence. It was a

REFLECTIONS ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

good evening and as well as being a chance to talk about my observations of the day and the current situation.

As September 2001 came to a close and into the early days of October pretty much everyone in the Islamabad diplomatic community, while going about their professional and personal lives, were holding their breath waiting for the US to respond to the 9/11 attacks. Something was going to happen and when it did happen it was going to have an impact on Pakistan and those of us in Islamabad. But life went on. In retrospect, we did get a warning as to when the US was going to strike. It came via the Military Police PO2

during our morning meeting on Friday, 5 October. He said he had been told by one of the American MPs that the Americans would be lying low during the next 24-48 hours.

The morning of Saturday 6 October was (since 9/11) a working day. The main subject of discussion at the 10:00 AM conference to DFAIT Ottawa was if and when it would be necessary to evacuate dependents and non-essential staff. Again, there was resistance to this, and questions of to where and for how long? Would it be somewhere nearby such as New Delhi or back to Ottawa? Again, no conclusions. That evening the Berry's hosted a dinner for most of the Programme Heads and their spouses. As usual, the discussion centred on the current situation and the need to reduce our footprint.

Sunday 7 October (Thanksgiving) was a welcome day off, during which Jackie and I caught up on things at home, did some shopping and spent some time with our puppy (Kaali). That evening the Canadian Club put on a full-course turkey Thanksgiving dinner. The function was fully attended by the Canadian High Commission staff and our families, as well as, several guests from the larger Canadian expatriate community and some from other western diplomatic missions. The meal had just been consumed, the staff were clearing the tables and things were being set up for post-dinner events when, at about 10:00 PM, the phones began ringing. My first call was from the German DA, who told me there were reports of explosions in Kabul. The US response to 9/11 had started.

Everyone was told to go home. And, after dropping their family home, the programme heads were told to return to the chancery for a teleconference to DFAIT Ottawa. After dropping Jackie at our SQ in Sector E-7, I returned to the chancery. Now approaching midnight, the programme heads (less the RCMP) gathered in the small conference room as Ottawa was called. The initial part of the teleconference was spent calming down those on the phone in Ottawa and assuring that things remained calm here in Islamabad. We asked for and were given authority to initiate Phase 3 the Mission Evacuation Plan; we were already in Phase 2. Before going home I phoned My boss in Ottawa the Director of Protocol and Foreign Liaison (DPFL) and informed him of the situation. Once back home (now well into the early morning hours) I phoned our daughter Alison to assure her that Jackie and I were fine.

The next morning things got going and events moved very quickly. At



Balla Hissar - Peshawar

7:30 AM all CBS gathered in the Official Residence. The atmosphere was sombre and no one was surprised when the HOM announced that DFAIT Ottawa had directed the implementation of Phase 3; the decision to evacuate. The HOM went on to confirm the names of those who had been designated as Essential Staff; these persons would be remaining at post. Everyone else (CBS and dependents) would be leaving early the next morning for Ottawa where DFAIT HQ was arranging accommodations. The Chief Administration Officer then gave some initial details on the flights he had arranged; some were routing through Europe

while others via South East Asia. Those leaving were to gather the clothing and other personal items they would need for a prolonged hotel stay, to prepare their staff quarters for a long/undetermined absence, to make arrangements for the care of their pets while they were away and so on. Most families had already put these arrangements in place in anticipation of this event. Finally, those leaving were told to gather at the Club at 2:30 AM tomorrow (Tuesday 9 October) from where they would be driven to the Islamabad Airport. Needless to say, no one was happy about this and there was a massive amount of uncertainty, in addition to some anger.

The Essential Staff (those remaining at post) totalled 16 persons. And the list was based on key positions within the high commission and not on any specific individual. They included the following positions: HOM, HOM Secretary, Political Officer/Chargé and his Secretary, Defence Advisor, Defence Advisor Assistant, both Military Police, Heads of Consular, Administration, Immigration and two additional Immigration officers and the Mission Technician to maintain the communications equipment.

In this evacuation, a decision was taken by the HOM which would have serious consequences which would manifest themselves in the coming months. It was allowing three spouses of CBS on the Essential List to also be designated as Essential Staff. The basis of the HOM's decision being the three were spouses of Programme Heads who had been deemed Essential Staff (and therefore not evacuating), there were no at-post children and all three were employed. One of these women was my wife, Jackie, who was employed as the Secretary for the Political Office. At the time I expressed my objections to the HOM, saying that allowing some spouses to remain at post would cause division within the Canadian community; which in the end it did.

A 2:30 AM on Tuesday, 9 October I drove through deserted and quiet streets of Islamabad to the High Commission. The High Commissioner was in his office and I spoke to him briefly about another developing crisis; the deteriorating situation between Pakistan and India which was seeing their respective militaries beginning to mobilize. That both of these long-standing adversaries were armed with nuclear weapons added an increased level of concern.

Just before 3:00 AM I went to the Club where two buses and a truck

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for baggage were waiting, as was an Islamabad Police escort. All the CBS and families were gathering inside the Club. Of course, no one was happy about having to leave their homes and jobs, and everyone was apprehensive what how their lives would be in Ottawa. Talking was generally in hushed tones.

I rode with the HOM in his car to the Islamabad Airport. Having a pass that allowed me access into the check-in area, I was able to assist/speed up those who were departing through the security checks and the always chaotic check-in process. Saying goodbye was difficult because I was staying and the others (very much against their will) were leaving. Once everyone was in the departure area waiting to board their flights, and with the first signs of dawn on the horizon, I rode back to Club. There, I got my car and drove home. Arriving home at 5:00 AM, talked to Jackie about the morning's events.

Shortly afterwards, at 7:00 AM, Jackie and I were at work. I spent most of the morning writing my report to NDHQ on the evacuation, as well as, a separate report on the ongoing and deteriorating military situation between Pakistan and India. This rapidly developing crisis was due to a violent incident that occurred on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) that separates Pakistani-controlled Kashmir from Indian-controlled Kashmir. The cause was an attack by a group of gunmen whom India accused the Pakistani ISI of recruiting, training, arming and then launching across the LoC. Normally these armed groups hit military targets, but in this instance, the attack was on an Indian Army housing complex and it resulted in a large number of military dependents being killed or injured. Pakistan denies any involvement in this incident or any others.

But the afternoon was quiet and due to the events of the past days and the departure of the bulk of the Canadian diplomats on strength here, the Chancery itself was sadly quiet. And now the reality of what had just occurred began to sink in. As did a general sense of what happens now? At the end of the day and before going home, I phoned DPFL and updated him on the situation, and asked that his staff assist Sgt Greenwood's wife when she arrived in Ottawa and afterwards. Which they did.

Events during the remainder of 2001, passed with many uncertainties looming over the consequences of the ongoing US military and Northern Alliance campaign against the Taliban and the search for Bin Laden. Would there be retribution by Al Qaeda? Or would any one of the myriad of domestic terror groups within Pakistan strike against the Pakistan government for its support the US? Would there be a domestic backlash levelled against western citizens? And many others questions relating to the domestic security situation. There were questions from those Canadians who had been evacuated as to how long they were going to

be away from their homes and jobs; understandably, morale in Ottawa was not good. Hovering over these issues was the mobilization of Indian and Pakistani military forces along their respective sides of their shared border, with increasing talk and fears of war between two nuclear powers.

For those of us still at work in Islamabad, every day was a workday, although sometimes on a weekend it might be for only a morning. But in these times of uncertainty Ottawa needed to be fed current and insightful information. Questions had to be answered. In addition to gathering information within the Islamabad bubble to write my reports I also got out as much as I could to obtain a wider view of Pakistan and how events in both Afghanistan and along the Pak-Indo border were playing out. My travels included: attending the Pakistan Military Academy graduation at Abbottabad; a day trip to Mahkan on the Indus River to get a sense of things; meeting with former Quetta students from my year; an office call with Director General Military Intelligence at GHQ in Rawalpindi; a day trip to Chakwal, routing through Pind Dada Khan, Jaipur and Jhelum to observe reported Pak Army training manoeuvres; attending the Pakistan Air Force Academy graduation at Risalpur; a two day trip to Quetta to call on the Commandant, with a stop in Lahore

to gauge the atmosphere there; attending a Remembrance Day ceremony at the CWGC in Rawalpindi; a two-day trip to Peshawar, including Charsada, Mardan and Swabi and Ghazi; a five-day trip to South Punjab with overnight stops in Lahore, Bahawalpur and Faisalabad; and throughout all this time making office calls on senior Pakistani officers of all three services and at Joint Staff HQ. My being a Quetta grad was of assistance in getting into some offices, especially to a two-star general at JSHQ who was my second term DS at Quetta.

Between 9/11 and the end of January, I wrote over 30 classified reports on the situation within Pakistan, post-Taliban Afghanistan, the military build-up on the Indo-Pak border, major shuffles within the senior leadership with the Pakistan Army/military and other related subjects. I sent even more non-classified reports. Throughout, I collaborated with Glyn Berry for his reporting, as did he with mine. This was a lot of reporting because there was a lot was going on in the region.

There were also decisions pending for Canada and other like-minded nations about when/whether or not to allow their non-essential staff and dependents to return to Pakistan. The main question being how would the US and Afghan Northern Alliance forces overwhelming then defeating the Taliban affect the potential for domestic unrest/anti-western violence within Pakistan and/or create political instability within Pakistan? By mid-December 2001 it was clear that the domestic security situation within Pakistan (or more to the point, within Islamabad) was such that



Anti-Western Demonstration - Islamabad



Islamabad Police – Post 9/11 Check Point

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it was deemed safe for those CBS and families who had been evacuated to return. By the end of the year, most had returned.

The early months of 2002 continued to be busy covering the post-Taliban situation in Afghan, assisting with a visit by the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, reporting on the ongoing tensions and military build-up along the Pak-India border, continued travels around Pakistan and a ten-day visit to Bangladesh to where I was also accredited as CDA. From this trip, I returned to Islamabad via New Delhi where, during a two-day stopover, I met with and compared notes with the CDA to India. I then travelled by train to the Pak/Indo border at Amritsar/Waga from where I returned to Islamabad by road. Then, in early February 2002, I received agrément from the newly installed post-Taliban Afghan government to be the Canadian Defence Attaché and then began making arrangements for my first trip to Kabul.

So it was a busy time, but there was still a great deal of tension within Pakistan, both from rising domestic jihadism (with such consequences as the kidnapping and subsequent murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl, the bombing in Karachi of a bus carrying Chinese contractors and the kidnapping of other foreigners), cross-border terror issues from Pakistan into India (as alleged by India) and the continued uncertainty about long-term stability in Afghanistan and along the Pak-Afghan border. Everything changed, however, on 17 March 2002. At the time I was in Gwadar on the South Arabian Sea coast and close to the Pakistan-Iran border. It was six days into a road trip with my driver, which had taken us from Islamabad with overnight stops in Bannu, Zhob, Quetta, Panjur, Turbat and then Gwadar. Getting back to Islamabad took another four days, spending nights at Omara (a Pakistan Navy base), Karachi, Sukkur, Multan and then home.

But back to 17 March 2002, when a terrorist entered the church that is located inside the Islamabad diplomatic enclave firing an automatic weapon and throwing grenades amongst the worshippers. Five persons died, including two Americans (the wife and daughter of a US diplomat). Many others of various nationalities were injured. A Canadian diplomat with his family were in the church at the time of the attack but escaped serious harm.



11 Nov 01 – Rawalpindi CWGC

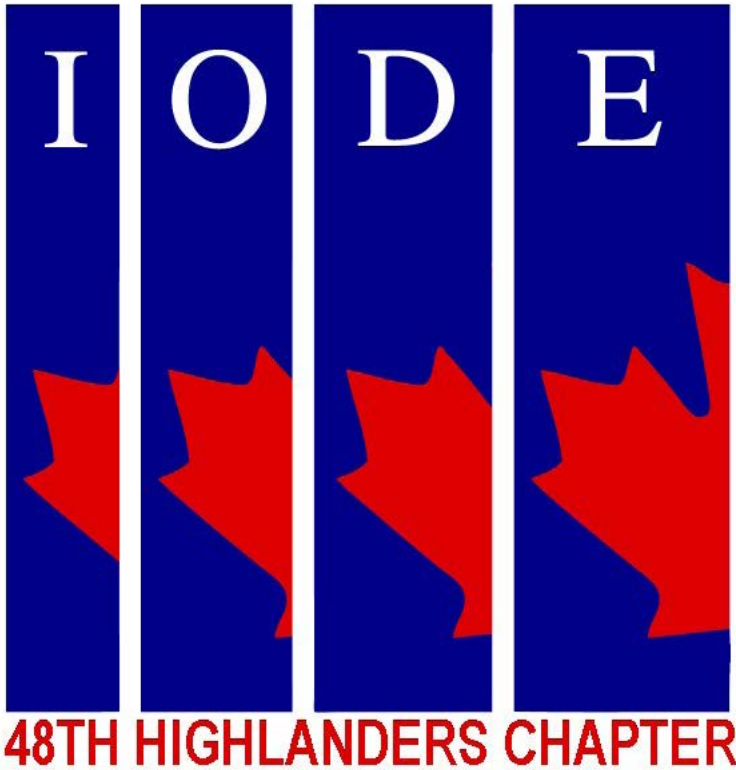


Packing Jackie's Effects

In the aftermath of the turmoil which October 2001 evacuation created DFAIT, similar to a few other missions, declared the Islamabad post to be unaccompanied. This meant that all dependents were to return to Canada by the end of March. This generated a tremendous amount of work for the Mission, as a whole, and for me in particular. Given the unusual circumstances, working with NDHQ in getting Sgt Greenwood's wife and Jackie moved back to and settled in Canada was extremely difficult. But on 26 April 2002 (once Sgt Greenwood returned from settling his wife in Greenwood, NS) Jackie and I returned to Jackie's hometown of Chilliwack. There we set her up in an apartment, furnished it, bought a car and arranged all the necessary accounts for her to live. We had hoped that after (say, six months) she would be allowed to return. But DFAIT, having made their decision, we were not about to reopen the post for dependents. Not even for adult dependents; that would not be allowed until the end of 2003. In January 2003 I informed DPFL that, given the unlikelihood of DFAIT allowing dependants to return to Islamabad any time soon, I could not accept his earlier request that I extend my posting from three years to four; ending in the summer of 2004. He understood and asked me to stay in the Attaché Programme by

offering a posting to Bangkok as CDA Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Singapore. This would be for the 2004 posting year. During the intervening year of 2003 to 2004, I would study Thai language at the CAF Language School in Gatineau, Quebec. But, here and now in April 2002, that was still a long way into the future and there was a job to do in Pakistan, Bangladesh and now Afghanistan.

48TH HIGHLANDERS IODE



Gerry Turner

by Ashley Bonnell, IODE 48TH Highlanders Chapter
Communications Officer

1. Chapter Member, Gerry Turner celebrated her 98th Birthday on 15 Oct 2021. Cards were sent by Chapter members and the IODE Provincial Chapter.
2. One of our 2021 Chapter initiatives included Art kits prepared for distribution to a local (Moss Park) Family Medical Centre. These kits would provide an outlet for the hardship they are enduring in their young lives. (Picture attached)
3. The following Chapter Members are recipients of the Ontario Volunteer Service Award (2021). The recipients are given a stylized trillium service pin and a personalized certificate to acknowledge their years of service:

Susan Arbour

Bonnie Brown-Thompson

Linda Lang

Dianne Love

Mary Oliver

Gerry Turner



IODE art kits prepared for the (Moss Park) Family Medical Centre



POSTED TO UPPER CAMP

DONALD FREDERICK GREER

June 26, 1932 - November 8, 2021

On November 8, 2021, we lost Col (Ret'd) Don Greer. He was a long-time, active member of our Regimental Senate and served as an officer in the Regiment in the 1950's. Don was in his 90th year and had a successful career in business and was dedicated to the reserves. His obituary from the Globe and Mail is at the end of this article.

Don was giving with his time and financial contributions in support of our Regimental family and our Regiment's legacy. He made a major contribution to the cadet fund, was a great supporter of the annual golf tournament and was a quiet but dedicated supporter of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial project from its beginnings in 2008. His generous donations helped the project erect the series of eleven memorials in France and Belgium. He understood the importance of commemoration and remembrance and he never asked for any public recognition of his generosity and moral support.

GLOBE AND MAIL OBITUARY:

In his 90th year, Donald Greer said farewell to this world following a two-week hospitalization, during which time he fought valiantly against sepsis. In so doing, he left behind many broken-hearted loved ones: his wife, Diana; his daughter, Susan; his grandson, D'Arcy Greer; his granddaughters, Katherine Greer, Sally Hough and Ella Hough; his son-in-law, Robert Hough; his brother, Paul Greer and his sister-in-law, Barbara Greer; and countless friends and colleagues.

Don attended St. Catharines Collegiate, where he played the trombone in band and crewed on the rowing team, which placed 2nd at the US School Boys Regatta at Princeton. Don also rowed on a city team, winning races at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. Over the years, he often returned to St. Catharines to watch this venerable competition.

Don graduated from McGill University, B Comm, in 1957. His degree served him well in his business career and he gave a lifetime of support to his Alma Mater. His friendships, particularly through the Kappa Alpha, gave him tremendous joy his whole life. In Montreal, Don met Diana Porritt, and they married in 1961. So began the family journey, with the birth of Susan and Kevin. Kevin's death in 2019 was the greatest tragedy of Don's life. This year Don and Diana celebrated their 60th anniversary.

In WWII, when Don was young, his father George served overseas. Following in George's footsteps, Don became a strong supporter of the Canadian Army Militia which he often said was the backbone of the Canadian Army, in peace and war. He served in the high school Cadet Corps and the McGill Contingent COTC (where he was awarded the Lord Geddes Medal for best Cadet). Don served as Honorary LCol of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in St. Catharines and was a member of their Foundation. He was a long-time member of the 48th Highlanders of Canada Senate and served on the 48th Trusts as a Trustee. He brought leadership, friendship and financial support to both Regimental families.

Not long into his career he, along with his brother Paul and a tight



knit group of investors, started Duracon Precast Industries Ltd. Driving along the 401, Susan and Kevin always shouted with pride when they spotted a Duracon truck delivering manholes or catchbasins. Following the sale of Duracon in 1981, Don broke into the mini-storage industry in the US and Canada, and participated in other ventures through his company Donvest.

Don loved sports and one of his passions was squash. Though he hung up his racquet many years ago, he continued to support his beloved Toronto Racquet Club, where he was a member for 60 years. He golfed at the Toronto Golf Club, sailed at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, and took his family on many fun ski adventures.

He was a loyal friend with a quick sense of humour. Sitting with friends, a glass of wine in hand, was one of his treasured pastimes. Don's favourite childhood memories occurred on his grandfather's farm, and in 1988 he and Diana purchased a farm north of the city. In the summer they would sit side-by-side on the porch, gazing down on the pond, watching their

grandchildren splash away. He loved being surrounded by family and, just 4 weeks before his death, he carved his last Thanksgiving turkey. The farm now seems soulless without him, but we hope with time, memories of this wonderful man will comfort us.

A farewell will be held for Don at Grace Church on the Hill (300 Lonsdale Road), Monday, November 15th, 1 p.m.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theglobeandmail/obituary.aspx?n=donald-frederick-greer&pid=200602244&fhid=17701>

70 YEARS AGO - HIGHLANDERS IN KOREA AND GERMANY



ABOVE LEFT: Machine gun crew prepares a defensive position, Korea, May 1951. Private Bill Kelly, in the foreground, and other members of the crew of 2 RCR dig slit trenches as their Vickers medium machine gun gets final siting and servicing. They are in position in the Wyoming Line south of and overlooking the Imjin River. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Korea: A platoon from 2 PPCLI returns from patrol, April 1951. Second from the right is Private Dave Crook, one of two Highlanders who joined 2PPCLI (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) with the first group of volunteers in August 1950. Dave recalled this patrol clearly: "Just out of the picture were stretchers with a couple of our patrol that had been hit that day. We were in a stalemate so our actions were all patrols, platoon sized and frequently company sized. The goal was to find out where the enemy was and in what strength. Staying behind the lines was boring so I think I may hold the record for the number of patrols in the unit." Crook served two tours of 14 and 15 months. After the Korean conflict, he came to the 48th Highlanders in 1966 and was Regimental Sergeant Major from 1972 to 1979. **RIGHT:** Shoulder patch, Korea. The patch is the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade.



ABOVE LEFT: Members of the advance party, Bravo Company, 1st Canadian Battalion. On board SS Columbia that left 20 October, 1951, Piper Bob Taylor entertains the advance party bound for service in Germany. Standing, left to right. Sergeants J.M. Sutherland, S.J. MacDiarmid, Captain W.A. Pincoe, Quartermaster, Corporals R. Taylor, piper, J.A. Burton, Private W.P. Townley and Staff Sergeant S.F.L. Ansdell. As Taylor recalled: "Our job was to get ready for the battalion's arrival. As usual, it seemed like the sergeants were skilled at handing out the work, however we liked the different jobs and places that we wouldn't have seen otherwise". **ABOVE RIGHT:** Changing of the Guard, Chatham Barracks, Hanover, Germany, 1951. The Quarter Guard was changed every day at 1500 hours. Here the Old Guard under command of Corporal K.R. Luttrell marches off as the New Guard under Corporal D.M. Fletcher prepares to take over. A piper always piped the New Guard from the parade square to the guardhouse and then piped the Old Guard back. On some occasions, a drummer added to the ceremony. **RIGHT:** Shoulder patch, Germany, NATO. The patch is the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 2nd Battalion, Canadian Highland Battalion. The thistle clearly denotes their Highland heritage.

