



### THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA



### THE CAMERON ASSOCIATION IN CANADA

### THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

MINTO ARMOURY, 969 ST. MATTHEWS AVE WPG, MB R3G 0J7

### 2014/2015 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Steve MacMillan	351 Ainslie St Wpg, MB R3J 2Z7	sdmacmillan@shaw.ca	204-831-0542
VICE-PRES	Karen Tyler	255 Aldine St Wpg, MB R3J 2A9		204-414-0973
SECRETARY	Hugh O'Donnell	713 Cambridge St Wpg, MB R3M 3G2	hodonnell@shaw.ca	204-285-7222
TREASURER	Dave Gibson	104 William Gibson Bay Wpg, MB R3C 5L7	dwgibson@mts.net	204-222-9509

### 2014/15 ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Past Pres	Taffy Gray	198 Seekings St Headingly, MB R4J 1B1		204-889-5655
	Mike Nickerson	P.O.Box 122 Station L Wpg MB R3H0Z4		TBC
	Mitch Prudhomme	790 Parkhill St Wpg, MB R2Y 0V5		204-837-5778
	Sean Rivas	164 Carroll Road Wpg, MB R3K 1H5		204-802-2264
	Len Johnson	1094 Bay Rd St. Andrews, MB R1A 3L1		204-757-2023
Foundation Trustees	Marc Gautron (2013-2015)	Fred Westphal (2014-2016)		
Auditor	Tom Russell			204-488-0088

**\* LAST POST \***



School children in the Netherlands placing flowers on each grave 2005, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation. Jim Whyte

**I need a piper for a Cameron Association member's funeral ???**

For those of you who are trying to plan ahead or suddenly need to book a piper for one of our Comrades and don't know how it is done here you go:

1. Contact the President of the Cameron Association or the Editor of the Oatmeal Rag at a reasonable hour using the contact information on the front page of the current issue; and
2. We'll pass you the contact information of the current Cameron Pipe-Major (because the appointment does actually change from century to century or so and otherwise you may call the wrong guy); and
3. The P/M will help you to make the appropriate arrangements.

**GERRY CHABOT**

[http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-222512/name-Gerald\\_Chabot/](http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-222512/name-Gerald_Chabot/)

GERALD MARCEL CHABOT "The country is in mourning, a veteran died today." On Sunday, February 22, 2015 Gerald (Gerry) Chabot passed away peacefully at his home in



Winnipeg at the age of 72 years. Gerry will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Sonia Chabot (Bryan); two grandsons, Eric and Chase, and his companion of 15 years Betty Dennis. He was predeceased by his sister Ginette and daughter Danielle. Born in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Gerry proudly served 35 years in the military, travelling around the world twice and was an avid golfer. He was extremely proud of his grandsons. His physical presence will be greatly missed as well as his sense of humour. A Celebration of Gerry's Life was held on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Charleswood Legion #100, 6003 Roblin Blvd., Winnipeg. Donations may be made in Gerry's memory to The Canadian Diabetes Association.

"Have a good life and I will see you later."

*Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on February 28, 2015*

*Editor's Note: Gerry was our Chief Clerk at the Camerons for many years and was great at looking after the troops. He was also a regular at our Reunion Golf event and frequently boomed out the Longest Drive. Gerry is most likely holding up his end of the Heavenly WO's & Sgt's Mess with WO John Cotter and waiting for the rest of us reprobates to show up for Friday beers.*

#### **LEONARD T. DECOSSE**

<http://sigclub.blogspot.ca/2015/03/obituary-announcement-for-len-decosse.html>

(November 18, 1923 - February 23, 2015) Survived by his daughter Bonnie and granddaughter Jessica, sister Eileen, brothers Raymond and Noel and many nieces and nephews. Len was born on the family farm near Somerset, Manitoba. He joined the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, was trained in England and served in Normandy France, N/W Europe, United Nations, Egypt and the Congo. He enjoyed many retirement years fishing, hunting and his hobby, working with stained glass. Len requested cremation with no service. Memorial to follow at a later date.

Published in Comox Valley Echo from Mar. 10 to Apr. 8, 2015

From Fred Maniak: He had a Memorial Wednesday the 18 March 2015 at 1400hrs,(2pm for Air types) in COMOX at the Legion on Comox Rd. Fred notified personnel in the immediate area including Nanaimo.

*Editor's Note: Len represented us at more than one commemorative event in Europe since the war and was a great bit of fun to chat with right up to the end. On several occasions I had to call Len to find out about fine details such as the markings painted on our carriers for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and about family requests for information. Len's Dad was a First War Cameron Lewis Gunner who apparently suffered the great indignity (as Len so colourfully put it) of "being shot in the ass."*

#### **JAMES DONALD**

[http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-224578/name-James\\_Donald/](http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-224578/name-James_Donald/)

**JAMES (JIM) DONALD** With sadness we announce the sudden passing of Jim Donald at his home on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at the age of 80 years. Jim leaves behind his wife Mona of 58 years, son Kevin (Corrine). Jim was predeceased by sister Jean Miller (Ralph) and brother Neil Donald. Jim was born in Winnipeg; working with the Winnipeg Police Service for over 30 years. He played with numerous pipe bands for over 50 years the longest being the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band. Jim loved curling in the winter and time at the cabin at Grand Beach in the summer. Memorial Service was at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2015 at Glen Eden Funeral Home, 4477 Main St., West St. Paul, MB.

Donations may be made in Jim's memory to a charity of choice. Family and friends may sign a Book of Condolence at [www.glenedenmemorial.ca](http://www.glenedenmemorial.ca) Glen Eden Funeral Home & Cemetery 204-338-7111

*Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on May 07, 2015*

*Editor's Note: "Jimmie" Donald was a drummer with the Cameron Pipes and Drums for many years and is fondly remembered by former P/M Donny Morrison and others. Bill Worden told me that WPS Chief Herb Stephens commented about Jimmie and their time as Cameron cadets back when.*

**JIM ("J.R.") ROBERTS JR. (1951----2015)** *Just a reminder that his memorial service will be held on Saturday, 02 May 2015 at St. Luke the Redeemer (Anglican) located at 230 Nassau St, Wpg, MB for those who can make it. Jill, his former wife has gone to great lengths to make this a possibility for the Camerons to say farewell to one of our own, so please make an effort for the two of them.*

**WIDOW'S / WIDOWER'S SUPPLEMENT:** There is income supplement for widows / widowers. They will mail out a form for the survivor to complete. You will need proof of marriage and the soldier's regimental number etc. and the spouse's income tax forms. If the financial situation is going badly the survivor should contact Veterans Affairs.

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/services/financial/cf-income-support>

### **\* SICK & VISITING \***

**Gord Coutts** (Korea, Militia) - Gord has been mostly shut in for quite a while now and plans stay that way for a while yet. Hugh called him on 14 May 2015 to say hi. Gord says hi to all !

**Steve MacMillan** (Bosnia) Steve has just had the usual infantry/hockey player repair job. He is doing well enough. Steve has been very busy during his recuperation getting the Cameron Commemorative Bench Project moved along. More in his report – so bloody well read it !!!

**Vi Miller** (Russ's widow) – No recent update.

**Archie Moore** (Korea, Post SWW Cameron) – Archie is now a resident at Riverwood Square in Room #8. He enjoys company and always has a quick joke for visitors.

**Piper Bill MacKay** (SWW) - Nothing current of the bad kind to report. Stay well Piper Bill !

**Tom Munro** (Borneo with the Imperials, Militia) 19 April 2015 – Tom hasn't been feeling all that well. He's due for a visit to 675 McDermot soon.

**Bill Naven** (SWW) - Hugh spoke with him briefly in mid-April and he was ok.

**Mo Schultz** (Drew's Militia) - Had a stroke in Sept but is back on the go now. Just shows that you can come back from being paralyzed from the waist down. He can be contacted at 587-281-2840. Doing OK and called to let me know about our pal Bruce Tascona's bit with photographer Jeff Gusky. For those not in the know, Jeff has been doing an astounding job photographing the forgotten sites of the First World War. More to follow in this edition of the Rag – 21 April 2015 but if you're too impatient here's the quick link: <http://jeffgusky.com/>

**Ken Smith** (SWW) Hugh O'Donnell spoke to Ken on a number of occasions recently and is very happy to report that Ken is well and active. We're counting on you to keep the BC Football scene alive and well Ken !

**Roy Taylor** (SWW RAF, Post SWW Cameron) – Hugh called 14 May 2015 to say hi. Louise and Roy are doing OK, but of course Roy gets tired very easily.

**PTSD Help Line**: The toll-free number 1-855-373-8387 will be manned by veterans who will be available on a 24-hour basis. The callers will not be required to identify themselves. See also the Cameron "Links" section of the web page: [Cameron web site "Links" section](#)

### **\* PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE \***

Hello to all,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about the memorial project the Association has been working on. It began with the idea to put a bench into Brookside Cemetery to honour all Camerons who have served since 1910. We were going to go with a wooden bench and discovered that it only has a life expectancy of 10 years and then it would be thrown out and we would have to start over and the money already spent would be gone. Being Scottish that goes against our nature!!

We then looked at a granite bench and the higher cost involved and we seriously considered this when a past serving Cameron offered to donate the bench through his business. The challenge arose in that Brookside only allows benches that are purchased from them. We have tried to get Brookside to change their policy or amend it for us, but they are firm on it as they are owned by the City of Winnipeg.

We are going to pursue other possibilities such as a city park.

If this project was easy to accomplish we would be completely bored!! So we will stay with it and be successful in the end. I want to thank all of you who have donated your money towards this project; your generosity is most appreciated. We are still in need of more donations to reach our goal, so if some of you have been considering donating, please know that your dollars will be put to good use.

Have a great summer and I will keep you posted.

**\* VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE \***

Karen would like to encourage all of those who came out to support the Bingo Bowling to come out again ! She has planned another one and is hoping (Editor's note: as are we all I'm sure !) that there will be some of the same level of support. The details are in the Cameron Association Activities section of this newsletter.

Thanks for putting this together Karen !!!

**\* RECONNECT WITH FORMER CAMERONS \***

This is an important thing to do for the health of the Association. There are still lots of former Camerons out there that we don't know about for various reasons. Just because you or they weren't Second World War or Korea veterans doesn't make them any less important to the Cameron Association. Please help us locate them and bring them back into the fold. The ranks of the SWW guys are almost non-existent now and the torch must pass to the following generations of Camerons that we may continue to serve our fellow Camerons.

We only have about 42 paid up members at this time. Thanks very much to those fine souls who have donated some of their hard earned dollars to keep hard copies of this newsletter going out to the guys without computers.

**\* WHERE ARE THEY NOW ? \***

**Bill Douglas** is in his normal digs in Osborne Village and doing well. Hugh O'Donnell spoke to Bill during a short visit on 02 May 2015. He is doing very well and may even come out for the Friday night of the Reunion this year. We sure hope that you can join us Bill !!!

It is my great pleasure to note that **Rosco Long** is still with us and here's a recent picture of him courtesy of his daughter Wendy:

Hello,

While searching for some photos & history of my Dad, Rosco Long a QOCH, I found his name

listed in your newsletter. It seems the author was uncertain if he was still living, so I thought I should inform you that he definitely is! At the age of 93, he recently moved into the Parkland Assisted living facility in Melfort, Sask. The photo, taken last week, is of him receiving his 70 year pin from the Royal Canadian Legion. The mailing address for him & my mother is Box 2697, Melfort Sk. S0E 1A0 in case you need to contact them.

Thank you

Wendy Needham



Hi to All,

My uncle Don Morrison asked me to forward this to you to consider putting in the Oatmeal Rag:

[France honours D-Day vet with knighthood](#)





Sgt. **Douglas Brown** was a Canadian paratrooper when he parachuted into France on D-Day in June 1944. Today, 70 years later, Brown, 91, is a knight.

Thanks to a nomination by his granddaughter, Carrie Brown of Ottawa, the French government has named the Deer Lodge Centre resident to the rank of Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour. The honour is the highest of France's national orders and was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

"Wow," Brown said Monday while giving a broad smile shortly after receiving the honour with members of his family present at Deer Lodge Centre.

In a letter to Brown from Philippe Zeller, France's ambassador to Canada, the former paratrooper was told he can proudly wear the medal that comes with the honour "which attests to your courage and your devotion to the ideals of liberty and peace."

Carrie Brown said she nominated her grandfather for the award after learning about the honour during a conversation with an official with Veterans Affairs. "This is great," she said, sitting beside her grandfather.

"To be able to do this is awesome. There are not too many (Second) World War veterans around. To recognize his service is an honour."

Brown was serving with the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, but was assigned to the Sixth British Airborne Division, when the decision was made to have him and others drop from the



skies above Normandy, France, the evening before D-Day on June 6, 1944. His mission was to destroy a bridge several kilometres away from the beach hours before the invasion's main force landed.

Brown's plane was hit and all the men had to scramble to get out before it crashed. The men were scattered several kilometres across the countryside.

Brown was able to find two other paratroopers in the dark and after a British glider with more troops crashed into some trees and left four survivors, they became a troop of seven.

Four days later, after four of them were killed in a battle with a German patrol, Brown and two others surrendered after being found in a ditch.

"My dad told me several times later through the years that a voice in very clear English said 'Englander, surrender or die,' " said his son, Morry Brown. "It was a Princeton-educated German officer. It wasn't hard to make the choice."

Brown ended up a prisoner in Stalag 4B in Germany for a year, from where he tried twice to escape.

Morry Brown, who lives in Sudbury, Ont., said while his dad didn't talk too much about his war years while he was growing up, he finally began telling some of what happened in his later years.

He said another story his dad told him was what happened shortly before he and the other paratroopers boarded the planes to take them to France hours before D-Day. "There were people out waving and cheering them prior to them getting on the planes," Morry Brown said. "He said 'I thought at the time if everyone knows we are leaving they might know that we are coming over in France.' "

Brown also received a certificate and Living Veterans of the Second World War tribute lapel pin and a letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

[kevin.rollason@freepress.mb.ca](mailto:kevin.rollason@freepress.mb.ca)

*Republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition November 11, 2014 B3*

My Dad really likes his Cameron cap!

Cheers,

Gail Brown

*Editor's Note: Gail got her Dad a Cameron ball cap from the kit shop. It seems to have gone over well ! For those of you not in the know already, Doug joined the Camerons following the*

*Second World War. He took his commission and in due course served as an Aide De Camp to the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. It's great to see him looking so spry !*

Hi Guys,

Just a note that I didn't forget about Jim's memorial. Raised a glass of fine whiskey and toasted his memory. How did the actual service go?

Anyways all the best to you, the regiment and your families.

**Andre Blais**

**\* MEET THE HONORARY LT. COL. \***

<http://news.umanitoba.ca/2015-distinguished-alumni-award-professional-achievement/>

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT **NICK LOGAN**, BA/71, BCOMM(HONS)/73 Nick Logan, BA/71, BComm(Hons)/73, 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award, Professional Achievement **NICK LOGAN**, BA/71, BCOMM(HONS)/73 During his 40 years as president and CEO of National Leasing, Nick Logan blended innovative business ideas with a personal philosophy around corporate culture steeped in the values of mentorship, teamwork and respect. Logan helped build an environment at National Leasing's Winnipeg headquarters that reflected his view of corporate culture. There, staff might be found playing ball hockey together in the parking lot or working out in an in-house gym. Logan's influence and impact as a professional, a philanthropist and volunteer in the community speak volumes about his passion and ability to bring out the best in people.

**\* 2014-15 DUES (\$10) STILL PAYABLE UNTIL AUG 2015 \***

As of any old time you can connect with Association Treasurer **David Gibson** (per the cover page of the Oatmeal Rag) who will take your payment. If you are not sure of your status please contact Dave and he'll either be happy to take your \$10.00 payment or be most unhappy that he doesn't get to take any money from you - yet - this year.

A quick reminder that donations over \$25 to Association done through the Cameron Foundation will be given a tax receipt ! this includes donations towards our project to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Great War. Just mark your cheque as a donation towards the 100th Anniversary Bench Project and these fine gentlemen at the foundation will credit it appropriately.

**\* CAMERON ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES \***

**100th Anniversary of the start of The Great War Bench Project** - See the President's Message from Steve MacMillan for the current state of play. Future fund raising efforts will be coming but if you do have something to contribute right now you can send your cheque to the

Cameron Foundation at the address listed below. All donations are welcome. Donations for more than \$25 will receive a charitable donation receipt.

Editor's Note: These tax receipts come out fairly quickly too, or at least mine did. Thanks Julian !

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada Regimental Foundation  
Minto Armoury, 969 St. Matthews Avenue  
Wpg, MB R3G 0J7

### **2nd Annual Bingo Bowling Night 21 May 2015**

**What:** 3 games each if you arrive on time of 5 pin bowling...maximum 3 balls/person per frame and no experience necessary. Lots of fun (and great people of course)!

**Time:** 1900-2230 hrs on 21 May 2015

**Grid:** St. James Lanes which is 1805 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg

**Cost:** \$15 per person (12 yrs and under \$10) includes shoe rental; 3 bingo bowl games, pop and food!

**Special Instructions:** Please contact the Association Vice president, Karen Tyler, to let her know how many will be coming with you. Her contact info can be found on the cover of The Oatmeal Rag

### **2015 Cameron Reunion 21& 22 August 2015**

**What:** Reunion and golf weekend !

**Friday Time:** 1900-0030 hrs

**Friday Grid:** Minto JRs inWinnipeg

**Cost:** \$10 per person

**Special Instructions:** Pay your Annual dues if you don't make it to the night !

**Saturday Time:** 1300-1830 hrs or so

**Saturday Grid:** Assiniboine GC on Ness

**Saturday Cost:** TBC but probably about \$40 per person

**Special Instructions:** Bring something for the prize committee (aka "Bad Bill" Worden) to set out. You know how he can be, so don't let him down.

### **CAMERON ASSOCIATION IN CANADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**What:** Our AGM and election of Officers of the Association

**Time:** 201930 hrs00-2230 hrs on Monday, 14 September 2015

**Grid:** #4 St. James Branch, Royal Canadian Legion 17555 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg

**Cost:** \$10 – unless you've paid your membership dues rather early for 2015-2016. In which case thanks very much !



**Special Instructions:** The Association Executive is to be at #4 at to make sure that all is in order for the meeting.

**Second World War Veteran's Pins:** If you are eligible for one of these pins but have not yet received one and actually want one please contact us and we will do our best to get one your way !



<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/second-world-war/faq>

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=882999>

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations/commemorative-medals/second-world-war-tribute>

### **\* REGIMENTAL WEB SITES \***

The Unit web site is still up running. The links have recently had a much needed going over (April 2015) and most should now function properly. The unit web site continues to be a point of contact between ourselves, the families of those who served in the Camerons, and those who become interested in the Camerons for one reason or another. We continue to have a few

requests through the unit web site for information from families about former Camerons. If anybody can help out with them please feel free to do so. You can find the web site at:

<http://thequeensowncameronhighlandersofcanada.net/>

Our Picasaweb site is also worth a look and is full of little details about our history. The Secretary will be updating the site with more pictures shortly. You can take a bit of a virtual tour of the Cameron Memorial Chapel and see some of the artifacts held by the Cameron Museum:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/camsofc>

The Cameron Highlanders of Canada Memorial Site, Recording the History of the Regiment, 1914-1919, web site is one that every Cameron should have a look at once during the 100th Anniversary of the Great War. The creator of this site, Mr. J. Stuart McLean has done a great job of helping out the Cameron regimental family. Thanks for sharing your hard work sir !

<http://www.cameronhighlanderscanada.com>

#### **\* UNIT EVENTS \***

**Regiment: The next Regimental level Unit event is the JR's run Cameron Highland Games !!!**

**Date: 23 May 2015**

**Time: 1300 hrs**

**Grid: WO Mike Sinnock's place in St. Andrews MB – please check the unit web site for the map. Trust me – print yourself a copy !**

**Special Admin Instructions: Be prepared for any weather. If you plan to drink plan to tent it for the night or plan a safe ride home !**

**Dress: Regimental PT Gear or suitable heavy games kit.**

**Battalion:** The CO is now LCol Sean Moran, and he has been the CO since 08 Feb 2015 for those of you who were unable to attend LCol Sui (Peter) Wut's departure. The battalion is to be conducting a platoon level Raid as part of the next big Ex. Hopefully the turn out will exceed SK's turnout not too long ago. The new CO is keen to get some professional development training done with the officers and Sr. NCO's, including unit history.

**“A” Company Update:** The Company is busy working through the last of the CT (combined training) exercises, which on paper look pretty. We'll see how they turn out in the field.

Cpl J. Trenchard is in Holland for the liberation ceremony – the lucky so and so ! - and we have a team preparing for the Nijmegen March. Team members include Sgt Mladjenovic, MCpl Brooker, Sgt Bernier, Cpl Hugill and Lt Reive Deamel.

**Pipes & Drums Update:** The Pipes and Drums are still busy since the last update. Cpl Kelly Fitzpatrick came out to do the honours for 2Lt Jim Roberts' memorial service. Well done Kelly !

That's all for now. Ullamh!

**\* REGIMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD NOTES \***

The Advisory Board continues to provide sound advice to the CO on all matters Cameron in "interesting times". Good thing too with all of the stuff in the news these days ! This august body continues to try to support all ranks in their various endeavours. The latest topics have been the Association's plans to commemorate all of the Camerons who have served, the cadets skiing program, the Officer's Mess amenities, and the WO's and Sgt's Burn's Supper plans. In addition to all that they're busy trying to find a way to help out the JR's too.

**\* CAMERON CADET EVENTS \***

The Cadets have been busy this year. They're working on getting a Biathlon team up and running. They are also looking at sending some cadets on a pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge. The ridge in France that is of course, not the park downtown named for the famous battle. Hopefully Lt. B. Will and Capt. K. Walker can keep that concept on track. Vimy is a "must see" kind of place for Canadians in Europe.

Capt. Walker says well done to the cadets who came out on the FTX weekend - their Nav Trek skills really improved. Silver Stars info -he has offers of participation for them to take and sign for the Expedition Training coming up. Those of you who have the chance be sure to see the admin office and get your forms.

Please visit their new official web page and you will see how to sign up for REMIND. This will be a communications tool the Corps uses to notify all concerned of activities, notices, quick information etc.... sign up at: <http://www.407army.ca/>

**\* REGIMENTAL REINFORCEMENTS \***

According to CSM "A", J. Clark, we are looking at receiving the biggest recruit class in memory (thanks to Sgt Joe Penman, Rifles) 30 new recruits to "A" Coy in the fall.

There have been a few promotions worth mentioning too. MCpl S. Snidal has been promoted to Sgt and MCpl N. Curry's promotion to 2 Lt is just about done too. Good to see some fresh blood circulating in all three Messes !

**\* OTHER REGIMENTAL NOTES \***



**Rounds Completed:**

**Kirk Parade: 08 Feb 2015** - Kirk Parade was on 08 Feb 2015 due to the projected 38 CBG training schedule. Given the number and dispersion of Units, Squadrons, and Batteries across the Brigade it is inevitable that every weekend is someone's Big Event and it was just our turn to take a hit for the Brigade this time out. The attendance was good and the Kirk had the usual coffee, tea, and dainties set out for the hungry masses. A few of our stalwarts went by the Barley Brothers for a drink in Jim Roberts honour.

**Change of Command Parade: 08 Feb 2015** – Yes, the same day as the Kirk Parade. No, lunch was provided so we had to fend for ourselves. Which may not be a bad thing as the bar was nae open at the Mess for lunch ! Not too sure about this new army of ours !

;-)

**Stuff for the Lassies for next year's Robbie Burns:** Jamberry Nails from Mrs. Erika Smith - WO (Ret'd) Steve Smith's wife for those who aren't quite sure of which Smith I mean. She's got this line of Jamberry product for the girl who wants to be Cameron to the tip of her toes...

**\* LINKS \***

Here's a dandy from the old days – the old British Army training film series featuring FN's and FN Mags. No Bill, not THOSE type of "training films" ! The first one is the longer one at 15 minutes, Part 2 is only 4:46 minutes.

[Finding The Enemy \(1/2\)](#)

[Finding The Enemy \(2/2\)](#)

**Canadian Expeditionary Force War Trophies brought to Canada**

[http://silverhawkauthor.com/canadian-war-trophies-book\\_326.html](http://silverhawkauthor.com/canadian-war-trophies-book_326.html)

Lieutenant Colonel William A. Smy, OMM, CD

Following the Armistice in November 1918, individual Canadian soldiers and Canadian units began planning to send some type of war trophy back to Canada. In most cases the "trophy" being considered was a weapon captured on the battlefield. Lieutenant Graham Thomson Lyall, for example, wrote the Commanding Officer of the 19<sup>th</sup> "Lincoln" Regiment, his old Canadian Militia regiment that he had, "great pleasure in sending this gun to my initial regiment, where I first learnt the rudiments of soldiering". The gun was one of the guns captured in September 1918 during the deed which won him the Victoria Cross

This type of "ad hoc" initiative was quickly put to a stop. The government of Canada established a "Commission on War Records and Trophies" with B.E. Walker as Chairman and A.D. Dougherty and E.A. Cruickshank as Members. One mandate of the Commission was to recommend "the proper policy to be pursued for the distribution of such trophies" and it submitted its report on 18 May 1920.

The Commissioners noted that:

- a. Only trophies which were of a durable nature should be distributed to municipalities, public institutions, and military units
- b. Before any distribution, special provision should be made for a National War Museum and for Provincial War Museums; and that,
- c. War trophies were the exclusive property of the Crown, and the receiving institution was responsible for keeping them in good repair and had no authority to dispose of them.

At the time of the report there were 516 captured German guns and Howitzers, 304 trench mortars, 2500 heavy and light machine-guns and 3000 rifles available for distribution. From these totals it was proposed that rare specimens such as two 37-mm and 75-mm mountain guns, 77-mm and 80-mm Anti-Aircraft Guns, three 88-mm Field Guns, a 90-mm Field Gun, a 99-mm Howitzer, a 120-mm Gun, a 126-mm Gun, four 150-mm Naval Guns, a 150-mm Russian Howitzer and four specimens of the other calibres, four specimens of each calibre of trench mortars, 100 machine-guns and 1,000 rifles be reserved for National and Provincial War Museums.

It was recommended that a significant number of guns of each calibre available, four trench mortars, twelve machine-guns and 100 rifles, should be allocated to each Provincial capital city. In addition eleven guns awarded by competition in raising the Victory Loan of 1919 were to be distributed to each province with Ontario receiving two.

It was then proposed that the remaining trophies available were to be distributed by province based on wartime enlistments in the CEF, and the Department of Militia and Defence provided the following breakdown:

#### NUMBER OF ENLISTMENTS IN EACH PROVINCE

PROVINCE	TOTAL	PER CENT
Ontario	245,677	41.6 nearly
Québec	82,793	14.0
Manitoba	66,319	12.2
British Columbia	61,438	10.4
Alberta	45,145	7.6
Saskatchewan	37,666	6.4 nearly
Nova Scotia and PEI	33,342	5.6
New Brunswick	25,864	4.4 nearly
Yukon	2,327	0.4 nearly

Using the figures of enlistment provided by the Department of Militia and Defence, the general distribution was to be in accord with an appropriate share of trophies to each province.

Province	Guns and Howitzers	Trench Mortars	Machine-guns
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Ontario	166	101	941
Québec	56	34	321
Manitoba	45	27	259
British Columbia	35	22	203
Alberta	30	19	174
Saskatchewan	26	15	146
Nova Scotia & PEI	22	14	126
New Brunswick	17	11	100
Yukon	1	1	8
Totals	398	244	2,280

The provincial share according to enlistment was then broken down to municipalities, organizations and institutions, and military units.

### **\* HISTORICAL NOTES \***

The keener historians amongst the ranks may be interested to know that at about this time 100 years ago the 43<sup>rd</sup> Camerons of Canada were not at all certain of being able to go to the field as a formed unit. Those Camerons faced the fear of being broken up as a battalion and becoming generic infantry replacements. As replacements they would go in bunches to a Reserve Battalion, and then on to the front with whichever CEF battalion had taken the worst casualties lately.

The call for 300 infantry soldiers (of our 1000 strong 43<sup>rd</sup> Bn) to be sent to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion CEF (now perpetuated by the Canadian Scottish in Victoria, BC) to replace the hundreds of casualties suffered during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres (Kitcheners Wood, the first gas attacks on the Western Front, etc) was a watershed moment for the 43<sup>rd</sup>. Many would never to see their comrades with whom they signed up from the 43<sup>rd</sup> again. On the bright side they may have met up with the survivors of the 16<sup>th</sup>'s Cameron Company originals.

[Cameron web site Regimental history page](#)

Everything hinged on the Camerons depot in Winnipeg being able to replace those 300 men ! Fortunately the Regiment came through and the rest is history. The 43<sup>rd</sup> would go to France and fight those terrible battles on the Somme and at Passchendaele before going on to the final days at Mons in Belgium.

One thing of perhaps great note about this little drama – the very last surviving infantry soldier of the entire CEF to fight at Vimy was one of those 300 Camerons, Pte. Clifford Holliday.

<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=13882>

Regimental resources: Major (Retired) Frederick Carsted. Frederick has been busy of late with the St. John's Ravenscourt commemoration of their participation in the First World War and a few other side shows. Here are a couple of shots of Frederick keeping the old promise "We Shall Remember Them":





**\* MORE LINKS \*****The Problem with Hybrid Warfare**

<http://warontherocks.com/2015/04/the-problem-with-hybrid-warfare/>

The hybrid warfare concept gives many in the West the luxury of picking and choosing from a range of actions – a media campaign here, a cyber-intrusion there (and even the occasional political assassination) – and interpreting them as one-off isolated events. There is no need to connect the dots. Indeed, it is often easier to look at the unfinished page, suggestive of possibilities that become clear only with a deliberate completion of the picture. Inadvertently, the flexibility of the instruments inherent in hybrid warfare tempts policy makers to detach the specific tactics from the overarching political goals that drive a war. A war fought with hybrid means becomes thus an incomprehensible sequence of improvisations, disparate actions along various geographic fronts – “humanitarian convoys” followed by conventional war with artillery and tanks in Eastern Ukraine, “peacekeeping operations” in Transnistria, cyber-attacks in Estonia, vast disinformation campaigns on mass media, seemingly random forays of heavy bombers in the North Sea, submarine games in the Baltic Sea, and so on – that appear vaguely connected. But they are a part of a whole.

Hybrid tactics are not a random sequence of improvisations but reflect an order behind the spectrum of tools used. That makes it incumbent upon political leaders and strategic thinkers (not always one and the same) to fit such activities squarely within the political objectives discussed by Carl von Clausewitz, who explained that war was an extension of politics by other means. In thinking through the ongoing competition with Russia, we must keep in mind that “hybrid” refers to the means, not to the principles, goals, or nature of war. There is nothing inherent about the concept that prevents this. Indeed, the Russians have it down. We do not.

**Hybrid war - hybrid response?**

<http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2014/russia-ukraine-nato-crisis/Russia-Ukraine-crisis-war/EN/index.htm>

When a country is attacked by conventional land, sea or air forces, it is usually clear how to best respond. But what happens when it is attacked by a mixture of special forces, information campaigns and backdoor proxies? What's the best response? And how can international security organisations like NATO adapt to these attacks?

**\* “IT WOULDN’T BE AN OATMEAL RAG W/O A WEE JOKE” (RUSS MILLER) \***



*“You’ll be in charge of the music down here.”*

We are always seeking sponsors or advertisers to help defray the cost of this publication. If anyone is interested or has any suggestions as to whom to contact please let us know and we'll be happy to do the follow up.

Sponsors to date are: Mr. Max Katz, our very first sponsor, of the Oatmeal Rag and the Jewish War Vets; Mr. Greg Flom, a former Cameron; Maj. Bill Gray, Cameron Advisory Board; Sgt Tim Seeley, Drum Sgt Extraordinaire; MCpl (Ret'd) Mark Silver, our “Eastern Branch” contact; Sgt (Ret'd) Roy Taylor, the Cameron WO's & Sgt's #1 choice for reading “Rab” Burn's poetry; Maj. Ken Smith; Col. Bob Darling, President of the Cameron Advisory Board Mr. W L (Lloyd) Jones, SWW Cameron; P/M Donald Morrison; Major Ken Smith; Sgt. Bill Douglas.

Gentlemen, we thank you.

**Verification of Former Service DS Solution:** You can make a request under the Access to Information Act, which will provide you with proof of your service with the Camerons. Thanks



very much to Sgt V. Sellars from Minto. Please click on the recently confirmed (May 03 2015) link:

<http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/tbsf-fsct/350-58-eng.asp>

Our Sponsors for this issue of The Oatmeal Rag are the members named above and our special thanks to The Commissionaires for their continued support !



Mayor Cort van der Linden with Major General Bruce Matthews Commander of the second Canadian Division. Groningen 18 April 1945.

<https://www.facebook.com/BevrijdingVanGroningen70jaar?fref=photo>

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE  
AU CANADA*L'Ambassadeur*Ottawa, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

N° 2015-259019

Dear Sir,

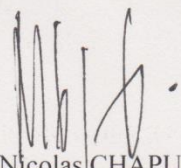
I am writing to confirm that I received your letter dated March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in which you ask for a clarification of our Legion of Honour policy for Canadian veterans.

In 2014, in honour of the 70th anniversary of the Allied Landings in Normandy and Provence and of the operations that led to the liberation of France, our country decided to award with France's most prestigious distinction more than 600 Canadian veterans selected by Veterans Affairs Canada. This campaign is now closed, so we are unfortunately no longer available to accept new applications.

Please be assured that France has not forgotten the dedication and the sacrifice of all of your compatriots who came to liberate French soil, and will never forget Canada's participation in the operations that helped bring an end to the Second World War.

I would be grateful if you would pass this message to all the soldiers of your regiment who took part in the liberation of France but have not been awarded the Legion of Honour.

Yours sincerely,

  
Nicolas CHAPUIS

Mr. Murray BURT  
Secretary to the Advisory Board  
The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada  
Minto Armoury  
969 St. Matthew's avenue  
Winnipeg MB R3G 0J7