

THE GLENGARRIAN

Newsletter of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders



NOVEMBER 2016

FROM THE EDITOR

As editor, I sometimes get to take liberties, and at this time, I am putting this message ahead of even the CO's message. Hopefully, he doesn't fire me.

The Glens are Recruiting



As a high school student looking for summer employment, I was referred to the SD&G Highlanders. That was the start of a 37 year career which provided me many life skills which helped me have a successful civilian career. If you know of anyone age 17 and over, looking for an extremely rewarding opportunity, have them call Sgt Stoness at 613 936-9124 ext 264.

Since the last issue, the Regiment has seen a lot of changes. LCol Chris French has been appointed Commanding Officer, Hon LCol Jim Brownell has been promoted and appointed Hon Col and we have a new Hon LCol with the appointment of Mr John Denner. Also arriving is the new Deputy Commanding Officer, Major Ryan Hartman. This new leadership along with the very capable Officers, Sr NCO's and soldiers sets the Regiment on a firm base as we close in on our 150 year celebrations in 2018.

As you read this issue, you will note that initial planning has begun for our 150th anniversary celebrations, and early in 2017, we will be soliciting input from the larger Regimental family before the final plan is set and the execution kicks into high gear.

Comments, questions and articles can be submitted any time to glengarrianeditor@gmail.com.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope to see you all at the Levee on 7 January 2017.

Roy Clarke
Editor

Commanding Officer's Update

Greeting to all Glens!



As we quickly approach the Holiday Season I wish to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the accomplishments the Regiment has attained since my fall update in October of this year. The Regiment has been extremely busy with ceremonial support to the region; more specifically, our activities during a successful Remembrance Week saw our members participate in several key events including a Church Parade, attendance at the Legion Remembrance Dinner, a ceremonial puck drop at a Cornwall Colts hockey game, a parade at Crysler's Farm and of course the main event downtown Cornwall on November 11. Perhaps the "crown jewel" within the week was the dedication of a plaque to Colonel Darby Bergin, the first Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Canada's first Surgeon General, and a Member of Parliament. Many thanks go to the team that put this dedication ceremony together, including those who spoke at the event itself and those who coordinated with the Ontario Heritage Trust in the background to make it a first-class evening for those in attendance.

Looking forward, the Operations Officer and I have developed a Regimental Training Plan that goes to April, 2019 – approximately the time that a new Commanding Officer will take my place. Those serving can expect it to be published in the near future, and although I suspect much of it will change, it will stand as the base for us to build on in the months and years ahead. In general terms it is focused on rebuilding our Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (MCpls) ranks in order to provide instructors for Basic Military Qualifications (including Co-op courses), Developmental Period 1 Infantry Qualifications, and blue-fleet driver qualifications. For the rifle company the plan focuses primarily on dismounted patrolling operations. We will continue to leverage training opportunities with other units in order to give our soldiers and officers the experience of rifle company-size and larger dismounted training.

Finally, I wish to reiterate my commitment to increasing the size of the Regiment to 150 all-ranks at some point during the 150th year of the Regiment's existence. This is no small task and it will require an all-hands-on-deck approach if we are to be successful. The skills and dedication of the leadership within the unit will be heavily relied on to make this happen, while at the same time balancing personal lives and careers. Please know, to all of you who will help in this endeavor, that I thank you for your dedication and service to the Regiment, the Canadian Army, and to Canada.

In closing I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to continuing the journey in the New Year.

Chris French
Commanding Officer

Message from The Honourary Colonel



It was an honour and privilege for me to receive a letter from The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of National Defence in early October 2016, appointing me as the Honourary Colonel of the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders. This comes after my service to the regiment as the Honourary Lieutenant Colonel since April, 2013. These past three years have been exciting and challenging times for me, as a civilian appointee, and I must express my gratitude and thanks, at this time, to all those within the regiment who have assisted me in understanding and executing my role as the Honourary Lieutenant Colonel. It was a huge loss to the regiment and to me, personally, with the sudden passing of the regiment's Honourary Colonel, Robert J. Brooks on July 28, 2013, as I had hoped to follow and learn from this great leader. Following the Change of Honoraries ceremony, held on April 4, 2013, I had approached Colonel Brooks concerning the fact that, as a civilian, I had much to learn and that I really did not have the protocols and rules thoroughly understood. Colonel Brooks' words of wisdom, "Just keep me in your periphery vision, and you'll learn all the necessary rules and procedures." Unfortunately, I had less than four months to learn from this great leader, but so many others in the Regiment have stepped in to give me sound advice on protocol. I look forward to this same support during the next three years as your Honourary Colonel.

At this time, I wish to welcome Honourary Lieutenant Colonel John Denner to his new Regimental position, and I join with all those from the Regimental family in saying "Welcome HLCol Denner"! We hope that your time serving with our great Regiment will bring great satisfaction and wonderful memories. We know that HLCol Denner is no stranger to the Regiment, as he has successfully carried out some events at our armoury. On Saturday, October 22, 2016, it was my honour and pleasure to welcome HLCol Denner to the Regimental Senate meeting. Your connections to the community and your strong organizational abilities will serve us well in the future, and we all look forward to working with you.

Since the last *Glengarrian* of May, 2016, much has happened within the regimental family, and I am sure all the reports in this publication will show that much was accomplished. For me, one of the highlights was the development of a committee to oversee the activities and planning for the regiment's sesquicentennial on July 3, 2018. Yes, on that day, the regiment will celebrate 150 years of existence, although the history of military action and support, in Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, reaches back for two centuries.

The 150th anniversary committee has been meeting since May 2016, on a monthly basis, to lay the groundwork for celebration in 2018. Sitting at these meetings, to date, are Co-Chairs HCol Jim Brownell and LCol (Retired) Roy Clarke; Unit Representatives, Major Jason Steeves and A/RSM Dan Hubley; Foundation Representative LCol (Retired) Bill Masson; Association Rep, President George O'Dair; Senate Representative BGen (Retired) Bill Patterson; Advisors Col (Retired) Bill Shearing and LCol Rob Duda; and Special Advisor LCol (Retired) Jeff Shaver.

While events of 2016-17 will establish a foundation on which to build for the sesquicentennial, preliminary plans, centred on the 150th anniversary, include a Regimental Family Levee; a 150th Anniversary Reunion with the possibility of a Freedom of the Counties' Parade and Church Parade; Regimental Birthday on July 3, 2018, with a visit to the gravesite of the Unit's

first Commanding Officer, Col. Darby Bergin; and a Regimental Dinner to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Sgt. Claude Nunney being awarded the Victoria Cross. As well, plans are progressing on the release of the 3rd edition of *Up the Glens*, the history of our Regiment, as well as a Glen's tour to Europe. While these are just a few of the preliminary plans to date, it is hoped that the citizens of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, the City of Cornwall, and Akwesasne will get behind the plans with encouragement and support. Future issues of the *Glengarrian* will keep us informed, as plans develop.

To bring focus to all that we do, the 150th Anniversary Committee established a Mission Statement: **“To secure the future of the Regiment by celebrating our 150 years with our community, comrades and country”**.

A major next step, as we plan for the 150th, will be a briefing to update one and all within the Regimental family, including the Senate, Foundation, Association, Band, Messes, and Cadets. As well, with activities expected to become major community events, it will be necessary to include the Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, Legion representatives, and local media personnel in the briefing.

As we plan for the future, we rely on the history of the Regiment to assist us with our preparations. Indeed, *Up the Glens* brings readers to a full understanding of the Unit's activities in 1968, the Centennial of the Regiment. We read that Freedom of the City of Cornwall was offered and accepted by the Regiment, this being the highest honour bestowed on a regiment by a city. On Saturday, July 6, 1968, just three days after the official centennial anniversary, a parade took place in front of city hall at 1100 hours, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel D.R. Fitzpatrick, and with Mayor Nicholas Kaneb taking the Salute. After the Salute, Mayor Kaneb inspected the battalion, and he was accompanied by Col L.E. Barclay, Commander of the Ottawa Militia District; HCol W.J. Franklin; HLCol F.M. Cass; and the President of Branch 297, Royal Canadian Legion.

On July 6, 1968, a full day of activities was organized by the Unit, and, following the reading of the Official Proclamation of Freedom of the City, the Unit marched past the official party, then on down Pitt and Second Streets, with bayonets and swords drawn, fully exercising the freedom granted. The Pipes and Drums of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, as well as the Fort Henry Guard of Kingston, entertained at the armoury in the afternoon. The Fort Henry Guard demonstrated the drill of 1868, the founding year of the Regiment. A Retreat Ceremony was held in the early evening by the Unit, with a huge dance following on the parade floor of the armoury.

With Remembrance Day and Remembrance Week 2016 now recorded in history, we turn our attention to Christmas and a new year. It is just hard to believe that 2016 has passed by so quickly, but we can be satisfied that much was accomplished by the Unit and Regiment this year. At this time of year, we take stock of the blessings that have been bestowed upon us, and we celebrate this special time with family and friends. At this time, I wish one and all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and may the New Year bring you the best in good health and happiness.

Jim Brownell
Honourary Colonel

From The Regimental Sergeant Major

Fellow Glengarrians



The challenging summer training has come and gone. We were successful in training and graduating 8 new DP1 qualified Privates. Now half way through the Fall training campaign and so far everything has gone very well. All of the members of the Regiment have put in more than their share of work to make this a successful year to date.

On the subject of recruiting, Sgt Stoness has been working tirelessly. Presently there are 35 folders and therefore applicants who wish to join the Glen's. Unfortunately, there are still around 8 soldiers who have put in for a component transfer. The good thing is that there will be Glens throughout the entire Canadian Army and beyond. The Unit is in the planning stage of setting up to run a Co-op course in early 2018 with several more in the school semesters following that. This is a huge undertaking but the results will be that many new Glens will join the Unit over the next few years. It should be noted that this will be above and beyond the recruiting done by Sgt Stoness.

This year's Maxville Highland Games, held the 10th Annual Tug-O-War competition. There were 10 of 17 Kilted Units that had a team entered which marks the largest gathering by Military Highlander Regiments in many, many years. The Glens' team represented the Unit extremely well as they always have by finishing second overall out of the 12 teams.

Also on a sports note, the Glens participated in the Annual Sgt Rick Foldeak Hockey Tournament which was held in Brockville on the weekend of 8-9 Apr. The team fared very well. They won their first 2 games but unfortunately lost their third game on a last minute goal. They represented the Regimental Family very well.

Remembrance week was a very busy time for the Glens. On Sunday 06 Nov, the Unit participated in a Church Parade in Williamstown which commenced at 0930. At the conclusion of the Church Parade, we marched over to the Municipal Garage in Williamstown to join up with the other participants in the Williamstown Remembrance Parade. Later in the day, we moved over to Lancaster to participate in their Remembrance parade. The evening of Tues 08 Nov, at the Cornwall Armory, we participated in the unveiling of the Plaque to commemorate the first Commanding Officer of the Glen's Colonel Darby Bergin. On Fri Nov 11th, the Unit participated in the Crysler's Farm Ceremony and the Cornwall Remembrance Day Parade.

This year the Unit has been operationally joined with the Brocks and the PWORs for several collective training events (Exercises).

As always, if you happen to be in the Armoury and my door is open, please come in and say hello. I look forward to seeing you all at any upcoming activities. Up The Glens!

Dan Hubley
A/Regimental Sergeant Major

Dedication of Normandy Hall

Members of the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders extended family were present on Fri, May 13 when a portion of the second storey at the Cornwall Armoury was dedicated to the memory of the members of the Regiment who fought in Normandy, France, during World War II, by being named Normandy Hall.

The SD&G Highlanders, often referred to as the Counties Own, were part of the Third Division of the Canadian Army during World War II. A D-Day unit, they landed on the Normandy Beach as part of the second wave on June 6 1944. During the dedication event, SD&G Highlanders Association member Tim Gault related how the Glens landed at Bernieres-sur-Mer, fought their way inland, liberating the strategically important logistical centre of Caen, then proceeded through northwest Europe eventually reaching Germany as the war ended. Don Fowler, who served during WWII with A Company, SD&G Highlanders, told the audience some of his experiences and commented how “humour keeps you going through the bad stuff” LCol (Ret’d) Roy Clarke commented how a committee was set up to dedicate this room named Normandy Hall at the suggestion of William Shearing, a former Commanding Officer and Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, to honour the Glens service in Normandy as a way to acknowledge and honour the service of this regiment in Normandy.

Honorary LCol Jim Brownell received a congratulatory certificate from MPP Jim McDonell on this occasion and most present enjoyed a Calvados toast to mark this occasion. Clarke pointed out the origin of the Calvados toast as being when French residents in Normandy provided Calvados to the SD&G Highlanders as they passed through Normandy.

Dedication Rewarded

Members of the SD&G Highlanders Regimental Family and Friends attended the dedication of Normandy Hall during the Regimental reunion weekend. The ceremony on Fri, May 13 included a first Person accounts of Glens service in Northwest Europe during War II, as well as close ties between the SD&G Highlanders and the communities they liberated from Nazi occupation in Normandy.



From Left are Glens Association member Tim Gault, WWII Glens Veteran Don Fowler, SD&G – MPP Jim McDonell.

Articles and photo by Carolyn Thompson Goddard, originally published in *The Chesterville Record*, Vol. 123, No. 45, May, 25, 2016.

Ontario Heritage Trust Plaque Dedication

Colonel Darby Bergin, first Commanding Officer of the 59th Stormont & Glengarry Battalion, has been honoured with an Ontario Heritage Trust plaque in recognition of his many contributions to Ontario as a physician, political representative, humanitarian and as the first Surgeon-General of Canada. The unveiling of this plaque was held at The Armoury on Tuesday November 8 under the auspices of the Regimental Foundation of the SDG Highlanders. Following a solemn Service of Remembrance conducted by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 297 of Cornwall, speakers remarked on the contributions made by Bergin both locally and nationally. Grand Chief Abraham Benedict of Akwesasne commented on his assistance to the Mohawk community during a small pox outbreak while Honorary Colonel Jim Brownell and BGen Patterson spoke on the work to commemorate this gentleman and a brief biography of Bergin respectively.

A true renaissance man, Colonel Bergin began his career as a physician in Cornwall after completing his medical training at McGill in Montreal. He is known for his work at a typhus hospital, assisting the Mohawk community in Akwesasne during a smallpox outbreak before his election as an MP in 1872 where he championed rural affairs, humanitarian and social justice issues.

He served as the Commanding Officer of the 59th Stormont-Glengarry Battalion, before becoming the first Surgeon-General in 1885 laying the groundwork for the creation of a permanent military medical corp. Bergin was also a key industrial player locally as a founder of the Ontario Pacific Railway and the expansion of the Cornwall Canal.

The Ontario Heritage Trust has erected over 1200 historical plaques since 1957, with the plaque honouring Colonel Bergin located in Precious Blood Cemetery just east of Cornwall where he was buried after his death in 1896.



Photo by: Carolyn Thompson Goddard

L:R: LCol (Ret'd) William Masson, BGen (Ret'd) William Patterson (not a committee member), Tim Gault, Col (Ret'd) William Shearing, Hon Col Jim Brownell, RSM Dan Hubley, Museum Curator Leon Chamois. Absent from Photo: Major (Ret'd) Roger Laplante

Surgeon General's Representative

It is a privilege to be here today to mark the addition of a new plaque to the Cornwall Armoury, the home of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlander's Reserve Unit. The plaque commemorating the contribution of Colonel Darby Bergin recognized as this unit's first Regimental Commanding Officer and Canada's first Surgeon General. On a professional note, I am honoured to be here as a representative of our current Surgeon General; on a personal note as an armchair historian or more accurately history fantastic, I am thrilled to be involved in this extraordinary event.

Often taking the long view of history, I am reminded how the challenges of 100 years ago still in many ways exist today. Like Colonel Bergin, our Surgeon General is regularly compelled to deal with everything from contentions around physician salaries to challenges of stretching resources. Unlike today, as the militia moved West, Dr. Bergin faced unique challenges of negligible training, a lack of reliable infrastructure and paucity of quality equipment. As modern Medical Officer, I can't begin to imagine what such a daunting task would look like. It was real for Dr. Bergin, and this plaque is a testament through time that he was an officer, this Medical Officer was up to the task.

Again, on behalf of the Surgeon General and the Royal Canadian Medical Corps, thank you asking allowing us to bear witness to this special moment not only for the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlander's Reserve Unit but the current serving members of our health services.



Photo: Greg Peerenboom, Cornwall Standard Freeholder

Colonel Jim Kile OMM, CD, MSc, MD
Director of Medical Policy, Health Services Group Headquarters Canadian Armed Forces

Colonel Bergin Plaque Installed



Photo by: Col (Ret'd) William Shearing

Precious Blood Cemetery in Glen Walter. Colonel Bergin's obelisk is on the right side of the plaque near the river's edge.

Remembrance Week

During Remembrance week the SD&G Highlanders participated in ceremonies across the Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, including Ingleside, Long Sault, Williamstown, Lancaster, Crysler's Farm, Morrisburg, Avonmore, Newington, Alexandria, and Cornwall.

Crysler Farm Remembered

203 years ago, on November 11 1813, Canadian militia, British Regulars, Aboriginal Allies fought a decisive battle against American soldiers on farms along the front near Morrisburg. At stake was the independence of British North America colonies and a supply route between Montreal and Toronto. With the British victory at Crysler's Farm and an earlier one at Chateauguay near Montreal, the precious supply route to southwestern Ontario remained open and just over forty years later our nation joined together in Confederation.

For the past few years a group of every increasing history enthusiasts, military members, living history re-enactors, and local politicians gather early in the morning of November 11 to remember the sacrifices of the civilians and military who participated in this defining event of Canadian history. Led by a piper from the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders close

to fifty people made the silent walk up the steps leading to the Memorial atop a sacred mound of ground and a short but poignant Ceremony of Remembrance was performed before those in attendance continued to their other duties on this day of solemn Remembrance.



Photo by: Carol Thompson Goddard

Newington



Photo by: Carol Thompson Goddard

Padre's Corner



As I write this, the Regiment is preparing for all of the Remembrance activities, beginning with the Church Parade in Williamstown, on 6 Nov, and culminating with participation in Remembrance Day parades in Cornwall, Alexandria and Ingleside. This is now the third year that the Regiment has honoured my church by participating in a Remembrance Sunday service.

St. Andrew's United Church, Williamstown, has a long military history, having been established by a military chaplain, Rev John Bethune, with many Loyalist soldiers and their leaders who migrated north after the American Revolutionary War. Members from the congregation have served in the military since then, from the War of 1812 to the Afghan War, to UN Peacekeeping, to domestic operations and ongoing training. Generations of soldiers and their families have sat in these pews.

The space where we gather for church services is called a sanctuary. This is not by accident. A sanctuary is to be a place where one can be safe - "at ease." This is symbolized at our Church Parade in the draping of the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour over the drums, in front of the pulpit. When we conducted our first Church Parade in this format in my church on 9 Nov 2014, I was hoping to keep the ceremonial movements as simple as possible. I was nervous enough about hosting the Regiment, the Chaplain General and the Moderator of the United Church of Canada. CWO Colgan, the RSM at the time, pointed out that the Colours were supposed to mirror the troops. Having the Colour Bearers place the Colours in stands at the front of the church would be the wrong symbolism, because the Colours would be "standing at attention." We opted for the more complicated procedure of placing the Colours at ease, and I'm so glad we did.

The Colours are placed "at ease" because the church sanctuary is a place where the soldiers are to be at ease. Sanctuary is a place where one is invited to step out of a war zone or just daily life, to find an inner stillness, some sanity, and a centering in the Divine. In our Church Parade, we are symbolically acknowledging the importance of sanctuary and time at ease in the life of the soldier.

Captain Andrea Harrison
Padre

SD&G Highlanders Regimental Prayer

God of the highlands and the lowlands,
God of wilderness and glen,
guide us and protect us as we serve
our country and the world.
Grant us wisdom in our decision making,
courage, and integrity in our actions,
friendship, and respect between soldiers.
Keep our families safe and strong,
Keep us faithful in service. Amen

If We Rest We Rust

Hello once again from your Museum. This may read a lot like my previous article and for good reasons. Once again I am proud to announce that the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry have given us a \$5,000 grant with which to buy artefacts. We used last year's grant to buy wonderful things, possibly the most interesting being a WW2 folding bicycle. Our Regiment carried such bikes when they landed in Normandy on D-Day 1944. We'll see what wondrous things we buy with this year's grant.



Also once again, the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Historical Society has continued to give/lend/sell us their military artefacts. We used some of last year's funds to pay for them and we will do the same this year. You may remember that our Regimental Foundation had helped us pay for these items as well. One of the

interesting artefacts we acquired from them this year is the trowel presented to Lionel Chevier on the occasion of the laying of the Corner Stone of the Cornwall Armouries, 3 Sept, 1939.

You may have noticed a new addition to our support weapons collection. It is a TOW-2 anti-tank guided missile launcher with dummy missiles; we continue to add to our collection of tank-killing weapons used by the Canadian infantry.

Always feel free to drop by and visit your regimental Museum.

Léon J. Chamois
Museum Curator

An Eastern Ontario Witness to the Death of General Brock

The battle of Queenston Heights, fought 13 October 1812, was the second British and Canadian defeat of an American invading force during the War of 1812. The first being the surrender of Hull's army in August. Although a victory, the death in action of Major-General Isaac Brock, the British commander in Upper Canada, occasioned much sadness. For Canadians, Brock was the great hero of the war and they honoured his memory by constructing a magnificent monument and tomb atop Queenston Heights with a 185-foot column, visible for miles around, including nearby American territory.

George Jarvis was a 15-year-old volunteer in the 49th Foot in 1812. A volunteer was a prospective

officer who lived with the officers but marched and fought with the enlisted men. If a volunteer displayed the requisite qualities and there was an opening in the officer ranks, he might procure a commission. Jarvis was successful, he was commissioned a lieutenant in 1813 and, at the age of 17, commanded a company at the bloody battle of Lundy's Lane in 1814. Leaving the army in 1817, he studied laws and became collector of customs at Cornwall and later a judge in eastern Ontario. During the rebellions of 1837-1838 Jarvis commanded a troop of militia cavalry attached to the militia and later briefly commanded the 1st Regiment of Stormont Militia. He died at the age of 81 in 1878.

Jarvis's account of the death of Brock is of great interest because he was possibly the first person to reach the general after he was hit and it is notable that, despite the many myths to the contrary, Jarvis did not hear the British leader utter a single word.

On retiring to the north end of the village on the Niagara road our little band was met by General Brock attended by his A.D.C. Major Glegg and Colonel Macdonell. He was largely cheered as he cried: "Follow me, boys!" and led us at a pretty smart trot toward the mountain; checking [sic] his horse to a walk, he said: "Take breath, boys, we shall want it in a few minutes!" Another cheer was the hearty response both from the regulars and militia.

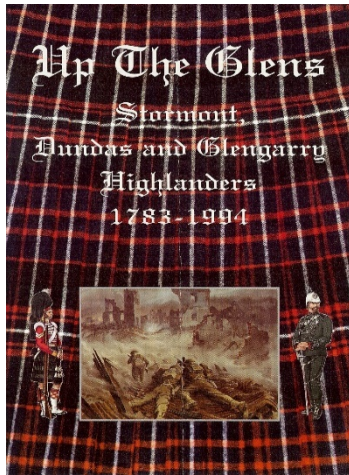
At that time the top of the mountain and a great portion of its side was thickly covered with trees and was now occupied by American riflemen. On arriving at the foot of the mountain, where the road diverges to St. David's, General Brock dismounted and waving his sword climbed over a high stone wall, followed by the troops; placing himself at the head of the light company of the 49th, he led the way up the mountain at double quick time in the very teeth of a sharp fire from the enemy's riflemen, and ere long he was singled out by one of them, who, coming forward, took deliberate aim and fired; several of the men noticed the action and fired -- but too late -- and our gallant General fell on his left side, within a few feet of where I stood. Running up to him I enquired, "Are you much hurt, Sir?" He placed his hand on his breast and made no reply and slowly sunk down.

The 49th now raised a shout, "Revenge the General!" and regulars and militia, led by Colonel Macdonell, pressed forward, anxious to revenge the fall of their beloved leader, and literally drove a superior force up the mountain side to a considerable distance beyond the summit. The flank companies of the York militia, under Captains Cameron and Heward and Lieutenants Robinson, McLean and Stanton, besides many others whose names I forget, eminently distinguished themselves on this occasion.

At this juncture the enemy were reinforced, and after a severe struggle, in which Colonel Macdonell, Captains Dennis and Williams and most of our officers were either killed or wounded, we were overpowered by numbers and forced to retreat, as the enemy had outflanked us and had nearly succeeded in gaining our rear. Several of our men were thus cut off and made prisoners, myself among them.

Donald E. Graves

Can a Church Parade be Dangerous?



From our Regimental History

“On the 22nd of November (1944) the Glens went back to the vicinity of Beek (The Netherlands) for a seven day period of training, kit inspections, bath parades, pay parades and the like.”
“On the 26th of November, as the troops were forming up for a church parade a rocket or parachute bomb fell in the battalion area. It demolished a house near the parade ground and broke all of the windows in Battalion Headquarters and nearby buildings. Privates G.E. Mahar and D.R. Schofield were killed and fifteen men were wounded. Sergeant L.L. Boice and Private F.K. Black (R.C.E.M.E.) later died of wounds received at this time. There were a number of civilian casualties, including two little girls killed.”



What Makes Jack Run

A Memoir of John (Jack) Stevens
His Younger Days
The War Years
And What Happened Afterwards

John Stevens, a World War 2 veteran of the
1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders,
9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division,
Shown paying his respects to Fallen Glens
on Juno Beach during a Glens tour.

From a Soldier's Point of View:

The Colonel thought that we needed a little religion. I don't know why because it was pretty hard to sin in a slit trench. When we were on the street in front of the school house milling about before marching off to the church, a small plane went overhead. The pilot seemed to tell us he had work to do and dropped two big bombs. The first one hit across the street from us and took out a four story building. You could see people standing at sinks washing dishes, standing at tables, and sitting all different positions. They were likely in shock.

About a dozen of us started running away from the blast. We had about a 50 foot run, and then we jumped a fence about five feet

high that was made of steel rods with ends shaped like spear points. When we picked ourselves up, we had to go to the other street back of us because there was no gate on the side we jumped. I met some of the others that went over the fence that day at one of the 1st Battalion reunions. Looking back, our jump seemed impossible. They said under those conditions you have extra strength.

When we got out, we didn't know what to do next so we went to the church. About 20 minutes, the padre came in and told us to go back to barracks. The other bomb landed further down the street. I do not know how many men were killed or wounded that day. The officers never let us know, or I forgot over the years.

There were a lot of different opinions on what kind of plane it was that dropped the bombs at the school house. It was so high. It was a speck in the sky. You could see it. Was it a rocket or jet? Who knows now? He was lucky to hit Nijmegen let alone us. (From John Steven's Memoirs)

The Regimental Tours

A proud regiment are the SD&G Highlanders
Proud to fly their colours
Proud to defend their native land
Proud to serve the monarch

In two world wars they faithfully served
Brave and tough and determined
Boys from the farms, villages and towns
United in one cause-to bring peace to the earth

Many times I have seen the beaches where they landed
Many times I have seen the places where they are buried
Many times I have seen the sites of their battles with the foe
Many times I have seen the graves of my uncle and his friends

The war cemeteries are all the same
Beautifully kept by faithful citizens
Who cannot thank enough those who made the final sacrifice
Who treasure the peace that was restored to their ravaged lands

At Adegem, Holten, Beny-sur-mer,
Calais, Grosbeek and Bretteville
Lie the thousands of men who would never grow old
Heartbreaking are their ages, 18, 21, 25, so very young

Boys when they enlisted, men they came to be
And when they lay dying, said their prayers with the chaplain
And when the end was near, turned into boys again
Asking for their mothers with the last breath

The infamous Vimy Ridge now looks so peaceful
With sheep grazing on the grasses of the enclosed parks
No human dares to go there, with the knowledge that
Many unexploded bombs still lurk below

The war to end all wars did not work out so well
For the aggressors tried again
A different kind of war this time
With all its horrors, fascism, and Aryan views

So let us be thankful, though we are never totally free from conflict
We live in the best country in the world
Thanks to those brave men who gave their lives
Wear your poppy proudly; it is your silent gratitude

Margaret Kalil 24/09/2008

1st Battalion SD&G Highlanders

Regimental Song

Tune: The Road to the Isles

*We're the Glengarries, We're the old SD&G
We're the finest in the Highlander Brigade
We're the Glengarries and we'll soon let Jerry know
Why we volunteered to give old England aid.*

Chorus

*We are out to finish something that was started long ago
By our fathers who once sailed across the sea'
And our enemies will wish that they had never heard the shout
GLENGARRY. We're the old SD&G*

*On the shores of Lake Ontario our folks are filled with pride
Tho' they know that we are sailing o'er the sea
For they know that England's enemies will dread the battle cry
GLENGARRY. We're the old SD&G*

*As we go always we will sing our marching song
We'll send our war cry ringing on the breeze;
And we're bringing home the bacon if it takes us twenty years.
GLENGARRY. We're the old SD&G*

By Sgt W.A. Clarke
Hdqs. Co
SD&G

Submitted by LCol (Ret'd) William Masson

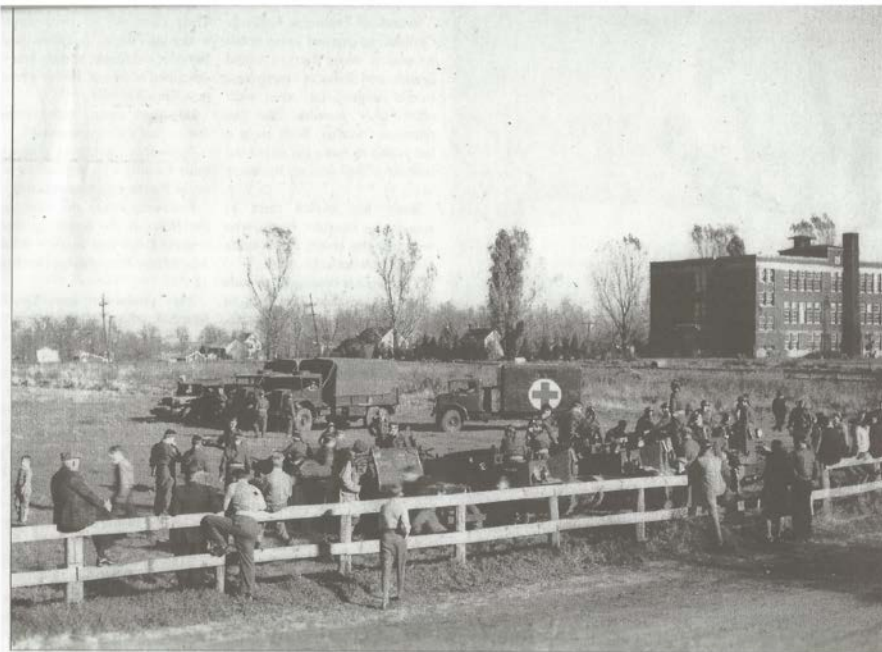
Photos from the Archives of The Morrisburg Leader



Looking across at Allison Island

This week's photo from the archives of the *Morrisburg Leader* is marked as being from World War One and was taken in front of the new power house at Lock 23 in Morrisburg. In the distance is Allison Island, which was a popular place before the St. Lawrence Seaway for picnics and activities. It is not clear what the purpose of the tents are but they could be military lookouts or guards for the Williamsburg Canal, or some form of training exercise.

Is this the 59th Battalion on Canal Guard during World War One? The bell tents will bring back memories for a lot of Glens. They were being used by the Canadian Army into the late 1970s.



Canadian Army invades the Morrisburg fairgrounds

This photo from the files of the *Morrisburg Leader* has no date on it. It appears to be a training exercise, a recruitment event or a display at the Morrisburg fair grounds. The photo looks to have been taken before the construction of Morrisburg Public School in 1951, but during or after World War II, based on the army vehicles. The back of Morrisburg High School can be seen in the distance. If you have any ideas or further clue about this photo and when it may have been taken, email the *Morrisburg Leader* at info@morrisburgleader.ca.

The 2nd (Reserve) Battalion on a recruiting drive in Morrisburg circa 1942? The 2nd Battalion had one of its platoons in Morrisburg plus Alexandria, Winchester, Chesterville, Finch, Maxville, Williamstown, Hawkesbury as well as Cornwall. Assume the vehicles were on loan from No. 31 Canadian Infantry (Basic) Training Centre.