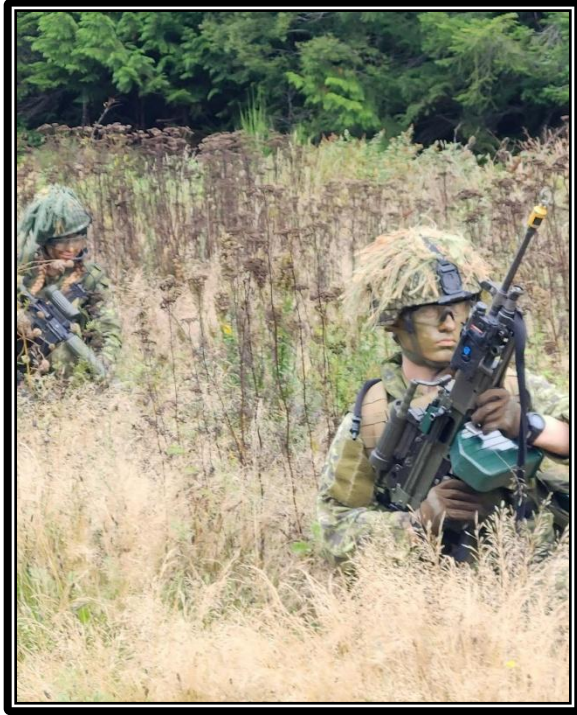


The Can Scot

The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Regimental Association
February 2025
PO Box 44180 RPO GORGE, Victoria, BC V9A 7K1

B Company honing soldier skills

Photo by Capt Park



Important Dates and Articles

Command Team Message – see pages – 3-10

Up Island Branch – Page 11

Lunch Dates – Page 12

Association Reunion – Page 12

Endowment Fund – Page 13-14

Association AGM 15

Museum 16-17

Voices of Veterans 18-19

Deadline for May 2025 Newsletter – Saturday, April 26

Executive Roster 2024-2025

Patrick Bulmer	President	250-472-0875
Stan Willow	Vice President	
Lee Tucker	Secretary Treasurer	250-308-4843
Ron Cullen	Past President	250-592-4123

Directors:

CWO B. Fairall	Regimental Sergeant Major	
Jim Dumont	Director	250-477-1346
Steven Hayward	Social Director / Association Pipes and Drums	778-351-3376
Hank Lowe	Endowment Fund	250-592-2898
Charles Middleton	Membership / Editor "The Can Scot"	250-893-7954
Thomas Mercer	Nanaimo Branch Representative	

President's Report – Patrick Bulmer

I hope everyone is doing well and staying warm. The Regimental Association has been involved in a number of activities: the well-attended RA & WA annual Christmas Dinner in the Currie Room. The RA Pipes and Drums attended and provided the seasonal entertainment. Santa Claus appeared and gave out presents to all the children. Good food and pleasant company. Thanks to Rhonda Scott and Steve Hayward

I attended the All-Ranks Christmas Dinner in Nanaimo with Ron Cullen and Jim Dumont. It was again well attended, and members of the Regimental Association served the food. The Regimental Pipes and Drums performed, much to everyone's delight. Your Regimental Association gave Three \$1000.00 Bursaries to help the soldiers continue their education. The three recipients were Pte Howe, OCdt Nagy and Pte Drake. All members of B Coy. Congratulations to all.

The CO asked the RA if it could organize the Regimental Robbie Burns this year on January 25, 2025. With much support from Volunteers and the Women's Auxiliary, the RA gladly stepped up and helped make it a success. Thank you to all. It was a full house with the CO, LCol Slade Lerch, HCol Alan Lowe and Grace Lowe, and HLCOL Jamie Hammond and Fern Hammond present. Thank you to Ron Cullen for being the Chair for the evening. Thank you to all the guests who attended and in helping keep the Tradition going. The performances by the Highland Dancers, Combined Pipes and Drums of the Regiment and the Fifth Field Artillery Band made the evening special. Again, thanks to all.

Please also see the information regarding the Victoria Regimental Association's Annual General Meeting and the upcoming Regimental Association's Annual Reunion in Victoria on June 6-8.

Command Team Message February 2025

The fall training cycle ended at the end of 2024, and the Soldier's Appreciation Dinner. The reserve summer training (RST) cycle has been completed, and we are moving into the winter training period as we continue to support individual and collective readiness for domestic and international operations. With 7 soldiers and one officer employed one OP REASSURANCE, The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) stands ready to do what our nation asks at home and abroad.

Our training will continue to hone individual and small unit tactics, emphasizing Adapted Dispersed Operations based on experiences learned from the ongoing war in Ukraine, including basic Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) training. As always, the regiment continues its support of 39 CBG and 3rd Division with instructors and students for individual courses and collective training activities.

Exercise Updates

Scottish Smeek 24 was conducted decentralized from 4-6 Oct 24 to allow companies to focus on section-level offensive operations in a platoon-level scenario.

Scottish Ionnsaigh 24 was held 8-10 Nov 24 at Mary Hill and Rocky Point training areas. This FTX saw the integration of A and B Companies into a composite sub-unit to conduct platoon-level offensive operations. In the background, a Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT) was conducted to develop junior officers professionally.



Pre-patrol Orders (MWO Mike Bean)



C Scot R on Patrol (CWO Brad Fairall)

Scottish Lament 24 was conducted on 11 Nov 24 and saw The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) conduct de-centralized public commemoration events to (honour Remembrance Day at local cenotaphs and Legions in remembrance of the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict, and peace



Dusting off the vehicle hide routines (CWO Brad Fairall)

As part of Scottish Lament 24, the Regimental Pipes and Drums performed at the Victoria Royals CAF Appreciation game on 3 Nov 24.



Pipes and Drums Performing at Victoria Royals CAF Appreciation Game (Capt Gary Newcombe)



Pipes and Drums and Victoria contingent prepare to step off to Victoria Cenotaph (Capt Gary Newcombe)



B Company parading through Nanaimo for Scottish Lament (Author unknown)

Scottish Scholar 2-24 took place 22-24 Nov 24 and continued the ongoing series of professional development training weekends. In conjunction with Scottish Scholar 2-24, the officers' mess successfully hosted the Game Dinner, with approximately 75 guests in attendance.

Scottish Dousie 24, the traditional Soldiers Appreciation Dinner, took place over the 6-8 Dec 24 weekend at Nanaimo Military Camp. A march and shoot were held where the soldiers set out from NMC to the Nanaimo ranges wearing full fighting order. Once at the range, the RAE Shoot completion was conducted between A and B Companies, with A Company coming out victorious. The Dinner itself was held on the parade square, appropriately decorated in proper military fashion with cam nets and a tree barely fitting in the building. A great time was had by all. The annual Regimental Awards were presented that evening and several presentations to the C Scot R Mountaineering team.

New Year's Day Levee

1 Jan 25, The Officers' Mess hosted the traditional New Year's Day Levee, while the Regimental Pipes and Drums performed at Government House, with Pipe Major Roger McGuire piping in the Vice-Regal party for the traditional speech and toast by the L Gov. HCol Lowe, L Col Lerch and Capt Newcombe attended the Levee at Government House

Scottish Alpach 25 In mid-January, we held decentralized company-run exercises to complete individual-to-platoon-level training in two or more locations. Several lines of effort included individual–section soldier skills in offensive operations and sustainment drills at the Company level.

INVICTUS GAMES 25

In February, The Regiment is honoured to support the seventh edition of INVICTUS GAMES, being held in Vancouver and Whistler. The Regimental Pipes and Drums will be performing at several venues over the weekend of 7-10 February and members of the unit have been tasked to participate in the medal ceremonies. The Invictus Games is an international multi-sport event first held in 2014, for wounded, injured and sick military service personnel, both serving and veterans.

The mission of the INVICTUS GAMES 2025 is to deliver a world-class international sporting competition for Wounded, Injured, and Sick (WIS) service personnel and Veterans, and through the power of the Invictus Games, inspire recovery, support rehabilitation, and generate a broader understanding and respect for those who serve their country. Through their shared journey of recovery, a culture in which competitors and their families are valued, respected and receive the support they need.

Awards and Presentations

As always, presenting our soldiers with hard-earned awards and decorations gives me and the RSM great pleasure. During the fall training cycle and at Scottish Dousie, we had the pleasure of presenting the Regimental awards, promotions, and Canadian Forces Decorations.



Cpl Barry promoted by Maj Ptolemy and Sgt Mattock



Sgt Allmedinger promoted by L Col Lerch



2Lt Elford-Nagy is presented a bursary from Marc Marchand of the RA



Pte Lowe is presented a bursary from Patrick Bulmer, President of the RA



Sgt Mattock presented the CD by L Col Lerch



Capt Rippon presented his CD by L Col Lerch



Soldier Awards presented by L Col Lerch; Clockwise from upper left: Top Soldier - MCpl Commandeur, Top Sergeant - Sgt Kurtis; Top Sub-Altern - Capt Belbeck; Most Dedicated Soldier - Cpl Rai. (Capt Cam Park



Clockwise from top left: L Col Lerch presents the Top Private award; Top Shot to Major Stevens; For winning the RAE Shoot, Capt MacKenzie accepts the Trophy on behalf of A Company; Sgt Gamble won the Top NCO shot for the RAE Shoot.



Clockwise from the top; Cpl Whitman and Pte Alcorso presented their awards for physical fitness achievement by L Col Lerch; L Col Lerch was presented with his Platinum Award for Physical Fitness by Acting L Col Beaulac; (Capt Cam Park)



On behalf of the C Scot R Mountaineering Team, Sgt Hunt and Sgt Woods were presented with grants from the Regimental Association (both Victoria and Up Island Branches). A grant from the Women's Auxiliary was also presented to the team on their behalf by Capt Gary Newcombe.

As the winter training cycle begins, we carry on preparing our soldiers, NCOs, and officers for overseas service. Regimental training will focus on warfighting, and rightfully so, as we continue to deploy soldiers in ever-increasing numbers and frequency to conflict zones. The world is getting more dangerous - events in Ukraine, Israel and the Middle East continue to demonstrate this. The regiment, its officers, NCOs, and soldiers understand that our country will make demands of us and with a steady focus on challenging training and the support of the Regimental Family, we will be Ready for the Fray.

Deas Gu Cath

CO, LCol Slade Lerch, MMM, CD
RSM, CWO Brad Fairall, CD

CScotR Women's Auxiliary - Rhonda Scott

The WA hosted its annual Christmas Potluck dinner on December 4th. We also had the pleasure of donating \$500.00 towards the 2025 Mountaineering Expedition. Another annual event we support is the Association Christmas Potluck. The traditional meal was very well attended, and Santa gave out gifts to 6 youngsters.

We are preparing for our annual fundraising event on March 22nd and are asking for any donations. If you can help us out by donating a service or goods, it would be extremely helpful. The WA is also looking forward to supporting the Association Reunion this year in Victoria in June.

Please consider supporting our annual Silent Auction and Dinner or donating to our cause. All money raised goes towards helping the Regimental family and serving members. Tickets for this event are on sale now @ \$35 per person. More information can be found by contacting Dixie Allan @ Dixie.allan@shawcable.com

We would also like to extend an invitation to all Regimental family members, spouses, or friends to become members of the WA. We meet the first Wednesday evening of the month in the Sgt's Mess @7pm. Also, we have a Facebook page if you are interested, The Canadian Scottish Regiment Women's Auxiliary.

Association Pipes and Drums – Steve Hayward

The Association band is now back in the swing of things. We had a busy Robbie Burns weekend, with our annual Burns pub crawl, and the Regimental Burns supper. On the Friday pub crawl, we visited the Penny Farthing, the Irish Times, and finished up at the Bard and Banker. Each stop included a piping in of the Haggis and the address to the Haggis by Jamie Orr, all being well received. On Saturday night we performed for the Regimental dinner with members of the Regimental band joining our ranks, another great night. We recently played for the cadet CO parade, and some will be participating in the Firefighters Memorial at the beginning of March. Our band continues to grow with new players, so we are pleased that there is increasing interest in joining our band. We are looking forward to the trip in May to Holland arrangements being made and we appreciate the work that members are doing to make this a success. We will also be playing at the WA dinner and silent auction in March and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

CSR Up Island Branch – Gord Thomson

Greetings from the Up Island Branch CSRA. The Soldiers' appreciation dinner was held in the Nanaimo Armoury on December 7th, 2024, with a good turnout of all ranks. Highlights included a 25-foot Douglas fir Tree, designer camouflage nets, and a home-style turkey dinner complete with Christmas pudding and beverages for all.

After dinner, President Pat Bulmer, President Marc Marchand and Director Gord Degau presented 3x \$1,000.00 Student Bursaries to members of Bravo Company. Sergeant Eric Carveth received a \$500.00 cheque for the unit Ice Climbing members' upcoming ice climbing and crevice recovery training in the mountains near Lillooet, BC. Certified instructors provide this training to help the CSR members climb mountains safely, and if they encounter anyone injured or stuck in a crevice, they can help recover others. We look forward to hearing about their adventures. Three of the team climbed Mount Denali last June.

The Up-Island Branch CSRA held its AGM on February 8th, 2025. Congratulations to Major Shawn Stevens, who Spent 47 years with the Canadian Army, starting with Bravo Company.

The Canadian Scottish Regimental Association (Princess Mary's) Annual Reunion June 6-8, 2025, Victoria B.C

Friday June 6,2025

Registration and Meet and Greet
Bay Street Armoury- Currie Room
Registration 3-5 and 6-7
Meet and Greet 7-9 Wine and cheese

Saturday June 7,2025

Cocktails 6:00 and Dinner 7:00
Place - Trafalgar/ Pro Patria Legion
Branch 292 - 411 Gorge Road East
Dunedin Street entrance for Parking
Entertainment- RA Pipes & Drums

Sunday June 8,2025

Pioneer Square- Wreath laying
Form up -10:45 Service 11:00
11:30 Lunch and fair well.
Bay Street Armoury

More information will be sent out informing members of organized events planned, including a Tea Party organized by Maureen Thompson.

Regimental Museum

It will be open Friday night as well as Sunday during our lunch.
Attached, please see Registration Form

Lunch Dates - Jim Dumont

Our next Association Luncheon for 2024-2025 is Saturday, March 8th, 2025 in the Lounge of the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Legion Branch No. 292 at 411 Gorge Road East. All components of the Regimental Family, guests, relatives, and children are welcome to attend. We gather any time after 11:00 and start ordering lunch shortly after. If you plan to attend, please respond to this email or email Jim Dumont at jadu@shaw.ca or phone 250-477-1346 before Thursday evening, March 6th. This response is required to ensure we have ample seating for those attending. That is also fine if you decide to come at the last minute. We usually set up for a few extra seats but letting us know is the best.

Just so you know, the Legion opening time is 11:00 a.m.

The Canadian Scottish Remembers
Capt. John Geddes Killed in Action at Kitchener's Wood. 23 April 1915

In the August edition of the CanScot, the latest tranche of soldiers listed for sponsorship under the Endowment Fund's, The Canadian Scottish Remembers project included Capt. John Geddes missing/ killed in action 22 April 1915 during the 16th Bn action at Kitchener's Wood. C Scot R Trustee and Former HCol. Richard Talbot noted that Capt. John Geddes was the great-great uncle of former British Prime Minister, now member of the British House of Lords, Lord David Cameron of Chipping Norton. Col. Talbot had been in correspondence with Lord Cameron prior to the Scottish pilgrimage in 2015 and had in fact invited Lord Cameron to Regiment's service at the Canada Gate memorial in London, which regrettably he was unable to attend. Accordingly, a letter was written to Lord Cameron explaining the Endowment Fund and the Book of Memory and inviting him to sponsor Capt. Geddes. I am very please to report that Lord Cameron graciously accepted our offer, agreed to sponsor Capt. Geddes and being named as the sponsor. He also provided a generous donation to the Endowment Fund. Capt.Geddes' Record of Entry certificate as provided to Lord Cameron follows:



The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's)

Board of Regimental Trustees' Endowment Fund



Book of Memory This record of entry commemorates Captain John Geddes of Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was born in Chicago, USA, of Highland Scots parentage on the 06 Nov 1878. He was educated in Scotland and England and immigrated to Canada in 1903 residing in Winnipeg, Manitoba where he was engaged in the grain business. He was commissioned into the 79th Cameron Highlanders on its formation in 1910 and in 1912 promoted Captain. Following the outbreak of WWI, he commanded the Camerons overseas contingent to Valcartier, Quebec, where on the 23 Sep 1914 he was attested into the 16th Bn (Canadian Scottish) C.E.F. He embarked for England on the H.M.T.S. Andania on the 03 Oct 14 and subsequently arrived in France on the 15 Feb 1915. On the night of 22/23 April 1915 he led No.4 Coy of the 16th Bn in its counterattack on a German position at Kitchener's Wood near St. Julian (Ypres). He was mortally wounded by enfilade machine gun fire but continued to urge his troops forward. Reported "killed in action" on the 24 April 1915 his body was not recovered. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial (Panel 26) at Ypres, Belgium.

The Canadian Scottish remembers.

The current *Canadian Scottish Remembers* project of the Endowment Fund seeks to enter the names of Canadian Scottish (and the Regiments it perpetuates), World War I war dead into the *Book of Memory* within the Regiment, their memory, service, and sacrifice.

We are looking for individuals to sponsor the below listed soldiers for entry into the Book of Memory. Sponsors will receive a certificate with the sponsored soldier's particulars of service, including place of birth, date and place of enlistment, time, and location of death, and where memorialized if they died on active service.

A donation (suggested minimum donation \$50.00) will secure sponsorship. Some sponsors may wish to make their donation perpetual on an annual basis, for example on the anniversary of the soldier's death or Remembrance Day, or through a monthly allocation. (This can be accommodated on-line through <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-c-s-r-trustees/Canadahelps>.) Tax receipts will be issued.

The Endowment Fund is seeking sponsorship into the Book of Memory of the below named 16th Bn soldiers Killed in Action during WW1.

1.	29062 Pte. East, Benjamin	16 th Bn	KIA	France	28-04-17
2.	151632 Pte. Eardley, Albert	16 th Bn	KIA	France	8/9-10-16
3.	420042 A/L/Cpl. Dwinell, Wilfred	16 th Bn	KIA	France	4/7-09-16
4.	718293 Pte. Dupas, Henry	16 th Bn	KIA	France	28-04-17
5.	718675 Pte. Duncan, Firth	16 th Bn	KIA	France	09-04-17

Please return your completed nomination form identifying the soldier you wish to remember with your donation by mailing to: **Treasurer, CSR Endowment Fund, 4746 Beaver Rd, Victoria, BC, V9E 2J7.**

Help us remember those who served with the Regiment in peace and war and to support the Regiment into the future.

Deas du Cath

[Please contact us at cscotrendowment@gmail.com to learn other ways you can support the Regimental Family through gifts to The Endowment Fund]

The following soldiers have recently been sponsored for entry into the Book of Memory:

1.	Capt. Geddes, John	16 th Bn	KIA	France	23-04-15
----	--------------------	---------------------	-----	--------	----------

Remembered by Lord David Cameron of Chipping Norton.

**Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers
Saturday, March 1, 2025**

Warrant Officer's & Sergeant's Mess. Bay Street Armoury

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Mess opens for Registration and Meet and Greet.
Refreshments will be available.

2025 Annual Membership dues can be paid.

10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.
Spouses are welcome to attend the meeting.

Refreshments and other goodies will be available after the meeting.

****** Meeting Agenda will be available on arrival on March 1, 2025. ******

Charles Middleton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Canadian Scottish Regimental Association AGM

Time: Mar 1, 2025 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95702270095?pwd=S0DbOOsCjDkE8AChtISqwdxbfYCW3z.1>

Meeting ID: 957 0227 0095

Passcode: 878447

Dial by your location

+1 780 666 0144

+1 204 272 7920

+1 438 809 7799

+1 587 328 1099

+1 647 374 4685

+1 647 558 0588

+1 778 907 2071

Meeting ID: 957 0227 0095

Passcode: 878447

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adahpexzln>

The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Regimental Museum – Rand Evans

As we move into 2025 the Museum is extremely lucky to have 19 volunteers. They are: Randy Evans – Director and Finance, Stan Willow – Collections Curator and Administration, Darryl Lynn – Weapons and Uniform Curator, Graham Peachy – Weapons Assistant, Clark Russell – Library and Historian, Kent Clarke – Registrar and Photographer, Jim Dumont – Records and Book of Memory, Barry Forrester - Exhibit Design and Construction, Paul Smith – Museum Infrastructure and Electrician, Al Dadds – Collections Manager, George Copley – Collections Assistant, Roger McGuire – Outreach and Video, John Azar – Publicity and Webpage, Ron Cullen – Security Officer, Tom Clarke – Artifact Conservation, Jim Millington (RCMP) - Firearms Liaison, Conner White – Digital Support, Thayer Fox – Information Technology, Tammy Featherstone – Finance.

Even with 19 dedicated helpers we are always looking for more volunteers as we continue to make improvements to the museum. There is always a lot of work to be done as we move ahead with our strategic plan.

We are currently updating our electrical outlets and lighting, and shortly we will be painting the display area. We are improving our medal display cases, designing new exhibits for our entrance hallway and era specific displays. The web site is continuing to be improved and we are receiving more and more inquiries from our Facebook page.

Barry, our busy cabinet builder, is working on a secure display case that will finally exhibit our Metcalf VC.

The museum is also busy digitizing and preserving all our photos, videos and film footage. If you have any photos, film or video pertinent to the Regiment that you wish to share with us we would be happy to digitize it, provide you with a copy, and add it to our collection.

We are reconfiguring our work area and have moved the library downstairs into the old Kit Shop room, next to the Weapons Vault. Clark, our tall Librarian, (he can reach the higher shelves) organized our numerous books, and is keen on loaning them out to anyone interested. We encourage those interested readers to come down on a Tuesday morning to see if there are any books or magazines they would like to check out. We are hoping to have all titles listed online in the future.

In addition to our ongoing development activity the museum is an active member of the Greater Victoria Military Museum Working Group and we are building travelling displays to set up at the other Museum's events to disseminate our Regimental history. We attend and support the Ashton Armoury Museum open house, the Navy's "Defense on the Dock" at Ships Point, the BC Aviation Museum, Fort Rodd Hill, MacAulay Point Artillery Park and the 5th Field Regt RCA events. If interested in helping, in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us via our museum phone – 250-363-8753, or email – cscotrmuseum@shaw.ca.

We continue to support School visits, and we are in the process of filling three portable "Discovery Boxes" with lesson plans, artifacts, photos and uniform pieces that we can take to the classroom to present our history.

We also assist the Armouries Recruiting Cell by opening the museum to prospective soldiers on their frequent recruitment drives. We open for all mess events, if requested, and support the Western Front Association, RUSI-VI, Emily Armour's "Music for Veterans" Program, and other organizations using the Armoury.

We will be providing historical information to the Lt Hemsley Burial Contingent who will be going to France in April. The museum will provide photos, artifacts and information on Lt Hemsley and the Battle of Hill 70 to the soldiers forming the Burial Party Lt. Hemsley's internment.

Our next Museum rotating display will be a display focusing on the Battle of the Scheldt including the Breskens Pocket and Leopold Canal battles.

The Museum and Library are open for winter hours every Tuesday and Thursday morning, from 0930 until 1330 hrs., and we will also open for specific requests. Summer hours will start in June and finish at the end of August, with opening Tuesday to Friday, 1000 – 1500 hrs.

Randy Evans

Director – CScotR Museum



Voices of our Veterans- Bob Russell

Introduction:

During my five years as your President, we had a good number of WW2 veterans as members. Sadly, other than a small handful, all these grand old soldiers have left us. I made a point of getting to know them and learning about their experiences in the Regiment. Initially, with some of the veterans there was a reluctance to discuss their experiences with me, feeling that I, as a younger man could not fully understand and appreciate their efforts. However, when they found out that I was sincere in wanting to know their experiences, and their contributions to our Regiments history they opened up with me, some relating experiences that were still painful to them. They would also try to minimize their involvement in a situation or try to see something funny in an otherwise serious occasion. They were simply ordinary men who did extraordinary things.

I have started recording my memories of my conversations with them while I am still able to do so, and hope that I can do justice to their words. I trust that their experiences will be welcome and informative for everyone, and I plan to introduce more in subsequent issues of the Can Scot

The Bicycles on “D” Day.

For the “D” Day invasion each assaulting battalion of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, nine in total, were required to designate one of their rifle companies as a bicycle company. In the case of the 1st battalion, this was D Company, commanded by Major G.T. (Tommy) MacEwan. The theory was that these companies were to move quickly inland and seize important positions. I had heard different accounts of the activities of D Company and their bicycles and was very fortunate in meeting Major MacEwan at a Regimental function. He graciously gave of his time and told me what had happened as follows. “Our objective on “D” Day was to move rapidly inland and seize and hold two bridges over the River Seulles, that were to be used by the tanks later in the day. When we got ashore, we found that we had enough bicycles to equip two of our three platoons, the rest being lost in the landing, a portent of things to come. So, two platoons set off on the road, while the third travelled cross country on foot. The road was in bad shape, due to the naval and air bombardment, making travel extremely slow. Also, laden with all your gear and personal weapon you presented a large, clumsy target. The result was that the bicycles were progressively tossed in the nearest ditch or hedgerow. We reached and took our objectives, but no one was riding a bicycle at the time”. Mayor MacEwan summed up by saying that “the bicycles on “D” Day were a concept that failed”.

Footnote:

When in Normandy one still sees French citizens pedaling down the road on recovered “D” Day bicycles. The one on display with the “D” Day mannequin on the Armoury balcony was donated to the Regimental Museum by a veteran, who had not been with the Regiment. He had been ordered back to England but had to find his own way. He picked up this discarded bicycle, rode it to the beach, onto a landing craft, and back to England. He later had it shipped home where he rode it for many years. It had been repainted, and was missing some parts but, thanks to Regimental member S/Sgt. Jack Leonard, a cycling enthusiast, it was restored to its original condition. Jack, and his family, were well known for many years to ride Penny Farthing bicycles, dressed in Victorian costume, in local parades.

A Big Bang

The objective of C Company on “D” Day, the first company in, was an enemy gun emplacement at Graye-sur-Mer, that could fire down the landing beach. Veteran “C” recalls what happened. “When we got ashore, we discovered that the Navy had done us a favor by knocking out the gun. We then moved on to our secondary objective which was the Chateau Vaux. This was the headquarters of an enemy coastal defense division. When approaching the Chateau I saw a parked enemy truck, and remembering our instructions to destroy any enemy equipment, threw a hand grenade into it and set it on fire. I then moved on to another position. Sometime later there was a terrific explosion, the truck had been loaded with ammunition. Not a very smart move”.

A Grateful Family

The Regimental Reunion in 2005 was held in Prince George, and a family living, I believe in Alberta, had lost a relative on “D” Day during the attack on the Chateau Vaux. This family was involved in a well-known international business, and hearing of the reunion in Prince George arrived in the corporate jet, hoping to speak with veterans who knew their relative. One veteran “S” had served with him and was able to supply details of his death. I also showed the family their relatives’ name in the Travelling Book of Memory. The family was extremely grateful for the hospitality they received, and the information they were given, and when they departed a sizeable amount of cash was laid on the bar.

Friendly Fire?

At a Regimental function I mentioned to some veterans that I had looked over the WW2 casualty lists and noted that a certain unpopular senior NCO had been wounded on “D” Day. When hearing this, two veteran’s “G” and “S” started to laugh stating that the individual was “shot in the rear end”. They went on to say that “a person can be difficult when in barracks, but when one gets into action strange things sometimes happen, and there are a lot of people running around that are all armed and dangerous”.

A Classic Understatement

On June 8/9th, 1944 the Regiment fought one of its finest actions at Putot-en-Bessin Normandy. The Royal Winnipeg Rifles had been overrun by the 12th SS Panzer Division (Hitlerjugend) and there was a serious possibility that the Canadian bridgehead would be destroyed. The only infantry from Putot to Juno Beach was the Regiment, and an immediate counterattack was ordered. In fierce fighting Putot was recaptured and held, despite numerous attempts by the enemy to recover it. Veteran “A” was an anti-tank gunner and related the following account. “We had been fighting all day and had repelled several attacks. We knocked out two Panther tanks and damaged a third, but ammunition was starting to become a problem. The rifle companies were getting very low on small arms ammunition, we were using the last of our 6 pounder anti-tank rounds, and the mortar platoon was down to its last few bombs. Then I hear someone say, “fix bayonets”, and this says to me “close quarter fighting”. Now I’m getting just a little bit concerned”.

Out of the Closet - Tom Vincent

There is a severe shortage of blue patrol tunics for serving NCMs and Officers at present. Donations from generous former serving NCOs and Officers have been a huge help in this regard, as has the purchase of a few new tunics. The acquisition price for new tunics today is between \$1,000 and \$1,200 each. If you have a blue patrol tunic and/or other uniform items such as mess kit parked in your closet or basement, please get in touch with Major (ret'd) Tom Vincent (tom_vincent@shaw.ca). He will arrange for the appraisal of the items and provide a receipt which may be used in the preparation of your 2024 (if the donation is received before 28 Feb 25) or 2025 taxes.

Thank you.

The Canadian Scottish Regimental Trustees – Eric Boucher

The C Scot R Trustees Society exists to support the Regiment and the Regimental Family in several functions. The Trustees are a small group of volunteers consisting of current and former Honorary Officers, former Commanding Officers, and other invited members. They meet formally four times per year and additionally on as-required basis to address other matters as they arise. As "trustees", the group exercises ownership on behalf of the Regimental family over all items of historic and cultural significance to the Regiment. This includes most art, trophies, artifacts, and displays not otherwise managed by the Regimental Museum and many items of Regimental kit not otherwise provided by the Crown. Most likely the kilt you wear was provided through a donation to, or acquired by, the Trustees. Other responsibilities include maintaining sub-committees that manage the Regimental Endowment Fund, managing inventories of Regimental Properties, and responding to requests from the Commanding Officer for assorted projects.

The Trustees are a registered BC Society and the society's constitution identifies the following purposes:

- a. the furtherance of the interests of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's);
- b. to serve as counsel to the Commanding Officer of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) primarily on matters of Regimental tradition and service customs in general.
- c. to support elements of the C Scot R Regimental Family in the furtherance of the interests of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's);
- d. to own and manage funds on behalf of elements of the C Scot R Regimental Family. This management shall include but not be limited to the reception, retention, investment, and disbursement of funds; and
- e. to own and manage regimental property on behalf of the C Scot R Regimental Family. This management shall include but not be limited to the reception, retention, maintenance, use, and disposal of property.

As a registered charity the Trustees can provide a tax receipt for donations for the good and welfare of the Regiment including financial donations to the Endowment fund, and donations of military artifacts that reflect the culture, history, or traditions of the Regiment. To make a donation of any sort kindly contact the Secretary and you will be directed to the appropriate contact to assist you with your gift or any planning considerations.

To learn more about the C Scot R Trustees or make inquiries kindly contact the Secretary at: cscotrtrustees.secretary@gmail.com



The photo includes some of the Trustees at a recent meeting in the C Scot R Officer's Mess.

Oaks of Remembrance

Emily Armour – Founder of Music for Veterans Project & veteran spouse.

Following a successful commemorative event for the [80th anniversary of D-Day](#), where 8 local music students presented compositions dedicated to CScotR soldiers at Bay Street Armoury, Music for Veterans Project is excited to announce a new project taking place later this year.

To recognize 2025 as the 110-year anniversary of the Battle of Kitcheners' Wood, [Music for Veterans Project](#) will launch the first instalment of *Oaks of Remembrance*, an ongoing commemorative project focused exclusively on memorializing members of CScotR. This project will create permanent, living, and cultural components to provide ongoing opportunities for remembrance and learning across generations. Its goal is to build connection & foster appreciation between communities by acknowledging the memory and legacy of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) through nature, music, and ongoing remembrance. *One tree at a time, one composition at a time.*

Oaks of Remembrance will involve ongoing planting of Garry Oak trees on Vancouver Island, each tree directly commemorating an individual member of the regiment. Each Garry Oak will feature an original piece of music composed by Vancouver Island youth, accessible through smartphone technology, which will honour the individual soldier. Trees will also be equipped with a stylized oak leaf plaque designed by CScotR veteran Devin Wilkins.

The first instalment will take root at Royal Oak Burial Park and will begin with the planting of six established Garry Oak trees. These first six trees will memorialize unique members of the regiment: three from the First World War (specifically three from the Battle of Kitcheners' Wood), and three from the Second World War. The collection will continue to grow to memorialize any regiment member who has passed away, creating a living legacy of trees and music across Vancouver Island.

A dedication/unveiling ceremony is currently scheduled to be held the morning of Sunday September 7th at Royal Oak Burial Park, followed by a reception in the Currie Room later in the afternoon.

We would like to express our thanks to Commanding Officer Lt Col Slade Lerch, Brig General (Ret'd) Michael Heppell, Captain (Ret'd) Randy Evans, Captain (Ret'd) Ken Wilson, and Royal Commonwealth Society Vancouver Island, for their support in the development of this important initiative.

Oaks of Remembrance is seeking sponsors to assist with the costs associated with the first 6 memorial trees. Any individuals or businesses wishing to sponsor one of the first six trees in this initiative, please feel free to email: musicforveteransproject@gmail.com

