



THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA



CAMERON ASSOCIATION IN CANADA
 THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA
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2014/2015 OFFICERS

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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.

NEIL WITHER

http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-215645/name-Neil_Wither/min-run-date-1404363600/date-range-month/classification-id-1/order-publish_date%7CDESC,last_name%7CASC,first_name%7CASC/page-8/

NEIL STUART WITHER January 31, 1935 - July 19, 2014 Surrounded by his family, Neil passed away on Saturday, July 19, 2014. Married to his high school sweetheart, successful in his business career, Neil leaves to celebrate his life, wife of 57 years, Verda (nee Westman), his children, and grandchildren, and two sisters Joyce Forth and Jeanne (Bob Carlson).

Neil began his a construction career following his schooling at Isaac Brock and Daniel McIntyre Collegiate. He began in the house building industry as a young labourer with Suzuki Bros. He then moved to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in 1952, a position which led to Defence Construction 1951 Ltd. and his role as an Inspector of construction projects for the Federal Government. Joining Red River Construction in 1956 as Superintendent, Neil bought the company in 1964. He continued his active role in Red River as a Director and maintained his

position as President of Big Bertha Boring Inc. until 2010.

During his construction career Neil personified the belief of giving something back to his industry having served in numerous construction association offices. Neil was the President of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and Board member of the Western Canadian Roadbuilders Association, which culminated in becoming Chairman of the Board of the Canadian Construction Association in 1981. From 1981 to 1994, Neil served as the principal spokesman and founder of TRIP Canada (The Road Improvement Program) and the CRCI (Coalition to Renew Canada's Infrastructure). This position led to his involvement on the Board of the Roads and Transportation Association of Canada. In 1986 he represented Canada by Chairing a Labour and Management OECD Conference in Paris, France on the subject of infrastructure needs.

Neil was Chairman of the Board of Knox United Church, 1968, President of Southwood Golf & C.C., 1973 and 1974, Master of the St. Johns Masonic Lodge in 1975, President of his Shrine Unit the Arabian Horse guard in 1986, President of The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg in 1996 and later active on the Advisory Board of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. At the time of his passing Neil held Honorary Life memberships at Southwood Golf and C.C., The Winnipeg Construction Association, The Canadian Construction Association, The Roads and Transportation Association of Canada. He also served his Provincial Government as chairman of the Board of The Manitoba Housing Corporation from 1996 - 1999.

Neil's lifelong love of golf took him to Scotland on several occasions and he and his wife Verda enjoyed many overseas trips with their friends the Caletti's. His long association with the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg led to Chairing its annual golf tournament for some 18 years, a popular Pro-am event for the benefit of child amputees. His work with The Champs Program of the organization was one of his proudest accomplishments. An author of numerous papers on the need for reinvestment in our country's transportation system, Neil found time to pen two biographical works dealing with his life and times. The first being "Rode Hard and Put Away Wet" and the second involving others and his immediate family, entitled, "Home and Hosed Down" - a legacy left to his children and grandchildren. Neil's work and life has taken him to the Northwest Territories, Bermuda, Hawaii, Trinidad, Scotland, Ireland, France and many villages and towns where his company installed sanitary and water facilities. Attending the Sandy Hook picnics where all his family gathered to celebrate the summer birthdays, was a holiday highlight, as were the winter birthdays, celebrated at the homes of his children. Neil took pride in attending his grandchildren's activities and acknowledging their accomplishments.

Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) robbed Neil of his ability to partake in all the things in his life that he enjoyed. The family would request donations, in lieu of flowers, to go to Cure PSP, 30 E. Padonia Road, suite 201, Timonium, MD 21093, or online through www.curepsp.org, or Shriner's Burn or Transportation Fund - Shrine House, 1155 Wilkes Ave, Winnipeg R3P 1B9 The family would like to thank the staff at St. Norbert Personal Care Home for caring for Neil, especially Medine, Yvonne, Carolyn, Doreen, Toni, Pam, Norman and Helana, as well as Tara Keyser and the Prime Program at Deer Lodge. A Memorial Service was held at Fort Garry United Church, 800 Point Road, Winnipeg, on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 2:00 P.M., with Rev. Bill Millar and Ken Delisle officiating. Death is nothing at all, I have only slipped away and into the next room, I am I and you are you, whatever we were to each other, that we still are.

(Henry Scott Holland). NEIL BARDAL FUNERAL CENTRE 204-949-2200 neilbardalinc.com

Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on July 26, 2014

GEORGE (CLIFF) CLIFFORD FRYERS

http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-215822/name-George_Fryers/min-run-date-1406955600/order-publish_date%7CDESC,last_name%7CASC/

GEORGE (CLIFF) CLIFFORD FRYERS August 14, 1921 - July 28, 2014 With deep sadness we announce the passing of George Clifford Fryers, Retired Captain of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, on Monday, July 28, 2014 at Lake of the Woods Hospital, Kenora, ON, at the age of 92 years. Left to cherish Cliff's memory are his beloved wife Marie; children Pat (Ron),

Don (Laureen), Nancy (Lloyd), Bob (Jenny); stepson Gary Snell; as well as by several grandchildren. Cliff was born in Saskatoon, the youngest of five children. He lived most of his life in Winnipeg and graduated from Kelvin High School. He volunteered and proudly served for four years in the Second World War as a Captain with The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada serving in France.

When Cliff returned from the war, he completed his training as an accountant for his career until he became a business owner and partner in Norwood Tent and Awning. While growing up, Cliff loved family holidays at Long Pine Lake, Ingolf, Ontario which he later shared with his own children. With Marie, Cliff continued to enjoy their lake community life with good friends at Hockey Haven, Ontario. Their ongoing support and love, along with the very skilled and caring staff at Kenora's Lakehead Hospital, have helped immensely at this very sad time. Cliff renewed his driver's license by passing his first written and performance test in June at the age of 92. The only comment by the tester was "you are a little slow".

In lieu of flowers, please donate by cheque, in memory of Cliff to The Royal Canadian Legion, Dominion Command, 86 Aird Place, Kanata, ON K2L 0A1. (Please note as memo on the cheque "Poppy Fund - Cliff Fryers"). A Funeral to celebrate Cliff's life was held on Tuesday, August 5, at 2:00 p.m. in Westworth United Church, 1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Wojcik's Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, 2157 Portage Avenue, 204.897.4665, in care of arrangements. wojciksfuneralchapel.com "Rest in peace Cliff; life well lived; job well done."

Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on Aug 2, 2014

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.

*** Sick & Visiting ***

Vi Miller (Russ's widow) Karen Tyler spoke to Vi not long ago. She's doing ok.

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) is back at George Derby after a visit to the hospital Ken Smith reports. Bill is doing well now.

Tom Munro (Borneo)

Ken Smith (SWW) still not in top form, but Ken is still keeping busy. He's in touch from time to time to say hi. He was also kind enough to slip us a few dollars to help out with publishing the Oatmeal Rag. Thanks very much sir !

Roy Taylor (SWW RAF, Post SWW Cameron) Roy is at home (? TBC 01 Oct 2014) and at least somewhat comfortable – yet again !

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.

*** President's Message ***

Steve MacMillan has been working with the Association Executive regarding the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the start of the Great War 1914-18. He's got us investigating several ideas, the main one of which is a permanently sited granite bench that will be located in the Field of Honour at Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg. Read more about this project in the section about Cameron Association Activities.

*** Vice-President's Message ***

Karen would like to thank all of those who came out to support the Bingo Bowling. She may run another one if there will be some of the same level of support.

*** 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.

The guys that I know are still alive are (in no particular order):

Major Ken Smith - Surrey, BC

Lloyd Jones - Delta, BC

Bill Douglas - Wpg, MB

Bill MacKay - Surrey, BC

Floyd Bowman - Ontario

Roy Taylor - Wpg

Mr. Worden - Wpg

Jack Coghill - Ottawa

Len DeCosse - BC - Feel free to call him at a reasonable time. See below for details.

Not sure but haven't heard the worst and decidedly wishing them the best:

Roscoe Long - SK

Rudy Bucholtz - Wpg, MB

Bill Naven - Wpg, MB

Anyone else to add to the Roll Call ? We get calls for Normandy and Holland vets every now and then and it's nice to be able to at least share a name or two.

April 27, 2014

Subject: Re: Dauphin Manitoba connection with the Camerons &
Pictures to submit to the unit museum

Original message:

I have some photo's that are family members who served with the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (1920's - 1968) and WW1 - 14th Reserve BN (Cameron Highlanders of

Canada) and WW1 circa - Dauphin Cadet Corps. The email link to the museum is not working, so can you forward these unit historical photos to their archives.

Thanks,
Shawn McNicholl

Next message:

Dear sir,

The connection to Dauphin Manitoba with the Camerons, is only with A Coy of the 226 CEF Bn which deployed to England in 1916 and got adsorbed by the 14th Reserve Bn (Cameron Highlanders of Canada) in 1917. This Bn was a re-enforcement Bn for the 43rd Bn, as well as for the 16th Bn (C Scot R) as one of their companies were Camerons. So, members who joined in Dauphin either ended up in the 12th Reserve, or transferred as re-enforcements to the 16th Bn or to the 43rd Bn. So the Dauphin boys were part of the Camerons, and after the war there was a Cameron Cadet corps in Dauphin which my great granddad help run and that two of his sons were in (my grand dad and great uncle) - see pictures. So there was a reaching connection to Dauphin with the Regiment. Anyway I'll resend the pictures (all taken in Dauphin 1917-1919) and original message. Please contact me if you would like further info on this subject.

Pictures include my:

Great Uncle Gen Cathcart:

Militia pre and post WW2- Queens Own Cameron Highlander of Canada 1927-39/1946-68. S/Sgt Eugene C Cathcart, Regimental # 819003 – Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (1939-1946) stated to be with RHQ as a CQMS in Oct 1940, He deployed with the 1st Battalion to Scotland in Dec 1940, then deployed in Jul 1944 for France/Germany campaign including the Sheldt. Previous service PPCLI in the 1924-27.

Great Uncle Ed Cathcart: S/Sgt Edward A Cathcart – CQMS with the 1st Battalion Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada 1939-45, he is stated to be in England in Oct 1940, he deployed with the 1st Battalion deployed to Scotland in Dec 1940, then deployed in Jul 1944 for France/Germany campaign including the SCHELDT. Mentioned in Dispatches.

Great Uncle Bob Cathcart: Service with Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada 1930-32, then served with 1st Manitoba Mounted Rifles 1933 (Reg't # 2410).

WO2 Robert A Cathcart, Regimental # H20532 – Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada (1940) and then served with 1 Canadian Parachute Bn (1942-46), Parachute Training Centre Shilo, Manitoba. He finishing the war as the RQMS.

Great Granddad John George Cathcart:

Sgt/Bugle Sgt John George Cathcart (Snr) Service # 1000146 – A Company 226th Bn CEF 1915-1917, then was transferred with the unit to the 14th (Cameron Highlanders of Canada) Reserve Bn 1917-1919. He was stationed in England during the War. His previous service – 90th Rifles in the early 1890's and then the Manitoba Dragoons, A Sqn.. Also after WW1 he ran a unit affiliated Cameron Highlanders of Canada Army Cadet Corps in Dauphin Manitoba which my Granddad Dave Cathcart and Great Uncle Red Cathcart were cadets of. There are also pictures of the younger kids dressed in Regimental uniforms.

Shawn McNicholl

Editor's Note: These pictures have been posted on the Unit Picasaweb page for all to enjoy. Mr. Ben Phillips, also a SWW Cameron, was the guy who talked Sgt. (Ret'd) Tim Seeley into joining the Camerons. Great place to volunteer to be a Cameron it seems !

These pictures can be found in the sections dealing with the First and Second World Wars.

April 27, 2014

Just doing some research. My grandfather, Philip Henry John was in the 43 Bn CEF, Cameron Highlanders of Winnipeg during WW1. Apparently he was in the Chaplain Service. Does this mean he was a Padre or what exactly did he do ?

I have in my possession Set 13 of the regimental bagpipes from 1915 once belonging to L. Ferguson and Alex Ferguson. Also, some other items from the 79th such as a music book and paybook with Shankland's signature. Just trying to sort out the trail of the bagpipes through WW1 and WW2. Also wondering how I can find out what you have in your collection. I have already read the war diary.

Best Regards!

Christopher D. John

Integra Electrical Services Inc.

4050 Ripple Place

West Vancouver, BC V7V 3L4

PH: 778-279-2747

CELL: 604-607-3570

cjohn.integra@shaw.ca

Editor's Note: Mr. John has recently been in touch to let us know that at least one more of these sets of pipes have turned up in his neck of the woods. Any of you have any ideas about how they got there or who brought them there ?

Subject: Felix Ptashnik

Hello,

My grandfather was in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders as a motorcycle "courier" and I was wondering if you would be able to provide me with some information on his service during the second world war.

My grandfather never talked to me about the war (but always heard his nightmares) but he was one of my favourite people and I would like to know that part of him (that made him). He was a great person and want to know what he did for our country.

I am making a trip in July of 2015 to Normandy and would like to follow the path he took through Europe and was hoping you would be able to help me shed some light as to where he served.

I appreciate assistance you could provide in this matter.

Thank you!

Tonya Doell

t.ptashnik@shaw.ca

Editor's note: I passed Ms. Doell the names of the unit histories to track the unit locations and I specifically suggested that she read Rocoe Long's book in particular, given that he too was a DR.

13 September 2014

Info on my Grandfather

Good Day to you,

VOLUME: E 02 ISSUE 17

10/26/2014

I wasn't lucky enough to meet my grandfather but I have heard only a little bit about him. I was hoping you had some archive info on him?

His name was Norman Macdonald and his service number was H-19195. He was in the battle of Dieppe and was captured and was a POW. He serviced 1981 days with 1614 days overseas.

His file number is 405-m-71 and the register #158926. His address in Winnipeg was 649 Montrose Ave. Any info you could forward would be great.

Thx again

Don Macdonald

Sales Manager

Cell 250-510-1511

Office 1-800-663-0875

Fax 1-866-516-3663

Don Macdonald donm@bcfood.com

Editor's Note: Mr. MacDonald's request has been passed to the Museum for a records check but if anyone else can help out please do so.

6 Oct 2014

Subject: My Father

Hello;

My father served in WW2 in the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Winnipeg and served in many Battles one of which was Dieppe. I am hoping to find more information about the Battalion. He also served in Holland. His name was William Stenhouse. I would like to find his service record and his sign-up documents, and other information about the Battalion. I know he saved the life of his captain.

Thank you

F. Stenhouse

fred.stenhouse@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Mr. Stenhouse's request has been passed to the Museum staff but if anyone else can contribute please do so.

11 Oct 2014

Subject: Cameron Highlander Museum

Hello,

I got your email address from the Cameron Highlander website. I was looking for a way to contact the Cameron Highlander museum. My Grandfather, George Smith was a Cameron Highlander. He was injured at Vimy Ridge and lived to see his 100th year, dying in 1992.

I have a letter he received in 1918, from another soldier. I think the writer's name is R.S M.Ferguson. The letter is grim....a telling of friends killed and injured.

As it is a historic artifact, I'd like to have it held by some organization that can take care of such things. If you can suggest who I might contact to explore this further, I would be appreciative.

thank you,

Hilary Anthony

hilant@rioussa.com

Editor's Note: Ms. Anthony's request has been passed to the Museum staff for consideration.

14 Oct 2014

Looking for Corporal ? (first name unknown) Cameron, 8 Platoon, "A" Coy

Hi, My Father Pte. Floyd E. Bowman served in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada in 1944. My Father will be 91 years of age this Oct. 17th, and I would like to purchase the dark blue cap for him. How can I do that?

Also I would like to find out the first name of a Corporal Cameron in "A" Coy, 8 platoon. My father was a runner for Corporal Cameron but he never knew Cameron's first name. My father was the soldier who caught Pte. Clifford Batty(he didn't know Pte. Batty's first name until a few days ago) when the rifle grenade exploded in front of Pte. Batty wounding and knocking him back at Woensdrecht. Thanks

Richard Bowman

More info re Pte F. Bowman

My father was wounded July 16th 1944 at Carpiquet Airfield, (shell air burst, wounded in the right leg) while serving with the Lorne Scots (4th Brigade Headquarters). Later, in August or early September 1944, he became a member of the Cameron Highlanders "A" Company, 8th Platoon and served with the regiment until November 24th at Mook where again he was wounded - this time in the left leg and thigh (mortar round).

Thanks again.

Richard Bowman

*Editor's Note: Mr. Floyd Bowman received his cap and his family sent us a picture of him proudly wearing it. I wasn't able to squeeze it in due to space limitations but I'll see about getting it posted to the Cameron Picasaweb site for all to enjoy.
Happy birthday sir !*

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 ? ***

Kevin Trick 05 July 2014

Everyone's doing well. Two kids are living in BC (Jenny is at UBC (Vancouver) and Mike in Trail (trying to become a CPA). Steve's at home; he's the Kitchen Manager at Montana's. Joy's working at a Distance Learning School, teaching Math, and I serve at Centre Street Church as the Men's Pastor. Recently became a triathlete; have done two Ironman 70.3's and in three weeks will be doing Ironman Canada 140.6.

Andy McKechnie

Greg Graham sends best. He's livin the dream!!!! Must be the you know what ... LOL

Gordon Krip

13 May, 2014

Hi guys,

Just to let you know that David O'Keefe's presentation in April was a real barn burner.

He mentioned that he will soon get a Literary award for his long research and preparation of his book "A Day in August".

It seems that he is also negotiating for a major film. It took him 11 consecutive months to start and finish the book. There was quite a large audience with lots of War History questions.

He emphasized throughout how the Brits controlled everything and even avoided any involvement with local Resistance groups.

There was a bit of dissension about tanks; he stated that half of them actually made their objectives.

Best Regards,
Gordon Krip

Andre Blais

12 July 2014

We are in Calgary for the Stampede this weekend then making our way back next week. I'll raise a glass and toast the regiment in August. Please pass on our well wishes to all !

Susan and I are going to finally get married in Sept. On Kauai. I figured after 16yrs maybe we should. I didn't want to rush into it you know.

Cheers

Andre

Editor's Note: Congrats you two from all of us in the Cameron family!!!

Bill Douglas is in his normal digs and doing well.

Lloyd "B Boy" Jones would like to pass on his regards to all, and particularly to those remaining SWW veterans. He reports that Ken Smith and himself still chat and BS from time to time and the conversation is always good for some laughs. Great to hear it guys !

Len DeCosse from the SWW Cameron Mortar Platoon is in pretty good shape but his eyesight isn't good enough for the computer anymore. Now that he's had to close down that particular net he would really appreciate a phone call from anyone who "Wants to talk Cameron" stuff. He has asked to put his phone number out for those of you with a spare quarter for the phone and a loud voice (Mortar Platoon – remember ?) to give him a shout. 250-339-9916 and ask for Sgt. DeCosse of the Camerons.

Rick Bales popped in to say hi and pay his dues for the next 10 years. He currently resides and teaches in Japan. A fine night of tales followed that particular Advisory Board meeting including contributions from Bill Worden. Rick was also good enough to let us in on how to cook those exotic post-Fukushima Daiichi Accident fish with unnatural growths. These are apparently best served in cozy romantic settings, where the lights are low and their residual glow adds to the ambience. Thanks Rick !

*** 2013-14 Dues (\$10) Still Payable until Aug 2014 ***

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 - WAS cancelled but IS now BACK ON !!!

Grid: Field of Honour at Brookside Cemetery

Time: Next few years unless we can fund it and design it sooner !

Cost: \$3500 or so, but THIS one will be PERMANENT, unlike the earlier version.

Details: To mark the start of the 100th Anniversary of our lads going off to save civilization as they knew it, the Association has restarted a project to place a park bench with regimental markings on it in the Field of Honour at Brookside Cemetery.

Ours will still be based on the pattern set by the staff of Brookside and similar in design to one being placed by the PPCLI to mark the same occasion.

It turned out that the bench originally envisioned would have only been used for 10 years and then further costs would be incurred. Fortunately, following some further inquiries we discovered that a very similar design but made of granite can be built AND WILL BE PERMANENTLY SITED. Or at least until the granite gets eroded by time and weather.

All that said, \$3500.00 isn't exactly what I had in my wallet, nor you either at a guess. Together however, with donations from all we think that this project can go forward.

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.

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

70th Anniversary of the Battle of NORMANDY

It is perhaps unfortunate that so much history tends to overlap and as such, certain events of the Camerons' history tend to get obscured or out and out forgotten. The next few years will be more of the same of course, but we don't want our surviving Second War veterans to think their stories have been forgotten. To that end the next item in this month's Oatmeal Rag is about one of our greater characters, Company Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class II Abram "Moe" Arbour, M.C.

It is certainly fitting that while fighting a war against Nazi Germany, and in particular against Hitler's SS troops in Normandy, that Canada's Jewish community joined us in the fight. There were many men from Winnipeg's and Manitoba's Jewish community to be found in the ranks of the Camerons according to Max L. Katz, former Post Commander of the General Moshe Dayan Post of the Jewish war Veterans of Canada. The sad but sensible truth is that many dared not admit their faith because of the all too real possibility of being captured alive by the SS or such, so we'll never know for certain how many actually served in our ranks.

W.O. II Arbour was born in 1918 at Narcisse, MB to Nathan and Etta Arbour. Although not much is known by this author about Abram's early and formative years at some point he definitely lived in Winnipeg's North End. Abram seems to have worked at physically demanding jobs for he was in good shape when he joined the Camerons on 11 Sept 1939. It is known that the then Private Arbour joined the Camerons because he had lots of friends in the unit. He loved the army life, but wasn't much for sports. It should also be noted that "Moe" had a very lively sense of humour according to more than one vet from those days. He deployed overseas to England on 24 Aug, 1940.



Company-Sergeant-Major and Mrs. Arbour photographed after their wedding.

Corporal Arbour had originally landed a role in the Battalion Transport Platoon, a nice, safe, cushy go. A fine place to sit out much of the war (in theory at least as mines and such made their life far less pleasant once they got into action) for some. After all, Moe had gotten married in January 1943 to Clarice May Arbour (nee Hawton) of Newhaven, Sussex, England and they would soon enough have a daughter named Wendy.

According to more than one Cameron from those days, “Moe” was simply far, far, too angry at what Hitler and his gangsters were doing to the Jewish people, HIS people, to stay in such a safe, cushy job. He transferred to a rifle company so that he could apply his anger to some desperately deserving Nazis.

“Moe” went in at Dieppe, and between that battle and everything else that he did so well in his rifle company, that he was selected and trained to be the Company Sergeant-Major of “B” Company. This was no small honour or responsibility for everyone knew that hard days lay ahead once they returned to the continent. How many soldiers can claim an honour like that after only 6 years in the service, even under wartime conditions ?

According to one soldier on one very notable occasion CSM Arbour went on to lead the whole battalion. On this particularly dark and foggy night the Battalion was to infiltrate the enemy lines and occupy a position in the Germans rear areas, “B” Company leading. Some alert Germans spotted the Camerons and started firing at them with quite a number of MGs and a few mortars joining in for good measure. The leading company took cover and were pinned to the ground and as a result the whole battalion’s advance was stalled - but not for long !

CSM Arbour was soon seen standing in the centre of the road, feet spread wide apart, pistol in hand, pirate style, shouting “If any of you are Camerons, fighting men, follow me !” His own “B” Company officers had become casualties or were pinned down and couldn’t move so the good Sergeant-Major just carried on. Once he had the lads moving again they got on with the job, dealt with a few of those MGs and their crews, moved out and took the company objective with the rest of the battalion in tow.

Sadly, this story of valour does not have a happy ending. On the 23rd of August 1944 at the ripe old age of 27 CSM W.O.II Abram “Moe” Arbour was killed in action. He never lived to see his Military Cross, formally awarded by the King to his widow on 06 February, 1945. It was awarded for his actions on the night of 07-08 August 1944 during OPERATION TOTALIZE. According to at least one source CSM Arbour was the first Canadian Warrant Officer Class II to

be awarded the M.C. during the Second World War.



CAMERON ASSOCIATION KIT SHOP stuff:

Stickers are \$2.00 each and Lapel Pins (3/4 Inch diameter) are \$5.00 each.

(001) Silver Badge on Blue, adhesive backing.

(003) Blue Badge on Silver, adhesive backing.

(005) Blue/Silver Badge on Clear, adhesive on face side for glass.



The pictures were taken on a red background to try to highlight the different styles of sticker. The sticker on the right is on a transparent background sheet, hence it looks red. They will be available at the Cameron Museum on Tuesday nights from Mike Nickerson or from the website.

*** Regimental Web Sites ***

The Unit web site is still up running. The links have recently had a much needed going over (Jan 2014) 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. It has recently had a few new (Sept-Oct 2014) items added, including the "**Souvenir Book of the Cameron Highlanders of Canada 1916**", courtesy of Mr. Duncan MacDougall. You can also 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 this 100th Anniversary of the Great War year. The creator of this site, Mr. J. Stuart McLean has done a great job of helping out the Cameron regimental family.

<http://www.cameronhighlanderscanada.com/>

*** Unit Events ***

Regiment: The next Regimental level event is the 11th of November 2014 Remembrance Day Parade at Minto Armouries. If you need a seat be there No Later Than 1000 hrs if last year is any guide !

Battalion: The CO has announced that he will not be in the corner office for much longer. Family duties are priority one for all of us, and his time will be coming this spring to move on. His replacement is a fine infantry sort who saw action as a young platoon commander with the Patricia's during the Medak days. His name will be announced publicly shortly.

Brigade directed but unit planned Collective Training events are now in the chute. Collective Training Weekends 1 and 2 are now completed, CT 1 being a Range Shoot that was best noted for the fine Scottish weather (ie, it was cold, it rained, and was windy).

Hopefully CT 3 and 4 and others like it will live up to their billing.

"A" Company Update:

The new OC A is Capt. P. Sliwowski (Rifles). He and CSM James Clarke are the Company command team this year. They've been busy with Company training. How busy ?

Well, they have taken part in two collective training weekends involving marksmanship and stand training such as Navigation, etc. They have helped to staff the Afghanistan Memorial when it was housed here in Wpg at the Legislature. They are also training for CT 3 (Live Fire Pairs, Groups, and Section) and CT 4 (Force on Force Patrolling vs the FGH) at the same time as they are training up for EX ARCTIC BISON !

Sgt N. Mladjenovitch is to instruct on the CQCB early in the new year and there are 3 MCpl's away at the 38 CBG Battle School too. (Close Quarter Combat – Basic).

Sgt. J Bernier is prepping the WITG lads for the Canadian Patrol competition to be held 17-21 Nov in Wainwright, AB. The other Cameron members of the team are MCpls Brooker, MCpl Fourcade, and Cpl MP2. Best of luck guys !

Pipes & Drums Update: The Pipes and Drums have been busy since the last update. They competed at Calgary and Canmore during the summer and did quite respectably.

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”. “Ralp Connor House” had an interesting ghost on hand on Sunday, 05 Oct – our former padre, the Reverend Charles Gordon in the flesh ! Well, in President of the Advisory Board Bob Darling’s flesh anyhow. A fine event with a fine selection of Scotches was had I’m told. The evening for the annual Officers Mess Dinner has been reset at 17 Oct 2014. The Regimental Church Parade will be on 08 Feb 2015.

*** Cameron Cadet Events ***



Cameron cadets learn about the other type of firefigts. 08 May 2014



From Captain Kerry Walker, DCO of The Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada Cadets comes a reminder that those who wish to join the corps can do so at any just about any time, summer and Christmas break excepted. The routine is to come in on a Thursday night with birth certificate and MB medical card in hand to do the processing.

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

*** Regimental Reinforcements ***



Once again, strictly speaking, the promotions of Junior Ranks stalwarts MCpl Colin Brooker and MCpl Nic Curry aren't technically Reinforcements, but they absolutely have to be noted. Congrats guys and let's see you in the WO's & Sgt's before CSM Clark becomes Brigade RSM.

2Lt Rieve-Deamel is back from his phase 3 with a Pass and so now there are a couple of new Phase 3 qualified officers to do their bit for the Unit this fall.

Also in the promotion notes is Lt. to Capt. Josh Fordham. He'll be glad of the promotion no doubt to help pay for all of the wedding bills he and 2Lt. Kaitlyn Fordham (nee Grenkow) racked up when they got married on the 20th of Sept 2014. And a fine Cameron evening it was too, what with the bride being presented with her very own pipe tune by the duty Piper for the wedding !

Congratulations you two from all of us in the Cameron Family !



Editor's Note: My apologies for the poor quality of the pictures. I was not able to obtain better ones.

*** Regimental Events ***

Incoming Rounds:

Cameron JR's Sports Gear: Here's a sample or two:



Nic Curry is still stuck as the contact and is working on a kit list to put on the web site. These items are still available, but the price may have gone up recently. The Duffel is 55L; approx price \$50. The Baseball shirt is 100% cotton; approx price \$25. The hoodie will be approx \$45. Please forward any other ideas or requests you'd like to see to us.

Remembrance Day: 11 Nov 2014**Grid:** Minto or as assigned.**Time:** If you are not actually on parade then be at Minto NLT 1000 hrs if you might want a seat. Priority for the seats on the Armoury floor is senior veterans and disabled who need it then everyone else.**Cost:** Paid for you in full by the guys buried under CWWG Commission headstones here and Overseas. Show a little respect and wear a red poppy that day.**Cameron Robbie Burn's Dinner: 24 Jan 2015****Grid:** Fort Garry Hotel 7th Floor Concert Room**Time:** 1800 for 1910hrs**Cost:** About \$75 per person, but the tickets will be out soon-ish**Dress:** Mess Kit, Regimental Blazer, or Dark Business Suit**Christmas Dinner: Tuesday Night, 09 Dec 2014****Grid:** Minto**Time:** TBC but probably NLT 1900 hrs**Dress:** As ordered or Regimental blazer and tie for the Association

Editor's Note: Association members must contact the Association President or Secretary to pass our numbers to the Unit for ration accounting No Later Than 01 Dec 2014!

Regimental Carrolling: Plan in motion for 12 Dec 2014 but Wait Out.**Kirk Parade: 08 Feb 2015** - Kirk Parade will be 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. Our turn to take a hit for the Brigade this time out. More details to follow, but it will be held at our Regimental Kirk as usual.**Rounds Completed:****Winnipeg Police Pipe Band Scotch Tasting & Cigars: 25 May 2014**

A mere \$60 Cdn got us into Canad Inn's Metropolitan Entertainment Centre at 281 Donald St. where a fine evening of piping and drinking Scotch was in progress. There was a great turn out and many serving or former Camerons were present along with a few of the ex-Cameron cadet crowd who never made the transition to the Militia part of the regiment. The cigars were quite a cut above those we used to get at Mess Dinners (white Owls) in days gone by and no more words are needed to describe the quality (or quantity !) of Scotches available to the Pipey's or CSM A's palates.

Cameron Highland Games: 07 June 2014**Grid:** WO (Ret'd) Bruce Breustedt's Highland Hilton

NO. 4A RECREATIONAL (GARRISON) or other appropriate attire were the dress of the day. For those not familiar, it is proudly displayed in the picture below.

Events held were: open stone put; weight for distance; hammer throw; caber toss. We will also have sheaf toss and weight for height.

As always the hospitality was of the finest and the support and attendance by former members added to the event. It was a pity that more of the Cameron family was not in attendance.



51st Annual Cameron Reunion Weekend: 15 – 16 August 2014

Friday night beer and comradeship in the Minto Junior Ranks, Golf and steak at the Assiniboine Golf Course on Saturday. What more can be said about another great time with the old gang ? Other than we sure hope that you can make it next year !

Cameron Association Annual General Meeting: 15 Sept 2014

Monday, 15 September 2014 saw the latest AGM go off with the predicted result. **President For Life (or Lesser Punishments), Steve MacMillan, Vice President for Eternity (Minus a day) Karen Tyler, Treasurer For The Duration (or Else !) Dave Gibson, Secretary (Appeal working it's way through the Courts) Hugh O'Donnell** are re-elected. Our cohorts for 2014-15 will once again be **Len Johnson, Mike Nickerson, Mitch Prudhomme, and Sean Rivas**. Past President **Taffy Gray** continues to add flair to the meetings, and his offerings from **Highlands United Church** will soon be gracing the **Cameron Picasaweb** page. Thanks again to all who continue to serve their fellow Camerons through the Association !

***Editor's Note:** As wonderful as it is to have a reliable, well practiced group of dedicated Camerons helping out with the association please bear in mind that this is NOT a clique and YOU too are welcome to volunteer your time. We have no wish for this to be Hugh's Crew or such. Put your name in next year if you think the Association should be run differently and give it a shot.*

Cost: \$10 Association dues for 2015 if you didn't make it to the Reunion

*** Links ***

Saskatchewan Lt. Governor's Military Service Pin

<http://ltgov.sk.ca/news-and-events/military-service-pin>

The Lieutenant Governor's Military Service Pin is intended for individuals who have lived in Saskatchewan at one time. The following are eligible to receive the pin:

- Current and retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces (Regular, Primary and Secondary Reserves, including Canadian Rangers);
- Current and retired members of police forces who have served in military operations (including municipal forces and the RCMP who have served in military operations).

For those who somehow missed it - Scottish referendum: Scotland votes 'No' to independence

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-29270441>

With the results in from all 32 council areas, the "No" side won with 2,001,926 votes over 1,617,989 for "Yes". Lord Smith of Kelvin, who led Glasgow's staging of the Commonwealth Games, is to oversee the process to take forward the commitments, with new powers over tax, spending and welfare to be agreed by November, and draft legislation published by January.

4th Bn Royal Regiment of Scotland Support to US Convoy in Helmand:

<http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/26342.aspx>

Train the trainer

U.S. Marines and Canada share their knowledge of range operations with partner nations during Tradewinds 2014

<http://www.marforres.marines.mil/MarineReserveNewsPhotos/MarineReserveNews/NewsArticleDisplay/tabid/7930/Article/166482/train-the-trainer-us-marines-and-canada-share-their-knowledge-of-range-operatio.aspx>

Prospective tank hunters take note

Explosive Reactive AFV protection. "The best defense is a great offense," says Richard Machowicz, host of FutureWeapons, a television series on the Discovery Channel that features military technology. This episode presents "Iron Fist", a protection system for military vehicles. Israeli technology protecting human life.

<http://www.israelvideonetwork.com/future-israeli-weapons-the-iron-fist>

Explosive Reactive Armour Explained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUVnNk0aJBE>

Russian Arena Active Armour System Demo (Russian language but easily followed)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Sz2l-AA9Ls>

T-90 Shtora system link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrvT7PczN2c>

T-90S Modernized Main battle tank (T-90MS Tagil)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfGP-dGjinY>

USB Malware threat warning – why we have USB rules for the CAF

<http://www.wired.com/2014/10/code-published-for-unfixable-usb-attack>

“ the infected USB can impersonate a keyboard to type any keystrokes the attacker chooses on the victim’s machine. Because it affects the firmware of the USB’s microcontroller, that attack program would be stored in the rewritable code that controls the USB’s basic functions, not in its flash memory—even deleting the entire contents of its storage wouldn’t catch the malware.”

Beyond the Physical Battlefield (short excerpt from this old but to the point article)

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20081001_al_qaeda_and_tale_two_battlespaces#axzz3F7eNJQKc

In many ways, the ideological battlespace is more important than the physical battlespace in the war against jihadism, and in the jihadists' war against the rest of the world. It is far easier to kill people than it is to kill ideologies...

...Ideology is the decisive factor that allows jihadists to recruit new fighters and gather funding for militant and propaganda operations. As long as the jihadists can recruit new militants, they can compensate for the losses they suffer on the physical battlefield. When they lose that ability, their struggle dies on the vine...

*** Historical Notes *****Afghanistan Battle or Theatre Honours**

Canada is committed to recognizing the dedication and sacrifice made by Canada's men and women in uniform who took part in the conflict in Afghanistan. To this end, on May 9, 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that eligible units of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force and the Canadian Special Operations Forces that participated in the South-West Asia theatre of conflict have been bestowed with the "Arabian Sea" or the "Afghanistan" Theatre Honour.

<http://pm.gc.ca/news/2014/05/09/south-west-asia-theatre-honours>

*** More Links *****Only in Canada ? Hardly...**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/10917716/Army-has-dropped-fitness-standards-to-allow-more-women-to-join.html>

More than 32,000 British troops failed a key basic fitness test within the last three years, according to new figures that raise fears of an Army obesity crisis. All soldiers are expected to undergo the personal fitness assessment, which involves press-ups, sit-ups and a run against the clock, twice a year. But 29,600 male and 2,819 female troops have failed the test at some point in the three years to March 2014, according to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Editor's Note: Of course if I were the author of the link to the Telegraph article I would probably think that the 29,600 guys who failed the test may be the actual problem.

US Army Dress Regs Update

The US Army unveiled its latest update to AR 670-1, its grooming and appearance regulation. One bullet point is;

“■ Body mutilations of any form are prohibited. However, the update clarifies that soldiers with “approved body mutilations” who entered service before March 31 can “request an exception to policy” from the deputy chief of staff for personnel. Mutilations prohibited by the regulation include anything from “elfing” one’s ears to shaping one’s teeth to “tongue bifurcation,” per the update.” How do the CAF Dress Regs stack up compared to theirs in your opinion ?

<http://www.armytimes.com/article/20140916/NEWS07/309160066/Army-releases-new-rules-tattoos-hair>

New 500 Round 7.62mm Ammo Ironman Backpack for US military. It is to be used with the M240B GPMG (the US version of our C-6).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laqGgPWyp4k>

First World War Picture links

<http://www.theatlantic.com/static/infocus/wwi/westernfront2/>

Digital archive of First World War stories being built

The life stories of millions of people who served during the First World War are to be preserved in a permanent digital memorial.

<http://www.shropshirestar.com/news/uk-news/2014/05/11/digital-archive-of-wwi-stories/>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Are you a Cameron looking for a civy job ? Mike Nadwidny, a 1980's Cameron, may have a job that will be of interest to you:

GPS/GIS Field Surveyor

If you enjoy working outdoors on important projects, and would like the opportunity to travel to some of the most beautiful and remote parts of Manitoba, here is a great opportunity for you. BearPaw Engineering & Project Management is an established Manitoba company that is currently seeking an experienced and reliable individual to take on the role of GPS Surveyor for our Winnipeg office.

BearPaw Engineering and Project Management is an Aboriginal-owned and operated professional engineering firm licensed to practice consulting engineering in Manitoba, Ontario and Alberta. BearPaw and its team of dedicated professionals have worked face to face with many Aboriginal communities and with a multitude of Mainstream major Industry leaders across Canada for over 15 years. We have a solid reputation in heavy civil-design expertise and a full-service engineering/project management company committed to delivering quality and professional services.

To work as part of our Professional Land Survey team, we are looking for a Surveyor who can conduct a broad range of field surveys; including construction, topographic, volumetric, preliminary planning, design, control, site staking and non-legal boundary. Responsibilities include accurately recording measurements and other data, preparing field notes, quality control for survey work, and compiling and computing survey data. Depending upon your experience, you may be called upon to conduct field training, supervise the work of Junior Surveyors, act as Crew Chief, and/or provide crew coordination on medium-sized projects. The ideal candidate will be able to perform field GIS/GPS surveying Full-time. * Part - time or Contract options are also possible. Previous experience and College diploma are assets, however BearPaw is searching for talent and abilities - NOT ONLY TITLES. We welcome equivalent combinations of education, experience, skills, knowledge and abilities. Remuneration based on qualifications/abilities.

- Projects include water mains, pipelines, sewers, force mains, roads, pavement, drainage and other infrastructure for municipal and land development projects in a wide variety of environments including rural and remote areas.
- Previous experience in Manitoba, preferably with knowledge of technical requirements and standards of MB Infrastructure & transportation, MB Water Services Board, or with First Nations.
- Ability to undertake multiple simultaneous projects - liaise with clients, contractors and project team members as required.
- Valid driver's license & willingness to travel throughout Manitoba for extended periods as required working outdoors
- Knowledge of appropriate design software (AutoCAD and/or Civil 3D or equivalent) is a definite asset
- Good communication, interpersonal and leadership skills with ability to work both independently and in a team environment
- Experience running GPS systems, Total Station surveying software and MS Office applications

We thank all who apply, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Aboriginal candidates will be given preference in the competition. Please provide a cover letter and resume that outlines how you meet the - qualifications.

Military Skills Transfer Opportunity

The conventional entry path for the GPS/GIS Field Surveyor trade is migration from existing engineering companies or direct hires of graduates from education programs such as Civil Engineering Technology from Red River College. However, there are also individuals who acquire the essential skills needed to perform field surveying via other means. As the job description does not seem that dissimilar to the non-combat role of an Infantryman, there is merit in the concept of making a rifleman into a field surveyor. Already possessing expert skills (field craft, precision mapping/orienting, land navigation, terrain association etc. but without the distraction of coordinating artillery or catching rounds from opposing forces), there is a potential for the right person to be easily trained into this role. A soldier is a natural fit and can quickly transfer hard-earned skills into a decent wage.

As a former member of the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, I have proposed this cross-training option to my company to allow the potential for bringing in a member of the Regiment; to add the GPS/GIS technical skills to their innate ability to operate as an initiated professional in rural/remote/rugged terrain in GIS Field Surveying roles.

Please submit your resume with cover letter to:

Mike Nadwidny

Director of Economic Strategies & Indigenous Engagement

BearPaw Engineering & Project Management

39 Scurfield Blvd.

Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1G4

Bus: (204) 421-9199

Fax: (204) 421-9149

mnadwidny@bearpawcorporation.com

www.BearPawCorporation.com

*** “It wouldn’t be an Oatmeal Rag w/o a Wee Joke” (Russ Miller) ***



We are 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 currently with Birchwood GM;

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 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

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 link:

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

Our Sponsors for this issue of The Oatmeal Rag are:

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Gathering of the Clans at the 3rd Canadian Division at the Patching Ceremony on 06/17/2014. Photo courtesy of Sgt Rick Lowe of the Calgary Highlanders.

According to the good Sgt this picture was taken during parade preparations. Several other cameras were in evidence, but this one was the best of the ones taken with his cell phone. These are representatives of all the Highland and Scottish regiments within the re-established Canadian 3rd Division. He arranged the picture during a break in parade practice but was unable to get email addresses and names. Sgt Rick Lowe is the Calgary Highlander sergeant in the middle; the Seaforth sergeant on the end is Pat Farrell. He wasn't able to get names for the two Can Scots on the left, nor the Lake Superior Scottish jack, but that is our own MCpl (now Sgt.) J. Bernier wearing the Cameron tartan.