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WNSRRA

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WNSR page on Facebook is called: West Nova Scotia Regiment

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Report on 65th Annual Reunion 2014

• The Regimental Association (RA) Executive were very pleased with the 65th Annual Reunion in Kentville and Aldershot. About 50 people appeared for the 1st Annual Friday evening BBQ. Good food, frosty beverages, and good friends came together at the right time and place to create a very pleasant experience. Garry Randall organized it, and he and Donna did an excellent job of making this event a success with help from Terry, Chucky, and a number of others.

• *The Atlantic Canadian Military History Association* set up an excellent display at the Legion for Saturday's registration with WWII artifacts, kit, uniforms, and weapons. Many of our members were quite interested in this welcome addition to our Reunion.

• Our new Regimental Coin arrived late on Saturday, but we were able to issue this top-quality coin to all members in good standing. Some people bought extra coins as gifts for friends or family members, and overall, this project to commemorate those West Novas who died in WWII was very well received.

• The other major project launched on the reunion weekend was the sale of our newly reprinted history, *West Novas*, by Thomas Raddall. To date, we've sold 110 copies of the book and still have about 40 left if anyone didn't get a copy yet.

• Limited accommodation was available at the quarters in Aldershot, and about a dozen of our members took advantage of being able to stay in quarters for the weekend.

Reports say that it was economical and enjoyable. We're told that rooms will be available again this September, and we've already moved to book rooms for the Reunion weekend.

• As expected, the RSM Change of Appointment Parade in Aldershot went very well, installing CWO Rich Mills as the new West Nova Regimental Sergeant Major. As well, all ranks were issued with the maroon patches of the 5th Canadian Division for wearing on the left shoulder of the DEU.

• President Doug Allison ably chaired the AGM where the proposed amendments to the WNSRRA Constitution were voted in to modernize our rules for membership in the RA. Now, persons with experience with West Nova



WWII West Nova veterans Victor Dukeshire, Ontario, and Doug Strickland, Sydney, discuss their experiences with Bren Guns at the WWII artifacts display during the 2014 WNSRRA Reunion.



Kel Hancock gave an inspiring address at the 2014 Reunion Banquet about Brotherhood (and sisterhood) in the Regimental Family.

Report on 65th Reunion (contd)

affiliated Army Cadet Corps as cadets or CIC Instructors are able to join the RA, and people related to those who have served in the Regiment may apply for Associate Membership. The Constitution is available online at <http://wnsr.ca/docs/> Click on "Constitution".

- If you're not a Regimental Association member, you can join by completing the application at www.wnsr.ca and sending it to the Secretary with your annual dues, or fill the form in online and pay your dues with PayPal at www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs where it says JOIN THE WEST NSR ASSOCIATION

Regimental Kitshop to be Online

Due to growing membership and an increased demand for WNSR kit, we're currently in the process of establishing an online kitshop. We aren't at the point where we're ready to go online just yet because we want to be sure that the online kitshop will be a hassle-free, convenient way to get the kit you want without any hiccups or snags. Captain Mike Bobbitt is going to do that for us. It's anticipated that the kitshop will be online by mid-May. All the items we have in stock will be included with photos and descriptions.

After a request by the CO, LCol Harris, the Association takes responsibility for supplying regimental items which would be of specific interest to our members. This would include such things as Regimental ties and blazer crests. We have just ordered a supply of these two items from our new supplier. Here's the artwork for our Regimental Blazer Crest.

The first order of Blazer crests and Regimental ties will be delivered to us by the end of April. Each of these items will cost \$25 and can be ordered by sending an e-mail to bertf@eastlink.ca and put RA Kitshop in the subject line.



Respecting our Fallen West Novas



These days, you sometimes hear people say, "Thank you for your service." They didn't used to; it's a recent phenomenon. We who have served certainly would show our respect for those who have sacrificed for our country and its citizens. One way to demonstrate that respect is by representing our Regiment at the funerals, burials, or Legion services of former West Novas. We have all said, as part of the Act of Remembrance, "We will remember them." You can help to make this a reality within our Regiment; the attendance of a few, or even one, Regimental Association member means we "have" remembered. One of our members, Helen Clark, has volunteered to organize our efforts to demonstrate respect for fallen West Novas. If you want to be part of the team who will attend services for fallen West Novas when you're available to do so, please contact Helen to let her know how to get in touch with you. You can email her at jess111parker@hotmail.com or call her at 902-798-3012 or 902-791-0995

Other Regimental Kit -- from outside sources

Get a deal on a Regimental Blazer. A number of our new members are looking for a suitable blazer to be properly dressed at our annual reunion and at other functions where they wish to show their pride of membership in the Regimental Association. In order to facilitate that, we've negotiated a deal with **Moore's: Clothing for Men** on a specific blue blazer. This is an item that we don't stock in the kitshop, but it's available to any WNSRRA member at any Moore's store across Canada for \$25 off the regular price of \$169 when you identify this jacket by quoting #0100.10062 and identifying yourself as a member of the West NSR Regimental Association.



WNSR Rings - DM Reid Jewellers in Kentville has been the supplier of official West Nova Scotia Regiment rings. In the image at the right, you can see a gold and a silver Regimental Ring. Mr. Reid has made generous donations to the Regimental Association in the past when persons have purchased West Nova rings from his store. We thank him for his support of the West Nova Scotia Regiment, and if you're interested in a Regimental Ring, we encourage you to give him the opportunity to serve you by visiting DM Reid Jewellers in Kentville or on their website for further information.



"True North, Strong and Free" 25 Oct 2014

On the 20th of October 2014, Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent was killed by being struck with a vehicle at St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que because he was a member of the Canadian Forces. On the 22nd of October, a violent attack was carried out in Ottawa where a soldier was shot and killed while standing guard at the National War Memorial close to the Parliament Buildings. The nation was in shock after such brazen attacks and such a cowardly act of shooting a soldier, Corporal Nathan Cirillo of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. National direction was given by DND to all our servicemen and women to not wear uniform in public.



A number of veterans across the country took this assault on our nation and on our military as a challenge. The word quickly went out through social media and other means that we must show that we will not pull back at the threat of attack. These veterans dressed as they would for Remembrance Day and took up posts the next day at many War Memorials and Cenotaphs all across the country. I'm sure that you'll be pleased to know that the cenotaph at Kentville numbered among those that were guarded. Veterans from the local area stood guard and, with two West Nova soldiers, Travis and Joseph. With a number of interested civilians who came to watch, they sang "O Canada" together. Those who stood guard that day included Garry Randall, Terry Randall, Gerald "Duke" Davidson, Donn Mills, and Jon VanZoost of the Royal Canadian Legion. Thank you, Gentlemen.

WNSRRA Calendar 2015

Here are a few dates for events at the Unit and the RA so members could attend if available. Information provided here is correct at the time of printing, but you can always obtain clarification by emailing the editor. The Reunion Committee has not had its plans confirmed, but we want to remind you of the dates for the 66th Annual Reunion.

Date	Event	Details
25 Apr	WNSRRA Executive Committee Meeting	1000 hrs at Aldershot
09 May	Italy Day with the Regiment	Aldershot (Time TBA)
23 May	Annual Cadet Review (ACR) for 2444 RCACC	Aldershot (Time TBA)
May	ACR for 1714 Annapolis Royal and 603 Weymouth	Annapolis Royal (Date and Time TBA)
May	ACR for 686 Bridgetown	Bridgetown (Date and Time TBA)
May	ACR for 2688 Bridgewater	Bridgewater (Date and Time TBA)
18-20 Sep	66th Annual WNSRRA Reunion Friday evening BBQ Saturday - Registration - Banquet - Social evening Sunday - AGM - Memorial Service - Reception	(July newsletter will provide times) Aldershot Kentville and Aldershot Aldershot

At this year's Reunion, we're **not** going to miss out on a group picture, or several group pictures, **but** you have to be there to be in it. So pencil us in your calendar now, and we'll add details the events as information becomes available. Let us know if you plan to come at the WNSR Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2413681541/events/> Fifty-seven people have already confirmed attendance, and 51 said maybe.

Further details on events will be posted on both Facebook pages (WNSR and WNSRRA), the Regimental Association portion of the www.wnsr.ca website, and the WNSRRA July newsletter.

EXERCISE SEMPER TOWN

by Capt Mark Stewart, WNSR UIO



Windsor residents going through the drive-thru at a downtown restaurant early Sunday morning may have been surprised by RCMP and Military Police roadblocks and the sounds of blank small-arms fire.

These noises were the result of a Reserve military weekend exercise. The West Nova Scotia Regiment with platoons from Bridgewater, Middleton, Kentville and Windsor deployed to the town of Windsor, setting up a company position in the gymnasium of Kings-Edgehill School.

Armed with blank ammunition, troops patrolled the streets looking for a mock military group and their cache of weapons. Information obtained from the patrols led the troops to a small, suspect building on the shores of Pesaquid Lake. Just before first light on Sunday

February 8th, about 45 soldiers converged and surrounded the building. Police forces blocked roads while soldiers stormed the building. After a short skirmish, troops seized the building, the weapons cache was discovered and the suspects were turned over to the police. By Sunday afternoon the military Reserve force of over 75 soldiers returned to their home units ending Exercise Semper Town.

Not only was this a great training opportunity for the soldiers, it also enabled the Regiment to practice coordinating with civilian organizations. According to Captain Wigmore, Company Commander, "We're able to build professional relationships with our civilian partners, while exercising our leaders and soldiers under some of the most realistic conditions possible."

The West Nova Scotia Regiment is an infantry unit headquartered at Camp Aldershot, Kentville and comprises of four platoons located in Bridgewater, Windsor, Kentville and Middleton. The West Nova Scotia Regiment is part of 36 Brigade (Nova Scotia) and 5th Canadian Division (Atlantic Canada).



West Nova Cadet News



One of the WNSR affiliated Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps has been awarded the Strathcona Trophy as the Best Army Cadet Corps in Nova Scotia. What's more is that this corps has won that award in each of the last three years that it was awarded. That corps is 2444 Kings County RCACC in Camp Aldershot. On 5 November 2015 at the Aldershot Drill Hall where the corps parades, Maj (Retd) Ken Hynes, Past President of the Army Cadet League of Nova Scotia, presented the prestigious trophy. There are 28 Army Cadet Corps in communities across Nova Scotia, and 2444 Corps is among the largest in the province at about 70 cadets between the ages of 12 and 18.

Asked what the secret is to maintaining such high numbers, especially among those aged 16 to 18, Captain Mandy Forbes, the Corps' Commanding Officer, says, "We engage them and have them be part of the planning, ask their opinions, give them leadership roles, and let them lead as much as possible."

Matching summer training opportunities and responsibilities at the unit with the cadets' personal interests helps also. Holding youth accountable, and allowing them to make mistakes works well under guidance from Captain Forbes and her staff.



Regimental Coin



If you paid your Regimental Association dues for 2014, you have a Regimental Coin. If you join the Association this year, you'll get a Regimental Coin as part of your membership.

However, it's possible to purchase coins for friends and family if you wish. Additional coins are available for \$25 each.

We still have a supply of the three variants of the coin: Memorial, Blank, and Cadet. In our first order, we were able to purchase 152 coins to commemorate the sacrifice of West Nova soldiers who died during WWII. The surnames of those soldiers began with the letters A to Pte G Hong. Some members have already requested coins to commemorate those from the remaining part of the alphabet such as Pte Walter Peach and Pte GW Jacques. A list of the names still available appears on the last

page of this newsletter. If there is a special soldier whom you wish to honour by the purchase of his Memorial coin, you can send a request by email to bertf@eastlink.ca. Our plan is to order the requested coins when we are able to make an order of 100 coins. The Memorial coins will each be one of a kind; that is, a soldier's name will not be used a second time.

"West Novas" Reprinted History

The Association still has some of our histories for sale. This well-written 326 page, hard covered book recounts the history of the West Novas from the time the Annapolis and Lunenburg Regiments were amalgamated to form the

Regiment. Most of the book provides a detailed account of the Regiment overseas during World War II. Writing this book involved a great deal of collaboration with West Nova vets whom the author interviewed to get a true picture of what happened inside the Regiment during WWII. In almost every chapter, you'll find the names of individual soldiers and officers who distinguished themselves on the field of battle. As well, there are 42 pages of photos and maps from the war years.



Honoured to be sitting in front of the Colours Case at the Borden Hall Combined Mess at 5 Canadian Division Training Detachment Aldershot are (L-R) RSM Bob Schofield ('80-82), LCol Greg Starkey ('07-09), Col Eric Meisner ('80-83), LCol Todd Harris ('13-present), RSM Peter Bailey ('90-99), and Col Ron Stonier ('86-90 and '01-03).

These were some of the 12 former COs and 9 former RSMs who signed 40 copies of the 3rd printing of our Regimental history.

One of the signed copies was donated to the Dalhousie Library Archives in January 2015. Dalhousie holds the copyright on Thomas Raddall's works and graciously allowed us to reprint the book for our members. In the photo, Honorary Colonel John Leefe presents the book to Michael Moosberger, the Dalhousie Associate University Librarian. Also in the photo are CWO Rich Mills, Garry Randall, HLCOL Eric Meisner, LCol Todd Harris, and Ron Stonier.



The Regimental Watch is a fundraising project initiated by the WNSR.

The WNSR is extremely pleased to partner with one of Canada's leading watch designers, *Time is Ticking Inc.*, which has a long and honourable history of creating watches which reflect our nation's historic military milestones. To help show your continued pride in the West Nova Scotia Regiment and its illustrious history, we're pleased to be able to offer a Limited Edition West Nova Scotia Regiment watch. The cost to you is only \$78.00 plus applicable sales tax and postage. The watch is being sold far below its retail value of approximately \$200.00.

The slim-line watch has Seiko movements, 24K gold plating on its face, an engraved case back and a designer Speidel leather strap which is being offered in black, red and blue. The



watch will be delivered in an embossed velveteen collector's box. This limited edition commemorative watch will make an excellent gift. All sales are final.

The West Nova Scotia Regiment receives money from the sale of each watch. Wear your commemorative watch with pride! Semper Fidelis! To order your West Nova Watch, please go to: www.wnsr.ca/watch

A Pilgrimage to Ortona, Italy

One of the most outstanding and memorable battles of the Italian Campaign for the West Nova Scotia Regiment was undoubtedly the battle for Ortona, 20-28 December 1944. The



battle was sometimes called "Little Stalingrad" because of the deadliness of its close-quarters combat where the soldiers of 1st Canadian Division came face-to-face with paratroopers of the German 1st Parachute Division and won another Canadian victory. The image at the left shows the level of destruction in Ortona as depicted by Canadian war artist Charles Comfort.

A group within the Regimental Association has made a plan to conduct a battlefield tour of Italy, following the footsteps of the Regiment from Potenza to Campobasso, Gambatesa, Castel di Sangro, arriving in Ortona. The centrepiece of this journey would be Remembrance Day ceremonies 2015 at the historic battle site of Ortona and nearby the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery where 1,375 Canadians are buried, including 103 West Novas.

Our tour would begin very early in November 2015, and the itinerary would last for 16 days, including sites such as Monte Cassino, Pompei, Potenza, Foggia, Campobasso, Gambatesa, Castel di Sangro, Ortona, and Rome. The daily rate for the tour would be about \$250 a day and would include hotels with breakfast and dinner daily, planned excursions, all ground transportation for the duration as well several days in Rome with passes for sightseeing in the "Eternal City."

At this time, we would like to see who might be interested in participating in such a tour. We'll commence planning when we see that we have a group large enough to proceed. Fifteen or more participants would be a nice sized group to visit Italy when the weather is still mild and most of the tourists have gone home. The experienced guide, Gren Jones, is a member of the Regimental Association and will accommodate any reasonable request and assist participants in any way possible to make this a memorable trip. If interested in this tour, please let me know as soon as you can at stonier@live.ca



The Regimental Association has made the Regiment in Aldershot aware that some members might be interested in attending functions such as Mess Dinners and Dining-Ins, and we've provided them with contact information for members for events which would require individual invitation. If you receive an invitation, please RSVP. If you don't wish to be invited to such events, an email saying so should do the trick. The intention was to give Association members the opportunity to be involved if they so wished.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas, please let us know through some of the many means we now have; such as the *West Nova Scotia Regiment* Facebook Group of 435 members, the *WNSR Regimental Association* page on Facebook, or the section of the West Nova website dedicated to the Regimental Association. We're looking for more interested people to join the Group, Like the page, and visit the West Nova Website.

If you got your newsletter by mail, we don't have your e-mail address. Please help us save paper, printing and postage costs by sending the editor your e-mail address. Thanks.



Available Names for Memorial Coins

If you wish to request one of the names here for your Memorial Coin, please email bertf@eastlink.ca to make the request. Names will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and coins will be produced when we make our next coin order. You can also research each of these soldiers by following the link below at *The Canadian Virtual War Memorial* at: <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial>

Pte Horton J W	LCpl MacEachern F A	Pte Melanson E C	Pte Schwaga P
Pte Hughes D W	Lieut MacHattie H D	Pte Miller R L	Pte Sears A T
Pte Humble H G	Lieut MacIntosh IH	Pte Milley W	Sgt Shanks H J
Lieut Ingraham W E	Pte MacKenzie G H	Pte Monaghan W	LCpl Shannick C A
LSgt Irving D	Pte MacKenzie L B	Pte Monk R H P	Cpl Shaule L A
Pte James E R	Pte MacKillop H S	Pte Moore J W	Pte Shaw G A
Pte Jaquest S A	Pte MacKinnon L C	Pte Morash C E	Sgt Shaw J M
Pte Jeffrey G S	Pte MacKinnon L F	Pte Morrison E M	Pte Shebib W J
Pte Jodery H	Pte MacKinnon MJ	Pte Morrison P	Pte Sheppard G W
Pte Jodrey C E	Pte MacLean B J	Pte Muise J R	Pte Sibley R E
Pte Jollimore H J	Pte Maclellan J G	Pte Muise J S	Pte Smith G H A
Pte Jordan D J	Pte MacLeod J W	Pte Murphy J G	Pte Smith J S
Sgt Joudrey W S	Sgt MacLeod R G	Pte Nauss E F	Pte Smith L J
Pte Kane R	Pte MacMillan F B	Pte Newell V D	Pte Smith R E
Sgt Kearnes R L	Capt MacNeil J C	Pte Nickerson C M	Pte Smith W A
Pte Keddy S A	Pte MacPhee G E	Pte Norton E M	Pte Snow W
Pte Kelly H A	Pte MacPherson D A	Pte O'Brian I A	Pte Sparks Q H
Pte Kennedy A A	Pte MacPherson L P	Pte O'Neil J P	Lieut Sponagle W F
Lieut Kennedy H S	Pte MacQuarrie A	Pte Pace W K	Sgt Stailing W L
Pte Kennedy J A	Pte Mailman B R	Cpl Palmerston W J	LCpl Stapley R D
Lieut Kerr C W	Pte Mailman R H	Cpl Pardy F J	Pte Stewart F B
Pte Kerr D J	Pte Mansbridge P	Pte Parker C O	Pte Stuart D M
Pte Keyes F W	Cpl Marshall W M	Pte Partridge D R	Sgt Sullivan O H
Pte Kilcup E J	Pte Martell T K	Cpl Peach R H	Pte Swan G
Pte King A E	Sgt Masterson J C	Pte Perry C A	Pte Tarr M E
Lieut Knowles BD	Pte Matheson W A	Pte Perry H J	LCpl Taylor A A L
Lieut Knowles R N	Pte Mattie L W	Pte Pettifer E H	Lieut Taylor A D
Pte Lafleche C E	Cpl McClusky G J	Pte Powell F C	Pte Titus H L
Pte Landers D G	Pte McComisky J S	Lieut Prat G F	Pte Tooke A M
Pte Lapiere H L	Pte McCormack D	Capt Putman C L	Pte Turpin F E
Pte Le Blanc M J	Pte McCormick C	Pte Ramey G O	Pte Van Amburg J A
Pte Le Clair H B	Pte McCormick R	Lieut Reeves C C	Pte Veinotte L W
Pte Le Fort J A	Pte McCulloch R M	Pte Rhindress R E	Pte Vickery O L
Pte Ledwidge E J	LSgt McDonald H C	Pte Rhodenizer H C	Pte Vingar A
Pte Legere R H	Pte McEachern H N	Pte Rhodes R V	Pte Ward C A V
Pte Lewis D A	Pte McGilvray P R	Pte Rhuland D A	LCpl Warren J H
Pte Lewis G H	Pte McGuigan D	Pte Rhyno D M	Pte Watson W A
Pte Living A H E	Pte McInnis J J	LCpl Rice G	Cpl Watters W A
Pte Llewellyn W L	Pte McIntyre P	Pte Richard J B	Pte White H
Pte Lynch A W	Pte McKeeman W W	Cpl Richard L J	Pte Williams A F
Pte Lynch G C	Pte McKinnon J	Pte Richard P H	Cpl Williams J W
Pte MacAulay R	Cpl McKinnon L J	Pte Robertson A A	Pte Wilmouth J
Sgt MacDonald A H	Pte McLaughlin C L	Pte Robichaud J E	Pte Wojnowicz W
Pte MacDonald D J	Pte McLean D J	Pte Rogers C W	Cpl Woodworth H L
Pte MacDonald J F	LCpl McLean W J	Cpl Roper D R	Pte Yorke A P S
Pte MacDonald J W	Pte McLelland W	Pte Rose J M	Pte Yorke G E
LCpl MacDonald N A	Pte McMullin M J	Pte Rose R	Pte Yorke W A
Pte MacDonald R H	Pte McMullin R A	Pte Roy L P	Pte Young R A
Pte MacDonald R J	Cpl McNabb A	Pte Roy L	Pte Zwicker W B
Pte MacDonald W E	Sgt McNamara H W	Pte Sanderson G A	
LSgt MacDonell C A	Pte McNeil J H	LCpl Savrnoch A	
Pte MacEachern A L	Pte McPhee J L	Pte Schnare H J	