

# The Can Scot

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

**Cpl Emma Yeo and MCpl Allyssa Haigh**  
receiving a plaque for The Canadian Scottish  
Regiment from the Mayor of Deventer.

**Photo by Patrick Bulmer**



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Deadline for August 2025 Newsletter – Saturday, July 26

## **Executive Roster 2025-2026**

Patrick Bulmer	President	250-472-0875
Stan Willow	Vice President	350-479-7144
Lee Tucker	Secretary Treasurer	250-308-4843
Ron Cullen	Past President	250-592-4123
<b>Directors:</b>		
MWO J. MacLeod	Regimental Sergeant Major	
Jim Dumont	Director	250-477-1346
Steven Hayward	Social Director / Association Pipes and Drums	778-679- 2953
Charles Middleton	Membership / Editor "The Can Scot"	250-893-7954
Thomas Mercer	Nanaimo Branch Representative	

## **President's Report – Patrick Bulmer**

I'm happy to return after the trip to Holland with the Regimental and Regimental Association Pipes and Drums, supporting our WWII veteran Nick Janickl. It was the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands, in which the Canadian Scottish Regiment played a prominent role. Nick Janicki personally participated in liberating Deventer and Wagonborgen.

I will write an article (with photos) for the next newsletter outlining our participation in the many ceremonies and parades.

If you have not already registered for the Annual Reunion in Victoria this year, which is on June 6,7,8, please email your intentions as soon as possible to [csraassociation@outlook.com](mailto:csraassociation@outlook.com). The registration deadline is May 31st.

As part of the reunion, on June 7th from 12:30 -3 pm, there is a planned Garden Party Luncheon and Strawberry Tea, which is included in your registration fee. Once you have registered for the reunion, and if you plan to attend the luncheon, please get in touch with Maureen Thompson at [maureen\\_thomson@telus.net](mailto:maureen_thomson@telus.net)

We look forward to meeting all veterans, spouses, and members of the Canadian Scottish. Our WWII veteran, Nick Janicki, will be attending, so we hope for a good turnout to support and honour him.

In other news, the Regimental Association has been fundraising with a 50/50 draw through Charles Middleton. Please participate as much as possible to help the US with our various endeavours, such as our bursaries—last year, we gave out three bursaries worth \$1000.00 each to deserving soldiers and regimental family members.

We have also initiated a plan to identify, map and record all our regimental monuments, cenotaphs, plaques, markers, and stained-glass windows etc. This will enable us to establish guidelines for any future restorations. We hope to have the guidelines ready in the fall. If you have any information regarding the above items, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at [patwbulmer@gmail.com](mailto:patwbulmer@gmail.com)

Hope to see you all at the Regimental Reunion 2025!  
Patrick Bulmer, CSRA President, DGC

## **CScotR Women's Auxiliary - Rhonda Scott**

The WA is pleased to announce that we are trying to keep up with the recent Regimental Baby Boom 😊. Dixie Allen has been very busy making the last of the 6 baby Quilts in the past 5 months. The WA's annual fundraiser went exceptionally well, and we doubled our current bank balance. We are looking forward to our next fundraising adventure, in October, at the Langford Legion. We will be renting tables for small business owners and crafters. Please support this event! Come out and spend some money, it all goes to our ongoing fundraising events for the Regiment's 'extras'

We are happy to support the NEW 50/50 draws by the Regimental Association, and it's fun to try our luck at winning. Because of our fundraising efforts, we were able to financially support the New Soldiers Manual that the Regiment is having published, and some funding for the care and maintenance of Wallace. We were also able to provide the Endowment Fund with \$100.00 for two more names to be added to the Book of Memory and provide some funding for a serving soldier's travel expenses for personnel needs.

We have been invited to help with the Sir Arthur Currie Birthday celebration, but so far have received no information. This also means that because the celebration is to be held on December 5th, the annual Association/WA potluck will be held next year. It has been a very productive year for us. Our year end luncheon will be held Sunday, June 28th, @ 1pm @ Spinnakers Restaurant.

## **CSR Up Island Branch – Gord Thomson**

The Up Island Branch CSRA assembled and mailed seven care packages to the CSR soldiers serving in Latvia. All contents were gratefully received, especially the Cheezies and the Canadian toilet paper. Simple items make such a huge difference.

We are currently working on labeling and adding some new items to the display cases in the Nanaimo Armoury. A few of our members attended the B Coy year-end smoker in April. Due to training commitments, it was held early this year.

101-year-old Nick Janicki attended the 80th anniversary of VE Day remembrance ceremonies held throughout the Netherlands. Nick was one of 23 Canadian WW2 veterans who participated in the event, along with the Regimental Association Pipes and Drums.

On May 26, members of the Up-Island Branch will conduct history talks for the 2422 RCAC CSR Cadets. Nick Janicki, Gord Degau, Marc Marchand, Gord Thomson, and Denis Byrne will assist with these talks. Denis will provide a slideshow of the regiment's mountain climbing activities, including ice climbing and crevice rescue, which demonstrate the importance of military teamwork and training. In addition, Denis will bring some of his mountain climbing equipment and explain how the equipment is used.

Members of the Up-Island Branch will attend the 2422 RCAC CSR Cadets ACR on June 29th at the Nanaimo Armoury.

## Command Team Message February 2025 - May 2025

The spring training cycle is winding down as a busy reserve summer training (RST) cycle gets underway. The Regiment continues to support individual and collective readiness for domestic and international operations. With seven soldiers and one officer currently deployed on OP REASSURANCE, one soldier preparing to deploy on OP UNIFER and seven soldiers deployed on OP CADENCE (G7 Summit), 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, with emphasis on 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Division with instructors and students for individual courses and collective training activities. Approximately fifty members will be tasked off this summer for either Individual training or as staff to support individual training throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. Two pipers from the Regimental Pipes and Drums will participate in the Ceremonial Guard on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and then on to the National Sentry Program.

Unfortunately, we saw OC A Company, Major Joe Cote depart the Regiment as he retires from the CAF after 38 years of service. We wish him well and he was suitably mugged out of the Officers Mess at Bay Street.



*H Col Lowe presents Certificate  
of Appreciation to Maj Joe Cote*

*L Col Lerch presents a set of  
mini-Colours to Maj Cote*

*(Photos - Capt Gary Newcombe)*



Fortunately, the draw of the C Scot R was too strong and Major Shawn Claire's has agreed to step into the role of OC A Company while continuing his employment as the Adjutant at 4 CRPG. Shawn has been away from the Regiment for many years while he was member of the PPCLI.

*Maj Claire rebadged back to C Scot R  
(Photo - Capt Gary Newcombe)*

## **Exercise Updates**

### **Scottish Shooter 1-25**

A Coy and B Coy conducted separate ranges at Heals and Nanaimo to improve marksmanship, maintain C7 PWT 3 levels, and complete the new C22 pistol practices. Elements of HQ & Svc Coy were attached to the rifle Coys to provide support and accomplish IBTS as required. For this exercise, all participants lived at the ranges to maximize trg time, reduce need to repackage ammo, and minimize issues of sharing armouries.

### **Scottish Shooter 2-25 (22 Mar 25)**

We conducted a C13 grenade range at Albert Head to complete the RQ Infantry training package for Ptes, and any others who required training as well as any other qualified soldiers who required refresher training.

### **Ex Scottish Scholar 1-25 (4-6 Apr 25)**

Professional Development for NCO's was the focus of Scottish Scholar. The learning objectives included the understanding of culture and resiliency in the CAF's development of leaders and managers in the NCO corps. A disparate group of presenters was used to challenge us to think about the professionalization of the Reserve Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers by a series of presentations and discussions. Another very successful Kitcheners' Wood Dinner was held in conjunction with Scottish Scholar with former C Scot R and 39 CBG Sergeant Major, CWO Bryan Gardner of Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre (CADTC) as the guest speaker.

### **Ex Scottish Honours (18-28 Apr 25)**



On 18 April members of the regiment travelled to Arras, France for the interment of Lieutenant Francis Hemsley, 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force, killed in action 15/16 August 1917. We were supported by Major (Padre) Tom Hamilton from the PEI Regiment, (part of the team from the Directory of History and Heritage (DHH) who identified Lt Hemsley), Capt Graeme Kaine and Bombardier Alber Albert Law from the 39 CBG Public Affairs section.

The first few days focused on drill for the bearer party and included participation at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate on 22 April, the 110th anniversary of the Second Battle of Ypres and the Battle of Kitcheners' Wood. On this important day, regiment members completed their drill practice at Vimy Ridge and rushed to the town of Ypres, where they were assigned a position of honour, lining the approach to the platform for the memorial wreaths. Additionally, our Piper, Corporal Emma Yeo had the honour of playing the Lament during the ceremony.

The interment of Lt Hemsley was a solemn event, attended by no less than 23 of his descendants. Cpl Yeo played the Lament and MCpl Alyssa Haigh played the Last Post. The soldiers were well-turned out and absolutely committed to their duty. We should be proud of them.



*Padre Major Tom Hamilton leads soldiers from The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's)*

Capitalizing on the opportunity, our contingent remained in France for three additional days for some battlefield tours, hosted by Padre Hamilton. With a PhD in military history and a passion for the subject matter, the tours were well-researched and presented, including personal accounts, and historical and regimental context. We were blessed to have Padre Hamilton as our guide. Of note, we visited: The Somme; Beaumont Hamel; Vimy Ridge; Ypres; Kitcheners' Wood, where the Bentien family and Robert Missinne generously hosted us for a barbecue. The Bentien family (Ignace and Francine; and Kurt and Karen) own much of the property that was Kitcheners' Wood and are committed to preserving the memory of the battle. They, and Robert Missinne are stalwart friends of the regiment and are people with whom we should maintain contact through the future.

Of special note, while at Kitcheners' Wood, Master Corporal Tyler Commandeur was appointed officer cadet.

The tours continued to Mount Sorrell; Passchendaele and on the third day we covered the 'Last Hundred Days' of the war including the location of the 16th battalion on the morning of 11 November; visiting the site where Private George Price the last Canadian soldier killed in the First World War was shot; and visiting his gravesite at Saint Symphorien cemetery. Here we concluded our battlefield tour with some poignant words from Padre Hamilton, and some tunes played by Cpl Yeo.

From there, we were yet again hosted for a meal, this time by retired CanScot, Bruce Redekop and his wife, Tonya, at their amazing home. Like the Bentines, their hospitality was well beyond expectations and truly exemplifies the broad reach and impact of our regiment.

This was a meaningful trip to the soldiers of the Canadian Scottish regiment. We had the sacred honour of laying to rest one of our own, with full military honours, an event that I believe will have a lasting impact on our soldiers. The soldiers had an opportunity to visit and learn about numerous historical and near-sacred sites to Canada and the regiment, only a few of which were included in this update. Each step along the way was made personal and relevant, thanks to the research and commitment of Padre Hamilton. I am proud to say that Padre Hamilton's passion for the activities was only matched by our soldiers' genuine interest in learning about their regiment and paying respect to their deeds and sacrifice. Deas Gu Cath!

Please see Bombardier Alber Albert Law Photo's here.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/39cbg39gbc/albums/72177720325797608/>

## **Ex Scottish Games 17-19 May 2025**

Community Relations (COMREL) is vital to the long-term survival of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) and the Pipes and Drums play an essential role in showcasing the regiment on Vancouver Island and across the country. The Pipes and Drums participated in the FORTISSIMO performance, along with the NADEN Band of the RCN and the Vancouver Regiment Irish Pipes and Drums on the Lawn of the BC Legislature and conducted a smaller version as part of the Closing Ceremonies for the 162nd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival, On Monday, the Pipes and Drums performed in the Victoria Day parade alongside the NADEN Band and continued the long standing regimental participation.



*Regt Pipes and Drums on Victoria Day Parade with NADEN band of the RCN*

### **Ex Scottish Liberation (05 May 25)**

B Coy was invited by the Campbell River Royal Canadian Legion to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands at a ceremony on 05 May 25.

### **Ex Scottish Laird (24 May 25)**

The very special occasion of the RSM Change of Appointment, from CWO Brad Fairall to MWO Jesse MacLeod.

### **Awards and Presentations**

As always, it gives me and the RSM great pleasure to present our soldiers with hard earned awards and presentations. After the Interment of Lt Hemsley, I had the privilege of promoting former MCpl Commandeur to OCdt. Prior to his departure on RQ INF 2Lt Course (Phase 3), I promoted 2Lt Tyler Commandeur to his current rank.





*(Photo - Capt Gary Newcombe)*

### **King Charles III Coronation Medals**

The following members of the Regiment were awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medals:

H Col Alan Lowe (From the Lieutenant-Governor of BC)

H LCol Jamie Hammond (From the Lieutenant-Governor of BC)

LCol Slade Lerch (From the Lieutenant-Governor of BC)

Capt Charles McCormick

CWO Bradley Fairall (From the RCMP)

PO2 Allison Williams (former CHRA)

Sgt Erik Carveth

MCpl Ryley Russell

Cpl Emma Yeo, and

PM Roger McGuire (From the Lieutenant-Governor of BC)

As the summer training cycle begins, we carry on preparing our soldiers, NCOs, and officers for overseas service. Regimental training will maintain a 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

LCol Slade Lerch, MMM, CD  
CO

MWO Jesse MacLeod, CD  
RSM

## **Association Pipes and Drums – Steve Hayward**

The Assn. Pipes and Drums have had a hectic time since the last report. We played at the WA dinner and silent auction in March and spent many hours practicing for our trip to Holland.

On April 30th the band's main body left Victoria for the long flight to Amsterdam, and arriving in Deventer on May 1st in the morning, we met up with members who had already arrived. That day, we had an opportunity to look around the town and try to relax after the long flight. The next day, we were up and on the bus to our first destination, Groesbeek cemetery, about 1 hour away. There, we had a short ceremony, and we were also joined by our veteran Nick Janicki, who paid tribute to the fallen and Nick's brother, who is buried there. We made a short stop at a museum where we played a brief set of tunes for the public and toured the excellent museum there, after heading back to Deventer for a break before the evening events. That evening we played outside the library and then attended a lecture inside by Nick and Wouter our Assn. Military contact there. The next day, we're on the bus to Apeldoorn for the big parade organized by the Pipers for Peace. After lunch, we assembled at the Palace of William 111, and we had a long march to the starting point. Once we got underway, the parade route was lined with young and old, many waving Canadian flags and cheering us on. After the parade, we returned on the bus to prepare for the liberation concert with the Pipers for Peace. The concert started after they served dinner to over 400 of us , and we played for about 4000 people backed by a full orchestra. It was a very special event that was very well received. We returned home after 10 that night exhausted.

The next day, we went to Holten cemetery for a major remembrance ceremony attended by thousands of people, including our Governor General, the Princess of the Netherlands and other dignitaries. The ceremony was very long with a couple of glitches, but very moving. One of the highlights was when a helicopter flew overhead and dropped poppies on the crowd (luckily the pins were out!). We then got on the bus for a much-needed rest. Despite the chilly conditions, we played at Daventer's Remembrance Day ceremony that evening. Many local residents observed the ceremony with great respect.

The next day we were up early, one on the bus by 8, and off to the big and longest parade of the trip. We prepared most of the morning as the parade was supposed to start just before noon. The parade was very well organized, the streets were lined with people with Canadian flags and a big reviewing stand of veterans

and dignitaries. This was to be a 5 km long parade, but didn't seem like it to some of us. After the parade, there was a bit of a meet and greet, and then, we went back on the bus to Deventer. That night, our veteran Nick held a gathering at his hotel that was well attended and appreciated by everyone.

The next morning, we were on the bus early and off to Wagonborgen for our last parade of the trip. We were met in town by a very gracious reception of townspeople, who had a very nice reception for us. They put on a very nice lunch of soup and sandwiches for us, and the mayor presented us with medals and a nice plaque. After lunch, we did a March to the town memorial, laid a wreath, and observed a minute's silence. We did a March through the village streets before returning to the bus. Once on the bus, we went to a new memorial near the scene of the battle in Wagenborgen, where the regiment lost 19 men killed in the fighting for the town, a very solemn moment of the trip. The people of Wagenborgen were very friendly, and this stop was a favourite of many band members. Right after the ceremonies, we were back on the bus, we dropped off Nick, Wouter, and other Association members in Deventer and headed to Amsterdam for two nights before heading home. Everyone had a good time in Amsterdam touring, but we were all very tired. It was a great trip that was overwhelming at times, the people treated us like family and are very grateful to the Canadian troops that liberated them.

This trip would not have been successful without the hard work of the organizers. We all owe a big thanks to Pat Bulmer, Jim Fisher (Pipe Major), Bob Glazier, and our Dutch Assn. Member Wouter and others for their hard work in organizing this project. A special thanks to Wouter for getting us the military bus and drivers to take us to all our events; it was a huge bonus.

Since arriving home, some members participated in the Tartan and May Day parades to top off a busy month. We will also play at God's Acre Memorial service on May 29, the CSRA Annual Reunion on June 6-8, the Cadet ACR. June 14<sup>th</sup>, and Canada Day Parade in Sidney, July 1st

### **Canadian Scottish Regimental Association 50/50 Cash raffle fundraiser**

Last month Eli Sheremeto won the 50/50 draw of the \$645 in sales we did.

We are running them every month. Please come and check them out at the end of each month.

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/csra>



# **The Canadian Scottish (Princess Mary's) Regimental Association 60th Annual Reunion in Victoria, BC, June 6-8, 2025**

**Friday, June 6      Registration 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Bay Street Armoury - Sir Arthur Currie Room  
715 Bay St (parking lot on Field St off Douglas St)

**Friday, June 6      Meet and Greet**

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm No Host Bar, Light Snacks  
Bay Street Armoury - Sir Arthur Currie Room

**Saturday, June 7      HMCS Vancouver Frigate tour at HMCS Dockyard Tour**

10:00 am - 11:00 am 09:45 am at Dockyard gate  
Government-issued ID is required, as well as sturdy shoes with treads, as some areas may be slippery. To visit some areas, you need agility; there are some steep stairs and vertical ladders. Name, Birth Date and Citizenship are required by Pat Bulmer by 30 May 2025 at [patwbulmer@gmail.com](mailto:patwbulmer@gmail.com)

**Saturday, June 7      Garden Party Luncheon and Strawberry Tea**

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Patrick and Suzanne Bulmer's Garden  
4305 Gordon Head Road  
Entertainment by the CSRA Pipes and Drums  
Parking is limited, so private buses will be hired  
12:00 pm Pick up - location TBD  
Please note that guests will need the ability to use stairs for the washroom

\*\*\*This event is for registered reunion attendees only. Once you have registered, please RSVP to [maureen\\_thomson@telus.net](mailto:maureen_thomson@telus.net) by May 31 if you would like to attend the Garden Party.

**Saturday, June 7      Dinner at the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Legion Branch 292**

Entry/Parking lot off 411 Gorge Rd East, Dunedin St, Victoria BC  
6:00 pm open - 7:00 pm dinner  
No host bar  
Performance by CSRA Pipes and Drums

**Sunday, June 8      Wreath Laying Ceremony**

Arrive at 10:30 am for 11:00 am Service  
Regimental Cenotaph - Pioneer Square  
975 Quadra St. Victoria BC  
Followed by a light lunch at the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Legion Branch 292

## **Voices of our Veterans Part 2- 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 solemn occasion. They were 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 CanScot

### **A Lucky Shot**

Veteran “C” was in the Mortar Platoon at Putot-en-Bessin and relates this story: “As we were moving into position to provide fire support for our Regiment, our Bren gun carrier was hit in the track by an anti-tank round. We immediately jumped out and set up our mortar. I noticed a suspicious haystack to our front, and taking a rough range and bearing, fired off a bomb. A great flash and explosion followed in the haystack as an anti-tank gun was hidden in it. Our bomb had scored a direct hit on the gun and set off its ammunition. I don’t think that any of the crew survived. It was just plain luck”.

### **Closure**

Some years ago, a local gentleman contacted the Regiment for information on his father’s death. He had heard different accounts from other family members but would like to know when and how he died. The request was referred to the Regimental Association. We determined that the soldier was killed in action on June 8th, 1944, at Putot-en-Bessin, and we contacted our veterans for further information. Veteran “S” spoke to me and said that he was very near the soldier when he was killed and knew how he died. He said he was prepared to meet with the son but warned that the details were unpleasant. The two did meet, and the son was so grateful for the information that he was given that he donated his father’s medals to the Regimental Museum, where they are on display, along with those of so many of his comrades.

### **Comrades in Arms**

This story does not relate personally to our veterans, but I have decided to include it as it has strong Regimental connections. When I was in Normandy in 1994 for the 50th Anniversary of “D” Day I had to speak with some veterans of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles who were overrun at Putot-en-Bessin on June 8th, 1944. One of their veterans related this story. “I was wounded and hiding in a hedgerow with the SS all around. They were shooting everyone they found, including the wounded and I thought that my life would soon end. Just then I heard a loud roar, and shells started falling everywhere. The SS scurried in all directions looking for cover. I later found out that the Artillery barrage was part of the counterattack by the Canadian Scottish to



retake Putot and save what was left of my Regiment. Then I saw them, and they came right through the orchard nearby. I said to myself, thank God for the Scottish, they are coming for us”.

#### **Footnote:**

The orchard was used as a temporary cemetery for the 45 men of the Regiment killed at Putot-en-Bessin. This is over twice the number (22) killed on “D” Day. They were later moved to the Canadian Military Cemetery at Bretteville-Sur-Laize.

#### **The Tale of an Arm**

During the battle of Putot-en-Bessin veteran “B” lost his right arm due to an incident with a hand grenade. He had a great sense of humor, and his disability did not slow him down. He lived a long and fruitful life passing away at the age of 100 years. He attended many Regimental reunions, including an Association pilgrimage to North-West Europe in 2000. When at Putot he was heard to announce. “All right everyone, fan out and find my arm”.

#### **Quite a Birthday**

At a Regimental Reunion I was working at the registration desk when a veteran approached to register. As I did not recognize him, I asked him his name. He produced his old Army pay book and asked me to check his date of birth. It was June 6th, 1925, and he said “D” Day was quite a 19th birthday”.

#### **The Pipes and Drums at War**

The pipers and drummers were fully trained infantry soldiers and on “D” Day were employed in several roles. Six pipers were designated as staff pipers and served directly with the companies. An example is Support Company’s piper, L/Cpl J.A. MacMillan who, on March 25th, 1945 piped his company across the Rhine while perched on a weasel amphibious vehicle. Some members were assigned to the medical section, where they served as stretcher bearers, while others served as infantrymen in the rifle companies. This later decision proved tragic as the pipes and drums lost one member on “D” Day and two more at Putot-en-Bessin three days later. In addition, several members were wounded. The practice of having pipers and drummers serving as infantrymen was later changed. One of those wounded was piper “L”, who lost parts of some fingers at Putot-en-Bessin. At a Regimental reunion he held up his hand, showed his fingers and stated, “my piping career was severely affected three days after “D” Day”.

#### **Footnote:**

The Pipes and Drums were rebuilt to good strength and became one of the very best in the Canadian Army, leading the November 11th, 1944, Allied parade in Paris commemorating the end of WW1. This was the first November 11th parade since the liberation of the city.

#### **A valuable Injury**

Veteran “T” was a Sergeant in Support Company and had ongoing difficulties with the Bren gun carrier drivers. A Bren gun carrier was a light, tracked vehicle that mounted a Bren light machine gun. It could be used for a variety of roles, transporting supplies and ammunition, evacuating wounded, towing anti-tank guns, carrying mortar crews, etc. He relates: “The carrier drivers were a tight knit group and were almost like a union. Whenever you wanted them for something they always had an excuse, such as the carriers needed immediate maintenance for some problem or another. I was injured in a training accident shortly before “D”

Day and sent to hospital to recover. The hospital was near some training depots, and one of them taught a course on Bren gun carrier maintenance. I said that I was going to beat the carrier drivers at their own game, and being on light duty was able to attend the course. When I recovered, and rejoined the Regiment in France, now armed with my new knowledge of Bren gun carrier maintenance, I had no further problems with the carrier drivers”.

### **Immediate Change of Duty**

Veteran “M” was a piper, and part of a reinforcement draft for the Regiment shortly after “D” Day. As the Royal Winnipeg Rifles had suffered so many casualties, both on “D” Day and at Putot-en-Bessin the entire Canadian Scottish draft was redirected to them. “When we arrived the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Winnipegs started allocating the men to their various new Companies, and after this was done I, with my bagpipes was the only man left. The Sergeant Major asked about my qualifications, and I responded that I was a staff piper and qualified transport driver. He responded, “And now you’re a rifleman”. I served with the Winnipeg Rifles for a time before being able to return to my own Regiment”.

### **A Happy Reunion**

Brothers “J” and “H” both served overseas during WW2. Brother “J” was a motorcycle dispatch rider with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, and brother “H” served in the Regiment. Brother “H”, although a good man in the field, was difficult to handle when out of line, and no doubt had a charge sheet. On July 30th, 1944, after 55 days never being out of touch with the enemy the Regiment was given a welcome rest out of the line at Colomby-sur-Thaon. Brother “J” upon hearing that his brother was in the area jumped on his motorcycle to meet up with him. It was a happy reunion and in the course of their meeting brother “J” remarked “I see that you have been involved in a lot of fighting”. To which brother “H” replied, “yes, I’ve been involved in a lot of fighting, and some of it was with the Military Police”.

### **A Quick Learner**

Veteran “J” had been wounded and had just returned to the Regiment. He recalled: “I was met by the Company Sergeant Major of Support Company who said, “I need a Bren gun carrier driver, are you interested?” When vacancies occurred in Support Company, the mortars, anti-tanks, pioneers, etc he would first ask the old soldiers, returned wounded, etc. if they were interested. As the Company was usually in a support position behind the rifle companies, its casualties were lighter. I, of course, replied “yes, sir”. He then said, “Can you drive a carrier?” I again said, “Yes, sir”. “I couldn’t drive a Bren gun carrier but soon learned how”.

### **Humanity in the Front Line**

In discussions with veterans, I learned that there was no hatred between the Canadians and the average German soldier, the Wehrmacht. Fighting them was just a brutal, dirty job that had to be done. This is not the case with the Waffen SS, the fanatical Nazi party troops who murdered Canadian prisoners in Normandy. A grim personal feud developed between the 12th SS Panzer Division (Hitlerjugend), and the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. There was a healthy respect for the fighting qualities of the German soldier and as veterans said “whoever says that the Germans were not good soldiers never had to fight them. They were excellent soldiers and even when they were taking a severe beating, they would not run but stand and fight”. Veteran “B” was involved in the capture of some German soldiers in Normandy and relates this story. “While waiting for the Military Police to take custody of the Germans and process them as Prisoners of War, one of them who spoke English approached me. He said, “I don’t hate you and I’m sure that you don’t hate me”. “We began to

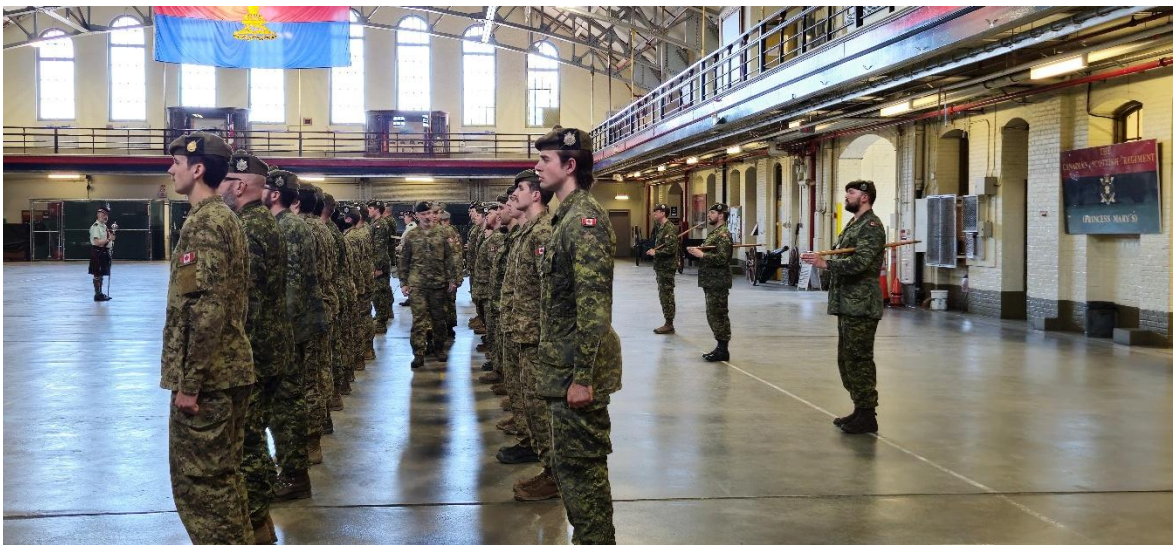
talk, and found that we had more things in common than differences, as we both just wanted to survive the war, get home to our families, and have a peaceful life. As we parted I gave him a drink and a cigarette and wished him well. I hope that he lived a long and happy life”.

**RSM Change of Appointment.** Pictures by Capt. Park

The Canadian Scottish Regiment Change of Appointment Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 24th, at 1300 at the Bay Street Armouries.

Outgoing Regimental Sergeant Major: CWO Brad R. Fairall

Incoming Regimental Sergeant Major: MWO Jesse J. MacLeod



*Inspection of Soldiers on Parade*



*MWO MacLeod Receiving RSM Pace Stick*



*CWO Fairall and MWO MacLeod signing RSM Scrolls with CWO Harris.*



2136 INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR  
OUR

# 80TH ANNUAL CEREMONIAL REVIEW

# 2025



IT'S MORE THAN A CEREMONY. IT'S A  
SHARED MOMENT OF PRIDE.

SATURDAY JUNE 14TH  
GUESTS ARRIVE 1300  
715 BAY ST

Please join us for a reception after  
that will include static displays, a  
pipe band showcase performance,  
a drill display and  
marksmanship/biathlon showcase.



**The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Endowment Fund**  
**Vancouver Police Department Members Remembered**  
**LCol. (ret'd) D. Egan**

On the 4th of August 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany. This meant that Canada and all other Dominions of the Empire were also at war. This was affirmed by the Canadian Government who issued its own declaration of war against Germany and on the 10th of August committed to supplying a contingent of 25,000 troops to support the British war effort. The militia was mobilized and by the end of the month nearly 40,000 men had volunteered. Government commitment, media and public support and enthusiasm was founded on patriotism, individual adventurism, opposition to German aggression, and an almost universal belief in the Empire. Private and public companies and institutions actively demonstrated their support and commitment by granting employees leaves of absence (LOA) to enable them to enlist. One such organization was the Vancouver Police Department that granted LOA to some 13 of its 74-member force, many on half pay. Three of these members were part of the initial Seaforth Highlanders of Canada contingent, who on the 23rd of September 1914 at Val Cartier, Quebec became members of the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish) CEF. Recently a generous donation was made to the Endowment Fund by the Vancouver Police Department sponsoring these soldiers into the Book of Memory. They are:

Police Constable 159, (29116 Private) David Angus Morrison of Vancouver, British Columbia. Born 03 Aug 1886 in Roberta, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, he was a member of the Vancouver Police Department granted indefinite leave to serve and joined the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada on the 11 Aug 1914. Attested into the 16th Bn. (Canadian Scottish) C.E.F on 23 Sep 1914 at Valcartier, PQ, he embarked for England on the HMTS Andania on the 29 Sep 1914 and subsequently arrived in France on the 09 Feb 1915. He was seriously wounded during the Battle of Ypres near St Julien on the 2 May 1915 and died on the 08 May 1915 at No. 2 Stationary Hospital. He is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery (VIII.C.14) Pas de Calais, France.

Police Constable 67 (29094 Lieutenant) John Elliot of Vancouver, British Columbia. Born 06 Oct 1889 in Enniskillen, Ireland, he was a member of the Vancouver Police Department granted indefinite leave to serve and joined the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada as a Private on the 10 Aug 1914. Attested into the 16th Bn. (Canadian Scottish) C.E.F on 23 Sep 1914 at Valcartier, PQ, he embarked for England on the HMTS Andania on the 29 Sep 1914 and subsequently arrived in France on the 09 Feb 1915. He served in France from 09 Feb to 12 May 1915; 18 Nov 1915 to 19 Jun 1916; 07 Oct 1917 to 05 Mar 1918; and 14 May 1918 to 02 Sep 1918. He was twice wounded, at Ypres on 01 May 1915, and at the Somme on 13 Jun 16. He was commissioned Lieutenant 28 April 1917. He was killed while leading his platoon in a successful attack on the Drocourt-Queant Line near Cagnicourt on 02 Sep 1918. He is buried at Dominion Cemetery (I.B.2) near Hedecourt-les-Cagnicourt, South-East of Arras, France.

Police Constable 83 (29065 Lance Corporal) Harry Hayward Symes of Vancouver, British Columbia. Born 11 May 1880 in Isle Abbott, Somerset, England, he was a member of the Vancouver Police Department granted indefinite leave to serve and joined the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada as a Private on the 10 Aug 1914. He had previously served in the British Army for three years with the West Kent Yeomanry during the Second Boer War. He was attested into the 16th Bn. (Canadian Scottish) C.E.F on 23 Sep 1914 at Valcartier, PQ., and promoted LCpl. He embarked for England on the HMTS Andania on the 29 Sep 1914 and subsequently arrived in France on the 09 Feb 1915. On the 18 Jul 1916 he suffered injuries and trauma during an enemy bombardment near Hill 60 (Ypres) when a shell exploded near him. Following treatment in France and England he was returned to Canada on the 15 Sep 1917 and admitted to the Esquimalt Military Hospital, in Victoria

BC, on the 23 Nov 1917. He was released from hospital and discharged from the CEF on 2 Mar 1918 as medically unfit for further service. He moved to Port Washington, Pender Island, BC, under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. Declining in health, he was readmitted to the Esquimalt Military Hospital in the spring of 1920 and died on the 25 Jul 1920. He is buried at the Ross Bay Cemetery (W.9.E.42) in Victoria, British Columbia.

**The Canadian Scottish Remembers**

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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.

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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	16th Bn	KIA	France	28-04-17
2. 151632 Pte. Eardley, Albert	16th Bn	KIA	France	8/9-10-16
3. 420042 A/L/Cpl. Dwinnell, Wilfred	16th Bn	KIA	France	4/7-09-16
4. 718293 Pte. Dupas, Henry	16th Bn	KIA	France	28-04-17
5. 718675 Pte. Duncan, Firth	16th 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 [escotrendowment@gmail.com](mailto:escotrendowment@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.	29116 Pte. Morrison, David	16th Bn	KIA	France	23-04-15
2.	29094 Lt. Ellliott, John	16th Bn	KIA	France	02-09-18
3.	29065 LCpl. Symes, Harry	16th Bn	Died	Victoria	25-07-25

Remembered by The Vancouver Police Department.

4.	K 62349 Pte. Underwood, Edward	1/2/4 Bn CScotR	Died	Germany	17-11-45
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Remembered by D. Underwood

**New Website**

The Canadian Scottish Regimental Family has a new website.

<https://cscotr.ca/>

