

The Forgotten battle of the Sceldt & Woensdrecht on “Black Friday” The 13th!

This was a chapter of WWII that had, by and large, have been forgotten, with the exception of the Dutch Population who were liberated, and never forgot their heroic honourable gallant, sacrifice of those brave souls and the Canadian soldiers who fought and survived to tell the tale, of their exploits to endeavour to persevere against all odds. Against a better equipped, embedded and seasoned army that had completely fortified all German occupied positions.

Montgomery and Eisenhower never gave “The Scheldt”, top priority until it was almost too late. Capturing and securing the port in Scheldt and surrounding areas, would of aloud the Allies the so badly needed supplies and men needed, being transported much quicker then having all the supplies transported in by trucks, from the artificial port in Normandy. Since every port had been blow up, heavily mined and rendered useless by the retreating Germans. In these battles the Canadians suffered 75% heavy casualties, during these port clearings and supplies and manpower were dwindling. The Allied commanders had estimated the Reserve was made in such a way that the infantry would suffer losses and figured a 50% ratio. The Scheldt was one of the most important and bloody campaigns Canadian soldiers ever fought in WWII. As high ranking Officers due to posturing, ignorance and arrogance made horrendous inexplicable decisions.

Paris was liberated On August 25th 1944, the celebrations had be gone in gay Paris, but not for the Canadians. US and British armies had advanced into German held territory which attracted most of the news, & the press. The Canadians were assigned a less glamorous task, of attacking and liberating minor ports along the northern coast of France. The Canadian Army was under the command of General Crerar. They encountered very serious German resistance, since the area that the Canadians were attempting to liberate had been heavily defended and fortified. Remember this was the location Hitler assumed the Allied landings of D-Day were to have taken place. On September 4th 1944, XXX Corps reached Antwerp, and with the assistance of the Belgian resistance the city was secured and the port facilities were captured intact. Then the advance was halted at Antwerp. By not advancing past Antwerp and liberating Holland, rendered the port of Antwerp unusable. “The Scheldt Estuary” which connects the North Sea with Antwerp, was 80km long in Dutch territory and the Germans held both sides of the estuary. This was a blunder made by “Monty”, and Canadian soldiers would now have to pay the highest price for his incompetence. Due to his obsession with the idea of a thrust deep into Germany, that would carry Montgomery all the way to Berlin and be glorified in the History books as being the conquer of Berlin. And beat the Russian and Patton to the grand prize.

At this same time Operation "Comet" had been revised by Allied command and was now to be called Operation Market-Garden or as many have know it as the movie "A Bridge to Far". British units in Antwerp were to be used for operation Market-Garden therefore Canadian units replaced them in Antwerp. On September 17th 1944, Market-Garden was launched, but it ultimately met with failure and disaster, disappointments and the lost and sacrifice of so many Troops. By now the port had become the main priority for the Allies. While Eisenhower saw this, but Montgomery still wanted a push obsessively into Germany. Around September 26th 1944, Eisenhower told "Monty" to forget about this thrust into Germany, his first priority was to clear the harbour of Antwerp. Montgomery conceded after much grumbling and assigned the task to the First Canadian Army now under command of Lt. Gen. Guy Simonds of 2nd Division, as General Crerar was evacuated to England. Since LT. Gen Simonds had become very alarmed on September 4th, by the build-up of German strengths on both sides of the Scheldt Estuary. German soldiers who had escaped the Falaise pocket from "The 15th Army" which now had set up Shop on one of the Scheldt estuary banks, which was now a completely Fortified Fort.

This battle could have been won easily, it would have been better to seal the ports off and isolate them instead, as they were all very well defended with German Troops and fortified. LT.-Gen. Simonds being arrogantly incompetent and irresponsible for many needles high casualties in WWII Battles, one being the carnage for Verrières Ridge, believed strongly this assignment was a waste of time and resources. He came up with a new plan to move the Canadians north along the coast towards the Dutch town of Breskens, then head east towards Antwerp and clear out the Scheldt Estuary. Due to Allied indecisiveness and since General Crerar didn't get along with Montgomery in which a rift now existed between the two. It was the delay that gave Hitler, all the time he needed to turn the Scheldt into a fortress. At the end of September 1944, the Canadian Army was ready for its advance into the Scheldt, and Lt.-Gen. Simmons plan was approved undermining "Montys" Plane, by General Crerar, Utter sheer madness by today's military tactics. Without Montgomery knowing his original orders where ignored and changed. The battle of the Scheldt would start on October 1st and be the largest infantry battle under Canadian command in WWII. The British and Polish units would join the attack. For the Canadians, it was not an inviting prospect to attack these positions with six under strength infantry battalions, a squadron of artillery regiments and tanks, that had to ration supplies towards the approaches to the port of Antwerp. It clearly showed the unqualified reckless arrogant behaviour of Lt.-Gen. Guy Simonds while demanding the advance continue, "Get Cracking". It's to be noted; Monty and Lt.-Gen Miles Christopher Dempsey Aka, "Lucky" or "Bimbo" where alarmed contacting Canadian high command concerning Simonds actions in past operations since D-Day, as the needless high casualty rates, using daylight open field attacks were ill-conceived nor part of WWII tactical procedures. Bernd "Monty" was not pleased when his Canadian Division Commander fired Brigadier Howard Graham, commander of the 1st Canadian

Infantry Brigade. "Monty" wrote to Corps Commander Oliver Leese: "This is a great pity. Graham is an excellent fellow and much beloved in his brigade. I expect Simonds lost his temper. Simonds is a young and very inexperienced divisional general and has much to learn about command. In my highest opinion of Simonds...[although he] tried to go off the rails once or twice when he first went into action with his Div. Simonds must therefore be handled carefully and trained on. On October 3rd 1944, the RAF dropped more than 1,000 tons of HE bombs on the Westkapelle dike, breaching the Walcheren island enclosure in three places. The sea rushed in and virtually flooded the island. Now the land battle was set to begin. The 2nd Canadian Division would attack up the Beveland peninsula, and the 4th Armoured Division would be there protecting the flank. The terrain was quite difficult, with all that muck and mud. Troops had difficulties moving cross-country, and were confined to the roads. The first attacks, codenamed Switchback, were designed to clear the south bank of the river (The Breskens pocket). Canadian troops crossed the Leopold Canal as the German defenders were lined up facing the Leopold Canal. The Germans were caught off guard by the attack from the rear by Nova Scotia Regiment, launched an amphibious assault from the sea and landed behind the German lines. While the Canadians succeeded in the attack. The second part of the operation was code named "Vitality". The Germans paratroopers offered solid resistance, and the Canadians gained little ground.

The Black Watch had already suffered heavy casualties. B.W. 1st Battalion suffered more casualties than any other Canadian infantry battalion in Northwest Europe according to figures published in "The Long Left Flank" Written by Jeffrey Williams. Disaster seemed to follow the Regiment in almost every battle. During the Battle of Verrières Ridge on July 25th 1944, they suffered a 97% casualties, in which 325 men left the start line, astonishingly only 15 made it back to friendly lines, the others being killed or wounded and incredibly one company of 90 men was reduced to just four survivors. Being horrendously out numbered by well entrenched Waffen SS soldiers, machine gun Nests, SS tanks and Nebelwerfer Rocket Artillery. While a further 40% casualties 10 days later in Operation Totalize. A month prior to the attack on Woensdrecht they had in the Battle for Spycker in Operation they suffered 60 losses in 36hrs from September 12-14th. In October the Regiment expected to be fully manned and re-supplied, but that was not to be, as the Regiment lay in shambles, but stood honourably proudly to what they had just accomplished and to the battle to come.

The Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, was about to meet it's Waterloo, open field battle with no cover or obstacles to hide behind. The Brigade Commanders Lt.-Gen. Simonds, Maj.-Gen. Foulkes and Brig.-Gen. W.J. Megill 5th Brigade knowing the Black Watch situation in hand, gave the order for the Black Watch, to attack and take a small town called Woensdrecht which the Germans had fully fortified. This town was vital for communications. When October 12th came along the Black Watch were undermanned, only rifles and

Smoke Bombs, with no support to lay down an attack on the German positions on that Bloody Friday the 13th! This operation, code-named "Angus", called for 5th Brigade to employ one battalion to seize the railway embankment with the other two battalions passing through to seal off the route to Walcheren Island. The first phase of the assault would have to be undertaken by The 1st Battalion Black Watch. The Maisonneuves were still more than 200 riflemen short and the Calgarys had borne the brunt of the fighting at Hoogerheide. The German's held the high ground, their positions had been reinforced and had their guns, rifles and machineguns zeroed in, on the Black Watch. Like Lambs to the Slaughter house, not know the carnage that was about to unfold in front of their very eyes. As they were about to take heavy casualties, and a Proud Regiment was about to be decimated. On October 13th 1944 on a raised railway embankment they laid, gazing in bewildered astonishment and looking up the hill, across 1,200 yards of open farmed beet fields. The orders were given at 11.30 am to attack, a Barrage of all the Smoke Bombs they had were laid out in front of the German positions, they could not see the Black Watch charging but knew the attack had begun. In plain daylight across flat open hill'd fields with no cover, flooded land, driving rain, booby traps and land mines that made the advance very excruciatingly difficult. The Smoke Bombs cleared quickly and the Germans had a clear view of the Black Watch attacking. As the battle waged and the battle field lay littered with fallen Red blood stained Hackles, the Battle Commander realising it was an impossible attack, ordered the Black Watch to withdraw. When the German rifles, Guns had silence'd, the smoke and dust had settled they suffered 145 casualties, including 56 dead, among them all four company commanders, Twenty-seven were taken prisoner, which devastated the Regiment.

Known as "Black Friday" by the Canadian Infantry and The Black Watch-Royal Highland Regiment of Canada.

On October 16th 1944, it was the turn of the Royal Hamilton Light infantry, under Lt Col Denis Whitaker, to attempt to capture Woensdrecht. The Canadians on this day were supported by a squadron of tanks and artillery, and attacked at night around 3am, the attack succeeded which ended at around 12noon. The victory was short lived, the Germans had reserves consisting of a "The 6th Paratroop Regiment" off first class formation of about 1500 fanatical an eager young paratroopers under the command of Lt Colonel Von Der Heydte who were excellent troops. Early the next morning, they commenced counter attacking, the Hamilton Regiment from Ontario known as the "Rileys". German troops managed to overrun one of the defending companies and the "Rileys" they ended up suffering the same amount off casualties as the Black Watch 3 days earlier. The Hamilton's could not penetrate the German defences to the North of Woensdrecht. It would take five more days of heavy fighting before the battle for Woensdrecht was over. The battlefield was a display of sheer

madness and carnage, the Canadians had suffered dearly and heavily. The battle of the "Scheldt Estuary" lasted till November 8th and caused 12,000 Allied casualties killed, wounded or missing. 6,367 of them were Canadians.

The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, received two battle honours one for "The Scheldt" & for "Woensdrecht". Personally one must of heroically merited being nominated or Received a Victoria Cross. For their exploits against all odds, for above and beyond the call of duty for "Black Friday" the 13th!

WAR DIARY O.R.

1st. Bn. Black Watch (RHR) of Canada

Oct 10-14, 1944.

Same and PEEBERG area: MR 621166, Sheet 23 NE, 1:25000

10th Oct., Tues.

Weather - Misty and rain. The heavy mortaring and shelling to which we have been subjected since coming here continues without respite. Commencing at noon the Bn. was relieved in their positions by the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and the change over was finally completed by 1500 hrs.. As it is anticipated that we shall be returning to this same building tomorrow the Scout platoon was left to hold it, and keep it clear of snipers. They barricaded off half of the building and with the aid of the Pioneer platoon booby-trapped the hall ways, stair ways, windows and doors. Some of the traps laid were of the schoolboy variety calculated solely to give warning. At 1830 hrs. Col. RITCHIE held an O group and gave out the plans for the attack in the morning. Zero hour will be at 0805 hrs.. The 5th. Bde. will attack and take the left part of the original plan. Other officers were present at the O group, and none could explain the absence of **Maj. SLATER** of B Coy. He had last been seen leaving his Coy. H.Q. prior to the withdrawal. Lt. DAVEY will be acting O.C. of B Coy. for the time being. At 2300 hrs. a message was received from Bde. cancelling tomorrow's attack.

The Bn. will stand by for mopping up. Casualties at HOOGERHEIDE totalled 81 as follows:

	Killed		Wounded		Missing	
	Off.	OR.	Off.	OR.	Off.	OR.
A Coy.	0	1	0	3	0	0
B "	1	3	0	20	1	0
C "	1	2	0	9	0	0
D "	0	0	0	13	0	15
Sup. "	1	3	0	8	0	0

11th Oct., Wed.

Weather - clear and cold. The men had their first full night's sleep in four nights and felt, and looked much better for it. The constant wakefulness had sapped quite a bit of their strength, in addition to the strenuous fighting they had been doing. A much welcomed bath parade was held to MERXEM. "B" Ech. has been living in its present location for about three days, occupying all rooms in a house but one, in which the caretaker was living. Today the white Brigade drove up and arrested the caretaker, giving us to understand that he was a collaborator. Shortly afterwards the owner of the house, paying a visit to the premises, was apprised of the incident and declared that he had never authorised any caretaker for his home. Apparently the "caretake" went on the assumption that boldness pays. It almost did!

It would seem the Canadian Army is the safest place to hide out. A search was carried out today, by the Scouts and the Carriers, of the area in which Maj. SLATER was lost, but no trace of him was found. Rumour has it that an officer was killed by a mortar bomb in that sector, but there is a possibility that the Major is wounded and has been taken prisoner. Since the 6th. of this month we have received 104 OR for replacements.

12th. Oct., Thur.

Weather - fine and clear. Reorganisation and re-equipping was completed today. At 1430 hrs. the L.A.D. held an inspection of all small arms in the Bn. A Bde. O Group was held at 1630 hrs. and the Bn. O Gp. at 1930 hrs.. It is the intention of the Brigadier to seal off the isthmus of South Beveland from the mainland, and to enlarge present gains.

MR Square 5918, Sheet 23 NE, 1:25000

13th Oct., Fri.

Weather - fine and clear. Operation ANGUS. At 0615 the Bn. went into the attack supported by artillery and heavy mortar, passing through the ROYAL REGIMENT of CANADA who were occupying the dykes in front of Angus 1, and about 1200 yds. short of cutting off the causeway completely. At 0655 hrs. C Coy. reported their position - 250 yds past the start line and encountering heavy s.a. fire. As they were slightly behind schedule Col. RITCHIE called for mortar fire to help them along. At 0705 hrs. they were held up again by m.g. fire and the opposition stiffened, the enemy using mortars and several air bursts as well as the customary s.a. fire. B Coy. under the command of Maj. D.H.CHAPMAN was now being heavily mortared and at 0730 hrs. asked C Coy. for assistance. Five minutes later word came in that the O.Cs. of C and B Coys., Capt. N.G.BUCH and Maj. Chapman respectively had been wounded. The fire on our positions was very heavy and our artillery gave wonderful support to the coys., firing on all targets indicated. Owing to the nature of the country it was extremely difficult to indicate a target with any degree of precision. Casualties had by now started to come back, all jeeps answering the call as ambulance jeeps. B coy. reported snipers on the left of C Coy. at 0750 hrs.. Artillery and heavy mortar are laying smoke to screen further attempts to advance. Tac. H.Q. was established at MR 599189. By 0815 hrs. the battle was progressing slowly in the face of very heavy opposition but five minutes later the forward companies reported that they were again pinned down by mortar fire. The enemy fired a number of air bursts over the positions of our heavy mortars, making life most unpleasant for the mortar crews.

Commanders of A and D Coys. came in to see Col RITCHIE at 0850 hrs.. Heavy casualties had been sustained by B and C Coys. and they were now back at their start line. The Brigadier called, and upon being advised of the situation was soon on his way to call for air support. At 0945 hrs. the C.O. and their Brigadier went forward to A Coy's. position for personal observation. Upon their return a new plan was formulated, incorporating the use of tanks and flame throwers. At 1100 hrs. the enemy was reported to be crawling up to the position occupied by C Coy., at ANGUS 1. The forward platoon of C. Coy. withdrew under heavy enemy m.g. fire, covering fire being given by d Coy. and heavy m.gs.. At 1145 hrs. the request of the Brigadier for air support was answered by 12 Spitfires which engaged the brickworks at MR 619222 (Sheet 15 SE). Capt. SHARE, the M.O., reported at noon that 25 casualties had been evacuated, but that there were still many more lying up in front whom it was impossible to reach. It is very hard to give an estimate of casualties with any exactness, as some of the men are being evacuated by the ROYAL REGIMENT of CANADA and the 18th. FIELD AMBULANCE. There was little change in the companies' positions for the next five hours approximately, heavy fire continuing for this period. Fighter aircraft again engaged Angus 3 at 1430 and

again at 1500 hrs.. The I.O., observing from the top of a barn near Tac. H.Q. saw some of the enemy walking around on the top of the railway embankment, and also observed some of our men as prisoners, and the enemy evacuating our wounded as well as their own. He was able to count 16 of our men as prisoners. At 1440 hrs. a German stretcher bearer crossed our lines to bargain for a truce while they picked up their wounded and we did likewise. Col. RITCHIE wirelessed to higher authority for approval of this temporary cessation of hostilities, but the approval was not forthcoming. Since the German stretcher bearer had no authority from his commander to make this request he became our prisoner. Several times today our own stretcher bearers have been fired upon. At 1500 hrs. an O group was held. It was the C.O's intention that we should capture and consolidate Angus 1. A Coy. on the right of the roadway, D on the left, tanks in support and the remainder of C Coy. (25 men) to give covering fire and direct support to D Coy.. Flame throwers would be used from left to right along the embankment, the m.m.gs. to repeat the morning's plan. B Coy. has now 41 men left, including Coy. H.Q.. A/Tk. guns will go forward with C Coy.. 17 pounders and A/Tk. to fire on enemy O.Ps..

At 1700 hrs. the attack recommenced, opened by hy. m.g. fire and artillery. At Z plus 10 the tanks started firing also, and the flame throwers were ready for the assault. Shortly after the start word came in that two wireless sets had been knocked out by direct mortar hits. Upon the Flames completing their task and returning to the start line they reported that their work had had considerable effect on the enemy. They had lost one carrier, bogged down in the mud. They had had two misfires. Again the enemy resistance stiffened, and by 1820 hrs. the situation was very sticky. At 1830 D Coy. were in their position and at 1940 hrs. a walking-wounded from A. Coy. reported that they were now on Angus 1. This almost had disastrous effects, as the A/Tk. guns were then sent up, on the strength of this information, and found that the Coy. was not nearly at its objective. Lt. DAVEY, who had taken over at HOOGERHEIDE when Maj. SLATER was found to be missing, had, after Maj. CHAPMAN was evacuated, again taken command of B Coy.. In D Coys. advance, Lt. LEWIS had done a marvellous piece of work getting his platoon into their objective under the stiffest possible opposition, and the rest of the company pancaked on the objective. In this advance Maj. POPHAM was seriously wounded, but it was only with difficulty that Lt. LEWIS persuaded him to go to the rear for medical attention. He was evacuated through the ROYAL REGIMENT of CANADA, but not before he had dictated to them a report of the situation to be forwarded to Col. RITCHIE. Lt. LEWIS took over command of the company. In view of the gravity of the situation the I.O. went down to Brigade H.Q. to make a report. Just before he departed, Maj. EWING of A. Coy. came in to H.Q. He had been wounded, and was nigh exhausted but insisted on making a report. His information was that A Coy. had not been successful in reaching their objective, that casualties had been extremely heavy, and that few of the Company would come out alive.

PEEBERG area : MR 621166, Sheet 23 NE

14th Oct., Sat.

Weather - clear and bright - windy. In the early hours of the morning offensive activity on both sides quietened down. For our part, we were intent upon holding our positions and evacuating the casualties, all jeeps and carriers in the Bn. being mobilised to get the wounded out. Many acts of heroism were performed in the dark which will never come to light. No words can pay sufficient tribute to those of our men who went out in the dark searching through flooded fields to ensure that all possible had been taken out to proper medical attention. The I.O., on his way back to Bde. in a jeep, overturned in the mud, and Maj. EWING, with him, righted it practically single-handed.

At 0100 hrs. Brigadier W.J. Megill ordered that the Bn. should withdraw. The weary and nearly exhausted men rode back in carriers and jeeps to the positions they had left barely twenty four hours earlier, though to them it had seemed days. Typical of their condition was one man lying on top a pile of accoutrements on a carrier, sound asleep with the earphones from his disconnected set, awry, upon his head. The jeeps and carriers were going all night long on the hazardous trip over the muddy road along the top of the dyke, and at first light Lt. MacLAREN i/c the evacuation of B and C Coys. was able to state that all the wounded had been evacuated. The carriers of the Anti-Tank did a wonderful night's work. The records show that in this grim episode the BLACK WATCH has lost a total of 183 all ranks, the companies having suffered as follows:

	Killed		Wounded		Missing	
	Off.	OR.	Off.	OR.	Off.	OR.
A Coy.	0	1	1	37	0	31
B "	0	0	2	28	0	7
C "	0	1	0	7	2	33
D "	0	1	0	12	1	7
Sup. "	0	0	0	2	0	1
B.H.Q. "	0	0	0	5	0	5
	0	3	3	191	3	84

The men were given a hot meal immediately upon their return to their company positions and they slept the sleep of the utterly exhausted. It was thought best to have them forego lunch and sleep right through until 1600 hrs. when supper was served. The K. of C. showed a movie tonight. That originally was entitled "We die at Dawn" but this was hurriedly changed and the film substituted therefor was in much lighter vein.

List of the dead of the Black Watch for the Battle of "The Scheldt" From Oct 1- Nov 8.

The List of 82 Killed in Action

List of the dead of the Black Watch for the Battle of "The Scheldt" From Oct 1- Nov 8.

The Black Watch (RHC) List of 82 Killed in Action

Joseph Gerald Godfrey-----Benjamin Lucie-----Robert Earl Baker
Pte Oct 1, 44-----Pte Oct1, 44-----Cpl October 2, 44

Gani Fiezo-----Stewart Holmes-----Kenneth Abbot Giviens
Cpl Oct 2, 44----- L Cpl Oct 2, 44-----Pte. Oct 3, 44

Leo John Melanson-----Herbert Stevens-----Leo Stanford Best
Pte Oct 3, 44-----Pte Oct 4, 44-----Sgt Oct 8, 44

Percival Douglas Lee-----William Ronald Mccolm-----Kenneth Charles Simms
Sgt October 8, 44-----L Cpl Oct 8, 44-----Lieut. Oct 8, 44

Sydney Roland Lea-----John Ethelbert Orr-----Ivan Pollock
Pte Oct 9, 44-----Capt Oct 9, 44-----Pte. Oct 9, 44

Joseph Peter Staniulis-----William Warren Carmody-----Richard Hillier
Cpl. Oct 9, 44-----Pte. Oct 10, 44-----Pte Oct 10, 44

James Joseph Durant-----Gordon Francis Pynn----- George Sharples
Pte. Oct 10, 44-----Pte. Oct 10, 44-----Cpl Oct 10, 44

William Stone-----Clarence Leroy Thompson-----Alexander James O'brien
Pte. Oct 10, 44-----Pte Oct 11, 44-----Pte. Oct 10, 1944

Herbert Frederic Hillier-----Douglas Wade-----John Mark Ambrose
Cpl. Oct 11, 1944-----Cpl. Oct 12, 1944-----Pte. Oct 13, 1944

Lawrence Herbert Annis-----Ralph Herbert Best-----Aaron George Bittorf
Pte. Oct 13, 1944-----Pte. Oct 13, 1944-----L Cpl Oct 13, 1944

Keith Sheridan Bardwell-----John Thomas Bartelotte-----Milton Patrick Bervaldi
Cpl Oct 13, 1944-----Pte. Oct 13, 1944-----L Cpl Oct 13, 1944

Douglas Horatio Chapman-----Donald Whitman Cook----- Robert Cooper
Maj. Oct 13, 44-----Pte. Oct 13, 44----- Pte. Oct 13, 44

Ross Copeland-----Willard Desjardins----- Edward Ralph Dominas
Pte. Oct13, 44----- Pte.Oct 13, 44----- Pte. Oct 13, 44

Clifford Thomas Donahue-----Thomas Edgar-----Gorman Victor Ferris
L Cpl. Oct 13, 44----- Pte. Oct 13, 44----- Pte. Oct 13, 44

Joseph George Frank----- Robert Victor Rushton-----William Segriff
Cpl. Oct 13, 44-----L Cpl. Oct 13, 44-----Pte. Oct 13, 44

Roger Sinden----- Richard St Onge-----John Tataren
Pte. Oct 13, 44-----Pte. Oct 13, 44----- Pte. Oct 13, 44

Joseph Waldorf----- Frank Murray Webb-----Kenneth Archibald Whyte
Pte. Oct 13, 44----- Pte.Oct 13, 44-----Cpl. Oct 13, 44

Alexander Erwin Wright-----Eric Richter-----Maurice Burkett
Pte. Oct 13, 44----- Sgt. Oct 13, 44----- Pte. Oct 14, 44

Gordon Wilson Lachlan Grant---- John Patrick Murphy-----James Noon
Lieut. Oct 14, 1944-----Pte. Oct 14, 44-----Pte. Oct 14, 44

Patrick Joseph Mcgrath----- Harry Alfred Aikens-----Robert Gordon Slater
Pte, Oct 15, 44----- Pte. Oct 18, 44-----Maj. Oct 19, 44

Thomas Collier-----Joseph Watkin Evans-----Kenneth George Needham
Pte. Oct 23, 44-----Pte. Oct 23, 44-----Pte. Oct 23, 44

Charles Byron Warriner-----Clarke Buell Molsberry-----Norman George Wynes
Cpl. Oct 23, 44-----Pte. Oct 26, 44----- L Cpl. Oct 29, 44

Mike Fedina-----Garfield Eugene Frost-----Roy Bernard Kerkham
Pte. Oct 31, 44-----Pte. Oct 31, 1944-----Pte. Oct 31, 1944

Denis Joseph Landry-----Joseph Julius Augustus Lawrence-----James Murdock
Pte. Oct 31, 44-----Sgt. Oct 31, 44-----Pte. Oct 31, 44

Wallace Herbert Preston-----Anthony Raymond-----Jacob Schmidt
Pte. Oct 31, 44----- Pte. Oct 31, 44-----Pte. Oct 31, 44

James Hamilton-----Walter James Harris-----Mervin Leroy Harrison
L Cpl. Nov 1, 44----- Pte. Nov 1, 44-----Pte. Nov 1, 44

William Fraser Kinsley-----James Alfred Smithson----- Robert Edward Ward
Pte. Nov 1, 44----- Pte. Nov 1, 44----- Pte. Nov 2, 44

Gerald Macintosh Johnston
Pte. Nov 5, 44

Lest We Forget. Spãniard over and out,,.....



Major William Ewing saluting at the funeral of 55 members of 'A' Company, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. The Black Watch landed in Normandy soon after D-Day and fought in around 30 battles in Europe.

Lieut. Ken Bell / Canada. Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives
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Dutch people attending the burial of fifty-five members of the Canadian A Company, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada