



Fort Fraser Despatches - June 2014



Hon.Col. Liliane M. Stewart OOC

1928 - 2014

President, The Macdonald Stewart Foundation

Much respected patroness of Art & Culture

Officer of the Order of Canada

Officier de L'Ordre National du Québec

Officier des Arts et des Lettres (France)

Mrs. Stewart also served on the McGill University Board of Governors, was named Honourary Colonel of the Queen's York Rangers and La Compagnie Franche de la Marine which shared quarters with The Old 78th Fraser Highlanders at The Fort on Ile. Ste. Hélène.

adieu, Madame



Lovat Frasers and WWI

(from "The Fraser Highlanders", J.R. Harper 1979)

"Simon Joseph, sixteenth Lord Lovat, worthily upholds the great traditions of his race, and in him the renowned Clan Fraser has a chief of whom it may well be proud. He lives among his people like his sires of old, and like them has led forth an array which, in a widely different sphere and under no less different conditions, has amply maintained past glories and prestige. Lovat's Scouts showed their indomitable spirit on veld and kopje no less surely than did their forefathers in the longdrawn struggle of the '45 and on the bullet-swept plains of Quebec, thus proving that time cannot deaden nor circumstance lessen the soldier-like instincts of the fighting Frasers."

The appointment of Simon Joseph Fraser, 16th Lord Lovat, in the Highland Territorial Forces ended in 1912. The First World War found him without a command, but so effectively had he planned the organization in previous years that mobilization was effected without a hitch.

From all the scattered countries in the North, men and stores poured in by road, by rail and by sea to the appointed place at the appointed time.

It was during the movement of the brigade from Blairgowrie to Huntingdon that the rumour was first heard that a force of Russians had landed in the north of Scotland and travelled south; and there is little doubt that it arose in connection with this movement.

The rumour, fantastic in itself, must have had some foundation; and the facts first adduced by the credulous to support it fitted in remarkably with the movements of the brigade; for 13 trains had passed through Newcastle and York from Scotland, travelling in succession all one night; and many of the men in those trains spoke a "foreign language," wore queer headgear, and were shy and retiring.

When asked whence they came by benevolent ladies who had organized a canteen on York platform, they could only mutter "Ross-shire" (Russia).

Those who witnessed the hysteria of many of the non-combatants during the war years will not be surprised that people were soon heard to swear that the men had snow on their boots, whilst others had learned from high officials the exact numbers of the Russians.

Those who disbelieved such bunkum were suspected as pro-Germans. Not content with the Highlands as a recruiting ground, Lovat turned to Canada as soon as he got the command, and telegraphed to his old friend, Colonel Alexander Fraser of Toronto, to publish an appeal for any old Lovat Scouts to join the colours. The response was overwhelming, as those who wished to serve under Lovat were not confined to the Scouts. Over 1,000 in all volunteered, and those who could not be taken into the Scouts enlisted in the hope of serving under him.

A letter from Lovat to Colonel Fraser explains how matters stood on 11 September 1914.

George Hotel,
Huntingdon, England

"My Dear Fraser,

We have been shifting camp, and as I have just taken over command, work has been very brisk. I am sorry I could not take five hundred Canadians. I have only twenty places to be taken for old Scouts, who roll up from every part of the globe.

I shall very shortly be raising two Reserve Regiments to support the three Regiments when in the field, and I shall be very happy to offer your son a commission in one of them.

I should very much like to have a squadron of Canadian Highlanders, but I am afraid it would be impossible, in fairness to my own men, to include them in the 1st Brigade; and if they went in the 2nd they would not be ready except for drafting purposes for some six months to come.

I am afraid the Imperial Yeomanry pay is not tempting—one and twopence a day, with sixpence efficiency pay (when they pass the riding and shooting test), one and a penny separation allowance for married men, and twopence a day per child.

I have got a splendid Brigade of Highlanders, big, fine men, and a very competent lot of officers. I have selected Colonel Augustus Baillie, Lieutenant Colonel Macdonald, and Lieutenant Colonel Lumsden, to command the three Reserve regiments. I have about seven hundred recruited for them, but am not pushing on with more till I can get clothes, arms and accoutrements."

After a short stay at Huntingdon, where it was inspected by the King, Lovat's brigade was sent to defend a section of the east coast of England, where an attempted landing was thought likely. By the spring of 1915, the brigade had reached a pitch of efficiency and enthusiasm which would have made them a godsend to any general of division lucky enough to have them allotted to him. However, as time passed, officers and men grew restive, and were checked only by Lovat's example and influence.

King George V sent a telegram on the eve of the Scouts' departure from Devonport to Gallipoli:

September 6th, 1915.

*Brigadier General Lord Lovat,
H.Q. Highland Mounted Brigade,
Hunstanton.*

"I send you and your Brigade my best wishes on your departure to active service. I feel sure that the great and traditional fighting reputation of Scotsmen will be more than safe with you and that your Brigade will spare no effort in the interests of the Empire's cause to bring this war to a victorious conclusion."

The brigade sailed on 7 September 1915 to do battle in Salonika. The Scouts remained at Gallipoli until final evacuation, Major Campbell of the Lovat Scouts being the last soldier to leave Suvla Bay at 0310 on 20th December 1915.

From Gallipoli the Scouts were to remain in the Mediterranean fighting in Egypt and Macedonia until June 1918 then onto the Western Front in July 1918, where they joined the Lovat Scouts (sharpshooters).

**481 Lovat Scouts lost their lives in WW1.
Their names can be found at Edinburgh Castle .**

Malt whisky refresher:

Produced using a traditional batch process, malt whisky is made up of three core ingredients; malted barley, yeast and water.

The barley first must be *malted*; steeped in water and then left out on a malting floor to sprout shoots. It is then *baked* in a kiln to dry it out, with some distilleries, like those in Islay, using peat at this point to give their whiskies distinctly smoky notes.

Having been milled, the ground barley or *grist* as it is now known, is mixed with hot water in a *mash tun*, producing a sugary liquid called *wort*. This is the basis for the alcohol. The remaining solids are used in agriculture as a nutritious cattle feed.

Next, the liquid wort is passed into large vats called *washbacks*, where yeast is added and allowed to ferment, converting the sugars in the wort into an alcohol around 8% abv, or the '*wash*'.

The final process entails the 'wash' to be heated in two stills; the wash still and the spirit still. Only a certain part of the run, where the quality of the spirit is at its highest, is collected and used. The rest is siphoned and re-distilled. The spirit is then poured into *oak casks* to age.

By law, it cannot be called Scotch unless it has been matured for a minimum of three years in Scotland. If an age is shown on a label of malt whisky, it indicates the least amount of time that all the whisky in the bottle has been matured.

Malt whisky produced at one distillery is sold as "*single malt whisky*" - you can also buy "*blended malt whisky*" which will be the product of two or more different distilleries.

Whisky is produced in five different regions in Scotland, each region being known for particular notes or characteristics.





Saturday, 21 June

Percy Perry Stadium
Coquitlam

www.bchighlandgames.com

Join in the fun!
Celebrate the Heritage!

"Get Involved!"



The TRUTH IS... Everyone LOVES the Highland Games.
pipes & drums... whisky & beer... cabers & dancing...
fantastic fair food & cool stuff in tents
kids of all ages in kilts of all tartans

- come spend some time at the 78th tent
- chat with visitors
- expand your "fraserness"



This could be trouble Department



On 13 May, 1756, Louis-Joseph, Marquis de **Montcalm**, arrived at Quebec to command French forces in New France. He was accompanied by 7000 regular force soldiers and engineers.

Unreliable sources have reported that, faced with this eventuality, the Earl of Chatham put forward strong requests to George II to raise the 77th and 78th Highland Regiments - seen as the most effective deterrent to Montcalm's expertise.

French successes led to the recall of Gen. Loudon and the appointment in 1758 of Jeffery Amherst as commander of British forces.

Amherst relied on BGen James **Wolfe** as the counter to Montcalm.



Fort Fraser's Kilt:

Members are, of course, encouraged to wear the 78th Fraser Highlanders tartan Kilt.

Currently the garrison Kiltmaker is in Victoria at Freedom Kilts.

Steve Ashton's crew has produced several fine Kilts for Fort Fraser, and we consider his Kilt to be the standard for garrison members.



Procedure for acquiring the "official" Fort Fraser Kilt:

1. contact the QM Capt. Murray Wood (m.t.wood@shaw.ca) for information and directions.
2. follow QM instructions to make an appointment with Freedom Kilts in Victoria to be measured and learn about options.
3. payment will be made directly to Freedom Kilts.
4. do not contact the Kiltmaker without first speaking with QM Wood.



"Je Suis Prest"

Colonel J. Ralph Harper,

OBE, CStJ, TD, KLJ, Légion d'Honneur, Croix de Guerre, FRSA, FSA(Scot),

in his book *"The Fraser Highlanders" (Second Edition)* entered a footnote to Chapter 6, *The Capture of Louisbourg*, which bears repeating:

"History has it the Wolfe was the conqueror of Canada, and all the credit for the defeat of the French is given to him. Much as I admire Wolfe as a dedicated soldier, great trainer of men, disciplinarian, planner and leader, he could not have achieved his victories without the help and tremendous support of the Royal Navy. It is a pity that the names of Admiral Boscawen and Vice Admiral Charles Saunders, "Vice Admiral of the Blue", are not coupled with that of Wolfe for their victories at Louisbourg and Quebec. Without their cooperation and help, warships, transports, stores and provisions, victory at Louisbourg, Quebec and Montreal could never have been achieved.

The record shows that during the campaign at Quebec, 277 different British vessels were under Saunders' overall command, of which 49 were warships sailed in support of the Army. During the same period not one French ship arrived at Quebec. It is clear that the mass of supplies and the mobility enjoyed by the British gave them advantages which the French could not overcome. The dispatches of Admiral Saunders show with clarity the disposition of the fleet, the constant service to the Army, the protection the troops enjoyed, the mobility afforded the Army commanders by the Navy and the surprise made possible by combined operation.

Few Army officers at this time took more than a passing interest in the Navy. The majority knew nothing of naval strategy, seldom conversed with naval officers, and regarded ships as little else than unpleasant means of transport to foreign fields of battle.

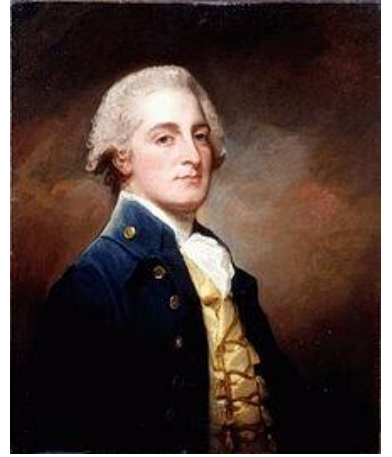
However, Wolfe, taught by his father's bitter experience at Cartagena, regarded a knowledge of maritime affairs as part of the essential military knowledge."



Saunders(N)



Wolfe(A)



Boscawen(N)

British Heroes of Louisbourg and Quebec
(1758 & 1759-60)



and all the soldiers and sailors!

upcoming events:

- 25 May - 15 Field Reg't (RCA) Change of Command
- 21 June - BC Highland Games (join in!)
- 01 July - Canada Day at Port Moody Station
- 12 July - Louisbourg BBQ
- 27 September - Plains of Abraham Commemorative Mess Dinner
- We ask that all those interested in assisting with and/or participating in the Fort Fraser 18th century historical display group to please "take one step forward".

If you are interested or have questions, please let us know by emailing: flemingd178@gmail.com.



to join in, get involved!

or....



there will be consequences.....

and finally - lessons for life, Item 1- for Men:

5 DEADLY TERMS USED BY A WOMAN

- 1) FINE: This is the word women use to end an argument when she knows she is right and you need to shut-up.
- 2) NOTHING: means something & you need to be worried.
- 3) GO AHEAD: this is a dare, not permission, do not do it.
- 4) WHATEVER: A woman's way of saying screw you.
- 5) THATS OKAY: She is thinking long and hard on how and when you wil pay for your mistake.

BONUS WORD: WOW!

This is not a compliment. She's amazed that one person could be so stupid.

InstantHumour.com