



THE FALCON • DECEMBER 2023

JOURNAL OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

THE REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL TURNS 100



John L. Macdonald
PHOTOGRAPHY



General Young presenting the history of our Regimental Monument at Queens Park, which is now 100 years old. [Click here to read more.](#)



The 48th have conducted a wide variety of training in 2023... [Click here to read more.](#)



PHOTOS ON THE COVER are from the Remembrance Day ceremonies here in Toronto at Queens Park and in Ortona, Italy.



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

Badges of the 48th Highlanders of Canada included in this publication are displayed by authority of the Regimental Commanding Officer, in accordance with CFP 200 Chapter 7

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

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



12 Highlanders travelled to Ortona last November to celebrate the 80th anniversary of it's liberation. [Click here to read more.](#)



The 48th pipes continue their tradition of opening for the Leafs! [Click here to read more.](#)

FALL 2023 - FEATURING:

- *Msgs from the CO & RSM*
- *Promotions and Awards*
- *Active Unit Exercises and Photos*
- *Morning Glory Tour & 11 November in Ortona, Italy Remembrance Day Parade 2023*
- *Celebrating the 100th anniversary of our 48th Monument*
- *The Saint Andrews Cadets*
 - *The 48th Pipes*
 - *The travels of our Honorary LCol*
- *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

Update from the desk of the Commanding Officer

Highlanders,

As I write this message we are now stood-down for Christmas. I hope this break will allow everyone to reflect on the first half of this training year while looking forward to the opportunities still yet to come. With the new Soldier Readiness Policy – Reserve (SRP-R) everyone has made a significant effort to get, and stay, qualified and deployable. The necessity for this has never been more stark. Five officers alone are deployed overseas, while over 250 positions for junior ranks will be available across the brigade for upcoming deployments with NATO. In light of the changing security situation around the world, Highlanders will be needed more than ever to augment the Regular Force, and assist in supporting our NATO allies abroad.

To do this, we will see upcoming courses with American partners from the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in February and March to complete Cold Weather Operator (CWO) and Light Over-Snow Vehicle (LOSV) training. We will continue to improve skills in an urban environment working with enablers and armoured support on EX URBAN FALCON before transitioning back to more traditional light infantry offensive operations in the spring. Each of these exercises will push highlanders at all levels to perform so that they will be best prepared for overseas positions.

Beyond training and operations, it has been a remarkable year for the Regiment, marking numerous key moments in our history. I would like to again thank the Honorary Colonel, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, the Senate and Trust members, and those from the 15th BN Project, who helped to send highlanders to France (marking the final plaque installation memorializing Lieutenant-Colonel W.R. Marshall, DSO, CO 15th BN (48th Highlanders)); Ortona (marking the 80th anniversary of the pivotal battle in World War II); and lastly the centenary of our Monument on 11 November. These opportunities which more closely involve current serving members in the history of the Regiment will ensure that honoring past Highlanders, and most importantly our Fallen, will continue in perpetuity.

As I noted above the world around us is changing. The CAF is attempting to meet the challenges of our new world with changes to training and administration along with vastly increased numbers of overseas deployments. Change, however, is rarely easy and even more rarely done right the first time. Through all of this we, as Highlanders, must be prepared to answer the call to serve. Canadians will see that throughout years of changes and challenges, we the 48th Highlanders have remained, DILEAS!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!
DILEAS GU BRATH!

J. A. MORISCHE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

COMMANDING OFFICER

48TH HIGHLANDERS

OF CANADA



LCpl Morische before the march to the Cenotaph, Saturday 11 Nov 2023



A Message from the Regimental Sergeant Major

Hello fellow Highlanders,

Here we are again, entering into another holiday season. This year has seen a number of excellent things happen with the Regiment and more is on the way in 2024.

First, thanks to the extreme generosity of the Hon Col, we have seen two pilgrimages of soldiers from the unit travel to France/Belgium and to Italy following in the footsteps of our forefathers. And we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our monument at Queen's Park with a well-attended parade on 11 November.

We also saw the official coronation of King Charles. While we did not have anyone attend this historic event, we did have personnel take part in the official celebration marking this occasion at Queen's Park.

We are still in the process of having a new Colonel-in-Chief appointed. As everything in the military, it takes time.

The Soldier Readiness Policy – Reserves is in full implementation and will be the guiding principle for employment for the near future. This is even more important as we enter into the next couple of years. As you have all been briefed, we will be responsible to support our commitment to NATO in 2025/2026 which will see approx. 400 soldiers from 32 CBG deploy on expeditionary ops – most of those positions are aimed at the MCpl-Pte ranks with some Sgts and WOs. Keeping your files up to date is key to this. And as the lead mounting unit for the Territorial Battle Group for 32 CBG, we are keeping a close eye on snow, flood and forest fire potential issues in southern Ontario for the coming spring/summer.

For those heading into leadership courses, you are ready and all I ask is you keep your eyes and ears open to learn as much as you can from your mentors and instructors. Starting this journey is much needed for the health of the Regiment and once you are trained, you will have a hand in guiding the future of the Regiment. For those who are still working on your BMQ/DP1 Infantry, the same principle applies. Learn all you can from your instructors over the winter and spring and prepare yourselves for the summer training period.

Given all of the commitments expected in the near future, there will be changes to the routine you might be accustomed to as we prepare to support the RegF. Roll with the changes and don't take anything personally. Instead, rise to



RSM Chris Reesor,
Saturday 11 Nov 2023



the challenge presented – you may be surprised with what you are able to achieve.

December and January will see some of our personnel who have been working overseas return home for a well-deserved rest. And others will be deploying – in some cases directly replacing our personnel already there. To those returning, a job well done. To those heading out the door, best of luck on your tours. We will see you when you get back.

As we enter into the holiday season and take a much-needed break from training, take the time to rest and re-energize for the New Year and all that it will present. We have Cold Weather Operator training and LOSV for those who can take the full-time course early in the New Year. This will be a great opportunity as we welcome partners from the 4th battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland and from 48 IBCT from Georgia. They are very much looking forward to spending time in our Province and learning about and spending time with you. There will also be opportunities to train for Domestic Operations and then we will be heavy into RST. The time will pass by quickly, trust me.

My family and I celebrate Christmas, so I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. But during this festive season, no matter what your beliefs are and what celebrations you follow, may you all have a peaceful, restful time filled with tradition and fellowship.

9C out

DGB

RSM

--

CHRIS REESOR, CD

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

REGIMENTAL SGT MAJOR,
48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

G33 CEREMONIAL AND BAND ADVISOR,
32 CBG HQ

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MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
1-888-268-7708

DILEAS GU BRATH

**Our next Regimental event
will be on Sunday 21 April
at St. Andrews Church:**

**The Act of Remembrance Parade
and Change of RSM**

- more details to follow.

HONOURS, PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS SINCE JULY 2023



PROMOTIONS

CAP BADGE & HLDR (FIRST CHEVRON)

Pte Apalit
Pte Garduce
Pte Pinasen
Pte Zeynalov



CORPORAL

Hldr Ahilesan;
Hldr Arevalo;
Hldr Chokden;
Hldr Cheung, 303
Hldr Iqbal;
Hldr Joshi;
Hldr Kalabic;
Hldr Massara;
Hldr Motala; and
Hldr Sidarous.



SERGEANT

MCpl Bender



WO

Sgt Haley

MEDALS

CD1

Cpl Greene; and
WO Rukman

CO COMMENDATION

Geraldine Turner on the occasion of her 100th Birthday and for tireless support of the 48th Highlanders

COMD TEAM COINS

MCpl Clark – Design of new Comd Team Coin

Cpl Jackson – First out of 27 on BMG

Pte Chen – 4 out of 27 on BMG

Pte Joshi – 5 out of 27 on BMG

Pte Byrne – 2 out of 49 on BMQ

Dmr Findlay – PA support

Pte Power – Hockey Skills Competition winner 2023 AND Top Candidate on DP1 Inf

Sgt Turner – North American Championships Amateur Drummer

Cpl Ram – Helicopter Remediation good job

A Coy Section from Section Competition

Cpl Zapata Valles

Pte Arsenault

Hldr Garduce

Hldr Seppanen

Hldr Ahilesan

Hldr Apalit

Hldr Sidaruous

Hldr Ali

CERTIFICATES

BSM Murray + coin

THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA, AN UPDATE FOR 2023

By Captain John Malcolm

The 2023 training period proved to be particularly noteworthy one for the 48th Highlanders of Canada, leaving a lasting impact on both the Active Battalion members and the larger Regimental family. In this article, I will highlight the Regiment's accomplishments and advancements in three key areas this past year: contributions to the broader Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) Conduct and Culture change initiative, its achievements in Active Battalion training, and the commemoration and celebration of the Regiment's rich history and heritage.

CAF CONDUCT AND CULTURE CHANGE

The CAF's Conduct and Culture change initiative refers to its efforts, undertakings, initiatives, services, and events conducted by the Department of National Defence (DND) and the CAF with the aim of tackling systemic misconduct and fostering a positive cultural transformation within the Defence Team. The CAF and DND are addressing systemic barriers that disproportionately affect women, Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, and other racialized members within the Defence Team, and the 48th have been taking an active role in realizing this initiative since its inception. A number of activities in the training year provided several notable examples of the 48th's active leadership in this initiative.

In February, the 48th celebrated Black History Month. On March 8, it commemorated International Women's Day, a global observance applauding the social, economic, cultural, and political accomplishments of women. These two opportunities enabled the Regimental family to appreciate its dedicated Black soldiers and women, respectively, and underscored its commitment in reducing racial and gender-related issues in the CAF. Notably, the 48th was especially honoured to acknowledge Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Sasha Darling for her contributions to advancing female representation within the CAF and in the Toronto CAF community, as well as Honorary Colonel John McIntyre's ongoing and unwavering efforts in creating employment opportunities for First Nations youth across the nation and in the Greater Toronto Area.

ACTIVE BATTALION TRAINING

While the efforts and achievements of the Active Battalion's training and operational preparation activities are perhaps too numerous to mention in this brief article, some prominent training events and the people who made them happen will be celebrated here.

In Winter 2023, several weeks of in-garrison training in January and February prepared soldiers to conduct the effective drills, tactical activities, and sustainment activities to enable winter survival in field training scenarios and in operations. This preparation was quickly put to good use, as very early in the training year, soldiers of the fighting company and recce section engaged in Cold Weather Operator qualification training and winter tactical exercises. Both activities helped to prepare soldiers of the 48th in engaging in operations in winter environments.

Part of this Cold Weather Operator training included the effective maintenance and deployment of arctic tents and their transport toboggans. These "arctic tent groups," as they are known, play a crucial role during winter exercises in the field, enabling the transportation of personnel, equipment, supplies, and more through routes inaccessible to vehicles.

In March, members of the unit were also privileged in being permitted by the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to practice urban operations skills in the TTC's Lower Bay Subway Station. The station was certainly a unique environment for the soldiers to practice urban operations skills in, and the Regiment is proud to be one of the TTC's security and safety partners. In the course of Exercise Urban Falcon, soldiers seized the opportunity to engage in force-on-force training, providing them with valuable training in urban operational settings.

Spring and Summer 2023 also saw members of the Regiment attend their summer career courses and taskings, as well as weapons handling and tactical training in concert with other units in 32 Canadian Brigade Group. Notable training opportunities during this period included a joint arms training exercise with the Queen's York Rangers and Governor General's Horse Guards, both armoured reconnaissance units, and participation in Exercise Arrowhead Guardian, a brigade-level tactical exercise that confirms the combat readiness and capability of the Reserves.



PICTURED ABOVE: Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Darling and Honorary Colonel John McIntyre with Lieutenant-General M.H.L. (Lise) Bourgon, CMM, MSC, CD, Acting Commander, Military Personnel Command. The roles of Honorary Colonel and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel are integral positions within Regular or Reserve regiments, corps, or branches. They play a crucial role in establishing a connection between the military and influential community leaders, and further institutional culture change and dialogue with the local community.

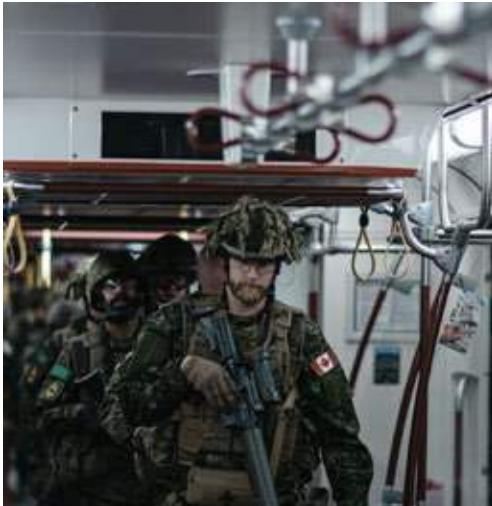


ABOVE: Regimental soldiers from diverse backgrounds participating in field training in March 2023.



ABOVE: A C9 gunner of the Regiment conducts obstacle drills during the field exercise that happened in between 24th to 26th February 2023.

ACTIVE UNIT



ABOVE: Members of the regiment working with members from 1st and 3rd Battalions Royal Canadian Regiment, 25 Field Ambulance, and the Lincoln & Welland Regiment during Exercise Urban Falcon.



ABOVE: In August 2023, Members of the Regiment participate in the 32 Canadian Brigade Group tactical exercise Arrowhead Guardian 23, designed to enhance combat readiness and strengthen the capabilities of the Canadian Army Reserve



ABOVE: Members of the Regiment conducting personal weapon live fire practices and conducting shooting while moving drills at 4CDTC Meaford in October 2023.



ABOVE: In June 2023, members of the regiment conduct combined arms training with TAPVs from Governor General's Horse Guards and Queen's York Rangers on Exercise Tartan Thruster.

Fall 2023 saw the Regimental stand-to and initiation of the new training year, wherein key activities included personal and group weapons ranges, confirmation of basic soldier skills such as navigation and section movement. This training period culminated in a joint exercise with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, in which a platoon from the 48th participated in a company-level deliberate attack against an urban objective in Canadian Forces Base Petawawa.



ABOVE: During a training exercise in September 2023, members of the regiment continue to practice their navigation using map and compass, one of the key jobs that any infantry soldiers need to get done.



ABOVE: On the weekend of June 16th, members of the regiment attended Exercise Marshall Relay, a non-tactical exercise conducted prior to the unit summer routine. Members had an opportunity to go to CFB Borden and conduct ranges for all small arms including HP Browning pistols.



ABOVE: On November 24-26, 2023, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada conducted Exercise MAROON SWORD 3. The objective was a Company-level deliberate attack against an urban objective in Petawawa.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Finally, the Regimental Family experienced a notable year in terms of heritage and history. Firstly, following the Act of Remembrance Parade in April 2023, the Regiment conducted a repatriation of the medals for of Brigadier J.P. Girvan, a commanding officer of the 48th during the First World War and in peacetime; his wife, Nursing Sister Jean Elizabeth Girvan; and Pipe Major Alexander R. Keith. In May 2023, the Mayor of Apeldoorn, Netherlands, visited the Regimental Museum and discussed the history between Apeldoorn and the Regiment. Apeldoorn is a town that was liberated by the 48th during the Second World War, and the deep connection shared between its people and the Regimental Family.

Remembrance Day was a special event this year, as ceremonies took place simultaneously at both the Regimental Cenotaph at Queen's Park in Toronto and in Ortona, Italy. 2023 marked one-hundred years since the initial dedication of the Regimental Cenotaph in Queen's Park in Toronto, and the unit marked the occasion by rededicating it.

In closing, the activities of the Active Battalion and the Regimental Family during 2023 held special significance for the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Its achievements across its training activities, Conduct and Culture Change, and its history and heritage have set a solid foundation for these elements of Regimental life in 2024. Dileas Gu Brath!



Pictured: 16 May 2023, Ton Heerts, the mayor of Apeldoorn, Netherlands visited the 48th Regimental Museum.



Pictured: Regimental Remembrance Day parade that took place at the Regimental memorial cenotaph on 11 November 2023.



Pictured: Twelve members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and HLCol Darling had an opportunity to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ortona, in recognition of the 80th anniversary the Battle of Ortona.

THE ACTIVE UNIT - AUGUST-DECEMBER 2023



9mm pistol and belt-fed 5.56mm Light Machine Gun?

How could anyone say no to that! Members of the regiment enjoy their time on Exercise Marshall Relay, July 17th, 2023. Photo by Maj Lau, J.



Congratulations to Private Power on his completion of DP1 Infantry as a top candidate!

Being a top candidate at any courses can be achieved through hard work and dedication. Continuing to strive further and complete the tasks given, Pte Power was awarded top candidate on course. Once again, congratulations! Photo provided by: Sgt Cui, J



Congratulations to Drum Sgt Brian Turner

on winning the North American Championship Amateur Drummer this past Saturday at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville!

We are always recruiting! Are you an individual who wish to play drums or bagpipes while getting paid? Contact our recruiters today! Photo by Cpl Chung, H



We work in the dark while everyone else sleeps.

Congratulations to members of DP1 0234 on their completion of Infantry DP 1 Mod 2. All members are now qualified infantry soldiers and they will be working with their regiment on their training nights. Excellent work to Sgt Wang and MCpl Ouroumis on teaching our regiment's newest soldiers. Photo by Sgt Wang, F. - 28 August



"Nice and easy, squeeze the trigger."

Members of the regiment took part in BMQ 1183 as course instructors, teaching CAF's newest members valuable lessons and providing them adequate training. Instructors include: Sgt. Cui, Sgt. Sosa and MCpl Spratt. Photo by Cpl Chung, H - 1 September



Are you planning on visiting the CNE today?

Come by Canadian Armed Forces booth and meet the members of our regiment! Photo by Cpl Chung, H - 4 September



Congratulations to the members of the regiment who completed their BMQ last month.

These members have successfully completed their Basic Military Qualification and are one step closer to becoming an infantry soldier serving with the regiment. Photo by Cpl Chung, H - 6 September

THE ACTIVE UNIT - AUGUST-DECEMBER 2023



Somewhere out there...

Member of our regiment currently part of eFP Battle Group Latvia utilizes his C9A2 LMG during Exercise SILVER ARROW 2023 on 25 September, 2023. Photo by Captain Joffray Provencher & Corporal Lynette Ai Dang, eFP BG Latvia Public Affairs and Imagery Section.



BIG SMILES!

This past summer, Corporal Di Grado took part in intense ISCC (Infantry Section Commander Course). Allowing him to lead soldiers under his care and become a qualified infantry section commander. Congratulations to now Master Corporal Di Grado on his completion of ISCC. Provided by: MCpl Di Grado



October was Women's History Month!

We continue to recognize the contributions of women from diverse backgrounds, past and present, to the CAF. Thank you to those women who continue to serve! Photo by Cpl Chung, H



In September a few members of the regiment attached to Canadian Forces College attended the Battle of Britain ceremony

with the Vice Chief of Defence Staff Lieutenant-General Frances Allen present. The Battle of Britain was a campaign during World War II, where the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy defended United Kingdom against the Luftwaffe, the German air force. During the Battle of Britain, Canadians flew alongside with the Royal Air Force, suffering casualties while protecting United Kingdom against the German air attacks. Photo by Cpl Chung, H



During the Soldiers Appreciation Dinner, two members of the regiment have been

awarded with their CD1. Spending over 22 years with Canadian Armed Forces, these members have been awarded with their second CD medal. Congratulations to both Cpl Greene and WO Rukman! Photo by Cpl Chung, H.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE - 4 NOV 2023

MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETARY



CENTENARY OF OUR REGIMENTAL MONUMENT

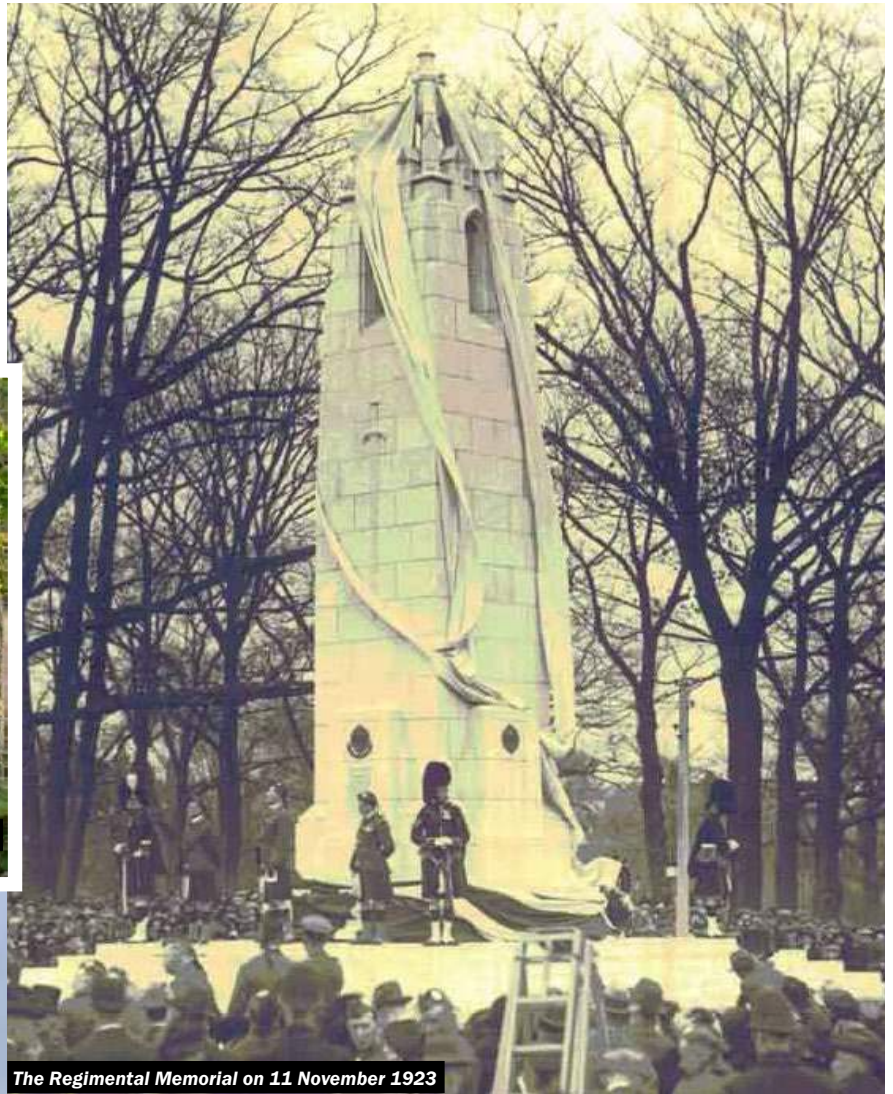
OPENING NARRATIVE

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

The Regimental memorial has stood here at the northern entrance to Queen's Park for 100 years ever since it was unveiled on Armistice Day, November 11, 1923. Every year since then, succeeding generations of Highlanders have paraded annually to this memorial, initially on Armistice Day, and since 1931 on Remembrance Day, to remember and commemorate "the glorious memory of those who died and the undying honour of those who served" in the conflicts in which members of the Regiment have served. Those who served in those conflicts number almost



Brigadier General (ret) G. Young
OMM, MSM, CD



The Regimental Memorial on 11 November 1923



The Regimental Memorial on 11 November 2023

14,000 and of those, the Fallen number over 2,000. The tall granite memorial stands like an unchanging and steadfast reminder of the sacrifice made by those members of the Regiment during times of utmost peril and under the most trying of conditions. Yet the memorial, despite its unchanging appearance, has a history of its own and as the Regiment has changed over the years, so has the memorial.

In 1923 the memorial was erected and dedicated specifically to commemorate those who had served and died in The Great War 1914-1918. However, in the years following that war, the Regiment provided members that served in other conflicts, principally World War II and more recently, Afghanistan and following each of those conflicts, new inscriptions and Battle Honours were added to the memorial. Also, like all outdoor structures, the memorial has been exposed to the cumulative effects of time and nature and over the years it has undergone restoration at different points in time. Dealing with change and maintaining tradition has always been a delicate balance but as seen in this memorial, it can be done successfully so that it commemorates the sacrifices of the past while also reminding the present of the need for continued dedication to service. And so although it may appear unchanged since 1923, the memorial is not frozen in time – it is in fact a living memorial and like the motto of the Regiment that erected it 100 years ago, the memorial remains *Dileas Gu Brath - Faithful Forever*.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - 11 NOV 2023



REMEMBRANCE DAY - 11 NOV 2023



POST PARADE GATHERING AT THE MONUMENT AND THE ROM



POST PARADE GATHERING AT THE MONUMENT AND THE ROM



ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE CADETS



Remembrance Day ceremony - 7 November
(photos on this page except for bottom row)



Prayer Circle on October 4



ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE CADETS



Cadet Promotion Parade on December 7 (on this page)



MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023

by HLCol Darling

A Regimental Group of twelve soldiers, *Maj Javin Lau, Capt John Malcolm, Lt William Syron, Sgt Thomas Van Lingen, Sgt Vernon Sosa, MCpl Graham Robertson, MCpl Matthew Clark, MCpl Adamo Berto, MCpl Patrick Navarro, Cpl George Boast, Cpl Michael Reid and Pte Brendan Power*, travelled to Italy for a Morning Glory Battlefield Tour and participated, along with me and HCol Newman, in 11 November ceremonies in Ortona and at the Moro River Cemetery to honour our WWII soldiers on the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Ortona (known as “Little Stalingrad”). This “Morning Glory” tour was named after the Operation which contributed to our Ortona Battle Honour.

I'd like to express our collective, giant gratitude to HCol MacIntyre. This outstanding trip was made possible by his remarkable financial generosity and ongoing support.

Our thanks for the tireless efforts of Angela Arnone and the Crossroads Cultural Association who ran the extensive tour and provided a lot of local context and connection. Dr. Lee Windsor and Dr. Cindy Brown of University of New Brunswick's Gregg Centre provided thought-provoking historical military analysis. HCOL (Ret'd) Beal provided readings and an excellent briefing in advance of the trip. We were also joined by six members of the Chippewas of Nawash community whose family members include Ojibway Veterans who served in Sicily and Italy, as well as some guests of the Gregg Centre.

MCpl Robertson has written a great article about the tour from the soldiers' perspective, so I will focus my comments on other aspects of the trip. We had giant (delicious) meals, amazing experiences and made a lot of wonderful new friends. As a group, we observed Indigenous Remembrance Day on 8 November and participated in smudging of Indigenous graves. Our piper, Cpl George Boast, piped at every cemetery we visited. The night of 10 November, we all attended a dinner with Canadian Ambassador to Italy, Elissa Golberg and her husband Robert, and Deputy Commander JFC Naples LGen Stephen Kelsey along with Regimental Family Members Sandra Seagram Annovazzi, an incredible champion of our 48th legacy in Italy, and her daughter Eugenia.

Similar to HCol's MacIntyre's report on Ortona from 28 November 2022 ([click here to read about that trip](#)), we all participated in the 11 November ceremony at the Piazza degli Eroi Canadesi (Canadian Heroes Square) in Ortona. Major Lau and I laid a wreath with LGen Kelsey in honour of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and HCol Newman laid a wreath in honour of Canadian Indigenous soldiers with the Canadian Ambassador and a representative of the First Nations Group. Following that ceremony, we all went to the Moro River Cemetery to attend the Remembrance ceremony which is organized by the Canadian College in Italy. Attendance was massive, with all generations represented. HCol Newman and I laid a wreath at that ceremony in honour of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. From there, we went to the Battle of Ortona Museum for the unveiling of a new plaque to Canadian Indigenous soldiers and a tour of the Museum. The next day, HCol Newman and I attended the service at All Saints' Anglican Church in Rome and paid our respects at the Plaque to the 48th Highlanders of Canada within the church, and were invited to lay a wreath in honour of the Regiment, along with the Grand Master and Grand Commander of the Knights of Malta, and the British and South African Ambassadors to Italy.



On behalf of the Regimental Family, a big thank you to our former Honorary Colonel John Newman, who is currently serving as the Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Rangers. Since he was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the 48th, HCol Newman has built extensive relationships in Italy, promoting the 48th Highlanders, Indigenous Veterans and the CAF at large in Sicily and Italy, all with the support of the Canadian Embassy, the Canadian Ambassador and their respective Canadian Defence Attachés. He, in collaboration with Sandra Seagram Annovazzi and respective local priests, has arranged Plaques honouring the 48th Highlanders of Canada in Florence, Rome (All Saints' Anglican Church), Palermo and Assoro (City Hall). In collaboration with Jim Cassie, Plaques to the 48th were completed in Assoro (City Hall Council Chambers) and at the Pachino former Nazi headquarters. In addition, there are 48th Memorial Plaques in the square in Ortona, the Museo della Battaglia di Ortona (Ortona military Museum) and in Ortona's City Hall Council Chambers as well. The Canadian display in the Catania War Museum was installed by HCol Newman, Jim Cassie and Tommy Thompson. The cap badge of every Canadian Regiment that served in Sicily was donated by and from Tommy Thompson's personal collection. HCol Newman recommends everyone who can, should see that Museum. In addition, as Chairman of The Ranger Foundation, he has caused First Nation Plaques to be installed on the only remaining original wall of the church in Dead Horse Square in Ortona, in the Museo della Battaglia di Ortona (Ortona military museum) and on the base of the city of Ortona's Price of Peace Memorial in Canadian Heroes Square. The installation of the Memorial Plaques and the displays at the Museo della Battaglia di Ortona were enthusiastically supported by Mayor Leo Castiglione over the last seven years.

Having had the privilege of attending both overseas trips this year, I have a few observations to share:

1. *It is unbelievable what our soldiers accomplished in WWI and WWII, so far away from their families and civilian lives;*
2. *The theatres of war could not have been more different from each other. Seeing the landscapes in person is very different from reading the history (both are important to do!); and*
3. *Our soldiers - on both trips - represented brilliantly and have made our community proud.*

What an amazing family we have in our Regiment and Regimental Family. May we continue to pay our respects in person in the future.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023

7-13 NOV: MORNING GLORY TOUR (80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN) AND MORO RIVER REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Article by MCpl Graham Robertson

This past November, our regiment had the privilege of traveling to Italy to visit the battlefields where our forefathers fought and fell, ultimately contributing to the end of Nazi tyranny worldwide. A heartfelt thank you goes to Honorary Colonel MacIntyre, Honorary Colonel Darling and the Cross Roads Association whose generous efforts made this journey possible. The experience was eye-opening, providing a profound understanding of the hallowed grounds where our forefathers demonstrated incredible feats, particularly from the perspective of an infantry soldier. The trip briefly traced the historical movements of our regiment during significant battle honours of the Second World War.

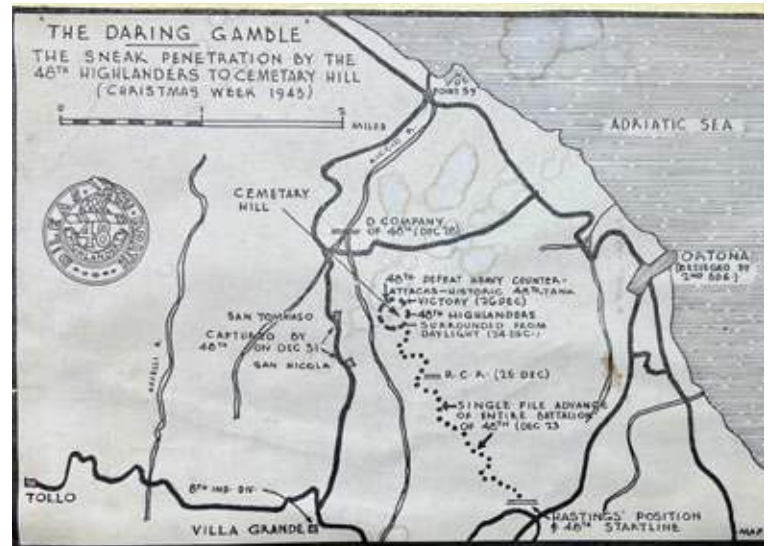
These images provide a glimpse into historical battles, offering a brief overview of key events and highlighting approximate dates, without delving too deeply. The following photos shown in chronological order of where our regiment fought from December 1943 to October 1944. Some of the locations have been found translated from the grid references provided in the regimental war diaries. They highlight the following battles, the Moro River, the Gully, Ortona, the Hitler Line, the Gothic Line and Rimini. In the context of our battle honours they cover Ortona, Liri Valley, Hitler Line, Gothic Line and a part of the Rimini line. There are a few photos outside of the 48th Highlanders context, but are appropriate for a good visualization.



The Battle of the Moro River with San Leonardo and Ortona in the distance (the ravine to the front is the Moro River). The 48th and RCR would move through this large ravine. The RCR would take San Leonardo with the 48th in support. The 48th would take the left edge of San Leonard and extend to Ville Torre on the left edge of the frame. The Hasty P's would establish a bridgehead to the right outside of drake allowing passage of the RCR and 48th. Early December 1943.



48th members with a captured enemy spy in San Leonardo, early December 1943.



MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023



Although not 48th specific, this is Casa Berardi, a R22R specific location. Captain Paul Triquet would win a VC here on the 14th of December 1943 during the battle of the Gully. An important OP position for the Germans.



What it looked like in December of 1943.



48th during the battles of Moro River and the Gully. Taking cover from mortar strikes. December of 1943.



The R22R would move through this, The Gully (Casa Berardi behind frame), taking extensive casualties to approach Casa Berardi. The 48th would move up on the right edge of the frame as part of operation Morning Glory using a creeping barrage, from Ville Tore to near Villa Grande, mid December 1943.



With the success of operation Morning Glory by the 48th, it eventually led to operation Orange Blossom, this is Cider Crossroads taken by the Three Rivers Regiment (TRR) and RCR, a strategic MSR providing support to the Germans front line. Mid December 1943.



MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023



The 48th would take the crossroads ahead as part of their consolidation point for what would be the start of their eventual battle for 'Ortona'. The Hasty P's and RCR would pass through their lines. Mid December 1943.



Cemetery Hill, facing San Nicola and San Tomasso, became a crucial battleground during the Ortona campaign. The 48th faced initial delays due to other regiments attempting to establish a bridgehead with no tank support due to weather and terrain. Eventually, under the cover of darkness, the 48th executed a daring mission, silently advancing an entire battalion with small arms only. On the night of December 23, without support and under the command of Colonel Johnston, the 48th advanced single file on a goat path that a recce party found, armed with Bren guns, rifles, and grenades, each soldier holding the bayonet scabbard of the person in front to avoid getting lost. Along the way, they silently bayoneted, took prisoners and cleared houses of German paratroopers. By December 24, they arrived at their destination, completely surrounded, forming a battalion-sized defense. Despite spending a freezing Christmas in their slit trenches, they successfully took their objective and repelled numerous counterattacks by German paratroopers. This position earned the nickname 'Cemetery Hill' from Padre East due to the numerous fallen paratroopers. After nearly a month of continuous combat, our regiment, despite grappling with combat exhaustion, successfully secured their objective. This strategic achievement involved cutting off crucial supply routes to the Germans, thereby averting additional casualties for the Loyal Eddies (LER), Seaforths and other Canadian Armored regiments engaged in the intense fighting in Ortona proper. Within the same month, our regiment also triumphed in urban warfare, seizing the towns of San Nicola and San Tomasso.



What A Coy HQ looked like in December of 1943.



The castle in Ortona overlooking the town and the Adriatic sea, in Ortona proper.



Members of the regiment outside A Coy HQ on Cemetery Hill, 24 December 1943.



MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023



A 48th officers drawing of the castle.



Same location in December of 1943.



Piazza Vittoria, the TRR, LER and Seaforth would take this square. Around Christmas of 1943.



High Street in Ortona, approaching the center of town. The TRR and LER would advance, this is where the urban ops tactic of 'mouse holing' was used. December of 1943.

MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023



Same street in December of 1943.



Same spot around Christmas of 1943.



MCpl Robertson and MCpl Clark in the center of town. This was the killzone for the Canadians by the German Paratroopers at the end of High Street.



MCpl Robertson speaking to CBC radio "this is the allied expeditionary forces programing..."

MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023



There are over one hundred 48th Highlanders and thirteen hundred Canadians that lay here in the Moro River Cemetery primarily from the battles of the Moro River, the Gully and Ortona.



MCpl Clark and Giuseppe. Giuseppe remembers the stories of his uncle clearing dead Germans left behind by the 48th when they cleared his home in San Tomasso. He had some interesting relics to show us at his house.



The Hitler Line, the 48th, would move through in May of 1944.

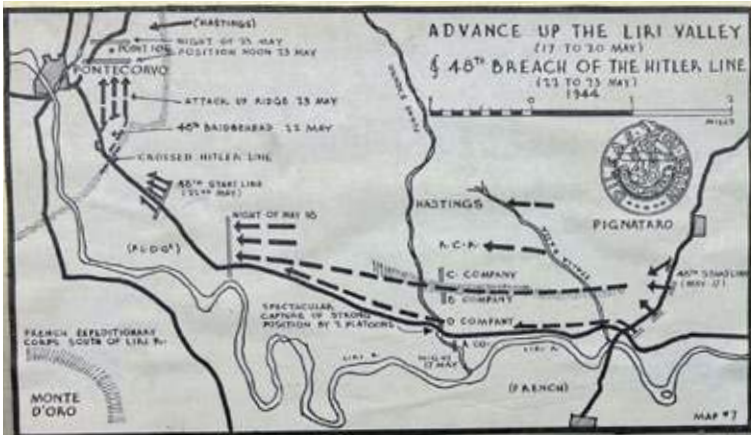
MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023



75mm gun emplacement on the Hitler Line.



The town of Pontecorvo taken by the RCR and Hasty P's. The 48th would break through the Hitler Line to allow a bridgehead for the town to be taken.



The church in Pontecorvo that the RCR rang the bells on when it was liberated. Behind this church is the Hitler Line (a raised hill on the left edge of the frame).

Lieutenant Ballard, despite being recommended for a Victoria Cross, declined the honor for personal reasons, opting instead for a well-deserved Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in recognition of his exceptional actions. Leading two sections, Ballard faced intense enemy fire at close quarters from 75-millimeter guns. Taking bold initiative, Ballard led his men against the 75 mm gun positions. Employing three grenades, he eliminated a crew of four men who were preparing to fire on his section. Subsequently, with another grenade, he effectively neutralized several members of an enemy infantry protective section. Now unarmed, Ballard confronted a German officer who aimed a pistol at him. Undeterred, Lieutenant Ballard charged, using his bare fists to disarm the officer and secure his surrender. During this operation, nine enemy soldiers were killed, and twelve were captured. Additionally, Ballard's leadership resulted in the capture of three 75 mm guns, one half-track vehicle, and one machine gun. His heroic conduct not only secured victory for his battalion on that day but also had significant and far-reaching consequences in the subsequent successful series of actions against the Hitler Line.

Sgt Shaw would win an Military Medal here stopping an advance of four self-propelled guns with infantry support by firing a 6 pounder anti-tank (AT) gun under the light of a flare at night. One of the few AT gun kills in Italy and an exceptional shot given the circumstances.

Padre East would win a Military Cross for being wounded and refusing to leave the line until he checked on all his 'boys'.

May of 1943.



Monte Cassino Cemetery with the Abbey in the distance...Members of the regiment who were killed in action at the Hitler Line and Liri Valley lay here.

MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023



Monte la Remetene and Monte la Difensa in the distance. Although not relevant to the regiment as a whole, the 48th had members in the First Special Service Force (FSSF), known as the Devil's Brigade (A joint Canadian and American Special Operations Unit). The FSSF would take these mountains suffering heavy casualties but help open highway 6, the road to Rome for the allies in December of 1943.



The advance of the 48th on the Gothic Line, September of 1944.



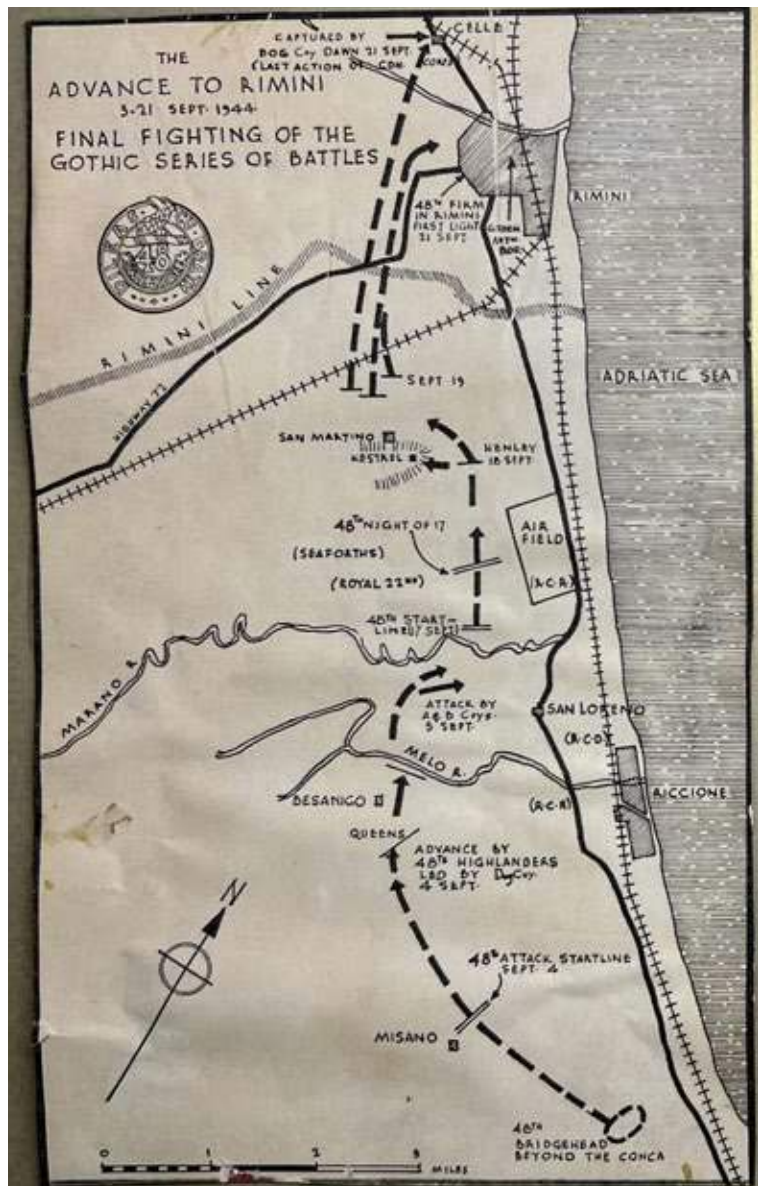
This view shows the advance of the 48th (towards frame) through the Gothic Line to Misano Ridge and eventually the advance to Rimini. Picture taken from San Fortunado Ridge which the Seaforth would eventually take. Mid September of 1944.



A painting by a member of the 48th in Rimini 1944.



Members of the 48th clean their weapons in camp near Rimini, fall of 1944.



MORNING GLORY TOUR, ITALY: 7-13 NOV 2023



Again not completely relevant to the 48th. One of the gates to Rome. The FSSF would be the first into Rome on 4 June 1944.



The same gates can be seen in the background; members of the FSSF entered Rome on 4 June 1944. Often overshadowed by the D-Day landings in Normandy, 6 June 1944.



Monument to King Vittorio Emanuele II in Rome, Italy (today).



Monument to King Vittorio Emanuele II in Rome, Italy - 1944.



The author and the Roman Colosseum in the background.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ORTONA, 11 NOV 2023

Twelve members of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and HLCol Darling had a opportunity to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ortona, in recognition of the 80th anniversary the Battle of Ortona.

Thank you to everyone who were able to come join us. We will remember them.

War brought us together, peace made us friends.



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ORTONA, 11 NOV 2023



On this [#RemembranceDay](#) Elissa Golberg, Canada's Ambassador to Italy, travelled to Ortona to keep alive the memory of the sacrifice made by those brave Canadian soldiers who, 80 years ago, took part in the [#ItalianCampaign](#) to defend our rights and our freedom and fight against tyranny and dictatorship.

93 thousand soldiers took part in the Italian Campaign, 26 thousand were wounded and about 6 thousand made the supreme sacrifice. 1375 of these brave soldiers rest in the Moro River War Cemetery in Ortona.

A first ceremony took place in the Square dedicated to the Canadian Heroes in Ortona, at the Price for Peace Monument. Here we honoured the bravery of the 48th Highlanders regiment and the Canadian Indigenous soldiers who fought for our freedom and for our rights.

Later in the morning, a Remembrance Day ceremony took place at the War Cemetery of the Moro River organised by the students of the Canadian College in Lanciano.

Many Canadian Armed Forces personnel, representatives of Canadian Indigenous people, citizens, friends of Canada, UK and US militaries, local authorities and people from Ortona and nearby communities took part in the ceremonies in Ortona.

Finally, a plaque was unveiled at the Museum of the Battle of Ortona dedicated to the First Nation soldiers, those who served and those who perished in liberating Italy.

War brought us together, peace made us friends.



PACHINO DAY - 10 JULY 2023



RSM (CWO) Chris Reesor and Sgt (Ret) Al Kowalenko complete the wreath laying ceremonies for the 48th Highlanders to commemorate Pachino Day (Landing in Sicily), held July 10, 2023, in Belleville, Ontario. The parade included veteran members of the 48th, Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment and The Royal Canadian Regiment. The ceremonies were followed by a traditional spaghetti luncheon to honor the memory of all three Regiments' WWII veterans who fought in the Italian Campaign (1943-45).

CNE WARRIORS DAY PARADE - AUGUST 19, 2023



Members of the 48th Highlanders Association Drill Team, Pipes & Drums, and 48th veterans marched at the 102nd Annual Warriors Day Parade on August 19, 2023, CNE Toronto. The Parade included hundreds of military participants, spectators, special guests, and local dignitaries to commemorate the theme of Women in the Canadian Armed Forces, Emergency Services and the Home Front.

THE TRAVELS OF AN HONORARY LCOL

A TRIP TO SCOTLAND, NOVEMBER 2022

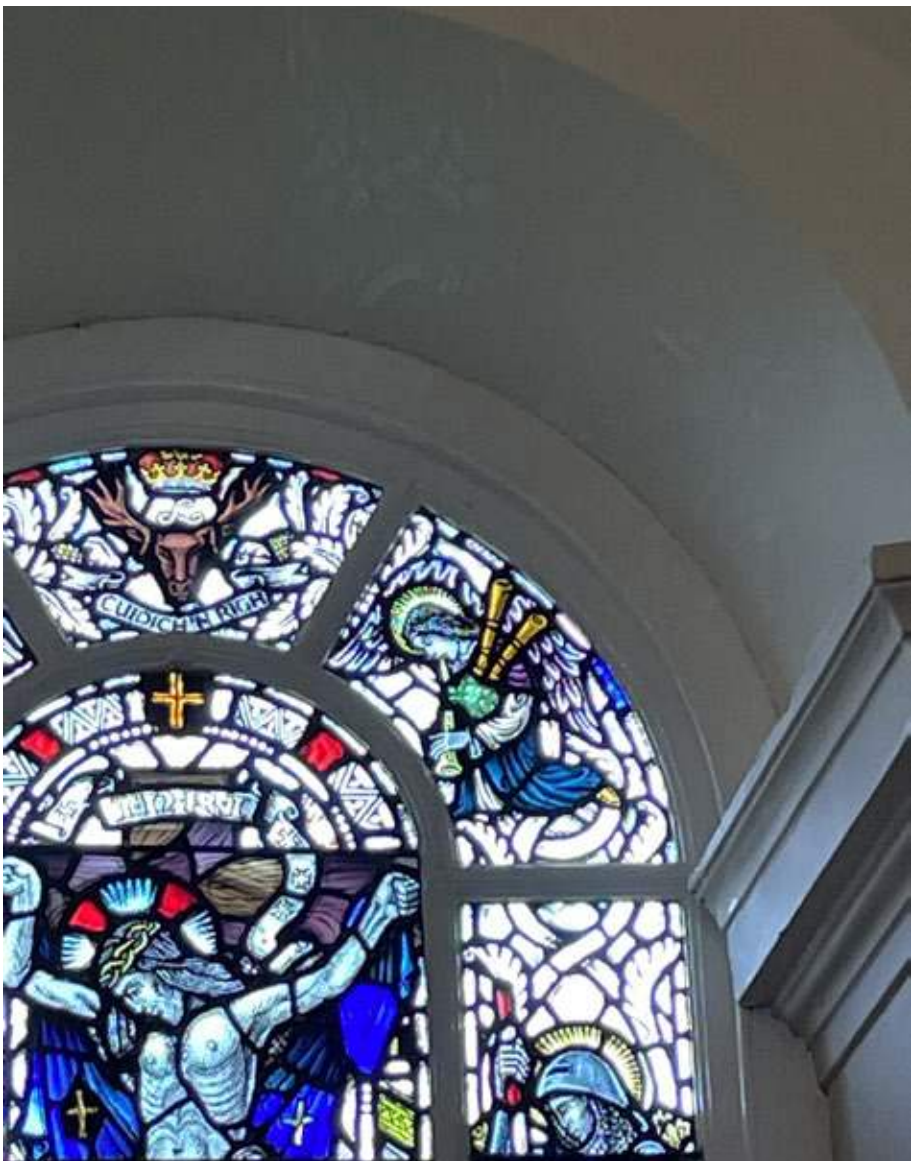
Hon LCol Sasha Darling

Last fall, ScotiaMcLeod celebrated its 100th Anniversary in Edinburgh with an Advisor conference, which I attended. My spouse Constance joined me and we stayed on to tour more of Scotland. There were lighter moments such as traffic jams in the Highlands with several animals taking their sweet time to cross the road, finding the bagpipe-paying angel in the stained glass window of the chapel of Fort George (pictured bottom left) and driving the famed “Skyfall” single track Glen Etive Road.

We visited a number of locations which would be of interest to (and have been visited by) many of our Regimental Family including Culloden, Fort George, The Highlanders’ Museum and Glen Coe. These places filled us with curiosity, awe and deep reflection.

What has stayed with me the most was our visit to the Scottish National War Memorial (pictured to the far right). Iconic and magnificent, Edinburgh Castle is the home of the Scottish National War Memorial <https://www.snwm.org/>. At one time, the building that houses the War Memorial was used as barracks. After the Great War, it was transformed into a beautiful place to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. I had visited once before with my father and our family, and was drawn to it again. We were prohibited from taking photos within the building and the Books of Remembrance were closed to visitors. This trip, I inquired as to whether they would be willing to search the Books of Remembrance for my Great Great Uncle, Captain Robert Clifford Darling, 15th BN CEF. An exception was made and I was quietly brought to the correct Book of Remembrance. The guide showed me the page and then discreetly allowed me to take a quick photo (pictured to the bottom right). I couldn’t touch the book, but it was briefly held open for me, and then the Book was closed again.

I was very moved, seeing Clifford’s name, his best friend Capt Trum Warren, and all of the 15th BN Officers who didn’t make it home all listed together. I poured over their names, thought about the these incredible 15th BN soldiers, picturing them, thinking of their stories and their surviving



THE TRAVELS OF AN HONORARY LCOL



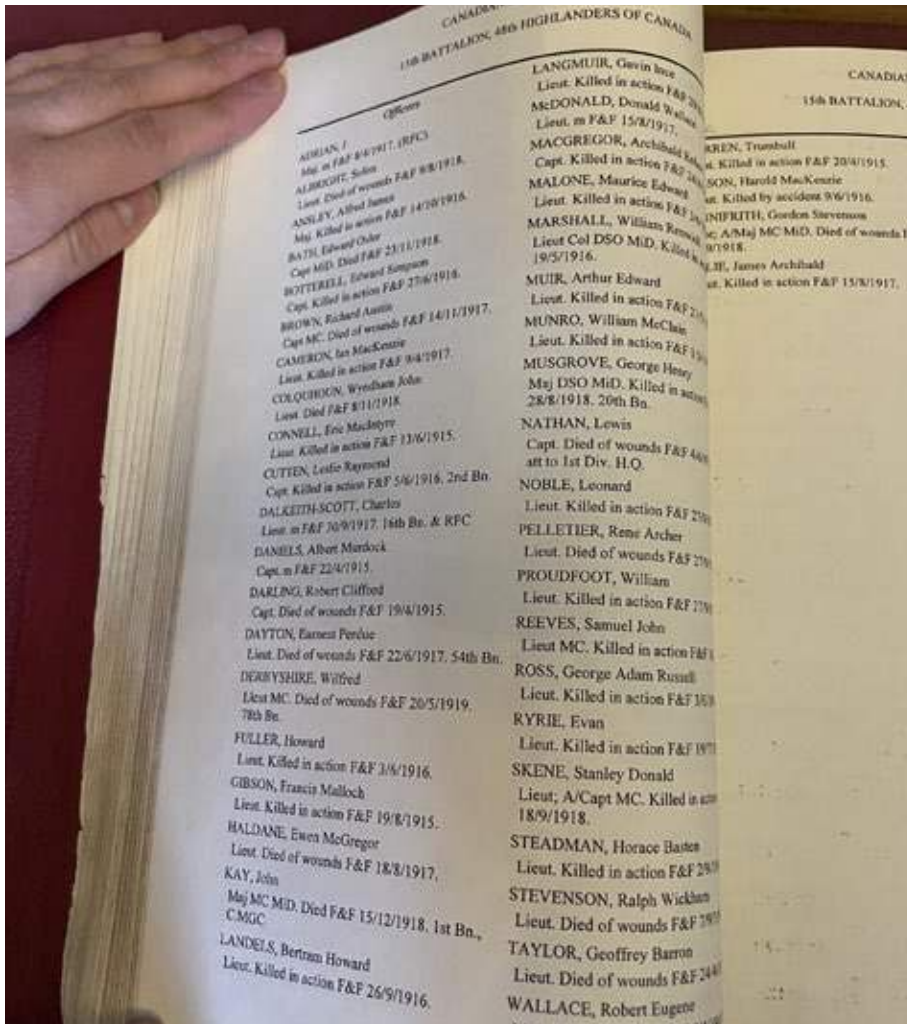
families. So much of this is possible because of the great work of the 15th BN CEF Project team and the support of our Regimental Family in keeping their legacy ever present. A number of us are heading to the dedication for LCOL Marshall, DSO later this month.

On behalf of our Regimental Senate, I would like to take a moment to thank the team who organized the Girvan Medals acquisition and event, those who supported it financially and our Regimental Family who attended the Girvan Medal event and the Act of Remembrance. It was wonderful to have the active Unit and Regimental Family together, and I look forward to future gatherings of our fine Family.

DILEAS GU BRATH

SASHA DARLING

HLCOL



AN UPCOMING TRIP: MAY 2025

Hon LCol Sasha Darling

The 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland is approaching. It will be May 2025. Planning has begun. There is much to do in advance. For those in the Regimental Family who are in a position to donate, there will be a fundraiser to assist with sending soldiers overseas.

On behalf of the Regimental Senate, we look forward to engaging with our community at upcoming events. Please make your plans to join us!

Stay strong. Stay connected.

DILEAS GU BRATH

SASHA DARLING

HLCOL

THE 48TH PIPES AND THE TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

HORNBY'S MAPLE LEAFS HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS: THE 48TH PIPES UP FOR ANOTHER OPENER

by Lance Hornby

Published Oct 06, 2023

They've been lost amid laser beams, curtailed by COVID-19 and have had their set list scissored, while a couple of their best players have hit the ice hard with only their kilts as padding.

Yet the 48th Highlanders of Canada keep on piping, 50-strong for the Maple Leafs season opener on Wednesday. Best to arrive early, though, to see them march in full regalia and hear their oldie, but goodie, 'The Maple Leaf Forever,' the oft-forgotten official team anthem.

For more than 90 years, from the first game at the Gardens, down Bay Street in Stanley Cup parades and making the move to Scotiabank Arena, the puck doesn't drop on a new campaign until the last skirl from the bagpipes, an echo of a bygone Toronto.

"The band starts asking in the middle of summer 'when does the schedule come out, when's the opener?'" said Chris Reesor, the 48th's current Regimental Sergeant Major and its Drum Major up to 2020. "It's a tradition we value very much, our place in the city's history and the hockey team's past.

"But it's become harder for us to keep up our part in the ceremony. When the Ducks and the Sharks came into the NHL (during the early 1990s), they brought the big Disney-style light and laser shows. More and more, the NHL is controlling events like that.

"Around the Leafs' centennial year in 2017, we were almost (deleted from the program). There was a big backlash, a call was made from our regiment to someone of great importance in MLSE and we stayed."

The regiment had begun with a much larger role in the autumn proceedings when politicians, war heroes and celebrities took their place at centre ice. Just before the brand new Gardens, the nation's largest tent at the time, hosted its first Leafs game on Nov. 12, 1931, club president Jack Bickell and team manager Conn Smythe brainstormed how to add pomp and ceremony to the gala event. Both were military men, Smythe a pilot in the First World War, Bickell long affiliated with the 48th, which was created in 1891 by proud local Scottish citizenry.

The invite went out and the Highlanders haven't missed an opener since, though COVID posed one of the biggest threats to breaking their streak. When the pandemic struck and the SBA was near-empty a couple of years, the band appeared via Zoom on the videoboard or a lone piper was allowed in.

"COVID wasn't kind to us," Reesor added of a few members who didn't return out of health concerns.

Some of them never want to miss the big night, but time marches on. While cadets as young as 14 have participated, veterans who reach their 60s and 70s can be reluctant to risk a broken hip out on the ice.

Falls are inevitable, especially in those days when the band came out nearer game time, right after a fresh ice flood. One



Highlander went out feet first, prompting much media mirth. Colleague Scott Morrison, in his best Mike Myers' movie brogue, announced to the press box: "There's a piper down! I repeat, we have a piper down!"

After that mishap, members started fastening Canadian Tire 'Ice Creepers' to their boots, elastic bands with small cleats for traction. One trombonist had his come off while in the Leafs zone. When goalie Felix Potvin took up his position for the game, the creeper had frozen into his goal crease and he had to chop it out with help from the officials.

The 48th has a distinctive tartan, The Old Davidson, and a falcon's head in tribute to its first Commanding Officer, John Irvine Davidson.

Among the first units to ship out in the First World War, more than 600 Highlanders were lost in a 1915 gas attack in Ypres, Belgium. More gave their lives at the Somme, Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge, while earning 21 Battle Honours.

In the Second World War, the regiment saw heavy fighting in Italy and during the liberation of Holland. Their original full dress scarlet colours are still worn today.

Photos of the regiment taking up more than half Gardens' ice that first night in '31 inspires today's players. But the modern program means they no longer stay to perform the national anthems.

"We're on the clock," said Reesor, who has participated since 1988 and was Drum Major 14 years before promotion took him out of the mix. "We have to be on a bus, dropped off at the rink and very conscious that we're working on the television

THE 48TH PIPES AND THE TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

network's schedule. If given seven minutes or 5:40 to play, we have to make it tight, then be back on the bus."

No problem for this disciplined group, which practices music and counter marches every Tuesday as part of its Canadian Forces reserve training.

For many of the Leafs' leaner seasons, such as losing seven home openers in the 2000s, the Highlanders entered from the Zamboni entrance, spread out in perfect formation of pipes, drums and brass and exited as crisply, while the team itself struggled through the night on breakouts. The 48Th has been augmented many years on opening night by the Royal Regiment of Canada, which is headquartered at Fort York.

During the rest of the calendar, the Highlanders take part in many military ceremonies, at public schools, their regimental church and of course, their solemn Remembrance Day service. When a Leaf gets his statue on Legends Row in Maple Leaf Square, the 48th is there, too.

Reesor accepted a request from Leafs goalie and avid piper Glenn Healy to join their 1999 parade that escorted Gardens' memorabilia to the new Air Canada Centre along with Leafs alumni in a motorcade.

"Glenn said he didn't want to be in a convertible, he wanted to be with us. He was a member of the Highland Creek Pipe and Drums and had a custom uniform made for the occasion, but asked us to bury him in the middle of our band so he wouldn't distract from us."

The 48th is made up from reservists whose day jobs are all walks of life: Infrastructure, trades, office execs, engineers and students.

Reesor was with Yamaha Music for 18 years as a product marketing manager for bands and orchestras and now does contract work as a part-time soldier in the Canadian Forces.

But he laments the band is gradually less a part of the main event. They go out first, performing in a half-empty rink, prior to team warm-ups, with many patrons still stuck in traffic, security checks or food lineups.

"We do know the people still appreciate us. They see us in the hallway and start hurrying to their seats. And we did play a full house when the Gardens closed in 1999."

Reesor called that night "a magical experience" where they often couldn't hear their music with all the cheering.

"Darryl Sittler, Lanny McDonald, Eddie Shack and other players were in the VIP beer tent, they saw us and came over to say how much we meant to them. That was very rewarding.

"Johnny Bower had been in the Canadian Army and that night, as always, he stood up out of respect when we came in. We'd told him 'please sit, you've done your service'.

"Shack being Shack, he was running around on the ice trying to lift the kilts of our male pipers, but one guy told him 'Eddie, if you're going up there, it better be to sign something for me.'"

After their few minutes of fame on Wednesday, the band will be back at Moss Park where the game will be on TV and libations opened to toast another opener in the books.

As Sergeant Major, Reesor keeps an eye on seven bands within the brigade's family and, of course, one day hopes to plan their role in a Cup parade to City Hall.

"My God, I'd love to be there and so many of us dream of doing that. I was four months old when they won the last Cup.

"I think about what we'd look like coming down Bay with all the people watching."

**Our next Regimental event
will be on Sunday 21 April
at St. Andrews Church:**

***The Act of Remembrance Parade
and Change of RSM***

- more details to follow.

Did you know that you can hear the MUSIC of the 48th ONLINE?

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE MUSIC PAGE ON OUR OFFICIAL WEBSITE](#)



SERVING WITH THE UN IN SARAJEVO

THE ROAD TO TUZLA THEN TITO BARRACKS

Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Brian G Jackson MSM CD

WATER WATER NO WHERE

By Monday 19 August 1992 I had been on the ground in Sarajevo for almost a month as the Senior Operations Officer for Sector Sarajevo, United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). HQ Sector Sarajevo was set up in the PTT Building with officers and NCOs from France, Egypt and Ukraine, and a French Marine company for D&E. The troops that made up our brigade comprised a small battalion from each of France, Ukraine and Egypt, a Dutch Army signals company, a French Army medical/surgical unit and a French military detachment to run air traffic control and apron operations at the Sarajevo International Airport. Some 1400 in all. There was also a small group of Sarajevo-based UN military observers. At that time, we were the only UN presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina. These weeks had been a very busy and at times extremely tense experience. Indeed, it had turned deadly on 31 July 1992 when a Ukrainian Battalion (Ukrbat) radar post had been mortared, killing one Ukrbat junior officer and wounded several of his men. And since that time, there had been more of our soldiers killed or wounded by the actions of the warring parties. Of course, for the civilian population of Sarajevo the conflict was already deadly (with even more wounded): depriving them of necessities; causing disruptions to electricity, natural gas (for cooking and heat) and water; and bringing normal/peacetime life and occupations to a halt. It was still summer and as the days, weeks and months progressed into winter things were only going to get worse.

The first couple of weeks after my late-July arrival in Sarajevo were spent getting things organized and then establishing an operational rhythm, which involved; tasking the battalions for the daily escorts to UNHCR relief convoys to seven distribution sites around the city and one further north at Kiseljac, establishing a working/effective operations centre using the duty officers and operators who had been provided from our three battalions (Frebat, Ukrbat and Egybat), instituting a HQ routine, holding coordination meetings, preparing then dispatching and receiving routine reports and returns within Sector Sarajevo and to our higher HQ in Zagreb, assignment of tasks and compiling reports on the outcomes, writing an overarching Operations Order, getting to know our AOO (essentially the



Ukrbat Radar – 30 July 1992

city of Sarajevo and the Sarajevo Airport), and making contacts with representatives of the warring factions. And more. However, as the fighting intensified and our casualties increased from those of 31 July (4 wounded at the PTT on 6 August, 8 wounded at Ukrbat Tito Barracks on 7 August, Egybat soldier and American journalist killed on 13 August and more), planning turned to how we could evacuate Sarajevo if we were ordered to do so. It took me several days of balancing the day-to-

day activities with appreciating how an evacuation could be conducted, then writing the associated operations order. All of which took time; of which there was never enough so the days and nights were long.

As the shelling of the city increased during those early weeks one serious consequence was damage to electrical power lines and transformer stations. Another serious issue was the interruption of water throughout Sarajevo. Electrical powerlines and transformer stations were impacted directly by the shelling; lines cut by shrapnel, poles and towers damaged or collapsed, or damage to power generation stations. There was also the issue of electrical power not being routed to Muslim areas of the city. But with electricity it was more a matter of damage to transmission and not that of deliberate rerouting of power. This was not the case with water, which was clearly being turned off.

At that time (mid-August 1992) a small detachment of Canadian Army engineers was in Sarajevo. They had arrived in July with the

UNPROFOR
HQ Sector Sarajevo

11 Aug 1992

Mrs Plavsic
Pale

CONTROL OF WATER FROM BACEVO PUMPING STATION

1. This morning a team of UNPROFOR military engineers investigated the flow of water from the BACEVO pumping station to the city reservoir and the main pumping station at ALIPASIN MOST. This team confirmed that the three functioning BACEVO wells, which feed the main city line, produced 250 litres/second of water or roughly 50 percent of normal capacity. Of this flow 230 litres/second reached the ALIPASIN MOST station. This is sufficient to provide good capacity and pressure along the lengths of the water line.
2. During a meeting between you, General Gvero, Colonel Tulimir, General Morillon and myself on 7 August you gave a firm commitment not to use water as a weapon of war. However, the BACEVO pump station manager states that he cannot leave the pumps running unless he receives written authority from the Community Leader of Ilidza.
3. Now that it is confirmed that pumps are working and the pipes have been repaired, I request that you direct your officials to turn on the main city waterline. This should be done as soon as possible because further delay will only result in more hardship for those households and institutions who have been without water for so long.
4. I thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

With my best regards,

A Davout
Colonel
Acting Sector Commander

SERVING WITH THE UN IN SARAJEVO



HQ Sector Sarajevo – PTT Building – Fall 1992



HQ Sector Sarajevo – VBLs – December 1993

task of assessing the engineering requirements of (amongst other things) fortifying the PTT Building, sandbagging and such. This team departed Sarajevo on 26 August. However, during their time with us they were extremely valuable in gaining an understanding of some of the larger aspects of our circumstances. On Wednesday 5 August there was no water to the PTT. The initial thought was a water main had been damaged due to shelling or something had happened to a pumping station. The main pumping and water control station for Sarajevo was located at Bachevo. This was just south and west of the Sarajevo Airport near to Ilydza. Situated in the lee of Mount Igman, this is where the Bosna River rises. That morning, there was a discussion about the water situation with the Canadian Engineer MWO who headed the engineer detachment. The meeting concluded with the MWO saying he would speak with Bosnian civil engineers with a view to understanding what was going on. The issue being, there was no water throughout Sarajevo. The MWO returned in the afternoon to say there was no mechanical issues with the pumping stations nor the pipelines. Rather, the pumps had been turned off on the direction of a local Serb official. During the next week the water was back on then after a couple of days it was turned off.

On Tuesday 11 August we had another discussion about the water situation. It was becoming clear that the supply of water to the city was being weaponized, although excuses from the Serb officials centered around damage to pipes and the distribution system due to fighting. With a view to calling this out, it was agreed that I would go to the Bachevo Pumping Station with the Canadian engineer MWO while one of his sappers would go to a Alipasin Most sub-pumping station, which was located close to our HQ in the PTT. After our morning coordination meeting at the PTT, the MWO, two of his sappers and I drove to what we termed the Kasendoskra crossroad, which was a T-junction on the north boundary of the Airport. This was a Serb-controlled checkpoint. Later, on 8 January 1993 it would be the scene of the killing (in the back of one of our VABs) of a Bosnia Vice Prime Minister. But on this summer day we waited for 30 minutes for a Serb liaison detachment to arrive and escort us to the Bachevo Pumping Station. It was the first time we had been out to this part of Sarajevo, and I described the area in my diary entry of that day as “- pretty area - green - big trees - shady lane - planes land.” Passing through the small Serb-controlled village of Ilydza we also drove past the site of the Bosna-Herzegovinian Hotel complex. A site I would recall on 26 September as a possible location of HQ BiH (which I discounted then because of the ongoing fighting in the area). But I would also return there from Heidelberg in October 1996 for my six-month posting to HQ SFOR. But on this hot, humid, sunny day we carried on along the tree-lined road to the pumping station. There, taking note of the anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines that were scattered about, we met with the site manager and convinced him to have the water pumps turned on. Then twenty-five minutes later, the sapper we had positioned

at the Alipasin Most sub-pumping station radioed to say the water was flowing. He measured the rate of flow as 230 litres-per-second. The rate of flow at our location was 250 litres-per-second. Clearly, there was no damage to the water lines. Therefore, if there was not water in Sarajevo it was because the pumps were turned off. Something which the Bachevo Station Manager confirmed; he had been ordered to turn them off by the Ilydza Community Leader (a Serb). Unmistakably, the flow of water to Sarajevo was being weaponized. Before turning the pumps off, the Manager made the accusation that the Muslims (his word) were directing the water away from

Serb-dominant areas of the city; something that was not true.

Back at the PTT I wrote a report, addressed to the Sector Commander, detailing our findings. I also wrote for his signature the letter below to the Bosnian Serb-Government (which was in the village of Pale) protesting using water as a weapon of war.

In the end, however, nothing of long-term consequence came of this letter. Water flowed intermittently. But there was now proof of deliberate acts to stop water flowing to Sarajevo. And correspondence was now on record of our protesting this to the Bosnian-Serb Government. For our needs at the PTT, in time we found a source where we could have our water bowsers collect from a spring in a relatively safe area near Bachevo and then fill the reservoirs at our HQ and unit locations. But this was not the end of my water-related events.

Almost a week later, on Monday 17 August 1992, a small delegation from the Sarajevo Water Works came to the PTT to discuss the need to get chlorine for the water system. They were requesting an UNPROFOR escort to ensure no interference during their trip to get the stuff and return. The location of the chlorine was in the city of Tuzla, which was some 120 km north and east from Sarajevo. In retrospect, this should have been a non-starter, from several perspectives: distance (just too far to get there and back in a day); with only radios for communication, once more than 20 km from Sarajevo there would be no communication; and we had no knowledge of the security situation outside of Sarajevo, although taking on this task would broaden our view. Although, doing this task would give us that broader view. Following the meeting there was discussion within our HQ about the pros and cons (many on each side) and how taking on such a task fit into our mandate. In the end we agreed to assist by providing an armed escort to the civilians who would be going to get the chlorine and bring it back. And I wanted to be a part of it; to get a broader view of events outside of our boundaries and to just get out of Sarajevo for a few hours. The date was set for Thursday 20 August. I would be in command of the escort which consisted of two French VABs. I also convinced Major Gary Barling, who was one of the three other CAF officers who had deployed with me to Sarajevo. Gary was also an 8th Hussar and his job in the HQ was Senior Personnel Officer (G1).

THE ROAD TO TUZLA

Thursday 20 August was going to be another hot and humid day. After a relatively quiet night, with minimal shelling throughout Sarajevo, I went about my morning routine of shaving, a bird bath (due to the lack of water), getting dressed and having a mediocre breakfast of stale bread and peanut butter. I then checked in with the duty officer in our Ops Centre, gave some directions for the day and went out to speak with the

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two VAB crews who would be making the trip the Tuzla. The two water works civilians arrived in their 3-ton truck and Gary Barling got himself sorted out.

We departed the PTT at 9:15 AM with me in the leading VAB, the civilian truck following then Gary in his VAB bringing up the rear. We headed west to the overpass that gave access to the airport to the south but we turned north. This took us through an industrial area which, in the coming months would become more familiar and then to the suburb of Rajlovac. From there we left the built-up/heavily industrialized areas behind us and proceeded following the Bosna River, through pleasant and green countryside, which did not appear to have suffered any war damage. Along this route we encountered several Serb-manned checkpoints but had no difficulty in passing through. At one checkpoint we waited for a Serb liaison officer to arrive. He was going to escort us to the boundary of the area they controlled, which was about another 20 km. On reaching that checkpoint we stopped to let off the LO then carried on without him. From this point onwards I began to feel uneasy. Our route had taken us away from the Bosna River valley towards the north-east, through open farmlands and then into some forested hills. As we climbed up through the hills there were farms, but there were signs that they were no longer occupied. And an increasing number of them had been shot-up and clearly abandoned. As well, once in this hilly terrain we lost radio contact with our control station at the PTT.

As we approached the village of Niski the road was covered with spent MG casings and belt links. As well, small arms spent casings were scattered about. Houses were now burning, smoldering, or demolished. It was obvious this was a scene of ethnic cleansing. Just past an intersection that led off the left into the main village of Niski, as we continued to climb through this heavily wooded area, I saw a group of men standing and lounging around several vehicles. The men were heavily armed, and the vehicles had makeshift modifications to mount 23 mm anti-aircraft weapons to them. As we drove by, they collectively looked at us. Then not much further along, as we came to the crest of the hill which we were climbing, we were stopped by another group of similarly armed men. Their appearance shocked me. They were Chetniks; a Serbian nationalist guerilla force that dated from WWII. Heavily armed, with all manner of weapons, they were heavily bearded, dressed in an array of military fatigues, wore the wedge-type fur hats, and adorned with a variety of fierce-looking badges with an emphasis on the skull-and-crossbones. Their collection of vehicles mounted the skull-and-crossbones flag.

I stopped our convoy at this group to get out of the VAB and speak with the leader. However, from our vantage point on this high feature, I could look ahead to where our route to Tuzla would take us. In the distance I could see more houses and farm buildings burning, and men in the fields lighting the crops on fire; ethnic cleansing. I explained

that I was escorting this vehicle to collect chlorine from Tuzla. He calmly said that the road ahead was blocked due to ongoing fighting. And said it would not be safe for us continue. They did, however, question the two civilians. I could not understand the conversation, but the armed men were not friendly, and the civilians were worried/scared. Taking everything into account (no radio comms to the PTT, the ethnic cleansing that was clearly underway (which included killing and/or forced evacuation of the people who lived in the farms that were damaged and burning), still a distance to travel of almost 100 km to Tuzla, and this collection of thugs I decided to abandon the mission and return to Sarajevo. There was no argument from the two civilians (quite the opposite) and Gary also agreed.

Turning around and heading back down through the wooded hills we had just climbed up through, I felt a sense of relief. But still had a great deal of concern. As we passed the building where I had seen the first group of Chetniks, we again attracted their attention and, looking back, I saw them get into their vehicles. Perhaps a kilometer or so past that point, now on a level part of the road, just before leaving the forests for the open fields we were suddenly stopped.

To my surprise a ¾ ton-type truck with a 23mm anti-aircraft gun mounted on the back cargo area suddenly sped past my VAB then slammed on its brakes to block the road. The VAB driver had to brake suddenly in order to not slam into it. When stopped, the Cheknic manning the 23mm leveled it at me. Looking back, one of the armed men had directed the civilian truck off the road and into a small clearing in the woods. Gary, in the rear VAB looked at me in a very worried manner. Behind him and surrounding our two VABs were a collection of bearded, armed men pointing their weapons at us, including their vehicle-mounted MGs. Most curious was a man with a 3.5 in rocket launcher (bazooka) standing less than 5 meters

behind Gary's VAB, aiming it at the VAB. I thought (at the time) if he fired that, he would also kill himself and a bunch of his comrades. But there was a lot of shouting. And given that these men were very much high from their killing and pillaging it was a very tense situation.

Before getting out of the VAB, to find and speak with whomever was leading this group, I told the VAB crew commander to keep the vehicle-mounted MG ready to fire but to not make threatening actions. Inside the cargo area I collected myself, charged my rifle and placed the selector lever at auto. I then exited the rear personnel door. Once outside, I positioned my rifle in such a manner that I would be able to raise it quickly. I did this by positioning the sling on my right shoulder, holding the pistol grip in my right hand while pointing the muzzle forward and towards the ground. Before walking to meet the person whom I recognized as being the commander of the group (who was in the clearing where the civilian truck had been moved) I made eye contact with Gary. He was clearly concerned but I gave him a positive look and trusted that he would have my back.



Road to Tuzla – taken January 1997



Frebat VAB – UNPROFOR Check Point on Airport Road

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As I approached the leader, who was scruffy and sporting all the paraphernalia that the others were wearing, I could see the two civilians. They were on their knees, in front of the leader, with a Chetnik standing behind each one with a Kalashnikov pointed at the back of their head. Running through my mind, as I walked to the leader, was what was I going to say to him? I also knew that with tension being extreme any sudden or threatening move would result in a firestorm. And I knew that I had to act strong and not show weakness or fear. So, what to say to this guy?

I don't recall how, but somehow, I knew that the leader spoke English. And my first words to him were "These men are with me, and you have done enough killing for one day." He wasn't expecting that, but he was angry and began demanding who we were, what we were doing here and who were these two civilian men? He also shouted that one of these men was a Muslim. To which I thought; Oh shit! Why didn't I know that? If I had known, the mission would have been a non-starter. But here we were. I showed him the documents which had been produced by the Serbian authorities who controlled the Bacevo Water Pumping Station. But after some back and forth, he left in his jeep-type vehicle, taking the papers with him, saying he was going to speak with his commander.

I don't recall how long we waited for him to return. And while waiting he two civilians were increasingly worried and understandably feared for their lives. When the leader returned, he said we could leave. I helped the two civilians on their feet then told them to into the truck and pull in behind my VAB. Once it was in position I turned and walked away; making eye contact with Gary indicating that he was to watch my back, then telling him that we were leaving.

On departing, I made sure that we weren't followed and that the VAB vehicle commanders had their machine gun loaded and ready to engage vehicles coming from behind. But I felt both a sense of relief that this was over and we were on our way. When I made radio contact with our Ops Centre I gave a brief report of what had taken place.

Arriving at the PTT, the two civilians thanked Gary and I for what we had done. There was some discussion within the command group about the situation, with some suggestions that leaving the truck would have been an option. Because a truck was not worth anyone's life. And, given that we were out of radio contact with the HQ there was no possibility of



any support arriving. But it was done. I then wrote a report and had it sent to HQ UNPROFOR in Zagreb. And, thinking the key events for the day were over, I went to my room to have a beer and collect my thoughts before the evening's business of collecting reports from our units and putting together the daily SITREP to Zagreb.

TITO BARRACKS

At 6:00 PM the Duty Officer (a Ukrainian officer) came up to my room (which was directly above the Ops Centre, where he was on duty) to tell me that a Ukrainian soldier (a warrant officer) had been shot dead at Tito Barracks. Where Ukrbat was garrisoned. Our COS, Victor (a Ukrainian colonel), was upset and asked me to go there to see what had happened. I collected my rifle, flak jacket and helmet. Then I got a VBL to drive me towards the centre of Sarajevo to Tito Barracks, which is just on the west side of the iconic yellow-clad Holiday Inn.

There, now in the fading evening light, I met CO Ukrbat who took me to the scene, which was in the centre of their unit lines, in an open area between two large, solid barracks. A group of Ukrainian soldiers were still there viewing at the body. Looking around I wondered where this man could have been shot from? It must have been close because the bullet had passed through him. Killing him instantly. Having seen what I wanted to see the body was removed. I assumed it was being taken to the French Surgical Team in the basement of our HQ at the PPT, which I

was to discover tomorrow was not the case. But at this moment I stood there discussing things with the CO when several bursts of MG bullets passed nearby and struck the ground nearby; but from where? We all scrambled for cover. And when things seemed clear the CO invited me to stay for dinner.

The dining room was on the lower floor of one of the three-story stone barracks. A large room, it was empty except for the CO, two of his officers, me and the soldiers who were serving the meal. The meal was fish sticks and boiled potatoes. We had just sat down at a table that was close to the bank of ceiling to floor windows that ran the length of the room and overlooked the parade square. Just as we sat down to eat several bursts of 23mm anti-aircraft bullets struck the ground just outside the dining area window. On impact they exploded and (in the now dark) flashed like strings of firecrackers. As we quickly collected ourselves these impacts were followed by several mortar rounds (I would



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guess 122 mm) that impacted and exploded in the same area, with loud bangs and some fragments shattering the windows of the dining room. The door to the centre hallway of the barracks (which was a safe area) was across the room from us and it would not have been safe to make an immediate dash for it. So, we got up and placed ourselves against the thick, stone exterior wall in places between the windows. After several more mortar impacts, we had managed to gauge the rhythm of fire (the time between impacts). And after the next volley of explosions, we made a dash for the inner corridor. There, other Ukrbat soldiers were gathered.

The mortaring ended shortly after we got into the building interior. But we waited another 15 or 20 minutes before agreeing that it was over. I then went outside with the CO and other officers to see if there were any casualties; there were none. It was now dark and what we encountered once outside was amazing. The roof of the barracks in which we had been (which was the location of their battalion HQ, as well as quarters) was on fire and blazing away. But the more spectacular sight was that of a row of eight or nine transport trucks (similar to 3-ton cargo trucks) were on fire, blazing away and lighting the entire area. Crews were attempting to hose water onto the roof of the barracks but, at three stories, the effect was minimal. There was not much that could be done with the trucks but let them burn. There being nothing which I could do, I left the CO to manage things and returned to the PTT. There I had an MRE for supper and wrote a report on the events. As a postscript: several weeks later I received a letter from Jackie (my wife) saying that she and our daughter (Alison) had seen the burning buildings on the nightly news. She commented to Alison that in her mind her father (me) would most probably have been there. To which I replied by letter – yes, of course. I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

Back at our HQ in the PTT, after writing the report I took it down to the Signals Centre in the basement for it to be dispatched to Zagreb. There, I spoke with the Signals Company Commander (a major in the Netherlands Army) about the evening's events. He told me that two of his NCOs (including his Tito Barracks Section Commander – a warrant officer) had come to see him and to tell him that, based on the evening's events at Tito Barracks, they were refusing to go back. Considering that I had been there, he asked my thoughts. I told him that the killing of the soldier was concerning but it appeared to me to be a targeted killing. By whom and why I had no idea. But just based on what I had seen of the site and situation I did not think that a Kalashnikov bullet fired from anywhere outside the Tito Barracks area could have penetrated and exited the body. This was disturbing to me. But it could also have

been a very wrong reading of what I was able to see. As regards the mortaring. I said there had been no casualties and the CO had handled things well. As such I did not concur with his soldiers' concerns. In the end, these two soldiers were charged with a military offence, returned immediately to the Netherlands, faced court martial, found guilty, sentenced to four months in jail and released from the military after serving their sentence. After speaking with the Signals Officer, I returned to my office to write a protest to both the Serbs and Bosnians about the shelling of Ukrbat. Then (at midnight) I went to my room and got into my sleeping bag, hoping there would be no nearby shelling. It had been a long, eventful, and tiring day.

The next morning (Friday 21 August) during our morning Operations Meeting discussion centered on the issue of the Ukrainian soldier who had been shot. There was no conclusion on who had shot him; was it deliberate or a result of random firing that was a constant throughout Sarajevo? This question was never answered. The main concern, raised by the French Medical Team chief was that the WO's remains had not been brought to the PTT. And no one was certain as to where it had been taken. A call to Ukrbat afterwards concluded that the remains had been taken to what was

known as the French Hospital, located in central Sarajevo. I arranged with the French Medical Team to prepare a medical group and a VAB ambulance that would follow me (in a VBL) into Sarajevo to collect the remains and have them brought to the PTT. Here, there would be an examination, a medical report prepared, and a dignified repatriation organized.

Departing the PTT at 8:45 AM in a VBL and with the VAB ambulance following, we proceeded to the Bosnian Military HQ (at the time we termed that force as the TDF). The HQ was located in a several story

building beside what we would come to call The Residence (the forward HQ of French Army General Morrillion) after UNPROFOR II deployed into Bosnia later in the year. There I arranged to have an LO come with me to the hospital to locate our soldier's remains and take them to the PTT. As we arrived at the hospital, there was some artillery shelling that landed close by, which required us to take some shelter. The result was some damage to the hospital and some minor injuries. Later, I would write another protest for this incident. Once the shelling had stopped, I went to the hospital administrative office. Speaking with the administrative staff

there was reluctance to hand the remains to us. Instead, they wanted to move it to another hospital. I and the French medical officer who was with me insisted this would not happen; that the remains were to be handed over to us immediately. We were then taken to the morgue



Dutch Comms - PTT Building - Fall 1992



UNHCR Log Convoy - en route to Sarajevo

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where an examination of the body (to determine the angle of impact) was underway. Once this was complete the French Medical officer took charge of moving the remains to his VAB and taking it back to the PTT. I returned to the TDF HQ with their LO and then had discussions with some TDF officers. Of course, the blame for the killing of the WO and the mortaring of the Tito Barracks yesterday evening was placed on the Serbs.

Back at the PTT, there were reports to be written and the final writing of our Operations Order 3/92, which dealt how, as a force, we would evacuate from Sarajevo in the event we were ordered to do so. Evacuation, given the ground realities of that time, was very much a possibility. Then, having received a letter from my father, I took the time to respond before getting on with the evening work of having the daily SITREP prepared, proofed and dispatched. But it was not to be a quiet night. As darkness settled over Sarajevo the city received very heavy shelling throughout many sectors, including Tito Barracks. This time it was not the Urkbat lines that were targeted, rather another area of that large complex which burned fiercely. Fortunately, we received no casualties. The following day the Ukrbat soldier's body was flown to Zagreb. Those of us at the airport paused to recognize his service. And then got on with the business of completing the tasks which were

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 sixteen-year-old cat. They are close to their daughter Alison and grandson Jackson who reside in Kingston.

HIGHLANDERS CONFINED TO BARRACKS

SGT OZZIE REECE - SUNNYBROOK VETERANS CENTRE

I can confirm that Sgt. Reece is in excellent spirits and is confident of this recovery. My visit with him was a blast and was much appreciated. If anyone intends to visit---bring food. His major complaint is the crapulence of the hospital food. I took him a schnitzel & sauerkraut on a bun from a deli just like we used to have when we were in Germany, and he was overjoyed. His major priority is getting his strength back and that can't be done with inadequate food.

I was not aware Capt. Beaton was there or I would have visited him too. A most excellent officer who was liked and respected by all. Ozzie said there was another 48th senior officer in K Wing but he did not know him by name.

FRANK MACKAY



Sgt Ozzie Reece at the 2023 Remembrance Day Ceremony

48TH HIGHLANDERS ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADET

Hello, my name is Jack Barker and I am a Cadet Chief Warrant Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 48th Highlanders Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. As I leave the cadet program, I hope to share some of my experiences from my time as an Army Cadet in hopes that it brings more attention to the program and the excellent opportunities that it offers.

One of the best parts of being an army Cadet with the 48th Highlanders is the connection between the regimental family and the Corps. Whether it is hearing the pipes at our annual ceremonial review or marching through the streets of Toronto with the regiment, I will be forever grateful for the Regiment's contribution to the corps and its impacts on countless youth throughout the years.

The first thing that got me interested in the 48th Highlanders Cadets as opposed to other Corps was its strong marksmanship program. For many years, the Corps has had an excellent marksmanship team and coaching system, and has produced many outstanding shooters who have won competitions at all levels throughout the Cadet program. Whether it's competing in foreign and domestic 10m air rifle competitions or on the C7 range, I have had a great time competing and I hope the habits developed here will stay with me throughout my life.

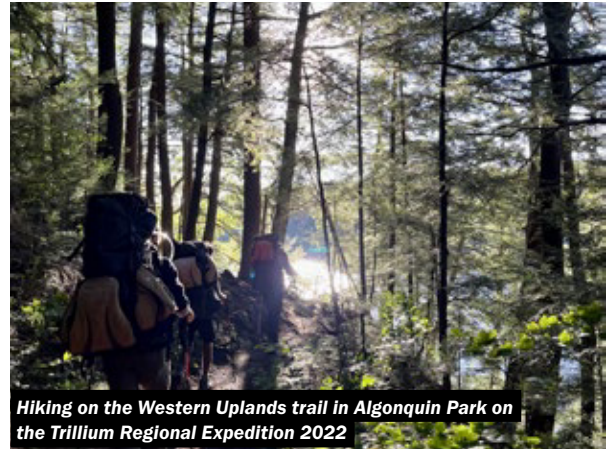
Possibly my favourite part from my years in the Army Cadet program would have to be Expedition. Expeditions takes leaders on trips that utilise dynamic methods of travel such as flatwater and moving water canoeing, mountain biking, hiking, ice climbing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and so much more. Having gone through many Expeditions as both an instructor and a course member, I can personally attest to its effects on a Cadet's leadership and overall soft skills. Physical challenge and teamwork is at the core of Expeditions and for a kid living in the city, it has taken me to places I couldn't have imagined possible before. Expedition is known as the "Ultimate challenge" and I can find no better name for such a rewarding part of this program.



Receiving the Order of Saint George Medal for being the Top Staff Cadet at Blackdown Cadet Training Center



Canoe tripping on the Trillium Regional Expedition 2022



Hiking on the Western Uplands trail in Algonquin Park on the Trillium Regional Expedition 2022



Shooting at the Central Region Marksmanship championship 2023



The Corps team at the Zone 11 Marksmanship Championship 2023. The corps team placed first overall in the team category and won the first and second junior individual and the first and second overall individual that day.



Winning the IODE Best Cadet Award at the Annual Ceremonial Review 2019



Addressing the reviewing officer, LCol. Moriche, at our Annual Ceremonial Review 2023

48TH HIGHLANDERS ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADET CORPS

CF Basic Parachutist Course

Serial 0236

2023 July 24 - Aug 11

Canadian Army Advanced
Warfare Centre, Trenton



Course Photo Basic Para Serial 0236



Being a staff cadet team leader for team 5 on the
Petawawa Regional Expedition 2023

In the summer of 2023, I was very fortunate to be selected as a course candidate on the Canadian Forces Basic Parachutist course. This course allows Cadets from across the country to earn their Canadian Forces jump wings in Trenton, Ontario. Many Cadets who complete this course go onto very successful careers in the CAF and is an opportunity that is unique to the Army Cadet program. For those who are interested, I recommend you go for it, keep your eyes on the prize, and with hard work and determination you too can be Airborne!

To conclude, I have enjoyed every day of my years in the Army Cadet program and wouldn't trade it for a thing. It has definitely changed my life for the better and



Getting a jumpmasters check before a full equipment
parachute descent into DZ Hodgson,
Basic Para Serial 0236



Running off of the drop zone after a rainy second
jump on the Basic Para Serial 0236

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to wear the Falcon. I hope that I can apply some of the skills I have picked up here in my upcoming contract as an Infanteer in the regular force. The Cadets is known as "Canada's best secret", but I hope this shed some light on some of the opportunities offered through the program.

DILEAS GU BRATH!

"The man who made the 15th Battalion's Vimy cross"

Brigadier General (retired) Greg Young OMM, MSM, CD

It is not known when the last man to have served in the 15th Battalion passed away but the last Canadian veteran of The Great War died in 2010. With the passing of all those who served in the 15th Battalion, our knowledge of its men and its service in that war effectively passed from living memory to history. Although much is preserved in the Regimental history by Kim Beattie, the archives of LAC, the Regimental Museum and in more recent years, the archives of the 15th Battalion CEF Memorial Project, inevitably much of the lived experience of the battalion and its men has been lost to the tides of time. Having said that, pieces of that past are constantly coming to light as archives continue to be searched and materials long held by the descendants of men who served in the 15th Battalion are uncovered.

One of the long lost pieces of regimental history concerns the identity of the individual who constructed arguably the most revered historical artifact held by The Regiment that has survived from The Great War– the Vimy cross. The identity of the individual who constructed the battalion's Vimy cross that was erected at mass burial location CA35 on April 9, 1917 had been unknown. The regimental history of the 48th Highlanders of Canada only noted that it was constructed by the battalion carpenter and research into period battalion documents at both the Regimental Museum in Toronto and Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa failed to uncover any record of the carpenter's name. Even the in-depth research that was conducted on the cross in 2017-2018 to support the new 15th Battalion Vimy cross memorial erected at Ecurie and the return of the original cross to Vimy for the Centennial of the Vimy memorial failed to uncover the identity of the carpenter.

Finally, in 2023 during the course of reviewing digital scans of a March 1917 handwritten 15th Battalion Nominal Roll he had located and scanned at LAC in 2019, 15th Battalion CEF Memorial

Project Chairman Brigadier General (ret) Greg Young found that the occupations of a number of men in the Quarter Master Section of Battalion HQ had been faintly annotated in pencil next to their names. 447412 Private Thomas Pollitt was identified as the battalion carpenter and this information was consistent with the information recorded on his 15th Battalion Record of Services card which stated his pre-war

civilian occupation as a carpenter. Subsequently, BGen Young was able to locate and establish contact with his descendants through an Ancestry.ca search. The Pollitt Family Tree manager subsequently provided two period photographs of great grandfather Thomas Pollitt in the uniform of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders).

Thomas Edward Pollitt was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, UK on February 4, 1890 and emigrated with his family to Canada arriving in Halifax, NS on April 4, 1909. The family subsequently moved to the Calgary AB area residing in Leslieville and Alhambra. Thomas was twenty years of age and working as a carpenter when he attested into the 56th Battalion (Calgary) on August 13, 1915 and posted to A Company. The battalion departed Canada on March 23, 1916 onboard the SS Baltic arriving in the UK on April 9, 1916.

He was initially assigned to a reinforcement draft for the 10th Battalion (Alberta) on May 24, 1916 but on arrival in France was almost immediately transferred to the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders) on May 26, 1916 where he was posted to No. 3 Company. By March 1917, and likely because of his civilian trade as a carpenter, he had been moved to the QMS of BHQ in the position of battalion carpenter. During his time with the 15th Battalion from May 1916 to the Armistice in November 1918, and except for periods when on leave, Thomas Pollitt took part in all the battalion's trench tours as well as all the major battles in which the battalion was engaged, to include: Mount Sorrel/Observatory ridge June 1916; the Somme – Pozieres,

Courcelette, Thiepval ridge Sept-Oct 1916; Vimy ridge April 1917, Hill 70 August 1917 and Passchendaele Nov 1917; and the 1918 100 Days battles of Amiens in August ; and the Drocourt-Queant Line and the Canal du Nord in September. Following the Armistice, he was with the battalion as part of the Occupation force in Germany in December 1918 –January 1919.

Thomas Pollitt suffered a SW to the left knee at Thiepval ridge



15th Bn Vimy cross CA 35 - April 1917



Pollitt, Thomas E. Pte 447412 56th-15th Bn BHQ QMS Section

15TH BATTALION MEMORIAL PROJECT - REGIMENTAL MYSTERY SOLVED



Vimy cross memorial Ecurie 2018

on September 26, 1918 and was evacuated to No. 5 Canadian Field Ambulance subsequently rejoining the battalion on October 12, 1916. He contracted severe bronchitis and was evacuated to the 2nd General Hospital, Le Havre on November 14, 1916 and subsequently to the 4th Convalescent Hospital before being RTU on December 1, 1916. He was given the CO's permission to marry (Isabella Selkirk, Edinburgh, UK) in September 1918 and was married in Scotland likely when on 10 days leave Oct 20, 1918 which was extended 5 days from 3 Nov 1918 following which he was RTU November 10, 1918.

Pollitt was transferred to the UK for repatriation to Canada on January 22, 1919 and following arrival in Canada, he was discharged from the CEF on April 24, 1919 in St. John, NB. He returned to Alberta and at the time of his death on March 21, 1949 was residing at Ghost Pine No. 308, Bow River, AB. He was predeceased by his wife in 1943 and had two children, daughter Jessie and son Edward. Thomas Pollitt is buried in Three Hills Strathmore Census Division Cemetery, Kneehill AB.

To paraphrase the lines from a well known hymn 'he once was lost, but now is found' and his portrait will hopefully soon be on display at the Regimental museum where he will be reunited with the cross that he constructed over 100 years ago to commemorate his Fallen comrades from Vimy.

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.**

POSTED TO UPPER CAMP

DARREN THOMAS MELLORS

Darren Thomas Mellors passed away on 25 August 2023, unfortunately an obituary for him is not available at this time. One will be published in a future Falcon when it becomes available.



DAV LANGSTROTH

Dav Langstroth passed away on 23 October 2023, unfortunately an obituary for him is not available at this time. One will be published in a future Falcon when it becomes available.



POSTED TO UPPER CAMP

CAPTAIN NORMAN ALLAN GOGO 18 JUNE 1921 - 10 JANUARY 2024

from MIDLANDTODAY.CA - 16 JANUARY 2024

Norman Allan Gogo, a man of unwavering duty and boundless generosity, passed away suddenly on January 10, 2024, in Midland, Ontario. Born in Toronto on June 18, 1921, to George Allan Gogo and Maryanne, Norman's life was a testament to his unyielding commitment to service and his love for his fellow man.

A veteran of World War II, Norman fearlessly served with the 48th Highlanders and the Royal Canadian Signal Corps. His bravery and dedication led him to the shores of Juno Beach on D-Day, where he fought valiantly to liberate France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. His selfless actions during the war exemplified his unshakeable belief in the inherent good of humanity.

Following the war, Norman dedicated 35 years of his life to the Toronto Fire Department, ultimately rising to the rank of Chief of Alarms. His commitment to public service extended beyond his retirement as he became an active member of the Royal Canadian Legion and was the Midland Lions club representative of 724th RCAC Squadron. His impact on the community was immeasurable, and he was beloved by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In his leisure time, Norman was an ardent supporter of the Toronto Maple Leafs, though their perennial challenges often tested his unwavering loyalty. As an armchair manager to his "boys of summer," the Toronto Blue Jays, his passion for sports was matched only by his quick wit and boundless generosity. His contributions to the National War Museum and National Archives, particularly through his oral history of World War II, stand as a lasting tribute to his dedication to preserving the memory of those who served.

Norman Allan Gogo will be remembered not only for his remarkable deeds but also for his sense of duty, his integrity as a man of his word, and the enduring impact of his kindness on those around him.

Norman was preceded in death by his beloved wife Audrey, whom he married while stationed in England in 1942, and his sons Richard and John, along with their loving surviving wives, Merle and Cathy. He is survived by his devoted daughter Wendy, her husband Jack, 8 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Norman was also a big brother to his 8 siblings, Allan, Jack, Robert, Donald, Bettie, Thelma, Marilyn, all preceding him in death, and he leaves behind his sister Jean.

Norman's legacy of love and compassion will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him. His unwavering spirit and kindness will be dearly missed but will continue to live on through the countless lives he touched.

Norman's family will honour his life and legacy with a memorial service, the details of which will be announced at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to LeClair Cremation Centre.



RSM Reesor presenting a birthday gift of a mug from the WO's and Sgts mess

