



The Glen

The Regimental Magazine of the Calgary Highlanders



Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2018



The Glen

The Regimental Magazine of the Calgary Highlanders

Editor's Page

Denis A. Mascardelli



This issue of The Glen is so filled with articles – thanks to a large number of contributors – that it isn't possible to mention them all. This limits me to drawing attention to only a handful.

A key plank in Canada's recent Defence Policy Review is to

strengthen the Army reserves. This now allows the Unit to aggressively recruit and a goal has been set to fill the majority of its 271 assigned positions by January 2019. B Company is to become a Combat Support Company and raise a mortar platoon, and together with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, deploy a composite mortar platoon to Latvia with 3 PPCLI in 2019. The Command Team article gives additional information on this step forward.

Perhaps the two biggest stories from the summer of 2017 were the burial of Sgt Milne – a 10th Battalion soldier killed during the Battle of Arleux Loop 100 years earlier – and the Unit's fielding of a team in the Nijmegen Four Day Marches. Both stories are covered extensively; Sgt Milne's burial on page 7 and the 160 km marches on page 38. In both cases the Unit's soldiers set a standard that brings credit to The Calgary Highlanders.

One issue that The Glen has not addressed, until now, is PTSD. Elizabeth Stock has rectified this omission with an article beginning on page 16. In it, she points out that the Canadian programs for treating PTSD and OSI (Operational Stress injuries) have come a long way and are amongst the best available. However, there is a significant challenge in getting soldiers and veterans 'to overcome the invis-

ble barriers to treatment' or, to put it another way, to get them through the door. In order to encourage access to treatment, her article explains what's available and provides a short list of contact information, answering the question, 'who you gonna call'.

And finally, The Glen was first published in 1939, almost 80 years ago. Since then it has been the responsibility of a series of editors including, for the past eight years, myself. However, it's now time to pass the torch, so to speak, and CWO Kent Griffiths has stepped up to the challenge. I know that the Regimental family will give Kent the support that I've enjoyed so that The Glen can continue to promote the story of The Calgary Highlanders.

Airaghardt

Table of Contents

Command Team	2
HCol Shaw at Stirling Castle	4
Sgt Milne and the Battle of Arleux Loop	7
Great War Interments & Hill 70 Monument	9
August 1917...August 2017	13
PTSD and You	16
Awards	20
The Regiment in Photos	24
Peacekeeping Is Not As Simple As You Thought	31
10th Battalion VC Recipient to be Honoured	33
Fallen Comrade	34
Honourary Colonel Handover	37
Nijmegen 2017	38
McAndie Coulee	44
Dieppe Commemoration	45
Museum Update	48

Command Team

LCol Simon Cox and CWO Glenn Fedoruk



It is my distinct honour to provide a welcoming message to the Winter 2018 issue of The Glen.

I am incredibly proud and honoured to have taken command of the Regiment in June 2017. I have served in this proud Regiment for the past twenty years and am humbled to be given the challenge as your Commanding Officer. I am equally proud of the appointment of CWO Fedoruk as RSM, who has been a steward in this Regiment for many years. Congratulations Mr. Fedoruk! I would also like to sincerely thank Lieutenant-Colonel Clapper-ton and Chief Warrant Officer Tucker for all of their hard work and dedication as the past command team. These two individuals put many years into the success of the Regiment and served with honour and distinction.

Over the summer, the unit focused its efforts on individual training and conducted several key courses to qualify our soldiers, resulting in 12 new infants and 35 soldiers ready to take their DP1 infantry course this upcoming summer. One of the key aspects of the recent Government of Canada's Defence Policy Review is to Strengthen the Army Reserves (StAR), and considerable effort and resources have been put towards recruiting and training new soldiers. The Calgary Highlanders, as well as 41 CBG as a whole, have been very successful in these efforts. 41 CBG has led 3 DIV recruiting by enrolling more soldiers than 38 and 39 CBG combined over the past year. The unit remains focused on this objective and aims to fill the majority of our 271 assigned positions by January 2019.

In July 2017, the unit sent a team to the Netherlands to participate in the Nijmegen marches and competed very well. Our soldiers were one of only a few unit teams that completed the Nijmegen challenge. In August 2017, the Regiment sent a large contingent to France to conduct the interments of an unknown soldier killed at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and the Tenth Battalion's Sergeant Alexander Milne, who was killed in the battle of Arleux Loop. Our soldiers who conducted this task did so with incredible professionalism and laid our brother-in-arms to rest in the right fashion. I am

The Glen is the Regimental magazine of The Calgary Highlanders published under the auspices of Regimental HQ. Opinions expressed are those of the Glen staff or contributors and should not be construed as those of the Government of Canada or the Department of National Defence. The Glen is available free of charge in its electronic version and recipients are encouraged to forward copies to friends of the Regiment. To be added to the subscription list, send your name and email address to calghighr.glen@gmail.com.

Photos from all eras of the Unit's history are welcome and may be sent to our email address (above) or in the case of prints, to The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association, Mewata Armoury, 801-11th St SW, Calgary AB, T2P 2C4. Prints will be scanned and returned upon request. Photos should be accompanied by a note explaining who or what the image captures and when and where it was taken.

Letters and articles are encouraged and, if published, may be edited for content and length.

incredibly proud of all of those who participated or supported this event and you did your Regiment proud.

As the unit returned from the summer training period we focused our attention on recruiting, individual battle task standards, generating higher attendance and fostering leadership at all levels. The Officers and Senior NCO's conducted a professional development session that focused on leadership and discipline by reviewing the book *Extreme Ownership* by best selling authors Jocko Willink and Leif Babin. There are a number of solid lessons in the book. The one that stands out the most for me is that leadership can (and should) be applied at all levels; in fact, it is required to make high performing teams. It doesn't matter what level you are or what your job is; apply yourself and be the best at your job that you can and you will put yourself, and your team, on the path to success. I highly encourage all of you to obtain a copy, read it in earnest, and start practicing extreme ownership in your lives.

Operationally, the Regiment continues to lead 41 CBG with deployments. This fall, we welcomed MCpl MacDonald home from his deployment to Poland and most recently seven of our soldiers returned from first rotation to Latvia. We are immensely proud of the work these fine soldiers are doing for our country and are looking forward to reintegrating them back into the Regiment.

Our operational focus is set to accelerate over the next year as I am most pleased to announce The Calgary Highlanders has received a new mission task. Another key aspect of the Strengthen the Army Reserve Initiative is to assign mission-role tasks to all Reserve units, which will integrate with and support the Regular Force on operational tasks. The unit is to re-role B Company into a Combat Support company and raise a mortar platoon as a standing task. This is an incredible milestone for the Regiment and a challenge that we are very excited to get to work on. In addition, the unit has been tasked to generate a composite mortar platoon, in cooperation with our sister 41 CBG unit, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, for a deployment to Latvia with 3 PPCLI in 2019. This task highlights the mission-focused atmosphere the Regiment is entering as part of an enhanced Army Reserve presence in the Canadian Army.

Lastly, I am very much looking forward to the 69th Grand Highland Military Ball on Saturday, 03 March 2018 at the Hyatt Regency. Last year's ball was incredibly successful with record attendance numbers and we raised significant funds for The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Funds Foundation, which in turn supports the Regiment and its soldiers in all the hard work you do. This year aims to be just as successful and fun as last year, and we encourage you to attend and promote the event to achieve maximum attendance. For tickets and more information, visit www.calgaryhighlandersball.com.

As we look forward into 2018, it will be another busy and challenging year, but one filled with optimism and hard work. I am immensely proud of the work done by all members of this Regiment, both uniformed and not, to achieve our mission. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication and we look forward to working with you closely as we move forward together. 🍁



Commemorated: 70th Anniversary of The Appointment of HM Queen Elizabeth as Colonel-in-Chief of the Allied Regiment

HCol M Shaw

July 2017 marked the 70th anniversary of the appointment of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Colonel-in-Chief of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's). In 1947 HM was still Princess Elizabeth and the Argylls had not yet been amalgamated into The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The current regimental association of the Argylls hosted an event to mark their special relationship with HM Queen Elizabeth (who incidentally became Colonel-in-Chief of The Calgary Highlanders in 1981).

Honorary Colonel Michael Shaw and his wife Linda attended the event. They were hosted by

Brigadier-General Bruce Russell, Chairman of the Trustees of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, at their headquarters in Stirling Castle.

Colonel Shaw notes:

"We were greeted very graciously and everyone thanked us for 'crossing the pond' to attend the event. It began with a briefing and what we were to do and what we were not to do. (No selfies with the Queen!)"

"We were taken to the Chapel - where we were given priority seating (row 3, seats 3 & 4) - directly across the aisle from Her Majesty - who was in row one - seat 1, (where else?) The church service was about 30 minutes long -

concluding with God Save the Queen - and it was spine tingling to sing the anthem with the Queen to whom we were singing standing only a few yards away. Quite an experience.

"Prior to the entry of Her Majesty, the Queen's Piper found me and said that her equerry had just called him as, 'Her Majesty has requested that you be available to chat with her at some time during the visit'. That made me nervous!"

"Following the church service we were ushered into the Castle's Great Hall, impressively decked out in all its finery for a Royal luncheon. The tables (19 of them) were beautiful and the effect was absolutely stunning."



HCol Shaw

Honorary Colonel Shaw with wife Linda at Stirling Castle; HM Queen Elizabeth is in her vehicle in the background

"At the head of the hall three tables stood on a raised platform about two feet high. We found ourselves assigned to table 3 on the stage and were told that Her Majesty was at table one - right beside us - with the Duke of Edinburgh sitting at table 2, the third table on the stage. We felt very fortunate and honoured to have been assigned these prime seats.

"Prior to sitting down, we were asked to stand back a little - at the place General Russell would bring Her Majesty to introduce us and to chat with us. (Also present were Lieutenant-Colonel Glenn Gibson of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada and his wife.)

"The Queen arrived at the Great Hall and had a picture taken with the past COs of the A&SH and was then escorted over to us to say hello.

"She said that she specifically wanted to chat with me as, "just yesterday I read the report that was sent to me by the Calgary Highlanders and I was delighted to see that the Regiment is in good form," (or words to that effect!) I mentioned that we had just had a change of command and she informed me that she was very aware of that. I then told her that the Regiment is in wonderful shape and that we have a good succession plan in place. She was very pleased with her Calgary Highlanders.

"Thanks to our Regimental Secretary, Lee Villiger, for sending the updated report to her - what exquisite timing! We chatted with Her Majesty about the Regiment and when we told her that we had travelled to Scotland primarily to represent the Calgary Highlanders at this event, she was delighted. We all then sat down to lunch - an enjoyable but surreal experience to look up and see the Queen eating her lunch at the next table.

"When the meal ended, the Queen departed and we all went outside to wave goodbye and to give her three cheers.

"That concluded our luncheon and what an experience it was. Following

the Queen's departure, we were given a private tour of the museum and a briefing on what they are working to accomplish. All in all, it was a wonderful event and it is so pleasing that Queen Elizabeth knows all about her Calgary Regiment and is keenly interested in all we do."

Colonel Shaw presented an oakleaf plaque to the trustees, with the inscription:

Presented to The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

In commemoration of our joint relationship with

HM Queen Elizabeth II

Our Colonel-In-Chief

From your allied regiment - The Calgary Highlanders

5 July 2017 🍁



HCol Shaw

Colonel (Retd) A.K. Miller presents the regiment with a commemorative book marking the 70th Anniversary of the appointment of HM Queen Elizabeth II as Colonel-in-Chief of the Allied Regiment. Only three copies of the book exist at present, one in possession of Her Majesty, another in Hamilton with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, and this one.

The Calgary Highlanders
**69th Grand Highland
Military Ball**



With Guest of Honour, Mr. Jack Whyte

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Hyatt Regency Calgary | Imperial Ballroom

For further information, tickets or to donate, please visit:

WWW.CALGARYHIGHLANDERSBALL.COM

Sgt Milne and The Battle of Arleux Loop

Denis Mascardelli

August 2017 saw the Calgary Highlanders bury one of their own: Sgt Alexander Milne, killed on 28 April 1917 during the 10th Battalion's attack as part of a Canadian operation to capture the French village of Arleux and the surrounding countryside. In order to provide greater context for several of the articles that appear in this issue of The Glen, a brief synopsis of this battle follows. Readers who wish more detail can access the Winter 2016 issue of The Glen at www.calgaryhighlanders.com/organizations/association/glen.htm

In the days following the capture of Vimy Ridge, the men of the 10th Battalion were given little time to reflect on either the Canadian victory or the 374 casualties the Tenth had suffered while taking their objective on 9 April 1917. Vimy had been but part of the British Expeditionary Force's Arras offensive, a large diversionary operation designed to draw German forces away from a massive French attack – the Nivelle offensive— farther south.

As the Arras offensive ground on the Canadian Corps was given a new objective: the capture of the heavily fortified village of Arleux, a key position in the new German defences established after their loss of Vimy Ridge. The 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade of the 1st Canadian Division was selected for this task and, on the night of April 27th the Fighting Tenth, flanked by the 5th Battalion on the left and the 8th on the right, moved into its jumping-off position.

Zero hour for 2 Brigade's attack was set for 0425 hours on the 28th; the 10th was to attack with 3 Companies up, B at the centre with D on the left and C on the right. A Company was to follow and lend support where needed.

Once 'over the top' B and C Companies found gaps in the enemy's wire, blasted by the supporting artillery barrage. D Company, however,

ran into virtually intact wire which held up its advance over the open killing ground, and took particularly high casualties as the enemy brought down a counter-barrage and his machine gunners opened fire on the Canadians. Nevertheless, the soldiers of the Tenth pressed forward to enter the village's northern reaches.

The battle for Arleux was brief but bloody as the Canadian soldiers fought through street by street at close quarters - the Tenth capturing 179 prisoners and five machine guns. After consolidating, the Battalion held its newly-won position until



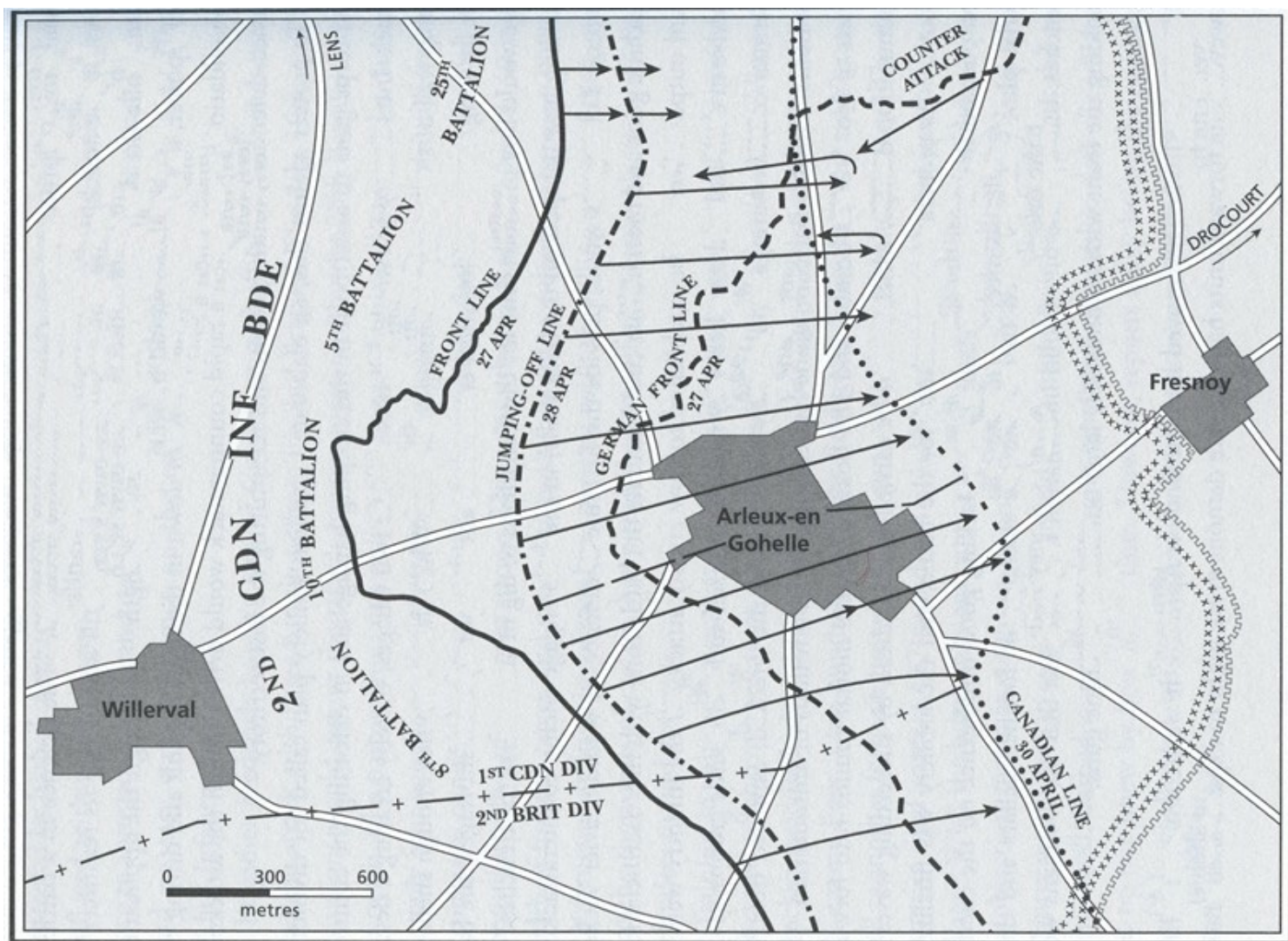
DiscoverWeyburn.com

This photo of Arleux testifies to the intensity of the fighting that saw 2 Bde wrest it from German control on 28 April 1917.

relieved during the early morning hours of 30 April.

Although the battle for Arleux had been brief - about two hours between jumping off and consolidation - the intensity of the fighting is reflected in the Tenth's casualty figures: of the 639 men committed to the attack, 304 became casualties, including 103 killed, one of whom was Sgt Milne. His remains were not discovered until May 2013, when an archaeological team

discovered them while conducting a mandatory survey of land known to be battlefield, prior to a proposed residential development. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was notified and took possession of the remains and artifacts, but it wasn't until early 2017 that a positive identification was made.



Tim Cook, Shock Troops

This map shows the Canadian jumping-off line, the German front line, and the Canadian front line at the end of the Battle of Arleux. The Tenth jumped off about 200 m from the German front line and fought through the north half of the village of Arleux in bitter street battles. Although successful, the Battalion suffered 301 casualties, 103 of whom were killed. The Arleux operation cost 2 Bde 1,255 casualties but after Vimy, the success at Arleux further cemented the Canadians' reputation as shock troops..

Great War Interments and Hill 70 Monument Dedication

18 Aug – 26 Aug 2017

Cpl Michael Dorosh

Over the weekend of 18-21 August, a group of Calgary Highlanders arrived in France to perform a series of ceremonial tasks associated with the Tenth Battalion's activities 100 years earlier (the Calgary Highlanders perpetuate the 'Fighting Tenth'). This group of Highlanders was comprised of representatives of the 'Regimental Family' – tasked with representing the Regiment at four First World War interments and the dedication of a monument commemorating the Battle of Hill 70 – and a ten-man burial party, tasked with two burials.

The Regimental Family representatives included:

- the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Cox
- former CO Colonel (Retd) S. Blakely (representing the Regimental Senate)
- Regimental Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) F. Villiger
- Regimental Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer G. Fedoruk



The Calgary Highlanders

Burial Party (L to R): Capt N. Beatty (Funeral Commander), Cpl P. Burt, Cpl R. Yee, Cpl T. Lewis, Cpl B. Strachan, Cpl A. Lauritsen, Cpl M. Dorosh, Cpl K. Fischer, Cpl T. Huynh, MCpl M. Johnsen (Bearer Party Commander)

- Regimental Major, CWO K. Griffiths
- Curator of the Regimental Museum and Archives, Major P. Boyle
- President of The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association, R. Spratley, and
- Five musicians from the Regimental Pipes and Drums (Pipers A. Miller and M. Davidson, and Drummers B. Woodward, Butt, and Millage).

The Burial Party was made up of:

- Funeral Commander, Captain N. Beatty
 - Bearer Party Commander, Master Corporal M. Johnsen
- Bearers: Corporals P Burt, M. Dorosh, K Fischer, T. Huynh, A. Lauritsen, T. Lewis, B. Strachan, and R. Yee

The representatives of the Regimental Family the Burial Party were engaged in a number of tasks:

- Tuesday, 22 August 2017: Dedication of a new monument at Hill 70. The Calgary Highlanders supported the creation and dedication of this new monument to one of Canada's most significant, and most overlooked, battlefield victories of the First World War. The Pipes and Drums supported the dedication ceremony and all members of both regimental parties attended the dedication service.
- Wednesday, 23 August 2017: the Burial Party conducted the interment of a recently discovered unknown Canadian soldier at Canadian Cemetery No. 2, at the Canadian National Vimy Monument.
- Friday, 25 August 2017: the Burial Party conducted the interment of Sergeant James Alexander Milne, who was reported missing and presumed dead following the successful attack of the 10th Battalion on 28 April 1917 in the Battle of Arleux Loop. Sergeant Milne's body was recovered from the site of a new housing project at Arleux-en-Gohelle and underwent an extensive identification process. He was finally laid to rest at Orchard Dump Cemetery not far from where he fell, among the graves of several hundred Commonwealth casualties, including a number of other 10th Battalion soldiers.

The Battle of Hill 70 was especially significant for the 10th Battalion ...No fewer than sixty awards of the Military Medal were made to soldiers of the 10th for the part they played in the fighting.

Tuesday, 22 August 2017 - Hill 70 Monument Dedication

One of the most significant Canadian military victories of the First World War was formally commemorated after 100 years with the official dedication of a new monument. The Battle of Hill 70 was especially significant for the 10th Battalion as its soldiers received an unprecedented number of military commendations for their part in the fighting. No fewer than sixty awards of the Military Medal were made to soldiers of the 10th for the part they played in the fighting. Additionally, the first of the 10th's two Victoria Crosses came for the fighting at Hill 70. In all over 80 awards for gallantry were made to the 10th for this single battle, a total believed to be a record in Canadian military history.

The Battle of Hill 70 opened on 15 August 1917. It marked the first time the Canadian Corps went into battle under a Canadian commander. Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie, emboldened by the great victory at Vimy Ridge in April 1917, had resisted orders to attack the heavily fortified ruins of the French mining town of Lens. He argued that if they were going to fight,

they should fight for an objective that meant something. He selected the high ground north of Lens – the ground of tactical importance – and the Canadian Corps took it with two divisions. The victory was sealed by the artillery, who helped beat off 21 separate German counter-attacks. In ten days of fighting, 30,000 German soldiers became casualties, against 10,000 Canadians.

The new Battle of Hill 70 Memorial Park sits on ground about a mile away from the hill top, with an obelisk reaching to a point 70-metres above sea level, the elevation for which the hill itself was named. Sections of the park, some still under construction, are named for the men who received Victoria Crosses at Hill 70, including Private Harry Brown of the Tenth, who was fatally wounded acting as a runner, delivering vital messages between battalion headquarters and forward observation officers. The Governor-General of Canada, David Johnston, noted in an earlier ceremony that, "Too long, the Battle of

Hill 70 and its significance have largely been forgotten. And so, today, we change that."

Wednesday, 23 August 2017 - Burial of Canadian Soldier at Vimy Cemetery No. 2



CF Photo by Cpl Andrew Wesley

The Calgary Highlander Burial Party conducted the interment of an unknown Canadian soldier at Canadian Cemetery No. 2, at the Canadian National Vimy Monument. The Commander of the Canadian Army, Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk, was in attendance at the ceremony

Edited DND News Release:

A First World War soldier who could not be identified was laid to rest with military honours at Canadian Cemetery No. 2 in Neuville-St. Vaast, France, within Canadian National Vimy Memorial Park. The Commander of the Canadian Army, Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk, was in attendance at the ceremony.

Remains discovered at Thélus, Pas de Calais, France, were deemed to belong to a Canadian First World War soldier, but his identity could not be determined, as he was found without personal or unit identifiers. The soldier would have died between the end of October 1916 and the end of July 1917, the nine-month period of Canadian Corps action in the Vimy sector. Both maternal and paternal DNA profiles have been obtained from this set of remains with the hope of a future identification.

Thursday, 24 August 2017 - Burials at Loos Cemetery

Two soldiers of the 13th and 16th Battalions

(perpetuated by The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada and The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) have been recently identified and were laid to rest in a combined service at Loos British Cemetery at Loos-en-Gohelle. The Calgary Highlanders lent support to this ceremony by the attendance of the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major. Sergeant Wilfred Shaugnessy and Private Reginald Joseph Winfield Johnston were laid to rest roughly one hundred years after they fell during the Battle of Hill 70.

Friday, 25 August 2017 - Burial of Sergeant James Alexander Milne

DND News Release:

Sergeant James Alexander Milne, a First World War soldier whose remains were identified by the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), was today laid to rest with military honours by his unit, The Calgary Highlanders, in a cemetery in Arleux-en-Gohelle, France.

Sergeant Milne was a member of the 10th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, a unit perpetuated by The Royal Winnipeg Rifles and The Calgary Highlanders. He died on April 28, 1917, at the age of 34, in connection with an operation against a German position known as the Arleux-Loop.

Sergeant Milne's remains were found in a field outside Arleux-en-Gohelle on May 13, 2013, by an archaeological team from the Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives of France, which had been carrying out a mandatory archaeological survey of the land, a known battlefield of the First World War, before the construction of a housing estate. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was subsequently notified, and took possession of the remains and associated artefacts. Sergeant Milne was later identified by DND's Casualty Identification Program

Sergeant Milne was born in Gellybrands, Cookney, Kincardineshire, Scotland, on February 10, 1883. Raised by his maternal grandmother, he immigrated to Canada at some time between 1905 and 1911. An unmarried labourer, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Calgary, Alberta, on January 27, 1915, at the age of 31.



Twitter.com/KamilKaramali

When Sgt Milne's remains were discovered in 2013 it was immediately evident from the well preserved brass C10 collar dogs, cap badge and 'CANADA' shoulder badges that a Canadian soldier from the 10th Battalion had been unearthed. However, unlike the brass artifacts, Sgt Milne's identity disc was badly corroded (left) and could not be read. It wasn't until early 2017 that restoration of the disc by the Canadian Conservation Institute resulted in a positive identification.

Sergeant Milne's identification resulted from a review of historical context, an examination of material evidence, and forensic anthropological analysis by DND's Casualty Identification Program. The restoration of an identification disc by the Canadian Conservation Institute was critical to the success of the investigation.

Quotes

"On this sombre occasion, we are given the opportunity to reflect upon the courage and determination of those Canadians who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, in the First World War and after. We are thankful for the support of our international partners who have made it possible for us to lay Sergeant Milne to rest after these many years."

*Harjit S. Sajjan,
Defence Minister*

"We pay tribute to Sergeant Milne, who gave everything for Canada, as we express our gratitude to serving and former members of our Canadian Armed Forces, who have

made possible our continued enjoyment of peace and liberty. We will honour them always."

*Kent Hehr, Veterans Affairs Minister and
Associate Minister of National Defence*

"We are gratified to be able to afford Sergeant Milne the dignity and respect of a military burial in a Commonwealth cemetery, 100 years after his death. His personal sacrifice will never be forgotten."

*Brigadier-General (Retd) David Kettle,
Secretary General, the Canadian Agency of the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

"It is a great honour for The Calgary Highlanders, who perpetuate the 10th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, to properly recognize Sergeant Milne for his sacrifice and duty to Canada. Sergeant Milne is a member of our Regimental Family and we are now able to provide him with a proper resting place. In doing so, we honour the memory of one of Canada's own, the memory of those who have fallen in combat, and the thousands of soldiers from the First World War who remain missing."

*Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Cox,
Commanding Officer, The Calgary Highlanders*



CF Photo by Cpl Andrew Wesley

Sgt Milne's remains are laid to rest at Orchard Dump Cemetery on Friday, 25 August 2017, near where he was killed a little more than 100 years earlier on 28 April 1917 during the Battle of Arleux Loop.

August 1917...August 2017

LCol (Retd) Lee Villiger, CD

I sit alone in the front row of chairs watching the birds soar overhead. My mind wanders as I shift my gaze to two French gentlemen moving slowly and quietly in front of me as they place a white cord barrier around a small grave site containing a white stone marker. The inscription on the stone is difficult to read as the bright sunshine beams directly on it, and although I want to take a photo of it, I hesitate because of the glare. Nearby, flower wreaths form a small circle amongst gently placed bouquets, forming a colourful backdrop to the gravesite. A lone podium stands to one side, empty now. The dominant colours of green and white are framed by blue, though in the corner of my eyes I see splashes of red, purple, yellow, and pink.

I look beyond this immediate scene and see the CO and RSM of The Calgary Highlanders walking slowly away, down the middle of the road, talking softly, with heads looking down. Their kilts sway back and forth in a rhythm - they seem to own the road, the fields around them, and the soft village magically lying ahead, a church steeple prominent in the distance. Also walking on this two-lane black-top is another Highlander, accompanied by two retired veterans in suits with Glengarries tilted slightly. The road is closed off at both ends by vehicles and barriers of the French Police, who calmly walk back and forth. They are not in a hurry, nor do they seem agitated. I sense respect in their faces, and they smile back if you give them one. There are still a few French military veterans standing close-by with their Legion Flags tilted on their shoulders as they smoke endlessly. Not far ahead on this village road are ten more kilted Highlanders, standing in a half-circle shaped by two pipers and three drummers. These young soldiers and musicians await the rest of the Family; all are members of The Calgary Highlanders... the Battalion of Heroes...the Fighting Tenth... The 10th Canadians!

My thoughts shift back to four days ago when we had just arrived in France and began our journey in tightly jammed rental cars. Enjoying a schedule of battlefield visits, we found our-

selves at the site of the new Hill 70 Monument and surrounding Memorial Park. It is closely woven amongst the suburbs of Lens, France. There is a strange feeling in this area, but a comforting one. The dedication of the monument is one of the purposes for our visit. The 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Hill



Loos Museum

The Battle of Hill 70 Memorial Park opened to the public during August 2017, and is situated near the start line where the Canadian Corps began its advance on 15 August one hundred years earlier.



Cdn Army photo (Cpl Andrew Wesley)

The Calgary Highlanders bury the remains of Sgt Milne of the 10th Battalion, killed on 28 April 1917 during the Battle of Arleux Loop.

70 is being honoured. Beneath the obelisk is a landscaped bowl complete with chairs and a small stage. Gathered here are many French locals, a few Canadian tourists, a school group, and many young and old faces waving small Canadian flags. I view groups of Canadian soldiers, mostly Highlanders from Victoria, Montreal, and our own Highlanders from Calgary. The crowd sits patiently together. Is this peaceful ground truly the site of a great and costly Canadian victory?

After a short wait in the bright sun, the Somme Pipes and Drums march in playing an upbeat Highland tune. The Somme Band's members are French musicians of all ages, wearing the kilts of several Scottish regiments. Following right behind them are the VIPs. The Commander of the Canadian Army is amongst this group, along with his RSM, a few men with business suits and medals, a few high-ranking French military officers, some ladies, and of course, the bleu, blanche and rouge sash that signifies the local French Mayor. In the mix is the Command Team of The Calgary Highlanders: LCol Simon Cox and

CWO Glen Fedoruk. I recognize these two. Standing at the top of the bowl and at the foot of the obelisk are members of the Calgary Highlanders Pipes and Drums as well as members of the Prince of Wales Own Regiment – a reserve unit based in Kingston, Ontario.

Amongst the speeches in French and English, the Padre's prayers, the Last Post, the Piper's Lament, and a French singer, are praises heaped on the Calgary Highlanders for their contribution to the monument, and to the Ukrainian Foundation for supporting their VC recipient. But I wonder, what about the Tenth's 19-year-old VC recipient – Pte Harry Brown? He needs to be honoured here! I wonder how many people know that this spot is the 'Line of Departure' for our own, the 10th Canadians? Soon the day is done, and the 'Fete' is made a significant memory for all by the rousing rendition of Glenwhorple, compliments of former RSM, CWO Kent Griffiths and the rest of the Calgary Highlanders.

The next day, at the Commonwealth Ceme-

tery #2, smoothly tucked into the gentle approach slope of Hill 145 (Vimy Ridge), the ten members of the Calgary Highlanders Burial Party do a fabulous and professional job taking care of an Unknown Soldier, though this is the first time these soldiers have performed this duty. With the folded Canadian Flag handed off to the Commander of the Army and onward to a Government of Canada official, I overhear a member the regular force tell a colleague, "That sets the standard".

A day later, it was the turn of the Canadian Scottish (we fought with them at St. Julien in WWI), and the Black Watch (we fought with them at Walcheren in WWII), to bury their own. Solemn, quiet, warm, caring, honour, dedication... the families of the deceased cried and accepted the Canadian Flags, the 100-year-old artefacts, and small containers of soil. It was a great day in France.

At the sounds of the pipes tuning down the road just outside the small village of Arleux-en

-Gohelle, I am back in the moment. Our week is almost over, and I realize that it is time to go as the sun shifts in front of me. I rise from the chair and get my camera. I am actually here at Orchard Dump Cemetery in France. I can clearly read the white marker stone now and snap the photo I wanted:

**434556 SERGEANT
J.A. MILNE
10TH BN. CANADIAN INF
28TH APRIL 1917 AGE 34**

To the ten members of the Calgary Highlanders who carried Sgt Milne from the hearse to his peaceful burial site and then lowered him into his final resting site, thank you. To the members of the Regimental Family who attended this week of Remembrance, thank you! It was a pleasure and indeed a great honour. "Lest We Forget"

AIRAGHARDT



LCol (Retd) L Villiger

Sergeant Milne's gravestone at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Orchard Dump Cemetery, Arleux – en-Gohelle. This cemetery holds the remains of 758 soldiers and airmen of both World Wars, including 154 Canadians killed during WWI.

PTSD and YOU

Elizabeth Stock

The author is a Calgary lawyer, a former reservist, and a member of the board of The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Funds Foundation (CHRRF).

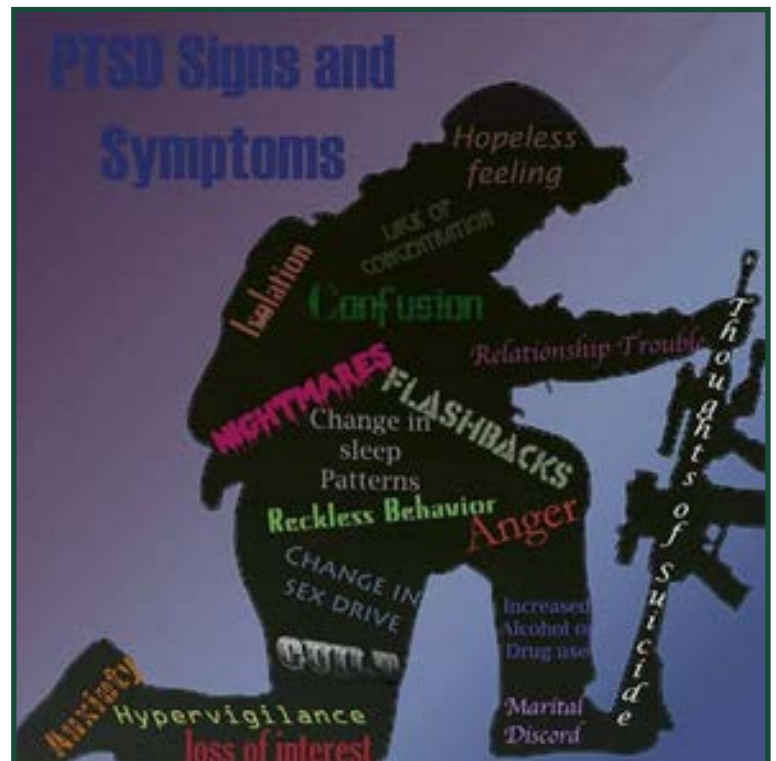
Your mind races every night at 3 a.m. You are plagued by feelings of guilt and shame that you cannot get past. Life is simply not as enjoyable as it used to be. Dr. Terry Singh, a Calgary psychologist who works with patients with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Operational Stress Injuries (OSI) tells his patients: **"You don't have to live this way anymore."**

When Dr. Singh told me this, I expressed surprise, having read one too many negative articles implying that military health care services are inadequate for PTSD treatment. "Really", I asked, "you can do something for PTSD?" Yes, in most cases, he told me. Still not convinced, I said "Well, it must take a long time." He said he frequently sees results in as few as 3 months. Very often, he said, the problem is not with the treatment, but with getting soldiers and vets in the door to start the work.

As detailed below, Dr. Singh's concern about the lack of demand for mental health services is a longstanding problem. It is well documented that invisible barriers impede access to treatment, including a disbelief that it will work, not knowing where to start, shame, a willingness to accept that a diminished quality of life is just 'who I am now', a belief that 'my problems are too small', a fear of opening old wounds, embarrassment, depression, concerns about the cost, time, addiction, etc. etc. The intent of this article is to encourage access to treatment by explaining what is available and providing a short list of contact information for

active Calgary Highlanders, vets and family members who want or need help, regardless of when they served or how big or small the issue.

I first became aware of the disinclination of soldiers to access mental health services when I served in the Field Artillery Reserves in the early 1990s. We were on a bus headed to C.F.B. Wainwright. Everyone was laughing, listening with rapt fascination to our recently returned Bosnian Peacekeepers. Heroes to us. But the funny parts of their stories were dark, even sickening accounts of soldiers gloving their hands to clean-up large scale human atrocities. These proud young men were using humor to



T Buckley Design—Canadian Armed Forces



Cbc.ca

cope, to try to normalize the horrors they had witnessed. I quietly asked one of them what counseling and other services they had been offered post-deployment. He shrugged his shoulders and told me he had been given a business card for a 'head shrink', but he had thrown it away. Of course he did: we were taught that soldiers need mental readiness, not therapists. It was sad to me that the system did not *encourage* him to get counseling. I have always wondered about those boys. Was their sense of humor, their youth, their ability to talk about what they had seen and their apparent resilience enough?

In June 2017, I became a member of the Board of Directors of The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Funds Foundation (CHRFF). I am very honored to have this opportunity to serve The Calgary Highlanders. In this capacity, I have continued to quietly ask individuals about their experience and knowledge of available mental health services, particularly post-deployment. From my informal polling, it seems that in 2018 there is a better awareness of the availability and importance of mental health services than there was in the 1990s. What remains unchanged, however, is that individuals must initiate the process, which still means overcoming a long list of invisible barriers.

So, how does a reluctant individual, who wants privacy, and is already struggling to

cope with their day to day life get help, quickly and easily? The names and phone numbers for help lines are posted in Mewata, listed on The Calgary Highlanders website and easy to Google. But which is the best number to call? I tasked myself to see if I could boil it down to a name and a number. To show how intimidating and off-putting the resources are, I called: the 24-Hour VAC line, the 24-Hour FIL line, FLO, MFRC, CFMAP, OSIC and the Legion Command Service Bureau (the 'Legion'). I also spoke to the President of the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association, the Honorary Colonel, individuals such as Dave McKay, our Padre, Captain Truong, the C.O., the Regimental Secretary and the Regimental Major, all of whom are very friendly and would bend over backwards to help. In general, I found:

- The fully funded services for veterans, active members and their families are extensive, and include crisis intervention, short term counseling, workshops, access to experienced, expert mental health professionals and long-term programs. There are also social programs for daily living needs: financial assistance, childcare, food, home and lawn care, housing, equipment for physical problems, financial compensation for some injuries, advice on employment, bankruptcy, finances, plus assistance to complete application forms;

- The quality of the people at the Legion, Veterans Affairs, MFRC, OSIC and the Canadian Forces EAP services is very high. They are there for anyone who wants help, is patient, will work within the system and will do the therapeutic work; and

- Within the Regiment, there is an impressive number of volunteers and

committees who want to help every Calgary Highlander, family member and vet.

As far as who to call, two individuals stood out as highly accessible, highly motivated and highly knowledgeable 'go-to' people: **Mike Burgess at the Legion** (or any of his highly qualified Service Officer colleagues), **403-284-1161** and **James Knox, the Family Liaison Officer (FLO), MFRC 403-410-2320, ext 3590, www.calgarymfrc.ca**. Mike and his fellow Service Officers work primarily with veterans and James works primarily with active members and their families. Both assured me that if you call them, they will help you, whether veteran, Regular Force, reservist, or family member. **THEY WANT TO HELP.**

I was urged by a Calgary Highlander vet to call Mike: This vet was in a low place when friends connected him to Mike. Mike got him a basket of food and help with housing. Once stabilized, Mike helped him get compensation for hearing loss and long term mental health services. It is a great success story.

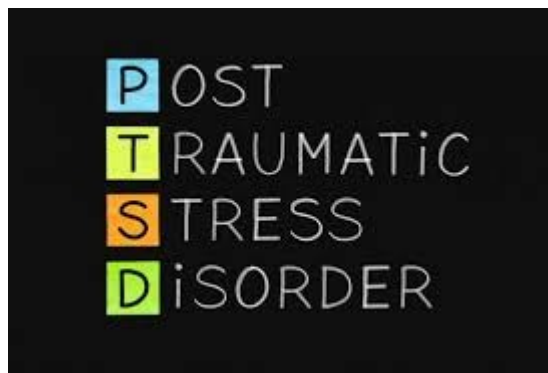
When I called Mike, I explained that I was on the CHRRF Board, that I had served in the artillery 25 years ago and wished to interview him about mental health services. As soon as Mike heard 'artillery', he took control of the call and asked me in his Manchester brogue: "Ow's yer 'earing?" He said my hearing was probably damaged, that he could test it, and if it was damaged by the guns, he could help me to apply for funding for hearing aids and compensation. I replied that was interesting, but I was calling to discuss mental health services. He responded in his straight shooting, matter of fact tone that he was talking about mental health, because the number one challenge is to get people in the door. He said if they come to see him for compensation for their hearing, it gives him an

opportunity to start helping them in other ways that they might not otherwise have explored.

Mike told me that having worked with vets from other countries, he knows that the Canadian system is exceptional. I asked if there were gaps. He said that mental health work is hard and takes courage. It is not always a quick fix and sometimes slow. But, for those who commit, excellent resources are there.

I had a similarly positive experience calling James Knox, FLO. He is a social worker with a case load spanning from Red Deer to Lethbridge. He described a close relationship between Calgary MFRC and local Regiments, most of whom helped promote MFRC's work with Bell Let's Talk Day. He also hopes word is getting out about their upcoming Retreat in Kananaskis. He said that while huge strides have been made, sadly he often be-

comes involved when soldiers have hit rock bottom: lost their job/lost their spouse/are in a financial crisis/are suffering from addiction, and/or charged with a crime. He eagerly awaits the day when service members make mental health the same priority as physical



Medicalnewstoday.com.

health.

When you call Mike or James, their colleagues or help lines, they will assess your immediate needs. If you are in crisis or need necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, etc., they will immediately connect you to the best available services. Everyone else will be directed to fully funded employee assistance programs (EAP). You will receive an EAP call within 2 days, have an appointment within 3-5 days, and be eligible for at least 6 fully funded sessions (this varies) with a trained counselor. Types of needs this can

meet include help for anyone being bullied, marital counseling, addiction counseling, financial counseling, grief therapy, depression, help sleeping, etc. If the EAP counselor determines longer term treatment or experts, such as psychiatrists, are needed, they will make referrals to specialists and often centres such as the Operational Stress Injury Clinic (OSIC). Case workers such as Mike and James are critically important to assist with the more complex cases needing an interplay of resources. OSIC has a team of in-house doctors, psychiatrists, therapists and nurses who collectively provide longer term and more in-depth care. They may refer patients to civilian psychologists, such as Dr. Terry Singh.

Dr. Singh explained to me that PTSD/OSI

is greater amongst soldiers and veterans than civilians. He described a variety of forms of treatment which are available and assured me that therapy does not necessarily mean 'spilling your guts', or re-living the past; instead, it should be at a comfortable pace. He lamented that soldiers and vets may rationalize a life plagued by 'intrusion' or 'avoidance' or 'reactivity,' particularly after a traumatic event, is simply something they must live with, or 'who they are.' Dr. Singh said he often meets with patients who have had their world become very small. His message was: 'you don't have to live this way, there is effective help and it may not take that long.'

To summarize, excellent mental health services are available. Given the extent of invisible barriers that impede access to service, en-



Blog.americanmedicalid.com

manifests in three main ways: 'intrusion' (thoughts playing over and over in one's mind), 'avoidance' (of people, places and activities associated with trauma), and 'reactivity' (jumpiness and other behaviors triggered by memories of trauma). He said PTSD or OSI symptoms are often complicated by other problems such as depression and addiction. The likelihood of combined symptoms

couragement must go beyond lip-service to a core belief that treating mental health issues early and often is a necessary part of good soldiering and healthy living. As Mike at the Legion and James, FLO, assured me: these problems do not have to affect your life. And for those who are still not sure, go see Mike. Let him ask you: "ow's yer 'earing" and go from there. 🍁

Virgil Billesberger

Appointed to the Legion of Honour

Virgil Billesberger, a 94-year-old Second World War veteran of the Calgary Highlanders, was appointed as a 'Knight of the Legion of Honour' during a private lunch at Legion Branch 114 Lynn Valley, North Vancouver, on Sunday December 10th, 2017. Virgil's wife, Mary, and his family were in attendance.

The presentation was made by The Honourable Philippe Sutter, the Consul General of The Republic of France for Western Canada.

The Legion of Honour is the highest honour conferred by the Government of France. It was

created by Napoleon in 1802 to recognize extraordinary military bravery and service in times of war. Since 2014 France has expressed its desire to pay special tribute to those Canadians who took part in the Battle of France (6 June 1944 to 30 August 1944) – the costly campaign to liberate France from Nazi occupation- by appointing them to the Legion.

A letter to Virgil from the Calgary Highlanders was read during the ceremony, thanking him for his service and congratulating him on his appointment to the Legion of Honour.



David Reece

The Honourable Philippe Sutter, the Consul General of The Republic of France for Western Canada, and Mr. Virgil Billesberger on the occasion of Virgil's appointment to France's Legion of Honour on December 10, 2017.

CWO (Retd) Emmett Kelly

Awarded MSM

The Jan 17, 2017 edition of The Canada Gazette (the official newspaper of the Federal Government) announced that His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, on the recommendation of the Chief of Defence Staff, had awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division) to Chief Warrant Officer Emmett Gary Kelly, M.S.M., C.D.

CWO (Retd) Kelly was RSM of The Calgary Highlanders from 2008 to 2011 and later Brigade RSM of 41 Brigade Group.

The M.S.M. recognizes a military deed or activity performed in a highly professional manner that brings benefit or honour to the Canadian Forces. In CWO Kelly's case the award recognizes his leadership and planning during the ceremonies and activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Second Battle of Ypres, which included a two-week pilgrimage to the United Kingdom, France and Belgium.



Nancy Saxberg

CWO Kelly, serving as Brigade RSM of 41 CBG, on parade in Green Park during the 2015 Centennial activities.



Nancy Saxberg

This photo of CWO Kelly was taken at the Hyde Park Barracks in London where soldiers of The Calgary Highlanders and The Canadian Scottish trained for a parade at Green Park, site of the Canadian Memorial, as part of the commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the 2nd Battle of Ypres. At the time CWO Kelly was Brigade RSM of 41 Brigade Group.

However, the mills of government grind slowly; it is not anticipated that the medal will be presented by the current Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, until sometime in March. 🇨🇦

Clan of the Gallant Canadians

Award Presentations



Lt Luc Hurubise

CWO Kent Griffiths (L) and LCol (Retd) Bryden.

Presentation of the Gallant Canadians Award at the level of Chieftain to LCol (Retd) Patrick Bryden, CD

Kent Griffiths made the presentation on behalf of the Regiment at Troy Armoury in North Bay, Ontario. LCol Brdyen, a former CO of the Algonquin Regiment, was instrumental in changing the policy regarding the national acquisition of dress uniforms and highland kit. Because of his actions, the Regiment may now obtain cut-away tunics through Logistik Unicorp, and kilts and other highland kit will be available in the near future. These changes remove the onerous burden of private fundraising for such purchases.

Presentation of the Gallant Canadians Award at the level of Toshach to Mr Gord Moors.

At the Walcheren Dinner held on 27 October 2017, Mr. Gord Moors became a member of the Clan of the Gallant Canadians.

Mr Moor, the CEO of Varsity Chrysler, donated \$10,000 to the CHRFF. At his request, this money was directed to the Regimental Family to assist The Calgary Highlanders to "Bury Their Own" and to participate in the 100th Anniversary Ceremony of the Battle of Hill 70. Soldiers of the 10th Battalion were given 80 medals at Hill 70, including a Victoria Cross posthumously awarded to Private Harry Brown.



F Lee Villiger

Gord Moors receives the Toshach—the highest order of the Clan of the Gallant Canadians—from HCol Michael Shaw as the CO, LCol Simon Cox, looks on.

Calgary Highlander WW II Veteran Awarded Quilt of Valour

LCol (Retd) F. Lee Villiger

It is always a very special event when a World War Two Calgary Highlander veteran is recognized, and this was recently made possible thanks to Major (Retired) Mike Ricketts, CD (RCAF). Mike learned that a Calgary Highlander veteran was in the Colonel Belcher Care Facility and made this known to the Royal Canadian Legion who subsequently informed the Quilt of Valour – Canada Society. At this point the Regimental Secretary was contacted.

Robert S. Edwards, Regt #M8133, otherwise known as Bob 'Sharkey' Edwards, served in A Company, 8 Platoon as a rifleman and gunner. He fought with the Battalion in Holland, Belgium, and Germany before returning to Canada in 1946. After his service Bob moved to live and work in Banff. He recently celebrated his 93rd birthday, and while the horrors of war can never be forgotten, Sharkey was quick to point out that though it has been a long time, he would love to hear the bagpipes playing at the Belcher!

Huge thanks to Sandy Carlile, the Regional Representative of Quilts of Valour – Canada! As a volunteer, Sandy created the quilt and then formally presented it to Bob on 12 December 2017. Present at the ceremony were Bob's nephew Mark, Major Mike Ricketts, Sandy Carlile, and our Regimental Secretary, LCol (Retd) Lee Villiger. (Interesting tidbit: Sandy served as a nurse in the United States Air Force.)

Congratulations to Robert 'Sharkey' Edwards! All members of the Regimental Family and the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association are very proud of you.

Airaghardt!



Major (Retd) Mike Ricketts

Presentation of a Quilt of Valour to WW2 Calgary Highlander veteran Bob 'Sharkey' Edwards on 12 Dec 2017. From L to R: Sandy Carlile (Quilt of Valour), Bob Edwards, LCol (Retd) F. Lee Villiger (Reg'l Secretary) and Bob's nephew, Mark.

Note: *Quilts of Valour – Canada was founded in 2006 with the mission to help ensure that injured Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and veterans are recognized for their service and commitment to our country. They provide this support through the presentation of hand-made quilts.*

To date, Quilt of Valour presentations have been made to more than 7,000 injured CAF members and veterans. The organization's goal is to present 10,000 quilts by the end of 2018.

Quilts of Valour – Canada Society is a Canadian Registered Charity.

The Regiment in Photos

Readers are encouraged to send in photos from all eras of the Unit's history in order that the archive may be expanded. Digital images can be sent to calghighr.glen@gmail.com. Prints should be mailed to The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association, Mewata Armoury, 801-11th St SW, Calgary, AB, T2P 2C4. Prints will be scanned and returned upon request. When sending photos, don't forget to include information on who/what, when and where.



Franceinfo

Caen, Normandy, July 1944

Caen, the third largest city in Normandy, lies approximately 15 kms inland from the Channel. The allies had hoped to occupy the city on 6 June, but the enemy fought off a series of attacks throughout June and turned it into the anchor of the German defensive positions in the Anglo-Canadian sector. On the night of 7 July, 467 heavy bombers dropped 2,570 tons of bombs on the city prior to a final British and Canadian assault backed by 656 artillery pieces. The city fell on July 9 but more than 2,000 French civilians died in the fighting. The Calgary Highlanders landed in Normandy on 6 July and did not take part in the battle for Caen, but passed through the city on 18 July on their way to cross the Orne River as part of Operation Goodwood. One of them later recounted, "The city was just in ruins, the stink, the dust, the dead bodies. These poor old Frenchmen standing in the ruins...were just sort of stunned". The city wasn't completely rebuilt until the early 1960s.



Denis Mascardelli

Fall 1980

AVGP training, Sarcee Training Area.

Cpl Norm Rogers demonstrates his panzer commander pose while Sgt Chris Perry drives.



41 Brigade

L to R: incoming CO, LCol Simon Cox, 41 Bde Commander Col Eppo van Weeldren, and outgoing CO, LCol Kyle Clapperton.

3 June 2017

The Unit held a Change of Command ceremony at Mewata Armoury at which both the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major ended their tours of command and passed the reins to successors. A video of the ceremony is available through the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=El9iusV3zSE>

The Colour Party marches on to parade.



41 Brigade



41 Brigade

A change of RSM: CWO Glenn Fedoruk (L) takes up his appointment as CWO Christopher Tucker (R) relinquishes his while LCol Clapperton performs his penultimate official act as Commanding Officer.



HCol Shaw

5 July 2017

HCol Shaw presents an oakleaf plaque to Col (Retd) A. K. Miller (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) at Stirling Castle (see story page 4). The inscription reads:

Presented to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

In commemoration of our joint relationship with

HM Queen Elizabeth II

Our Colonel-in-Chief

From your allied regiment—

The Calgary Highlanders

5 July 2017



Capt Pittet

July 2017

The Calgary Highlander team at the International Four Day Marches Nijmegen. For more on this story the coverage begins on page 38.



25 August 2017

Cdn Forces

Canadian Forces Padre, Rev. Tom Hamilton of P.E.I., is followed by a Calgary Highlanders burial party carrying the remains of Sgt James Alexander Milne of the 10th Battalion. Sgt Milne was killed in action on 28 April 1917 during the Battle of Arleux Loop but his remains were only discovered in 2013 and not positively identified until early 2017. He was buried by his Regiment at Orchard Dump Cemetery in Arleux-en-Gohelle, France, not far from where he fell. Extensive coverage of the burial and the new Hill 70 moment begins on page 9.



Dieppe Monument

The Town of Dieppe set aside a small park at the western end of the esplanade called Square du Canada. In its centre is a stone monument while a plaque commemorating the Dieppe Raid stands behind it. A translation of the inscription reads: *On the 19th of August 1942 on the beaches of Dieppe our Canadian cousins marked with their blood the road to our final liberation foretelling thus their victorious return on September 1, 1944.*

Calgary Highlander veteran George Morasch's visit to Dieppe during August 2017 may be found on page 45.

dhaboman.com



Ken Clements

11 November 2017

While the Unit commemorated Remembrance Day with a very well attended parade at Calgary's Cenotaph, a small group of Association members attended the commemoration in Drumheller, AB. Shown here are Mike McAdam (L) and Reg Spratley (Association President) with Calgary Highlander Second World War veteran Hans Christensen.

9 November 2017

The Saskatchewan Government honoured the 10th Battalion's Capt David McAndie MC, DCM, MM by naming a coulee after him. Capt McAndie, one of the most decorated soldiers of the 10th, was killed in action in August 1918 (see page 44 for more).

This photo shows LCol Peter Boyle, the McAndie family, and Minister Gene Mackowsky (Provincial Minister for Parks, Culture and Sport) at the Saskatchewan Legislature the day of the formal announcement.



Government of Saskatchewan



Ken Clements

15 December 2017

Soldiers Christmas Dinner

The annual Soldiers Christmas Dinner was held on the Mewata Armoury floor. The guests of honour were two of the Unit's Second World War veterans, George Morasch and Raymond Tomlinson.

Right: George Morasch and Ray 'Wolf' Tomlinson at the Christmas Dinner with (L to R): Mike McAdam, Denis Mascardelli, Reg Spratley and Ken Clements.



Ken Clements



41 Brigade

12-14 January 2018

Calgary Highlanders practise urban combat drills.

The REAL XMen



They may not be indestructible and have claws protruding from their fists. It is doubtful that they can burn holes in steel with a simple gaze. They can't control the weather or move things with their minds, but The Calgary Highlanders *have* performed some incredible feats.

Tales of fighting through poison gas, charging across a causeway into the direct fire of a German 88mm gun, and emerging from flaming water to assault an enemy machine gun nest with wisps of fire still burning off their helmets and shoulders are only the tip of the iceberg in regard to regimental history.

The Calgary Highlanders gallery and archives at The Military Museums boasts accounts of such valor as one Highlander supporting the base plate of a mortar on his chest to steady it in the wet mud. The books *Battalion of Heroes*, *History of The Calgary Highlanders*, and *Gallant Canadians* are filled with such records. They are available in the Kit Shop and should be on the bookshelf of all those interested in more than just comic book fiction.

Peacekeeping Is Not As Simple As You Thought

Dr David Bercuson

Dr. David Bercuson earned his PhD in history from the University of Toronto in 1971 and has since been a professor at the University of Calgary, most recently (1997-2017) as the director of the university's Centre for Military and Strategic Studies. He is also the Director Programs for the Canadian Global Affairs Institute (CGAI) and has written, coauthored, or edited over 30 popular and academic books including Battalion of Heroes, an account of The Calgary Highlanders in World War Two. This article appears courtesy of CGAI. For more information visit www.cgai.ca

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is half way through its mandate and yet the much-promised peacekeeping mission it campaigned on has not yet materialized. No real explanation from this government has been forthcoming, yet the reasons why Canada appears no closer to a peacekeeping mission today than on the day the Liberals were elected are not difficult to discern.

The promise the Liberal party made about renewed participation in UN peacekeeping operations was bogus in the first place. As is the case with other promises the

Liberals made with little thought that they might win government and have to find ways to keep their promises. The Liberals were third going into the election and were attempting to steal every NDP vote they could both in Quebec and in British Columbia. So, conveniently forgetting that they themselves had committed Canada to a war in southern Afghanistan in

2005, they had to differentiate themselves from the war mongering Tories while they brought "Canada back" to its traditional peaceful, peaceable ways. Once they achieved office and looked around for a peacekeeping mission that Canada could do, they had second thoughts.

There is plenty of peacekeeping going on in the world today, plenty of troops wearing blue UN helmets, but the concept of peacekeeping that

There is plenty of peacekeeping going on in the world today, plenty of troops wearing blue UN helmets, but the concept of peacekeeping that Lester Pearson championed ... has long disappeared.

Lester Pearson championed during the 1956 war between the Egyptians, the British, the French and the Israelis has long disappeared. Still championed by those Canadians who had little use for armed forces or worse, war, while Canada was fighting in Afghanistan, the ideal of the Canadian peacekeeper was upheld as a shining example of what Canada ought to be doing in the world instead of what it was doing – fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. Now that the realities of today's peacekeeping have intruded into the dreams of yesterday, we hear virtually

nothing from those same people about getting back into peacekeeping.

Why? Because virtually all the peacekeeping that the UN is supposed to be doing today is not the peacekeeping of Pearson's time – it is **peace enforcement** – and, in most cases, even that is not working. There are virtually no geopolitical situations in the world today that demand a lightly armed force, with a limited mandate to

use violence only in strict self-defence, sitting between two antagonists who need help to keep them apart instead of at each other's throats, as in Cyprus. Today, those who wear the blue helmet are invariably attempting to keep insurgents away from civilians (who would otherwise be murdered, raped, and enslaved).

In other words, the UN intervenes in violent conflict today, not with the permission of two

antagonists (as traditional peacekeeping specifies), but almost always in the face of opposition from at least one party which seeks to impose its will on innocent civilians. And this is the case in Africa as well as other world trouble spots. This means that sending Canadian soldiers to one of those trouble spots would invariably mean young Canadian men and women will be returning to Trenton in coffins – something this government – or in fact any government – has little wish to do after Afghanistan.

That is one bloody reality. Another reality – not so bloody, but equally unpalatable to any government in Ottawa – is that a large proportion of the UN peacekeeping being done in the world today is done by poor countries with under-trained and undisciplined militaries who rent their soldiers to the UN to earn cold hard cash. Many of these soldiers have been involved in sexual abuses and crimes against civilians, and the Canadian government is well aware of the figures – 145 allegations in 2016, 103 in 2015 with some 50+% involving “egregious forms of sexual violence and abuse including sexual activities with minors and

rape.” (*CBC News, 1 Nov 2017*).

This is not to say that the Canadian Armed Forces would engage in such activities, but that the UN seems incapable of permanently handling such matters, raising the question of why Canadian soldiers would want to be under the command of an authority that constantly shows it is incapable of running well-administered operations.

No doubt the UN does not want such crimes to continue. But there is also no doubt that the Canadian government is simply not interested in committing Canadian troops to an organization that has great difficulty staying out of trouble.

The two-day UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial wrapped up in Vancouver on November 15th. Other than generalized platitudes in support of peacekeeping and recognizing the gaps, nothing has been announced by this government.

Lester Pearson’s dream – and the legacy of peacekeeping that followed it until the end of the Cold War – is no more. The government’s silence on the matter is proof enough of that. 🍁



DND

A member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons Reconnaissance Squadron, deployed as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Canada was a major participant in UNFICYP from 1964 to 1993. The author argues that there are virtually no geopolitical situations today that demand a lightly armed force with a limited mandate to use violence only in self-defence.

10th Battalion

Victoria Cross Recipient to be Honoured

With thanks to David Collins of Haywards Heath for informing the Regiment of the town's actions to honour Sgt Knight.



Canadian Forces—DHH

The English town of Haywards Heath, located approximately 36 miles (58 kms) south of London, has named a street in a new housing estate *Knight Close* in honour of the 10th Battalion's Acting Sergeant Arthur George Knight, a native son. The Haywards Heath Branch of the Royal British Legion plans to place a plaque near the entrance of the Close so

those living there will know the history behind the name.

Plans are also underway to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War – 'the war to end all wars' – during late 2018. These plans include a stone plaque to Sgt Knight to be unveiled at the town's War Memorial on Sunday, 2 September of this year.

Arthur Knight was born in Hayward Heath on 26 June 1886 but emigrated to Canada in 1911. When war was declared he was living in Regina where he made his living as a carpenter. He immediately enlisted and returned to England in July 1915 as a member of the 46th Battalion. The 46th was broken up soon afterward to provide reinforcements to the battalions already fighting in France and Belgium, and Arthur was taken on strength by the 10th in France at the end of August, 1915. By the beginning of September 1918, he was an Acting Sergeant and had been awarded the Croix de Guerre by the King of Belgium only a few months earlier.

The citation for Sgt. Knight's VC reads:

"For most conspicuous bravery, initiative, and devotion to duty when, after an unsuccessful attack, Sgt. Knight led a bombing section forward, under very heavy fire of all descriptions, and engaged the enemy at close quarters. See-

ing that his party continued to be held up, he dashed forward alone, bayoneting several of the enemy machine-gunners and trench mortar crews, and forcing the remainder to retire in confusion. He then brought forward a Lewis gun and directed his fire on the retreating enemy, inflicting many casualties.

In the subsequent advance of his platoon in pursuit, Sgt. Knight saw a party of about thirty of the enemy go into a deep tunnel which led off the trench. He again dashed forward alone, and, having killed one officer and two N.C.O.'s, captured twenty other ranks. Subsequently he routed, single-handed, another enemy party which was opposing the advance of his platoon.

On each occasion he displayed the greatest valour under fire at very close range, and by his example of courage, gallantry, and initiative was a wonderful inspiration to all.

This very gallant N.C.O. was subsequently fatally wounded."

Sgt Knight's bravery on 2 September 1918 won him the Victoria Cross but also cost him his life; he died of his wounds a day later. He is buried in the Dominion Cemetery at Hendecourt-les-Cagnicourt, a village near Arras, in northern France. His Victoria Cross is now held at Calgary's Military Museums.

LCol (Retd) Lee Villiger with Sgt Knight's medals, held at Calgary's Military Museums. Sgt Knight was one of two members of the Fighting Tenth to be awarded the Victoria Cross, both posthumously. The other recipient was Pte Harry Brown, a native of Gananoque, Ontario, awarded the VC for his heroism at Hill 70.



Calgary Highlanders

Fallen Comrade

William "Bill" Resch

CWO (Retd) Flint Walters

Flint Walters is a past RSM of the Calgary Highlanders. He currently serves as Secretary of the Regimental Association.



In May 2017 the Association received a note from the daughter of Calgary Highlander Second World War veteran Pte Bill Resch, at the time living in Keremeos BC. Barb's father was wounded in the fighting in Holland. When she was growing up he didn't speak much about the war, but in recent years he spoke about it a bit more, enough that Barb reached out on behalf of her father to reconnect with the Regiment. As it happened I was going to be driving through BC and we arranged a visit for the last week of June.

In preparation for the visit I picked up a glengarry with cap badge, regimental coin, and tie for Bill. From the email exchanges with Bill's daughter I learned that he was now 92. The wounds he suffered in war had left him blind, but all things considered he was in pretty good health and looking forward to our visit.

When the day of the visit came I met with Bill, his daughter, and her husband for over two hours. Bill had an amazing memory and it was truly a pleasure to chat with a Highlander from the Second World War, and although our service with the Regiment was about 40 years apart, I felt we shared a bond. His story is pretty amazing and here is some of what we talked about:

Bill was born in Saskatchewan (19 February 1925) and moved to BC when he was 10. His family had originally emigrated from Europe. He was 15 when the war started. He dropped out of school after grade 9 to take a well-paying job as there was lots of work available since most of the men had joined up. He was a welder working in the port of Vancouver from age 16 to 19 before reporting for basic training at Little Mountain barracks (near 41st Street and Oak) in Vancouver. His was a group of eight brothers and brothers-in-law, who were all in service. He was one of the youngest and therefore last to join. His older brother Buster was in from the start and was a corporal in the Service Corps. By the time Bill began his military service in January 1944 there were only two choices, "infantry or infantry" (to provide replacements for the casualties expected in the coming battles). After completing basic training he was sent to Calgary (Currie Barracks) for his infantry training, where he recalls eating left-over WW1 rations (bully beef). Major Wilson ran the training in Calgary and one of his NCOs would rub the top of Bill's head and if his hair was long enough to protrude through the NCO's fingers, then his hair was too long. After completing training, the new infants took a train across Canada and a ship to Scotland. From Scotland they traveled to London where they stayed in Wellington Barracks for about 2 days before being shipped across the channel and making the final leg of their journey by train towards the front.

It was now around September 1944 and the 2nd Canadian Division had already broken out from Normandy and was making its way toward the Channel Ports and the Scheldt. Along the way there had been many casualties and units needed fresh replacement troops to continue the advance.

Bill and his fellow replacements were trucked up to Ghent, Belgium where they stayed in King Leopold barracks. As replacement soldiers they didn't know what unit they would be joining and as a final check they were put through another week of battle drills and weapons training. Around the 14th or 15th of October Bill was selected for The Calgary Highlanders. He recalls marching up to the unit from Ghent to Bergen Op Zoom. He was put in D Coy; his section Commander was Cpl Zass (sp?), his Pl Sgt was Sgt Harris. The sergeant had a good sense of humour and would often give orders with a fake German accent, which always got a laugh. Bill also fondly remembered a Captain Clarke. He said it was intimidating joining the unit at this time as most of his section and platoon had been together for 5 years. His section commander had been in 5 major battles. However Bill soon settled into the unit routine and was sent out on some night patrols. When fresh rations managed to get to the front Bill said they were good and particularly remembers enjoying the bacon! The Dutch people were very friendly and good to him. The weather at that time was drizzly and the ground was soaked. He went into his first battle on 23 October 1944 in and around the dykes and railway tracks of South Beveland.

The Highlanders' objective on the 23rd was a strip of land about 3,500 yards wide by 1,000 yards long, bounded on the north by a dyke and on the south by a railway embankment. On the map the ground resembled a coffin, and the Highlanders referred to this action as "the coffin show".

At 1500 hrs, A Company moved forward on the left, D Company on the right, and C Company in the middle; they advanced into fog and drizzle and under the supporting fire of artillery, mortars and machine guns. The objective was to cut once and for all the rail and road link between Walcheren Island, the furthest enemy bastion to seaward, and Bergen op Zoom. A Company made good progress until they crossed the railway embankment and ran into heavy machine gun fire. D Company hit strong opposition almost as soon as they crossed the start line. C Company was also stopped short of the railway embankment. Artillery fire was called down to C Company's front, and two platoons of the Black Watch went forward to reinforce A Company. The reserve, B Company and the carrier platoon, also moved up to help C Company. By nightfall only A Company had reached their objective. Eighteen men had been killed and Bill was one of the 51 wounded.

Bill didn't remember much from the next few days. After stops in the unit dressing station and then brigade and divisional medical facilities he was evacuated to England on a Dakota aircraft, and spent some time at the Canadian military hospital at Basingstoke. He was then sent to Saint Dunstan's, a rehabilitation centre for blinded service personnel, where he remained for about a year. Bill thought that St Dunstan's was a good experience for him.

Bill returned to Canada very close to Christmas of 1945 and went to report in to his holding unit. The Corporal there told him that since it was Christmas he should just come back after New Year's. When Bill returned a different NCO inspected his paper work and



Resch Family

Pte Bill Resch

charged him with being AWOL as his report date was a week or so earlier. Despite the explanation that the previous NCO had told him to come back after New Year's, he was found guilty and confined to barracks. However, since he was blind, the duty NCO who had charged him was ordered to stay with him for the entire time. The NCO marched Bill to a hospital with the thought that the hospital would watch him, but the doctor said no way. Eventually Bill found himself back where he started at Little Mountain Barracks in Vancouver, but that location was soon turned into a rehabilitation centre for the liberated Canadians from Hong Kong who had been held as prisoners of the Japanese for four plus years. Shortly afterward Bill was released from the army.

After the war, Bill ran a newsstand in the BC Electric building for a few years. He was very grateful to his wife, Lillian, for her support over the years. Other than his time at Saint Dunstan's he didn't receive much rehabilitation. With his grade 9 education he was not able to take advantage of veterans benefits for university programs, which he would have liked to have done. Veterans Affairs periodically sent him books on tape and he was visited by their representatives every 6 months or so. He said he did deal with some PTSD issues for about 20 years after the war, "but they didn't call it that then; it was just war service".

Bill was a humble man and pointed out that he only served for a short period of time while, "so many guys served for 5 years and more". From speaking to his daughter, he only recently started talking about his war experiences. He said that he still remembered little things and was not sure where they fit. He said he did think about it a lot, "being blind, what else are you going to do?". Bill was very happy when I presented him with a glengarry (courtesy of the Unit) with Kings crown cap badge, regimental tie, and coin (courtesy of the Association). He was looking forward to wearing his new glengarry and regimental tie at the next Remembrance Day service.



Resch Family

The author and Bill Resch, Bill wearing his new glengarry and Regimental tie.

Sadly, on July 28th (about five weeks after our visit) I received word from Barb that Bill had passed away. In her note she said that her Dad had enjoyed our visit greatly and it had meant a lot to him. I was moved and saddened, but also very happy that we were able to have shared that visit. 🍁

William "Bill" Charles Resch passed away in his 93rd year at the Penticton Hospital on Friday, 28 July 2017.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, two daughters, five grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by five brothers and six sisters.

Bill especially loved ranching, farming and fishing. One of his many achievements included receiving gold and silver medals from the World Blind Bowls Championships. He will be missed by his family and all who knew him.

The Calgary Highlanders

Honourary Colonel Handover

LCol (Retd) F. Lee Villiger

On 13 December 2017 the official handover of the Honourary Colonels of The Calgary Highlanders took place. It was a special day at the December Regimental Funds Foundation Board of Directors Meeting when HCol Michael Shaw switched the Chair's seat with our recently promoted HCol Lauchlan Currie.

After 7 years as Honourary Colonel of the Regiment, HCol Michael Shaw has shown the pride, dedication, and links to the community established by our great line of former Honouraries. As a role model exhibiting high professional standards, HCol Shaw represented the Unit at many functions. Two of these of great significance were hosting our Colonel-in-Chief, HM the Queen, at Canada House in London, England in April 2015, and recently as the guest of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Stirling Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland. HCol Shaw and his wife Linda attended church service at the Castle, and spoke privately with Her Majesty before sharing time with the Argyll & Sutherland family at the formal luncheon. To thank HCol Shaw for his service, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Regimental Foundation and the Regimental Family, a claymore sword was presented by the Commanding Officer, LCol Simon Cox, and our incoming HCol, Lauchlan Currie. Plenty of thanks to our Regimental Major CWO Kent Griffiths for crafting a beautiful display stand for the sword.

Our former HCol Currie has been approved by the Minister of Defense and promoted to take over the reins as HCol. HCol Lauchlan Currie, his wife Karen and family are welcome additions to



LCol (Retd) F. Lee Villiger

From L to R: former CO LCol Kyle Clapperton, DCO Major Ryan Palmer, HCol Michael Shaw, HCol Lauchlan Currie, CO LCol Simon Cox.

the Unit and our Regimental Family. A contributing member of the Calgary Community, HCol Currie is the Chief Executive Officer and Director of ARC Financial in Calgary. In his time as HCol, HCol Currie has provided leadership and support to the Grand Highland Military Ball, which set a record in attendance in 2017 and raised much needed funds for the Regiment. HCol Currie looks forward to his time representing the Calgary Highlanders.

We are grateful for our Honourary Colonels and their dedication, advice, links to the community and their service to our Regiment and to Canada. Best wishes to them and their families.

Airaghardt!

Calgary Highlanders Nijmegen 2017 Training

Cpl JBL Strachan

July 18-21 saw a Calgary Highlander team participate in the International Four Day Marches Nijmegen, one of 13 Canadian Forces teams to do so. Although individual Calgary Highlanders had previously marched at Nijmegen, this marked the first time that the Unit had fielded a team. Participants cover about 160 kilometres over the four days, through the countryside and towns around the city of Nijmegen in the Netherlands. For military participants, each day's march begins and ends at the same base camp, Heumensoord, built each year just south of the city, though each loop is different. Each military team member wears combat clothing and carries a 10-kg pack in addition to any individual provisions such as water and snacks.

In our first article Cpl Strachan describes the team's training for the event; this is followed by second article, by Cpl Lauritsen, which recounts the four days of the marches.



Capt Pittet

Nijmegen Team during a rainy training session after climbing the 167 steps up the McHugh Bluffs stairway. From Left to Right: Capt. Pittet, Cpl Lauritsen, Pte Eddy, MCpl Green, Cpl McFarlane, Cpl Burt, Cpl Burow, Cpl Strachan, Cpl Raidouguine, MCpl Van Zandt and Cpl Clark



Capt Pittet

Cpl Strachan is all smiles during a lesson on foot taping from Pte Sampson (15 Fd Amb).

The first Nijmegen march was conducted in 1909 and was meant to increase the capability of Dutch infantry soldiers to cover long distances with a rucksack. Since 1952 Canada has sent a contingent to participate in the march, the world's largest walking event. Canada has a lot of history in this area as Nijmegen was the location from which the Canadian Army conducted its operations near the end of WWII. The event draws 45,000 participants, both military and civilian, and over a million spectators each year.

An initial group of 15 soldiers were selected for the Calgary Highlanders pre-training team, from which a final team of 11 was selected to deploy for the march. The overall pre-training requirements required soldiers to accumulate a total marching distance of 500 km. The schedule involved a variety of marches, including 15-km marches conducted on Wednesday nights and longer weekend marches of 20-40 km.

Our training began on Wednesday March 22, 2017 when we conducted a 15-km march with no weight, designed to get everyone's feet used to the walking distance. Every Wednesday thereafter the weight was increased by 5 kg until it reached 20 kg, where it stayed for the re-

mainder of the weekday training sessions.

Calgary provided an excellent training environment with its combination of rivers and pathways. The city maintains over 580 km of regional pathways, which gave the team plenty of marching routes. Our marches followed the Bow and Elbow rivers, providing both nice scenery and exposure to the Canadian public.

As anyone who has walked long distances with a backpack knows, at some point everyone will experience discomfort, whether it be heat rashes, hotspots, blisters, or just sheer pain from a foot continually impacting the ground. Each soldier required spirit, drive, and commitment to the team in order to complete the long marches.

All in all, the training was arduous and demanding, but very thorough since each soldier was given the time and distance to deal with any individual issues. During that three month period the team bonded by spending so much time together and sharing the same discomforts, and by the time we left for Europe we were confident that The Calgary Highlanders would be great representatives of the ability and spirit of reserve infantry. 🇨🇦

Calgary Highlanders Nijmegen 2017

"NO FAIL"

Cpl Aaron Lauritsen



Capt Pittet

Cpls Lauritsen and Strachan lead the team through the Dutch countryside.

On July 13th, 2017 a small group of eleven Calgary Highlanders and a naval medical officer from Ottawa arrived in Europe to begin what would be for most of us, the experience of a lifetime. We were about to participate in the Nijmegen International Four Days Marches.

The marches, in their 101st year, are a grueling test of endurance that covers some 160 kilometres through the Nijmegen region of the Netherlands. It is a prestigious event that attracts roughly 45,000 civilians and some 5,500 military personnel from all over the World. Military participants are required to wear combat boots, a combat uniform and carry a weighted pack.

This year's deployment was significant in that it came on the heels of Canada's 150th birthday, marked the 65th anniversary of Canadian Forces involvement in the marches, allowed for a ceremonial program to commemorate cen-

tennial achievements of World War One, and was the first time our Regiment had fielded an entire team.

The first couple of days in Europe saw a battlefield tour of Vimy Ridge in France, ceremonies in Belgium to commemorate Passchendaele, and visits to the Menin Gate Memorial and Tyne Cot Commonwealth Cemetery. Our visit to Tyne Cot was especially poignant; nearly 12,000 – mostly unidentified – Commonwealth soldiers of The Great War are buried there while the names of an additional 36,000, who have no known graves but lie in the surrounding Flanders Fields, are enshrined on the walls of the grounds.

After concluding the ceremonial program, the 290-member Canadian Contingent boarded buses and headed north into Holland and our home for the next week or so, a sprawling temporary military camp called Heumensoord.

Once there we were able to relax and acclimatize, and some of us were able to take part in World War Two battlefield tours at various locations around Nijmegen and in Germany.

The first day of the march began early. Reveille was at 0300 hrs and was followed by a quick pep talk from the Commanding Officer, RSM and Padre. We stepped off at 0500. This was perhaps the most onerous day for most of us because we didn't know what to expect as, unlike all the other teams, we didn't have anyone who had done the marches previously, which would have been a huge asset.

The initial pace was quick as all teams jockeyed back and forth past one another to compete for space on the road; by the time we reached the entrance to the camp we were drenched in sweat. Despite the early hour there was a legion of local citizens who had waited patiently in order to cheer us on, the first of over a million spectators who lined the route over the next four days.

That first day saw us march forty-seven kilometres through Nijmegen, across the Waalbrug Bridge - one of the objectives of Operation Market Garden and made famous in the movie *A Bridge Too Far* - then through the many tiny villages North West of the city as we circled back towards the camp. The landscape that day was charming and ever evolving. It was flat but was comprised of a mix of picture perfect farming operations with cornfields, windmills and dikes whose serenity was interrupted only by quaint villages furnished with centuries-old brick houses, thatch roofs and narrow cobbled streets.

It was a tiring day, but with the exception of a few blisters we had no issues and were able to make our timings. Afterwards we did the mandatory deed of soaking our feet in salt water, enjoyed a few beers, recounted stories from encounters with locals and were in bed by lights out at 2300 hrs.

On the second day reveille was at 0230 hrs and we stepped off at 0430. On day one the temperature had been hot, but on this day the forecast was for highs in the mid-thirties, and even before we stepped off the air was a muggy twenty degrees. Because of this we wasted no time in attempting to grind out as much distance as we could before noon. The first four hours were dominated by a lovely song led by our team leader, Capt Pittet, which saw our cadence clear the roads of traffic to our front with "*Highlander, Highlander, Let Me Hear You Say Highlander!*" We maintained a good pace to it



Capt Pittet

Team members soak their feet and 'rehydrate' following a 46 km march.

and by around 1300 hrs were on the home stretch back to Heumensoord with time to spare, which allowed us to stop at a pub for a quick beer.

Day two's route was 37 kilometres and as we soaked our feet that night it was apparent that the heat, the pace and distance were beginning to take their toll. Everyone now had either raw blisters or deep bruises visible under their toenails from the constant impact of our boots on the hard-packed surfaces. A couple of us even had to spend the better part of the evening in the busy waiting room of the camp medical clinic to get our blisters drained and our feet taped for the next day.

Day three was new territory for the team in that during our work-up training we hadn't marched more than two days in a row. So when reveille sounded at 0300 that morning we all chuckled at how noticeably sore and sluggish we were while attempting to roll out of bed. But once out the gate and with the loyal crowd again waiting to cheer us on - this time in the pouring rain - it didn't take long to find our groove.

This was the first day we found the timings we had to make to be tight. We needed to be at Groesbeek National War Cemetery by 1215 for a

Contingent ceremony, and although there were only 27 kilometres of ground to cover to get there, the latter half was dominated by a set of rolling hills known affectionately as the 'Seven Sisters'.

After pushing hard through the Sisters, we arrived at Groesbeek as the fourth of eleven Canadian Teams in, but had only 15 minutes to get ready for the parade. Not all Canadian teams were able to make the timing, and with the muggy post-rain heat taking effect the medical staff were kept busy attending to soldiers who were either showing signs of heat stress or who had fainted on parade. The ceremony was short and afterwards we walked the remaining ten kilometres back to Heumensoord to get ready for the next day.

Reveille on day four seemed to sound as soon as our heads hit the pillow the night before. The RSM had been using a bugler to wake us up, and then signaled a call to arms with, "Let's Get To Work!" His deep voice normally shook the shacks and would force us from our beds, but it did little to inspire our tired group that day. We had made it to the last leg, but after three long days on the trail our bodies were aching and no one was immune to the wear and tear of marching.

Cpl Patty Burt had been hospitalized due to an infection that started in his foot from an open wound, and Cpl Burrow, Pte Eddy and myself were requiring antibiotics for similar conditions. MCpl Green, our 2IC, had severe swelling in his feet from blisters, Cpl MacFarlane had only one half of a blister but complained incessantly to

our medical officer, and Capt Pittet was walking like a pimp from an injury he couldn't even identify. And everyone was battling to stay hydrated in the heat. With 46 kilometres to go, we knew it was going to be a long, grinding day.

For most, day three was the hardest day because of the hills, but for me it was day four. Again we had tight timings to make and heat to contend with, but the battle was mostly mental because the route was dominated by long stretches of straight roads atop dikes that seemed to go on forever. Fortunately at around the 20 kilometre mark we came to the town of 'Beers' that was packed with people lining the streets to encourage us on. The energy of music and drink there was festive and contagious, and provided the boost we needed to grind out the remaining 20 clicks to make our timing of 1515 hrs. We arrived at 1514.

After arriving at the finish line there were the formalities of medals being issued and organizing for the final push, a five-kilometre victory march through the city called 'the Gladioli'. The Gladioli is a tulip festival where locals shower marchers with flowers and beer. As we passed they also shouted things like, "Thank you Canada for liberating us!". Throughout the four-day journey it was the norm to hear such praise from locals and in fact we had been peppered by appreciation from them. One instance in particular left an impression on me.

While touring Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery I was approached by an elderly lady who, after being directed to me by a Warrant Officer of the Queen's Own, tapped me on the shoulder to ask, "Are you a Calgary Highlander?"



Capt Pittet

Pte Eddy plays during the ceremony at Groesbeek Cemetery in the Netherlands.

I was a bit startled by her presence because at the time I was deep in thought, reflecting at the graves of fourteen young Calgary Highlanders who all died on the same fateful day, February 9th, 1945. What struck me is that they were all in their early twenties, and knowing that soldiers never change, their ages also suggested they were probably close pals, drinking buddies who like our troops today worked hard, played harder, and who all at one time had walked through the same Mewata doors I do today.

I turned to face the woman and answered, "Yes I am a Cal High". The admission brought a smile to her face and she responded, "You know, you're the first Calgary Highlander I've met in a while; it's so good to meet you

because there are so many of you buried here." Moved by the comment, I offered my hand to shake hers and introduced myself.

Through our conversation I learned that her name is Alice van Bekkum and that as a young girl she remembered the 1st Canadian Army, complete with some 400,000 allied soldiers, rumbling through. And she specifically remembered the Calgary Highlanders operating in the area. She even recalled the battle that took the lives of the young men whose graves I was standing at now.

Continuing, she divulged her life's work, which is to try and find photos and service records of all 2617 Canadians buried in Groesbeek, and to place those photos with a biography on their graves so visitors can know who these men were. The initiative is called 'Faces To Graves' and it is her way of paying homage to the sacrifice Canadian soldiers made while liberating Holland.

The Dutch suffered tremendously under the oppressive Nazi regime. The destruction of communities was commonplace and starvation rampant. Tens of thousands of Dutch men between the ages of 18 and 45 were enslaved, 200,000 citizens were killed, and of the 180,000 Jews who were sent to

concentration camps, only 38,000 survived the war. To say the Dutch people are still appreciative of the deeds of our forefathers is an understatement; Alice is proof of that, and I think that as an organisation we can contribute to her cause.

Since returning I have contacted both the Military and Glenbow Museums to see if they have photos or service documents of Calgary Highlanders in their archives who died in Northwest Europe and who are buried at Groesbeek. I've also made media inquiries to local newspapers to generate awareness in the city so that relatives of the fallen might come forward and offer information as well. And I encourage all members of any rank to reach out to anyone they might know who has similar identifying items to contribute. If so, Alice can be reached at info@facestograves.nl and you can find more information about her work at www.facestograves.nl.

My military career has been a rewarding one. It has been full of challenging courses, exercises of every scale, unique taskings and the highs and lows of operational deployments. But I have never been so proud to wear this uniform as I was when Alice approached me. Nijmegen was a physical grind, but it was also by far the highlight of my career. 🍁

Airaghardt!



Capt Pittet

The Calgary highlanders Nijmegen Team receives individual completion medals following the 160 km march.

From L to R: Cpl Lauritsen, MCpl Green, Cpl Raidouguine, Pte Eddy, Cpl McFarlane, Cpl Burrow, 2Lt Southen (medical officer), Capt Pittet, Cpl Strachan, MCpl Van Zandt and Cpl Clark.

McAndie Coulee, Saskatchewan

LCol Peter Boyle

Colonel Boyle, a former Calgary Highlander and curator of the Regimental Museum, currently serves as CO of 41 Service Battalion.

The Saskatchewan Government honoured one of the 10th Battalion's 'Gallant Canadians' this past November. Captain David McAndie was honoured through the Saskatchewan Government's Geographical Place Names programme, where notable soldiers from Saskatchewan who paid the ultimate sacrifice have a site named after them.

Captain David McAndie was originally from Portmahomack, Scotland and emigrated to Canada a few years prior the start of the First World War. He settled with his brother, Hugh, south of Mouse Jaw and they both established farms. When the First World War began, David joined the 46th Battalion, CEF and went overseas with a reinforcement draft that was sent to the 10th in 1915. As he had previously served with the Imperial Seaforth Highlanders, he rose quickly through the ranks and by 1918 was serving as a Company Commander when he was killed in action on the 15th of August, 1918.

The Saskatchewan Government named a coulee near his homestead after him through their programme and this was formally announced at the Legislature on the 9th of November 2017. David's descendants attended the ceremony which included a speech by Minister Gene Makowsky (Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport) outlining the distinguished service of Captain McAndie, which included the award of a Military Cross, Distinguished Conduct Medal, Military Medal and being Mentioned-in-Despatches. Those in attendance included many members of the McAndie family (descendants of David's brother, Hugh) who were delighted with the announcement and plan to have a commemoration at the coulee on the centenary of this death in August of 2018.

Editor's note: it was LCol Boyle who submitted the proposal to the Saskatchewan Government to have a geographic feature named for Capt McAndie.



Regimental Museum

Captain (then Lieutenant) McAndie during World War I.

Dieppe Commemoration

Our thanks to Reg Spratley, Regimental Association President, and CWO Kent Griffiths, for supplying the notes from their interview with former Cpl George Morasch.

2017 marked the 75th anniversary of the 19 August 1942 Dieppe Raid, also known as Operation JUBILEE, when just under 5,000 Canadians and 1,000 British commandos and 50 American Rangers landed on Dieppe's pebbled beaches. While historians argue whether the raid was an unmitigated disaster, or a disaster that nevertheless led to valuable lessons learned that were later applied to the 6 June 1944 D-Day landings, one fact is not in dispute: Dieppe was Canada's bloodiest day of the Second World War. Of the 4,963 Canadians who embarked on the operation, only 2,210 returned to England, and many of these were wounded. There were 3,367 casualties, including 1,964 prisoners of war while 916 Canadians lost their lives.



Morasch Family

George Morasch with his wife Fern and niece on the Dieppe Beach.

The Calgary Highlanders were more fortunate participants in the raid. The Battalion provided its mortar platoon to the raiding force (see sidebar article), but the platoon was unable to disembark from their landing craft tank (LCT), though they did shoot down a German aircraft.

August of 2017 saw Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr lead a Canadian delegation to France to commemorate the raid's 75th anniversary. Included in the delegation were Second World War veterans from the units which provided the raiding force, one of whom, George Morasch, represented our Regiment.

August 14th - We flew to Ottawa from Calgary and spent the day resting and watching young girls and boys make crosses to place on the graves in Dieppe, France. I was interviewed by these young people and told them about The Calgary Highlanders and my interview on the internet. They watched it and were all extremely interested!

August 15th - The rest of the veteran delega-

tion arrived in Ottawa from across Canada.

August 16th - We left for Lille, France by military aircraft and were all in first class!

August 17th - Our hotel was some distance from Dieppe / Puy as there were few rooms available because of the event. We participated in the battlefield tour of the Dieppe beach, where the raid had taken place, and then had lunch in the city community centre. We went to Pourville and heard more about the raid – what those boys went through was horrible.

August 18th - We got up in the dark early hours and went to an aboriginal sunrise service at the beach. It was awesome and spectacular from start to finish. I met a chief from Canada. We then went to the Mercure Hotel for breakfast and then to the museum, followed by a trek up the hill to have a picture taken by a castle.

August 19th - Went to a service by an old church. We sat outside and it lasted over an hour. A military contingent then did a presen-

tation. At the end of the service a lady played the Last Post followed by a bugler playing Rouse. Later, we went to the hotel for lunch and then walked up to a small monument where the Mayor and others laid wreaths. This was followed by another service (also lasting over an hour) that similarly included a bugler playing the Last Post and the laying of wreaths; I placed a wreath on behalf of all of the veterans of Canada. At that point they released pigeons that flew above the spectators coupled with a single airplane flying by. What a sight! The military veterans and all of the spectators walked to the esplanade where (at several locations) more wreaths were laid. Hundreds of flags were handed out by the veterans to the large crowd in attendance. I was told that there were over 40,000 people there.

This was a long march of approximately two miles where bystanders would push their way over to me saying, "merci George, merci, merci". Some kissed my hands or hugged me, and some even wanted my autograph or took my picture. It was very heart touching indeed! At a rest stop a young French girl (and her father) presented me with a stone from the Dieppe beach that she had decorated. They had been waiting a long time to give it to me and had to leave because they were tired. We then went to the hotel. It was the end of a big (very well organized) and memorable day that I will remember forever. I completed the long walk with my wife Fern in her wheelchair beside me.

August 20th - We got up early and drove for over two hours to arrive at a beach landing area (Pourville) for a service at a little church and then went for a group photo. We had lunch at the community centre hosted by French dignitaries and then left for the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery. There a Canadian youth group placed flowers at the

foot of the cenotaph, followed by a number of wreaths laid by various people including one I laid on behalf of Canadian veterans. A bugler played the Last Post and we were ushered off to visit graves where I placed a small cross on a Calgary soldier's resting place. Afterward we got on a bus for our long drive back to the hotel and finished the day with a farewell dinner.

August 21st - After an early rise, we went to the airport by bus to head back to Canada (Ottawa). The flight was great, and the Canadian Air Force pilots invited me into the cockpit where I buckled into the jump-seat and silently observed the last part of the flight until the airplane landed. What a thrill.

August 22nd - We arrived back in Calgary and although Air Canada misplaced our checked luggage (we got it later), I didn't lose my painted rock from the Dieppe beach.

The medical doctors and escort staff took such great care of us in France that I believe that my wife Fern was in better shape after the visit than she was before we left Canada! 🍁



Wikipedia

The Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery is located in the commune of Hautot-sur-Mer, about 3 km south of Dieppe. The large majority of the 948 members of the Commonwealth Forces buried there are Canadians killed during the 19 August 1944 Dieppe Raid.

Mortar Platoon at Dieppe

Although mortar platoon never landed at Dieppe, it would be wrong to imagine them simply bobbing offshore, witnessing the day's events from a safe vantage point. The platoon (21 other ranks under the command of Lt. Jack Reynolds) was aboard a Landing Craft Tank (LCT) with infantry of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI) and three Churchill tanks and a bulldozer of the Calgary Tanks. The disembarkment plan was that the RHLIs would go first, followed by the Calgary Tanks and finally mortar platoon.

As the LCT approached Red Beach at Dieppe at about 0600 hrs (the initial landings at Dieppe took place at 0530 hrs) it was hit repeatedly by enemy fire: a shell penetrated the galley, killing the small galley crew; the engine room was hit, producing a pall of black smoke though the engines remained serviceable; the Royal Navy crews manning the LCT's two Bofors 40 mm anti-aircraft guns were killed; and the wheelhouse was hit repeatedly, killing two wheelmen in rapid succession.

When the landing craft finally reached the beach the ramp was lowered and the RHLI charged ashore into a hail of gunfire, immediately taking casualties, quickly followed by the armour. However, just as the last tank roared down the ramp and before anyone from mortar platoon had time to follow, the LCT began backing away from the beach into deeper water and raising its ramp. Mortar platoon would not be going ashore though it is unclear who made that decision.

Platoon members took over the Bofors guns and provided support fire into German positions, managing to shoot down a strafing enemy fighter plane while the LCT made several runs back to the beach to pick up prisoners and the wounded. Somehow through it all, no one in the platoon was hit and Bill Lyster and Bert Pittaway were Mentioned in Dispatches for shooting down the German aircraft. However, as David Bercuson remarks in *Battalion of Heroes*, 'Although the Calgary Highlanders mortar platoon returned unscathed in body from Dieppe, they would remember what they saw all their lives.' 🍁



Public Domain

LCol Mike Vernon, Curator

CWO Kent Griffiths and I are drinking from a fire hose these days, learning a great deal (thanks to the tutelage of outgoing curators Denny Russell and LCol Peter Boyle) in our new roles as curators of the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Museum and Archives.

Over the years, Denny and Peter have done a great deal for the Regiment in these roles. We're extremely grateful to them (and to all the volunteers who contribute their time, effort and knowledge to the Museum every Tuesday and Thursday morning). Once they've got us trained up to do the administration, Denny and Peter will still continue to contribute in their particular areas of interest and specialization.

Thanks to them, we now have the original Brown and Knight VCs in our possession (both on loan from other museums). They'll be on display in our gallery in time for St. Julien, not far from Jamie Morris' new portrait of MGen Daniel Ormond, former commanding officer of the 10th Battalion.

In addition to revamping the VC display, we're also converting the gallery's lighting from halogen to LED lights this winter, and we're digitizing all the maps in our Collection.

Downstairs in the Archives, Barry Agnew and Col (Retd) Sam Blakely are examining boxes of documents in order to flesh out a draft history of the regiment post-1945.

We'll also be finishing the Afghanistan exhibit by July, in time for the 10th anniversary of the action for which LCol Simon Cox was awarded his Mention-in-Despatches. It will include video foot-

age from a firefight (TIC) during his 2008 tour with an Operational Mentor and Liaison Team.

We are keen to increase our holdings of uniforms and equipment from 1946 onwards. So... if you've got kit in your closet that you'll never wear again, please consider donating it to the museum. Tell us what you've got in an email (museum@calgaryhighlanders.com) and we'll let you know if we need it.



Regimental Museum

Daniel Ormond, a militia officer prior to the First World War, became adjutant of the 10th Battalion in 1914 and later, its Commanding Officer (27 Sep 1916-24 May 1918). He was then promoted to BGen and took command of the 9th Brigade until the war's end. After the war, he remained in the permanent force until retiring as a MGen in 1932. Afterwards he served as superintendent of penitentiaries in Ottawa, and later as the librarian at the Supreme Court.



The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association Dues, Gifts and Membership

If you are an existing member of the Association, either Ordinary or Associate, all you have to do to renew your membership for 2018 is to send us your annual dues of \$15.00 (Box A)

If you are not an existing member and wish to become one, please complete the application form (Box B) and attach the 2018 annual dues of \$15.00.

All serving soldiers are automatically Ordinary Members upon receipt of the annual dues and need not apply for membership.

If you are unsure of your status, complete Box B.

BOX A: DUES/GIFTS

2018 dues are \$15.00 and, of course donations are much appreciated.

A tax receipt will be issued for donations of more than \$25.00; annual dues are not tax-deductible. Cheques should be made out to 'The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association' and mailed to:

The Calgary Highlanders Regt Assn
Mewata Armoury
801-11th Street SW
Calgary AB T2P 2C4

☐

Enclosed are my annual dues of \$15.00 (2018)

☐

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please complete if this information is not on your cheque or has changed.

BOX B: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐

I am a former Calgary Highlander (applying as an *Ordinary Member*)

☐

I am NOT a former Calgary Highlander (applying as an *Associate Member*)

PLEASE PRINT:

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Rank (indicate 'Retd' when applicable if providing rank) _____

Given Name(s) _____

Surname _____

Decorations/Post Nominals _____

Military Service (if applicable)

Unit _____ Dates Served _____

Unit _____ Dates Served _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

EMAIL: _____

OR

☐

I do not have an email address

Former Calgary Highlanders become Ordinary Members upon receipt of the annual dues (\$15.00). The Board of Directors may grant conditional memberships to any applicant for Associate Membership, but such memberships must be confirmed at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

Mail to:

The Calgary Highlanders Regt Assn
Mewata Armoury
801-11th Street SW
Calgary AB T2P 2C4