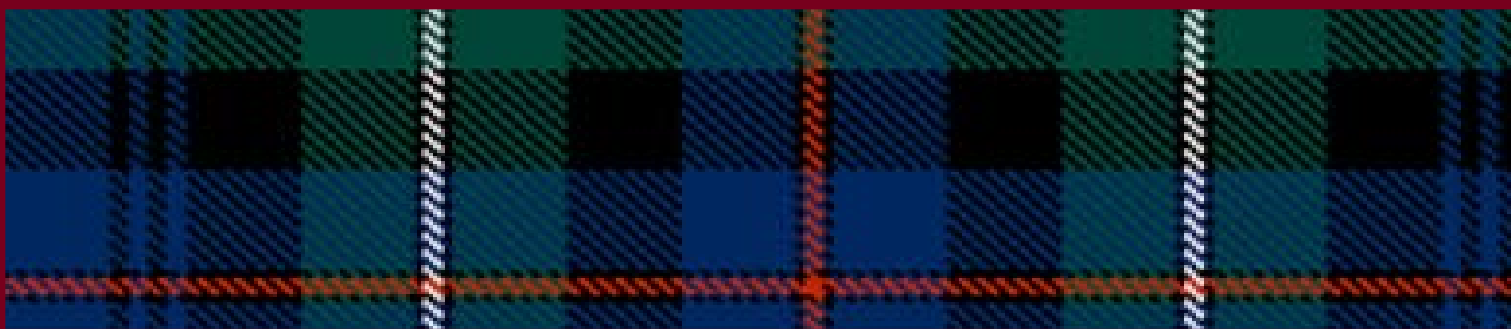


Cabar Feidh

The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Regimental Family Newsletter

Vol. 3: September 2014 - September 2015





The Regimental Journal of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Vol. 3 - September 2014-2015

Regimental Family and Friends,

We are pleased to send you the third volume of our newsletter, The Cabar Feidh. The history of this newsletter and magazine originally comes from that of the Imperial Seaforth's in Scotland. As we are the last of the Seaforth's it seemed appropriate to maintain the original newsletter going into the future.

The third volume has grown from successes of the first two volumes and we look to continually build on the tradition going forward.

We hope you find this edition interesting and informative. We would also like to receive any articles, comments, or contributions in the future.

Please excuse any errors or omissions. All articles are published as we received them.

To access this newsletter please click on the following link.

<http://seaforthhighlanders.ca/cabar-feidh/>

Please visit www.seaforthhighlanders.ca for the current happenings of the Regiment.

Cabar Feidh Gu Brath

Shannon Johnson - Editor

2Lt David Edwards - Assistant Editor

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Colonel-in-Chief



**Field Marshal, HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of
Edinburgh, KG, KT, OM, GBE Colonel-in-Chief
The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada**

Honourary Colonel

HCol Michael Shields, CD



I welcome Lt Col Ursich's return to command of the Battalion. His previous term included the most successful presentation of new Colours during the celebration of our centenary. He will continue our good fortune in having a series of outstanding CO's. There is considerable extra pressure placed upon the CO running the battalion in temporary lines away from our Armoury. Hopefully we will have returned to the Armoury by this time next year.

My wife and I, along with Honorary Lt Colonel Hoffmeister and Mrs. Hoffmeister, represented the Regiment at the 70's anniversary celebrations of the liberation of

Holland ending the European part of WWII. We attended the ceremony on May 4th at the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, and the following day at Wageningen for the church service and Parade. Our participation, at these various functions, and being looked after in between times, was arranged, and led by Honorary Lieutenant Frank van Hattum of the Seaforth Pipes & Drums of Holland. His service to the Regiment, with

the Pipes & Drums of Holland is invaluable.

At Holten we were the only Regiment laying a recognized wreath. Prior to the official ceremonies at Wageningen I had the privilege of presenting a regimental scroll stating the Seaforth Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums were part of our regimental family. This was given to Colonel Hogan, RCAF, Canada's Military attaché for the Netherlands. The original is with the Canadian embassy and a copy is with our Holland Pipes & drums. The presentation was in front of the band. Overall the Dutch more than any other country continue

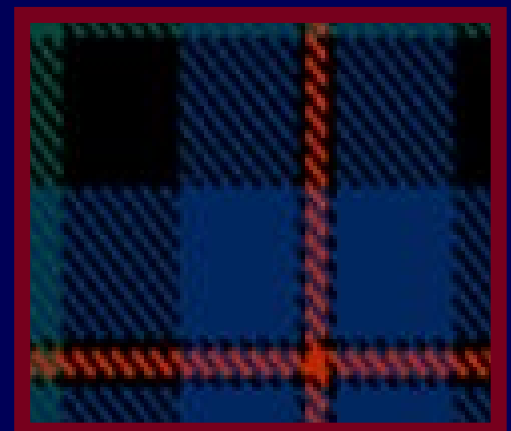
to appreciate the service of Canada in the restoration of their freedom. The care of our war graves by Dutch children is a small example of the remembrance service that continues.

Later in London I had the pleasure of reestablishing the protocol of calling at Buckingham Palace when there. It is to pay our respect to our Colonel-in-Chief. HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. I met with HRH's principle Secretary Brigadier Millar-Bakewell. We discuss the regiment, and how best to keep his Royal Highness informed of our regimental activities. The Brigadier was most helpful, and I enjoyed an informative, and very enjoyable experience.

Cabar Feidh,

Mike

R. M. (Michael) Shields, CD
Honorary Colonel



Thoughts from the CO

LCol Paul Ursich, CD



Hello All,

I am excited to be back with the Regiment. We have done a lot in the past several years and have much more to do. Here are a few of my thoughts for you to consider.

To all members of the Regimental Family: In addition to our normal training regime there are also two significant Regimental events taking place in the next two years. The first is the move back to the Armoury. We are soldiers and can operate out of anything from barracks to WW1 trench lines BUT it has been a long slog at Jericho. We will (inshallah and the construction project even coming close to its timeline) be moving back in September 2016. The return will be a major Regimental event with a trooping of colours and ceilidh. We have been away for a long time and we are going to celebrate when we get home. The second event will be a trip to Vimy and Europe in 2017. It is early days in the planning for this event but stay tuned. We are looking at a great event each year for the next two years.

To all members of the Unit: Training and our Class A routine will continue but with some key differences. The first difference is that our training plan is well conceived, planned and coordinated. A Company has been given the support and the horsepower to get things done. The Regiment has got one of the strongest full-time staff teams that I have seen anywhere in 39 CBG in over 15 years of observation. The key to our success is not taking care of these things... they are already done. The key to our success is your engagement and participation. The default setting is that all members of the Regiment will attend evening and weekend

training with exceptions being made because of outside demands on your time. I fully support you and your success outside of the military. You cannot be effective without a happy family and civilian life. The other side of that coin is your full support for the Regiment's success. The Regiment cannot be effective without your commitment. Together we will need to keep both sides in balance and we will all be stronger for it.

Final thoughts:

- Have fun but accomplish something. We get to do things that no one else has the chance to do and it should be (mostly) fun. However, fun is not a substitute for accomplishment.
- Put in your best effort and communicate if you are unable to complete something. Too often we take on too much or circumstances change and we find ourselves "half-assing it" or simply not completing something we have agreed to do. If you cannot or will not complete something then speak up and let someone know so we can get it done for you. The alternative is that others have to pick it up at the last minute. We can do better than that.
- Treat others the way you wish to be treated. Respect flows two ways.
- Grab an oar. We are all in this together. If you see something that needs to be done then step up. If there is a problem then become part of the solution. If you see someone that needs support then support them. In particular, none of us gets to look the other way if a brother or sister is suffering. Better to be embarrassed and uncomfortable but to have done something than to regret it later. If you don't know what to do then call someone, call me if you need to. Take responsibility.

That's it for now. I'm looking forward to the next two years and I hope you are too.

Cabar Feidh

LCol Paul Ursich, CD
Commanding Officer





Message From RHQ



For many of the Regimental Family there is a committee that is not understood. This committee is the Regimental Committee or in some circles called the Regimental Senate. Just who are they and what do they accomplish on behalf of the Family?

Who are they?

- They are made up of the HCol, HLCol, CO, former Hon. Col's, former CO's, Regt. Major, and Regt. Secretary. This year the RSM has been added to the Committee. Chairing the Committee is HCol Shields.

What are they responsible for?

- Their main function is to maintain the customs, traditions and long range goals for the entire Regt. Family.
- They maintain the Seaforth Foundation monies and the raising of needed funds for the various areas of the Family. This is done in various ways with the main source being the Patrons Corps.
- They meet 2 – 3 times a year or as per the wishes of the HCol or CO.

The members of this Committee work throughout the year to meet the many needs and requests from the various areas of the family including the Battalion.

It is hoped that this brief explanation will explain who and what this very important committee accomplishes.

Captain (ret.) Allen McLeod, CD

Regimental Secretary



Change of Command



On Sunday May 31st, 2015 The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada conducted a Change of Command Parade at their temporary home of 39 CBG HQ Jericho Garrison between Lieutenant Colonel Scott Raesler, CD and Lieutenant Colonel Paul Ursich, CD. The event marked a rare occasion in which Lieutenant Colonel Ursich, CD became the second ever Commanding Officer of Seaforth to command a second time other than Colonel David Fairweather in the Regiment's 105 year history. Having previously served as Commanding Officer between 2008 and 2011, LCol Ursich will see the Regiment return to its home at the Seaforth Armoury.

Presiding over the Change of Command Parade was Brigadier General Rob Roy MacKenzie, Deputy Commander of the 3 Canadian Division and a former Seaforth Commanding Officer himself. Attending were the Italian, American, Dutch Consulates, other military personnel, cadets, and members of the public.

The Change of Command was marked by the signing over of the Regiment from LCol Raesler to LCol Ursich as well as the symbolic passing of the Colours and Commanding Officer's sword. The ceremony mirrored that of the previous Change of Command in 2011 when LCol Ursich handed over command to LCol Raesler as both share a history dating back to their time in Cadets together.



The Colour Party



MCpl Shakya, CD receiving a Canadian Decoration



Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums along with Seaforth Cadets



Seaforth Highlanders Cadet Corps on Parade

Photo Right:

Col Haussmann, CD presides as LCol Raesler, CD signs over the Regiment to LCol Ursich, CD









Handing over of the Colours



Sword Exchange



CO on parade with the Regiment



Dining Out of LCol Scott Raesler



**Left to Right: LCol Ursich, LCol Raesler, Col Fairweather, HCol Shields, LCol Baylis, HLCol Hoffmeister
Absent from Photo: RSM O'Connor**

In keeping with long time Seaforth regimental tradition, the serving Officers, former Seaforth Officers and close friends of LCol Raesler gathered on 30 May, Saturday at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club to bid farewell and best wishes to the retiring Commanding Officer.

This small group at the Dining Out had all in some way, or in many ways, had a long military connection with LCol Raesler. Several going as far back as sharing time as Seaforth cadets.

Towards the end of the Dining Out several in attendance took the opportunity to “roast” LCol Raesler with their favourite recollections of some events. All for the most part were tastefully done although Padre Short might have work to do in some instances.

As LCol Raesler moves on with other aspects of his military career many he leaves behind owe a great deal of gratitude for his examples of leadership and commitment to the regiment and all its members throughout his entire military career.

Best wishes,

Cabar Feidh Gu Brath!!

2Lt (Ret'd) Rick Ciccone, CD



BATTALION

Outgoing Commanding Officer - LCol Scott Raesler, CD
Commanding Officer - LCol Paul Ursich, CD
Deputy Commanding Officer - Maj Tyrone Green, CD
Adjutant - Capt Adam Davey
Regimental Sergeant Major - CWO John O'Connor, CD

- a. Pipes and Drums**
- b. Basic Para**
- c. Patrol Team**
- d. Things Have Changed**
- e. Promotions, Regimental Awards, and Decorations**
- f. 2015 Nijmegen March**

Pipes and Drums

The Regimental Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada supports the Regiment in its primary mission of recruiting, training and retaining soldiers and leaders.

In the past year a couple of our long serving members have moved on:

Cpl Al Bain, CD, Retired from the Canadian Reserve this past spring, after over thirty years of service both as Cadet and Soldier/Piper. He has found a position assisting with the Cadet Pipes and Drums in PoCo.

Sgt Dave Dickins, CD, has finally laid down his sticks after a lifetime of service. Beginning as a

Cadet, he served in the Regiment for several decades, retiring as Drum Sergeant. He continued to play as a civilian volunteer until recently finding it more difficult to participate than he had hoped. His contribution will be greatly missed, though we anticipate he will maintain his active connections to the Regimental family.

We have had two individuals transfer into the band, Bdr Beth Ann Dolan and MCpl Charlie McLeod, both from Nova Scotia and both filling positions in the drum corps. For the next couple of years, both Mcpl. McLeod and Cpl Alex Devitt, the acting Pipe Sergeant, will be on intermittent leaves as they pursue post graduate degrees.

Along with the serving members there are an civilian volunteers, whose participation enables the Ps&Ds to take on tasks that would otherwise be out of our reach. Their contributions are invaluable and greatly appreciated, if not always recognized.

These include: Mr. Colin Hearty, a local drumming instructor and past member of the grade 1 Triumph Street Pipe Band, who is a great asset and has contributed greatly since he joined. He has begun the recruiting process in anticipation of becoming a serving member. And, Perry Mikita who comes to us from Manitoba where

he was involved in Reserve bands in his youth. Now with his young family, he is hoping to improve his piping skills and, again, play with a military pipe band.

The band's performance calendar this year was full, the Rogers Santa Claus Parade, Surrey's Vaisakhi Parade and the Canada Day Parade. We also performed for the Dutch Liberation Ceremonies at HMCS Discovery, the VE Commemoration Dinner, and the Investiture Ceremonies for the Sovereign Order of St John. For the first time we played for a Burns Dinner at the Newton Senior Centre and were warmly received.

We sent a small contingent to join with reserve bands from across Canada to perform in Ottawa at the annual Fortissimo show on Parliament Hill.

One of the biggest initiatives in the band this past year included weekly clinics for local Seaforth cadets, teaching both music and drill. This culminated in the Pipes and Drums supporting the cadets Annual Cadet Review (ACR) Parades.

Moving forward, the Pipes and Drums intend to build on the Cadet initiative and involve them in the Regiments' greatly anticipated march back to the newly renovated Armouries, sometime in the fall of 2016. The 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in the spring of 2017 is also expected to be an important event and opportunity for the band and the regiment.





Members of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums performing in mass band at Fortissimo July 2014 in Ottawa



Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums along with Seaforth Cadets performing at SHOC RCACC 2277 Annual Review 2014



Drum Major Sgt Ross Kennedy at the Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association's Vimy Dinner 2014

Basic Para



Boarding the CC-130J Hercules

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to be a candidate on the Canadian Basic Parachutist Course. I was very excited to have the opportunity as jumping out of an airplane to get to the job is the dream of many soldiers. My training for the course started about 2 months prior to the course and it consisted of many push ups, pull ups and long runs. In hindsight, no training could be enough for the coming 3 weeks that I will be embarking on. The course was run out of the CFB Edmonton in 3rd Battalion's lines. The one period that I will always remember is the very first class of the course; it was listed on the schedule as Introduction to Airborne. The period started with short remarks from the OC and CSM of Bravo, then the remaining 30 minutes of the period consisted of an

introduction to the stress positions and workouts that we will need to know throughout the course. For the next 2 weeks of the course, we were instructed on the basic skills for round canopy parachuting.

The days start at 0500 when we participate in the PT sessions led by the course officer and Warrant; the circuit workouts were high intensity and the runs were very fast paced thus vomiting was a pretty common sight during the PT sessions. The rigorous morning PT starts to make sense as we start the day's training, all the procedures required for a paratrooper to leap out of an airplane are extremely physically demanding and any inability to carry out those procedures would lead to serious injuries even death (As informed by a Parachutist Instructor: "everything in parachuting will kill

you, if you give it the opportunity to do so"). The days are divided into 4 sections where we learn Aircraft Drills, Equipment, Landings and Flight. The most dreadful class for most of us was flight class, which requires the jumpers to hang in the "racks" to simulate flight time during the parachute descend. During this class, the jumpers are required to maneuver and control to flight as well as other procedures for different kinds of encounter during the parachute descend. This is when the rigorous PT starts to make sense when we were required to pull slips (pulling upon the risers; essentially like holding the chin up position for a prolonged period of time) to simulate maneuvering of the parachute. By the end of the first week, most of us have been "broken in" and about a quarter of the course have been RTU'd mostly for injuries and the inability to keep up with the fitness standards.

Week 2 was yet again another exciting week on the course, as we are not bringing the skills we have learned so far to put to the test at the mock tower. The mock tower is a replica of the aft end of the CC-130J Hercules and it sits at 33ft. It is high enough that if you have any fears or doubts, it will show in your performance and most likely not going to past this stage. Unfortunately, it was the case for many candidates as many more failed off during this stage. Three days of testing at the mock tower saw 10 jumps for me out of the mock tower and the result? I got one step closer to jumping out of



Mass Exit as taken by Mcpl Trafananko

an airplane, a boost in confidence as I have just jumped out of a 3 storey tower and two extremely bruised shoulders from the shock of the harness. Upon completion of the mock tower, the successful candidates move on to the testing phase. We had one day to practice all the skills we have learned so far and first thing on Friday, the tests begin. Unfortunately, not everyone who made it this far passed the tests; but for those who passed all the tests, we are going to jump out of a CC-130J Hercules comes Monday.

On Monday morning, we all boarded a bus and got transported down to the Shell Aerocenter at YEG. After we drew our CT-1 parachute and CR-1 reserve chute, we got dressed up for our first jump and waited for the Air-force to prepare for our flight. At 1430 hrs, we boarded the Herc and flew to DZ Buxton. We got a notice at 10 minutes out, then instructed

to take our seatbelts off, get ready, stand up, hook up, check static line, check our equipment, and sound off for equipment check. All we do now is wait for the standby and go! At 1250 feet above ground level, the paratroop doors open and we got our standby and go! As I was last in the chalk, I got to wait through the entire suspense of the approach to the port side paratroop door and within seconds, the jumper in front of me (Pte Newman from 2VP) was out the door and shortly after myself. I did my 4 second count and then looked up to a fully deployed canopy. I carried out my 4 other flight procedures as I approach the ground. This is when I confirmed that how important the jumper's fitness is as I pulled a slip the entire way down to avoid a small tree line. After I hit the ground, I packed up my equipment and chute then started running to the DZ rendezvous (another reason why we did the fast runs in the morning).

In the next 2 days, we did 4 more amazing jumps as part of the jump progression, and it summed up the amazing experience we had at the Canadian Basic Parachutist Course.

The course started with 48 candidates and 2 extras and we ended with 26. At our graduation parade, we were visited by Major-General Herbert Pitts (a well respected and outstanding officer from the airborne family) and had our wing presented to us by our section commanders. With the wings on our chest, we are now part of the airborne family and it is now our responsibility to keep up with our new family's standard of profession. Throughout the course, I learned much more than parachuting. The P.I's taught us the attitude needed to be good soldiers and a high standard of professionalism all demonstrated by their interaction with us. Airborne!

Cpl Calvin Kuah

Patrol Team: Ex Stealthy Cougar

Stealthy Cougar: An ambitious patrolling competition to include river crossings, partisan linkups, challenging terrain, and an active enemy force seeking to prevent the reconnaissance of our objective. Teams from across 39 Brigade ascended to the vicinity of Hope in order to test their mettle, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada included.

Two weeks notice was given to muster, equip and train our team. Two Wednesday nights and one weekend we conducted our work up.

We arrived at the CP late Saturday night. Our section commander MCpl Zimmerman received his orders. Battle procedure had begun. We spent the night preparing for the patrol. MCpl Zimmerman performed his combat analysis and wrote his orders. Our nav team, composed of Cpl Isabescu and Cpl Paley plotted our routes. Orders were issued, kit was inspected and rehearsals conducted. We stepped off at first light.

To start, our going was easy. The route had us proceeding along a black track for several kilometres. The ground slowly turned to thick brush. We still made good time. The first leg was to take us only the first half of the first day. The ground would soon determine otherwise. As we gained elevation, we encountered the snow. Crusty, old snow whose surface was weakened by the sun. Heavily laden as we were, each step saw us knee



Left to right: Pte Chernoff, Pte Andrews, MCpl Di Fine, and Pte Carvalho

deep in the substance. Any ground not covered by the snow was even more impassible; the sun thawed the snow and ground, turning into a muddy and marshy morass.

It was at this point we began to overtake some of the patrols that had left earlier. The sun was beginning to wane and these same patrols began, one at a time, to go to ground. We pressed on through the mud and snow. As we progressed up the lines of elevation the ground became more permissive to our movement. Marshy bog gave way to wooded grove. It was at this point we received over the means the direction to go to ground from the CP. No further forward movement was authorized until daybreak on

account of the terrain.

Morning. Breakfast was had, rucks donned and we stepped off once more. As we moved forward, we encountered other patrols moving in the opposite direction. They tell us the way is impassible. They have decided to return the way they came. We pressed on.

There we found the talus field. Affectionately termed "the rock garden" Here the going was slow. At the worst of it we traveled a few hundred metres an hour. This was the "impassible" feature that the other patrols spoke of. In the end we did safely make our way past this feature, reaching the first rendezvous where the end-ex was called. It was late Sunday and



after a hasty burger and hotdog at the Chilliwack Armouries we were spirited away back to Jericho Gn. To our great happiness, the mess was open.

It became apparent to us through the conduct of the patrol that the ground we were traversing was not adequately proven before the exercise began; our timings given to complete the first leg were unrealistic. All of the preparation for the varied stands we were to partake in was therefore in vain. No rivers were crossed, no partisans were linked up with, and no reconnaissance was conducted. The comms plan bordered on dangerous: Satellite phones proved to be inoperable. 522s had no ability to reach the CP for the first day on account of elevation. Taking on a casualty would be a hairy situation indeed.

With all this being said, one may ask, "Was it a good exercise?" From this author's perspective on the ground, it was certainly not a well-planned exercise. This does not, however, make it a bad exercise. All too often we moan and gripe about the quality of training we receive. There seems to be a tendency for troops to "vote with

their feet" so to speak; "Punishing" the army by not attending training when things go pear shaped in an attempt to somehow improve the situation. The unfortunate reality of the situation is that training can be scarce in the reserves. It therefore behooves us to take advantage of every training opportunity

available. Not partaking in an exercise reduces the collective benefit of training due to the lowered numbers and denies the individual greater experience in the profession of arms. "Voting with one's feet" serves only to make the situation worse.

In the case of Stealthy Cougar, the Seaforth team approached adversity with the proper patrolling spirit. Conquering that terrain demonstrated our motivation and dedication to accomplishing the tasks assigned of us. Unlike all but one of the other teams, when encountered with a seemingly insurmountable obstacle, we did not turn back but pressed on. This we can be proud of, and this we will continue to demonstrate regardless of the obstacles in our paths.

It was a good exercise.

Written by MCpl Ryan Di Fine

Photos by Cpl Isabescu



From Rear left to right: MCpl Zimmerman, MCpl Di Fine, Cpl Paley, Cpl Robinson, (From the front Left) Pte Andrews, Pte Carvahlo, Pte Chernoff, Cpl Isbasescu.

Things Have Changed



50-60°C of Separation Shilo to Afghanistan

I first went over in 2008 attached to 2PPCLI battle group. We left during the Manitoba winter and transitioned from -30 in barren and frozen Shilo to 20-30 in the early Afghan spring. Our platoon was moved out to a small combat outpost called Talukan along the Arghandab River in Khandahar. This area was and still is very much a stronghold of the Taliban. We would build up our walls and go on patrols to let the people there know who we were and that we would be around. It wasn't until the opium harvest was underway that we encountered much direct action. With their harvest done, the "fighting season" picked up and from then on one would either be in contact, supporting it or hear it happening nearby almost every day. The vast amount of explosives planted in the roads made re-supplies difficult and

dangerous and effectively took our vehicles out of the fight outside of paved guarded roads. We left there in early September and I am certain it is less secure now than ever. During my time there I ate a lot of meals from a metal bag, breathed a lot of dust and endured heat reaching 55 degrees at times. I also was

in two IED strikes, the second of which caused me mild TBI, leaving me with a few years of headaches and memory loss, which fortunately is almost completely gone.

The second time was in 2010, but this time as a bodyguard to a Canadian General working on police development. This was a totally different experience. In Kabul it may as well have been a different planet as there were personnel from all over NATO, with enterprising Afghans catering to western tastes with supermarkets and bars. Being so separated from the fighting, there was an air of optimism that our efforts were not in vein. While not near as dangerous as the first time, this other side of the war let me see the massive scale of planning and people involved in such an effort as well as the skill of some of our generals and the respect they commanded from other nations.

By MCpl Daniel Lee



Promotions, Regimental Awards and Decorations

Decorations

Sgt Doan, CA - Canadian Decoration 1st Clasp

WO McCready, JS - Canadian Decoration 1st Clasp

LCol Ursich, PV - Canadian Decoration 1st Clasp

Cpl Almeida, MC - Canadian Decoration

Sgt Farrell, PB - Canadian Decoration

MCpl Lee, WD - Canadian Decoration

MCpl Shakya, SR - Canadian Decoration

Promotions

Cpl Bordingnon, AR

Cpl Bordingnon, NB

Cpl Brigham, DJ

Lt Calvert, KR

MCpl Di Fine, RT

Cpl Dolan, MEA

Cpl MacKay, QC

MWO McKenzie, JS

Cpl Smardon, JC

Regimental Awards

Soldier of the Year - MCpl Di Fine, RT

Junior NCO of the Year - MCpl Noma, DD

Subaltern of the Year - Capt Duvall, JA

Nijmegen March 2015

From July 17th to 28th three of our Seaforth Highlanders of Canada participated in the annual Nijmegen March in the Netherlands. This year marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands in 1945, in which the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada played a significant role. The Canadian contingent consisted of approximately 200 members and support staff broken down into 15 teams, including ours from 39 CBG that contributed 11 members including Lt Keir Calvert, WO Keith Shannon, and MCpl Andrew McDonald.

Upon arrival in Lille, France the Canadian contingent made our way to Ypres, Belgium to participate in the nightly Last Post ceremony at the historical Menin Gate. The following day the contingent drove to Tyne Cot Cemetery before we made our way to Vimy Ridge in France where the contingent held a parade before we toured the tunnels and trenches where Canadians passed through on their way to the front. The memorial is located at the top of the ridge and provides an incredible vantage point overlooking what would have been a network of German defensive positions extending for miles.

Following the two days of ceremonies and visiting historical sites the Canadian contingent arrived at Camp Humensoord, Netherlands where 5,000 military members representing various nations stayed. The Canadian

contingent was camped next to the Germans whom we shared facilities with. The spirited nature of the German camp was duly noted.

July 19th and 20th were full of visits to Nijmegen as well as major sites covered in Operation Market Garden including landing sites, bridges, a walk through German defensive positions and a visit of the Commonwealth Cemetery in Arnhem.

July 21st marked the first day of the March. The Canadian Contingent stepped off at 0300 from Humensoord through the city centre of Nijmegen before marching through the surrounding countryside and back again. Each day consisted of approximately 45Km, giving the Canadian contingent the opportunity to observe and engage with the Dutch people.

Often times when the Canadian teams marched through a town centre the locals would cheer and sometimes sing O Canada. Throughout the marches children would hand us Dutch candy and we would return the favour with SWAG (flags, pins, stickers). Some Dutch locals even came up and kindly embraced us. Some would thank us for liberating them (70 years ago).

We also passed by seniors who would have lived through the Second World War. We often stopped, spent a moment, and shared a token with them before continuing on. We also sang songs with the other countries. The British, Danish, and Dutch were the

most active. Sometimes we led the song and sometimes they led the songs.

July 24th marked the end of marching as we marched into a sports field where we took a team photo and received our medals. The Canadian contingent then completed the gladiola parade which involved marching 5km back to Humensoord without packs. We received tulips from spectators as we walked on the 4th day.

The Canadian Contingent had leave from Base Oranje Kasserne from the 25th through 28th and the 39 CBG team took the opportunity to visit the City of Amsterdam for a day. The visit to Amsterdam marked a significant event for us Seaforths as the Regiment was the first Allied unit to march into liberated Amsterdam in WWII.

The Canadian Contingent departed the Netherlands on July 28th having successfully completed the Nijmegen March, 2015. The trip had been a great success and provided our team with many unique and historical opportunities, including the visit to Amsterdam where the trip and history came full circle. This year marked a significant milestone in Canadian and Seaforth military history, 70 years after the Liberation of the Netherlands.

Written by Lt Keir Calvert



CAF Appreciation Night at Rogers Arena - Left to Right: Pte. Clegg, Cpl. Devenish, Pte. Mujcin, Cpl. Miljevic-Laroche, MCpl. Di Fine, Pte. Darling, and Pte. Chernoff



Yakima, WA, at first light. Withdrawing from a defensive position after an early morning firefight (Ex Ducimus Thunder) - Pte. Darling



Vets' Return to Holland



WWII Seaforth Veterans, L to R, William Stoker, Jack Rossiter, and Jock McStay as part of Canada's sixty member veterans group participating in the Anniversary Celebrations

70 Years on from the Liberation of the Netherlands.

Seventy years later, the service and sacrifices of Canadians in the liberation of the Netherlands were remembered with pride and appreciation by both of our countries. As Seaforths we felt particularly honoured and fortunate to have been selected to be part of Canada's Veterans Delegation in the celebration and commemoration. Ceremonies at war graves cemeteries Groesbeek and Holten in the Netherlands and the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany were a deeply moving tribute to our fallen comrades.

The War Cemeteries and the Westerbork Transit Camp.

Very often we old Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen have had people at home say to us, "What a shame we didn't have all of our Fallen Comrades brought home to Canada", instead of leaving them in the countries like Holland where they fell. Such as at Holten, where more than four thousand people turned up to take part in the Memorial Service that was held



WWII Seaforth Veteran, William Stoker, at the Holten Memorial with Laid wreaths

to honour our fallen during the Liberation week. To those people we say. We left them in the gentle care of the Dutch people who honour them and care for them as their own. Our Canadian Cemeteries are beautifully maintained by the people of the Netherlands and are frequently visited by school children and a Dutch Group in

WWII Canadian Uniforms called "The Honour Guard". We only wish that all Canadians were able to visit the final resting place of the more than six thousand Canadians who lie in the care of our Dutch Friends and be comforted by what they see. We certainly are.

The services at the Commonwealth Cemeteries were, by their very nature, solemn affairs. So too was the ceremony at the Westerbork Transit Camp which was used by the Nazis to hold Jews, and other "Undesirables" before they were shipped eastwards in cattle cars to the extermination camps of the "Final Solution".

The ceremony was held next to railway tracks that marked the site of the siding from which 102,000 men, women and children, including babies and notables such as Anne Frank started their final journeys. The tracks are now symbolically twisted upwards to signify that they could never be used again.

The camp and ceremony had



The symbolically twisted railway tracks at the Westerbork siding



WWII Seaforth Veteran Jack Rossiter talking to Hon. Col Mike Shields and Hon. LCol Rod Hoffmeister at the Holten War Cemetery Ceremony.

a great effect on the veterans who all echoed, in their own way, Jack Rossiter's comment on the Camp. "I found the Westerbork experience to be the most emotionally disturbing part of the trip, and again a demonstration of man's inhumanity to man. I guess that's one reason we went to war with Germany."

70 Years later the Dutch still remember.

Since returning to Canada from the Netherlands, we are often requested to describe our personal highlight of the tour. An impossible request, as there were so very many highlights of equal importance, that to choose one could belittle all of the other very memorable events that we participated in. All of which were so wonderful in every respect.

As with previous Anniversaries of the Liberation of the Netherlands, we were amazed that the Dutch people remembered so well and turned out in their

thousands to greet us. As before we wondered and marveled at such a demonstration of happiness and joy at our return, this time seventy years after we had been privileged to free them from too many years of absolute tyranny. An unimaginable demonstration of loyalty and

friendship from the people of one nation to those of another

Who could ever forget the folks of Wageningen lining both sides of the streets as we passed by them in our old WWII vehicles, with half a gale blowing and in the pouring rain. Clapping and cheering and to our outstretched hands. A most humbling experience after so many years. We experienced a similar, but less rainy display at the Apeldoorn Parade a few days later. Once again the streets were lined by throngs of wellwishers shouting, screaming, laughing and clapping, passing out flowers and sweets galore. In return we passed out Canadian flags and pins but they were in such great demand that we soon ran out of our supplies

Our report must also include the final main event of the trip, the "We'll Meet Again Concert" where we were joined by our Dutch Canadian Princess Margriet and her husband, who sat down with us all for a considerable time chatting, but above all listening. One thing us old servicemen have is a sense of when someone is just being polite, or truly listening. Princess



Jock McStay, who had been a WWII Seaforth Despatch Rider in the Italian Campaign, in a Harley Sidecar at the Apeldoorn Parade



Seaforth Veterans and their caregivers, Left to Right, William Stoker with Caregiver Leslie, Jack Rossiter with caregiver Val and Jock McStay. Jock's caregiver, John Cameron, is the photographer

Margriet is a straight shooter by any measure. The concert itself was a wonderful success and ended with our National Anthem and a heartfelt rendition of Miss Vera Lynns' "We'll Meet Again".

Accalades to DVA Staff and Caregivers

We WW2 veterans, now mostly aged ninety or more were, wisely, mandated by DVA to be accompanied by a caregiver to assure our safety and ability to endure the demanding schedule. In

our cases it was a son for Jock and a daughter each for Jack and William. Our Seaforth team of three plus three was a winning combination of friendship and combined support.

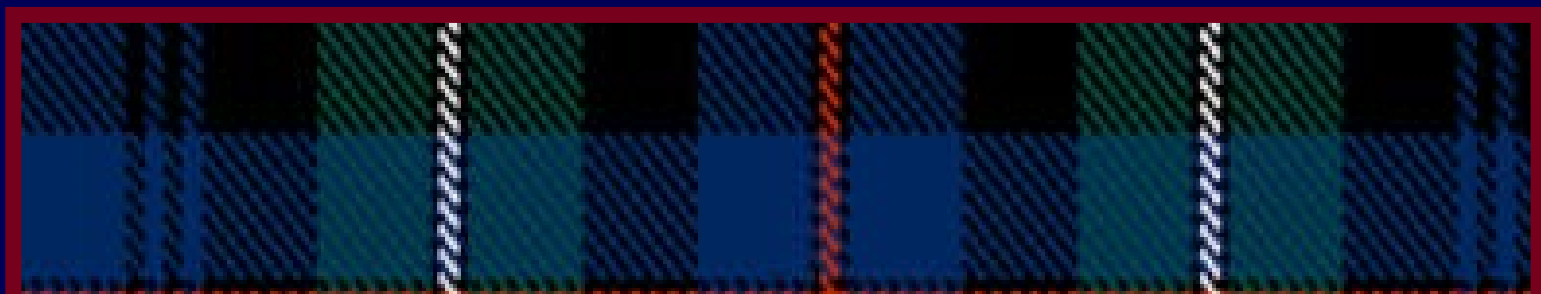
Our Report would not be complete without expressing our gratitude to the Department of Veterans Affairs and in particular, all of their staff. Their organisation of the event plus the personal care and support that each of them provided, with fun and good humour each and every day, was truly outstanding.

The flowers and blooms

given us are all gone now, but the memories left with us are everlasting and especially for us old soldiers, who have lived to see the gratitude of so many folks in the Europe that we helped to liberate so long ago with the sacrifices of too many old comrades left behind, or who are now gone. Bless Them All.

Jack, William and Jock.

Written by Jock McStay



Patrons Corps



Presentation of Seaforth Plaque to Allen Ainsworth from Regimental Maj Kerr

The Patrons Corps continues to be an active participant in Seaforth family activities. Since the last issue Patrons have attended the annual Passchendaele Luncheon in November, the Ortona Dinner in December, the Officers' Christmas Luncheon and the Association Vimy Dinner in April. This year the Patrons were given another chance at

improving their marksmanship by attending Vokes Range to fire the C7 rifles, the current rifle used by our soldiers.

The Patrons Corps continues to provide significant financial support to the Regimental Family. Since last newsletter the Patrons have donated \$10,000 to the Seaforth Foundation, pledged \$15,000 towards the cadet purchase

of highland kit and subsidized serving members to allow them to attend the Military Gala, and \$1,200 to subsidize the Vimy Dinner cost to serving Seaforth soldiers. Providing financial assistance to the Cadets was the original reason the Patrons Corp was formed in 1996. Over the years the Patrons Corp has taken on a much larger role in supporting the entire Regimental Family.

During the Annual meeting this year, the Chair was very pleased to make a special award to one of our long term members, Mr. Allen Ainsworth. Allen was recognized for his significant financial contribution to the corps and was given a large plaque and a unique lapel pin which can only be worn by those patrons who have attained a very high level of financial commitment.

The Patrons would like to welcome two new members since the last issue. Dr. Charles Webb and Mr. Bill Duvall have recently joined the Corps and look forward to participating in future Patrons Corp and Regimental events.

As always, the Corps is looking for new members to carry on our traditions. If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a Patron of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, please inform Regimental Headquarters.

Written by Regimental Maj Kerr

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Regimental Association



Message from the President

Seaforths, Regimental Association Members, family and friends, I hope everyone is having a great summer. The new training year for the Regiment will begin in a few weeks. With the energy and enthusiasm the serving soldiers

will bring to this year's training calendar, we aim to do the same with the efforts of the Association.

I would like to mention the efforts of HLCol Rod Hoffmeister. As the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, as the past Association President, and as someone who has taken on many extra "hats" for the Association, HLCol Hoffmeister's undertakings on behalf of the Seaforth have been large and tireless. I will have big shoes to fill succeeding him as the incoming president and I offer a heartfelt thank you to him for all he has done and continues to do on behalf of the Seaforth family.

During my service with the Battalion, the Association was looked at as something members would join "eventually," after release or upon retirement. We hope to change that by making it more interesting to serving members and by getting feedback from everyone in the Regimental family. We are seeking input/suggestions/ideas from all quarters. If you have a notion on

how we can increase visibility or cooperation between the Association and other parts of the Regimental family we'd like to hear from you. The 2015 Association committee is somewhat uniquely comprised of myself, a recently released CAF member, and two still serving members. This, I hope, is the foundation for a diverse and inclusive Association, one that will bridge gaps of generations, interests and experience. Anyone reading this, join us, and please encourage your comrades to do so.

Josh Muir, CD
President,
Seaforth Regimental Association
joshmuir@hotmail.com

A Leaner Executive

At the AGM on 20 May 2015 bylaw 27 of the constitution was amended to reduce the number of members that sit on the Regimental Association Executive from five to three. The motion was passed unanimously. The executive is now made up of the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The reduction is in response to the difficulties of finding members that are interested in sitting on the executive.

Association President
Josh Muir, CD

Association Treasurer
Kent Fabian

Association Secretary
Patrick Farrell, CD

Please watch for updates from the Regimental Association at seaforthhighlanders.ca

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Kit Shop

Clothing

Blazer Crests	\$30
Blazer Buttons (Large)	\$9
Blazer Buttons (Small)	\$8
Baseball Caps Navy Blue	\$15
Fishing Hats	\$15
T-Shirt, wicking, Blue (Small to XL)	\$20
T Shirt Blue Cotton (Small to XL)	\$10
T-Shirt, Green	\$10
Jacket, Black Softshell	\$50
Stormtech Jacket (Navy Blue)	\$40
Regimental Tie, Polyester	\$30
Diced Hose	\$100
Tartan Hose	\$100

Jewellery

Junior Ranks Cap Badge.....	\$15
Cap Badge Officers, WOs, and Sgts.....	\$60
Cap Badge WOs, and Sgts (Sterling Silver).....	\$160
Cap Badge Officers (Sterling Silver).....	\$175
Regimental Ring (Sterling Silver).....	\$75
Seaforth Lapel Pin (Enamelled Blue Shield).....	\$3
Canadian Flag Lapel Pin.....	\$1
Tie Tacks, (Sterling Silver Small).....	\$25
Tie Tacks, (Sterling Silver Large).....	\$30
Ladies Broach.....	\$65
(Sterling Silver Miniature Officer's cap badge on tartan rosette)	

Miscellaneous

Regimental History (1919 - 1965) by R.H. Roy.....	\$35
DVD Return to Agira Op Husky 2013.....	\$20
Ice Buckets, Drum w/Regt. Battle Honours.....	\$50
Seaforth Crest Car Decal for Inside Window.....	\$2
Seaforth Crest Car Decal for Outside of Vehicle.....	\$2
Smokey Smith Print.....	\$5
Coffee Mug Stainless steel with crest.....	\$20
Glasses, Glen Cairn, Engraved with Seaforth	\$20
Crest	

Note: All items are subject to availability

Inquiries: Contact Michael Almeida
bobsyourmother@yahoo.ca
604-908-1708



98th Annual Vimy Memorial Service and Reunion Dinner

The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Regimental Association hosted the 98th Annual Vimy Memorial Service and Re-Union Dinner, held on 11 April, 2015. 182 attended the event, the largest number in over twenty-four years according to LCol Paul Ursich, Commanding Officer.

The Vimy Dinner program commenced at 1500 hours with a reception for all guests. At precisely 1545 hours the four member Vimy Cross guard took their posts led by Guard Commander Sgt Patrick Farrell.

The original wooden Vimy Cross was constructed by Seaforths who fought at the battle of Vimy Ridge. On it they listed the names of all Seaforths killed in that action. They then placed the Vimy Cross on the battlefield to mark the furthest point of their advance.

This Vimy Cross is a historical artifact and is always safely located on display in the regimental museum. It was only brought out to be used during the Vimy Memorial Service. Due to the age and intrinsic value of the Vimy Cross it was determined that it was now too risky to continue moving it and that a replica should be made.

Long time Seaforth Association member Sieg Linzmeier volunteered to take on the task of constructing the replica. Sieg sought the help of master carpenters, painters and sign painters who donated their time and considerable skills towards this labour of love. It took almost two years to complete but the end result was a beautiful masterpiece. Serving soldiers and veterans alike were thrilled to have it and look forward to displaying it and proudly standing guard every Vimy Memorial Service.

The Vimy Cross replica was consecrated into service by Seaforth Regimental Padre Neill McRae, LCol Paul Ursich, Commanding Officer, RSM CWO John O'Connor and Honourary Lt Col/Association President Rod Hoffmeister.

The increase in attendance at the last two Vimy Dinners has been in large part due to the Sr NCO's and Jr Ranks members becoming more involved in the planning and conduct of the event. In some cases serving members were asked to take on a certain task, other members volunteered themselves, while others were actively contributing behind the scenes. All involved did magnificent jobs.

The last two Vimy Dinners have also seen several World War 2 veterans attending who hadn't been to a Vimy Dinner in over fifty years. One coming all the way from Kitimat, BC at the age of 94. It was a very moving experience to listen to these veterans say that the drill, dress, deportment and overall professionalism and pride in the regiment is still just as strong in Seaforths today as it was when they served.

These veterans also spoke of how much it meant to them to see and hear the Seaforth Pipes and Drums play again. To experience their music one more time. Something they had long ago thought they would never do again. They said they thought they would never have the chance, but here they were. It brought a little tear to their eyes.

I think the 98th Annual Vimy Memorial Service and Re-Union Dinner occurred just as our fore-fathers had originally envisioned. Our fore-fathers and all of us can be equally proud of today's serving Seaforth soldiers.

Thank you to all those who helped plan and organize, and thank you to all those who attended. Hope to see you all and many others again next year.

Cabar Feidh Gu Brath,

2Lt (Ret'd) Rick Ciccone, CD

Cadets



**Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadet
ACICO Major Ken Prince, CD**

At the age of thirteen, Major Ken Prince enrolled as a new recruit in the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Program in British Columbia. He completed five years as a cadet with 2381 RCACC and 2914 RCACC in Vancouver, BC. During his cadet career, Major Prince attended a number of Summer training courses and was later appointed various staff cadet positions at the Vernon Army Cadet Camp, (VACC). The highlight of his cadet career was attaining the Hawaii United States Marine Corps exchange tour for

involvement in the Pacific Region Army Cadet Program as a Lieutenant assigned to 2472 RCACC and served in many corps officer positions including Training Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer. Major Prince was appointed Commanding Officer of 2290 BCR RCACC in Vancouver in 2005 and completed his tenure in 2008.

During his Summer employment as a CIC Officer from 1999 to 2001, he held various Platoon Commander positions at Vernon Army Cadet Summer

achieving top scores at the Provincial National Star Cadet Exam.

Major Prince joined the Cadet Instructors Cadre following the age of nineteen and was enrolled as an Officer Cadet in 1984. He later served as an officer with 2472 RCACC from 1984 to 1987. For the next ten years, he made the difficult decision to be placed on the Supplementary Reserve slate while taking time away to work in his family business located in Surrey, BC. In September 1998, Major Prince resumed his

Training Center and Rocky Mountain National Summer Training Center. In 2002, Major Prince completed the Canadian Forces Parachute Course at CFB Trenton as a Captain and returned in 2003 as the Commanding Officer of the Army Cadet Basic Parachutist Course attached to the Connaught National Summer Training Center. As a result of these significant achievements, Major Prince has been appointed the OPI of the Regional Pre-Parachute selection course for senior cadets conducted at Vernon during the annual Spring Concentration starting in 2003 and has remained dedicated to this critical role to the present time in 2015.

Major Prince presently works with the Regional Support Unit in Victoria as an Area CIC Officer, (ACICO), for Pacific Region in BC. In 2008, he was assigned as the ACICO for the BCR Training Group and in 2014 was later assigned to his current ACICO role with the Seaforth Training Group. He has also instructed various CIC courses at the Regional Cadet Instructor School in Pacific and Central Regions and has studied Business Management at the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Burnaby BC. He is currently employed as a Provincial Court Security Supervisor for BC Sheriff Services and the Ministry of Justice. Major Prince enjoys time with his family and resides in Pitt Meadows, BC.

Cadet Corps



2812 SHOC RCACC Army Run

Over two dozen cadets from 2812 RCACC (Surrey) came out in the cold and rain on Sunday morning to challenge themselves and raise funds toward a scholarship commemorating the life and values of cadet volunteer Dayle Rudman, who passed suddenly this past fall.

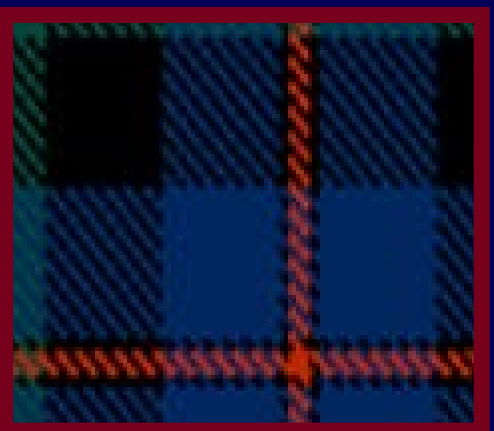
Dayle Rudman was an avid volunteer in the Army Cadet program, in track and field and a great supporter of the arts. A scholarship open to Seaforth cadets exemplifying these qualities will be funded by registration fees from the Cadet Army Run and private

donations. \$240 was raised this weekend.

The cadets travelled the 4.8km route around the east section of Tynehead Regional Park early Sunday morning in pouring rain. During the course they completed trials including a stretcher carry, speed shelter building, a surprise first aid scenario and more. The cadets were further challenged to overcome physical obstacles and put through a speed running event and a belly crawl with the assistance of members of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Regiment. When all teams had completed the event the entire group worked together to pull a large army vehicle on site. One team was awarded bragging rights and a trophy for best performance. Master Warrant Officer Kevin Fierling was awarded a plaque in recognition of his individual leadership skills on the course.



On Feb 28, 2015, 11 senior cadets from 2812 RCACC made a 6 hour hike to beautiful Norvan Falls in North Vancouver





Sgt Gregorchuck of 2963 RCACC receiving her promotion and Silver Star from her CO

Top Left:
Mike de Jong, BC Finance Minister and MLA for Abbotsford West, presents the Lord Strathcona Medal to MWO Brandon Reid, a student at Clayton Heights Secondary. De Jong, a captain in the air force reserve, was the reviewing officer at the 2277 Seaforth Highlanders Army Cadet's annual ceremonial review. / PHOTOS BY PHIL EDGE

Top Right:
Photo L to R: Cpl. Caitlin Lueks, Cpl. Liana Hollmann, and Cadet Alana Phillips of 2277 Seaforth Highlanders Langley pose with Kirk McLean

Showing up for tag days is an important way to support your Corps, but some West Coast cadets also got to meet an NHL great on their shift. Kirk McLean, who was the starting goalkeeper for the Vancouver Canucks from 1987 to 1997 stopped to donate in Langley, BC.

Cadet Corps



Top Left: Members of 135 Bell-Irving Squadron Air Cadets form up on November 11th, 2014 for Remembrance Day.

Top Right: Sgt Somerville in the cockpit of a 2-33A glider.

Bottom: Marksmanship: Self-discipline, precision skills, and a competitive sport! Royal Canadian Air Cadets pictures shooting the Daisy Air Rifle.

For more information and updates about the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps visit seaforthhighlanders.ca

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Museum

Historian's Article

On The Origin and Meaning of our Cap- Badge

Copyright 2014 Robert John
MacDonald CD FSA Scot

Lesson One in our new Regimental
Social Literacy series:

The red deer or elk stag with its majestic spread of antlers has been one of the iconic images of Scottish art since prehistory. It has been carved on stones, painted on vellum, and when a highland dancer throws his arms above his head in the classic pose he is imitating the horns of the stag – but to students of military history it means just one thing; the badge of the Seaforth Highlanders.

The Stag's-head badge is one of the oldest badges in military heraldry and owes its origin to a hunting incident on the Isle of Lewis in or around the year 1266. At one point in the hunt Alexander III, King of Scotland was 'unhorsed' and a wounded stag turned on him.

Colin (Fitzgerald) of Kintail, chief of the Clan MacKenzie ran to his



“Death of a Stag” or “Alexander III being rescued from the Fury of a Stag by the Intrepidity of Colin Mackenzie”, by Benjamin West (1738-1820)

aid with the shout ‘Cuidich ‘n Righ!’ (Scots Gaelic; “Help the King!”) as he killed the stag.

In gratitude the King granted the arms of ‘a stag’s head caboshed’(cut off at the neck) with the motto “Cuidich ‘n Righ” as the armourial bearings of the MacKenzies of Seaforth. To this day, the patronymic for the Chief of the Clan Mackenzie is CabarFeidh (The

Stag’s Head)

The ‘Stag’s-head’ has long been affectionately referred to as “Hector” by the soldiers of Lord Seaforth’s Highland Regiment. Can anyone tell us why?

Although many regiments and corps have different cap-badges for Officers and Other Ranks, the Seaforth’s (*) are one of the very few regiments in the Commonwealth



From left; Other Ranks, Serjeants and Warrant Officers, Chief-Warrant and Commissioned Officers badges. Note the correct orientation of the tartan (white and red lines 'horizontal' rather than 'vertical') and the intersection of the red and white lines is just above the top of the head



Left; The Cypher of Frederick Duke of Albany (1763-1827), Right; The cypher of Leopold Duke of Albany (1881-1884)

to have a distinctive cap-badge for Serjeants and Warrant-Officers.

This is because when Lord Seaforth raised the 72nd Foot in 1778, the number of gentlemen who applied for commissions exceeded the number of positions available. The unsuccessful applicants accepted employment as Serjeants but they were every bit as aristocratic and professional as the officers - and it was for this reason that they founded the world's first Serjeant's Mess! This was remembered (or perhaps 'acknowledged') when the stag's-head badge was adopted for use in 1881.

Serjeants and Warrant Officers wear a 3-d silver 'Hector' with a separate banner bearing the words "Cuidich n' Righ" (simply referred to as the 'motto').

One soldier is annually selected by the Commanding Officer (on the advice of the Regimental Serjeant-Major) as 'Soldier of the Year' and that soldier is presented with a Sergeant's cap badge, which he (or she) is then entitled to wear

for the rest of his service regardless of what rank he may eventually achieve.

'Commissioned' and 'Chief Warrant' Officers wear the same badge as the Serjeants but with the addition of the Coronet and Cypher of Leopold, Duke of Albany, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment from 1881-1884. The Coronet and Cypher of Frederick Duke of Albany (1763-1827) is borne on the Regimental Colour and various pieces of Mess silver.

**The possessive apostrophe is correct because although the OFFICAL name was "HM 72nd Regiment of Foot" it was referred to by all but the most bureaucratic as "Lord Seaforth's Highland Regiment".

From 1881 until amalgamation the (British) Seaforth Highlanders lobbied to change the name back to "Lord Seaforth's Highlanders" - which is why our brass shoulder-titles read "Seaforth's".



One Hundred Years of 'Hectors': Left to Right; pre-1910 Officer's badge (possibly 78th Highlanders/2nd Seaforth), ca.1910-1939 Officer's, ca.1910-1939 Serjeant's, ca.1939-1960s Officers and Serjeants, ca.1974-present Officers and Serjeants. The difference in design is the result of different moulds used by the various Regimental Jewelers over the years



SEAFORTH'S HIGHLANDERS

To be forthwith raised for the DEFENCE
of His Glorious Majesty KING GEORGE the
Third, and the Preservation of our Happy
Constitution in Church and State.

All LADS of *TRUE HIGHLAND BLOOD*, willing to shew
their Loyalty and Spirit, may repair to *SEAFORTH*, or the Major,
ALEXANDER MACKENZIE of *Belmaduthy*; Or, the other
Commanding Officers at Head Quarters, at
where they will receive *HIGH BOUNTIES*, and *SOLDIER-LIKE*
ENTERTAINMENT.

*The LADS of this Regiment will LIVE and DIE together :—
as they cannot be DRAUGHTED into other Regiments, and must be
reduced in a BODY in their OWN COUNTRY.*

Now for a Stroke at the Monfieurs my Boys !
KING George for ever !

H U Z Z A !

George Hilton Soles, DCM and the Canadian Corps, 1917-1918

By Michael Patience

Foreward By Robert MacDonald

One of the experiences commonly faced by anyone who works with the Seaforth Collection is to encounter a really wonderful artefact or (partial) story....only to run into a blank wall in the search for additional information.

Such was the case when I first learned about Company Sergeant-Major George Soles DSM(3), who had served with our First Battalion in the Great War. I had been nearly 4 years with the Regiment at the time and had (occasionally) volunteered in the Museum – but his name and exploits had faded from the Seaforth consciousness.

All I had was the Regimental Association's Membership directory for 1935, with it's bald entry "SOLES, GEORGE H. DCM, C Coy....BC Provincial Police, (city of) Prince George " plus a passing reference in a book about British awards and medals which added that during the period that the medal had been issued (1854-1993) only 7 men had been awarded the DCM with 2 bars. Fascinating – and frustrating, because what were the odds of ever learning anything more?

By a wonderful twist of fate, CSM Soles' grand-daughter had inherited his medals-group plus some photographs and other information, and had decided to present them to the Regiment.

Here is CSM Soles' story, researched and written by Mr. Michael Patience.

In one sense George Hilton Soles was not unlike the 630,000 other Canadians who, compelled by loyalty towards Great Britain and antipathy towards Germany, volunteered for military service during the First World War.

But George Soles' military career was far from ordinary. As an infantryman of Vancouver's 72nd Battalion, The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, Soles was three times awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for 'distinguished conduct in the field' during the Great War. No other Canadian ever repeated this distinction.

Even before war was declared on the 28th of July 1914 between the Entente powers (Great Britain, Imperial Russia and France) and the Axis (Wilhelmine Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire), George Soles was already a member of the Canadian militia's 107th (East Kootenay) Regiment, which was raised in Fernie in May of 1914.

No doubt eager for action, Soles enlisted in Victoria on the 29th of March 1915 with the 48th Battalion (British Columbia), and shipped out from Halifax with his battalion aboard R.M.S. Grampian for training in Britain on Dominion Day, July 1st that same year.

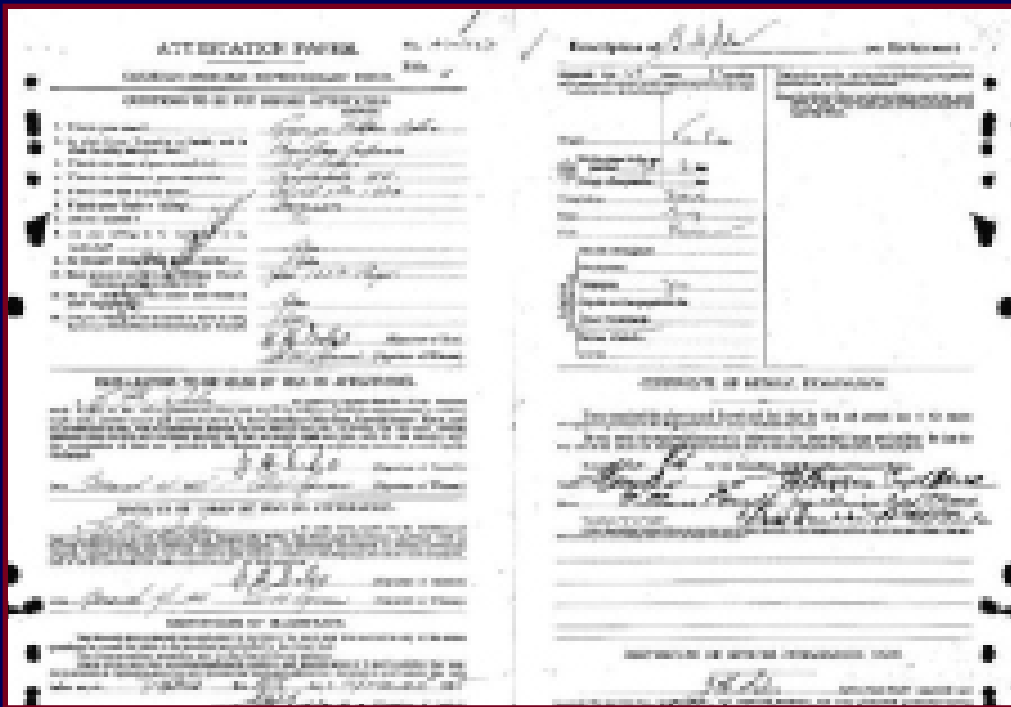
On January 6th 1916, while still undergoing training in England,



CSM Soles

Soles' unit was re-designated the 3rd Canadian Pioneer Battalion (48th Canadians), and on March 9th the battalion sailed to Europe for service with the Canadian Corps in Belgium and France as part of 3rd Canadian Division.

Assigned to 3rd Canadian Division, the 3rd Canadian Pioneer



CSM George H Soles' Attestation Paper, signed 29th March 1915 in Victoria

enormous casualties during the ghastly attritional conflicts at the Verdun and Somme battlefields.

So it was welcome news when on April 6th 1917 the United States finally declared war against Germany, but it would take time before the vast materiel and manpower advantages offered by that country would affect the outcome of the conflict in western Europe, now in its 4th year.

To return to George Soles, it is known that he was wounded in fighting at Vimy Ridge during early April 1917, but it would have likely come as more of a shock to him convalescing in England to learn that the decision was made on April 17th to break up his 3rd Canadian Pioneer Battalion.

A controversial decision at the time, the 3rd Canadian Pioneer Battalion was disbanded in order to provide much-needed reinforcements to other Canadian units in the field. Victory at Vimy Ridge, the first time all four Canadian Infantry Divisions of the Canadian Corps were unified under a single command, had come at a

ultimate battles of Vimy Ridge.

But the battalion was bloodied. In the words of Bernard McEvoy, writing about the aftermath of Vimy in his History of the 72nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, 'But if the victory had been a great one, it was won at heavy cost, there being but 62 of all ranks who did not become casualties.' On Dominion Day 1917 George Soles was transferred to the 72nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

As a member of the 72nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada George Soles fought in some of the most notable battles of the latter stages of the Great War, winning the DCM three times between 1917

and the cessation of hostilities on November 11th, 1918.

In this period of time, with the Canadian Corps at the forefront, the conduct of the war was greatly transformed. Gone were the days of massed infantry assaults against well-prepared German defensive lines heralded by several days of preliminary artillery barrages. Newer tactics aspired to greater battlefield mobility, with an emphasis on combined arms, operational secrecy, and a more effective use of combat engineering.

George Soles' first DCM was awarded for conduct in Belgium during the closing stages of the Second Battle of Passchendaele, in late October and early November 1917. As noted in the London Gazette,

L/Sgt. G.H. SOLES, 430337 'For conspicuous gallantry & devotion to duty. During an attack, when the left flank was held up by some strong posts, he led his men to the right & worked round to within bombing distance. He knocked over a machine gun with a bomb, killing eight of



Collar badge, 48th Battalion (British Columbia), CEF



Cap badge, 3rd Pioneer Battalion (48th Canadians)

the enemy & taking the remainder, eighteen in number, prisoners' (L.G. 28.3.18)

At the end of October 1917, the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade was assigned to capture a strongly fortified position, called Crest Farm, which commanded the southern approach to the Passchendaele ridge.

At 5:50 A.M. on the 30th of October, the Canadians attacked in miserable conditions. Rain had turned the battlefield into a quagmire. Skilled maneuvering and well-coordinated artillery support allowed the 72nd Battalion to capture Crest Farm by the end of the day.

By the summer of 1918 it was clear to most that Germany was losing the war against the Entente. Despite a massive influx of reserve manpower transferred from the eastern front (Russia had ceased hostilities with Germany after the Bolsheviks seized power and signed the treaty of Brest-Litovsk), Germany's spring 1918 offensives, meant to split the French and

British armies, had utterly failed.

By August the Entente were ready to resume the attack, with the Canadian Corps now in the vanguard of the British First Army. On August 8th the Canadians struck southeast of the ancient French city of Amiens. With no preliminary bombardment to announce an imminent attack, the Canadians

swept through the German defenses, ultimately forcing their retreat to the Hindenberg Line.

George Soles' second DCM was earned at the Battle of Amiens in August 1918. The London Gazette notes,

Barto DCM 'When a Tank which had fallen behind commenced firing upon our men, this NCO immediately put a steel helmet on his bayonet & ran to the Tank through a storm of bullets until he attracted their attention & diverted the fire. His conduct in charge of a platoon throughout the operations was characterised by daring & high fighting qualities'

(L.G. 15.11.18)

In the centre the Canadian Corps advanced 13 km, with 4th Canadian Division leading the second phase of the assault. The 'Amiens show' marks the beginning of the 'Hundred Days', the Imperial German Army's last stand in the west.

Soles' third DCM came at the high-water mark of the Canadian Corps achievements in the Great War, during fierce fighting to breach the Hindenberg Line, the Imperial German Army's last prepared line of defense. Again the Canadians were called for duty at the sharp end. The first Canadian-born Commanding Officer of the Canadian Corps, Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie, DSO faced his greatest challenge of the war. How to cross the Hindenberg Line, a well-fortified German defensive zone which included a dry canal bed 30 meters wide?



New York Times headline from April 6th 1917



The Battle of Vimy Ridge, by Richard Jack, from the collections of the Canadian War Museum

Currie ordered the Canadian Corps to breach the Canal du Nord on a dangerously small front opposite the French village of Inchy. Engineering battalions were ordered to build bridges for men and materiel to quickly cross over. This would make it possible for artillery units to advance with the attacking infantry.

12th Canadian Infantry Brigade, including the 72nd Battalion, was ordered to assist the capture Bourslon Wood, a heavily forested prominence midway between the Canal du Nord and the French city of Cambrai.

Bourslon Wood was key to the Canadian Corp's primary objective of capturing Cambrai and its vital railway networks. If the Germans were forced from Bourslon Wood, then their position along the Hindenberg Line would be untenable. The two German armies in Flanders to the north would be compelled to withdraw to the next significant line of defense, the Meuse River in neighbouring Belgium. Germany would be out of the war.

The attack against the Canal du Nord and Bourslon Wood came

on September 27th. Here counter-battery fire was exceedingly effective. Some 230 German guns were located in the vicinity of Bourslon Wood prior to the Canadian

assault, and 80 percent were located and destroyed in the early stages of 4th Canadian Division's successful attack.

Company Sgt. Maj George Soles earned his third DCM on the 29th of September, 1918 leading his 'A' Company of the 72nd Battalion as it fought to secure the French hamlet of Sancourt, slightly northeast of Bourslon Wood. As noted in the London Gazette,

*2nd Bar
(72nd Bn.) 'For
marked courage*

& good leadership during the operations near Cambrai from 27th September to 1st October 1918. On 29th Sept. he rushed an enemy strong-point single-handed, accounting for the garrison & capturing three machine guns. Later, he worked his way along a railway cutting, & personally shot eight of the enemy. Later, again, he organised a strong-point, which successfully held up an enemy counter-attack' (L.G. 10.1.20)

Five weeks later, at 5.00 A.M. Paris time on November 11th the Armistice of Compiègne was signed. The German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, had abdicated the day before. At 11.00 A.M. on the 11th the guns drew silent along the western front. For the Canadian Corps, including the 72nd Battalion resting in billets in the vicinity of Valenciennes about



CSM George Hilton Soles, 72nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada



CSM George H Soles' DCM with two bars is the left-most medal, with the blue and red ribbon.

15 km from the Belgian border, and George Soles recovering in hospital from wounds incurred while earning his third DCM, the Great War was over.

In the summer of 1919 the 72nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and George Soles returned to Canada aboard the SS Olympia. In the 1920s Soles' service to his country and province would continue. Between 1922 and 1928 Soles served as a constable with the office of the Provincial Game Warden. In its 1923 annual report, Soles is recorded working in the North-East Kootenay District, that same Columbia River country where he went to school before enlisting in 1915. From 1928 until his retirement in October 1943 Soles

then served as a constable with the British Columbia Provincial Police.

Until its dissolution in 1950 and replacement by the RCMP, the British Columbia Provincial Police was the only law enforcement agent across the entire province. In addition to its policing work, the British Columbia Provincial Police also functioned as provincial government agents. In this role their far-flung tasks were more as returning officers, tax collectors, and census-takers than as police.

In the 1930s, being a representative of the provincial government in BC's distant northern communities, like Prince Rupert and Prince George where Soles was stationed, was a physically challenging occupation made even more arduous by vast distances and

the environment. It was an era when travel to remote settlements in the middle of winter to investigate a suspicious death might still best be made in snowshoes. Such conditions would have been business-as-usual for the Great War veteran George Soles, who passed away in Vancouver on July 26th, 1945 as another world war was drawing to a close.

In 2014 George Soles' DCM with 2 Bars was bestowed by his family for keeping with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

For full image gallery visit <http://www.seaforthhighlanders.ca/museum/?p=703>



In the Crosshairs



Former Seaforth Officer Stephen Fitzpatrick Shows off his Seaforth Jersey and number



Stephen Fitzpatrick and his lucky number "1/2" managed to transcend time and space, or photoshop, to join his old team for a photo

Former Seaforth officer Stephen Fitzpatrick now living in Vernon, BC proudly shows off his new Seaforth hockey jersey which he proudly wears in his men's league hockey . Stephen couldn't resist the temptation of photo-shopping himself into the Seaforth Hockey Team photo which is likely the only way he would ever make the team. The jersey draws a lot of admiration and questions about Seaforths that Stephen is only too happy to answer. Proving once again that once a Seaforth, always a Seaforth and that "bobsled" skates do come in adult sizes. But what is with that jersey number, "1/2"??



Seaforth Hockey, Round 2

It has been another year, and another great season for the Seaforth Highlanders Ice Hockey team. We had an increase in the number of serving Seaforth members who laced up their skates to put on our very recognizable team jerseys. Also, we sent our team to a tournament up against international rivals; sent a couple of our members on a once in a lifetime trip to Washington D.C.; and also battle our regimental rivals, the Royal Westminster Regiment. All of this while maintaining our commitments to the regiment in our individual roles as soldiers.

This year we welcomed a couple new players on the team that helped us fill holes in our roster when we needed them. We saw junior players, like Pte. Liam Clegg as well as a member of the officer's mess, 2Lt Outhwaite. That brought us to a total of sixteen Seaforth members who played on the team this year. We also had welcomed additions from around the brigade that brought skill to the team. We were lucky to have L.Col. Haverstock, Capt. Stark, MCpl. Butindari, and MCpl. Avramovic out on the ice this season. Unfortunately, we saw one of our more reliable members leave this year. Sgt. Pratt took a full time tasking in Ottawa and had to leave us half way through the season.

We had a couple trips this year that our members got to enjoy. The first one saw three of our

members sent to Washington D.C. to watch the NHL Winter Classic on New Years Day. Our team won this trip due to our devoted patronage to the arena restaurant and lounge after our games. We sent Cpl. Devenish, MCpl. Zimmerman and Lt. Nicholls on the trip, which included tickets to the Winter Classic hockey game, as well as the opportunity to play hockey on the ice rink the day after and to be coached by an NHL alumni, Dennis Maruk.

We also had the chance to play in a one day tournament in Kelowna, B.C. We were invited to play against the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) while they were in Kelowna. We made the day of it, and got to play a team from the British Columbian Dragoons and a local female team as well. We managed to go 3-0 in the day to win the day tournament.

Once again, we had the chance to challenge the Royal Westminster Regiment to a friendly game this year. It was a great game but to our dismay, we lost in a shootout. This is becoming a great annual event that we hope to expand across the brigade one day. It is an excellent way to create bonds with the other regiments outside of operational field training.

Of course, we had a lot of fun in our league play as well. This year we had quite a bit more success than last year. We started off in a proper

division for us which allowed us to play competitively right from the start. We spent the season at the top of our division with a record of 20 wins and only 8 losses. Our performance set us up in great position heading into the playoffs. We won our first two games of the playoffs but with a busy time of the year for training, had a hard time filling the player's bench for our third, and single elimination game. We had only 6 skaters for the game and lost 6-5 with 26 seconds left in the game.

Overall, it was another successful season for the team and has put us in great shape for the 2015-2016 season starting in September. We hope to have our entire roster return, as well as add some new members to the team. With the success of our team, we also are looking forward to more opportunities to travel and challenge more teams around the province, and further.

Cabar Feidh,

MCpl Kyle Zimmerman



seaforthhighlanders.ca