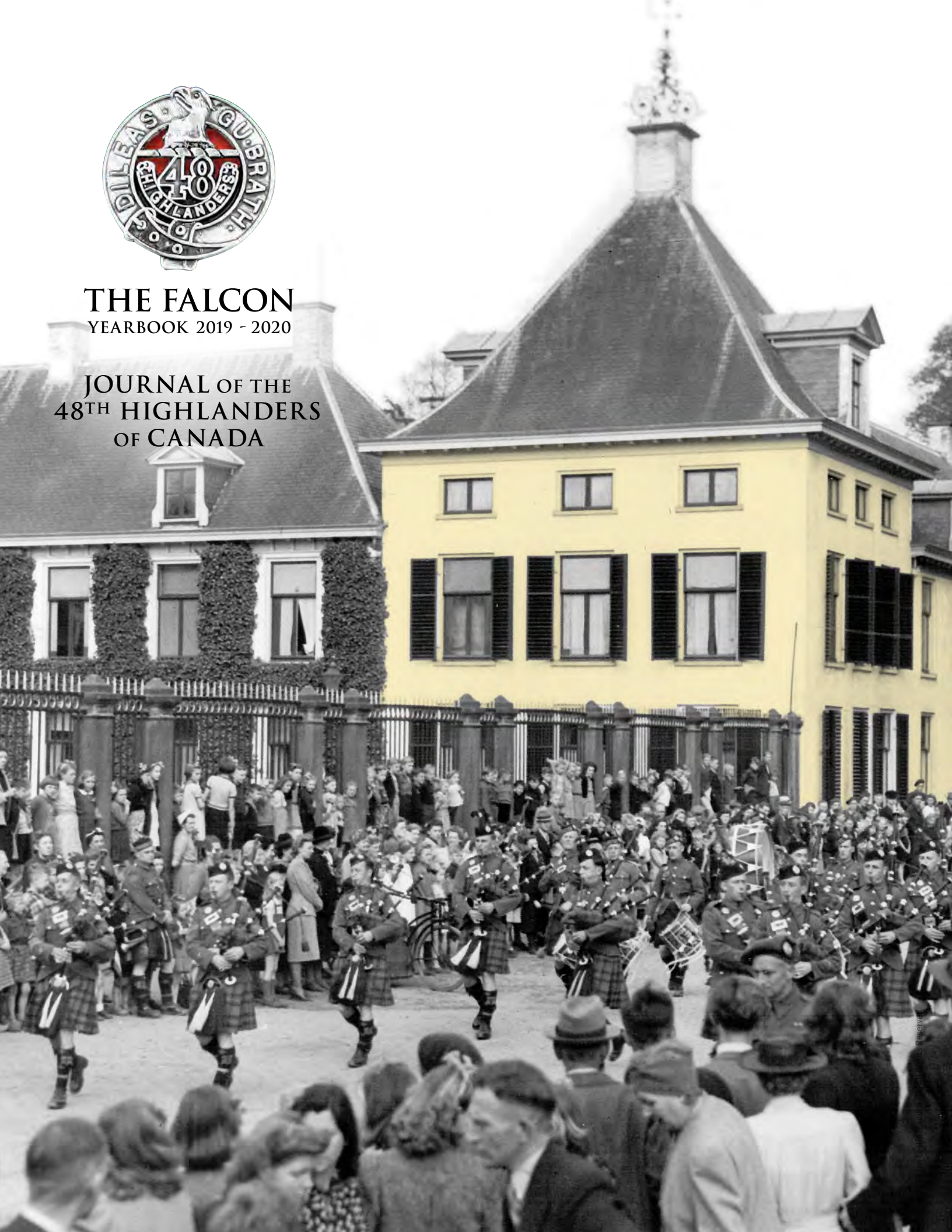




# THE FALCON

YEARBOOK 2019 - 2020

JOURNAL OF THE  
48<sup>TH</sup> HIGHLANDERS  
OF CANADA







## ON THE COVER:

### Pipes & Drums on parade in Apeldoorn, 20 April 1945

On April 17, Apeldoorn was liberated ending the long bitter occupation of the Dutch city. Two days later the 48<sup>TH</sup> swept out of the town as a flying column of the Canadian 1st Division with the goal of pinning down the retreating German forces. Back in Apeldoorn, the band continued to enthral the townspeople. Here they pass in front of the Het Loo Palace of Queen Wilhelmina.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

This issue of The FALCON produced by



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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.

## YEARBOOK 2019/20 - FEATURING:

- Honours and Awards
  - The Active Battalion
  - Regimental Associations
  - Two Highlanders turn 100
  - Liberating Holland
  - 105th Anniversary of the 2nd Battle of Ypres
  - A Highlander's story of UN deployment
  - In Remembrance - 2019
  - In Memoriam to lost Highlanders
- And - much more about the REGIMENT -  
past and present.



Members of the Falcon Team,  
attending the 2019 Unit  
Christmas Dinner, were honored  
to receive the CO / RSM's Coin,  
in recognition of their ongoing  
efforts producing high quality  
issues of the Regimental Journal.



PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE - PROVIDED BY Adam Bernard, Ashley Bonnell, Cpl J. Kalabic, Maj Brian McCue, Ian McDonald, Danielle Reesor, Col R.L. Read, Lazy Poet Creative, Paul Mosey, St Andrew's College, BGen Greg Young, The 15th Battalion Memorial Project, Lt Col Brian Jackson, Geordie Beal, Capt Javin Lau, Lt P. Vandertoorn, WO T. Ruckman, Major Howard Michitsch and families of the deceased.

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER?**

A colour version of this issue is available at the Regimental website ***www.48highlanders.com***



## A Message from the Commanding Officer

Greetings Highlanders. The Annual FALCON Yearbook for 2019 was expected to be published by now, but world events have overtaken us, and there are greater priorities than our annual Regimental Journal.

However, although we are currently living with a number of restrictions due to COVID-19, this is still the first opportunity that I've had to wish many of you a safe and prosperous 2020. Recognizing that may sound a bit preposterous, let's keep in mind that we are still among the most fortunate people in the world - we live in a great country, with a fantastic health care system; at the time of writing we've had only one confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Regiment; we have access to many ways to keep in contact; and we are part of the Regimental Family of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

I will provide an update on COVID-19 shortly, but I would like to take a moment to reflect on the Regiment's 2019, before we look forward to the current year.

Let's start by looking back at some of the highlights of what we accomplished as a Regiment in 2019:

- In March, we led the 32 CBG collective training event and live fire field training exercise in Fort Drum New York. This was another excellent training experience for soldiers and officers at all levels.
- We continue to be grouped with the Tor Scot R and the Lorne Scots to form a Tactical Training Group. This TTG works well together and sets the bar in 32 CBG for the other three TTG to aspire to.
- The Tug-O-War Team participated in the Maxville Highland Games, and were joined by the Pipes & Drums at the Fergus Highland Games.
- The Regiment had 3 subalterns successfully completed their initial course and be promoted to 2Lt, and one Second Lieutenant complete the Infantry Platoon Commander qualification and be promoted to Lt. We also had 9 promotions to MCpl, two promotions to Sgt, and two promotions to Warrant Officer. A number of Highlanders were promoted to Cpl. A list of promotions can be found later in the FALCON, along with a list of honours and awards.
- When I wrote my report at this time last year, our strength was 213. Today we are at 232 all ranks.
- The Pipes and Drums conducted another successful Indoor Games for Pipers and Pipe Band Society Toronto Branch
- The all-volunteer Military Band continue to provide excellent support to the Regiment
- The Cadets continue to promote excellence among the young Canadians who are part of the program; and the Cadet Shooting Team won the Zone Shooting Competition.
- We received our Strengthening the Army Reserve task – we are to provide an Infantry Platoon to 1 RCR. This is a great task for us for several reasons – it is a core infantry task; and we have a strong affiliation with 1 RCR stretching back to Sicily and Italy; up to the present day.
- The BOR and Administration Coy overseen by the DCO, the Adjt and OC Admin Coy keep the Regiment on a strong administrative foundation – the budget, the ATI, the SIV, PERs – all these (and more) help us to stay in Brigade's "good books".



The significant event in 2020 so far is the global COVID-19 crisis. This has had a major impact on Canada, and therefore by extension, on the Regiment. On 10 March, a CANFORGEN (Canadian Forces General Order) was issued restricting travel in the CAF. Two days later a travel ban was imposed. On 13 March, all Army Reserve training was ceased, followed shortly by instructions to remain at home, and the implementation of Op LASER (the CAF response to a Pandemic). During the next several weeks, the CAF and the Army implemented "protect the force" measures – all soldiers were to work remotely, stay fit, and stay healthy. This changed to "generate the force" in early April when soldiers were asked if they are able to assist with the CAF response. Those who identified

that they were available completed a virtual DAG, medical and other necessary administration. And then the "employ the force" phase was activated. At this time, there are more than 50 soldiers, NCOs and officers who are ready to respond to approved request for assistance from civilian authorities. There are another 25 who have indicated that they are able to respond to short emergencies. This is almost 40% of the Regiment's effective strength.

While these soldiers stand ready to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, the remainder of the Regiment is not idle. The Company Commanders, Sergeants-Major, Platoon Commanders and Seconds-in-Command, along with the Section Commanders have developed new and innovative ways to conduct remote training using collaborative computer software platforms.

COVID-19 has impacted Recruiting. There are no attraction events, but Recruiting continues to be high on the Regimental priority list - we are continuing to grow the Active Regiment, and the Recruiting Cell is maintaining contact with all applicants with an eye on post-COVID-19 activities.

We are also working to improve our social media presence. Capt Javin Lau is spearheading the team that is working to update the website, and keep the Regimental Instagram and Facebook posts timely and accurate. This is a work in progress, so I ask for some patience as we work toward these improvements.

As we head into the new training year, the focus will switch to Offensive Operations. It's been a while since the Regiment conducted an advance to contact, Section attacks and Platoon attacks. This is a welcome change. We have leaned forward on this a bit. In early February, instructors from the Infantry School in Gagetown came to Moss Park Armoury for a weekend, and conducted professional development training for officers across 32 CBG and NCOs from the Regiment on Urban Operations. This was a very effective "skills and drills" training event focused at preparing Jr NCOs and officers for the challenges of conducting operations in this very complex terrain. Thanks to Maj Morische and MCpl Smith for their work pulling this event together.

We have made some significant progress in establishing and developing the relationship with IRCR, and were invited to send soldiers to participate in several exercises this spring, culminating in Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, the deployment validation FTX. Unfortunately, this FTX was cancelled due to COVID-19.

You will see a recurring theme here – COVID-19 has significantly impacted everything we do, and intended to do this spring – Friday Night Training at MPA, the weekend FTXs; courses have been ceased with no indication of when they will be completed, the IODE Luncheon is postponed, the Act of Remembrance Parade is cancelled; the Officers' Dinner is cancelled, the Cadet Annual Inspection is cancelled; there will be no Reserve Summer Training, the annual collective summer exercise is cancelled – and at this time, there is no indication when we will return

to our "normal op tempo".

I would like to recognize the hard work and commitment of all the soldiers, NCOs and officers – especially in the current environment in which we find ourselves. I am impressed, thankful and proud of the way in which the Regiment has responded – by stepping forward to volunteer and help Canadians, by coming up with new ways to train your soldiers, by keeping the welfare of the soldiers in mind at all times. The Army Reserve, and the 48th Highlanders, is not a social club – it is a demanding, part time career that requires a significant commitment. I also want to thank the families of our soldiers for understanding that what we do is important, and for their support.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the outstanding work of Capt Delaney, CWO Kwok, MWO Reesor and Sgt Liddell during the past month. Without their tireless work and dedication, we would not have been able to generate and launch our soldiers on Op LASER. Your efforts have been noted and are appreciated.

And lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Officers' Association, the Continuing Sergeant's Association, The Old Comrades Association, the IODE, and the P&D Association. Your ongoing support of the Active Regiment is greatly appreciated.

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. When we're through the current crisis, we'll have a ceilidh (a smoker to those of you who don't speak Gaelic) at MPA and reconnect as a Regimental Family.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*

R. A. ALKEMA  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

## A Special Message from the Colonel-in-Chief



## A Message from the Honorary Colonel

### AN END AND A BEGINNING

During this past year the Regiment has participated in ceremonies commemorating an ending, the 100th anniversary of the Regiment's return to Toronto at the end of The Great War and a beginning, the 80th anniversary of the 1st Battalion's departure for England in 1939. These ceremonies were a moving reminder of the Regiment's continuing commitment to serving the people of Canada in both peace and war. It also reminds us that as one operation comes to an end we begin to prepare for the next one and the one after that. In this case the "next one" in 2020 was OP LENTUS the domestic operation that helped Canadians caught in last spring's serious flooding in Northern and Eastern Ontario.



The Regiment continues to experience significant growth and is larger now than it has been in many years. This is a tribute to the leadership and effort of the serving officers and senior NCOs of the active battalion. The fact that more the 50 soldiers and officers completed leadership courses resulting in promotions this year is still another example of the dedication of our soldiers.

For me personally the highlight of the year was having four 48th pipers led by MWO Laing participate in the opening ceremonies of the 24th World Scout Jamboree. They performed before 45,000 people from 160 countries and the ceremony was broadcast to virtually every country around the globe. I had spent the last 10 years working as the co-chair of the jamboree planning team so having pipers from MY regiment as part of the festivities was a perfect way to kick off the event. Many of scouting colleagues remarked on how proud I was of our pipers.

I'm sure all 48th Highlanders are looking forward to a very active 2020. This will be my final year as your Honorary Colonel so each event during the year will have special personal significance. There will no doubt be challenges for us to overcome but we are looking to the future and we are actively formulating plans that will make the Regimental Family stronger and better able to support the active battalion and our veterans.

I would once again like to thank all the members of the Regiment for your commitment, dedication and hard work in 2019. Your contributions ensured that we had another successful year. I'm sure your continuing efforts will ensure we have another great year in 2020!

*DILEAS*  
MICHAEL D. SCOTT CM CD  
HONORARY COLONEL



## RSM'S REVIEW

By RSM (CWO) Brian Kwok, CD

Greetings fellow Highlanders... another year has passed and at the time of writing, we enter into some unknown territory. Over the past year of 2019, we have made some important strides within the Regiment.

The active Regiment continues to grow, year after year, and now has a total strength of 232 members. With the growing number of soldiers, we need strong leaders to guide and develop them.

Our current Highlanders have stepped up, and we have grown our NCO corps. This year has seen nine new MCpls, two new Sgts, and two new Warrant Officers.

This year we have had eight more soldiers commit to taking their MCpls course as well as four Mcpls stepping up to get qualified to Sgt. I want to take the time to recognize all those who are making personal sacrifices to take the time off from their regular routines to dedicate to the Army. Our soldiers deserve great leadership, and I'm proud of those who are willing to take on that responsibility.

During the past number of years, the Canadian Forces Reserves have been called upon to help Canadians at home. Since I've joined the Army, the 48th have participated in domestic operations including the Red River Floods, the Quebec Ice Storms, digging out Toronto in severe Winter weather, and providing shelter to the homeless. This past year also saw significant flooding in the Bracebridge and Ottawa River areas.

The call went out to all Reserve units within 32 Brigade, and our Highlanders answered the call as always. Within an unprecedented 18-hour period, the Brigade was able to deploy 270 soldiers, including 22 Highlanders who were willing to put their lives on hold to help Canadians. This was another very proud moment for me.

Today, we are facing some very tough challenges as Canada and the world come to grips with the COVID-19 pandemic. We are seeing governments take extraordinary steps to try to contain the problem, and individuals going to extraordinary measures to serve and assist the community.

This situation has also had an effect on the Canadian Armed Forces which in turn has affected us. Travel restrictions, self quarantines, and cancellation of mass gatherings have become our reality.

Our main effort at this time is Force Health Protection to allow us to preserve our ability to respond to the needs of the country. With the situation changing rapidly, we are protecting our people while still performing any mandate asked of us. As soldiers, we continue to follow the directions given to us and will take on every challenge tasked to us.

I have already mentioned the strength of our Regiment and have shown examples of how our Highlanders have demonstrated their commitment to Canadians. I don't know what the coming days, weeks and months will bring, but I am confident that whatever comes next, our soldiers will willingly face those challenges head on.

The support of the Regimental Family to the Active Regiment is always appreciated, and we also appreciate the strength I know you will show us in the coming day, weeks and months.

**DILEAS GU BRATH! 🇨🇦**



## OUR NEW ARMOURY ENTRANCE POSTER

Moss Park Armoury is the home to 4 Reserve Units:

- 7th (Toronto) Regiment
- Royal Canadian Artillery
- The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
- 48th Highlanders of Canada
- 25 Field Ambulance

Yet there is nothing at the front entrance to tell the public about the Regiments that call MPA home. Recently, the 48th Highlanders spearheaded a project to change this. Working closely with 32 CBG HQ and the other three Units, the back of the elevator wall – which faces the main entrance doors – will have a number of panels mounted identifying the armoury, and the housed Regiments.

The CO asked for a small team comprised of BGen (Ret) Young, Col (Ret) Elms, Col (Ret) Beal, HCol Scott, Capt Darling, RQMS Kinkaid, and of course, the RSM to design the 48th Highlanders of Canada panel. Pte Kalabic volunteered to be the artist, and was an instrumental part of the team as the designer and artistry technical expert.

The team quickly decided that our Regimental panel had to incorporate the following components: History, Identity, Purpose, Membership, and Regimental Branding – the P&D had to be included and the Regimental cap badge had to be prominently displayed. Serving members had to identify with the panels and take pride in what they see there. As well the panel had to be of interest to a varied civilian audience – especially those who might be influenced to join the Regiment.

Once the team decided on the message, the appropriate photos had to be located. The Regimental Museum provided some photos, previously published photos were considered, and personal photo collections were reviewed. Not only did the content of each photo have to convey the correct message, but it had to be high-definition so that it could be blown up to the appropriate size. A number of outstanding photos were rejected by Pte Kalabic as unsuitable as they did not have the required definition.

The team tried to capture the Regiment's past with the WW I and WW II images, recent operations, the ceremonial component, the role of the Pipes and Drums, and the Regiment of today.

The end result of all that work is the panel to the right. 🇨🇦



## TOAST TO THE REGIMENT WO/SGTS MESS DINNER 05 OCTOBER 2019

By WO Thanuja Ruckman, CD

RSM, PMC, Colonel, Guests, and Members of the Mess, I am presenting the Toast to the Regiment because the last time I was asked to do this I was brief and to the point - failing to convey the Regiment's history or any emotional connection.

For those of you who know me, conveying "feeling stuff" is not my forte. But what I can do is deliver some history and honesty. I'm going to start with some honesty.

I joined the Army to earn money, and I'm still here almost 20 yrs later because the people in this Regiment became my second family.

I look at the Highlanders in this room, and I know you have all stuck around because the people in the unit aren't a bad bunch to grab a drink with on a Friday night, or escape from your particular domestic situation.

And for all of us here, in the WO/Sgts Mess, it also meant a lot of time away, outside in the elements, wondering what went wrong in our life. Also, stories we can relieve decades later with a select few, nicknames people never escape, and of course, the commitment to the Regiment has required sacrifice from every single person here.

On the 16th of October, 1891, a militia regiment designated the 48th Battalion 'Highlanders' was raised in the City of Toronto by a group of individuals who wanted to establish the city's first Highland regiment.

The 48th first saw combat operations in 1899, when Highlanders formed as part of the First Canadian Contingent in the Boer War and was awarded its first Battle Honour. During the First World War, the Regiment raised 3 battalions and formed a part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, earning 21 Battle Honours.

During the Second World War, the Regiment was deployed again participating in the landing at Sicily, fighting up the Italian Peninsula, assisting in the liberation of Holland and northwest Europe. The Regiment was award 27 Battle Honours for its actions during the Second World War.

Since then, the 48th have been deployed with the regular forces to fight in the Korean War, and with NATO forces in Germany during the Cold War, as well as both NATO and United Nations missions in Cyprus, Somalia, the Golan Heights, Cambodia, Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.

With the exception of some of our guests, nothing I have said about the Regiment's history is new to anyone in this room.

This Regiment's history is great, but I want to take this moment to recognize, that it was made by people who have broken bread and participated in the same traditions we are doing tonight. Looking around this room, I see Highlanders who have through their commitment to the Regiment have exemplified our motto," Dileas Gu Brath".

So to all those who have been, and continue to be faithful, please stand and charge your glasses for a toast to the Regiment.... "To the Regiment!"

🇨🇦





# HONOURS AND AWARDS

## PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS 2019



### CAPT TO MAJ

Butler Capt to Maj



### 2LT TO LT

Van Der Toorn 2Lt to Lt

Papalia 2Lt to Lt

Malcolm 2Lt to Lt

Zhou 2Lt to Lt



### OCdt TO 2LT

Crandall OCdt to 2Lt

Khan OCdt to 2Lt



### SGT TO WO

Potapenko Sgt to WO

Rukman Sgt to WO



### MCPL TO SGT

Sherry MCpl to Sgt

Haley MCpl to Sgt



### PTE/CPL TO MCPL

Blair Cpl to MCpl

Thompson Cpl to MCpl

Gundert Cpl to MCpl

Cunti Cpl to MCpl

Weir McPherson Cpl to MCpl

Turner Cpl to MCpl

Sosa Pte to Cpl to MCpl

Wang Pte to MCpl

Van Overdijke Pte to MCpl

Cui Pte to MCpl

### PTE TO CPL

Mayer Pte to Cpl

Nagulanathan Pte to Cpl

Koulias Pte to Cpl

Padolina Pte to Cpl

Clark Pte to Cpl

Catherwood Pte to Cpl

Berto Pte to Cpl

Khoury Pte to Cpl

Akbari Pte to Cpl

Kimmons Pte to Cpl

Huang Pte to Cpl

Galeana Barrea Pte to Cpl

Kanagasinghem Pte to Cpl

Lam 172 Pte to Cpl

Sivayogarajah Pte to Cpl

Virk Pte to Cpl

Forte Pte to Cpl

Ouroumis Pte to Cpl

Seiler Pte to Cpl

Dela Rosa Pte to Cpl

Finn Pte to Cpl



### List of Awards 2019

Maj Morische: CD 1

MWO Lang: CD 2

WO Ross: CD 3

MCpl Thomas: CD



# HONOURS AND AWARDS

## MEMBER OF MILITARY MERIT



Ex 48th RSM Murphy on parade



Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Derek Murphy will receive the Order of Military Merit (MMM) from the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, during a future special investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall.

CWO Murphy will be honoured for his past outstanding leadership as a Regimental Sergeant Major and for his current, ongoing work as a Reserve Advisor at 4th Canadian Division Headquarters.

Created in 1972, the Order of Military Merit recognizes meritorious service and devotion to duty by members of the Canadian Armed Forces, honouring them for their commitment to Canada.

## ONTARIO MEDAL FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP



Sgt (Ret) Al Kowalenko receives the Ontario Medal For Good Citizenship (OMC) from The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdsell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, at a special ceremony March 7, 2019, at Queens Park.

Al was honored for his 45+ years of outstanding volunteer service with organizations such as Canadian Blood Services, Canadian Hellen Keller Centre, Deafblind Association of Toronto, and the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

The OMC, established in 1973, is the province's second highest civilian honor and only 550 medals have been awarded since its inception.



# ACTIVE BATTALION

## EX COLD START 1 MEAFORD

By OCdt Silva Araujo

On the weekend of 18 JAN 2020, the 48th Highlanders of Canada participated in a combined exercise with the Lorne Scots at the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford. The intent was to qualify new troops on Basic Winter Warfare (BWW) while testing the skills of platoon commanders, section commanders and their troops in a harsh environment.

Although the temperature was considered mild for the infamous January weather in Grey County, the sub-zero environment was cold enough to test the willpower and survival skills of both new and seasoned soldiers.

Whether your task was to set up 10 men tents, pull heavy toboggans through deep snow or serve and eat “hot” meals in the freezing cold and darkness of reveille before the -20°C wind turned your hardboiled eggs into nice shiny rocks, section cohesiveness was a must during this exercise.

A sense of humour was a great tool to ensure we survived while staying on task during the weekend. However, MWO Hansen also reminded us how important it was to keep a “pulse” on your troops where the risk of hypothermia and frostbite was very real.

The camaraderie between the two regiments played a key role in the success of recce patrols, as they spent the nights watching the enemy force with nothing but



# ACTIVE BATTALION

## DELTA COMPANY YEAR IN REVIEW

By 2Lt Brian Fernandes, D Coy

This past training year has been very eventful for the members of Delta Company. As the training company, they have been working hard to develop themselves as officers, non-commissioned officers, junior leaders and soldiers.

The candidates in Pre-PLQ are beginning their careers as leadership in the military. It is an important step for them as they must learn to develop their mindsets as future section commanders after being trained to follow. These aspiring junior leaders must come to terms with the added expectations and responsibilities that will be placed upon them. At the start of their mentorship by seasoned Sergeants and Master Corporals, candidates were assessed in order to determine their level of knowledge and to identify any deficiencies. From there, candidates have been working on delivering knowledge and skill lessons, taking part in and leading recce patrols, mastering their individual soldier skills in addition to being given an introduction to battle procedure. They put these skills to action on Ex COLD START 2 which took place 7-9 February at 4CDTC Meaford.

Roughly two sections of candidates are currently in the process of completing their Basic Military Qualification course, their very first introduction to life within the Canadian Armed Forces. When they are not on course at the Dalton Armoury, the candidates receive supplementary instruction from new and enthusiastic Master Corporals during admin nights and parade nights. Candidates were given the opportunity to request further instruction in areas they felt required development and have been sharpening their drill, navigation skills and weapons handling. Additionally, they have been given the opportunity to play the role of enemy forces and to sit in on the delivery of orders during Ex COLD START I which took place at TC Meaford on the weekend of 17-19 Jan 2020. The freshly-minted Master Corporals from the 48th Highlanders do their utmost to mentor and ensure the success of new recruits.

The junior officers of Delta Company have been also been busy developing their leadership skills and preparing for their upcoming courses. Three officers from Delta Company will attend the Dismounted Platoon Commanders Course this summer at the Infantry School, one officer will be attending Basic Military Officer Qualification – Army at the Combat Training Centre, and two new officers will be loaded onto the Basic Military Officer Qualification course. During the training year, the Subalterns have participated in Brigade Training Exercises, Basic Winter Warfare courses, Battle School taskings as well as work-up training for the courses they will soon be taking.

The recruiting team has also had a very dynamic training year with roughly 30 new enrolees! Recruiting has been extremely active, conducting outreach to High Schools, Universities and Colleges throughout the GTA. The recruiting team has also been present at exciting venues such as Paintball and Airsoft arenas and have intentions of being involved in other major events in Toronto such as the Santa Claus Parade, the Outdoor Show, Fan Expo and many more. This training year also saw the flourishing of the 48th Highlander's social media presence both on Facebook and Instagram. For the latest news on events, historical tidbits, and photos of our Highlanders in action, follow us on Instagram (48highlanders).

their makeshift snow hooches until their body-heat turned the ground into ergonomic ice-chairs.

MCpl Boyden did a great job leading his section through their first iteration of BWW, culminating in a well-developed defense position with plenty of firepower to test the effectiveness of the snow-shoed section attacks.

The Highlanders proved once again to have the skills necessary to survive and showcase the Canadian high standards of winter warfare. Congratulations to all.

*DILEAS GU BRATH* 🇨🇦





# ACTIVE BATTALION

## EX URBAN FALCON - URBAN OPS

What a great pleasure it was to welcome some of the pre-eminent Urban Operations (UO) specialists, currently working in the CAF, to Moss Park Armoury, on the 31 Jan - 02 Feb weekend.

Maj Geroux, OC Counter-IED Cell, Tactics School, CTC Gagetown, had just returned from Germany, where he spoke at the NATO Urban Operations summit and delivered a thought-provoking set of lectures, which drew heavily on historical examples, including the 48th Highlanders' experiences in the battle of Ortona during the Italian Campaign.

In true crawl-walk-run fashion, his lectures to the Highlanders were followed by a CMX in which orders were issued requiring Officers in attendance to break off into syndicates and develop an Offensive or Defensive Urban Operations TEWT back brief, to be delivered on the following Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, WO Vandoremalen (who started his army career as a 48th Highlander) and Sgt Blythe led the NCMs through gunfighter refresher drills that enabled the conduct of 4-man stack room entry drills by Saturday morning and culminated in Platoon-level building clearances by Sunday afternoon.

WO Vandoremalen made a point of mentioning that the eagerness of the NCOs to learn made them a pleasure to teach and allowed for rapid skill progress in a short period of time.

As a result of the training provided on URBAN FALCON, all participants achieved a greater appreciation of the practical and theoretical application of UO skills, an increasingly likely form of warfare for today's soldier.



MCpls Wang and Robertson utilize MPAs balcony to provide cover during "diamond" street-crossing drills.



Building successfully cleared



Cpl Clark covers the window threat



# ACTIVE BATTALION



# ACTIVE BATTALION

## RANGERS CUP 2020: 32 BRIGADE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Regiment’s hockey team entered the annual New Years Tournament again this year. The level of skill and play in the Brigade continues to increase as some teams compete regularly – a couple in men’s league action.

Having said that, our team advanced from pool play for the first time. We defeated the Royals in our first pool game and narrowly lost to the QOR in the second. Then, came the most dramatic game of the tourney!

The Brigade HQ team took a quick lead. At the start of the third period they were up 4-1. The 48th team battled back scoring two goals in the first minute of the third. We could not notch another one until 15 seconds left, we tied it up 4-4!

Our momentum continued in the dying seconds, MCpl. Boyden won the offensive zone face-off, got the puck around the net and passed it to Capt Laurella, who scored the game winning goal right as the buzzer went off! The 48th Highlanders won the game with no time remaining and moved on to the consolation game against the Toronto Scottish.

Lead by bench boss Coach Darling, the team had a great mix of experienced players and

youth. The CO provided solid and wily defense, and Capt. Laurella anchored the offense.

Your team also included: Sgts. Dewar and Kincaid, MCpls. Smith and Boyden, Cpls. Curtain, Bender (G) and Sivayogorajah (G), and Pte. Hutchinson.

We thank the Drum Major for his work as timer and score keeper, and Capt. Laurella as playing GM. Regimental spirit was in evidence with the skirl of the pipes by Piper MCpl. Sean McKenzie-Mardelli and flag bearer Jonas Alkema. As always, we appreciate the support of our pro photographer, Danielle Reesor.

*DILEAS,  
MCPL. MAX BOYDEN*



Team Photo



Capt. Darling and Capt. Boyden directing the team



Piper MCpl Sean McKenzie-Mardelli providing inspiration



Sergeant Dewar and MCpl Smith digging for the puck

# ACTIVE BATTALION

## THE PETAWAWA DIVISIONAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Under the leadership of MCpl Max Boyden, from the 48th, in the role of Team Captain, a group of Reservists from 32 CBG put together a team and took part in the week-long Divisional Level Hockey Tournament held in Petawawa during January.

The 32 Brigade team consisted of currently serving members; they were designated the “Toronto” team.

They competed against 7 other teams from bases across Ontario, all comprised of Regular Army and Air force personnel.

The level of play was very competitive.

The “Toronto” team showed very well, playing with steady determination, against Regulars, who are paid to play and spend a great deal of time at the rink.

*BRAVO ZULU TO ALL 32 CBG PLAYERS INVOLVED! 🇨🇦*



Capt. Laurella mixing it up in front of their net



MCpl Boyden takes a shot from the slot. Photos by Danielle Reesor.



MCpl Boyden



All photos on this spread courtesy D. Reesor



# ACTIVE BATTALION

## THE 2019 ST. ANDREW'S BALL

by Lt Pim van der Toorn

The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and the 48th Highlanders of Canada once again co-hosted their annual Charity Ball on 30, November 2019. For the first time since 1929 it was not held at the iconic Royal York Hotel, but at The Carlu, an equally historic though smaller venue.

The Ball's many traditions were carried out in fine form, from the Grand March to the after-dinner snuff mulls. Beat Retreat, the popular closing spectacle, was modified from its usual dynamic pageantry to a more static tableau in deference to the limited space available.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Scottish Country Dance practice sessions were held at Moss Park Armoury and they evidently paid off for many, as the dancing, motivated as always by the 48th Highlanders Pipes & Drums, was popular and lively on the night. While the customary Host Suite was not possible at the new venue, there was ample evidence to indicate that people had found ways to improvise, adapt and overcome this change in SOP, and good spirits abounded.

After the Haggis was given a proper Burns address, the pipes skirled, elegant gowns swirled and Highlander sporrans whirled deep into the night, echoing the old rituals of this fundraiser, amid new ones already developing. One just hopes that the absence of neeps and tatties from the otherwise excellent menu isn't one of them!



# ACTIVE BATTALION





# ACTIVE BATTALION

## ANNUAL REPORT PIPES AND DRUMS

by Drum Major (MWO) Reesor

The Pipes and Drums had a busy time this past year including welcoming some new and returning Pipers and Drummers.

The 2019 year began with the P&D serving members completing First Aid courses and conducting their annual FORCE fitness test. The remainder of January, February, and March was spent on new music and supporting the Garrison Ball with pipers.

In April, the Drum Major, Pipe Major and a couple of Pipers combined with others in 4 Canadian Division to form a Massed Pipes and Drums to support the Virginia International Tattoo in Norfolk, Virginia. This was a 9 day trip, but the nice thing about it was the opportunity to work with our allied Regiment, 4 Scots and their Pipes and Drums. The Senior Pipe Major for the Tattoo was the Sr Pipe Major of the UK, WO1 Ross McCrindle, Scots Guards. It was a great but busy 9 days. It began with a VERY early Saturday morning departure from Moss Park with a stop in Grimsby to pick up the Argyll and Royal Highland Fusilier P&D members. Then it was a lengthy drive to Norfolk. Rehearsals began on Sunday morning and ran through the day and into the evening. Monday and Tuesday were again was all day and evening rehearsals. Wednesday was the first show with a rare evening off.

Thursday and Friday were two shows per day. Saturday began with an early morning form up for the NATO Transformation Headquarters Parade and Festival. Every

country has a NATO team stationed at the NATO Transformation HQ and they celebrate their culture with floats and displays in a parade through Norfolk. We were pleased to support the Canadian entry in the Parade. While the Tattoo was going on, the remainder



**4 Canadian Division Massed Pipes and Drums from: 2 CMBG; 48th Highlanders of Canada; Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; Ceremonial Guard; The Lorne Scots; The Toronto Scottish; The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada**

of the P&D hosted the Indoor Games at Moss Park Armoury and supported the Regiment at the Church Parade. It is good to know that we can split the band and do taskings at the same time in two different places.

In July, the Drum Major again ventured to Ottawa for the Fortissimo Beat Retreat on Parliament Hill. This annual gathering of Pipers and Drummers from across Canada



**L-R: PMaj Simpson, DMaj Callum Marr 4 Scots; DMaj Chris Reesor; PMaj Iain Lang 48th Highlanders of Canada**

has become a very important tool in the development of our pipes and drums across Canada. It is the equivalent to the Infantry Collective Training at the end of the summer.

This is our chance to collectively train and then validate our skills by performing the 4 shows on the hill.

Later in July, the Pipe Major and three



**L-R: Drum Major (MWO) Chris Reesor; Drum Major (WO) Ross Kennedy, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada; Drum Major Hugues Vanden Abeele, Black Watch RHC.**

others deployed to West Virginia to support the Canadian Contingent attending the 24th World Scout Jamboree. The HCol was one of the committee members hosting this event and requested the P&D involvement. It was held at a HUGE scout facility called the Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve.



**L-R: Linda Lang; MCpl Sean McKenzie-Mardelli; PMaj Iain Lang; Cpl George Boast**



**Members of the Pipes and Drums with the RCMP contingent at the Scout Jamboree**

In October we conducted our annual Marching on Ice for the Home Opener of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

# ACTIVE BATTALION



**Toronto Maple Leafs**

Later in October, the Pipe Major, Drum Major and WO Dewar performed with the Royal Regiment of Canada in their annual concert at the Glenn Gould Studio at the CBC building in Toronto.



In November, the Pipes and Drums were as always busy with requests for Pipers for Remembrance week events. Once again, we provided pipers for over 25 events plus for the Annual Regimental Parade to the Monument at Queen's Park.

With the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Italy and Holland, the Canadian Armed Forces has mounted an Operation named OP DISTINCTION. The first one we were involved with was in Italy. Two members of the Pipes and Drums represented the 48th Highlanders on this operation. MCpl Sean McKenzie-Mardelli and Drummer Chris Brown were the two chosen to represent the 48th. It began with a week and a half of drill and music rehearsals in Ottawa at the Connaught Ranges followed

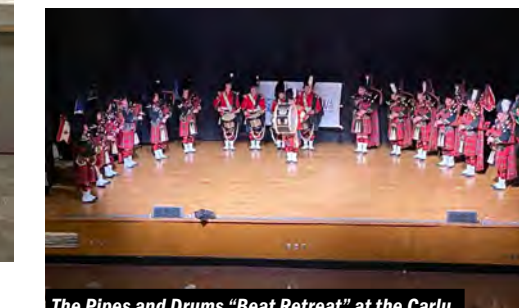


**Massed Canadian Armed Forces Pipes and Drums in Italy. MCpl Sean McKenzie-Mardelli is directly behind the Drum Major**

by a week of parades and ceremonies in Sicily and Italy. In April and May of 2020, two more members will represent the 48th on the excursion to Holland – Cpl Caleb Thibodeau and MCpl Brian Turner. The Pipe Major will also be in Holland with Veterans Affairs as the Pipe soloist for various ceremonies. We wish them well on the upcoming trip.



**Attendees at the ball dancing to the music of the Pipes and Drums**



**The Pipes and Drums "Beat Retreat" at the Carlu. The floor space was too small for a marching display so we had to play on the stage.**

The St. Andrew's Ball took place in late November at a new venue this year – the Carlu. It was an interesting challenge being in a new space with having to train the serving staff on what is expected with a Highland Ball and with changing the room over into a dance hall.

We welcomed several new members, or new to being "on strength" this past year and welcomed back Cpl Paul Turner who transferred to us from the Cameron's of Winnipeg.

Others joining the band, or the Military, were:

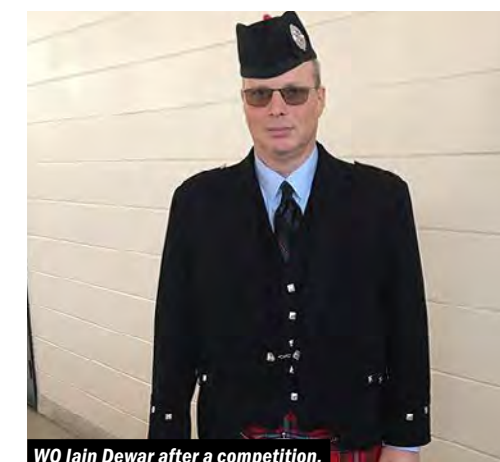
Piper Hayden Landolt  
Drummer Chris Brown  
Drummer Matt Scarlino  
Drummer Meg Findlay

And transferring to us from the Essex and Kent Scottish in Windsor was Cpl Caleb Thibodeau.

Promotions also took place this past year with Cpls Paul Turner and Keaton Weir-McPherson being promoted to MCpl. Paul had taken his course in Winnipeg but wasn't able to be promoted until his transfer was completed. Keaton took his PLQ course this past summer and was promoted in the fall

Several members of the Pipes and Drums competed in the PPBSO Toronto Branch Knockouts this past year and all placed well. WO Dewar, Cpl Thibodeau, MCpl P. Turner, Piper Landolt, Andrew Dewar and Thomas Litherland are just some of the members who competed this year. And once again, the 48th Pipes and Drums hosted these competitions through the year.

Finally, we said our final goodbyes to several members of the P&D association this past year. Graham Clarke, Gordie Rankin, Drum Major (MWO) Larry Fullerton, Bob Taylor and Ken Wells. May they all Rest in Peace until we see them in the countermarch. 🕯️



**WO Iain Dewar after a competition.**



## ACTIVE BATTALION



Warrant Officer (WO) Robert F. "Bob" Taylor, CD



Drum Major (MWO) Larry Fullerton, CD (1946-2019)



Sergeant Kenneth James Wells, CD (1922-2019)



Cpl Caleb Thibodeau competing in the PPBSO Toronto Brach Knockouts



P&D members, past and present at Drum Major (MWO) Larry Fullerton's memorial gathering



Graham Clarke



Gordie Rankin



## ACTIVE BATTALION

### 48TH HIGHLANDERS MILITARY BAND

By BSM (WO) J. W. Murray, CD

Founded in 1893, shortly after the gazetting of the Regiment, the 48th Highlanders Military Band has long been a fixture of the Toronto music and military scene.

Staffed now almost fully by volunteers, the "Mil Band" (or "Tin Band" as a former CO affectionately termed it) has continued its stalwart support of the Regiment on parades and other public, military, and civilian engagements, without interruption, despite being struck off strength by Ottawa in 1971.

As our members age (the BSM celebrates 40 years as a faithful Highlander this October), the parades get longer and the pace gets slower. We need new members to ensure the seamless continuation of this important Regimental and musical tradition. We welcome all musicians from age 14 to seniors, playing all concert brass, woodwind and percussion instruments.

Many of our current members are adults who have returned to playing after some time away. They have found that we provide a comfortable and supportive environment, with available instruction to help them get back into the swing easily.

Other current members are young and studying music in high school or university and find the opportunity to practice alongside experienced professional musicians in a collegial setting to be of real benefit to their proficiency (and grades!).

After a successful Fall of 2019 supporting such Regimental priorities as Remembrance Day, Christmas Dinner and the Toronto Maple Leafs' Home Opener, the 48th Military Band is engaged in its customary period of winter rebuilding.

Recruiting is our top priority as we ramp up for the Regimental Act of Remembrance Sunday parade in the near future and other Spring/Summer events.

If you know someone in the Regimental Family who is musically inclined (or who is easily tricked!), please contact the BSM – WO Murray, the Director of Music – Capt (Ret) van der Bank, or the Drum Major or Pipe Major, who will happily ensure that all enquiries are speedily pursued. 🐦



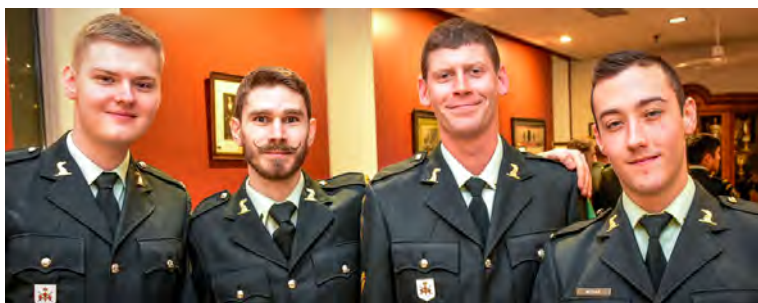
48th Military Band marches with the Pipes & Drums to the Regimental Cenotaph for Remembrance services on 10 November 2019.





# ACTIVE BATTALION

## CHRISTMAS DINNER - DECEMBER 2019



# AFFILIATED CADET CORPS

## 48TH HIGHLAND CADET FALL TRAINING



Fall FTX Attendees



Lunch at the Fall FTX



Fire-starting class at the Fall FTX



Evening Bonfire at the Fall FTX



Improvised shelter class at the Fall FTX



Radio Procedure class at the Fall FTX



# AFFILIATED CADET CORPS

## 48TH HIGHLAND CADET FALL TRAINING



Sgt. Smith-Garvey and RSM/MWO Drew at the Ontario Winter Games. Sgt. Smith-Garvey's team took Bronze. The RSM's team came 1st place Gold, and the RSM came 3rd overall in individual rankings.



48th Cadets Shooting Team at the Zone Marksmanship Competition. MCpl Zazlov, Cdt Samaroo, Sgt Barker, MWO Drew, Sgt Smith-Garvey (with Lt. Luk peeking in background) The Team came first place in the shoot, winning Gold. MCpl Zazlov won 3 individual medals; Sgt Barker won 1 individual medal, Sgt Smith-Garvey won 1 individual medal. Cdt Samaroo placed 2nd in the Junior Shooter category.



Cadets experience the SAT Range. (WO Anning, Sgt. Wolfe, WO Tran, MCpl Barker, MCpl Salvo, Sgt Smith-Garvey, MWO Drew)



Promotions to Cpl by the AEA Maj. E Medina



Presentation of Fitness Qualifications (Hldr Thomas, Hldr Stinson, WO Tran, Hldr Zong)



MCpls Barker and Salvo are promoted to Sgt



St. Andrew's Church/Regimental Museum Tour (Mr. McBride and Mr. Pierce)



Cheque Presentation from RCL Branch 11 - \$5000!



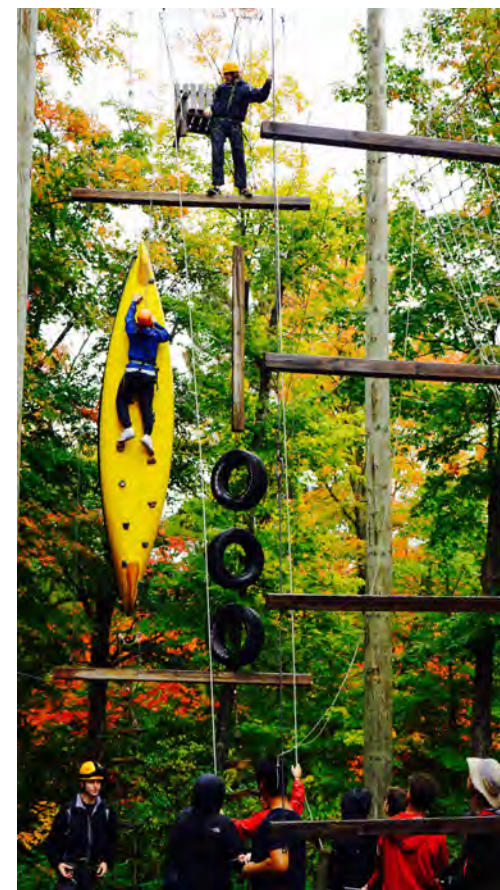
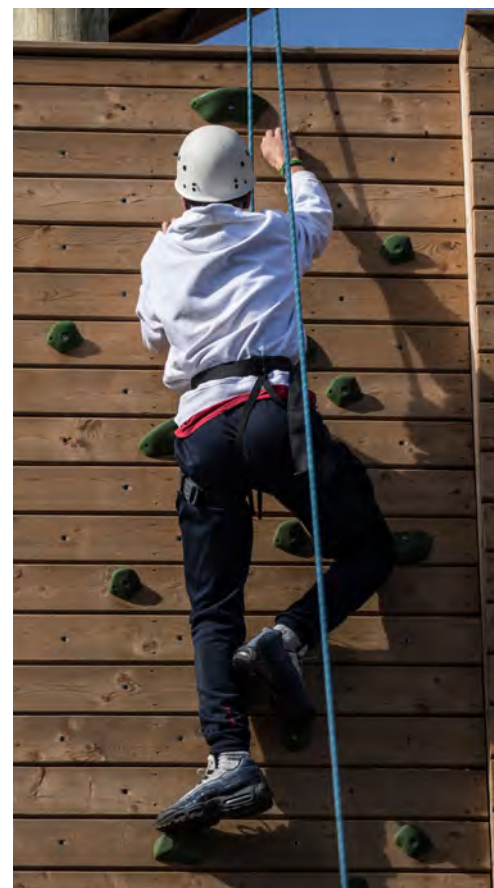
Regimental Xmas Dinner Attendees - 2019



Remembrance Day Parade Attendees - 2019

# AFFILIATED CADET CORPS

## SAC FALL CADET TRAINING - FALL FIELD EX AT CAMP OLYMPIA





## AFFILIATED CADET CORPS

### SPRING 2019 ANNUAL INSPECTION PARADE AT SAC



The SAC Annual Inspection Review Party, Highlander and D Day Veteran Captain Charles Scott-Brown inspects the SAC Cadet Corps 142.



## 48TH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

### 48TH OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (OCA)

By MWO (Ret) Mark McVety, CD

The Old Comrades Association (OCA) has come to our annual review of the past year's events and here are some of the highlights of 2019:

The OCA Life-members Luncheon on June 4th was well attended and 28 of our members had a good time socializing and swapping old stories and also telling some new ones. The 48th Sergeants' Mess is a nice venue for these kinds of events. We hope to continue our semi-annual luncheons because these gatherings are good times to get together other than special Regimental functions.

In July we commemorated two events: Firstly, on July 7th we laid a wreath at the "Peace through Valour" Monument of Ortona, at the west side of the Toronto City Hall. This event is held on the Sunday before July 10th. We had a small turn out and hopefully more members will put this event in their calendars to come out for 11 am and an informal lunch afterwards.

Secondly, on July 10th we took our annual trip to the Belleville Armoury to join with the rest of the 1st Brigade from World War II (RCR, 48th, Hasty Ps) to honour our members who landed on the shores of Sicily at Pachino on that day in 1943. The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment do an excellent job of hosting this function and the spaghetti lunch is plentiful. The bus ride there is a perfect time to relax, tell a few tall tales and enjoy the trip.

In August, the main event was the CNE Warriors' Day Parade on the 17th. We had a small contingent again but due to the over tasking of our Pipe Band, the Toronto Black Watch Pipes and Drums was asked to assist us and they did a great job. I want to thank Bill Carlisle of the Black Watch for facilitating this request.

Our annual Remembrance activities began with the service at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on November 9th. The day was cool and the attendance was a little lighter. Padre Don Aitchison did his usual stellar performance and the Pipes and Drums provided the tunes. Band Sergeant-Major Murray also played the Last Post and Reveille.

Next came our Annual Remembrance Dinner on Saturday evening, November 9th. It was held at The Boulevard Club in Toronto. It was a well attended event by both the Regimental Family and the Club members. The staff at the Club did a great job looking after everything

and we thank them for their contributions. We hope to continue to have this event there annually.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Life-members Luncheon in December due to the condition of the Armoury but hope to have our next event in June, 2020.

The OCA was saddened by the loss of a couple of people recently. Pipe Sergeant and WWII veteran, Ken Wells, passed away in December 2019. Ken was always a big supporter of Regimental Family events and his last event was the Remembrance Dinner.

We also lost Mr. James Cassie! Jim was a huge supporter to all things 48th. You could see Jim at almost every event. He along with Hon Col John Newman travelled in Europe to ensure that the 48th were well represented in every battle site that we participated in both World Wars. Jim was our sponsor at the Boulevard Club and I was honoured to call him my friend and mentor. Jim will be missed greatly. I hope Jim and Ken are sitting in the Upper Camp enjoying a mug of Highland Park and the company of each other and their buddies from the past.

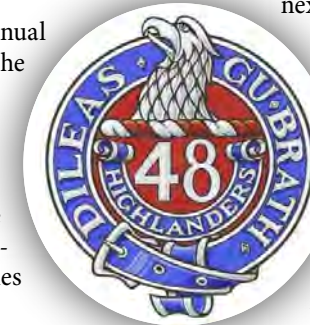
I want to thank everyone who has supported our events. The OCA Drill Team has done a very stellar job in representing the Association and the Regiment at various functions during the year. We attend and commemorate different events on behalf of the Regiment and the Regimental Family.

We thank the 48th Regimental Senate for their financial assistance in providing the bus to Belleville. We have not collected dues for a number of years but we still need financial support to maintain our level of participation. We still need support.

All members of the Active Battalion are members of the OCA and so are all members of the sub-Associations of the Regimental Family. For those who wish to donate funds and receive a receipts for a charitable donation you can make out a cheque to "48th Regimental Trusts/OCA" and mail it to one of two locations;

- A. 48th Regimental Trusts, 364 Ontario St. Toronto ON M5A 2V7, OR
- B. 48th OCA, Unit 152, 1050 Shawnmarr Rd Mississauga ON L5H 3V1.

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR DONATION.



The 48th OCA Life Members Luncheon was held in the WO/Sgts Mess on June 4th. Special quilts made by Eleanor Ross were presented to 48th WWII era veterans (seated L to R): Piper Sgt Ken Wells, Major Tom White, CQMS Herb Pike and MWO George MacLean. The quilts contained 48th tartan colors and military designs to honor the senior veterans for their service during WWII.



# 48TH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

# 48TH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

## BECOME A MEMBER OF IODE 48TH HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER



IMAGE 5

We are a special Chapter where our Membership comes from direct or familial links to our Regimental Family whether NCMs, Officers or Cadets.

Our Chapter; the 48th Highlanders Chapter focuses on the Regimental Family, but also contributes to Provincial and National projects.

IODE women gives back to communities through education, social service and citizenship programs with a special emphasis on children and literacy.

IODE offers a sense of purpose because one person can make a difference in someone's life with just a few hours a month as you work with other women to meet needs in your community. What IODE members' get out of IODE depends largely on what they put into it.

IODE needs your gifts of time and talent. You can serve others through your vocation and exercise high principles.

IODE experience allows you to develop new skills and abilities and attain valuable experience for employment.

IODE will give you new friends in your community and across Canada.

IODE membership creates important networking contacts.

Volunteering is good for the heart and the soul.

If you are interested in learning more about us our Membership Officer, Ashley Bonnell would be happy to provide you with more information.

Thank you for all your efforts!

Let me know if you require anything further,

**ASHLEY BONNELL**  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER  
IODE 48TH HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER



IMAGE 2



IMAGE 3



IMAGE 4



IMAGE 6



IMAGE 7



IMAGE 8

### IMAGES 1 & 2

In April 2019, several members of the IODE 48th Highlanders Chapter met at the IODE Ontario Office in Hamilton to assist with the Packing of clothing for our remote Northern Communities in need of clothing.

### IMAGES 3 & 4

Throughout the year, IODE members purchase and make donations towards the creation of Cadet Camp Bags for our 48th Highlanders Cadet Corps. These bags include hygiene products so they are well prepared for summer training and future field training exercises. In May 2019, at the 48th Highlanders Annual Ceremonial Review these bags were presented to the cadets along with the presentation of our Annual IODE Award to MCpl Barker.

### IMAGES 5 & 6

The Badge is the emblem of membership in IODE. The seven-pointed star on a dark blue background has at its centre the Royal Union Flag (Union Jack) showing our pride that Canada is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The surrounding white circle embodying the name of the Organization in gold lettering is securely clasped at the base and symbolizes the unity of purpose of all members. The crown surmounting the Badge represents loyalty to the Queen of Canada. Some IODE members will also have a bar (or several bars) above their badge designating them as a past president/regent and/or a life member in either their own chapter and/or at the Municipal, Provincial or National levels. The badge is always worn over a member's heart.

Shirley Ann Elms, Regent, IODE 48th Chapter, presenting Gerry Turner with her 50 Year Pin which is placed to the left of her IODE Badge.

### IMAGES 7 & 8

On March 7 2020, Beth Crook installed the Officers of the IODE 48th Highlanders Chapter for the 2020-21 year.

2020-2021 Slate of Officers was presented as follows:

Regent:	Shirley Ann Elms
Vice Regent:	Kathryn Boyden
Secretary:	Tracey Bradford
Asst. Secretary:	Linda Lang
Treasurer:	Karen Barker
Citizenship:	Bonnie Brown-Thompson
Communications:	Ashley Bonnell and Pat Scallan as helper
Education:	Kathryn Boyden
Membership:	Ashley Bonnell
Services:	Dianne Love
Card/Flower Convenor:	Carol MacInnes



The IODE presents the Sgts Mess and the Officers Mess with new table cloths.



# 48TH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

## 48TH CONTINUING SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION (CSA)

By Sgt (Ret) Al Kowalenko, OMC, CSA Chairman/President

### 2019 Highlights

The 48th Continuing Sergeants Association (CSA) has been active within the Regimental Family since the mid-1970s when a group of retired WWII sergeants banded together to set up a committee to represent all former 48th Warrant Officers and Sergeants. The CSA currently has more than 120 members from various eras including the 1940s to the present.

The key goals of the CSA are to support the RSM and Active WO/Sgts Mess with their various public events, to help preserve our Regimental history and traditions, and to connect the generations of former serving 48th WO/Sgts. Our oldest member is 100 and our youngest are in their 40s,

During 2019, CSA members participated in a number of activities including the Mackenzie Shoot (April 26), Pachino Day Parade in Belleville (July 10), the CNE Warriors Day Parade (August 17), the WO/Sgts Mess Dinner (October 5) and the Remembrance Day (Nov 11) ceremonies at Mount Pleasant Cemetery and St. Andrew's Church.

A special new event was staged in 2019, The CSA Wine & Cheese Social on June 15th in the 48th WO/Sgts Mess. Attendees were treated to a fine selection of red and white wines, as well as local craft beers and a nice selection of cheese pairings. Pipe music and Regimental photos rotating on the Mess video screen provided a nice atmosphere. Raffle prizes included 12-year Glenfiddich, bottles of wine and craft items by Eleanor Ross. We would like to thank Sgt Guy Bowie and members of the CSA Executive Committee for their hard work in making the event a success.

### CSA Executive Committee

The CSA Executive Committee is comprised of long serving volunteers who promote the membership and activities of the Association. For 2019-2020, members include (all ranks retired):

- Chairman/President: Sgt Al Kowalenko
- Vice Chairman: MWO Mark McVety
- Secretary/Newsletter: Sgt Guy Bowie
- Membership Lists: WO Dianne Love
- Members At Large: WO Alex Mackinnon, Sgt Gord Holmes, Sgt Dave Heaney
- Active Mess Liaison: Sgt Jeremy Moore and PMC (WO) Peter Ross

Our former CSA Treasurer, WO Ron Denham, CD, had to step down due to health issues and his move to Trenton, Ontario. We wish him well and thank him for his many years of service.

In 2019, we lost our Past Chairman, MWO Larry Fullerton, CD, who passed away in April after a courageous year-long battle with cancer. Larry was well known as the Drum Major of the 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums for 25 years from 1971-1996. He was also CSA Chairman from 2011 to 2017 and did a fine job in guiding the Association. Larry was a dedicated and loyal Highlander, a fine gentleman, and a talented leader who will be missed by all who knew him.

Other key WOs/Sgts and CSA members who passed away recently included: RSM Jim Boggiss, Piper WO Bobby Taylor, and Piper Sgt Ken Wells, all fine Highlanders with many decades of service to the Regiment. We will remember them all fondly. (More tributes about each are included in this Falcon's memorial section.)



### WO/Sgts Mess Dinner

At the annual 48th WO/Sgts Mess Dinner held on October 5th, the CSA Chairman, Sgt Al Kowalenko, in his reply to the toast to the CSA, by the Active Mess, commented:

"As an example of our strong inter-generational bonds, the CSA would like to thank our six former RSMs who are in attendance tonight, as well as those Senior NCOs who became senior officers and commanders in this Regiment and elsewhere. These individuals cover more than a half century of support for the CSA and the Mess that is truly inspiring.

Our Regiment's history and service to Canada is important and a source of great pride. We acknowledge three special individuals this evening who are our senior veterans of the 48th Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess: CQMS S/ Sgt Herb Pike, 95; Piper Sgt Ken Wells, 98, and MWO George MacLean, 99.

WWII era veteran, George MacLean, is currently 99 years young and just four months away from his 100th birthday. He now has the distinction of being our oldest living Senior NCO of the 48th Highlanders. George officially joined the 48th in 1938 and served the Regiment for nearly 60 years on the home front in both an active and volunteer capacity until his retirement in 1996. His outstanding service record to our Regiment is something the CSA is very proud to acknowledge." The Mess members then gave George a standing ovation for his service.

### New for 2020

The CSA has developed some new promotional items for 2020 with the 48th logo including a folding umbrella, green and red toques and a cap badge crest. These items are on sale for modest prices as advertised in The Falcon and available to the entire Regimental Family.

This unique item is available to all at a modest cost of \$20.00. Quantities are limited so place your order ASAP to ensure getting one!

Not only will you be proud to have one but it would also make a great gift for Christmas or any occasion. All proceeds go to the C.S.A.

To order please call/contact:  
Sgt. Ret'd Al Kowalenko 416-219-4967 email: [ursa77@rogers.com](mailto:ursa77@rogers.com)  
or  
Sgt. Ret'd Gord Holmes 416-935-4127 email: [gholmes48@sympatico.ca](mailto:gholmes48@sympatico.ca)  
Cashier Cheque Only  
(Make cheques payable to Continuing Sergeants Association)  
When your order is ready you can pick it up at the Sgt's Mess.  
Don't Miss Out!

DILEAS GU BRATH



# 48TH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

## WO KEN MILSOM, 48TH WWII VETERAN, HITS THE 100 YEAR MARK

By Sgt (Ret) Al Kowalenko, OMC - 48th OCA Veterans Services

On Sunday, December 15th, 2019, a special 100th birthday party was held for WO Ken Milsom, 48th WWII veteran at the Central King Senior Residence in Toronto.

WO Milsom joined the 48th Highlanders in 1940 as a private and was shipped to England as a replacement for the Regiment. There he was assigned to the Canadian Military Headquarters and was trained as an Administrative Clerk. He soon re-badged to the Corps of Military Staff Clerks and served with them throughout the rest of WWII in France and Europe.

After the WWII, Ken transferred to the Regular Force as a member of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC) and then, in the next 25 years, completed two tours in Korea, one tour in Egypt and one tour in Germany before retiring from the CF in 1969.

At the 100th event, the 48th was represented by Sgt Al Kowalenko for the OCA/CSA, who spoke about Ken's time in the 48th and the Regiment's participation in WWII; Wilhelmina Vander-Lann, who represented the IODE; and Piper Ian Dewar who represented the 48th Pipes & Drums, and who played a series of lively Highland tunes at the party which the audience greatly enjoyed.

LCol Ken Perry, CO of the 32 BG Service Battalion, also attended to bring greetings from his Regiment and the 32 BG Commander. The MC of the event was Bill Milsom, Ken's son, and a retired professor from UBC, who introduced a series of speakers who talked about various eras of Ken's life.



On behalf of the Regiment, we presented Ken with a large 48th Highlanders birthday card (with a large 48th cap badge logo on the front) which had been signed by all attendees at the 48th OCA Remembrance Dinner on November 9th at the Boulevard Club. Ken was quite moved when he received the card and thanked the 48th for the nice memento and recognition.

Although he was only with the Regiment for a short time in WWII, Ken acknowledged he was always a Highlander at heart. Throughout the event, Ken wore his old 48th WWII glengarry and spoke fondly of his connection to the Regiment during his youth.

As part of the community recognition for Ken's service, he received 100th Birthday certificates from Queen Elizabeth II, Governor General Julie Payette, Premier Doug Ford and Mayor John Tory.

All in all, it was a fine 100th birthday party and a nice tribute to WO Ken Milsom one of our last few 48th veterans from WWII. 🐉

## MWO GEORGE MACLEAN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Excerpts From A Speech By George's Son, Bill MacLean, Sunday, Feb 2, 2020

"Welcome everyone to Dad's big 100th birthday party. Thank you for taking time out of your Super Bowl Sunday to be with us. I think I'd rather call it the Super George Sunday! Has anyone else ever been to a 100th birthday party? I know I haven't.

Dad's family originally came from Edinburgh, Scotland. His older brother Bill (William) was born there, as was his older sister Lillian. Dad's Dad, also William MacLean, came to Canada in 1911/12 looking for work. He also fought with the Canadian 169 Battalion in WWI. After the war, in early 1919, he had his wife and two children join him in Toronto. The next year, Dad was born in Toronto, and later on, his younger sister Nora. All are gone now except Dad.



Dad's career was as a bookkeeper. His first full-time job was at Alcan Aluminum, which was very important because that's where he met Mom. They were married in 1947 and moved to Durie Street soon after. After Alcan, he got a job with Bear Equipment, a manufacturer of car wheel alignment parts and equipment. After Bear, he worked at Greey Lightnin'. They made industrial-strength mixing equipment.

The Warriors Day Parade Committee, which he joined in 1966, and along the way he served as their Treasurer for 19 years, and on Parades Day was a Parade Marshall, slowing down or speeding up the various contingents, as necessary. For his past service he was made the Honorary Parade Marshall in 2016 and got to ride in a Jeep.

A very big part of Dad's life was with the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Dad joined in 1938, as a Private. In 1948 he became a Sergeant. Around 1950 he became Treasurer of the WO/Sgts Mess, a position he held for the next 44 years! Dad also belongs to the 48th Continuing Sergeants, and the Old Comrades Association and attends as many of their functions as he can.

In May 2010, Dad and I went to Holland, for the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland. We stayed with the Van Elburgs, a Dutch family. They were a lovely family and very proud to have Canadians staying in their house. The whole trip was very moving.

Dad's has had a very full life and one full of friends. Dad's slowed down a bit now. Takes his trusty walker wherever he goes. Always up for whatever social occasion is going on at Martindale Residence in Milton. Almost never passes up a trip on their bus. We try and make as many of his lunches and dinners we can, always in Toronto. And attends his beloved Runnymede Presbyterian Church when we can.

He has been a loving and devoted husband. His wife and her care was always central to his life before she passed. He was also an understanding father, never burdening me with advice. In my whole life, I've never heard Dad swear. He always lends a hand, and is fiercely loyal.

When people ask his secret to living so long, he says, "I just keep breathing..." It's that simple! Thank you again for coming out for Dad today. He's an incredible man. Happy birthday, Dad!" 🐉



## HISTORIC HIGHLANDER MOMENTS



105 years ago-Battle of 2nd Ypres - 15th BN Roll Call - the morning after - April, 1915



120 years ago-Highlanders and others returning from Boer War service - Dec 1900



75 years ago-1st BN Highlanders passing thru Wilp - after crossing river IJssel and headed to Apledoorn April, 1945

## HISTORIC HIGHLANDER MOMENTS



80 years ago-1st BN Highlanders on Foray to France June 1940



45 years ago -48th Platoon, part of a composite Reserve Company, on an Arctic Sovereignty EX - June, 1974



70 years ago -Hldr Pte Bill Kelly, in the foreground -member of a 2 RCR machine gun crew prepares a defensive position in Korea, -May, 1951



30 years ago...

- Leading the 1991 Remembrance Day Parade - four former COs, who commanded in succession from 1961 to 1973 and who were also Honorary Colonels of the Regiment - left to right - John Lowndes, Douglas Haldenby, Peter Cameron and Dick Read (this past April 17 marks 50 years since Col Read took Command)

Significantly, the impact of their dedication and service to the Regiment on their offspring was such that 50 years ago their children made a pact to always be in attendance at the annual Regimental Remembrance Parade and some or all of them have been present at each November event, throughout the last half century. 🦅



# LIBERATING HOLLAND – 1945

## APELDOORN, 1945

By Lt John Malcolm, 2IC Charlie Company

This coming April marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Apeldoorn. Major George Beal, MC, father of George W. Beal, also a Major in the 1970s and more recently HCol, was OC Able Company during the liberation. He earned the Military Cross for his leadership in the fight for Apeldoorn and he frequently wrote home about the war. This article traces some of the operations the 48th Highlanders of Canada conducted during the liberation. Interspersed are extracts from the eyewitness account of Major George Beal, MC, as recorded in letters to his wife.

### The Road to Apeldoorn

“It looks as though we are still going to be left to clean up Holland. The situation in occupied Holland is very bad and in the big cities . . . the people are dying on the streets from lack of food.” – Maj Beal, Able Coy Commander, Letter 956.

It was April 1945. The 48th Highlanders of Canada had concluded operations in Italy and with the 1st Division transferred through southern Europe to complete the liberation of Holland. The Dutch people were starving to death even as the Canadians were driving the Germans out of the country. The 48th Highlanders’ first task as part of the 1st Division was an advance in two phases to liberate the town of Apeldoorn. In the first phase the Commanding Officer, LCol Donald Mackenzie, was killed outside Wilp by the concussion of a German shell. In the middle of the battle, and without hesitation, Maj James Counsell, DSO assumed command. The 48th Highlanders succeeded in taking their objective, the town of Twello. Maj Counsell was now tasked with preparing the 48th Highlanders for their advance into Apeldoorn.

### Fighting on the Outskirts of Apeldoorn

Following a two day regrouping period, Major Counsell delivered his orders. Able, Baker, Charlie, and Dog companies would approach Apeldoorn through its outlying suburbs, clearing them of German defenders and finally taking up positions along the Apeldoornsch Kanal. This canal was a natural obstacle that delineated the city proper from the surrounding suburbs. From the canal line, the 48th Highlanders of Canada and other units of the 1st Canadian Division would seize Apeldoorn. The Battalion’s companies issued their orders and were soon ready for combat. At H-Hour the Highlanders stepped off.

Major Beal’s Able Company took the lead

toward the canal. Shortly into the advance they faced embedded German machinegun crews blocking and delaying Able’s advance. Recognizing that the Germans could not be enveloped in time, Major Beal decided to break through immediately. Given the constraints of the moment, Maj Beal’s solution was as necessary as it was risk-laden: their bayonets would be the company’s only recourse. He led a two-platoon bayonet charge across 150 meters of open ground against the enemy positions. His men broke through the German posts, killing 7 and capturing 18 while losing 3 Highlanders. Maj Beal would be awarded the Military Cross for his leadership during the approach to Apeldoorn.

“They ... did everything I asked them to cheerfully and willingly knowing most of the time that I might be sending them to their death. They trusted me and I was very proud to command them.” - Maj Beal, Letter 953.

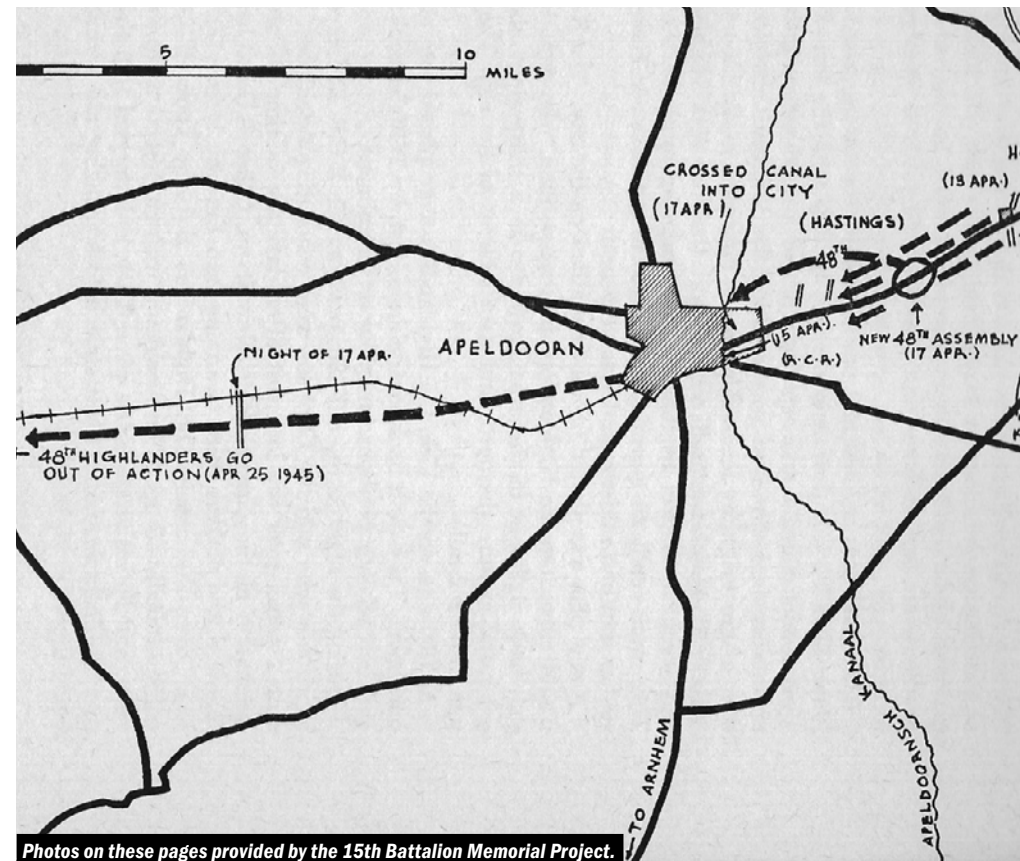
Meanwhile, Charlie made its own way through the houses with Baker in close support. Charlie was soon engaged in hand-to-hand combat with Germans in the buildings. These positions were cleared but Charlie encountered German machinegun fire along the main road. The German crew was stubbornly denying Charlie’s route to the canal. Lieutenant Freddie Williams had just witnessed two of his soldiers cut down by this single gun and decided to act.

In response he advanced on the German crew alone, throwing grenades as he worked his way toward them. When Lieutenant Williams was very close to the enemy position, he threw his last grenade and silenced the German gun. He was killed in this effort, but he cleared the way for Charlie and Baker to proceed. They followed his example and fought through to the canal.

During this action Charlie Company captured 1 officer and 44 men.

Dog Company’s intermediate task was to advance along a minor road and seize a group of strongly defended farm buildings on Apeldoorn’s outskirts. The approaches to this objective were covered by German machineguns and snipers, and the buildings themselves commanded the local terrain.

Shortly after they stepped off, Dog was caught in German enfilade fire. At this moment Lieutenant Stew Green singlehandedly cleared a house of its German defenders. The entire company then exploited this gap and occupied the house. From here, they aggressively followed through with a series of attacks on the other buildings. The manner of fighting was dirty and brutal: the enfilade fire Dog experienced on its approach had given way to room-to-room house fighting with grenades and small arms. A further six buildings were captured before the assault became deadlocked. Dog had fought skillfully



Photos on these pages provided by the 15th Battalion Memorial Project.

# LIBERATING HOLLAND – 1945



but the Germans occupied still more buildings. Dog Company withdrew under smoke, bypassing the farm buildings and reaching the canal.

Dog Company lost 23 men in this action alone.

By 1730 hours that afternoon, the 48th Highlanders of Canada completely controlled their assigned objectives and their positions along the canal.

### The Liberation of Apeldoorn

On 17 April 1945, the 48th Highlanders formed up for their final assault across the canal and into Apeldoorn. They advanced over the canal locks in good order to brave the German fire. They realized the Germans had withdrawn from the city when they faced only silence. The 5th Canadian Armoured Division had just cut the main road from Apeldoorn and the German commander had withdrawn his forces before they were encircled.

“There were flags and bunting and decorations everywhere. Everyone cheering and smiling and when a vehicle stopped they climbed all over it. I suppose tomorrow will be much worse but it does make all the hardships worthwhile when you see the joy of these liberated people” – Maj Beal - Letter 978

The Highlanders were still in the streets when suddenly a deluge

of newly liberated Dutch people surged toward them. The whole town seemed to rush at once and the people nearly overwhelmed the Highlanders with their gratitude. The scene was pure chaotic celebration and the 48th Highlanders had never seen such a thing! It fascinated and exhausted the men in equal parts. As satisfied as they were with their victory, they were glad to leave Apeldoorn that same night and rest.

The very next day the men found themselves in Stroe, Holland. The 1st Canadian Division

soon halted its advance and it was here in Stroe the 48th Highlanders of Canada finished World War Two. Maj Counsell was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and formally appointed Commanding Officer of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. The Highlanders would stay in Holland until the end of August, to round up the Germans and send them back to Germany and to assist the Dutch to re-establish their government and order.

### Fresh Flowers

On 26 April 1945 in Wilp, Chaplain H/Capt Alex Rapson held a memorial service for the 19 Highlanders killed liberating Apeldoorn. They played the Last Post and gave a final salute to LCol Mackenzie and his Highlanders. The village chaplain pledged the graves would always be cared for. He promised the children of Wilp would place fresh flowers at each headstone every other day. Today, travellers visiting Holten War Cemetery in Holland will find these Highlanders’ neatly trimmed, well-maintained graves. The children still place flowers there.

The author would like to thank former HCol and retired Major George W. Beal for his extensive assistance in the researching and creation of this article. 🇨🇦





# 15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT

## “THE THOUGHTFUL CANADIANS” (PHOTO VERSION)

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

The digitization of period photographs and documents related to the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) and the men who served in it, began in 2007 and continues to this day. Photographs, including many from large photograph albums and scrapbooks, number in excess of 7000 and documents, consisting of most of those produced by the 15th Battalion itself, as well as letters, postcards, diaries, memoirs, etc. related to individuals who served in the unit number well outnumber the photographic images.

While doing some cataloging of the materials in the photograph albums and diaries of two 15th Battalion sergeants, I came across several interesting photographs and a letter that were in their albums and diaries - all of these items were dated to August 1916.

By that date, both sergeants had been POWs in Germany for over a year following their capture at 2nd Ypres on 24 April 1915 when, during the chlorine gas attack, the 15th Battalion was overrun and suffered the highest single day casualties of any Canadian unit during the war. 248 Officers and men became POWs. Like most of the those POWs, both sergeants were interned at Gottingen camp and, like a number of Senior NCOs, were later transferred to several other camps prior to repatriation to Holland in 1918.

27421 Sgt Claude Ashling, as well as his older brother 27420 Sgt Harold Ashling, were both from Number 4 Company that had occupied the left forward front line position at Ypres while 28018 Sgt Alvin Dunbar, had been the 2IC NCO of the battalion's machine gun section and in command of No. 5 gun. Both men had been in the pre-war Militia - Sgt Ashling, age 30, with the 48th Highlanders in Toronto and Sgt Dunbar, age 31, with the 97th Regiment (Algonquin Rifles) in Cobalt, Ontario.

The Regimental history of the 15th Battalion provides very little information about the unit's POWs but research by The 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project into period photographic and documentary materials have

helped to put names to faces of long unidentified POWs and to give a very detailed look at their lives and environment while prisoners. The details of what is and was a somewhat forgotten story are now coming to light.

The photographs that caught my attention in this case were from the albums of both Sergeants Ashling and Dunbar and showed the funeral of an Australian POW Officer at Gottingen in August 1916. The name of the deceased Officer could be clearly seen on the floral banner placed on his coffin—Captain AH Kennedy. Accompanying the photographs in one of Dunbar's albums was a letter written in October 1916 by the Officer's widow, Mrs. Betty Kennedy. I set out to piece together as much as possible about this connection between the two 15th Battalion sergeants and the Australian Officer.

A great deal of information was already known about the two sergeants but all I knew about the Officer was his name. Research on the Australian War Memorial website ([www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)) which is an excellent source of archived materials that combines on-line features and sources similar to those available at Library & Archives Canada and the Canadian Veterans Affairs Virtual Memorial, uncovered a treasure trove of documents. A quick search turned up Captain Kennedy's complete service file as well as a wealth of supplemental information such as photographs and period articles connected to him. When cross referenced with the Ashling and Dunbar materials, the story gradually started to take shape.

Captain Arthur Herbert Kennedy, age 28, of the 23rd Battalion A.I.F., was wounded and captured at Poziers on 28 July 1916 during the battle of The Somme and sent to Gottingen in early August. Kennedy was born in Ulverston, Lancaster and had attended Oxford Military



15th Bn repatriated POWs, Holland 1918. Sgt C. Ashling, standing 6th from right 2nd row standing. Sgt A Dunbar last on right seated row.

College before being commissioned as a 2nd Lt in the 4th Battalion KRLR. He had served in the South African War from 1900 to 1902 and was awarded five clasps. After the war, he, his wife Betty and two daughters, emigrated to Melbourne, Australia. Following the outbreak of war in 1914, Kennedy joined the 23rd Infantry Battalion AIF in March of 1915.

The 23rd Infantry Battalion was raised at Broadmeadows near Melbourne in 1915 as part of the Australian Imperial Force for service during World War I and formed part of the 6th Brigade, attached to the 2nd Division. The battalion was sent to Egypt to complete its training, before being moved to Lemnos Island and from there committed to the Gallipoli campaign in September 1915. They remained on the peninsula until the evacuation and were among the last of the Allied troops to leave in December. The unit was withdrawn to Lemnos and from there to Egypt where, following reorganization, it was transferred to the Western Front in March 1916 occupying forward positions around Armentières. Over the course of the next two-and-a-half years, the 23rd Battalion took part in a number of significant battles in Belgium and France- most notably on the Somme at Poziers and Mouquet Farm suffering almost 90% casualties.

Captain Kennedy was one of those



Captain Arthur H. Kennedy

casualties being reported as MIA on 28 July 1916 during the battle of Poziers. His service file contained statements by two members of the 23rd Battalion who were with Captain Kennedy when he went missing. In one of them, 1538 Pte J.F. Moore of D Company, stated: “On going forward Captain Kennedy and Corporal Snedden were ahead of me. After we had gone about 150 yards I saw two shells burst on either side of them. The concussion knocked me down and when I

# 15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT

picked myself up there was no trace of either Captain Kennedy or Corp. Snedden. I did not see or hear of them again.” A third statement came from 798 Pte H.F. Nicolson 6th Bde MG Company: “I discovered Sneddon's body about 50 yards from Brind's road.....alongside of him was another body of an officer...wearing the 23rd Battn. colours.” Captain Kennedy had in fact had been rendered unconscious by the concussion of the explosions, seriously wounded in the ankle by shell fragments and taken prisoner by the Germans.

Subsequently, in early August 1916, Captain Kennedy's status was officially changed to that of a POW following receipt of three letters written by him to his wife Betty in the UK. What she did not know at that time was that despite recovering from his ankle wound and surgery to amputate lower part of that leg, he was seriously ill with pneumonia and died on 26 August.

This was all corroborated by further documents in Kennedy's file. A letter written to his Battalion Commander in the UK by CSM J. Murray 1st KRLR ( Kennedy's old unit during the South African War) who ironically was also a POW at Gottingen: “A party of English wounded arrived here from the Somme ... amongst them was Capt. A. Kennedy formerly of our special Reserve Battalion but now belonging to the 23rd Battalion AIF. He served with our 2nd Bn in the South African campaign....he wished me to tell you that he was too ill to write himself...he was wounded in the ankle on the Somme and was recovering favourably when he unfortunately contracted pneumonia.... And died at 2 a.m.this morning.”

POW Private S.E. Crandell 25th Australian Infantry Bn stated” In this hospital was Captain Kennedy 23rd Battn. who afterwards died at Gottingen.” and POW 3143 Pte AL Moore 10th AIF stated “ Captain Kennedy 23rd Bn died from wounds and sickness on 26.8.16.”

Kennedy was a veteran soldier who had been mentioned in dispatches twice and recommended for the DSO. The records indicate that news of his death hit his battalion very hard. The Commanding Officer wrote: “A more gallant officer and gentleman didn't exist; he was loved and respected by every officer and man in the regiment. The efficiency of his company marked them for the most important and dangerous work.....no casualty in the regiment has caused so much genuine regret as that of Captain Arthur Kennedy.”

Photos on these pages provided by the 15th Battalion Memorial Project.

Which brings us to the photographs found in the albums of Sergeants Ashling and Dunbar. Three images were of a funeral burial party of POWs with the flower laden coffin of Captain Kennedy being escorted by German guards. Three of the POWs escorting the coffin have been identified as 15th Battalion Sergeants Harold Ashling, Edward Rodgers and William Russ. Another photograph showed the flower covered grave in Gottingen cemetery with Kennedy's name clearly visible on the floral bouquets. The final photograph in the grouping showed the graveside service.



Sgt Claude Ashling's diary entry for August 1916 corroborated the photographic images as well as the statements by the British and Australian POWs: “A large number of British prisoners were brought into the camp hospital from the battle of the Somme, they were all wounded and in bad condition. We collected food from our parcels and sent it in to them. Quite a many died...an Australian and a Russian Officer died.....it was quite a parade, led by a German band followed by an armed company of German soldiers and a party of us prisoners....they played the slow funeral march through the streets (Gottingen) to the cemetery.”

Further corroboration came from another 15th Battalion, POW 27863 Private Robert Browne, whose witness statement was found among the documents in Kennedy's service file. He wrote ”On Tuesday, 29th August, I went to the funeral of Captain Kennedy of the Australians, it was a fine funeral, also a band and firing party furnished by the Germans and the service in English by the Minister, all respects shown”. Private A.L. Moore's statement mentioned earlier also contained a reference to this service: “he was well treated and was given a military funeral” and the last photograph from Ashling's album was of the graveside service being conducted by the aforementioned German minister.

So, the details of the story of Captain Kennedy and his connection to the 15th Battalion POWs was pieced together by cross referencing the multiple documents in his service file with the digitized materials from the albums of Sergeants Ashling and Dunbar. However, the last and arguably the most poignant piece of the story came from a short letter – more like a thank you note – found in Sergeant Dunbar's album. It was written on 13 October 1916 and addressed “To the thoughtful Canadians.” Prior to his death, Captain Kennedy had managed to send his wife three letters and in all of them he had told her of the kindness shown to him by the Canadians.

She wrote: “In all the letters from my husband, Capt. Kennedy, he wrote of the wonderful kindness of the Canadians. How can I thank you enough! Perhaps some day when this cruel war is afar I may have the pleasure of being able to thank some of you in person and to hear from you of the last moments of my gallant husband. With many thanks for your last kindness in thinking of sending me a photograph of my husband's grave. I remain yours in sympathy, Betty Kennedy.” Sergeants Dunbar and Ashling were both repatriated to the UK in 1919 but to-date I have not been able to determine if Mrs. Kennedy and those former 15th Battalion POWs ever met and the search for descendants of Captain Kennedy is ongoing.

In 1924, the remains of the POWs who died while interned at Gottingen and were buried in the town cemetery were exhumed and reburied by the CWGC in Niederzwehren Cemetery, Cassel. Captain Kennedy lies in Plot 7 Row H Grave 13 – the Highlanders of the 15th Battalion watch over him still as 27462 Private Thomas Carmichael lies nearby in Grave 16 –

DILEAS GU BRATH – FAITHFUL FOREVER. 🇮🇪



# 15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT

## FINDING SGT SIMPSON

### *“I Didn’t Realize Just What Kind Of Man He Was”*

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

Originally from Edinburgh, Scotland, William Gordon Simpson was a 29 year labourer with no previous military service when he attested into the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Toronto on August 27th, 1915. On 10 May 1919, Lance Sergeant William “Red” Simpson MM was discharged from His Majesty’s Service and returned to civilian life.

There are some medals and post war photographs but Sergeant William Simpson’s descendants knew very little about his service during The Great War. So in May 2019, knowing there was a connection to the 92nd and 15th Battalions, his grandson Keith Taylor contacted the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project hoping to learn more about his grandfather. Since 2007 digitization has been a key part of the Project’s work and today our digital archives contain many thousands of period documents and photographs related to the 15th, 92nd and 134th Battalions as well as the large 48th drafts to the 19th, 35th, 58th, 73rd and 74th Battalions. The focus has obviously been on the 15th Battalion and its men, but the mass of materials accumulated over twelve years of research has allowed the project to develop the capability to rapidly locate and cross reference materials related to the battalion and all of its men. This has enabled the project to provide relatives and researchers with comprehensive packages of materials on subjects related to the battalions and the careers of the men who served in them.

Although what follows (in a summary email trail) is only how one man’s story was re-discovered, it is typical of the numerous requests for assistance that the Project and its digital archival database provides to relatives on a regular basis.

#### *May 28, Keith Taylor*

Good day – I have old military files stating that my grandfather at some point transitioned from the 48th Highlanders 92nd to the 15th Bn. His name was William

Gordon Simpson from Toronto.

I cannot find any information online—perhaps you know of something?

#### *May 28 BGen Young*

Thank you for contacting the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project regarding your relative 192819 LSgt William George Simpson No. 1 Company 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders).

First and foremost, listed below is the direct link to his complete service in PDF format which is available on-line at Library and Archives’ website. You can read it on line and/or download a copy of the entire file. This will have all the available service files and documents related to his service in the CEF during The Great War.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?ldNumber=230987>

Additionally, our project archives and database hold documents and photographs that come from numerous sources including but not only the archives of the 48th Highlanders Regimental museum and hence are not available from Library and Archives Canada.

From our archives and digital database I have attached digital scans of materials related to your relative. They are as follows:

Scans of the front and rear sides of his 15th Battalion Record of Services card.

Scan of the page from the Nominal Roll of the 92nd Battalion on which his name appears.

Images of the cap badge of the 92nd and 15th Battalions as well as an image of the formation patch of the 15th Battalion.

Scan of 15th Battalion Part 2 Daily Order # 37 dated 6-9-1916 showing him arriving at the 15th Battalion as part of a large group of reinforcements coming from the 92nd Battalion.

Panoramic photographs of the 92nd Battalion. One of them at Camp Niagara and the other in Toronto prior to embarkation for the UK. The latter is especially good quality so if you know what he looked like, you can probably find him in the group.

Additionally, I noticed that his Record of Services card indicated that he was first posted to the 15th Battalion’s Machine Section before later being moved to No. 1 Company. This may have been because he was already a trained machine gunner in 92nd - so I checked the 92nd Battalion sub-unit rolls and sure enough he was in that battalion’s machine gun section. (Copy of

the MG Section Nominal Roll attached) So you are in luck because I have a good quality photograph of the 92nd’s Machine Gun Section taken at Riverdale Barracks in Toronto. You should be easily able to locate him if you know what he looked like. If you do, let me know which man he is in the photo.

There are brief historical overviews of the 92nd Battalion in at the following on-line links at our Project website;

<http://15thbattalioncef.ca/92nd-battalion-2/>  
[http://15thbattalioncef.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/48th\\_Hist1.pdf](http://15thbattalioncef.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/48th_Hist1.pdf)

Hopefully this information will be of use to you in your search to uncover information about your relative’s service during The Great War.

Additionally, should you have any photographs of your relative - especially any of him in uniform from 1914-1918, I would greatly appreciate digital copies for our archives. Also, any letters or postcards he may have sent home.

#### *May 30, Steve Taylor*

Many thanks, my son Keith has tracked down the information from the sources you provided and forwarded it to me. It was amazing to see my grandfather in the picture of the machine gun section of 92nd. I actually showed it to my 91 year old mother today (the daughter of L/Sgt William Simpson). That picture of my grandfather is the only one we have until he married after WW1 (in his 40s) and had children, including my mother.

Thank you so much for this gift!

My mother said that she remembers when she was young seeing a newspaper clipping of a picture of her father’s unit after returning home by train. His men were carrying him on their shoulders and the words “Big Red” were painted on the side of the train. My grandfather’s nickname was ‘Big Red’. Do you think there is any way in tracking down that picture?! Thank you very much, Mr. Young! Very impressed with the help you gave us and all the hard work and passion you give to help keep history such as this maintained.

#### *May 31, BGen Young*

Here is another ‘gift’ for you. Attached are photos of the 15th Battalion arriving at the old Sunnyside railway station on Lakeshore Ave in Toronto by the CNE grounds on May 9th, 1919. And what do you

# 15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT



know ---there is your great grandfather’s name (Red Simpson) written on the side of the railway car in one of the photos. Again maybe you can see him in some of the photos?

Also, I have attached several scans from Toronto papers showing the return of the Battalion. He would have been on the final parade held at Varsity Stadium on May 2nd 1919, so I have attached a photo of that parade and a scan of the program.

Great how all these little pieces of the story have come together to shed more light on your relative.

Could you please indicate which man in the 92nd Battalion Machine Gun section photo I sent earlier is your relative? This will help me put one more face to a name.

Now for another ‘gift’ - if you go to our Project website link below you can view a rare film clip of the 15th Battalion and it shows their return to Toronto in 1919 and the final parade at Varsity.

<http://15thbattalioncef.ca/audio-video-archives/>

#### *June 1, Steve Taylor*

This is fantastic! Can’t wait to show my Mom. Hopefully we can identify my grandfather in this recent material.

My grandfather is the fifth soldier from the right in the picture you previously sent me of the 92nd machine-gun section. He was born in 1885 and the picture was taken in 1916.

We really, really appreciate your work on this! Thank you so much.

#### *June 1, BGen Young*

Usually in the large battalion panoramic photographs the men of the various support sections like medics, signallers and machine gunners were grouped on the sides of the main group.

Based on you identifying him in the machine gun section photograph I sent earlier, I did a quick search of the sides of the panoramic 92nd photograph and found



Graffiti covered troop car of 15th Bn arriving at Sunnyside station 9 May 1919

him standing third from the right on the extreme right side. Definitely the same man.

Also, here are a couple more documents related to your relative that I dug up.

Army Form W.3121 submitted by the Battalion to 3rd Brigade HQ recommending him for the Medal Military. It contains the justification narrative describing the reason for the nomination. You can probably make out the text but just in case it reads:

«Attack against Passchendaele Ridge Nov 6th 1917. In the above engagement L/Cpl Simpson was in charge of a party of stretcher bearers and had to work over country which was being very heavily shelled. Although more than half of his party was wounded, he persevered at his work and by his cheerful courage and disregard of personal danger, set a very fine example to the men of his party. This NCO has seen over 14 months continuous service and has behaved with the greatest gallantry as a machine gunner in the operations at the Somme in Sept 1916, Vimy Ridge in April 1917 and at Hill 70 in Aug 1917. signed C.E. Bent. Lieut Col Commanding 15th Battalion 48th Highlanders of Canada”

15th Battalion Part 2 Daily Order # 38 dated 3-5-1918 stating he had been officially awarded the Military Medal.

Does the family have your relative’s medals?

Photos on these pages provided by the 15th Battalion Memorial Project.

#### *June 1, Steve Taylor*

This is great information! Thank you so much.

We do have my Grandfather’s medals (hopefully all of them) but we really didn’t know why he received the Military Medal. According to my mother, her father didn’t really talk about the war after he returned. It seems incredible to me that he fought in so many famous battles, including Vimy Ridge.

Thank you once again. Please let me know if you happen to dig up even more information on my amazing Grandfather. I didn’t realize just what kind of man he was.

#### *June 2, BGen Young*

I will add your contact information to the list of relatives of 15th Battalion men that we maintain and should more information specific to LSgt William Simpson turn up, I will forward it to you.

Not unusual that men who fought in The Great War were reluctant to speak of it as the scale and nature of that conflict was particularly gruesome.

He was certainly with the battalion for some if not most of the biggest battles in which the unit took part. Remember that the medal narrative was written in late 1917 after Passchendaele and your relative would go on to serve with the battalion through more heavy fighting in 1918 at Amiens in August as well as at The Drocourt-Queant Line (The Crow’s Nest) and the Canal du Nord in Sept 1918. So he saw a great deal of action and was one of the fortunate ones to survive.

Since 2010 our Project has erected ten memorials in France and Belgium at most of those locations and you can view those memorials and read about each of the engagements they commemorate on our website.

As for his medals, he should have at least three: The Military Medal, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal. 🇬🇧



# 15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT

## FINDING THE FALLEN: THE SEARCH CONTINUES

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

*“Lost yesterday somewhere between sunrise and sunset.”*

– Horace Mann

During The Great War, 61 officers and 1406 non-commissioned officers and men died will serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> battalion (48th highlanders) and of those, the remains of 467 men were never recovered or recovered but not identified. they lie in unmarked graves or in graves marked with unknown headstones – all unknown by name, some by unknown by unit and/or nationality. these fallen are commemorated by name on the two great memorials dedicated to ‘the missing’ – 202 on the menin gate in belgium and 255 on the vimy memorial in france.

Since the end of the great war and to this very day, remains of many lost in that conflict continue to be uncovered on the former battlefields and in some cases their full or partial identities have been determined. These recovered fallen are then given the dignity of reburial with military honours in a marked grave alongside other fallen comrades in a cwgc cemetery.

Over the last several years, the 15th battalion cef memorial project has conducted in-depth research of cwgc burial, exhumation and reburial records in an effort to establish the identity of missing and/or unidentified 15th battalion fallen. readers may recall an earlier article in the 2017 issue of the falcon which reported on the successful identification of several 15th battalion men who were buried in oostaverne wood cemetery, belgium under misidentified unknown headstones. those headstones were replaced with ones that identified them by battalion.

Further research that same year resulted in additional submissions to the cwgc. I am pleased to report that in January 2020, the cwgc finally confirmed that they had accepted nine of the ten submissions. This has resulted in new headstones or corrected headstones in the following cemeteries:

- Brebieres British Cemetery, Grave A.2
- Bedford House Cemetery, Grave 13.A.12
- A.I.F. Burial Ground, Grave 13.B.17
- London Cemetery & Extension, Grave IX. K. 8
- Serre Road Cemetery No.2, Grave XIX.B.7
- Courcellette British Cemetery, Grave VII.G.20
- St Mary’s A.D.S. Cemetery, Grave XIV.D.6
- Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery Extension

I would be remiss if I did not again acknowledge Mr. Richard Laughton of The Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group, without whose assistance these successes would not be possible. Work continues on the many remaining Missing of the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion and we are still waiting for the detailed CWGC review of our largest and most detailed Unknown submission to-date – that being the identification by name of two 15th Battalion officers who went missing during the battle for Hill 70 in August 1917.

*“For there is nothing lost,  
that may be found, if sought”*

– Edmund Spencer



Photos on these pages provided by the 15th Battalion Memorial Project.



**The corrected headstones of  
Lts Eric Haldane and Samuel Reeves  
in Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery  
Extension. They were KIA at Hill 70 on  
15 August 1917 and lie side by side.**

# 15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT

## 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2ND BATTLE OF YPRES 22-24 APRIL 1915

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



**Piper of Field Marshall Haig's Own Pipes & Drums playing the Lament at the  
Gravenstafel ridge 15th Bn memorial 24 April 2019**

One hundred and five years ago today the 1st Canadian Division was in the Ypres salient in the area around the town of St Julien and the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) were in the front lines at the very apex of the Canadian portion of that salient.

The 2nd battle of Ypres that began on April 22nd was Canada’s first major engagement of the war and would become known to history as the Canadians ‘baptism of fire’.

On April 24th, the Germans launched their second gas attack of the battle this time against the Canadian front line positions with the heaviest concentration falling on two of the 15th Battalion’s forward companies. The desperate defense of the salient by the Canadians and British over the next few days would eventually stop the German penetration but at the cost of more than 6,500 Canadian casualties.

Despite a stiff defence, the 15th’s positions had been overrun and the battalion suffered six hundred and forty seven casualties of which 247 were killed in action or died of wounds. No other Canadian, and few British battalions, ever suffered so heavily in so short a time at any point in the war.

In 2010, two memorials commemorating the 15th Battalion’s participation at 2nd Ypres were erected and dedicated on April 24th - one in the town of St Julien where No. 2 Company had been positioned and the other on Gravenstafel ridge at what was known as ‘Locality C’ behind what had been the forward portion of the line occupied by Nos. 1, 3 and 4 Companies.

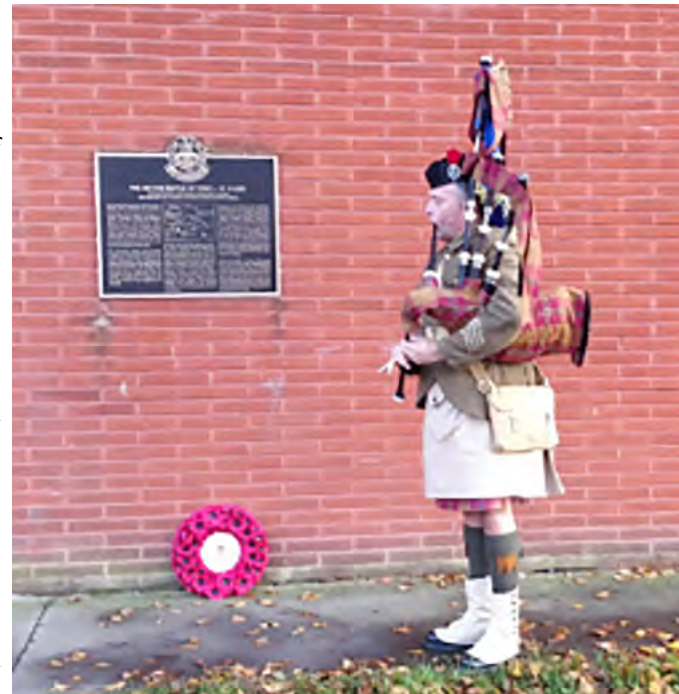
Every year on April 24th, wreaths are laid at these sites and a lone piper from our friends in Field Marshall Haig’s Own Pipes& Drums plays The Lament to remember the actions of the 15th Battalion and especially to commemorate The Fallen. That piper carries a 15th Battalion pipe banner.



This year ceremonial services at these two memorials and a wreath laying at the evening Menin Gate ceremony on the 24th were planned but, like the ceremony planned for Ecurie and the Vimy cross memorial on April 9th, these events had to be cancelled because of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Notwithstanding the special place that Vimy has in our collective national conscience, the actions of the Canadians at 2nd Ypres in 1915 established the reputation for toughness and reliability under fire that Canadians would become known for throughout the course of the war.

Take a few moments over the next couple of days to remember all those Canadians and the Highlanders of the 15th Battalion who were at 2nd Ypres - especially The Fallen.



**The Lament at the 15th Bn memorial in the town of  
St Julien 24 April 2019.**



# HIGHLANDERS ON UNITED NATIONS SERVICE

**Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret) Brian G Jackson MSM CD**

## Background

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was created on 29 May 1948 with a mandate to supervise a truce agreed between Israel and neighbouring Arab countries. It was the first peacekeeping mission to be established by the United Nations and comprises unarmed military officers, called UN Military Observers (UNMO), from a broad range of countries (including Canada). Seventy years later UNTSO remains in the Middle East to monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements, and to prevent isolated incidents from escalating into big ones. UNTSO headquarters is located in Jerusalem. And, at the time of this article (January 1987), there were UNTSO Observer Groups established on the both sides of the Golan Heights, in Egypt, Beirut and in South Lebanon. This story is set in South Lebanon, in the narrow strip of land that runs along the Israel-Lebanon border; known as *The Maronite Christian Enclave*.



Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) has its forward headquarters in Naquora, Lebanon, which is located on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea a couple of km north of the Israel border. To maintain observation on and report violations of the Israel-Lebanon border, OGL manned six observation posts (OP); all situated on the Lebanon side of the border. Each OP was manned 24/7 by two UNMOs who rotated with another team of UNMOs every seven days. Duty for those UNMOs manning the OPs consisted of observing the integrity of the border and looking for other unauthorized activity within their area of observation. In addition to the OPs, OGL also comprised five permanent patrols (called *Teams*); each Team comprised four UNMOs, with two deployed in Lebanon at any one time and the other two officers on rest or other duties at the OGL administrative centre/rear HQ in



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 severing 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.

Nahariyya Israel; about 8 km south of the border post at Rosh Haniqra. Each Team had a permanent base in Lebanon from where they patrolled their assigned Area of Responsibility (AOR). The tasks for Teams included investigating violations of the Truce, escorting, reporting on incidents of violence and just showing the UN flag to the local population. In keeping with all UNMO missions, both the OP and Team officers were unarmed. As well, it was (and remains) an UNTSO policy that two officers from the same country are never deployed together at the same time; either manning an OP or on a Team.

The other UN mission deployed in South Lebanon and whose AOR overlaps that of OGL is the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). UNIFIL is an armed force that was created in the aftermath of the 1978 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Deployed in

# HIGHLANDERS ON UNITED NATIONS SERVICE

March 1978, its mission is to confirm the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, restore international peace and security, and assist the Lebanese Government in restoring its effective authority in the area.

UNIFIL comprises armed infantry battalions from a diverse range of countries, including Ireland, France, Ghana, Nigeria, Nepal, Norway, Finland and others. Their activities include manning check points, conducting patrols and providing an armed response to violations of the terms of the UNIFIL Mandate. UNIFIL HQ is also located on the Mediterranean coast at Naquora. Based here also were an Italian helicopter group, a Swedish medical company and a French logistics battalion.



Operating in South Lebanon (bearing in mind that at this time the Lebanese Civil War was very much underway) were a multitude of armed groups/opposing forces. These included the Israel Defense Force (IDF) and their supported (some would say puppet) South Lebanon Army (SLA). Opposing the IDF and SLA were a variety of groups including GhanBat Soldiers, ranian-backed Hezbollah, Amal and many others; these groups were broadly designated as Armed Elements (AE). That UNMOs go about their tasks unarmed may seem at odds with safety/common sense. However, not being armed meant that an UNMO was not seen as a threat which meant much greater freedom of movement and wider access.

UNMOs from OGL worked closely with UNIFIL troops by conducting investigations, gathering and sharing information, arranging meetings and in many other ways. Team Sierra and Team Tyre had their team base located in UNIFIL compounds. Whereas, Team Victor was co-located in OP Kiam and Team X-ray was co-located with OP Mar.

An UNTSO OP comprised a 20-foot ATCO trailer (called a caravan) which had a sleeping area, a small kitchen and a bathroom. Connected to the caravan was a two-storey concrete block observation tower (OP), which consisted of an enclosed viewing/working area with radios, maps, observation equipment and reporting material. Above, on the roof, was an open observation deck with a pair of high-power binoculars. Water was stored in a large black plastic tank; filled routinely by the OGL logistics staff. A diesel generator provided electricity, and a 4x4 vehicle was kept at the OP for patrolling and quick get-aways, if circumstances required. A radio tower ensured communications; there were no land-line phones and this was in the pre-cell phone/internet era. A small bomb shelter completed the facilities, all of which were surrounded by a high barbed wire fence. In the case of OP Mar and OP Kiam an additional ATCO trailer was on-site in which Teams X-ray and Victor were housed respectively.

A typical day for an UNMO on OP duty would begin at 0630 with loud crackling static on all radios which was caused by an Israeli aircraft that flew along the border broadcasting on all frequencies. The intent was to detonate any radio-controlled roadside bombs that may have been planted overnight by AE. Shortly afterwards,

IDF patrols usually comprising a centurion tank and M113-mounted infantry would return from their overnight ambush positions, which they had occupied at last light the previous evening, to their permanent strongpoints. These IDF strongpoints were sited on high ground features along the border on the Israeli side. In cases where the high ground occupied was on the Lebanon side of the border, they were designated by the UN as a Permanent Violation (PV) of the 1978 Agreement. The main IDF strongpoint which dominated OP Mar and the nearby village of Houle was known as PV41.



For the UNMOs on OP duty, on alternating days one UNMO would stay and man the observation tower to maintain observation over the assigned AOR. The other UNMO would link up with an UNMO from a partner OP and the two would spend the day patrolling. The next day, the UNMOs that were on OP would switch and do patrolling. While there were occasions of much



activity including border crossings, roadside bombs, overflights by IDF fast air and helicopters, some artillery engagements and the occasional firefight, much of the day for the officer at the OP was pretty slow. In the evening, when things went quiet, UNMOs would alternate preparing the evening meal; some

meals were of the highest quality and memorable. Many others, however, were memorable but for different reasons. Hence the term: looking and cooking. For the Teams, the days were spent patrolling throughout their area of operations during which they dealt with a wide variety of incidents.

## Prelude

Ending an eight-day period of leave over Christmas, during which time my family and I took an interesting bus trip to Egypt, I returned to duty in Lebanon on 29 December 1986. I would remain in Lebanon until 17 January 1987, with one day out so I could travel to Camp Farour on the Golan Heights (where the Canadian Logistics Company/Canadian Support Element were located) in order to take care of some administrative preparations for my pending secondment from OGL to HQ United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Damascus, Syria. My wife, daughter and I moved to Damascus UNMO Observing a border violation on 13 February 1987 where we would spend the next 18 months.

Having joined Team X-ray at the beginning of November 1986, following three months of OP duties, the time spent patrolling, establishing contacts, escorting, maintaining liaison with UNIFIL forces and investigating IEDs, shootings, bombings and



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Echo Road after rains

kidnappings was both very interesting and (at times) rather intense.

At midnight on 31 December 1986 the night sky erupted into a sound-and-light show of tracer projectiles from all manner of weapons arching and weaving through the dark night sky. This was celebratory fire coming from SLA positions throughout the Enclave. Where these projectiles landed was anyone’s guess but in the following days there were reports of injuries. More ominous, however, was fire from two IDF M113-mounted multi-barrel 20mm Vulcan cannons firing from PV41 into a wadi (steep valley/gorge) that led towards an SLA checkpoint (CP) and company position situated at the entrance to the village of Houle (about 1000 m from OP Mar). A search the next morning failed to determine what they were shooting at and, unlike other similar events there were no bodies, blood trails, debris or other indicators of AE infiltration.

### Something is going on

Following a recent spell of rain and cold weather, Sunday 4 January 1987 was clear and the temperature got up to a decent 11° · As with most things, it was only in hindsight that certain events were indicators of what was about to happen. This Sunday began, as usual, with the IDF counter-mine overflight and the resultant radio static. My Team partner, Henk an Austrian Army officer, and I decided our plan was to begin the day driving to the near-by village of Tallusah to look for two IDF centurion tanks because they had not returned to their base from being out yesterday. After driving around the area where we thought the tanks should be, we didn’t see them; nor was there any local knowledge of where they might have gone. From Tallusah we made our way to OP Chateau. This UNTSO OP occupied a spectacular position high on a steep ridge of land overlooking the Litani River and was sited just below an old Crusader castle. Castle Beaufort was one of a string of castles that formed a chain of Crusader fortifications running from Southern Turkey to Jerusalem and beyond. The castle itself was used as an IDF company strongpoint. At the OP we had coffee with the UNMOs on duty, exchanged information and caught up on events in the area.

Norwegian Battalion (NorBat) HQ, in the village of Ibel el Saqi, was our next stop. Here we fuelled-up, met with and compared notes with Team Sierra then had lunch at the NorBat kitchen. It was

at this time that events at the village of Markaba began to pick up. Through our radio we could hear OP Mar reporting the movement of IDF and SLA vehicles towards Markaba (located about 1200 m to north- east of the OP. OP Mar was named for its proximity to Markaba.

With a view to reducing driving time from NorBat HQ to Markaba we decided to use a secondary route which took us through the small village of El Mari. Here our passage was blocked by a powerline which had come down. To get around the powerline we took a less travelled track which we knew would bring us back to the Enclave Road (or the Echo Road as it was called). From there we could continue on to Markaba. However, to due recent heavy rains passage on this dirt road was very difficult, with deep muddy sections in the low areas. We came very close to getting bogged and it took us several attempts to get through some deep mud patches. But, skills honed driving through boggy Gagetown were successful in getting us back on to the Echo Road and then to Markaba.

The road leading into the village of Markaba formed a T-junction with the Echo Road. Here, the Echo Road was blocked and a line of civilian vehicles were now backed-up in both directions. Gathered at the gas station, located at the junction of the two roads, was a large group of armed men; IDF, SLA and Israeli GDF (one of their special outfits). There was also a collection of IDF and SLA armoured fighting vehicles including an IDF M113 mounting a Vulcan cannon.

By-passing the line of back-logged civilian vehicles we drove towards the group at the gas station. There, we recognized the senior Israeli officer in Lebanon whose HQ was located in the FinBat AOR at a place we called the Water Station. The SLA battalion commander for this area was also there, as were several other IDF officers. There was also a gaggle of civilians from Markaba clustered on the periphery, some of whom we knew, including a man named Mohammed with whom met with quite often. At the T-junction was an SLA jeep with shattered windscreens and a number of bullet holes in the frame of the vehicle. Standing with the group of officers at the gas station was an SLA soldier with a large dressing on his hand, being treated by an IDF medic.

As we approached the gas station, an SLA soldier angrily gestured for us to stop. When we didn’t stop he aimed his Kalashnikov in our direction, at which time we did stop. The soldier then shouted for us to leave and threaten to shoot our tires if we didn’t. We didn’t leave. However, it was obvious that those at the gas station were engaged in dealing with a serious situation and did not want to include us. After observing this scene for a while, we drove to UNIFIL Position 9-48



SLA Bn Comd house – El Addaïsseh



Protest against killings – SLA soldiers Provide security

# HIGHLANDERS ON UNITED NATIONS SERVICE

(a nearby FinBat position). Here, we phoned our control station and provided a SITREP. Meanwhile an IDF attack helicopter was circling in the area and engaging something not far away in the GhanBat AOR; it was unclear what they were shooting at, but it likely had some connection with the situation at Markaba.



Major Jackson – on patrol

By now tensions had decreased and the traffic was moving along the Echo Road. Henk and I then returned to Markaba and this time were able to get to the gas station. Here we spoke with some of the Israeli officers still there but they gave us very little information other than what was obvious; someone had shot up a SLA jeep, wounding the driver before running away from the scene.

Because none of the military officers would speak with us, Henk and I returned to our caravan at OP Mar. Here we spoke with the UNMOs on duty at the OP and who had witnessed events from their vantage point. Also at the OP were some GhanBat soldiers. They were unable to access their position due to the roads being blocked by the IDF and SLA (UN freedom of movement notwithstanding). From these conversations and based on what we had seen, Henk and I were able to assemble a better idea of what had occurred, but details of who may have conducted the attack on the SLA jeep and to where they had escaped were still unclear.

While this discussion was going on we were tasked to escort the GhanBat soldiers back to their outpost in the village of Tallusah, which was accessed only by going through Markaba. With the GhanBat vehicle following, we returned to the gas station and, after a discussion with the IDF colonel, we proceeded to Tallusah. As we passed through Markaba we noticed nothing unusual other than there were very few people in streets. Dropping off the GhanBat soldiers at their post, we returned to the gas station to observe events, which were still very tense. It was late afternoon and no one (including us) wanted to be out and away from their secure areas during darkness. Shortly afterwards the IDF departed for their bases/strong points. This gave Henk and I a chance to speak in detail with our contact Mohammed, who took us to his home.

Here, a very nervous Mohammed said it was known that those who had done the shooting were from the village of Markaba, but he gave no names nor other details.

Henk and I then drove to FinBat Position 9-48 to use their landline to make a more detailed report to the OGL Duty Officer. Then, hurrying as last light faded to darkness, we returned to our caravan at OP Mar. That evening, over a bowl of soup, we compared notes again with the UNMOs on OP duty and reflected on events. And, despite the IDF firing artillery flares over Markaba throughout the night, pretty much considered this incident as not unusual and therefore closed. Indeed, this incident was somewhat better than others because no one had been killed; a shot- up jeep and a slightly wounded and no doubt shaken SLA soldier could be considered as a positive outcome.

### A Busy Day

An initially cloudy and cool day (reaching only 7°), Monday 5 January 1987 began like every other day in South Lebanon with the IDF broadcast overflight turning our radios into alarm clocks. While we were discussing where to focus our day’s activities (further enquiries about yesterday’s shooting, visiting UNIFIL positions we’d not been to in the past few days and patrolling through our AOR) there was a very loud explosion. This was followed by the sounds of HMG and other weapons firing. Clearly it was a bomb of some sort and perhaps a fire-fight. The sounds came from the direction of Markaba and were likely a couple of kilometers distance.

Driving to the gas station at the intersection of the Echo Road and the road leading into Markaba there was none of the activity from yesterday. Then proceeding into Markaba, along the main road running through the village, the streets were empty of pedestrians. Leaving Markaba, we continued toward the smaller village of Bani Hayyan which was about one kilometer further along. Situated in Bani Hayyan, with the task of observing into a deep valley (wadi), was GhanBat position 8-38. As we approached Bani Hayyan three SLA vehicles sped past us and into the village; in one of them was the SLA battalion commander. As we approached the entrance to Bani Hayyan we encountered an SLA 1/2 track. Here, a dismounted SLA soldier signalled for us to stop. In an attempt to exercise our freedom of movement we continued to approach slowly, stopping only when he raised and aimed his AK-47.



Destroyed SLA Half-Track – Bani Hayyan – 5 January 1987



## HIGHLANDERS ON UNITED NATIONS SERVICE

We got out of our vehicle and tried to engage the guard in conversation, which the man refused to do. While this was going on, a bearded SLA soldier walked quickly from Bani Hayyan to the 1/2 track. Here, he began shouting at the SLA guard with intent of getting the guard to come with him back into the village. The guard refused to go. The bearded SLA soldier then rushed back into the village. Shortly afterwards there was a burst of

AK-47 fire and not long afterwards another burst.

As we waited, an ambulance raced from the direction of Markaba into Bani Hayyan. Meanwhile two IDF Cobra attack helicopters were overhead circling the area. Not long afterwards the ambulance exited Bani Hayyan moving quickly towards Markaba. In the cab between the driver and another man was an SLA soldier who clearly had been wounded and whose head was lolling with the movement of the vehicle. After some time, the three cars with the SLA battalion commander also quickly left the village. Then an IDF M113 and an IDF 3/4 ton-type vehicle also exited the village (we had not seen these vehicles enter). The 3/4 ton stopped and an IDF officer, whom we recognized as leading a counter-IED team, for an unknown reason simply said to us 'good luck.' He then drove off towards Markaba. Finally, the bearded SLA soldier whom we had seen earlier returned to and got in the 1/2 track, which then also departed towards Markaba.

Henk and I then drove into Bani Hayyan, a village which comprised about a dozen, mostly two-storey buildings made of the ubiquitous grey cement blocks. As we drove towards the GhanBat position we noticed that a number of houses had been penetrated by .50 calibre bullets and empty casings and links were scattered on the road.

Coming upon the small white-walled GhanBat compound, the sergeant who commanded this section outpost opened the gate and rushed excitedly towards us. Speaking rapidly and animatedly we couldn't make out what he was saying at first. Once we calmed him down and began to question him as to what had happened here (the explosion, MG fire, all the vehicles and the ambulance), he told us he had been shot by an SLA soldier. Stopping to look at him, he showed no apparent signs of injury in the way of blood or restrictions in movement. Apparently frustrated that we didn't

believe him, he then pulled down his trousers and pointed to large bruise, with a small amount of blood, on his upper thigh. It seemed that when the incident began, the sergeant had the wound, it was clear that, despite his being shot, he came out of his compound to confront the SLA who were Mukthar was a very lucky man. The wound, which the Mukthar's wife had hastily dressed, did not result in any broken bones, nor was a main blood vessel ruptured and the bullet had exited. It was a matter of redressing the wound using material from our vehicle first aid kit. In recounting the event, the Mukthar told us a bearded SLA soldier had rushed into the house, fired a burst of Kalashnikov fire in his direction and then departed.

Asking if there were any more casualties, we were told the father of the Imam (local Muslim clergyman) had been shot. We were then taken to the Iman's house. Climbing to the upper floor using an external set of stairs we entered into the kitchen. There, covered with a cloth was the body of an older man who had apparently been taking his breakfast when he was shot in the chest. Surrounded by a large pool of blood, he was dead. The Iman, for whom the shooter (a bearded SLA soldier) was actually looking, was not home; being away in Beirut at the time

Once we were assured that no one else had been shot or injured, we returned to the scene of the explosion to examine it in greater detail. Clearly the amount of explosive was significant and it had gone off under the crew compartment of the 1/2 track, throwing the vehicle forward then landing upside down. Whether it was command detonated or pressure activated could not be determined. But clearly something had drawn the crew of this vehicle from the main track and onto this dirt track. While we were at the site an SLA detachment returned to the scene and, brandishing their weapons, forced us to leave.

Then there was the matter of ensuring the Mukthar received



SLA soldiers with UNMO - sharing



Markaba- House destroyed by IDF - 5 January 1987

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medical attention. The nearest hospital was about 10 km from Markaba in the regional government centre of Marjayoun. The Mukthar, had already phoned relatives living in Marjayoun and they were driving to collect him, using the Echo Road. However, because of the ongoing situation, they would not be able to get through Markaba to the Mukthar's house here in Bani Hayyan. Nor, apparently, was there anyone in Bani Hayyan able (or willing) to drive him to the Echo Road.

Throughout this time radio contact had been maintained with our control station (OP Lab) in Naquora by way of sitreps and updates as events developed. We then informed Lab that we were going to give the Mukthar a ride in our vehicle to the Echo Road, from where relatives would take him to get medical treatment. The duty officer at Lab replied that doing so was not permitted. The reason being that UN vehicles were neutral and transporting the Mukthar could be seen as a violation of that neutrality. We understood this and acknowledged Lab. But having no other options, we loaded the Mukthar into our vehicle and proceeded back through Markaba to meet the car coming to get the Mukthar. We both agreed it was the only reasonable thing to do.

Entering Markaba it was clear that something of significance was going on. While there were some people in the street, it was neither the same level nor nature of activity as one would expect for a Monday morning. As we approached the T-junction there was activity in front of one house and here an IDF soldier indicated that we stop. Seeing the IDF officer who had wished us good luck at Bani Hayyan, we went to him to ask what was going on. The scene around us was one of contrasts: IDF soldiers laying explosive charges in a large two-storey concrete house that fronted onto the road; a cluster of civilian men standing off to one side, clearly worried but with an air of defeat; and a group of Lebanese women were on the ground wailing, gathering up dirt in their hands then throwing it on their heads (an act of grief). The area was secured by SLA soldiers. When asked what was going on, the IDF officer (a combat engineer who also dealt with roadside bombs) explained that his men were preparing the house to be destroyed; using 12 kg of explosive charges. He went on to say that it had been determined that this residence had been used as a safe house by the men who had attacked the SLA soldier yesterday and who were deemed responsible for the explosive device which destroyed the 1/2 track, killing and wounding the crew. He did not respond to our questions as to how they knew this and who had ordered this action. Shortly afterwards the IDF soldiers in the house came out. Wires were connected, there was a loud explosion, a cloud of dust and a pile of rubble when the dust cleared.

Once the dust settled, we continued the short distance to the Echo Road, where a car with family members took charge of the Mukthar. The gas station was a scene similar to yesterday with senior SLA and IDF officers, as well as, an ambulance and number of IDF soldiers. The atmosphere of this group was very much one of confusion. We did verbally protest the killing of the old man and the wounding of the Mukthar; something that did not generate any apparent concern to both the IDF and the SLA leaders. The IDF colonel put us off, saying that he was busy, but he did agree to our request that we come to his base at the Water Station later in the day/evening to discuss this matter in greater detail. In the event, however, and despite a number of attempts, our Team never got access to the colonel again.



Team relief by ItalAir - NorBat HQ

Leaving the scene at the gas station, we drove to FinBat position 9-46. Here, we made a more detailed update of the morning's events (including the state of the Ghanbat sergeant but leaving out the part about giving the Mukthar a ride to the Echo Road). We also noted our protest about the two shootings in Bani Hayyan and expressed our concerns that both the SLA and IDF leadership showed no interest in pursuing the matter.

Next, we decided to drive to Marjayoun to see a political representative for the Enclave government. We knew this person well and paid him regular visits. During this meeting the political rep stayed on message and repeated the 'party line'; that it couldn't be determined who had shot the two men in Bani Hayyan, and the destruction of the house in Markaba was (given the circumstances) more than justifiable,



Jackie & Alison - Rosh Haniqra - Nahariyya in distance



HIGHLANDERS ON UNITED NATIONS SERVICE

in addition to being effective in sending a strong message. Clearly for both the Enclave political and military leadership the destruction of the house was both justifiable and proportional. As regards the shootings of the Mukthar and the old man, from their perspective, they were in a position to ascertain neither the facts nor the details; in effect, the matter was closed.

Still not quite noon, we made our way to NorBat HQ where we again used a telephone to update OGL HQ in Naquora. We also had some lunch at the NorBat kitchen. Afterwards, we patrolled some areas we had not been to for some time and then returned to Bani Hayyan. The scene of the explosion was now quiet with no IDF/SLA soldiers about. Checking in with the GhanBat sergeant to see how he was doing. The injury to his leg was minor and did not require medical attention, but he told us they had run out of supplies and their radio batteries were dead. We asked OGL HQ to pass this information on to GhanBat HQ. Next, we drove to the GhanBat Company HQ that was responsible for position 8-34 to speak directly with the company commander about the state of his soldiers and to remind him of his obligations as their commander. This was not first time that this GhanBat was position in this state of neglect. Finally, before returning to our OP for the evening and more report writing, Henk and I paid a visit to Mohammed. Although he did not have anything new to pass along, we were invited for lunch on Friday. In the event it was a big lunch with us dining on a sheep that was slaughtered especially for the occasion.

Back at our caravan, the evening was a time for consolidated report writing and reflection. It had been an eventful day but on reflection one that was very much consistent with both of our experiences to date in South Lebanon. Certainly, the killing of the old man and the wounding of the Mukthar were both brutal and criminal. And despite our Team's pursuing of the matter in the coming days, it was soon overcome by other violent events in an area where violence and the uncertainty of one's day-to-day personal security were the norm.

Aftermath

The next day, Henk and I drove to Naquora where we handed over our written report and gave a verbal debrief on this event, plus the other activities which had occurred in our AOR during this stint of duty. I then returned to my wife and daughter in Nahariyya; as always, I did not involve them with details of events in the AOR. The next day we drove to the Golan Heights to do the preliminaries for our coming move to Damascus, get the mail and to feel a part of a small Canadian community; albeit a purely military one. Then it was back to our apartment/home and the opportunity to spend an evening together before I returned to Lebanon the next day (this time by helicopter) for another ten days.

Once back in Lebanon, the events of that day were now well in the past. Patrols had to be conducted, incidents (some violent) investigated, Mukthars met with over tea and all the other normal daily tasks and activities of a UN Military Observer. As is most often the case in zones of civil conflict, rarely is there closure to acts of violence and less often is there justice; both very much sowing the seeds of conflict in future generations. And so daily life in this troubled place went on.



HIGHLANDERS CONFINED TO BARRACKS

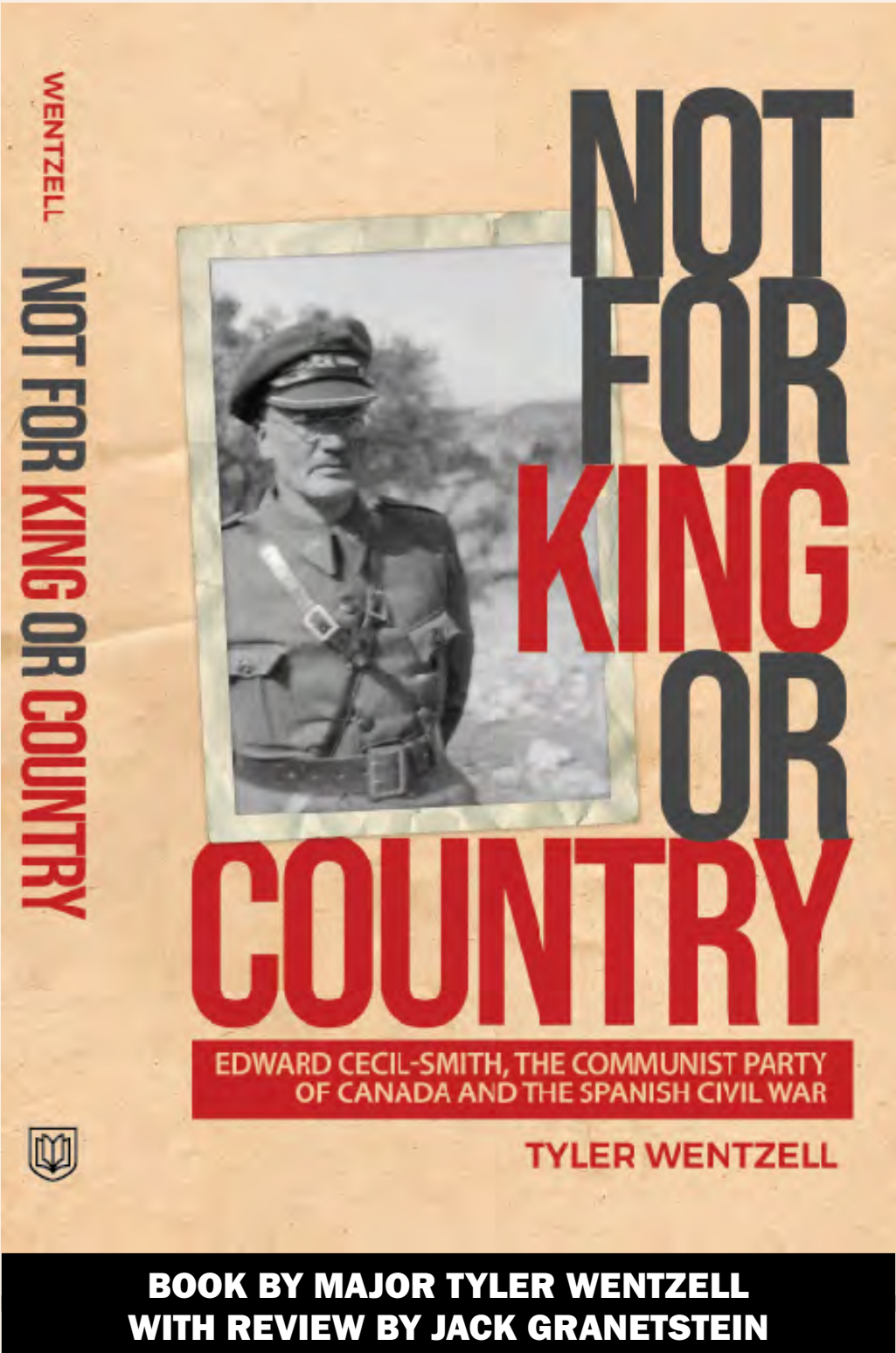
SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL

Capt (Ret) Bruce Beaton, CD  
@ KWing, K2E, Room 29

This gentlemen does not have a room  
telephone connection and  
can only be reached by a personal visit.

*This Highlander will be pleased to hear from you.  
A special thanks to our Visiting Party and their  
special efforts to stay in touch with them.*

MAY 2020



From Historian Jack Granatstein's advance review of "Not for King or Country":

"Tyler Wentzell is a soldier-historian, and this volume shows his training. Through extraordinary research into hitherto unused sources, he details the life of Cecil-Smith and sets him firmly in the context of Canadian Communism and the party's cultural, propaganda, and labour organizing

in the 1930s and 1940s. But the heart of the book is Cecil-Smith's role as the commander of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion in the chaos and internecine feuding of the Spanish Civil War. This is a soldier's fine account of a doomed but gallant enterprise, the best telling of this tale we have."

J.L. Granatstein, author of: "Canada's Army: Waging War and Keeping the Peace"



# REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE – 2019

## Remembrance Day Homily 2019

By Maj the Rev'd Don Aitchison UE  
Chaplain 32 CBG

On behalf of the Commanding Officer of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, we want to thank you for being with us this morning.

*“To you from failing hands we throw the torch ...  
be yours to hold it high.”*

One hundred years ago, Canadians from coast to coast were preparing to mark the first anniversary of the armistice that ended the First World War by inaugurating a tradition that we continue to observe today.

On Friday, November 7, news reached Toronto that King George V had distributed a message to all the British colonies requesting that two minutes of silence were to take place across the British Empire at 11 a.m. local time. “During that time, except in rare cases where this might be impracticable, all sound and all locomotion should cease, so that in perfect stillness the thoughts of everyone might be concentrated on reverent remembrance of our glorious dead.”

On Sunday the 9th, Victory Sunday, a massive crowd gathered along University Ave between Queen and College for outdoor services featuring nine preachers delivering simultaneous sermons and five bands spaced along the street.

On the 11th, a Tuesday, people went about their business as usual until 11:00 o'clock when all at once the entire city stopped.

*“All down Yonge Street on the stroke of the city hall clock all traffic, as if directed by a magic hand, seemed to instantly come to a standstill,” wrote the Toronto World. “People by the hundreds on the streets at the time stopped and reverently bowed their heads for the required period. Here and there a driver who had forgotten was instantly stopped by pedestrians, and the hush on the street was as pronounced as in the early hours of a morning on an ordinary night.”*

*“At the corner of King and Yonge,” reported the Globe, “the traffic policeman had signalled a southbound car to make the crossing, but as it reached the centre of the streets, the motorman observed the time, cut off the power, and as a signal which those around him accepted, removed his cap.”*

Later that day, the Governor-General laid the cornerstone of the Soldier's Tower, just half a kilometer from here. Among the 628 names recorded there from the first war is that of Loudon Brian Melville Loudon. His father James Loudon had been president of the University of Toronto when he was born.

He himself attended UofT from 1910 to 1915 and in August 1915 joined the 92nd Battalion, going overseas in May 1916. He reverted to the rank of Lieutenant and joined the 15th Bn in France where he was wounded at Courcellette in September and ended up coming home for two months to recover. He returned to duties in England and was promoted – but again reverted to lieutenant in order to rejoin the unit in March 1918. He was killed in action on September 1, 1918 at the Battle for the Crow's Nest near Hendicourt, east of Arras. He was leading his platoon forward and approaching the objective when he was obliged to halt owing to the barrage. As he was seeing that



# REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE – 2019





## REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE – 2019

his men had cover he was struck in the heart by an enemy shrapnel bullet.

I unexpectedly found myself in front of his gravestone last year when I made a pilgrimage to visit the 15th Battalion memorials that stretch from Ypres to Amiens. I had just visited the hillside site of the battle for the Crow's Nest and learned that most of the casualties from that action – which was a critical step in preparation for the battle for the DQ Line that began the next day – were buried in the Dominion Cemetery nearby.

I had not meant to stop there – but as I drove away, bound for the next 15th Bn monument at Canal du Nord, I saw the sign for the cemetery and instinctively pulled off the road and drove over the rutted lane through a farmer's field to the edge of a little graveyard. It was very small compared to many of the cemeteries I had seen that week – there are only 226 graves there – and so with no agenda I walked along the neat rows and spoke each man's name. Among the dead I found Sgt Arthur Knight, VC – one of seven awarded for the D-Q Line; Capt Morton Mason, a graduate from the School I work at; most amazingly I found the grave of my cousin, Lt Victor McElroy, RAF who had been shot down on September 2nd and awarded a DFC; and I found Louden.

Standing there, I heard John McCrae's haunting words, "To you from failing hands we throw the torch ... be yours to hold it high."

That torch had been passed from the 1607 Highlanders who had died in the war to those members of the regiment who returned home from the Western Front battlefields in May 1919 with great pomp and ceremony – on YouTube you can find footage of their parade to Varsity Stadium to return the colours. The Treaty of Versailles was signed in June and the War to End All Wars was over.

But the hard won peace did not last. Twenty short years later the regiment was to embark once again for foreign shores to defend liberty and 343 more lives were given. In the decades since the end of World War Two, countless more Highlanders have taken up that torch and been willing to give their lives to defend our freedom. We honour and remember them all.

Now it is our time to carry the torch and to hold it high so that those who have gone before us can rest in peace. Dileas Gu Brath – Faithful Forever.

### Closing Prayers

We are gathered today to remember and give thanks for those men and women who have served our nation with devotion and courage. Their service has defended our freedom, and has inspired in us a hope for a better world. In the spirit of that freedom and hope, I invite you - according to your own tradition and conscience - to pray for God's blessing and guidance, or simply to use this moment for personal reflection, as others pray.

We remember before thee, O God, all those who, for the causes of justice and freedom, made the supreme sacrifice.

May they rest in peace, and may the memory of their sacrifice, and the sacrifices of all those who continue to serve, inspire in us the resolve to discern and to do our part, and to further your peace throughout the world.



We give thanks for all of our veterans and their families, whose service and sacrifice have preserved our freedom, and defended our nation's values. And we commend to you, especially, O God, all those whose service to our nation has left them wounded or worn in body, mind or spirit; and we pray that you would grant to them your healing, your renewing hope, and our abiding respect and care.

We pray all who continue the tradition of service in the Canadian Armed Forces today; and for the families that support them in their calling.

We ask your blessing on our Sovereign Lady, Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada in this her 72nd year as our Colonel-in-Chief. And we pray for the Government of Canada, that we may be led well and wisely.

Give peace in our time, O God, and evermore mightily defend us.

AMEN. 🙏

## REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE – 2019





## IN MEMORIAM



**RSM (CWO) J.A. BOGGISS, CD (1928 – 2019)**

By MWO (Ret) Dave Boggiss, CD

RSM Boggiss enlisted in the 48th Highlanders in 1952, joining D Company. He moved through the ranks and was promoted to Sergeant in 1958.

As a WO in 1961, he was appointed CSM of B Company where he served until being appointed Drill Sergeant Major (DSM) in 1963. He was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) in 1970 and subsequently appointed Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM).

In October 1972 his RSM term completed, he retired.

Although retired, a love of Regiment never fades. Jim joined the Continuing Sergeants Association (CSA) and served as President in the early 2000s. He strongly believed in supporting the active Sr NCOs by maintaining ongoing ties and open communication.

Jim never missed the annual Sergeants Mess dinner by choice. He looked forward each year to joining his comrades and renewing old acquaintances. His health failed but never his love of Regiment.

As outgoing RSM he said “This Regiment was not born great. Greatness had to be earned. It took the blood, sweat and toil of thousands to give her the name she has today.”

RSM Boggiss was proud to be one of those thousands. ...

*DILEAS GU BRATH* 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



**JAMES “JIM” CASSIE (1929-2019)**

It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the passing of James ‘Jim’ Cassie on 13 Dec 2019 following a recent illness.

Jim was a great Highlander and strong supporter of The Regiment and all its associations. He was also a consistent supporter of and donor to the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project from the very first memorial at The Crow’s Nest in 2010 to the tenth and most recent memorial at Ecurie in 2018.

Despite his advanced age and medical condition, Jim travelled to France and Belgium to attend the majority of the memorial dedications.

In the language of the Great War trenches, Jim ‘has gone West’ and he will be greatly missed - ‘We Will Remember’ him.

by

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



*Jim at Canal du Nord - 2012 (2nd from the left)*  
*(Photos - Courtesy: 15th BN CEF Memorial Project)*

## IN MEMORIAM



**DR. THOMAS WILLIAM MCKEAN, CD, DDS,  
FAGD, FADI (1943-2020)**

Dr Thomas McKean, DDS, was a former President of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario from 1999-2001, and practiced dentistry from 1968 to 2008.

His specialty was in reconstructive/traumatic dentistry for accident patients while on staff of the Dental Department at the North York General Hospital 1970-2008. He also headed the Department for 14 years while maintaining a private practice.

As well, Tom was a Piper with the 48th Highlanders of Canada Pipes & Drums from 1959 through 1985. He then joined the Toronto Police Pipes & Drums for the next 22 years. At one point, he was also President of the 48th Pipes & Drums Association 2000-02.

While he was with the 48th, Tom marched regularly in the Toronto Santa Clause Parade, participated in playing for Royal Visits, and assisted the Mariposa Pipe Band overseas at the Edinburgh Tattoo in the late 1990s.

He was the beloved husband of Lynda (nee Fallis) for 52 years, and proud father of Jackie, Thomas Jr, Kerri and Mardi. In addition, he was grandfather to Jeremy (deceased), Jesse, Nathan, Reese, Dominic, Nicholas, Alexander, Austin and Chelsea.

One of Tom’s special leisure activities was maintaining a hobby farm with beef cattle from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s in an area south of Collingwood.

Tom passed away in February, 2020, in his 77th year. He loved life as a dentist, Piper, husband, father and friend to many. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

## DRUM MAJOR (MWO) LARRY FULLERTON, CD (1946-2019)

Excerpts From A “Celebration of Life”

Speech Given By DM (MWO) (Ret) Sandy Dewar, CD, on June 1, 2019, Toronto:

It was a foregone conclusion that Larry and I would become 48th Highlanders. Larry’s father Tom served with the 48th through WWII and retired with the rank of WO2 (Company Sergeant Major).

Both Larry and I were sworn on strength into the Canadian Militia with the 48th Highlanders in April, 1962.

In 1971, Larry’s life took on a major change as far as the 48th Pipes & Drums were concerned. The Band was trying to decide who to choose to be the next Drum Major. Traditionally, this appointment was usually someone from the drum section. Larry stated he would be interested, was

appointed Drum Major and served in this position for 28 years making him the longest serving Drum Major in the history of the Regiment.

Larry’s accomplishments as Drum Major went well beyond his Regimental duties as he mastered the art of flourishing with the mace in competitions, winning numerous prizes.

He was also requested by many Highland Games organizations to be the senior Drum Major organizing the massed band performances at the opening and closing ceremonies. Larry also worked with Variety Village Band as their Drum Major.

Larry was, as well, an extremely good marksman and was selected to be on the CF National Rifle Team. He also instructed for many summers at the Canadian Forces Music Centre at CFB Borden.

After retirement, Larry served as President of the 48th Continuing Sergeants Association and on the committee of the 48th Pipes and Drums Association.

His expertise at producing Military shows was exceptional, as I had the opportunity to witness first-hand, at the Edmonton Military Tattoo which ran for two years.

Larry and I retired on the same evening, with a Full-Dress Regimental Parade in our honour, on February 9th, 2007. We started with the 48th Highlanders together and we finished together. Guess how many years. 48!

(Additional note: Larry was a dedicated professor at Ryerson University in the Geography Department for more than 45 years, and served as coach to Ryerson’s badminton teams.) 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿





IN MEMORIAM

LIEUTENANT JOHN RICHARD  
‘RICK’ HERGEL CD

Rick Hergel was 59 years of age when he passed away suddenly last summer, but in many ways I always saw him as the student I had taught in the mid-1970s at Royal York Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke.

Rick joined the 48th Highlanders as a Private soldier in 1976, did his basic training in D Company and was promoted to Cpl before taking a leave from The Regiment to complete his BA in Film Studies at York University. He returned to the unit in 1982, was commissioned and in the years following his Officer qualification courses, Rick served as an infantry platoon commander, Assistant Adjutant, Transport Officer, and Signals Officer. Following a posting to Toronto Militia District Headquarters as a Public Affairs Officer, Rick returned to The Regiment and served with Cadet Corps from 1997 to 2000.

When I left The Regiment in 1992, there were fewer opportunities to ‘rub shoulders’ with Rick but the Annual Officer’s Mess Dinners and Remembrance Day parades provided opportunities to stay in touch as they do for most former comrades. But when the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project was created in 2008, Rick quietly volunteered as a project researcher and we once again were working together along with some of those now retired Royal Yorker Highlanders from the old days.

Lieutenant John Richard ‘Rick’ Hergel CD – Royal Yorker, Highlander, student, project team member, friend – Faithful Forever. “Rick, we will see you on the objective.”

by

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



CAPTAIN DAVID ROLAND, MBE, P.ENG  
(1920-2018)

Captain David Roland, MBE, passed away in Toronto on October 19, 2018, in his 98th year, a distinguished 48th WWII veteran.

He was born in Red Deer, Alberta, and grew up in Beamsville, Ontario, later graduating in Engineering at the University of Toronto.

In civilian life, Capt Roland had a rewarding and successful career as an executive with Atlas Steels and Rio Algam, living and working in Belgium, Quebec, Switzerland and finally Toronto.

During World War II, he was the Signals Officer in the 1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders of Canada, serving in Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium and Holland from 1943-45.

Capt Roland participated in many battles, including Ortona and the Lamone River crossing. As a result of his valorous action and serious wounding at the river crossing, he was awarded the Order of the Member of the British Empire (MBE). As well, he was later on the staff of 48th Commanding Officer, LCol Donald Mackenzie, serving with him throughout the Italian Campaign and later taking part in the April, 1945, liberation of the Netherlands.

After the War, he continued his connection with the Regiment through his membership in the 48th Officers Association, attending several Annual Mess Dinners during recent years. For many years, he used to speak to young students about his participation in the War and tell them stories about his experiences.

In 2016, Capt Roland took part in the Regiment’s 125th Anniversary celebrations as an honored member of the Second World War Veterans group.

He will be remembered as one of the Regiment’s heroic and famous “1ST Battalion D Day Dodgers”...a fine example of service and sacrifice that helped turn the tide and defeat the enemy during WWII.

Capt David Roland.....Dileas Gu Brath!



Capt David Roland, MBE - WWII medals



In Holland, May, 1945, during WWII

IN MEMORIAM

CAPTAIN ALEC VICTOR SHIPMAN, CD  
(1938 – 2020)

Captain Alec Shipman passed away, following a lengthy illness, on February 7, 2020.

During his military career, he served primarily in two units. First, the 48th Highlanders of Canada and later, in 709 Signals Regiment # 2605 Cadet Corps, in which he rose to the position of Commanding Officer.

As a member of that Unit, he was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) medal and the Canada 125 medal.

In both Regiments, he was highly regarded by his peers and acquaintances, as is evident in the tributes to his life, below.

*“Extremely saddened by the news of a good friend, brother officer and welcome associate in many areas of stern endeavour in which his wonderful sense of humour shone in all cases.*

*Alec found his true gift in inspiring young army cadets to face achievement and adversity with equal measures of alacrity. In short, he enriched their training by encouraging them to search for better ways to succeed than the so-called “tried and true” methods, with the result that many found their hidden talents.*

*He will be greatly missed by all members of his Family as well as everyone who was privileged to enjoy his friendship.”*

Major (Ret) George Pearce, CD  
48th Highlanders of Canada

*“The Cadets and Canadian Forces Officers of 709 Toronto Signals, Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps extend their sincere condolences to the family and friends of the late Captain Shipman.*

*Your years of service to Canada, and directly serving with the Cadets of 2605 Signals will always be remembered. Rest in peace Sir.”*

Major R. Rangel-Bron, CD  
Commanding Officer, 709 Toronto Signals



In 2007, Captain Shipman delivered several boxes of 15th Battalion, World War 1 Service Cards to our Regimental Museum. As a young Quartermaster, in 1963, he had recovered and saved these invaluable historic documents from possible loss in the garbage, when the Regiment was relocating from University Avenue Armory to Fort York Armory.



JACK TAYLOR, 48TH HIGHLANDERS  
OCA DRILL TEAM (1935-2015)

By John Perkins, Chairman, 48th OCA Drill Team

Jack Taylor, born June 28, 1935, passed away January 23, 2020. He had served a number of years in his youth with the Toronto Scottish, before signing up with the 48th Highlanders OCA Drill Team in 2007 with his wife Joyce. The two were regulars at monthly OCA meetings in the Sergeant’s Mess, and remembered everyone in extending their best wishes and cards at our annual Christmas social.

Jack married Joyce, also a member of the 48th Highlanders Ladies Auxiliary, on June 25, 2010, at the Yonge Street Mission after having been partners for nearly 14 years. They had met 23 years ago at the Buffalo Club on Broadview Avenue. Jack had one daughter and together, he and Joyce had 10 step-children through marriage.

He worked for many years producing and installing store front signs throughout the city. He was a devoted Toronto Maple Leafs hockey fan and loved Blue Jays baseball.

Jack was an active member of the ANAF Coronation 259 Club on Broadview Avenue, Toronto, where playing darts and euchre were his passions. He loved the 48th and Regimental parades. He enjoyed his talks and travel with OCA member, Frank Currie, who would bring him to the parades. He valued the camaraderie and friendship of John Stephens and Dave Imbeault of the OCA Drill Team.

Jack remained a faithful Highlander to the end. Jack resided at the Main Street Terrace Long Term Care Home for nearly three years and while normally easy to get along with, he stubbornly refused to remove his glengarry at bed time. Joyce encouraged the staff to wait until Jack had fallen asleep if they hoped to win this battle.

Jack’s March 7th, 2020, celebration of life at his ANAF Club was attended by seven members of the OCA. Both Dave Imbeault (Colour Sgt) and John Perkins (OCA Drill Team Chairman) spoke to the assembled crowd and conveyed our condolences and respect. As well, a donation was given toward the internment of Jack’s remains.



# IN MEMORIAM



## WARRANT OFFICER (WO) ROBERT F. "BOB" TAYLOR, CD (1929-2019)

By Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bice, CD, D.D., KGSJ

Bob, as he was known, was a member of the 48th Highlanders Pipes & Drums for over 62 years with his service as a Piper with the Regiment commencing in 1947.

Bob volunteered in 1951 along with other members of the Regiment, the 48th contingent of the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion of the 27th Brigade, which was posted in Germany.

The 1st Canadian Highland Battalion was established in Val Cartier, Quebec on 4 May 1951. They amalgamated with The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada and re-designated as the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada on 16 October 1953.

Bob and his wife of 56 years, Aletha Boyd, were the proud parents of a daughter, Jennifer, who was to become a highland dancer, and a son, Cameron, who became an accomplished Piper in his own right with the Regiment as well.

My own recollections of Bob are that he was a gentleman who often watched and listened to what was taking place around him. When he did get involved in a conversation it was always with a jovial smile on his face. It was always a pleasure to sit and chat with Bob and to be in his company in a social context or as brother Pipers in the Regiment.

Bob retired from the Regiment with the rank of Warrant Officer and continued being very supportive of the regiment through the 48th Highlanders Pipes & Drums Association, Continuing Sergeants Association, Regimental Museum and Old Comrades Association.

Bob was born 19 Aug 1929 and passed away as a resident of Sunnybrook Hospital's Veteran's Wing on 5 Dec 2019. He remained "Dileas" to both the Regiment and his family until his passing. 🇨🇦

## SERGEANT KENNETH JAMES WELLS, CD (1922-2019)

By Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bice, CD, D.D., KGSJ

Ken, as he was known, along with the other moniker "The Silver Fox", was a long serving member of the 48th Highlanders Pipes & Drums, with over 50 years of service.

Ken began his piping career with the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, in his home town of Winnipeg, Manitoba, where was born on Christmas Day, December 25, 1922.

Ken joined the 48th Pipes & Drums in 1941. There are a few stories of Ken's WWII service. One is that he was found to be underage and was posted with other under age pipers and drummers in a band located in England, near a hospital. Another story is that Ken was seen getting off the troop ship when he arrived with the band in England by an officer who sequestered him as the piper for a very tall commanding officer of high rank, after all Ken was a very tall piper.

Whatever the truth is, Ken did serve overseas and upon his return he resumed his duties as a Piper with the Regiment. Ken was the last surviving member of the Pipes & Drums who served with the Regiment during WWII.

Upon Ken's retirement as a piper with the Regiment he continued piping with The Scarborough Pipes and Drums also known as Branch 73 Royal Canadian Legions Pipes and Drums. The Scarborough Pipes and Drums seemed to become the band where many ex 48th bandsmen would continue playing.

This began in the 1980's when I was Pipe Major of the Scarborough Pipes and Drums and some of the ex-drummers of the band, such as the Gordie Rankin, Bill Downey, Joe Pompiere and Louis Stark were part of the drum corps during my years with the band. Eventually ex-pipers of the 48th such as Jimmy Raffin and Ken Wells joined the ranks of the band.

Ken, had two sons, Kevin who predeceased him and his other son also named Ken, who also took up piping and was given lesson by another ex-48th Piper, WO Fred Hodgson.

My own recollection of Ken was that he was also a gentleman, and similar in nature to his good friend Bob Taylor and he was also good friends with former Pipe Major (CWO) J. Ross Stewart CD, MMM. I always enjoyed my time with Ken as I did with Bob Taylor during social events or as brother pipers in the Pipes & Drums.

On many occasions, ex-48th Tenor Drummer Bruce Hall and Ken would visit Bob Taylor in various locations where he was residing. On a number of occasions, when Fred Hodgson was in town, he would join them and I would join them from time to time as well.

Ken retired from the Regiment with the rank of Sergeant and continued to support the Regiment and the Pipes & Drums through the 48th Pipes & Drums Association, Continuing Sergeants Association and the Old Comrades Association. Again, another piper who was "Dileas" until is passing. 🇨🇦



## SGT "SANDY" (WILLIAM) ARNOLD LEIL, CD (1933-2020)

Former tenor drummer of the 48th Highlanders Pipes & Drum, Sgt "Sandy" Leil, CD, passed away on April 9, 2020 at the age of 86 in Lindsay, Ontario.

Sandy's military service began with the 48th Cadets in 1950 and then with the 48th Pipes & Drums from the early 1950s until the late 1980s.



In between, he also completed a short stint with the Royal Canadian Navy.

For many years, Sandy was an award winning tenor drummer who participated in numerous high profile events and parades with the Regiment. These included Trooping of the Colors for Queen Elizabeth II in the 1950s, playing at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in the late 1970s, and participating at the opening of Maple Leaf Gardens for decades.

Sandy was particularly remembered for the fine flourishes of his tenor drum mallets during countless 48th parades in public. He was often described as "a true 48th drummer" exhibiting great traditional style.

At numerous Highland festivals in Ontario, Sandy and his family would participate on a regular basis in various competitions. He would win a number of awards for tenor drumming, while his first wife, Quenda, would assist their two daughters Denise and Tania who also won many awards for their talented Highland dancing.

In civilian life, Sandy worked in administration for Canadian National Telecommunications on Front Street in Toronto. He retired from CN in the late 1990s and later moved up to the Lindsay area with his second wife, Pat (Stewart), a former WO with the CWAC.

In his retirement, Sandy was a long time member of the 48th Pipes & Drums Association, as well as the 48th Continuing Sergeants Association. He liked attending P&D social functions, and was a regular participant in the 48th WO/Sgts Mess Dinner.

In addition to his current wife, Pat, Sandy leaves his two daughters and his five grandchildren: Tiia, Eric, Meredith, Patrick and Duncan. He will be sadly missed by all his old comrades in the 48th Pipes & Drums, particularly his lifelong friend, Piper Fred Hodgson.

Sgt Sandy Leil, CD...a first class tenor drummer and a true 48th Highlander! 🇨🇦



## A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR (RET) DAYTON JOHN OSTROSSER (1943 - 2020)

By Captain (Ret) Steve Gilbert, CD

Major (Ret) Dayton Ostrosser had an unusual Reserve career.

Back in the 1970s and 80s, after he achieved field officer rank, he went on to serve as a Company Commander in, not one but three different infantry Regiments – The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, The Toronto Scottish and finally The 48th Highlanders of Canada.

In the summers of 1974 and 75, he also led two different composite rifle companies on high Arctic deployments to Cornwallis Island as part of an ongoing National Sovereignty Exercise – "Northern Ramble". It was on the first of these deployments, in 1974, that, as a newly commissioned platoon commander, I first met him.

He was usually a very relaxed OC, and, as such, a good coach and mentor when guiding his junior officers. You always knew when you had made a mistake, because he would tell you straight out, but positive advice and direction would always follow, as he sought to help you improve your leadership skills and overall capability as an officer and leader.

His Reserve Career might have taken him much further in both rank and appointment. He was recruited to the 48th in the early 1980s, by then DCO, now Colonel (Ret) Bill Jensen, as a potential candidate for a future position as DCO and possibly Commanding Officer, and, for a brief period, he commanded Charlie Company.

However, his civilian career as a high school teacher of business and marketing studies and later cooperative education, along with his extra curricular efforts mentoring student teams in cross country skiing and running, led him away from further involvement in the military to an outstanding career as an educator.

He will be well remembered by both his students and by those who served with him in the Reserves.

Major (Ret) Dayton John Ostrosser – coach and mentor, for rookie junior officers, such as yours truly, as well as for high school students in need of academic and athletic encouragement.

*BRAVO ZULU DAYTON - REST IN PEACE! 🇨🇦*



# IN MEMORIAM



# OUR REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

## OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION



## THE DRILL TEAM



## THE IODE



## PIPES AND DRUMS ASSOCIATION



## THE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



## CONTINUING SGTS ASSOCIATION

