2011 marks the 120th Anniversary of the founding of the 48th Battalion Highlanders. Throughout the year we will celebrate the founding of our Regiment and mark the legacy passed on to us by generations of Highlanders who have worn the Davidson tartan in peace and war since 1891.

The Commanding Officer and the Honorary Colonel have asked Colonel (Ret’d) Geordie Elms to bring together the elements of the Regimental Family and Associations to coordinate a series of events to mark our 120th Year culminating with the 48th Highlanders Homecoming Weekend to be held in conjunction with the Regiment’s traditional Remembrance weekend events over the period 4-6 November.

By: Col (Ret’d) Geordie Elms

Welcome to your “Dileas 120” Year... a series of events and commemorations to mark the 120th Anniversary of our Regiment... that is just a bit different from the “big reunions” many of us remember - the last one being our Centennial. Our hope here is that we will build a simple model for future “family reunions” that we can hold every five years when not engaged in a major commemorative year (for example our 125th in 2016). This includes highlighting our “120 years of service by...”

…continued on page 3
themselves in combat situations, proved extremely forthright in their descriptions of harrowing battle experiences and personal tragedies they witnessed in Italy and Holland, especially during the last two years of the War.

**Some of the War highlights the veterans’ commented on included:**

- The amphibious landing at Pachino, Sicily and the move inland (July ‘43)
- The battle of Assoro and ambush at the crossroads (‘43)
- Up the boot of Italy to the major battle of Ortona, beginning with the landing at Reggio followed by Campobasso, The Gully and lifting barrage, Cemetary Hill and the mile deep penetration at Christmas (Dec ‘43)
- 1944: the year of break out battles in Italy (May • Dec) including the famous Liri Valley and Hitler Line, Gothic Line, and Rimini Line, all hard fighting campaigns
- The treacherous Lamone Crossing and Senio River and final days in Italy.
- The move to Holland (March ’45), the liberation of Apeldoorn and final truce.

Throughout all of their experiences, the 48th veterans acknowledged and paid tribute to their German opposition in Italy, often the crack troops of the Hermann Goering Division, which proved a tough and determined enemy on many occasions.

**Here are the 48th veterans who have been interviewed for the VHL project, to date:**

- Norm Bell
- Bob Nuttall
- Don Jacobs
- Leo Cassaday
- Jimmy Kaffan
- George MacLean
- William DeHarte
- Paul Shalapata
- John McKenna
- Robert Fraser
- Tom White
- Wally Moore
- Jim Holman
- Fenton Carrol
- Herb Pike
- John Lowndes
- Ted Conover
- Sid Regrave
- Don McCron
- Frederick Forster
- James Shontaler
- Jim McMahon
- Norm Gogo

For the interview process, the veterans were invited to the 48th Highlanders Officer’s Mess where a team of the VHL Committee recorded comments on the veterans’ War experiences on video. In certain cases, the interview team had to visit the veterans “on location” at Sunnybrook hospital or at their residences at various town locations in Southern Ontario. In all instances, the veterans were extremely pleased for the opportunity to tell “their story” about a
together a new database and mailing list/email list that will hopefully allow us to communicate information to everybody within the 48th Family better. Watch the websites and for the summer edition of The Falcon. Please help us to do that by ensuring that if you are a member of the Active Regiment the Chief Clerk has your home email, and if you are a member of the extended Regimental Family that Sgt (Ret’d) Al Kowalenko has it. Our first event will be the Regimental Ball to be held at the King Edward Hotel on Saturday 16 April by the Active Regiment. See you there!

**WHAT IS THE “48TH HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION?”**

Simply put the 48th Highlanders Association is an Association of Associations... including all the associations of the Regiment and the various Regimental family organizations. It’s Board of Directors is made up of the heads of all the Regimental family organizations (including for example the 48th Trust, Senate, OCA, IODe and of course the Active Regiment).

It is presided over by the Commanding Officer and generally meets once a year to look at strategic issues that affect the health and general well being of The Regiment and its constituent parts.

The “Dileas 120” Year and the 48th Highlanders Homecoming is an example of how The 48th Highlanders Regimental Association can when needed to steward a major activity or event be mobilized and be used to support the Regiment when needed.

**DILEAS GU BRATH - FAITHFUL FOREVER**

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**DILEAS 120 – 48TH HIGHLANDERS HOMECOMING CONTACTS**

*Dileas 120 Secretariat/General Coordination*

**COL (RET’d) GEORGE ELMS**

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*Communications and The Falcon*

**CAPT (RET’d) STEVE GILBERT**

Email: gilbertsteve@hotmail.com

*Communications Strategy and Database Management*

**SGT (RET’d) AL KOWALENKO**

Email: ursa77@rogers.com

*Ecommerce Site and Shop*

www.Dileas.ca (Mid Apr 2011)

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**FOR INFORMATION CHECK OUT THE “DILEAS 120 WEBSITE”**

WWW.DILEAS.CA

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**IMPORTANT “DILEAS 120” DATES**

**REGIMENTAL BALL**

16 APRIL 2011

**KING EDWARD HOTEL**

Tickets Available Through Messes and OCA

**CHURCH PARADE AND END OF TRAINING YEAR EVENTS**

27 - 29 MAY 2011

**REGIMENTAL PICNIC**

Sponsored by the Continuing Sergeants Association

23 JULY 2011 - 1400-1800 HRS

**FORT YORK**

**REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY AND CHANGE OF COMMAND WEEKEND**

14-16 OCTOBER 2011
significant time in their life when they served Canada in the most exemplary fashion for freedom's cause.

All interview video footage will become part of the 48th Highlanders Museum archives, as source material for future generations of historians. It is the first major stage in obtaining new video interview coverage of prominent 48th Highlanders of the past 70 years, which, in future, will include post-WWII Commanding Officers, RSMs, and key individuals other parts of the Regimental Family such as the Pipe Band, Military Band, and IODe.

The VHL Committee consists of the following individuals, who have volunteered their time to facilitate this important historical project:
- Geordie Beal, Al Kowalenko, Steve Gilbert, Dave Archer, and Don Norris – all former serving members of the Regiment, plus
- Tim Friese, Jonathon Sandham, and Ryan Sykes
- Technical and production assistants.

Beginning in March 2011, the 48th VHL Project moves forward to the production phase where the objective will be to prepare a Regimental DVD entitled “48th Highlanders of Canada – 1st Battalion 1939-1945”. This will be a commemorative DVD of up to an hour in length, with both archival and interview footage telling the story of an important chapter in the Regiment’s history.

The DVD has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Commanding Officer, RSM, and the Regimental Senate and is planned for sale to the Regimental Family, during the Dileas 120 Anniversary celebrations in November, 2011. Further details on the DVD will be released this Fall.

Last November, a special bulletin was sent to the Regimental Family asking for donations to assist the 48th VHL Project. Currently, a total of more than $3,000 tax deductible donations have been received. Additional donations are now being solicited to assist with the DVD production costs. If you have not already donated, please consider supporting a worthwhile Regimental historical project, which honours those who have made an important contribution to our Canadian way of life. Cheques may be made out to the “48th Highlanders Trusts” (reference the VHL project) and mailed to 1780 Listowel Crescent, Pickering, Ontario, L1W 2Y3.

For more information on how you can assist the 48th VHL Project please contact: Al Kowalenko at 416-219-4967 or email him at ursa77@rogers.com.

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**48TH HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL BALL**
**16 APRIL 2011**

The Sovereign Room
Le Meridien King Edward Hotel 37 King St E

$75
Cocktails 1800 hrs
Dinner 1900 hrs

To purchase your tickets, contact the Ball Committee
48th Highlanders of Canada, Moss Park Armouries
(416) 635-4440 x4927

Dress is Mess Kit or Equivalent
Cheques to be made out to:
the 48th Highlanders of Canada, Regimental Ball
HIGHLANDERS TAKE THE LEAD IN REINTRODUCING BRIGADE WIDE FIRST AID COMPETITION

By MWO (DSM) Mark McVety CD

Editor’s Note: HLCol John Newman and St John’s Ambulance wish to acknowledge the strong support provided by Col Julian Chapman, Commander, 32 Canadian Brigade Group, in the realization of this important event.

On Saturday March 12, 2011 at Moss Park Armoury 32 CBG held a Unit First Aid Competition. This competition was designed to practise the “First on the Scene” skills of the reservist. It was also a venue to rekindle the cooperation between St. John’s Ambulance and the Military Community in Toronto.

Nine units provided 5 person teams and the team from 709 Communications Regiment was the overall winner. The Queen’s York Rangers and the Queen’s Own Rifles finished second and third. Teams worked through three scenarios which required a single competitor for the first challenge and two competitors each for the second and third challenge.

St. John’s Ambulance provided the Casualty Simulation Centre, which allowed the cadets from three different corps (48th, 337 - Queens York Rangers and 2736 – Royal Regiment) to appear as real life injured persons. St. John’s Ambulance also provided the Judges for the scenarios and military members, who are also members of St. John’s, created the actual scenarios that the teams were scored on.

The competition started at 0920 after opening addresses by LCol Dwayne Hobbs, 32 CBG Deputy Commander and MWO (DSM) Mark McVety 32 CBG BSL Competition OPI and also the person who originally suggested the competition to the chain of command. All aspects went smoothly, in fact LCol (Ret’d) Evelyn Kelly stated that the event ran with no problems and was better than most similar events that she had attended in the past. Cpl Skelly of the Queen York Rangers noted that the scenarios were realistic enough that they challenged all competitors to use all their St. John’s skills to properly accomplish each of the tasks.

Appreciation and acknowledgement must go to the efforts of our Honourary LCol, John Newman, a member of the St. John’s Senate and also LCol (Ret’d) Kirk Corkery, former CO of the Queens York Rangers and also a member of the St. John’s Senate. These gentlemen provided the support necessary to help get the competition going and, more significantly, donated the champion’s trophy, which was awarded on behalf of St John’s Ambulance and in honour of LCol Ian Sinclair, a former CO of the 48th Highlanders and a life long member of St. John’s.

This year’s winner, 709 Communications Regiment, will get to hold the Sinclair Trophy for one year, after which, it will again go up for competition, hopefully with greater involvement and at least two teams in attendance from each Brigade unit.

A special thanks goes to WO Peter Ross and Sgt Lena Liddell and their staff for the logistics support they provided to this event.

Good Luck to the teams from 709 Comms and the Rangers in the upcoming Provincials.
PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS:

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VICTORIA CROSS HEROES

RECORD OF REMEMBRANCE FINDS NEW HOME IN CANADA

by Maj (Ret’d) George Pearce CD

“I’m told that today marks the very first time that the records of 1,358 recipients of the Victoria Cross, the highest decoration of the Commonwealth and arguably the most recognized award for valour, will be available in our country.”

With these words, the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Peter MacKay, paid tribute to all those who have been awarded the Victoria Cross for valour. “I am truly thrilled to be with you. This is such a unique opportunity and such a major accomplishment for those behind this effort,” he said.

“There is much living military history in this community to say the least. I am so grateful for the work you are doing – to preserve – to promote and to educate.”

Speaking in Ameliasburg, Ontario to an audience of seventy invited guests on February 18, 2011, the Minister congratulated the volunteers and staff of the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Centre of Ameliasburg, which is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society, on their success in organizing the formal transfer of the Victoria Cross records from Chester, Cheshire UK. The process was initiated in 2009.

The collection holds facts and photographs for recipients of each Victoria Cross since 1857 when Queen Victoria presented the first Crosses in London including the first Canadian VC which was presented to Alexander Roberts Dunn whose heroism brought the highest award for his gallantry in the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava during the Crimean War. The collection is a treasured resource for military historians, academics and family members researching genealogical roots. And it is growing as the research continues.

The highlight of the transfer ceremony included introduction of family members of four Canadian Victoria Cross heroes.

Minister MacKay’s moving remarks were very well received: he made a fine tribute to the men who had been honoured with the medal for valour, and to those men and women today who are serving or have served with distinction in each and every mission of the Canadian Forces – on the seas, in the air and on the battlefields.

A total of 93 Canadians have been decorated with the VC since its inception.

At the 2011 Garrison Ball, Army Commander, LGen Peter Devlin presents the CLS Commendation to HLCol John Newman.

Capt (former RSM) Vic Goldman, currently serving as an instructor with the St Andrew’s College Cadet Corps, recently received his CD 3, in recognition of almost half a century of service in the Canadian Forces.
Developing and maintaining our ability to operate in a winter environment is an integral part of our duty as Canadian infanteers. We must be able to close with and destroy the enemy, or perform any other mission we may be assigned, regardless of terrain or weather conditions. The ability to operate in the winter starts with building a foundation of knowledge that allows us to live comfortably and safely in a cold, harsh, and sometimes dangerous environment. Once those basic skills are established and become second nature, we can then look at how to modify our basic tactics, techniques and procedures to suit a winter environment when required. It is important to ensure that our new soldiers are given the opportunity to develop their winter warfare skills as soon as possible after completing their basic training, and that experienced soldiers regularly refresh these core skills. The Canada First Defence Strategy has made the defence of our sovereignty in the Arctic a key priority for the Canadian Forces, which will ensure the prominence of Winter Warfare in our training for the foreseeable future.

The Winter Warfare - Basic course is aimed at achieving these objectives, and I believe that this year we certainly did so. We started preparing in late November for our first exercise. Senior NCOs took the soldiers through several lectures and practical demonstrations on how to operate our basic winter survival equipment, such as Coleman stoves, lanterns, arctic tents, and various other pieces of equipment found in the toboggans that act as our lifelines when operating in the cold. The anecdotes from personal experience that the more experienced troops share with their less seasoned comrades during this process are an integral part of the preparation for the field; there is no teacher like suffering and those of us who have spent time in the field in the winter have all learned several lessons the hard way which we take care to pass on to each batch of new recruits.

Our next exercise took place in February and was meant to test our ability to carry out infantry tasks in a winter environment. Our primary focus this training year has been patrolling, and as such we moved to carry out a fighting patrol exercise. The rehearsals for the patrol were to be elaborate and live-fire, and as such interesting and varied training was carried out. The RSM, MWO Joseph, shared his knowledge which proved invaluable in the conduct of the range and in the preparation for the patrol. Lt Lockhart led a successful fighting patrol that evening that, despite fierce resistance from my Opposing Force element, prevailed.

The course was successful and much was learned along the way. I look forward to being a part of next year’s winter training. As Canadian soldiers, it’s integral to our training, year in and year out and for good reason. 
REMEMBRANCE DAY - 7 NOV 2011
Progress on Phase Two of the 15th Battalion Memorial Project continues to move forward towards the objective of erecting the two battlefield memorials that were outlined in the previous Update (‘The Way Ahead’) in the Fall 2010 issue of The Falcon. Readers will recall that one memorial will be located in France at Festubert and the other in Belgium near Ypres on Observatory Ridge. In the case of Festubert, I can now report that the memorial site has now been authorized by French authorities; construction of the memorial support base is in local contract bidding; and the historical narrative and maps have begun arduous review by Canadian and French historians. When consultation is finished with the community and municipal authorities in Festubert, the finished product will go for casting to the same company that produced the three Phase One memorial plaques. In the case of Mt Sorrel, the municipal authorities in Ypres have approved of the site and securing agreement of the private landowner is in its final stages. In the meantime however, work on the map and narrative for the memorial plaque has not been delayed while negotiations are finalized. As in Phase One, the ongoing task of raising sufficient funds to finance the production and erection of these two new memorials is a key factor. When sufficient funding and the outstanding land agreement at Observatory Ridge are secured, a suitable date, or dates, for dedication of the memorials will be determined in consultation with local officials in both Belgium and France.

A number of ‘spin-off’ 15th Battalion Projects are also progressing quite well. The Project Team has acquired, taken or scanned close to 700 photographs related to the 15th Battalion and its members with almost 300 of these coming from the holdings of the Regimental Museum. Although most of the photographs from Museum archives have yet to be catalogued and captioned for uploading, even at this point readers can already view over 400 images at the 15th Battalion photo gallery link on www.jeanmiso.ca. Also, the Project Team is systematically working its way through the arduous task of uploading images and documents on to the Canadian Virtual War Memorial (www.veterans.gc.ca) files for every one of the almost 1600 members of the 15th Battalion that were killed or died during The Great War. At this point all members buried or memorialized in Belgium, the UK, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada and about half of the French locations have been completed. If any readers have, or know someone who has, photographs or documents related to the 15th Battalion or any of its members, you can contact the Project Team at 15thbncef@gmail.com.

The two articles that follow this update on Festubert and Mt Sorrel are designed to provide a brief historical overview of the two battles which are being commemorated by the Phase Two memorials. The photographs from the Project’s ‘spin-off’ work that accompany each article provide some images related to those who fought and fell in those two terrible battles.

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**FESTUBERT 1915**

_“This is not war. It is simply murder.”_  
Pte Thomas Hannah, 15th Bn

On May 3rd 1915, the Canadian 1st Division was pulled out of the line at Ypres and moved to the La Basse sector in France to support the BEF in the upcoming offensive at Festubert. Following the courageous but costly defensive battle at 2nd Ypres in April, the depleted Battalions of the 1st Division were reinforced by 4000 new men. The 15th Bn, nearly destroyed during the gas attacks at Ypres, had been reduced from over 900 to 150 men. It was reinforced to a strength of 600 by the arrival of 150 men from its base company in England and the 17th Battalion plus 300 replacements from the 30th Battalion. On May 18th, the 3rd Brigade was called up from Reserve and ordered to assault German defensive positions east of Festubert. The 15th and 16th Battalions joined the assault on May 20th and attacked positions known as ‘North Breastworks’ and ‘the Orchard’. Inadequate artillery support and the loss of all machine guns meant that the attack was conducted over open ground and in the face of crippling German artillery and machine gun fire. The Orchard and The Breastworks were both captured and the 15th Battalion held its position against several German counterattacks. However, attempts to push forward to their deeper objectives were unsuccessful and the positions secured remained the Allied front line until 1918. The 15th Battalion suffered 150 casualties.
On June 2nd 1916, a powerful German attack pushed back the Canadian 3rd Division and seized a line of strategic terrain features in the western part of the Ypres salient running from Sanctuary Ridge to Mt Sorrel. The veteran Canadian 1st Division was hurriedly moved forward under cover of darkness to conduct immediate counterattacks in an attempt to halt the German offensive and recapture the vital ground. The 15th Battalion hurried forward from reserve positions at Ouderdom and reached an intermediate position near Zillebeke where it prepared for the next day’s attack. Confusion and traffic congestion behind the lines delayed the counterattack until after sunrise on June 3rd and the Battalion began to suffer heavy casualties on the reverse slope of Observatory Ridge even as it formed up for the attack. The Germans reacted with overwhelming artillery and small arms fire, such that there was no possibility of reaching Mount Sorrel. Despite reaching the top of Observatory Ridge, the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada), along with other units from the 1st Division, were forced back below the crest of the ridge where dug in. Although these initial counterattacks on June 3rd failed to recover significant ground, they did preoccupy German forces while more comprehensive countermeasures were planned and secured forward assault positions for subsequent attacks which recaptured the lost ground by June 13th.

The 15th Battalion suffered 290 casualties.
It was not an uncommon practice amongst the CEF Battalions to adopt an animal as their battalion's mascot and the 15th Battalion was no exception. On August 2nd 1915 while the Unit was out of the line in billets at Grande Munque Farm near Ploestreet in Belgium, LCol William Marshall 'officially' adopted a large scruffy local sheepdog of "unknown ancestry" as the 15th battalion's mascot. The Regimental History records "his friendship for the Colonel, his loyalty and long life and adventures with the Battalion area story in themselves." He apparently rarely left Marshall's side except when the CO was in the line and then Pipe Major Keith became responsible for him. It was on one of those occasions when the CO was 'in the line' that LCol Marshall was killed and all ranks of the Battalion noted the effect it had on Bruno. But Bruno adopted the new CO, LCol 'Charlie' Bent, and the CO-to-mascot relationship was carried on. So much so, that Bruno returned home with the CO after the war and was eventually buried on the CO's fruit farm in Kentville, NS. Buried alongside Bruno was 'Fritz', a German officer's horse captured at The Crow's Nest and also brought home by LCol Bent. But that is another story!
On 15 July 1915, John Jenkin stood in front of a recruiting station in London, Ontario. He eagerly stepped forward and documentation was rapidly completed, including attestation that he was born in 1897 and was thus 18 years of age. He donned a uniform and proudly wore the badges of his local unit the 33rd Overseas Battalion. Upon arrival in England, the 33rd like many CEF units was broken up for reinforcements. Private Jenkin, along with others from the 33rd was posted to the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders). On 9 April 1917, he was killed during the battle for Vimy Ridge. This, sadly, was the fate of numerous soldiers in the Great War, yet, when you stand in front of Private Jenkin’s tombstone, located in Nine Elms Cemetery, you are filled with emotion when you clearly see engraved in stone—age 16.

John Jenkins, who enlisted at age 14, is the youngest member of our unit to have been killed in action, but certainly not our only underage soldier. The “silent cities” of France and Flanders are filled with headstones marking the place where these underage warriors lie buried.

Legal age to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War One was 18, but one had to be 19 before deployment to the front. The following list attests to those killed in action as underage soldiers.

Age 16 – **Private J.W. Jenken**, killed during assault on Vimy Ridge

Age 17 – **Private A.A. B. Kirkup**, killed 2 August 1915 at Ploegsteert
Age 17 – **Buglar M. Dudley**, killed 29 September 1915 at Ploegsteert
Age 17 – **Private C.H. Haynes**, killed 3 June 1916 at Mount Sorel

Age 18 – **Private C.F. Yates**, killed 22 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Private J.C Currie**, killed 23 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Sergeant W.S. Groshow**, killed 24 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Private H. Hyde**, killed 24 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Private F. Page**, killed 24 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Private J.D. Cumming**, killed 26 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Private B. McColl**, killed 29 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Private C.A. Sommerville**, killed 29 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Private A. McDougall**, killed 29 April 1915 at 2nd Ypres
Age 18 – **Private W.A. White**, killed 21 May 1915 at Festubert (enlisted 5 August 1914)
Age 18 – **Private R.J. Marsh** killed 17 June 1915 at Givenchy
Age 18 – **Private H.H. Meek**, killed 15 July 1915 at Ploegsteert
Age 18 – **Private C.L. Adamson**, killed 25 June 1916 at Ypres
Age 18 – **Private G.W. Miller**, killed 8 October 1916 at the Somme
Age 18 – **Private W.G. Oakley**, killed 26 September 1916 at the Somme
Age 18 – **Private G.H. Fenner**, killed 26 September 1916 at the Somme
Age 18 – **Private J.R. Owen**, killed 29 September 1916 at the Somme
Age 18 – **Private H.B. Green**, killed 6 October 1916 at the Somme (original 92nd Bn)
Age 18 – **Private N.J. McIntosh**, killed 15 August 1917 at Hill 70
Age 18 – **Private T. Brookes**, killed 11 November 1917 at Passchendaele
Age 18 – **Private C. Anderson**, killed 9 August 1918 at Amiens
Age 18 – **Private E.H. Davis**, killed 1 September 1918 at the Crow’s Nest
Age 18 – **Private E. Hall**, killed 27 September 1918 at Canal du Nord
Age 18 – **Private I.S. Smith** (served as Illinger), killed 20 October 1918 Pursuit to Mons

In addition to this lengthy list of young casualties, there were a further 36 members of the unit who were killed in action while only 19 years of age. Additionally, there are a number of casualties, where the Commonwealth War Graves Commission does not list age, who may very well swell the ranks of our underage volunteers.

**WE SHALL REMEMBER 2**
Jean Miso’s book, “We’ll Never Forget,” was financed for publication by the author and those who are mentioned in the book, without prior formal sponsorship by the Regiment. However, once it was published, many individual members and components of the Regimental Family stepped forward to help Jean turn her dream into a viable reality, by purchasing the book or actively promoting sales of it. While these individuals are too numerous to mention in this edition of the Falcon, readers might be interested in knowing that a number of institutions and organizations, both military and civilian, have either facilitated sales or purchased “We’ll Never Forget,” so that, at the time of writing, a remarkable total of 1760 copies, out of an initial printing of 3000, have been sold subsequent to the book launch, at Sunnybrook Hospital on October 23, 2010.

Currently, the supporting organizations include the following:

48 Highlanders of Canada
48th Highlanders of Canada Museum
48 Highlanders IODE
48 Highlanders Old Comrades Association
48 Highlanders Continuing Sergeants

Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum
25 Field Ambulance
The Toronto Black Watch Association
The Queen’s York Rangers
Royal Regiment of Canada
Canada Company
Royal Montreal Regiment
Argyle and Southern Highlanders

Sunnybrook Hospital
Sunnybrook Hospital Gift shop
Etobicoke Teachers Credit Union
Ontario Historical Society
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197 (Acton)

Waterloo District School Board
Halton Board of Education
Toronto Public Library System
Oakville Library System
Burlington Library System
Mississauga Library System
Milton Library System
Brampton Library System

Bookfield BC Place
Humber Valley United Church
Royal York Road United Church
Olivet Church

Nail Niche
Norseman Plastics
Sports NRG
Mercedes-Benz Downtown
Stonecap Securities Inc
Brookfield Asset Management Inc

First Canadian Place

NOTE: Copies of “We’ll Never Forget” may be ordered at: orders@jeanmiso.ca

MEDIA COVERAGE FOR THE BOOK INCLUDES:


Dileas Gu Brath

ABOVE: Highlander Vets, who attended the book launch for “We’ll Never Forget.” From the left: CWO Dave Crook, BGen Greg Young, Capt Ron Alkema, Maj Bud Gillie, Sgt Herb Pike.
15TH BATTALION PROJECT UPDATE

SHIPS OF THE 15TH BATTALION

1. RMS Baltic carried the 15th Bn home from England 1919
2. RMS Megantic carried the 15th to England 1914
3. SS Lorina carried the 15th to England 1919
4. SS Mount Temple carried the 15th to France 1914

MEMORIAL PROJECT

15TH BATTALION C.E.F.

LOOKING FOR A BACK ISSUE OF
THE FALCON, YOU CAN SEE IT
ONLINE @ WWW.DILEAS.CA

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.

This issue of the Falcon published by

Capt (Ret’d) Steve Gilbert - Editor
Sgt (Ret’d) Adam Bernard - Layout & Design

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www.adambernard.ca
or call 647-428-6298
When I was a boy of 12 years old the war started for our country on the 10th of May 1940. I remember German warplanes flying almost unopposed over Arnhem, my hometown. After 4 days our army had to capitulate after bravely fighting a vastly superior enemy. The enemy told us they did not really want us, but they were after the British and the French. At first we believed them, but after they started to introduce all sorts of measures to curtail our freedom in every way, we understood what they were after. Making us to accept the Nazi doctrine or at least not to be a hindrance in any way to their desire to dominate the continent. Beginning with the introduction of a personal identity card -our Jewish citizens got a big letter J in their ill cards -they followed up with all sorts of rules that expanded their grip on our society. Our Jewish friends, easily identifiable by their TO cards, were arrested and transported to concentration camps where they were murdered in gas chambers and cremated in giant crematoria. Our able bodied men, in certain age categories, were rounded up for forced labour in the German war industry. Our food had to be rationed as a result of the German war industry “dived under’’.

One was always on the alert. At night in bed, when the RAF came over on their way to Germany, and the air raid sirens went, we rubbed our hands and thought: “there they go again” and turned over comfortably on the other side to go on dreaming that this might speed up the liberation. We were not afraid, because they did not come for us but for “them”. I hope you will 11 understand that we all wanted to be freed of this ever increasing oppression and these direct threats to our lives. The successful invasion in France gave us hope for the eventual liberation and when after an avalanche of breakthroughs and a flood of rumours the sky over my hometown Arnhem was filled with parachutes and gliders, we were delighted that we would now be liberated.

What a deception! The only would be liberators we saw were marched down our streets into POW camps. For reasons never solved, after the Battle of Arnhem the town of Arnhem and neighbouring villages were evacuated on German orders. Our family went to Apeldoorn because we knew people there. Another 7 months of German suppression followed. German troops, marching through our streets, singing their heroic war songs and hurting our eardrums with their blaring brass bands, meant a prolonged affliction. A severe winter in combination with a famine in the western provinces caused by a German prohibition of transport of foodstuffs, causing many deaths, meant another ordeal to our stricken population. And then at last, we heard guns in the distance to the East. Louder and louder they became. Our hopes rose sky high. What had we gone through and what was coming closer and closer! 1 Friday 13 April. Standing before our quarters in Apeldoorn. I hear the whistle of a shell. Having obtained experience in Arnhem, I lay flat on my belly before I realize what is happening. People around me think I’m crazy, but they soon understand! Fortunately the projectile hits the maternity clinic behind our billets without exploding. Maybe it was a warning shot to get the population off the streets. Anyway, it was the start of 4 days of spasmodic artillery fire and that did indeed keep us of the streets. On the morning of the 17th things were very quiet and we carefully got out of the cellar to investigate. A policeman rode past on his bike and said that the Canadians were there. Without hesitation my brother and I got our hidden bikes from under the floorboards, mounted the front wheel and rode to the market square to find out.

We rounded the corner, and then...... a band of Pipes and Drums marching up and down the market square! When writing this I still feel the shivers running down my back. Our liberators were the 48th Highlanders of Holland and this was their band. What a Glorious Liberation!!! A greater contrast with those hated Nazi bands is impossible. Yes we were really FREE.

It was all over Gone all the anguish of the past 5 years. Gone but not forgotten!! It took me very many years to regard the post war generation of our former suppressors as acceptable equals. The war generation will never be forgiven. We went to see the liberators with their tanks in the park outside the Loa Palace. I remember clearly their field kitchen where we as youngsters were treated to the crusts that they cut off their snow white bread loaves. It tasted like the best cake ever. We rounded the corner, and then...... a band of Pipes and Drums marching up and down the market square! When writing this I still feel the shivers running down my back. Our liberators were the 48th Highlanders of Holland and this was their band. What a Glorious Liberation!!! A greater contrast with those hated Nazi bands is impossible. Yes we were really FREE.

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I am proud that I may in all modesty support the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums who are the living monument to honour my liberators.
EDITOR'S NOTE: On behalf of the Regiment, a scroll, commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums and our close alliance with them since their formation in 1991, will be presented by the Honourary Colonel.

The joy was great on that April 17th of 1945, the day that Apeldoorn was liberated. The first signs of the liberation were for many like a dream. Like a former evacuee, from occupied Arnhem, described, with tears in his Eyes: “We jumped on our, carefully hidden, bikes and rode from the Loolaan towards the town centre. The first thing we heard was the joyful and haunting sound of the pipes and the drums of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. It send shivers down my spine, gave me goose bumps, it was beautiful! Forever would this music remain for me associated with freedom and at the same time with the endured fear and terror.”

Apeldoorn and its surroundings were liberated by mainly the Canadian Forces, with a key role for the the 48th Highlanders of Canada, in the first half of April 1945. Many of them were killed in action in those early days of April and gave there lives for our freedom. Still, every year, many veterans from Canada come to our country and our area to commemorate them.

After the large veterans parade in 1985, 40 years after the liberations, our founder, Gerrit Ham, longed to raise a living monument as a tribute to the liberators of the town of Apeldoorn and its surroundings.

And so the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums were founded in January, 1991. Its founding musical objective was and still is: to provide a fitting musical contribution to commemorations, other ceremonies and parades in the Netherlands and abroad.

Every year close to April 12th we commemorate on the Canadian War Cemetery Holten, Lt. Col Donald A. MacKenzie and the other members of the Regiment who fell in those early days of the liberation.

Ever since the beginning we got a lot of support from Canada especially from Pipe Major Ross Stewart. He was the man who was approached by our chairman and founder Gerrit Ham to instruct our band. Every year he came to Holland and gave instructions on the bagpipe and about how a military pipe band should operate.

From Toronto he was always willing to give help and advise, to make sure that the band looked at it’s, by Canadian example, best. He did all this with a lot of patience and humor, but still always with a strict hand.

After his death in 2001 the ‘48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association’ was willing to take over the task as our Historic Advisor, so that we were always sure that we could seek advice on the make and look of newly purchased band items.

In 1996 two beautiful authentic, hand painted tenor drums were presented to us from Canada. One was from the ‘Pipes and Drums Association 48th Highlanders of Canada’ and was dedicated to Pipe major A. Dewar. The other tenor drum was a gift of Pipe Major J. Ross Stewart and was dedicated to Pipe Major A. Anderson.

In the ‘Falcon’ of summer 2010 you could read a beautiful story, by HCol Geordie Beal, about the 48th Veterans Return to Holland for the 65th Anniversary of Liberation. It was a great honour for us to take part in the parades and commemorations. It was a great pleasure for us to speak personally with 48th veterans like Herb Pike, Morris Tracy, Norm Gogo, Nick Birch and Morley Hunter.

The band performances give us a great sense of gratification. With our performances we get to special places at home and abroad and meet veterans, their families and many other kind and fascinating people.

We hear a lot of striking stories and learn of things we would never have known were we not with the band.

Furthermore, we keep a warm friendship with a French living Monument: The Somme Battlefield Pipe band. Together we attend many ceremonies in France and Holland.

The large amounts of time and effort we put into learning and practicing on our musical instruments are more than worthwhile.

Our band magazine ‘Highland Express’ has also existed for 20 years and in 2008 we even had a special issue with all the stories and pictures about our tour around Ontario in the spring of that year. It contained many highlights, like meeting veterans in several homes, our visit to the ‘48th Highlanders Museum’ in Toronto and, of course, practicing and playing with the Pipes & Drums and the Military Band of the 48th of Canada.

On our website www.48th-highlanders.nl you can follow all the things we do as a band.

Because we cherish our freedom and because we like to do something in return, our creed is: “We Do Remember”

Because we never will and may forget…… This task we fulfill for 20 years now and we hope we may do this for many more years to come.

On behalf of the 48th Highlanders of Holland, Pipes and Drums

Dirk Goudkuil, PM
Jan Scholten, DM
Tonnie van Amersfoort, Chair Woman
John Fundter, Secretary and QM

With many thanks to our Hon. Member Jurry Hulzebos Sr., also Hon. Member of the 48th Old Comrades Association and Jan Jansen, volunteer at the 48th Highlanders Museum, who made it possible to have this story published in ‘The Falcon’. 2
Pipes and Drums Update Spring 2011

The Pipes and Drums have been extremely busy since the last issue of the Falcon in the Fall of 2010.

In October, the Pipes and Drums, along with the Military Band, performed for the annual season opening game of the Toronto Maple Leafs – a tradition dating back to 1932. We were fortunate to have Pte Sean Marjoram go with us and take professional level photos of the event.

The Bands playing a Medley during the 2010 Maple Leaf's Home opener

Following the Maple Leaf Opener, the Pipes and Drums and Military band took part in the Annual RCMI Band Spectacular at Roy Thomson Hall. It is always a long day, but the audience is always so appreciative of the musicians’ efforts. PM Lang was again the Senior Pipe Major for the event.

The bands leaving the ice at the ACC.

Immediately on the heels of this concert, the Pipes and Drums began the annual feat which is the St. Andrew’s Ball. This involves three Tuesday night rehearsals for the ball and then the night of the ball itself. The Drum Major again addressed the Haggis and MC’d the ball portion of the evening, while the Pipes and Drums themselves provided pipers for entertainment and duties during the dinner portion and the usual split of the band for continuous dancing all night. The evening again culminated with the Beating of Retreat at 1:30 in the morning. The band then finished its duties and retired to our hospitality suite to have dinner.

PM (MWO) Lang and Sgt C. Dewar play the lament, Nov 2 for The Toronto Maple Leaf's Remembrance game

Sandwiched in between these rehearsals was the week of Remembrance, which is always a very busy time for the pipers of the 48th. All told, including Regimental duties such as the annual Parade at Mount Pleasant, the memorial dinner, the Parade itself, and support to St. Andrew’s Church, the pipers did a total of 18 events. This also included two pipers at the Air Canada Centre for the Toronto Maple Leafs remembrance game.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE PIPES AND DRUMS INCLUDE:

• The 120th anniversary of the Regiment;
• Participation in the Canadian Forces Contingent of Pipes and Drums in the Virginia International Tattoo from April 23 – May 2;
• Participation in the Canadian International Military Tattoo in Hamilton June 25-26;
• Warrior’s Day Parade August 20th; and
• The St. Andrew’s Ball on November 26th.

Many more events are in the works, but are not confirmed as of yet. We have also been asked to provide pipers and drummers for a couple of recordings taking place in 2011. Look for more info on all of these things as they develop.
HIGHLAND BUZZ

ET Canada visits the 48th Highlanders Museum. ET Interviewer, Rosey Edoh talks to actor Taylor Kitsch, famous for his role in the show, “Friday Night Lights.”

Charlotte Cardoen-Descamps, a representative of the Passchendaele Memorial Museum in Ypres Belgium, and a good friend to the 15th Battalion Memorial Project, pays a visit to our Regimental Museum.

In the Officers Mess of the Cape Town Highlanders, the DCO, Maj Allan Best, presents a 48th plaque to the unit CO, LCol André van der Bijl, in recognition of their 125th Anniversary (1885-2010).

THE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION
EVENT CALENDAR
AS OF MARCH 2011

09 JULY 11 – PACHINO DAY, Landing in Sicily (48th, RCR, Hasty P of 1st Brigade)
LOCATION: Hastings & Prince Edward Armoury, 187 Pinnacle St., Belleville
TIMINGS: 1000 hrs parade and ceremony; Spaghetti luncheon to follow
DRESS: Old Comrades: White shirt, ribbons and glen. Guests: relaxed
COST: Small $5 donation for luncheon
CONTACT: John Dunne, 905-839-6487 48thOCA@gmail.com

05 NOV 11 MOUNT PLEASANT REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY
LOCATION: Mount Pleasant Cemetery, east entrance off Mt. Pleasant Rd.
TIMINGS: 1030 parade assembles
DRESS: Regimental Blazer, medals, Glengarry
CONTACT: John Dunne 905-839-6487 48thOCA@gmail.com

05 NOV 11 – OCA REMEMBRANCE DINNER
LOCATION: York Reception Centre
TIMINGS: 1700 – 2359
DRESS: Mess Kit, Blues, DEU, Suit
COST: $55 per person
CONTACT: John Dunne 905-839-6487 48thOCA@gmail.com

06 NOV 11 – REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE
LOCATION: Queen’s Park Circle
TIMINGS: 0930 OCA buses at MPA
1030 form up on Wellesley Street
Messes open at MPA after March back
DRESS: Old Comrades: Blazer, tie, medals
CONTACT: 48th Highrs BOR, 416-635-2765 or John Dunne 905-839-6487 48thOCA@gmail.com
HIGHLANDERS CONFINED TO BARRACKS

SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL - VETERANS WING

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BELL, Norman</td>
<td>K2E 27</td>
<td>416-487-5611</td>
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<td>COOPER, Vic</td>
<td>L3E 325</td>
<td>647-341-8573</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESTRIN, Joe.</td>
<td>KIW 16</td>
<td>416-932-2372</td>
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<td>LEONARD, Stanley.</td>
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<td>K2C 21</td>
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SPECIAL CARE UNITS

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<tr>
<td>GREEN, Stuart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter, Clifford</td>
<td>c/o Susan Hampson 519-424-9784</td>
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CONFINED AT HOME - PROBLEMS GETTING AROUND

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<tr>
<td>Colton, G.E.</td>
<td>819-683-2323</td>
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These Highlanders will be pleased to hear from you.
Give them a call or better still, pay them a visit.
Don't forget, they are Dileas, as are we.

LAST POST

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Phil Ward</td>
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<td>Kenneth Haw</td>
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<td>Bud Leigh</td>
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<td>May 20, 2010</td>
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<td>Herbert “Herb” Sershal</td>
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<td>Henry David Billings</td>
<td>24 May, 2010</td>
<td>St. Catharines ON</td>
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At the going down of the sun, and in the morning.
We will remember them.

MARCH 2011