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A Message from the President

Greetings to the extended Regimental Family. It has been my pleasure to serve as the President for six years. I will be



standing down at this year's Annual General Meeting on October 22, 2022. After COVID, it is essential for us to gather and enjoy each other's comradeship. This year, we are keeping the Regimental Reunion simple with a Happy Hour that includes food on the Friday night, and the Saturday morning AGM with a lunch. We hope to have a great showing of our serving members

along with our Association.

SEMPER PARATUS

Morris Brause



80th Anniversary of Dieppe “Operation Jubilee”



This year, on August 19 2022, Windsor-Essex had the honour of hosting the National 80th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid at Dieppe Gardens on the Windsor waterfront. This was the first time the national event had been held outside of Ottawa. While hosted by Windsor-Essex, it was organized and funded through Veterans Affairs Canada.

The commemoration began with a parade from the Great Canadian Flag to the Red Beach Monument, led by Essex and Kent Pipes and Drums. Wreaths were laid at the

Royal Canadian Navy Anchor and Royal Canadian Air Force Memorials in remembrance of the critical part played by the Navy and Air Force during the raid.

Guests of honour included Sapper (Ret'd) John Date who, at 100 years of age, is one of the last surviving Dieppe veterans. Sapper Date was captured and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of war. On Thursday evening he was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honour by the French attaché to Canada who attended the commemoration. Arthur Boon and Charles Davis, two other World War II veterans, were also present for ceremonies.

Honorary Colonel Joseph Ouellette provided a heartfelt and riveting reflection on what the Dieppe Raid has come to mean noting that the stones incorporated into the monument at Dieppe Gardens are from the beaches of Dieppe, France thus linking the two communities together with tangible symbols.

Dignitaries included Mayor Drew Dilkens who reminded those in attendance of the sacrifice that was paid by the community of Windsor-Essex during the Dieppe Raid. Of the 553 Essex Scottish Regiment soldiers who stormed the beaches that day, only 51 returned to England. Theresa Sims, an indigenous storyteller and elder, remembered that her father, as part of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, was injured during the raid but survived. Windsor-Tecumseh MP Irek Kusmierczyk and Major (Ret'd) The Rev. Kim Gilliland also addressed the crowd.

This was truly a national event and the city of Windsor was fully engaged in making this commemoration authentic and memorable. Many thanks to all who organized and participated in this historic and solemn event.

Submitted by Kim Gilliland



80th Anniversary of Dieppe – Dieppe, France



CWO (Ret'd) Blake Harding at the Essex Scottish Memorial in Dieppe, France.

While commemorations were taking place in Canada, a contingent of representatives from the Regimental Family also journeyed to Dieppe, France to take part in the ceremonies taking place there. One of the Regiment's representatives was CWO (Ret'd) Blake Harding who provided this summary of his experience.

From August 14 to August 22, 2022, I along with my wife Patricia, had the honour of representing The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment Association, in Dieppe France, on the occasion of The 80th Anniversary of the tragic raid.

While there we had the opportunity to visit The Canadian War Cemetery just on the outskirts of Dieppe. I personally touched and said a Hail Mary on each of the 64 Essex Scottish headstones.

We attended five different memorial services, at which I was permitted to lay three wreaths. The first was at the

main ceremony on the August 19 in Canada Square. The second was at a service in honour of Canadian P.O.W.'s (for veterans) at St. Nicholas d'Aliermont. Pat also laid a wreath for the P.O.W.'s in honour of her late father Sapper Henry Leduc. The last wreath was laid on The Esplanade in Dieppe at The Essex Scottish Memorial on Red Beach.

We had several more emotional moments during our stay, and on our return home I can honestly say I have never been more proud in the 58 years I have worn the McGregor tartan kilt to have been a member of The Essex and Kent Scottish Regimental Family,

Semper Paratus

CWO (Retired) Blake Harding CD.



Historic Essex Scottish Bagpipes Again Honour War Dead in Dieppe, France

A trio of serving soldiers from The Essex and Kent Scottish recently had the honour of travelling to France to commemorate the sacrifice of the soldiers of the Essex Scottish during the August 19, 1942 raid on the French coastal port at Dieppe.

Major Mitch Columba, Sergeant Hannibal Stephenson and Piper-Corporal Rhea Hodgins-Kochanowski took part in the trip to Dieppe which was funded by The Scottish Borderers Foundation.

In 2006, the Regimental Family erected an amazing monument on Red Beach to honour the sacrifice of so many Essex Scottish soldiers. Although this solemn black obelisk monument appears to be a simple memorial to our war dead and wounded, it is one of the very few monuments in the world which is celestially interactive. The Dieppe Raid came to an end at 1:00 p.m. on August 19, 1942. At precisely 1:00 p.m. - but only on August 19th every year - the sun shines through the maple leaf shaped hole in the monument and momentarily illuminates a stainless-steel maple leaf embedded in the beach rock base.

Piper-Corporal Hodgins-Kochanowski had the distinct privilege to once again play the lament "*Flowers of The Forest*," to commemorate the sacrifice of our WWI 18th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force, and our WWII Essex Scottish soldiers with the very set of R.G. Lawrie bagpipes that had been used twice before in the last century during wartime.

"I feel honoured to have been able to play the R.G. Laurie bagpipes in France for the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. It was such an incredible experience being able to represent the Essex and Kent Scottish Pipes and Drums with an instrument that holds such great historical significance," says Piper-Corporal Hodgins. "It is humbling to know that I have now played the same pipes that have been played in France in both world wars; this brought forth a feeling of reverence for the sacrifice of our forefathers."

Master Pipe-maker Robert George Lawrie started making exceptional high-quality bagpipes in 1890. The early R.G. Lawrie bagpipes - considered by many competition pipers to be flawless and the best ever made - even received the very prestigious commission of a Royal Warrant of Appointment, supplying bagpipes to HM Queen Victoria and played by future British monarchs King Edward VII and King Edward VIII. The best materials available were used to produce a very rich sound, including dense blackwood (ebony) from Gabon, solid sterling silver and ivory fittings.



(LtoR) Piper Corporal Rhea Hodgins, Major Mitch Columba, Sergeant Hannibal Stephenson



Piper John MacDonald purchased a set of 1906 R.G. Lawrie Great Highland Bagpipes and during WWI he piped Canadian soldiers "over the top" from the trenches in France, as they put in attacks against the German invaders. These unarmed pipers, all trained infantrymen often closely followed their attacking troops while playing the tunes of glory which had the effect of spurring-on the infantry soldiers.

German officers encouraged their soldiers to target these unarmed "ladies from hell" and out of the 2,500 pipers who served during WWI, 500 were killed and 600 were seriously wounded. No piper was ever ordered to play in battle, but instead the pipers drew lots for this prestigious opportunity to play their troops into fierce combat.

John MacDonald also served overseas as a piper for the Essex Scottish during WWII, once again playing this same set of R.G. Lawrie bagpipes. As with most bandsmen, their primary task was to provide first aid to wounded soldiers as stretcher bearers during battle.

Piper John MacDonald's son, George "Sandy" MacDonald, was also a piper who served in the Essex Scottish during WWII as an infantry sergeant major. After the war, Sandy repatriated to Chatham, Ontario and piped for the Royal Canadian Legion.

The R.G. Lawrie bagpipes were passed to Sandy's son Rod, who had joined the postwar Royal Canadian Air Force and played in the RCAF Pipe band. Rod was trained by renowned Pipe Major Archie Cairns MMM, CD. During his career, Rod played for U.S. General Colin Powell at the NORAD base in Colorado Springs, Colorado and also for HRH Prince Philip in 1953 at 4 Wing in Baden-Baden, Germany - to mention just a couple of significant appearances made by these pipes.

In 2011, at the age of 73 and then unable to continue playing the pipes, in acknowledgement to the Regimental history of these prestigious bagpipes, Rod donated these of R.G. Lawrie bagpipes to The Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment Association.

Rod stated that "if my grandfather John and father Sandy were alive today they would've been very pleased with my donation, to have these pipes once again played by a regimental piper wearing MacGregor tartan as they both had done."

Information on the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment's current fundraising campaign through the Scottish Borderers Foundation to commemorate and honour the legacy of our veterans both at home and overseas can be found at www.servicesacrificeduty.ca

Semper Paratus!

G.T. (Greg) Childs CD
Major (Ret'd)
Regimental Major
The Essex and Kent Scottish



Digitization of Artifact Collection Continued for Fourth Year

Throughout the summer of 2022, we had the privilege of working with the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment Association Artifact Committee in preserving the legacy of The Essex and Kent Scottish. Over the course of eight weeks, we assisted in archiving, digitizing, and writing historically-based stories on regimental people, events and battles. We researched and wrote forty-nine story stories on various people in the regiment and their engagements in both war and peace time. Between taking photographs and digitizing paper materials, we were able to add approximately 2,600 photos to the Essex and Kent Scottish archival collection.

Collectively, we had access to a wide variety of artifacts ranging from war diaries and memoirs, photographs, medals/awards, and donated memorabilia. Thorough research of the documentation of individuals and events allowed us to gain a better understanding of the wartime experience. For example, doing significant reading and research on the prisoner of war camps that soldiers from the regiment were taken to after the Dieppe Raid gave us an appreciation for the harsh conditions in which they lived for the remainder of the war. Research on the Death Marches was particularly sobering given the potential for friendly fire as the men were paraded across Europe. The participation of Lieutenant-Colonel B.J.S. Macdonald in the Nuremburg War Trials and the trials of three members of the Essex Scottish for committing treason while POWs was also of interest to us. Being able to digitize and label photographs from the regimental collection also provided us with a greater insight into how the regiment operated throughout its long history.

In two months, we were able to learn about the heroic stories of individuals who at the time were the same age as us making the ultimate sacrifice. Although some of us were new to the project and had to learn the history of the regiment from the ground up, we found the experience of researching the stories behind the regiment's artifacts to be gratifying. It was challenging to learn the terms for military tactics and ranks, as well as keeping track of the changing names and formations of the regiment from its creation in 1793. However, reading interviews with prominent members of the regiment such as CSM Con Stapleton gave us insights into the reality of war and the pride they took in being part of the Regiment. Stapleton surprised us with his perspective on the Dieppe Raid on 19 August 1942. It was also challenging to try and put together families within the regiment that served together or were descendants of other members of the regiment, such as the Wigle and McGregor families. Due to our academic backgrounds in history, we welcomed the opportunity to use our researching skills in order to bring light to individuals whose efforts in combat or in Canada deserve to be recognized. We hope that our work this summer will help the public to learn more about the Essex and Kent Scottish, as well as allow families of those who enlisted to more easily find information or photographs of their loved ones.

Thank you to Hardy Wheeler, Blake Harding, Mary Baruth, and the rest of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment Association for giving us the opportunity to be involved in this important project. We thoroughly enjoyed our time with the E&K and are excited to see the progression of this digitization project in the future.

Nicole Pillon Taylor Blackmere Calvin Barrett
Canada Summer Jobs 2022 participants



Welcome Back End of Summer BBQ

The afternoon of August 27, 2022 was a great day for a BBQ. The E&K Scot Regiment Association used this splendid weather to host its first BBQ in quite some time. The event, which took place from 1400 hrs to 1700 hrs in the Sergeant's Mess at the F.A. Tilson, VC Armoury in Windsor, was well attended by regimental family and friends. There was lots of food hot off the BBQ as well as salads and desserts. The bar was open and libations appreciated. Donations of \$470 were received from the BBQ which will go towards to the work of the Association.

Many attenders also took the opportunity to add their well wishes to LCol (Ret'd) Phil Berthiaume and his wife Mary who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary next door in the Officer's Mess.



All agreed that it was good to gather again in an informal and fun setting to reconnect with people we may not have seen for quite some time. Special thanks to the organizers who thought of everything and ensured a successful event.

In Memoriam

Since the last newsletter, we were saddened by the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II after seventy years of service to the Commonwealth and to the world. We continue to honour those who have gone from our midst and we remember them.





Glengarry Highland Games Tug-o-War



One of the key events at the Glengarry Highland Games, held in Maxville, Ontario is the annual the tug-o-war competition. This year's event which took place on July 30, 2022 was won by the team from the Essex and Kent Scottish. This competition began in 2007 as a grudge match between The Cameron Highlanders and The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders. It now invites Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve Regiments from across Canada to send an eight-person team to compete for the coveted trophy.

The E&K Scot team with the leadership of Team Captain Mitch Columba actually defended the tug-o-war title that was won in 2019 but had not been challenged due to the pandemic. Well done team! We're all proud of you for showing the other teams how to get it done.

E&K Scot Association Reunion/AGM

The E&K Association is planning a Reunion on the weekend of October 21-22. This also will incorporate the Annual General Meeting. Please note the following information:

Friday, October 21

A Happy Hour will be hosted in the evening at the WO & Sergeant's Mess in the F.A. Tilston, VC Armoury in Windsor. All serving and former members of the Regiment, friends of the Regiment and guests are invited to attend.

Saturday, October 22

Morning activities at 1000 hrs with coffee and snacks before moving into the AGM. Lunch will be available at the completion of the AGM.

Accommodations

For those requiring accommodations, special rates are available at Holiday Inn & Suites and the Hampton Inn & Suites, both located on Huron Church Road in Windsor.

For more information please contact

Pat Coughlin at 519-965-9497 or cogsmail78@gmail.com
Morris Brause at 519-965-0749 or morbause@gmail.com

Registration

Please register to help us with food planning. Registration forms were emailed on September 20.



Service Sacrifice Duty Campaign

The Scottish Borderers Foundation is the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment's major financial strategic group. It has raised funds over many years and provided strategic financial resources to the Commanding Officer in support of serving members. This year the Foundation is embarking on a five-year fundraising campaign with a goal of \$600,000.

A variety of investment opportunities are available including one-time gifts, annual instalments, other gifts including stocks and gifts-in-kind. Supporters can also make the Scottish Borderers Foundation a beneficiary in their will. Your generous donation will help to honour and preserve the memory of our local militia. It will ensure that their service and sacrifice are remembered for generations to come.

Donations will be added to the Foundation's capital base with the goal of maintaining it in perpetuity at a sustainable level. The interest earned over time will be used to fund a variety of important commemorative events, support the Regiment's Pipes and Drums, build and maintain monuments, and preserve records and historical artifacts.

The Scottish Borderers Foundation is a charitable organization and will issue tax receipts for qualifying donations. Please consider supporting this strategic arm of the Regiment. For more information you can contact the Borderers at info@servicesacrificeduty@ca.

Membership – Have you joined or renewed?

Your membership is important to the extended Regimental Family. It is our chance to keep updated on events with the serving members, enjoy social activities, and support each other. We raise funds for many activities and consistently support our serving members in many ways like: BBQ and social events, support to the annual Winter Dinner (used to be called the Christmas Dinner), financially assisting with special equipment for the troops in things like Tug-O-War competitions – highland kit- and special requests. We have set aside \$8,000 towards supporting the Trooping and Freedom of the City for May 2023. We send care packages to deployed troops. We provide support to our Veterans families when a Veteran passes away. Whether serving or retired, it is important that we have your support. Please join or renew soon!

Cathy MacDonald, Membership Chair



Keeping Connected Online

It is important to stay connected especially when we cannot gather in our normal way. Those wishing to keep in touch with the activities of the Regiment are encouraged to visit the Regimental website and Facebook page listed as follows:

Website www.ekscot.org

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6161648785>

A Reminder to all Members

Just a friendly reminder to pay your dues if you have not already done so. Also, if anyone has changed their email or postal address, please notify Cathy Macdonald at ekbrat@gmail.com so we can keep our records up to date.

Thanks to everyone for your contributions. Kim Gilliland, Editor.