



The Grey and Simcoe Foresters

14 September 1866

150th Anniversary 2016
Briefing to Barrie City Council

Major J.R. Fisher

Regimental Major



“Tenacious and Versatile”





Overview

- **Tonight is Part II** – carrying on from the CFB Borden Centennial presentation made by HCol Jamie Massie and me in November 2014
- 2016 marks the Sesquicentennial of The Grey and Simcoe Foresters – gazetted 14 September 1866
- A quick background primer on the Regiment
- 2016 Sesquicentennial Events



The Regiment

- Is a lodger unit of CFB Borden, garrisoned at Barrie and Owen Sound, Ontario
- Perpetuates the founding battalion of Camp Borden 1916 – **157th Simcoe Foresters**
- Is one of six infantry regiments in 31 Canadian Brigade Group, HQ London, Ontario
- 31 CBG is one of four brigades of the 4th Canadian Division, HQ Toronto, Ontario



The Regiment

- Provides full and part-time employment for approximately 200 people
- Sponsors two Army Cadet corps, Barrie and Owen Sound
- Supports two Air Cadet squadrons and one Sea Cadet Corps



Present Role and Tasking

- Combat capable infantry regiment on the reserve order of battle ready to deploy or to augment regular force
- Tasked as Arctic Response Company Group (ARCG) for 4th Canadian Division, deploying February-March annually into the Canadian Arctic



Afghanistan & Arctic

Most recent large scale overseas deployment was the war in Afghanistan:

- Foresters served in the front lines, and the Regiment was recently awarded the “AFGHANISTAN” Battle Honour
- This is the first battle honour awarded to G&SF since the First World War

At home: the Arctic is now our priority:

- February 2014 – Rankin Inlet, Hudson’s Bay
- March 2015 – Resolute Bay, Nunavut



Afghanistan & Arctic

Afghanistan

Rankin Inlet 2014





Present Day - ARCG





Rankin Inlet 2014 (-58C, wind chill – 75C)





2014 Rankin Inlet



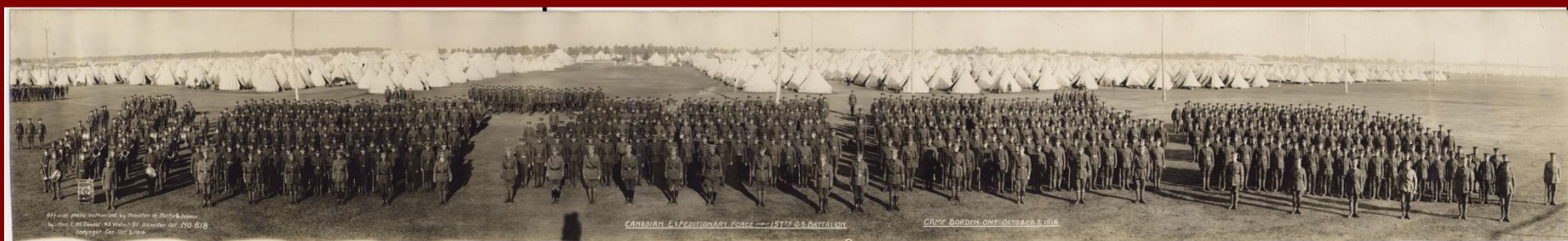


Looking Back – Creation and Conflicts

- 1866 – formed in response to the Fenian Raid attacks from the United States
- 1885 - York-Simcoe Battalion to North West (Riel) Rebellion
- 1899-1902 – South African (Boer) War
- 1914-1918 – First World War (4 battalions)
- 1939-1945 – Second World War (2 battalions)
- 1950-53 – Korean War (volunteers)



157th Infantry Battalion, Simcoe Foresters, builders of Camp Borden 1916



Official photo submitted by Minister of Defence
by Lt. J. McQuinn, 40th Battalion, 31st December, 1916, NO. 518
Toronto, Ont. Ont. War.

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE -- 157th I.S. BATTALION

CAMP BORDEN, ONT. - OCTOBER 3, 1916.



Peacekeeping

- Cyprus – 8 Foresters
- Middle East (Golan Heights, Egypt & Jerusalem) – 15 Foresters
- Former Yugoslavia (Croatia, Bosnia & Kosovo) – 26 Foresters
- Sierra Leon – 3 Foresters
- Sudan & South Sudan – 1 Forester 3 tours
- Afghanistan – 54 Foresters



NATO Deployments

- Germany (Cold War)
- Norway (Cold War)
- Former Yugoslavia (Bosnian War)
- Afghanistan (War on Terrorism)
- Ukraine (present day)



Natural Disasters

- 1954 - Hurricane Hazel
- 1985 – Barrie Tornado
- 1995 & 96 – Red River Floods
- 1997 – Eastern Ontario – Quebec Ice Storm
- Forest fires



Sesquicentennial Activities

- Production of History DVD-CD ROM with Theatre-by-the Bay for local schools, libraries and museums
- New concise history booklet for public
- Presentation of New Colours (Owen Sound), Governor General of Canada
- Freedom of the City of Barrie with Base Borden



Sesquicentennial Activities

- G&SF Guard of Honour for His Excellency the Governor General of Canada at the unveiling of the new Borden Memorial
- Visit to HRH The Princess Royal at St. John's, Newfoundland, with the new Colours



2016 New Colours

The main Sesquicentennial event will be:

- Presentation of New Colours on 21 May 2016 at Owen Sound by His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, with
- Canada Day 2016 visit to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at St. John's, NL, for official portrait with the new Colours



The Colours, HRH, Royal Guard of Honour, Toronto 1986





The Colours

- Only Infantry Battalions carry Colours (not flags)
- Most prized possession, normally presented by Royalty or Vice Regal representative
- Property of the Sovereign in perpetuity
- Consecrated by Chaplain General
- Lifespan 25-30 years
- Current Stand of Colours was presented in 1978, and will be 38 years old in 2016



The Colours, HRH, Royal Guard of Honour, Barrie, 2013





The Queen's & Regimental Colours





The Colonel-in-Chief with the Colours





Battle Honours on the Colours

- North West Canada 1885
- **Arras 1917**
- Hill 70
- Ypres 1917
- Amiens
- **Arras 1918**
- Hindenburg Line
- Pursuit to Mons
- Afghanistan



The Grey & Simcoe Foresters



Questions?