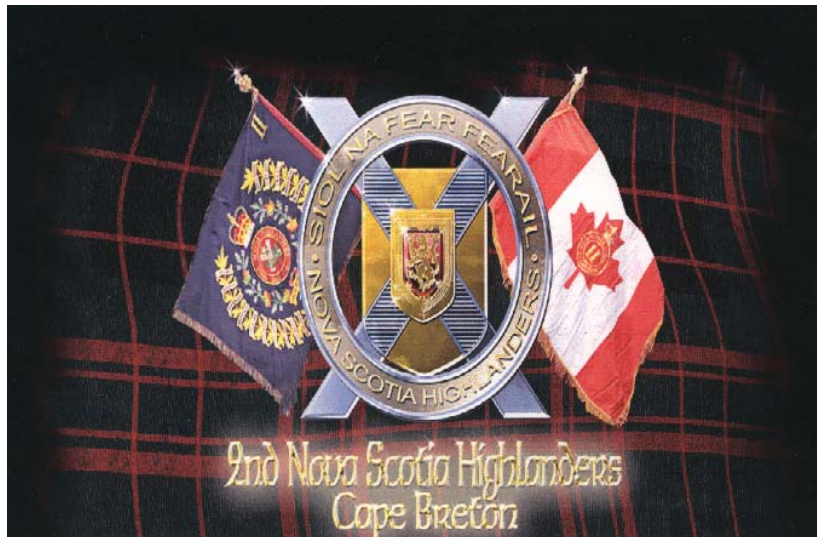


*2nd Battalion  
The Nova Scotia Highlanders  
(Cape Breton)*



**REGIMENTAL CATECHISM**

November 12, 2007

*2nd Battalion  
The Nova Scotia Highlanders  
(Cape Breton)*



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*2nd Battalion  
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(Cape Breton)*

## **Regimental Catechism**



### *FOREWORD*

*30 June 1992*

*The Second Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton) has completed over a Century of distinguished service in the Military Forces of Canada, during Peace and War. The name of our unit has changed on a number of occasions in over a hundred years, and, of course, the faces within it has changed also. "However", the main point to remember is THE REGIMENT CONTINUES ON*

*As this book is being written, three historic events are unfolding. This year our pipe band celebrated its One Hundredth Birthday, our affiliated British Regiment, The 22nd Cheshire, is celebrating its Tercentenary, and one of our platoons is in Labrador, Newfoundland on base defense duties.*

*This is not intended to be a detailed Regimental History. It is only intended to be a pocket finger-tip reference for all ranks to assist and remind us of the Must-Knows of our Unit, past and present.*

*'Your Aye'*

*Ted H. Slaney*

*Ted H. Slaney,*

*Colonel*

*Honorary Colonel*

*2nd Battalion*

*The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton)*

*2nd Battalion  
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## Regimental Catechism



### 1. What is the name of The Regiment?

The Nova Scotia Highlanders.

### 2. How many units comprise The Nova Scotia Highlanders?

Two: 1st Bn, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (North)  
2nd Bn, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton)

### 3. When was the 2nd Bn, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton) first formed?

At Baddeck, on 13 October 1871. It was then called "The Victoria Provisional Battalion of Infantry" The name of the unit changed over the years as follows:

December 1879 - "The Victoria Highland" Provisional Battalion of Infantry.

April 9, 1880 - "The Victoria Provisional Battalion of Infantry ("Argyll Highlanders")

\*May 8, 1890 - "The 94th Regiment" ("Argyll Highlanders")

\*October 14, 1915 - "The 85th Bn Nova Scotia Highlanders formed at Aldershot

\*February/March 1916 - "The 185th Bn Nova Scotia Highlanders formed on Cape Breton Island.

\*April 1, 1920 - Designated The Cape Breton Highlanders, perpetuating the three units above.

\*September 15, 1954 - Designated 2nd Bn, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton) perpetuating the four units above.

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## Regimental Catechism



### 4. Who was the first Commanding Officer?

Lieutenant-Colonel William Bingham.

Colonel Bingham was born in Belfast, Ireland on March 17, 1840. "He" commanded from 13 October 1871 until April 7, 1893. During his tour of duty the name of his unit changed three times. He was married to the former Sarah Geizer of Halifax. Colonel Bingham died on 11 December 1911. "He" and Mrs. Bingham are buried at English town, N.S., in the same cemetery as the former Cape Breton Giant, Angus MacAskill.

### 5. Where was the original Coys of The Victoria Provisional Battalion of Infantry, and who were the original company commanders?

No 1 Coy - Capt Norman MacRae - Middle River

No 2 Coy - Capt Charles MacRae - Middle River

No 3 Coy - Cape J.S. McNeill - Iona

No 4 Coy - Capt D.S. MacRae - Baddeck

No 5 Coy - Capt W.M. Hill - Sydney.

### 6. On what date did The Nova Scotia Highlanders become a two- Battalion Regiment?

On 21st June 1955, The Pictou Highlanders, The North Nova Scotia Highlanders and The 189th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery were designated The 1st Bn, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (North).

All units who comprised The 1st and 2nd Battalion, shown above, along with the 17th, 25th, 106th, 193rd, and 246th Battalion of The Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1918, became The Nova Scotia Highlanders on 21st June 1955.

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### 7. What is the Motto of The Regiment?

The Gaelic **“Sìol Na Fear Fearail”** - The Breed of Manly Men.

This motto was presented by the then Premier of Nova Scotia, The Honorable George H. Murray, to the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade in World War I, and was also the motto of The Cape Breton Highlanders during peace time and World War II. This motto is emblazoned on The Regimental Colour, and inscribed on all Regimental badges and buckles.

### 8. What was the motto of The 94th Regiment (Argylls) and what was unique about the members of this famous unit?

- The Gaelic - **“Dileas Do ‘N Bheatich”** True to The Flag; and
- The mother tongue of eighty percent of its members was Gaelic.

### 9. What was the Official March of The 94th?

“The Campbell's are Coming”

### 10. How many Battle Honours have been won by The Regiment?

The Regiment has won 56 Battle Honours, of which 21 are emblazoned on the Colours.





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### 11. What are the Colours?

- a. They are the Queen's Colour, signifying Loyalty to the Queen. The Queen's Colour is carried on the right of The Regimental Colour. It is described as The Great Union or Union Jack. In the centre is a roman numeral, which denotes the number of the Battalion, within a circle inscribed The Nova Scotia Highlanders and surmounted by The Imperial Crown. It is made of heavy silk, with a gold fringe, carried on a pike which is capped with the Imperial Crown, surmounted by The British Lion; and
- b. The Regimental Colour is Royal Blue in colour; it is made of heavy silk and has a gold fringe. The centre, on a crimson background, is the white cross of St. Andrew, superimposed with four may flowers. The Cross is within a circle, inscribed The Nova Scotia Highlanders, and surmounted by the Imperial Crown. Surrounding the circle is a Wreath of Thistle, and six autumnal-coloured maple leaves; and, the centre adornment is encompassed by a wreath of laurel leaves. At the bottom of the wreath is the motto of the Regiment, in Gaelic - Siol Na Fear Fearail. Throughout the remainder of the wreath is borne the following Battle Honours:



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## Regimental Catechism



### *What are the Colours Continued*

Below the upper left corner is a Roman Numeral, designating the number of the Battalion. The colour is carried out on a pike identical to the pike with the Queen's Colour.



### **12. Describe The Regiment Hat Badge?**

The Cross of Saint Andrew in the centre is the Coat of Arms of the Province of Nova Scotia (i.e. Argent on a saltier azure an escutcheon of the Royal Arms of Scotland); encircling the arms, an annulus Inscribed on the upper curve, with the Motto "Sìol Na Fear Fearail, and on the lower curve with the designation "Nova Scotia Highlanders".



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## Regimental Catechism



### 13. What Tartan is worn by The Regiment?

The MacDonald Tartan, of Clan Donald, oldest most powerful, largest of the Clans. The race of MacDonald came from Donald, Grandson of the great Somerled of the Isles.

### 14. What days are celebrated by 2nd Bn, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton)?

- a. The Regimental Birthday on 13th October, in honour of the founding of our unit on 13th October 1871;
- b. Robert Burns Day (Haggis Night), in honour of the great Scottish Poet, on the 25th of January, every year;
- c. Vimy Day - Celebrated in honour of The 85th Bn Nova Scotia Highlanders' capture of Hill 145, the highest point on Vimy Ridge, on Easter Monday, 9th April 1917; and
- d. Coriano Day - Celebrated in honour of the Cape Breton Highlanders' successful attack and capture of the Town of Coriano in Italy on the September 13, 1944, after the heaviest fighting during the Italian Campaign.

These days are celebrated in the form of formal parades, including decorations and awards, inter-company, inter-mess activities, including sports and mess dinners, etc.

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## **Regimental Catechism**



**15. When was the first Pipes and Drums authorized in our Unit?**

1889 - 15 pipers and eight drummers.

**16. What rank were the fatal casualties suffered by The 85th Bn in World War I and The Cape Breton Highlanders in World War II?**

They were both pipers.

**17. Who was the Honorary Colonel of The Cape Breton Highlanders during World War I?**

Honorable James L Ralston, CMG, DSO, KC, LLD, DCL, Minister of National Defense (Army), former Commanding Officer (World War I) of The 85th Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders).

**18. What was the Regimental Quick March of The 85th and The Cape Breton Highlanders?**

The 85th - 'The Highland Laddie'

The Cape Breton Highlanders - The Same.

**19. What Pipe Major of our Unit served Overseas with both The 85th Bn in World War I and The Cape Breton Highlanders in World War II?**

Pipe Major J. (Black Jack) MacDonald. Pipe Major MacDonald had a distinguished military career, along with service Overseas with The 85th Bn in World War I. He also served as Pipe Major of The Cape Breton Highlanders in Canada and in England during World War II. He returned to Canada in 1943 and was succeeded by Pipe Major William Gillis, who remained as Pipe Major of The Cape Breton Highlanders until the end of the War, serving all through Italy and Europe. Pipe Major MacDonald again served as Pipe Major of The Cape Breton Highlanders for a period of time after World War II.

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## Regimental Catechism



**20. What Pipe Major served with both The Cape Breton Highlanders and 2nd Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton)?**

Pipe Major Danny MacIntyre, CD. Pipe Major MacIntyre also had a distinguished career of over forty years of military service.

**21. What Brigade and Division did The 85th and Cape Breton Highlanders serve with Overseas?**

The 85th Bn - 12 Brigade, 4th Division  
Cape Breton Highlanders - 11 Brigade, 5th Division.

**22. Where is The Cape Breton Highlanders World War II Monument situated?**

Sydney, N.S. - It was erected and unveiled on July 12, 1988.

**23. What Banners or Flags are held by The Regiment other than tile Colours?**

- a. Regimental Flag; and
- b. Battalion Flag.

**24. What unit had a Prime Minister of Canada as its Honorary Colonel?**

The 85th Battalion - Sir Robert Borden.

**25. What company in The 85th were called The Cape Bretoners and name two of its former Company Commanders?**

- a. "D" Company; and
- b. Captains R.M. Mackenzie, MC and P.W. Anderson, M.C.

Both the aforementioned officers were killed in action at Passchendaele and were posthumously awarded The Military Cross.

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### **26. How many decorations and awards were won by our Unit in World Wars I and II?**

- a. Over three hundred;
  - 1 - Companion of The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St George (CMG);
  - 1 - Officer of The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire (OBE)
  - 6 - Distinguished Service Order (DSO)
  - 1 - Bar to The Distinguished Service Order
  - 40 - Military Cross (MC)
  - 3 - Bars to Military Cross
  - 20 - Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)
  - 176 - Military Medal (MM)
  - 12 - Bars to Military Medal
  - 3 - British Empire Medal (BEM)
  - 4 - Meritorious Service Medal (WAR) (MSM)
  - 6 - Croix De Guerre
  - 36 - Mentioned in Dispatches (MID)
  - 4 - Officer of The Order of Orange Nassau with Swords (DUTCH)
  - 1 - Silver Star (American)
  - 1 - Bronze Star (American)

**318 Total**

### **27. Who was the most decorated soldier in The Cape Breton Highlanders during World War II?**

Pte/Acting Corporal Charles Joseph Harte, MM. He was awarded the Military Medal and Bar and also received the MID (Mentioned In Dispatches).

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**28. What unit is allied with 2nd Bn, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton)?**



The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment of the British Regular Army since April 1931, to commemorate the Alliance, The Cheshire's presented an inscribed bell to the Cape Breton Highlanders. This bell is held in the Unit Officers' Mess.

**29. What is the 22nd Cheshire's First Battle Honour?**

Louisbourg.

**30. How old is The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment?**

Three Hundred years old. The Cheshire's were formed in 1689, and celebrated its Tri-Centenary in The City of Cheshire on the weekend of 30 June/01 July 1989. Two members from our Unit, Major Michael Alteen and Regimental Sergeant Major (CWO) John Clarke, CD, represented our Unit at Cheshire. Our Unit and The Cheshire's exchanged appropriate gifts on this historic occasion.

On June 4, 1989 all ranks from our Unit, including The Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, led by the Pipes and Drums, marched from Kensington Cove to Fortress Louisbourg to honour the Cheshire's who landed at Kensington Cove prior to the assault on Louisbourg in 1758.

**31. Who is the Colonel-in-Chief of The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment? His Royal Highness, Prince Charles.**

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## Regimental Catechism



**32. What is the emblem of Tue Cheshire's, which is inscribed on their Hat Badge?**

Acorn and Oak leaf.

**33. What are the Regimental and Battalion Marches of The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment?**

- a. Regimental March - "Wha Wadna Fecht for Charlie";
- b. 1st Battalion - "Young May Moon" and
- c. 2nd Battalion - "100 Pipers"

*Note: The Regimental March.*

The tune is that of the Jacobite song, referring to Bonnie Prince Charles of 1745. In the case of the Cheshire Regiment, however, the tune was adopted with a different "Charlie" in mind. The Regiment took part in the Scinde Campaign of 1842-43, under Sir Charles Napier, who shortly afterwards became Honorary Colonel of The Regiment. In 1881, the tune "Wha Wadna Fecht for Charlie" was adopted as the official Regimental quickstep, as a compliment to Sir Charles.

**34. What are The Regimental Marches of The Nova Scotia Highlanders?**

- a. Regimental - "Sweet Maid of Glendural";
- b. 1st Battalion - "The Athioll Highlanders"  
"The Pibroch O'Donald Dhu"; and
- c. 2nd Battalion - "The Highland Laddie"

**35. What was the official Quick March of The 185th Bn, Cape Breton Highlanders?**

"Blue Bonnets Over the Border"



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## Regimental Catechism



### **36. What happened to The 185th Bn, when it arrived in England during WW I?**

Although The 185th Bn was considered an excellent unit, and won most of the competitions within the Divisions while in England, the Unit was disbanded along with others of The Nova Scotia Highland Brigade and its members used as reinforcements for other units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, including The 85th Bn.

### **37. What War Trophies are held by our Unit?**

During the final action of The Cape Breton Highlanders in the capture of the Port of Delfziyl in Holland in World War II, the Highlanders captured a large wooden eagle from the Headquarters of German SS troops. This trophy is presently displayed in the Sydney Garrison Officers' Mess and serves as a lasting Memorial to the Cape Breton Highlanders and the many fine soldiers who passed through its ranks.

### **38. Which one of our units had a goat as a Mascot?**

The Cape Breton Highlanders Pipes and Drums had a goat as a Mascot, while the Unit was station in England. The goat proudly marched in front of the Band on many occasions. However, due to medical restrictions, the animal was not allowed to proceed with The Highlanders to Italy, and was returned to its original owner.

### **39. On what date were our present Colours presented and by whom?**

On June 14, 1959, New Colours were presented to The Battalion by His Honour, Lieutenant Governor, Major General E.C. Plow, CBE, DSO, CD, Lieutenant Governor of The Province of Nova Scotia.

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### 40. Where has our unit served in Peace and War?

Since World War II, members of our Unit have served in Korea. Attachments to the Regular Force with the NATO Brigade in Europe and Cyprus continues. Others have qualified as parachutists. Members have served in Canada from the far north to Labrador and Newfoundland. At present (July 1989) a platoon is in Labrador on Base Defense Duties. The Unit continues to provide public duties such as the Annual Nova Scotia Tattoo, Guards of Honour for VIPs and on occasions, Royalty. These and other duties, along with the Annual Militia Concentration, keep our Unit very active.

*"Our Fifty Six Battle Honours including South Africa, and Two World Wars, denotes our Unit has an illustrious past to match any other".*



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### **41. Name the Pipe Majors of The 85th and The 185th Overseas Battalions in World War I?**

The 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Nova Scotia Highlanders had two Pipe Majors. The first was Pipe Sergeant Ian MacIntosh, a veteran of The 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders who served in India and received The India Service Medal with the Clasps for the following campaigns: Relief of Chitral 1895, Punjab Frontier 1897-98 and Tirah 1897-1899. He also served in The South African (Boer War) with The 1st Gordons and received both The Queen's and King's South African Medals. At the conclusion of The South African War, he emigrated to Massachusetts, then on to Cape Breton. He volunteered for The 85th Battalion with the rank of Pipe Sergeant but served as its Pipe Major until The 185th Battalion was disbanded to provide reinforcements for the Canadian Corps in the field.

The second was Pipe Major Alexander M. Dare (originally Pipe Major of The 253rd Queen's University Highland Battalion) and was the first Pipe Major of The 185th Battalion. When The 185th was disbanded, Pipe Major Dare became Pipe Major of The 85th Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders, replacing Pipe Sergeant and Acting Pipe Major Ian MacIntosh in France.

### **42. Name the Commanding Officer and the Honorary Colonel of The 185th Overseas Battalion.**

- a. Lieutenant-Colonel Frank P. Day; and
- b. Colonel D.H. McDougall.

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### **43. Who commanded The 85th Bn; The Nova Scotia Highlanders Overseas during World War I?**

Lt Col A.H. Borden - 15 Sep 1915 - 25 Jul 1916  
Lt Col E. Phinney - 26 Jul 1916 - 2 Jan 1917  
Lt Col A.H. Borden - 22 Jan 1917 - 9 Jul 1917  
A/Lt Col J.L Ralston - .10 Jul 1917 - 12 Sep 1917  
Lt Col A.H. Borden; DSO - 23 Sep 1917 - 25 Apr 1918  
Lt Col J.L Ralston, DSO- 26 Apr 1918 - 24 Oct 1918  
A/Lt Col J.M. Millar, DSO,MC - 24 Oct 1918 - 19 Nov 1918  
Lt Col J.L Ralston, CMG,DSO - 19 Nov 1918 to Demobilization

### **44. Name the Overseas Commanding Officers of The Cape Breton Highlanders during World War II.?**

1940-1942 - Lt Col Edward H. Small, ED  
1942-1944 - Lt Col James B. Weir, OBE, ED  
1944-1945 - Lt Col R. Boyd Somerville, DSO  
1945 - Lt Col Sylvester B. MacKinnon, DSO

### **45. Name The Battalion Sergeant Majors of The 85th and The 185th Overseas Battalion during World War I?**

85th Bn  
- BSM B.H. Hawkins Oct 1915 - 4 Feb 1916  
- CSM P.J. Norman 4 Feb 1916 - 28 Apr 1916  
- BSM J.M. Robinson 28 Apr 1916 - 9 Aug 1917  
- BSM F.J. Bonner 9 Aug 1917 - 30 Oct 1917\*  
- BSM A. Campbell 30 Oct 1917 27 Sep 1918\*  
- BSM A.W. Ward 27 Sep 1918

185th Bn - BSM Sergeant Major Joseph MacKness \*

When The 185th Bn was disbanded in England, BSM MacKness reverted to the rank of Sergeant and joined "A" Coy, The 85th Bn.

\* Indicates Wounded in Action.

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### **46. Name the Overseas Regimental Sergeant Majors of The Cape Breton Highlanders during World War II?**

1941-1942 - A/RSM (WOI) John E. Toms  
1942 - CSM (WO2) David Smith  
1942 -1945 - RSM (WOI) Ralph Norman C. Diplock, MBE  
1945 - RSM (WOI) Stanley (Stooks) MacDonald

RSM Diplock was awarded the MBE while serving with the Cape Breton Highlanders. RSM MacDonald was appointed in Holland, prior to the Unit returning to Canada. Cpl George Sutherland was promoted to Sergeant and appointed Pipe Major at the same time.

### **47. What is expected of you as a member of 2nd Battalion, The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton)?**

- a. Be a Good Citizen;
- b. Be Loyal to your Regiment and your Country;
- c. Have Pride in yourself and your Regiment;
- d. Be physically fit, to develop the will power and self- development qualities, in order to develop in mind, body and character, for a place in the Militia or Regular Force in Peace and War;
- e. Once the above requirements are met, you will have the courage to face battle and boredom and the hard conditions under which we live and fight in the field; and
- f. Remember, it takes 'Men" and now 'Women" also to make a Regiment. That is why there are good and bad regiments. Think of the past history of your Regiment. It is your privilege to make present and future regimental history every bit as glorious. It Depends On You'?

**SIOL NA FEAR FEARAIL**

*2nd Battalion  
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## Regimental Catechism



### Regimental Badges



85th Bn Hat Badge



94th Bn Hat Badge



185th Bn Hat Badge



Nova Scotia Highlanders  
Hat Badge