

For Valour: The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's)**100 Years of Service in Peace and War**

October 20, 2012 to December 2, 2012

By the Royal BC Museum and the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Regimental Museum

The Canadian Scottish Regiment is the only infantry regiment based on Vancouver Island. It is a regiment of Canada's militia (army reserve) headquartered in Victoria. It originated in 1912 in Victoria as the 88th Regiment (Victoria Fusiliers). In 1914 a new Battalion, the 16th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) was raised from contingents provided by four Canadian highland regiments. Because of this highland connection the 16th Battalion was henceforth known as the 16th Battalion (the Canadian Scottish).

The 16th Battalion's first major action was in April 1915 at Kitchener's Wood near St Julien, Belgium. The 16th Battalion and the 10th Battalion closed a gap in the lines caused by the first large-scale use of poison gas in combat. The Canadians held the position long enough to prevent a major breakthrough by the German army. As a result of this action, the Canadian Scottish shoulder titles incorporate an oak leaf and acorn emblem – it is one of only two Canadian regiments to wear this honorary distinction.

In 1920 the 88th Regiment was combined with the 50th Gordons as the Canadian Scottish Regiment, perpetuating the history and traditions of the 16th Battalion.

During World War II, the 1st Battalion of the Canadian Scottish Regiment fought in northwestern Europe. The Regiment took part in the D-Day landings in Normandy, the liberation of Holland and the crossing of the Rhine. In 1948 the Regiment's then colonel-in-chief, Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, allowed her name to be included in the Regiment's new title: the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's).

The post-war years have seen the Regiment and other units in Canada's militia respond to Canada's needs. In May of 1951 a company served in the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion in NATO. Today the Regiment continues to provide support for the Regular Force. Individual volunteers have served on United Nations peacekeeping missions and NATO missions in the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. Over half of the Regiment's 225 serving members wear these mission campaign medals, including a Military Medal of Valour awarded for service in Afghanistan.

This year, 2012, marks the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Scottish Regiment. More than 19,000 citizens have served in it, and the Regiment is justly proud of its long and distinguished service to the community and Canada.

***Exhibition Credits:** This exhibition is a partnership between The Canadian Scottish Regimental Museum and the Royal British Columbia Museum. The participation of The Canadian Scottish Regimental Museum and the use of their artifacts is with the kind permission of Lieutenant Colonel E.P. Boucher, CD, Commanding Officer of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's). Mr. Michel Litalien, Museums Officer in the Directorate of History and Heritage at National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, has provided much appreciated mentoring and support to The Canadian Scottish Regimental Museum. Special thanks are due the Lorimer family who provided the information and photographs for the Lorimer display. The bagpipes of Piper James C. Richardson, V.C. appear courtesy of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and were originally donated by the Canadian Club (Vancouver). The medals of Major General George R. Pearkes, VC, PC, CC, CB, DSO, MC, CD; Lieutenant Colonel John MacGregor, VC, MC, DCM, ED; Colonel Cyrus Wesley Peck, VC, DSO; Corporal William Metcalfe, VC, MM; Private William Johnstone Milne, VC; and Piper James Cleland Richardson, VC are provided courtesy of the Tilston Memorial Collection of Canadian Military Medals, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa.*

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