

## PIPER'S TOAST

At formal dinners, and most particularly in the case of the Game Dinner, a piper, usually the Pipe Major, will offer a toast with the Commanding Officer.

The toast is of extreme significance since not only does it have its origins in ancient history but it symbolizes the status of the piper and relationship with the clan chief or, in modern times in Canada, with the Commanding Officer. In pre-Reformation days there was a burgh piper who was a man of peace and a clan piper who was a man of war. The clan piper belonged to the clan chief who often entertained after dinner. During the festivities the clan piper was invited into the dining hall to have a dram with the clan chief. In so doing the clan piper would propose a toast to which the clan chief would reply.

Within this Regiment the same traditions are retained. It will be noted the Piper's Toast is the only occasion upon which a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer will drink while on duty and it will be further noted that this act is symbolic of his status within the Regiment. It will also be noted that while the Pipe-Major has proposed the toast that the Commanding Officer, in acknowledging the toast, is also acknowledging the status of the Pipe Major and through him all that the bagpipes mean to a Highland regiment.

The form which the Piper's Toast takes with The Canadian Scottish Regiment is as follows: The Pipe Major will pipe himself around the table in a clock-wise direction finally halting facing the Commanding Officer on his right. The Commanding Officer will rise and they will both accept a quaich which will have been prepared by the chief steward. Both the Commanding Officer and the Pipe Major will hold the quaichs up while the Pipe Major recites the mottos of the four battalions which founded the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Canadian Scottish) and the motto of the 16<sup>th</sup>. At the conclusion of the recitation they will both drain the quaich at one draught and then turn over and kiss the bottom of the quaich to indicate that it has been entirely drained.

All officers, and though them their guests, must be aware of the significance of the Piper's Toast and there must be absolute silence during all portions of the Toast. The President of the Mess Committee may find it necessary to request quiet upon the Pipe Major's entry and if such is the case he should not hesitate to do so. In no circumstances will jovial words of encouragement or miscellaneous catcalls be tolerated.

For the information of all officers the following are the mottos recited by the Pipe Major in proposing the Piper's Toast:

Buaidh No Bas	(Victory of Death)	(50 <sup>th</sup> Battalion)
Albainn Gu Brath	(Scotland Forever)	(91 <sup>st</sup> Battalion)
Ullamh	(Ready)	(79 <sup>th</sup> Battalion)
Cuidich 'n Rìgh	(Help the King)	(72 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion)
Deas Gu Cath	(Ready for the Fray)	(16 <sup>th</sup> Battalion)

*Standing Orders for the Officers' Mess  
The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's)  
Spring 1970*