



# THE FALCON • JULY 2023

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

## THE 48<sup>TH</sup> RETURN TO THE FRONT



15th Bn Trip to France and Belgium 2023  
see pages 12 to 23 for more info







Follow along as a section of 48th highlanders, as they move through a dynamic urban ops range consisting of static and pop-up targets inside Toronto's Lower Bay Station.

[Click here to see the video on Facebook.](#)



January 25th is the day where we celebrate the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns. [Click here to see the video on Instagram.](#)



PHOTOS ON THE COVER are from the 48th trip to France and Belgium, see pages 12 to 23 for more info.

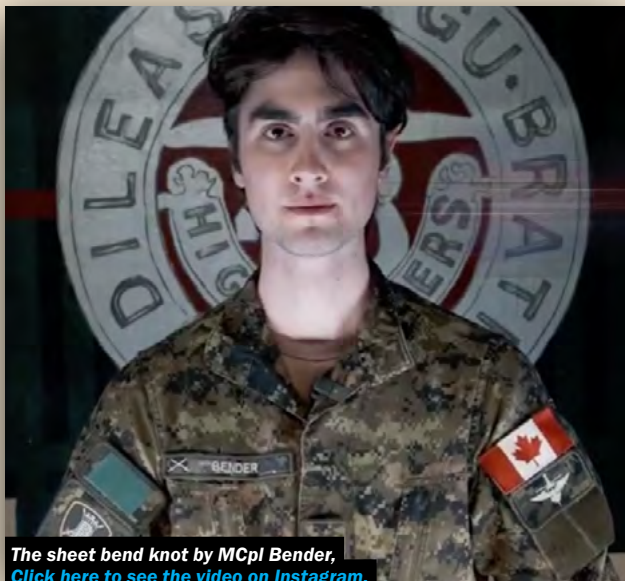


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If you would like to contribute to future issues, please e-mail your stories and pictures to:  
***falcon\_newsletter@hotmail.com***

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



The sheet bend knot by MCpl Bender,  
[Click here to see the video on Instagram.](#)



15th Battalion slideshow in memory of the Battle of 2nd Ypres  
[Click here to see the video on YouTube.](#)

## SPRING 2023 - FEATURING:

- *Msgs from the CO & RSM*
- *Promotions and Awards*
- *Active Unit Exercises and Photos*
- *15th Battalion trip to France and Belgium 2023*
- *Act of Remembrance Parade 2023*
- *Recovered Medals*
- *Th Saint Andrews Cadets*
- *IODE - 48th Chapter*
- *Profile of a famous Highlander*
- *2 Centenary+ Birthdays!*
- *Posted to Upper Camp*

*And more...*

This issue of the FALCON produced by:



**Capt Steve Gilbert (Ret'd), CD**  
*Editor*



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

**From the Editorial Desk:**

Welcome to our latest Falcon newsletter. Special thanks to all, the CO, HCol, HLCOL, RSM, and many other serving members of the Active Battalion, also to BGen Young, the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project and to the many members of the Regimental Association who also have contributed to this issue.

BRAVO ZULU to each and every one of you!

*Dileas,*  
 Editorial Staff



PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE - PROVIDED BY: HCol John MacIntyre, Maj J. Lau, Capt Van Der Toorn, Bill Jensen, BGen Greg Young, Simon Godly, [15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project](#), Paul Mosey, Regimental Command Cell, IODE, Cpl Chung, LCol B. Jackson, [Ian L. Macdonald](#), Danielle Reesor



# ACTIVE BATTALION

## Update from the desk of the Commanding Officer

*Highlanders,*

It has been a busy year, and while some of us step back from the Army for a few weeks, many of you are already off on summer taskings, courses or preparing for deployment. The demands on all of you are both significant and constant. I am proud of all of you for the effort that you put in this past training year and the dedication and professionalism that you have showed in the face of a busy training and ceremonial schedule.

I do not want to dwell on the past training year, but instead look forward so that everyone is well situated for what is to come. We will continue to focus on section and platoon-level offensive operations. There will be a number of more unique exercises involving air mobile as well as combined arms urban operations. Each one of these requires you to confirm your skills before you can participate. You all know my expectations so don't lose sight of how you balance your many commitments and plan ahead so that you can take advantage of good training opportunities.

As of 01 Sept 23 the 48th Highlanders will take command of the 32 Territorial Battlegroup Headquarters (TBG HQ). For many of you this will be invisible. For senior leadership it will be both a challenge and an opportunity to hone skills in planning while working alongside civilian partners. Given the increase in natural disasters around the country, everyone should recognize the importance of this task. Like many in leadership positions, I will be committing more time and effort to this, while keeping my fingers crossed that we will not be required to deal with a real emergency in the province or country. For the remainder, make sure that you keep yourself prepared should Canadians need our help at home.

Next, we will have an opportunity to work with allied nations again this year. In late February, personnel from 4 SCOTS and 48 IBCT will be coming to Canada to complete a Cold Weather Operator (CWO) course as well as an LOSV serial. These courses will run full-time and back-to-back for two weeks with a tactical exercise at CFB Petawawa at the end for all. Make sure that if you are not yet qualified you make time for this. Not only will you get your own qualification but you will have the opportunity to learn from, and train with members from the US and UK forces.

The Soldier Readiness Policy-Reserve (SRP-R) is in effect for all of us. The health of the Regiment today will directly impact its future. Your efforts to remain IBTS, PRV, medical and FORCE test green will ensure that the Regiment continues to get opportunities and recruits. The Army will look much more carefully at reinforcing success in the future than ever before. I have been saying this for some time now, and the policy is officially here. Although maintaining your basic skills and qualifications has always been expected, the impact of failing to do so has increased significantly. You all now play a direct

part in our future.

I traveled recently to the Infantry School for their change of command and discussed courses with the new commandant. As in years past the door is open for deserving Highlanders to undertake more advanced training. The trade-off is that we must look to provide instructors if we want candidate positions. For those of you out there with the time and skill, make sure that you speak with your chain of command about Urban Operations, Basic Assault Pioneer and Basic Mortars or if you have the capacity to teach at any point during the year. I can create the opportunity but it's up to each one of you to



**LCol Morische on the range at Exercise Marshall Relay - 16 June 2023**

take up the challenge. Those Highlanders who have attended courses recently have received extremely positive feedback from the Infantry School staff. Consider what you can do to reinforce and build on their successes.

In closing, take what time you can with friends and family over the summer. Relax but think ahead so that you are prepared. You all commit more to Canada than many others realize. I know what you do, and what you sacrifice, to do this job and appreciate the level of pride and professionalism you all show.

*DILEAS GU BRATH!*

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





## A Message from the Regimental Sergeant Major

*Hello fellow Highlanders,*

When I last wrote to the Regiment and Regimental Family, I was speaking about the emergence from the Pandemic and all the effects it has had on our unit both mentally and in physical members.

Given some recent events within our Brigade, I want to remind those serving and those who are former members - If you are experiencing any mental health issues I encourage you to reach out to a fire team partner, close friend, the Padre or a Sentinel or any of the many confidential resources available to serving and former members. As we all head off on course or other tasks during the summer months and are away from our families (whether they are actual family or Regimental Family) this is important to keep in mind.

The unit continues to be strong in numbers, even though we have had to say goodbye to some key NCO leaders.

MWO Hanson, after 32+ years of dedicated service to the Regiment and country, has requested to release from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Similarly, WO Potapenko after 22+ years of dedicated service has also released from the CAF. I wish them both well on their new endeavours.

The first half of 2023 has had some great training for soldiers. We were finally able to complete our winter warfare courses (now called Cold Weather Operator) and had several new soldiers complete their initial courses, whether BMQ or all the way to DP1 Infanteer and begin to train with A Coy. Well done to all.

March once again saw us conduct Urban Ops in the Lower Bay subway station. The support of the TTC and some other agencies has been instrumental to us being able to conduct this valuable training. This year some members from 1 RCR joined us to help bridge the connection between the RegF and the Reserves.

In May, members of the P&D participated in the Provincial celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. It was a very hot day, but they did a great job with both the pre-event music and the Vice Regal Salute for the LG.

As we head into the summer months, we have many of our Sgts and MCpls teaching on various courses across the province and country. And many soldiers are either on courses or taskings. To those teaching, remember you have the future of the Regiment and the Brigade in your capable hands. You would not be in the position you are in if there was not trust in you to train these young soldiers properly. To those heading on course, do what you are told by your instructors. They have the trust of their chains of command to do those tasks. Learn from the experience, don't take anything personal and come back ready to train in the fall and put your new knowledge to use. For those on taskings,



no matter if it is working general duties or in support of an actual course, what you are doing matters in the bigger picture. Do your best and come back in the fall ready to work hard.

August will see a platoon deploy on Exercise as part of the end of summer collective training. It will be a great experience for those who attend. Many exciting things are planned.

In September of 2023, the 48<sup>th</sup> will be tasked as the lead mounting unit for domestic operations from 2023 – 2024. That means we will have to be prepared to support any requests for assistance to our communities with the HQ elements and as many soldiers as we are able to provide, with help from all of the other units in 32 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG). As is the nature of these requests, they will be on short notice and emergent in nature so being prepared ahead of time is essential. But that doesn't mean we will neglect our fighting capabilities. In fact, many skills are transferrable from one type of task to another.

Speaking of deployments, we currently have 5 members deployed on expeditionary Ops with another 4 preparing to deploy this fall sometime. We wish them all safe tours and can't wait for them to return and share their newfound skills with the Regiment.

We had our end of training cycle BBQ just this past weekend. To those who were awarded Unit awards and commendations (noted elsewhere in this newsletter), congratulations on your hard work. For those who did not get one of these awards, it doesn't mean your work isn't also appreciated and noted.

I will end this message wishing all a safe and happy summer and I look forward to

seeing everyone in September as we begin our fall training cycle and TBG duties.

*DILEAS GU BRATH!*

*CHRIS REESOR, CD*

*CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER*

*REGIMENTAL SGT MAJOR*

*48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA*

*MEMBER*

*ASSISTANCE*

*PROGRAM*

*1-888-268-7708*





# HONOURS, PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

## PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS SINCE JANUARY 2023



### CAP BADGE & H1DR (FIRST CHEVRON)

H1dr Massara  
H1dr Wilson  
H1dr Chung  
H1dr Clarke



### CORPORAL

Cpl Arnold  
Cpl Bryant  
Cpl Cassar  
Cpl Chowdhury  
Cpl Fajardo



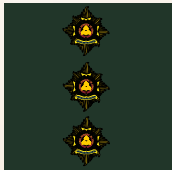
### MASTER CORPORAL

MCpl Ro



### SERGEANT

Sgt Sitek



### CAPTAIN

Capt Fernandes

### Eaton Awards

Lt Syron – Jr Officer  
Sgt Gundert – Sr NCO  
MCpl Navarro – Jr NCO

### CARPENTER AWARD

MCpl van Overdijk

### DYER AWARD

Cpl DiGrado

### CO COMMENDATION

Cpl Scarlino  
MCpl Bender  
Lt Lau (GGHG)



### CD1

Capt Federico

### CD2

CWO Reesor



Capt D.R. Eaton Award



# ACTIVE UNIT

## B COY JAN 23 - PRESENT

by MCpl Deurlou

This year B Coy is the training company and reconnaissance platoon. 5PL is made up of sections of soldiers who are awaiting BMQ, DP1 infantry or on one of the courses mentioned. 6PL is designated as the reconnaissance platoon. This training year has had B Coy develop some amazing skills which will result in strong soldiers and leaders. Our new members currently on their BMQ and DP1 Infantry courses have been very successful to date and members of our recce platoon are integrating with 1RCR and deploying overseas.

5 Platoon has provided almost 20 soldiers who are currently on their infantry training. They have prepared for this course by joining the rest of the regiment on exercise throughout the year. Often employed as an enemy force, the new members were given lots of practice in map and compass navigation along with field craft, giving them an advantage before attending their infantry qualification course.

6 Platoon has been very successful in developing several strong soldiers, many members have volunteered to attend training with the 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment. One of our recce soldiers has been able to deploy overseas with 1RCR as a rifleman in a mechanized section. The soldiers are being developed under the keen guidance of MCpl Clark, MCpl Robertson and Sgt Gundert who have been instrumental in passing on their expertise in field craft. The goal of 6 Platoon now is to send multiple of these soldiers who have been training for a year on their Basic Reconnaissance Patrolman course in Petawawa which is highly competitive and sought after.

B Coy is producing great soldiers who will lead to a fit and motivated unit going forward. For many B Coy is their introduction to the 48th Highlanders. The staff of the company take their positions seriously and share a great deal of pride in laying the foundation and esprit de corps which has perpetuated in our regiment. We are building the future of the regiment and maintaining the traditions which make the 48th Highlanders of Canada great.

DILEAS GU BRATH

## JOURNEY THROUGH ALPHA COMPANY '23

Lt W.M. Syron

*"There were screams of German soldiers, terror-shaken by the flash of light in their eyes, and black faces above them, and bayonets already red with blood. It was butcher's work, quick and skilful... Thirty Germans were killed before the Canadians went back."*

- Philip Gibbs, British Journalist



Cold Weather Operator 23

While Canada is not currently at war, it is still imperative that we remain operationally ready to respond to threats, domestic and abroad.

Alpha Company of the 48th Highlanders of Canada is the unit's Fighting Company; their role is to maintain a strong fighting posture and to continue the training of all personnel, so that, if the need arises, we are prepared to fight. In 2023, Alpha Company conducted several field training exercises with varying situations and environments, teaching troops how to prepare for and operate in different tactical environments.

Alpha Company led a Cold Weather Operator Course during the winter, this course taught troops and officers how to operate and fight in a winter environment. With Canada being a northern nation, it is imperative our troops are capable of operating in all the harsh climates Canada has to offer. This course concluded with a winter raid up at 4 CDTC Meaford, where troops learned valuable skills such as: snow shoeing, setting up Arctic tents and improvised shelters, capturing and cleaning animals, as well as how to maintain your weapon in harsh environments.

In March, Alpha Company participated in exercise Urban Falcon 23, an Urban Operations focused exercise held in the Lower Bay subway station. In the months leading up the exercise, Sergeant Sosa, our Urban Ops instructor led

several training days. Taking troops through the basic and fundamental skills of room clearing and UO all the way to full-sized platoon attacks, using airsoft, in the unit's kill house. Urban Falcon saw troops receive specialised training by UO SMEs from the Toronto Police force, and train with reg force members from 1 and 3 RCR. At Lower Bay Station, Alpha conducted clearance drills of TTC subway cars. The realism factor was enhanced as both our soldiers and the OPFOR were armed with simunition, which fire paintball like rounds. This ensures that troops follow strict weapons handling discipline, as well as practice casualty evacuations.

However, Urban Falcon wasn't only about weapons handling and battle drills. Officers and senior NCOs received intensive UO training by the Canadian Army's UO SME Major Geroux. They covered lessons learned from conflicts ranging from Ortona and Stalingrad to the current war in Ukraine. The officers and NCOs conducted TEWTs, planning company level offensive and defensive operations located around Yorkville, Toronto. These plans were briefed to Major Geroux and Lieutenant Colonel Morische, who provided feedback on what to improve and to sustain.



Highland Thrust 23

Highland Thrust was an exercise held in May that saw the 48th collaborate with the Governor General's Horse Guard to train both units on combined arms hasty attacks. This was the first opportunity for many 48th members to work with armoured vehicles in the field. Lieutenant Outram Kuzma commanded the hasty attacks and had to regularly liaise with the GGHGs on the course of action and positioning of the firebase and assault. This exercise allowed for training that reservist officers and soldiers do not normally receive, further increasing their capabilities to coordinate, lead, and fight.

While Canada may not be at war, Alpha Company of the 48th Highlanders of Canada is always training to ensure that all personnel are competent and professional in their duties, should the need to protect our great nation arise.

DILEAS GU BRATH



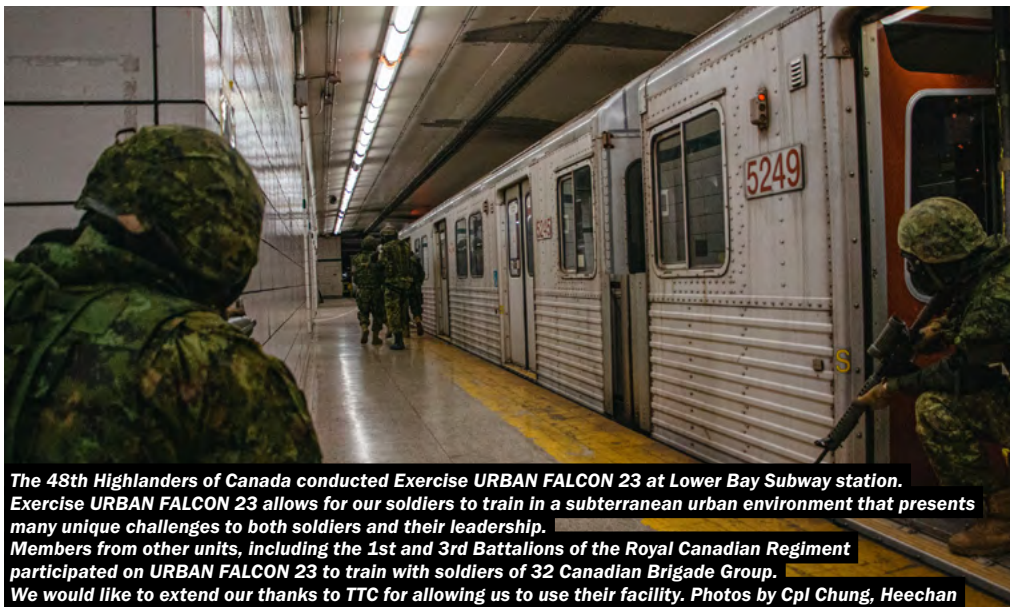
# THE ACTIVE UNIT - FEBRUARY-MARCH 2023



Members of the regiment during the field exercise that happened between 24th to 26th of February 2023. Photos by Cpl Chung, Heechan



"Guns up! Guns up!" Members of the regiment have completed BMG (Basic Machine Gunner) Course on March 19th. Cpl Jackson from our regiment was awarded as a top candidate. Well done everyone! Photos by Sgt Gundert



The 48th Highlanders of Canada conducted Exercise URBAN FALCON 23 at Lower Bay Subway station. Exercise URBAN FALCON 23 allows for our soldiers to train in a subterranean urban environment that presents many unique challenges to both soldiers and their leadership. Members from other units, including the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Royal Canadian Regiment participated on URBAN FALCON 23 to train with soldiers of 32 Canadian Brigade Group. We would like to extend our thanks to TTC for allowing us to use their facility. Photos by Cpl Chung, Heechan





# THE ACTIVE UNIT - APRIL-MAY 2023



On April 8th 2023, members of the regiment participated in the Ranger Cup hockey tournament that took place in Toronto. Seven teams across the 32 Canadian Brigade Group competed in support of the Canadian Rangers and their families, and for a chance to win the Ranger Cup. While the regiment did not win the championship, a 48th Highlander did win the Skills Competition. Well done to everyone who participated! Photos by 32 Canadian Brigade Group



Congratulations to Master Corporal Spratt on his completion of Urban Operations Instructor course. Master Corporal Spratt started his UOI course on 27th March, 2023 and ended it on 5th of May, 2023. One of his instructors being our unit's very own, Sgt. Sosa. Photos provided by: MCpl Spratt



Interconnectability is crucial to us all! On May 26-28 the regiment conducted a training exercise with members of Governor General's Horse Guards and Queen's York Rangers at CFB Borden. This allows for our members to conduct a training activity with use of armoured vehicles. Photos by Cpl Nechita, T., 32 CBG Public Affairs and MCpl Robertson, G.

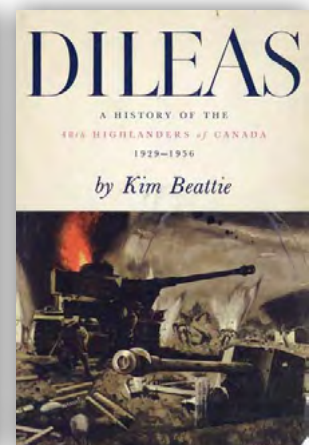
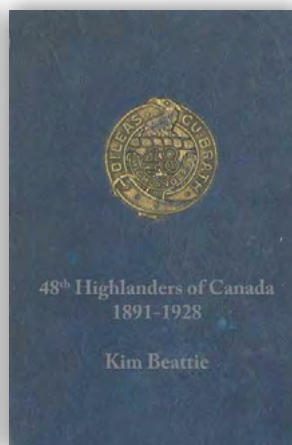
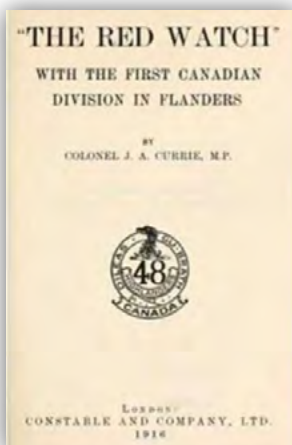


# THE ACTIVE UNIT - JUNE 2023

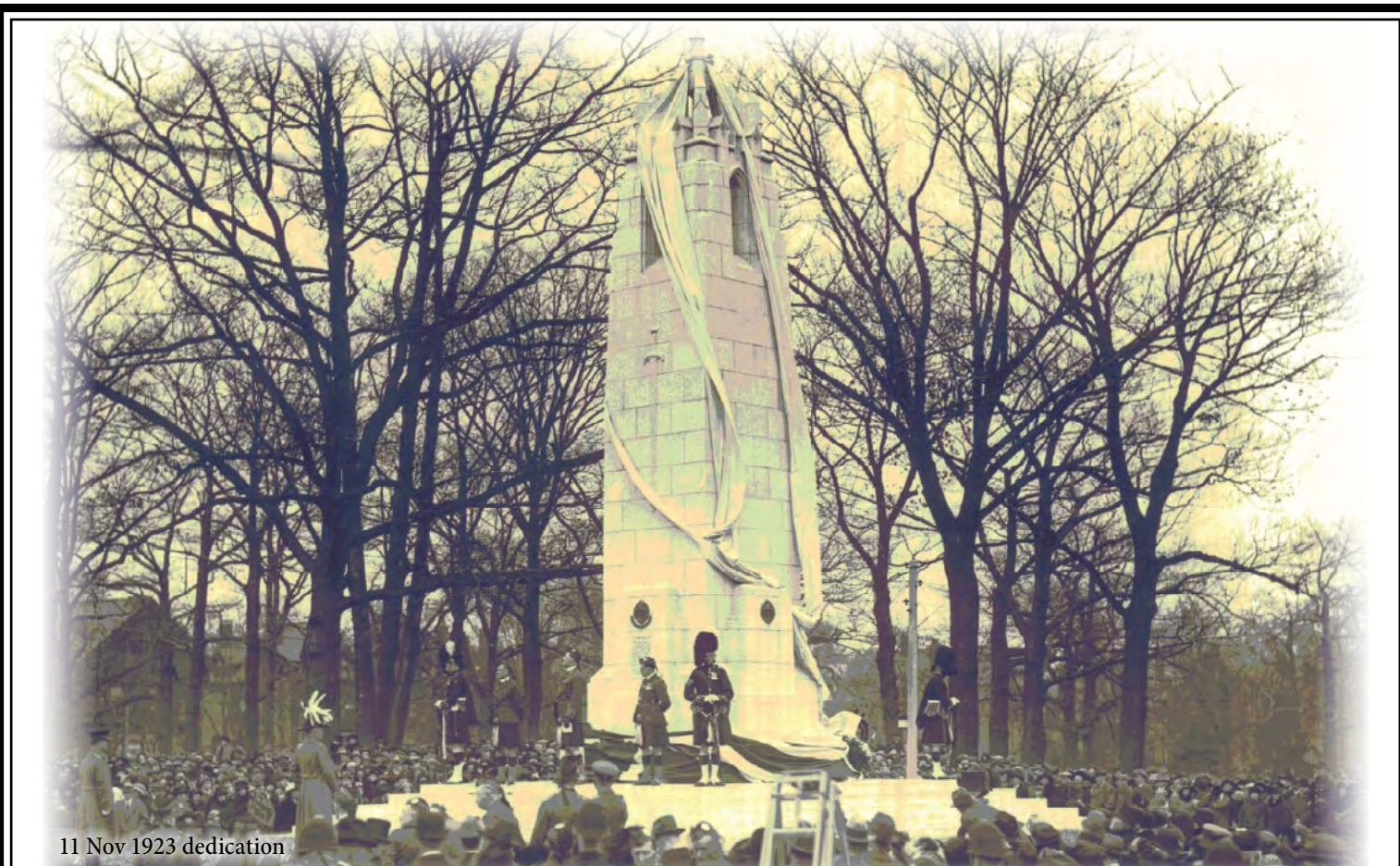


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11 Nov 1923 dedication

## THE CENTENARY OF THE REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL

On Armistice Day, November 11, 1923, the 48th Highlanders of Canada dedicated a Regimental memorial in Queen's Park, Toronto "to the glorious memory of those who died and to the undying honour of those who served" in the Great War 1914-1918. Along with the dedication inscription and sword of sacrifice, on the granite column's four sides were bronze replicas of the Regimental badge and the badges of its three CEF Battalions. The ten emblazoned World War I Battle Honours would be added sometime after 1928 when the Regiment was awarded its twenty-one Battle Honours for service in that war.

The Regimental history records that the dedication service was "one of the most impressive ceremonies in their history" attended by the serving Battalion and many hundreds of former serving members, veterans and relatives "of men who had fallen while serving in the ranks of the Highlanders."

This coming Remembrance Day, Saturday, November 11, 2023 will be the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Regimental memorial and the Regimental Association, with the support of the Active Battalion, is planning to commemorate the Centenary of the memorial. More details will be forthcoming but at this point we can confirm the following:



- The Regiment will conduct its traditional Remembrance Day parade at the Queen's Park memorial at 11:00hrs on Saturday, November 11, 2023
- The Active Battalion will not parade back to Moss Park Armoury and will dismiss in location
- The Regimental Association will host a reception at the Royal Ontario Museum immediately following the parade for all members of the Active Battalion and all members of the Regimental Association/Family

We are encouraging all members of the Regimental Association, especially former serving members, to mark their calendars and make every effort to join their comrades and friends on this Regimental Centenary Remembrance Day.

In the coming weeks, more precise information on specific timings and activities will be published on the Regimental Association Facebook page; in the Falcon; and, through the Regimental Association email distribution network as we reach out to as many members as possible.

### Plan to attend and spread the word.

BGEN G. YOUNG (RET) OMM, MSM, CD  
CHAIRMAN  
15TH BATTALION CEF MEMORIAL PROJECT  
&  
REGIMENTAL MEMORIALS



# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023

## THE FINAL OBJECTIVE: HILL 60 MEMORIAL DEDICATED

*“to mark our place”*

Brigadier General (ret) G. Young OMM, MSM, CD  
[Chairman 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project](#)

The 15th Battalion Memorial Project was initiated in 2007 with a simple objective: to commemorate all the Canadians who served, especially those who gave their lives, in the 15th Battalion C.E.F during The Great War 1914-1918. As we approached the 100th anniversary of The First World War and the passing of that watershed event from memory to history, the Memorial Project was intended to be a vehicle to acknowledge the part that the 15th Battalion, and through it all Canadians, played in Canada's contribution to the war effort on the battlefields of The Western Front. The Project proposed to do that through a series of memorials erected in locations where the 15th Battalion won a number of the 21 Battle Honours it was awarded for actions during the Great War.

Phase One was successfully completed on time and on budget in April 2010 with the unveiling and dedication of the first three memorials: two in Belgium at [St Julien](#) and [Gravenstafel Ridge](#) to commemorate the 1915 gas attack during the 24 April 1915 battle of 2nd Ypres; and, one in France at Hendecourt-les-Cagnicourt to commemorate the 01 September 1918 capture of 'The Crow's Nest' during the battle of The Drocourt-Queant Line. The lessons learned during Phase One facilitated the execution of Phase Two which saw the unveiling and dedication of two more memorials: one in Belgium on 22 October 2011 at [Observatory Ridge](#) to commemorate the 03 June 1916 attack during the fighting for Mount Sorrel; and the second on 23 Oct 2011 at [Festubert](#) in France to commemorate the 20 May 1915 action at Canadian Orchard and The North Breastworks.

Phase Three identified two sites for memorials at [Hill 70](#) and Marquion ([Canal du Nord](#)) and both of these memorials were successfully erected and dedicated in September 2012. Phase Four saw the two memorials dedicated at Warvillers and Courcellette in Sept 2013. The latter memorial commemorates the Battalion's participation in the battle of [Thiepval Ridge](#) on the Somme in 26 September 1916 while the former commemorates their actions in the battle of [Amiens](#) 8-9 August 1918 in the opening engagement of the 100 Days Campaign.

Phase Five was the final chapter in the Project's memorial program which had envisioned all the memorials being in place by the start of the Great War Centenary in 2014. However, it ran into several obstacles. The initial proposal was rejected by the then Ieper City Council which felt that there were too many 'war' memorials in the Ieper area. Although Project Chairman Brigadier General Greg Young (ret) had that decision reversed through a successful appeal, Ieper Council imposed a temporary moratorium on new memorials for the duration of the Centenary. The proposal was resubmitted in late 2018 and approved by the new City Council but the decision to proceed was delayed for several years due to COVID restrictions. Finally, after many years of work on 19 May 2023 the last memorial was dedicated at Hill 60. As well as commemorating



BGen Young

the 15th Battalion's actions at [Hill 60](#) in 1916, this memorial also commemorates Lieutenant Colonel William Marshall DSO who was KIA there on 19 May 1916.

The dedication of the Hill 60 memorial was held on the Centenary date of LtCol Marshall's death and was well attended by VIPs from the Ieper, the Canadian Embassy in Brussels, The European Director of the CWGC and many local Belgians and tourists. Of special note was the first attendance by uniformed members of The Regiment including six former Commanding Officers.

With the dedication of the Hill 60 memorial, the memorial building component of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project has come to an amazingly successful conclusion having accomplished its main objective. There now exists a 'commemoration trail' of memorials that marks the 1915-1918 path of the 15th Battalion – and the Canadian Corps – along The Great War's Western Front from [Ypres](#) to the [Canal du Nord](#). The four memorials in Belgium have been officially incorporated into Canada's 'Remembrance Trail'.

Highlanders, relatives of men who served in the Great War and all Canadians can walk in the footsteps of the 15th Battalion and follow the path of their predecessors who served Canada so well during The Great War. Paraphrasing the immortal words of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae in his poem 'In Flanders Fields', we 'have marked their place'.



The Hill 60 memorial 19 May 2023



# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023



Serving members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.



Former Commanding Officers pay tribute to LtCol Marshall. L-R: Col. W. Jensen, Col J. McEwen, LCol I. Cameron, LCol A. Paterson, LCol R. Alkema, BGen G. Young



# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023

by MCpl Jesse van Overdijk

The trip began, like so many 48th trips do, by RVing at MPA. It was a small group, only 11 travelers, with Padre Aitchison making his own way to the airport. After a quick brief from the CO we loaded up the 8 PAX and stepped off. Our excitement and anticipation was soon squashed however, because in true Toronto fashion, it took two hours just to get to Pearson. This meant we only had 25 mins to check in and clear security which for anyone else would be a nightmare but Mil ID goes a long way, especially with CO leading the charge, and soon enough our kit and ourselves were on the plane, with one unfortunate exception which we wouldn't find out about until later.

After a packed but uneventful flight, we landed at Paris/CDG airport and loaded up kit and personnel into the rental vans – except the CO's patrols, which we discovered had remained in Toronto. Drivers took a second to understand French manual transmissions, specifically how to put it in reverse - nothing an Officer and their NCO couldn't figure out - and before long we were out of the city and into rolling farmland on the way north to Belgium. Road signs for legendary places like Cambrai, Lens, Armentieres and Arras made clear to all that we were headed into a hotly contested part of Europe, in both World Wars.

We arrived in Ieper (Ypres) Belgium early evening on 18 May greeted by cobblestone streets and ancient (rebuilt) architecture. We were assigned rooms in the hotel, dropped kit off and immediately visited our first Commonwealth War Grave (CWG) cemetery where [LCol Marshall, DSO](#) is buried. The size of this cemetery hard to put into perspective - over 10,000 Commonwealth soldiers are buried in just this one place. From first to last every CWG cemetery came with a somber tone for most. Seeing that many graves each day puts into perspective how many soldiers died in the first world war, and how very young most of them were too.

After paying our respects to LCol Marshall, DSO, we returned to the hotel with a few hours remaining before pubs and restaurants closed and those of us not completely jetlagged set out on the town. Our initial reaction of Ieper was that it's a gorgeous old city with narrow cobblestone streets and is very pedestrian centric with few cars and little in the way of traffic noise. It feels quiet, almost contemplative, as if the meaningfulness of the Menin Gate influences the townscape. We found a lively spot on the town square and settled in there until closing time. Six of us in total, some food was ordered but mostly just beer. Our waiter was genuinely shocked at the amount of beer our group was able to drink, led by you know who. Every time we ordered more, he couldn't believe it, or how fast the beer would be finished, and so it was that Ieper's first impression of us was "wow those Canucks sure can drink!", no doubt keeping faith with Highlander traditions from 100 years ago.

Our first full day in Belgium included the dedication ceremony for LCol Marshall's [plaque/monument](#) at Hill 60. This was 19 May and coincided by design with the day that he was KIA by a sniper's bullet in 1916. The small but meaningful ceremony included a number of local officials and several retired 48th Highlanders Commanding Officers. After the ceremony we were able to tour the Hill 60 site where shell craters and remains of old frontline fortifications littered the landscape. Massive craters left behind where giant mines detonated under German lines during battle. Over 24,000kg of explosives used in just the one spot. Even after over a century of regrowth, the land is still permanently changed by the immense amount of death and destruction that took place there.





# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023



Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium



LCol Morische and HLCol Darling lay a wreath at Menin Gate.

Back in Ieper we visited the famous Cloth Hall in Ieper town square for a reception with the Field Marshal Haig's Own Pipes & Drums, who had played at the ceremony. Being in kilts caught the eye of the locals and definitely helped some of us get into the *In Flanders Fields* museum for free. Many locals stopped us and asked who we were and if they could take a photo with us. We always happily agreed, interacting with the locals was a highlight for many on the trip. As we were leaving the square a family visiting from Winnipeg noticed us, and as we were talking they offered to buy us a round. Saying no would have been rude, so off we went to the nearest pub.

Later that night we were on parade at the hallowed Menin Gate for the Last Post ceremony that takes place there each night at 2000hrs to remember those that died in Ypres Salient during the first world war, and whose graves are unknown. After the parade we were treated to dinner at the Kazematten Brouwerij, a local upscale restaurant and brewery that occupies a series of powder magazines and storerooms built right into Ieper's defensive ramparts around 1680 - thank you HCol MacIntyre and HLCol Darling! That night while out exploring local pubs we ran into some British Army Medical Corps Officers and ended up spending the remainder of the evening comparing our respective army traditions, and we probably had a lot of drinks.

The next day was full of battlefield and 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion (48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders) plaque visitations. First stop was [St. Julien](#) and the iconic Brooding Soldier monument, second in size only to Vimy in terms of Canadian monuments, and appropriately imposing as it commemorates those that died in the German gas attacks that took place there in April 1915, with the 15<sup>th</sup> Bn taking the brunt. Retracing the 15<sup>th</sup> Bn's footsteps, seeing how much ground they covered on foot, the terrain they were



Our contingent at St. Julien, Langemark, Belgium



Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery (12 kilometres west of Ieper).





# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023



La Targette French Military Cemetery



Pte Joshi and Lt Khan at the Indian Memorial at Neuve Chapelle, this memorial commemorates over 4,700 Indian soldiers and labourers who lost their lives on the Western Front during the First World War and have no known graves.



The caves of Maison Blanche



Portuguese National Cemetery (Richebourg)



One of many carvings found in the caves of Maison Blanche

made to defend and/or take gave us a sense of how difficult they had it. More so it showed just how resilient the Bn was in the face of those adversities. Being able to visit the graves of 15<sup>th</sup> Bn soldiers, plant a Canadian flag next to their headstones, and pay our respects at their final resting place is a rare and valued opportunity. A story to share for years to come.

We spent a total of three days in Belgium touring battlefields and unit monuments before heading to Arras, France, visiting a few cemeteries on our way. About half way there one of the rental vans died and seeing

as this was a Sunday in rural France, it would be over an hour before a tow truck arrived. This made for a relaxing lunch break on the side of the road and we managed to make it to Arras early that evening and check in to the hotel.

Our first full day in northern France included tours of CWG and French cemeteries. The one we visited at Notre-Dame de Lorette had over 44,000 French soldiers buried there, more than the current population of the surrounding towns. Next stop was the caves of Maison Blanche which for many was the highlight of the trip. Getting to physically go down into



# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023



Piper Cpl Landolt marching us up to the Vimy Ridge monument.



Col Jensen, Col Elms, LCol Alkema and Gen Young at Vimy Ridge



Piper Cpl Landolt



an area not open to the public, seeing all the carvings from soldiers who were stationed down there over a hundred years ago was truly special. Seeing all the Unit specific carvings and knowing you stood in the exact same spot that members of our Regiment stood when making those

carvings made one feel very connected to them and their legacy that we uphold. For many of those long-ago soldiers, carving their name or cap badge into the walls would be their last act before going over the top. Thinking about this made those caves hallowed ground.

Next stop in the same day was a quick tour of Vimy. The CO made a last-minute decision upon arrival that the Piper would pipe us up to the monument. Glamour boys staying glamorous, and we had all eyes on us for sure. We easy-marched up to the monument, pipes leading the way, and then paused for a moment of silence at the memorial before walking around and taking in the sheer size of the Vimy Memorial. We had completed a pilgrimage many Canadians make, but one many more wish they could. It's hard to express the feeling of being at Vimy, seeing the names on the walls, the fields still littered with UXOs, the weeping mother. It set a somber tone, but with an immense sense of pride for the Canadian soldiers who fought and died to earn the recognition Canada received for taking Vimy. The identity they forged for us as a young nation.

That night was the ceremony for our [Regimental cross](#) in Écurie, a small town just outside of Arras. Locals still hold a great deal of love and



# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023



Rededication of the Vimy Memorial Cross with children from Écurie, France

respect for Canadians because of how much they sacrificed during WWI. Townsfolk were all very friendly, children even did school reports on 15 Bn members who fought and died in the area as to learn and keep their stories alive. We all took plenty of photos with the townsfolk, including the children who really liked wearing our Glengarry's, which pleased us immensely. Once the ceremony was done we were invited to a reception back at the town hall.

In true Highlander fashion we drank all their beer before moving on to a spirit the locals introduced us to called *Fleur de Biere*. They showed us their tradition of taking shots of this distilled beer at the end of a function, and so we introduced them to the tradition of a 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders regimental toast – way up, way down! Our hosts wanted more bagpipes and our piper did not disappoint, and soon we were demonstrating the basics of Scottish Country Dancing to our hosts. The night in Écurie was arguably the highlight for most on the trip, as it allowed us to interact and make connections with the locals, reforging bonds and making memories with the people of this town, just like 15<sup>th</sup> Bn soldiers would have done some 106 years ago. Us being there to rededicate the [Vimy Memorial Cross](#), getting to know the locals who



take care of it when we're not there, is a special bond keeps the spirits and memories of those 15<sup>th</sup> Bn soldiers alive. It shows that the people of Écurie and the members of today's active regiment haven't forgotten them. They now live on in us, never to be forgotten.

Our final full day included more battlefield tours, retracing the 15<sup>th</sup> Bn as they neared the end of the war. A highlight was [The Crow's Nest](#), a battle honour that is uniquely "ours". On the way back to the hotel a group of us split off from the main group. Our piper had mentioned to us that his great uncle was a piper who was KIA in WWI and was buried nearby. Without hesitation we went and visited the grave so we could all pay our respects. The piper played the Lament right next to his great uncle. A full circle over a century in the making.

Overall, the trip was fantastic. We were there for a week but could easily



The school children of Écurie really liked wearing our Glengarry's.

have spent a month, but that week that will be remembered and cherished by all who were lucky enough to go. Connecting and making new friendships with locals in towns and villages where the 15<sup>th</sup> Bn fought and are remembered allows us to share their stories over a century later, and make new memories going forward. On behalf of the entire active regiment, those that went are able to say that we walked in the footsteps of our predecessors, and honoured them where they lay, and thereby upheld the legacy of the 15<sup>th</sup> Bn (48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders). We now will share these stories back at the unit and pass on what we've learned to the next generation, just as the previous generation did with us on the trip.

***It must be said that the reason that we felt such resonance with our 15th Bn (48th Highlanders) comrades who fought in France and Belgium 100-odd years ago is because of the excellent preparation we received ahead of time, and the expertly led battlefield and cemetery tours we were privileged to be part of. We stood where they stood, we saw where they fell, and we were able to honour them where they now rest. For that, our deep appreciation goes out to BGen Young (ret) for his tireless efforts and amazing knowledge. Dileas Gu Brath! Of course none of this would have happened without the incredible generosity of our HCol, who paid for all of us to get there, our hotel rooms, and the van rentals so that we could see the places that generated such amazing memories. On behalf of all the soldiers who were fortunate enough to go, a heartfelt thank you HCol MacIntyre, Sir!***



# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023



General Young recounts the Battle of the Crow's Nest.



Chateau Hendecourt, was the objective of No. 4 Company on September 1, 1918



Dominion Cemetery, Hendecourt-Les-Cagnicourt, France



Members of the 48th take a photo out front of Chateau Hendecourt



Dominion Cemetery, Hendecourt-Les-Cagnicourt, France



Col Jensen, Gen Young and Col Elms at Regina Trench Cemetery



Mr Simon Godly and General Young



# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023

*"Having my bagpipes and getting to play in so many different places was far and away the best part of this trip for me. Not only was I taken to France and Belgium to tour historic battlefields, but I was afforded the opportunity to play my bagpipes at the Menin Gate, through the town of Ypres, at the battlefield at Loos, at the Vimy Memorial, for a Baron in his hereditary chateau, for a leading a parade in a small French town, and for a miniature ceilidh. As a Highland regiment, the P&D are integral to the unit's traditions and heritage and, as such, pipers on commemorative trips such as these is a distinct marker of our Canadian and Highland lineage. Moreover, it creates such unique and incredible opportunities for pipers such as myself and for the pipers of the unit to come after me to play at so many important and historic monuments and locations."*

PIPER CPL LANDOLT



Piper Cpl Landolt

*"Seeing the ground where battles were fought and having BGen Young there to christen the ground and paint a picture of what it looked like 100 years ago was outstanding and brought a level of humility and awe to the experience. Having someone who is intimately familiar with the history and tactics of the time, and is able to contrast that for us against our modern understanding of warfare, was incredibly valuable and enlightening."*

SGT GUNDERT



Sgt Gundert

*"The St Julien battle has double significance for me because so many of the officers were also Trinity College School alumni or had TCS family connections: Warren, Langmuir, McLaren, Bath, Bickle, Fessenden, Osborne et al."*

PADRE AITCHISON



Padre Aitchison

*"A great memory I will always cherish during my time in Belgium/France is being in the Ieper town square in uniform. A gentleman approached me crying and hugged me in appreciation for the assistance that Canada offered during both world wars. A very deep and humbling experience that touched me deeply. I will never forget the hospitality and kindness the people of Belgium and France offered to me as a Canadian soldier. I will never forget the level of respect and compassion the citizens have towards our great nation."*

CPL KOULIAS



Cpl Koulias

*"The Maison Blanche tunnels were outstanding, I have never felt so connected to a historical event as when we walked through the complex. Seeing the incredible and sometimes crude art really reminded me that soldiers do not change and that they wanted to be remembered. Something important that was pointed out by one of the members of the Durand group who lead us through the tunnels is that there is no anti-war graffiti in the tunnels. The lack of anti-war graffiti shows the true feelings of the soldiers that occupied those tunnels. History and retrospect can sometimes lead us to view the soldiers of the great war as unfortunate victims sent to war to die like cattle. However, it seems like from what we saw that if the soldiers were if not happy at least proud to be fighting for their country and to be a part of their respective units."*

MCPL DEURLOO



MCpl Deurloo



# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023

*"Vimy Memorial was most memorable. I felt this was the highlight of all of the memorials we went to because it was a large Canadian effort and the fact that it was one of the turning points in the war. Seeing that huge ridge and imagining taking that on as one of the soldiers would have been life or death for sure. It kept me grounded on every soldier's effort at the time and made me quite teary during our moment of silent. (Water works for sure). The collaboration with the pipes and drum and ceremony at Menin Gate was memorable as well, being in uniform and on parade I felt like I contributed to the duties and ceremonies of that town, and will pass that on to other troops looking to understand what goes on daily in a small town in Europe."*

SGT GENERAL



Sgt General

*"The entire trip was filled with highlights but seeing the French schoolkids in Ecurie placing pictures and small biographies of 'their' 15th Bn soldier - the individual Highlander that they had chosen to research and get to know - beside our Vimy Cross Memorial certainly moved me. Afterwards the town fed us, we exchanged traditional toasts, and with our piper playing the same tunes played 100 years ago by our then pipers, we danced with their ladies, in our kilts. What an incredible day."*

CAPT VAN DER TOORN



Capt van der Toorn

*"The parade in Ecurie where we were able to have dinner with the locals in the town hall was a fantastic experience".*

PTE JOSHI



Pte Joshi

*"I will always remember walking though the town square of Ypres just prior to the Menin Gate parade and being thanked by a man saying that if he didn't offer to buy us each a round, he'd regret it for the rest of his life and disappoint his father."*

CPL AGUILAR VALENCIA



Cpl Aguilar Valencia

*"A memory that I will cherish and remember forever is a conversation that I had with a local at the town square in Ieper. This conversation positively changed how I see Canada and the great Canadians from the past. The man said, 'Canada sent their sons and daughters to protect and liberate this land, I love Canada'."*

LT KHAN



Lt Khan

*"My most memorable moment would be our night spent in Ecurie. Holding a service at the regiment's memorial cross with the entire town, young to old, including local officials/politicians, showed how truly thankful the French still are to Canada for all they did over the course of two world wars. What really made the night special was getting to know the locals, spending time with them, and sharing our stories; creating new friendships and traditions that will last for years to come. Any time I think of the trip my first thoughts are always of our night in Ecurie."*

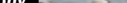
MCPL VAN OVERDIJK



MCpl van Overdijk



## FIELD MARSHALL HAIG'S OWN PIPES & DRUMS

**Field Marshall Haig's Own Pipes & Drums, with 48th Piper Cpl Landolt, marching to the Menin Gate for the Last Post ceremony.** 





# 15TH BN TRIP TO FRANCE & BELGIUM, 2023

## FIELD MARSHALL HAIG'S OWN PIPES & DRUMS



BGen G. Young presents the affiliation scroll to Erwin Ureel, Director of Field Marshall Haig's Own Pipes & Drums



Field Marshall Haig's Own Pipes & Drums at Hill 60.

**Have you seen the  
15th BN WEBSITE?**

**[CLICK HERE TO SEE IT NOW](#)**

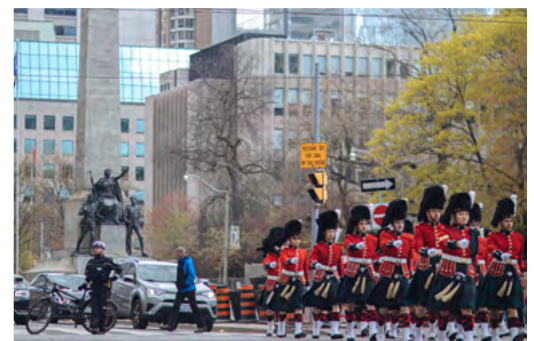
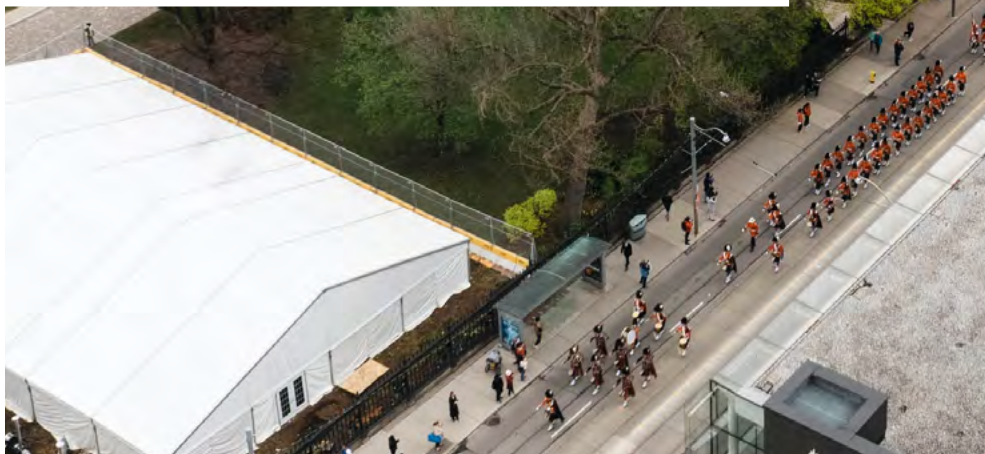


**Some of the features of the  
15th BN site include:**

- **Photographic history with thousands of photographs and newspaper clippings**
- **Summaries of all the battle honours awarded to the 15th battalion including maps and photos.**
- **Details of the 11 memorials erected by the project team in France and Belgium including the newest one (Hill 60 where LCol WR Marshall was killed in action) which will be dedicated on May 19, 2023.**
- **The fascinating history of the Vimy Cross.**
- **Details of our fallen including hundreds of photos, particulars of where they are buried or commemorated and hundreds of photos of headstones.**
- **The origins of our customs and traditions**
- **Interesting facts about our Regimental memorials**
- **Some of the activities of the project team including the cemetery card project, helping families find and remember their ancestors, identifying previously "unknown" soldiers and supporting other projects.**



# ACT OF REMEMBRANCE PARADE - 23 APRIL, 2023





# ACT OF REMEMBRANCE PARADE - 23 APRIL, 2023





# RECOVERED MEDALS FROM OUR 1ST CONTINGENT HIGHLANDERS

## RECOGNIZING THREE SPECIAL MEMBERS OF CANADA'S 1ST CONTINGENT IN WW1

by BGen G. Young (ret) OMM, MSM, CD

We are here today to acknowledge the service of several past members of The Regiment and to celebrate the repatriation of their service medals to the perpetual care of The Regiment that they served in with distinction during the Great War 1914-1918 and in one case that service extending into the postwar years and World War II.

The Regiment, and the country, were both relatively young when the war began in 1914 and in many ways both were forged in the fire of that terrible conflict. It has often been said that Canada entered the war a colony and emerged from it a nation. The Great War was also the Regiment's baptism of fire and the roots of much of its current identity can be found there.

Since that time each successive generation of the Regiment has faced the issues of their time with a strong confidence that comes in part from the knowledge that they can face the future because they can look to the past with pride. We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. This true of us as individuals, it is true of us as a nation and it is also true of us as a Regiment. So, we have an individual and collective obligation to remember and to preserve that heritage and whenever we have an opportunity to preserve touchstones that help us maintain and understand our links to that past, we make every effort to do so.

The medals of [Brigadier John Pollands Girvan](#), his wife [Nursing Sister Jean Elizabeth Sword](#) and [Pipe Major Sergeant Alexander Reid Keith](#) are three such touchstones. In themselves, their medals are just bits of metal and fabric but of course they are much more than that. They link us to individuals whose time with the regiment tells not only the story of their distinguished service but also to the stories of the thousands of individuals who were part of the Regiment during those tumultuous years and events .....and this collective story is the Regiment's story.

Shakespeare wrote, "all the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players". The individuals we are recognizing here today may have been several of the more prominent players but their stories on that stage were shared by a great many others.

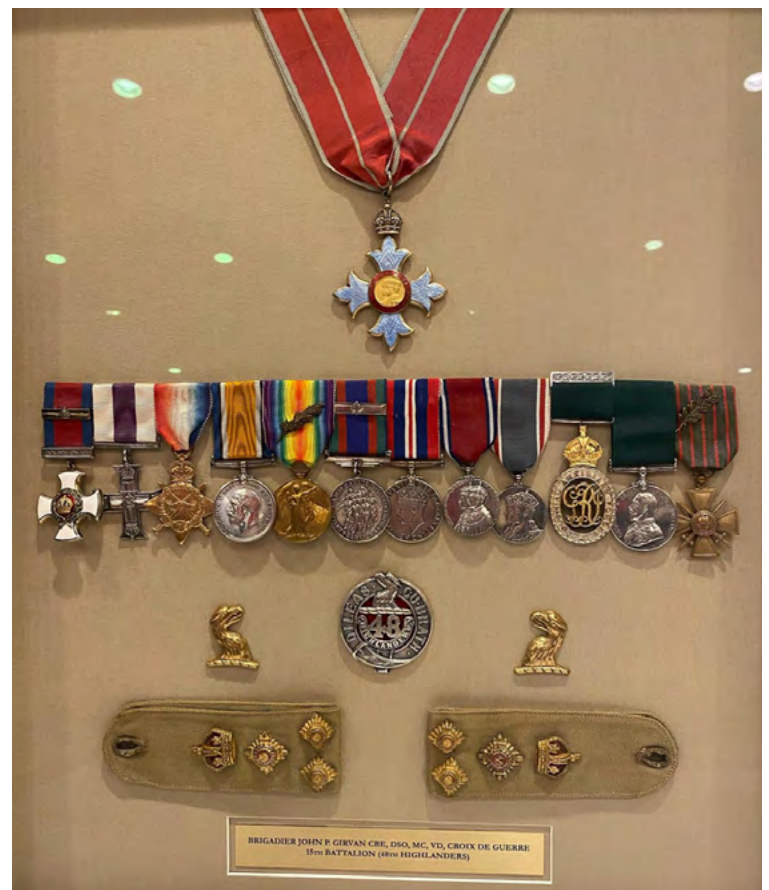
John Girvan, Jean Sword and Alexander Keith were all members of the 1st Contingent of Canadians that left Canada in September of 1914. As a 21 year old Nursing Sister, Jean Sword was one of the 2,835 women of the CAMC who treated and cared for ill and wounded soldiers overseas and at home. She served for four years at various medical facilities in both France and England. Her story is the often over-looked story of Canada's Canadian Nursing Sisters – the 'bluebirds' – who were essential to the war effort and were the first women in the world to hold military commissions as officers. Nursing Sister Sword was one of the 317 nurses awarded the Royal Red Cross.

John Girvan and Alexander Keith were both original members of the 15th Battalion and served with for the duration of the war. Both men were among the handful who survived the near annihilation of the Battalion during the gas attack at 2nd Ypres in April 1915 – 108 years ago today - and both men went on to serve in every major engagement of the war in which the battalion and the Canadian Corps were engaged. Considering the severe casualty rate during that war and the fact that by 1918 less than 100 members of the original 1200 man battalion were still serving, their survival alone makes their stories singular.

Throughout those four years, Sergeant Keith was the Battalion Pipe Major responsible for the unit's pipe band and stretcher bearers both of which were critical to morale of the men of the battalion. He



Brigadier JP (Big John) Girvan CBE, DSO\*, MC, VD (Croix de Guerre of France)



distinguished himself at the battle of Amiens in August 1918 when playing his pipes, he advanced with the assault companies at Hangard Wood.

Then there is the larger than life story of John Girvan who, as an accomplished athlete with no pre-war military experience, rose from the rank of Private soldier in 1914 to the rank of Major and Officer Commanding the 15th Battalion in 1918 during the 100 Days offensive



# RECOVERED MEDALS FROM OUR 1ST CONTINGENT HIGHLANDERS



Lieutenant Jean E. Sword



Pipe Major Alexander Keith



that saw some of the most complex tactical operations of the war. At every rank and in every position, he was in the forefront of the fighting and suffered serious wounds in 1916 on the Somme. He remained with the Regiment post war commanding it twice in 1930s as a Lieutenant Colonel before being promoted to Brigadier and appointed Director of Military Training during WW2. He retired from the Regiment as the most decorated individual in the history of the Regiment.

By celebrating the service of Brigadier Girvan, Nursing Sister Sword and Pipe Major Keith, we celebrate the service of all who served and their medals will help preserve a critical chapter in the Regiment's history. That is at the heart of why we are here today.

The Regiment's motto is *Dileas Gu Brath – Faithful Forever* – there are no caveats on Forever.





# RECOVERED MEDALS FROM OUR 1ST CONTINGENT HIGHLANDERS

## THE CEREMONIAL PRESENTATION

From HCol John MacIntyre

The ceremony to repatriate the medals of Brigadier John Pollands Girvan and his wife, Nursing Sister Jean Elizabeth Sword, was held on 23 April 2023 in the Great Hall of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. The turnout exceeded expectations, with literally a 'packed house'. Those attending included the active regiment and all participants in the Act of Remembrance Parade; the leadership and many members of the Regimental Association and Senate; invited guests from the community and four invited elected politicians. The city of Toronto was represented by Chris Moise, Councillor for Toronto Centre. The Province of Ontario representatives were MPP, Kristyn Wong-Tam, Member of Provincial Parliament for Toronto Centre, and Dave Smith, Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. And, the Federal Government was represented by The Honourable Marcia Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, and MP for Toronto Centre.

For the regiment and the regimental family, it was an opportunity to honour our most decorated soldier, and the service of Jean Sword. The repatriation of their medals reminds us of the profound impact that individuals can have in shaping our shared heritage.

For the community attendees, they were able to join us in a ceremony that demonstrated the remarkable lives of Brigadier Girvan and Nursing Sister Sword and see the spirit of unity and collaboration that made the repatriation possible. They saw the strength of our Regimental Family, as we came together to honour our history and preserve our heritage.

I had the opportunity to speak with each of the politicians that attended, and they were genuinely impressed and please to be a part of the ceremony. Each of them had little understanding of the role of the Regiment in their ward or riding and look forward to visiting Moss Park Armoury on a Friday night.

The ceremony was organised by the Regimental Association, with leadership from Greg Young, Geordie Elms and Ron Alkema. Senator Jaime Watt, and his colleagues at Navigator, Jeff Costen and Christina Salituro, were actively involved in the preparations, and spearheaded the outreach to elected officials and the media.

The program started with a surprise announcement from Gen Young. The museum was also going to be receiving the service medals of Sgt Alexander Keith, Pipe Major of the 15th Battalion, from September 1914 for the duration of the War. His outstanding service added to the importance and significance of the ceremony.

The MC was Padre Aitchison. We had thoughtful greetings from each of the politicians. Gen Young provided an insightful perspective on the contributions of each of the individuals. (I appreciated his comment that "if a movie was made of Brigadier Girvan, we would need someone like John Wayne to play the role"). I had the pleasure of thanking the 51 donors that contributed the funds necessary for us to be successful at the auction. (There are listed in the program). It was a remarkable demonstration of camaraderie and commitment to our Regiment. Col Beal then accepted the medals on behalf of the Museum, and LCol Morische provided closing remarks.

This ceremony demonstrates the commitment of our Regimental Family to honour and uphold the values and traditions that define us.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*



Rev. Dr. William Ingram - Senior Minister, General Young, LCol Morische, Honourary Col MacIntyre



The Honourable Marcia Ien



MPP, Kristyn Wong-Tam



# RECOVERED MEDALS FROM OUR 1ST CONTINGENT HIGHLANDERS



General Young passing on Pipe Major Alexander Keith's medals to HCol Beal



Councillor Chris Moise



Dave Smith, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport





# THE CENTENARY OF THE REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL



1961 Padres on Monument

The 48th Highlanders of Canada was awarded its Battle Honours for service in The Second World War 1939-1945 in May 1957 and like those awarded for The Great War 1914-1918, the ten selected for emblazonment would be added to the Regimental memorial in Queen's Park.

The Second War Battle Honour engravings were revealed during a parade to the memorial on Sunday, 4 June 1961 at 1:30PM. The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel Douglas C. Haldenby, CD – son of the memorial's architect Captain Eric Haldenby MC 15th Battalion – and the dedication of the new Battle Honours was conducted by three padres - Honorary Captain Grant Muir, Honorary Major Ross Cameron, CD, and Honorary Major Stewart B. East, MBE, MC. In 1923, the then Governor General of Canada Lord J.Byng of Vimy GCB, GCMG, MVO conducted the unveiling and in 1961 it was done by His Honour The Lieutenant Governor J. Keiller Mackay, DSO, VD, QC, LLD, DCL.

Many readers may not be aware that in 1960 the Regimental memorial had been moved on skids slightly east of its present location to allow for work to be done on the new University Line subway. Although the exact date is not certain, The Second War Battle Honours were added prior to the 1961 dedication either during or just after that relocation.



1950s Officers Assist

This coming Remembrance Day, Saturday, November 11, 2023 will be the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Regimental memorial and the Regimental Association, with the support of the Active Battalion, is planning to commemorate the Centenary of the memorial. More details will be forthcoming but at this point we can confirm the following;

- *The Regiment will conduct its traditional Remembrance Day parade at the Queen's Park memorial at 11:00hrs on Saturday, November 11, 2023*
- *The Active Battalion will not parade back to Moss Park Armoury and will dismiss in location*
- *The Regimental Association will host a reception at the Royal Ontario Museum immediately following the parade for all members of the Active Battalion and all members of the Regimental Association/Family*



1938 Sentries

We are encouraging all members of the Regimental Association, especially former serving members, to mark their calendars and make every effort to join their comrades and friends on this Regimental Centenary Remembrance Day.

In the coming weeks, more precise information on specific timings and activities will be published on the Regimental Association Facebook page; in the Falcon; and, through the Regimental Association email distribution network as we reach out to as many members as possible.

**Plan to attend and spread the word.**

BGEN G. YOUNG (RET) OMM, MSM,  
CD  
CHAIRMAN  
[15TH BATTALION CEF](#)  
[MEMORIAL PROJECT](#)  
&  
REGIMENTAL MEMORIALS





# MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

by HCol Geordie Beal  
updated by Peter Olsen

On Sunday the 23rd of April 2023 at 1500 hours members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada Regimental Association Drill Team gathered in Victoria Memorial Square to hold a ceremony to honour the soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment who fell two hundred and ten years ago at Fort York. In the post-COVID environment the Regimental Association Drill Team of the 48th have taken on the solemn responsibility of organizing and participating in this ceremony of Remembrance on the Sunday closest to the day of the Battle of York. On 27 April 1813, ninety seven members of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles bravely fought against the American invasion of York. Twelve Fencibles were killed, seven were wounded and seventeen taken prisoner. Those killed were buried in Victoria Square, the first cemetery in the city established in 1794 by Governor [John Graves Simcoe](#) and the first burial in the cemetery was his young daughter Katherine. It served as the military cemetery for Toronto until 1863 and saw some 400 burials. The park today is the site of a monument to the War of 1812-1814 sculpted by [Walter Seymour Allward](#) and completed in 1907.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment traces its origins to 1795, when Major [Thomas Skinner](#) of the [Royal Engineers](#), stationed in [St. John's](#) at Fort Townshend, was ordered to raise a regiment. The regiment was significantly involved in the [War of 1812](#). Soldiers fought aboard ships as [marines](#) in battles of the [Great Lakes](#), as infantry in [Michigan](#), and in the battle to defend York. It was largely distributed as attached sub-units and not as a formed battalion. Since 1949 it has been a [militia](#) or reserve unit of the [Canadian Forces](#). During the [First World War](#) the [battalion](#)-sized regiment was the only [North American](#) unit to fight in the [Gallipoli campaign of 1915](#). Later in the war the regiment was virtually wiped out at [Beaumont Hamel](#) on July 1, 1916, the [first day of the Battle of the Somme](#).

That the 48th Highlanders hold the ceremony is the result of a friendship and a request made several years ago by the Honorary Colonel of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the successor unit to the Fencibles, to his counterpart at the 48th Highlanders. Continuing this relationship between two of Canada's Reserve regiments is today's HCol of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, The Honourable Judy May Foote, P.C., O.N.L., Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland is, by tradition, appointed the Honorary Colonel.



A mid afternoon arrival at Victoria Memorial Square Park after a successful Act of Remembrance parade, earlier in the day, under the Regimental Association Drill Teams' belt; the members formed up to start the service.

A crowd formed and took interest in the group of white tunics of the former 48th Highlanders members marching onto the grounds. A group of fifteen civilian onlookers were focused on the team lead by Drill Marshal Dave Imbeault with the active Regimental Sergeant Major Chris Reesor, who was on his inaugural Battle of York service, in the second in command position.

The Ceremony got under way and rousing renditions of "The Last Post" were played by the bugler and piper. While the team proudly gave the salute to the Battle of York Monument. Members internally reflected on the Royal Newfoundland Regiment members who made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as the prisoners of war. Sergeant Retired Al Kowalenko and Alice, granddaughter to Warrant Retired Dianne Love and great-granddaughter to Sergeant Max McDougall, laid a poppy filled wreath on the monument. Finally, Drill Marshal Dave Imbeault gave voice to the "For the Fallen" poem.

As the ceremony closed it was not difficult to sense the bridging of time across two hundred plus years, and of the distance from Newfoundland to Toronto. Tradition, honour and service have remained the constant.



On 16 May 2023, Ton Heerts, the mayor of Apeldoorn, Netherlands visited the 48th regimental museum. HCol Beal gave him a tour of the museum and informed him of the regiment's history and its connection to Netherlands. Photos by Cpl Chung, H & Pte Chen, L.



# ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE CADETS





# ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE CADETS





# IODE 48TH HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER

## IODE 48TH HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT AND SLATE OF OFFICERS

In an exciting development for our IODE Chapter, a renowned women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals, a new President (previously known as Regent) and slate of officers has been appointed to guide our Chapter towards its ambitious goals. The new team brings a wealth of experience and passion for community service, education, and citizenship, promising a fresh perspective and lasting impact in the community.

Taking the helm as the new President is Kathryn Boyden. Her brief biography is presented below.

Joining Kathryn in this endeavor are the newly appointed Slate of Officers, each bringing their expertise and passion to the table. The 2023-2024 Slate of Officers:

**President,** Kathryn Boyden

**Vice President,** Sue Arbour

**Secretary,** Gwen Walker

**Treasurer,** Karen Barker

**Citizenship,** Bonnie Brown-Thompson

**Asst. Citizenship,** Shirley Ann Elms

**Communications,** Ashley Bonnell

**Asst. Communications,** Marsali Federico

**Education,** Sue Lake

**Membership,** Marsali Federico

**Asst. Membership,** Ashley Bonnell

**Services,** Dianne Love

**Card/Flower Convenor,** Carol Anne MacInnes

Kathryn Boyden joined the IODE 48th Highlanders Chapter in 2016. She is a remarkable individual who was actively involved with the 48th Highlanders Cadet Corps. Through her husband, Bruce Boyden, Kathryn shares a deep connection with the 48th Highlanders. Bruce, along with Geordie Elms, Shirley Ann Elms, Dianne Love, and the late Pat Scallan, proudly served as members of the 48th Highlanders. Continuing the legacy, all three of Kathryn's sons also joined the regiment, with Benjamin achieving the prestigious title of Top Candidate in 2010.

Presently, her husband Bruce volunteers at Saint Andrew College Cadet Corps, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the 48th Highlanders family.

While attending a Ball with Shirley and Geordie, Shirley introduced Kathryn to the IODE. Intrigued by the prospect, Kathryn attended an event and was captivated by the IODE's mission. Over the years, she has had the privilege of working alongside influential figures such as Beth Crook, Janet McKay, Karen Barker, and Shirley Ann Elms, all of whom have held significant positions within the organization, including the role of Regent/President.

Beyond her involvement with the 48th Highlanders and the IODE, Kathryn Boyden has forged a successful career as the Executive Receptionist at St. Joseph Content Group. This reputable organization handles the production of promotional materials for well-known brands



such as Sobeys, Walmart, Staples, and others. Kathryn's workplace is a vast 250,000 square foot studio, where she plays a crucial role in ensuring that the flyers and advertisements are executed with precision and excellence.

Through her dedication to community organizations and her professional accomplishments, Kathryn Boyden has left an indelible mark on the people and places she has touched. Her commitment to service, family, and contributing to the community serves as an inspiration to those around her.

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



# BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR 48TH WWII ERA VETERANS:

## MWO GEORGE MACLEAN, CD (RETD)

George MacLean celebrated his 103rd birthday on February 4th. He recently re-located from Milton to The Village On The Ridge, Ridgetown, Ontario (near Chatham) to be closer to his son, Bill, and his family. Our best wishes go to our two remaining 48th WWII era veterans. We will remember their War service and sacrifice on behalf of Canada and their communities. Their long term commitment to the Regiment has always been appreciated and honoured.



## CAPTAIN NORM GOGO, CD (RETD)

Norm Gogo celebrated his 102nd birthday on June 18th. He continues to live independently at his home in Penetang, Ontario, and is always happy to hear from 48th Regimental Family members.



## 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project website launch



[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO THE 15TH BN](#)

Unidentified platoon No. 2 Company. Pte GL Scherer seated front row third from left. Noeux-les-Mines August 1917.



# PROFILE OF A FAMOUS HIGHLANDER

## MY SOLDIER'S STORY

Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Brian G Jackson MSM CD

### *In the Blood*

When I had made up my mind to drop out of university and join the army as a private soldier my parents must have despaired. But if they did, they did so in silence and with stoicism. In the end, though, it all worked out.

I was never much of a student, be it public school, high school or university. Not that I couldn't do the work or keep up with others, rather I just wasn't interested. On completion of high school, I spent almost three years at York University but accomplished little. What I was good at and what I enjoyed was being in the Militia (now, the Army Reserve) - being a soldier.

While my father did not often speak in detail of his wartime service with the 48th Highlanders, we kids knew that he had fought in Sicily, Italy, and Holland. And that he had distinguished himself. Each Remembrance Day he would put on his medals and parade with the 48th Highlanders Old Comrades. And he would attend the Old Comrades Dinner. But he didn't live in the past, rather he built on it. He knew he had served his country well and gained a strong reputation from his military achievements. As well, our mother did not want him living in the past as they had a growing family to raise and a future to deal with. But for me, I guess, being a soldier was in the blood.

### *48th Highlanders of Canada*

In the spring of 1965, being 16 years of age and at my request, my father took me to the Fort York Armouries on the Toronto waterfront where I joined the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Moss Park Armouries was under construction at that time and when completed (in the spring of 1966) it became the home of the 48th Highlanders. But on that day on entering the Fort York Armouries, I was struck by the sounds echoing throughout the large open space, soldiers in battle dress carrying FNC1 rifles marching about and there was just a general sense of being somewhere different and special.

The Student Militia was created as a summer employment programme for high school kids, in addition to serving as a recruitment vehicle. During the summer of 1965, while living at our home in Thornhill, I and my fellow course-mates would spend our days at Fort York Armouries being issued with and then learning how to wear our uniforms (the olive drab cotton bush, the heavy wool battle dress, and a kilt), being inspected each morning on how well we had ironed our uniforms and polished our boots; doing hours of drill and learning how to salute; being taught how to handle, strip and assemble, hold, aim and fire the FNC1 rifle and the sub-machine gun; perform basic first aid; learn military and Regimental history and traditions; and the other basics of soldiering. Our course



September 1967 - CFB Borden

also included some days at the Niagara-on-the-Lake military grounds where we learned military fieldcraft, basic tactics, and got to fire our weapons. It was a great summer - and we got paid for doing it. Our graduation parade was held at the historical Old Fort York, which my parents came to watch. I felt very proud of what I had done and to be a member of the 48th Highlanders. I also knew that I wanted to continue in the military.

Those of us who stayed on with the regiment were assigned to C Company (Charlie Company) which was the Student Militia Company. While the other companies of the regiment (A, B, and Headquarters) would parade on Tuesday and Friday evenings, C Company (because we were students) would parade on Saturday. Although, once a month we would parade on Friday, when there would be what was called a formal dismissal; that is the whole regiment formed up on the parade square, an inspection by the commanding officer and then, with the Pipes & Drums playing, we would march around the parade square and salute (eyes right) the CO; all the while being needlessly shouted at by the RSM.

While there was some training on these Fridays, they were (or seemed to me at least) pretty much not very productive. Saturdays were the times we could spend the day learning new things, doing different military activities, and share the comradeship of being with friends. Over the next five and a half years, while I went through the motions of being at school, I continued to achieve success with the 48th Highlanders. I spent the summer of 1966 at Niagara-on-the-Lake on a junior NCO course and was promoted to corporal not long afterward. The following summer (the centennial year of 1967) I missed out on instructing on a Student Militia Course because I had to attend summer school to bring



May 1967 - Meaford ON



# PROFILE OF A FAMOUS HIGHLANDER



Meaford, Spring 1968: Gilbert - Young - Barnes

my math marks up. But that October I was promoted to Lance Sergeant which gave me an additional role to play in the company and allowed me into the 48th Highlanders Sergeants Mess; which I know made my Dad proud.

Over the next three years my successes and feelings of accomplishment were with the Militia; not at school nor university. In the summer of 1968, I attended and did well on a Senior NCO course at CFB Borden. I was promoted to sergeant that October. During the week (when I should have been doing schoolwork) I was preparing for the training that would be conducted on Saturdays, at Moss Park Armouries. The early part of the summer of 1969 (for both Greg Young and I) was spent in Germany attached to 2 PPCLI for their training at Sennelager. On return to Canada, we were training recruits at Moss Park. That September I was promoted to warrant officer and appointed as Company Sergeant Major (CSM) of Charlie Company. And the summer of 1970 saw me as the Course Warrant Officer for a summer recruit course.

## Taking the Oath

However, in the fall of 1970, I was no more interested in being at university than I had been during the previous two. I made it to the Christmas break. So, with no interest in completing university, it was time to do something. And that something was to enroll into the Regular Army. The process began in December at the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre on St Clair Avenue (just off Yonge St). I recall, after having written a series of aptitude tests an Air Force corporal came into the room where I was waiting to tell me that I had done extremely well on the tests. And, having done so there was any number of good trades open for me. When I told him I wanted to join the infantry I have a distinct recollection that



June 1968 - Snr NCO Crse - CFB Borden



June 1969 - Iserlone, Germany - Jackson - Young



November 1968 - Cenotaph

he physically recoiled for an instant. He asked if I was certain and when I replied to the affirmative, he shook his head and said: "Well if that's what you want - then okay."

The paperwork and processing (including a medical examination) took a month. On 4 February 1971 I returned to the Recruiting Centre where I was sworn in. In fact, I was transferred from the Army Reserve to the Regular Force. Although

I didn't appreciate it at the time, I was given credit for my Reserve qualifications which meant a higher rate of pay. I was also considered a trained/qualified infantryman so that on completion of Basic Recruit Training at Canadian Force Recruit School (CFRS) Cornwallis I would be posted directly to an infantry battalion, rather than having to spend four months the Infantry School in CFB Gagetown. This, in the event, proved to be a crucial factor in what followed with my military career. After being sworn in and affirming my oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth

the Second and her heirs and successors, I was placed on leave without pay until 27 February 1971.

While all this was going on, I was still playing my role in the 48th Highlanders as the CSM of C Company. As well, the Battalion Orderly Room was involved in compiling and providing my record of qualifications and service with the 48th. My leaving the Regiment at the end of February was well known. Some of my friends and others (including some officers) tried to convince me to stay with my studies and not leave the 48th, but I had made up my mind. Notwithstanding that leaving the 48th and saying goodbye to some very good friends was quite difficult.



Summer 1970 Moss Park Armouries



# PROFILE OF A FAMOUS HIGHLANDER

## Cornwallis

On 27 February 1971, having said goodbye to my parents at home, a high school friend drove me, in the Chevy Corvair that I had just sold him, to Union Station. In addition to what I was wearing, I had a small hand-carry bag in which were basic shaving gear and toiletries, changes of underwear and socks, and not much else. After saying goodbye to my friend, I took my DND travel order to the ticket wicket where I received a ticket and boarded a train for Belleville. There was that mix of excitement and wtf am I doing? But it was the beginning of an adventure in the Army that would last for 35 years.

At Belleville, there was a DND bus waiting to collect those of us who were heading off on this adventure. While the details of faces and clothing are gone, it was a collection of young men from all levels of Canadian society wearing the post-60s bell-bottomed jeans, long hair, and scraggly beards. The bus took us to CFB Trenton and dropped us at the Air Movements Unit (AMU). It was from here that I had flown to Germany and back in the summer of 1969, so I had some idea of the process. As we waited to board the CAF 707 that was to fly us to CFB Greenwood in Nova Scotia, from where we were to take a bus to Cornwallis, everyone pretty much kept to themselves.

The plane for Greenwood took off in the evening and the time to get there would have been a couple of hours. However, there was a winter storm passing through Nova Scotia. As we approached Greenwood and were told to fasten our seatbelts and prepare for landing it was clear we were doing so in a major storm. The plane began shaking and hurtling up and down. The pilot did try to land but at the last minute aborted, circled and tried to land again which also was aborted. Of course, for those us in the cabin area, there was much tension. Shortly afterward the pilot came on the intercom to say we were returning to Trenton because it was not possible to land at Greenwood, nor was it possible to land at Halifax.

So, we returned to Trenton. Here we were loaded into buses and taken to nearby transient quarters, which were old WWII-era barracks consisting of a large open room with bunk beds lining both sides of the centre aisle. Now, close to midnight, we made up our beds using the sheets, pillowcases and blanket that were already placed, folded-up on each bed, and crashed. Tomorrow we would try again.

The next day, a Sunday, we re-boarded the 707 and this time flew to Halifax where we were put into a bus and driven to Cornwallis. My memory of that bus ride is that of white fresh snow (from the recent storm) and flat open countryside, interspersed with dark conifer forests and barren woodlots of deciduous trees. There must have been houses and villages but they don't come to mind. This bleakness was only accentuated on our arrival at Cornwallis. Here were rows of white two-story barracks set on the snow-and-ice-covered ground that sloped down to the dark and brooding Bay of Fundy. The wind was blowing fiercely which added to the sense of bleakness.

That first week was a blur of what one would expect at a military recruit training center: being assigned to a bed space in dormitory quarters and shown what a properly made bed must look like; being told (very firmly) what was expected in keeping the quarters clean and in order; being issued uniforms and kit, and being shown how to wear them, care for them and have them arranged for inspection; filling in forms; shown how to form up in three ranks; how to march as a group and stop; the great equalizers of getting a haircut and putting on a baggy uniform (the



April 1971 – Sports Day – CFRS Cornwallis



April 1971 – Sports Day – CFRS Cornwallis

civies were gone until the course was well over); learning that getting into the line-up quickly for food at the cafeteria was critical; learning ranks and how to address those wearing those ranks; and so on – everything about surviving in this new and not unhostile world. Although none of this was new to me, the pace was intensive and, in retrospect, the loss of my individuality (now just one of many to be hustled and bossed about) and having zero control made things difficult. Any status and sense of control that I had when acting as a WO/CSM in the reserves was now gone; I was just one of the faceless/nameless Herbies or House Apes to be processed and bossed about.

The course material (drill, first aid, physical fitness, military organization, customs and regulations, weapon handling, and such) was nothing new. So, any difficulties during the first couple of weeks were related more to just fitting in and adjusting to this new reality. PT was conducted in a large gym and involved circuit training to work up a good sweat quickly. There

was also swimming. Although young and in relatively good shape, I was also a smoker; a heavy one at that. During the second week, I contracted a deep cold/perhaps pneumonia likely due to quickly showering after PT/swimming periods then (still wet) rushing out into the cold, damp, windy Bay of Fundy winter. The effects of this were compounded by my smoking. Late one night, after a couple of days of significant lung congestion and heavy coughing (which no doubt impacted my barracks-mates' sleep) our Course Corporal came in and took me to the Base Hospital.

I spent the night at the hospital and, after being examined by a doctor, was put in an ambulance and driven to HMCS Stadacona; the military hospital in Halifax. Here I was diagnosed as having a mild case of pneumonia. I don't recall exactly how many days I spent in Stadacona; likely three days. Upon release, I was driven back to Cornwallis. And because I had missed about a week of training, I was re-coursed from course 7109 to 7111. So, I gathered my kit from my old bed space and moved several barracks over where I set up my locker and bedspace again. When I think back on this time, I must say (without any doubt) the decision to recourse me was one of the most critical events of my 35-year career in the Regular Army. It set me on a path where my abilities were recognized, and I was allowed to achieve success.

The basis for saying this was the 7111-course staff. These NCOs taught and guided. They used their leadership skills to develop their recruits. And did not take the simpler approach of verbally and emotionally bludgeoning their recruits as did the staff on 7109. The remainder of the course was pretty much as one would imagine recruit training to be: morning bedside inspections (with the usual suspects just not being able to get it right), pounding the parade square doing drill (with and without rifles), PT including time in the pool, first aid, military customs and traditions, administration, a week in Camp Aldershot on the ranges and doing basic fieldcraft, the long-dreaded obstacle course and hours on the parade square preparing for graduation/passing out. None of this was new to me and for this reason, I imagine I continued to stand out to the course staff and was given increased roles of responsibility as the Course Senior.

Our graduation was in mid-May 1971; it was a nice sunny day. Understandably, my parents did not make the trip. But my brother Bob, who was a newly graduated from RMC RCME lieutenant posted to Gagetown, did come over; something which I appreciated very much.



# PROFILE OF A FAMOUS HIGHLANDER

This was especially the case since I had been named as the Best Recruit for our course. For this, once the course had been formed up in front of the reviewing dais, with the non-graduating courses formed up behind us (something which our course had done each Friday morning for the previous nine weeks) I was called to come forward to be presented with the plaque by the Commandant; a great honour.

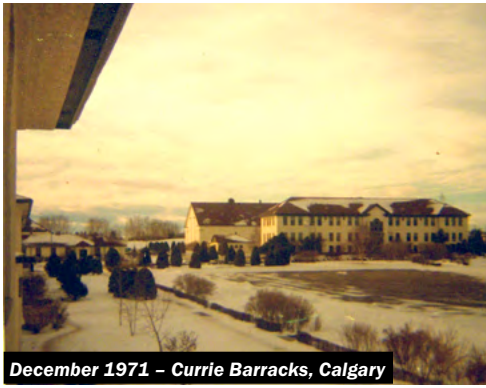
It was only after graduation, that the implications of my terms of service dawned on me. The next stage in the journey for my course-mates was for them to pack up and head off to bases around the country for their TQ3 training; to learn the trades into which they had been recruited. For my infantry course-mates, it was off to the Infantry School in Gagetown for another three months. But because of my Reserve time I was already considered a qualified infantryman. So, my next step was to be posted directly to an infantry battalion. Which infantry battalion hadn't been decided at the time of graduation, but I had asked for one out west; PPCLI. We said our goodbyes as my course-mates packed up to head off to their next training bases. I was assigned to the Holding Platoon and moved over to Holding Platoon in the transient quarters (away from the other courses and next to a railway siding). What

surprises or puzzles me is that I never (knowingly at least) again met or came across any of those with whom I went through Cornwallis. One of my course-mates in particular, whose name I cannot recall, was a good friend. I often wonder how he made out in the Army and his life.

I don't recall exactly how many days I was in the Holding Platoon, but it was no more than a week until my posting instruction came through. I was to be posted to First Battalion Princess Patricia's Light Infantry (1 PPCLI) who were garrisoned at Currie Barracks in Calgary. This was great news; the only thing better might have been 3 PPCLI in Victoria because it was further west. But Calgary was great, and I was extremely pleased. All that remained was for me to hand in my Cornwallis-issued kit, pack the permanent issue kit into my duffle bag, clear out of the administrative building, get my travel order to fly to Calgary and then get on with the business of being a soldier.

## 1 PPCLI

On a sunny morning in late May 1971, wearing my CF uniform, I placed my kit bag in the trunk of a staff car and, leaving through the front gate of CFB Cornwallis, the civilian driver drove me to the Halifax Airport. Playing on the radio as we left Cornwallis was Carole King singing *It's Too Late*. Now, in late spring, the bleak February countryside through which I had traveled through on my way to Cornwallis was lush, green and pleasant. At the airport I handed over my travel order and was presented a boarding pass for a flight to Toronto, then another one for the flight from Toronto to Calgary. During the stop-over in Toronto, I phoned my parents, who were pleased to hear from me and to know that I had done well.



The flight from Toronto to Calgary was my first time to travel to western Canada. Sitting by the window I saw the forests and lakes of Ontario change to the openness of Manitoba then to the flat plains and grain fields of the prairies. Then was the first sight of the Rocky Mountains, which were preceded by the dark green foothills and before that, the rolling grainlands. What also impressed me were the tall modern buildings of Calgary grouped in a cluster surrounded by the open rolling prairie; the contrasts were striking. After retrieving my duffle bag from the baggage carousel in the (then) very modern Calgary Airport I got into a taxi which took me to Currie Barracks.

Driving west on Crowchild Trail I caught my first look at Currie Barracks, which was unlike any Canadian military base I had seen to date. To begin with, it was in the suburbs of a modern city, unlike Petawawa, Meaford, Cornwallis, or Gagetown. From Crowchild Trail, just before we entered into the Base, where we were stopped at the MP building (shack – as we called it) I could see a large parade square that was open onto Crowchild, with large two-story white stucco buildings (which were the singles quarters) with red tile peaked roofs on each of the two sides and a large white office building also with a red tile peaked roof at the head of the



parade square. Behind and flanking the administrative building (which was the Base HQ) were other white buildings with red tile roofs. To me, at least, it was very different from what I expected a Canadian military base to look like; it had a very European appearance which was pleasant.

At the MP shack, I paid the taxi driver and was told to walk (carrying my kit bag) to the 1 PPCLI Battalion Orderly Room (BOR) which was about a 50-75 m walk. The battalion HQ was also in white stucco, red-roofed building, but a single-story building that housed the offices for the battalion HQ staff (CO, adjutant, RSM, orderly room, company HQ offices and such). On my way to the BOR, I noticed there was no activity on the base; no other soldiers walking around, it was quiet and even inside the BHQ building, there was very little activity. After handing over my travel orders and posting message to the BOR staff I discovered that the reason for this lack of activity was because the battalion had deployed to Cyprus in April and the company that did not deploy (C Company - Charlie Company) was in Wainwright participating in the annual brigade summer concentration/exercise. The battalion would not return from Cyprus until October and even then, troops would not be fully back on the ground until after post-deployment leave which would be followed by the Christmas/New Year leave period/stand down.

My arrival was expected, and I was assigned to Charlie Company. I was given keys to a room in one of the large barrack blocks and told that in a couple of days someone would come from Wainwright to get me and take me there to join the company and participate in the exercise. In the meantime, I was to clear into Base Administration, the Pay Office, draw my combat clothing and field kit from Base QM and get ready to deploy. Before grabbing my kitbag and walking over to my assigned quarters I asked the clerk if I could now wear the PPCLI cap badge. Oddly enough,



# PROFILE OF A FAMOUS HIGHLANDER

I had one in my pocket which I had brought with me to Cornwallis. I had found this cap badge in Germany on the base (Fort McLeod) to which I was assigned during my deployment there in the summer of 1969. The clerk said, "Yes, of course, wear it - you are now a Patricia and welcome to the battalion." I removed by Land Forces cap badge (which had three maple leaves) from my forage hat (this was pre-beret) and replaced it proudly with the Patricia cap badge. Now I felt I belonged to something.

The next few days were spent clearing-in, which meant going around the garrison to the Base Administration Office, Pay Office, and Base Clothing Stores to draw my combat clothing, combat boots, helmet, rucksack, web gear, sleeping bag, and so on. It also meant getting my ration card so I could take meals at the junior ranks mess hall, joining the Junior Ranks Club and so on. The evenings were spent putting webbing together, sorting out all the equipment I now possessed, and deciding what of it I was going to take to Wainwright. I also had the opportunity to wander around the garrison in the evenings and get a feel for the place, as well as go a little further afield into the surrounding civilian community and the adjacent PMQ patch.

After a couple of days, I was told to meet the C Company Stores Corporal in the basement of the barracks. In the basement of the barracks were the platoon offices (each platoon had a room where the platoon commander and platoon warrant officer had a desk, where the mail was given out and other administrative matters were handled. Also, in the basement was the Company Stores which housed the weapons lock-up. There, I met the company stores corporal who had driven to Calgary the day before to get some things and bring them back to Wainwright; one of those things being me. As a rifleman my personal weapon should have been a 7.62mm FNC1 rifle, however, because all the rifles had been issued out, I was given a 9mm sub-machine gun (SMG). The plan was that when a rifle came available, I would draw it to replace my SMG. However, as things turned out this SMG was to remain my weapon for the duration of my time as an infantry soldier (another 18 months).

The drive to Wainwright was, for a bunch of reasons memorable, not the least of which being the corporal's driving and handling of the jeep. But equally so for just the experience of driving through the Canadian prairie and the sights that presented to me, an eastern/Ontario boy. In May 1971 Wainwright was a collection of old WWII-era white asbestos-clad single-story buildings and large Quonset huts clustered around a large parade square. C Company, along with the rest of the brigade was under canvass in the training area. After a quick stop at the Canex (also in an old Quonset hut on a piece of higher ground that overlooked the parade square), we drove out into the rolling prairie and scrub poplar stands to where C Company was bivouacked. The set-up was that each company was in a tented camp with platoons each having their marquee tent (this was pre-modular tent days) with the company kitchen/canteen in a separate marquee tent. Water was heated by a line of garbage cans in which were inserted kerosene powered immersion heaters; mornings were punctuated by the sounds of immersion heaters exploding as the fire piquet ignited them to heat the water in time for morning ablutions. The tents were set up on the edge of a copse of poplar trees and the company's 16 M113 APCs were lined-up on the open ground a short distance from the tents.

On arrival, I was met by CSM Poff; a man whom I would get to know very well over the next 18 months and someone who I greatly admired and a person who I think back on with fondness - he was a good man and an excellent leader. He welcomed me to the company and



April 1972 - Suffield AB

assigned me to 7 Platoon. The platoon sergeant (platoon warrant officer as it was now known) was Sergeant Ed Fisher, who also was an excellent leader and a very decent man. Then it was a matter of fitting in with the other privates and junior NCOs, which was not difficult; we were a good mix of young men.

Those three weeks or so in Wainwright were spent doing tactics at the section, platoon, and company levels. This included patrolling, mounting into and dismounting from our APCs, trundling around in the back of the APC for long periods of time, and fire and movement drills (called pepper-potting by the British

Army captain exchange officer who was our company commander). It was a good time and very much what I thought being in the army was all about. As mentioned, it was also the time during which I bonded with my fellow soldiers and began to feel a part of something. As we were under canvass, the evenings were spent in the canteen drinking beer, playing cards and just passing time. Other nights were spent on fire piquet roaming around the tent lines under dark prairie skies and stars that dominated everything, with coyotes yipping and yapping in the distance. Occasionally there would be a shower run in the back of our deuce-and-a-half trucks into the Wainwright garrison. When the exercise finished up, we moved into the Quonset huts for a few days during which time we cleaned our APCs and prepared them for loading onto flat-bed railcars for their return to Calgary. Once the carriers were loaded on the railcars, we boarded buses for the journey back to our garrison; Currie Barracks.

The next couple of weeks in Calgary were spent cleaning up and sorting out from the exercise. Now a member of 7 Platoon, I moved to a room on the second floor of the barracks into the 7 Platoon lines. I shared this room with another soldier, whose name I've long forgotten. It was only for a short time until we all went on leave. I don't recall much about him, but he did constantly complain about being in the Army. When I came back from leave, he was gone; released, posted, or just went AWOL. Also, during this time, I bought a car. It was a white 1971 Datsun 510, manual gear shift.

Once the post-exercise issues were taken care of, it was time for summer leave. I had three weeks which I could take (much the same as everyone else). For this, I did my first cross-Canada road-trip to visit my parents and friends in Toronto. This was quite an adventure knowing I was going to see different parts of Canada for the first time, having the freedom of knowing I had a job/purpose, and just having the sense of doing something I'd not done before. For the first leg of the journey, I was giving a ride to Winnipeg to another guy who was in my company. Heading out of Calgary on the Trans-Canada Highway on that sunny morning with Chilliwack's Sweet City Woman playing on the radio, I felt a tremendous sense of freedom and adventure; which to be honest stayed with me during the entire journey driving in both directions.

At that time the annual rhythm of a professional battalion of infantry gets under way in September, after the turmoil of postings; both those personnel leaving the unit and those coming in. The autumn months are filled with individual training, then winter indoctrination progresses to small unit training before the Christmas/New Year block leave period. In the new year, winter training progresses from section to platoon to company then unit. All of which lead to a brigade-level exercise. Come spring daily life centres around garrison activities, leadership courses, and preparations for deployment (in the case of 1 Brigade) to Wainwright for a brigade concentration which involves progressive levels of unit training leading to a brigade exercise.



# PROFILE OF A FAMOUS HIGHLANDER

With the battalion still in Cyprus until October 1971 and then on post-deployment leave for several weeks after that, the autumn for us on the rear-party was a quiet time. It was not until November and December that the larger presence of more people in Currie Barracks became apparent. But for us in Charlie Company, September 1971 had us on Primary Combat Function (PCF) courses; driver wheeled (jeep,  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton), the driver tracked (M113 APC), anti-armor (106mm recoilless rifles), mortar (81mm) or infantry communicator (radios). I was loaded on the communicator course.

My time with the 48th had allowed me to become very familiar with radios and communicating with them. But this six-week course covered a wider range of aspects including the cables, mounting trays, and boxes that comprised the vehicle-mounted harnesses, especially in the M113s. Clearly, I did very well on this course because when it was over, I was assigned to C Company headquarters as one of the company commander's signalers. A MCpl (who controlled the company HQ soldiers) would carry and operate on the battalion radio net, while I would carry and operate on the company net. But the more important aspect of being in company HQ was that it gave me a significant number of responsibilities and allowed me to function more as an individual, than if I was in one of the rifle platoons.

Being in company headquarters meant that after having breakfast in the garrison dining hall I could walk to the single storey, long hangar where the company's 16 APCs and other vehicles were parked. Here, my days were spent working on the communications systems in our vehicles sorting out problems, fault finding, and replacing various components. It was a good routine and saved me from what was called the chicken shit of garrison life. Towards the end of November and into early December the company did our winter indoctrination training where we assembled and set up the 5-man and 10-man arctic tents, problem-solved, lit stoves and lanterns, packed everything in toboggans, and relearned the other drills and activities of living and working in winter conditions.

In January the battalion was fully back from post-Cyprus leave and Currie Barracks was a much busier place. January and the first half of February 1972 were spent on various winter exercises. Initially, Charlie Company deployed to the Sarcee Training Area for a few days of winter training which got us used to tent-group living and operating in winter conditions. Then, the battalion deployed to the Ghost River area, which is in the first range of mountains west of Calgary. After that Charlie Company flew in CAF Hercules aircraft to the Chilcotin area in central British Columbia where we would be the enemy force for a brigade exercise. Here we spent two weeks; the first week was static during which we worked out our drills and became accustomed to the very deep snow in which we would operate. Then it was a week of constant moving and deploying, which made the experience very interesting.



May 1972 – Sarcee AB

On our return to Calgary, the following week was cleaning our kit and doing post-exercise maintenance. Sometime during the previous autumn, I had requested to go on the Basic Parachute Course, which was run at the Canadian Airborne Centre in Griesbach Barracks, Edmonton. I thought not much of this until after our return from Chilcotin when I was told that I was loaded on a jump course which began on 28 February 1972; wow! In the end, it was a good course, although not easy. The weather delayed our jumps for about a week, but when the weather did improve, we did 2 jumps from an Otter (straight down till your canopy opened), then six from a C130 Hercules; a combination of side-door and ramp. The ramp jumps were the best.

Not long after returning to Calgary from doing the jump course, CSM Poff called me into his office and gave me a single stripe/chevron to have sewn onto my uniforms. I was surprised and even asked if I had to do it; yes, was the answer. No longer in use, this single stripe was awarded to soldiers who had achieved Pay Level 4 (which was based essentially on time served). I was rather embarrassed because I was the first private in my company to wear this stripe, yet I was one of the most recent to have joined the battalion. But this status was also based on my time as a 48th Highlander.

Then, in the latter part of March, I was informed that I was to be interviewed for consideration to be selected for officer training; I had earlier (in the fall) been called over to the company office to fill out an application for Officer Candidate Training Plan – Men (OCTP-M) and had pretty much forgotten about it. This recommendation for officer training had been initiated by my Cornwallis instructors who apparently, of whom I am forever grateful, saw greater potential in me. And it was supported by my current chain of command. Wearing my CF uniform now with my recently earned jump wings and my single PL4 chevron I made my way to the Recruiting Office in downtown Calgary. I don't recall a great deal about the interview, but one exchange does stick in my mind. Facing a panel of three officers, the senior officer (who I seem to recall was an air force major), asked me the final question of the interview. It was along the lines of "what rank do you aspire to achieve if you were to be commissioned?" In the back of my mind, I

knew the expected answer would have been "I want to be a general." But I said "lieutenant-colonel." When asked why that rank, I replied that it was the highest rank at which one can directly command troops (to be a commanding officer of a unit). Beyond that rank, I said, one fills a series of staff or non-command jobs. The senior officer replied by saying "interesting."

That spring (1972) the battalion prepared to Troop the Colours, which requires an enormous amount of time on the parade square being shouted at by sergeants-major and the RSM. Fortunately, I escaped all that. Our Company Commander (Major Bill MacKay - who was an excellent officer and for whom I have great respect) had been tasked to run a Combat Leaders



June 1972 – Battle River, Wainwright AB



# PROFILE OF A FAMOUS HIGHLANDER

Course. This course was being run at the same time that the battalion was pounding the parade square in preparation for the Trooping. It was a great escape, although during one of the exercises which were being conducted at CFB Suffield I was in an accident. In the dark, driving black-out, the jeep in which I was riding hit a large rock and I was thrown over the tied-down windscreen and hit my face on the 7.62 GPMG that was strapped on the hood of the vehicle. I smashed my lower lip and chipped a large piece off one of my front teeth. The Suffield Base Surgeon was called in at dawn to stitch up my lip.

In late June and into early July 1972 the battalion deployed to CFB Wainwright to support the annual Militia summer concentration. For our company, this involved providing the Militia troops with our M113s; our drivers did the driving and our officers and junior leaders mentored their Militia counterparts. Early one morning on this exercise there was an unfortunate accident where one of the Militia officers in our company HQ was run over by an APC and died. It was a tragic reminder of the need to always remain vigilant.

Before this exercise, while in garrison, I was told to go over to the company HQ office. There I met our company 2IC who asked me if I would like to be posted to the Airborne Regiment (which at that time were garrisoned at Geibach Barracks in Edmonton). "Not really" I replied. To which he said, "well that's unfortunate because here is your posting message." I was surprised and, to be honest, concerned. I did not want to be posted to the Airborne, much because it meant starting all over again in establishing myself as an individual. So, upon our return from the Militia exercise in July, I was permitted to clear out of 1PPCLI, drive back to Ontario for a couple of weeks of leave. Then I would drive back to Edmonton and report into the Airborne Regiment.

In early July, the week before the commencement of my leave, I went through the process of clearing out from the Base and 1PPCLI. This involves going to pay, records, clothing stores, medical, dental, and so on; all the places to which one cleared-in to when posted to that unit. The last place to be cleared-out of was one's Unit/Battalion Orderly Room (BOR). Here one handed over the completed PLCC and the orderly room staff hands over the Posting/Travel Claim, which gives the authority to proceed with the travel and for which costs will be reimbursed. Arriving at the BOR, which was quiet since most of the battalion was already on leave, I handed over my completed PLCC. The corporal clerk looked at me and seeing my name said: "Jackson. Hmmm, there is a message that has come in about you. I can't recall the details but let me have a look." He then leafed through a stack of messages and when he came to one about me, he said, "Yes, your posting to the Airborne has been canceled. You've been accepted for officer training and the Airborne no longer want you." My new rank of officer cadet would not be effective until 1 January 1973, which meant six more months in Calgary with the Patricias; which was fine with me.

Of course, I was surprised and extremely pleased/excited. Not only did I not now have to go to the Airborne Regiment, but I was also going to be an officer! Wow! But this also meant I had to go back around to all those offices and facilities which I had just cleared out of and now clear back in. And I was about to go on leave. However, before I did any of that I needed some time for this change in the direction of my life to sink in and to ponder what next. As I was about to leave the HQ building, my company commander, Major Bill MacKay rushed up to me. "That idiot clerk - I told him to let me know when you came in so that I could

tell you myself that you had been selected for officer training." He then congratulated me but also wondered why I had been selected for Armour Officer training and not infantry. This surprised me too! But then I recalled that at the time I filled out the application for officer training I had listed armour before infantry, more out of curiosity than anything else.

After quickly going around the Base to clear in again, I headed off on three weeks leave, making the cross-Canada drive to Toronto. And as always, thoroughly enjoyed the journey; in both directions. Of course, my parents were extremely pleased that I had been selected for officer training. This made me feel much better as they were now more comfortable with my decision to become a professional soldier.

On my return to Currie Barracks in early August, along with the rest of my company, the question for our leadership was what to do with us for the remainder of the month, until after Labour Day. To fill in the next couple weeks we deployed to the Kananaskis Mountains area west of Calgary. Here, living in tents and eating meals prepared from our field kitchens, we spent the time hiking through the beautiful and



magnificent countryside of the Rocky Mountains. The days were warm and the mountain nights cool. I remember standing in the cool mornings watching the sun creep down the mountainsides till it brought it's warmth to us. It was a wonderful time and a great opportunity to be with my Charlie Company comrades. One of whom - Bernie Novokowsky - had also been selected for officer training; but as an infantry officer. We would be on the same Phase I - Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC) which would begin in January 1973 in Chilliwack, BC.

This year (1972) the brigade concentration in Wainwright was held during September and into early October. Again, we loaded our APCs onto railcars to be transported to Wainwright. On arrival, we offloaded them and drove out to the training area where we set up our bivouac for the next month. This was one of the best experiences of my time in the Army. I was still our company commander's signaller on the company net, which allowed me a position from which I could see the larger aspects of the training, but I was also very much involved in what was going on. Before the final brigade-level exercise, each company in the battalion went through a 24-hour test which began with night patrols and culminated in a company attack. We all felt good about how we had conducted ourselves during this test. But this was confirmed (in my mind at least) when as we were consolidating on our objective, I overheard the chief umpire debrief our company commander by saying "success has its own rewards." Words I have tried to live by.

After returning to Currie Barracks and taking care of the post-exercise vehicle, weapon, and equipment maintenance it was time again for PCF courses. Last year it was the Signaller's Course. This year I was loaded on the Anti-Armour Gunner course. I often wondered whether, considering I was about to become an officer cadet in the Armoured Corps, this was a deliberate bit of irony on the part of the battalion



# PROFILE OF A FAMOUS HIGHLANDER



January 1973 – CFB Chilliwack Main Gate

officers. But it was a good course, and I learned a great deal, some of which would serve me well later in my career as an armour officer. The weapons we trained on were the 106mm recoilless rifles, which were mounted on a jeep. During the last week of October through to the end of November 1972, we did the theoretical aspects, learned the mechanisms, stripped and assembled both the main gun and the .50 spotter rifle, and how to service the weapons. Then it was learning and becoming proficient with the gun drills of loading, unloading, firing the spotter rifle to determine the range, then firing the main gun. All, of course, without ammunition.

At the beginning of December, we drove the jeeps to Wainwright, where we conducted live firing during two days on the ranges; including night shooting with the mortar course providing the illumination. Although winter had well set in at Wainwright by that time, being on the ranges and firing these powerful weapons was interesting but also thrilling. The report of the weapon was deafening but the back-blast, which sucked the air out of the lungs of the loader, was the more impressive consequence

of firing. In the evening we would go into Wainwright to one of the two bars/taverns where we would drink beer and just enjoy being together. This is one of the lasting memories of my being a private soldier and it is a good memory.

Back in Calgary, it was post-firing cleanup, course reports, and getting ready for Christmas/New Year leave. This year, unlike last year, I did request Priority 5 flights back to Ontario where I could spend Christmas with my family. I flew from

CFB Namao at Edmonton into Trenton where my father and younger sister met me. From there we drove back to Thornhill. It was a good Christmas and equally good to be together with my siblings and parents. On New Year's eve afternoon my father drove me to CFB Downsview where I boarded a C130 Hercules for the flight back to Edmonton, where I had left my car. I had expected the Herc would stop in Winnipeg (as we had done on the flight east), but this flight was direct to Edmonton,

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 duty 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 on the 1991 Pakistan Army Command and Staff College Course, 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. Brian resides in Manotick Ontario with his wife Jackie, their two field spaniels and Maggie their very old cat. They are close to their daughter Alison and grandson Jackson who reside in Kingston.



so it was a long one in the back of a noisy transport plane. Arriving in Edmonton in the dark, I was given a room in the transient quarters where I spent the night.

The next morning, 1 January 1973, now an officer cadet, I drove through the snow-covered prairies to Currie Barracks. Here, I spent the next few days clearing out of Base and getting ready to make the drive through the mountains to CFB Chilliwack for Phase 1 - BOTC. Although I was now technically an officer, I stayed in my room in the men's barracks and if I had to wear a uniform, I would wear combat clothing with no rank; it was just easier that way. Those last few days were also a time when I could say goodbye to those with whom I had lived and worked for the past 18 months. While it was sad in many ways, I felt more excitement at what was ahead than sadness or melancholy for what I was about to leave behind. Bernie was going through the same process and emotions, so we could share our thoughts and (some of) our feelings.

Calgary and southwestern Alberta were hit by a major storm with lots of snow and strong winds on 5 January 1973; the day before Bernie and I were to start our drive to Chilliwack. The roads were closed between Calgary and Canmore, and it was questionable when they would reopen. The next day, Saturday, 6 January with the snow still blowing and the state of the roads questionable, Bernie and I headed for Chilliwack. Everything that either of us owned was easily able to fit into our cars and neither of our cars had snow tires. But off we went towards the mountains and a whole new start to our lives, both of which were obscured by blowing snow and a significant amount of uncertainty.



December 1972 – Wainwright AB



# POSTED TO UPPER CAMP

## LT THOMAS BROWN CHIPMAN

Published by Toronto Star on Jan. 6, 2023.

Thomas was the beloved husband of the late Bobbie Chipman. Brother of the late Heather Shanahan and the late Jack Chipman. Son of the late John and Helen (Brown) Chipman. Uncle and godfather to several. Died peacefully on December 20, 2022 at Toronto General Hospital, at the age of 94. Educated at Forest Hill Public School, UCC Prep and St. Andrews College, where in his final year he was Head Prefect, Pipe Major, and a triple sport team captain. Past chairman of the SAC Foundation and past vice-chairman of the SAC Board of Governors. Graduate of MTC 12 at the University of Western Ontario. His entire business career was spent in the Office Products and Stationary industry. 24 years with Brown Brothers, later as Managing Director and President. 17 years with Grand and Toy as an executive in various capacities. The first and only Canadian President of WSA (Wholesale Stationers Assoc. of the USA). Served with the 48th Highlanders of Canada militia 1949-51 and subsequently with the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion. In Germany, 1952-54, as a Lieutenant when Canada sent a brigade to the British Army of the Rhine as a NATO commitment. Tom's life encompassed involvement in several sports and social organizations where he always played an active and contributing role. Honorary member of the Briars Golf Club after serving as president for 2 years, a director for 11 years, and treasurer for 22 years. Life member of the Toronto Hunt and the B&R Club. Honorary member of the Rosedale Walking Club. A Founding and continuing member of the Inltram Society for over 50 years, and a Voiceprint volunteer reader for 10 years. His more than generous lifespan can perhaps be attributed to his active involvement in physical fitness and sports activities over the years. Fitness workouts 2 or 3 times a week since 1968. Golf for over 70 years and lawn bowling in his latter years kept his competitive spirit at a high level. Cremation has already taken place and a joint memorial service for Tom and Bobbie will be held at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, 230 St. Clair Avenue West in the spring. Please refer to the Humphrey Funeral Home website for updates on the service. Flowers are gratefully declined. Contributions may be made to a Charity of Your Choice. Condolences may be forwarded through [www.humphreymiles.com](http://www.humphreymiles.com).



## CARA BERNICE "BOBBIE" CHIPMAN

Published by Toronto Star on Jan. 6, 2023.

In the early hours of Monday, December 26, 2022, at the age of 97, Bobbie passed away, peacefully, at her home in Toronto, a mere six days following the death of her beloved husband, Thomas Brown Chipman. She was predeceased by her dear brothers, Norman and Richard Folliott. Although Bobbie and Tom did not have offspring of their own, they had a large extended family of loving nephews, nieces and godchildren. Born and raised in Toronto, Bobbie was active in a number of charitable organizations including the IODE and the Cradleship Creche among others. She was an enthusiastic bridge player, a skier, a keen golfer and, in later years, a lawn bowler. Bobbie could always be counted on as a sublime hostess for an intimate gathering or cocktail party of fifty. She passed on many of these skills to the next generations of the family. In summers, Bobbie's cottage was a focal point for the social scene at the Briars in Jacksons Point. In winter she and Tom sojourned in Sun City, Arizona and spent the shoulder seasons among those locations and their Rosedale condo. Always on hand was one or several of her cats. She loved all sorts of animals, both wild and domestic. Cremation has already taken place and a joint memorial service for Tom and Bobbie will be held at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, 230 St. Clair Avenue West in the spring. Please refer to the Humphrey Funeral Home website for updates on the service. Memorial contributions to a Charity of Your Choice may be made in lieu of flowers. Condolences may be forwarded through [www.humphreymiles.com](http://www.humphreymiles.com).



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# POSTED TO UPPER CAMP

## WO KENNETH MILSOM, CD (2019-2023) - 48TH WWII VETERAN

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

*(Note: The following are excerpts from a presentation by  
Sgt Kowalenko at the memorial service held for WO Milsom on  
February 18, 2023, in Weston, Ontario.)*

“We are here today to pay tribute to WO Kenneth Milsom’s lengthy service in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Ken began his military service as a WWII reinforcement call-up for the 48th Highlanders of Canada in May 1940 and was then shipped to England for additional training. He stayed with the 48th until mid-1941 when he was transferred to the Corp of Military Staff Clerks.

During 1941-45 period, he was stationed in the Allied Headquarters in France and Belgium and also worked on the complicated administration for the D-Day landings of June, 1944.

When Ken completed his WWII service in 1945, he soon transferred full-time to the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. During the next 25 years, he completed two tours in the Korean War (1950-53), at tour in Egypt in 1955, a tour in Germany 1959-62, and a final posting in Edmonton 1963-69 training Reserve troops. He retired from the Canadian Forces in 1969.

For his three decades of dedicated military service, WO Milsom was awarded 10 medals: five medals for WWII, two medals for the Korean War, two medals for International Peacekeeping, and the Canadian Forces Decoration with clasp.

Despite his relatively brief time with our Regiment in the War, Ken always considered himself a 48th Highlander first and was proud to wear his glengarry. There is a slogan in our Regiment that says “Once a Highlander, Always a Highlander” and this is how our Regiment will remember him.

For us, Ken will always be regarded as a member of our Regimental Family and one of our special War veterans. As of his passing in early February, 2023, at age 103, he was one of our last three remaining WWII era veterans for the 48th....all of whom are over 100 years of age.

It is for this outstanding military service to his country that the 48th Highlanders of Canada wish to recognize and honor Warrant Officer Kenneth Milsom, CD. He embodied what our 48th Regimental motto has always stood for... which in Gaelic is “Dileas Gu Brath” meaning “Faithful Forever”.



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# POSTED TO UPPER CAMP

## MWO MARK MCVETY, CD

MWO Mark Garnet McVety joined the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve in 1970 as an Infantryman with the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Over the years he progressed through the ranks and served in all of the sub-units of the Active Battalion - most especially in Headquarters Company. In 1974 he was part of a platoon that trained in the high Arctic at Resolute Bay and then in Germany with the Canadian Brigade Group at Lahr. As a Senior NCO, Mark held various positions from Recruiting NCO to Company Sergeant Major (CSM). In 1996, he transferred to the Lorne Scots and served with that unit for seven years before returning to the 48th in 2003. He worked at the Brigade Battle School as the Operations Warrant Officer and was appointed the Drill Sergeant Major (DSM) of the 48th in 2005. Mark's final parade took place on 23 March 2012 at Moss Park Armoury where he handed over the appointment of DSM to MWO Reesor and subsequently retired from the Canadian Armed Forces on March 31, 2012 after 41 years of loyal service.

In retirement, Mark continued to serve the Regiment as an active volunteer at the Regimental Museum as well as being a member of the CSA and the OCA where he served as President for a number of years.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*



Members of the 48th Highlanders Regimental Family attending the memorial service for MWO Mark McVety at the Turner/Porter Funeral Home, Mississauga, May 1, 2023



# POSTED TO UPPER CAMP

## DONALD ROBSON BURR

October 1, 1945 to February 13, 2023

By Diana Burr

Don enrolled in the 48 Highlanders Summer training program when he was 16 years old. He loved being a Highlander, and was particularly interested in the history of the Regiment and in helping our 48th War veterans as best as he could.

In later years during the 1980s, he was a member of the 48th Old Comrades Association (OCA), and held several positions such as Secretary, and Membership Chairman before having a long term as President during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Don was passionate about this position and was humbled by the nomination and receipt of the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal by the OCA members. (The medal was issued in 1992 to Canadians who were deemed to have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, to their community, or to Canada.)

On several occasions, while he was president of the OCA, he was invited to attend, cost free, the celebrations and reunion of the people of Apeldoorn, Holland, and the 48 Highlanders WWII veterans on the anniversary of the 1945 Liberation.

Although he was honored, Don always declined and gave up his place to make room for "someone who had been there" during WWII and Liberation and could likely not afford to go.

Don was kind, empathetic, had a strong faith and cared deeply about the world where we are leaving our children and grandchildren.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*





# POSTED TO UPPER CAMP

## SWAYZE, PTE. ALLAN RAY, 1ST BATTALION 48TH HIGHLANDERS

B122105 Pte Swayze, Patrick Allan enlisted for overseas duty on 19 January 1944, sailed on the SS Andy from Halifax to England on 22 November 1944 and was stationed at Camp Whitby. On 02 February 1945 he sailed for Italy, landing in Naples on 28 February. He arrived at the 1st Battalion, 48th Highlanders of Canada to join their transfer from the Ravenna marshes area in northern Italy, completing the regiment's Sicilian and Italian campaign. Swayze and the battalion, as part of the 1st Canadian Division departed from Leghorn Italy, south of Genoa on 11 March, disembarking in Marseilles France on 13 March, then by truck and train to Belgium in preparation for the final liberation of Holland and for the 48th the liberation of Apeldoorn. Swayze remained with the battalion for a short period including their time at The Hague in May and then transferred from the regiment. He was in the Nijmegen area and stayed 6 months in Europe after the war's end. He was released in Canada on 12 August 1946.

Before enlisting for overseas Swayze served in the militia in St. Catharines, Ontario for 2 years from 28 April 1942 to 18 January 1944 having joined the 10th (Res) Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery while underage. His service number with 10th Field was B408854.

After the war Swayze was a member of Legion Branch 24, VA#7383896. Swayze was born May 7, 1925 and died in St. Catharines, Ontario on June 17, 2023 at the age of 99.

*By HCOL GEORDIE BEAL*



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