

# OATMEAL RAG

## THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA



THE CAMERON ASSOCIATION IN CANADA  
 THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA  
 MINTO ARMOURY, 969 ST. MATTHEWS AVE WPG, MB R3G 0J7

### ***STILL WINNIPEG'S ONLY HIGHLAND REGIMENT !***

#### 2020-21 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Steve MacMillan	351 Ainslie St Wpg, MB R3J 2Z7	<a href="mailto:sdmacmillan@shaw.ca">sdmacmillan@shaw.ca</a>	204-831-0542
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#### 2020-21 ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Past Pres	Taffy Gray	Headingley, MB R4J 1B1	<a href="mailto:taffygray@hotmail.ca">taffygray@hotmail.ca</a>	204-889-5655
Special Projects and Recruiting Director	Don Steenson	TBC	TBC	TBC
Sick, Visiting, and Last Post Director	Len Johnson	1094 Bay Rd St. Andrews, MB R1A 3L1		204-757-2023
Foundation Trustee/ Conscript	Marc Gautron (2020-2022)			

**\* LAST POST \***



Pte Walter Dunkin  
Dieppe Raid 19 Aug 1942  
Vertus Cemetery, France

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH**  
**10 June 1921 - 9 April 2021**

It was with great sadness that the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada learned of the death of the regiment's Colonel in Chief, Field Marshall His Royal Highness Prince Philip.

On behalf of the regiment, its soldiers and officers, serving and retired as well as its advisory board, we offer our deepest condolences to the Royal family, the people of the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth.

Prince Philip took an active interest in the life of the regiment for more than half a century and maintained his involvement with his Cameron regimental family even after his retirement from public service.

His Royal Highness was named as Colonel in Chief to the regiment's parent regiment, the Imperial Camerons, in 1953 and he was subsequently named Colonel in Chief to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada July 1, 1967, during Canada's centennial.

"The regiment wishes to extend heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth, to their children and grandchildren and extended family," the regiment's Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Atwell said.

"More than anything, we will be always be grateful for the many contributions His Royal Highness Prince Philip made as our royal patron," the CO said.

"He served as Royal Patron to hundreds of organizations, military and civilian, all of which felt the warmth of his support as benefactor. As a regiment, we took confidence in his interest as we marked our milestones, surmounted our challenges and celebrated our achievements. He was a man who enjoyed military life and deeply respected its people and traditions, never missing a chance to show his appreciation to those who served," the CO said.

The Prince's most recent involvement was a foreword for the 2018 bagpipe music book, Queen's Own Cameron Highlander of Canada Standard Settings of Pipe Music. He also contributed forewords for books that recorded the regiment's history.

The first, published in 1985, was *The Lion Rampant*. The second book, published in 2010, was *Winnipeg's Ladies From Hell*.

His Royal Highness made an annual donation, without fail, to the upkeep of the regiment.

In recent years, he made personal visits to the regiment, in 2002 and 2010, during Royal Tours that brought the Queen and Prince Philip to Winnipeg.

The 2002 visit was unscheduled but ,determined to see his regiment despite a hectic agenda, His Royal Highness slipped away for a 20-minute stop at the Cameron Officers' Mess at the Minto Armoury Headquarters of the 38th Brigade. There he was presented with the first Cameron Coin to be struck in the regiment's history. Many in the regiment, then under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Walsh, along with its honoraries and patrons in the regimental advisory board, took a great deal of pleasure in meeting with his Royal Highness.

In 2010, the Royal Couple marked the Cameron's centenary with another personal visit.

"His Royal Highness Prince Philip will be remembered with affection and honour by the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada for his long service, his unflagging support and his many contributions to the regiment," LCol Atwell said.

Appointments:

Appointed Colonel in Chief to the Imperial Camerons, originally the 79th Regiment of Cameron Highlanders in Britain, 1953.

Appointed Colonel in Chief to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and the Seaforth Highlanders, 1967.

Visits to Winnipeg:

Inspected his Cameron Quarter Guard on the grounds of Government House, 1978.

Accepted a presentation mounting of the first-struck Cameron Coin at the officers' mess, at the Minto Armoury during a Royal Tour, 2002.

Visit to the regiment during a Royal Tour, 2010.

Books:

Foreword to The Lion Rampant: A Pictorial History of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, 1985.

Foreword to Winnipeg's Ladies from Hell: How the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada fought, remembered and grew in the regiment's first century of war and peace, 2010.

Foreword to Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada Standard Settings of Pipe Music, 2018.

## **GEORG-WILHELM FRANZ CARSTED**

[https://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-296788/CARSTED\\_GEORG-WILHELM](https://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-296788/CARSTED_GEORG-WILHELM)

**October 20, 1930 - Wriezen, Brandenburg, Germany**

**March 3, 2021 - High River, Alberta**

George passed away peacefully at the age of 90.

He lived through the war years in Germany and was involved in the defence of his home town from the advancing Red Army in the spring of 1945. Following the war he returned to school in Wilhelmshaven and graduated in 1951. He immigrated to Canada in June, 1951 to find employment as a lumberjack with Great Lakes Pulp and Paper. He met his wife Helen while he was a patient on her ward at McKellar General Hospital in Fort William. After moving to Winnipeg, he enrolled at the University of Manitoba, got married and started raising a family, all while working various jobs to help pay the bills.

On graduation from the Faculty of Education, he got his first teaching job at Glenlawn Collegiate in 1958, and was a classroom teacher until moving to the position of vice-principal in 1966, a position he held until 1981. From there he moved on to become the principal of Hastings Junior High, and then to Glenwood School before retiring in 1987.

While progressing in his teaching career, George took on a second career with the Canadian Army Reserve, enrolling as a Rifleman with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. He was commissioned

as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1959, and from there rose up the promotion ladder to become the commanding officer of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1970. He concluded his military career in 1981 as Deputy Area Commander, Militia Area Prairie with the rank of Colonel.

When George retired from his position as principal, he and Helen moved initially to Vancouver Island before finally moving to Calgary, Alberta. Here he worked on researching and writing an extensive family history, a project that continued until his admission to hospital in December 2020.

He will be missed by his five children, Caroline, Frederick (Cathy), Douglas (Evelyne), Elizabeth (James) and Eric, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. George will be cremated and interred later this year beside Helen at Edenbrook Memorial Gardens.

*Obit as issued by George's family on Mar 06, 2021*

### **REV. ROBERT (BOB) HENRY O'NEILL**

<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/chapellawn/obituaries/rev-robert-bob-henry-o-neill/66823/>

May 22, 1923 – May 19, 2021

Peacefully, just three days prior to his 98th birthday, Robert Henry O'Neill went home to be with his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Robert was born at his maternal grandmother's home in Stradbally, Co. Laois, Ireland, immigrating to Canada in 1927 with his parents, Robert and Agnes, and brothers, George and Fred. They settled on a farm south of MacGregor, Manitoba. Bob attended MacAuley School where he often carried in wood for the stove and drinking water.

He served in the Second World War with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, entered the theatre of war in France and was seriously wounded. After returning from the war he married Mary Louise Hillis on December 22, 1945. They farmed near Pratt, then moved to MacGregor in 1950 where Bob drove the Co-op fuel truck. He was active in the community; served on the Town Council, was a Boy Scout leader, refereed for the adult hockey team and was on-ice 'policeman' for the local skating rink.

In 1957 both Dad and Mom gave their hearts and lives to the Lord Jesus. They attended MacGregor Bethel Church where Dad taught Sunday school and was the Sunday School Superintendent for many years. Dad soon felt the call to ministry. God placed in his heart a love for First Nations people and a passion for them to learn about His love. He began conducting services in homes on Long Plain and Sandy Bay Reserves and was invited to be guest speaker at many reserves throughout Manitoba and NW Ontario.

To better support his growing family Dad took a meat cutting course at The Manitoba Institute of Technology (now Red River College). After graduating he worked at Hardy and Buchanan at Stafford and Grosvenor. When the family moved to Winnipeg in 1966 Dad would work during the day and also follow his calling by travelling long distances to preach several nights a week. After a time Dad left his job to minister full time. He did missionary work in Haiti, was a

pastor at MacGregor Bethel Church for seven years and continued to provide spiritual guidance to First Nations people. Dad officiated at many weddings, funerals and baby dedications and visited hospitals, jail and homes to bring prayer and hope. And Dad could pray. He spent many hours reading his Bible and daily, with Mom, praying for all his family by name. He would pray for people on a roll that he kept and also for those who requested special prayer.

Dad had many interests and talents. Using his carpentry skills he built the family home in MacGregor. He also tilled the soil for a large garden and tended his roses and daisies with care. His rendition of the hymn 'Sweet Hour of Prayer' on the harmonica could give you goose bumps.

In later years Mom and Dad moved from Armstrong Avenue to River Ridge Retirement Home. After Mom passed away in 2017 Dad lived at Fred Douglas Lodge until his passing. The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all the nursing and health care assistants on Oak and Willow units who so tenderly cared for Dad. Thanks also to the nursing manager, Kerron, for her consideration of our family. He leaves to mourn his passing those who will miss his presence.

Dad loved God wholeheartedly, loved his family unreservedly, and provided an example of faith, love and commitment. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Given the current pandemic situation a private interment took place. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Please contact Chapel Lawn between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to receive the link for the live streamed recorded funeral service.

*Editor's note: Bob's son Barry informed me that although he believe his Dad had little involvement with the army after returning from the Second World War, he did speak highly of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, and it was obvious that he was proud to have served his country and been part of the Camerons. Barry also passed along this gem: " In 2019, my wife and I were in France and were attempting to follow the route that my Dad would have taken as part of the Camerons' campaign. On August 7th, we were driving through May-sur-Orne, and were taken completely by surprise by a sign stating there would be a commemoration of the liberation of the town during the Second World War. We asked permission to attend and when the officials discovered that my father was part of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, I was asked to participate in the actual ceremony. This was quite a moving event as we hadn't fully realized the impact that the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, in particular, played in the lives of these townspeople. After all these many years, they continue to remember, honor and show their appreciation for the Camerons."*

*Full obit available at the link above.*

**WIDOW'S / WIDOWER'S SUPPLEMENT:** There is income supplement for widows /

widowers. They will mail out a form for the survivor to complete. You will need proof of marriage and the soldier's regimental number etc. and the spouse's income tax forms. If the financial situation is going badly the survivor should contact Veterans Affairs.

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/family-caregiver/death-and-bereavement/survivors-pension>

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/family-caregiver/death-and-bereavement/income-replacement-benefit-survivors>

*Links current to 30 April 2021*

**FUNERAL AND BURIAL ASSISTANCE:** The Veterans Affairs Canada Funeral and Burial Program ensures that eligible Veterans receive dignified funeral and burial services. The Last Post Fund (LPF), a non-profit organization, delivers the program on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada. To be eligible for the program, Veterans must meet both military and financial criteria.

<http://www.lastpostfund.ca/EN/Home.php>

*Link current to 30 April 2021*

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

**Mavis Coutts** (Gord's widow) – Good days, bad days. If you're interested in visiting her please get in touch with her daughter Brenda first. Hugh can put you in touch if you don't have her contact info.

**Taffy Gray** (Cold War PPCLI & Camerons) – Taff is doing ok but has very limited energy these days. Betty is looking after him quite well they are playing by the rules. Steve MacMillan, Don Collins and Hugh chat with them when they get the chance. Taff is on Facebook from time to time so feel free to say hi !

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

<http://thequeensowncameronhighlandersofcanada.net/links.html>

*Link current to 30 April 2021.*

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

Hello to all. I trust that everyone is well and that you are getting your vaccinations. After 16 months of this pandemic we are starting to see an end in sight but not as early as we would like.

**The dedication parade committee has decided to move the parade to early May 2022.** We want all members of the Cameron family to be able to attend and feel comfortable being there. So by next May this pandemic will be over and we can celebrate the completion of the monument to our fallen the way it should be done.

I want to bring you up to date on the state of the work on the monument. The last of the engraving will be done in early July. All of the landscaping has been completed along with the fencing and the concrete work. Also the new lighting has been installed on the pathways. It all looks fabulous and we can be proud of what has been accomplished.

We still hope to hold the reunion on 17 Sept at Minto and the golf on the 18<sup>th</sup> but again we are at the mercy of the health restrictions that may be in place at that time. We will wait and see and keep you informed.

On 13 July the Camerons held a change of command at Minto where LCol Hugh Atwell,CD did the handover to LCol Jon Baker,CD. We want to thank LCol Atwell for his dedication to make the unit better and stronger and we wish him well in his new posting to CFB Suffield.

Have a great summer and we will hopefully be able to get together in the very near future. Stay safe.

My best regards,

Steve MacMillan

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

Our VP is still very busy boy but sends his regards. Keep up the good work Fred !

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

This is an important thing to do for the health of the Association. There are still lots of former Camerons out there that we don't know about for various reasons. Just because you or they weren't Second World War or Korea veterans doesn't make anyone less important to the Cameron Association. Please help us locate them and bring them back into the fold.

Also, there are still families of First and Second War Camerons asking for more information about their kin. If anyone can help out please send the Oatmeal Rag editor what you have or ask to be put in touch directly and he'll do so.

Thanks very much to those fine souls who have donated some of their hard earned dollars to keep hard copies of this newsletter going out to the guys and the widows of our guys without computers. A few were Second War men but some are younger former Camerons who live in areas with poor internet service, dial up, or are just plain happy to be off of the grid.

**Subject: Jack Postlewaite**

May 12 2021

Sandy Bruce (daughter of LCol Barry Bruce, former Cameron officer) contacted us re obtain-

ing a copy of Wpg's Ladies from Hell for Jack Postlewaite, another former Cameron officer and pal of her dad's who now resides in Calgary. Bob VanDewater and Hugh were able to assist and Jack has been enjoying his light reading. In fact he's enjoyed it so much that he's written us a wee bit for "The Rag" which you can find down below.

### **Query on Behalf of Veterans Affairs**

05/28/2021

Hello,

My name is Pascale Malenfant, and I am a researcher with Veterans Affairs Canada. I'm currently working on a project involving the lives and legacies of the 11,000+ men inscribed on the National Canadian Vimy Memorial in France. I'm in the midst of researching Private Alfred de Laronde, who enlisted as a member of the 79<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders of Canada in 1915. He was born in St. Laurent, Manitoba, and died during the Battle of Arras in 1917. He was the son of Jean Baptiste and Elise de Laronde, and was of Cree-Metis descent.

As he was a member of the Cameron Highlanders of Canada even before his enlistment, I was wondering if your organization might be privy to any information surrounding Private Alfred's life (or even current family members) that's not currently available online? Any information, stories, photos or artifacts would be of great help, as we are hoping to use this research for exhibits and programming at the Vimy site in the future.

Thank you again for your time, and I look forward to hearing back from you!

Sincerely,

**Pascale Malenfant, Student**

Researcher / Chercheuse

Commemoration | Commémoration

Veterans Affairs Canada | Anciens Combattants Canada

[pascale.malenfant@veterans.gc.ca](mailto:pascale.malenfant@veterans.gc.ca)

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca>

*Editor's note: Can anyone out there help with this request ?*

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

**Duncan M. Anderson (Cold War Camerons)** – Duncan and former Sgt-Maj **Ron Williams** continue to try to keep the ANAF functioning in MB. They look forward to having us by Unit #303 Rockwood (a block north of Grant Park on Wilton) once the All Clear has been sounded.

<https://303rockwood.com/>

**Padre Buck (PKO & ISAF Camerons)** – The Padre sends his blessings and job well done to those who worked on the monument. Perhaps a special service featuring extra Communion wine is in order for your next visit Padre ?

**Gord Fonstad (Cold War Camerons)** – Just fyi, I cropped my head out of the 'sweatshirt photo', because I looked like a deranged reject from a 'grade b' zombie movie. I wasn't smiling, in fact I was darned-near frowning/scowling, and I needed: (a) a haircut; (b) my beard trimmed; and (c) my face ironed.

Things here are going okay ... well probably better than just okay.

I'm surviving the 'Covid Pandemic', at least the changes/irritations that have occurred due to totally-justifiable (in my tiny little mind) restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the virus. Being retired and on a pension probably made it easier on people in like-circumstances, because we didn't have to worry about our jobs and whether or not there would be a continuing income. I've had my two shots, but couldn't believe how long it took to get them.

I'm also surviving the current 'heat wave'. My house has two skylights in the roof, one 4'x6' and the other 2'x4' ... and they both face just west of due-south, so catch the hot sunlight for most of the afternoon. 'Air-conditioning' consists of opening every window in the back and front of the house ... and pray that there's a breeze that will blow through the place. It's blowing hot air - but then again I often do too - which doesn't cool the place, but at least keeps fresh air coming into and out-of the place ... assisted by window fans when possible.

Cheers!

Gord

**Lcdr Galeung "Chairman" Lau (PKO Camerons - Current)** – Has let us know he's Ottawa bound. He is going to staff college, but the format changed from full residential to half and half. So he got a move to Ottawa to do the DL and when required he will TD to Toronto.

**Jack Postlewaite (Cold War Camerons)** Thank you so much for providing the wonderful Camerons second book on the regiments history. I have the "Whatever Men Dare" book but wasn't aware there was a second. I understand Sandy Bruce requested and then sent me the book. Her concern that I might already have a copy and so I thank her for taking the chance and sending it anyway.

I joined the cadets in 1951, Took courses at Dundurn and Shilo summer camps every year and moved on to the regiment in 1955. I was cadet Major and C.O. Maj. Jim Free was cadet liaison from the regiment. In those days if you had enough training in cadets you got to join the regiment as a corporal so I had to take the Sr. NCO courses, which I used to teach. I was only 18 years old at the time so I spent a few years as an NCO before applying for officer training. I received my commission in 1969, Captain qualifying, the CD. Got transferred by the company I was working for a couple of times, got back to Wpg but didn't go back in. I had a chat with Doug Ludlow at the 75th anniversary party who suggested I talk to Sandy Will about getting

back in. I did, and rejoined. A few months later my company transferred me to Calgary where I have been ever since.

My last contact with the regiment is when I heard of Barry Bruce's passing. I was the guy who got Barry into the Camerons and we drove together for years on Wednesday nights. I let Gerry know that my wife and I would be attending and was asked if I would say a few words at his celebration of life which I did. While I was in Wpg I Took most of my still usable kit, kilt, trues, sporrans etc and gave them to the QM.

Had a laugh at Sandy Will's description (page 127) of an experience I had sitting on a barracks bed.

Saw a obit in the Calgary Herald a few weeks ago of George Carsted's passing. Wish I had known he was living in Calgary, We could have lots of experiences to share

I loved my years with Camerons. Proud to have served.

**Ken Smith (SWW & Cold War Camerons)** – Hugh spoke to ken on 27 june and he's doing just fine. He's given up on the highland fling on doctor's orders along with several other things including, much to our dismay, travel to Winnipeg or any other places. He has gracefully accepted his lot, and is still delighted to hear from the Cameron family.

As always, all the best from Ken to all of the Cameron regimental family !

**Anthony Spittachine (PKO Camerons - Current)** – Anthony has been in contact with us of late. He's on to his 3<sup>rd</sup> trade and wearing RCAF blue now, which means his current shell scrape usually rates about 4 or 5 stars on Trivago. It's a tough life after the infantry....

Congratulations were sent from the following former Camerons to all those who worked on the new Cameron monument:

**Blair McGregor (Cold War Camerons, PKO Seaforths), Brian Lowe (Cold War Camerons), Christian Colton (Cold War Camerons, PKO Camerons, ISAF 38 CBG HQ), Dan Richter (Cold War & PKO Camerons & PPCLI), Frederick Carsted (Cold war Camerons), Shaun Delamere (Cold War & PKO Camerons & still serving), Lorne Warawa (Cold War Camerons, PKO & ISAF RCR)** all send in their congratulations to those involved on a job well done !

**\* 2020-21 DUES (\$20) STILL PAYABLE \***

**\* 2021-2022 DUES COMING RIGHT UP ! \***

**The annual Cameron Reunion Renewal Plan may be back. Keep an eye on the web page and an ear open !!!**

On 17 and 18 Sept 2021 you will hopefully be able to pay your dues in person at the Cameron

Reunion in Minto Armoury, or at the Cameron Golf & BBQ on the Sat at the Assiniboine Golf Club !

Of course of any time now you can connect with Association Treasurer **David Gibson** (per the cover page of the Oatmeal Rag) who will take your payment.

If you are not sure of your status please contact Dave and he'll either be happy to take your \$20.00 payment or be most unhappy that he doesn't get to take any money from you - yet - this year.

You can also use interact e-Transfer to pay your dues to our Treasurer, Dave Gibson. It works rather like Pay Pal for those of you familiar with that service. Here's link to one of the the web page options:

<http://interac.ca/en/interac-e-transfer-consumer.html>

### \* CAMERON ASSOCIATION REPORT \*

#### **\*\*\* Reminder you too can become a LIFE MEMBER of The Association \*\*\***

Short version, any member in good standing of at least 65 years of age will be allowed to buy a Life Membership in the Cameron Association in Canada for \$250 Cdn as of our last AGM. This money is restricted to being spent on an "as earned" basis, which is to say The Association cannot have a grand party one year and be broke the next. We can only add the \$20 per year of the \$250 to each succeeding year's budget. We have 2 such members at this time.

#### **THE CAMERON FALLEN COMRADES MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY : HAS BEEN HELD OVER UNTIL MAY 2022**

The call has been made. The original call was that this ceremony would be for the whole Cameron family: the Unit, Advisory Board, Association, Cadets, and the regimental family writ large by which we mean the surviving families and friends of the Camerons and our Fallen Comrades.

We don't have as good a handle on everything as we'd like just yet. There is no guarantee for example that the cadets will even be allowed in person training, much less standing a parade with the regiment. Travel for the families who are so inspired may not yet be available. An so on.

We ask you to bear with us. After all, it's not like we're standing in a muddy trench at Stand To wearing gas masks and wondering where the Rum ration has gone this time.

#### **\* CAMERON REUNION 17-18 SEPT 2021 \***

The CO has graciously supported our plan for the Cameron Regimental Weekend 17-18 Sept. It features the annual Cameron Reunion on the Friday night, the annual Golf Tourney on the Saturday afternoon followed by the usual BBQ dinner.

**Please be aware that the Friday Reunion at Minto is still in question because a change in Provincial Health Orders can knock it off the agenda in short order. We'll do our best to keep you posted but please keep watching the Cameron web page for any fastball changes.**

Ullamh !

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

The Unit web site is still up running but as previously mentioned it is still undergoing a long overdue updating and upgrading. We are expecting it to be up and running sometime in the near future. Mr. Nat Weir-Wakely is doing the work, and I think everyone is going to be very happy with the results of his work. And yes, Nat is another former Cameron so it's sort of in house and being done by one of our ain.

<https://www.dsl.ac.uk/entry/snd/ain>

The unit web site continues to be a point of contact between ourselves, the families of those who served in the Camerons, and those who become interested in the Camerons for one reason or another. We continue to have requests through the unit web site for information from families about former Camerons. If anybody can help out with them please feel free to do so. You can find the web site at:

<http://thequeensowncameronhighlandersofcanada.net/>

*Link current to 06 July 2021*

Speaking of the Unit web site, the photos from the old Cameron Picasaweb site can be found again by going to the [Photo Gallery link](#) on the [Regiment](#) part of our web site.

*Links current to 06 July 2021*

**"The Cameron Highlanders of Canada Memorial Site, Recording the History of the Regiment, 1914-1919"** web site is not functioning at this time. It was one that every Cameron should have looked at over the years. Thank you so very much for an unparalleled job of helping out the Cameron regimental family Mr. McLean, and hopefully it will reappear at some time.

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

**REGIMENT:** The regiment is still somewhat constrained in it's activities these days. The CO, RSM, and all of the Cameron staff are doing what they can to keep training interesting and admin running smoothly, and looking forward to better times coming.

Now that the RSM's chair is filled by long time Cameron CWO John Dawson apparently it's time for a change of CO's. As many of you will know, LCol Hugh Atwell is from the Ottawa Cameron regimental family and has been an excellent fit with us as we stand the Camerons back up and regain our old traditions.

He's done an excellent job as our CO, and we're very sorry to see him go now that the time has come, as come it must. The Change of CO's occurred 13 July, and there was a form of ceremony such as is possible during these times. I'll hold off on fully introducing our next CO at this time, but rest assured he's another good fit and has served with the Camerons in previous years. Granted he didn't wear our cap badge at the time but he's still a fine fit for all that and all that. Those of you who want a good preview of his history and have Facebook can get a bit of it by paying close attention to Lt-Col. Fortin's speech at the link below.

For those of you on Facebook, here's the link to the ceremony:

[Cameron Change of Command Parade 13 July 2021](#)

Thank you very much sir, and all the best in your future postings to you and your family.

**BATTALION & "A" COMPANY UPDATE:** Most troops are in training these days. Many are part of incremental training at the Unit, but there are still some working with 2 PPCLI per previous reports. Early to mid June will see many of them transition to Summer Courses or leadership training courses.

We have several who will be going on leadership qualification courses, and vitally for the Unit's health a few that may come back qualified as Captains.

One of the seemingly eternal holdups is the lock the medical system still has on recruiting. It currently takes 147 days for each medical, Reg Force or P Res, to be approved. We have some 24 in the pipeline. Unlike other units and elements who have gotten some 20+ recruits each through the process, we have only gotten 3 through. Quite plainly we have our work cut out for us.

**Pipes & Drums Update:** Nothing to report of late.

**Cameron Kit Shop:**

Still in a bit of a state of flux at last report while the Camerons get it sorted out with post-WITG kit items and so on. There is a new pattern of T-Shirt that will be available in Men's and Women's sizes. A new pattern hoodie is also in the works as revenue becomes available to

produce them. Covid will be an issue for a while yet, but hang in there !

*Editor's Note: MWO James Clark reports that the Kit Shop will be doing a Clearance Sale, starting by the time you read this. Please email the editor for more details.*

**\* CO'S REGIMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD NOTES \***

The Advisory Board has continued to provide excellent support to the Regiment as a whole from financial support for in house programs and events to assistance with recruiting and retention. The Board has also made several recommendations for funding Kit Shop, Cadet, and other projects like the Monument to the Cameron Foundation.

Thanks to all who serve with the Board !

**\* REGIMENTAL FOUNDATION 2019-20 NOTES \***

The Regimental Foundation has been far more than merely very helpful with the Cameron Monument and continues to help the Association with the funding and project supervision.

And driving force too. Most of you wouldn't begin to believe just how much energy and effort the retired version of Bob Vandewater has put into this project, and those of you who do would still probably be stunned at his site inspections of the project. They're a thing of beauty to behold, trust me.

There have been some large bills at this point and only a few more big ones will be coming soon. You can still help if you are so inclined.

**Cheque to the Cameron Foundation:** This can be done by sending your donation of \$25 Cdn or more (because while lesser amounts are welcome, to get a tax receipt it MUST be \$25 CDN or more) to:

The Cameron Foundation  
180 Kingsway Ave  
Wpg, MB R3M 0H2

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to the Foundation. Every dollar helps !

**\* CAMERON CADETS \***

The Cameron cadets are doing OK at last report from Capt. Phil Atkinson. 5 Officers and 2 CI staff paraded virtually with the corps. 83cadets were registered with the corps of whom 45 cadets attended most virtual training. The ACR was held on 17 June, virtually of course. This

year's local training is now complete.

The cadets have the option to participate in virtual summer training this year. Also, RCSU(NW) is promoting day camps with cadets in our region.

[The Walker Wood scholarship](#) was promoted via the web page to the cadets in January. The award will be promoted again to the cadets graduating high school this year.

Regional Cadet Support Unit (NW) direction to the cadet corps is that they will not be a vector for the transmission of CV19. This will somewhat limit the Corps' activities at the start of this training year.

Information about the corps activities can be found at [www.407army.ca](http://www.407army.ca)

The cadets can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

*Editor's Note: Maj. A. Flook from the RCSU (NW) offered a "job well done" to Capt. Atkinson and his staff. The Major gets to see what the other cadet corps are doing and how well (or not so well) they are doing with their online programming, and apparently the 407<sup>th</sup> Cameron cadets are getting better regular attendance than most cadet corps and squadrons in our area.*

#### **\* REGIMENTAL REINFORCEMENTS \***

Travis and Christine have welcomed Keira Marie Kennedy into their family. Congrats and

#### **\* OTHER REGIMENTAL NOTES \***

#### **Rounds Completed:**

Covid Round 3. The usual activities have had to be conducted by other means.

#### **Cameron Kirk Parade**

Had to go online this year, but very nicely done. Definitely one for the history books, or whatever format such things go into now for future generations. If you missed it here's the link to the service from the First Presbyterian Church YouTube channel:

Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders Service - February 7th 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Zk01zAAtog>

#### **Incoming Rounds:**

**DELAYED AGAIN -**

**THE CAMERON FALLEN COMRADES MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**Save the Date is now: MAY 2022, specifics to follow.**

**\* VETERAN'S LINKS \***

**Before You Go - Information for Reservists to assist their Release from the Canadian Armed Forces** This site is set up for guys like us. The P Res guys who are trying to figure out just what in the heck is supposed to happen. It is available to guys who are already releasing, are long out, etc.

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/caf-community-support-services-for-members-reservists/before-you-go.page>

*Link current to 20 Jan 2021*

**Registered Disability Savings plan (RDSP)**

If you have left the military with a disability that qualifies you may wish to look into this plan:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/registered-disability-savings-plan-rdsp.html>

*Link current to 20 Jan 2021*

**\* LIGHT READING \***

**Relentless Struggle: Saving the Army Reserve 1995-2019**

<http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vol20/no2/page74-eng.asp>

Ok, at nearly 470 pages this isn't really a "light" read it's more of a frustrating slog. It can be both disturbing and enlightening, as well as just plain annoying to find out just what in the hell was going on in Ottawa during those times – but while the book may end in 2019 I certainly got the feeling that the relentless struggle is not over. This is a book I think well worth reading for all those served then and who are serving now too.

Book review from the Canadian Military Journal

“...Champion’s book stands alone in its field. In large part, he exposes us to how ‘sausages are made’ within the halls of various Canadian military headquarters, and on Parliament Hill. I spent many of the years in question on the Chief of Reserves and Cadets Council, and while I could see the end result of the problems we faced, the reality of why much of that happened was hidden behind a bureaucratic curtain. Champion has torn much of that curtain away. More importantly, he exposes us as to how fragile an organization the Army Reserve is and how its well-being is too often dependent upon serendipity, or the vagaries of a single politician, commander, or even a single staff officer. It is an excellent, well researched and well written volume that ought to be mandatory reading for all officers.”

*See the link above for the full review by Colonel (ret'd) Wolfgang (Wolf) W. Riedel, OMM, CD, QC*

**Vicissitudes of War (1916-1917) – Book 4**

<https://www.darrellduthie.com/the-book/>

Author Darrell Duthie's Malcom McPhail First World War series has a new installment coming soon ! For those of you patiently waiting, the fifth book in the series will be out in the fall. Also a hardcover AND audiobook version of *Malcolm MacPhail's Great War* is coming slightly before then. For those of you not familiar with the series the hero is a young Canadian Int Officer who gets around the Canadian Corps just in time to witness/assist in the making of our great battles of the First World War.

**\* HISTORICAL NOTES \***

**Subject: Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Payton Thompson DSO**

10/05/2019 07:26 AM

*Recommended reading: War Diary, Camerons of Canada Feb 1945*

*Any/all of the other fine Cameron histories written by Queen-Hughes, Tyler, or Burt*

Gentlemen,

On September 25, 2019, I was allowed to provide a battlefield tour for John Thompson and his wife Darlee Ann, said they had come specially to the Netherlands to follow in the footsteps of John's uncle Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Payton Thompson DSO CO or the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada at the age of 23 the youngest battalion commander in the Canadian army.

Killed In Action in that role at the age of 24 during Operation Blockbuster on 26 Feb 1945.

After we had picked up John and his wife at Nijmegen train station we drove towards Groesbeek where we stopped for a short while at the St Anna school where on 14 Feb 45 the HQ of Lt Col Thompson was located.

In Groesbeek we visited the Canadian War Cemetery and John left a very nice plaque at the grave of his uncle. For John and his wife, this was a very beautiful but emotional moment.

After the visit to the Canadian Cemetery, my college explained the start of Operation Veritable in a place where one can look far over the Rijkswald to get an impression of the terrain that the men in 45 were facing.

Then we drove to Bedburg Hau in Germany and I explained at various places where the HQ was and what actions were going on by the Canadian army and specifically the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders fights to support the fighting around Moyland woods and Loisdorf.

Our tour continued to where the Cameron's FUP was at the start of Operation Blockbuster, with the help of maps and photos I was able to make clear what the plans of General Simonds were with his attack towards the Hochwald.

Thanks to the War Diary that I received from you as a result of care, I went with John and his wife to the place where his uncle died on 26 Feb 45 around 06:00 in the morning.

This was also a very emotional moment for John and his wife, but it gave them a very good picture of the environment where Canadian soldiers fought so bravely in February 1945.

After this emotional visit we visited the farm for the same night from 25 to 26 Feb 45 Sgt Aubrey Cosens of the Queens Own Rifles performed his heroic act for which he later posthumously received a Victoria Cross.

The tour was continued by visiting Paulsberg where I explained phases 2 and 3 of the Canadian attack on the Hochwald Gap and then drove to hotel Nagtigall to discuss the story of the attack on the Hochwald Gap in detail and discuss its story of Major Fred Tilton.

Then we dropped John and his wife back at the train station in Nijmegen, after a beautiful day that had a lot of emotions in it but which gave John a very good look at where his uncle fought in 1945 and where he died.

As battlefield guides these are the nicest assignments to be allowed to do and without your efforts and help I would never have made this such a success, thank you for this.

**I told John that I would make a small report with some pictures as a thank you and he had no problem with that. You can use the pictures and text. And if there are people of fallen soldiers in the future who, just like the Thompson family, want a tour, you can always give me my name and e-mail address.**

I am the last photo in which I provide a battlefield tour to young officers of the Dutch army in the context of martial history. Again I will use the War Diary of the Cameron Highlanders of Canada for this and again my thanks for this.

Rhineland Battlefield Tours

Captain Roel Dekkers  
[roeldekkers@gmail.com](mailto:roeldekkers@gmail.com)

Picardie 71

6591JB Gennep

Netherlands

Mob: 0630673099

*Editor's Notes: My apologies to all concerned that it's taken so long to get this story out. In fact I have a bit of a backlog of stories that I'll try to get out as space, time, and my own energy permits.*

*Second, if I ever get the cash & time together I'll be going on one of Capt. Dekker's tours !*

**Verification of Former Service DS Solution:** You can check the FAQ at this site for more information but here are the basics:

“28. I used to be a CAF member. How do I get my file? Service records of retired or released CAF members are kept at DND for only a few years before they are sent to Library and Archives Canada.

So if you recently retired or have recently been released from the CAF, and suspect your records might not yet be held at Library and Archives Canada, you may contact the DND Directorate of Military Careers Administration to obtain your records by dialing 1-866-240-6726. However, most military records may be obtained through Library and Archives Canada, including at the following Library and Archives sub-site:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/contact-us/frequently-asked-questions.html>

*Link current to 17 July 2021*

<https://thediscoverblog.com/2011/12/20/how-to-order-military-records-from-the-personnel-records-unit>

*Links current to 17 July 2021*

You may call Library and Archives by dialing 1-866-578-7777 for assistance. Library and Archives Canada is the federal government department that preserves and makes accessible the documentary heritage of Canada. It also serves as the continuing memory of the Government of Canada and its institutions. As such, Library and Archives Canada holds extensive collections of military records.”

**“IT WOULDN’T BE AN OATMEAL RAG WITHOUT A WEE JOKE”- RUSS MILLER  
(SWW VET, FORMER RSM, AND OATMEAL RAG EDITOR)**



Courtesy Sgt-Maj. James Clark

### **Support**

We are always seeking sponsors or advertisers to help defray the cost of this publication. If

anyone is interested or has any suggestions as to whom to contact please let us know and we'll be happy to do the follow up.

Sponsors to date are: Mr. Max Katz, our very first sponsor, of the Oatmeal Rag and the Jewish War Vets; Mr. Greg Flom, a former Cameron; Maj. Bill Gray, Cameron Advisory Board; Sgt Tim Seeley, Drum Sgt Extraordinaire; MCpl (Ret'd) Mark Silver, our "Eastern Branch" contact; Sgt (Ret'd) Roy Taylor, the Cameron WO's & Sgt's #1 choice for reading "Rab" Burn's poetry; Maj. Ken Smith, who also has so kindly donated prizes for the Reunion Golf; Col. Bob Darling, Past President of the Cameron Advisory Board; Mr. W L (Lloyd) Jones, SWW Cameron; P/M Donald Morrison Cold War; Ken Smith and Lloyd Jones yet again God bless them; Sgt. Bill Douglas, Dieppe Raid.

*Gentlemen, we thank you !*

## **Around the Unit Lines**

**Newly promoted - Sgt Dillon Contois, CO & RSM**



**Sgt Olafson, CD & Maj. Fordham May 2021**



**Cpl Brian Trenchard, CD; CO & RSM**



**Pte Carrasco, received the COs Coin for getting Top Candidate on his BMQ**



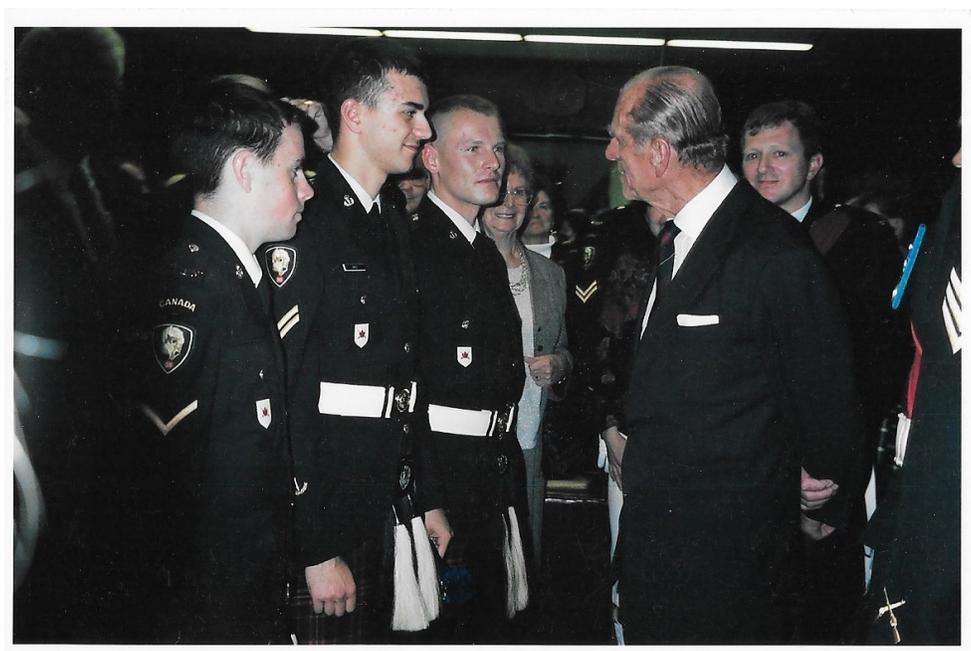
**Chris Mundy June 21 C6 Tripod**



**Visits from our former Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness,  
The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**



**HRH inspecting his Quarter Guard, 15 Oct 1978**



**HRH and members of his Quarter Guard 8 Oct 2002**

### Captain Roel Dekkers tour in action



### Capt Roel Dekkers Dutch Army Battlefield Tour



# Cpl. John “Jack” Elliott's version of the battle discussed by Capt Dekkers

sne let them go with a smile, said Maxine.

**Corporal John “Jack” Alexander Elliott**

Many stories were shared in the family about Corporal John “Jack” Alexander Elliott’s time during the war but the most prominent one was about the time he cheated death.

“I was told about this time they were taking cover behind a wall and after one shell blast cleared uncle Jack was no where to be seen,” said Maxine. “The men dug and dug but could not find him. After they had settled for night, no one had much of an appetite. All of a sudden, there walked in uncle Jack covered from head to toe in dust and dirt. The first thing he did was sit down and he just simply asked for a cigarette.”

Corporal Elliott was active during the large scale Commando Raid on Dieppe along with a few other men from the Swan Valley area. After the raid, he was reported as safe, along with Max Donaldson from Bowsman; Clifford Donaldson from Bowsman; and Noel Ham of Kenville.

Fellow Swan Valley soldiers were not as fortunate. Henry Dingwall of Lenswood was reported as wounded, Bennett Warne of Durban

was believed to be reported as deceased; and Clifford Dubray and Wallace Hill, both of Swan River were reported as missing.

Corporal Jack Elliott was awarded the Netherland Award Bronze Lion for his bravery in Sept of 1945. Corporal Elliott served in the Canadian Infantry, the Second Canadian Infantry under The Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. In Feb of 1945, the battalion headquarters moved into an area, which they believed to be cleared of the enemy, when it was actually held by over 100 paratroopers, which was later known as the attack of 6 Canadian Infantry Brigade on Luisendorf.

During the altercation, Corporal Elliott, the Commanding Officer, the Intelligence Officer were travelling in a kangaroo vehicle, when it was hit twice by bazooka fire. The Commanding Officer was killed by small arms fire and the remaining passengers were injured, while the vehicle was set ablaze.

Despite being wounded, Corporal Elliott took immediate action and evacuated the wounded men from the vehicle to the shelter of a nearby barn. He went back to the

kangaroo, and removed all the maps and codes from the vehicle. The enemy proceeded to approach the wounded men, while Corporal Elliott was trying to send a wireless message explaining the situation.

He quickly responded by dismounting a Browning machine gun from the burning kangaroo and fired upon the enemy. Although the enemy forces retaliated, they were eventually driven away by Corporal Elliott’s firing capabilities. One enemy officer managed to get into the barn where the wounded men were kept and began firing his gun at the casualties. Corporal Elliott left his secure position and maneuvered to the barn where he killed the enemy.

Had Corporal Elliott not acted quickly and bravely, the enemy surely would have gained very valuable information and a stronghold in the center of the battalion area.

“When he came home, I was in the garage where we stored our firewood,” said Maxine. “I had an armful of kindling. He came and knelt in front of me and started taking the wood from out of my arms. He said Maxine I

want you to know, now that I am home, you and mom never have to carry wood or water. Looking back at all he had done for his men during the war, and to still want to serve his family after returning, spoke volumes to me.”

**Duncan Campbell Munroe Elliott**

Duncan Campbell Munroe Elliott was born on May 7, 1914 in Minitonas. As a youth, he attended school in Swan River up until he completed Grade 10. In 1933, he enlisted with the 9th Medium Regiment R.C.A.

When Britain declared war in September of 1939, he intended to join the Winnipeg Grenadiers, who were later shipped off to the infamous battle in Hong Kong, however his brother Jack persuaded him to enlist in the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders of Winnipeg with Jack.

Duncan had served his country in Britain, Germany, Holland and Belgium and then France before being honourable discharged from service in 1945, when he was wounded in France.

One of the stories Maxine heard over the years was one that connected Duncan to his sister Evelyn’s future hus-

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Courtesy MWO Shaun Delamere (Cold War & PKO Camerons)



**RSM CWO Nick Oshanski, SWW and Korea vet. That is a blue United States Presidential Unit Citation worn on his right sleeve for having fought as a Sgt. with 2 PPCLI at Kapyong, Korea, in 1951. Photo from a parade of the battalion at city hall circa 1969. Cameron Monument, engraving done, rounds complete.**





Platoon at First Light, courtesy Sgt Chris Mundy June 21, 2021



[As always our special thanks to](#)  
[The Commissionaires for their continued support !](#)