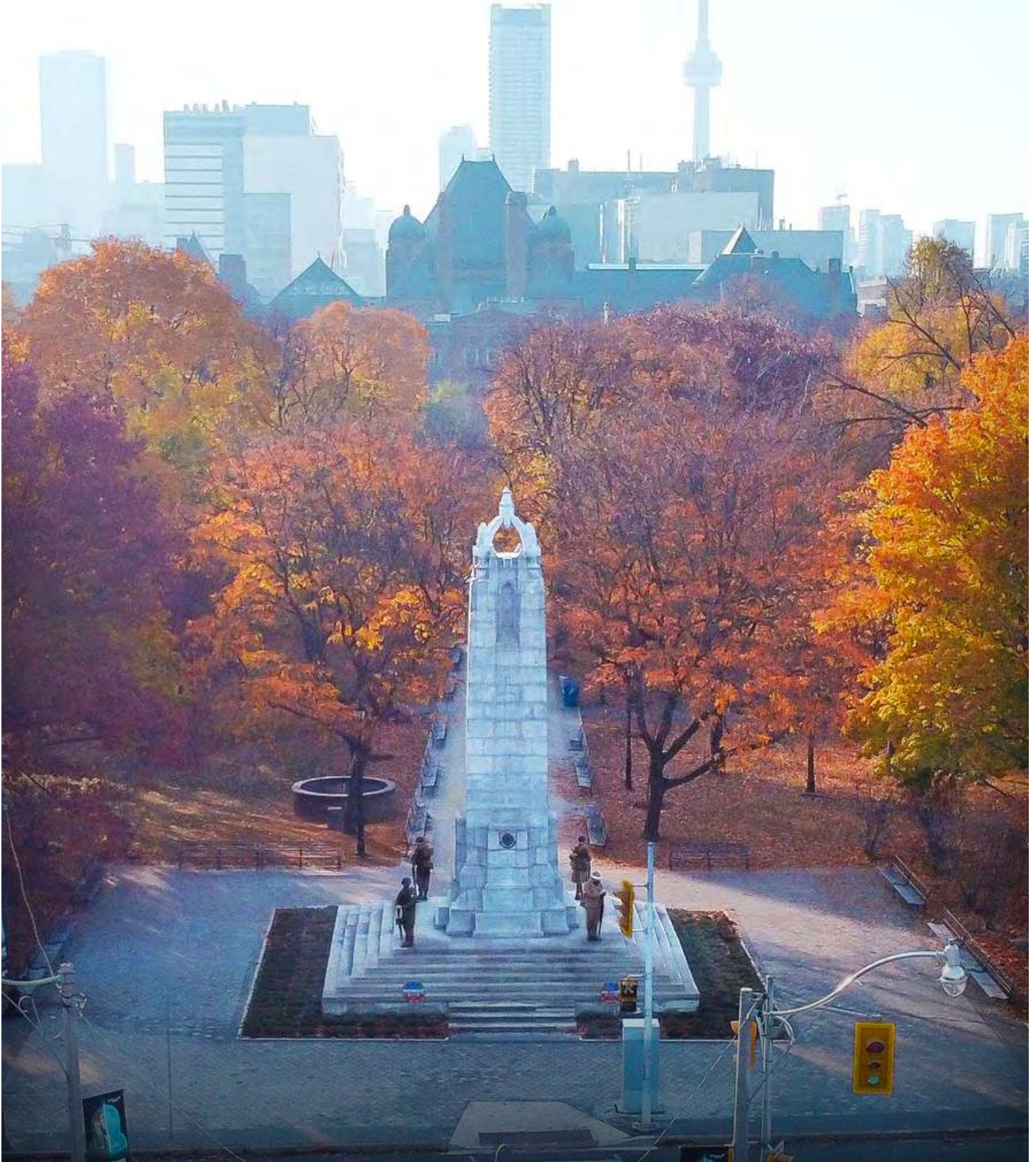


THE FALCON MAGAZINE

A stylized illustration of a falcon's head and neck, facing left, with a red and white striped banner draped around its neck.

Keeping Highlanders up to date on Regimental Events, Achievements and History • Fall 2020





ON THE COVER:

The 48th Monument at Queens Park, 2 Nov 2020

This is a unique view of the monument rarely ever seen before, this was taken with a drone remotely controlled by Captain Javin Lau.

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK:

Welcome to the new digital Falcon, available via e-mail, the Regimental Facebook site and our website archive. We have restructured our distribution system to improve our service to Highlanders, but our content has not changed. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. – SG, *Capt (Ret)*, Editor

This issue of The FALCON produced by

Capt (Ret) Steve Gilbert, CD
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Badges of the 48th Highlanders of Canada included in this publication are displayed by authority of the
Regimental Commanding Officer, in accordance with CFP 200 Chapter 7

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.



FALL 2020 - FEATURING:

- *Change of RSM*
- *Honours and Awards*
- *Change of Honourary Colonels*
- *Operation Laser*
- *Exercise Celtic Warrior 1*
- *Exercise Highland Warrior*
- *Tales from the 15th Bn CEF*
- *A Tragic 1st BN Memory*
- *A Highlander's Sarajevo Story*
- *In Remembrance - 2020*
- *In Memoriam to lost Highlanders*
- *Veterans Affairs Update*

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



PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE - PROVIDED BY Ian Macdonald, Danielle Reesor, 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, Major Howard Michitsch and families of the lost Highlanders.

ACTIVE REGIMENT

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICERS DESK

Greetings Highlanders –

I have issued several FALCON Bulletins this fall with the aim of keeping you up to date with what is going on in our Regiment. With that in mind, I'm going to try and keep my comments in this FALCON Newsletter short, but there are a few things I need to mention.

The Active Battalion is well into the training year. While COVID-19 restrictions have impacted how we train, it's important to note that we are still training, and are prepared to deploy soldiers if the need arises.

We are conducting a mix of virtual / remote training using electronic platforms, and in person training. The Field Training Exercises (FTXs) in September and October focused on individual battle task standards (ranges, weapons handling, navigation, etc) and we have transitioned into tactical training for the next several months. The FTX in November was an Advance to Contact through D & F areas in CFB Borden – familiar stomping grounds for many of you. It was good to get back to the basics – platoon formations / movement and section attacks. This is excellent training for soldiers, as well as for developing Section Comds, Platoon Comds, Duty Officers and those involved in sustainment activities.

We continue to develop our relationship with 1 RCR, and hosted a meeting with the CO and RSM in September. We are looking at ways we can train together, with the first opportunity is being scheduled for February 2021. Other follow-on training activities are being investigated and coordinated.

HCol Scott has completed his term of service as Honorary Colonel. We are waiting for final approval of the promotion and appointment of LCol MacIntyre as the new HCol. Ms. Sasha Darling has been confirmed as the incoming Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank HCol Scott for his work and support of the Regiment over the past 6 years, and extend my congratulations to the new Honoraries on their appointments.

A tremendous amount of work has been done by the Regimental Association Restructuring Team and the Social Media Team. You have seen my previous communications on these initiatives. The new Regimental Association formally stands-to on 01 January, 2021. The new website is being finalized as we speak. The Regimental Association FB site is active and there is a lot of action on it. If you are not following this, I'd encourage you to do so. You have seen the results of the Social Media Team's work with the video-recording of the Change of RSM Event, the Remembrance Day Event and the photos posted on Facebook and Instagram. Thanks to the members of the respective teams for your work and efforts. You have my appreciation.

Throughout the pandemic, the Canadian Forces has shrunk through attrition; however, the Regiment remains strong at about the same size of 230 all ranks. The one thing we still can't do though, is Recruiting



attraction events. If you know of any Canadian who meets the enrollment criteria, and is looking to serve the Nation, or are looking for something challenging and exciting to do, please point them in our direction, or give their contact information to the Orderly Room.

Lastly, the Ruck March Challenge kicked off on Friday 13 November. The 15th Battalion CEF marched over 350km between 13 Nov 1918 and 09 May 1919. We are challenging all serving members to march the same distance with a 50lb rucksack. The challenge is open to all former members and Regimental Family members as well. Check out the details on FB or IG.

In closing, as we approach the end of 2020, I'd like to express my thanks to the serving soldiers, NCOs and officers for the hard work that you have done in this very challenging year, and how you've adapted to the COVID-19 environment. I also want to thank everyone else in the Regimental Family as well for your ongoing support and assistance. Please accept my best wishes to each of you, and your families, for a great Holiday Season and new year in 2021.

Stay safe. Stay Healthy.

DILEAS GU BRATH
R.A. ALKEMA
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
COMMANDING OFFICER



ACTIVE REGIMENT

FROM THE RSMS DESK

Hello to all Highlanders.

This is my first message to you since I became RSM, so I want to begin by thanking Chief Warrant Officer Kwok for the excellent job he did as RSM during the past three years. In particular, I want to thank him for bringing our NCO corps to a high level of operational performance.

We initiated a pre-PLQ preparation program several years ago and it has been proven to be a successful model. We have expanded our MCpl ranks and currently have 70% of our establishment filled. We will continue running this program and aim to qualify approximately 8-10 MCpls a year in order to produce future well trained Sgts and Warrant Officers.

We are living in exceptional times right now. Restrictions are still in place to protect all C F members, in case we are called upon to assist our fellow citizens again. This has caused us to rethink how we deliver training. The command team remains committed to finding the balance between keeping our soldiers safe and healthy and making sure that we provide engaging and meaningful training.

We are still in the midst of a pandemic and need to be ready to respond to any tasks we are given in the coming months. That is why the current focus is on individual training and core skills, so we can develop and prepare the Regiment to meet any challenge we may face.

As soldiers we are trained to face adversity head on - to adapt and overcome. I am confident we will be ready, if or when called upon.

I look forward to my new role as RSM and to what we can do together to move our middle NCO Corp's growth further down the trace over the coming years. I also hope to see us grow as a Regiment and Regimental Family by remembering our past and learning from our new experiences.

The holidays are usually a time for gathering and socializing, but with the restrictions placed on us to mitigate the spread of COVID it will be more difficult this year. Remember to do a buddy check on your fellow Highlanders. This can be a difficult time of year - especially with the restrictions - so don't be afraid to reach out if you need someone to speak to. Or, call the Member Assistance Program at 1-800-268-7708.

Finally, no matter what you celebrate, at this time of year, I hope you enjoy the season. My family and I celebrate Christmas, so I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Highlanders - stay healthy and safe!

I look forward to seeing all of you when we resume training in the New Year.

DILEAS GU BRATH

CHRIS REESOR, CD
CWO
RSM



CORRECTION

From the Editor's Desk:

On page 55 of Falcon Yearbook 2019 - 2020, Retired Pipe Major Sandy Dewar was mistakenly referred to, in error, as Drum Major (MWO). His correct rank and appointment details should have been stated as: "Pipe Major (CWO) (Ret) Sandy Dewar, CD" The Falcon regrets and apologizes for this error.

48 HIGHRS - ONLINE KIT SHOP

It's been a while since we've had a place to purchase Regimental items.

When someone mentions kit shop to me, I envision two components - tactical and field gear, and Regimental Items. To be clear, what we are talking about here is Regimental Items.

We have reached an agreement with Dufferin Apparel to be our online kit shop.

Initially, the catalogue includes items such as:

Golf shirts	Tee shirts - short sleeve & long sleeve
Hoodies	Baseball hats
Fleece	Jackets
Sport bags	Toques

As other items are requested or identified, they can be added to the catalogue. There are also options for smaller groups (Platoons / Regt Association cohorts) to order specific items - for example a dye sublimated shirt has a minimum order of 12.

We are using the approved cap badge as the Regimental brand. All items can be ordered with the cap badge either embroidered or dye sublimated.

The Regiment is not involved in the purchase of any items. Individuals will order directly from Dufferin Apparel, and will pay Dufferin Apparel directly. The items will be delivered to the address you specify.

Here is the link to our online catalogue: <https://www.dufferinapparel.com/customer-catalogues/recreational-clubs/groups/army-reserves/none/48-highlanders-of-canada/>

Ideas for other kit shop items are always welcome and can be made to Dufferin Apparel or the RSM.



ACTIVE REGIMENT

CHANGE OF REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR - 16 OCT 2020



On October 16, 2020 the Change of Regimental Sergeant Major took place at Moss Park Armouries as RSM Brian Kwok handed the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major, to who is now RSM Reesor. The Regiment deeply thanks CWO Kwok for his exemplary service and faithfulness to his Regiment.



[Click here to see an interview with our outgoing RSM](#)

ACTIVE REGIMENT

CHANGE OF REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR - 16 OCT 2020



[Click here
to see an
interview with
our new
RSM](#)



ACTIVE REGIMENT

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS - 20 SEPT 2020



Cpl Aguilar-Valencia receiving the Ainsworth Dyer award



Sgt Carvalho receiving his CD2



Cpl Pascu receiving his CD1



Mcpl Thomas receiving his CD1

ACTIVE REGIMENT

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS - 20 SEPT 2020



Mcpl Mckenzie Mardelli receiving his Carpenter Award



Lt Malcolm receiving his Eaton Award



Mcpl Mackenzie Mardelli promoted to Sgt



Mcpl Maclachlan receiving his COs Commendation



Sgt Bradbury receiving his Eaton Award



OP LASER AND THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

By Lt Pim Vander Toorn

In what was the largest mustering of Reserve soldiers in Canada since 1939, Op Laser stood up Territorial Brigade Group 1 on 05 April 2020. By the next day there were over 490 all-ranks at CTC Blackdown/CFB Borden ready to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic currently ravaging long term care facilities (LTCF) in Ontario.

After three chilly weeks of TMST at CTC Blackdown, TBG 1 was deployed to the GTA on 27 April 2020 in response to RFA 1. In support of Augmented Civilian Care Teams (ACCT), the soldiers got busy restoring order and cleanliness to the 5 LTCFs in the TBG 1 AOR. 2 Domestic Response Company, deployed to AOR East, is well represented by the 48th Highlanders of Canada including Capt Blake as OC, Lt van der Toorn, 2IC, 2Lt Beloglazov Admin O, and Cpl Mayer on the pointy end as Section 2IC of one of the "inside" crews. 2Lt Fernandes is currently IMO with TBG 1 HQ back at CTC Blackdown and former 48th Maj Aitchison is the Brigade Padre.

2 DRC is currently well into it's third week of the mission. What is clear is that the need for help at LTCFs was real, and it's good we came. A most welcome break from the serious nature of the tasking was the receipt and distribution of several dozen cookies, made for the front-line sections by incoming RSM Reesor and Danielle Reesor's family - thank you!



Members of 2 DRC observe a moment of silence in honour of Constable Heidi Stevenson and the other victims of the Nova Scotia mass shooting 24 APR 2020



Lt van der Toorn directs CAF members who have cleared RSOMI towards PMed briefs at CTC Blackdown 06 April 2020.



Capt Blake confers with LCol Stocker (CO TBG 1) and BGen Mialkowski (commander 4XX) 16 MAY 20



2 DRC conduct Tire Change drills CTC Blackdown 15 APR 20

ACTIVE REGIMENT

OP LASER AND THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA



Engineer Troops demonstrate Assault Boats CTC Blackdown 16 APR 20



TBG 1 vehicles, troops and medics marshal at CTC Blackdown in preparation for their move to the GTA 27 APR 20.



Capt Blake welcomes LCol Stocker (CO TBG 1) and BGen Mialkowski (commander 4XX) to a LTCF in the 2 DRC AOR 16 MAY 20



Soldiers just off shift enjoy donated cookies 16 MAY 20



Medics and soldiers load busses for the road move 27 APR 20



EX HIGHLAND WARRIOR, BORDEN 21 NOV 2020



Pte Hamilton (front left) leads his section back to the patrol base



Cpl Farano does a shoulder check after securing an enemy position



Pte Fuentes suppresses the OpFor



Cpl Williams prepares to take the enemy position



Cpl Farano bounds through a smoke screen



11C scans their arcs and consolidates

EX HIGHLAND WARRIOR, BORDEN 21 NOV 2020



Cpl Mayer provides security for the platoon



Cpl Catherwood covers his fire team partner



LCol Alkema, CO mentors the platoon



Pte Arevelo fires at OpFor



WO Corea mentors A COY



32 CBG RSM speaks to A COY



32 CBG CO visits A COY in the field

EXERCISE CELTIC WARRIOR 1 – 25-27 SEPTEMBER 2020



MCpl Blair behind a .50 cal., Pusan range.



WO Corea conducts PD session on the occupation of a platoon hide

Despite the ever present COVID-19 threat, A Coy got out for a ranges weekend at 4CDTC Meaford. The weather cooperated and those that came out qualified C7 PWT3, C9 PWT1 and C6 PWT1. To keep the time spent by soldiers at MPA to the bare minimum, the RQ/CQ drew weapons in advance and issued them to the PTA once they arrived at the Biv site. The system worked well and will be adopted for the foreseeable future. Any down time was occupied with PD led by WO Corea, and patrols led at the Platoon level.

Photos by Lt van der Toorn



MCpl MacLauchlan ARSOs on Alpha Rang



Weapons issue Friday night at Biv 2

CHANGE OF HONOURARY COLONELS

FROM THE OUTGOING HONOURARY COL

FAMILY BUSINESS

My time as your Honorary Colonel has come to an end but it is only the next step in my journey as a member of the 48th Regimental Family. I first became aware of “the family” when I was a small boy. I grew up with two pictures that were always on the wall of my grandfather’s house, the 134th Battalion on the steps of Old City Hall before they went overseas in 1916 and the brass band of the 134th after they had played at Westminster Abbey for the King on July 2nd, 1917. The service in the Abbey was held in honour of Canada’s 50th anniversary of Confederation. My grandfather talked a great deal about his time with the 48th but never about his experiences in the trenches in France.

The first time it really struck home that I was a member of the Regimental family came in the adjutant’s office in 1977. I was being interviewed by Captain Featherstone about my application to become an officer. He asked me why I wanted to join the 48th. By chance he had that same picture of the 134th on his wall that was in my grandfather’s house. I stood up, walked over to the picture, pointed to a member of the brass band and said “That’s my grandfather.” There were no more questions. Why would there be? I was a member of the family. What better reason could there be to join the Regiment.

It has been a great honour to serve as the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and the Honorary Colonel of my family Regiment. As I look back over the past 6 years there are many wonderful memories, many new friends, and the odd frustration if the truth be told, but overall, it has been a tremendous and fulfilling experience. It has also been a team effort. I could not have achieved what I have during my appointment without my wife Manuela. Not only did she provide unwavering support to me, but she also was actively involved in planning and running several events including the 125th Anniversary Gala and the Founders’ Dinners in 2018 and 2019.

The 125th Anniversary Weekend in 2016 and our audience with our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in 2017 were major highlights of my service but I will never forget the first time I stepped up onto the reviewing stand and took the salute as “my” Regiment marched past. There was a lump in my throat as I thought of what my grandfather would have thought if he could have been there. Of course, there was a special feeling every time I took the salute. It is such a special experience that so few have shared over our 129 year history.

Having mentioned these highlights there is one other that tops them all. It is the people I have worked with and the friends I have made during my time as an honorary colonel. A special mention must go to COL Geordie Elms and Shirley Elms who have become close friends. Of course, it helped when I discovered that Shirley was the same Shirley Gledhill I had gone to junior high school with. What a happy coincidence after so many years.

I had the pleasure of serving with 3 commanding officers, LCOL Best, LCOL Pedwell and LCOL Alkema. Thank you, gentlemen, for your outstanding support. You made my job both easier and enjoyable.

There are so many others I could mention. CAPT Bill Darling, CWO



Chris Reesor and PM Iain Lang for their ongoing support, Steve Gilbert for his work on the FALCON, Al Kowalenko for his outstanding work with our veterans, Adam Bernard for his work on our publications, and Geordie Beal for his work with the Museum to mention just a few. There are so many more I don’t have space to mention. I could easily list another 10 or 15 people without hesitation who have worked with me on behalf of the Regiment. Thank you to everyone, both serving and former Highlanders, our spouses, and our children, in fact all members of the Regimental family who have contributed so much time and effort in making the Regiment the outstanding organization it is today.

Finally, I want to thank HLCOL John MacIntyre for his help and support while I was HCOL. I wish him great success as our HCOL. I would also would like to congratulate Sasha Darling on her appointment. I know she will make an outstanding HLCOL.

I am looking forward to the next part of my 48th journey.

DILEAS
MICHAEL D. SCOTT CM CD
HONORARY COLONEL



CHANGE OF HONOURARY COLONELS



CHANGE OF HONOURARY COLONELS



CHANGE OF HONOURARY COLONELS

CO SPEAKING POINT FOR CHANGE OF HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

HCol Scott

HLCol MacIntyre

HLCol Darling

**Honoured Guests, Friends, Soldiers,
NCOs and Officers of the 48th
Highlanders**

This has been a busy fall for the 48th Highlanders of Canada. It has also been a fall of change:

- The Regiment is adapting to training and operating in a pervasive COVID-19 environment.
- Last month we conducted a Change of RSM from CWO Kwok to CWO Reesor - virtually.
- Three weeks ago, we conducted our Regimental Remembrance Day Event – virtually.
- And today we are conducting a Change of Honorary Appointments – again virtually.

Today:

- We recognize HCol Scott's six years of service to Regiment as HLCol and HCol;
- We thank HLCol MacIntyre for his service as HLCol as he hands over this responsibility; and
- We welcome HLCol Sasha Darling as the HLCol of the Regiment

Honorary Cols and Honorary LCol's hold key positions in the Canadian military. They are not in chain of command, and they do not have authority over soldiers. However, they are guardians of Regimental traditions and history, promoting the Regiment's identity and ethos, and are advisors to the Commanding Officer on issues excluding operations. Additionally, Honouraries use their positions within society and the community to promote the interests of the Regiment.

The Canadian Army Honoraries Aide-Memoire lists 27 specific duties and responsibilities that are incumbent on a person who holds an Honorary Appointment, including:

- develop, promote and sustain strong community support for the unit
- maintain close liaison with the unit CO
- assist the unit in hosting parades and other unit functions
- serve the unit, so enjoy the association and work with/for your unit
- "time spent" is perhaps the most important attribute, and attention must be paid to all ranks of the unit.
- participate in the Regimental Council, Senate or Advisory Board if invited

HCol Scott:

With this as the yard stick, HCol Mike Scott's tenure has been an outstanding success

A very accomplished individual – in his civilian occupation, as

a leader with Scouts Canada, and in the military – officer in his youth, and has been the HLCol and HCol of two Regiments (Hast & PER / 48th Highlanders) – very appropriate as were in 1st Bde, 1st Can Inf Div in Italy and NW Europe - LCol George Renison, DSO, (MID) was a 48th Highlander officer who was appointed CO of the Hast & PER in April 1945. As you can see, HCol Scott is in good company.

Joined the Regiment as a Subbie in the 70's and served until the 80's – when his civilian work took him to BC, and away from the military, but his interest in the CAF and the Army in particular,

remained.

When he retired and moved back to Ontario, he renewed the links to the Regiment – joined the Regimental Senate and in 2014 was appointed HLCol, and in 2017 was appointed HCol

I met HCol Scott in 2014 just as he became the HLCol – I was the DCO at the time, and we started working together on Regimental Uniforms and Full Dress purchases

Immediately got involved in a number of Regimental projects:

- 15th Bn projects – monuments in France & Belgium
- Regimental Monument repairs
- 125th Anniversary – Chair of the Committee
- Regt Assn Restructuring / Social Media
- Supporter of Cadets – Reviewing Officer for several annual inspections – 48 Highlanders Cadet Corp, but also St Andrew's Cadets
- Strong supporter of the Active Regiment – attended every event / likes speaking with soldiers

Work in Mess:

- organized dinners and events
- Invited officers to visit them for a weekend

Has the gift and ability to make everyone feel welcome and important

Trusted advisor – never too busy to take a call or discuss anything

Every CO has an RSM, but HCol Scott has someone even better – his wife Manuela – she also took to the Regiment like a duck to water. She attended social events, and used her skills to organize dinners and events – much to the everlasting gratitude of the PMC. She went out of her way to be a great host in the Mess when we had guests after significant parades – they are a great team, and will be missed.

Thank you for your service to the Regiment - you have set a high standard for all who will follow in your stead

To recognize his service to the Regiment as both HLCol and HCol - I would like to present HCol Scott with a Commanding Officer's Commendation.



CHANGE OF HONOURARY COLONELS

HLCol MacIntyre:

I first met HLCol John MacIntyre about 3 years ago, and thought it kind of odd that a man with no real ties to the Regiment be appointed HLCol – but I soon found out why he was

Although he doesn't have any military experience, HLCol MacIntyre is a strong leader. When he speaks, everyone listens – not just listens, but hears and understands what he is saying.

HLCol MacIntyre brings a different perspective to our discussions. Most of the Regimental leadership – serving members and former members have attended the same qualification courses, have many of the same experiences – commanded a Pl, a Coy, been the Ops O, the DCO – so we tend to think along the same lines. HLCol MacIntyre doesn't have those experiences, so he challenges us to explain why we do things the way we do, and to consider different methods of accomplishing the same goal.

Never raises his voice, never gets visibly frustrated – but he espouses the leadership principles of:

- lead by example
- achieve professional competence
- know your strength and weaknesses – pursue self-improvement
- know your soldiers and promote their welfare

He has challenged the Regimental Senate to redefine itself – what does it want to do, what is its role, how can it benefit not just the Regiment, but the greater community and society that the Regiment draws from.

Supporter of Mess and Regiment – attends events, participates in activities, and offers advice and guidance in his areas of expertise

HLCol MacIntyre has spent a lot of time and energy ensuring that he has the skills and knowledge to be the “guardian of traditions” that I mentioned earlier – learn how to wear a uniform, march, salute, understand the meaning and reason of accoutrements, Regimental history – all the things that serving soldiers and officers pick up over time, he had to learn quickly

HLCol MacIntyre is the Chair of Our Children's Medicine, and Indigenous employment program which connects First Nations, Metis and Inuit job seekers with entry level positions across the country. He has worked diligently with our Recruiting Officer to make the 48th Highlanders an attractive option for Indigenous Canadians looking for meaningful work and a meaningful community to be part of.



HLCol Darling:

HLCol Sasha Darling – I don't even know where to start. She has the interesting conundrum of a life with the Regiment, while never being in the Regiment; of knowing the Regiment, without knowing the Army.

HLCol Darling's family has a long tradition of service with the Regiment:

- Her great-grandfather commanded the Regiment
- A great-uncle was the first officer of the Regiment killed in WWI
- Her grandfather commanded the Regiment
- Her father was a Major and Deputy Commanding Officer, who later went on to be the HCol
- Three cousins served in the Regiment – one was the Regimental Sergeant Major who is now a Captain, and is serving as the MC for today's ceremony – and will now have to call her “Ma'am”.
- She literally grew up in the 48th Highlanders, and has supported the Regiment her entire life - attending events, parades, ceremonies and functions.

Yet, until today, she has never served in the military. So, all the aspects that she's used to seeing – uniforms, marching, saluting, weapons she now has to learn how to do. Along with looking to promote, develop and sustain the Regiment in every way that she can.

But I can confirm that she didn't get this appointment because of her family connection to the Regiment. She was vetted by a Regimental selection committee, by me personally, by 32 CBG and 4 Div along with the Canadian Army HQ and finally the Minister of National Defence.

HLCol Darling is known as a leader in promoting diversity and inclusion at work and in her extensive volunteer commitments.

She is committed to community involvement, and building diverse, respectful environments. HLCol Darling has served as:

- Police Liaison for the Board of the North Rosedale Residents' Association,
- Committee Member of The 100 Campaign in support of the Casey House,
- a member of the LGBT+ Advisory Group at Scotiabank
- A former member of the Board of Governors at Branksome Hall and the Governance Committee.
- Leading a female advisor peer sharing network at ScotiaMcLeod.

These experiences have prepared her for leadership in a time when the military is committing to an inclusive environment for all of its members, especially women, people of colour and members of the LGBT+ community

I've known HLCol Darling for many years, and can attest to her devotion to the 48th Highlanders of Canada, and I'm confident that she'll quickly grow and develop in her new role of HLCol.

In closing, I'd like to assure all the soldiers, NCOs and officers, as well as all members of the Regimental family, of the 48th Highlanders, that the commitment, dedication and hard work of our Honoraries will continue, and that HLCol Darling will continue to uphold the tradition of excellence that we are used to from our Honoraries.

DILEAS GU BRATH

CHANGE OF HONOURARY COLONELS

FROM THE INCOMING HONOURARY LCOL

Hon LCol Sasha Darling

Highlanders and Regimental family,

I am honoured and excited to be appointed into the role of Honorary-Lieutenant Colonel of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. My thanks go to LCol Alkema and our Brigade Commander for their trust in me. Davidson tartan, the sounds of Highland Laddie and Moss Park Armouries are part of my earliest, most formative memories. To me, the Regiment has always been family. A great family.

I am proud of our Regiment's extraordinary contribution to our nation's wellbeing and, indeed, the world. Great are the successes and sacrifices made in WWI and WWII; part of our work, the HCol and I, will be to remind others about the incredible and important work of the Regiment more recently. We are your champions and are here to support you, building bridges within and beyond the Regiment to assist the active unit and our Regimental family.

To HCol (Ret) Scott, we thank you for your great commitment; you have done a mountain of work on behalf of the Regiment and our Regimental family. We are so grateful to you and Ms. Scott for all of your efforts. To HCol MacIntyre, I look forward to working with you. I have big shoes to fill, following in your footsteps and as a 4th generation Darling Highlander.

DILEAS GU BRATH

*SASHA DARLING
HLCOL 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA*



CHANGE OF HONOURARY COLONELS

HONORARY CHANGE, DEC 2020

A Message from Honorary LCol John MacIntyre:

Greetings to all Highlanders -

I want to begin by thanking Colonel Mike Scott for his service to the Regiment over many years, particularly, his last three years as Honorary Colonel. I have had the pleasure of working with him as the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and have seen his dedication to the 48th Highlanders of Canada. He showed ongoing support for the Commanding Officer and for members of both the Active Battalion and the Regimental Family. In addition, he also provided strong leadership at Senate and Trust meetings.

During his time as Honorary Colonel much has been accomplished, including the successful electronic publishing of the two Kim Beattie Regimental histories, the introduction of the Founders' dinner, and the creation of a new Regimental Association. Mike has been a terrific mentor and coach for me; he will be a tough act to follow. Fortunately, going forward, we will benefit from his ongoing involvement at our Regimental Senate and Trust.

One of the most significant accomplishments during Colonel Scott's tenure was the nomination and appointment of Sasha Darling as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel. Her lifelong attachment to the 48th is impressive, with her Great Grandfather, Grandfather, Father and cousin serving in leadership roles over many decades. She is well known to many of you, and universally well liked. In the few months since her appointment she has actively participated in several important projects, including serving on two new committees that are positioning the Regiment for the future- the new Regimental association committee and the new social media committee. She has also taken on the role of Secretary Treasurer of the Trust, is active in business and community initiatives and will be a strong ambassador for the 48th.

I look forward to becoming your Honorary Colonel and I am committed to respecting the heritage and history of our Regiment. I joined the Regimental Senate six years ago and have served as your Honorary Lieutenant Colonel for the last three years, but my learning curve is still steep. I have seen the dedication and hard work of the Regimental Family and was proud to be part of the ceremony to dedicate the new Vimy Cross in Ecurie, France. The work of the 15th Battalion project team was particularly impressive and is one example of many that I have seen, done out of dedication to the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

I am committed to supporting the Commanding Officer, the Active Battalion, and the Regimental Family. I have been inspired by the dedication and esprit de corps of both serving and associate members, in balancing service to Canada, with family, work and education commitments and consistently displaying the 48th work ethic, even in Covid restricted times.

I am keenly looking forward to the next three years serving as your Honorary Colonel.

DILEAS GU BRATH



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020 - QUEENS PARK

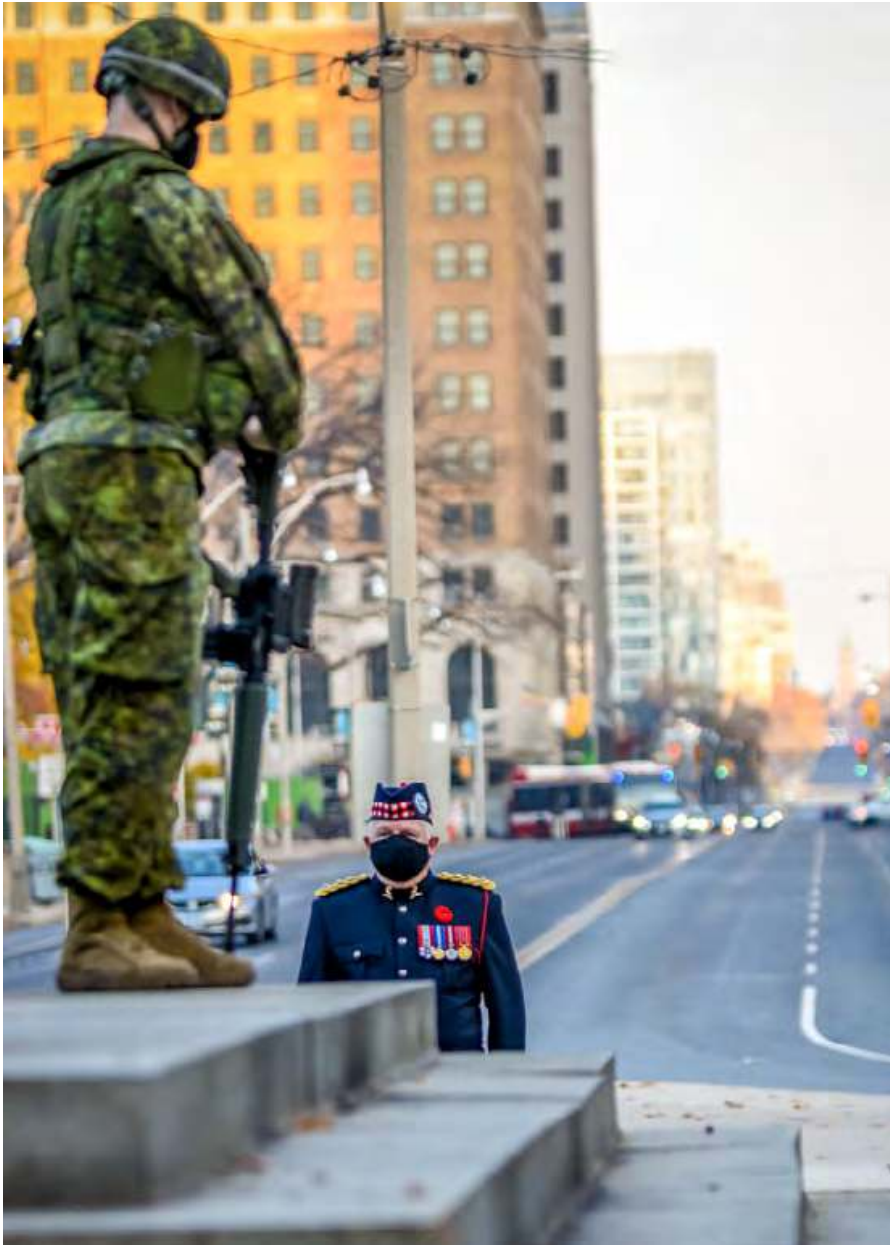


Photos on these Remembrance Day Ceremony pages provided by Ian Macdonald and Captain Javin Lau

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020 - QUEENS PARK



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020 - QUEENS PARK



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020 - QUEENS PARK



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020 - QUEENS PARK



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020 - MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETARY



Photos on these Remembrance Day Ceremony pages provided by Ian Macdonald and Captain Javin Lau

MESSAGE FROM THE PADRE

Today, we remember before God those members of the 48th Highlanders who fell during the great battles of the past 129 years. We thank God for their courage, their willingness to serve and for what they achieved with the forfeit of their lives.

Lord God of Hosts, today it is our privilege and duty to honour those who fell during the great battles of our years as a Regiment. Grant eternal rest and everlasting peace to these our comrades. Help us never to forget that the freedom and peace we enjoy in our time was secured at an enormous cost. May we who follow as today's 48th Highlanders serve with the same honour and distinction as those we now commemorate. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to throw away;
A time to tear, and a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time for war, and a time for peace.

There is an old prayer that is often said at funerals part of which goes like this:

O God, whose days are without end,
and whose mercies cannot be numbered:
Make us, we pray, deeply aware
of the shortness and uncertainty of human life;
and lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days;
that, when we shall have served you in our generation,
we may be gathered to our ancestors,
having the testimony of a good conscience.

Little did any of us imagine a year ago that we would be so shortly in the grip of a global pandemic that would radically alter almost every aspect of our daily lives.

As we pause this year to remember those have gone before us, we do so with perhaps a greater appreciation for the way in which the First and Second World Wars, though not entirely unexpected, so thoroughly affected the lives of both those who went to war and those who remained at home.

A year ago we were reflecting on the centennial of the first Remembrance Day in 1919.

This year our attention has been directed to the 75th anniversaries associated with the end of the Second World War.

For the 48th Highlanders of Canada, 1945 was certainly a

year of changes. The Regiment had closed out 1944 with the bitter crossing of the Lamone River. "The Regiment's total of battle casualties on the Lamone up to Xmas Eve was 148; an even 40 were N.C.Os." That included 3 officers, 6 NCOs and 18 men killed.

Even as they buried their dead, they made a point of staying in touch with those who had fallen wounded by the wayside on the long march up Italy. Capt. Leadbeater was chosen as the Dileas Santa Claus for 1944 and following the custom instituted the year previous, the Regiment loaded a jeep with cigarettes, chocolate bars and similar things, and charged Capt. Leadbeater with the duty of not missing a single wounded 48th Highlander in any hospital, Canadian, British or American. He toured both flanks of Italy to carry the Regiment's best wishes to all their wounded and sick. It meant much to them.

In January, Padre East conducted his last church parade before leaving to England for a rest. He had given his last ounce of strength to supporting the living and burying the dead.

In spite of the temptation to despair, the Regiment maintained its cheeky reputation. Red Dileas relates that Brigadier Des Smith was trying to maintain high readiness and had adopted a slogan: "No fire-watching!" Constant repetition of this admonition irked the CO who set up the following prank. The next time they were warned of an impending snap visit from the Brigadier by a 48th Lt on the Brigadier staff, the General arrived to see a wonderful fire burning merrily in the Highlander's HQ – with upset chairs grouped in a tumbled half-circle in front of it. All were overturned, as if knocked over in haste. The Brigadier eyed the big fire, took a long second look at the elaborately scattered chairs, glanced once at the Colonel, and never said a word and he never said another word about "No fire-watching, either."

In February they held a memorial service at the little cemetery on the levee of the Lamone. Vic Jackson was appointed RSM. By March they found themselves en route to Marseilles. Could it really have been five years since their first ill-fated foray into France? From there it was up north to Cambrai – close to the Canal du Nord where their forebears had won battle honours in 1918.

They prepared for their next challenge – the Liberation of Holland – and in particular Apeldoorn. What they were not prepared for was the loss of their CO – Lt Col Donald Alexander Mackenzie, DSO.

They carried on and completed their mission – going out of action on 25 April 1945 – almost 30 years to the day of their first great but terrible battle at Ypres in 1915.

On October 1st they arrived back in Toronto cheered home by thousands of grateful citizens.

And here we are seventy-five years later – in a very different time and with very different challenges – but some things never change – so may we, inspired by the memory of their service and sacrifice – rededicate ourselves to the defence of all we hold dear with the same strength of fellowship and concern for our fellow Highlanders – especially those who may be experiencing extraordinary challenges in the time of COVID – and with the same cheeky twinkle in our eyes, let us remain:

Dileas Gu Brath – Faithful Forever.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020

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 73rd 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.

Regimental Prayer

Almighty God, through whose grace the 48th Highlanders came into being and at whose hand we have served in war and peace; we thank you for Old Comrades and past glories and humbly ask your guidance upon our current Officers and Members, that we may continue to serve with honour and courage and remain faithful forever to God, Queen and Country, in the best traditions of the past and with hope for the future. God bless the 48th. Amen.



MWO (ret) Carswell paying respects at the 48th Highlanders Cenotaph in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto.



Paying respects to Cpl Ainsworth Dyer



Former Senior NCOs BGEN (Ret) Greg Young and MAJ (Ret) Howard Michitsch, pay a Remembrance Day visit to the grave site of RSM(1972 - 1979) Dave Crook.

SAINT ANDREWS CADETS REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020



48TH COLONEL TAKES COMMAND OF 32 BRIGADE

Congratulations to former 48th Highlanders CO, Colonel John McEwen, who took command of 32 brigade on 21 July 2020. Bravo Zulu, Sir!



Colonel John McEwen, CD
Incoming Commander
32 Canadian Brigade Group



Colonel John McEwen was born in Comox, British Columbia has lived in several Air Force communities across Canada. He joined the Canadian Forces as an Infantry Private in the 48th Highlanders of Canada in 1992 and commissioned in 1993.

After completing Infantry Officer Training and a degree in Economics, he joined the staff at the Toronto District Headquarters and then transferred to 25 Service Battalion as their Operations Officer, leaving that unit in 1998 as their Adjutant.

Within the 48th Highlanders Colonel McEwen has held every command appointment departing as Commanding Officer in 2011. Colonel McEwen is also a graduate of the Army Staff College in Kingston and the Joint Command and Staff Program in Toronto.

Colonel McEwen has deployed as a Military Advisor to Sierra Leone with the British Mission IMATT and to Kabul with NTM-A as a Senior Advisor to the Afghan Ministry of Defense. In 2011, he was the Battle Group Commanding Officer for MAPLE DEFENDER in Wainwright, AB. Prior to his appointment as Commander of 32 Canadian Brigade Group, he held the position of Deputy Director, Army Reserve.

Colonel McEwen resides in Oakville, ON, with his wife Patty and their three children, Michael, William and Siobhan. In his free time, he enjoys coaching ice hockey and working with local charities.



A SPECIAL HIGHLANDER BIRTHDAY

NORM GOGO 99TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON JUNE 18, 2020

By HLCol John MacIntyre

I had the honour of participating in Norman Gogo's surprise 99th birthday celebration on June 18 in Penetanguishene. Norm is one of the last surviving WWII vets and has participated in numerous OCA parades and events for us over the years. As Geordie Beal said, "Norm is a Highlander and though he spent his service overseas as a signaller he self identifies as a 48th Highlander. A great guy and a treasure."

The local legion reached out to the Regiment, and we were able to organize a framed certificate, and a gift of the 1891 Highlander statuette. I am spending the lockdown period in the area and was able to attend in person. The Midland Lions Club had organized a community drive-thru birthday party that drew 70 vehicles, which started with the Midland Pipes and Drums, which included our 48th drummer, Chris Brown, marching down his street as his family brought him outside to see.

The local town crier Judy Contin announced his war service made him "a Canadian treasure revered by your community, and upon coming home, you continued to put out fires she said, referring to his 35 years of service with the Toronto Fire Department before retiring as chief.

The vehicle parade was led by a Lions Club truck, followed by two Penetanguishene Fire Department pumpers and two members of the Toronto Fire Department on motorcycles. The number of vehicles in the drive by was remarkable, and the affection people had for Norm was clear, with decorations of balloons and signs, and occupants waving Canada flags.

I was in the lead group and was able to personally present him with the certificate and gift. He spoke fondly of the 48th and was truly grateful for the recognition. It was an inspiring event and gratifying to see for someone that is an important part of our Regiment's history.



HLCol MacIntyre presenting gifts from the 48th



HLCol MacIntyre Penetanguishene Mayor Douglas Leroux presents 99-year-old Norman Gogo with a certificate. - Gisele Winton Sarvis/Torstar



Midland Town Crier Judy Contin opened the community celebration of the 99th birthday of Second World War veteran Norman Gogo, of Penetanguishene. - Gisele Winton Sarvis/Torstar



Norman Gogo cuts the cake at his surprise 99th birthday party June 18. - Gisele Winton Sarvis/Torstar

[To learn more about Norm Gogo click here](#)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

QUILT OF VALOUR PRESENTATIONS



Ken Milson receiving his Quilt of Valour



Norm Gogo receiving his Quilt of Valour



TALES OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF

“THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD”

by Brigadier General Greg Young OMM, MSM, CD
15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project

Two young men are seated in a field peeling potatoes. Someone gets their attention. They both smile and as one of them turns in the direction of the camera an image is captured and frozen in time. A common everyday activity that could have taken place anywhere, at any time.

Halifax artist Barbara Bickle had three members of her family who served in the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) during The Great War 1914-1918. Lieutenant Edward W. Bickle and his brother Private (later Captain) Wilfred N. Bickle were both members of the original 15th Battalion. The third brother, Private George B. Bickle served in the 7th Cyclist Platoon of the Canadian Corps of Cyclists before also being commissioned into the 15th Battalion as a Lieutenant. Over the years Barbara has been a strong supporter of the 15th Battalion Project graciously sharing the photographs and diaries of her relatives so they could be digitally scanned and entered into the Project's archives. These artifacts have proven to be a wealth of information about the battalion, especially during the early 1914-1915 years in the UK, France and Belgium.

Several months ago Barbara sent me a period photograph that she had found amongst items belonging to her grandfather Wilfred Bickle. The photograph was of two smiling young men sitting in a field peeling potatoes and on the back he had written “Left. Young Currie who was killed by the same shell that knocked me out at Ypres. April 1915. Right. Tweedie who pulled me in beside him after I had been wounded.”

Clearly the two young soldiers had been in the 15th Battalion with her grandfather but she had no idea who they were. Yet Barbara said that something about them made such a deep impression on her that she was contemplating doing a painting of the scene. She wanted to know more about the background to that moment frozen in time and specifically more about the two smiling young Highlanders. Once again, some searching of the Memorial Project's large digital archival resources would help provide the details that the artist was seeking.

Although it was not possible to be precise, determining generally when and where the photograph was taken was relatively straightforward. The photograph shows a group of obviously relaxed men in what is most certainly not in an area close to the front lines as evidenced by the absence of trenches, fortifications or even personal weapons and no destruction of nearby trees or structures. The scene shows the men preparing food out in the open somewhere in a field bivouac location or billet so the battalion was clearly ‘out of the line’. But where might this location have been?

The 15th Battalion departed Bristol, Avonmouth onboard the SS Mount Temple on 12 February 1915 and landed in St Nazaire, France three days later. Between that date and 7 April the battalion was in France spending its ‘front-line-time’ in the areas of Armentieres, Fleurbaux, Fromelles and Neuve Chapelle and its ‘out-of-the-line’ time moving between those locations with stops in numerous field bivouac locations and rest area billets.

On 7 April, it departed France for the Ypres salient in Belgium



Left. Young Currie who was killed by the same shell that knocked me out at Ypres. April 1915. Right. Tweedie who pulled me in beside him after I had been wounded.

stopping in a number of bivouacs and billets along the way before moving into their forward positions between St. Julien and Poelkapelle on 20 April. As the inscription indicated “young Currie” was killed at 2nd Ypres, that fact broadly brackets the time frame of the photograph between 15 February and 24 April 1915. However, precisely when and in what specific location we will likely never know.

The inscription identifies the two men as Currie and Tweedie but beyond that what did we know of these two young men and what could be uncovered that might help the artist as she contemplated trying to capture their images on canvas? Some quick routine research revealed the basics of their identities and their eventual fates.

Freckled with a fair complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair, six foot 27549 Private Osborne Tweedy was a 22 year old blacksmith from Kinslough, Ontario when he attested into the 15th Battalion on 26 September 1914 in Valcartier. He was assigned to No. 4 Company commanded by Major James Ewart Osborne and was reported as Missing in Action at 2nd Ypres in April 1915.

Five foot six in height with a fair complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair, 46131 Private John McLain Currie was an 18 year old furniture factory worker from Maitland Hants County, Nova Scotia with pre-war service in the 76th Regiment (Colchester & Hants Rifles) when he attested into the 17th Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders) on 26 September 1914 at Valcartier. He went to the UK with the 17th Battalion but later on 8 Feb 1915 in France, he was transferred to the 15th Battalion and assigned to No. 4 Company. Like Tweedy, he was reported as Missing in Action at 2nd Ypres.

What about the third ‘man’ in the photograph – the shadow with the outline of one of those distinctive early woolen ‘balmorals’ on his head and his arms raised holding what could only be a camera given the scene. As the photograph was found in his possessions and the inscription was identified as his, that man could only be 27441 Private

TALES OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF

Wilfred Nathaniel Bickle also of No. 4 Company. Wounded at 2nd Ypres, Bickle was hospitalized for a period until he returned to France in early 1916 and was posted to the 3rd Brigade Signals section for a several months before being commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant and posted back to the 15th Battalion. He was wounded in the knee during the battle of Ancre Heights on The Somme in September, hospitalized and returned to Canada as medically unfit for further service.

So at this point it appears the basic details behind the photograph are reasonably simple – while in a rear area field bivouac most likely somewhere in France in February or March of 1915 one young soldier took a picture of his two buddies peeling potatoes for a meal. Not long thereafter in late April, two of those young men would be dead and the third wounded.

There are no references to either Private Currie or Private Tweedy in The Regimental History. Both men's 15th Battalion Record of Services cards record that they were MIA sometime between 24 and 29 April 1915 as does Battalion Part 2 Daily Order # 14 dated 13 June 1915. A search of their respective service files revealed that their status had been updated in 1916. Currie was now recorded as Killed in Action on 23 April and although the source was not known, his Circumstances of Death card recorded that "information is available that he was hit in the stomach by a large piece of shell and instantly killed."

Tweedy remained as Missing in Action but was now presumed to have been killed between 24-29 April. An August 3rd article in a London Ontario newspaper stated that a source had reported that Tweedy had both of his legs blown off. As the remains of Currie and Tweedy were never recovered, or if recovered never identified, both men have no known graves and thus they are memorialized on The Menin Gate.

Wilfred Bickle's brief inscription on the back of the photograph noted Currie had been killed and Tweedy had helped him when their position was hit by German artillery – but nothing more.

However, much more precise information concerning that incident and the fate of Currie and Tweedy was to be found in the pages of his diary which Barbara Bickle had shared with the 15th Battalion Memorial Project Chairman several years ago.

Wilfred Bickle had maintained a very detailed diary of his time with the 15th Battalion with almost daily entries from February 1915 to September 1916 including large entries for the battle of 2nd Ypres in April 1915. On April 23rd the French positions on the left flank of the Canadian 3rd Brigade had already collapsed as a result of the previous day's chlorine gas attack. The forward Canadian positions - including those held by the 15th's No. 1, 3 and 4 Companies, was being subjected to heavy German artillery fire. Their position at the very apex of the Canadian salient was being outflanked on the left as the Germans penetrated deeper into the positions formerly held by the French. At this point the story is best told by Wilfred Bickle himself:

"April 23. We all sprang to our firing positions and on the left we saw, in the darkness...the Germans streaming across. We opened a rapid fire on them and mowed them down so fast that the rest broke and ran for their own trench. The shelling we had received was awful but it was only fooling to the 'Hell-on-Earth' which opened around us a few minutes later. Our parapets and dug-outs were being blown to pieces and we were kept busy digging the boys out who were being buried. Several of the boys were lying dead where they had fallen and the wounded were being cared

for by stretcher-bearers who were doing heroic work. High explosives, shrapnel, gas and acid shells were being poured on us.

About noon I was sitting with my back to the parapet...when a high explosive shell hit the parapet directly behind me and bursting sent me flying clean through a dug-out and buried me but the boys soon had me out.....a few minutes later I was standing with another man trying to keep a lookout when another shell burst and sent the two of us flying. I was knocked unconscious and came to lying beside the man I had been talking to but a minute ago, a good little fellow named Currie. He was dead. I could not move owing to the pain in my back. Tweedy pulled me in next to the parapet and a while later I found myself in Lieut. Smith's dug-out....in the evening some time, with several others, I started on my trip out."

The diary entry confirmed that Currie had indeed died on the 23rd and as the forward companies were under such intense pressure we know from other accounts and the Regimental history that the bodies of those killed up to that point in time could not be carried out. So where possible many were hastily buried in or just behind the forward trench positions. Major Osborne, who commanded No. 4 Company and was captured during the battle, wrote in a post war report that "it was impossible to remove our dead so we buried them that evening in the trenches."

But what of Tweedy? Mere hours after Bickle was evacuated to the Dressing Station in the rear at St Julien, the full fury of the second gas attack hit the 15th's positions early on the morning of the 24th. Other than a few first-hand accounts by survivors, little is actually known about what precisely happened in the valley of the Stroombeck that morning other than all three forward companies were overrun and suffered very heavy casualties. Private Tweedy's No. 4 Company position was the last of the three forward positions to fall as the Germans penetrated No. 1 Company on the extreme right of the line and then rolled-up the line from right to left through No. 3 in the centre and then No. 4 on the left. How and at what point in the fighting, or afterward, Private Tweedy died will likely never be known.

As that entire area would remain under German control until its recapture during the battle of Passchendaele in 1917 when the ground would be fought over once again, the bodies of many men who were hastily buried like Currie or who were lost in the chaos of the gas attack on the 24th, stood a very high chance of never being recovered or if recovered, not being identified. The 15th Battalion panels on The Menin Gate are dominated by the names of men who were Missing from 2nd Ypres – included amongst them are those two smiling young men, Private John McLean Currie and Private Thomas Osborne Tweedy on Panel 18-24-26-30.

All the background details to the photograph were sent to Barbara Bickle who has also done some research of her own into the family backgrounds of both men, especially Currie whose roots are nearby in Windsor, Nova Scotia where his name appears on the Hants County Memorial. How all this background information on Currie and Tweedy will be interpreted and incorporated into the painting that she is now working on, we shall see in several months. However, to anyone looking at that photographic image frozen in time, the words of Lawrence Binyon's poem For The Fallen, known as the Ode of Remembrance, once

TALES OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF

again ring true for so many young men like Currie and Tweedy who were lost in The Great War.

*They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

Now this was the extent of this article when it was submitted to the editor in October 2020 for publication in the Fall issue of The Falcon. However, there was an unexpected and dramatic chapter subsequently added to the story of Private John Currie recently in early December.

The Regimental Padre, Major Don Aitchison, posted a link on the new Regimental Association Face Book page to the well-known British medals and militaria auction house, DNW (Dix Noonan Webb) - specifically a link to Lot 343 which were medals belonging to a 15th Battalion Private KIA at 2nd Ypres. As fate would have it, the medals, which were the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals plus the Memorial Cross, belonged to none other than 46131 Private John M. Currie.

Needless to say, I was somewhat flabbergasted and immediately logged on to the auction house site to register for the auction that was scheduled to go live the very next morning in London at 10:00 hrs UK time. The auction house indicated an expected price range for the medal set and I placed a somewhat higher on-line bid. The vast majority

of medals being auctioned were British and given that Lot 343 was a very common medal set to a Canadian Private soldier, I was reasonably confident that the bid would be successful. However, when the auction went live on-line the next morning, I was surprised that the bidding rapidly went well beyond my initial bid and the competition remained inexplicably fierce right to down to the final hammer. I have no idea what was attracting bidders to this particular medal set but having said that, and although it sold for considerably more than one would anticipate, in the end I did successfully secure Lot 343 and the feeling was one of deep satisfaction.

Below are the medals and Memorial Cross of Private John M. Currie from Windsor, NS who was KIA in the valley of the Stroombeck near St. Julien, Belgium on around noon on 23 April 1915 during the battle of 2nd Ypres while serving in No. 4 Company of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) with his friends Thomas Osborne Tweedy from Kinslough and Wilfred Nathaniel Bickle from Toronto, Ontario. Over 100 years later, how Currie's medals came to be for sale at an auction house across the Atlantic in London, England we will likely never know but now they are coming home.

The news was quickly passed to Barbara Bickle in Halifax who was relieved to know I had been successful and informed me that she was nearing completion of the painting – the stars had aligned.

"Often stars align so souls can find their way home."



TALES OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF

15TH BN MEMORIAL VIDEOS

The 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project has started production of a series of Heritage and Commemoration videos which are being uploaded to YouTube as well as the various Regimental social media platforms and the 15th Battalion Memorial Project website. The first three videos in the Battle Honour series have already been completed and were uploaded on this year's anniversaries of Hill 70, the Drocourt-Queant Line and the Canal du Nord. The programs commemorate the battalion's role in a number of the key battles of The Great War in which, as part of the Canadian Corps, the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) was engaged. They also acknowledge the sacrifice of those men of the battalion who fell during those battles and to whose memory we remain Dileas Gu Brath - Faithful Forever.

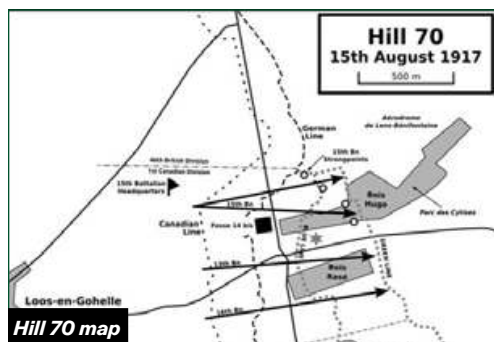
Hill 70: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZdLT5V53wY>

D-Q Line: <https://youtu.be/rqVEjx58FiE>

Canal du Nord: https://youtu.be/r_bJeTYGWjY

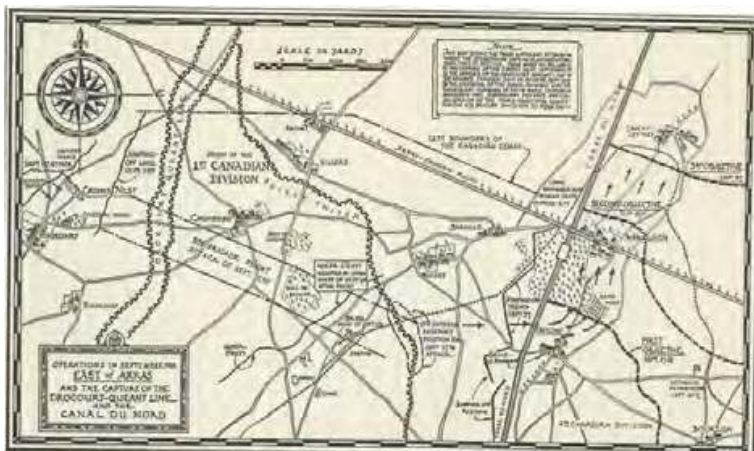


Elements of the 15th Battalion coming out of the line after Hill 70



Hill 70 map

Click here
to see the
HILL 70
video



Map from 'Regimental History of the 48th Highlanders of Canada by Kim Beattie'



Pte E Kennedy - KIA during assault on The Crow's Nest & Chateau Wood

Click here
to see the
D-Q Line
video



Canadian Engineers bridging the Canal

Click here
to see the
Canal du Nord
video



Period sketch by Lt Banton 15th Battalion

A TRAGIC 1ST BN MEMORY

"3 BURIALS, 1 GRAVE"

by Stewart Hyson

Ronald Victor Hyson, Service No.: F79568 Grave Site: Plot I, Column C, Row 3
Hometown: Bridgetown, N. S. Holten Canadian War Cemetery
1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders of Canada Holten, The Netherlands
Killed in Action
Battle of Apeldoorn
(near Wilp, Holland)
16 April 1945



Many Canadians no doubt assume today, based on having seen "ramp ceremonies" and "highway salutes" on television, that such practices are the norm whereby the bodies of military personnel killed overseas are brought back to Canada for their final resting place. But these are relatively new practices, as testified by the presence of numerous war cemeteries around the world as established over the years by the Canadian government and other countries.

It was not unusual for a fallen soldier to have more than one burial before finding a final resting place in an official war cemetery. My mother, Kathleen, discovered this fact in respect to her first husband, Ronald. As their son, I am now able to depict what happened in Ron's case, which was probably not that greatly dissimilar to that of many other fallen soldiers.

The information that follows is based largely on telegrams, letters, photographs, and official information that were saved by my late mother, supplemented with word-of-mouth information that she personally related to me.

What laid ahead first came to light with the receipt of the dreaded telegram. Wives and parents during the Second World War were aware what the all too familiar telegram had to say without having to open it, but the words still came as a shock. Let's look at the wording of the telegram that my mother received:

"Deeply regret to inform you that your husband F75568 Pte Hyson Ronald Victor has been reported dead believed killed in action 16 April 45" (Date telegram was received: 26 April 1945)

Stop reading and take a closer look at the preceding quotation! Note the discrepancy in the quoted service number in contrast with Ron's actual service number listed at the start of this article. Who made the error and where in the chain of communication was the error made? These are questions that cannot now be answered, although a similar telegram received four days later had the correct service number.

This ease of making errors only reminds readers of the character in Joseph Heller's novel, *Catch-22*, who developed an all-purposed template of an official form to inform relatives of any-and-all misadventures that could go wrong with a soldier while on duty. While it covered every conceivable option, the template lacked the personal touch that the

surviving relative may be expecting.

Once my mother got over her initial shock in receiving the news, keeping in mind that she was also five months pregnant, she noticed the error with the service number. She was thus naturally puzzled as to the accuracy of the "killed in action" telegram. Was it really her husband who had been killed?

Possessing a strong backbone, my mother took pen in hand to find answers. Unfortunately, she did not keep carbon copies of her sent letters, but she did keep the hand-written letters received from Ron's captain, Captain Robert Murdoch, of Company C of the 48th Highlanders of Canada; and from the padre, Captain Alex Rapson.

These letters provide informative accounts of how Ron had been killed and about his initial two burials. With the Battle of Apeldoorn, Company C had achieved its objective on the Ijssel riverbank near the Dutch village of Wilp and had established its headquarters in a farmhouse. When the house was hit by shell fire in the afternoon, Ron was a casualty.

It is unclear how long it was before stretcher bearers arrived on the scene, but it took them only about five to six minutes to take Ron to the nearby Regimental Aid Post (RAP) to be seen by a doctor. Ron was unconscious, although a stretcher bearer thought that Ron was already dead. After using plasma and making every effort to save Ron, the RAP doctor made the final call.

At this point, Padre Rapson arranged for Ron and other deceased soldiers to be taken to what Captain Murdoch described as "a pleasant and quiet spot" as a temporary resting place until the end of battle hostilities. The on-going fighting makes it understandable why there is no additional information on this initial burial. Indeed, Ron was fortunate to be treated so kindly as many other fallen soldiers and civilians during the war had no such care and attention.

Following the cessation of hostilities in the Wilp area, Padre Rapson held on 26 April 1945 a formal service for the nineteen 48th Highlanders who had been killed. The ceremony was held on top of a dyke which is a few metres away from and above a street that runs through the village of Wilp, with a local church within a short walking

A TRAGIC 1ST BN MEMORY



distance. A black-and-white photograph of this ceremony may be found on p. 102 of a book on the 48th Highlanders, entitled *Family of Volunteers* (2001), by George W. Beal, with accompanying annotation on pp. 98 and 101.

The graves were side-by-side on top of the dyke, each marked by a small white cross and four clusters of red and white daisies. Pansies were planted along the front and two sides of the graves. The graves and spaces between them were covered by mixed flowers: white and purple lilacs; red, yellow, orange, and white tulips; and irises. There were also two large wreaths of white lilacs, white tulips and pansies along with a sign noting the battalion's name and battle event with a couple of flag poles facing the village and villagers amongst the attendees.

Padre Rapson's letter describing the ceremony is so vivid that it is like a modern video. Especially his description of how the crosses "seemed to rise out of a lovely bed of flowers." Today, in the early years of the 21st century, it is possible to stand on the dyke and mentally flashback to visualize this ceremony; as well, it is possible to visit the church to see its outdoor plaque in recognition of the battle in Wilp.

It is now difficult to know how many of these small cemeteries were established on the spot near the battlefields during the Second World War. But a record must have been kept as to their locations so that, after the war, these local cemeteries were collected and transferred to more

centralized military cemeteries for final burial. One such cemetery was the Holten Canadian Military Cemetery in Holten, Holland, a few kilometres from both Apeldoorn and Wilp.

"Majestic" and "dignified" are the words that come to mind when seen for the first time. Certainly, it is a large cemetery with close to 1400 graves but "massive" would be a crude and inappropriate descriptor as there are larger cemeteries to be found elsewhere. Rather than physical size, it is the design of the cemetery that brushes it with its majestic bearing.

A wide set of front steps greets visitors with small brick enclosures on both sides of the top step in which the separate locations of specific graves are registered. Another notable feature is a tall cross ("Cross of Sacrifice") in the centre of the cemetery. But these features are still secondary to the cemetery. Instead, the dominating feature of the cemetery is its layout: divided into twelve separate plots, each with graves of uniform size that are aligned equally in rows and columns. Plot number, column letter, and row number (as listed for Ron at the start of this article) make it easy for visitors to track a specific gravesite.

It seems with the benefit of hindsight that each soldier's remains were carefully transferred and reburied at Holten possibly in early 1948. A covering letter was sent on 24 June 1948 to my mother from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Ottawa that contained a black-and-white photograph of Ron's Holten grave. Similar letters and photographs were presumably sent at the same time to the next of kin of others who were also buried at the Holten cemetery.

The 1948 photograph clearly focuses on Ron's identity as printed on a white wooden cross at the head of the grave, with several other graves to be partially seen in the background. Each grave is rectangular in shape to accommodate the full length of a soldier's body and is a few inches high above ground level. The surface of each grave was topped by a layer of beach-like sand that provided a smooth, finished cover.

Today, headstones have since replaced the wooden crosses. A carpet of turf has also grown over the walking paths and the graves. There is a small patch of gravel dirt near the base of each headstone where flowers are commonly deposited by visitors and caretakers. Special ceremonies are held annually at the Holten cemetery on Holland's liberation day (5 May) and on Christmas Eve when each gravesite is lit by a candle. However, the feature that stands out the most clearly is the care and commitment devoted to the upkeep of the cemetery and each grave.

This dedicated maintenance is understandable. Not only is there a full-time groundskeeper, but the villagers of Holten have each "adopted" a grave for care-keeping. The Hyson family first received a letter dated 14 April 1948 from a Dutch youth, named Bennie Sigger, who had adopted Ron's grave. Correspondence (letters and e-mails) have since continued between Bennie and the Hyson family with occasional visits during trips to Holland.

*PREPARED AND LAST REVISED ON 3 DEC. 2020
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A HIGHLANDER'S SARAJEVO STORY

HOUSE HUNTING - SARAJEVO

Lieutenant-Colonel (ret) Brian G Jackson MSM CD

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

In the fall of 1992 when it became apparent that a single brigade-size UN force in Sarajevo was unable to meet the larger humanitarian needs of the disaster that was unfolding in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) a multi-national force known as UNPROFOR II was stood-up for deployment into the Bosnian theatre. UNPROFOR II comprised battalion-sized units from such countries as Canada, UK, France,



HQ Sector Sarajevo - Jan 93

Germany, Italy and others. At the time when this force was created and subsequently deployed, Sector Sarajevo (with troops from France, Egypt, Ukraine and the Netherlands, as well as, four Canadian officers) was well established in Sarajevo and conducting a variety of humanitarian tasks; albeit with a rising casualty toll. But, as the force-in-place, Headquarters Sector Sarajevo (set up in the PPT building) was tasked, in the latter part of September 1992, to assist with the deployment of UNPROFOR II troops into Bosnia and in particular to identify a suitable location for Headquarters BiH Command, which comprised us in Sector Sarajevo and newly deploying UNPROFOR II.

A primary criterion for a suitable location was that the site had to be close to Sarajevo but not in or near to the ongoing fighting. And indeed, heavy fighting continually impacted/restricted HQ Sector Sarajevo's ability to execute its mission. The fighting also limited the Sector Sarajevo staff from devoting much effort towards the task of house-hunting for BiH Command; which involved getting out of the city to

travel to and assess likely HQ locations. During quiet times, however, the HQ Sector Sarajevo staff did use our local contacts, as well as, our increasing knowledge of our AOR to come up with two possible sites in which HQ BiH might be able to set up shop. These



HQ Sarajevo

were a hotel complex in Ilydza (a western suburb of Sarajevo and close to the Bachevo water pumping station), and a large hotel in the village of Kiseljac which was about 10 km north of Sarajevo.



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

ILYDZA

A recce of these locations on 25 September 1992 was turned off due to heavy fighting around the Sarajevo Airport, which also resulted in the closing the airport to humanitarian flights. The morning of the next day (26 September) was also tense and all missions were cancelled until it could be determined whether or not it was safe for our troops to go about their tasks. By noon we made the decision to continue with the day's tasks. And also to go ahead with the recce of the two locations.

The HQ Sector Sarajevo staff participating in the recce of these two locations were the Chief of Staff, the Military Information Officer (G2), the Sector Engineer, the OC of the Dutch Signals Company and myself

A HIGHLANDER'S SARAJEVO STORY



**Sarajevo - Frebat Checkpoint
Kasendaska Road**

(the Senior Operations Officer/G3). Using a HQ VBL, a Ukrainian Battalion BTR 70 and a French Battalion VAB the recce group proceeded first to the hotel complex at Ilydza. Although located only a few km from the airport, going there took the group very close

to the line of confrontation; therefore at increased risk. I had been out this way in early August to the Bachevo water pumping station to determine whether or not the lack of water in the Sarajevo water system was due to breakages in the lines or was the result of the pumps being turned off; it was the latter. But, because Ilydza was an area in which we did not conduct routine humanitarian activities, this was very much a journey to a site of which we had very little understanding of the ground realities.

From the intersection, known as the Kasindoska Crossroads (which in a few months would be the location of the shooting/killing of a Bosnian Vice-Prime Minister, who was in the back of one of our APCs) we proceed along a rural road to the village of Ilydza; passing along the north side of the airport runway. Ilydza was a small satellite community of Sarajevo. Passing through the town centre we noticed that, while there was some war damage, the buildings, roads and infrastructure were essentially intact. Driving over a bridge which spanned a narrow waterway we turned left toward the hotel complex. Here we passed through some (then closed) restaurants and larger, older, undamaged houses on a mature-treed road that flanked the south bank of the waterway. It was a warm and pleasant fall day and we were very much enjoying being out of damaged, deserted and depressing Sarajevo.

What we came to see was a complex of five hotels; the Austria and Bosna Hotels which were connected together as a single but rambling structure, the Terme (the newest of the group which included thermal baths), the Crystal and the Hercegovina. Apart from the more modern Terme Hotel (which comprised four floors, was constructed of concrete and lots of glass) which sat at the entrance to the complex, the other four hotels



Ilydza - Bosna Hotel

were older, had three floors, peaked tile roofs and were of turn-of-the-20th century Eastern European style. But of solid construction. They were spaced around a large open grassed common area which was crisscrossed by paved walkways. Mature trees areas on the periphery of the grounds gave it a pleasant and mature appearance. The complex was set on grounds that were perhaps 150m x 200m and bordered on the bank of the small river which separated it from the village of Ilydza. The autumn weather was

warm, the sun was shining on the now rust-red leaves and the four older hotels were relatively undamaged.

Passing the Terme Hotel, which sat at the entrance to the complex, it was apparent this building had sustained a significant amount of war damage by having been struck many times by high explosive projectiles and machine gun fire. The Terme was full of civilians, whom we were told were refugees from fighting in other areas in the region. Then entering into the complex of the four older buildings, we were directed by Serb soldiers to the Bosna Hotel. There, we were told, was a senior officer and the hotel administrative staff from whom we could get information.



Exiting our armoured vehicles by the front entrance to Bosnia Hotel the atmosphere suddenly turned tense and any pleasantness gained from our first impressions of this complex of hotels and the pleasant weather quickly vanished. The snapping of near-by bullets and the sounds of out-going weapons firing from the immediate vicinity took any joy out of what once was (and indeed in a few more years would again become) a pleasant place. Entering the Bosnia, we were directed to a civilian who said he was the manager for all five hotels.

This person informed us the total room count for the five hotels was just over 300. However, and as mentioned, the Terme was full of refugees and had sustained significant damage. With the exception of the Bosnia/Austria complex the other older hotels were fully occupied by Serbian soldiers. In terms of facilities and services in the Bosnia/Serbia complex, there were no basements which could be used as shelters, parking was limited and there was minimal space to house a large HQ staff and provide sufficient workspace. This meant there would be the need to construct working space. As well, the availability of services (water, electricity and gas) was suspect. Still, these limitations were not show-stoppers. Given a significant but doable amount of effort, and those persons in the occupied hotels were evicted, it could have been converted into a HQ complex; as would prove to be the case several years later. This notwithstanding, the use of this complex was not recommended due to its proximity to the line of confrontation. Throughout the time we were on the ground there was a constant snap and buzz of bullets passing by, answered with the steady sound of outgoing rifle and machine gun fire; quite unnerving at times, especially when the bullets passed by very closely.

A HIGHLANDER'S SARAJEVO STORY

As a postscript, several years later following the cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the terms of the Dayton Agreement (which was signed on 14 December 1995), this complex did become the main facility for HQ IFOR (succeeded by HQ SFOR). During October 1996 to April 1997 I was to spend six months living with four other officers (of varying nationalities) sharing one of the cramped rooms in the Bosnia Hotel and working in a temporary building made of plywood that was built by NATO engineers to house the SFOR staff.

KISELJAK

Leaving the snap and buzz of bullets we then headed north from Ilydza towards Kiseljak. This was new territory for all of us in the group as our aid delivery tasks did not include this area and none of our other tasks had taken us this far north of Sarajevo. In time this was to change as became tasked with missions which took our troops to more distant places. As we proceeded north towards Kiseljak it became increasing apparent there had been no fighting here and so the countryside looked peaceful. There was no sound of artillery nor machine gun fire, the buildings were intact and people were going about their lives without apparent concern for their safety. The first sign of military was a checkpoint at the intersection of the Sarajevo-Kiseljak Road and the road that leads west towards Mostar and beyond to the Adriatic coast. After almost two months of being in the Sarajevo free-fire-zone, where one never went outdoors without one's helmet and flak jacket in place and their weapon in hand it felt remarkable to be in what seemed (and was) a safe, quiet, peaceful place.

Having removed our flak jackets/bullet-proof vests and helmets and riding high in the open hatches of our armoured vehicles (something never done in Sarajevo), we proceeded past the checkpoint and travelled the remaining few kilometers, through peaceful countryside to Kiseljak. Here, dominating the south approach to the village, was the Hotel Dalamatia. The hotel complex consisted of a newer, more modern building with full facilities that was connected to two older buildings. Apart from a rather small number of refugees living in the facility, it was essentially vacant. Some work would be necessary to both the older two buildings and the newer one. But, after looking through the complex in detail, it was clearly suitable to house a large HQ. Electricity was provided from the main line and we were told there had been no power outages for several months. Water came from a dedicated well and the large kitchen (while not in use) was in good condition, as was the heating system. Structurally the complex was sound and had no received no war damage; any necessary repair work had resulted from normal wear-and-tear. The three buildings offered over 100 self-contained rooms for accommodation and the large common areas could be set up to provide workspaces and offices. There was a conference room, a large bar/mess and other common areas.



War damage - North of Sarajevo



Hotel Dalamatia - Kiseljak
HQ BiH Command

The limitations we identified included, there being no basement that could be used as a shelter and living space may have to be augmented with tents or containers (depending on the size of the staff). But clearly, given its proximity to Sarajevo, that it was outside the conflict area, its size and facilities, this site was suitable for a large HQ. What we had seen earlier in the day at Ilydza was not, much because of the security situation at that location.

As we travelled back to Sarajevo, enjoying the afternoon autumn sunshine and the peaceful/war-free countryside, we did so with our hatches open and personal protect gear inside our vehicles; at least until the Serb checkpoint at Sarajevo-Kiseljak/Mostar Road intersection. Stopping here to gear up again and to speak with the faction soldiers who were manning the checkpoint, an odd event occurred. A convoy of Soviet-style jeeps approached from the direction of Kiseljak and pulled up to us. A group of Serb soldiers exited the vehicles and formed a cordon around the area; but not in a hostile or threatening manner. Then, clearly the senior of the group, followed by a soldier with a large/old-style movie camera strode towards our group. Passing by our Ukrainian Chief of Staff, he came up to me. He was clearly a senior officer - a general - and then I recognized him as General Radko Mladic; the Bosnian Serb Army Commander.

With video camera recording, he began to chat with me (I assume he thought I was the senior of the group) asking me who we were and what we were doing here. I replied in the broadest of terms that we were UNPROFOR/Sector Sarajevo staff officers and were out gaining a better understanding of the area. He then went on to talk about the ongoing conflict, again to which answers were given as broadly and unopinionated as possible; knowing that whatever we said could/would



General Radko Mladic

A HIGHLANDER'S SARAJEVO STORY

be used for propaganda purposes. And there was the need to remain neutral. Finally, he asked me what I thought of the political situation regarding Sarajevo and Bosnia in general, as well as my thoughts on the ongoing conflict. To this I replied that I was soldier and therefore, commenting on political manners would not be professional. He laughed and said "good answer." On this note they loaded back into their vehicles and carried on down the road in the direction of Sarajevo. This was not the last time I was to meet and chat with Mladic.

On our return to Sarajevo I wrote a five-page report comparing the two sites we had reced and gave our recommendation for the Kiseljac site. Our recommendation was accepted and, over the coming months, HQ BiH Command would establish themselves in that hotel; with a great deal of help from us in Sector Sarajevo.

LE GÉNÉRAL A BESOIN D'UNE RESIDENCE

With the occupation of the Hotel Dalamatia complex in Kiseljak underway, in early October 1992 we received another tasking from HQ UNPROFOR in Zagreb. This time it was to recce with a view to recommending a suitable facility for a forward HQ to house



Sarajevo City Hall

Commander BiH Command (French Army General Philippe Morellion) and a small staff. This facility had to be in the city of Sarajevo but not in a location where the ongoing conflict would place the staff (and the General) at too much risk. Again, after some enquiries and discussions with our Parties LOs and others, two possible sites were identified.

A cool and rainy day, Thursday, 8 October 1992 was to prove to be rather busy. On that morning, after a birdbath in my room (because the showers were not working) and eating dry cereal from a CARE package that my sister send me (the breakfast in our kitchen being not much better) I made my way one floor down to our Operations Centre. The previous night, after preparing and sending the daily SITREP, had been spent working out details for utility repair escorts that we had taken on. This involved our soldiers escorting civilian technicians to the site where damage had occurred to a utility line or piece of equipment; electrical or water. This type of undertaking was not one of our mandated tasks but we had taken it on for humanitarian reasons; water and electricity (so the theory went) was of benefit to all and should not be used as a weapon of war. The hope was that white UN vehicles (mounting a clearly visible UN flag)



General Philippe Morillion



Sarajevo – September 1992

would inhibit one side or the other from firing on the civilian technicians who were doing the actual repairs. As ever, in this messy conflict, nothing was easy, simple or straightforward. More often than not when on the repair site the

group (escort and workers) would come under fire and have to abandon the task. Or, not long after repair work was completed it would be shelled and services cut again because it was perceived that one side felt that only those from the other side would benefit from the repair work. After a number of such incidents, and others where threats from one side or the other caused us to abort the mission before it even got to the intended site, a more detailed approach to site selection was taken. This involved demonstrating to the warring parties as to who would benefit from a specific repair job. As well the Faction LOs, who were resident in our HQ (PTT Building), were included in process of site selection and mission planning. If one side benefited more than the other side from one mission, then the next repair mission would benefit that other side. It was a difficult and painful process. And rarely did any good deed go unpunished.

In any event, once the repair missions were dispatched to their tasks, the rest of the morning was spent preparing for and then participating in our Monthly Commander's Conference. This gathering allowed our Sector Commander (an Egyptian Army brigadier) to have a face-to-face plenary meeting with the Commanding Officers of French Battalion, Egypt Battalion and Ukraine Battalion. As ever, these things took time to prepare, were (at times) contentious to manage and resulted in a pile of follow-up work for me and my Operations Team. The meeting was followed by a lunch (with limited fare). Shortly after the departure of the unit COs, two Egyptian soldiers were wounded while on duty guarding the POL supplies we had stored in underground tanks at a facility we called Beaver Camp. The wounded men were evacuated



Le Residence - Sarajevo

A HIGHLANDER'S SARAJEVO STORY

to the French Surgical Group which was set up in the basement of our HQ in the PTT Building. Then there was matter of settling down the CO Egypt Battalion (as well as our Egyptian Sector Commander) and ensuring the Egyptian troops remained at Beaver Camp to continue with their task. We had relocated Egybat from Beaver Camp to Bistrik Barracks in early September 1992, after a mortar attack had destroyed some of the Beaver Camp facilities and wounded a number of UN troops (including me). However, until we could move the fuel that had been stored in the underground storage tanks to another location, we needed to maintain security of Beaver Camp.

VIP GUEST HOUSE

Finally, just after 3:00 PM on this cool and damp day, our Chief of Staff (Victor) and myself were able to get into a VBL and go into the city centre to look at these two sites. It was a relief to get away from the PTT Building, if even for a couple of hours. Our first stop was a former Yugoslav Government VIP guest house, which was located close to the centre of Sarajevo, facing onto the city's central park. Here we looked at large manor house which had been converted into a pre-war guest house for visiting VIPs. The facilities included a number of large suites and other smaller rooms. It had a large conference room, as well as, a room which would serve as an office. It was well furnished and was structurally sound with no war damage. The kitchen was well appointed and there was a room which could serve as a shelter. The house was located in a large, well-treed lot on a property that backed onto the TDF (Bosnian) HQ for Sarajevo. Importantly, it was located only about 600 m from the Presidency. This seemed to fit the bill. But we had been informed of another location which we decided to have a look at as well, just to be able to say we had viewed an alternative.

TOUGH NEIGHBORHOOD

From the Guest House we proceeded, in our VBL, up a small hill behind the area of the Sarajevo Stadium (used during the 1984 Winter Olympics) to look at the other facility which we had been told about. Passing through a residential area that had sustained significant war damage, we came to a small complex of buildings which had formerly been a rehabilitation centre. Our arrival was expected, as the Bosnian LO at our HQ had advised those at this place that we were coming. Parking the VBL in a rather small parking lot, Victor and I exited the vehicle (wearing our helmets and flak jackets, and carrying our rifles). We were met by a group of men who were armed with AK-47s and carrying pistols as well. They were dressed in civilian clothing.

The complex consisted of three buildings. A one-story office/classroom building that was connected to a two-story structure which housed a recreation room on the ground level and a small kitchen/cafeteria on the lower level. The third building, comprising three stories, was located about 10 m from the other two. It had offices on the ground floor and large classrooms on the upper two floors. War damage to all three buildings was extensive; few windows remained intact



Sarajevo – Fall 1992

and a number of window frames had suffered direct hits from artillery rounds. One building had received a direct impact inside which had destroyed a stairway.

The apparent leader of the group spoke good English and invited us into the small cafeteria. Here, we had tea and the leader described the facility and explained some of the circumstances accounting for its condition. While both Victor and I had the same initial impression that this place not suitable, we did agree to at least have a look around and (at best) go through the motions of showing some interest. Following tea, we looked through the two smaller buildings. And our walk-around (given the amount of war damage) only confirmed our misgivings about this place. We then walked across the parking lot, past our VBL (in which the driver remained) to the larger building which contained



Sarajevo – Fall 1992

the classrooms. It was a solid structure but had also sustained a fair amount of damage.

As we entered this building our hosts suddenly left us and we were free to wander about on our own, and to share our impressions that this place was a no-go. There was no electricity nor separate source of electrical generation. The kitchen was tiny and suitable neither in size nor appliances, the heating system had been damaged by artillery hits, there was no water, nor was there anything that could be used as a shelter. Apart from the small place where the VBL driver sat waiting for us, there was no other parking space. And, as we were about to have confirmed, security would have been very difficult as the complex was surrounded on all sides by buildings from which fire could be applied into this facility.

A HIGHLANDER'S SARAJEVO STORY

Having looked around the offices on the ground-level floor of the three-story building, Victor and I decided to have a look inside the classrooms on the second floor. At the top of a solid set of stairs, the classrooms were located on one side of the corridor, with windows facing out to a road that separated this complex from a townhouse development. As I walked into one classroom, Victor went into the one to my right. Just as we entered our separate room bullets from a long burst of machine gun from the housing complex across the road crashed through the undamaged windows and slammed into the wall behind me. But the bulk of the bullets from this machine gun burst had smashed into the room which Victor had just entered. I dropped to the floor. Then began a fire-fight between the men with whom we had been discussing this facility and another group in the houses on the other side of the road. Keeping low (on my belly) I worked my way into hallway. Considering that the majority of the bullets went into the room which Victor had entered I was expecting that he had been shot. Keeping to my belly I crawled into the other room and began to call his name. After a couple of shouts, I heard a clear but shaken reply from Victor. To my question as to whether or not he had been injured he replied "No". Then, both of us on our bellies, met one another. Victor was covered in dust from bullets striking the walls.

Meanwhile the two sides continued to exchange fire with one another. Once in the hallway, we made our way carefully down the stairs to the ground floor and looked for a place to wait things out. On the ground level, we found a solid half-wall in an open area that served as a foyer. Here, with our backs to the wall and another wall between us and from where the fire was coming from across the street, we sat and waited. Our weapons were charged and safeties off. After some time (not too long, but I have no measure of exactly how long) the shooting stopped. Waiting for a bit longer, we decided to carefully leave the building, get to our VBL and then get out of there. Upon exiting the building, standing close to the entrance to this compound were two groups of men; the group with whom had met regarding this place and another group of four or five men. All were armed with AK-47s and all were excitedly shouting at one another. Trying not to attract attention to ourselves, Victor and I walked deliberately across the short open space to our VBL. As we did so, we caught the attention of the arguing men. Not entering the VBL we took up positions in a manner which blocked us from them, but from which we could observe what was going on. What was going on, was now we had become the subject of the argument. The leader of the other group was shouting words we could not understand, except for one word: UNPROFOR. Now it was UNPROFOR this and UNPROFOR that At the same time, this man brought his assault weapon down and began to aim it in our direction. The leader of our group/our host was also shouting but each time the other man's weapon came down he would push it back up into the air. Watching this, we quickly



agreed (based on our respective fields of fire and if it came down to it) I would shoot the man whose weapon was being pointed towards us and Victor would shoot the man behind him. After that we would deal with the consequences. Then without appearing too aggressive we readied our weapons to do just that.

Rather quickly, however, the shouting died down and the aggressiveness towards Victor and I diminished. Soon, the leader of our group indicated that we should come from

behind the vehicle and join them. Things seemed calm and the threat also seemed to have gone away. Going over to them we introduced ourselves and explained, in the briefest of terms, why we were there. Although we were not told what triggered the exchange, we were informed that during the fire-fight one man from the other side had been shot dead. For which, of course, we expressed our condolences. With things now calm, our host invited all of us (the other faction, and Victor and I) into the kitchen where to have tea and a chat. When it was polite to do so, Victor and I excused ourselves, got into our VBL and, with a great deal of relief, got out of there.

Back at the PTT, that evening I wrote our report. In it I reported in detail on the second site (the former training facility) listing the lack facilities, the insufficient space, the closeness of the surrounding buildings and the significant amount of war damage. My only reference to the fire fight in which we were caught up was to say, in the covering memo to the report, that this place was located in a tough neighbourhood; after the fact our little war story seemed not to fit. Then, in a single paragraph, I described the features and advantages of the former guest house; which we had seen first. Having previously met General Morrillion, I noted that this facility "will" ... serve very well as the residence for a general officer." Hence, this facility (in which I was later to brief the General, take some very good meals and, on occasion, just take respite from the PTT) became known as the Le Residence.



IN MEMORIAM

COMMENTS BY VETERANS ON THE 2020 PASSING OF WO (RET) RON DENHAM, CD

"As an impressionable Officer Cadet, I was first introduced to my platoon Warrant Officer, WO Ron Denham, on my basic Officer Qualifying Course in the Summer of 1978.

In my eyes, WO Denham was text book. Lean and fit, his dress, deportment and his drill were of the highest order. To this day, I still emulate his drag halt.

But more than that, he had a great sense of humor, and he was fair and approachable. Only after some time in uniform, and a few more courses under my belt, did I come to realize how exceptional he was."

**LCol (RET) H. L. (SKIP) SIMPSON, MSTJ, CD,
THE HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD REGIMENT**

♦ ♦ ♦

"I had the pleasure of working with Ron while he served on the OCA Drill Team and the CSA Executive.

What struck me about Ron was his total professionalism on parade. He truly set an example for dress and deportment as you would expect from an old school Senior NCO. I can still remember him barking commands (growling even...) as we marched in 48th Remembrance Day and Warriors Day Parades.

Ron was committed to the 48th Highlanders, and he embodied our motto "Dileas Gu Brath" (Faithful Forever). I believe many Highlanders, past and present, have been inspired by his example of service with the OCA Team, the CSA, and his many hours of volunteerism with the Regimental Museum.

He will be missed...."Once a Highlander, always a Highlander!"

**SGT (RET) GUY BOWIE, CD, SECRETARY,
48TH CONTINUING SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION**

♦ ♦ ♦

For several years, I had the privilege of working with Ron on the 48th CSA Executive Committee, and also marching with him on many OCA parades in Toronto and out of town.

Ron was a consummate professional soldier who enjoyed a fine military career that spanned three decades during the Cold War era of 1953-1979.

As well, his love for his Regiments –The Royal Canadian Regiment, and the 48th Highlanders of Canada – complimented his love for military history and tradition. Ron was very proud of his family's "Century of Service" to Canada that he shared with his father, uncle, brother, and sisters, as they served in WWI, WWII, Korean War, and UN Peacekeeping.

Ron used to say about his many years of overseas service with the UN that Canadian troops had to be more "peacemakers" than "peacekeepers" as there was often no peace in locations such as Cyprus.

I will miss my many talks with Ron about military history, and will also miss a true soldier who loved his Regiments and his country above all.

**SGT (RET) AL KOWALENKO, OMC, CHAIRMAN,
48TH CONTINUING SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION**



"A special Celebration of Life event was held at Legion Branch #110 in Trenton, Ontario, on October 3, 2020, to commemorate the passing of WO(Ret) Ron Denham, CD. A group of 30 guests attended and heard speeches from Padre Rev Lynn Mitchell (RCL), HCol Mike Scott (48th), Capt(Ret) Iain MacLean (RCR), LCol(Ret) Skip Simpson (Hastings and Prince Edward Regt), Sgt(Ret) Al Kowalenko (48th CSA), John Perkins (48th OCA) and Mallory Fewster (Denham family). Military memorabilia from Ron's career was prominently displayed and attendees enjoyed a fine Legion lunch and shared many memories about him."



IN MEMORIAM



MCPL (RET) PAUL DAVID CORNISH, CD (1957-2020)

By WO (Ret) Dianne Love, CD and MCpl (Ret) Brad Wood, CD

MCpl (Ret) Paul Cornish, CD, passed away on Tuesday, 9th June 2020, at his home in Hawkestone, Ontario, of a sudden heart attack at 63 years of age.

Paul grew up in West Hill, Ontario and Ajax. He was the son of the late, Police Superintendant, Bob Cornish of the Toronto Marine Unit, and Fay. He had a sister Julia, and his brother, Robbie, who died a number of years ago. His father was also in the Canadian Navy and served on the Magnificent as an Engine Technician.

He married Lorelei Walker in Sept, 1994, and eventually moved to Hawkestone, Ontario. They loved the country life, with their 3 cats, and lived a few doors up from his parents.

He worked at the Toronto Transit Commission and retired after 30 years at age 51. He then worked at Khan Scope Centre and then Ellwood Epps, so he could work at the hobbies that he enjoyed.

Paul joined 2881 Scarborough Cadet Corps as a Charter Cadet on 30 March, 1971. He joined the 48th Highlanders in 1973, which he was in for two times. He rebadged from Infantry to Weapons Tech, while serving with the 48th Highlanders. He was top candidate on the CBT Intel Course 8801 at CMA Intelligence Detachment, in July 1988.

While in the 48th Highlanders, he became best friends with MCpl Brad Wood. After parading on the weekends, he often stayed at Brad's, so that he didn't have to travel back to Ajax. Paul was a member of the "7 Signalers", the group of comrades who ran the Sigs Section.

Paul knew everything about weapons and Military history. He was also a good shot on the Range. In his younger years, he often hung around with Brad and the Crook brothers, Greg and Ewing, after training.

Paul went on Exercise New Viking in 1974 in Resolute Bay, and Post New Viking, where they went down the river in assault boats. He was a member of The OCA Drill Team and went on a number of parades, especially in Orillia for the D Day Dodgers Parade.

Paul was very intelligent and was an avid reader and loved music. He liked going to concerts, like The Stray Cats, The Stones, and Dire Straits, but was also a lover of Irish music. His other interests included astronomy, motor bikes, vintage cars, Japanese Art and Samurai, Art Deco and Post Modern Soviet art. He loved to read Ernest Hemingway and was very passionate about his interests of the moment.

He liked to stay up north and only occasionally came to the city. In recent years, he liked going to Cuba twice or more a year. He was totally taken in by the art, history and people there, and made a few friends. He was always getting others to join him on his trips, like Jim Tait, and Mary Anne Valenti.

Paul had lots of opinions and was a very robust character. We knew Paul for 46 years and he was like a brother that we never had. Our group will miss him terribly.

DILEAS GU BRATH!

IN MEMORIAM

SGT(RET) GEORGE WILLIAM BARTLETT (1918-2020) 48TH WWII VETERAN

Excerpts From A Eulogy By Mary Pettigrew, Daughter

My father, George Bartlett, was one of the last of the so-called "greatest generation".

His life was shaped by three major events: the devastating loss of his mother as a young child, the Great Depression, and World War II.

In November, 1940, he went down to the Toronto Exhibition grounds with his pals to enlist together but somehow they became separated and he came to join the 48th Highlanders without them.

Prior to being sent overseas, he and my Mom were married in June, 1941. After training in Camp Borden, he eventually embarked for Britain where the next two years we spent on drills and training while waiting to get in on the action.

Finally, on June 28th, 1943, he sailed with the First Canadian Division out of Scotland for Sicily and the beginning of the Italian Campaign.

As a Corporal, he was in charge of a squad of men as scouts which soon developed in a squad of Bren gunners. Later as a Sergeant, he commanded a Vickers heavy machine gun team. He always took great pride in the fact that he got all his guys through the War with only one casualty, and that was because the soldier didn't listen to him.

After fighting through the front lines in Italy, he and his company then sailed to Europe in February, 1945, to continue the struggle through Belgium and Holland enduring much terrible fighting and casualties. When the 48th reached Apeldoorn, they saw it had been deserted by the enemy and suddenly the people came out and to cheer wildly for their liberators.

After WWII, he worked as a landscaper and moved the family to various locations in Toronto, Thistletown and Colgan. His final years were spent at the Perley and Rideau Veterans Health Centre in Ottawa.

He was a moral, good and generous man. He had a wicked sense of humor and a wonderful twinkle in his eye. His love and pride in his family was always there and always unconditional.



THE MAPLE LEAF

Ready to Talk Turkey to Germans in Rimini Area



HICKERS like the above saw plenty of action in the farmhouse to farmhouse fighting on the flats to the west of Rimini. Three S.L.I. lads supporting the forward company of an Ontario Highland regiment get all set to give covering fire to one of the daylight recon patrols. They are: Sgt. J. Stewart, Pte. W. Beaton and Cpl. G. W. Bartlett, all of Toronto. These gents look as if they mean business. (Canadian Army Photo)





SGT(RET) JAMES (JIM) MCCLUSKEY CAMPBELL (1938-2020)

Extracts from the Toronto Star:

Sgt(Ret) Jim Campbell passed peacefully with his family by his side on September 13, 2020, in Mississauga in his 83rd year.

He was born May 13th, 1938, in Greenock, Scotland, the son of William Campbell and Annemarie (Anne) McCluskey. Jim moved to Canada in 1967 and made his home in Toronto.

He is survived by his wife Fumi, and his five children Ryan, Fiona, Ursula, Ian and Peter, and his four grandchildren Jake, Brendan, Ryley, and Nathan, as well as extended family in Canada and Scotland.

During his life, Jim served in the Scots Guards of the British Army, the City of London Police, Toronto Police Service, and as a Sergeant with the 48th Highlanders of Canada (HQ Support Company) during the late 1960s.

He was naturally artistic, loved to drive, boat, sing, entertain, and share stories of his many adventures. But more than anything, he loved to make people laugh and had a wonderful sense of humor that will be greatly missed.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO MAJOR (RET) WILLIAM (BILL) WHITEACRE

By Major (Ret) George Pearce, CD

I was commissioned in 1956 having been invited by LCol Hamish K. MacIntosh MBE to return to the Regiment after my departure for officer training. That year, or the next, marked the period in which the 48th trooped the colour on an annual basis due to the leadership and priority of the commanding officer. It was during that time that I met and had the honour of serving with Major Bill Whiteacre.

I recall the following with certainty, about those years - that the Regiment paraded in white shell Jackets in 1956 or so and Support Company was the Escort for the Colour. Lt J.A.W. Whiteacre MM was the Ensign for The Queen's Colour and he demonstrated how an Ensign should "grace" the Colour by not gripping the pike as though it were a baseball bat.

Later, in a subsequent Trooping Parade, Capt J.A.W. Whiteacre MM, as Guard 2IC of No. 4 Guard, further displayed his mastery of parade drill and decorum.

As a very young soldier, before coming to the Regiment, Bill fought with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders with the Canadian Highland Brigade in the Second World War, during Rhineland Offensive, the Crossing of the Rhine River, where he was awarded the Military Medal for Bravery in the Field. He later took part in the Liberation of the Netherlands where he received gunshot wounds to both arms. Post-war he quickly rose to the rank of Major with the 48th Highlanders.

Bill was a fine officer. I respected him, I learned from him and I liked him. One of his

greatest strengths was his ability to judge leadership capability amongst his men. "Mental toughness" was an essential quality he always expected in his company officers and senior NCOs. As a company OC in the rank of Major, he organized some impressive field training exercises.

As noted above, Bill served in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders (SDG) in which unit, he was awarded the MM. Other units called the SDG the "Sand, Dust and Gravel Highlanders". Bill told me, "We didn't call ourselves that; SDG meant "Sudden Death to Germans."

A lawyer by profession, he was of United Empire Loyalist descent and is entitled to the post nominal UE along with his QC et al.

He was a very special kind of leader and will be greatly missed by all who knew and served with him in both the 48th and the SDG.



IN MEMORIAM

S/SGT HERBERT JAMES PIKE

12 FEB 1924 - 21 NOV 2020

1ST BATTALION,
48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

THE HEART OF A REGIMENT

In the annals of the 48th Highlanders of Canada there are numerous Highlanders of great renown. Our Regimental histories list their battlefield exploits. Names such as Johnston, Haldenby, Bent, Elms and Mackenzie are well known. But others, less well chronicled in our histories show through their actions what it means to be a Highlander, what is at the heart and soul of the Regiment. Herb Pike was such a Highlander. As much as any in the Regiment he showed, day after day for the 3 years he was overseas with the 1st Battalion and for the 75 years that followed, the best and the ideals of a 48th Highlander. He truly represented the heart of our Regiment.

Herbert James Pike enlisted in 1942 at the age of 18, straight out of high school. He said that it was not a choice but the right thing to do. He had to play his part in defeating the spread of something that went against every belief that he held. Herb had intended to join the RCAF. They said he was too young. Returning home, he passed the army recruiting office manned by the 48th Highlanders. To him they were the best and most admired Regiment in Toronto. He entered and fifteen minutes later had signed on. After training in Stratford, then Guelph he was picked for advanced unarmed combat and battle drill at Ipperwash. A train to Halifax followed to join 22,000 on the Queen Elizabeth, designed for just 2,000 passengers in peacetime. Soon after arriving in England he joined the 1st Battalion. When the battalion left in June 1943 for Sicily Herb remained behind, one of several LOB (left out of battle) as replacements for key positions as casualties incurred. He sailed in September for Philippeville, Algiers then to the Adriatic coast of Italy, rejoining his battalion just after they had captured Campobasso in early October. He was quickly promoted to Sergeant then transferred to Able Company as platoon sergeant in time for the battles of The Gully and Cemetery Hill, outflanking Ortona. In the 1st Battalion there was a principle that only the best in leadership and combat skills were retained in key officer and NCO positions in the fighting companies. Lives of Highlanders were at stake and nothing less than the best was acceptable. Herb held his role in Able Company to the end of combat in Apeldoorn in April 1945, a testament to his skills as a soldier and person.



Herb was a great storyteller. Herb could tell all the stories, the funny, the tragic and the shattering. When asked how he coped he said that he learned quickly in combat that when a buddy dropped beside him he had to carry on, to fulfill what he and his

friend had started together. Herb said he placed these events at one side in his mind, never to be forgotten but also never to tear down his belief in himself and what he and others were doing. To do otherwise was to leave himself vulnerable on the battlefield and put his comrades in his platoon at risk. His openness after the war to those who asked about his experiences was a heart that was open and for those of us who were lucky enough to have these conversations with Herb, he invited us into his heart. It was as big as it was open.

Herb was proud to be part of Able Company. He said that Able stood for "Attack" and Bravo stood for "Be there when we get back." His platoon for The Gully was supposed to be 35 strong. It was a mere 15 but Herb said that Gerry couldn't tell when they pushed them back time after time. "The Regiment in Italy was my school and they made me the equivalent of 35 years old." Herb said he became an adult through experience, training and the examples of the battalion's leaders.

Late in the summer of 1944, after the 48th breached the Hitler Line at the head of the Liri valley, Herb was platoon commander as his officer had been wounded. The 48th were fighting up the Adriatic coast from the Arielli River. A new Lieutenant, Andy LeMesurier was assigned and he and Herb weren't seeing eye to eye. LeMesurier called it insubordination and went to the company commander, who happened to be my father, then Captain George Beal. Dad took him aside where no-one could hear and suggested that as Pike had been running the platoon by himself for over a month he would do well to learn from an experienced NCO and follow his lead for the next couple of battles. Lt. LeMesurier did and soon provided outstanding leadership through the remaining advance to Rimini and beyond. Their partnership ended when Herb had to go back and lead Dog Company into a position. He told his lieutenant



IN MEMORIAM



Founding members of the Continuing Sergeants Association



48th WWII veterans (L-R): Lt Wally Moore, CQMS Herb Pike, SSgt Syd Redgrave, Cpl Bill deHarte, at a Remembrance Day Parade, Queen's Park



Official photo for the Canadian 25 cent piece



Gord Outhwaite and Herb in Ortona

asked Nancy if she had ever had a Highland Sunset. From under the table emerged a bottle of scotch and another of Drambuie. Filling a water glass to the brim began a two-hour dialogue full of laughter and a couple of tears. Nancy says that it was the best trip ever and due totally to the veterans. They, and Herb in particular, showed us who they were as people, under the uniform.



At Ravenna Cemetery with a comrade

that Gerry wasn't likely to move so they could stay safely in position. While he was away, Gerry attacked. Returning, Herb saw LeMesurier being carried out on a stretcher. At the Regiment's 100th Anniversary in 1991 in Toronto Herb told Andy that he never said goodbye. LeMesurier responded, in his typical droll manner, "You didn't eyes right either." Such was the friendship they enjoyed and yet another measure of the heart of the man.

In 2004 my wife Nancy and I travelled with several of our veterans, including Herb, to revisit seven of the battlefields over which they had fought. Nancy wasn't looking forward to war stories and battlefields but was there to support me and my Regiment. One evening we had gone out alone for a quiet dinner. When we returned the hotel was dark. Light coming from one room. Inside were Herb and his great friend Gord Outhwaite. They invited us to join them and would not take no for an answer. Herb and Gord were as different as chalk and cheese. Herb was a middle-class Toronto boy. Oats was a biker, who loved opera. Herb

The next leg of the trip took us to the Lamone River, which the Regiment had crossed after other battalions and brigades had been rebuffed. Herb, who had macular degeneration and could barely see, took my shoulder, and walked me to a spot on the south bank. He said, "Your dad stood there, and I stood here, and this is what he said" as he directed the assault over the river. For me it was a magical moment. We crossed the river and Herb took my elbow as we climbed up the dike. Herb said: "About 150 yards north west was an old stone farmhouse". As we topped the dike Herb asked what I saw. My response was "150 yards northwest is an old stone farmhouse." It was 60 years since Herb had been there. It was still crystal clear. Equally clear was his experience with a German tank coming down the road beside the dike. Herb and his PIAT man were alone less than 50 yards into a field. "The PIAT was a terrible weapon. It bounced off tanks unless hit totally square. It was better for opening doors and clearing trenches." Waiting until the tank was square on Herb nodded the signal to fire.

IN MEMORIAM

The shell bounced off. Herb rushed to the rear of the tank and dropped smoke grenades into the air intake, which the Germans had failed to cover. "We waited for them to come out." The story stopped there.

At each of the battlefields on the trip we visited the nearby Canadian cemetery to pay our respects and say a prayer. Herb was often selected to say the ode that started: "At the going down of the sun." His booming voice echoed through the cemeteries. Then our veterans visited the graves of their comrades, alone. Herb would stand close, put his hand on the stone and talk, not to us but to his friend.

Herb told the story of Apeldoorn in the Netherlands during a trip in 2005 for the Dutch celebration of their liberation in 1945. The last night was a dinner to thank the Canadian veterans. Naturally, Herb was chosen to sit beside Princess Laurentien for dinner. Who else could be comfortable enough to chat for a couple of hours? Herb described a party in April 1945 held by Able company in the Het Loo palace where they had been billeted. Dutch girls had been invited and they all came on bicycles. When the party was over Herb decided they couldn't go home alone in the dark, so he loaded them and their bicycles on a truck and drove them home. On his return to the palace someone had locked the iron gates. Herb told Princess Margriet that he just drove through them and said he was glad that they had never sent him the bill. The Princess told Herb that it had been paid, many times over, by the liberation of Her country by the Canadians.

The experiences in Holland in 1945 bringing food and relief to the starving Dutch people made a great impact on Herb and formed a bond with the Dutch that he treasured. On several occasions after the War, he attended the liberation celebrations in Holland. He made many Dutch friends who he kept in contact with regularly during his entire lifetime.

On the first of October 1945 the 1st Battalion arrived at Union Station, Toronto by train then marched to University Avenue Armouries to the cheers of thousands of Torontonians. For Herb, getting back into civilian life was a challenge. As he put it, with only an education in war, his options for employment were limited. He started with Canada Post sorting letters. Boredom quickly set in and he tried Canada Wire and Cable. Factory work didn't agree either. From 1947 to 1948 he sold insurance and realized that sales seemed to be his forte. He joined Anderson Pontiac Buick on Bay Street rising to sales manager, then general manager of Addison Cadillac. Later, he and a partner opened a Mercury dealership. "The cars were terrible," Herb recalled. "We hoped they would make it off the lot before the rust showed or the motor failed." After a few years they sold the business and Herb joined Reynolds & Reynolds Aluminum. Here he learned that you could go home for supper. This was important to him as he had married the love of his life, Joan, in 1951 and they had a young family. Stephen, Stacey and Tamra. At Reynolds & Reynolds Herb was in his element, being awarded leading salesman in Canada many times and once for all North



America. He retired in 1989.

In his civilian life Herb continued his presence with the Regiment. He wouldn't miss Mess dinners, Remembrance Day parades, New Year's levees or social events. He shared his experiences with old friends and new soldiers alike. He was a founding member of the Continuing Sergeants Association and a Life Member of the OCA. In 2005, Herb was featured on the Canadian quarter as part of Canada's 60th anniversary celebrations of the end of WWII. As he sometimes said, he liked being called "Hollywood Herb" and enjoyed speaking to students and the media. He wasn't shy about expressing his opinion either.

"I didn't fight for that." was often his first comment on a government action. In recent years, in his 90s, if someone would give him a lift he would be with his Regiment, and there were many delighted to give him that lift.

Herbert James Pike, S/Sgt, 48th Highlander, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather was beloved by all who knew him. For the Regiment he embodied the spirit and the character to which every Highlander aspires. For those in the Regiment who knew him, and talked with him, he was a comrade, more than just a friend. If, as you read this, you had talked just once with Herb, you would describe your relationship with Herb in those words and mean them just as fervently as someone who had known him closely for years.

He was truly: "The heart of a Regiment."

HCOL (RET'D) GEORDIE BEAL, CD



Nancy and Geordie Beal with Herb at 125th Anniversary Celebrations

[Click here to see Herb's funeral service](#)



[Click here to see an interview with Herb on CBC](#)



HIGHLANDER CONFINED TO BARRACKS

SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL

Capt (Ret) Bruce
Beaton, CD

@ KWing, K2E, Room 29

This gentleman 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 him.*

DECEMBER 2020



VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA

UPDATES – NOVEMBER, 2020

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

COVID-19 AND VAC

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) local offices are now closed due coronavirus restrictions and not open to public visits. You can access VAC by either visiting their website, www.veterans.gc.ca/eng or calling Ottawa directly at 1-866-522-2122. There is a special section on their website entitled: "COVID-19 Information and Assistance for Veterans" which is quite detailed.

VETERANS EMERGENCY FUNDS (VEF)

During COVID-19, VAC is offering additional financial assistance to veterans (Regular Force and Reserves) across the country through the Veterans Emergency Funds (VEF) program.

The following summary has been distributed previously by VAC:

"The objective of the VEF program is to provide prompt monetary assistance to eligible Veterans and their family members who are facing a financial crisis/emergency with the intent of resolving the immediate need. Where appropriate, applicants will also be referred to any alternate and/or additional resources for longer term support."

VAC is now able to approve funding for up to three months at time with a total limit of \$10,000. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis according to need.

More information may be obtained at <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/financial-support/emergency-funds/veterans-emergency-fund> or telephone 1-866-522-2122.

VETERAN'S SERVICE CARD (VSC) – NDI 75

Production and distribution of the new Veteran's Service Card (VSC- NDI 75) has now been resumed. You may apply for a card on line or via mail. A copy of your military release certificate and a passport size photo will be required for your application.

All members of the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular and Reserves) who have completed their service prior to 2016 are eligible to receive the card. This new card is valuable to confirm your CF veteran status when you wish to obtain VAC services and veterans discounts in the community.

Email enquiries may be sent to VSCQuestions.EnquetesCSAC@forces.gc.ca or telephone 1-833-995-0004. Online applications are available at <https://veterans-service-card.canada.ca/en/>.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

To speak to a VAC mental health professional, call the VAC Assistance Service at 1-800-269-7708. You will then be connected with a community practitioner (non-military) for various counselling sessions depending on your need. This service is confidential for veterans and you do not have to have a VAC account to access it.

OSISS

If you have had an operational stress injury (such as PTSD) from your CF service and wish to have military peer contact, call Operational Stress Injury Social Support (OSISS) at 1-800-883-6094. There is also additional information on this confidential counselling service at the OSISS website www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/guide/dscsm/osiss.html.

If you need additional assistance regarding the above or other VAC programs, please contact: Sgt (Ret) Al Kowalenko, 48th Veterans Services, at email: ursa77@rogers.com or phone: 416-219-4967.

A NEW REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION FOR ALL HIGHLANDERS BEGINS ON JANUARY 1, 2021

