

THE GLENGARRIAN

Newsletter of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders



MAY 2016

FROM THE EDITOR

As we get closer to celebrating the 150th anniversary of this great Regiment, it is important to remember our past. Although our official date is 4 July 1868, we can trace our roots back to the Scottish immigrants who settled in Glengarry and formed the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles.

From the stories of the hardships of travel of the immigrant families and the Battle of Crysler's Farm, to some of our hero's and on to some recent, current and future events, I hope you enjoy the articles submitted.

It is my hope that in the issues leading up to our 150th anniversary in 2018 we will continue re-visit some more of the interesting events from the past 200 + years in the life of the regiment.

I encourage all members of the Regimental Family to continue to provide great articles. Articles can be submitted at any time to glengarrieditor@gmail.com.

Roy Clarke
Still a Rookie Editor

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CO's REMARKS



It has been a busy year, and one not without its challenges. Despite this, the Glens have stepped up and accomplished their assigned tasks in the manner we have come to expect. Of note, I would like to highlight the group of Glens who deployed on OP PROVISION, the military response to the Syrian refugee resettlement process. Although in the end, military assistance was not required, we nevertheless had to prepare adequately for that eventuality. And like all good soldiers, when time was available, we made use of it to complete some much-needed refresher training. Well done to those who deployed. Of course, my own deployment to Haiti took me away from the unit for six months and the Regimental Sergeant-Major was called away to the West Coast by his new job. This required the appointment of Major Jason Steeves as Acting Commanding Officer, and Master Warrant Officer Dan Hubley to step in as Acting RSM. Both performed with brio, showing that despite our small size, unit leadership remains strong.

The most pressing problem, however, is the dwindling ranks of soldiers on parade caused by the double whammy of increased transfers to the regular Army combined with the inability of the system to process our recruiting files in time. Consequently, our total unit strength continues the downward trend it has experienced for the better part of the past decade. We are now at a critical point where our ability to self-generate is in danger, which could affect the long-term viability of the unit. We are not alone in this – the Auditor General's report, released on 3 May bears this out. So please pass the word: the Glens are recruiting. We have also asked to reinstate the Coop program beginning in February, 2017 and to this point have received the support of both the local School Boards and the Chain of Command. This is very good news and we hope that it will bear fruit in the long term.

I would also like to take the opportunity to put in a word to the Chamois family for their fantastic work with our museum and to Perry Coughlin for the fine job he has done in rejuvenating our kit shop. If you have been to the Armoury lately, you will notice that we have moved the gymnasium to a new enclosure, which has freed up some much-needed space for our museum archives and storage. In addition, new cabinetry and improved displays in the museum itself have been fantastic additions to better enable us to display our proud history. The museum is one of our Crown jewels and if you haven't been lately, you will certainly be pleasantly surprised with the changes. As for the kit shop, Perry has added some new stock to include glassware, embroidered golf shirts, camp flags and more. I am sure that his new wares will be on display during the upcoming reunion week-end so, again, please drop in.

Some other good news for the Regiment: as of 1 April of this year, the entirety of our authorized uniform collection may now be publicly funded. This includes kilts, scarlet ceremonial uniforms, buttons, band uniforms, new kilts and regalia. It is going to take some time to wade through the new procedures; however, for the first time, we'll be able to dress our soldiers properly without having to ask for private donations. The RSM will be leading a committee to determine what is required and I am hoping that we are able to begin the project later this year.

Finally, as all things must come to an end, I'll be stepping down as Commanding Officer in

September. Although we have not been able to settle on a date at this time, we can expect a Saturday parade followed by an all ranks highland dinner in the evening, open to the wider Regimental family including Association members, former Glens, mess members and more. The name of the next Commanding Officer has not been announced but we can expect a decision from Army Headquarters very soon. It has been a privilege to have had the stewardship of the Regiment these past three years but it is time for me to move on, and in closing, I would like to thank everyone for their support to me and my family during my tenure.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Young
Commanding Officer

Glengarry Fencibles (1794 Scotland) to Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles (1812 Upper Canada)



Portrait of Colonel Alexander MacDonell of Glengarry in 1812 (by Henry Raeburn).

The idea of raising the Glengarry Fencibles originated with the Rev. Alexander Macdonell, a Roman Catholic priest, who later became the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Kingston, Ontario. Some Glengarry Highlanders who due to the clearance of their land had taken passage on ship leaving the Isle of Harris to immigrate to America, but the ship had been wrecked and had put into Greenock in 1792. The intended emigrants were forced to disembark, and were left in the port destitute. Alexander Macdonell involved himself in their affairs and persuaded Glasgow business men to employ them while he acted as the Highlanders priest and interpreter (for they were Catholics in a predominantly Protestant town and spoke Gaelic not Scottish English).

For two years the business concerns in Glasgow for which Glengarry Highlanders worked continued to increase and prosper, but in the year 1794 trade received a sudden check, and the war with France almost put an end to the exportation of British manufactures to the Continent. The labouring classes were thrown out of employment, and amongst others the poor Highlanders. With little support from outside their immediate community, and totally ignorant of the English language, the latter became more helpless and destitute than any other group in Glasgow.

At this crisis Alexander Macdonell conceived the plan of getting these unfortunate Highlanders embodied as a Catholic corps in the service of the government, with the then young chief Macdonell of Glengarry. Having assembled a meeting of the Catholics at Fort Augustus in February, 1794, a loyal address was drawn up to King George III, offering to raise a Catholic corps under the command of the young chieftain. Their former employers in Glasgow furnished

them with the most ample and favorable testimonials of the good conduct of the Highlanders during the time they had been in their works, and strongly recommended that they should be employed in the service of their country.

Letters of service were accordingly issued in August, 1794, to Alexander Macdonell of Glengarry, to raise the Glengarry Fencible regiment as a Catholic corps, and of which he was appointed the colonel. Though contrary to the then existing law, Alexander Macdonell was gazetted as chaplain to the regiment. The Glengarry Fencibles were a handsome body of men, and more than one-half were from the estate of Glengarry.

In consequence of the attempt to induce them to march into England; the Glengarry Fencibles, by the persuasion of their chaplain, offered to extend their services to any part of Great Britain or Ireland, or even to the islands of Jersey and Guernsey. This offer was very acceptable to the government, as it formed a precedent to all Fencible corps raised after this period. The regiment was embodied in June, 1795, and was soon afterwards moved to Guernsey, where it remained until the summer of 1798.

In the summer of 1798 the Glengarry Fencibles moved to Ireland. On landing at Balleback, they marched to Waterford, and thence to New Ross the same day, for the purpose of reinforcing General Johnson, who was surrounded, and in a manner besieged by the rebels.

The Glengarry Fencibles were actively employed in this service, and so well pleased was Lord Cornwallis, the lord-lieutenant of Ireland, with the conduct of the corps, that he advised the government to augment the regiment; but this augmentation did not take place. The regiment returned to Scotland in 1802, and was disbanded along with the other Fencible corps.

After their discharge, the Glengarry Highlanders were as destitute as ever. Their chaplain, struck with their forlorn condition, proceeded to London, and entered into a negotiation with the government, in the hope of procuring assistance to enable them to immigrate to Upper Canada. The ministry were opposed to the plan, but offered to settle the Highlanders in the island of Trinidad, then just ceded to the Crown of Great Britain. Alexander Macdonell, however, persevered in his design, and the Prime Minister, Henry Addington, procured for him an order with the sign-manual to the lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, to grant two hundred acres of land to every one of the Highlanders who should arrive in the province.

As soon as it was known that this order had been given by the colonial secretary, the Highland landlords took the alarm, as they considered that it would have the effect of enticing from the country their vassals and dependents. John Macpherson, Sir Archibald Macdonald, lord-chief baron of the exchequer in England, Charles Grant, one of the directors of the East India company, and M. P. for Inverness-shire, with the other gentlemen connected with the Highlands, and even Francis, Earl of Moira, then commander-in-chief in North Britain, endeavoured to dissuade the chaplain from his purpose, and promised to procure a pension for him if he would separate himself from the Highlanders; but neither their persuasions, nor those of the Prince of Wales, who was induced to interfere, and who offered a grant of waste lands to the intending emigrants in the county of Cornwall, could induce the chaplain to forgo his resolution.

The greater part of the Glengarry Fencibles accordingly immigrated with their wives and families to Upper Canada, and settled in a district to which they gave the name of their native glen; and to follow out the parallel, every head of a family named his plantation after the name of the farm he had possessed in Glengarry. During the War of 1812, they gave a proof that their allegiance to their allegiance to Britain not impaired in their adopted country, by enrolling themselves along with other emigrants and the sons of emigrants, in a corps for the defence of the province, under their old designation of Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles.

FROM THE HONORARY LIEUTENANT- COLONEL

OUR REGIMENT'S LINK TO THE PAST TO BE RESTORED



On Saturday, 16 April 2016, it was my honour and privilege to attend The Bishop's House Gala Dinner, sponsored by the Glengarry Fencibles Trust (GFT), and held at the Char-Lan Recreation Centre in Williamstown, Ontario. Attending, as well, was DCO Major Jason Steeves of The Glens. This event was the first formal event to launch the ambitious fundraising campaign so that extensive restorative work may be carried out at The Bishop's House in St. Raphael's. This landmark, directly across the King's Road from the

St. Raphael's Ruins, was constructed in 1808, and is one of Glengarry's, if not Canada's, oldest structures. Its history is directly linked to the history of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, and, at the gala dinner, David Anderson outlined the links between the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles and The Glens._

Visitors and residents, when traveling through the quaint rural village of St. Raphael's, today, will notice that the imposing stone structure, The Bishop's House, has been boarded up, with little sign of life around this once bustling structure. Having been built by Rev. Alexander Macdonell (Big Bishop) as his residence and as the site of the College of Iona in Upper Canada, the structure was expanded with two imposing wings added in 1924. Hundreds, if not thousands, of students received an education at Iona Academy, with many former students in attendance at the gala dinner on 16 April. Rev. Macdonell was the parish priest from 1804 to 1815, at the time of the building's construction, and then became the first bishop of Upper Canada (Ontario)._

The GFT began its existence as the Bishop's House Committee in 2004, and it has campaigned diligently for the preservation of this historic structure and for its re-use in the future. The committee has undertaken some repairs to the building, over the years, as well as commissioning studies and reports. This has added much interest from the public, for its restoration. The building was owned by the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall since 1890, and sits adjacent to Iona Academy, a school owned by the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario. Just last year, after boarding up the doors and windows to the structure, the

diocese approached the municipal council for the Township of South Glengarry for a demolition permit. This request was unanimously rejected, and by 14 August 2015, the GFT, a registered charity and incorporated not-for-profit, acquired the building and took ownership on 31 March 2016. Since acquiring ownership, the GFT has been working, with haste, on its fundraising plans, and by “ownership day” it had surpassed its first goal of \$100,000.00. In achieving this goal, the GFT is now able to apply for a Parks Canada cost-sharing grant, only available to groups saving threatened buildings on national historic site properties. The members of the GFT are to be commended for their outstanding work to date, and a further \$6,000.00 was achieved through the gala dinner in Williamstown. Initial restorative plans call for the replacement of the roof, repairs to the old historic windows, and purchasing an air-exchanger for the inside. With spring now upon the, the members of the GFT expect to be kept quite busy with the landscaping work required to bring the property back to its former glory.

Near the front gardens at The Bishop’s House stands a provincial historic marker, erected by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Ministry of Culture and Recreation (now the Ontario Heritage Trust). Unveiled many years ago, visitors will note the following inscription, “THE COLLEGE OF IONA - Established by the Reverend Alexander Macdonell, father of Roman Catholic education in Upper Canada and later Bishop of Kingston, the College of Iona was opened in 1826 in a log building near this site. The central portion of the nearby stone structure, erected by Macdonell in 1808 as the presbytery for the parish, served as a residence for teachers and students. Much of the cost of construction and of the operational expenses of the school were borne by Macdonell. In addition to being the first seminary in Upper Canada, the school offered a general academic education preparing boys for secular vocations. After about ten years its functions were taken over by Regiopolis College in Kingston.”

While much has been written about the “Big Bishop”, it should be noted that he, and the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, which grew under his leadership in Glengarry, Upper Canada, had a direct link to our Regiment’s illustrious history. Bishop Alexander Macdonell was with Lieutenant-Colonel George MacDonnell (Red George), on 22 February 1813, when Red George, the Commander of the Garrison at Prescott, mounted a second attack on Ogdensburg, over the frozen water of the St. Lawrence River. The Battle of Ogdensburg was a pivotal battle in the War of 1812-14, when the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencible, along with militia support, made a frontal attack on the Americans. History tells us that Bishop Alexander Macdonell was at the front, urging the soldiers from Glengarry and the militia onward, in their advance across the ice. It is this LCol. George MacDonnell that we remember yearly, at a Mess Dinner of The Glens.

In closing, I wish to congratulate and comment the Board of Directors of the GFT and all the supporters of this ambitious campaign to rejuvenate and restore The Bishop’s House at St. Raphael’s. Mrs. Brenda Baxter chaired The Bishop’s House Gala Dinner, with David Anderson of Williamstown as the Guest Speaker, and Flora Dumouchel of Glengarry and Ingleside, the Auctioneer. To learn more about the Glengarry Fencibles Trust and the work to save this outstanding historical landmark, please visit www.bishopshouse.ca

Jim Brownell
Honourary Lieutenant Colonel

The Battle that Saved Canada

An extension of the Napoleonic Wars, the War of 1812 - 14 was the culmination of a number of causes, some of which had been festering since the American Revolution. The one trigger most quoted was the American retaliation to the British Navy's (financially tapped out from contending with Napoleon's aspirations) arrogant proverbial poking of the Republic with a stick through the commandeering of American sailors and ships for its own use. While harbouring unbridled anti-British sentiments American war hawks James Madison and Henry Clay, inspired by the ongoing British lackadaisical attitude to defending her colonies devised the notion of feathering the American nest with the addition of the colony to the north. In the ensuing conflict bloody battles on both sides of the international border of the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes basin saw whole towns and villages pillaged and torched, leaving civilians homeless, often in the middle of winter. One year into the conflict a plan to launch a double front offensive on an under defended Canadian border was launched. The end target was that the two armies would converge at Montreal and so cut off British shipping to the Great Lakes.

The Battle of Crysler's Farm on the 11th of November 1813 was a pivotal point in the war. British, Provincial, local Militias as well as Native defenders under the direction of Joseph Wanton Morrison and Thomas Pearson were mustered to repel an attack of American forces led by James Wilkinson and Morgan Lewis. Authorities had the knowledge that as many as one in four settlers was of newly landed American stock, the result of a settlement scheme implemented by Lord Simcoe and were unsure of actual support from the civilian population. Wilkinson's flotilla of approximately 8,000 men weighed anchor and set sail from the shipbuilding/naval installation at Sacketts Harbour on Lake Ontario early in September. Initially Wilkinson was uncertain on his choice of targets. Strike at the military installation at Kingston or continue directly down river to Montreal? Part of a pincer movement of the double front offensive, the other attacking arm was underway overland, being led by Wade Hampton.

As Wilkinson's ships bobbed at the Lake Ontario mouth of the St. Lawrence, Hampton's men had left from Plattsburgh, and were advancing to the Chateaugay River. How hard could it be when spies reported that little resistance stood in their way? Hampton's plans were thwarted when he was greeted and consequently turned homeward at Chateaugay by a meager force led by Charles de Salaberry and Red George Macdonnell on the 26th of October. 1,500 Americans had confronted 460 defenders, the odds had been stacked in favour of the Americans, but the Canadians had had home field advantage, and a few tricks up their sleeves.

A campaign, whose magnitude of failure could only possibly be blamed by the perpetrators on unfavourable planetary alignments, was in fact the result of a combination of questionable decisions. Infighting, egotism and ill will ran amuck among the American officers. With possibly arrogance playing a part in their plans they may have assumed they would all have their boots in front of the fire, either theirs or someone else's, before the snow fell. The lack of an American logistical plan to deal with something as simple as the weather left troops in summer clobber to suffer from exposure as a Canadian cold front swept down from the north, just long enough to cause irreparable damage. Wilkinson's flotilla upon leaving Sacketts Harbour had been decimated by a three day winter storm on the lake during which tarps were pulled from supplies and food stuffs, most of which were already spoiled or contaminated, for shelter. Ships were sunk or those damaged were forced back. Hampton, already defeated was

dealing with disgruntled troops that were also ill equipped for the seasonal vagaries. Clothing had become torn and tattered from floundering around in the bush. Cold, hungry and ill, the decision was made to retreat back to Plattsburgh; neglecting while doing so to inform Wilkinson of his decision. Dysentery ran literally rampant in both American camps.

On the westernmost front after giving Kingston a miss the flotilla endured harassment most of the way down river through the Thousand Islands delivered by William Mulcaster's gunboats, and settler pot shots fired bank-side. Their target now was Cornwall for much needed stores. Wilkinson's pilots however refused to navigate the Long Sault rapids. Buzzard luck prevailing, they had the added misfortune to drop anchor a mile or so from where Joseph Morrison had encamped his troops on the farm of John Crysler. On the 10th Jacob Brown's shore party tasked with clearing the shoreline of further resistance had routed the Stormont and Glengarry defenders - but not before the bridge at Hoople's Creek had been burned. Dawn broke on the 11th of November with Mulcaster's gunboats firing on the anchored American flotilla. Wilkinson and his accomplice Morgan Lewis were both prostrate in their cabins with dysentery. The first medicated on laudanum and the second dosing himself with blackberry jam pillaged en-route, were unable to disembark with the remaining 2500 to 4000 weakened men ordered under their command to make land. An unprepared John Boyd was put ashore to lead the troops. The British and Colonist forces prepared for the fight of their lives. Only a combined total of some 900 defenders, many of which had been mustered during the march from Kingston and Fort Wellington stood in the way of imminent defeat. Greatly outgunned by a much larger force in terms of sheer numbers, they had however once more the home field advantage and at the end of a very short day - three hours of engagement - saw the Americans incurring 459 casualties: 102 killed, 237 wounded and 120 missing. The British forces a total of 192: 31 killed, 148 wounded and 13 missing. The American pilots pulled anchor and made their way to Fort Covington, so named after the General mortally wounded on that day.

The SD&G Highlanders in 2012 were presented with the Battle Honours for Crysler's Farm – perpetuating the memory of those who fought in the Defence of Canada on that fateful 11th of November.

The Friends of Crysler's Farm Battlefield is a Not-for-Profit organization whose volunteers strive to educate and promote remembrance of the sacrifices made on that 11th of November 1813. To that end the Friends in co-ordination with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission/ Upper Canada Village will be presenting a re-enactment weekend on the 9th and 10th of July at the memorial site.

Re-enactors from both sides of the river will converge to bring to life this period of colonial history. Often referred to as "toy soldiers" the re-enactor community is devoted to the accurate historical preservation of all facets of the Napoleonic era. Weekend warriors perhaps, they come from all walks of life. Many are retirees from military service. What they all hold in common is a respect of and a dedication to remembering the sacrifices made over 200 years ago. Bring a chair or a blanket. Relax in the shade on the hill. We offer handicapped service to the site. Follow us on Facebook or at cyslersfarm.com... and step back in time...

Kim McInnis
The Friends of Crysler's Farm Battlefield

Lest We Forget – The other side of war casualties.

I was perusing my book shelves and came across a forgotten little book titled “Men of Valor” by Mable T. Good, she was born in Lunenburg, Ont. during WW2, she did research & writing for the Historical Section (Army) of the DND. The book is a glorious record of gallant deeds of Canadians in WW2. “While individuals must necessarily be singled out thousands of others, no less brave, are hereby represented and honoured”. The following is an excerpt from her book of one of those men.

“Lt. Allan Piper, a man of courage from the SD&G Highlanders, from the city of Cornwall joined the peace time regiment, only seventeen at the time. He was a skilled woodworker and worked at the cabinet trade.

In 1939, Allan was RMS with the Highlanders and was soon commissioned as an Officer and went overseas with the Regiment in the early years of the war. While in England the Regiment was in constant training, he became a very efficient and skilled infantry training officer and in early July 1942 at a camp in Southern England, he was teaching a group of men the art on how to use the deadly hand grenade.

On this fateful day in July 1942 orders were given, the pins were released, the grenades were tossed. All seemed in order---then, suddenly, it was not. One of the men had fumbled his deadly handful and it rolled from his grasp. The grenade, on the point of explosion, thudded heavily on the ground, right in the middle of the men. All stood frozen when all at once, the Lt. leaped into action. He, too, knew, all the well that death was eminent, reached out with both hands for the grenade, in a blinding flash it exploded. He passed the ultimate test of courage. He woke up in the hospital in pain and in darkness, he had lost both hands and was blind. He thought about the loss of his hands and being a tradesmen, he felt maybe with artificial hands he could manage something but being blind was something else and almost too much to bear.

After six weeks of dreadful anxiety, there came for the young officer one of the most eventful days of his life. For that day the bandages were taken from his eyes the doctor looked directly into his face and smiled and said “Well, it looks as if this one is going to be O.K.” and when the left eye, too, was found to be “O.K.” he was truly happy. The days followed were cheerful ones and his smile and friendliness made other patients feel like cheering him on. One day they rigged up a set of straps which he thought could be useful to him. Day by day, he practiced using the new arrangement helped him to do many things he could formerly do with his hands and before long he was able to write reasonably legibly.

One day an important visitor came to the hospital. It was Lt. Gen. Montague, who was then Chief of Staff at Canadian Military Headquarters in London. After a little conversation, Allan said he would like to ask a question. What’s the question Allan, he asked. “Well sir, is there any possible chance of my staying in the army?” What a surprising question! Such a thing was unheard of, a man with no hands in a wartime army. Even more surprising was the answer to Allan’s question. The General said that the army was well pleased with him and that if he could just learn to write properly, his request would be granted. Some months later after being fitted with new artificial hands, he mastered their use and could eat, shave, clean his teeth and as importantly could write. He was discharged from the hospital and on Dec. 8th, 1942 returned to

Canada and was posted at Barriefield Camp as Captain of a training company. Once again, he was a Canadian Army officer on duty.

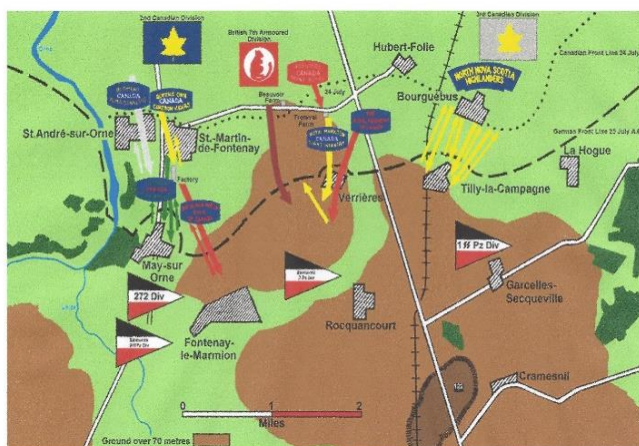
When the war ended, and Canadian soldiers returned to their places in civilian life, Allan returned to his. Although it may have placed even greater demands upon his courage, he learned to fill that place all over again, in a new way. Not one gap was left in his ordinary life from the very necessary acts of everyday life, to other skills and yes, to his old hobby, woodworking. This warrior learned to do them all, without hands.”

Cameron Martel
Treasurer, Glens Association

Editor’s Note: I knew Captain Allan Piper well and he distinguished himself not only for saving his trainees but what he did after he was severely injured. When I visited with him in his late 80’s, he was still carving with wood and leather. His memoirs “Look Ma, No Hands” is available in the Regimental Library and for sale at the Kit Shop.

Tilly-la-Campagne – Many Glens Saved, but One was Lost.

Introduction: The role of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division in Operation SPRING starting on July 25, 1944 is forgotten while the 2nd Division’s losses at Verrières Ridge are well remembered and memorialized at Point 67. Colonel Stacey reported in his history “The Victory Campaign” that the total casualties for the start of Operation SPRING were about 1200 with 362 fatal – the Canadian Army’s costliest day of operations in World War 2 except for Dieppe. The 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders did not participate in Operation SPRING thanks to their Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Christiansen who lost his command because of his stand to prevent the needless slaughter of his men.



Basis of Operation SPRING: The D Day objective of Carpiquet was finally achieved on July 4th. Our Glens went on to lead Canadians into Caen on July 9th. Then the pressure was on to win ground in the Allied eastern flank while the Americans broke out in the West. Operations GOODWOOD and ATLANTIC had failed. The next attempt was Operation SPRING, not as a breakthrough but as a holding attack. It was to be a three phase attack.

Phase One was allocated to the 2nd and 3rd

Canadian Infantry Divisions with support from the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade. The plan was to seize a line along the crest of Verrières Ridge from May-sur-Orne through Verrières to Tilly-la-Campagne. It involved an advance of about one mile across a four mile wide front. The rains had turned the well defended ridge into a quagmire.

The Situation for the North Nova Scotia Highlanders: As seen from the map, The North Nova Scotia Highlanders led the attack on the 3rd Division front. They were to advance through darkness with their way illuminated by artificial moonlight. Lieutenant Colonel Petch, CO of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, argued against the night attack and had no faith in Monty's moonlight as recorded in Mark Zuehlke's "Breakout from Juno". (The Glens' Association helped Mark with the launching of this book.)



The North Nova Scotia Highlanders advanced through darkness to form up on their Start Line at 0230 hours. They were bombed by the German Luftwaffe. Monty's Moonlight turned them into silhouette targets for the Germans on the ridge. There was utter confusion. More detail can be found about Operation SPRING in the five chapters that Mark Zuehlke devoted to it in "Breakout from Juno".

(Photo, Library & Archives Canada)

The Situation for the Glens: The Glens had not had a rest period since D Day. They had been in the line for 50 days. Our Regimental History notes that during that time they had suffered 424 casualties of which 112 were fatal. On July 25th, the Glens were not slated for the attack on Tilly-la-Campagne, but they were tasked to dig slit trenches for the Highland Light Infantry of Canada who were to pass through the area during the night. In "Breakout from Juno", Mark Zuehlke notes that the Glens were surprised when put on alert at 1125 hours for an immediate advance on Tilly. Fortunately, the advance did not happen.

The Toll of Tilly-La-Campagne: On July 25th, the greatest toll for Operation SPRING was taken by the Black Watch at Verrières Ridge where 123 were killed, 101 wounded, and 83 lost as prisoners. 9 Brigade's North Nova Scotia Highlanders on the left of the attack lost 61 killed, 42 wounded, and 32 taken prisoners. In subsequent days, there were a further 223 casualties in the assault on Tilly-la-Campagne.

The Position Taken by 9 Brigade: Mark Zuehlke records that after the alert, Lieutenant Colonel Christiansen went to Lieutenant Colonel Petch's headquarters. Brigadier Cunningham was already there. Petch had just refused to attack Tilly again with what was left of his battalion. Our Colonel also refused to send in his Glens. Mark reports that Brigadier Cunningham returned to his headquarters and notified Major General Keller that 9th Brigade would not further reinforce failure. Keller warned Cunningham that he would be sacked if the brigade did not advance. The timeline of departures, July 29th – Lieutenant Colonel Petch, July 31st – Brigadier Cunningham, August 4th – Lieutenant Colonel Christiansen.

Quotations by Other Canadian Military Historians: There is only one paragraph in our Regimental History relating to Operation Spring. In a following paragraph, it notes the departure of Lieutenant Colonel Christiansen on August 4, 1944. Tim Cook in his "Fight to the Finish" wrote "much to his discredit, Simonds fired Lieutenant Colonels Petch and Christiansen who had saved their soldiers further losses by refusing to order a new advance in the suicidal assault on Tilly".

John A. English (past Honorary Colonel of the Brockville Rifles) wrote in his "The Canadian Army and the Normandy Campaign" that in December 1944 Major General H.W. Foster

General Officer Commanding, 1st Division specifically asked for Lieutenant Colonel Christiansen to command the West Nova Scotia Regiment. General Foster was supported by Major General Foulkes who claimed to be fully aware of the circumstances of Lieutenant Colonel Christiansen's removal.



Why do we NOT honour Lieutenant Colonel Christiansen?

Our warrant officers and sergeants honour Claude Joseph Nunney MM, DCM, VC. Our officers salute "Red George" Macdonell.

But, our Regiment does not recognize a commanding officer who willingly put the lives of his men ahead of his status as a commanding officer.

Why?

"Savior of the Glens", Lieutenant Colonel G. H. Christiansen, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, SD&G Highlanders, December 1942 – August 1944.

"Up the Glens!"

Bill Shearing,

Honorary Life Associate Member, 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders

Editor's Note: I first heard the words to "Old Christie's Army" sung by the members of our 1st Bn Veterans at a reunion, a tribute to LCol Christiansen who was well respected by his soldiers. If you are not familiar with the words, see Lionel Fontaine.

Another Heroic Glen -Frosty Campbell

The story of Company Sergeant Major Duncan "Frosty" Campbell is typical of the fighting qualities of the Glens. He was called Frosty because of his almost snow-white hair, and he had been in the service of the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa before the War. While the Battalion was in England Frosty engaged in fierce battle with the Colonel to prevent being sent to a holding unit because he was overage. However, the Army caught up with him and he was sent back as unfit for combat. The battalion had fought its way through Normandy, France and Belgium, and was in Holland when Frosty rejoined it.

When Frosty had been sent back to the Holding Unit he was furious but not so furious to forget how to fight back. He wrangled his way into a job where he was preparing nominal rolls for dispatch of all drafts of reinforcements going to France. The drafts went out at night, and there was always a good deal of confusion. One night Frosty added his own name to the draft being shipped out, dyed his hair and moustache black, and over he went. He jumped on the first vehicle he could find going to the front and arrived at Battalion Headquarters. He demanded the Colonel ignore all orders to ship him back. The Colonel sent him to "B" Company. So that was the way Frosty Campbell stayed with the Glens.

He led a platoon in battle and did a good job. And then, just before the attack on the Hochwald, the Colonel decided to pull him out and give him a comparatively safe job at "B" Echelon, because everyone felt he had done his part, but when the Unit went into the

Hochwald, the companies got separated from their ammunition and food.

The Germans had flooded the land and most of the roads were impassable while many were mined. And so, Frosty took it upon himself to man a jeep and keep the whole Battalion supplied. He was practically the only vehicle that reached the Unit and he came back, again and again, to each Company through the water and gambling on the mines. But one day the gamble proved too much and Frosty, his jeep and his supplies went up in a flaming explosion, about a mile and a half from Udem.

Frosty was fairly typical of the soldier in the Battalion. He didn't worry his head about the danger involved. He accepted the danger, dismissed it from his mind and got ready to the job. His attitude was, -- You want the job done. I'll do it, your way if possible or some other way if it is not. BUT, IT WILL BE DONE.

DILEAS GU BAS He was faithful unto Death.

Bill Masson (*With help from the Regimental History*)
Chairman, SD&G Highlanders Foundation

If We Rest We Rust

I have four wonderful museum happenings to pass on to you. Most of you have probably already noticed that the Unit has acquired a new gymnasium. This means that your Museum has inherited the old gym; we are using it for storage of mainly non-artefact holdings and for artefacts which do not require a high degree of environmental control. This has allowed us to give back the space we had borrowed from the parade square and the officers' mess balcony. It will also allow us to declutter the Museum and our second story storage area. All this is good news for the artefacts.

We have also entered into an agreement with The S. D. & G. Historical Society by which they are transferring to us all their military artefacts and archives. We have always claimed to be The Military Heritage Museum of the Three United Counties but the acquisition of these items will cement our standing in this regard. They are all important but some are downright amazing; more to come later.

There is a small cost associated with the arrival of these items. This cost was borne in part by the grant that we received last year from the United Counties of S. D. & G. The grant was designed to allow us to purchase artefacts, something we are not allowed to do with the DND funds we receive. We have already purchased some important pieces with these funds; more to come later as well. A big thank you to the United Counties. The bulk of the costs associated with this transaction were borne by our Regimental Foundation. They stepped up to the plate and made it all possible with a generous cheque. This is just one of the many ways that our Foundation helps the Regiment, very often behind the scenes and unseen by most of us.

Léon J. Chamois
Museum Curator

GLEN'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The SD&G Highlanders, better known as the Glens is a regiment steeped in history and traditions. The Glens Association is committed to supporting the regiment as we move forward while honoring its past and help to uphold its traditions. The Association is open to all past and present members of the regiment as well as friends and family. You can help us support the regiment by joining the Association or by renewing your annual dues of fifteen dollars.

You can contact us by E-Mail at Glens.membership@Gmail.com or you can speak to any member of the executive.

Ray Poitras
Membership Chairman

OUR FALLEN COMRADES



McGregor A. (Mac) Scobie

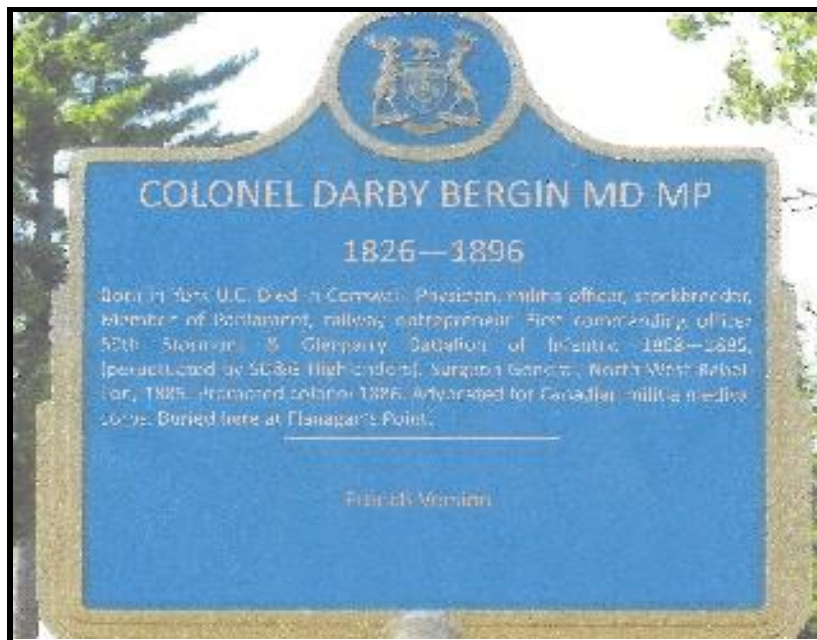
Walter T. Solly

Hayden Francis

Bob Wright

Charles M. Jeffs

LEST WE FORGET



November 8, 2016. The Ontario Heritage Trust plans to unveil the plaque in memory of our first commanding officer – Colonel Darby Bergin, M.D., M.P. at the Cornwall Armoury on the evening of Tuesday, November 8th. The plaque shown is not a copy of the final plaque. At a following date, the plaque will be mounted on its base in Precious Blood Parish Cemetery, Glen Walters with a view of the grave of our first commanding officer and Canada's first Surgeon General.

Memories of 1977 on the Mattawa Plain



Thanks to Lynn Kyte Kelly for the memories of the 1977 Ottawa Militia District Annual Concentration on the Mattawa Plain, Camp Petawawa. For the sports day, Lynn volunteered to be carried in the CO – RSM stretcher bearer race. As shown, not everyone made it, and the Glens beat the Foot Guards. Lynn posed on the stretcher with the sports day trophy supported again by RSM Ron Coughlan and CO Bill Shearing. This was the concentration where the Glens won the General Proficiency Award for first of five consecutive years.

Six Months In Haiti – LCol Steve Young



From August, 2015 to February, 2016, I was deployed to Haiti on OPERATION HAMLET, Canada's contribution to the UN transitional mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Although the job title said, "Strategic Planner", the actual job was to assist the Haitian National Police to develop and execute the plan to secure three rounds of elections, including the Presidential elections of 25 October. While elections in Canada tend to occur peacefully, Election Day in Haiti has tended to be quite violent, including injuries and deaths among

the voters. Haiti itself is also a violent place, with more than 1,000 murders occurring in Port-au-Prince each year. Two to three police officers are killed on duty each week, with many more being injured in the course of their duties. In short, it's a tough neighbourhood.

Over the course of my six month deployment, our small team worked hand-in-hand with the Director-General of the police to develop a combined plan involving 2,000 UN military forces, 2,000 UN police and 7,000 local police. Although that sounds like a lot of people, to meet international policing standards we required three times that number, not taking into account the fact that many more police would be necessary to secure a violent country like Haiti. So the plan was to pick our battles and concentrate on the places where the most lives were at risk. It was a big operation that took nearly two months to plan and which included many moving parts.

In the course of our work, we visited the entire country, spoke to every one of the police station chiefs and electoral security officials, developed a plan, conducted simulations and coordinated contingency plans. On Election Day, our command post had to be able to operate in five languages, ensuring that we could speak to local police commanders as well as the various deployed UN elements. It was interesting work overall, and very necessary to ensure that we could protect as many people as possible. The Presidential election came and went, and for the first time in Haiti's history, no one died on Election Day. We had a handful of incidents, including a couple of fairly serious ambushes on security forces but on the whole, the operation came off smoothly. Keys to the success included the wide coordination undertaken by the Haitian police, and the ability of our command post to process and disseminate information in five languages. Overall, however, the operation went smoothly.

Since my return to Canada, it appears that the results of the election have been contested and further elections may be necessary. At least this time, the Haitian police have a proven model from which to work, and increased confidence that they can actually affect security in a positive way when asked to do so. As we move forward, Haiti still has a long way to go before its population can circulate safely in the streets, but the progress is evident. I can only say in closing that we are lucky to live in a country where the police can be relied upon to ensure our security each day and where we can express our legal right to vote without fear of being injured or killed. As for me, I was happy to have been able to play my part, and even happier to be

back home in the end.

Thanks to those Glens who supported my family and me during the deployment, and for the wonderful welcome party on my return to Regimental Duty. We certainly appreciated the support. Up the Glens!

Cartoons drawn by Pte Parker 3Bn SD&G Highlanders

Originally printed in one of the first issues of The Glengarrian

THE GLENGARRIAN

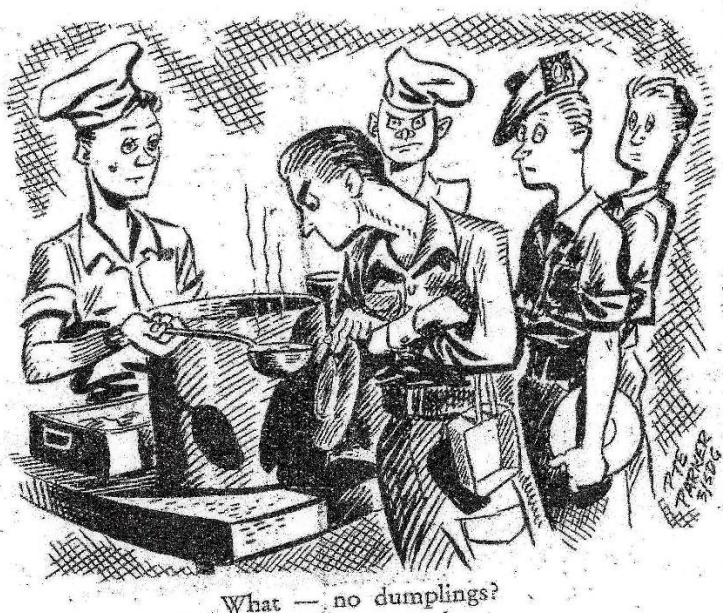
Vol 1 Issue 3

25 August 1945

Points pending

Or maybe a dash of blanco

by Parker



What — no dumplings?

Glen's Participate in Cornwall's Tulip Blooming Ceremony

Our 1st Bn Veterans were represented by four of their children. Janine Seaver (John Angus MacDonald), David Solly and Stephani Valade (Walter Solly) and Tim Gault (Ralph Gault). Also attending were Hon LCol Brownell, Bill Shearing, George O'Dair, Leon and Isabel Chamois, Greg Pollard, Rod and Perry Coughlan, and Roy Clarke.

70th Anniversary Dutch-Canadian Friendship Tulip Garden Blooming Ceremony



This collection of tulips in front of the Cornwall Cenotaph was awarded to the Cornwall & District Horticultural Society by Vesey's Bulbs, to honour and celebrate the first donation of 100,000 bulbs from the Royal Family of Holland to Canada's capital in 1945. Cornwall can be proud to display one of only 140 Friendship Tulip Gardens across Canada.

May 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Memorial Park on Veteran's Walk, Cornwall, ON

Why the tulip?

In the spring of 1946, one-hundred thousand tulips bloomed in Ottawa, Canada. Planted in the previous fall, the Dutch tulip bulbs were sent to Canadians as a symbol of appreciation for the role Canadian soldiers played in the liberation of the Netherlands and the hospitality Canada provided to the Dutch Royal Family during their stay in Ottawa during WWII. Canada continues to receive 20,000 Dutch tulip bulbs every fall.

The Friendship Tulip Garden in Cornwall is planted and tended to by the City of Cornwall's Parks & Landscaping Department. The Cornwall & District Horticultural Society has for many years purchased tulip bulbs for planting in Memorial Park and will continue to do so annually as their effort to honour all veterans.

Did you know?

1. The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry area played a major role in the liberation of the Netherlands.
2. Dutch Princess Margriet was born in Ottawa in 1943.
3. The 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders, also known as *The Glens* started their role in liberating the Netherlands on October 9th, 1944 and continued through to the end of the German occupation of the country. Approximately 107 of this Battalion lost their lives in the liberation of the Netherlands and are buried in four Canadian War Cemeteries.
4. Dutch citizens continue to remember the sacrifice of *The Glens*. Our soldiers helped save their country.

One subdivision in Holland has named streets and a bridge, The Lawes Bridge, after *The Glens* who fought to liberate their area. Many of *The Glens* died in battle, including two brothers, Pte. Marshall Noah Lawes (31) and his younger brother, Pte. Cecil Albert Lawes (28).

Even today, children from an elementary school in Holland provide care for a memorial garden honouring the sacrifice of *The Glens*.