

Canadian Scottish Regiment
3.12.41: 7.40-8.00 p.m.

Fade in on pipe band playing "Blue Bonnets over the Border". Bring up, hold, and then fade to background for announcement.

ANNOUNCER: "BRING ON THE TARTAN", a program of Pipe Band Music by the pipes and drums of a Western Canadian Scottish Regiment from British Columbia. Pipe Major: James Marrs. The programme is presented by Gerry Wilmot.

Bring band up again, hold, fade to background and continue as background till commencement of second paragraph.

GERRY WILMOT: (on cue light) That tune "Blue Bonnets over the Border" is a call to adventure. It is a defiant air summoning men to march and dare the unknown. This Canadian Scottish Regiment has sounded it across the Dominion - on the battlefields of France and Flanders - and over the border into enemy territory. The pipers played it, as the Regiment marched into Germany twenty-three years ago.

(Bring up "Blue Bonnets" and fade to finish behind next speech)

GERRY WILMOT: (on cue light) This Canadian Scottish Regiment was raised in 1914 and was part of the first contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Four Canadian Highland Regiments combined to make the unit: the Seaforths from Vancouver, the Camerons from Winnipeg, the Gordons from Victoria and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from Hamilton, Ontario. So those men who fought in the last war were truly representative of Canada, and they followed the traditions of the homeland regiments with which they were affiliated. The pipes and drums will play a selection of airs associated with each of these regiments. "The Cock of the North", the march past of the Gordons; "The Barren Rocks of Aden", a very popular marching tune of the Seaforth Highlanders; "The Green Hills of Tyrol", a favourite retreat air of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; and the "79th's Farewell to Gibraltar" to which all the Camerons respond with a lighter step.

(on cue light) "The Cock of the North" - the march past of the Gordon Highlanders;

(on cue light) "The Barren Rocks of Aden" - one of the regimental marches of the Seaforth Highlanders;

(on cue light) "The Green Hills of Tyrol" - adapted as a pipe tune by Pipe Major John Macleod of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the Crimean Campaign.

(on cue light) "The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar" by the late Pipe Major John MacDonald of Camerons, a favourite tune with all pipers..

GERRY WILMOT: The first recruits came from all parts of the Dominion, but the Regiment has now made its home in British Columbia, where such famous Scotsmen as Simon Fraser of the Fraser River; Sir George Simpson, the Emperor of the Fur Traders and the first Governor of the new Hudson's Bay Company who held

the mainland of British Columbia for the British Government; Simpson was a native of Ross-shire. There was Sir James Douglas, too, an orphan from Lanarkshire who virtually founded British Columbia. After them came many of their countrymen who followed the trail that Sir Alexander MacKenzie blazed. He was the first white man to cross the Dominion from east to west. Descendants of these great pioneers are in this regiment.

During the last war, the band played "Scotland is my ain Hame" as their march past. In 1918, however, as the unit crossed the German frontier, the band, on orders from the Commanding Officer played "Blue Bonnets Over the Border". And this tune has remained the march past ever since. They play these airs now in remembrance of their gallant comrades of these days.

(on cue light) "Scotland is my ain Hame"

(on cue light) and once again - just for old time's sake, "Blue Bonnets over the Border".

GERRY WILMOT:

(on cue light) They wear the kilt, Hunting Stewart tartan. Their slogan is Gaelic. It means that they are bonny fighters and it is no idle slogan. During the last war over one thousand three hundred and fifty were killed. They won three hundred and fifty-eight awards including four V.C.'s, one of them by a piper. They always reached their objective and they never retreated. A piper led every attack. One piper, the V.C., will always be remembered; when his company were held up by the barbed wire before an enemy trench, he strode up and down under fire like the piper of Tobruk, playing on till the men got through. He did not survive the assault but they remember his kind in such airs as "The Back of Benachie". L/Cpl. James MacMillan plays it.

(on cue light) "The Back of Benachie"

GERRY WILMOT:

The band is one of the most distinguished in Canada. It has the honour of having been selected to play at conferences, exhibitions in Canada and the United States. It has also won many prizes at competitions. A favourite group is "Atholl and Breadalbane Gathering" which is a march; the strathspey "Maggie Cameron" and the reel "Duntroon Castle". Here is:

(on cue light) "Atholl and Breadalbane Gathering"

(on cue light) The strathspey "Maggie Cameron" and the reel "Duntroon Castle"

GERRY WILMOT:

That this regiment is in this country shows that the loyal adventurous tradition of the fathers lives in their splendid sons. The spirit of the great Scottish regiment to which they are affiliated, is matched by the spirit of this regiment from Western Canada.

The programme ends with a selection of tunes dedicated to friends and relatives back home in Canada. These tunes are "The Black Bear", "The Old Rustic Bridge" and lastly, "Far O'er the Sea".

ANNOUNCER:

You have been listening to the second programme in the series "Bring on the Tartan", featuring the pipes and drums of Canadian Scottish regiments. The programme this evening was by pipes and drums of a Western Canadian regiment, the Pipe Major of which is James Marrs. The programme was presented by Gerry Wilmot.