

THE FALCON MAGAZINE



Keeping Highlanders up to date on Regimental Events, Achievements and History Fall 2019

SECTION ATTACK: ACTIVE BN EX URBAN DEFENDER JUNE 2019



At the Start Line



Advancing under cover of smoke



Approaching the Enemy position



At the Objective



Through the door ...



Reorganizing on the Objective

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICERS DESK

HELLO HIGHLANDERS –

As we approach the middle of the training year, The Editor and Staff of the FALCON have put together another outstanding magazine. There is a bit for everyone here – articles and stories from South Africa, the 15th Battalion, a former Highlander serving on operations in the 1990's, the active Regiment on exercises practicing and training in war-fighting skills and the OCA continuing to serve well after their uniformed service is complete.

I am thrilled to be the CO of Toronto's Highland Regiment, and I appreciate all the hard work that you all do. That hard work is paying off in a multitude of ways:

- Growth – increased strength / more Jr and Sr NCOs / Officers
- All sections are led by qualified NCOs in the Rifle Coy, the Training Coy and at the Battleschool
- Recruiting continues to bring in new soldiers
- C Coy trains soldiers to deploy on operations
- D Coy develops our future soldiers / NCOs / Officers
- Admin Coy and the BOR ensure that the Regiment is squared away administratively and logistically
- The Regimental Family is strong and continues to support the soldiers

The success of the Regiment is due only to the hard work and efforts of all of you. Thanks for all your hard work and efforts to keep the 48th Highlanders of Canada a strong and proud Regiment.

DILEAS GU BRATH

R.A. ALKEMA
LCol
CO



With leadership seated around the Duncan Fife, and framed by Dargai, LCol Alkema conducts his CO's hour on the eve of Summer Stand down.

NOVEMBER 2019

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This issue of THE FALCON MAGAZINE is produced by the FALCON staff:

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DUE DATE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS:
WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2020

EX URBAN DEFENDER



Opening brief



Maj Fisher, OC C Coy, outlines the training goals

ACTIVE BATTALION



EXERCISE URBAN DEFENDER JUNE 2019

2019 CANADA ARMY RUN OTTAWA

The starting cannon that kicked off the 2019 Canada Army Run boomed through Ottawa at 0800 on Sunday morning 22 September. For the first time in a 12 year history, the run centred around the Canadian War Museum, with the start/finish line in the shadow of the iconic copper-clad fin that reaches skyward on the east side of the building. Over the course of the day nearly 20,000 participants will run, walk and roll through the streets of Ottawa and Hull on their way to completing the various challenge distances.

A big part of the Canada Army Run is awareness and fundraising for Support Our Troops/Soldier On. To further promote this aspect, a reception was held in the War Museum's Le Breton Gallery to recognize top fundraisers. Guests of Honour were Commander Canadian Army LGen W. D. Eyre CMM MSC CD and Canadian Army Sergeant Major CWO S. Hartnell MMM MSM CD. Prizes were handed out, but more importantly, the audience listened to first-hand accounts from people who have been helped by Support Our Troops/Soldier On.



Col Dan Stepaniuk, Commander 32CBG flanked on his left by Lt van der Toorn with 48th Highlanders of Canada Camp Flag at 32 CBG rendezvous before the Canada Army Run

Lt van der Toorn represented the 48th Highlanders of Canada both by completing the 15km Normandy Challenge and by being recognized for raising over \$1000 for the affiliated charity.

With supportive crowds and enthusiastic bands along the way, and participants with wide-ranging challenges and abilities, it is easy to see why the Canada Army Run is indeed no ordinary race.



SUMMER TO FALL EVENTS AROUND THE REGIMENT



The June Life Members Luncheon where quilter Eleanor Ross presented gifts to 4 WWII vets.



48th at Orillia Scottish Festival
On Saturday, July 27, 2019

We won best Colour Party this year at the Orillia Scottish Festival.
J Perkins J Stephens, Len Potten, Norm White, Dave Imbeault, Gord Smith.



Quilt close up



Tree Planting at Highway of Heroes - 14 June - 2019
Hldr O'Brien and Lt Van der Toorn at the Highway of Heroes tree
planting event, Intrepid Park, Whitby. 14 June 19.



Tom White admires his new quilt



Quilt presented to Herb Pike

SUMMER TO FALL EVENTS AROUND THE REGIMENT



Jim Cassie and Cathi Corbett place a wreath at the Toronto City Hall Memorial to those who fought in the Italian Campaign



The Memorial and Highlanders in attendance



The Annual Pachino Parade in Belleville



OCA Pde Commander, Col Geordie Elms, salutes, after placing a Memorial Wreath

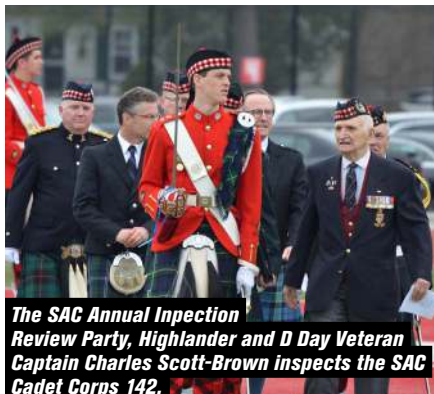
SUMMER TO FALL EVENTS AROUND THE REGIMENT



Marching in the Warriors Day Parade



Saluting – the 48th



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



Marching Past The Inspecting Officer



SAC Cadet Pipes and Drum on Parade



MWO George MacLean, CD (Retd), centre, being congratulated by Mess/OCA members (L-R all Retd) Sgt. Al Kowalenko, MWO Mark McVety and Col Geordie Elms at the Oct 5 th WO/Sgts Mess Dinner held in the 48 th Officers Mess.

CELEBRATING #99 IN STYLE MWO GEORGE MACLEAN, CD

From a Speech by (CSA) President, Sgt Al Kowalenko, at the WO and Sgts Mess Dinner

October 5 th , 2019:

“We have with us this evening a special World War II era veteran, MWO George MacLean, CD.

George is currently 99 years young and four months away from his 100 th birthday on February

4 th , 2020. He now has the distinction of being our oldest living 48 th Highlander.

George officially joined the 48 th in 1938 and served with the

Regiment for nearly 60 years on the home front in both an active and volunteer capacity until his retirement in 1996.

His outstanding service record to our Regiment is something the CSA is very proud to acknowledge and celebrate.

Ladies and Gentlemen may we have a round of applause for MWO George Maclean.”

(All Mess members gave George a lengthy standing ovation!)



Jim Cassie and Highlander guests at a special Boulevard Club Celebration Event marking the 100th Anniversary of his Company

SUMMER TO FALL EVENTS AROUND THE REGIMENT



LCol Alkema conducts the Annual 48th Highland Cadet Corps Inspection



President Mark McVety presents the OCA Cadet Drill Team Award



Shirley Elms presents the IODE Cadet Trophy



RSM Kwok presents the Cadet Jr NCO Leadership Award

EATON'S GOES TO WAR

*The Gledhill brothers, Fred and Stan
Eaton's Goes To War Exhibit*



During the First World War the department store, the T. Eaton Company was just steps from Mackenzie House. Over the course of the war 3,327 Eaton's employees enlisted to fight. Each time one of them was sent overseas, a photo was displayed prominently in the store. Thanks to submissions from the families of some of these soldiers, this exhibit reveals the lives of men who risked everything to serve their country. The exhibit helps to honour their sacrifices and those of their families. This event is part of Toronto History Museums' Commemorative programming. Mackenzie House is one of 10 Toronto History Museums which explore where Toronto's many pasts, presents and futures meet. It interprets urban Victorian life of the 1860s and the evolution of democratic institutions through the lens of Toronto's first Mayor William Lyon Mackenzie.

When: November 5, 2019 - December 31, 2019

Event Time(s): 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Mackenzie House is closed on Mondays. Weekend hours are 12 - 5pm.

Where: Mackenzie House
82 Bond St

Cost: \$5.00 - \$8.00	Child: \$5.00	Student: \$7.00
	Youth: \$7.00	Adult: \$8.00
	Senior: \$7.00	

More Information

Website: www.toronto.ca

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SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa – the Boer War. 1899 – 1902

One hundred and twenty years ago, in November 1899, Highlanders responded, for the first time, to the call for volunteers on an overseas military operation. What follows is an account of their service in the Boer War.

The South African War, or the Boer War as it was popularly called, was the first significant overseas war in which the young Canadian nation was involved. Participation raised a storm of controversy. Some advocated that Canada should show its new independence and act only if Canadian interests were affected directly, while others argued that the ties of Empire were paramount. French-Canadians, while generally favouring aid if the British were threatened, were not prepared to support colonial adventuring. The resolution was ultimately Canadian, a compromise. The country would raise a contingent, comprised solely of volunteers with eight companies each of 125 men from the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and the West. Canada would bear the cost of recruiting, equipping and getting them to South Africa, however the British would pay and support them in the field and cover the cost of return. The 2nd (Special Service) Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry disembarked from the SS Sardinian in South Africa on 29 November 1899, green, virtually untrained but anxious to play their role.

Canada sent 7368 soldiers to South Africa. The first contingent served one year, returning to Canada in December 1900. As replacements the British requested mounted infantry, a structure made necessary by the change of the Boers to commando style warfare. Canada sent battalions comprised of Canadian Mounted Rifles supported by batteries of Royal Canadian Field Artillery, a mounted force raised in the west that later became the Lord Strathcona's Horse, and another large group that joined the South African Constabulary. Canadian casualties in the war were relatively light. More died of disease than of battle wounds, 135 versus 89.

Of at least one hundred and sixteen 48th Highlanders who volunteered, more than sixty-seven served in South Africa, others in support at Halifax. Twenty-six went overseas with the first contingent, 2nd RCRI. Recruiting vacancies had been so limited that only 20 members of the 48th were accepted in the Toronto Company. Six others, under Lieutenant R.G.H. Temple, determined to go with their fellow Highlanders, had rushed to London Ontario to enlist with the Western Ontario Company. Other Highlanders followed, serving in a variety of units including the Royal Canadian Field Artillery, the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the Canadian Mounted Rifles. Three Highlanders were mentioned-in-dispatches and Ernest Beattie, a sergeant in Pipe band who had joined in 1892, was killed.

The first engagement by the 2nd Battalion, RCRI on New Years day was minor, carefully recorded in the diary of a Highlander, Private F.H. Dunham, # 283, C Company, however the tactics he describes showed the British commanders evolving in the use of mounted forces.

About 9.30 after travelling on foot at the double (most of the time) we are thrown out in skirmish order (Gen. Hutton's way of attack). We begin to think there is something in it. Scouts in front, QMI [Queensland Mounted Infantry] and MMI [Munster Mounted Infantry] in rear of them and to right and left of us. Then we come with the two guns in our rear. After advancing about 1 mile, the guns proceed to the front of us and to our right, with the MMI to the right of them. QMI to our left. We moved steadily along for a ¼ of a mile, then at the gallop the guns advanced to the brow of the hill in front of us and we were given the command to double for the same place. Before we got ½ way there we were startled with the noise of our guns. 10.30 a.m. we found we were in action.

Through the end of January the 2nd Battalion continued to train and conduct route marches under trying conditions. "Jan 9, 1900, Tuesday. Every day at noon we get a sandstorm as regular as clockwork." Even the opportunities for added personal amenities were an irritation. "Prices we pay for extras: Milk 6d., jam 10d., Bread 2 lb loaf 1/6." However, the camaraderie between the Gordon Highlanders and those from the 48th was a welcome diversion: "Sunday, Feb. 4th. While we ate our breakfast, unawares to us the Gordons pitched our tents. Very kind of them. We think them all right. The petticoats are what take our eyes. How we wish we were one of them. A peculiarity of our new camp is that all the camp calls are played on the bags. We can't tell 'Cook house door' from 'Retreat'."



A section of 48th Highlanders in the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry

With training completed the Canadians entered the short, seven-month counteroffensive phase of the war under Lord Roberts and the 19th Brigade. Having achieved superiority in numbers and equipment, the British applied their weight in conventional warfare and set-piece battles as they advanced toward the capitals of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal to relieve the pressure on the British Garrisons. The battle at Paardeberg Drift was the significant turning point in the Boer fortunes and the first major role for the Highlanders of the 2nd RCRI. Here, over 4000 Boers fleeing from Kimberley were stopped by British

cavalry. A force of 30,000 infantry now faced them, including the 2nd RCRI. On 18 March the British force crossed the Modder River and attacked. The RCR advanced in rushes across the open using every piece of cover that they could find, crawling when they found none. Lieutenant-Colonel William Aldworth of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, believing that their advance was too slow and ignoring the waves of fire from the Boers, ordered lead RCR companies to make

HIGHLANDERS ON OPERATIONS DURING THE 20TH CENTURY

a virtually naked charge. Twenty-one died and a further sixty were wounded, the highest casualties of the war for the unit. The wounded were trapped in the open, having to wait for night for aid. It came from many as Private Banton of the 48th recorded on 20 February: "At dark all the forces retired and quite a few volunteered to search for the wounded. I was out all night until four the next morning, when I laid down, played out. I never want to witness such terrible sights as I saw that night again." Another Highlander, Private J. Hornibrook turned his search for wounded into a personal victory and a Mention-in-Dispatch from the Officer Commanding:

Another incident of coolness and pluck was that of No. 7347 Pte. Hornibrook who at daylight in the morning of the 19th instant was down with the extreme right of the lines occupied by the enemy the previous day. He was unarmed and came suddenly upon an armed Boer looking for a stray horse. With great presence of mind Hornibrook pretended to be armed with a revolver and called upon imaginary assistance at the same time demanding the man's surrender. The Boer at once submitted, and on being brought in proved to be one of General Cronje's adjutants and a most important officer.

For a week the Boers resisted. During the night of February 26-27 a night attack was ordered, with the RCR in the lead supported by the Gordon Highlanders, the Shropshire Light Infantry and the Royal Engineers. After closing up on the Boer trenches, the RCR were driven to ground as recalled by Private Dunham: "a wall of fire opened up in front of us, not fifty yards away and a hail of bullets whizzed past us, sending death with it. We all dropped as flat as pancakes." Four companies, possibly misunderstanding an order, withdrew to the support trenches of the Gordons: "Some of our lads...tumbled in on the Gordons, who had fixed bayonets....quite a few accidents occurred." However, two companies, under steady leadership from their officers, held in their forward positions. The Boer defenders were unable to dislodge them and in the morning the front lines surrendered, followed by the entire force, close to a tenth of their total army.

A letter from Private Dunham, quoted in the Saturday Globe on 28 April recalled remarks made by his commander: "Roberts gave us great credit." Dunham could not have realized the impact that would be made in Canada. In a formal report Lord Roberts had written: "Canadian now stands for bravery, dash, and courage." Every newspaper made the battle a headline and his statement the heart of every article, frequently taking literary license to embellish and improvise where they wanted the story to be more compelling.

The battalion would participate in three more battles until the fall of Pretoria in June. On 29 May, they faced a Boer stronghold across a rugged valley. The demonstration of courage by the Gordons and their determination to create success in the face of withering fire inspired the RCR. They pressed forward to take the ridge on their flank, joining the Gordons. The Gordons lost twenty men and received eleven

commendations. As the Gordons marched into camp following the battle, the Canadians surged forward to give them a thunderous cheer. The bonding of the RCR and the Gordons was close and for the 48th, it would hold a special place. In 1904, the 48th would be allied with the Gordons, the first such official alliance in the Commonwealth.

The last phase of the war, September 1900 to May 1902, was a period of guerrilla warfare. As their resources dwindled the Boers instituted hit and run attacks, using mounted troops they called commando to surprise the British and then vanish. Their success forced Lord Herbert Kitchener, the British commander, to change tactics. Kitchener's strategy was to shut down the Boer economy, copy the commando with Mounted Rifles and pull his units into blockhouses. Finally he instituted a scorched earth policy burning Boer farms to destroy their economic value and placing the civilians in armed camps. These "concentration camps", as they were called, were intended only to hold the Boers, however disease became rampant, beyond the competence of the British administration. The result, regardless of intent, was deadly. Almost twenty five percent of the 116,000 Boers in the camps died. In May 1902 the Boers signed the Treaty of Vereeniging.

The Canadian military and the 48th learned much from the experiences of South Africa. They learned that citizen soldiers comprised of volunteers and militia troops with the right training and the right leadership could match the best of regular forces in battle. They learned also of the critical roles of artillery, engineers and support echelons.

The military took these lessons home, changing the makeup of a modern army. The 48th internalized the experiences of their South African veterans changing the unit's training and preparing for the challenges to come.

In 1933 the 48th Highlanders were granted the Battle Honour "South Africa 1899-1900", recognizing the Highlanders who served in the Toronto Company of the 2nd RCRI.



Aleck Sinclair, Highlander of three wars and 45 years of service



The return of the first contingent, Toronto, 29 December 1900

REVENGE IS BEST SERVED COLD - IN TINS

Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Brian G Jackson MSM CD

LCol (Retd) Brian Jackson began his military career in 1965, when he joined the Regiment's Summer Student Militia Course. During the following five years, he rose through the NCO ranks becoming CSM of C Company. He then chose to join the Regular Army, subsequently taking his commission in the Canadian Armoured Corps. During over thirty years of active service, he deployed on numerous overseas operations. The following account is his story of one of those deployments.

In April 1993 I was a major in the Canadian Army ten months into an 11-month posting to Sarajevo. For the first six months I was the Senior Operations Officer (G3 – Brigade Major) for the multi-national UN force that was deployed in Sarajevo comprising troops from France, Ukraine, Egypt and the Netherlands. Our tasks included securing and running the Sarajevo Airport so that relief supplies could be airlifted in, protecting the UNHCR convoys that delivered these supplies to distribution points around the city and taking on other tasks that crept in as time went on. Being in the middle of a very nasty civil war we were not peacekeepers; there was no peace to keep.

At the time of this story I had recently changed jobs to become the Executive Assistant/Military Assistant (or chef de cabinet) for the French Army Colonel (Marcel Valentin) who had recently become the Sector Commander (Brigade Commander) for Sarajevo. We had just received a fax from our higher headquarters in Zagreb tasking us to organize a meeting to bring together the military leaders of the warring factions in order that they would come to an agreement that would allow UN troops into Srebrenica; in essence to break the siege of Srebrenica.

After much negotiation, many side meetings, faxes (this being the pre-E-mail era) and other dealings, the military leaders of the Warring Parties agreed to meet on 6 April. For convenience and security reasons the Sarajevo Airport was selected as the venue. The Airport was garrisoned and secured by the French Battalion, which at this time was a unit of the French Foreign Legion (2e Regiment Etranger de Parachutists - 2e REP).

Although our headquarters was to organize and facilitate the gathering and escorting the warring factions military leaders to the Airport, the meeting itself was to be chaired by the UNPROFOR Force Commander; a Swedish general. From his HQ in Zagreb this officer commanded all UN forces in the former Yugoslavia (including us in Sarajevo).

In preparation for the event the Swedish general flew to Sarajevo the day before the meeting was to be held. Having only recently taken command of the UNPROFOR, it was his first visit to this besieged city and (unlike those of us who had been there for some time) tomorrow's conference would be the General's first face-to-face



Major BG Jackson - Office



HQ Sector Sarajevo – PTT Building

encounter with the men who commanded the warring factions' military forces.

That evening the Swedish general gathered his staff and us Sarajevo-based officers together to run over the plan for the meeting. Despite some contrary and concerned views from the group, he dealt quickly and almost dismissively with the issue of accessing Srebrenica, perhaps believing that good will between the leaders would be enough bring relief to those in Srebrenica. Then, clearly hoping to capitalize on the fact that the military leaders of the warring parties would be gathered together in one room, the General started into a long list of other agenda items; clearly hoping to achieve something larger.

With the General well into his list, a French Battalion officer seated beside me leaned over and, expressing my thoughts, said, "tomorrow will be a disaster." He went on to say "the only good thing about tomorrow will be the lunch, because the French Battalion is providing the lunch and to us French lunch is holy."

The next day, after some last-minute dramas and the removal of an amazing array of weapons from the participants, the conference convened.

The malice in the room was palpable. And in no time, despite the old Swede's very best efforts, the meeting rapidly dissolved into volleys of shouts, slurs and insults being traded between the officers representing the warring parties. The meeting then broke up. Those that could leave right away were escorted out of our area immediately, while others had to wait for aircraft to arrive or various other reasons. But those who did stay were able to partake of an excellent lunch of roast beef with a savory sauce, a selection of desserts, fresh fruit and a respectable choice of French cheeses; all expertly prepared by the 2e REP cooks.

The dissolution of the meeting without the issue of Srebrenica even being tabled meant the desperate situation of the people trapped



Relief Supplies - Zagreb



French Bn Che

HIGHLANDERS ON OPERATIONS DURING THE 20TH CENTURY



Destroyed Serb Tank – Road to Airport



Sarajevo Airport



Check Point - Butmir

within that city remained extant. As a result, several days later we received a fax from our higher headquarters in Zagreb tasking us to organize another meeting, but this time with the sole purpose of getting agreement for UN troops to enter Srebrenica.

As we began the process of setting up this second meeting, once again to be held in the French Battalion lines at

the Airport, the commanding officer of 2e REP (Colonel Poulet; a brave man, an excellent officer and a trusted leader) stormed into my office demanding to see the Sector Commander – Colonel Valentin. His outrage was based on the fax he held in his hand, which he had received from the Swedish General in Zagreb saying that for the next meeting he wanted the Colonel to make better arrangements for lunch, as the General thought that the lunch for the first meeting was not up to his expectations.

17 April, the day of the second conference, came with the many expected last-minute mini-crisis and the disarming of those in attendance (including General Radko Mladic). The meeting convened under the chairmanship of our Swedish General who, having learned

some valuable lessons from his first iteration, kept it simple and, through hard work on his part, did maintain order.

This time the meeting progressed well and headway was clearly being made when the Swedish General suggested they had come to an appropriate time to break for lunch. He then turned to Colonel Poulet, who was standing with Colonel Valentin and myself on the sidelines, and said “well Colonel what arrangements have you made for lunch?”

Colonel Poulet then stepped forward and said, “as you know, General, during the past several weeks there has been a significant amount of fighting between the factions which has interrupted the ability of our weekly supply convoy from Zagreb and Belgrade to enter into Sarajevo. Because these convoys had to return without making their deliveries, our supplies of fresh food have been reduced to the point where my men are obliged to eat an increasing amount of hard rations – combat rations. And, as officers, we know it would be inappropriate for this group to eat fresh food that is not available to the troops.”

With that he turned to his sergeant major and gave a signal. Whereupon French legionnaires entered the room carrying boxes of combat rations and placed a small box in front of each of the conference participants; the Swedish General receiving his last as is customary and proper.

When Colonel Poulet was satisfied that everyone had opened their box, were fumbling with little can openers, rustling foil cracker wrappings or squeezing tubes of cheese, he turned to me and said “Jackson you come with me.” And, along with Colonel Valentin, we went down to the Battalion dinning area where his soldiers were eating and partook in their very nice lunch of fresh food, (as always) expertly prepared and presented by the Battalion’s cooks.

One can draw their own lessons; perhaps that revenge is best served cold and in small tins.

As a postscript, the meeting lasted well into the night with General Mladic dictating the final terms, which all parties agreed to at 0200 hours. This agreement did result in troops from the Second Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment deploying almost immediately into Srebrenica and bringing much needed relief to the people trapped there.



**Major Jackson departing Sarajevo for home. Col Valentin(L) Maj Jackson(C)
Col Poulet (R-shaking hands)**

TALES OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF

THE MOST DECORATED

BGen G Young
15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project

"Decorations....I don't believe in them. Soldiers in the front lines share a common danger. They all take the same risks. It's mainly circumstances that determine which men are decorated and which are not. That's why I'd just as soon we did without them."

Sgt. G. L. Butterfield, 15th Battalion

Most countries maintain formal honours systems consisting of three main types of honours: orders, decorations and medals. They reflect the official thanks of a government to those who have served it honourably, often with gallantry or distinction.

Most decorations are awarded to individuals for conspicuous acts of gallantry or for exceptional services in a military context. Medals are usually issued to those who served in a specific theatre of war/operations during clearly defined time frames.

The first organized system of military medals was created by the Romans, who developed a complex hierarchy of military honours ranging from crowns that were presented to senior officers to mark victories in major campaigns, to metal discs called *phalarae* which were awarded to centurions and soldiers for valour in battle.

These *phalarae* are the ancestors of modern military medals.

The Commonwealth tradition of marking major military campaigns or victories with medals originated with Elizabeth I with commemorative medals to mark England's victory over the Spanish Armada in 1588. At that time and up until the 19th century, medals like these were only presented to the most senior officers engaged in a battle. The modern practice of issuing a campaign medal to participants of all ranks began during the time of Oliver Cromwell, when all members of the Parliamentary army who had participated in the Battle of Dunbar received a medal marking the occasion. The practice would not be repeated until 1815, when a medal was awarded to all members of the British forces who served during the Battle of Waterloo. (VAC)

The first Commonwealth medal struck for specifically Canadian actions was the Canada General Service Medal (1866-1870), awarded to British and Canadian soldiers who served during the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1870 and the Red River expedition of 1870.

Between Feb 1915 and 13 Jan 1919 the decorations awarded to

members of the 15th Battalion were as follows: CMG – 1; DSO – 5 + 2 bars; MC – 35 + 1 bar; DCM – 26 + 3 bar; MM – 162 + 11 bar; MSM – 2; CdG Belgium – 3; CdG France – 1. Notwithstanding the sentiment and merit of Sgt Butterfield's view of medals/decorations, who were the most decorated members – Officer and Enlisted Rank - of the 15th Battalion?

Well ironically the most decorated enlisted member -Senior NCO or Other Rank - was none other than 404288 Sergeant George Lewis Butterfield DCM and Bar, MM, of the Battalion's Intelligence Section (Scouts and Snipers). Butterfield was a 29 year old ironworker from Toronto with no previous military service when he attested into the 35th Battalion in August 1915. Following a brief stay with the 14th Battalion, he was TOS of the 15th Battalion just prior to the battle of Mount Sorrel on 14 May 1916 and posted to the Intelligence Section where he remained for the duration of the war.

Sgt Butterfield was wounded in action twice, the last time coming late in October 1918 and it ended his war. He was awarded the DCM "for gallantry and bravery worthy of the highest commendation" as

well as being Mentioned in Dispatches (Sir Douglas Haig) for his actions on 9 April 1917 during the attack on Vimy and the follow-on actions later that same month.

He was awarded the MM for "leadership & daring worthy of the highest praise and conduct of the finest example to his men" for actions during a raid in the area of Hill 70 on 8 February 1918

Finally, Sgt Butterfield was awarded a bar (in-effect a second DCM) for "gallantry which cannot be too highly praised "during the battle of the Canal du Nord on 27 September 1918. The Canadian Corps

Sniping School at Pernes described him as "a good and useful man" which given his exploits during the war, would prove to be very much an understatement. The complete official citations for his decorations tell a story of conspicuous gallantry, leadership and devotion to duty.

The most decorated Officer was Major John Pollands Girvan DSO and Bar, MC, CdG and Palm who rose from the rank of Private soldier in 1915 to be Acting Lt Col and Commanding Officer of the 15th Battalion during the final battles of the 100 Days campaign in 1918.

As a 27 year old civil service postal clerk and accomplished athlete with no previous military service, Girvan attested into the 15th Battalion at Valcartier on 19 September 1914. He survived the gas attack at 2nd Ypres in April 1915 and following Festubert in May he was commissioned from the rank of Sergeant. Over the course of the remainder of the war he progressed from platoon and company commander to Deputy Commanding Officer and finally Acting Commanding Officer replacing LtCol Bent who was wounded at Amiens in August 1918. Girvan played key leadership roles in every



ABOVE LEFT: Major John P. Girvan DSO +Bar, MC, CdG
ABOVE RIGHT: Sergeant George L. Butterfield DCM +Bar, MM

TALES OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF

major engagement the battalion took part in except Vimy when he was recovering from being seriously wounded on the Somme in September 1916 during the attack on Regina Trench-Thiepval Ridge.

He was awarded the DSO for his actions on the Somme and the Bar (in-effect a second DSO) as well as the French Croix de Guerre with Palm for his leadership of the battalion during the attack on the Drocourt-Queant Line and The Canal du Nord in September 1918.

Major Girvan was awarded his MC for his actions at Hill 70 in August 1917 when "throughout the attack he led his company with the greatest of skill and courage" or as LtCol Bent said of his actions at Hill 70, "John is front line reliability that never fails."

Note: Following the war, Major Girvan commanded The Regiment from 1932 to 1936 and was awarded the VD. He commanded the 2nd or Home Battalion and No 1 Training Centre in Borden during WW2 later being promoted to BGen in the Directorate of Army Training and awarded the CBE.

1914-1918: THE FIRST AND THE LAST

BGen G Young
15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project

"what a long list he was to head, a list that was to grow and grow as the slow months wore on."

26 March 1914 Armentieres, France

"no men were buried with a more sincere sympathy than were those gallant men who fell just at the last."

20 October 1918 Wallers, France, Kim Beatty

As the centenary of The Great War comes to an end it is appropriate to give thought to the 619,636 Canadians who served and most especially to the 59,544 who gave their lives.

Between 26 March 1914 when it had its first fatal battle casualty and 20 October 1918 when it had its last, the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) lost 61 Officers and 1406 Other Ranks KIA, MIA, DOW or DOI.

Another 7 Officers and 216 Other Ranks from The Regiment died while serving with other units of the CEF and British Army.

Among the approximately 6300 men who served in the 15th Battalion, who was the first fatal casualty and who was the last? *Note:* a number of men died following the armistice, mainly of illness such as influenza as well as the effects of wounds received, this article only covers deaths up to the Armistice on 11 November 1918. A search of the Regimental History and 15th Battalion archived period documents reveals who these men were: the first and last - Officers, Senior NCOs and Other Ranks.

The very first battalion fatal casualty and the first OR casualty was 27587 Pte. Frank Ferland of No. 2 Company who was KIA in the early morning hours of 27 February 1914 when in the front line trenches he was shot in the head by a German sniper. Ferland was from Quebec

City and prior to joining the 15th Battalion at Valcartier, he had served nine years in the US Navy. He was buried with his section standing beside his grave in Houplines Communal Cemetery, France.

The first Officer fatal casualty was Captain Robert Clifford Darling, a graduate of RMC who had served in the 48th Highlanders prior to the war and who at the time of his death was the Battalion Adjutant. He was wounded in the chest by a German sniper while crossing open ground behind the unit's forward positions at Rue Petillon near Neuve Chapelle on 23 March 1915. Evacuated to England, Captain Darling DOW on 19 April 1915 in Miss Pollock's Hospital, London. His body was returned to Canada and following a large military funeral, was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto.



ABOVE LEFT: Captain Richard Darling, Adjutant 15th Battalion Valcartier 1914. ABOVE RIGHT: Grave marker of Captain RC Darling Mount Pleasant Cemetery Toronto. ABOVE CENTRE: Funeral of Captain RC Darling, Toronto May 1915 St James Presbyterian Church

It is not possible to determine who was the battalion's first Senior NCO fatal casualty. Prior to 23 April 1915 during the battle of 2nd Ypres, the unit had no Senior NCO fatal casualties. On 24 April during the gas attack on the battalion's forward positions and the flanking German assault on St Julien where the battalion's reserve company was positioned, many senior NCOs were KIA, MIA or DOW. However, it is impossible to determine which Senior NCO was the first fatal casualty during this engagement.

The last Officer fatal casualty was Captain Stanley Donald Skene MC, a lawyer in Calgary before the war who came to the 15th Battalion as a reinforcement Officer from the 253rd Battalion (Queen's University

TALES OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF

Highlanders). He had served as the battalion's Scout Intelligence Officer but was the Officer Commanding No. 12 Platoon of No. 3 Company when he was KIA on a forward patrol near the Senese canal on 10 October 1918. He was buried in the Vis-en-Artois British Military Cemetery southeast of Arras, France.



ABOVE: Captain Stanley Skene MC - Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery

The last fatal senior NCO casualty was 23500 Sgt. John Caldwell who came to the battalion as a reinforcement from the 12th Battalion. He had served in the unit's machine gun section and at the time of his death, he was in No. 3 Company. Sgt Caldwell was KIA on 6 October 1918 by fragments from a German 4.5" artillery shell while he was outside a dugout in the battalion's transport lines on the road near Vis-en-Artois southeast of Arras. He was buried nearby in Windmill British Cemetery.

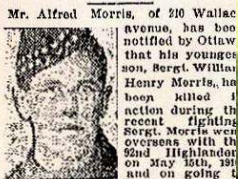
The specific last OR fatal casualty cannot be determined but four ORs were KIA on 20 October 1918: three by German machine gun fire while on a forward patrol and one by German artillery fire- all near Wallers, France. The former three were 193526 LCpl William Morris (a reinforcement from the 92nd Battalion), 3030143 Pte Irving Smith 'served as' Stanley Illinger and 3230641 Pte William Dean (both reinforcements from the 1st COR) and the latter was 802241 Pte Samuel Macauley (a reinforcement from the 135th Battalion). All four were buried in Auberchicourt British Military Cemetery.



ABOVE: Ptes Irving Smith, William Dean and Samuel Macauley - Auberchicourt British Military Cemetery

SERGT. W. H. MORRIS IS AMONG THOSE KILLED

Second Brother to Fall—Relatives Live at 20 Wallace Avenue.



Pte. Morris. Mr. Alfred Morris, of 210 Wallace Avenue, has been notified by Ottawa that his youngest son, Sergt. William Henry Morris, has been killed in action during the recent fighting. Sergt. Morris was overseas with the 52nd Highlanders on May 10th, 1918, and on going to France was transferred to the 15th Battalion. He was wounded at Vim Ridge in April, 1918, but regained his unit on April 14th. A younger son, Pte. Charles S. Wallace, formerly of the 9th Battalion, was killed on June 12th.

The Toronto Star - November 4, 1918



ABOVE: LCpl William Morris - Auberchicourt British Military Cemetery

TALES OF THE 15TH BATTALION CEF

THE DOUBLE COMPANY SYSTEM

BGen G Young
15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project

"Those who are victorious plan effectively and change decisively." -- Sun Tzu, The Art of War

Prior to The Great War, the largest single component of Canada's Militia was the infantry corps made up of regionally recruited regiments composed of part-time soldiers with limited training and equipment.

As such, training was sporadic at best, and standards were not high. The regiments, which varied in size and quality, tended to be administrative in nature, and were seen as a manpower pool of either individual reinforcements for small scale conflicts (ie: South Africa 1899-1902) or sub units (battalions/companies) for any large scale mobilization necessitated by a large scale conflict (ie: WW1 and WW2). Arguably little has changed in this respect with the current Army Reserve.

The Militia was completely reliant on the British Army for its infantry doctrine which viewed the infantry as the decisive arm that defeated their enemy through weight of aimed rifle fire or close quarter engagement with the bayonet. Although open order and skirmishing tactics were introduced, British doctrine was still very much linear as used in the Napoleonic and Crimean Wars. As described in the manual *Infantry Training, 1914*: "The object of fire in the attack, whether of artillery, machine guns, or infantry, is to bring such a superiority of fire to bear on the enemy as to make the advance to close quarters possible." Both the offence and the defence were based upon a linear layout of firing, support and reserve lines, with an emphasis upon frontal attacks. The British Army was the last major army to adopt the platoon organization, and its tactics were still very much based upon the use of companies as the lowest manoeuvre element. Sections under the command of sergeants did exist – not as independent elements, but, rather, solely for the control of fire. Infantrymen were generalists in that they were all expected to know how to shoot, dig, march, and fight with their bayonet. Battalions could be described fairly as a homogeneous mass of riflemen having very little in the way of fire support. (The Development of Infantry Doctrine in the Canadian Expeditionary Force: 1914-1918, A. Haynes)

Despite these obstacles, the Militia, and therefore the Infantry Corps, did improve in the years before the First World War. In the decade preceding the war, the number of militia soldiers undergoing training increased and the quality of both the leadership and training in general was slowly improving.

The 48th Highlanders were gazetted on 16 October 1891 by Militia Order 19 and authorized to be structured as a Battalion in Highland dress consisting of eight companies lettered A to H each with a strength of 42 enlisted ranks and 2 officers; a military band and a small HQ staff. A Company – Capt. Robertson; B- Capt. Donald; C- Capt. Currie; D- Capt. Michie; E- Capt. Cassels; F- Capt. Hendrie; G- Capt. Hunter; and, H- Capt. Henderson. Training stressed musketry, bayonet fighting, skirmishing and tactics based on employing what were in effect platoon



ABOVE: 15th Battalion Ptes William Dean & William Morris - Wallery Town memorial France



ABOVE: Pte Francis Ferland- Houplines Communal Cemetery
Sgt John Caldwell- Windmill British Cemetery

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Valcartier 1914: D Company in the eight company organization

sized companies in the field. The 48th excelled at musketry and bayonet fighting winning numerous competitions and trophies. The deployment and command & control of these small platoon sized companies by a Captain and Lieutenant 'may' have been suited to the experiences of pre-1914 warfare but they would prove to be woefully ineffective on the battlefields of the coming war.

When war did break out in August 1914, the '48th' contingent consisting of volunteers from the Regiment and other militia units that departed Toronto on 29 August 1914 for Valcartier, Quebec numbered 970 all ranks. By September 7th following the addition of large groups from the 97th, 31st and several other militia regiments, the provisional 15th Battalion numbered 58 Officers and 1255 other ranks.

As part of the new infantry doctrine introduced in 1914, the British Army had also adopted a new battalion organization which replaced the eight company system with four companies of four platoons each. As the company was the lowest manoeuvre element in both offensive and defensive operations, the smaller Canadian half companies would be at a serious disadvantage – especially in the attack against the heavily fortified and entrenched defensive positions on the Western Front.

During their stay in Valcartier, there had been discussion about switching to the 'double' company organization but the change was not made until after their arrival in the UK on 24 October 1914.

"we have been issued with a new 1914 Infantry training manual written on the double company system which has been in operation in England the last year, and started at RMC. Only four companies to a Bn but twice as big. It changes all the drill, tactics, etc so we will have a lot to learn."

Lt FM Gibson 15th Battalion Oct 1914

There was some difficulty in adapting to the new structure – principally in command and control of the numerically larger sub units and on 13 December the battalion reverted to 8 companies.

"Although we have to go back to the 8 company system it is by no means certain that we will remain that way. The reason for the change was that 260 men were considered too many for one officer without a good deal of practice to handle. As we are in favour of the double companies, they may change again."

Lt FM Gibson 15th Battalion Dec 1914

However, on 7 February 1915 just days prior to embarkation for France, the four company structure was re-introduced; the new British Battalion structure and establishment (1150 all ranks) adopted. The eight rifle companies were combined to make four 'double' strength companies of four platoons totaling 227 men per company. A and F became No. 1 commanded by Captain A. MacGregor; B and E became No. 2 commanded by Captain Alexander; C and G became No. 3 commanded by Captain McLaren and D and H became No. 4 commanded by Captain Osborne. Bn HQ + Transport, Pioneer, Signals, Machine Gun, Grenade, Intelligence (Scout & Sniper) and Stretcher Bearer sections were the command and support elements of the battalion. Surplus officers and men were left in the UK as a base company of reinforcements/replacements or transferred to other units.

"we have had to cut down our strength of officers considerably lately to get down to the British War Establishment.....instead of 41 officers only 29 could go....we finished drawing and issuing equipment to the Companies and complete establishment and the base company...also those who are exchanged with one of the reserve battalions."

Lt FM Gibson No. 2 Company 7 Feb 1915

The infantry formed the primary strike force within the Canadian Corps, supported by machine guns, artillery, mortar, engineers, medical units, and logistical formations and the company remained the basic manoeuvre unit. As such and faced with the requirement to assault entrenched enemy positions with the inherent tactical advantage enjoyed by the defenders, the manpower heavy 'double' infantry company organization would prove to be an essential factor for success on the battlefield. However, with the casualty rate experienced in the Great War, sustaining the strength of these companies was important and often a difficult task. As the war progressed the organization, equipment and tactics used by the Canadian infantry continued to evolve and improve. The predominant linear company level tactics were gradually replaced by the much more effective platoon level fire and manoeuvre. Beginning with Vimy, much of the Corps success was directly the result of these changes in tactics and organization combined with the equally improved quality of fire and logistical support from the other arms. Throughout it all, the double company system remained.

"the Canadian officers were a self-reliant lot.....and the men were exercised in a sound system that made the companies great"

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self- confident fighting machines.”

LtCol JA Currie 15th Battalion



Engelskirchen, Germany 1919: one of No. 1 Company's four platoons

FOR KING AND KANATA

by BGen G Young
15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project

*“He certainly displayed war-like qualities”*²

Lt Col J.A. Currie 15th Battalion

“From a population numbering 7.88 million, over 620,000 Canadians served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) between 1914 and 1919. This number included over 4,000 Canadian Indians from a total 1914 population of 103,774 (excluding non-status Indians, Metis and Eskimos). This enlistment figure represents 35% of the male Indian population of military age, roughly equal to the percentage of Euro-Canadians who enlisted”. 3

One of these First Nation soldiers was 27 year old 27220 Private William Foster Lickers who attested into the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) at Valcartier camp Quebec on 22 September 1914. Although he ‘served as’ William Foster Lickers, his actual name was Walton Foster and he was a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Onondaga born on 10 October 1887 in Ohsweken Six Nations Reserve, Brantford Ontario. The large and well known Lickers family were one of the original settlers under the 1784 Haldimand Proclamation who had remained loyal to Britain during the American Revolution. The family had a distinguished military history having taken part in not only the War of Independence but also in the War of 1812 and the Patriot Rebellion of 1837 as well as providing seven family members who served in the CEF – three of whom were KIA.

Prior to the war, William moved from the family fruit and vegetable farm in the Grimsby-Jordan Station area to Saskatchewan where he worked as a shipper-receiver for the Consolidated Rubber Company in Saskatoon. He had also served in the Militia in C Squadron of the 2nd Dragoons garrisoned at Burford Ontario and as such was one of the 3

officers and 29 other ranks from that Regiment that formed part of the original 15th Battalion at Valcartier in 1914.

During the course of the war, the 2nd Dragoons would send over 1000 men to various CEF units including the 4th, 75th, 84th and 176th Battalions as well as the 4th and 8th CMR.

Although Lickers may have originally been in Battalion Transport “because he could handle horses”, as Col JA Currie stated in his book ‘The Red Watch’, his official 15th Battalion Record of Services card shows him in No. 2 Company at the time of the 2nd Battle of Ypres in April 1915. No. 2 Company was the Battalion reserve positioned on the southern edge of St Julien aside the Ypres-Poelkapelle road well behind the front line. Following the initial chlorine gas attack on 22 April 1915 that collapsed French positions on the left flank of the Canadian 3rd Infantry Brigade, the St Julian garrison, including Licker’s No. 2 Company, suddenly found itself facing German attacks from the now open flank into the rear of the forward Canadian lines. Following the second gas attack on 24 April and the ensuing collapse of the Canadian front line positions where Nos. 1, 3 and 4 Companies of the 15th Battalion were effectively destroyed, the Germans penetrated the Canadian line and increased their attacks against St Julian. Despite fierce resistance, the surrounded and vastly outnumbered St Julian garrison was overrun and it’s remnants surrendered at 12:45 PM on 25 April. Wounded by shrapnel in his left leg and initially reported as KIA, Private William Lickers was one of No. 2 Company’s surviving 2 Officers, 2 Sergeants and 36 Other Ranks all of whom became POWs.

Following capture, POWs were sent to Kriegsgefangenenlagern (prisoner of war camps) with Officers sent to Offizierslagern (officer’s camps) while NCMs and ORs were sent to Mannschafts-lagern (Enlisted Men’s camps) and the facilities and conditions of imprisonment were vastly different. The 15th Battalion’s Officers were mainly sent to Offizierslager Holzminden while Private Lickers, like the vast majority of men from the 15th Battalion, was sent to Mannschaftslager Gottingen - both managed by X Army Corps (Hannover).

The treatment of POWs in German camps during WW1 has been the subject of a number of well researched books (ie: Silent Battle by Desmond Morton, In Enemy Hands by Daniel Dancocks), as well as many post war POW accounts and official commission reports into the maltreatment of POWs (ie: McDougall Royal Commission). In the short space here, it would be accurate to say that although conditions might vary significantly from camp to camp, NCMs and Other Ranks endured treatment that was generally harsh with starvation, cold cramped housing, beatings, forced labour and acts of brutality being commonplace. Men deemed to be ‘troublemakers’ for a host of reasons including attempting to escape or refusing manual labour in the case of NCMs, were routinely sent to even harsher facilities for punishment.

Supported by the testimony of numerous POW eyewitnesses who were “unanimous in declaring he (Private William Lickers) was subjected to most deliberate and heartless cruelty, far in excess of that received by other prisoners”, the McDougall Royal Commission determined his treatment was “aroused by the special vindictiveness of his captors by reason of his nationality.” Lickers was moved from Gottingen to the much harsher camps at Celle, Soltau, Hameln and the notorious salt mines at Beienrode near Gottingen for two years! His brutal treatment included severe beatings (including beatings with rifle butts and rubber hose), being tied hanging on posts and standing

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at attention for extended periods, solitary confinement, forced labour when ill and refusal of medical treatment.

In the fall of 1931 The McDougall Royal Commission on Maltreatment of Prisoners of War was conducting hearings across Canada listening to the claims of former prisoners seeking reparations. The Commission found that Licker's case was "particularly distressing" and that as a result of the brutal treatment he received as a POW, he was "a physical wreck....wholly incapacitated" and suffering "great pain which can only be relieved at times by the administration of narcotics". As a direct result, and despite already being the recipient of a full military pension, the Commissioner determined that Lickers was entitled to an additional award of \$3000---the highest award for reparations the Commission was authorized to award!

Private Lickers had been repatriated to and interned Holland on 13 June 1918 and from there to the UK on 4 Nov 1918 where he was hospitalized at the Canadian General Hospital, Orpington suffering from osteoarthritis and myalgia. He married in England before his eventual return to Canada, was demobilization on 11 April 1919 and returned to the family fruit farm in Grimsby. William Lickers died of lobar pneumonia at Christie Street Hospital in Toronto on 18 April 1938 and is buried in the veteran's section of Queen's Lawn Cemetery, Grimsby.

*"I will faithfully do my duty to the last"*⁴

Private William Lickers, 15th Battalion



LEFT: Pte William F. Lickers, Holland 1918 RIGHT: Grave of William Lickers, Queen's Lawn Cemetery



15th Battalion POWs: forced labour party at the Beienrude salt mine

Footnotes

1. For King and Kanata: Canadian Indians and The First World War, Timothy Winegard
2. The Red Watch: With The First Canadian Division in Flanders, JA Currie
3. For King and Kanata: Canadian Indians and The First World War, Timothy Winegard
4. Letter from William Lickers to Gladys Drope 6 March 1915, Brock University Library

IN MEMORIAM

LARRY FULLERTON

Family, Friends, Fellow Highlanders. For those who don't know me, I'm Sandy Dewar, long time friend and fellow Highlander with Larry.

I have been asked to say a few words on behalf of Lt. Col. Ron Alkema and the Regiment but it is pretty hard to sum up Larry's accomplishments in a few words.

It was a foregone conclusion that Larry and I would become 48th Highlanders. Larry's father Tom served with the 48th through WW 2 and retired at the rank of WO2 (Company Sgt. Major). My father also served through WW 2 and eventually retired at the rank of WO1 Pipe Major. It is ironic that both Larry and I retired at the same rank our fathers held.

Searching through my fathers records I found that Larry and I must have started practicing with the Pipes and Drums sometime in 1959 as our first engagement (we also called them Band Jobs, nowadays Gigs) was 13 Dec 1959. We were both 12 years of age. We were called boy pipers but the pay was the same as the rest of the players so it didn't bother us.

Both Larry and I were sworn on strength into the Canadian Militia with the 48th Highlanders in Apr 1962. At that time, I believe the minimum age to join the Militia was 16 with Parents consent. Larry was 15 and I was only 14. Needless to say, there was some misleading information passed along by our fathers as birth certificates weren't an issue at that time but looking back on it the Canadian Reserves fared out favourably.

In 1971, Larry's life was going to take on a major change as far as the Pipes and Drums were concerned. The Band was trying to decide who to choose to be the next Drum Major. Traditionally, this appointment was usually someone from the drum section. I had talked with Larry about his thoughts of accepting the offer if it came along as we both used to practice with the Drum Majors mace when there was an opportunity. Larry stated he could be interested. I was a Sgt. at the time and was asked my opinion by the Pipe Major who I thought may be a good candidate and the rest is history. Larry was appointed Drum Major and served in this position for 28 years making him the longest serving Drum Major in the history of the Regiment.

Larry's accomplishments as Drum Major went well beyond his Regimental duties as he mastered the art of flourishing with

the mace in competitions winning numerous prizes. He was also requested by many Highland Games organizations to be the senior Drum Major organizing the massed band performances at the opening and closing ceremonies. During the hay days of the CNE World Festival Tattoo's in the 70's and early eighties, Larry was asked to be the senior Drum Major for the massed Bands acts in the latter years. Larry had a knack for coming up with excellent drill routines for band shows yet keeping them reasonably simple enough so the musicians who couldn't pat their heads and rub the tummies at the same time could get through the routine and still end up where they were supposed to. It could be very challenging at times.



We also spent a lot of time at each other's homes, on holidays, and camping at the Highland Games. All of our kids were involved with either highland dancing or piping. Larry was a great help in organizing a junior band which primarily practiced on Sundays and competed at all the competitions to help get them prepared musically to move on up to the big band. All of our kids took part in this to some degree and saw all of our sons become reservists.

Larry also worked with Variety Village Band as their Drum Major

He was also an extremely good marksman and was selected to be on the CF National Rifle Team.

He was also an instructor for many summers at the Canadian Forces Music Centre at CFB Borden.

After retirement Larry served as President of the Continuing Sgts. Association and also on the committee of the Pipes and Drums Association

His expertise at producing Military shows was exceptional. I had the opportunity to witness this first hand

as Larry asked me to be the senior Pipe Major for the massed pipe band acts as well as all the solo performances at the Edmonton Military Tattoo that ran for two years.

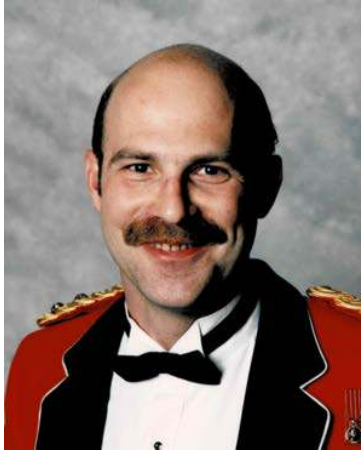
Larry and I retired on the same evening with a Full Dress Regimental Parade in our honour on February 9th, 2007. Larry presented this watch to me that evening inscribed (Sandy 9 Feb, 2007 Many Thanks Larry). When I was appointed Pipe Major in 1985, Larry was my right arm.

We started with the 48th Highlanders together and we retired together. Guess how many years. 48.

THANK YOU

LIEUTENANT JOHN RICHARD 'RICK' HERGEL CD

Rick Hergel was 59 years of age when he passed away suddenly this summer but in many ways I always saw him as the student I had taught in the mid-1970s at Royal York Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke. He was one of a handful of Royal Yorkers who joined The Militia and gave many good years of service to The Regiment. Rick was in good company with the likes of fellow classmates and neighbours all who went on to have good careers in the 48th or other regiments: RSM 'Bud' Gillie, Sgt Guy Bowie, MCpl Rick Downes, Cpl Alex Kornynyko and Maj Adam Saunders. So it was with sadness that many of those old friends, and other Highlanders Rick had served with, gathered on August 9th in Etobicoke for Rick's funeral service.



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

Rick kept to himself somewhat in his private life but he was active and involved in endeavours many of us were not aware of. He was an affiliate member of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers and worked on camera systems in the film industry with credits on a number of television series in the 1980 and 1990s. Rick was also a licensed amateur pilot and a self-taught computer electrician. His civilian work career was with Air Canada Cargo where unfortunately he suffered a severe back injury that rendered him unable to work and receiving medical treatment for many years. In his 'spare' time, besides being a dedicated uncle to the members of a large extended family, Rick volunteered with the LAMP Community Health Centre in Etobicoke.

When I left The Regiment in 1992, there were fewer opportunities to 'rub shoulders' with Rick but the Annual Officer's Mess Dinners and Remembrance Day parades provided opportunities to stay in touch as they do for most former comrades. But when the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project was created in 2008, Rick quietly volunteered as a project researcher and we once again were working together along with some of those now retired Royal Yorker Highlanders from the old days. He always showed up for project meetings with a smile on his face and large pizza for gang. I would like to think that our project team working and social get-togethers provided Rick with some respite from his medical issues.

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

by

BRIGADIER GENERAL GREG YOUNG OMM, MSM, CD

HIGHLANDERS CONFINED TO BARRACKS

SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL

Capt Bruce Beaton, CD

@ KWing, K2E, Room 29

Capt Alec Shipman, CD

@ Dorothy Macham Building

**(next to K Wing) in Section G2,
Room #21**

WO Robert Taylor, CD

@ L Wing, 2nd Street, Room #218

**These gentlemen do not have a
room telephone connection and
can only be reached by a
personal visit.**

These Highlanders will be pleased to hear from you.

A special thanks to our Visiting Party and their

special efforts to stay in touch with them.

NOVEMBER 2019

