

# The Can Scot

The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Regimental Association  
PO Box 44180 RPO GORGE, Victoria, BC V9A 7K1  
October 2023

## Canadian Scottish First Nation Members buried at The Canadian War Cemetery in Holten Pte Edward Underwood Family Members



### Important Dates and Articles

Command Team Message – see pages – 4-8

Our Cover Page 8-9

Endowment Fund – Page 9

Lunch Dates – Page 10

Remembrance Day – Page 11

Cadets – Page 12

Deadline for February 2024 Newsletter – Saturday, January 28

**Executive Roster 2023-2024**

Patrick Bulmer	President	250-472-0875
	Vice President / Association Pipes and Drums	
Lee Tucker	Secretary-Treasurer	250-308-4843
Ron Cullen	Past President	250-592-4123
<b>Directors:</b>		
CWO B. Fairall	Regimental Sergeant Major	
Jim Dumont	Director	250-477-1346
Steven Hayward	Social Director	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**

As the rains come and winter sets in, it always reminds me that Remembrance Day is coming soon. I had the honour of meeting one of our WWII Veterans, Nick Janicki this last year at our Annual Reunion in Cloverdale. Nick turned 100 years old this September and is an inspiration to me and all others who met him at the reunion.

We have four applications for our three bursaries. The winners will be announced by the end of October and will be given out at the All Ranks Christmas Dinner in December.

The Association held a fundraiser "Ceilidh at the Bard 2023" on Friday October 13th. It was well attended by the serving Regiment, the Commanding Officer David Proctor, Deputy Commanding Officer Slade Lerch, Re't General Mike Heppell, and the Honourable L/Col Alan Lowe. Sgt Hunt and Wallace VII were also in attendance and were a big hit with all who attended.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this night a success. I would like to give a big thank you to Mr. Jim Dumont, who served as our Master of Ceremonies, a difficult job in such a large, noisy venue. Shortly after, Jim ended up in the Jubilee Hospital due to a medical emergency. Please wish him a speedy recovery.

Funds from the Ceilidh will soon be distributed to help support The Regimental Association, The Association Pipes and Drums, and to Wallace VII to aid in his care and keeping.

The Executive is working on a Christmas Social and Dinner for December 2, 2023, at the BSA, Currie Room. Please mark your calendars and come out to support this festive event, and hear your Pipes and Drums perform.

**On the World Wide Web – Cpl Appleby Webmaster**

The unit website is up and running at [www.cscots.ca](http://www.cscots.ca) . You can also view association info here as well <https://www.cscots.ca/association/home>

## **Museum – Randy Evans**

The Organization of Military Museums of Canada (OMMC) Museum Course was held in Kelowna 11-17 Jun. Jack Drysdale and I attended the well organized and valuable program and came home with new ideas and some excellent contacts.

Attended the UN Peacekeepers parade at Esquimalt Memorial Park on the 9th of Aug23. A UN flag made and flown in Damascus, at UNDOF HQs (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) in 1976, was carried on the parade with 19 UN Veterans, the CScotR Pipe Band and 27 Naval personnel. The Museum Summer BBQ was held at Prospect Lake for the 15 Volunteers and their partners and friends on the 12th of August 23

Ten of the museum's current Display Cabinets were modified by Barry Forrester, the original builder. Side-wall doors were installed so that the interior can now be accessed from both sides and the back to facilitate display maintenance, and adjustment. The cabinets have also been arranged in chronological order in accordance with our Museum Development Plan.

The museum set up an information display at the BC Aviation Museum Open House at the airport on Saturday, 19Aug. The event attracted approximately 1200 people. Another display was set up at the Navy's "Defense on the Dock" event at Ogden Point on Sunday, 17 Sep 23. Well attended.

The Museum is currently running a Writer Workshop with 8 writers signed up for the 9-month course. We meet once a month every second Tuesday. The program is funded by the War Stories Society out of Calgary based on the book "Writing War" by Ron Capps, a guide to telling your own story. The Veterans Writing Group is a non-profit organization that provides no-cost writing seminars and workshops to veterans, active and reserve service members, and military family members. For more info see [www.war-in-pieces.com](http://www.war-in-pieces.com).

The Museum is now operating on our winter schedule with doors open Tuesday mornings from 1000 – 1400 hrs. The Museum will also be open for dinners, special events and we will always try to accommodate any specific requests.

The Bay Street Armoury will be open on Saturday, 4th Nov 23 from 1000 hrs – 1500 hrs for a Remembrance Open House. The CScotR and 5th Field Regt Museums will be open, and we hope to have the other members of our local GVMMWG&HS (Greater Victoria Military Museum Working Group & Historic Sites) attend the open house as well with displays on the Armoury parade square. The members of the long-named organization include The Ashton Armoury Museum, The CFB ESq Naval Museum, The BC Aviation Museum, Fort Rod Hill, and Fort MacAuley.

## **Association Social Director – Steve Hayward**

Hi everyone, I wanted to let everyone know about a couple of events coming up. The Association will be hosting the Remembrance Day reception in room 222 after the parade at the cenotaph on November 11th. We encourage everyone to stop by for some light refreshments of chowder and something else to take the chill off. This is open to everyone so please stop by after the parade.

The Association will be hosting its annual Christmas party on December 2 in the Currie Room. It will be the usual program, the Association will provide the turkey, all we ask is that you bring something to add to

the menu. Please mark this date down, we need to have a good turnout for this, to be able for us to continue these dinners. There will be more to follow for this event in the coming weeks, hopefully we will see you there.

## **Command Team Message** – 13 October 2023 - LCol David Proctor, CO; CWO Braid Fairall, RSM

The fall training cycle is upon us, and the Regiment continues to train toward individual and collective readiness for any domestic or international operations. The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) stands ready to do what our Nation asks.

With the return of our soldiers from the Reserve Summer Training program, we have now switched to individual and small unit tactics, but with more emphasis on Adapted Dispersed Operations based on experiences learned from the ongoing war in Ukraine.

This past summer saw nearly 50% of The Regiment on course, instructing on a course or support tasks throughout Canada – well done to all!

### Training Updates

Ex SCOTTISH BASELINE - 8-10 Sep 23 – Scottish Baseline was a unit-level exercise to develop our knowledge and capacity to execute Adaptive Dispersed Operations (ADO) at the platoon and company level. Combining lectures and workshops to provide foundational knowledge to platoon and company leadership levels, the exercise culminated with a Cloth Model Exercise (CMX) as confirmation of skills.

Ex SCOTTISH SHOOTER – 22-24 Sep 23 – Conducted at the Nanaimo Military Camp (NMC) Ranges, under typical Scottish weather, Scottish Shooter 4-23 saw over 40 soldiers of the Regiment conduct re-certification of personal weapons tests (PWT) handling as well as Chemical Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBRN) training. Once basic PWT2 & PWT 3 were completed, the soldiers could practice more in-depth musketry skills to further their shooting abilities. Operating concurrently to Scottish Shooter 4-23 at NMC, the Regiment was the lead unit running the Individual Basic Machine Gun (IBMG) Course with several staff and nine students.



“Target at your Front, Go On”

Photo credit, Capt Cam Park

Ex SCOTTISH SMEEK 20-22 Oct 23 – This FTX will see the Primary Training Audience (PTA) build upon the concepts, tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) introduced during Ex SCOTTISH BASELINE 23. The PTA will face a peer or better enemy and operate decentralized at section and platoon levels. The exercise aims for Section and Platoon Comds to conduct hasty and deliberate attacks, defensive

operations, and enabling operations to include linkups, reconnaissance, tactical movement (including convoy road movement), and security as the scenarios unfold.

In August, the Adjutant, Capt Chris Nixon was posted back to Edmonton and 3 Div HQ. His dedication and work ethic were instrumental in effectively guiding the Orderly Room and full-time staff through some hectic periods. His dry wit and sense of humour will be missed. On behalf of the Officer's Mess and the Regiment, I presented Chris with a framed copy of the Regimental Colour as a departure gift.



The following personnel were promoted, with their current ranks shown.

### **Alpha Company**

MWO Jesse MacLeod  
Sgt Jordan Kurbis  
Sgt Carly Millard  
Sgt Jesse Woods  
Cpl Skinner (Attach Posted from PWOR)



Sgt Millard



Cpl Skinner



Sgt Woods

### **Bravo Company**



Sgt Jessie Elliot  
Sgt Zachary John



Sgt Elliot  
**Administration Company**



Sgt John

WO Glen Ereaud (promoted by 4 CRPG)

As always, the RSM and I are pleased to announce several awards and presentations were handed out to the soldiers to acknowledge their hard work supporting The Regiment for training accomplishments.

### **Alpha Company**

Sgt Carly Millard – CO's Commendation – For outstanding leadership of The C Scot R patrol team that participated in the Royal Westminster Regiment's "Westie Challenge" Patrolling competition.

### **Bravo Company**

Capt Lukas Roy – Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years service  
Sgt Denis Byrne – First Bar to Canadian Forces Decoration for 22 years service

### **Administration Company**

Capt Cam Park – First Bar to Canadian Forces Decoration for 22 years service

WO Glen Ereaud – Bde Comd's Commendation -

*In recognition of ten years of dedicated service to the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's). Over the course of the last decade, Sgt Ereaud has fulfilled the role of the sole financial services administrator managing the unit level budget and finances for all Regimental activities. In addition, he functioned as the Battalion information technology representative, the unit security supervisor, the manager of the Bay Street Armoury, and most notably, the Drum Major for the C Scot R Pipes and Drums with years of performances across Vancouver Island. Sgt Ereaud sets an*

*exemplary standard in the public eye, and his leadership and work ethic is pivotal to the conduct of both the Bay Street Armoury, Canadian Scottish Regiment, and 39 Canadian Brigade Group.*

### **Battalion Headquarters**

LCol David Proctor – Second Bar to Canadian Forces Decoration for 32 years service

Capt Gary Newcombe – Chief Warrant Officer appointment certificate (just slightly overdue...)



Sgt Millard



WO Ereat



Capt Roy



Sgt Byrne



Capt Newcombe

This edition of the CANSCOT finds the Regiment entering a hectic training cycle, focusing always on warfighting and the prospect of sending soldiers into potential combat zones. Alongside a busy training schedule, the social calendar is also starting to fill up. The serving Regiment looks forward to the “Ceildih at the Bard” in October in support of the Regimental Association and Wallace VII. Honourary LCol Alan Lowe, Maj Slade Lerch, Capt Gary Newcombe and their spouses will represent The Regiment at the Annual BC Government House Foundation Gala Ball. This fundraiser supports programs and projects of the Lieutenant-Governor and helps maintain the estate’s 22 acres of unspoiled Garry oak woodlands and 15 acres of manicured formal gardens.

The world continues to be dangerous, and events in October in Israel and the Middle East confirm this. The Regiment, its officers, and soldiers, stand ready.

Deas Gu Cath

LCol David Proctor, CO  
CWO Brad Fairall, RSM

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

The Association pipes and Drums performed at the annual Terry Fox run on September 17th held at mile 0 at Dallas Road. We marched down from the parking lot and took our spot and played to an appreciative crowd.

We then played at the start line to send off the runners. All in all it was an enjoyable day. On October 13th the band played at the Bard and Banker fundraiser joined by the Regimental Pipes and Drums. Both bands marched into the pub together and played two tunes together to the delight of the crowd. Both bands each played sets on their own, followed by a combined set to end the evening. The audience really enjoyed all the performances, and all the members had a great evening playing to the crowd.

On November 11th members will be participating at the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the cenotaph then on to Broadmead lodge.

### **Canadian Scottish First Nation Members buried at The Canadian War Cemetery in Holten – Edwin van der Wolf**



Stanley was born on September 29, 1924, in Massett British Columbia, the son of Elizabeth Jones (Father David Jones was already deceased when he enlisted). He was a First Nation of the Haida tribe of Massett. His brother was Vinton Jones and his sisters were: Hester Marks, Myrtle Freda Pongracz, Norma and Marina Jones. There were more 6 other brothers and sisters who were earlier deceased.

He was a dockworker and fisherman and he was a member of the Church of England. His hobbies were to play a piano and to read sometimes and hunting and he did not like sports. He enlisted on March 10, 1944, in Vancouver and he went overseas on December 24 1944 to the UK and he went on February 13 1945 thereafter to N-W Europe and he was after that wounded on April 24 1945 during the battle of the Delfzijl Pocket.

Stanley died on Saturday September 8, 1945, age 20 in N-W Germany as a result of a deadly accident by coming off a track of a carrier, which after that came upside down in a ditch and he fell under it unfortunately



and he was drowned. He was then temporarily buried in Osterscheps (Germany) before being reburied on June 22, 1946, in Holten. On his headstone is: Rest eternal Grant unto him, O Lord; and let light perpetual Shine upon Him. His medals were: The 1939-45 Star; The France; Germany Star; The Defence Medal; The War Medal and The CVSM & Clasp.



Edward was born on September 15, 1918, the son of Bert and Ellen Underwood of Saanichton British Columbia. His brothers were Benjamin, George and Harry Underwood and his sisters: Adeline, Marjory, Bertha, Mary, Esther, Bernadette and Patricia Underwood.

He was a Tsawout First Nation because of his both parents were. He was a fisherman and member of the Methodist Church. He enlisted on September 20, 1939, in Victoria British Columbia and he went on September 2 1941 then overseas to the UK and he went thereafter on July 3 to France. He was involved then with the further advance of his regiment through NW Europe.

Edward died on Wednesday November 17, 1945, age 27 during an emergency operation of tuberculosis-related complications in a Canadian hospital in Oldenburg (Germany). He was temporarily buried in Osterscheps (Germany) before being reburied on March 6 1946 in Holten. His medals were: 1939-1945 Star; France Germany Star; Defence Medal; War Medal and the CVSM & Clasp.



Pte Jones The Canadian War Cemetery in Holten

**Endowment Fund – Derek Egan**

**Remembrance Day November 11, 2023**

Lest we forget

***The Canadian Scottish Remembers***

At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month of the year 2023 millions of people worldwide will reflect in silent remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their countries.

They will remember parents, grandparents, and great grandparents; near and distant, barely remembered relatives; and the unknown and unnamed, many of whose lives were cut short and so were deprived of the opportunity to leave behind generations of family members to remember. Headstones and memorials worldwide singularly mark their lives.

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 (minimum \$25.00, suggested 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 through Canadahelps.org.)

Sponsorship is being sought for:

1. 77824 Pte. Everest, Cyril Fielding 16th Bn KIA France 09-10-16
2. 29062 Pte. Edwards, Henry 16th Bn KIA France 22-04-15
3. 1000364 Pte. Eccles, John 16th Bn KIA France 14-08-18
4. 427468 Pte. East, Benjamin Hicks 16th Bn KIA France 28-04-17
5. 151632 Pte. Eardley, Albert 16th Bn KIA France 8/9-10-16
6. 420042 A/L/Cpl. Dwinnell, Wilfred 16th Bn KIA France 4/7-09-16
7. 718294 Pte. Dupas, Joseph 16th Bn KIA France 15-04-17
8. 718675 Pte. Duncan, Firth 16th Bn KIA France 09-04-17
9. 186552 Pte. Dunham, Walter Bruce 16th Bn KIA France 25/28-09-16
10. 72585 Pte. Dunning, Warren Edward 16th Bn KIA France 20-05-15

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](mailto:cscotrendowment@gmail.com) to learn other ways you can support the Regimental Family through gifts to The Endowment Fund]

### **Lunch Dates - Jim Dumont**

The first lunch this fall will be Saturday, November 4. This year the Red Poppy Restaurant is open from 11:00 to 5:00 PM on Saturday, so they are not having a special opening for us. This will be the 23rd year that we have been gathering for lunch, and everyone that attends enjoys getting together with other members of our large Regimental Family. It is also great when we have some members who travel from up island, the mainland, and sometimes from eastern Canada to join us.

Charles Middleton, Membership Chair, will notify the membership by email about a week before every luncheon. If you do not have an email and would like to be reminded by phone, please let me know, and someone will call about a week ahead to remind you. If you have email and Charles does not have your address, this would be an excellent time to send him your address and be on his list for all important announcements.

The lunches are held in the Lounge of the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Legion at 411 Gorge Road East. You need to enter the building through the parking lot on Dunedin Street. It is also an excellent time for those who do not like to drive at night to get out for a couple of social hours. All we ask is that you try to notify Charles, reply to this email, or myself, jadu@shaw.ca, or 250-477-1346 no later than the Thursday before the luncheon so that we can reserve the appropriate number of tables.

The Legion opens at 11:00 AM so we will start ordering lunch about 11:30 AM and after. The company is great, the food is great, the refreshments are great and the prices are great.

All the luncheons are held on Saturday and the dates for the 2023-2024 period are as follows: November 4, December 9, January 6, February 3, March 9, April 6, May 4 and June 1. Once again, we are hoping to have the Association Band provide a short program at the December and June Lunches.

## **Remembrance Day Parade - November 11, 2023**

Members of the Association will fall in on Courtney Street between Blanshard Street and Quadra Street at approximately 12:00 Noon. We will march from there to Pioneer Square with The Regiment and 2136 Cadet Corps who will have just arrived from the Victoria Cenotaph Services at the Legislative Buildings. The Regimental, Association and Cadet Bands will be on parade. Make a special effort to get out to this ceremony and get the opportunity afterwards to meet some of the regimental members who have been on many different types of duties over the last few years. Should be a great day.

After the Parade, everyone is invited to attend the reception in Room 222 of the Armoury where clam chowder and refreshments, compliments of the Regimental Association, will be served to members of the Regiment, Association and others that were on parade. Anyone willing to volunteer to help organize and/or serve the refreshments please call Steve Hayward at 778-351-3376. We need a work party to set up before and clean up after the reception. It only involves about two hours work so if you can help, please call now.

Blazers, Glengarries and Medals are the dress of the day if you have them.

## **Last Post**

Norma Coell                      22 September 2023 - Norma was the wife of BGen David Coell (former CO C Scot R and Area/Brigade Commander).

## **Canadian Scottish Cadets 1726**

While most Comox Valley 17-year-olds spent their summer lounging on the beach or working a summer job, James Vernon was sweating through intense physical workouts, learning new skills and eventually launching himself out of an airplane at over 1,000 ft.

Vernon is a Highland Senior Secondary student about to enter the twelfth grade and a cadet Master Warrant Officer in the Comox-based Canadian Scottish Regiment Cadet Corps. He and 50 other top army cadets from across Canada were selected to attend the Canadian Army's Basic Parachutist Course conducted by the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre in Trenton, ON. Of the 50 selected to attend, 38 graduated, earning the right to wear the prestigious parachute wings badge on their uniforms.

To be eligible, potential candidates had to achieve the highest level of training in the cadet program. After applying, they had to pass through a 5-day regional selection phase. Only 50 army cadets were selected to attend the course. This year, BC sent five.

The course is the same one used to qualify soldiers from the Regular and Primary Reserve Forces – with one exception: it's two weeks longer. Cadet students undergo a rigorous physical training phase before the commencement of the three-week army course.

The Parachute Course consists of two weeks of ground training and a week of parachuting. To qualify, students must complete five parachute descents, with one being at night. The first jump is 'bare' without equipment, while each successive jump is made with an increasing gear load. Students are burdened with a full rucksack, rifle and snowshoes by the third jump.

The Basic Parachutist Course is the only qualification a cadet can earn that transfers directly to military service if the cadet enrolls in the CAF.



James Vernon prepares to heave his main and reserve chutes over his shoulder before running off the drop zone (walking is not allowed) after completing a wet second parachute descent.

## Membership – Charles Middleton

Some membership dues will be coming due at the end of December 2023. Currently they are at a low cost of \$10 per year. You can find more out about membership here.

<https://www.cscots.ca/association/membership> . There will be an email coming out after Remembrance Day to remind everyone about dues.

## Cadet Updates 2422 RCACC – Capt Stuart

I am C/WO Mackey, of 2422 RCACC in Nanaimo, and I live, and have lived for music my entire life. Ever since I first picked up a practice chanter, I've lived for bagpipes. I did so around this time last year and have spent hours on end every week since, dedicating myself to the pipes, losing my thoughts for rhythms, embellishments, histories and traditions.

I joined cadets in September of 2019 with 205 Collishaw RCACS and stuck with them for all of four years. It's with the Pacific Gael Pipes and Drums, that I started to learn to play pipes, revelling in the incredible challenge the instrument faced me with, and played for my squadron's Annual Ceremonial Review in May. Just this past September, I made the decision to transfer to 2422 RCACC, as my new corps can support me better as a piper. I've been welcomed like family as the corps' first piper in over a decade and am overjoyed to support the corps in building its pipe band. Making the switch was not in any way the hardest decision of my cadet career. During the summer, my CO, Captain Stuart, was the commanding officer of a junior training program I was hired to staff at. During that time, I learned that all I felt was missing from the program in air cadets was the selling points of army, The comradery, the regimentation, and bagpipes.

Highland bagpipes have, for centuries, been a highly esteemed cultural instrument, just to hear the first notes of Scotland the Brave conjures images of kilts, sporrans, and the very idea of Scotland to the listener's mind, just as Amazing Grace brings tears. As the sole parade piper of the corps, I represent those images and traditions, and it is with an unbelievable honour that I embrace my new position.





## My Job as a CQ Minor

As CQ minor I, C/MCpl Barnes from 2422 Canadian Scottish Regiment, Princess Mary's RCACC have had the privilege to work under C/Sgt Fraser before he aged out as well as continuing to work alongside MCpl Ortloff. In the short time I worked under C/Sgt Fraser, he taught me the basic responsibilities of running the CQ and gave me the confidence to be able to run it on my own. Since then, I have used that information to issue cadet uniforms and issue out supplies and various other things in the Corps. MCpl Ortloff has been my mentor throughout the year. As a CQ, he has set a high standard for me to follow and as an NCO, he has taught us how to do drill, set up a hoochie, and so much more to improve us as NCOs and a Corps.

In my time in Cadets, I have improved on many of my skills such as dress and deportment and various other things that I can use in my day-to-day life. Maturing over time has helped me in my role in cadets as I'm settling in as CQ minor. The information I have learned in cadets has allowed me to start teaching new cadets the skills they need to be successful in their future cadet careers. I've improved on my drill voice and my confidence, especially in the last few months all thanks to my peers and colleagues. The cadets and officers have been very supportive and wish for everyone to succeed in the paths they choose to take in their cadet careers and their futures.

Since taking over C/Sgt Fraser's position, I've had a lot of fun running the CQ single handedly. As CQ minor I have gotten to issue and distribute kit and supplies that the cadets may require, like keys, office supplies, and expedition gear, etc. I have had a good experience working with the cadets and getting to know them better as individuals as I get them kitted out and give them the knowledge on how to take care of and wear the uniform.

I love my job as CQ minor, it's a very fulfilling job and I can't wait to learn all the little aspects of it.



## **Documentary Premiere: Ways We Remember War** – Dr Geoffrey Bird

Vic Theatre 808 Douglas Street Victoria.

Tue November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7 p.m. – 9p.m.

Announcing the premiere of the 70-minute documentary, Ways We Remember War, written, directed, and produced by Dr. Geoffrey Bird, Professor, Royal Roads University.

Canada's first battle of the First World War occurred in a small, wooded area in the middle of the night at a place called Kitcheners' Wood. In response to the first use of chlorine gas in warfare, the battle marked the beginning of the Second Battle of Ypres. Without film or photographs, Canada's memory of the battle is shaped by art, memorials, and pilgrimage to the battlefield itself. Working with The Canadian Scottish Regiment, The Calgary Highlanders, residents of Flanders, historians, curators and landscape artists, this film explores the power of place and the significance of Flanders in shaping Canadian war remembrance.

Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Warning: The film depicts war and death and is therefore unsuitable for young children.

After the premiere, please join us for a drink at the Officers' Mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment at the Bay Street Armoury. The parking lot is located on Field Street, off Douglas Street. The access door is on Field Street, and the bar is on the second floor on the Bay Street side of the parade square.

Please use Eventbrite to register that you are coming.

### **[LINK for Tickets](#)**

Although not required to attend, donations will go toward research and future film work of the War Heritage Research Initiative at Royal Roads University. You may view previous films at <https://warheritage.royalroads.ca/>. Films are produced for the purpose of public education and are not-for-profit.

Donations can be made here (you made to copy the URL and paste):

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/64791?v2=true>

Alternatively, you can provide a cheque on the evening of the premiere, payable to "Royal Roads University Foundation."

## **C Scot R Soldier's Experience on Basic Military Qualification – Pte Andrew Sherring**

The following is my experience undergoing Basic Military Qualification at Pacific Region Training Centre in Chilliwack as part of Platoon 1170. Our initial training was simple; mostly involving classroom lessons and military hierarchy, organization, and law. We underwent lessons on weapons handling, maintenance, and weapon drills. My personal favourite classroom lessons were the land nav portion which we were able to put into practical use during our field exercise. There was some adjusting to the military lifestyle during training. Everyone developed little tricks and techniques to help get things done faster when we had a timing. I was able to get my shower time down to about thirty seconds, which can be really important when you have five minutes to be ready to head to breakfast after morning PT. I didn't have any issues adjusting to the discipline or to being told what to do all the time, that stuff was pretty standard for me, but there were one or two people who had some trouble "getting with the program" at times.

The hardest part for me was the physical aspect. I wasn't a complete slob, but I hadn't trained as regularly as I could have before I went and there were a lot of people much better than me. The physical aspect is by no means the only challenge I faced. The instructors cooked up a lot of stuff to see how we'd handle ourselves under stress, being frustrated, having little time for tasks. I can still remember being told to "kit down" only to be told to "kit up" over and over. The important part is not to take it personally. I ended up seeing a lot of that kind of stuff as a sort of "game". The instructors would come up with something to mess with us and the only way for me to win was to not quit. During our final ruck on the last day of the field exercise we went for an extended ruck. Right at the beginning we headed up this super steep mountain road. It must have been more than forty-five degrees at some point. Getting up that mountain with all my gear is hands down the most difficult thing I have ever done. We got to the top of the mountain, took pictures, and headed back down. Later, on the ruck, we started back up that mountain. Looking up that mountain and thinking how hard it had been to get up there the last time, I had the thought to quit. But I looked at the people next and up ahead of me and remembered that the only rule to win the "game" was to never quit. So, I dug my heels in and headed up the mountain. I told myself that as long as I kept moving and didn't stop then I'd be able to do it. When we got a little way up the path the Platoon Warrant had us turn around, but I always wondered to myself how far I would have been able to drive myself up that mountain a second time. I'm a little embarrassed to say I'm not totally sure if I would have made it to the top the second time.

My favourite portion of the training was the Field Exercise and the Land Nav course. My Section IC had us treating the course as a tactical exercise; staying off the trails, going through rough terrain, and staying out of sight. I absolutely loved it. Every time we came to a road or an open section of ground, we'd have to cross it tactically, keeping an eye out for ambushes or enemy contacts. Then when we finished, we marched back to our camp where our hooch's were and came under simulated attack. We had to pack our kit, gather up and organize, and march to a new location. We then conducted the night portion of our Land Nav training, dodging simulated vehicle patrols and using the map under the cover of a tarp so the enemy couldn't detect us by our light. When we finished with the night portion we returned to our camp and came under simulated attack throughout the night. I think I went something like thirty-six hours without sleep. I absolutely loved it and can't wait to do more like it during the next training cycle in summer.

Pte Andrew Sherring, A COY, CSCOT

## **Belgium and the Netherlands, July 2023, LCol (Retd) Don Stedeford and Capt (Retd) Randy Evans**

### **100th Anniversary at the Brooding Soldier Monument, St Julien, Belgium**

The Belgian municipality of Langemark-Poelkapelle, in partnership with Veterans Affairs Canada, hosted a ceremony to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unveiling of the St. Julien Canadian memorial on a sweltering Saturday, 8 July 2023. As guests, we attended the ceremony well-supported by the local population.

Representatives of the King, the Government, and high-ranking officers from Belgium were in attendance, as were representatives from Canada and the CAF, and several representatives from units that had served in the area. Canadian soldiers came up from SHAPE for the day and stood sentry at the memorial in sweltering heat, sweat dripping from their bowed heads. It was a traditional but youthful memorial ceremony held for all Canadian victims, to which the monument “The Brooding soldier’ refers.

The memorial commemorates the Canadian First Division's participation in the Second Battle of Ypres of World War 1, which included fighting in the face of the first poison gas attacks along the Western Front (including the attack by the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Battalions at Kitchener’s wood on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1915).

The memorial area has had quite a facelift recently; trees have been replaced and bulletin boards were placed all around the park, providing storyboards of the war, the people and geography. The whole scene looked beautiful in the bright hot sunshine on the day. There were several speeches from government officials, attaches and also from youth members, given in both English and French and Flemish. Local organizers and historians spoke on the effects of the time. Beautiful songs from a school choir from St Julien floated above the seated audience and drifted into the clear blue sky.

Randy and I laid a wreath, locally purchased by a donation from the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation office in Vimy, at the foot of the memorial. It was a strikingly simple but beautiful wreath, carefully and respectfully handmade in the former Ypres Salient from woven fresh willow that grow on the former battlefields. The soft willow catkins provided a touch of white that we are told will never fade, and it contained a small group of three red flowers.

Other commemorative events and activities were organized for the full 8-9 July weekend to mark the anniversary. This included the annual St Julien Kermis summer festival. Randy and I were hosted for the weekend by friends of the Regiment, Ignace and Francine Bentein, and we had a wonderful time, even taking part in the parade of floats through the village and taking a ride in the well-known replica of a MkIV WW1 tank (the Poelkapple Tank). We thanked them and their lovely family for the excellent hospitality. We especially enjoyed the friendship of Marnick and Christel Willems who hosted us on a memorable horse carriage trip through the ancient walled City of Bruges.

We were very pleased to be offered a private Hooze Crater War Museum tour. As many of you know it is well known for its life-size reconstructions of World War I battle scenes, its extensive collection

of weapons, equipment and photographs and has won the title of best private museum in Belgium for many years. Randy picked up a few pointers there for our museum.

It is owned and operated by Ilse and Niek Benoot, assisted in no small measure by their young sons, Louis and Arthur, and it was the way in which the two youngsters as the “Hooge Boys” have become quite famous with education videos on YouTube that really impressed us. During the pandemic, with schools and businesses closed, many young children were unable to conduct normal school visits, an essential part of the ‘hands-on’ aspect of history education in the area. The idea came from the boys themselves, and they have made many such videos now – check them out!

## **Deventer and Holten War Cemetery, Netherlands**

While across the pond, we also took the opportunity to visit Deventer and another good friend of the regiment, Captain Wouter Veldhoen of the Royal Netherlands Army. Wouter is well known to many of you, and most recently, he organized the placement of a plaque in the city centre of Deventer, unveiled by our veteran of the battle Nick Janicki. A previous issue of CanScot recounted this story. Wouter showed us the plaque and accompanied us on a trip around the Overijssel area, explaining in detail how the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, The Canadian Scottish Regiment, fought and liberated the city in April 1945, 30 years to the month after the battle of Kitchener’s Wood.

We also visited Holten Canadian War Cemetery and paid our respects to those of the regiment buried there. The great majority of those buried in Holten died during the last stages of the war in Holland, during the advance into northern Germany, and the first days of May 1945, including our dead from Wagenborgen. Wouter has been researching history surrounding the Canadian Scottish for 20 years including firsthand veteran interviews and wrote a thesis on it and the effects of war on individuals a number of years ago. He has many detailed stories of those who fought and died there; his comments added to the poignancy of the moment.

## **Antheit, Belgium**

It only required a three-hour drive back to Brussels for our flight home. But we were able to stretch that to ten hours and fit in a side trip by taking a longer route down the eastern borders of the Netherlands and Belgium, through Venlo, Maastricht and Liege along the German border. This allowed us to approach Brussels from the east and stop at the small village of Antheit in Belgium for one more stop in the story of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 1918 as part of the Army of Occupation, the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion had crossed the Rhine, marching across the Hohenzollern Bridge in pouring rain to the tune of The Cock O’ the North. After Christmas, following the departure of Lt Col Cy Peck, VC, DSO on his return to Canada, the Battalion returned by train to Belgium, arriving in Huy on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1919, and marched to Antheit where they were to stay for seventy-five days. The last stop before the long-awaited and much-anticipated journey to England and on to home in Canada.



At the end of the chronicles of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, we are told that “the last of the portraits of the leaders of the 16<sup>th</sup> has to be drawn and again, it is one of a soldier of long experience and tried worth”. If you permit me, I will paraphrase some of the commentary on this fellow below.

*Regimental Sergeant Major Kay, MC, DCM, MM, joined the 16th Battalion at organization as the company sergeant-major of the Cameron Company. He became regimental sergeant-major in August 1915. Like his predecessor, he also served with the Imperial Seaforths. Of pleasant expression, good-natured, possessed of a store of common sense, Kay was, in his average, firm build, the British soldier of the “old” army, as that fighting man is usually pictured. And in other characteristics, he was of the same stamp—a loyal comrade, a capable non-commissioned officer, fair and humane, but without any show of weakness in his handling of men.*

*He was a splendid battle leader, cool and clear-headed. At the beginning of the War, especially during the 2nd Battle of Ypres, he rendered excellent service. During the Ypres fighting, he was for two days in sole charge of a mixed body of about one hundred and fifty men from many different battalions, Canadian and Imperial. He handled them with an ability which earned him the D.C.M. In the last major action of the war at Cuvillers, when the Battalion was in a critical situation, his conduct, as the narrative already records, again earned high commendation.*

*Kay served continuously at the front from February 1915, until early in 1918, when he was sent back to Canada on the three months’ leave of absence granted to married men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division. He was very tired at the time. He was not at his best, and it was hoped he could be persuaded to stay in Winnipeg. This he would not do. He returned to France and went through with the Battalion until it arrived at Antheit on its return from Germany. There he was sickened with influenza. He refused to report to the Medical Officer, reeled off parade one morning dazed with fever, and died the same night.*

*The Burgomaster and citizens of Antheit requested that he be buried in the town cemetery, where they intended to erect a permanent memorial to the men of the Commune who were killed in the war. This request was agreed to; and when Dr. Dormal was asked how Kay’s grave was looked after he replied, “It will ever be cared for and kept in repair. It is always covered with flowers.” It could be truly said of this brave soldier that he died at the post of duty.*

The Battalion paraded on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1919 for his funeral. The Brigadier, his staff, and representatives from every Battalion of the Brigade attended. Less than three weeks later, the Battalion paraded again for the presentation of the Kings Silk Union Flag, which has recently been repatriated to the Regiment and is now proudly displayed in the museum.

We found the small brick-walled cemetery, and true to their word, there is a permanent memorial to those killed in the war. A Belgian flag flies over the area. The memorial bears his name. Adjacent to it stands a more recent Commonwealth headstone, the only one in the tiny graveyard. We placed a small wooden cross at the grave in thanks and remembrance.

Backtracking the 16<sup>th</sup> Bn's march route to Germany following the armistice, we headed for the 1815 Battle of Waterloo site. Going through Genappe and Quatre Bras, 105 years after the battalion had spent a few days resting in 1918, doing so itself 103 years after that famous battle and the defeat of Napoleon. Waterloo is generally viewed as the war that inaugurated a general European peace that, apart from the brief interruption of the Crimean War (1854-56), lasted for a hundred years until the Great War started in 1914. Different allies but the same horrors of war. The U.K.'s former defence chief Lord Bramall has called Waterloo "the first NATO operation."



RSM Kay Headstone



Brooding Soldier with Don Stedeford, Randy Evans, Ignace and Francine