

GGFG Regimental Association, Box 1212, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5R3 Regimental Website: www.footguards.ca

DECEMBER 2012 EDITOR: ESTELLE LANE

#### **Message from the President**

MWO (Ret) Marty Lane, CD

It is once again that time of year to write a presidents message for the December issue of the Guards Star. With the type of weather we have been getting lately it makes it difficult at times to think it is already December. The Association executive is at present planning for the JR Ranks Christmas Dinner and once again the kitchen will be manned under the capable leadership of Gaetan Ouellete. During the past year we conducted a successful Regimental Ball, Band Concert for Her Majesty's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and are in the final phases of having a Regimental stole prepared for presentation to the Guards Chapel to be used for Regimental services at St. Bartholomew's. We have been promised by the supplier that this will be finished in time for this years Carol Service and presented to Rev Clunie at that time. The Sentry fund that was approved at the 2011 AGM is now up and operating with Roy Longbottom, Larry Lomas and John Brockway as its Trustees.

The Executive would like to welcome LCol Kevin MacLean as the newly appointed LCol Commanding of the Regiment. We would also like to wish LCol Derek Cheff the best of luck and thank him for his support.

We are at present beginning to make plans for the 2014 Regimental Ball which will be held some time in February. Date and place are yet to be determined as well as the cost.

Once again I would like to thank all the members of the executive for their service to the Association during the past year. Also a big thanks to this year's nominating chairman in a fine job of getting people to fill all the executive positions.

This is the first time in many years that we have had a full slate on the executive.

On behalf of the Executive, Estelle and myself I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### UP THE GUARDS!!!!!

#### Message from the LCol Comanding

LCol Kevin MacLean, CD, AdeC

Fellow Guardsmen,

It is a pleasure to be writing this submission as the Lieutenant Colonel Commanding. It has been 25 years since I joined and I can tell you, that taking command of the Regiment that I have grown up in is a huge honour. The Regiment is strong; that strength is a testament to the dedication and commitment of all members of the Regiment both past and present.

Sergeant Major Snyder and I were on the Command Team Course this summer at the Staff College in Kingston; it was here that we had the opportunity to meet the other Army Reserve COs and RSMs that were either currently in place or were soon to be appointed. The Command Team concept is nothing new, however, the inclusion of RSMs with the COs is a recent development in the delivery of this training. I have to say I felt pretty privileged to have Sergeant Major Snyder by my side; we have known each other since I was posted to Guards from 4 RCR in 1989. We have served as a Command Team at the Platoon and Company level and then prior to taking command as Second in Command and Drill Sergeant. Looking around the room and interacting with the other COs and RSMs it was clear that this sort of depth and history

was quite uncommon. In some cases the CO and RSM had never even met prior to taking command.

I consider myself extremely fortunate in that I have assumed command of a unit who's major "problem" is that it is too strong. Over the years we have been exceptionally successful in recruiting, training and retaining both Officers and NCMs and exporting some Officers and NCMs to other units that are now holding key appointments. We are, for all intents and purposes 'full', being about 20 above our established strength. As we settle back to our established strength there will be a few adjustments mainly limited to the officers as we decrease our numbers through attrition and reduced intake. Over the past several years, we have seen a steady reduction in the number of NCM recruits, however the turn out on training has remained roughly the same. We are being much more selective in recruiting and we are going in the right direction as our attrition rates are much lower. Retention is now replacing a high level of recruiting in keeping us strong. This requires that all members maintain a high level of physical fitness, personal readiness and make themselves available to attend Tuesday evening parades, weekend exercises and pursue advance training.

As we enter the Christmas and Holiday season, and we gear up for the Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner, our thoughts turn to those of us who are serving overseas. I encourage you all to remind your friends and families that although our combat operations in Afghanistan are complete, we still have a very large training mission that remains and our troops are still extremely engaged in a very dangerous part of the world. At the Christmas dinner we will hoist a glass and toast MCpl Beckett, Cpl Thompson and Cpl Garcia-Nguyen.

Enjoy the break over Christmas, take this time to connect with friends and family, recharge the batteries and be ready to continue on in the new year at full throttle.

Up The Guards!

#### **Message from the RSM**

CWO D. Snyder, CD

Many thanks to the Association for starting the training year off right. The troops were treated to free hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and salad on the first Tuesday evening of training in September. Later on in the month during the Association weekend, they hosted a great meet-and-greet, followed by a dinner the following evening which was moved along by former RSM Bob Dodd as master of ceremony. The event was made even more special by the attendance of second-world-war GGFG veteran Marty Joiner.

In October was the change of command parade where newly-promoted LCol MacLean took over from the out-going Lieutenant Colonel Commanding, LCol Cheff. I look forward to serving the new LCC as Sergeant Major over the next three years as he works to keep the Foot Guards a strong unit with interesting and meaningful training. The presence of His Excellency the Governor General and his visit to the messes was a definite highlight. Also of note, both Colours on parade were decked with wreaths as it was the Laurel Anniversary of the Scheldt. A short write up describing the unit's role in the Battle of the Scheldt that was posted that evening is reproduced in this issue for your regimental history interest.

It always pleases me when the Foot Guards perform to their expected high standards when in the public view or around other military units. This was accomplished by Master Corporal Michael and his ceremonial detachment at Ottawa City Hall during Reserve Appreciation Day, and by all members on parade during the Remembrance Day parade (I heard an unofficial rumour one of our guardsmen established the navy's proper place in life after the parade). Sergeant Dallaire achieved top candidate on his infantry platoon second in command course, a mentally and physically gruelling field course held at CFB Gagetown. Congratulations to him, and to Sergeant Van Veen who was successful as well.

I wish all members a Happy Christmas and safe holidays.

#### **Musical Notes from the Band**

LCol Fran Chilton-Mackay, OMM, MSM, CD

The Band hit the ground running again this fall and by the time our Christmas break rolls around we will have completed thirty-two engagements. The thirty-third would have been the Senators Heritage Game on December 17<sup>th</sup>, but alas that did not come to fruition! The highlight of the fall was the "We Will Remember" concert held at the Aviation Museum on November 4<sup>th</sup> in concert with the Central Band of the Canadian Forces. It was a splendid and moving ninety minutes complete with many powerful and emotional slide show accompaniments honouring our fallen, the War of 1812 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

We have welcomed Cpl Chris Hutchinson and Cpl Greg Upham-Mills to the band who are attach posted from the Ceremonial Guard band and now find themselves in the Ottawa area. We are also in the process of re-enrolling MWO (Ret'd) Mark Rocheleau who spent most of his Regular Force career with the Central Band. Mark is the husband of former GGFG band member Julie Matte, also a clarinettist. MCpl Tammy Shaw has just returned from her maternity leave and getting back into the swing of having a French horn in her arms rather than two little ones! Finally Cpl Jessica Sullivan returned to the band following her teaching posting in England.

Sadly however, we will be having to say goodbye to four band members. Sgt Carey Godfrey will be releasing this month but we know she won't be too far away and hopefully will want to come and play as an associate when time permits. Carey has been with the band for eleven years and a dear friend to all of us. We wish her well with her very busy teaching career at the new and bulging at the seams Gr 7 - 12 OCDSB school in Barhaven. Three other band members are transferring to the Regular Force. MCpl Erik Temple, our

percussionist extraordinaire, has been accepted as a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force! Quite an accomplishment indeed. We have told him his boots are already too well shone! Erik will be sorely missed. It will be hard to replace his infectious smile and pleasant attitude. Cpls Allison Zaichokowski and Adrienne Lorway were successful applicants and have been offered positions within the Regular Force band branch. Exciting careers await them as well and we wish them all the best.

Congratulations to Cpl Travis Mandel who was chosen by the Supervisor of Music to represent the Canadian Forces as the Remembrance Day bugler at the ceremony held at the Canadian Embassy in Washington last month. Read his article in this edition of the Guards Star. An Embassy staffer told him it was the best bugler "we have ever sent"! Well done, Travis!

Finally, we welcome the newest addition to the Guards band, Charlotte, daughter of Sgt Julie Hacquard and her partner Mike, born on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Mom, Dad and baby all doing well and we expect to meet Charlotte very soon!

The band wishes everyone all the best of the holiday season.

### **History Project**

Major Chris Lynam

Fellow Guardsmen,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the GGFG Operational History Project. The objective of the project is to capture the experiences of GGFG members who have deployed on either international or domestic operations. Members will be asked to provide a written narrative (along with multi-media if so desired) of their personal experiences during their operational deployment. The information will be archived and will assist the Regiment in officially documenting its history for future generations. We are currently developing a list of current and past members with operational

experience which will be used to send out further details outlining the project's parameters including a template for submissions. For former members, we will rely on the Regimental family to assist us in accounting for those with operational experience. Former members are encouraged to contact one of the Project members with initial details of their operational deployment (e.g., dates, location and your contact information):

#### Officer's representative:

OC James Benning (j\_benning@homtail.com) Senior NCO representative:

MWO Neal Porter (nealporter@sympatico.ca) Junior Ranks representative:

Cpl Emma Porter (portem@hotmail.com)
Museum Committee representatives:

Michael Boughton (<u>mjboughton@sympatico.ca</u>) and Cpl Jonathan Ouellet j.ouellet23@hotmail.com)

Project team members will follow up with both former and current members to assist in the completion of personal narratives or in certain situations, facilitate an audio recording of experiences. We will keep the Regimental family updated on the progress of the Project. Up the Guards!

#### **News from KENYA**

Capt Jamie Bell, CD

In the last weeks of July Teri and I, along with Teri's Dad Jerry, were pleased to attend the swearing in ceremony for our son OCdt Liam Bell who has been accepted into the Canadian Army to attend RMC where he will study mechanical engineering and will train as a Army Engineer Officer. He has begun his first year studies at CMR St Jean and will move to RMC Kingston next year. We are very proud of Liam!

Shortly after this Teri and I departed Canada for a 3 year assignment in Kenya at the Canadian High Commission, Teri working as Regional Finance Officer for DFAIT and I as the Political Counsellor at the mission. We will be abroad at

least until 2015, when we look forward to returning home

I would like to wish the Regiment a safe and productive training year.



#### W.J. Keating Club

CSgt Gord Birkinshaw, CD

Since stand-up in September, the WO1 Keating Club has seen its members keeping quite a busy pace. Be it parades, taskings, courses or concerts, the Mess has been quite busy this fall. In September, members attended the Regimental Association Weekend, an enjoyable time for all. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Mess gathered to mug out CWO Art McKenzie, and present him with his Life Member's Card as he departed the Regiment to take up the position of Regimental Sergeant Major of the Brockville Rifles. Our best wishes go with him as he settles into his new role!

In November, there was a solid turnout for Remembrance Day, with many on parade, and others in attendance at the ceremony. Afterwards, the mess was packed with current and former members telling stories and catching up with each other.

Most recently, the Adjutant's Cup was held on November 25<sup>th</sup>. The 8 members who came to play fought valiantly, but in the end younger legs

prevailed, and regrettably the Cup was presented to our gentlemen to hold for us until next year! Currently, we're looking forward to the Men's Christmas Dinner on December 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Regimental Carol Service & Children's Christmas Party at the Regimental Chapel on December 15<sup>th</sup>, after which all members will enjoy a well-earned stand-down for the holiday season.

Over the past few months, in addition to the departure of CWO McKenzie, there have been several comings and goings in the mess. During the summer, Sgt Remy Poirier was mugged out as he transferred back out to his old unit in New Then-MWO Dave Rennie took his Brunswick commission to Captain, and has migrated to the Officer's Mess downstairs. This fall we said goodbye to Sgt Carey Godfrey, who is leaving the Army, and Sgt Yannick DiCesare, who has taken a component transfer to the regular force. We wish them both well! Newly promoted into the Mess is Sgt Rob McKinnon of the band. And in late breaking news, Sgt Julie Hacquard was blessed by the arrival of her first child, a daughter named Charlotte, on the morning of Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations, Julie, and welcome Charlotte to the Guards family!

As we approach 2013, the Mess will begin the year with our traditional Levee Day, hosting guests from, and sending our own delegation to the neighbouring messes in the Capital Region. Beyond that, tentative plans are underway for a Dining-In during February, a Mugging-Out of departing members in March, and Cut Knife Hill Dinner on the first Saturday in May. Watch for more details in the new year!

Finally, in closing, the members of the WO1 Keating Club wish you all safe travels and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with your families and friends.

# Laurel Anniversary The Schelt

CWO D. Snyder, CD

Although the allies had recently captured the deep-water port of Antwerp intact, they were not immediately able to use it because the enemy still possessed a significant part of the Scheldt estuary. This meant that they blocked any sea approach to the port, forcing the allies to rely on the long supply chain that stretched back to Normandy. General Montgomery made the capture of the Scheldt a new priority so that the allies could shorten the supply chain before the winter of 1944-1945 began.

The Battle of the Scheldt was a massive undertaking involving mainly British, Canadian, and Polish forces. The battle began for the 21<sup>st</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (Governor General's Foot Guards) and it's three squadrons of Sherman tanks on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Guards fought in many small and large engagements as it gradually covered the twisting 50 miles from Putte to Lepelstraat, Holland.

For most of the way, the terrain was characterised by marshes, canals, ditches, and thick woods, making tactical travel for armour almost impossible. Tanks were frequently forced to travel in single file on raised roads in marshes or on forest roads where the enemy frequently had delaying ambushes established. Manoeuvrability was affected by thick mud and marshes resulting in several tanks having to be abandoned as easy targets for the enemy.

Fourteen junior ranks were killed by direct anti-tank fire from hand-held or self-propelled anti-tank weapons as well as German tanks. Three further junior ranks were killed by artillery when caught outside of their protective armour in marshalling areas or after their tanks had been knocked out. One junior officer was killed by a sniper as he advanced his troop towards the enemy. At one point, 1 Squadron was reduced to one tank before it was reconstituted with replacement tanks halfway through the battle. The enemy consisted of the German 6 Parachute Division and the Herman

Goering Tank Division. Three casualties occurred from friendly fire. A squadron commander, Major Major, was killed by a negligent discharge from a sten gun. The unit was also strafed by the American air force resulting in two injuries on the first day of the advance.

Many operations were conducted in concert with the motorised infantry Lake Superior Regiment (present day Lake Superior Scottish Regiment). By the time the battle ended for the GGFG on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, they had assisted in liberating Wousche Plantage, Moerstratten, and Hazelaar, Holland.

Source: The History of the Governor General's Foot Guards, 1948.



#### **Christmas Carol Service**

The annual carol service will start at 1300 hours, Saturday December 15, 2012, followed by the children's Christmas party and reception at Bartholomew's Church, 125 MacKay Street Ottawa.

# Upon playing the Last Post in Washington, DC on Remembrance Day 2012

Corporal Travis Mandel



On Sunday, November 11th, 2012 I was tasked by the Canadian Forces to play the Last Post and Rouse at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Upon arrival, the first thing that struck me was the imposing nature of the buildings in the American capital: many of them were large and imposing stone structures of Greco-Roman architectural influence. The Canadian Embassy itself carried the theme of grandiose structures standing six stories high and featuring an amphitheatre and a famous sculpture - it can be found on the reverse of our ten dollar bill. Both the amphitheatre and the sculpture were made even more beautiful by the presence of flowing water moving through the structures; a design concept I had never seen before. The brilliance of the architecture was only matched by its' location: a stone's throw from the various buildings of the Smithsonian Institution and Capitol Hill.

When it came to performing the Last Post and Rouse, I was located on the balcony of an office

belonging to one of the Embassy employees. The balcony was facing the amphitheatre in which two flag bearers and two wreaths were placed; the wreaths laid in memory of those who served and gave their lives. After hearing the Act of Remembrance, I began to play. The sound left my trumpet, bounced off the walls of the Embassy and echoed off neighbouring buildings. It was quite a rush to hear a lively and pervasive sound bring across such calm in all who heard it. I was filled with a sense of pride as a musician, a soldier and a Canadian. The Embassy's service was small, but well-conducted and was attended by Embassy staff, invited guests and foreign dignitaries.

Following the service at the Canadian Embassy, those who wished could attend a service at Arlington National Cemetery in memory of the American's who fought alongside Canadians in various world conflicts. For those who have never been to Arlington National Cemetery, I recommend that you experience it. The Cemetery is a vast area lined with crosses, head stones and monuments. You may think this is not unlike other cemeteries, but the scale of this gravesite is quite striking. You cannot help but think about the loss of life and the tragedies of war: the white stones perfectly in line stretching across the horizon. The service at the monument was intimate and solemn. It was another proud moment and a memory I will cherish.

Washington,

in all its glory, is a capital that looks to the future with optimism and remembers the past with dignity. It was only fitting that I should be there in a time of reflection to pay homage to those who helped build the world of today.

#### **Sentry Fund News**

Wayne Younghusband, CD

The purpose of this Fund is to accumulate capital, which will not be used for day to day operations of the Association. Only the income generated by the capital is to be used to finance various regimental activities.

Established at the Annual General Meeting in 2011, the Fund totaled \$54,000 at 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012, and since very little interest has been earned, there as yet, have been no distributions.

We wish to encourage members, their families and friends, to leave legacies in their estates which will benefit the Regiment in future years. And of course, we welcome continuing contributions from our existing benefactors.

There is a website which may be helpful to those of us preparing wills or making revisions to existing wills. It also contains advice from legal and financial advisors on the tax benefits of different gifting methods.

Please consider make a bequest in favour of the Regimental Association and help veterans, cadets and those young people that will serve in future years.

The website is not specific to the Regiment, but it should answer most of your general questions, but if you prefer, please contact any one of the Trustees, in absolute confidence.

Go To: <u>leavealegacyottawa.com</u>

Sentry Fund Trustees:

Larry Lomas, John Brockway, Roy Longbottom

#### **Memorials and Tributes**

Estelle Lane

#### **DE LAURENTIS, William**

(23 July 1918 - 21 Oct. 2012)

Was born and raised in Toronto, the youngest child of Francesco and Angelina De Laurentis (née Apostoli), immigrants from the Miano area of Abruzzo, Italy. Growing up on Centre Avenue in The Ward, Willie learned flute, clarinet, and saxophone. He performed professionally with a variety of jazz and big bands throughout the 1930s and 40s, including the Trump Davidson Band and George Saltstone's Orchestra. While gigging around Ottawa he met Freda Milne whom he married in 1941. During WWII, Willie served with the

Governor General's Foot Guards as sergeant and saxophonist, performing regularly on Parliament Hill. In 1948, he and his brother Joe opened The Dell Tavern, one of Toronto's first Italian restaurants and a popular hang-out for local musicians. businessmen. doctors. newspapermen. The brothers expanded the business in 1962 when they opened the Theatre in the Dell. It gained renown with cabaret shows such as What's a Nice Country Like You..., Oh Coward! and Toronto Toronto, and provided a venue for actors and singers, many of whom later found fame in Hollywood or TV. The Dell remained a fixture on Elm Street until the brothers' retirement in 1986. Willie, known as Bill in business circles, was a Past Chair of the Harry Newman Foundation, a Past President and a member of the Toronto Central Lions Club for over 60 years, and a member of the Islington Golf Club for almost as long. For him, the good life was golfing with friends, a meal with family, and a glass of good brandy while enjoying the ball game. This past summer he sold his home of 57 years to move to Elora.

(Thanks to Jim Milne – the obit appeared in the Globe and Mail on October  $23^{rd}$ .)

#### WHITTY, Lawrence Edwin "Lorne" C52851

Passed away peacefully at the Ottawa Civic Hospital on Friday, September 22, 2012 at the age of 87. Lorne served overseas with 21CAR (GGFG) and was a life member of the Foot Guards Association. Following his career with R.L. Crain, Lorne was an Outdoor Columnist with the Ottawa Journal, Sunday Herald and then the Ottawa Sun.

May their souls and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace

NEXT ISSUE....
Submissions for the next edition of the GUARDS STAR are due February 25, 2013

#### **Note from the Editor**

My most heartful thanks to all who have contributed articles for the Guards Star. I realize that it's another chore in your already busy lives, but the quality of the articles is second to none, and although their numbers are dwindling, our WWII veterans really look forward to getting the Guards Star. For some, it's the only contact they have with the Regiment.



Again thank you, have a Merry Christmas and enjoy the Holidays.

#### **November 1, 2012**

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