



# The Glen

The Regimental Magazine of the Calgary Highlanders



**Remembering the Gas Attacks in 1915  
and the respiratory effects of Coronavirus in 2020/2021**

A Pipe Sergeant wearing Government Tartan and a gasmask pouch is an image that hits home during the 2020 Pandemic.





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The Regimental Magazine of the Calgary Highlanders

## Editors' Page

*LCol (ret'd) Lee Villiger & Major (ret'd) Kent Griffiths*



In this edition of the Glen Magazine we look back at the 2nd Battle of Ypres on 22 April 1915 and in retrospect, compare the impacts of poison gas attacks and the subsequent Spanish Flu

with the influences on personal freedoms and difficulties being encountered during the COVID-19 period of 2020-2021.

### **The Gas Attack on 22 April 1915 in Ypres-**

Ypres may be found in a small valley surrounded by low hills and forests. The Second Battle of Ypres was a fight for control of the nearby high ground and the village of St. Julien, just a few miles away.

When the French soldiers holding the northern face of the Ypres salient saw a greenish-yellow cloud drifting towards them from the German trenches to their front, they knew they were in for trouble. The enemy had fired more than 150 tons of lethal chlorine gas against the two French colonial divisions (North African colonial troops in the Algerian 45th Division and militia volunteers in the 87th Territorial Division). Although the Allies had intelligence in early April advising of the imminent probability of a gas attack, the information was dismissed as propaganda. Fear and uncertainty shocked the French soldiers as it was common

knowledge that in January that year, the Germans had fired shells loaded with xylyl bromide gas, at Russian troops at Bolimov on the eastern front, killing more than 1,000.



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Unless referenced, all articles and photos are generated by The Glen volunteers: LCol (ret'd) F. Lee Villiger and Maj (ret'd) Kent Griffiths.



# Editorial Comment

It was like a mist rising, hugging the ground, climbing five or six feet, and penetrating every crevice and dip in the ground. Gasping for air, coughing violently and with blood running from their mouths and noses, the French soldiers fled their trenches in horror. Canadians in reserve observed “the black troops from Northern Africa” coming toward them “running as though Hell”. On the left, the Algerian troops “jumped out of their trenches, falling as they ran. They ran like men possessed, gasping, choking, blinded and dropping with suffocation.”



This was the beginning of the Second Battle of Ypres. It would last until 25 May and was to include the Battle of St. Julien from 24 April to 04 May 1915. In the end, about 70,000 allies were killed, wounded, and/or missing in action.

By the end of the first day, the chlorine gas had killed almost 6,000 French soldiers as the rest withdrew, leaving a gap in the Allied line spanning almost four miles in width. Ypres was virtually undefended and the risk of a concentrated enemy attack may have split Western Front, cutting off Allied supply lines from the coast. By sunset, the German 46th Reserve, 51st Reserve, and 52nd Reserve Divisions had pushed forward nearly three

miles, as far as the village of Gravenstafel, and to the south were within two miles of Ypres.

To the east of the gap, the Canadian First Division still held their trenches. They too knew of the effects of poison gas. They were not prepared to fight under these conditions and, unlike the Germans, had no gas masks. They were directed to hold urine-soaked socks or handkerchiefs over their noses and mouths to allow the ammonia in the urine to combat the chlorine gas. In addition, they had not been issued helmets and had Ross rifles that were excellent on the ranges but not reliable when hot and dirty in combat.

Supported by artillery, 1,500 Canadians counter-attacked an enemy force of more than 10,000 at Gravenstafel and at 11:45pm, successfully assaulted the Germans in hand-to-hand combat at nearby Kitchener's Wood.

By noon on 23 April, the Allied defensive line had been reinforced to ten Canadian battalions. This was in opposition to over fifty German battalions.



**Did you know?**

The first official war painting was of the 2nd battle of Ypres by Richard Jack.



At 4:00 AM on 24 April, the German artillery launched more chlorine gas against the 1st Canadian and 28th British Divisions defending the area around the village of St. Julien. The gas was more concentrated and "the deadly wall of chlorine gas which rolled slowly over the ground turned the budding leaves of the trees, the spring flowers, and the grass a sickly white."



The Canadians refused to withdraw and combatted the effects of the gas by moving out of their trenches as the gas, being heavier than air, was denser in the low areas.

They waited until the Germans emerged from their trenches, before shooting rifles and machine guns. Unfortunately, the enemy utilized devastating artillery fire to support their ground attack and eventually forced them to withdraw from St. Julien by noon that day.

The Germans had created a gap and on 24-25 April, assaults around St Julien compelled the Canadians to further withdraw in need of reinforcements.

Even though the **1899 Hague Declaration Concerning Asphyxiating Gases** and the **1907 Hague Convention on Land Warfare** had banned the use of poison gas, Germany's use had forced the Allies to follow suit. The concept of utilizing chemical weapons eventually shaped the **Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on**

**their Destruction.** On 29 April 1997, this treaty was entered into force, prohibiting the large-scale use, development, production, stockpiling and transferring of chemical weapons and their precursors . All the countries of the world except Egypt, North Korea and South Sudan came together to sign. Israel has signed, but not ratified the treaty.

## A Comparison of Pandemics

### Spanish flu of 1918–1919

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were three waves of the "Spanish" flu epidemic that infected about 500 million people in less than one year.

The first wave, in the spring of 1918, was regarded as mild with the mortality rate not unusually high. In the fall of 1918, the second wave spread from France to England and then on to Spain where it killed eight million people, and became known as Spanish flu, or the "Spanish Lady." It arrived in the United States with military personnel being among the first inflicted and

## Editorial Comment

was described as the most spectacular outbreak of any disease for hundreds of years.

In early 1919, the third wave was less severe, but the age distribution of deaths was similar. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least fifty million across the globe. This particular pandemic killed more people than the First and Second World Wars as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars combined. A unique aspect was that about half of the deaths, worldwide, were in the healthy 20–40 year old age group.

In early 1918, 25,000 Chinese laborers crossed Canada in sealed

trains heading to the European front. About 3,000 became ill and were quarantined in Canada. More died in Britain and in France before they reached the front. In April 1918, the first wave began with one-in-five soldiers in allied and axis armies developing the flu.

The first wave arrived in Calgary on October 2, 1918. It lasted 51 days and was followed by a second wave starting December 11 that lasted 47 days. The third wave lasted a month and ended on 25 April 1919. Each wave had fewer cases, but higher death rates. Clinically, the flu cases presented coughing, fever, fatigue (lasting up to 14 days), and signs of an upper respiratory infection. Recovery (or death from pneumonia) usually came in seven days. Houses were quarantined with placards placed in the windows, although not every-

one chose to flag their homes. Most of those affected were in the 20 to 40 age group.

The first cases likely arrived on a 3AM troop train. At the time, Calgary's medical officer of health, was Dr. Cecil Stanley Mahood. Forewarned by a telegram from Regina, Dr. Mahood transferred 15 infected soldiers to Camp Sarcee. Within five days, two registered nurses and a soldier were infected. Ten days later the flu had spread so rapidly, that Dr. Mahood banned gatherings at churches, schools, theaters and in public places. The Public Health Act was amended on 16 October to cover the epidemic. Courts were closed on 18 October. Masks were required on trains

and streetcars. Some masks were labelled "buy a bond" to support war bond purchases. By the end of October, the province ruled that everyone must wear face masks outside their home to stop the spread of the disease.



AGT Telephone operators wearing masks in High River, Alberta. Photo credit: Glenbow Archives, Archives and Special Collections, University of Calgary

Loitering was banned and police were given the authority to quarantine people if deemed necessary. Medical students rode the rails to ensure obedience and many people were fined for non-compliance. On 30 October, all non-essential stores were closed, although some offered telephone-ordered goods for front door pick up. The community response was not unanimous. Some churches circulated pamphlets condemning their closure.

On 23 November, the first wave ended as abruptly as it began, with no new cases being recorded and stores immediately reopened.





## COVID-19

In December 2019, there were reports of pneumonia clusters of an unknown cause at health facilities in Wuhan, China. Initially these cases were linked to a wet animal wholesale market in the region, but after investigation, a new coronavirus was identified.

The outbreak quickly expanded locally and globally with large outbreaks occurring in South Korea, Japan, and Thailand; subsequently, spreading to European countries and the United States. On 21 January 2020, the United States had its first confirmed case: a man in his 30s who had returned from Wuhan, China. Ten days later the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the coronavirus pandemic as an “International Public Health Emergency of International Concern.” This was only the sixth time in history a global health emergency had been declared.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Compared

As in 1918, nurses initially wore gauze masks as

their protection. The spread of this pandemic showed the need for additional respiratory protection for healthcare and research workers. Originally designed for industrial use, the N95 respirator (made with material to block viruses) became a healthcare standard. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries around the world were desperate to increase their PPE supply in an effort to slow or prevent the coronavirus transmission in their region. As a result, PPE including N95 respirators were rapidly depleted.

It's was a stark difference to a century ago. "Today when there are people who won't get their shots or won't even get inoculations for their children, it is quite different from a time when the authorities could arrest you for not wearing a mask in public."

None of the current Coronavirus safety measures of distancing, self isolation or masks are anywhere near the limitations of personal freedoms of the early 20th century. When providing a museum tour to a school group and explaining the Battle of St Julien, a

guide described how the soldiers were directed to hold urine-soaked handkerchiefs over their noses and mouths to combat the chlorine gas. One student replied with a question, "What if you didn't have to pee at the time?" The guide replied, "Then you would use someone else's pee." The entire school group moaned in disgust.

At one point, rags soaked in ammonia were delivered to the troops and it was not long after the 2nd Battle of Ypres, that Canadian soldiers were issued gas masks. Even horses and dogs had protection by that time.





# Command Team

## LCol Ryan Palmer and MWO Jamie Moreau



### LCol Ryan Palmer- Commanding Officer

With the training year half gone already, it is amazing to see how quickly the time has passed in these truly interesting times. It feels like only yesterday that we welcomed home the Mortar Platoon from Op REASSURANCE, and completed our Reserve Summer Training cycle at Garrison Wainwright.

However, the unique dynamics of COVID-19 seems to have disrupted our routines in a way that changes our perception of the passage of time.

We started the training year with a cautious eye to the threat of COVID,

but committed to maintaining our readiness for operations. The month of September brought an Infantry Basic Mortar Course conducted jointly with 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3 PPCLI) and The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, and a C7 Personal Weapons Test range to allow us all to qualify on our most essential of weapon systems. We also marked the occasion of a change of RSM appointment, with CWO Glenn Fedoruk passing that essential responsibility to MWO Jamie Moreau. We were also honoured to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Trophy for the second year in a row, recognizing The Calgary Highlanders as the most proficient unit in 41 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) as measured by personnel



readiness, leadership development, and Individual Battle Task Standard (IBTS) completion rates.

As we prepared to embark on a period of collective tactical training to develop our teams and our ability to operate in the field, the fall brought another round of COVID restrictions, causing us to pivot



back to a largely virtual training model. Again, our soldiers and leaders had to show their flexibility and creativity in adapting to the changing circumstances.

Many other activities central to our regimental

identify such as Pipes and Drums practices, the Remembrance Day Parade, Robbie Burns Supper, and the Highland Ball were also cancelled. However, essential operational training such as A Coy's conduct of the Developmental Period 1 (DP1) Support Weapons Training classes and associated ranges as well as the integration of several highlanders into 3 PPCLI for their upcoming Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in Fort Polk, Louisiana, continued. The Regimental Pipes and Drums also represented the unit at several Remembrance Week events including the Field of Crosses.

Though we were unable to come together for our normal soldier's holiday dinner, I appreciate the





efforts of our unit leaders in ensuring the socially distanced visit and gift drop-offs at our soldiers' homes. Concurrent to all of this, a new round of COVID related operational tasks appeared, this time in support of Op VECTOR, the CAF support to vaccine distribution. As I write this, we still have soldiers standing by for that essential mission. We will embark on an Infantry Basic Machine Gunner's Course and further collective training, culminating in Exercise Combined Grizzly in April where we will lead the southern Alberta units of 41 CBG the first combined arms training exercise we've conducted in several years. Working closely with 20th Independent Field Battery, RCA, we've also taken the first steps to establish a presence in the City of Lethbridge, with our first soldiers just enrolled there as the nucleus for a new sub-unit.

In a few short months, we will be turning our thoughts to training our soldiers in the next round of Reserve Summer Training, and Exercise WESTERN SABRE 21, our annual concentration scheduled at the end of August. Reservists from across the division will participate in Section and Platoon level offensive field firing.

Returning to the concept of time, I am shocked at how quickly my time as Commanding Officer of this fine Regiment has passed, along with my time here more broadly. This time with the Regiment has been one of the highlights of my professional career. I consider myself extremely lucky to have been associated with this fantastic group of people for as long I have, and I will be proud to wear this Regiment's hat badge wherever I go. However, though I will be gone in a few months, I have every confidence in the leadership of this unit at every level, trust they will perpetuate our proud tradi-

tions, and set the high standards that this Regiment has been known for across the Brigade and the army as a whole.

Airaghardt!



### **MWO JC Moreau- RSM**

To all Calgary Highlanders, members of the Regimental Association, and our Cadet Corps, I hope this article finds you well and in good health.

I would like to start by expressing how proud and honored I am to be the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Calgary Highlanders. I have witnessed many successes and look forward to making sure that trend continues.

As we are bound by the current pandemic you must not lose sight of your military career progression. As A Company has completed its DP1 Infantry Delta package it is now transitioning to the Infantry Basic Machine Gunner training. These courses are the foundation pieces of being an infantry soldier. There will also be two serials of PLQ / ISCC in the spring / summer of 2021. For the Corporals, If you're looking to build your leadership experience, becoming a Master Corporal is a great first step. I urge you to take full advantage of the Primary Leadership Qualification (PLQ) and Infantry Section Commanders Course (ISCC) being offered this summer. Finally, for the Master Corporals we are working with the Infantry School to secure positions on the Rifle Section Commanders course this spring.

For those who have just joined the Regiment I ask for your patience but I also urge you to pay attention to the lectures taught by your section and platoon leadership. You have an advantage

in that you can absorb the theory and be ready to put it into practice when the time comes.

Now you may ask yourself how we will measure success during the pandemic while the majority of our training is being conducted online. To that I say that success will be measured by putting a full healthy Regiment back into the field to train for future operations while maintaining personal career progression.

To our members of the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association, the best course of action is to

follow the health measures, stay healthy, and maintain your connections. Make an effort to reach out to your comrades for a buddy check on a regular basis.

To our Leaders of tomorrow, the Cadets, I appreciate the last year has been particularly challenging as your training as shifted online. Keep your focus and maintain the high standards in everything you do. Before long we will be on parade together again.

Take care of each other.



## The Padre's Corner



Currently, the Regimental Chaplain is Captain Derwyn Costinak, who is primarily the Padre for the King's Own Calgary Regiment (RCAC). Following his ordination to the diaconate in May 2013, he arrived in Calgary in August to be the Assistant Priest at St James Anglican Church. Ordained to the priesthood in January 2014, Derwyn spent almost four years at St James before enthusiastically becoming the ninth priest to serve at the Church of the Good Shepherd on May 1st, 2017.



His contact information is-  
Cell phone: 403-923-8536.



Email: [derwyn.costinak@forces.gc.ca](mailto:derwyn.costinak@forces.gc.ca)

## Change of Appointment



## Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM)



On 30 September 2020, CWO Glenn Fedoruk handed over his position as Regimental Sergeant Major, to MWO Jamie Moreau in a small ceremony in front of the Colours in the Mewata Armoury Officers' Mess. The ceremony was broadcast virtually.



tal officers and NCM's. He also recognized his past and current peers, specifically, former RSM (retired Major) Kent Griffiths, CWOs Emmett Kelly and Bob Besse as well as former RSM Captain Chris Tucker.

He reminisced about having met most of the members of the Regiment when they

CWO Fedoruk spoke about how extremely humble and grateful he was and went on to explain that in 2017, he was appointed as RSM, which was not only his 33<sup>rd</sup> year as an army reservist, but also made him the Regiment's 33<sup>rd</sup> RSM (definite lucky numbers there).

He thanked his current and past command team partners LCol Palmer and LCol Cox for believing in him and entrusting him as the Regiment's most senior non-commissioned member (NCM). This was followed by an acknowledgement of the Regiment-

first arrived as new recruits. He watched many of them come up through the ranks and turn into the fine leaders that they are today. His message: "lead with compassion, and empathy - care for your soldiers. Hard-work and dedication will pay back two-fold for years to come. Don't forget your roots and make smart choices". He then pleaded to MWO Moreau, "please don't have my truck towed from the RSM's parking stall until after the ceremony."

MWO Moreau responded that he was humbled with the appointment and promised to do his best.







## WHEN FACE MASKS ARE THE LAW AND MUCH OF ALBERTA SHUTS DOWN

**Cpl Michael Dorosh** recently posted  
an interesting article on Facebook:

### WHEN FACE MASKS ARE THE LAW AND MUCH OF ALBERTA SHUTS DOWN

That is the Chapter Heading from Volume 4 of the 1995 book *ALBERTA IN THE 20TH CENTURY*. It is fascinating, referring to the pandemic of 1918.

**From the conclusion:** *"Dr. Christopher Andrews, the British medical researcher ... (who) was knighted in 1961 for his work on influenza...did not believe any future epidemic would be as severe, due to improved communications throughout the world, larger and better hospitals, social agencies to care for people without families, available diagnostic tests and powerful drugs for treating bacterial complications."*

Alberta met the influenza epidemic (technically a pandemic as it was worldwide) with initial skepticism and then with public shutdowns, face mask regulations, and bans on public gatherings.

#### Timeline:

**Feb 18, 1918** - first accounts of what became the "Spanish Flu" were reported in China.

**March 1918** - flu is reported in France and the United States.

**May 1918** - Spain, which was neutral and had no press censorship, reported on the flu there (possibly why it is now known as "Spanish flu").

**Oct 7, 1918** - Medicine Hat News reported that 15 soldiers were in isolation at Camp Sarcee Camp in Calgary.

**Oct 12, 1918** - public buildings (schools, theatres, libraries, pubs, and courthouses began to close.

**Oct 18, 1918** - entire towns in Alberta were placed on quarantine. In Lethbridge, trains passing through had their doors locked so no one could disembark. After 2 days, the quarantine was lifted due to public outcry. The quarantine was equally unpopular in other towns.

**Oct 21, 1918** - passengers on public transit (streetcars) across the province were ordered to wear masks.

**Oct 22, 1918** - the mask order was extended to anyone who served the public.

**Oct 25, 1918** - anyone going outside their own home was ordered to wear a mask by the Provincial Board of Health. They could not be worn more than 2 hours at a time and had to be boiled after each use. Fines for non-compliance were as high as \$50. Masks were to be made of cheesecloth and patterns were provided so people could make them at home.

**Oct 30, 1918** - all public gatherings were banned. Store hours were curtailed. Stores selling non-essentials were ordered to close. The Hudson's Bay Company employees had sick parade three times a day. Loss to private sector businesses forced to close across Canada (some for months) was estimated at half a billion dollars (seven billion in 1990s figures). Edmonton laid out \$100,000 dollars for nursing equipment, loss of transit revenue, etc.

**Oct 31, 1918** - the flu was reported to be waning (it wasn't). Instructions for care were published. The Public Health Act was amended to make it an offence to cough, sneeze or spit in any public place or on public transportation, except into a handkerchief or other covering material. Quarant-



## WHEN FACE MASKS ARE THE LAW AND MUCH OF ALBERTA SHUTS DOWN continued...



tined homes could not be reoccupied until all clothing, bedding and soiled items were destroyed by burning. All dishes had to be boiled, walls and furniture had to be boiled or sprayed with bichloride of mercury. Books and other items were sprinkled with formaldehyde and wrapped for 8 hours in a sheet, then aired out for 8 hours more.



**Nov 9, 1918** - Calgary reported numbers declining after first cases reported on 2 Oct. Reports proved to be accurate due to the efforts of local health officer, Dr. C.S. Mahood, who had rigorously enforced isolation, quarantine and the wearing of masks right from the beginning of the epidemic.

**Nov 12, 1918** - The closing of churches proved unpopular. A letter in an Edmonton newspaper declared "You can fence your town and put out your men to stop the traffic on the roads, BUT YOU CAN'T DEFEAT THE PLAGUE THAT WAY. It is in the air - and you can't fence that. While men and women are going down to death by the hundred, for God's sake and civilization, be British...Your turn may be next to die. Die like a man fighting the battle for the sick."

**Nov 4, 1918** - The Lethbridge Herald editorial encouraged people to get out and visit people, "Cheer them up, this is not a time for gloom...it is a time for cheerful, willing, untiring action. The psychological side of this battle for life is important and it should be emphasized by cheery

workers throughout the province." On this day, one-third of the population north of Edmonton were reported to have contracted Influenza.

**Nov 8, 1918** - The Driftpile Reserve reported 25 deaths with disease rampant on First Nations reserves. Half the Cree nation was dead by mid-December.

**Nov 11, 1918** - The First World War ended in Europe. No public celebrations were permitted but many did anyway. A second outbreak occurred in late November, affecting fewer people, but proving to be deadlier as the flu was often accompanied by pneumonia.



**Nov 30, 1918** - 90 soldiers at Sarcee were reported to have died of influenza

**End of December 1918** - Tens of thousands of Albertans reported to have contracted influenza. Eventually 3,259 died of it, of a total population of about 500,000.

**January 1919** - Spanish flu was said to be spreading to domestic animals, harming the food supply and the large agricultural sector of Alberta's economy. Further study found no spread of flu to animals.

**End of February 1919** - The second wave was declared as over.



## WHEN FACE MASKS ARE THE LAW AND MUCH OF ALBERTA SHUTS DOWN continued...



**April 1919** - A third outbreak was declared ending on April 25. Some new cases were reported until May 10.

**February 1920** - flu preventative warnings were issued. Some doctors felt it was not influenza but common gripe. Reported deaths were usually from pneumonia. Public Health offices opened in Calgary and Edmonton by 14 February. The attack was characterized as mild, with no great recurrences of the disease for the rest of the century.



Death rate of 1918 flu - 4,000 of 500,000 is 0.8%.

Death rate of COVID at present - 443 of 4.4 million equals 0.01%

-are we learning, or is the disease less virulent - or both?

Like COVID-19, the 1918 H1N1 influenza virus was "novel," meaning it was a new virus that had not been seen before. Also like COVID-19, no one had immunity to it and it was highly infectious, spreading through respiratory droplets.

Both Spanish flu and COVID-19 manifest with fever, muscle aches, headache, and respiratory symptoms, however, one symptom that seems unique to COVID-19 is loss of taste and/or smell.





This is certainly one way to attain a high score but that is not how the Top Shots: Cpl McPherson, Cpl Leboldus, Cpl Nistuk, and Cpl Silchmuller each qualified as marksmen and jointly won the LCol Mark Tennant Trophy.

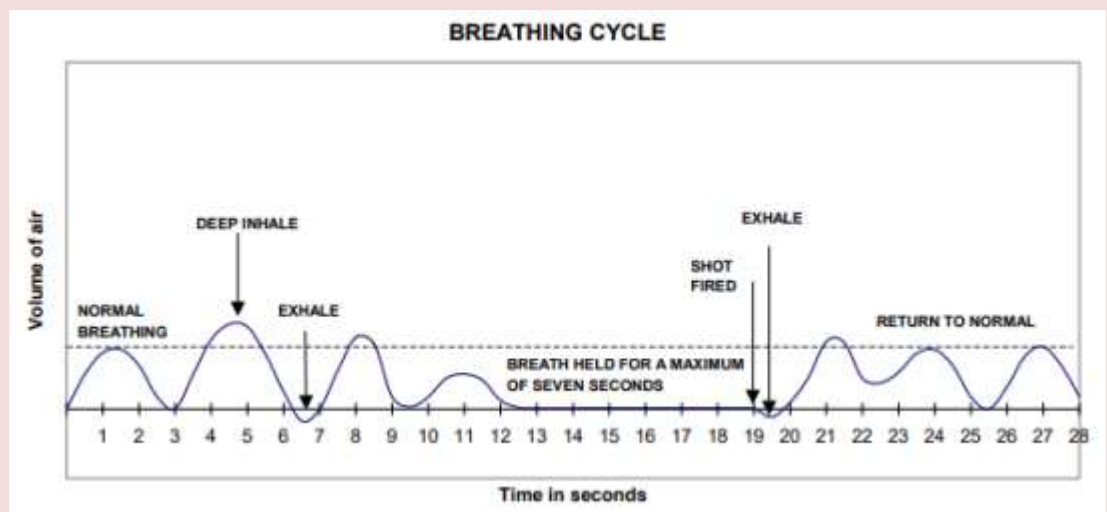
See the Awards Section in this issue.



## Did You Know?

### Principles of Marksmanship

- a. Position:** Obtaining a stable, uniform platform in the most efficient way possible to allow holding and aiming to be achieved with as little movement and muscular tension as possible.
- b. Holding:** Natural alignment, forward and rear hand placement, head position and eye relief (distance), and positioning of the rifle butt.
- c. Breathing:** A sequence of inhaling and exhaling deeply followed by one normal breath and a complete release of chest muscles and then the holding of one's breath while squeezing the trigger. After the shot, a small exhale is followed by normal breathing, and the cycle is repeated.
- d. Aiming:** The alignment of the rear and front sights (or the aiming point of an optical sight) with the desired point of impact. This is adjusted to account for wind and movement by "leading the target" and for distance by setting the range on the sight.
- e. Trigger Control:** Correct trigger finger position and pressure are applied with a squeezing action (not a pull) and held for a moment after the shot.
- f. Follow-through:** The act of remaining in position for a few seconds after the shot and returning the point of aim to the desired point of impact after the recoil.





# The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association (CHRA)

President — CWO (Ret'd) Emmett G Kelly MSM CD



I would like to start by wishing a belated Happy New Year and best wishes for 2021 to all members of the Calgary Highlanders and the expanded Calgary Highlander family. Hopefully, you and yours are healthy and working through these challenging times. In order to be positive let's look forward and see what we have in store in 2021 as your Association.

First and foremost, the Association board has been meeting virtually, and we will be pushing hard in the next months for multiple

online social gatherings of various generations of Highlanders. While we can not meet as a group right now there is no reason we can not meet virtually and get reacquainted. Our plan is to hold these events at least three times with the intent to bring together Highlanders from all these groups: Current soldiers, Afghanistan Veterans, Balkan and Yugoslavia veterans, Cold War soldiers and of course any World War II or Korean veterans. All Calgary Highlanders coast to coast are welcome. This will need your support in participating and getting the word out to others.

It is also our intent to hold our overdue Annual

General Meeting (AGM) virtually in April of 2021. All members will be able to log in to the meeting and will have the ability to vote virtually during proceedings. It is our hope that this will represent a way forward as it will expand our reach beyond just having in-person attendance at the AGM. We can get any member to participate from near and far.



Our keynote project for the upcoming year will be to try and track down every living Calgary Highlander World War II veteran.

While we have contact

details on a handful of our beloved veterans in the Calgary area, we are sadly lacking information on any that moved from the Calgary region and are not currently members of the Association. We have a couple of plans in development on how to reach out to try to gather in our veterans. We will share those on our website as we move forward.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and please remember to pay your association dues if you have not already done so. Dues may be paid online through the website or in person at the kit shop starting on 10 February 2021.



## Field of Crosses



**The Field of Crosses** is the inspiration of Calgary businessman and philanthropist, Murray McCann who was deeply moved by how the community of Menlo, Georgia, with a population of less than 500, was commemorating their fallen by erecting crosses by the roadside. He realized how fortunate he had been to live his life in freedom because of the thousands of Canadians who had given their lives to make that freedom possible. Upon returning to



Calgary he conceived the idea of erecting crosses as tribute to the thousands of Southern Albertans who fell defending our freedom. The crosses would stand in military cemetery formation for the 11 days of The Calgary Poppy Fund Campaign as an annual visible reminder of those who gave up their lives.

What for 10 years was a private memorial, founded and funded by a private foundation, has now been gifted to the public as a registered charity to assure that 100 years from now we still remember and we never forget. Thanks to many hundreds of volunteers, the cleaning and preparing of thousands of crosses, installation of the bases, erecting and taking down the crosses are all accomplished each year with precision and decorum.

Over 3500 crosses are placed along Calgary's Memorial Drive between 3rd St. NW & Centre St, from November 1-11 each year. Each cross memorializes an individual soldier from Southern Alberta who made the ultimate sacrifice. Each cross is inscribed with the name, age at death, rank, regiment and date of death of a soldier killed in action.

In addition, a separate part of the park is set aside, with 120 unique crosses, for a special memorial to the 120,000 heroes from across Canada who lost their lives fighting for this great country. All day and night people walk through the 5-acre memorial, which is lit 24/7, reading the crosses and being reminded that our freedom was not free.

Each morning from November 1—11th at sunrise, a flag raising ceremony is held and school choirs, buglers, pipers, and honoured guests pay tribute to our fallen. Each evening at sunset a similar service is held, and flags are lowered.

On November 11th a one-hour Remembrance Day service was held, televised, and streamed to 300,000 viewers by Global Television.

The Calgary Highlanders provided their Regimental Pipes and Drums as the Event Band and also were honoured to play the lament.

From sunset on 10 November to sunrise the next morning, a lone vigil stood with a pile and lantern, illuminating the cenotaph. In the coldest early morning hours, members of the regiment volunteered to don First World War uniforms and perform this task.





## The Kit Shop Report

*Manager Cpl (retired) Ken Clements*

Well... Unfortunately, There is not much to report regarding the Kit Shop for this issue of the Glen. Between recovering from illness myself and the impact of the Coronavirus, the shop has been closed for the majority of the last year. However, this did present an opportunity to review finances and conduct a thorough audit of inventory. The result of which is that we are in a pretty good state and ready to get back to business!



I will identify some of the older stock that has not moved in some time for discounting and I am happy to say that there are many new items that will be sought after once we open again.

What I miss the most is the interaction with the Association members, friends, veterans. Cadets, and serving members. The Kit Shop is more than a retail outlet to provide regimental items to our membership, it is an essential point of contact. The two-way communication provides a sense of the welfare of the troops and the vets. It identifies opportunities to assist those in need as well as to develop networks with new and interested friends of the regiment. I cannot count the time where someone randomly arrives at the door with no links to the unit and we end up helping them out.

We also provide a sampling of our inventory to the Gift Shop at The Military Museums (TMM), so when we are not open, you can check out what they have on display. This type of outreach will certainly fit in with the plans to exhibit our wares on the website too.





## A Journey to Mt. Mike, and into the Story of Private Sebastian Mike

By Capt Dave Peabody

“Are there any mountains named after members of the Regiment?” I asked. “Mount Mike!” replied Major Griffiths. Immediately I was intrigued, and started looking into a possible climb of the mountain. At the time I had no idea how far the exploration would go, and the connections that would appear throughout the journey.

Mount. Mike is located in the East Kootenay district of British Columbia and nestled in the Quinn Range between Canal Flats on the west and Sparwood to the east. It is a rather remote peak, and is not visible from the highways despite its towering height of 3294 metres. Once into the interior of this range the peak is striking; a sharp, pyramidal peak towering above its neighbours, second in height only to Mount.

Harrison lying to the north-east. The mountain was named in honour of Private Sebastian Mike, who was killed in action in the Netherlands on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1944.

The first connection was a personal one, having grown up in Mike’s hometown of Cranbrook, BC. The second connection emerged after some early research into climbing routes on the peak. Four years earlier I had climbed another mountain named after the first Commanding Officer of my own regiment (Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry), Mount Farquhar. Mount Farquhar was first ascended by Doctor Michael H. Benn and his partner Ted. Sorenson in the late 1960s. As it turns out, the first ascent of Mount Mike was also by Doctor Benn, Ted Sorenson, and T. Swaddle in 1969.

To Major Griffiths’ knowledge no members of the Calgary Highlanders had yet made an ascent of the mountain. However, several routes existed, the most common and popular among scramblers being the aesthetic South-West Ridge. Some paperwork to get an adventure training activity approved followed, and before long the plan was set. We planned to depart on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from Calgary to climb the peak on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and return on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



Mt Mike from the North

Capt D Peabody

The only other taker for the ascent was Sergeant Petruk, the imported Patricia serving as the unit’s Transport Non-Commissioned Officer. We left Calgary at 2 PM on the 26<sup>th</sup> and drove west then south through the spectacular Kootenay National Park. After a break in Radium for dinner, we headed up the Whiteswan Forest Service Road south of Canal Flats, and after a couple of hours driving on well-maintained logging roads we arrived at a clear cut on the west flank of Mount. Mike. We caught glimpses of the southwest ridge on our drive and this excited us for the climb the next day.

We woke to a crystal-clear blue sky and began our hike at 7 AM. After 45 minutes of hiking along an old outfitter trail paralleling a creek in old growth forest, we turned steeply uphill through fairly open



terrain. The area was clearly a popular place for big horn sheep and their many trails made our ascent above treeline much easier than it would have otherwise. Once above the treeline we were able to follow a ridge for some distance, then traverse a large scree bowl to reach a saddle on the southwest ridge. From here the route was clear: follow the narrowing south-west ridge to the summit which turned out to be a real treat with breathtaking exposure.



Camp Flag on Summit

Capt D Peabody

The summit was a small jumble of boulders with stunning views of Mount Harrison to the north-east and Fisher Peak and the Steeples to the south. We managed a few shots with the regimental colours and left a new summit register. The old register, unfortunately, had leaked and the log-book inside was heavily waterlogged. After transcribing the handful of ascents into a new book as well as a tribute to Private Mike, we made our descent without incident. Throughout the climb my thoughts went often to the soldier whose name the mountain bears, and I could not resist wanting to know more. Who was Sebastian Mike, and how did this mountain come to be named after him?

Prior to the climb I was able to find very little on him online, and the information on him in the Calgary Highlanders archives was scant. I resolved to find out more, and this was where another interesting connection occurred. Major Griffiths informed me a few days after I started my research that the archives had received a request from a researcher, Troy Sebastian, a member of the Ktunaxa (Kootenay) Nation, as was Sebastian Mike. Troy was working on his Master's thesis and was also looking to uncover the story of Private Mike and

how his journey to fighting with the Highlanders in Europe. I felt this was rather curious, that after seventy years since the naming of Mount Mike, that Private Mike would be the subject of study by two people at the same time.

Fortunately, Library and Archives Canada holds the personnel files of Second World War World War Two soldiers, and I was able to access this online. Private Mike's military documents revealed some of Sebastian's story. He was Ktunaxa (Kootenay) from the St. Mary's Reserve near Cranbrook, BC, born on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1924. His father was John Mike, a farmer, and his mother at his time of enlistment was listed as deceased. John Mike lived with his wife Mary Cecilia Mike. Sebastian had one sister, Mary Ann, a half-sister, Mary Madelaine, and a half-brother, Gabriel. He was Roman Catholic and attended residential school at the St. Eugene Mission, where he completed grade 5. Sebastian left school to work as a farmer. He was single, and was living with his grandparents in Cranbrook. His Personnel Selection Record stated the young man enjoyed going to shows, did not dance, read a little, and went to church. He played baseball and hockey, and enjoyed swimming, fishing, and hunting, and he was 5'9", 135lbs. He stated he never drank.





Capt D Peabody on the Summit

Shortly after he turned eighteen, he joined the Home Defence on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1943. His Personnel Selection Record reveals a little of his character, though the description is written in the bigoted language of the time. The selection officer wrote that Private Mike "Is a typical Indian [sic] in appearance and manner, somewhat at a loss on interview and lacking in confidence. Does not imply as being particularly aggressive and resourceful. This man may have difficulty in the actual respects of training and his case should be reviewed by A.E. [Army Examiner] at Basic who may be able to make a more complete assessment of this recruits [sic] personality when he is more adjusted to Army Life." The young man arranged for \$10 a month of his pay to go to his grandparents.

After a year training as an infantryman with the Rocky Mountain Rangers, the Edmonton Fusiliers, and the King's Own Rifle Corps, Private Mike transferred to the Winnipeg Grenadiers, and was destined to head overseas on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944. Generally, his first year in the army had gone well. A follow up review by an Army Examiner stated, "Attitude to army is rather passive. Crime sheet is clean. Says he finds it a little difficult to follow training sometimes. His Coy. [Company] Commander reports that he seems to be getting along satisfactorily. Mike feels a little strange yet about the army but he seems to be trying to make an adjustment. He is lonesome on occasion and he thinks that some of the boys sometimes pick on him. With more experience in Army life, things will likely go more smoothly for him." The report concluded, "Well-adjusted Kootenay Indian Soldier. Very pleasant, good natured young man who is looking forward to O/S [overseas service]. Not particularly aggressive but gives impression of being good combatant material. Suitable for O/S service in Operational C.I.C. [Canadian Infantry Corps]."

Sadly, like so many others in the infantry Pte Mike's short period of service at the front was not a pleasant one. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1944, Private Mike arrived in the United Kingdom where he spent two months with the Winnipeg Grenadiers before being transferred to the Calgary Highlanders on August 8th, who were taking part in Operation TOTALIZE, the Allied effort to break the German line at Verrieres Ridge. As the Regiment was in action, he likely was not able to join them until a lull in battle a week later. An untested Private Sebastian was advancing on the town of Bourgtheroulde in France on August 26<sup>th</sup> when the unit came under heavy fire. He was one of 65 men wounded, receiving a gunshot wound to his left thigh and was evacuated to hospital.



He recovered and returned to the Highlanders on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944. He participated in the battle of the Scheldt, at places like the Albert Canal, Eindhoven, and Hoogerheide. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Highlanders began an advance that would eventually take them to the Walcheren Causeway. Under cold, foggy weather with a light drizzle, the regiment soon ran into heavy opposition from German forces, receiving machine gun fire and a mortar barrage. Tragically Private Sebastian Mike was one of the 18 men killed by enemy fire that day. Military records of the day typically did not go into details, and Private Mike's stated simply "SOS [Struck of Strength] deceased Killed in Action."

While the military language was brief, Sebastian Mike's story was destined to persist. In 1946, the Government of BC elected to name several mountains northeast of Cranbrook after soldiers from the area lost in the war, and Sebastian Mike was one of the names selected. Unfortunately, a record as to how the names were selected was not uncovered, and this remains a goal for the future. As well, no photographic record of Sebastian Mike was discovered during the research of this article which perhaps makes this account only the beginning of the story.

Sebastian Mike's final resting place is at Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian Military Cemetery, Grave 5, Row B, Plot 4. But while his body lies across a continent and an ocean, his spirit remains captured by the mountains of his home, and the Calgary Highlanders regiment that perpetuates the memory of its fallen to this day.

Climbing the mountain bearing his name was the smallest of tributes, but the connections that emerged reveal the power of history to continue to affect the living today.



The Peak

Capt D Peabody



## Private Sebastian Mike fell as part of the Hoogerwaardpolder or “The Coffin battle”

On 25 October, 1944 the Calgary Highlanders were ordered to take the Lindonk hill as a closing activity for the battle for the village of Woensdrecht. It had been the scene of extreme bitter fighting since 06 October as the Germans used the little village as a blocking position to prevent the Canadians from entering the province of Zeeland. Their goal was to hold the banks of the Scheldt river as long as possible, so that Antwerp would not be in operation as a port for the Allied cause.

On 24 October, the Germans defenders were forced to make a withdrawal northward toward Bergen op Zoom. Since this city was under attack by troops of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division from the east, the determined Germans in Woensdrecht were threatened from behind. As a consequence, they were motivated to withdraw. Based on this information, it was anticipated that the advance of the Calgary Highlanders on the 25th of October would have little problem since the Germans were leaving. The reality proved to be quite different and the Calgary Highlanders paid a high price in the battle that developed for this little known hill. The Calgary Highlanders were to clear the area to the north of the crossroads up to the coastline (the Hoogerwaardpolder) after which the Caterspolder was to be cleared to bring the troops to the Lindonk hill.

On 22 October, after two days of rest behind the lines, the Highlanders prepared for attack on the Hoogerwaardpolder. A polder is a piece of reclaimed land from the sea as a former tidal mud flat. It is a completely flat and open area lined with a dyke and little drainage canals. According to the war diary the troops called the polder “The Rectangle” which was later renamed “The Coffin”, due to

its particular shape which resembled a coffin with the head pointed out to the east. The centre of “The Coffin” was horizontally cut in half by the main road connecting the estuary with the mainland of Holland. Due to the particular features of this terrain, with which the Calgary Highlanders had little experience, the battalion suffered many casualties. Since the polder country was wide open, the well-entrenched Germans were able to use their weapons with great effect. The Calgary Highlanders suffered an extreme number of casualties in this action, in only a few hours.

On 23 and 24 October, seventy-eight soldiers, including three officers, were wounded. In addition, there were also twenty-four killed in action. Eighteen of these men who fell on the 23rd of October during “The Coffin Battle” are buried in Bergen op Zoom and Schoonselhof including: **Sebastian Mike**, Loaf Bergerson, Stanley Colquhoun, George Desbois, Omer Donelle, John Fryers, John Gurney, Klaine Harris, Walter Loranger, James MacKinnon, James McCafferty, Laughlin McIntosh, Patrick Mulhern, William Read, James Ryeane, Donald Stott, Theodore Taylor and Willard Zaste.

A Canadian intelligence officer wrote in the afternoon report of the 24th that the enemy in the Hoogerwaardpolder had been easily defeated by the Calgary Highlanders. Apparently, he was not aware of the actual number of casualties and the details of the operation. He predicted that the next objective, the Lindonk, was only lightly held and that there would be little resistance. The office would not have been more wrong!

The final attack on Lindonk was undertaken very carefully at 0800 hrs on 27 October as a success with the task of the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade being finally fulfilled.

Thanks to Robert Catsburg for this research.





# The Very First RSM

## Warrant Officer Class I A.H. Ferguson (1910 – 1913) - 103rd Rifles

### Regimental Number 103-011

In 1877, Alex “Fergy” Ferguson was born in Scotland. He joined the Imperial Army in 1894 before coming to Canada in 1909. In 1896 he saw active duty on the Indian frontier at Rawal Pindi with the First Battalion, Gordon Highlanders under Sir Ian Hamilton. After fighting through the Tira Campaign (September 1897 – April 1898) and then was transferred to the Second Battalion.

Ferguson was also a South African veteran, having gone through the war under General White and saw active service around Ladysmith with the Second Gordon Highlanders, returning to India with the regiment and then finally back to Scotland in 1907.

He fought through the South Africa War, 1899 – 1902 and took part in the following operations:

- ◆ Operations in Natal, 1899, including actions at Elandstaagle (21 October), and Lombards Kop (29 October);
- ◆ Defence of Ladysmith, including action of January 1900;
- ◆ Operations in Natal, March to June, 1900, including actions at Laing’s Nek, 6-9 June;
- ◆ Operations in Transval east of Pretoria, July to 29 November 1900, including actions at Belfast (26 and 27 August 1900), and Lydenberg (5-8 September);
- ◆ Operations in Transvaal, west of Pretoria, July to 29 November 1900; and
- ◆ Operations in Transvaal between 30 November 1900 and 31 May 1902.

He was also the recipient of the Indian Frontier Medal with two clasps, Queens South African Medal with 3 clasps and the King’s South African Medal with 2 clasps.



The Calgary Herald

For a brief time, he lived in the United States, taking a 15-month course in physical training at Battle Creek, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois. He then became the YMCA Physical Training Director in Temple, Texas and then in San Diego, California.

He moved to Canada in 1909, joining the 103rd Regiment (Calgary Rifles). He was a member of the



Guard of Honour for Her Majesty, Queen Victoria on two occasions and also for the Duke of Cambridge’s visit to Balmoral Castle as well as taking part of the Coronation Contingent in 1911.

In September of 1910 he was appointed as the



Physical Training Instructor for the Calgary School Board and also assumed responsibility for cadet training in City Schools. Many schools at that time had their own cadet corps.

The first indoor ranges were constructed in the basement of Haultain School in 1910 with some other shooting conducted at the old armouries on 14th Avenue East, near the Elbow River.



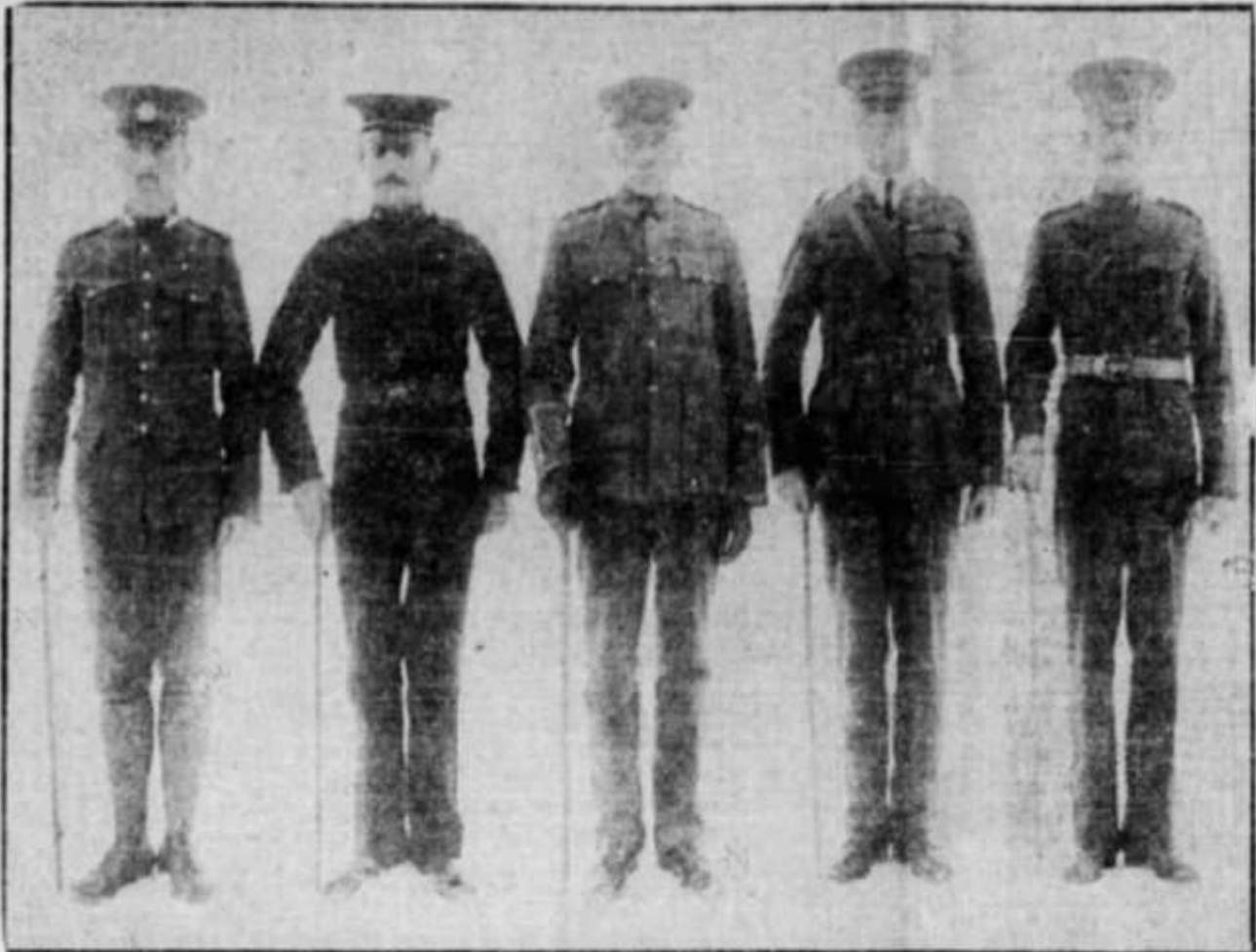
Calgary Herald



In 1913, Ferguson directed the Calgary cadet rifle team at the competition in Ottawa, winning the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA) Championship and receiving the Anderson Trophy and the Pellatt Inter Provincial Match Trophy. So impressed was Colonel Anderson with the Calgary team, that he promised that if the team won the trophy again the following year, they could take the cup back to Calgary and hold it outright. They did so and the cup remained from 1914 to at least 1931 as the senior trophy for open range competition.

The Militia in Canada was steadily growing in the light of the new reforms. Officers were not just joining for the many social aspects of the job, but also attended the Militia Staff Course that would prepare them to be effective leaders and administrators. In July 1914, some 60,000 soldiers attended two week long summer camps. The next month, Canada found itself at war when Britain entered hostilities in Europe so when the Canadian Expeditionary Force battalions were being raised in Calgary, he decided to remain with the 103rd stating *"He can do more good in Calgary instructing officers' classes and training than ever he could over there in France. On active service he could only do one soldier's part, while here he would be hard to replace"*. He was then commissioned to the rank of Captain.

## 103rd Regiment Military School Instructors



Sergeant Instructor F. C. S. Loft us. R. C. R., Color Sergeant J. Auger, 103rd Regiment; Colonel E. A. Cruikshank, D. O. C., M. D. 13, who personally supervised the school and gave lectures to the officers; Sergeant-Major A. H. Ferguson (W. O.), 103rd Regiment and Color Sergeant W. M. Sage, 103rd Regiment.

### The Calgary Herald 31 October 1914

The 103rd Regiment (Calgary Rifles) maintained its part time status, gathering weekly in its Drill Hall and providing soldiers for posting to other full time employment in Canada and overseas. One of its tasks was to raise and train recruits for the deploying force. Under the mobilization scheme in place, the 103rd Regiment was not slated to go overseas as a unit of its own. Individuals were able to serve in the many battalions of the CEF ( 10th, 56th, 82nd, etc.) that were raised in Alberta while the Calgary Rifles remained as a high profile organization in the small city of Calgary during its brief existence. Weekly parades were advertised in the Calgary Herald (the mainstream city newspaper), and shooting competitions, balls, and other social events were carried out in the public eye. The entire city was aware of this military presence and it was not uncommon to know a soldier in person.





Ferguson was an amazing shot and an outstanding small arms instructor, being in charge of the 1914 Canadian Bisley rifle team.



## Did you know?

The current Cadet Marksmanship Program is a challenging and competitive sports program accessible to all cadets. It develops skills through superior training and Olympic-style competition. This fun and rewarding program is enjoyed by thousands of cadets every year. Cadets have the opportunity to participate in a series of competitions at the local level that culminate in provincial/territorial competitions and an annual National Cadet Marksmanship Championship. <https://www.armycadetleague.ca/>

After 28 years he was commended for “training 25,000 cadets” in marksmanship when the school board cadet training program was eliminated in 1938.



The Calgary Herald





He died on 09 Feb 1944 at the age of 67 but was not forgotten. As Captain Ferguson was responsible for building the outstanding physical training program in local schools, in 1972, a school was named for him at 1704 26 St SW in Calgary.



The school motto is “Making a World of Difference” and this is vividly illustrated in mural on the outside of the school. One of the school’s goals is to increase the students’ active participation in citizenship – both in the school and beyond.



“Promise” by Doug Driedger, 15’ x 60’ - 1995







## Message from 41 Canadian Brigade Group Col Mike Vernon, CD

### "Fortune Favours The Bold"

This summer, under the command of LCol Palmer, the 41 Canadian Brigade Group (41 CBG) Battle School successfully completed 14 individual courses. Combined the candidates and staff totaled over 430 personnel and conducted this training under COVID-19 conditions. A variety of force health protective measures were employed, including isolating as individual courses (cohorts) prior to beginning training and physical distancing whenever possible. No cases of COVID-19 were detected within the Battle School throughout the summer training. In all, 374 candidates passed their courses and have now returned to their respective units across 41 CBG. Congratulations to both candidates and staff on a job very well done!



Wearing their gas masks, candidates on a Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course enjoy a morning ruck march as part of their physical training (PT) program at the 41 Canadian Brigade Group Battle School.





# Clan of the Gallant Canadians Award Presentations



## Master Warrant Officer Paul Chagnon CD:

During his tenure with The Calgary Highlanders, MWO Chagnon had been a Platoon Second in Command and Company Sergeant Major of both 'A' and 'B' Companies. His quiet confident nature quickly won the trust of the officer and soldiers he worked with, establishing him as an extremely credible leader and mentor. Through his efforts MWO Chagnon elevated the leadership capacity within The Calgary Highlanders by consistently maintaining a high standard and coaching others to achieve it. His efforts lead to a number of soldiers completing leadership qualifications ensuring the unit could continue its growth.

MWO Chagnon was invested into the Order of The Clan of Gallant Canadians at the level of **Henchman**.

Unfortunately, he was forced to move out of province to maintain employment and the insignia was mailed to the MWO in lieu of a formal presentation due to COVID-19 restrictions.



**Why the Clan of the Gallant Canadians?** This title was first associated with the regiment in the poem GALLANT CANADIANS (To the 10th Battalion, C.E.F.) published in the Calgary Daily Herald on 10 September 1918. The title has since come to exemplify the actions of The Calgary Highlanders. The poem in its original form ends with the following verse-

**Gallant Canadians, well done, the world says:  
You fought and suffered in the war's early days.  
Historians will write as a nation to come;  
Democracy hails you for all you have done.**







## Soldier Skills “COVID Fitness Training”

**By Pte Damien Stanley**

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Canadian soil, it affected plans for not only the business and civilian communities, but also for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). While the CAF stood ready to provide much needed support where requested, it looked like individual summer train-

ruck marching for new recruits that would be taking their Basic Military Qualification. A balanced exercise regimen is an asset for those required to march under load, however, the best way to prepare for rucking is by getting out and rucking. At the end of May, Personnel Awaiting Training (PAT) Platoon was informed that the training focus for



Week 1: Pte(R)'s Tait, Zahlan, Kent, Pasloski, Abalo, Townsend, Fushtey, Dahl, Dunsire  
(Not pictured: Kitchen, Apejas, Stanley)

ing courses for the 2019-2020 training were in jeopardy. Luckily, the worst-case scenario was not realized, and the Calgary Highlanders were provided an opportunity to salvage some of the remainder of the training year, including a number of virtual training options for continued learning and connection. In addition, a physical fitness training plan was designed to maintain essential abilities and prepare for courses rescheduled before the end of summer.

A physical training plan was prepared for B Company (B Coy) to get some additional exposure to

June would be a series of loaded marches with increased weights and distance to be performed before the respected deadlines. The program was aimed to develop recruits' fitness to levels aligned with infantry in order to be prepared for upcoming courses (BMQ, DP1, etc.). All training was to be tracked and submitted using Strava or some other similar GPS tracking app.

Beginning in early June, members of PAT Platoon formed a Sunday Ruck Group that would follow social distancing guidelines and train together as a team to meet the benchmarks. Some members of





On 15 August 202, Calgary Highlanders Veteran, Corporal George Morasch addressed a group of spectators and VIPs at The Military Museums to mark the commemoration of seventy-five years since the cessation of fighting in the Pacific and VJ Day (Victory over Japan). He was asked to speak about his feelings/observations when VJ Day was announced and he was part of the army of occupation in Germany at the time. In response, George elaborated on his emotions when he first heard of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on 07 December 1941. At the age of 17, he was horrified that anyone could cause such devastation and wondered if one day he would have to stand up to these tyrants. George enlisted in Calgary AB on November 12th, 1942.

George spoke about his observations after the war, visiting Pearl Harbor as a tourist, with his wife Fern. He remarked as to the sadness that they felt and how it was necessary to pay his respects at the memorial. George and Fern spent their honeymoon in Hawaii and returned a number of times, always stopping to visit the memorial.

During the Second World War, Cpl Morasch went with the regiment to Normandy, landing there on the 6th day of July 1944. At the age of 21, he was wounded on Hill 67 near Caen and spent 23 days in a British Field Hospital at Bayeaux in Normandy, France.

Haunted by the memories of war, he did not speak of his experiences until he acquired the strength to return to Europe and visit the graves of his comrades with the help of his wife Fern Morasch. Since that time, he has become a spokesperson for the regiment and has been interviewed many times.

Sadly, his inseparable partner in life, Fern, passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at the age of 90 years.





# Field Training?

## Trading C7s for Webcams: Remote Training During COVID19

By Capt. Andrew Pittet

Surprise and flexibility are two of the Canadian Army's principles of war that also proved essential for military training during a global pandemic. Back in early March, soldiers of the Calgary Highlanders were busy packing toboggans in preparation for Exercise HIGHLAND STRIKE. However, the escalating severity of COVID19 meant that conventional exercises were no longer possible. Instead, C7s were traded for webcams as the unit quickly pivoted to a series of professional development sessions held remotely.



A screenshot 2Lt Johnson's lecture on Battalion Logistics from his time in the British Army (2Lt. Johnson pictured on the right wearing the orange safety vest)

The first was Exercise VIRTUAL HIGHLANDER held from May 22-24, 2020. Soldiers participated in a variety of lectures, including a class on Armored Fighting Vehicle recognition delivered by Sgt. Oliver. Social distancing also proved to be an effective way to practice radio procedure. Leaders created a simulated battlespace and sections practiced following the action and generating reports and returns. Finally, Maj (ret'd) Kent Griffiths gave a regimental history lesson from a room in his house that could be Military Museums exhibit given the amount of Calgary Highlander memorabilia.

Another professional development session was held on June 13, 2020 for officers and NCOs. A highlight was an urban operations lecture by Maj. Jayson Geroux from the Tactics School at CFB Gagetown. Maj. Geroux presented case studies on

urban fighting and demonstrated a near photographic memory while drawing unit dispositions at the Battle of Stalingrad on a whiteboard. 2Lt Johnson also gave a presentation on Battalion Logistics based on his prior service in the British Army and deployment to Iraq.

Although COVID19 meant soldiers had to physically distance, remote training allowed members to stay connected and continue developing skills. Officers, NCOs and soldiers stepped up to the challenge and lived up to Theodore Roosevelt's maxim to "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."





## Soldier Skills “COVID Fitness Training”

the group had started training previously and were able to share some of the lessons learned with the others, including proper fitting and loading of a ruck sack, foot care, and pacing. As the weeks progressed, the group found themselves looking forward to the weekend training and found that their mental and physical strength improved. The second weekend of training saw

mands of infantry required them to push past their limits began to plan additional challenges. After the end of the formal training sessions, the group decided to continue training on their own and hike Mount Lady MacDonald. The weather and visibility were good, offering spectacular views of the valleys below and rewards for their efforts over the past few weeks.



Week 4: Back Row – Pte(R)’s Tait, Fushtey, Kent, Zahlan, (Zahlan’s friend)  
Front Row – Pte(R)’s Nemish, Townsend, Dahl, Kitchen, Stanley, Dunsire

significant rainfall that only helped to fortify the commitment the group made to one another. The social connections were also appreciated after several weeks of isolation. At the end, everyone gained the ability to push past their previous limits and learned that aches and pains would soon subside.

During the rucks, everyone excitedly discussed the possibility of going to BMQ and the skills they hoped to gain. The group recognized that the de-

When the weekly ruck exercise started, everyone understood that they would be setting out to improve their physical conditioning. In the end, everyone appreciated that the benefits went beyond their expectations.

When the weekly ruck exercise started, everyone understood that they would be setting out to improve their physical conditioning. In the end, everyone appreciated that the benefits went beyond their expectations.







# Field Training?



Calgary Highlanders officers and senior NCOs during a weekly Commanding Officer Orders group.

Top Row (left to right): Capt. Hill, Capt. Pittet, Maj MacKillop  
2<sup>nd</sup> Row from Top: Maj. Beauchamp, CWO Fedoruk, MWO Moreau  
3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Capt. Fletcher, MWO Evans, LCol Palmer  
4<sup>th</sup> Row: Capt. Peabody, MWO Chagnon

It is anticipated that this type of training will continue post-COVID, in some form or another as there is value in reaching out to those unable to attend on-site events. Virtual parades for the Regimental Birthday and The Battle of Walcheren Causeway were also conducted this past year with great success considering the alternative of no event at all. Embracing technology is the future of the Canadian Armed Forces and likewise, the regiment strives to exploit Microsoft Teams and pre-recorded presentations.





# Who are those Masked Men?







# Train to Retain

Right- MCpl Tong (near) and Sgt Oliver provide last minute instructions in front of building BB599 in Wainwright before heading out to the ranges.



Below- Action shots from Exercise Highland Strike 21 March 2021 that show preparation for Exercise Combined Grizzly that will take place on 9-11 April 2021.







# BLAST FROM THE PAST

Circa 2000 or early 2001 , in preparation for training south of the border, some familiar characters pose in the training area on the East end of the HMCS Tecumseh lot. Highlanders: Reaper, Waddell, and Beauchamp are among the group. This was a FIBUA (Fighting In Built Up Areas) training exercise . The US Army calls it MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain), but Reserves just call it FISH (Fighting in Someone's House).

Below are some photos of recent Urban operations training on the Mewata Armoury drill floor.



## Mortars and Masks. Somethings never change...



Wearing a gas mask carrier pouch is nothing new to the regiment.





# 2nd year winner of the Lt Gov Award



## The most proficient unit in Alberta

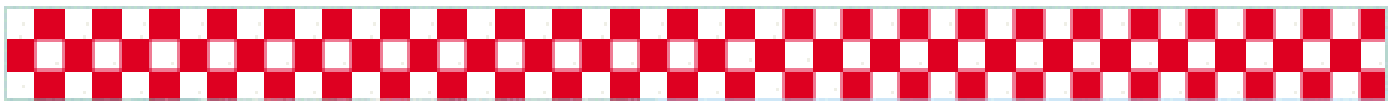
Congratulations for a job well done by all this past training year. All the efforts at getting as many Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) milestones completed has resulted in the Regiment being awarded the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Trophy for the second year in a row. This award recognizes the top Regiment in 41 Brigade. As the troops begin again to requalify and pass the annual C7 PWT (personal weapons testing) with last years qualifications expiring, the challenge is out to complete the same on the quest to repeat this accomplishment!



## The New Lieutenant Governor of Alberta

Salma Lakhani was installed as Alberta's 19th Lieutenant Governor on August 26, 2020. Her longstanding service as a community leader and volunteer has been guided by her deep commitment to the values of pluralism and inclusion and her dedication to championing those who face barriers in life. Her Honour was born and raised in Kampala, Uganda and became a stateless person in 1972 when the country's entire Asian minority population was expelled.





# Annual Awards

As there was no St Julien's Dinner, the awards were presented individually, as the recipients were available to parade in person.

**Ensigns Award** – Capt Hill

**JVH Milvain Trophy** – Most proficient non-combat arms Jr NCO: MCpl Ossipov

**CWO Marty McCumber Award** – Outstanding Service to Regiment: HCol Currie

**LCol Mark Tennant Trophy** – Top Shots:

Cpl McPherson    Cpl Leboldus  
Cpl Nistuk        Cpl Silchmuller

**LCol Hughes Trophy** – Most Proficient Bandsman: Cpl Andres

**Overseas Battalion Award** – Most proficient combat arms Jr NCO: MCpl Wilcox

**Waterhouse Award** – MCpl Fisher

**Sgt Miller Trophy** – Most proficient Sgt: Sgt Oliver

**Most Explosive Soldier** – As selected by the Honours & Awards Committee: Cpl Lazaro

## Did you know?

The Waterhouse Award, presented to the most deserving Junior Ranks member, was made from an oak table rescued from the Mewata Officers Mess and converted into two plaques. One plaque represents the infantry trade badge and also includes the FNC1 bayonet that was carried by WO Waterhouse during the 1990 trooping of the colours. The other holds the names of recipients on brass name plates.



MCpl McKillop receives the award from WO Turnbull in 2004



Sgt Lodge has successfully transferred from the Governor Generals Foot Guards to The Calgary Highlanders. This photo shows him being presented with his Balmoral. His transition from Foot Guard to Highlander is now complete.



MCpl Van Andel, who works in the Battalion Orderly Room (BOR) and is a Supply Tech by trade, has chosen to hang up her generic Canadian Army uniform and will now be wearing the highland attire of the Calgary Highlanders. The CO and RSM presented her with a Tam O'Shanter (TOS) head dress.





**2Lt Mitch Walz  
(former corporal)  
was promoted on Feb  
17th 2021.**

**The following Commissioning Scroll wording defines the delegated authority  
and duty entrusted in Commissioned Officers:**

*WE reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and Integrity do by these Presents  
Constitute and Appoint you to be an Officer in our Canadian Armed Forces. You are therefore carefully  
and diligently to discharge your Duty as such in the Rank of Second Lieutenant or in such other Rank as  
We may from time to time hereafter be pleased to promote or appoint you to, and you are in such man-  
ner and on such occasions as may be prescribed by us to exercise and well discipline both the Inferior  
Officers and Non-Commissioned Members serving under you and use your best endeavour to keep them  
in good Order and Discipline, and We do hereby Command them to Obey you as their Superior Officer,  
and you to observe and follow such Orders and Directions as from time to time you shall receive from Us,  
or any other your Superior Officer according to Law, in pursuance of the Trust hereby Reposed in you.*

**2Lt Walz was Commissioned from the Ranks, meaning that he possessed the military experience and  
personal qualities required for service as an officer.**





Major Fletcher  
was promoted  
on 17 February  
2021

**Rank of Major:** Historically, the rank between captain and colonel was "Major". It is of French/Latin origin indicating a higher degree of authority than the rank of captain since "Major" from the word *magnus* means "something greater". The term was originally used adjectivally in the title sergeant major, the third principal officer in a regiment. In the 16th and 17th centuries there was a similarity between the duties of the sergeant, sergeant major, and sergeant major general in that they attended to the drill and administration of a company, a regiment, and an army, respectively. Sergeant major was abbreviated to major and sergeant major general to major general. The NCO title sergeant major was introduced in the British service early in the 18th century.





# Museum Update

Connecting the Regimental Family with its Heritage



Major (Ret'd) Kent Griffiths  
Curator

Work continues in the face of the epidemic, with plans to replace the “Brooding Soldier” display with an exhibit to represent the Cold War period of regimental history. This will include a 106mm recoilless rifle mounted on a jeep, explanation of the roles and associated training and equipment that were assigned to the unit post Second World War, and inclusion of the Armoured Fighting Vehicles that were used by the Calgary Highlanders in the 1980s and 1990s. This will incorporate the United Nations Peacekeeping and NATO exercises as well as the domestic atmosphere at the regiment. That being said, we are looking for interesting photographs, artifacts, and stories to ensure that the newest exhibit will be as complete as possible.

Research also carries on, as do the many archives activities. There have been no real delays in responding to requests for information and digitization of documents and photos persists.

After months of toil, the museum has finally received accreditation from the Alberta Museum Association. Institutions designated as Recognized Museum Leaders contribute to a culture of dynamic learning and creativity among Alberta's museums and museum professionals. These institutions give back to other museums by sharing their knowledge and experience.

One exciting new concept that is being applied is the *Virtual Museum Tour*. Partnering with Valour Canada, a 3-D interactive visit to the regimental gallery is underway. It will include links to audio and video clips, detailed historic information, trivia, and the ability to view European battlefields as they are today. It is expected that the first release of the interactive tour will be available to the public as early as the spring of 2021. This program will enable students from across Canada to visit the museum. It will also let seniors, who are unable to leave their homes, to engage with this fantastic gallery and will entice others to come see the “real thing” when they are in the area.

The Museum is also driving the writing of a new **regimental history book** that will encompass the origin with the 103rd Regiment, touch on the First and Second World Wars, and complete the story up to the present day. Cpl Michael Dorosh has been engaged as the author. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Calgary Highlanders Museum has been following the direction of The Military Museums in regard to hours of operation. The museums have been closed for periods of up to two months at a time as the Province of Alberta instituted Public Health Measures to limit the spread of the virus. The application of restricted numbers, physical distancing, sanitization, masking, and directed routing were also utilized. 🍁

**You can assist by donating documents, uniforms and other artifacts to the museum.**  
**If you have materials to donate, please email us to arrange an appointment.**  
[museum@calgaryhighlanders.com](mailto:museum@calgaryhighlanders.com)





# Robbie Burns Supper

The Coronavirus was not going to curtail some form of celebration from happening in 2021. Unfortunately, the Province of Alberta and the Army were not in any position to support the gathering of hundreds of folks in tartan to consume whisky in close quarters, so we looked for other options.

It was with serendipity that the University of Glasgow's Centre for Robert Burns Studies invited us to participate in a unique, virtual, and global celebration of Burns Night by sharing pictures of our supper on social media using the hashtag #VirtualBurnsNight. The goal of the endeavour was to turn this year's Burns Night into an unprecedented, online, and global feast, fighting the pandemic blues whilst celebrating Burns with images of joy from across the seas.



Accepting the challenge, a COVID friendly Burns event was executed via Zoom Meeting, with a few civilian friends, a couple veterans and a retired major (addressing the haggis). The agenda also included the Selkirk Grace, readings of Burns poetry, Toasts, the immortal memory of Robbie Burns, and the banter between the Lassies and the Laddies.

Prior to the commencement of the Zoom Meeting, Griffiths cooked and delivered Alberta prime rib roast beef, McEwans haggis, carrots, neeps and tatties to the all of the participants (except the one who was seven hours away in Grande Prairie Alberta). Together they enjoyed the music, food and drink in virtual harmony, with each and all of the participants contributing to the agenda's activities.







# Machine Gun Course 2020

The Calgary Highlanders graduated the newest class of qualified Machine Gunners on Sunday, 21 March 2021, as the Infantry Basic Machine Gunner (IBMG) Course 0067 wrapped up with two days of live fire ranges in Suffield, Alberta. Seventeen Calgary Highlanders and eight members of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (not pictured) completed the final range shoot in Suffield between 19-21 March, which included C6 sustained firing (SF) PWT 1-3 range applications and tactical employment of the C6 in the sustained role.



The 17 Calgary Highlander candidates are as follows: Pte Celis-Guevara, Pte Aguilar, Pte Kennedy, Pte Adu-Boahen, Pte Pasishnek, Pte Castro, Cpl Williams, Cpl Campbell, Cpl Kiddell, Cpl Arndt, Cpl Khalil, Cpl Nilson, Cpl Massarotto-Hinojosa, Cpl Watson, Cpl Fisher, Cpl Layug, and Cpl Campusano.

The candidates were supported by their dedicated course staff: Sgt Lodge (A Coy), Sgt Oliver (A Coy – not pictured), MCpl Huynh (A Coy), MCpl Sargent (A Coy), MCpl Green (B Coy), MCpl Janzen (B Coy), Course Warrant WO Malenfant, and Course Officer Lt Sabo-Walsh.



The C6, 7.62-mm Medium Machine Gun is a fully-automatic, air-cooled, gas- and spring-operated machine gun that is belt-fed. Restricted to firing in full-automatic mode from the open bolt position, the C6 machine gun can fire from 750 to 1100 rounds per minute. This machine gun can be carried by dismounted soldiers to provide either fire support or **sustained fire** on a tripod mount (left). The C2 sight is used in conjunction with an aiming post to allow the crew to engage targets they cannot see due to fog, smoke or darkness. The C6 is light enough to be carried and used by soldiers on a variety of operations or may be vehicle-mounted.





## For a Laugh or Two...



A young guardsman is on duty at the Buckingham Palace gate. The RSM walks up to him and says, "Right lad, the Queen is out on public duties and I want to know the minute she gets back here. Do you understand? The minute she's back you let me know."

"Yes sir " says the young guardsman.

Ten minutes later a big limousine pulls in through the gates, the guardsman stops the car, pops his head in and says, " 'Scuse me ma'am are you the Queen?"

The lady inside replies, "No, I'm princess Ann."

The guard braces himself up and says, "Ok, sorry to delay you ma'am, please proceed."

The next limo pulls in and he sticks his head in the window. For a second time, he asks, " pardon me ma'am, would you happen to be the Queen?"

"No, I'm princess Margaret" is the response.

The guard apologizes, "All right, I'm sorry to delay you ma'am, proceed."

A third long black car drives in and once again, he sticks his head in the window asking, " 'Scuse me ma'am, are you the Queen?"

"Yes, I'm the Queen".

"Right" he says, "Well, you'd best make yourself scarce love 'cos the RSM is lookin' for you!"







# Faces of the Regiment



In November of 2020, Pte EM Tran Leschart, Pte WS Pasishnek, and Pte Adu Boahen received their the Regimental headdress and coins upon completion of their DP1 Infantry qualifications. The Tam O'Shanter (TOS) hats identify them as trained Highland infantry soldiers.



The numbered Regimental coins are donated by the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association.



# CHRFF / HCoI



For this issue of the Glen, I am honoured to be able to voice some topics that are on my mind.

Our Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel Ryan Palmer's term will be coming to a close at our Change of Command ceremony on June 6, 2021. LCol Palmer, although one of the youngest CO's in our regiment's history, has made great strides with the regiment, achieving the highest operational tempo since Canada's involvement in Afghanistan. In 2020 alone, a total of 30 soldiers were deployed on international operations and 70 soldiers were deployed in domestic operations. His leadership, with its emphasis on leader development, personnel readiness, and the completion of Individual Battle Task Standards, galvanized the unit to win the Lieutenant Governor's award for most proficient unit in 41 Canadian Brigade Group for two years in a row.

Over the last year, LCol Palmer also faced the challenges of the worst pandemic in 100 years, but he devised novel solutions to carry out training through a mix of virtual and physical presence and he ensured that his soldiers maintained a strong engagement and readiness. He also established a presence in Lethbridge overseeing the addition of six new members to our Calgary Highlander sub-unit and the integration of the 20th Independent Field Battery's training into the Calgary Highlanders' program.

In Calgary, LCol Palmer directed the building and manning of B Coy as a separate and capable sub-unit with its own mandates to oversee the Mortar Platoon, Personnel Awaiting Training, Recruiting and the Regimental Pipes & Drums. In addition to his Highlander's responsibilities, in April 2020, he took



Photo by Lee Villiger

command of the Territorial Defence Battalion. He worked with 41 Canadian Brigade Group to build a team of 350 people, including many Highlanders, who performed a wide range of domestic operations. And that summer, he was the CO of 41 Brigade Battle School in Wainwright, AB. Training output exceeded flanking by 50 percent and included 374 individual basic and occupational course completions. All this was achieved without incurring any COVID cases!

His personal life was also very busy as Lieutenant -





# CHRRF / HCol

Continued

Colonel Palmer helped his wife Lisa raise their two children. With what little time left in his schedule after completing his Bachelor of Education Degree at the University of Calgary, he also started a new career in teaching. He now teaches at Foothills Composite High School in Okotoks where, never backing down from a challenge, he has been teaching seven different subjects from Phys Ed to Computer Science.

It is the end of an era for us all with the passing of Honorary Colonel Bob Gibson. He grew up in a number of small towns in Alberta, and was an officer cadet with the Royal Canadian Navy. After graduating from the University of Alberta, he pursued a career in real estate development. Ranching was one of Honorary Colonel Gibson's passions and he and his wife Brigitte enjoyed the time they spent at their Bobtail Ranch in Penticton, BC where they raised Angus cattle.

As our Honorary Colonel, he was always engaged with the troops at regimental events and exercises. He also led the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Funds Foundation (CHRRF). In 2003, Honorary Colonel Gibson met our Colonel in Chief, Queen Elizabeth II, in the company of CO Lt. Colonel Lee Villiger and RSM, Kent Griffiths. After a serious discussion about regimental issues, the conversation in the group switched to an equally serious discussion on cattle ranching and the breakout of Mad Cow Disease in Canada at the time.

Jack Whyte was Regimental Bard of The Calgary Highlanders from the early 1990s until his passing on February, 22 2021. He was best known as a fic-

tion writer and his novels achieved Canadian Best Seller status. His tribute to the Battle of Walcheren Causeway, entitled, "Hallowe'en 1944", written and performed by Jack, became our signature Calgary Highlander poem. He also honoured the Tenth Battalion's efforts at The Battle of St. Julien by writing the words to the music from the pipe tune "The Black Bear".

On March 3rd, 2018, Mister Whyte was the guest of honour of the largest ball in the regiment's history: the 69th Grand Highland Military Ball, hosted by myself and Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Brian Parker and chaired by Dr. Gregory Stone. Though unable to attend the Ball honouring him, Mister Whyte made an important recording of his poem, "The Kandahar Campaign" which was unveiled that evening. The poem delves deeply into the experience of Calgary's Infantry Regiment soldiers on deployment in Afghanistan and was developed through multiple interviews with Calgary Highlander soldiers and officers. This recording is available today on the Calgary Highlanders Website.

Below is a tribute to Jack Whyte from Dr. Greg Stone:

*Mister Whyte's passing marks the departure of a talented writer, performer, artist and educator as well as an ardent supporter of Calgary's Infantry Regiment and a familiar and friendly participant at mess dinners, balls and regimental events. But great artists never truly die; they instead become their work, and their memory adopts the permanence of their effort's impact. What Jack Whyte gave to the Calgary Highlanders through his writing is a piece of his own, and now eternal, presence by capturing*



# CHRRFF / HCoI

Continued



*some of the Regiment's most harrowing undertakings and casting them in the emotive, inspiring and intensely human frame they merit. He is survived by his words, and this immense legacy he has shared with our soldiers, veterans, and families who may better find themselves there in verse, than in the often too-sterile histories his poetry reflects upon. This gift – of a life, work and mind – is without parallel, and will undoubtedly and ultimately outlast us all.*

Finally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was necessary to cancel our 2021 Grand Highland Military Ball. We do look forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel for the 72nd Grand Highland Military Ball.

**\*Editor's Note:** Having Honourary Colonel Lauchlan Currie provide an article for this magazine is an important component of reflecting the entire regimental family and provides a perspective from a very special person who has been selected to afford stewardship, guidance and professional advice from the viewpoint of a leader of industry.

It is with genuine thanks that this article is published, especially due to the incredibly demanding schedule of the Honourary Colonel / Chair of the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Funds Foundation.



## The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Funds Foundation

Founded in 1982 under the Companies Act, the Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of former serving officers and prominent civilian members who are supportive of the Regimental Family.

The Foundation has no staff so it relies on the volunteers from within the Regimental Family to organize and run fundraising events which benefit the Foundation and ultimately the Regimental Organizations from soldier and veteran assistance to the Pipes and Drums and the Museum.

The major fundraising event organized each year is the Grand Highland Military Ball held in the spring of each year. This event brings awareness to the needs of the Regiment to the Calgary Community who support the event by their attendance and generous donations to the Foundation.

[chrff@calgaryhighlanders.com](mailto:chrff@calgaryhighlanders.com)







# We Shall Remember Them

## HCol Bob Gibson

### HCol Robert James Sinclair Gibson, CLJ, MMLJ (August 2001-2010)

Robert J.S. (Bob) Gibson was born in Bentley, Alberta, in 1946, the eldest son of a homesteader farming near Rocky Mountain House, and was raised in a number of Alberta towns. By his fifth birthday, Gibson's father had become employed with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs as a farming instructor, and the family of six moved to High Prairie.



His childhood included activities with Cubs, Scouts, and sports teams, as well as service with the King's Own Calgary Regiment's cadet corps in Gleichen. Gibson graduated from Bow Valley Central High School in Cluny, Alberta, and joined the Royal Canadian Navy as an officer cadet. After his initial year at the University of Alberta, he worked for several years as a surveyor in the seismograph industry throughout western Canada. After leaving seismic, he returned to the University of Alberta for another year and became a realtor, later joining Southland Canada and becoming district sales manager for 31 7-Eleven stores. Becoming involved in real estate development led to a stint as area manager for Western Realty Projects with responsibility for southern Alberta.

In 1976 he accepted a position as president of United Management Ltd., and ultimately managing director of Alsten Holdings, Ltd., the holding company of the Singer family of Calgary, where he still serves. In 1986, Mr. Gibson acquired the Bobtail Ranch in Penticton, B.C., where he raises a commercial herd and pedigree Angus cattle with his wife, Brigitte. His other interests have included sailing, flying, and the military, and he is a certified offshore sailor, fixed wing and helicopter pilot.

He has served as honorary lieutenant-colonel of the 15th (Edmonton) Medical Company, and assumed the same position with the Calgary Highlanders on 8 August 2001. That December, he assumed the position of honorary colonel with the regiment. Mr. Gibson sits on a number of committees related to the Army Reserve and is active in many charitable works through the Order of St. Lazarus as well as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program. He has two sons and three daughters.

Honourary Colonel (ret'd) Bob Gibson passed away at his ranch in the Okanagan. He was with his family and friends and remained lucid and amusing until the end. Considering he was given 3 months to live almost 18 months ago, he was able to enjoy his time left. With the current virus crisis, it's assumed a memorial will be held at the conclusion of the restrictions, with one in Calgary and one in Penticton B.C. 🍁



# We Shall Remember Them

## LCol Vince O'Connor

LCol Henry Vincent O'Connor passed away on 20 March 2021 at the age of 91 years.

Born in 1929, he began his military career while attending St. Mary's High School when he joined the Royal Canadian Army Cadets. After three years in cadets he became a cadet instructor with the 19th Alberta Dragoons, and entered the law program at the University of Alberta. He was commissioned into the Civilian Instructor's List (renamed in recent years as the Cadet Instructor Cadre) on 10 April 1950, later becoming an Officer Cadet with the Militia. Upon graduation with degrees in Art and Law, O'Connor joined the King's Own Calgary Regiment, but had to resign in December 1952 while articling for the Alberta Bar.



He was admitted to the bar in June 1952 and established his practice. He joined the Calgary Highlanders in 1953 as an Officer Cadet and was commissioned Second Lieutenant on 28 February 1956. He held most regimental appointments, serving as adjutant for many years under Lieutenant-Colonels Tennant, Lewis and Wagg.

The Calgary Highlanders witnessed many difficult episodes in the 1960s; as the Vietnam War caused a decline in public interest and respect for the military in the United States, and in Canada, the Militia found itself challenged in many ways. The role of the unit changed from infantry to emphasize re-entry operations and aid to the civil power. A pilot project resulted in the loss of Regimental Headquarters and unit identity, the regiment lost the right to wear traditional Highland dress, the Pipes and Drums were disbanded along with outlying companies throughout southern Alberta, and throughout what little remained there were reductions in strength and equipment and massive pay cuts.

LCol Vince O'Connor persevered and navigated the Regiment through some of its toughest times and will be remembered fondly for years to come.







# We Shall Remember Them

## Maj Brian Nelson

On Tuesday, January 5th, 2021, Major (Retired) Brian C. Nelson, CD of Wainwright, AB passed away from COVID-19 in the Mazankowski Heart Institute at the UofA Hospital in Edmonton. Brian will be greatly missed by his wife Janis, his children Geordie and Chloe as well as all of his friends with the Calgary Highlanders.

Brian was born January 30th, 1964 in New Glasgow, NS. Brian always smiled when someone asked where he was from because his family moved across Canada many times (including Leduc, Bolton, and Calgary); though he always said Alberta felt like home.



Brian was very proud of his military service; he often spoke of the summers he taught sailing with cadets. After graduating high school, he joined the Calgary Highlanders and was later commissioned as a reserve force officer. In 1989 Brian was then commissioned as a regular force officer in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Continuing with his tradition of moving frequently, Brian was posted to St. Catharines, ON, where both of his children were born. Then after another short time in Calgary, he moved to Ottawa where his young family created many fond memories together. His last posting brought the family back to Alberta again, where they settled in Wainwright. In 2009 Brian retired from the military and joined the public service. Most recently, he enjoyed his work as a manager with the Canadian Forces Housing Agency.

Brian lived life passionately; his many interests included his heritage, his family, and the many friendships he built throughout his adventures. Brian sought to build beauty into this world and was known for the magnificent gardens he created in every home he lived in and the many trees he planted along the way. Brian connected with people over his love of history, politics, travel, and good food. He always gave back to the communities where he lived by volunteering his time, energy, and enthusiasm. He was deeply involved in his church and his relationship with Jesus Christ was the cornerstone of the values that guided his life.





# We Shall Remember Them

## Sgt Tony Poirier

Anthony (Tony) Poirier of Carbon, AB., passed away November 22, 2020 at the age of 71 years. Tony was born in Peace River, AB., January 27, 1949 the eldest child of Robert and Pauline Poirier. He was pre-deceased by his father and younger brother. Tony is survived by his loving wife, Shirley and were married for 50 years, his daughters Brenda & Debra-Lynn and grandsons Saul & Kieran, his mother Pauline and sisters Diane & Catherine.

As the Chief Clerk, Sgt. Poirier was an excellent mentor to many of the members of the Regiment. He was the best example of what a Regular Support Staff (RSS) soldier could be, and then, a fine Highlander. He treated all equally regardless of whether they were full or part-timers.

Cpl Dorosh noted, "One afternoon he took me into a room and in two hours I filled a notebook with his teachings on *how to be a clerk* - it was far more useful to me than the 3 weeks of my actual trades training."







# We Shall Remember Them



The Calgary Highlanders



Regimental Association



## In Memory of Kevin Quebec

A former member of the Calgary Highlanders  
and an active member of the  
Regimental Association.

Kevin served honourably in the Regiment  
during the Cold War. He had many  
friends in both the Regiment and the  
Association and he will be missed by all.



# We Shall Remember Them

## Jack Whyte

Jack Whyte passed away at the Kelowna Hospice House on February 22, 2021, with his wife of over 50 years, Beverley, at his side. He leaves to mourn his loss a large extended family. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be no service at this time. In lieu of flowers, to honour Jack's memory, read a good book, sip a great scotch, and/or make a donation of your choice. For more about his life or to leave condolences for the family please visit [www.springfieldfuneralhome.com](http://www.springfieldfuneralhome.com).

Our regimental bard, Jack Whyte, has been associated with the regiment for more than three decades, and though he no longer lived in Calgary, there was a time when he was justly well-known for entertaining the regiment's personnel at all levels and in all messes with a series of concert-style entertainments called *Songs and Poems of War and Empire*. He was best known as Canada's premier historical novelist, with many much-loved, bestselling, internationally published novels to his credit, detailing stories that range from post-Roman, 5th century Britain, through the rise and fall of the Knights Templar in the Middle Ages, and into the 14th century struggles of Scotland's greatest heroes, William Wallace and Robert the Bruce.

He was also intensely proud, however, of his association with the Calgary Highlanders, and most particularly of the three poems that he has written to mark the regiment's battle honours over the course of its first hundred years of existence. He performed *Kandahar*, the third and last of those poems, at the Calgary Garrison Ball in November 2010.

Jack was born and raised in Scotland but has lived in Canada since 1967. He had been an actor, orator, singer, poet, and businessman at various stages of his life, and he held an honorary doctorate of letters (PhD Litt) for his contribution to Canadian popular fiction. Jack Whyte passed away at the Kelowna Hospice House on February 22, 2021, with his wife of over 50 years, Beverley, at his side and his wishes to honour his memory were to read a good book and sip a great scotch.



Jack Whyte, regimental bard (2010)







# Faces of the Regiment



Newly promoted Sgt Ossipov is presented with his sash by the Commanding Officer and RSM.



Cpl Dean Pangracs and Katrina Hertzger were among the guests at the Grand Military Highland Ball

*Readers are encouraged to send in photos from all eras of the Unit's history in order that the museum archive may be expanded.*

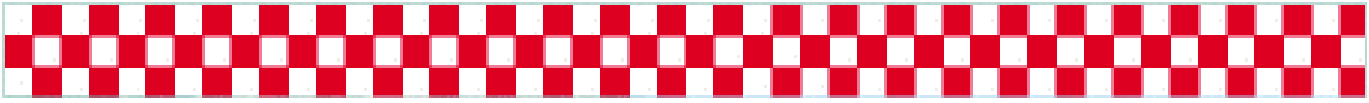
*Digital images may be sent to:  
[museum@calgaryhighlanders.com](mailto:museum@calgaryhighlanders.com)*

*Prints should be mailed to The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Association, Mewata Armoury, 801-11th St SW, Calgary, AB, T2P 2C4 (Attention: Glen Magazine).*

*Prints will be scanned and returned upon request.*

*When sending photos, don't forget to include information on who/what, when and where.*





## Glenbow Archives PA-2925-5



This archive photo depicts Calgary Highlanders boxers from the 2nd World War era (1940-1945).

Back row: Martinek (Edmonton), TW McCumsey, Rogginsak, and A Tanghe.

Front row: Estes, and RA Macdonald.



RSM Davey Boyer excelled in numerous sports, but boxing was his first love and while in the service, he was lightweight champ of Western Command.



**Sgt Thomas Joseph Kenny was the coach of the Calgary Highlanders boxing team after the 2nd World War and in 1987 he was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame.**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bzcbhof/permalink/525991574094497>

## Did You Know?

In 1980, Calgary Highlander Cadet Warrant Officer Rolland Chapin, **an excellent boxer**, champion wrestler, and a star pupil at school, was selected to be Parade Commander at the Vernon Army Cadet Camp, in British Columbia, for the Freedom of the City Parade in honour of the one hundredth anniversary of the formation of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets. He also won the 'Silver Sword Award' (as the best among no fewer than 1,600 who attended courses at Vernon), the Western Command Trophy, and a cup as the best in his Company (the Cadet Leader Instructors' Course). Later that year, he took part in a Cadet Exchange visit to Great Britain and was awarded a bursary to cover one year's tuition to any university in Western Canada.



# The 71st Grand Military Highland Ball

## On 29 February at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel...

“Deployment 2020” was the theme of this year’s ball, recognizing the deployment of 25 soldiers to Latvia as part of the Canadian-led NATO Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group, with additional soldiers representing Canada in Iraq (3), Ukraine (1) and Kuwait (1). This was the unit’s largest deployment since Afghanistan. The ball raised an impressive \$150,000, the most-ever raised in the event’s history, ensuring the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Funds Foundation’s (CHRFF) continued support for the Regiment’s serving soldiers, veterans and their families. The foundation enables the ongoing preservation of the regiment’s traditions and history through the Regimental Pipes and Drums and the Regiment’s gallery at the Military Museums.

Hosting the ball this evening was HCol Lauchlan Currie and HLCOL Brian Parker who are also chair and vice-chair of the foundation respectively.

Highlights this night included: the Calgary Girls Choir BRAVA Ensemble’s rendition of Amazing Grace followed by Ode to Freedom and then We are the Dreamers.

Guests were also entertained by musical performances from the Regimental Pipes and Drums along with the Regiment’s affiliated cadet unit—2137 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Pipes and Drums, the spirited singing of the Glenwhorple, and dancing to the popular music of the Dino Martinis.



Volunteers from 2137 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps were the first point of contact, providing a great highland welcome to all participants.







Perpetuating the traditional side of the evening, Scottish Country Dancing was enjoyed by all. The food was excellent and the company was even better. All framed in the classic ambiance of the Fairmont Palliser Hotel, participants experienced history, culture, and a wee dram o' whisky. 🍁



Master of Ceremonies, Maj Beauchamp shares a jovial word with Michelle Nikkel. Capt Pittet leads the group in Glenwhorple. Chief of the Clan, HCol (ret'd) Fred Mannix smiles with satisfaction. Maj (ret'd) Griffiths addresses the haggis.





## The Regimental *Pipes and Drums*

Once again, the Pipes and Drums were the highlight of the Grand Highland Military Ball. Amazing music, impeccable drill, and dashing uniforms made the event a great success. The “icing on the cake” was the team of highland dancers who mesmerized the attendees and inspired a thunderous applause.





The Regimental Pipes and Drums felt very fortunate and honoured to have been able to participate at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Field of Crosses this year. It was cold and the pipes suffered a bit but Pipe Sergeant, Corporal Knight played the lament beautifully. It was live broadcast on Global TV and was the most watched program of the year.



Congratulations to our very own Private Cole Chisholm for placing 2nd in the Grade 1 solo side drumming category during the World Online Piping and Drumming Championships! We are so fortunate to have Cole as a member of our organization and are proud of his achievements!

The World Online Piping & Drumming Championships attracted entries from all over the globe, including China, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Germany, the USA and Canada offering a dizzying array of events and awards, and even broke down lists into bands, associations and countries from which contestants were members or resided. Competitors had to submit video recordings of performances in line with each grade and event's requirements, and they were then assessed by a panel of international panel judges that featured some of the biggest names in the art. In an interesting twist, judges' comments were published publicly along with competitor videos.







# Cadets



These photos show the 2137 Royal Canadian Army Cadets (Calgary Highlanders) supporting the 2020 Grand Highland Military Ball at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel. **Outstanding!**





## 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 2021 is to send us your annual dues of \$15.00 (Box A) or pay in person at the Kit Shop Mewata. If you are not an existing member and wish to become one, please complete the application form (Box B) and attach the 2021 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

2021 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 Funds Foundation 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 (2021)

☐

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 Calgary Highlander Veteran (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



# THE CALGARY HIGHLANDERS

(10th Bn. C.E.F.) Canadian Active Service Forces.  
Commanded by LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. FRED SCOTT

# RECRUITS WANTED

This Battalion is being mobilized to Service Strength. Recruits must be BRITISH SUBJECTS between the ages of 18 years and 45 years, and must comply with physical requirements.

**Rates of Pay \$1.30 per day**  
with Separation and Dependents' allowance.

Recruits reaching the physical standard required will be taken on strength and, from date of attestation, will receive pay and allowances, together with transportation from place of examination to Calgary.

LEAVE CAN BE ARRANGED TO PERMIT COMPLETION OF HARVEST JOBS.

**CANADA NEEDS YOU IN THIS CRISIS**

This is **YOUR** chance to Serve Your Country.

An Officer of The Calgary Highlanders will be at \_\_\_\_\_  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1939, to receive recruits.

MAJOR J. H. BEATTY,  
O.C. Regimental Depot  
Room 50, the Calgary Armouries



GOD SAVE THE KING.