



THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA



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

**2010/2011 OFFICERS**

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**Executive Board**

<b>Past Pres</b>	Taffy Gray	198 Seekings St Headingley, MB	R4J 1B1	204-889-5655
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	Sean Rivas	164 Carroll Road	R3K 1H5	204-802-2264
	Len Johnson	1094 Bay Rd	R1A 3L1	204-757-2023
	Tom Russell	376 Oak St	R3M 3R5	204-488-0088
<b>Foundation Trustees</b>	Fred Westphal (2012-2014)	Marc Gautron (2011-2013)		
Auditor				

**\* Last Post \***

**ED ABRAHAM (39/45)** – Has passed away but few details reported by his family.

**ALFRED SHEPHERD DIACK**

<http://www.yatesfuneral.ca/obits/obituary.php?id=187263>

**Born:** Fri Sep 19, 1941 **Died:** Mon Jul 2, 2012

**Memorial Service** 01:00 PM Thu Jul 05, 2012

**Location:** [Qualicum Beach Legion](#)

Mr. Diack passed away on July 2, 2012 surrounded by his family and friends. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 47 years Joanne, son Tim (Kristi) Diack, grandchildren Alexandra, Jack, and Gianni, daughter Kimberley (Eric) Nelson, special friends Doug Bradie and Joan Wiese, and his extended family and friends in Qualicum Beach and Winnipeg.

**Bill Worden's backstory:** Was in the unit late 50's early 60's. Both Alf and his brother Ernie were with the city police, another brother Harris was a captain with the fire dept and a fourth brother was a mountie. His dad was a blacksmith. When Alf was younger no way would you want to tangle with him, in later years he was very sick.

**MARGARET PEARSON (MOTHER OF MCPL MARK PEARSON)**

[http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-193127/name-Margaret\\_Pearson/min-run-date-1340514000/date-range-month/classification-id-1/first-name-marg/last-name-pearson/order-publish\\_date|DESC,last\\_name|ASC,first\\_name|ASC/](http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-193127/name-Margaret_Pearson/min-run-date-1340514000/date-range-month/classification-id-1/first-name-marg/last-name-pearson/order-publish_date|DESC,last_name|ASC,first_name|ASC/)

MARGARET PEARSON It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Margaret Rose Pearson (nee Cote) on July 17, 2012. She was born in Kamsack, SK but resided in Winnipeg, MB. There were many friends and family who knew her and will miss her deeply. She was predeceased by husband Albert in 2009; also predeceased by brother Kenneth, sisters Yvonne, Fay, and Judy. She leaves to mourn her children Darrell, Allan, Mark, Tina, Gina; brothers John (Arlene), Andy (Sheila), Sandy, Joseph (Donna), Fred (Donna), Casey, Preston; sisters Ruby, Kathleen, and Colleen, along with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Burial service took place Monday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. at Brookside Cemetery.

*Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on July 20, 2012*

**REGINALD THOMPSON**

[http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-195512/name-Reginald\\_Thompson/run-date-2012\\_10\\_06/min-run-date-1347426000/date-range-month/classification-id-1/order-publish\\_date|DESC,last\\_name|ASC,first\\_name|ASC/page-3/](http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-195512/name-Reginald_Thompson/run-date-2012_10_06/min-run-date-1347426000/date-range-month/classification-id-1/order-publish_date|DESC,last_name|ASC,first_name|ASC/page-3/)

REGINALD (REG) SPEECHLEY THOMPSON August 25, 1923 - September 27, 2012 Peacefully, on Thursday, September 27, 2012, at Poseidon Care Centre, Reg Thompson passed away at the age of 89. Reg will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 62 years Betty (nee Waters), and family, and friends. Reg was born in Hamiota, Manitoba, and spent his early years working on the family farm in McConnell, along with his eight brothers and sisters. During the Second World War, Reg joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, and was deployed to France, where he saw action on

the front lines. He was wounded in battle, but after a recovery period in England, he eventually rejoined his regiment to complete his service. Reg was a very proud Veteran, and was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion until his passing. Reg worked for most of his career at Bristol Aerospace, starting in 1953, as an aircraft mechanic and retiring in 1988, as a Supervisor. Reg also loved to spend two weeks every summer at a lakeside cottage in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, 200 - 6 Donald Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3L 0K6.

NEIL BARDAL FUNERAL CENTRE (204) 949-2200 [www.nbardal.mb.ca](http://www.nbardal.mb.ca)

*Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on October 06, 2012*

### **JOAN DONNELLY (WIDOW OF SGT BRIAN DONNELLY)**

[http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-193475/name-Joan\\_Donnely/min-run-date-1341205200/date-range-month/classification-id-1/order-publish\\_date|DESC,last\\_name|ASC,first\\_name|ASC/](http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-193475/name-Joan_Donnely/min-run-date-1341205200/date-range-month/classification-id-1/order-publish_date|DESC,last_name|ASC,first_name|ASC/)

JOAN DONNELLY (nee CARRIERE) Peacefully but suddenly, with her family and special friends by her side, Mom passed away Saturday, July 28, 2012 at the Health Sciences Centre at the age of 76 years. She fought a short but courageous battle with bone cancer. We knew Brian couldn't let her suffer so he took her quickly. Mom is survived by her three children and six grandchildren, Gary and Heather Fustey (Sara, Amy, and stepgrandson Dennis), Susan and Mike Davey (Matthew Nemetchek and Vanessa, Shaun Nemetchek and Sue, stepgrandchildren Kennedy, Curtis and Callan), Michael and Brigitte Fustey (Courtney and Kolton). She was predeceased by her husband, Brian Donnelly and mother, Evelyne Carriere. Mom's last week with us was incredible. She was visited by some of her favourite friends, Dino, Vince and Gus and her best friend of 60 years Muriel and Dick Petersen from Minneapolis. She was happy with her hair perfectly done and her lipstick on; she was ready to see her husband again. Mom lived her life around her family, her children and grandchildren were her world. We thank you Mom for 76 wonderful years and many more precious memories. A private family Interment took place. If desired, donations in Joan's name may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, 200 6 Donald Street, Winnipeg, MB R3L 0K6.

*Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on August 01, 2012*

### **HERBERT HOLLIER**

[http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-193583/name-Herbert\\_Hollier/min-run-date-1343970000/order-publish\\_date|DESC,last\\_name|ASC/](http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-193583/name-Herbert_Hollier/min-run-date-1343970000/order-publish_date|DESC,last_name|ASC/)

HERBERT ARTHUR HOLLIER 1913 - 2012 On July 29, 2012, two weeks after celebrating his 99th birthday with family and friends, Herbert Arthur Hollier passed away at Deer Lodge Centre in Winnipeg. Herb was born in Oak Lake Manitoba, the fifth child of Vincent Oswald Hollier and Sarah Ann Fowell who had emigrated from Leicestershire, England. Growing up during the depression, Herb spent summers as a farm hand in the Oak Lake area, and winters cutting wood and ice. Like many other young men, he rode the boxcars to Vancouver in search of work, but soon returned to Oak Lake where he found work as a butcher's assistant. A natural athlete, he was an enthusiastic and skilled hockey and baseball player. When the war broke out in September 1939, Herb enlisted in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. Knowing that his wife would be guaranteed an army pension, he finally felt able to marry Edna Boyce, also from Oak Lake, on Valentine's Day, 1940. The regiment soon shipped to England to await action in Europe. Showing a natural ability to lead, he rose to the rank of Company Sergeant Major. Mere weeks before the Dieppe Raid, Herb was reassigned to Canada where he spent time on the west coast helping to build coastal defenses before taking part in the American-led expedition against Japan to reoccupy the Aleutian Islands in August, 1943. Edna was able to move to Victoria and Prince Rupert to be near

him. He was then sent back overseas and did not return again to Canada until September, 1945. In peacetime, Herb was hired with the Federal Department of Agriculture as a meat inspector, a job that he carried out with dedication and professionalism for 32 years. He and Edna moved to St. James in August, 1950. It was a neighbourhood with many young families, and the Holliers made several life-long friends on Ferry Road and at the Bourkevale Community Club, where Herb coached hockey and helped to maintain the outdoor rinks. After his retirement in 1977, Herb and Edna enjoyed several winters in Arizona, making a new group of snowbird friends whom they saw annually, until Edna succumbed to heart disease in January, 1988. He had two holes-in-one, and enjoyed golf until almost 90. In winter he kept fit with cross-country skiing and long walks around Assiniboine Park, even in the coldest weather. In 2001 he moved to Metropolitan Kiwanis Courts and remained there until failing mobility forced a move to Deer Lodge. Herb lived according to principles of honesty and duty in everything he did himself, and treated others with respect and regard. *Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on August 04, 2012*

### **ELDEN ULLBERG**

[http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passages-search/date-range-all/keyword-ELDEN\\_ULLBERG/](http://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passages-search/date-range-all/keyword-ELDEN_ULLBERG/)

ELDEN IVAR ULLBERG Peacefully on Wednesday, October 31, 2012, Elden passed away at Grace Hospital in Winnipeg. Elden will be dearly missed by his children, Gary (Gail), Gail, Keven; grandchildren; numerous relatives; friends; as well as by sisters Evelyn, Eileen and Emily; brothers Eskil, Ernie and Edward. He was predeceased by his beautiful wife Betty of 52 years of marriage; sister Eunice and brothers Erven and Earl. On May 19, 1922, Elden was born in Erickson, MB. He and his brother Eskil served their country in the Second World War. Elden joined the Queen's own Cameron Highlanders 2nd Division and Eskil joined the paratroopers. When Elden returned from overseas he met Betty and married. He worked many years in the heating and cooling business and was highly respected in his trade.

On Saturday, November 10, 2012, Elden's Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel of Memories in Wojcik's Funeral Chapel, 1020 Main Street at Manitoba Avenue. Special thanks to Dr. George Borrett and the staff on 3S and 3N at the Grace Hospital, Mary-El Owen Case Coordinator in Community Home Care, and to all the staff on Tower 6 at Deer Lodge Centre. As an expression of sympathy, in lieu of flowers, donations in Elden's memory may be made to the Salvation Army, 290 Vaughn Street, Suite 203, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 2N8 or to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, 6 Donald Street, Suite 200, Winnipeg, MB, R3L 0K6. Wojcik's Funeral Chapel in care of arrangements.

ELDEN ULLBERG A soldier. A husband. A father. A grandfather. A friend. Elden, soldier on.

*Full obit published in the Winnipeg Free Press on Nov 10, 2012*

### **Widow's / Widower's Supplement**

There is income supplement for widows / widowers. They will mail out a form for her to complete. You will need proof of marriage and his regimental number etc. and her income tax forms.

If the financial situation is going badly the survivor should contact Veterans Affairs.

### **\* Sick & Visiting \***

**Hugh Comack** (SWW, Post SWW Cameron CO) – had a visit from our former Cameron cadet P/M Donny Morrison on 11 Nov when he went by to play at Deer Lodge. Donny reports that the Col. was in good spirits with medals on.

**Archie Moore** (Korea, Post SWW Cameron) – Archie is now a resident at Riverwood Square in Room #8. He enjoys company and always has a quick joke for visitors. Visitors

are advised that this is a secure facility as some residents are known to wander. Be sure to be clear on how this place works or you may get to spend the night too.

Tel:(204) 275-7632

<http://www.riverwoodsquare.com/home>

1778 Pembina Highway

Winnipeg, MB

R3T 1R2

**Roy Taylor** (WW2 RAF, Post SWW Cameron) Roy is at home and comfortable. He enjoys short visits but does get tired quickly.

### **\* President's Message \***

Steve says thanks to all who came out for the various Cameron Association events, especially the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kirk Service on 19<sup>th</sup> August at First Presbyterian and the book launch of Mark Zuehlke's new book, "Tragedy at Dieppe".

### **\* Vice-President's Message \***

Nothing from Karen at this time.

### **\* 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 WW 2 or Korea veterans doesn't make them any less important to the Cameron Association. Please help us locate them and bring them back into the fold. The ranks of the WW 2 guys are almost non-existent now and the torch must pass to the following generations of Camerons that we may continue to serve our fellow Camerons.

We have 74 paid up members at this time.

Brian Rupert <[bvrupert@sympatico.ca](mailto:bvrupert@sympatico.ca)> wrote:

Sir,

I am trying to research a member of my family who was killed in action on March 30, 1945. I believe it was during Operation Blockbuster. Can you possibly advise me on where or who I may contact to gather more information. The following is the data on my relative:

Bert J. Thomas

Born: July 15, 1923

Died: March 30, 1945

Rank: Private - Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

Service No. H10481

May I have your comments?

Thank You,

**Dale Whitham** was at the Dedication of MB's Highway of Heroes on 08 June, 2012 and says hi to those who remember him or his dad Joe Whitham. Also present were WO (Ret'd) D.B. Grant and Tom Munro to name just two more former Camerons who braved the weather and made the trek to the ceremony.

**Andre Blais** and his lady Susan are thinking of travelling across the country maybe next year, if not the following year. He wants to plan it so he can make it to the Reunion, before time and the rest of his hair runs out. Hi to the Cameron family, Gibson, Marc and Hollingshead. Andre may plan a short stop as well as with Graham. If they make it far enough to the east, McCracken and McKechnie are on the list for Ottawa. Congrats to LCol Peter Wut too !

**Steve Anema** was hoping that the Regiment would turn out in goodly numbers to honour 70th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. He sent his regrets as he was to be off touring Civil War battlefields that weekend.

**Andrew McKechnie** says thank you for keeping him in the loop on the regiment. "Please do give my best to all and know that I will be there in spirit." He also reported that Harley season is almost over. Work with the Mounties is really up in the air with the new "alignment" (read- cost cutting). If ever anyone is out his way again, "gimme a heddzup!"

He also got together a while ago with **Brodie, McCracken, Silver and Grif** (CWO Kent Griffiths, MMM, CD) for an evening of drink food and lies. He was in Manitoba in Sept for a 4 day whirlwind visit. Main objective - out to Neepawa to see Mum. No idea when he'll visit the flatlands again.

"Give me BEST to the herd." - Andy

**Brad Poole** says hi to all who remember him from the '90s.

**Rudy Bucholz** - It is a funny sort of world. Maj. Ken Smith was in town for the Cameron Reunion this year which also marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. Just before leaving town on the following weekend he asked about a name he saw in the Notices column of the WFP. It seems that a particular gentleman was celebrating his birthday and Ken thought it may just be a former Cameron who was on the Dieppe Raid. I followed up and sure enough Mr. Bucholz was that same Cameron that Ken remembered across those years. Once again, Happy Birthday from the Cameron Association in Canada Rudy!

Len Johnson spotted an article about **Steini Palsson** in The Selkirk Journal, Thursday, Nov 08, 2012. Mr. Palsson was a Normandy Cameron, wounded twice, and is now in his 90's. They also have a nice picture of him as young Sgt in his battledress.

**Adam Kulchycky**, yet another of our SWW Camerons has moved from Brandon, MB to Calgary, AB. We hope that you find your new "barracks" up to snuff Adam!

**\* 2012-13 Dues Payable Aug 2012 \***

As of 19 Aug 2012 Sgt Dave Gibson will take your payment. If you are not sure of your status please contact Dave and he'll either be happy to take your payment or be most unhappy that he doesn't get to take any money from you – yet - this year.

**\* Association Activities \***

**\* Unit Web Sites \***

The Unit web site is still up running at:

<http://thequeensowncameronhighlandersofcanada.net/>

Our Picasa web site is also worth a look and is full of little details about our history:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/117042978234752447737?gsessionid=2I4fhFnicaBQw1UpIRMSlw>

**\* Unit Events \***

**“A” Company Update:**

“A” Coy update from **WO James Clark**

**Pipes & Drums Update:**

Subject: OP Victoria - After Action



This is the 2nd parade we did that day (Freedom of the City Parade). Pipe Bands are:

Canadian Scottish, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada.

We departed for Victoria very early on 20th Oct (0530 hrs). Upon arrival, jumped right into full rehearsals. Stopped for a Regimental Group Photo Shoot with the L Gov. of British Columbia, followed by Full Dress rehearsals all afternoon. Gala Dinner that evening. 21 Oct was very busy day. Rehearsals all morning, 1 hour stop for lunch break & Get into Full Dress. March - On for the 1st event, (Centennial Parade) at 1300 hrs, 2 hours & 45 Minutes later, we marched-off. (Jaws sore from playing so much). They gave us a 10 Minute break, then formed up and marched downtown ( Approx. 6 KM) Playing all the way, to City Hall to do the Freedom of the City Parade, Then Marched / Played all the way back to Bay Street Armouries, upon entering the Armouries, went straight into Parade number 3 for the day. RSM Change of Appointment Pde, Farewell to the Old Hon Col, Medals Pde (Diamond Jubilee/CD etc) Speeches up the Yazoo... We finally marched off the parade square at 1845 hrs. Have to say I have not done such a long day of parading in some years. All in all, a good time meeting old friends/making new ones and strutting down the street with 4 Highland Regiment Pipes and Drums looked and sound great. Departed for Winnipeg, 22 Oct all safe & sound.

ULLAMH

I.A. Ferguson  
Master Warrant Officer  
Pipe Major  
Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

**\* Regimental Advisory Board Notes \***

**\* Cameron Association Events \***

Belgian Liberation Parade Notes:

On 22 July 2012 the Belgian Club, which is also RCL Br. #107, ran their annual Liberation of Belgium / Belgian Independence day Parade. The weather was warm and sunny. In attendance were LCol S. Wut our new CO, Maj. Paddy Douglass, Past Association President Bill Worden, Pres Taffy Gray, Hugh O'Donnell, Don Collins, and one of our SWW guy's widows Mrs. Angel Fransoo. Following the parade Maj Douglass also was finally able to present Angel with her very own copy of Winnipeg's Ladies From Hell.

There was great comradeship after the parade in that Legion and it is highly recommended that more of the Association should try to come out again next year. If we can help them track down a marching band to help out with the cadence and forgetting the heat that wouldn't be a bad thing either.

On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2012 the Association held its Annual Reunion. We always do an AAR of what worked, what didn't, and what we could do better next year. One of this year's points we improved on was having a wheelchair available to help with some of our

mobility challenged vets. For those who are concerned, no, that wasn't me after a bunch of ugly green monsters. Please pass on your constructive comments to the members of the Cameron Executive. Your unconstructive comments can be sent to some one who cares – deeply.

### **\* Cameron Cadet Events \***

Captain Kerry Walker, DCO of Queens Own Cameron Cadets, re the Cameron Cadet 100<sup>th</sup> is in the planning stages. Keep tuned for future developments ???????

### **Regimental Reinforcements:**

### **\* Regimental Events \***

#### **Incoming Rounds:**

**Men's Christmas Dinner: 08 Dec 2012 Blazer & Tie or Business suit.**

**Be at Minto for 1715 hrs is the best guess right now.**

**RSVP to Steve, Karen, or Hugh, particulars are on the front page.**

**Cameron WO's & Sgt's Robbie Burn's Dinner:**

**26 Jan 2013, 1800 for 1910 hrs, \$70/ticket, The Fort Garry Hotel,**

**Dress: Men - Mess Kit, Regimental Blazer & Tie, Business Suit Ladies: Fancy dresses and so on.**

**Kirk Parade: TBC but on or about 01 Feb 2013.**

#### **Rounds Completed:**

#### **Cameron Reunion Weekend:**

**Dieppe Reunion - 70th Anniversary (19 Aug 1942 - 19 Aug 2012)**

**- Date & Time: 17 Aug 2012 - Minto Armouries Junior Ranks Club**

**18 Aug 2012 - Assiniboine Golf Club on Ness**

**19 Aug 2012 – TBC, keep watching the web site or call**

**Golf: Cost is \$40.00 for golf and dinner. It is \$25.00 if only coming for dinner. You can enter by sending Mr. Don MacDonald a note at [dmacdona@mymts.net](mailto:dmacdona@mymts.net) or calling him at 771-3825. It will be at Assiniboine Golf Club with a 2:00 p.m. tee time.**

**“Prizes – ask for prizes” – Bill Worden. Consider yourself asked – and expect a Shawinagan handshake if you show up empty handed. You have been warned !!!**

- Locations: As above
- Suggested Dress: Association blazer & tie, dark business suit, or at least clean and presentable attire.
- Purpose: Commemoration of the Dieppe Raid in particular, and Annual Cameron Reunion as usual. Annual dues for the Cameron Association should be paid at this time.
- This year we are investigating some special events to help mark the 70th Anniversary of the Raid. More to follow re a possible service at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian here in

Wpg. You should all know it as that Kirk where our old colours are laid up in the Cameron Chapel.

- France: "Young" Tim Paryniuk is going to visit. Not sure at this time of any other pilgrims.

- Mr. Frederick Jeanne will be our new Cameron Representative in France. Mr. Jeanne is also the long time rep for the R Wpg Rifles and has attended many ceremonies on their behalf. He has been writing the Cameron part of a book on Green Beach (the Pourville part of the Dieppe Raid of course) and contacted us to get some information directly from the regimental archives which was duly provided by Sgt Tyler.

Mr. Jeanne is very involved in the Canadian Remembrance in France.

He has travelled to Winnipeg in 2008 for the 125th RWR Anniversary and again in 2011 for two weeks to do research for a book about the RWR during the week after D-Day and the tough battle of Putot-en-Bessin where 58 of them were murdered by SS Hitleryouth.

He has already written two books about the Canadian Army in Normandy and also many other articles because he works for the biggest WWII publisher in France (HEIMDAL) and became co-editor in chief of two magazines in France ("39/45 magazine" who will celebrate the Number 300 on May of this year). For an example see:

<http://admin6073.wordpress.com/category/editions-heimdal/>

His second book was "Normandy 1944". To quote Fred, "It's brand new but our public loved it and we sold a lot of them; 8000 copies".

He is also the president of an association called "Maple Leaf/Souvenir Canadien". They are planning to make two big plaques for the Canadian soldiers who died in action in Putot-en-Bessin, it should include more than 200 names.

Fred's aim is to serve the Canadian Remembrance.

### **Friday Night at the JR's Mess**

**Saturday Golf at The Assiniboine Golf Club – the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Cameron reunion Golf tournament was a great bit of fun. Maj. Ken Smith was able to remind us that there have now been 49 of these events. Apparently Russ Miller and the old gang sure knew what would get a bunch of Camerons out of the woodwork for an afternoon.**

### **Special 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dieppe Commemorative Service at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian 19 August 2012**

On the Sunday a good sized bunch of us, including a certain Maj. Ken Smith who present on Green Beach some 70 years ago, gathered at Winnipeg's "Presbyterian Cathedral" to remember our second baptism of fire. Here are the speaker's notes:

Good Morning, My name is Hugh O'Donnell & I am the Secretary of The Cameron Association in Canada. The Camerons have been coming to 1st Pres since 1928, but we're not the most regular of churchgoers.

On that note therefore thank you very much to Rev MacDonald & to you ladies & gentlemen of this congregation for hosting us this morning in memory of the 70th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. It was formally known as Operation Jubilee.

Several reasons have been given for the mounting of this Raid. Most recently and very intriguingly of the bunch was to capture a brand new 4 disk ENIGMA machine used encode and decode German message traffic from a German Naval HQ supposedly located in Dieppe. The Allies had been reading most German radio message traffic for years but this new 4 disk machine meant an end to all that. Convoys of food, fuel, arms, and troops could no longer be routed safely away from u-boat wolf packs and any Second Front plans would be set back by years.

To find out just how tough it might be to capture a strongly defended port - something thought vital to the success of an Allied invasion landing in occupied Europe, and could it be done quickly enough to avoid the port facilities being demolished?

How well will the latest equipment, tactics, techniques & procedures hold up?

To show the Russians and the Americans just how hopelessly ill prepared the western Allies were to mount a Second Front in 1942 OR 1943 even at the cost of most of an infantry division ?

To capture a German radar set for intelligence exploitation, and to deny the Germans the use of the barges kept safe in the port for a German invasion of England?

The port of Dieppe was a town of some 25,000 in 1942. Dieppe and its surrounding coastal villages of Pourville and Puits have a series of chalk cliffs that rise on each side like giant roller coasters to about the height of the Hudson's Bay store downtown - and these cliffs are just as steep as those walls. The only likely way to capture Dieppe is to take that high ground by landing in the valleys between these heights at Pourville and Puits and take them by attacking up the steeply sloping hill sides.

The Germans were no slouches and these cliffs and sloping hill sides had been fortified with lots of concrete MG bunkers which were protected by barbed wire obstacles. The beaches had been registered as mortar, MG, and artillery targets, as had other targets nearby. More German troops were stationed in the rear areas to quickly attack any Allied troops that managed to get off of the beaches alive. They had also flooded the Scie River valley which cuts Pourville in half and was to be a critical problem to the SSR and Camerons.

The Camerons and their 6th Brigade running mates, The South Saskatchewan Regiment, were to land at Pourville, WEST of Dieppe or to the right of it if you prefer.

The SSR had 2 main jobs. They were to secure Pourville so that the Camerons could land safely & pass through to their tasks, and also to secure

the high ground between Dieppe and Pourville which towers over the Dieppe beaches. If the Germans still held that high ground when the RHLI and Essex Scottish landed things would go badly indeed. That same high ground was also to be the road to the pick up boats and the safe way back to England. The SSR were also to capture a nearby radar station, its radar set, and other security related tasks.

The Camerons were to land and make straight for the Bois Vertus crossroads near Petite Appeville. There the Camerons were to link up with the Calgary Tanks coming off of the main beach then attack the nearby airfield. Should time and circumstances permit they were also to attack the suspected site of a German Division's HQ at Arques la Battaile then withdraw to Dieppe and get on the boats for home. All in a day's work.

On the evening of 18 Aug 1942 The Camerons, some 503 strong & bringing along with them some American Rangers, left the English port of Newhaven as part of the 2nd Cdn Division to take part in the cross channel Raid on the French port of Dieppe.

The Navy landed the SSR at 0452 hrs but fatally for the plan almost half of them were landed on the wrong side of the Scie River. As a result surprise and time were lost and they were only partly able to secure the Pourville beachhead area before the Camerons set down. The SSR were not able to make significant progress in taking the high ground overlooking the main beaches and clearing the route to Dieppe - the planned evacuation beach - despite V.C. winning efforts and tremendous sacrifice by all ranks.

The Camerons had been scheduled to land at 0520 hrs 19 Aug 1942 in a mostly secure beachhead. The CO deliberately delayed the landing until 0550 hrs to allow the SSR extra time to get their part of the show on the road. It was during this delay that the CO had Alex Graham play his pipes to keep the morale of the men in a fighting state while bullets and bombs were splashing around them. It is reported that the Company pipers also played for their men too. At 0550 The Camerons landed under fire. As with the SSR the Camerons were not landed entirely in the correct place. The Cameron CO was killed by MG fire from one of those bunkers within minutes of setting foot on the beach.

Capt. Young of Wpg's Ravenscourt School fame, and about a company of Camerons who were landed on the wrong side of the Scie joined the SSR to help clear Pourville and the high ground - the way home.

Major Andy Law took over the unit and together with the better part of the Bn headed inland.

They made good progress but endured constant fire from MGs mortars, and

riflemen. Radio contact, as usual was poor and the Camerons soon found themselves waiting near the RV and wondering what had become of the Calgary Tanks.

The Germans had not been idle and before long the RV was being attacked with more Germans piling on all the time. The arrival of German direct fire artillery with gunshields to which the Camerons had no answer for without working radios or their own mortars meant it was time to go. To add to the urgency the code word was heard meaning get out now !

The fighting withdrawal went well enough and the Navy did their best to pick up the troops from the beach. It was a 200 yard run from the seawall to the water under heavy mortar, mg, and rifle fire and that's when the Camerons losses began to mount.

Of the 503 Camerons who started the battle 346 became casualties. Most of the 60 KIA were buried by the German Army with honours in the cemetery at Vertus above Dieppe. 268 returned to England to continue the fight, 103 of whom were wounded. Most of those who returned to England were to return to France to finish the fight that started in Dieppe.

A great deal had been learned or perhaps some old lessons from Gallipoli in 1915 re-learned. The Russians and Americans had a very convincing lesson as to just how ill-prepared the Western Allies were to open a Second Front at this time. The need for specialized armour for engineers was driven home on the main beaches at Dieppe where none of the engineers made it across the fire swept esplanade to blow a gap for the Calgary Tanks to get off of the esplanade and on their way to the Camerons. The need to bring some sort of port facilities along with the invaders was driven home. The need for serious fire support and not just the guns from destroyers was driven home to the planners and the Royal Navy.

And the 4 ring ENIGMA machine ? Well only Ian Fleming of James Bond fame knew for sure.

**Rev. MacDonald, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your time this morning. Camerons of the Dieppe Raid and onwards, we thank you for your sacrifices.**



**Maj. Smith laying his wreath “In Memory of the Dieppe Raid Veterans and Prisoners of War”**



**George Derby Veterans Residence, Burnaby, B.C. 2011  
Piper Bill MacKay (“B” Coy Piper), LCol Bill Boivin who started in the WLI  
then joined the Camerons in NW Europe, Major Ken Smith.**



**Maj. Ken Smith with Lt. C. Alistair Campbell, the younger brother of Col. Ross Campbell. Alistair was one of the few Camerons sent to Italy in 43-44 to gain battle experience. He was attached to the Saskatoon Light Infantry – the MG and heavy mortar battalion of 1<sup>st</sup> Cdn Div. he rejoined the Camerons in 44 and wounded at Calcar Ridge 26 Feb 45 when his jeep went up on a mine. That was of course the day that Col E.P. Thompson was KIA, Ken was wounded, and Maj. Dave Rodgers nearly got a V.C.**



**Canadian Battle Series author Mark Zuehlke after the book signing at Minto,**

**\* Links \***

**Afghanistan 2012**

<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2012/09/afghanistan-august-2012-return-of-the-fallen/100364/>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/08/20128252113413644.html>

**\* Historical Notes \***

Angus Chub was a private in the QOCHC he was captured on Green Beach and spend 3 years as POW.

"William \ (Bill) RUSSELL" <SEAFORTH99@TELUS.NET>

To: <hodonnell@draega.net>

Date: Sat, 14 Jul 2012 12:48:28 -0700

Subject: 43rd. Camerons

Hello,

*My name is Bill Russell and I live in Vancouver.*

*My grand-father was with the 43rd. Camerons during WW1. He was in the pipe-band under Pipe Major John Duke. He was also there when a benefactor gave the 43rd. 16 sets of bag-pipes....the pipers, after some controversy at the end of the war, were allowed to keep their pipes.*

*I will have to check as I am not sure.....he always had scores of stories and his memory was intact right to the end and I think he had a story of each piper and several for P/M Duke. His pipes (#14) were taken overseas for WW2 by my father and landed in Europe on day 2 of the Normandy Invasion and again in 1958 when my father was Pipe Major of the RCAF pipe-band in Marville, France....*

*During my career as a piper I ran into a few sets of Cameron Pipes since they were so distinctive.....Duke's pipes (who had the only set that was fully engraved) came to the Coast via the Ironsides family in Seattle and recent inquiries on them were that the adopted son of Ironsides had some issues and they were "pawned" somewhere in the US within the last 10 years or so).....very unfortunate!*

My Dad joined the RCAF in the 50's and was Pipe Major of one of RCAF Pipe Bands (Marville) and they ended up back in Europe for a third time 1958-1962 and of course saw lots of service again under more peaceful circumstances. It was during the family being stationed in France that my grandparents came to visit and we returned to all the places that the Camerons had been during his service....the stories he told were amazing. My grandfather had been gassed to some extent during the war and there was a legacy of that.....he became Pipe Major of the Calgary Highlanders and on the eve of departure overseas he became ill and nearly died at the Col. Belcher Hospital in Calgary....as much as he tried they never let him re-join the band in Europe and ended up with the Army Police and POW's from the war that were held in detention somewhere in Alberta...but as mentioned the pipes were taken by my Dad anyway and were played at different areas during WW2 in several places.

At any rate....going thru some "stuff" recently I came across his original Plaid which he wore on parade in WW1....a few moth nips but still very good condition....also have 2 framed pics which hung in his house for his whole life..

1) WW1 Pipe Band picture....taken as I recall in London.....right up to the end he could name every piper.

2) Framed picture of the 43rd pipe band marching in the Lord Mayor's Parade at the end of WW1 in London (England)

I am wondering if the Regiment would be interested in these artifacts for your museum or such.

Best Regards,

Bill Russell ([seaforth99@telus.net](mailto:seaforth99@telus.net))

### \* More Links \*

#### **Lest We Forget Project**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cenotaph/025009-1101-e.html>

Since 2001, Library and Archives Canada has been supporting the Lest We Forget Project, connecting youth to Canada's history by making military personnel files available, both in person and online.

For more information, please contact us at [podcasts@bac-lac.gc.ca](mailto:podcasts@bac-lac.gc.ca).

#### **Recommended Reading: Britain & The Great War 1914 - 18**

**Author: JM Bourne      Publisher: Edward Arnold 1989**

**ISBN: 0-7131-6592-8**

**Or at your local library under the call number: 940.341 Bou**

**An excellent book that covers the British Empire's "BIG Picture", and not just the military side of things. The major political and social aspects of the British war effort are also given a decent treatment. David Lloyd George and Sir Douglas Haig get both the well deserved credit and well deserved criticisms – instead of the usual sloppy treatment of blaming Haig for everything.**

Has anyone read this yet? Please let me know if it's any good.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0752465775>

## Steel and Tartan: The 4th Cameron Highlanders in the Great War

### Book Description

Publication Date: **1 Mar 2012** | ISBN-10: **0752465775** | ISBN-13: **978-0752465777**

Author: Patrick Watt

In the summer of 1914 Scotland prepared for war. Thousands of Scottish men of the Territorial Force rushed to their muster stations, eager to take the fight to the enemy. From the Highland market towns, picturesque, unspoiled villages and wild moorland, Scotland's sons volunteered to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. This is the story of the gallant officers and men of the 4th Battalion, Queens Own Cameron Highlanders. Steel and Tartan charts the adventures of the 4th Camerons from their training in Bedford with the Highland Division through the autumn and winter of 1914 to their eventual break-up in March 1916 at the hands of the British Army administrators.

### Winnipeg Police Pipe Band

We Camerons have some long and honoured links to the WPPB, including at least two Camerons who have served as the WPPB Pipe-Majors. Here's a fine way to keep those links strong. Allow me to provide a reminder that the 2013 WPPB Scotch Tasting will be held at the Canad Inns Tavern United on Sunday May 27th 2013 (always the last Sunday in May). Tickets should be available in early 2013.

We have been busy updating our summer events including our participation in the Selkirk Settlers Barge Festival. We are encouraging people to indicate a like on our page if you are impressed with the content.

Doug Roxburgh

Pipe Major

WPPB

**\* "It wouldn't be an Oatmeal Rag w/o a Wee Joke" (Russ Miller) \***

**From Joe Kveton:**

**You must learn from the mistakes of others.**

**You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.**

**We are 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 Cameron Association and the Jewish War Vets;**

**Mr. Greg Flom, a former Cameron currently with Birchwood GM; and**

**Maj. Bill Gray, Cameron Advisory Board.**

**Sgt Tim Seeley, Drum Sgt Extraordinaire**

**Gentlemen, we thank you.**

**I need a piper for a Cameron Association member's funeral ? ? ?**

For those of you who are trying to plan ahead or suddenly need to book a piper for one of our Comrades and don't know how it is done here you go:

1. Contact the President of the Cameron Association or the Editor of the Oatmeal Rag at a reasonable hour; and
2. We'll pass you the contact information of the current Cameron Pipe-Major (because the appointment does actually change from century to century or so and otherwise you may call the wrong guy); and
3. The P/M will help you to make the appropriate arrangements.

**Verification of Former Service DS Solution:** You can make a request under the Access to Information Act, which will provide you with proof of your service with the Camerons. Thanks very much to Sgt V. Sellars of the WGOR. Please click on the link:

<http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/tbsf-fsct/350-58-eng.asp>



**Sgt T. Seeley representing us at the Remembrance Day ceremony held by the British Consulate at the Shaiba War Memorial, a Commonwealth War Graves site in Basra, Iraq 11 Nov 2012. This cenotaph commemorates the Officers and Men who fell in the area between 1914-1921 and who have no known grave.**

## Our Sponsors for this issue of The Oatmeal Rag are:



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## Sometimes words are not enough.



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Camerons at Pourville L to R, MCpl Dean Munoz Perez, Cpl Nic Curry, Cpl Grant Walkin, Cpl Leif Olafson and MCpl Justin Bernier



Sgt Will Worden piping at Dieppe, 19 Aug, 2012