



History of the 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders

Mobilization of the Battalion 18 June 1940 – 29 July 1941

The history of the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders in the Second World War starts on August 26, 1939 when the unit based in Cornwall, Ontario assigned guards on the St. Lawrence Seaway and their armouries in Cornwall and Alexandria, Ontario.

On June 18, 1940, it was ordered to mobilize a battalion for service overseas as a unit of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. The organization of the Battalion was carried out as follows:

H.Q. Company	Provided by The Prince of Wales Rangers, Peterborough, Ontario
No. 1 Company	Provided by The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment (MG), Kingston, Ontario
No. 2 Company	Provided by The Brockville Rifles, Brockville, Ontario
No. 3 Company	Provided by The Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders
No. 4 Company	Provided by The Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders

The Battalion concentrated in Kingston for training on September 4, 1940. On November 21st, the Battalion moved to Lansdowne Park, Ottawa, Ontario. The Battalion left Ottawa on January 28, 1941 for Debert Camp, Nova Scotia where the units of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division were concentrating. The Battalion shipped out of Halifax, Nova Scotia on S.S. Orion on July 21, 1941 bound for England.

Training in Britain 30 July 1941 – 4 June 1944

The first overseas fatal casualty happened on the night of March 5/6, 1942 when a private lost his life by accidentally stepping on a beach mine. Other deaths occurred while in training.

For four years, the Battalion was involved in exercises in England and Scotland. Following training in Scotland in 1943, the Battalion returned to England to become thoroughly grounded in the "new" assault techniques since 3rd Division had been selected to be the assault division for the invasion of Fortress Europe. After several commanding officers since arrival in Britain, Lieutenant Colonel G. H. (Christy) Christiansen took command in December 1942. He would lead the Battalion onto the shores of Normandy.

The shoulder badge of the Battalion was "Glengarrians - Canada" rather than "Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders". Prior to D-Day, a group of officers were at an English pub and their server said, "There a lot of you Glens here tonight." One of the officers made a toast with "Up the Glens!". This was taken back to the Colonel who proposed it to his men as the Battalion's battle cry. And the members of the battalion were referred to as Glens.

The Baptism of Fire - 4 June 1944 – 14 July 1944

On June 3, 1944, the Glengarrians embarked in readiness for the attack. The 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade was the reserve brigade of 3rd Division. After the delay in the attack, the craft carrying the Glens at 0600 hours on June 6, 1944 were 16 miles off the coast of France. The Battalion touch down at 1220 hours on White Beach at Bernieres-sur-Mer. One of their landing craft was LCI(L) 299 shown below in one of D-Day's emblematic photographs.



Men of the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders, 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, going ashore from Landing Craft Infantry (Large) 299 at Juno Beach, Bernieres-sur-Mer, Normandy, France. June 6, 1944

Library & Archives Canada Photo: PA122765 – Photographer: Lieutenant Gilbert A. Milne, RCNVR

After landing, the Battalion moved inland to Beny-sur-Mer. It was here that they suffered their first combat loss of life.

On June 7th, the Glengarrians moved following the North Nova Scotia Highlanders toward the objective of the Carriquet airfield West of Caen. The North Novas met terrific opposition and were obliged to fall back on the Glens. The Glens' Commanding Officer made the decision to consolidate at Les Buissons. It was here that the first cries of "Up the Glens" were heard. Slit trenches were dug in short time. They

held on “by their toes” and resisted repeated enemy attempts to drive them back to the sea. Twenty-nine Glens were killed and 62 wounded here between June 7th and June 10th. The position became known as Hell’s Corner. The adjacent street was named Rue des Glengarrians.



Photo courtesy Freddy Jones, For Freedom Museum, Ramskapelle (Knokke-Heist), Belgium

The Battalion then moved on to capture Vieux Caen where the Glens remained until July 8th. Active patrolling took place here. During a patrol on June 17th, Lieutenant Fred Williams and Lance Corporal George Pollard were captured and murdered by Hitler Youth at Abbaye d’Ardenne. Fred William’s body was found and buried at Beny-sur-Mer. George Pollard’s body has never been found, and he is remembered on the Bayeux Memorial.

The next objectives for the Glens were set as Gruchy and a chateau West of the village. The next objective was the city of Caen which had been wrecked beyond recognition from naval guns and air force bombing. The SD&G Highlanders were the first Canadians into the city on July 9th.

The Germans suddenly withdrew south across the River Orne while the Battalion consolidated its position and sent out patrols. The Canadians received an enthusiastic welcome from the people of Caen. The rest of the day was spent in spotting enemy positions and reorganizing the Battalion.

The 3rd Canadian Infantry Division’s role was to hold Caen with active patrolling to destroy any enemy patrols that might penetrate across the River Orne.

The Advance Through Normandy 15 July 1944 – 29 September 1944

The Battalion went to Anisey for a brief respite on July 14th during which they engaged in house-to-house searches for enemy positions. After midnight on July 18th, the Battalion left Anisey for an assembly area at Benouville. At 0730hrs, the Battalion crossed the River Orne. Due to Allied bomb damage, they had to call in Engineer support for road clearance. Between the river and a steep cliff, the Glens were in a dangerous position. They came under fire from their own artillery. They moved on until temporarily held up by enemy in a chateau near Collombelles. It was a terrible day, but the Glens fought stubbornly ahead. The night was spent in Collombelles, but they were on the move by 0400hrs on July 19th clearing houses street by street. During July 18th and 19th, 15 Glens were killed and 40 wounded.

The Battalion moved from Collombelles in the early morning of July 20th to Hubert Folie. The Battalion was instructed to rest. This was hard to do since the Unit was being shelled. The Battalion stayed here until July 31st under almost continuous shelling and suffered six killed.

Another operation was set for July 25th in which the Glens would not participate. They had no rest period since D Day but would dig slit trenches for the Highland Light Infantry of Canada who were to pass through during the night. This was the first night attack planned to use artificial moon light (searchlights). The North Novas were to attack and if successful, the HLI of C were to pass through the North Novas and exploit the success. But the North Novas received a bad mauling at Tilly-en-Campagne.

For the Glens, the line was turned over to The Algonquin Regiment. The tired Glens moved back in warm and sunny weather to the vicinity of Bouanville for rest and reorganization. They had been in the line for 55 days; 424 Glens had become casualties of which 112 were fatal.

The Glens were to hear on August 4th that their beloved "Colonel Christy" had been ordered for duty elsewhere. Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Rowley became their new commanding officer.

The rest area was left behind on August 8th with D Company leading and proceeding down the Caen – Falaise Road reaching Cintheaux on the 9th where the Battalion dug in. Instructions were received to attack and occupy Urville. Urville was occupied on the same evening without enemy opposition. It was decided that 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade would relieve 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade for a period, and the Glens took over the lines of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada in the vicinity of Mensil-Touffrey (Hill 190). The 8th Battalion, 1st Polish Armoured Division relieved the Glens on the night of August 13 / 14, and the Battalion concentrated at Bretteville.

An orders group was held at 0900hrs, August 14th with orders for the Battalion to be in the Forming Up Place at 1100hrs. The Glens moved to its position five miles South-East. Here they were met by Priests (armoured personnel carriers) and the Battalion mounted them. They moved out with enemy fire raining down on them and machine gun and rifle fire coming in from both sides. After reaching the scene of the armoured battle, they dismounted. Further movement was met by German tanks. Fifteen Germans were killed and as many captured. By 2000hrs, the site was calmer. D Company had moved across the River Liaison to a new position. The night passed quietly.

The next morning, August 15th, A and B Companies proceeded on a mopping up exercise moving Northwest to the Village of OUILLY-TESSON. Then the whole Battalion moved down the River Liaison towards the vicinity of Soulangy with D Company and one platoon of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Machine Gun) remaining on the high ground as left flank protection. Later in the night, they

moved five miles South-East to Espancy to take over from the 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade and to protect the left flank of 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. Fatalities in the operation were fourteen. At Espancy, the Battalion spent a couple of quiet days resting.

The Glens left Espancy hurriedly on August 18th and marched northwards along the Falaise- Lisieux road. There was a halt at Louvagny at 1500hrs where they were met the cook truck. Unfortunately, no time to eat, and they were on the move again but to the South. The cook truck followed. The role of the Glens was to assist in stopping the Falaise Gap by holding a line behind the River Dives. The hot meal was finally realized in the evening at Beaumais where they spent the night and the following morning.

Then came another move to Trun to be under the command of 10th Brigade, 4th Canadian Armoured Division at 1000hrs on August 20th after a trying and hazardous journey in extreme darkness. Within a few hours of reaching Trun, the Prisoner of War cage was overflowing. The pocket was being closed. The SD&G Highlanders were helping in the closing the Pocket.

On August 21st, B Company situated at Magny on the River Dives fought a stubborn, bitter battle with a larger German force. The force overran a platoon position, but the company counterattacked with assistance from the machine gunners of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa and was successful. A German general was captured along with 400 men. Two men of B Company who were captured returned with 70 German prisoners. Eight Glens were added to the S.D.&G. Highlanders' Honour Roll.

The 3rd Canadian Infantry Division on August 23rd prepared for the long move to the East and the crossing of the Seine. The Glens moved out at 1325hrs along roads lined with wrecked enemy vehicles. The first stop was the village of Family. The 8th Canadian infantry Brigade crossed the River d'Orbec at Orbec and established a bridgehead through which the Glens and the rest of 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade were to move with the Battalion leading. The route was to be by Orbec – St. Germain – Thiboutiere – St. Vincent-du-Boulai – St. Martin de Tilleul. The Battalion moved off at 0830hrs on August 24th. They kept moving, marching the last 30 miles in mud and rain without food, to Boisney when food reached them at 0930hrs on August 25th.

The next day, August 26th, they moved to the vicinity of Elbeuf. The 3rd Canadian Division was ordered to make a crossing of the River Seine below Roeun and assist in blocking enemy escape routes. The HLI of C led the Brigade, followed by the North Novas and the Glens. Once across the Seine, the Glens took the lead and were the first Canadian troops to enter Rouen on August 28th. The Glens keep advancing reaching Eu on September 1st.

On September 2nd their brigade, the 9th, was ordered to continue its rapid pursuit along the access Eu, Abbeville, and Montreuil. The move stopped at Acheux-en-Vimeux. Next morning, the Glens boarded troop carrying vehicles and continued with the crossing of the Somme River.

Boulogne was the next objective. The Glens were assigned to the area West of the Liane River and North of the village of St. Etienne. On September 5th, Brigade set the Glens next objective to seize the city of Boulogne. The Battalion was ordered to move towards Herquelinque, but they came under heavy mortar and shell fire about a half mile from their objective. At Mont Lambert, the Battalion was stopped suffering 32 casualties and dug-in in front of Le Hamel and Tinghen. After time spent patrolling, the Battalion was relieved by the North Novas on the evening of September 9th.

While the 7th Brigade was to move South and mop up the coastal defences, 8th Brigade was to expand westwards from Foret de Boulogne through the upper half of the town. 9th Brigade was to make the assault across the river and secure the Outreau peninsula. The Glens relieved the HLI of C on September 12th and took over from one unit of the 8th Brigade. The Battalion would be making the assault with flamethrowers – a first.

On September 12th after a hurried move, the Glens reached Conteville shortly after midnight and settled down in the new location. The next three days were spent in testing the strength of the defences and in preparing for the role of the Battalion to take in the reduction of Boulogne. The tasks for the Glens were split into three phases.

On September 17th, the operation got underway. In Phase 1, the Battalion moved forward just West of La Capelle-les-Boulogne and crossed the Start Line. By 1030hrs, Phase 1 was reported complete. Phase 2 was the capture of the Boulogne Citadel. At just the right time, a Frenchman appeared wishing to show the D Company Commander a secret tunnel that led into the heart of the Citadel. The Company Commander took a platoon with him and lead the capture of about 200 prisoners.

By September 20th, 43 German officers and 4023 other ranks had been captured in the Boulogne area. The Battle of Boulogne was ended on September 24th. On September 29th, the Glens were in reserve and moved back to Beuvrequen.

The Clearing of the Scheldt Estuary 30 September 1944 – 8 November 1944

The 1st Canadian Army had fought over 400 miles since D-Day. With its Line of Communications stretched to the limit, the opening of the Port of Antwerp was recognized as essential to reduce its length. This required the clearing of enemy from the Scheldt Estuary. On October 3rd, the Glens embussed for the long journey across France to Belgium. The destination was Zaffelare outside of Ghent. Training was started immediately on a canal with amphibious vehicles capable of carrying 25 fully equipped infantrymen.

The estuary of the West Scheldt formed the seaward approach to The Netherland ports of Flushing and Neuzen and the Belgian port of Antwerp. Antwerp was in Allied hands while the enemy held the area around Flushing and Breskens. With German defences on either side of the estuary, it could not be used.

The 4th Canadian Armoured Division was to carry out feint attacks along the Leopold Canal to contain the enemy there. The 3rd Canadian Infantry Division with its 7th, 8th, and 9th Infantry Brigades was to attack across the Leopold Canal and the Savojaard Plaat. The 9th Brigade was to assault across the Savojaard Plaat and establish a bridgehead southeast of Hoofdplaat to Biervliet and clear the area excluding Ijzendijke and Schoondijk but including Breskens.

Troops under command of 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade were a machine gun company and a mortar platoon of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, one platoon of Engineers, one company of 23 Field Ambulance, and a Royal Canadian Army Service Corps platoon of the Brigade. Extensive artillery support was provided. An assault group of British Engineers was provided as well.

The Brigade Commander's plan was with the troops under his command to assault across the Savojaard Plaat in "Buffaloes" from the area of Neuzen. The North Novas and the HLI of C were to make the initial

assault landing in the beach area about 4 kms East of Hoofdplaat and, as soon as possible the Glens would push through them to capture the area including the town and harbour of Hoofdplaat.

With the rest of the Brigade, the Battalion moved down the Ghent – Terrneuzen Canal on October 7th towards Nuexen and the marshalling area in preparation for the assault which was planned for the early hours of October 8th.

At 0600hrs on October 9th, the North Novas and the HLI of C made a successful assault landing. Enemy heavy guns harassed movement towards the canal. It was not until about 0900hrs before the Buffaloes were loaded and started across the water. The bridgehead was shrouded in smoke laid down by our artillery and smoke generators of the RCE. The small bridgehead was being counterattacked continually from the area of Biervliet, but the Battalion managed to get safely down in the beach before much damage was done. Then hell broke loose with heavy artillery and mortar fire being fired on their small foothold. Casualties mounted rapidly. Then orders were given to push out of the bridgehead into the Hoofdplaat objective. The fight went on until October 10th. During this time, the Glens were severely shelled by German guns stationed near Breskens. From October 9th to the 11th, 13 Glens were killed and 46 wounded.

On October 12th, 13th and 14th, The Battalion advanced to capture Hoogenweg and Roodenhoek. After consolidation of positions at these locations, the assault on Nommer Een, Slijkplaat, Sasput area was undertaken on October 17th. The HLI of C moved off first light, then the Glens were to pass through them. A Company's objective was Nommer Een. B Company with D Company were to attack Sasput. C Company was responsible for Slijkplaat. D Company after the capture of Sasput was to exploit the position. This required assaults over dykes and open ground with all available fire from the enemy. One platoon suffered 18 casualties. In two days of fighting, the Glens suffered 14 killed and 36 wounded.

In the evening of October 19th, the Glens moved to Hoofdplaat to regroup in preparation for another operation. While there, a decision was made that the town of Breskens must be captured by the end of the week. There would be no rest for the Glens. The Battalion was to spearhead the operation and take Breskens in a single battalion front. 7th Brigade would put in a feint attack and the North Novas and HLI of C on the left flank of the Glens would move westwards to divert the enemy. Plenty of artillery support was provided. The difficulties were enormous, but the reduction of Breskens was mandatory to the Allied plan.

The Glens attack on Breskens started at 1000hrs on the morning of October 21st with C Company on the right and A Company on the left. An hour later, both companies were on their objectives for Phase 1 of the operation. B Company then moved up and passed through A Company in the Phase 2 while C Company pressed on to capture the objective assigned to D Company. A German MG on the left axis threw enfilade fire on the companies and particularly a bridge that B Company had to cross for its next objective. B Company got into Breskens and successfully cleared houses along one street. Eventually all of B Company were in the enemy pillboxes on the edge of Breskens. C Company on its way into Breskens reported two German anti-tank guns that had been bypassed had come to life. D Company dealt with them.

By 1800hrs, it was dark, and the operation slowed down. Phase 3 had not been completed, but the attack was progressing favourably. D Company was in the harbour with platoons strung along the pier. By 0900hrs on October 22nd, the town of Breskens was finally held by the Glens. The Battalion had gone

down the main street clearing house by house. C Company was given permission to push towards Fort Frederick just beyond the town, A patrol got into the Fort. Later, the North Novas captured the Fort on October 25th.

There was still much mopping up the done in the area of Breskens, and troops were subjected to some harassing fire. After three days spent clearing up the area, the Glens moved back to Biervlet for a short rest. On the 29th, 9th Brigade concentrated south of Groede for the participation in the final stages of the clearing of the Scheldt Estuary.

On October 31st, the Battalion moved to Retranchment for the purpose of ejecting the enemy for Knokke and Heist. The bridge over the canal had been blown, so it became necessary for A Company and B Company to cross in boats without supporting arms while the Engineers hurriedly constructed a bridge that C Company and D Company eventually used. The Battalion moved forward with slight opposition from the enemy. A Company proceeded along the dyke to Fort Hazegras. With the drawbridge down, they took advantage to enter the Fort. They captured a number of Germans.

Hundreds of Germans were taken prisoner as the Glens advanced to Knokke with four Glens killed and six wounded. On November 1st, the Battalion was busy mopping up the town of Knokke. The place was honeycombed with strong points, so progress through the town street by street was difficult. A high velocity shell hit Battalion Headquarters resulting in 22 casualties including four civilians. The Glens suffered five fatalities.

November 3rd was spent cleaning up the Battalion. Barbers were busy since there had not been a haircut for 25 days. News was received that the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division was to be guests of the city of Ghent. In new uniforms, the Glens moved out at 1000hrs on the 4th. The Glens arrived in Ghent at noon to roads lined with smiling and waving citizens.

The Winter Fighting 9 November 1944 – 23 March 1945

With high morale, the Battalion moved after lunch on November 9th on the way to Grave, Holland. It was a confusing move. DUKWs were to pick up the men on the afternoon of the 10th for the final stages of the journey, but they did not arrive until 2020hrs. The Battalion started off leading the Brigade at 2100 hrs. They would take over from the 2nd Battalion, 505 Para Infantry Regiment, U.S.A. This unit was stationed at Persingen and Groenendaal in the vicinity of Nijmegen. The turnover was accomplished by 2300hrs on November 11, 1944. Some German troops in the area had been in the enemy lines when the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division had fought in the Falaise Gap.

Shortly after the Glens were comfortably installed in their area, Divisional HQ decided to switch brigades every seven days, with two brigades in line and one in reserve spending time on training. Reinforcements were being added and undergoing a new induction system. Personnel could proceed in small numbers on 48-hour leaves to Brussels and Ghent, and a special allotment had short leaves to Paris. The Glens were active in patrolling seeking to take prisoners.

On November 22nd, 9 Brigade was relieved by 8 Brigade and the Glens went back to the vicinity of Beek for a seven-day period of training, kit inspections, bath parades, pay parades, etc. On November 26th 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 windows in Battalion HQ and nearby buildings. Four died as a result and 15 men were injured. Several civilians were casualties including two little girls killed.

On November 24th, the Battalion took over from The Regina Rifles, 7 Canadian Infantry Brigade, and were quartered in dugouts. Then on December 4th, the Glens took over from the North Novas. The posts of A Company and B Company were in Germany! Fifty reinforcements arrived the next day and started their training program at B Echelon. The policy of holding the line, constant patrolling, and the defence of the Nijmegen Bridge continued throughout the month. Enemy patrolling was also frequent and aggressive being both fighting and reconnaissance patrols. They were met by a system of coordinated fire by mortars, machine guns, and small arms. At this time, the Germans pushed into the Ardennes sector. On December 27th, the North Novas took over the sector while the Glens moved over to the right flank.

There were no fatal casualties in January, but 59 members were wounded. During the month, there were daily patrols and occasionally the battalions exchanged places. On January 19th, C Company captured the spotlight by reporting several midget enemy submarines in the River Waal. The Anti-Tank Platoon with a six pounder blew up one of them and disabled another. The Glens set a record of being the first infantry unit to sink a submarine. On the same afternoon, D Company reported objects floating down the river. These were mines launched by the Germans to hit the Nijmegen Bridge. Despite these efforts, the Nijmegen Bridge remained firm and intact.

In the middle of January, the Battalion had a short rest at Driehuzen and then took over from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. A certain number of 48-hour leaves were granted to Brussels, Ghent and Paris.

On February 10th, 1945 after a night of heavy rain, the Glengarrians moved to a concentration area on the beaches at Beek. Here they boarded on Buffaloes and Weasels (amphibious craft) heading for Bindern and Cleve to breach the enemy's defensive system, The Siegfried Line. The operation began under appalling conditions, a combination of mud, floods, narrow approaches, and congested assembly areas. The order of battle for this operation, Operation Veritable, included seven infantry divisions, three armoured divisions, three independent armoured brigades with appropriate artillery support. The Battalion progressed through difficult conditions to their start line at Mehr.

A Company and C Company crossed the Start Line at 1630hrs on February 10th meeting light opposition as they went forward to mop up Donsbruggen. A Company followed C Company through Donsbruggen and the two companies pushed along the main road leading to Rindern. C Company struck into the edge of the town overrunning a 75mm anti-tank gun and clearing the streets. A Company had been ordered not to wait in Rindern but to go straight through. Accordingly, No. 7 Platoon led off from the town but only part of the platoon had got through before the Germans started running out of houses that had been bypassed. A Company then went through all the houses on the street clearing them of Germans. The Germans later launched a counterattack with paratroopers in the C Company area, but this was successfully beaten off.

B Company and D Company were in Battalion Reserve for Phase 1 of the operation. Early in the morning of February 11th, they moved forward across about a thousand yards of ice-cold water up to their waists. After touching the edge of the Reichwald Forest, they went into Rindern. The Germans had opened all

sluice gates and blown dams with the water rising every minute. This was the battle that first earned the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division the title of "Water Rats".

A Company and C Company were pressing along towards the Spoy Canal against stiff opposition. They were joined by D Company. By 1100hrs, Support Company and A Company were within 300 yards of the canal, and at 1345hrs, Brigade was notified that all companies were on their objectives.

The Unit was flooded out of three different places in one day and had to be evacuated by Buffaloes on February 12th. The following days were devoted to patrol work around Spoy Canal. Some men rode about on bicycles in a foot or two of water.

On February 18th, the Glens were moved by amphibious craft to the vicinity of Cleve. Leaving Cleve, the Battalion took over the position of the Dorset Rifles and on February 19th relieved The Royal Winnipeg Rifles. During the night, the enemy staged a counterattack in the area which was quickly dispersed by mortar fire. A V-1 rocket bomb fell into the battalion area on February 20th.

On February 22nd, a series of meetings were held in relation to Operation Blockbuster. Roads were still flooded and many of them were mined. Daily deliveries of ammunition and food to the companies were difficult and dangerous. The night of February 25/26 was shattered by the roar of an incessant artillery barrage as the enemy was softened in preparation for the coming assault.

At 1615hrs on February 26th, the Battalion moved to the Forming Up Place position at the crossroads near Am Lindchen and started off an hour and a half later. B Company led with D Company, C Company, and A Company following headed for the village of Udem as the objective. There were still ten pockets of resistance to be cleared along the way to the Start Line, and this task was assigned to B Company and D Company. By 1915 hrs with darkness approaching, the Glens were in Hollen. At 2100 hrs, the attack on Udem was launched with B Company on the left and D Company on the right. B Company consolidated in its objective in Udem at midnight after crossing an anti-tank ditch on the main road by a bridge that was intact but charged with explosives. A Company followed through mopping up as it went. D Company met trouble going through a hollow with the Germans dug in all around on the high ground firing machine guns and bazookas into the hollow. The Company took up positions and returned fire though things looked bad for a while. C Company came up to help relieve the situation. A barn with Germans about 50 yards from C company was set on fire with a flamethrower on a carrier. The Germans fell back to Udem closely pursued by the two companies. The North Novas and The HLI of C had attacked Udem from different sides, but the whole of 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade was firmly in possession on February 27th. The town had been badly smashed up with only a few buildings remaining intact. The next day, February 28th, The Battalion left Udem to participate in the Hochwald operation – Operation Blockbuster.

On March 2nd, it was announced that Lieutenant Colonel Rowley had been appointed Officer Commanding, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division Training School. Battalion command was assumed by Major Gemmel with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Lieutenant Colonel Rowley had led the Glens since the breakout in France with great gallantry.

Although forced to withdraw from the South edge of the Hochwald Forest, the enemy had now taken up previously dug defensive positions. They were mutually supported and held in strength by the troops of

the German 7th Paratroop Division and directly supported by mortars, rockets, 88mm guns, and heavy artillery.

The concentration area of the Glens was under fire by the mortars, artillery, and rockets so the men dug in for the night having been informed by Brigade that no move would be made until well after first light. But the Battalion only left for the Start Line at 1845hrs on March 4th with A Company on the right, C Company in the centre, and D Company on the left, with B Company in Battalion Reserve. The advance began across 900 yards of open ground. Fortunately, the Glens set out about a half hour late because flanking companies and The HLI of C were not in position. The Germans plastered the whole area of open ground in that half hour with mortar and artillery fire.

The attack by A Company led South from the perimeter of the Hochwald across open ground. Shortly after crossing the Start Line, the left-hand platoon was pinned down by machine gun fire and a concentration of bazookas. Half of the platoon was knocked out. Another platoon struck towards the right flank of the Company's objective. The enemy tried to break up the attack with machine gun fire from four dug-in positions and forced the platoon to ground. The platoon commander crawled forward at grave personal risk right up to the enemy position and cleared out the machine gun nest with grenades. This enabled the platoon to move forward and, fighting furiously, gain a foothold on the Company's objective. When the platoon was consolidated on the objective, the enemy counterattacked and overran its rear section killing the Bren gun crew. The enemy took up positions in an antitank ditch. The platoon commander with a Bren gun fought his way to his overrun section killing and wounded German and forcing the remainder to withdraw.

A section commander took over command of No. 8 Platoon after an initial attack that caused severe casualties and the loss of the platoon commander. During the withering crossfire from four enemy machine guns and through intense mortar fire, he quickly reorganized his men, killed, and routed the enemy, and reached the platoon's objective. While consolidating the position, the enemy attacked in force, driving one section from its position. Once again, the acting platoon commander led his men, killing eight and wounding 15 of the enemy causing such confusion that they were forced to withdraw.

Meanwhile, No.7 Platoon had gone down a narrow road and found it honeycombed with German infantry. One section cleared the right side and another the left. Then they came under heavy fire from some houses 75 yards in front. They attacked with Bren guns until PIATs (Projector Infantry Antitank) were brought up to give added force. By the time the situation was in hand, there were only 12 men in the platoon still unscathed.

B Company went through before the Germans counterattacked but could not fire because A Company could not be seen because of the glare of burning houses. It was here that elements of the Carrier Platoon supporting B Company noticed that it was unable to advance. A German self-propelled gun was taking advantage of the situation. The carriers were rallied with their machine guns blazing and set the gun on fire. When the Germans counterattacked during the night, the carriers held their fire although under severe mortar fire until the enemy was within 300 yards of the Battalion forward positions. Then they opened up, and the enemy was driven off leaving many killed and wounded.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada now relieved the Glens who moved over to put in another attack going East. C Company got tied up with some opposition on its right. A Company was scheduled to go through C Company but could not move until the situation was stabilized. C Company cleared their

objective at first light, and A Company went through them, while B Company went through D Company clearing the rest of the forest. In the afternoon, The Royal Winnipeg Rifles went through the Glengarrians to their left. They were later relieved by the Glens.

On March 11th, the Battalion moved on troop carrying vehicles to the Reichwald for regrouping.

During this period of **The Winter Fighting** from November 9, 1944 to March 23, 1945, the Glengarrians suffered 20 fatalities and 71 members wounded.

On to Victory 24 March 1945 – 29 December 1945

At 0500hrs on March 24, 1945, the four rifle companies, Support Company, and Tactical Headquarters embussed for the crossing of the Rhine River and proceeded to the marshalling area East of Calcar. The Rhine was crossed without incident in Buffaloes (manned by British soldiers) at 1100hrs. In the evening, the Battalion changed position with 7th Battalion, The Black Watch. The Glens were now in the unique position of being on the left of the whole Allied advance.

On the morning of March 25th, the Glens moved northwards to Grietherbusch to secure the left flank of the Brigade. D Company reached its objective without opposition, but B Company ran into machine gun fire and had to send for flamethrowers. The role of B Company was to subdue an enemy strongpoint at Tillhans. Five hundred yards from the strongpoint, the enemy opened fire with heavy and medium machine guns. The Company was forced to go to ground and unable to advance. No. 2 Section of the Carrier Platoon moved forward flushing the enemy fortifications and trench system chasing the defenders in terror from their positions. This bold action allowed the Company to advance. They attacked another fortified position on the left flank. In this action, a colonel of the 6th Parachute Battalion and his adjutant were taken prisoner.

A platoon was assigned the task of taking a fortified house on the outskirts of Greitherbusch. Surrounding the house were trenches and machine guns emplacements and the windows of the house were loopholed. It was a determined enemy. As the platoon advanced, it came under intense fire from concealed flanking positions as well as from the objective. The platoon was pinned down. A private exposed himself to machine gun fire to get tanks to help in taking out the strongpoint. He guided the tanks to the platoon position under heavy fire. With armoured support, the strongpoint was assaulted. Although the German resistance was fanatical, it could not withstand the determination of the attack, and the position was taken. The night in the Greitherbusch area was remembered by the tremendous Allied artillery activity. The whole horizon was lit by continuous flashes of guns and rockets.

On the following morning, March 26th, the Battalion pushed through the H.L.I. of C and began working North of Bienen, a place where the North Novas had encountered heavy opposition. Tactical HQ set up in a large building with a capacious basement that was filled with war-weary civilians.

The Rifle Companies headed North, clearing up the villages of Grewenshof, Hueth, and Phalenhof. Patrols pushed as far as Offenburg. A Company had attacked northwest out of Bienen and secured positions in the battalion's forward area of Zu Bienen some thousand yards in front of the Battalion. Things appeared quiet. But when the Company Commander was checking the consolidation of the forward platoons, the enemy suddenly launched a counterattack in strength supported by five Tiger tanks. With the attached Forward Observation Officer (FOO) killed, a Glen officer who had been in the artillery directed artillery fire against the enemy which was in the perimeter of the Company's defence.

The Company Commander and the acting FOO controlled the Company in its position and directed artillery fire to such good effect that the enemy became demoralized and was forced to retire in confusion leaving the tanks without support. Then the Company Commander and acting FOO concentrated their attention on the enemy tanks. The fire was so intense that the entire enemy force retreated badly mauled and depleted. This decisive coolness and determination allowed the assembly of the force to go East of the Rhine without interruption or impediment.

During the night of March 27th / 28th, the enemy, German paratroopers, had evacuated the town of Bienen and contact with them was lost. A patrol of a corporal and two men was detailed to reconnoitre forward and establish the enemy's position. The night was dark and the enemy's determination to resist was fanatical. The route for the patrol was to proceed across country to several houses and ultimately to a position that was surrounded by a moat rendering it easily defensible. The patrol investigated a number of houses without finding any trace of Germans and then proceeded to the main position where the enemy was detected. The patrol elected to enter the area rather than leave it with the simple information that the Germans were there. Exercising extreme stealth, the patrol crossed the moat without being seen and started to search the buildings. In the second house they checked, they were discovered by the Germans who opened fire with Schmeissers and rifles. Quickly retiring to the shadow of a hedge, the patrol took up a position and waited until the enemy closed to a range of five yards before firing. They killed the German nearest to them and once again, instead of retiring – although the Garrison had been aroused – the patrol continued to fight it out and inflict several more casualties on the enemy before withdrawing. Due to the daring and bravery of these three Glens, they were able to inflict heavy casualties on a well defended enemy stronghold.

The Tactical HQ moved forward again to a farmhouse. The German civilians were quiet and obedient although their sympathies were quite naturally with the German soldiers. On arriving at the farmhouse, steps were taken to bury three dead Germans found on the property. The civilians said that the Germans had retired to Emmerich. With the area being farmland, the troops spent any free time in search of eggs.

The Tactical HQ moved into the Emmerich area in the early morning of March 31st, and the Companies went through the war shattered town with the North Novas on their left flank against a weakening and patchy German resistance. Emmerich with a peacetime population of 13,000 was entirely in ruins. Even as the Battalion advanced, the Canadian artillery was sending shells into the debris of buildings in the line of advance. A heavy pall of smoke hung over the ruined town. Badly disorganized, the enemy fell back and in a few brief minutes Emmerich was left behind as the Glens surged forward in pursuit of the foe.

A couple of hours later, the Battalion crossed the border into Holland. It was pleasant to once more be back on friendly soil. The Glens passed through S'Heerenberg at 1100hrs on the morning of April 1st and went forward to Zeddum where the Tactical HQ was established.

Between March 24th and March 31st, seven Glens were mortally wounded.

On April 3rd, troop carrying vehicles conveyed the men to concentrate in the area of Laackepel where they started the assault towards Zutphen. Some stiff fighting was experienced as the Battalion pressed forward through Toldijk, Bloemendal, Vierakker, and Leesten. There were many spots where the enemy had dug in, and he strenuously resisted the advance of the Canadians. Heavy machine guns and 88mm

fire made progress slow. In some cases, the Germans had erected machine guns in trees. Others were in village cemeteries where heavy tombstones could be used for protection. The Brigade fought for each yard of ground. The North Novas and the HLI of C experienced the same dogged resistance as the Glens. The Canadians continued their pressure through April 4th slowly driving the enemy backwards. Battalion casualties were 11 killed and 19 wounded. (The 11 Glens have been honoured in Leesten since 2005 by having ten streets and one bridge named in their memory.)

By April 6th, the Glens were in front of Zutphen, but orders arrived to move to the West and take up a position South of the town. The Battalion went into Zutphen on April 7th by three footbridges due to the original structures having been destroyed by the enemy. There were still several snipers in the town, and shells occasionally rolled in. Four Glens were mortally wounded. The Glens did not waste much time in Zutphen. Leaving on April 9th, they passed the HLI of C at Bathmen, secured the bridge South of Lettele, and took possession of the town without opposition. Without a halt, they proceeded towards Zijkanaal which was crossed near Zandbelter at 1800hrs on April 10th. On April 11th, there was a long move to the vicinity of Raalte.

At 0900hrs on April 12th, the Glens moved forward from Raalte as the Division's advance guard. The troops were mounted on the tanks of the 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers). The task was to seize and hold a bridgehead across the Overijsselch Kanaal. This also involved the liberation of Heino. At Dollenhock, the road was blocked by an impassable crater ten feet deep and 30 feet long. This obstacle made a detour necessary. A quick reconnaissance was made and an alternate route with two bridges close together and suitable for all types of traffic was found at Wetering. Proceeding by the route, the Battalion advanced towards Heino under enemy artillery and mortar fire while some small arms fire came from the town. A Company and D Company moved into the town under fire from heavy mortars and self-propelled guns with an enemy observation post in the church tower. B Company went forward and consolidated in the northern sector of the town.

The Battalion dispersed of necessity at the Heino action, quickly reformed, once again mounted the tanks, carriers, and other vehicles, and started off on a wild ride for the bridgehead over the Kanaal. Though the ride only took ten minutes, they were the most uncomfortable because the left flank was wide open, and the troops did not know when they might run into the enemy.

Efforts to destroy the bridge had been partially successful, but one girder was discovered that was still uncut. The unexploded charges on this girder were removed by the Pioneer Platoon. B Company swarmed across at the double and took up position at the crossroads just beyond the Kanaal. They were opposed by some enemy, partially recovered from their surprise. They were driven off to the northwest where they went to ground on a wooded hill feature. B Company was quickly followed by D Company who occupied a small wood on the left flank. C Company took up a position on the right flank in some buildings. A Company, passing through B Company, established themselves in a small square wood on the right of D Company's position.

The infantry was hardly in position when the enemy reacted vigorously at 2045hrs. There had been no time to bring over supporting arms. One jeep had been almost literally lifted across the gap by manpower when the enemy put down a concentration of mortar and artillery fire on the battalion site.

Simultaneously, either tanks or self-propelled guns in the dusk of the woods moved against B Company and D Company. Three reconnaissance cars passed completely through A Company and moved into the

Battalion's position. The artillery fire was not all one sided. The positions had been too recently occupied to prepare Defensive Fire (DF) tasks. In a matter of seconds, the Commanding Officer's artillery representative was bringing fire down to within 50 yards of the forward troops to the great discomfort of the enemy. The Commanding Officer brought down 4.2" and 3" mortar fire as close to the forward lines as was safe with these weapons.

The Battalion's Second-in-Command collected a force of drivers, snipers, cooks, and batmen who despite the enemy fire manhandled the six-pounders over the Kanaal. The crews dismantled the .50 caliber Brownings from the carriers and raced forward. The teamwork in this action was perfect.

Two outposts of D Company who had established themselves in houses were forced to withdraw into the company position when the enemy set fire to the houses. The enemy reconnaissance cars that had completed a circle around A Company's position sent up flares and for a moment it seemed to be a signal for the attack to come in. With weapons loaded and stout hearts, the Glens waited grimly to give them a savage reception. Three machine guns and two 20mm guns fired continuous bursts raking the trees and the ground in the forward company area. However, shortly after this outburst, the reconnaissance cars withdrew. The enemy were then obviously in confusion, and the troops could hear them shouting and arguing amongst themselves apparently as to the best way to get out.

The ammunition was running low when the three enemy cars penetrated the battalion area. A lance corporal realizing the ammunition situation was serious, managed with great difficulty to manoeuvre his carrier across the broken bridge which was only partially repaired and under constant enemy mortar fire. Ignoring enemy fire, he brought his carrier up the company position.

The Battalion was on the move again on April 14th passing Dalfsen in the early morning. South of Meppel, the Glens were fascinated by local people wearing the native dress peculiar to the province of Friesland.

Just past Steenwijk, there was a good example of the efficient work of the Dutch Underground movement. Two civilians arrived a Battalion Headquarters to speak to the Commanding Officer. They were representatives of the local underground, and they had received a telephone call over a secret line from the leader of the underground movement in Leeuwarden, who wished to speak as soon as possible with the first British officer to arrive in the area. The Leeuwarden Underground furnished much valuable information regarding the condition of the roads and bridges and the disposition of the German troops remaining in Leeuwarden that was extremely useful in connection with the attack of 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade on the city.

The Battalion pushed towards Leeuwarden on April 15th but was delayed by blown up bridges over the many canals and streams, necessitating detours from time to time. The city was entered on April 16th. The Dutch Underground had done highly commendable work in this area, and the city was free of enemy by the time the Glens arrived. They received a remarkable welcome from the heroic citizens of the city.

On April 18th, the Battalion advanced to Veenwouden where company areas were allotted around the village. Church parades were held on Sunday, April 20th. Eighteen assault boats arrived for the Battalion, and Order Groups were held for Operation Duck.

On April 27th, The Glens once more moved into Germany for the last big operation of the war, Tactical HQ being set up in Bingum, just across the River Ems from the city of Leer which was strongly held in German hands. Machine gun nests lined the riverbanks. The plan for crossing the Ems at Leer was simple. Two companies were to assault across the river from West to East and establish themselves on the dyke. The HLI of Canada and the North Novas were to put in assaults directly into the city from South and North. Artillery was to pound the dyke and the city and lay down smoke along the dyke. The remaining two companies of the Glens were to follow the two attacking companies. Engineers were to take the troops across in assault boats.

Shortly before 1500hrs on April 28th, A Company and B Company filed through the gap in the dyke and sheltered in a disused brickworks by a small inlet to the River Ems. The entire battalion could have sheltered there. It was an ideal launching site. The Engineers were warming up the outboard motors of the boats. Each boat was designed to hold an assault section. Some of the engines would not start. Men had to be shifted to spare boats and some of those engines stopped.

The Artillery was giving the German dyke on the other side of the river the usual treatment with the occasional shell falling short, but not enough to do any serious damage. The smokescreen laid on the distant dyke did not seem as dense as the troops could have wished it to be. Finally, the shelling ceased, and the boats pulled out into midstream, travelling downward in echelon. The general plan was to swing into the shore at the same moment, thus presenting many targets, but wind and current combined with heavy and accurate automatic fire and rifle fire from the dyke brought many difficulties. One of the boats capsized in midstream, hurling the men, three who could not swim, into the river. The current carried the struggling men North. The Embarkation Officer ran along the bank despite a dangerous minefield. He dashed through the minefield, shedding his pistol and belt, and dove fully clothed into the swift flowing river. He assisted two men to safety and returned for the third. The latter was completely exhausted, and it was necessary for the officer to support him entirely, although he himself nearing exhaustion after entering the current for the third time. Regardless of fatigue, the weight of his water-soaked clothes, the officer brought him safely ashore.

The men had been instructed to leave the buckle of the web belt open to facilitate shedding their equipment if necessary, and to inflate their Mae Wests. Unfortunately, some of the men did not adhere to the instructions.

An exploding shell near the boat of the B Company Commander caused him to be thrown into the water with his signals set and maps. The Company Second-in-Command who was observing the crossing at the embarkation point set about to take command of the Company. He called up a spare boat and ordered that he be taken across the bullet swept river without delay to assume command of the Company.

The landing was not effected with precision. B Company had borne most of the weight of the small arms fire. A Company landed waist deep in water and weeds and badly bunched in the B Company area.

There could have been some excuse at this point for confusion, but the Glens had non-commissioned officers who could take in the situation immediately and act on their own initiative without waiting for orders. There were many examples of this as well as privates who stepped up to the challenges. In fact, the whole of this battle was a superb example of magnificent, coordinated teamwork by a fighting battalion, each man thoroughly knowing his work and his weapons, alert to exploit the slightest

advantage given by a situation, his main thought being to get on the objective as quickly as possible in the most effective way.

Leer was burning in many places thanks to the accurate calling down of fire by the attached artillery officer who was squeezed into a slit trench on the top of the dyke with his signallers. Despite casualties, A Company and D Company were soon on their objectives, and B Company and D Company were able to pass through into the city.

The HLI of C and the North Novas had made the crossing with slight opposition. The Glens' B Company went ahead into the city to keep up with them. The Acting Company Commander had no radio since it had been lost in the river, and it was difficult to guess how B Company was getting along. A Company's Commander sent his Second-in-Command into the city to ascertain the situation while he tried to get the Commanding Officer's authority to follow them in.

C Company and D Company made the crossing at 1530hrs, suffering a few casualties from small arms fire while in the boats. They passed through A Company and went into Leer leaving A Company in the drizzling rain on the dyke. A Company moved into the city shortly afterwards with many of the men quite fatigued owing to the weight of their equipment and water-soaked clothes. As they advance to their second objective, they were subjected to very accurate fire from snipers. After mopping up, they settled down for the rest of the night in the home of what appeared to have been that of a high-ranking naval officer.

After B Company's headquarters was set up in the city, the Company Commander came back to the Company still soaking wet with orders to take over the area from the North Novas.

D Company has some advantages from a series of deep irrigation ditches making it possible to advance in a series of bounds from ditch to ditch. They were however exposed to crossfire from the enemy while in the open. D Company moved into the city on the right of C Company and remained on the northern edge of the city until the next afternoon.

Distinguished service was rendered by the Medical Officer. His Regimental Aid post was established near the loading point which was observed by the enemy and subjected to intense fire. Later, the Medical Officer led a skeleton force of stretcher-bearers across the river in an assault boat and carried on his work with courage and cheerfulness. One of his stretcher-bearers attended 17 wounded while under shell, mortar, and machine gun fire. On one occasion while moving back from the line with a stretcher, a shell landed and exploded under the stretcher wounding the patient and the two stretcher-bearers. Neglecting his own wounds, he immediately applied first aid to the other two and, calling for an additional man, carried on with his work of evacuating the wounded. Then, he rejoined B Company on its way into Leer. Not until B Company had firmly consolidated there, did he report to the Regimental Aid Post for attention to his own wounds.

Twenty-two were killed and 46 wounded during this operation.

There were half hearted attacks by the enemy on April 29th and April 30th as the companies moved through the Leer mopping up. By the afternoon of April 30th, the Battalion was beyond Leer and into the open country once again.

The intention of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division remained the same being the capture of Aurich and eventually the assault of Emden. To these objectives, the troops pressed relentlessly forward. The 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade and the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade were on the right of 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade. In 9th Brigade, the Glens approaching Oldersum were the only ones in the path of the opposition.

Two Glens were killed on May 1st. The next day came the cheery news that Hitler was reported as dead.

As darkness fell on May 3rd, A Company and C Company with carriers and anti-tank guns were occupying the village of Riarchum. The mortars were back about 500 yards, and B Company and D Company were in reserve. At dawn on May 4th, the Germans counterattacked at Riarchum. 9th Brigade's lines of fire were interlocked across its front with 3" mortars, 4.2" mortars, medium machine guns, 25 pounders, and medium artillery. All this fire power was brought down in a matter of seconds. The attack was quickly broken up, and the dead were piled in front of the Canadian lines.

On May 4th, orders were received that "all offensive action is to cease forthwith except for artillery, which is to be used with discretion". However, the Germans seemed anxious to use up all of their ammunition. B Company was engaged in fighting until 2100hrs. At the height of the firing, B Company Commander received orders not to fire unless fired on.

The Commanding Officer contacted Brigade Headquarters for instructions as to the procedure if the Germans bombardment continued. He was informed that there must be no retaliation without sanction from Superior Authority. The enemy artillery stopped at 2345hrs on May 4th. On May 5th, information was received that surrender terms had been signed at Field Marshall Montgomery's Battle Headquarters providing for the unconditional surrender of German troops in Northern German, Holland, Denmark, and the Friesen Islands and Heliogoland.

On May 6th, The Glens moved into the city of Emden where they took over a very fine German barracks. The enemy soon evacuated from their sumptuous quarters, and the Glens acquired the German's lavish supply of alcoholic beverages. C Company had a busy time almost at once. There was a Prisoner of War camp containing 100 Russians and 60 Dutch. The Russians were very drunk. A miniature riot broke out at the camp on May 7th, and a platoon from C Company was sent to quell it. The Unit Adjutant's Office took over the military government of the camp. The Allied Military Government and Civil Affairs officials arrived to take control of the civilian population. The main task of the Battalion was the assembly of all enemy arms and ammunition in one central dump. This was a task not without its dangers. A Glen was accidentally killed on May 10th.

Church parades were held on Sunday, May 13th. At 1330hrs, a battalion parade was held where the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Rockingham took the salute. The Brigade Commander spoke to those on parade and explained the different projects then occupying their attention – the Canadian Far East Force, the Canadian Occupation Force, and Demobilization in Canada. The Corps Commander, 2nd Canadian Corps, spoke in similar terms at an inspection on May 14th.

The Battalion moved from Emden on May 16th, 1945 for Appeldorn by way of Gronigen and Deventer. Another move on May 19th took the Glens to Hilversum. They marched into town with the Pipe Band leading. A victory parade at The Hague, voting for the Federal Election, and presentation of medals at Maple Leaf Stadium took place.

Early in June, the Battalion paraded at Maple Leaf Stadium where this group picture was taken.



450 Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders of the 1st Battalion in Hilversum at the Maple Leaf Stadium - het Gemeentelijk Sportpark - on June 3rd 1945
PhotoCollection J Sullivan - Ontario - Canada

Photo courtesy Wigger KF van der Horst, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

On June 6th, the anniversary of D-Day, when Hilversum was *en fête* and a flag was on every house, the Glens marched in a parade at Utrecht.

Many members volunteered for service in the Canadian Far East Force and for the Canadian Occupation Force. On June 14th. The Battalion moved to a camp at Elspeet. The men were sorry to leave the friendly town of Hilversum.

At Elspeet, men were cross-posted for repatriation. Then it was to Zeist and Nijmegen. They finally left for Calais, France enroute to England on November 7th arriving in the United Kingdom on November 10th.

They were billeted at No. 9 Repatriation Depot between Portsmouth and Southampton in England and sailed for Canada on the S.S. Queen Elizabeth on December 22nd. The Queen Elizabeth arrived in New York U.S.A. on December 28th after a rough voyage that delayed the crossing by two days. A welcoming party from Cornwall, Ontario was there to meet them. The Battalion arrived in Cornwall the next day, December 29th, 1945. Many friends of the Regiment and local dignitaries were at the railroad station to greet them. An impressive ceremony was held there.

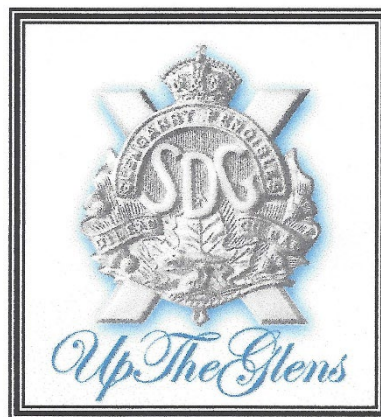
The Battalion's last parade with 366 soldiers was a march to the Cornwall Armoury. Many relatives and friends of the returning soldiers sought places of vantage and waited impatiently for their arrival at the

Armoury. On the arrival at the Armoury, relatives, loved ones, and friends broke through the ranks and descended upon the happy soldiers like a wave.

The 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders was disbanded after 5 years, 6 months, and 19 days in active service.

Their Record

1. They never failed to take an objective.
2. They never lost a yard of ground.
3. They never lost a man – taken prisoner – in an offensive action.



Served – Fatalities – Wounded

Served

214 officers including 15 attached from Supporting Corps

3088 other ranks including 33 attached from Supporting Corps

Fatalities

23 officers with Unit, one in another unit

282 other ranks with Unit, 21 in other units

Wounded

729 all ranks

(Two - 4 times. Nine – 3 times. 51 – twice.)

1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders' Battle Honours

Normandy

Caen

The Orne (Buron)

Bourguébus Ridge

Faubourg de Vaucelles

Falaise

The Laison

Chambois

Boulogne, 1944

The Scheldt

Savojaards Plaat

Breskens Pocket

The Rhineland

Waal Flats

The Hochwald

The Rhine

Zutphen

Leer

North-West Europe, 1944-1945

Individual Awards Received by Members

Distinguished Service Order with Bar	Two
Distinguished Service Order	Nine
Order of the British Empire	One
Member of the British Empire	Four
Military Cross	Nine
Distinguished Conduct Medal	Two
Military Medal	Twenty-One
British Empire Medal	Two
Mentioned in Despatches	Twenty-Four
Croix de Guerre Avec Etoile Vermeil (France)	One
Croix de Guerre Avec Etoile Bronze (France)	Two
Order of Orange – Nassau (The Netherlands)	One
Bronze Lion (The Netherlands)	One

This History of the 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders

This is an abridgement of the history of the 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders taken from:

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The latest edition of the Regimental History is:

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Brigadier General (Retired) W.J. Patterson, OMM, CD

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