

THE ESSEX AND KENT SCOTTISH REGIMENT

SEMPER



PARATUS



DIEPPE MEMORIAL PROJECT II SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER



MR. DAVE WOODALL, OFFICER COMMANDING DELTA COMPANY

How does one repay a debt that can never be fully repaid?

In 2005, the Regiment presented an opportunity to several civilian members of the community – a once in a lifetime opportunity to construct and set in place a monument on Red Beach in Dieppe, France.



A unique memorial dedicated “to the memory of our comrades who gave their lives in World War II during the raid on Dieppe and during the Allied advance through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany 1944–45 on the road to victory”. And I was one of the fortunate ones that was asked to be part of Delta Company (‘D’ Coy) and the Dieppe Memorial team.



Mr. Reinhold Plackman
puts final touches on the hat
badge.

As the work went on to develop the design, select and fabricate the various components, assemble and finally install and dedicate the finished product, I had the very good fortune to meet a whole new group of people – serving soldiers, veterans, and band members – many of whom I now

count as friends. As the Dieppe Memorial Project I (DMP I) took shape, it became patently obvious to ‘D’ Coy that another memorial would be needed in our own Dieppe Gardens, as time and funding permitted. DMP II became a reality in August 2010 thanks to the generosity of the citizens and children of Windsor and Essex and Chatham-Kent.

Veterans who served in Dieppe and the duration of WW II, Korea, as peacekeepers in Cyprus, Bosnia, the Balkans and active serving soldiers, many of whom have one or more tours under their belts as peacemakers in Afghanistan, have made Canada the best country in the world in which to live. Their actions have provided freedom and improved the quality of life for uncounted millions around the world. I, along with countless native-born and immigrant Canadians, have had the good fortune to live in peace and prosperity for most, if not all, of our lives. We, the civilians, did not need to fight, we did not suffer their hardships. Neither did we suffer the horrendous injuries nor were we required to make the ultimate sacrifice as many of them willingly did, and yet we have lived to experience the most prosperous times the world has ever seen. We owe our sailors, soldiers, and airmen, who have served our country – past, present and future. It is a debt that can never be fully repaid.



The members of Delta Company are proud to be Canadians. They support and promote our troops in any way possible – particularly the soldiers of The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment. A debt is owed – Delta Company has done its absolute best to made the first payment. Delta Company has plans in the works to continue the payback in a variety of ways. However, no amount of money or any number of good deeds can ever fully repay what our soldiers have given to us.

THANK YOU to all the veterans and serving members of
The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment.

SEMPER PARATUS!

Dave Woodall



Delta Company members Ed Bernard, Dave Woodall and Cy McGrath work on the monument .

CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHS



Devonshire Mall DMP II fundraising booth set up by Andrea Grimes.



Ville de Dieppe Mayor Sebastien Jumal and City of Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis speaking to veterans at the ceremony .



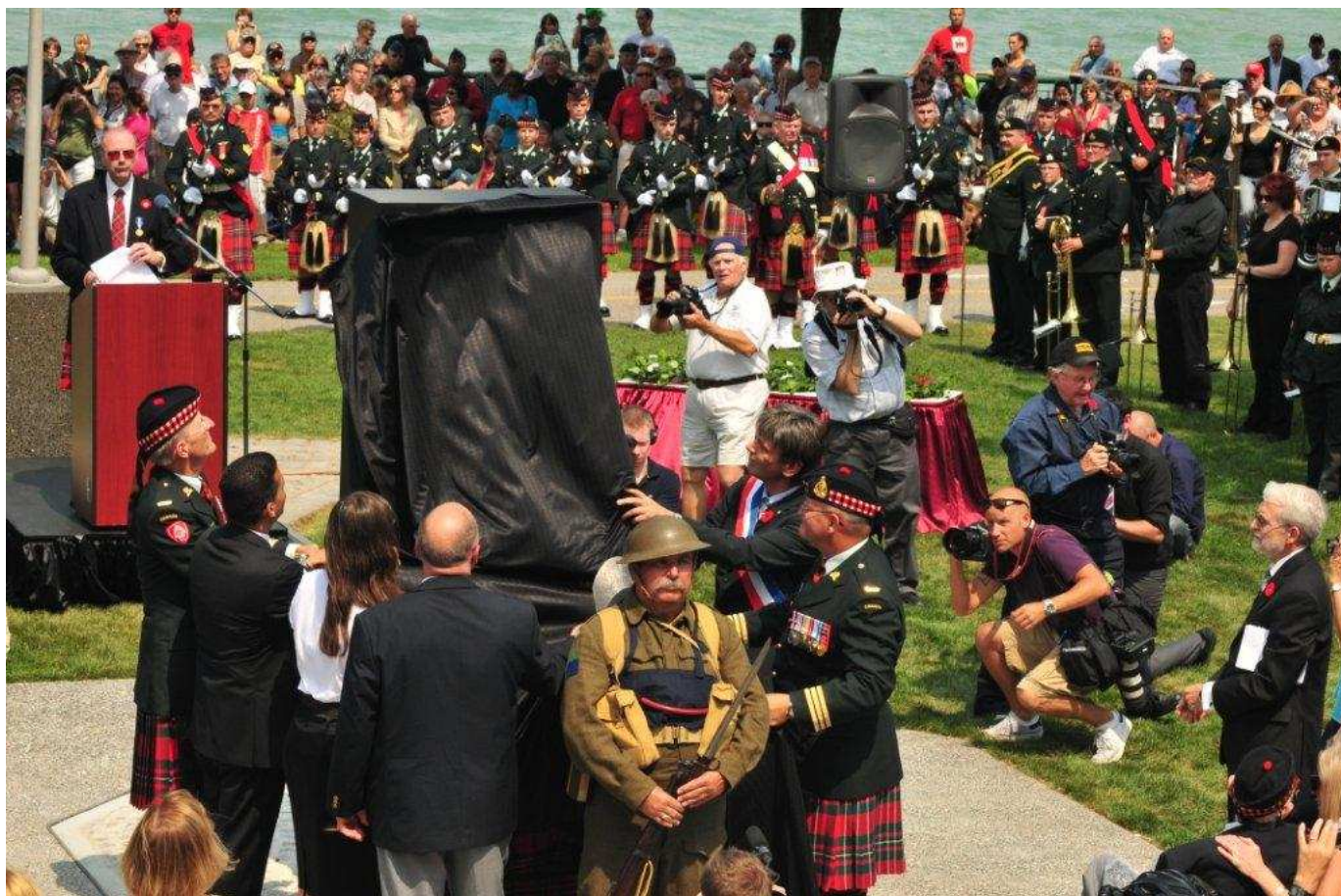
North Wall Riders carry flags during the candlelight vigil. E&K Scot's new Camp Flag located in the center receives its inaugural unveiling.



Amherstburg re-enactor Mr. Norm Drouillard wears the WW II uniform of an Essex Scottish Sergeant.



Monument Cap Badge.



The shroud is removed , unveiling the Dieppe Monument by (L to R) HCol Hardy Wheeler, Mayor Eddie Francis, Artist Rory O'Connor, 'D' Coy OC Ed Bernard, Commanding Officer LCol Morris Brause and Mayor Sebastian Jumal



LCol Morris Brause and CWO Sean Wilkins assist Dieppe Raid Veteran Howard Large lay the Regimental wreath



Regimental padres Capt Greg Lutz and Major Kim Gilliland prepare to lead prayers during the ceremony



WW II Essex Scottish Veteran Art Kuderian and his wife Alice enjoy the after ceremony festivities at the St Clair Center for the Arts



DIEPPE MEMORIAL PROJECTS I AND II ARTICLE BY MIKE BEALE

The legacy of the men and women who have served in The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment is freedom and liberty. Many rest eternally on foreign soil. Our collective responsibility to them is remembrance.

Allow me to tell you of a journey of remembrance by members of The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment, Delta Company ('D' Coy). In 2005 the volunteer team of Ed Bernard, and Dave Woodall, and myself spearheaded an initiative to replace a plaque which had been installed in Dieppe France in 1995. The short passage of time had not been kind to this tribute. It had deteriorated, ravaged by salt air and vandalism. I invited an 18 year old local artist, Rory O'Connor to develop a design concept for a replacement monument and within days her vision gave the monument life.



Monument artist Rory O'Connor with Dieppe POW Art Rossell.

In 2006 the new monument was dedicated on the beach in Dieppe, France.

In 2009, the same 'D' Coy, "go to" team decided to build and install the same, "Sister" monument in Windsor's Dieppe Gardens. We felt many citizens would never be able to travel to France and they should have the opportunity to experience this beautiful tribute to the Regiment. Our CO, LCol Morris Brause concurred. 'D' Coy received the "green light" to build Dieppe Memorial Project II and make it ready for dedication in Dieppe Gardens, 19 August, 2010, the 68th anniversary of OPERATION JUBILEE.

Project responsibilities were assigned: Ed Bernard (Tool Engineering), Dave Woodall (Civil Engineering) and Michael Beale (Fundraising). Dieppe Memorial Project II, (DMP II), proceeded with the help of our School Boards using the marketing theme, "**A Child Shall Lead the Way**". They would represent the generational link to our Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment Veterans.

Again, we drew on the talents of local businesses, tool and die, marketing, and fundraising – all the essential components necessary to make DMP II come to fruition.

Ed Bernard, Dave Woodall, Woodall Construction and new member, Cy McGrath, began the design/build process for the Regimental cap badge, plaques and lettering. The fundraising and public relations campaigns were kicked off under my direction and new member, hardworking Andrea Grimes.

The theme, "**A Child Shall Lead the Way**" was embraced by our community. Our children became student ambassadors.

During the construction we received a message from the Mayor of Dieppe, France that he had taken a special interest in DMP II. He would attend the dedication ceremony to help unveil this second lasting tribute. In addition, under his direction the Ville de Dieppe, France would be donating one ton of Dieppe beach stone for the footing surrounding DMP II. Upon arrival our children, student volunteers, spent a



Andrea Grimes, Dieppe POW Jack Graham and HCol Hardy Wheeler.



day hand-washing the salt from these precious gifts in preparation of laying these stones at base of the monument.

While Andrea Grimes and I completed the Public Relations and fundraising portion of DMP II,

Dave Woodall, Ed Bernard and Cy McGrath worked diligently on the granite and stainless steel components. The foundation was dug and cement poured in Dieppe Gardens. Our team spent countless hours dealing with issues as they arose, with a professionalism and sense of purpose.

The Dedication Ceremony on August 19th, followed the theme of "**A Child Shall Lead the Way**". We witnessed our children present their poppies at the base of this second, beautiful tribute to our Regiment. While our children took ownership of the



Student contemplates placing her poppy .

monument, the community unashamedly displayed their emotions, reaffirming our commitment to remembrance by embracing our children, our history and most importantly our Veterans. The torch of remembrance was passed.

The story of the construction process for DMP I and II is certainly the stuff that legends are made of, but speaking for the team, our names are not important and must fade away. Our work is a tribute to those Canadians who serve and served Canada and to the many who rest eternally on foreign soil.



MacGregor tartan covered 'alms' box for poppies positioned at the base of the monument.

Remembrance, that's all the fallen have ever asked of our generation. The education of the next, will be our legacy.

Semper Paratus

S. Michael Beale, KTJ, and Andrea Grimes 'D' Coy, E&K Scot



Canadian War Cemetery at Dieppe, France. Note the headstones are head to head as the soldiers were buried by the German Army using their traditional military cemetery plan.



Pipes and Drums of The Essex and Kent Scottish lead the Guard on the parade. Photo by Greg Moore.



Dieppe Mayor Jumel, daughter Sarah (Left), Rhéa Hodgins (Right), reflecting upon the sacrifice made by the Canadians during the 'OPERATION JUBILEE' Dieppe Raid.





Windsor Major Eddie Francis congratulates the Essex Scottish Dieppe Veterans for their sacrifice and service.
Photo by Greg Moore.



Pilot Rick Volker in the cockpit of his Hurricane that flew past the DMP II ceremony. Photo provided by Mike Beale.



North Wall Riders parade the flags along Riverside Drive prior to the candlelight vigil. Photo by Greg Moore.



Honorary-Colonel Hardy Wheeler of The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment talks of the outstanding efforts made by the members of The Essex Scottish during WW II.



Guard from The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment marches onto the parade.

UPCOMING 2012 BATTLEFIELD TOUR



Planned Itinerary

- 9 August 2012 – Depart for Europe
- 10 August 2012 – Arrive in Amsterdam
- 11 August – Groningen Tour
- 13 August – Hochwald & Xanten Tour
- 14 August – Holten Cemetery visit
- 15 August – Scheldt Battlefield Tour
- 16 August – Putte & Amersfoort
- 17 August – Vimy Ridge & Ypres Tour
- 18 August – Dieppe Battlefield Tour
- 19 August – Dieppe Commemorations
- 20 August – Return via Paris

In August 2006 a pilgrimage to the old battlefields of the North West Europe culminated in the unveiling of a new Regimental memorial on the esplanade at Dieppe where memories were rekindled, acquaintances renewed and lasting friendships forged. The Regiment and the wider public of Windsor and beyond have continued to remember, most notably when a second memorial was placed in Dieppe Gardens last year.

Now, to coincide with the 70th anniversary of that fateful day a tour is planned to experience the achievements and sacrifices of the Regiment, from Dieppe, through Vimy Ridge and beyond through Belgium and Holland, the battles of the Scheldt, Arnhem, Hochwald, Xanten and Groningen.

The tour will be arranged by Battle Honours Ltd, and guided by Kirk Drew & Clive Harris, both members of the Guild of Battlefield Guides. Kirk served extensively with the Regiment before his retirement and Clive is a published author and is a member of the

British Commission for Military History. Between them and their support team, they will ensure this tour is a fitting tribute to those who have served overseas between 1941-1945.

The price of the tour, inclusive of flights, is estimated at \$3000.00. Further details can be obtained by contacting Kirk direct at 979-6701 or via email kgdrew@sympatico.ca

Down Payment of \$300.00 is due by 19 August 2011

www.battle-honours.co.uk



DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE AND THE HISTORICA-DOMINION INSTITUTE

Researcher Matthew Ferguson, wishes to conduct interviews with Regimental Veterans from WWII, Korea, Peacekeeping Mission and Afghanistan for 'The Memory Project'. This worthwhile project has been a work in progress for several years. If interested please contact Matt at mferguson@historica-dominion.ca or at 1-866-701-1867.

UPCOMING REGIMENTAL EVENTS

DIEPPE RAID PARADE, 19 Aug 2011, 11:00 am (troops form up) Dieppe Gardens, Windsor Waterfront

ARROWHEAD STORM, 31CBG Field Training Exercise 20-28 Aug 2011, ATC Meaford

READY HIGHLANDER, Regimental Field Training Exercise 9-10 Sept 2011, CFB Borden

COMMANDING OFFICER'S & REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR'S MESS DINNER, 15 Oct 2011, Location TBA

CHRIST CHURCH PARADE 06 Nov 2011 (Timing TBA), Christ Church, 80 Wellington Street, Chatham

Followed By:

FIELD OF VALOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING EVENT, 06 Nov 2011 (Timing TBA)

Old Chatham Armoury, 50 William Street (Tecumseh Park) Chatham



WINDSOR WATERFRONT PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE D



Photo courtesy of Delta Company Mem

SEPPE MEMORIAL PROJECT II CEREMONY 19 AUG 2010



ber Spike Bell, Master of Photography

DMP II CEREMONIAL EVENTS, ARTICLE BY MIKE BEALE

August 18 --- Dinner at the Bistro before Candlelight Vigil, Dieppe Gardens.

The dinner passed in a strange fog for me, I struggled to savour the moment with friends. We were committed to a timeline and protocol. I suppose I, like many of us, felt this was the price one paid for accepting project responsibility, working to ensure success at all levels. As Master of Ceremonies for tomorrow's ceremony I knew my duty was just beginning. It's only now at Greg Childs' request as I write, I can look back with thoughtful introspection.

My thoughts were on the M/C presentation the next day. Chatting with Jim Crichton, he gave me some valuable insight as a well-respected television News Anchor, along with his usual kind words of encouragement. During dinner, our most convivial French interpreter conveyed friendly messages from the Mayor of Dieppe Sebastien Jumel, to Mayor Eddie Francis. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Morris Brause, spoke of the work of the team, welcoming our guests in a warm and gracious manner. It felt good to be amongst these fine people who I had come to know and rely upon. I had sought their talents years ago when they accepted a challenge to build something honourable and lasting. This 'D' Coy team knew and understood the possibility that without a whole hearted commitment we might fail. Understanding this, never speaking of it, and with dogged determination, we were prepared to overcome any obstacle, embracing anyone who would help us succeed, together. Nothing was going to deter us from our mission, no one on this team would feel alone in their tasking. My friends were the horsepower behind these two incredible gifts to not only our fallen, but also our determined WWII victors. Together we helped raise the consciousness of South-Western Ontario to our present and past military members and their accomplishments. These are good men and women committed to a common cause of honouring others, never caught up in self aggrandizement. That would be in bad taste. I felt a quiet confidence as I scanned the room. As usual, they had my six o'clock position covered for tomorrow.

Candlelight Vigil Ceremony August 18

As we left our dinner we strolled towards the monument, along the way, gathering the company of many of our War Veterans, moving so much slower than they had 68 years ago on the beaches of Dieppe, but every bit as much determined to reach their objective. The deep sound of the North Wall Riders, a motorcycle club composed of military veterans who proudly carried our new E&K Scot Camp Flag as well as the other great flags under which they served, proudly rode through the streets of Windsor in honour of our War Veterans and their deeds. It was twilight as the sun set on the skyline of the City of Detroit and we were each met by a friend, handing out a lit candle.



Ed Bernard, Cy McGrath, Mike Beale and Dave Woodall at the candlelight vigil.

We were met by many other candle-lit faces as we approached the monument and gathered shoulder-to-shoulder, meeting new friends, all proud to honour the deeds of our War Veterans. The purpose of our vigil was to parallel the annual candlelight vigil at the Canadian War Cemetery, where on the evening of August 18th, the grateful French citizens of Dieppe honour the hundreds of war dead from the 1942 raid.

The CO spoke as we walked. North Wall Riders' (Veterans) motorcycles were parked, and those more recent Veterans joined our ever-increasing group. The crowd of Veterans, members of the Regiment, VIP's, citizens, 'D' Coy members, greeted each other in a true sense of community, coming together to celebrate, yes celebrate, what we together as a community built to remember the sacrifice of our fallen and



War Veterans. Jim Crichton spoke to the timing of the raid, he captured our sense of loss. The soldier re-enactors stood silent around the monument, rifles inverted, heads bowed in solemn tribute. Pipe Major Tom Fox played a sorrowful lament. We toasted our fallen and looked forward to the formal unveiling of the monument the next day. The artist, talented Rory O'Connor who designed this beautiful tribute stood by with her family. She was my neighbour, then an 18 year old art student when she first put pencil to paper years ago. The 'D' Coy build team gravitated towards each other in the darkness. There was no need to say anything, with tight throats, we understood that we had accomplished our assigned mission.

Daybreak, August 19.....'.Toast To The Ghost'

Silhouetted figures could be seen slowly wending their way through the darkness along the Detroit Riverfront pathways, towards the yet unveiled Dieppe Memorial. Strong handshakes were made as each recognized their friends, some being War Veterans, who began gathering at a bleary-eyed, early 0500 hrs rendezvous, to pay homage to those who had attacked the Dieppe, France beachfront under withering enemy fire, exactly 68 years earlier. Thankful to be living under the protection of the Canadian rights and freedoms that our soldiers had so dearly protected, many with their dying breath, our band of approximately 35 hoisted 'single malt' toasts to their valiant efforts at this symbolic beachfront, much similar to the toast to them, on 19th August 2006 at Dieppe France. Some of the rare Scotches were kept at near freezing temperature, to the delight of many palates. Poignant thoughts were shared by HCol Wheeler and LCol Brause, but all who were gathered knew all too well, what the Dieppe Raid and the continuing sacrifices throughout 1944-45 had meant. The 2,150 casualties suffered by the Essex Scottish during WWII (the most of any Canadian regiment) were heavy, but they got the job done with pride, and done well!

As dawn started to break on the horizon and Windsor started to wake for another work day, all those gathered, started to meander off to get ready for the day's Regimental ceremony. In their thoughts, were the scores of Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment soldiers who had served, and were still serving with distinction in Afghanistan and more than adequately filling the rather large boots of their predecessors from World War II. Once again, Canadians were helping those halfway around the world, who were unable to help themselves. Their silent prayers were for a safe return.

August 19 --- Dedication Ceremony. A Child Shall Lead the Way

A comfortably warm Thursday, set-up underway, seating arrangements, sound system checks, early arrivals with lawn chairs. Double/triple checking my agenda, timing for the Hurricane aircraft fly-past. Well wishers greeting each other. All is ready.

A 12:55 p.m. launch with several thousand guests, French and Canadian dignitaries serving military members, bands and many War Veterans present.

"Please be seated."

"March on the Colours!" in a flourish of pomp and circum-

stance befitting our Veterans, the Regiment and the community. Major Childs made sure his final commands to the Regiment before his retirement after 44 years of service reflected a precision and military protocol. This beautiful second Dieppe, 'Sister Monument', was about to be presented to our south-western community and emotional ownership turned over to a generation, many who had just been born, in their care, forever.



The Essex and Kent Scottish Guard formed up on parade.



WWII Hurricane Fighter that flew at Dieppe in 1942.

At precisely 1300 hours the shroud covered monument was unveiled. The sun shone down. A shaft of light passed through this beautifully crafted stone and gleamed on a stainless steel maple leaf on the ground. Precisely, as the artist perceived it, in a celestially interactive Act of Re-

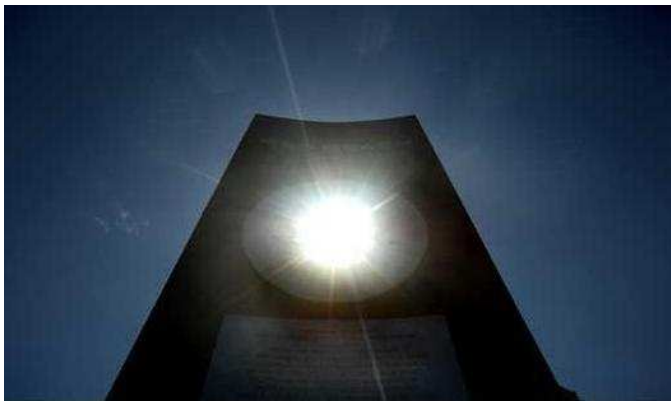
membrance. A WWII Hurricane which had flown in close support of our soldiers

on the beaches of Dieppe, very fittingly complemented our monument unveiling with a high speed flypast to honour the war-time ultimate sacrifices. The hair stood up on the back of our necks as the national anthems were sung with such passion, 'La Marseilles' by Genevieve Chevalier, 'God Save The Queen' by Lieutenant Jacquié Winand-Bacon and 'The Star Spangled Banner' and 'O Canada' by retired Major Eric Skelton.



Genevieve Chevalier prepares to sing 'La Marseilles'. Photo by Greg Moore.

Our war veterans, all elderly men with walkers and canes, stood ever so tall and saluted with a snap, as their



At precisely 1300 hrs the sun shone through the maple leaf in the monument, onto the in-laid stainless steel maple leaf at the base.



Sebastien Jumel, Mayor of Ville de Dieppe, France.

medals gleamed in the afternoon sunlight. The grateful message delivered from the heart by Mayor Jumel, on behalf of the citizens of France, caused many of our war veterans' eyes to tear up as their thoughts drifted to Dieppe and other battles, lost friends and horrendous fighting.

As Master-of-Ceremonies, I felt it important that this ceremony reflect a passing of the "*Torch of Remembrance*". I felt strongly that we had a responsibility to prepare our youngest generation to receive and understand their civic duty of remembrance of sacrifice, in an embracing manner. They in turn would learn to willingly accept this responsibility. We found a way to present that image in a manner that gently conveyed that message. Our children came forward with their Poppies, dropping them into a Regimental MacGregor Tartan covered alms basket, with beautiful music wafting over the crowd. They took emotional ownership and figuratively, the "*Torch of Remembrance*" had been passed.



Dieppe Veteran Jim McArthur drifts back to memories of his fallen buddies at Dieppe.

As the troops marched off to the strains of the tunes of glory, most of our guests lingered to touch and photograph our new Dieppe Memorial. It was an opportunity for wartime friends to be photographed together, renew old acquaintances and introduce their extended families. Eventually, all guests moved off, to receptions at Legion Branch 255 and at The St. Clair Centre for the Arts to enjoy comradeship over drinks and finger food.

Closing

Delta Coy members sign off our correspondence to one another with the regimental motto, "*Semper Paratus*".

Like those who have served, we mean it, with all our hearts.



Essex Scottish Dieppe POWs R to L Maurice Snook, Kaye Puckett, Art Rossell, Jim McArthur, Howard Large, George Marchant, Ian MacDonald and (unknown veteran). Photo: Greg Moore.



Capt Mark Douglas with the Guard as it 'Presents Arms!' Photo: Greg Moore.

Semper Paratus

Mike



'Combined Operations' logo worn by the members of the Dieppe Raid.



"GUESTS OF THE THIRD REICH"



During our monument projects, our attention has appropriately been focused upon the fierce battles fought by our Regiment, the dead and wounded whose sacrifice and unwavering determination earned our 36 Battle Honours. There were many other soldiers, many seriously wounded and taken prisoner by our enemies, who suffered great deprivation, some in captivity for nearly three years. These troops also were subject to horrendous mental and physical anguish at the hands of their captors, many of whom tried to push these memories to the back of their minds once they finally were repatriated home. It is appropriate to take this opportunity to give at least a cursory examination of our Prisoners of War (POWs).

During much of human history, during battles, prisoners were rarely taken. In primitive fighting, the vanquished were usually ritualistically tortured, enslaved or slaughtered. During the American Revolution in 1776 and the War of 1812-14, there were many examples where the welfare of captured soldiers seemed to get better, as they were confined or even given their parole if they swore to cease hostilities.

The rules governing POWs were first formulated in Geneva in 1864 and later refined at The Hague in 1899 and then again in 1907. The 2,818 captured WWI Canadian Expeditionary Force soldiers, 16 of whom were 18th Battalion infantrymen, were treated in accordance with this early convention. A major breakthrough came in 1929 with a revised Geneva Convention that specifically dealt with rules for treatment of POWs. This convention was one of the few positive results of The League of Nations and set the standard during the Second World War. Now, prisoners only had to divulge their name, rank and military serial number. Prisoners were required to do manual labour, but not work with military applications and were to be treated humanely, housed in heated, well-lit buildings.



Aftermath on objective "Red Beach".

During WWII, approximately 8,000 Canadians were captured by the Germans and were generally treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention, as both Canada and Germany had signed this document. There were three glaring exceptions. Firstly, executions as reprisals to the mass POW escape from Stalag Luft III (*'The Great Escape'* movie), secondly, the execution by 12th S.S. Panzer Division General Kurt Meyer of 41 Canadian POWs, and finally was the shackling of POWs captured at Dieppe. This was due to Brigadier William Southam violating orders, by bringing his copy of the OPERATION JUBILEE Raid Plan, onto the Dieppe beach, where it was captured by the Germans. Outlined in the Operation Order, German prisoners taken at Dieppe, were to be handcuffed to ensure compliance enroute to England. An outraged Hitler demanded that all prisoners taken at Dieppe were to be manacled especially after dead Germans taken during the early stages of the raid washed up on the shore with their hands tied, as a result of the landing craft they were on being sunk by German fire. Of the 6,108 participants in the Dieppe Raid, 4,963 were Canadian, of which 907 were fatal and 262 Essex Scottish became POWs.



Dieppe Raid prisoners marched from the beach.

The handcuffing of Dieppe POWs lasted for 15 months at which point Hitler finally rescinded the order, once the German POWs in allied camps had been handcuffed as an Allied protest. Russia and Japan had refused to sign this Geneva Convention and as a result Russia and Germany brutally treated each other's prisoners. Allies captured by the Japanese did not enjoy the protection of this Geneva Convention. The two main fierce battles in which the Essex Scottish soldiers were taken POW, were the 1942 Dieppe Raid and two years later at Verrieres Ridge where a German ambush of our ad-

vance-to-contact, followed by their ferocious counter-attack which caused a loss of 30% of the Essex Scottish killed, wounded or captured. A number of our POWs were later killed as the train moving them towards a Stalag was strafed by an Allied fighter-bomber. A similar strafing run on a train full of Essex Scottish POWs was aborted when RSM Lescombe ordered the men off the train and into a field, lined up forming the letters 'P O W'. Capt Walter MacGregor described a strafing run by three US fighters against the POW Officers being marched towards Moosburg, wounding Brigadier Southam and killing several others. Officer POWs were



Canadian POWs collected immediately after the Dieppe Raid.

incarcerated in camps separate from their troops.

As the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division raiding force evacuated itself from Red Beach, the wounded were treated by Sister Agnes and her nursing sisters who were credited with saving many lives that August afternoon. The German captors provided appropriate medical attention as best as they could to the large number of wounded. Many soldiers had shed their boots and heavy equipment as they struggled to swim when their retreating boats had been targeted and sunk by enemy fire. All soldiers who could walk, many being wounded were moved by very unsanitary rail car into Germany after intensive interrogation by the Gestapo. *Stalag VIII B* near Lamsdorf, their first camp, held 50,000 British and Empire soldiers. The small ration of poor quality food was augmented by Red Cross parcels which were shared by the men, in draughty poorly heated huts. Sports were allowed, with boxing matches being very popular, especially refereed amputee bouts, when a one-legged man took on a one-armed man. Each soldier had a duty to escape and make his way back to the Allies, or to at least cause as much grief for the Germans who had to commit

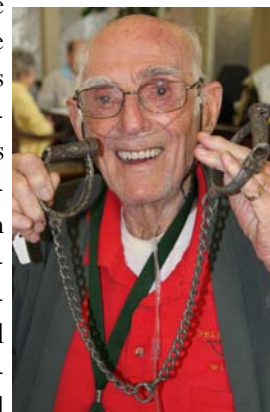
scarce resources to search and re-capture. Many of the POWs had escaped several times and been caught, but were determined to eventually escape to freedom.



POW cartoon 'Any Volunteers?' courtesy of Bill Caruthers.

At Hitler's order, their German captors handcuffed each of the Dieppe soldiers' hands which made it very difficult to use the latrine. The ever-resourceful POWs, found that the attached keys for opening the salmon and meat cans, provided in the Red Cross packages could open the steel manacles. WOII Maurice Snook tells the story of the 'goons' (guards) placing the manacles on the prisoners, and as the guard went to the next POW,

the one just 'cuffed' would remove the manacles and hang them on the end of his bed! The Red Cross was the lifeline for the prisoners, providing uniforms and food parcels from home. The Red Cross registering them as POWs, resulted in the passage of information regarding their status and injuries to anxious kin in Canada. Many Red Cross packages contained cigarettes and chocolate, items denied to the German guards, and very useful as bribes for concessions. A request by the Red Cross to the German High Command, eager for any favourable international publicity, resulted in prisoners like Ian MacDonald being allowed to work on his high school diploma and Walter MacGregor completing a large portion of his Upper Canada Law Society degree.



CSM Maurice Snook displays his Dieppe Raid POW manacles.
Photo: Greg Childs

The able-bodied prisoners were required to work in coal and other mines, cement factories, forestry, etc. Young men like Pte Donovan Errey worked harder at sabotaging his numerous detailed jobs, than at supporting the Third Reich in any way. But even while in custody, POWs managed to play poker games and even fabricate a still using dried raisins and apricots.

With the ever-advancing Allied Armies, these POW camps had to be abandoned and the prisoners marched by foot to stalags deeper within Germany.

Often this was done during the winter of 1944-45 and turned out to be a death sentence for the weak. The prisoners were malnourished and many fell by the wayside. The snow trail was broken by Russians and Jews, who had been treated and fed much worse than the Canadians. As they fell by the side of the trail, they were shot, as a deterrent to the Canadians who were greatly inspired to help their weaker fellow prisoners.



CVSM with Dieppe device.

A sordid account is that of three Essex Scot soldiers who, as POWs, colluded with the enemy. At the end of the war they were convicted of treason and given sentences ranging from life in penal servitude, to 25 and 10 years' incarceration, after being 'released from the Canadian Army with ignominy'.

One success story of a prisoner who focused his un-channelled energies, previously used in escape attempts and destructive outlets, but now redirected to bring comfort to his amputee comrades, was that of Pte Don Errey, an Essex Scot from Wallaceburg. Always a bit of an inventor he took up a challenge to create an artificial leg for RCAF Flying Officer Haddelsey. This was a difficult task but he worked with the camp cobbler and with few scrap pieces, he fabricated

a working artificial leg with a functioning hinged foot. There was no end of POWs missing limbs, and so he began a very successful enterprise, putting other POWs to work assisting in the manufacture process. Bribes to the guards resulted in tools and necessary raw materials being supplied. The Germans transferred Don to an orthopaedic POW hospital with a proper workshop and several assistants. He was able to assist many single and multiple amputees with his hand-crafted prostheses. As the Allies advanced, the hospital became quite crowded with crashed Allied aircraft victims requiring artificial limbs. Don was responsible for constructing scores of artificial limbs for very grateful fellow POWs, helping to restore to them, a great deal of personal dignity.

Although all returning soldiers brought back very painful memories of battles, witnessing good friends killed and they themselves taking lives, as well as great deprivations suffered by those taken prisoner. They never for-

got the value of food, a commodity, the lack of which caused many POWs their health and lives. Capt MacRae, the only officer with the Essex Scots to be evacuated from Red Beach, when speaking of the Dieppe battle stated, "There were no cowards on that beach, that day!" Our WWII Battle Honours reinforce that thought quite emphatically.

Although all of our Scots seemed to come back to Canada with some physical or psychological baggage, they were all proud Canadians who were second to none in battle. The motto on the wall of The Tilston Armoury, quite sufficiently summed up their positive attitude:

"What if the best of our wages be

An empty sleeve, a stiff-set knee

A crutch for the rest of life, who cares?

As long as one Flag flies and dares!"



Essex Scottish officer POWs captured at Dieppe. Front Left: LCol Fred Jasperson, Maj Jim Huff, (others unidentified) .

Great appreciation to Sandy Antal and Kevin Shackleton (*Duty Nobly Done*) as well as Doug MacKenzie and George Kerr (*Unlikely Hero*) from which much of the above material was gleaned. Both books are available in the Regimental kit shop.

Greg Childs

Editor



The Ansell Club's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament.

Saturday, 30th July 2011, at

Deer Run Golf Course

(Located on Bloomfield Rd near Hwy 3)

\$55. gets you 18 holes with cart, and a Steak BBQ to follow at Ansell Armoury

\$20. gets you the 5:00 pm BBQ only.

NOTE: Tee-off at 10:00 am sharp

RSVP by 17th July 2011

Maj. (ret 'd) Garry Mardling at 519-351-9380 or (pmex@sympatico.ca) or

CWO (ret 'd) Blake Harding at 519-352-1287 or (b2harding@bell.net)

LAST POST

Always
&
Forever



HUMMEL, John - 06 September 2010 (Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Officer 1986-89)

LEGRAND, Doug - 19 November 2010

GRAHAM, Jack - 26 February 2011 (WWII Essex Scot Dieppe POW, Brothers Lloyd and William killed in action WWII)

OUELLETTE, Raymond - 09 April 2011 (WWII Essex Scot Veteran)

MACGREGOR, Duncan - 10 June 2011 (Pipe Major E&K Scot 17 Years, Canadian Pipe Champion)

TOUSIGANT, Paul - 13 June 2011 (Essex Scot)

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

It was at the Commanding Officer's direction that this newsletter should feature articles by Delta Company, the moving force behind this memorial project. Scores of other friends of the Regiment, from the City of Windsor, Devonshire Mall, St Clair College, musicians, kids, veterans, to guys grilling steaks, made this project a success. Kudos to HCol Wheeler and the DMP II Committee for their tireless efforts. It has been extremely difficult to select only a few, from the hundreds of great photos available.

On a more sombre note, we recently lost one of our Dieppe POW Veterans, a very staunch supporter of our Regiment. His death was not reported to us until well after his interment, denying members of the Regimental Family a chance to assist in his send-off. Your Association directors request that should any of you become aware of a past or present member passing away, please, at your earliest opportunity, notify one

of the Directors listed below so that the Regimental Family can provide the appropriate response to next-of-kin wishes.

HCol Hardy Wheeler 519-979-1403 hwheels@primus.ca

Maj (ret'd) Eric Skelton, 519-949-3917, eskelton3@cogeco.ca

CWO (ret'd) Blake Harding, 519-472-1088, b2harding@bell.net

Semper Paratus!

Greg Childs CD, ESM

Major (Ret'd)

Regimental Major

