



# The Blue Hackle

Newsletter of  
The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa  
Regimental Association

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## FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the first edition of our expanded Association Newsletter. *Any similarity to other past publications is strictly coincidental.*

We plan to publish this newsletter annually, but it will take the support of the entire regimental family to make it a long term success.

The primary purpose of the newsletter is keep the regimental family up to date with current events as well as provide some interest and historical content. We will include articles about our history as well as updates on what each element of the regimental family is up to.

The newsletter is also an outreach vehicle. There are hundreds of people out there who have served with the Regiment and we have lost contact with most of them. Distribution of the newsletter, and having it passed electronically through personal networks will help reconnect past serving members with the Regiment, through the Association.

This edition provides a summary of the activities of the Regiment, Cadets, Association and Foundation over the past year as well as providing some extremely interesting historical content . Whether you have this as an attachment to an email, or you have downloaded it from one of the site sources, please pass it on. If you are in contact with a past serving member who is not part of the association this edition contains information on how to re-connect with the family via various initiatives backed by the Association.

We will continue to work on evolving and improving the newsletter. I am particularly gratified that past Commanding Officer and District Commander Col. (Ret'd) M.V. Langille OMM CD shared an article he penned on one of our most inspirational members and VC winner, Pte Claude Patrick Nunney VC, DCM, MM.

I am finding putting the newsletter together quite enjoyable, and am still looking for input from the Regimental Family. Without you input and support this initiative will be short lived. I hope this issue will inspire some of you to share stories of your own. Everyone has stories from their time in the regiment, experiences on exercises or in garrison, social events, lessons learned, cudos to members who have made an impression on you, or memories of those who have since left us. I strongly encourage you to sit down and put some of those memories on paper and submit them for a future issue. We have a long and rich history, much of it only exists in your memories. Those memories are important, let's not loose those.

Advance!

**Capt (Ret'd) Jim Seguin.**

Editor

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# REGIMENTAL UPDATE

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## Overview

The regiment continues to support to operations while enhancing regimental esprit de corps and increasing the unit's effective strength; all while adjusting to the new reality of being Tactically Grouped with the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders.

The regiment continues to administer the 33 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Detachment on behalf of the

Brigade. On 07 May 2023, the CH of O was tactically grouped with the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders (SD&G HIGHRS), creating the Eastern Ontario Highlanders (EOH) Tactical Group (Tac Gp). In 2023, the CH of O had the mission to train individual soldiers and formed bodies up to Platoon strength to force generate for operations, both domestic and abroad. The addition of the CMERT tasking (Close Protection of Med Pers) that was added to the unit mandate will have significant impact to unit training and pers in the fall of 2024. This past Fall our footprint in the city shrank with the closing of our Bells Corners location, the Regiment continues to look forward to the reestablishment of its satellite location in the east end in the not-to-far future. The Regiment continues to have over 220 members on strength with all members currently deployed due back by the end of June.



Regimental Photo just prior to Junior Ranks Holiday dinner 2023

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## Tactical Grouping

As the Canadian Armed Forces enter a period of reconstitution following the COVID-19 pandemic it was deemed necessary to Tactically Group some Primary Reserve Units to allow them to continue to operate despite leadership staffing shortfalls. Being tactically grouped is not an amalgamation. Both units will continue to maintain their identity and traditions but will be commanded by a single Command Team. The Tactical Group leadership will be composed of members of both units. The decision to tactically group the units was not taken lightly. It was a necessary decision because neither unit has the requisite number of senior officers to have a viable, sustainable succession plan to generate Commanding Officers in the short and medium term. The Tactical Grouping will benefit both units with extra staff power and a larger pool of soldiers, allowing troops to train in a platoon and company context. The Tactical Group had some growing pains through the later half of 2023; however, a solid foundation has been built that will increase the effectiveness of both units going forward.

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# REGIMENTAL UPDATE

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## Training Activities

Attendance for the unit training activities was healthy and the quality of training met or exceeded expectations. Key Battle Task Standards were met, with the focus being on patrolling and offensive operations. Unit Ranges were well attended, and the unit had amongst the best IBTS completion statistics in the Brigade. There was an adjustment period as unit members got accustomed to working in a tactical group context. Unit members made significant contributions to brigade run courses, namely the Infantry Basic Machine Gun course run out of Garrison Petawawa.

## Operations

### OP IMPACT 06 May

(12 November 23 – Kuwait)

Building the military capabilities of Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, and working with partners in the region to set the conditions for stability and security. TF HQ in Kuwait and Operational Support Hub – Middle East (OSH-ME), providing logistics support to Canadian Task Force elements and to Canadian episodic airlift for the Coalition.

Supported by Capt R. Killen, MCpl K. Ormson, and Cpl T. Hsieh.



Left to right: Capt R. Killen, MCpl K. Ormson, and Cpl T. Hsieh, Op IMPACT. Kuwait, 13 June 2023.

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### OP UNIFIER 27

(August 23 – 31 January 24, UK)

Training element, contributing to international training efforts, and reinforcing Canada's commitment to global security.

Supported by Capt A. Marquart, MCpl C. Spero, and Cpl A. Carey.

### OP REASSURANCE 02 August

(02 December 23, Latvia)

Individual and group augmentation to the enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group (eFP BG), through a Technical Assistance Visit (TAV).

Supported by Cpl E. Stewart, Cpl A. Brundige, and Pte J. Law.



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# REGIMENTAL UPDATE

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## **OP PRESENCE 26 October**

(18 December 23, Ghana)

Tailored bilateral military support under Task Force Elsie to the Ghanaian Armed Forces (GAF), via Canadian Training Assistance Team (CTAT) to Ghana. Supported by Sgt R. Bush and Sgt T. Fernandes.

## **OP REASSURANCE**

(15 December 23 – 15 June 24, Latvia)

Training mission to teach both basic and advanced military skills to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, continuing to provide Ukraine with the military equipment and training it needs to defend its sovereignty, freedom, and independence. Deployed to the United Kingdom in the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) military training and capacity building mission in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Supported by Corporal Barre and Private Robitaille.

## **Exercises**

### **EX NORTHSTAR CLAYMORE III**

(17-19 March 23, Garrison Petawawa)

Conducted to train rifle platoons to level 3 (DRY) and confirm individual fieldcraft IBTS. The primary training audience progressed to level 2 (LIVE) as part of a separate progression stream. Soldiers became comfortable operating at increased tempo in a platoon context on the offensive and worked seamlessly in small unit context against adversary forces.



A Coy practicing section attacks on the Matawa Plain

### **EX HIGHLAND WARRIOR II**

(21-23 April 23, Garrison Petawawa)

Aimed to challenge CH of O members in military skills, team building, and infantry TTPs in a small team skills competition. There was a section-sized patrolling competition, modeled off CPC/Cambrian but achieved within the EX window. The competition included stands which challenged and confirmed basic fieldcraft. The EX galvanised the patrolling and competitive spirit and achieved unit IBTS.

### **EX ARROWHEAD GUARDIAN**

(18-27 August 23, CFB Petawawa & CFB Meaford)

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# REGIMENTAL UPDATE

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Division level infantry concentration that saw each CBG contribute a company of soldiers. The EX entailed live fire work up training and Admin verification at CFB Petawawa followed by a road move to CFB Meaford where live fire Sect & Pl attacks occurred. There was then a battalion level dry advance to contact through the training area.

## **EX HIGHLAND MARKSMAN I**

(22-24 September 23, Garrison Petawawa)

Range exercise and APRV conducted at Garrison Petawawa. The exercise qualified members on the C7, and C9 and had CBRN training as a background activity.



BMG Course firing on the range in CFB Petawawa

## **EX WOLF READY I and II**

(21-22 October 23 and 04-05 November 23, 33 CBG HQ)

Two exercises designed to prepare the TBG HQ for EX TRILLIUM DRAGON where the Division would validate the HQ. In parallel, an HQSS setup and tear down was exercised.

## **EX HIGHLAND WARRIOR I**

(27-29 October 23, Garrison Petawawa)

An offensive operations exercise focusing on section, patrolling operations, and enabling tasks at the Section and Platoon levels. It focused on achieving multiple mutually supporting battle task standards in a Crawl/Wal/Run manner. Primary Training audience was A Coy, however all unit members were welcome to attend.

## **EX HIGHLAND WARRIOR II**

(17-19 November 23, Garrison Petawawa)

Patrolling focused exercise focusing on section and platoon level patrolling, within a company context. It focused on exercising Section Commander/2IC and Platoon Commander/2IC leadership abilities while simultaneously exercising basic soldier skills necessary to function as an infantry platoon member. Battle Task Standards accomplished were: Execute Battel Procedure, Execute a Recce, and Move Tactically. The exercise was supported by 33 Service Battalion who completed their own battle task standards and complemented Highland Tactical Group activities.

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# REGIMENTAL UPDATE

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## **EX HIGHLAND MARKSMAN II**

(02 December 23, Connaught Ranges)

Primary make-up range day exercise for those requiring APRV. The exercise qualified members on the C7 and 9mm pistol.

## **EX COLD THRUST**

(23-25 Feb, Garrison Petawawa)

Winter Warfare. Field craft, dismounted patrols and recee patrols .

## **EX HIGHLAND WARRIOR 3**

(21-23 Mar, Garrison Petawawa)

Pairs and Section live fire exercise supported by various units within 33 CBG units.



Unit Guard preparing for the Remembrance Day Parade 2023.

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## **UNIT LED COURSES**

### **Infantry Basic Machine Gun**

(25 September – 03 December 23)

Weekend Infantry Basic Machine Gun (IBMG) course for 33 CBG out of Garrison Petawawa. The training qualified soldiers on the safe and effective operation of the C6 General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG). The IBMG course introduced soldiers to the operation of the C6 GPMG and prepared them to utilize it safely and effectively in the direct fire support and sustained fire roes.

## **CEREMONIAL**

### **Vimy Ridge Parade and Association Dinner**

(01 April 23)

Vimy Day was marked by a parade in the City of Ottawa, and then the Association Reunion Dinner, where members from the CHofO met and participated in a formal Mess Dinner event.

### **Remembrance Day**

11 November 23

The CH of O provided a 50-person guard to the National Remembrance Day Ceremony with the HCol and Comd Officer laying wreaths on behalf of the Regiment. The Regimental Pipes and Drums supported the parade with half of the P&D Band.

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# REGIMENTAL UPDATE

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## Community Outreach

### MAXVILLE HIGHLAND GAMES

(04-05 August 23, Maxville ON)

Established a recruiting/outreach post, and participation in the Glengarry Highland Games to celebrate and promote highland culture. The event was used to raise the unit's profile in the local community in addition to the potential of a recruiting draw. The unit tug-of-war team competed as did many individuals of the Pipes & Drums in solo events.

### CAPITAL FAIR

(14-20 August 23, NCR)

Sought to reinforce relationships with the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Scottish Society by sending a CH of O Highland Athletics Team to the NCR Highland Games. This included participation in the Closing Capital Fair with an intra-service Tug-of-War challenge.

## Social Activities

The unit held several social activities in 2023. The highlight of the year was the Tactical Group Mess Dinner which saw leadership from both units get to know each other and set an upbeat tone for the start of the highland Tactical Group. Of particular interest during the fall was the visit from the Command Team and select support staff of the British Army's 19th Light Brigade. The year culminated with the Soldier's Holiday Dinner, which saw an excellent turnout.



Officers and special guests at the annual St. Andrews Dinner

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### Tactical Group Mess Dinner

13 May 23

The Tactical Group hosted a mess dinner as the culmination of EX HIGHLAND SUMMIT, all Tac Group leadership (MCpl+) participated. In attendance was leadership from the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), honoured guests and former members invited. Entertainment was provided, with the SD&G HIGHRS' Pipes and Drums and highland dancers from Ottawa.



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# REGIMENTAL UPDATE

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## **St Andrew's Day Mess Dinner**

25 November 23

St. Andrew's Day dinner was held in the Army Officer's Mess on Saturday November 2023. The event notably hosted the Mayor of the City of Ottawa, Mark Sutcliffe, and was a relaxed event where the Officers and RSM socialized and enjoyed the meals prepared by the staff in the mess kitchen.

## **Soldier's Holiday Dinner**

9 December 23

The CH of O held the Soldier's Holiday Dinner on Saturday 09 December 2023. The afternoon began with unit sports followed by mandatory briefings. After a brief pause the traditional Holiday dinner occurred in which unit leadership served the meal to the junior ranks.

## **New Year Levee**

01 Jan 2024

The Cameron Officers and NCOs participated this year again at their respective messes' annual New Years Levee with visiting between the messes and visiting team being deployed to other Regiment's celebrations and Legion(s) throughout the city.

**Unit Awards** (Presented at the Soldier's Dinner, Ottawa, ON, 09 December 2023.)

### **Most Outstanding Member**

#### **WO Lescot**

Guided Training Company personnel during the initial phase of the Tactical Grouping of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke Edinburgh's Own) from 7 May 2023 to 7 September 2023. While managing personnel, he also assisted in planning Individual Training for the Tactical Group, to include a training exercise and a career course.

### **Top Junior Officer**

#### **Lieutenant Bacon**

Led the Training Company during the initial phase of the Tactical Grouping of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke Edinburgh's Own) from 7 May 2023 to 7 September 2023. While leading the Training Company, he also planned Individual Training for the Tactical Group, to include a training exercise and a career course. Lieutenant Bacon's outstanding professionalism, work ethic and leadership abilities ensured the success of the Tactical Group Training Company.

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# REGIMENTAL UPDATE

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## **Top SNCO**

### **Sgt Barichello**

As the Unit Signal NCO he is extremely knowledgeable and motivated. Always encouraging, reminding, and educating the Unit on all signal matters. He volunteers for all tasks and exercises and leads the Unit in the training of comms. He has also been doubling up as the CQMS for A Coy whilst the CQMS of A Coy is now the A/CSM

## **Top JNCO**

### **MCpl Mathew**

In the face of medical issues facing those close to him, MCpl Mathew has maintained consistent, solid support and participation in the P&D. Along with supporting the PMaj by running training in his absence, he has also been active as an instructor for the Cadets and has even further taken on solo piping tasks. He has been steadfast, consistent, and even continued to go above and beyond in his commitment and engagement.

## **Top Soldier**

### **Cpl Hogan**

Strong attendance. Currently on IBMG and performing well. Always maintains a good attitude and is a model to his peers in conduct. This soldier proactively maintains IBTS seeks opportunities to requalify when necessary.

## **Top Musician**

### **Pte Tanzilli**

Member has gone above and beyond in her work for the P&D. Even as a brand-new Pte, enrolled in June, Pte Tanzilli has proactively taken on tasks and other roles above her level.

## **Outstanding Support to the Regiment**

### **Cpl Kearney**

Working in the RQMS he is dependable, reliable and indispensable. The RQMS is one of the busiest departments in the Regiment and without Cpl Kearney assuming the leading role in issues and returns of Regimental clothing stores the Unit would struggle to meet its tasks and deadlines.

*The Regimental Update is an extract from the Regiment's Annual Historical Report*

*Thanks to Lt. Nina Bigras for preparing the annual report and to Capt Rob Newcombe for preparing the newsletter submission.*

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# CHANGE OF COMMAND

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To every thing there is a season, and spring is the season for a change of command.

April and May saw a flurry of administration and preparations for the change, with May 9-11 being the culmination of events. On May 9th, the Thursday before the change both regiments were in attendance at the Drill Hall for parade rehearsals and presentations. Following the evening's work members of both regiments retired to their messes, and LCol Scharf was given a send off in the Officer's mess.

On 11 May, In Cartier Square Drill Hall, during a ceremony steeped in a tradition, command of the Regiment transferred from LCol Gord Scharf, CD to LCol Ryan Hendy CD.



While a typical Change of Command in many respects, this one had a few significant differences. This was not just a change of command for our regiment, it was also the change of command for our partners in the Highland Tactical group, The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders.



The drill hall was crowded with serving members, Cadets and guests from both regiments and LCol Hendy's family and friends made the trip up from Windsor to witness the event. The Colours of both regiments were on parade with LCol Scharf dressed in Cameron Kit, and LCol Hendy dressed in Glens Kit.

As per the parade instruction, LCol Scharf took the parade from the DCO and after the dignitaries arrived and were given their honours LCol Scharf escorted the Brigade Commander and HCol Farber in an inspection of the troops, Cadets and Pipes and Drums. Once the inspection was complete signing ceremonies were held for both regiments, and finally the Brigade Commander, LCol Scharf and LCol Hendy made some remarks. Finally as is tradition, LCol Scharf slow marched across the frontage of the parade and out the doors to the pipes playing Auld Lang Syne. The event lasted about an hour and following the parade separate receptions were held by both the in-

coming and outgoing COs. You can find videos of the Change of command on Youtube at

<https://youtu.be/7HcQPZrQtUc>

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Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Gordon Scharf, CD, CPM, CTP

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Lieutenant-Colonel Scharf joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a Primary Reservist after completing a Bachelor of Arts degree at Wilfrid Laurier University. He was commissioned as an Infantry officer with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) in 1992.

LCol Scharf split his Regimental service with the Camerons, over two separate periods, from 1992 to 2001 and then from 2012 until present. During his first period he was deployed with the Camerons as part of OPERATION RECUPERATION as a Platoon Commander 1998. After moving to Toronto to further pursue civilian career opportunities in 2001, he served with both the Queens York Rangers (1st American) and the Governor General Horse Guards as a Troop Leader, Battle Captain and Squadron 2IC and Squadron Commander. During this period, he was attached to the Bermuda Regiment as a Pl Comd and Coy 2IC for three years while residing in Bermuda on a secondment with HSBC, his civilian employer at the time.



Extra-Regimentally, LCol Scharf has served as a staff officer with the Directorate Army Reserve at Army Headquarters as well as the Directorate Reserves and Employer Support at Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff. He has also served as the Deputy Commanding Officer at the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) Headquarters. Within 33 Canadian Brigade Group, he has also served as the Commanding Officer of the 33 Territorial Battalion Group (TBG). As part of 33 TBG he has deployed as the TBG DCO for OPERATION LENTUS 2017 and as the Officer Commanding the 33 Domestic Response Company (DRC) which was deployed locally as part of OPERATION LENTUS 19 to assist with local flood relief efforts in the National Capital Region. He has most recently supported the Directorate for Military Training and Cooperation as part of a deployment to Ecuador as an instructor for the Introduction to Operational Planning for Senior Officers from 13 countries from Central and South America.

With the Camerons, LCol Scharf previously held the positions of Platoon Commander, Company 2IC, Regimental Operations Officer and the Officer Commanding A Coy. He also served in the 33 Brigade Influence Activities Company as the Operations Officer and Company 2IC. LCol Scharf assumed command of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) on 07 Sep 2020. He assumed command of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders on 7 May 2023. Both units are now Tactically Grouped with LCol Scharf responsible for the Eastern Ontario Highland Tactical Group.

A graduate of the Reserve Joint Command and Staff Programme at the Canadian Forces College, he also holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Business Management from Henley Business School, University of Reading, UK. He is also a Certified Product Manager (CPM) and Certified Treasury Professional (CTP).

LCol Scharf's civilian career has primarily been in Commercial and Corporate banking in various senior roles over 25 years at Scotiabank and HSBC Canada. These roles included positions within Canada as well as Bermuda, New York and London. He is currently with Export Development Canada as a Director responsible for managing the EDC corporate relationships with two of the top 6 Financial Institutions in Canada.

He is married to Christine, who is a saint. A Commercial Banker as well, she is an extremely patient and understanding spouse. Joining Christine and Gord is Angus, a very energetic Golden Retriever with attitude, who thinks and acts like he runs the place.



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Lieutenant-Colonel RYAN P. HENDY, CD

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LCol Hendy initially enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Army Reserves (Infantry) in 1992 with the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment in Windsor, ON. During his military career as an Infantry Private / Corporal, he has acquired qualifications as a machine gunner, driver, communicator and basic parachutist. He completed more specialized training in completing the Canadian Forces School of Military Intelligence (CFSMI) Source Handler Operator Course (SHOC); Security and Survival training (USA); and Gunfighter program to name the highlights. More recently, LCol Hendy commissioned from the rank of Corporal in 2013 and completed the DP 1.1 (Dismounted Infantry Pl Commander) course in 2015. By 2018, he had completed the Army Tactical Operations Course (ATOC), in 2019, the Infantry Dismounted Company Commander Course (IDCCC) and in 2021, the Army Operations Course (AOC).



LCol Hendy takes the parade after the Change of Command

He has served in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (CH of O) since 1995 as rifleman, section second-in-command, section commander, platoon commander, training company second-in-command, Officer Commanding (OC), Alpha Company and Bravo Company and most recently, serving as Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO) of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa / Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders Tactical Group (otherwise known as the 'Highlander Tactical Group' (HTG)).

LCol Hendy deployed as a peacekeeper under NATO's Stabilization Force 1998 (SFOR Rotation 2) with the First Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR). Additionally, he deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2009 (Op Athena Rotation 7) under the then Chief of Defence Intelligence (CDI). Between those tours in 2003, he was a short service civilian member of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), where he carried out work for the office of public information in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Most recently during the spring of 2017, LCol Hendy led a platoon in a domestic deployment to assist Québec residents in the flood situation (Op Lentus, Rotation 0).

In 1997, LCol Hendy graduated from the University of Ottawa, obtaining a Bachelor degree in Social Sciences (criminology). He furthered his academic pursuits as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, earning a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Aberdeen, UK in 1999. By 2003, he was overseas again, this time as a Rotary Foundation World Peace Scholar to study at the University of Queensland, Australia. There, he obtained an Advanced Masters Degree in International Studies in 2004.

In 2001, LCol Hendy entered civilian public service through a newly formed federal financial intelligence agency called the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC). Through over 20 years of serving in most areas within the Agency and various tenures of leave to pursue education and military service, he currently holds a position as an Executive within the FINTRAC's Intelligence Sector.

LCol Ryan Hendy was born in Windsor, Ontario and has lived the majority of his adult life in Ottawa, ON. He is currently married to a fellow serving member, Lt Isabelle Hendy (née Moo Sang) with three little ones - Fiona (8 years old), Winston (6 years old) and Bristol (3 years old). LCol Hendy is an Honourary member of the Rotary Foundation and served as a Board member of the CH of O Regimental Association and also as a Board member of a veterans' professional network in Ottawa called Treble Victor (3V). In what free time that might remain, he very much enjoys downhill skiing, sailing with his pal Elliot, shooting hoops and the odd swim across Meech Lake.

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# REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

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It has been a year of change for the Association:

- After 8 years as President Jeff Hill stepped aside and allowed me to take the reins;
- we are organising periodic social gatherings for the regimental family;
- we have started distributing the regular minutes to our members via email;
- we have started publish an expanded newsletter
- and in a huge leap into the current century, we are now broadcasting our meetings online so members outside the local area or with mobility issues can join.



Members of the Association support a Regimental OBUA exercise in May 2009.

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Our objectives, as documented in our constitution remain unchanged:

- to provide continuous and unqualified support to The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa;
- to uphold the traditions of the Regiment and to maintain Regimental esprit-de corps;
- to foster associations and friendships gained throughout the years and to promote comradeship among members of the Association;
- to assist and help comrades to the extent of the capacity of the Association.

We executed many of the usual tasks this year in support of the regiment. We continue to fund, organise (with significant help from the regiment) and staff the in-clearance and stand down BBQs. The Regiment sets up some Modular tent, rolls out the Foundation BBQ and we obtain the food , do the prep, and cook Burgers and Dogs (with Veggie options) for the Regiment. We hosted ~ 75 serving members at this year's stand down BBQ.

We continued our long standing partnership with St. Gilles Presbyterian Church to support deployed Camerons. We are ready to support our member's families in the Ottawa region as required, and every deployed Cameron receives at least one care package while deployed. Many thanks to AJ Bergsma and Don Tate from St. Giles for taking the lead on this initiative.

This year, as in the past we have provided financial support to both the Cameron Hockey team and the Cameron Cycling team. We funded ice time to facilitate the Hockey team's preparations for the Brockville tournament and miscellaneous expenses for the cycling team who execute a charity fundraising ride from Petawawa to Ottawa each year.

Finally, as we have done each year for the past 76 years, we hosted the annual reunion dinner. Now held in April to avoid the intensive fall training cycle, the dinner coincides with the Regiment's Vimy commemorations. The dinner was another success this year, with over 130 members and guests attending.

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# REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

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When I put my name forward to be elected Association President I had 3 main objectives I wanted to achieve:

- To improve communication to the members of the Association and keep everyone better informed of what we and the Regiment are up to;
- To improve communication to the wider regimental family making clearer the purpose of the Association and our contribution to the regimental family. By increasing the visibility of the Association I also expect to increase knowledge of and interest in the association;
- To modernise and increase participation in the Association. This objective includes updating the constitution to better reflect how we currently operate and facilitating expanding our membership and our long-term success

We have made good progress on the first 2 objectives and are starting to see some success with the third. I again invite any past serving member of the regiment to become members of the Association and bring fresh ideas and energy into the organisation. Our evolution has started and if you have ideas that you think would benefit the Association or which would enhance our support to the Regiment, and the desire to make them happen we would like to hear from you. Any serving member or honorably discharged past member can and should be a member of the Association.

I would like to close by thanking the stalwarts of the Association who have supported our events this past year. AJ Bergsma, Chris Murphy, Conrad Laplante, Don Tate, Drum Robertson, Gerry McCauley, Gwyn Nicholson, Ian Marrs, Jay Demaine, Jeff Hill, Jim Doherty, Laird Coghill, Matt Robidoux, Steve Gilbey, and Tim Nelligan. I would also like to thank the outgoing CO, LCol G Scharf, Capt. Rob Newcombe and MWO Mark Gray for their support and assistance within their roles in the Regiment.

Advance!

Jim Seguin

President

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# REGIMENTAL FOUNDATION

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## THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF OTTAWA FOUNDATION A DECADE OF GIVING

The book *CAPITAL SOLDIERS*, by Kenneth W. Reynolds lays out the history of the National Capital's Highland Regiment, The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) a Canadian Army Primary Reserve Infantry Unit. The official birth is 1881, but one of its rifle companies dates back a generation before that. For those interested, a copy of the book can be purchased at the Regimental Kit Shop through the kit shop web site at [www.camerons.ca](http://www.camerons.ca). Like many of the other Reserve Units in Canada, The Camerons have a Foundation, but unlike many other unit foundations supporting Regiments in Toronto, Montreal or Quebec City, the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Foundation is relatively new, only being established in early 1996.

The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Foundation is a federally incorporated registered charitable organization established to support the members of Regimental Family both serving and retired. The objectives of the Foundation are to:

- Promote and enhance the welfare of past, present and future members of the Regiment;
- Encourage and contribute to a better public understanding of Highland traditions in Canada;
- Assist The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Regimental Museum in its mission of collecting and preserving the history, weapons and equipment of the Regiment; and
- Foster the esprit de corps and traditions of the Regiment.

In simple terms, the financial support is for those items not funded by the Crown and or to top up the portion funded by the Crown such that the soldier is not out of pocket. Some of this Direct Support includes special circumstances such as outreach to soldiers suffering from Post-Traumatic Syndrome (PTSD). These needs could be financial or family support in time of grief. Soldiers of the Regiment have also supported comrades from other regiments who are affected by this serious and sometimes life-threatening disorder.

Over the last ten years the Foundation has paid out over \$255,000 in support of its objectives. As can be seen from the list below the biggest need is to supply, maintain and refresh the ceremonial kit you most often associate with a Highland Regiment, as the bulk of it is not covered by the Crown.

- Purchase of ceremonial kit to support a 100 person guard: \$150,000
- Publishing the regimental history: \$100,000
- Direct support to the troops including bursaries: \$ 48,600
- Support for special unit requests: \$ 11,000
- Other charities and the museum: \$ 4,600



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# REGIMENTAL FOUNDATION

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Looking into the future, we have two types of projects, recurring or special needs celebrating major historical events. The annual requirement seems to be in the order of \$25-\$30,000 and is steadily growing. Examples of these include:

- Providing support to deployed members of the Regiment along with the Association similar to what was done for over 90 soldiers who deployed to Afghanistan for six months or more. (The Regiment has received the Afghanistan Battle Honour for its successful contribution to this operational deployment.)
- Sending three serving members of the Regiment to Vis-en-Artois, France in 2018 for the dedication of a monument to Pte CJP Nunney VC, DCM, MM who was awarded the VC for his actions in that commune. As a result, the commune granted the Freedom of the City rights to the Regiment in 2019, only the second Canadian regiment to receive such an honour for services in WW1.
- Operating a Kit Shop for the benefit of past and serving members of the Regiment.
- Providing, along with the Regimental Association a BBQ for serving soldiers either at in-clearance or out-clearance annually.
- Providing two bursaries annually to serving members of the Regiment.
- Providing new members of the Unit who qualify TQ1 the Blue Hackle worn on the Balmoral head dress.



Members of the Regiment parade to the National War Memorial on Remembrance Day

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The much larger possible special projects that have not been funded, in the main due to a lack of funds, include:

- 150th Anniversary of the birth of the Regiment
- Exercising the Freedom of the City in Vis-en-Artois, France
- Refurbishment of the Bren Gun Carrier outside the Cartier Square Drill Hall
- A major upgrade and expansion of the Full Dress Uniforms for a 100 person guard
- 100th Anniversary of D Day

Some of these projects are 8 to 30 years out but if we do not start setting goals and creating saving buckets for these, we will not be able to do them when the time comes. These have estimated total of some

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# REGIMENTAL FOUNDATION

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\$400,000 - \$600,000. A fund of some \$100,000 invested wisely now, would go a long way to meeting our goals of supporting the Regimental Family in the future. Ways and means of donating can be found on the Camerons Foundation website: <https://camerons.ca/> or by directly contacting the Foundation Secretary Treasurer at [treasurer@camerons.ca](mailto:treasurer@camerons.ca). Donations to the Foundation receive a tax receipt in accordance with CRA regulations.

The soldiers of the Regiment past and serving appreciate any assistance provided as we march forward into the future.

*The above article was written by LCol (Ret'd) Tim Dear who is a Director of the Foundation. The article was first published in Esprit de Corp Magazine earlier this year.*

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# 640 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa

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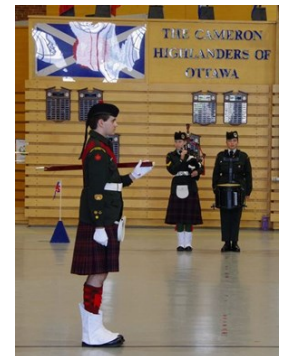
This past year has been a busy year for the Cameron Cadet Corps with its move from the Bells Corners Armouries to its new location at the Bridlewood Community Elementary School on Bluegrass Drive in Kanata. Over the past year the Corps has doubled in size from under thirty Cadets registered in June last year to well over sixty as of writing and is looking to continue its phenomenal growth into next year. The Corps this past year has had an average parade strength of more than 45 Cadets on its regularly scheduled Tuesday night parades at the school.

The Cadet Corps have also been involved with numerous activities since September at the local and national levels. This year the Cameron Cadet Corps was honoured to have provided the Guard Commander for the Army Cadet contingent at this year's National Remembrance Day Ceremony. At the more local level the Corps also provided a fifteen person contingent to the Remembrance Day Pde at John McCrae Highschool, 20-person guard for the Regimental Association Parade in Apr and again in May 25-person (9 Senior Cadets in kilted order) for the Unit Change of Command Parade. The Corps final event of their training year, their Annual Ceremonial Review (ACR) was also conducted at Cartier Square Drill Hall on the first weekend in Jun with thirty-five on parade (12 in kilted order – still a work in progress) and over seventy-five spectators in the seats.



While not on parade the Corps have also conducted: an Adventure Training Weekend at Connaught in the Fall, Regimental Historical visit to the Drill Hall and Museum in Dec, Winter Survival Training Ex in Feb (overnight) and an annual Field Training Exercise (FTX) in May at Connaught. The Corps has also supported the local Le-gions (Barrhaven and Bells Corners) in their annual Poppy Cam-paigns during the fall.

Sadly, this past year due to its change in location, the Corps had to standdown its Pipes & Drums and Air Rifle programs due to restrictions on space availability/usage covenants. It must acknowledged that they were able to provide their own Piper and Drummer for their ACR in June, so the program started two years ago continues showing signs of life. There is a cunning plan afoot to reestablish these programs (and more) next fall now that they are established in their new location.



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# 640 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa

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This year saw the promotion of CWO Bellanger by LCol Scharf and CWO Port to the position of Cadet RSM. Mr. Bellanger was the first CH of O Cadet to wear the Cameron Tartan in over 25 years and did it in Cadet Kilted-Walking-Out-Order of Dress at the National Remembrance Day Parade. We offer our Cadet RSM best wishes on his future endeavours as he ages-out this year, but rumour has it that he may be trying to join the Regiment so he may not be done with us yet.

The CO & RSM were also able to present Glengarry's and Cameron cap badges to those cadets that had completed their 6 months requirement. The Glengarry was approved by the Regiment and adopted by the Cadet Corps as its only headdress for use with FTU, Dress Uniform and Walking-out upon qualification.

The Corps presented Cadet Decorations at this years ACR to the following pers:

Lord Strathcona Medal: WO A. Flores,  
Royal Canadian Legion Cadet Medal of Excellence: MCpl C. Pacheko,  
Canadian Army Cadet Decoration & 5<sup>th</sup> Year Bar: MWO N. Guerrard. and  
Canadian Army Cadet Decoration 6<sup>th</sup> Year Bar: CWO S Belanger.

On a support note, the Cadet Corps continues to seek all forms of support in acquiring the remainder of its required items for kilted-walking-out order so that all its Sr NCOs & WOs can be properly turned-out. This demand will increase as the size of the Cadets Corps continues to grow, a wonderful problem to have. The parent's committee is now fully up and running, continued thanks go out for their support.

If you have any interest in following the Cadets Corps activities, details can be found on the Regimental Web-site: <https://www.cameronhighlanders.ca/cadetcorps> or directly on the Cadet Corp's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CameronCadets>.



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# A LOOK AT OUR PAST

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## REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF 38TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION APRIL 9TH. TO 13TH. 1917

By Major H.H. Hood

(Attack on Vimy Ridge As documented in Appendix 2 to the 38th Bn War Diary)

### STRENGTH GOING OVER ON APRIL 9TH. 1917.

The 38th Canadian Infantry Battalion attacked the enemy's position at 8:30am. April 9th, in four waves, with a total strength in the waves of 12 Officers and 550 O.R.. In addition to this there were the Commanding Officer and six other officers at Battalion Headquarters, the R.S.M. 3 Orderly Room Clerks, 14 Signallers, 16 Runners, 5 Medical Staff in Blue Bull Tunnel.

### REINFORCEMENTS

During the day three Officers and 60 Other Ranks, specialists were ordered up from Chateau de la Haie, these taking parts in subsequent operations.

### DISPOSITION

Point of Assembly Blue Bull Tunnel.

Battalion Headquarters, Blue Bull Tunnel.

Disposition on jumping off point was "A" and "D" Companies in the first wave, "A" Company in MANDORA SOUTH from VINCENT STREET exclusive, S.15.c.15.18 to OAKLEY Ave, MANDORA CENTRAL S.14.d. O.65 inclusive: "D" Company in MANDORA CENTRAL at OAKLEY AVE, exclusive to ERSATZ ALLEY S.14 b. 75.20 MANDORA NORTH: "C" COY in "A" Assembly trenches on the right immediately behind "A" Company, "B" Coy in "A" Assembly trenches immediately behind "D" Company.

### THE ATTACK

5.30am The Battalion jumped off at 5.30 a.m

5.45 a.m. Lieut. Colonel C.M. Edwards reported the Battalion as having taken its first and second objectives Retaliation not very heavy but a good deal of shrapnel.

6.05 a.m Lieut. Colonel C.M. Edwards reported having a Signal Station established at No.6 crater and that front line was taken without opposition.

6.13 a.m. Report that we had walked right through the craters. Everything all right on left but no report from right. 7 prisoners of 261st Regiment brought in.

6.25 a.m. Telephone report from No.6 crater that all objectives taken.

6.54 a.m. Report telephoned that one of aeroplanes working on our left flank flying very low. Everything seems very good.

7.25 a.m Report from forward phone that we have lines staked and are proceeding with consolidation. Cannot get information of exact line but can see picks and shovels working. Aeroplanes flying very low over us.

8.25 a.m Lieut. Crowell came in wounded reporting a great deal of sniping from our right. Lieut. Colonel Edwards took this information to Brigade and was wounded about 8.35 a.m. on his way over.

8.45 a.m. At 8.45 a.m. a report came in from Capt. T.W. MacDowell by runner, timed 8 a.m., that he was on his objective at BABY Trench had taken two machine guns and two officers and 75 other ranks, prisoners. Copy of this report was

## REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF 38TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION APRIL 9TH. TO 13TH. 1917

immediately forwarded to Brigade.

9.30 a.m. The Medical Officer visited Lieut. Colonel Edwards at Battalion Headquarters, he being still on duty although suffering a great deal of pain and ordered him out to the Dressing Station, the command of the Battalion being handed over to Major. W.S. Wood.

There was no report up to this time from "A" Company on our right but a wounded man brought in the news that Captain E.C.H. Moore and Lieut. A.W. Duncan had both been killed and Lieut. D. Guthrie wounded.

10 a.m. At 10 a.m. report came in from Major G. Howland, by runner timed 9 a.m. stating that he was at No.5 crater, that he had seen nothing of his other two officers, and that the men were in groups, that he had a Lewis gun in No.6 crater and a Vickers gun and a few men in No.5 crater, and was endeavoring to collect his men but was bothered by rifle fire from his right rear. He reported that he could see "C" Company had made their objective but that the men were scattered. This information was phoned Brigade, and at the same time orders issued to Major Howland by return runner, to get in touch with Capt. MacDowell in BABY Trench and with "C" Company.

10.15 a.m. At 10.15 a.m. Lieut. A.H. Pannell of "C" Company sent in report by runner that he had occupied position in front of crater No.5 and was consolidating same but did not state map location. Later report gave this as S.15.0 10.95 to S.15.0 40.80. Orders were sent to Lieut. Pannell by return of runner to connect with Major Howland and Capt. MacDowell giving their locations to him. Runners reported a great deal of sniping from our right.

11 a.m. A report from Capt. MacDowell timed 10.30 a.m. was sent in by runner stating that he could see no sign of the 78th Battn and that the Bosche were firing with machine guns on him but that he had not been able to locate these (it subsequently turned out to be in CLAUDE Trench Junction of CLUTCH), and calling for reinforcements. This report was forwarded to Brigade. At the same time a Reserve Lewis Gun crew was sent up to Capt. MacDowell and Private G.J.P. Nunney, who had come in in to get a wound dressed, stated he had a Lewis gun and had salvaged 32 pans of ammunition and volunteered, if he got a carrying party, to go out again, get the ammunition and go over to Capt. MacDowell. All men going out to this point carried ammunition and bombs. Major Howland was ordered to send men over to reinforce Capt. MacDowell which he did sending a Machine Gun crew and ammunition. Three officers and specialists who were at Chateau de la Haie were ordered up at this time and on arrival reinforced Capt. MacDowell.

6.05 p.m. At 6.05 p.m. notification was received from Brigade that two Companies of the 46th Battalion with two Companies of the 85th Battalion would reinforce our line and endeavor to connect with the 11th Brigade. This was done and the situation cleared up on our right flank, touch being established with the 11th Brigade. The situation remained normal throughout the machine gun fire from CLAUDE Trench.

On the morning of 10th I inspected our posts.

10th. 4.25 p.m. Brigade ordered us to collect our most disorganised Company and bring it into Blue Bull Tunnel for rest and reorganisation. This was done and "A" Company brought in. Two Officers of "A" Company who had been brought up with the reinforcements from Chateau de la Haie were put in charge.

5.30 p.m. New dispositions were ordered by Brigade making this Battalion responsible for CYRUS Trench from the Junction of CLUTCH to the Junction of CYRUS and CLUCK and for No.6 crater. "C" Company moved over here to strengthen this line, the 46th Battn becoming responsible for crater No.5, and posts in front.

Situation during the night was normal and on Wednesday morning the 11th I inspected our new dispositions and found all posts as ordered. Situation again throughout the day was normal with the exception of machine gun fire from junction of CLAUDE and CLUCK, and remained so throughout the night. A party of Bosche were seen on the morning of the 12th trying to get away at daylight but were driven back by our Lewis gun fire casualties being inflicted on them.

The afternoon of the 12th instant about 4 p.m. our Stokes Guns fired on CLAUDE trench and a bombing party of the

## REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF 38TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION APRIL 9TH. TO 13TH. 1917

73rd Battalion were supposed to attack under cover of this barrage, along CLAUDE trench from the north. It was reported that our men had been seen in CLAUDE trench at S.15 a.85.80 but this proved on investigation to be incorrect. A patrol was ordered out to investigate, but were fired upon. At 8 p.m. a message was received from Brigade that the Bosche intended counter attacking so "A" and "D" Companies were ordered up from Blue Bull Tunnel to reinforce our position. The counter attack did not materialise, the situation remaining normal throughout the night except for very heavy artillery fire behind the enemy's lines.

At 5.45 a.m. 13th I was advised of a series of explosions behind the enemy's lines. Brigade was immediately advised of this and at the same time a patrol was ordered to be sent forward to try and ascertain the cause. They reported that owing to our artillery fire they could not get forward.

At 6.30 a.m. I was advised that our men had occupied CLAUDE trench, shortly after this was confirmed by Brigade stating that 72nd occupied CLAUDE trench. A patrol was ordered to be pushed northward along CLUCK trench to connect with the 72nd also another patrol to push along CLUCK forward in a north easterly direction. Colonel Clarke C.C. 72nd Battalion came along and got a patrol with Lewis Gun from us and pushed forward to a point where CYANIDE and CLUCK trenches meet at S.15 b.81/2.9, patrols of the 38th and 78th Battalions also entered CYCLIST and BABY trenches and established posts there, all these patrols being covered by strong supporting bodies. About 10 a.m. our patrols in conjunction with patrols of the 72nd and 78th Battalions entered GIVENCHY. Patrols were then pushed by us to the south of GIVENCHY and by the 72nd through the northern part of it and along to the VIMY ANGRES Line which they reached about 12.30 p.m. About 1.P.M. I received an urgent message from Colonel Clarke for support on his right so brought up the covering parties arriving at S.10.d.8.6 about 1.30 p.m. where we established joint Battalion Headquarters, the 72nd Battalion taking over the line from this point to the north and we taking it over from the south for about 800 yards establishing strong points along the same. Our right was still not connected up but the 78th were covering it from the rear and later the 11th Brigade advanced along the line. Communication was kept up by telephone with the front line throughout and on the advance to GIVENCHY, lines were run to that point.

CARRYING PARTIES - Tump line party consisting of one Officer and 52 other ranks were used in connection with the bringing up of rations and acting as stretcher bearers, also a carrying party of 16 men for the 12th Machine Gun Company for bringing up ammunition. Carrying parties were detailed from reinforcement up and from stragglers of ours who had got Mixed with other Battalions and reported to Headquarters, and ration parties were sent in from the line. Ammunition was sent up and dumps established along our new line CYRUS and BABY trenches and No. 6 crater. Ammunition sent up amounted to :

S.A.A	175.000 rounds
No. 5 Mill bombs	900
No. 23 “	350
Red S.O.S.	84
White Very Lights	500

Strength taking part in operations covering this period was as follows :-

Officers who went over with waves .....	12
Officers at Battalion Headquarters .....	7
Officers brought up as reinforcements .....	3
Other ranks going over with waves .....	550
Other ranks brought up as reinforcements .....	60
Signallers and Runners .....	24
Medical Staff .....	5
Headquarters details .....	5

## REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF 38TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION APRIL 9TH. TO 13TH. 1917

Tump Line carrying party ..... 52  
 Carrying party for 12th machine gun coy ..... 16  
 Other ranks as Tunnel Guard ..... 11  
 -----  
 Total ..... 744

Casualties during the period April 9th to 13th were

	Officers	Other ranks
Killed	4	54
Wounded	9	214
Missing		44
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	

### MATERIAL CAPTURED

5 Tons perdite  
 1 Heavy Trench mortar 1w No. 1729  
 2 Light “ “ (brought in and placed on dump in)  
 3 Machine Guns (ZOUAVE VALLEY)  
 1 ½ Doz S.W.W dics with tape  
 100 German rifles  
 11.500 S.A.A. in belts  
 2 doz rifle grenades  
 4 spare barrels for machine gns  
 1 sap winch  
 1 sap barrel  
 6 Coil Cable  
 35 Stick Bombs  
 3 Telephone sets

Prisoners taken  
 2 officers  
 145 other ranks

I have the Honor to be  
 Sir  
 Your Obedient servant  
 M Ward Major  
 O.C 38th Canadian Inf Battn

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# FEATURE ARTICLE

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## PRIVATE CLAUDE JOSEPH PATRICK NUNNEY VC, DCM, MM

Researched and written by Col. (Retd) M.V. Langille OMM, CD



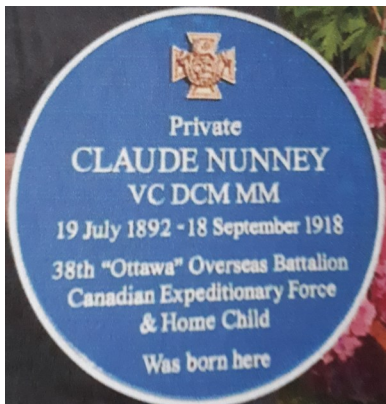
### Context

In 1913 the world was concerned with the First Albanian Crisis that affected Montenegro and Serbia against the Ottoman Empire. That complicated issue led to the Second Balkan War. Accordingly WW1 was sparked when on 28 June 1914 when a Bosnian Serb nationalist assassinated and killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Four days later Germany and Russia declared war on each other while France ordered a general mobilization. In the next three days, Russia, France, Belgium and Great Britain (with her all the dominions and colonies of the British Empire, such as Canada, Australia, etc.), also line up against Austria-Hungary and Germany. The unforeseen consequence of the war was the grim tally of 22 million deaths.

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*Last heard the skirling pipes of war  
The solemn beat of muffled drums  
For valour earned, and battles o'er  
Of deeds ennobled, forevermore*

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Official plaque erected at Pte. Nunney's birthplace in Hastings.

### Background

The military attestation paper No. A1093 of the 38th Ottawa Overseas Battalion CEF, signed by Claude Nunney, and which later caused a bit of confusion as to his proper name, place and date of birth, confirms that he stated his birth date as 24 December 1892, place of birth as Dublin, Ireland and name as Nunney, Claude Joseph Patrick. The mix-up may be due to the fact that he was a "Home Child" and had lost his birth certificate, however he may also have been unhappy with the circumstances wherein he both believed and regretted that he was rather arbitrarily sent to Canada from his English home. He was born in Hastings, England as Stephen Sargent Claude Nunney on 19 July 1892. His parents, William Percy Nunney and Mary Nunney (nee Sargent) lived at 42 Bexhill Road, Hastings, England. (Note the date of birth on the official blue plaque, left, that is erected at his birth-



place in Hastings, England by “English Heritage”). His father was born in Burford, Oxfordshire. His parents called him Claude, as did his siblings; he was the fourth of eight children. The family moved to Kentish Town, St Pancrass in London in 1895. While there his mother unfortunately died of food poisoning in February 1899. Two younger siblings of Claude also died and five of the remaining six were given over to the care of the Catholic Church. The three Nunney brothers who had been born in Hastings, England, that is Frederick George, Stephen Claude and Alfred became Home Children.

By 1905 Claude and his brother Alfred arrived in Canada where their brother George had migrated a year earlier. Assisted by the Harrod Road School, Crusade of Rescue (Catholic Emigration Society, London), they travelled together aboard the SS Tunisian on 5 October 1905 to Quebec city. From there they were sent on to St George's Home in Hintonburg, Ottawa, Ontario. The Society hoped that the children would have a better life in Canada. (“Home Children” was the child migration scheme under which more than 100 thousand children were sent to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.) Once in Ottawa, they were split up and sadly sent to different families, with Alfred moving to the Micksburg County, Renfrew and Claude to North Lancaster, Ontario.



Alfred was only twelve and Claude thirteen when they were sent off to different homes. Claude was placed with Mrs. Donald Roy McDonald, Pine Hill, Glengarry County wherein he worked as a “Home Child”. Mrs. McDonald was to be his foster mother but did not adopt him; she died in 1912. After Mrs. McDonald’s death Claude lived the greater part of his time with Mr D. H. Gillis, North Lancaster, Ontario.

Some time later, he evidently became a close friend of Gordon Calder and relocated to his residence. Documented confirmation of this surprising change is simply lacking from other sources. Although Claude had never indicated that change earlier, his attestation paper, signed 8 March 1915, confirms that fact. Therein he made a significant change of his next of kin, by crossing out Mrs D. J. McDonald to instead read Gordon Calder, RR # 2, Green Valley, Ontario ( near Alexandria, Ontario). He later remitted money home to them each month and wrote a change into his will, which reads as follows: “In the event of my death, I give the whole of my property & effects to Gordon Calder, Mrs Gordon Calder, RR # 2 Green Valley. Ontario, Canada”.

In the period 1913 to 1914 and up to the outbreak of WW1, Claude Nunney had travelled looking for work in Trenton and St Catherine's, Ontario. He returned to North Lancaster Township in early 1915, obviously mindful of the issue of WW1. That basic fact notwithstanding, he had enlisted as a private in the 59th Stormont and Glengarry Regiment in June of 1913. They were placed on active service on 6 August 1914 for local protection duties. The regiment was designated to guard points along the St. Lawrence River. Notably they had been in highland dress since 1904 as shown in this older picture of Private Nunney.



On 8 February 1915 Claude Nunney proceeded to the Drill Hall in Alexandria because he heard that they had a recruiting team there from the newly authorized 38th Ottawa Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (authorized 28 December 1914).

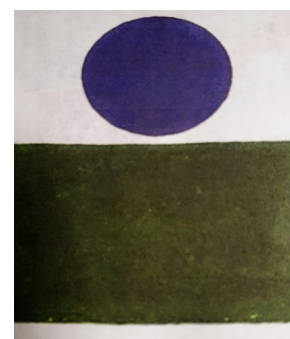
He was among the first to enlist. He subsequently finalized the enlistment details by completing and signing his official attestation paper at the old Ottawa (Ladies) Teacher's College (8 March 1915), located next door to Cartier Square Drill Hall, Ottawa. It is perplexing to find that he answered “no” to question 9, (Do you belong to the Active Militia?) and to question 10, (Have you ever served in any Military Force?). He was five feet, six inches tall with blue eyes and red hair.

## To War

Basic training for the new battalion commenced immediately in Ottawa, for five months, and then off to Barriefield Camp where they concentrated on section, platoon, company and eventually battalion level manoeuvres. While there, a new D Company was formed at the end of June and, interestingly, the majority of the soldiers came from those who had joined from the 59th, including Claude Nunney. From there the 38th members were informed that they were selected to go to Bermuda for garrison duty, a task and destination not popular with the men and particularly Claude Nunney. Most of the training time in Bermuda involved continuing preparation for war. Following their training and garrison duty, on 29 May 1916 the 38th embarked for Great Britain on board the SS Grampian and set sail for Borden Camp near Aldershot. Once there they began a full syllabus of training for trench warfare.

Following their arrival in England, on 1 July, His Majesty The King inspected the 38th as part of 4th Canadian Division, On 12 July a colour party, led by LCol Cameron Edwards, proceeded to Westminster Abbey to lay away the Regimental Colours. They were headed for France, to join the fighting units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

They arrived in La Havre, France on 13 August 1916 to be part of the Canadian Corps. The Corps had four divisions. The 4th Div had green Somme patches to distinguish them from the other three divisions. The General Officer Commanding 4th Div was MGen David Watson, a Canadian, who had under command the 10th, 11th and 12th infantry brigades. 12 Brigade was commanded by BGen J.H. MacBrien; his headquarters had a blue bar worn above the green divisional patch. 12th Brigade had the 38th as one of their battalions with LCol Cameron Edwards (from Ottawa) as their Commanding Officer. The other battalions were: the 72nd (Seaforths from Vancouver), 73rd (Black Watch, from Montreal), replaced by the 85th (The Nova Scotia Highlanders) and temporarily the 78th (Winnipeg Grenadiers) and 51st Battalion (Edmonton).



The 38th (picture left), was sent forward as part of 4th Div, to the southern flank of the infamous Ypres Salient in Belgium, held by the British, on the Western Front. It was a quick introduction to the trenches, for all companies of the 38th were rotated in and out of the trenches for the serious training they called the “seasoning process”. By August 1916, trench warfare had developed into a routine and typical day in the “trench eche-lons”, that is front line fighting trenches, next the support trenches and then reserve trenches, connected by communication trenches. Normally every morning and evening the trench “stand to” was conducted for up to an hour, for that was the expected time the enemy in the firing line were generally expected to attack. Thus the 38th first real exposure to warfare

in the trenches, cost them seven killed and many wounded. On 23 September 1916 the 38th moved to the infamous Somme battlefield area.

Their first large scale action on the Somme, was on 18 November 1916 with the battle for the Ancre Heights. Claude Nunney was heavily involved in the very difficult and fierce fighting for the Somme's Desire Trench for it required an attack across a sea of mud on a frontage of 800 yards. In addition to the whizzing, whine and roar of shells, they had to deal with five machine guns, thus were confronted with the hissing of machine gun bullets that made it seem like a tremendous gale or “sleet of lead bullets”. Private Nunney was known to his men as “Red Nunney” because of the colour of his hair but better known to them as an aggressive soldier, always thrusting forward, strong-willed, feisty. Desire Trench was the final battle on the Somme and although all objectives were gained, it caused over 500 casualties for the 38th. After several days of reorganization and reinforcements, the 38th was on the move to Vimy Ridge.

## The Vimy Battle

By the end of New Year's day in 1917 the 38th battalion was in the front line near Vimy Ridge. Although the front was "relatively" quiet from exchanges of artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, it still caused casualties with rotations in and out of the front line and support trenches, including raiding the German trenches, patrols, etc. On 14 February, while out of the line, the 38th was inspected by Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig, overall Commander-in-chief. Praise was duly accorded to the Regiment. By 27 March the Vimy positions became more active with the use of heavy artillery, heavy trench mortars, machine guns and even poison gas. The Canadian assault on Vimy Ridge was their crowning moment, as judged by previous strong, but failed attacks by the French 10th Army May/June 1915 and the British Army 22 May 1916. The Germans had steadfastly defended the ridge since capturing it in 1914. The Canadian attack at Vimy was the first time that all four divisions of the Canadian Corps were brought together to fight as a corps.

On Easter morning, 9 April 1917 at 5:30 a.m. The battle began and, the Canadian Corps launched itself at the German positions. The 38th attacked up Hill 145 which was the highest point on Vimy Ridge. They were up against a tenacious, well-fortified enemy with all the advantages of height. 12th Brigade's operation orders directed the 38th to penetrate the enemy front line positions using a first wave of men while the second wave followed up capturing the main German line. In effect, the first wave was to form and rush the objective as soon as the artillery barrage lifted, while the second wave followed up capturing the main German line. Within 20 minutes the 38th had taken its first and second objectives. By that evening, after very hard, very difficult fighting, they held and consolidated their positions. The cost was heavy for they had 4 officers and 82 men killed in action plus another 9 officers and 214 men wounded, many dying of their wounds.

Private Claude Nunney was directly involved in the heavy fighting to take Vimy Ridge. He volunteered to go forward, with his Lewis Gun crew to support Captain Thain MacDowell, who was under heavy German machine gun fire while holding a captured, and pivotal enemy dugout. Private Nunney had already been wounded in the left shoulder, before he went back into action with Captain MacDowell. He received a second wound in his right leg but he was indomitable and kept going. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in June 2017 for his unwavering, hard-driving fighting spirit and reliable assistance after the Vimy battle. He showed exceptional fearlessness while doing magnificently inspirational work. For his action, he was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). Here is the citation, for the medal, as posted in the London Gazette No. 30234, dated 16 August 1917:



Sergeant Nunney, June 1917

*"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Although wounded in two places, and his section wiped out, he continued to advance, carrying his gun and ammunition, and alone stopped an attack by over 200 enemy. He continued on duty for three days showing exceptional fearlessness, and doing significant work".*

The 38th moved northward to Lens and on the morning of 26 June they were ordered to participate in an advance intended to push the Germans back beyond the town of Avion. They were in the front lines for the next four days, attacking into the buildings on the outskirts of Avion. On 28 June, Sergeant Nunney went over the top and before he reached the enemy trenches, his platoon officer, Lt MacLennan had been wounded, thus Nunney found himself in charge as the platoon Sergeant. For his resolute leadership he was awarded a Military Medal (MM) as detailed in the London Gazette No. 30287, dated 17 September 1917 noted below:

*"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Avion, when on the evening of the 28th June 1917, after the capture of AVION TRENCH, Lt MacLennan, took his Platoon to form patrols and outposts in the village to connect up with posts on either flank. Sergeant Nunney was in charge of the machine gun section of this Platoon. Shortly after the advance of this platoon, Lt MacLennan was wounded in the feet and body and forced to retire. Sergeant Nunney from that moment took charge of the Platoon and from that time until his relief on the 30th June, remained continually on*



*duty and personally superintended the working of his patrols. He displayed energy, strength and courage by his continuous action. During the afternoon of June 20th, he heard a call for assistance from No. 410548 Private W. Murray and not being able to find a stretcher bearer, he proceeded to Private Murray and dressed his wound”.*

Sergeant Nunney was gassed during the Avion battle, caused by German firing gas shells on the night of 28 July 1917, forcing him to spend two months in the hospital. Although he had returned to the 38th by end September 2017, he was fortunately sent to the Canadian Corp School for a few months to both help him recover and to provide him with further special training. Thus he missed the Third Battle of Ypres and the sheer hell of the water-filled craters and muddy shell-holes of the soul-destroying Passchendaele offensive. His further legendary fighting was still ahead.

Before that came about, Sergeant Nunney had to deal with a court martial for striking a superior officer and was found guilty, despite the help of two officers who vouched for him. While waiting to be transported to prison and once again showing his action-oriented, unflinching hustle, he attempted, with other soldiers, to rescue the pilot and observer from a German airplane that had been shot down nearby. He suffered bad burns to his face and hands. For his bravery, they suspended his prison sentence but he did lose his Sergeant's stripes and had to revert to the rank of Private. He returned to the 38th on 18 August 1918 in time for the famous last 100 Days powerful offensive, ultimately leaving the trenches behind.

On 1 September 1918, the 38th attacked their objective of the Drocourt-Queant Line at Dury, a skilfully-constructed and heavily fortified defensive trench system. It stretched about 25 kilometres between the two towns in Northern France. Seven members of the Canadian Corps were awarded the Victoria Cross that day as they overran a front six kilometres wide while advancing nearly ten kilometres into enemy-held land. Yet again Private Nunney demonstrated his tenacious, thrusting drive and self-asserting, unflagging commitment. He visited the various regimental outposts during the height of the horrendous fighting, encouraging his fellow soldiers with not only his spirited words but his undaunted example.

On 1 September, while still in the Drocourt-Queant line, in the vicinity of Vis-en-Artois, and preparatory to the advance, the enemy laid down a heavy barrage and counter-attacked. Private Nunney was at this time at Company headquarters and on his own initiative, quickly charged forward to the Company outpost lines, encouraging the men by his own audacious example. The enemy were thrown back and a pivotal situation was turned around.



On the second day he was badly wounded in the face and neck and was evacuated to Mingoval, however he died from his wounds (age 25) on 18 September 1918. It was on 9 September 1918 that the British First Army recommended him for the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry during the Scarpe operations, to capture the German fortified trenches forming the Drocourt-Queant line. He was a magnificent soldier! You can read the strength and determination in his face and posture in the picture (left) versus that of the battle-weary Corporal of the 38th at his side.

Private Nunney's award of the Victoria Cross was published in the London Gazette, as No. 31067, on 14 December 1918. The citation is transposed verbatim: *“For most conspicuous bravery during the operations against the Drocourt-Queant line of the 1st and 2nd December 1918. On 1st September, when his Battalion was in the vicinity of Vis-En-Artois, preparatory to the advance, the enemy laid down a heavy barrage and counter-attacked. Private Nunney, who was at this time at his company headquarters, immediately on his own initiative proceeded through the barrage to the company outpost lines, going from post to post and encouraging the men by his fearless example. The enemy were repulsed and a critical situation was saved. During the attack, on 2nd September, his dash continually placed him in advance of his companions and his fearless example undoubtedly helped to carry the company forward to its objectives. He displayed throughout the highest degree of valour until severely wounded”.*

Private Claude Nunney VC, DCM, MM was the most highly decorated non-commissioned rank in the Canadian Army in World War I. He was the second and final recipient of the Victoria Cross for those who served in the 38th Battalion dur-

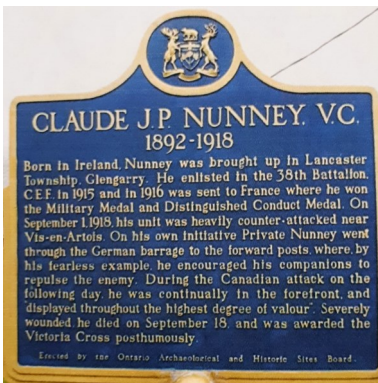
ing that war. Note the maple leaf etched on his headstone together with the Victoria Cross; this was done for all Canadian recipients of the Cross for valour. He is interred at the Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension in Aubigny-en-Artois, France, a village approximately fifteen kilometres northwest of Arras.

It is sad to realize that his brother, Private Alfred Nunney, was killed in action with the 44th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force on 10 August 1918, in their attack on Fouquestcourt. Private Claude Joseph Patrick Nunney left all of his personal effects to the Calders, as designated in his will. When the Victoria Cross recipients assembled in Toronto, Ontario, in 1936, Mrs Gordon Calder felt she was too old to attend. Instead she asked a female friend in Alexandria, who was an advocate for veteran's welfare, to "wear" his medals at the gathering. Apparently Claude had been adopted by the entire community of Alexandria.

A provincial blue plaque has been erected beside the Royal Canadian Legion in Lancaster, Ontario, between County Road 34 and Military Road North, crossing at the corner of Pine Street. His medals are on display in the armoury of the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, Cornwall. They perpetuate The 59th Stormont and Glengarry Regiment and the 154th, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. The blue



plaque (left), in Lancaster, indicates that Claude Nunney had enlisted in the 38th Ottawa Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force and served with them throughout World War I. The 38th Ottawa Overseas Battalion, CEF is perpetuated by The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own). It is intriguing that Claude joined the Ottawa Battalion, given that his first Canadian address, as a Home Child, was at St George's Home, Hintonburg, Ottawa.



There is also a plaque on display in Cartier Square Drill Hall, Ottawa, that jointly honours the two 38th Ottawa Battalion Victoria Cross winners. It acknowledges the valour of LCol Thain Wendell MacDowell, VC, DSO, MiD and Private Claude Joseph Patrick Nunney VC, DCM, MM. It is located on the main drill hall floor close to the Regimental museum. Finally it is instructive to recognize how the issue of the perpetuation is also confirmed by

an examination of their respective badges and their design detail.

The cap badge of the 38th, has the motto "Advance" configured above the figure 38. Conversely the original badge of The Cameron Highlanders (as shown here) has the number 38 configured above the motto "Advance", acknowledging the official ties between them. The Camerons have been the city of Ottawa's Regiment since 1881 and accordingly carry the city of Ottawa's official motto "Advance", that is so appropriate to an infantry regiment.



On 1-2 September 2018, a contingent {Major (ret'd) Roger Laplante, 2Lt Alexandre Leger, Cpl David Harding and Cpl Afton Maisonneuve} represented the Regimental Family by visiting Vis-en-Artois, France to commemorate the award of the Victoria Cross to Private Claude Nunney, in that village, where he earned his medal. The village also dedicated a portion of the highway, which had been the centre of the axis of advance for the 38th. The name is "Canada's Highway of Heroes/Voie Sacree du Canada". They also named a village square "Place du 38 Bn FEC" and erected a plaque in Nunney's honour. On May 9, 2019, a municipal counsellor from Vis-en-Artois, Phillippe DeGroot, came to Cartier Square Drill Hall, Ottawa to formally deliver the proclamation for Freedom of the City. It was presented to the perpetuating Regiment of the 38th, The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own).



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# MEMBER PROFILE

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## MEMBER PROFILE—CAPT CHUCK COTE

*In each issue we will profile a past or serving member of the regiment in order to learn more about the member's activities since leaving the regiment, their past service with the regiment or their interests and career outside the regiment.*



Capt Chuck Cote is currently serving as the Squadron Second in Command of Alpha Sqn of The Peace Support Training Center in Kingston, Ontario. Born in the province of Quebec, Chuck grew up in a small Ottawa Valley town south of the National Capital. From the earliest he could remember, Chuck always wanted to be part of the military, and started this journey at an early age joining the Royal Canadian Army Cadet (RCAC) system. At the age of thirteen, Chuck enrolled with the 2958 RCAC Corps which was a Cadet Corps affiliated to The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. He spent four years within the Regiment's Cadets, finishing up as a Cadet Sergeant Major. At that point, Chuck was looking at possibly becoming a Military Policeman until two very impressive and influential Cameron Sergeants who were overseeing a Cadet exercise impressed him, thus swaying his decision which in turn lead to his recruitment into the Regiment proper.

Chuck joined the Cameron's in spring of 1988 from which he completed GMT and QL 3 Infantry training that following summer and joined A Company (Inf) as a rifleman. As was the norm back in the day, the first specialized course following infantry training was a Basic Machine Gun course, which followed the regiments historical lineage. To this day, the lessons he acquired from the regiments NCO Corps on support weapons have held him in good standing. Chuck served in the regiment for eight consecutive years, and during his time completed many secondary qualification courses, a United Nations tour to Yugoslavia and rose to the rank of Sgt. Chuck is proud that he never missed a parade night or major exercise when he was not deployed. At that pivotal point in time, Chuck made the tough decision to leave the Cameron's and pursue a full-time career in the profession of arms.

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*Chuck has completed the standard military leadership courses for the army up to the Sergeant Major level with the majority of his Advance courses being Reconnaissance and Airborne Operations orientated. Chuck is a graduate of the Patrol Pathfinder Course. During the 17.5 years with the 3rd Bn, he has been deployed once to the Balkans and four times to Afghanistan*

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Chuck component transferred to the 3rd Battalion (Bn) PPCLI upon its stand up, and the amalgamation of 2 Commando of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in late 1995. He has served in every company within the 3rd Bn but the majority of his employment has been with Reconnaissance Platoon and the Parachute Company. Career wise, Chuck has completed the standard military leadership courses for the army up to the Sergeant Major level with the majority of his Advance courses being Reconnaissance and Airborne Operations orientated. Chuck is a graduate of the Patrol Pathfinder Course. During the 17.5 years with the 3rd Bn, he has been deployed once to the Balkans and four times to Afghanistan and has held the positions of Platoon Warrant in the Parachute Company, Reconnaissance Platoon, Bn Op's WO, Company Quartermaster of the Parachute, and Administration Coy.

Upon return from his last deployment to Afghanistan in 2011, he was posted to the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario where he was seconded to run the Aboriginal Leadership Opportunities Year program (ALOY) as his primary job, but also aided in the training of the College's Military Skills Team (Sandhurst Tm), and gave lectures on military leadership, ethics, and the Command Team relationship. At the conclusion of two

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# MEMBER PROFILE

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## MEMBER PROFILE— CAPTAIN CHUCK COTE MMM, CD

busy and enjoyable years of training future military Officers, the Regiment promoted him to Master Warrant Officer and repositioned him to the 2nd Bn in Shilo, Manitoba.

On arrival in the 2nd Bn in 2014, he was appointed Charlie Company Sergeant Major, (SM) and spent an excellent year with a great bunch of lads culminating in a deployment to Europe as part of the PPCLI 100th celebrations. Following that year, he was employed as the Operations and Combat Service Support Company SM involved in Bn level operational planning, and equipment management. At roughly the two-and-a-half-year mark of his time in the 2nd Bn, he was given the opportunity to return to Ontario at the Canadian Army Advance Warfare Center in Trenton.

Having spent most of his light infantry time in Airborne Operations, Chuck's posting as the Parachute Training Company SM was a great fit. As the SM at the "Jump School" he over saw basic and advance parachuting

courses as well as the Canadian Armed Forces Parachute Team, The Sky Hawks. After a year at the Advance Warfare Center, the Army thought he was lacking regarding second language ability, so he was immediately enrolled at the second langue school in Kingston. Eleven months later following his language exams, he was posted to The Canadian Army Command and Staff College (CACSC) as the College SM, at Fort Frontenac in Kingston.



At the beginning of Chuck's tenure at Fort Frontenac, he was asked to give back to the Army in another capacity and was endorsed to be commissioned as a Captain. After a year this new endeavor occurred with a posting to the Peace Support Training Center as the officer in charge of delivering the United Nations Military Observer course in 2019.

Throughout his military career Chuck has been extremely lucky to have been mentored and led by the best the CA and the CAF have produced. Much of his success can be attributed to the "solid base" which was established by the leadership from the Cameron's. The connection to the "Blue Hackle Mafia" has always been prevalent, and during the majority of Chuck's deployments he continually had the pleasure to fortuitously meet, or work with members of the Regiment. Chuck has never forgotten from where he came from and has always held the Camerons in high regard. Although his Regimental affiliation has changed, he has always been an exponent to the age-old adage "Once in Never Out".

Chuck has his Bachelor of Arts in History from Carleton University and has been awarded the member of the Military Merit, the Sacrifice Medal, a Commander-in-Chief Citation, and Canadian Forces Decoration 2nd Clasp. All the honors awarded Chuck can be traced back to his formative years as a Cameron where the fundamentals of soldiering and leadership took root.

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# THE BACK PAGE

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## ASK ALMOST ANYTHING

Do you have a question you wanted to ask about the Regiment or the CAF ? A query about pay and benefits? Curious about Regimental traditions or perhaps the traditions of another Regiment or Branch within the CAF? Let us know what they are and we will endeavour to find the answers for you!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ We want your submissions. Stories, Articles, Jokes, Questions, comments and suggestions. Email your input to [chofo-newsletter@googlegroups.com](mailto:chofo-newsletter@googlegroups.com)

### I WAS OUT IN THE FIELD WITH THE TROOPS THE OTHER DAY.....

Back in the days when the regiment had a “mobile infantry” task, and 4 AVGPs (of the Grizzly variety) we would go on exercise in Petawawa and the members of the Grizzly platoon would go off and practice movement/mount/dismount drills. On one such occasion four AVGP loaded with troops was travelling north on the Mattawa plain by Clement lake when the lead AVGP hit a trail dug in across the plan. The vehicle was travelling at a good clip and when the front of the vehicle hit the other side of the dug in trail the troops inside were thrown forward, and back as AVGP was launched skywards. Drivers in the following vehicles claimed they could see the front license plate of the lead vehicle as it kicked up. When the vehicle came down again everyone was thrown to the front of the crew compartment in a heap. There was much laughter.... Until we noticed the crew commander in a heap at the bottom of the turret cage. He had an unfortunate encounter with the anti-aircraft sight, then the turret hatch, then the AA sight again, and finally the spring loaded turret hatch came up to meet him one last time. His experience resulted in an immediate visit to the base hospital and many stiches, both front and back.

Shortly after this experience a directive was issued by the army that helmets were to be worn at all times in the AVGP, and the turret hatch was to be tied down when open..... Lessons Learned.....

### The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Regimental Association

#### Association Contacts

President: [chofoassocpresident@gmail.com](mailto:chofoassocpresident@gmail.com)

Membership: [chofoassocmembership@gmail.com](mailto:chofoassocmembership@gmail.com)

Treasurer: [chofoassoctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:chofoassoctreasurer@gmail.com)

#### Private Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/587769775282974>

#### Public Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/cameronhighlandersofottawa/>

#### Regimental Website

[www.cameronhighlanders.ca](http://www.cameronhighlanders.ca)

#### Foundation Website

[www.camerons.ca](http://www.camerons.ca)

#### Newsletter Submissions

[chofo-newsletter@googlegroups.com](mailto:chofo-newsletter@googlegroups.com)

#### Regimental Kit Shop

[kitshop@camerons.ca](mailto:kitshop@camerons.ca)

