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### Editor:

J. Ron Stonier, CD  
stonier@live.ca

### Internet Links

#### Contact Us

<http://www.wnsr.ca>

### WNSRRA

PO Box 6, Paradise, NS  
B0S 1R0

### Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/wnsrra](http://www.facebook.com/wnsrra)  
*We only have 331 "Likes", but you can change that.*  
WNSR page on Facebook is called: *West Nova Scotia Regiment*

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## Upcoming 66th Annual Reunion 2015



The WNSR Facebook invitation went out, and the response was encouraging. Getting ready for the 66th Annual Reunion 18-20 Sept 2015, and it looks like we'll have new members which means more fellow West Novas to connect with in Kentville and Aldershot.

- We try to do something different each year, and this year we plan to take group photos, something we've missed out on. It's a great way to remember the good times at the reunion, so don't miss out, and don't be left out of the photo. The happy photo above is a great example of good memories at the Annual Reunion, but we need to see "you" in a more recent version.
- Preparing for new members, we've ordered 100 new Regimental Coins. We're well on the way to achieving our goal of having all 359 memorial coins made. Each new member of the Regimental Association (RA) receives a Regimental Coin with his or her membership. If you don't have your coin, simply register at the Reunion, pay your Annual Dues, and collect your coin. If you can't attend, join online by completing the application at [www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs](http://www.wnsr.ca/ra/docs) where it says JOIN THE WEST NSR ASSOCIATION. Pay dues online or thorough the mail, and we'll send you your coin.
- Last year's Friday evening BBQ at Borden Hall Combined Mess was a great success. People seemed to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere with good friends, good food, and a cash bar, so we've made that event a routine part of our weekend. If you're in the area on Friday night, don't miss the Borden Hall BBQ.
- A limited number of rooms are available at the quarters in Aldershot. Those who stayed last year were very said that it was economical and enjoyable. See page 8.

## Two Generations of West Novas meet in Holland

May 5, 2015 marked the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands by Allied forces in 1945. Two West Nova representatives went separately to attend the events in Holland. Corporal JLJ Draper of 3 PI was the official representative from those currently serving in the West Nova Scotia Regiment. Former Private Edmond Arsenault of Etobicoke, ON, veteran of the Italian and Northwest Europe campaigns, attended as the official representative of the veterans of the West Novas. The two met up at a point during the week-long festivities and made the important connection between two soldiers of the same Regiment. Cpl Draper's account of his trip occurs later in this issue.



## Commanding Officer's Message



Greetings to the Regimental Association from the Regimental Sergeant Major CWO Mills and me. As some of you may know, the Regiment has been busy since the last newsletter. The training year has drawn to a close, and the majority of the soldiers have departed for either staff or student positions at either CFB Galetown or here in Aldershot. The staff are preparing for training to start up again in September with a challenging training plan.

Some highlights of the past few months are as follows: The Regiment sent a first class team, led by Sgt Aston to the 36 Brigade Skill at Arms Competition, where they again took first place, successfully defending their title from last year. Cpl Draper, attended the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands as the Regimental representative in May. His experiences are included in this issue of the newsletter. Another soldier, Pte Drever and her fiancée, a Civilian

Instructor with 2444 RCACC, competed in "The Amazing Race Canada" recently, and I encourage you to follow her on the race. Her race bio can be found here: <http://theamazingracecanada.ctv.ca/teams/hamiltonelliottandmichaeliadrever>.

Some upcoming events:

- Exercise STRIDENT TRACER, the annual Division level exercise, (MILCON or ARCON to some you older members) will take place in Galetown 22-28 Aug.
- The Regiment heads to Galetown in Oct for a live fire at the section level and C6.
- The kit shop is now open and is getting a larger selection of items. We will also be partnering with CANEX to allow the purchase of some Regimental items online through their site at <http://www.canex.ca/>. More information will be communicated once items are available for sale.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion in September and hope you have a great summer.

LCol Todd Harris, CD

Commanding Officer WNSR

## West Nova Served in Devil's Brigade in WWII



Ken Keddy of Greenwood, 92, holds his latest Second World War honour for service with the famous American-Canadian 1<sup>st</sup> Special Service Force - the Devil's Brigade: a U.S. Congressional Gold Medal. © Kenney

I knew about the Devil's Brigade because I saw the movie, but when the US Congress awarded Congressional Gold Medals to former members of the 1st Special Service Force, I discovered a 92 year old West Nova living in Greenwood. Ken Keddy trained at Helena, Montana with the 697 other Canadians in the secretive unit which had Canadian content, consisting of a DComd, half the officers, and one-third of the enlisted ranks. Training included parachute training, a high level of skill with a variety of weapons, endurance training, skiing, hand to hand combat, etc. They later conducted successful operations in Italy and France until they disbanded 5 Dec 1944. They were the predecessors of units like the United States Army Special Forces (aka the Green Berets), the Canadian Airborne Regiment, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR), and JTF2.

Ken Keddy, a genuine member of the Devil's Brigade and a genuine West Nova, will attend the 66th West Nova Reunion for the banquet on Saturday, 19 Sep.

You can read Ken's story by Sara Keddy in the 14 Wing Greenwood Aurora, 16 Mar'15

<http://www.auroranewspaper.com/pdf/2015/3610news.pdf>.



## Regimental Kitshop is Online



- The RA Kit shop is now online at [wnsr.ca/catalog/24](http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24) and you can order kit before the Reunion. Many members plan to attend the Reunion in the proper RA Kit (Blue blazer with crest, white or light blue shirt with Regimental tie, and gray trousers with black shoes).
- We still have some copies of *West Novas*, by Thomas Raddall.

Through the skill and dedication of Capt Mike Bobbitt, who as volunteered his time and valuable talent, we're operating online in a hassle-free, convenient way to get the kit you want without hiccups or snags. All items we have in stock are included with photos and descriptions. We have Blazer crests, Regimental ties, genuine brass cap badges, crested ball caps, licence plates, and much more. **Go online and order your kit today.** [wnsr.ca/catalog/24](http://wnsr.ca/catalog/24)



## Cpl Draper's Dutch Report

In May, I represented the West Nova Scotia Regiment on OP DISTINCTION, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. Initially, I did not have a good understanding of what this anniversary was about until I arrived in the Netherlands on 30 April. To meet the rest of the contingent of 150 CAF personnel, I flew to CFB Trenton. After two days there, conducting parade practice and rehearsals, we departed for the Netherlands. On arrival, we went to a Dutch Army Base called Oranje Kazerne, just outside the city of Arnhem. We received an historical brief on the area of the Netherlands where the West Novas fought during WWII, alongside many other Canadian Regiments. I learned that the Regiment earned one of its many battle honours for their actions at Apeldoorn in April 1945. I also visited the area of where my great grandfather served with the Regina Rifles in that same year.



A couple of days later, my group was part of a ceremony at the Canadian War Memorial in Holten for all of the WWII veterans from around the world. I felt very honoured to be in their presence. Afterwards, we had the chance to view some of the headstones at the cemetery; I found a number of fallen West Novas. This was my first experience at a war cemetery seeing fallen soldiers from your own regiment; it definitely made me realize the sacrifices of individuals in war. The next day, May 5<sup>th</sup>, was the main reason we were there. The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands. It was the largest parade I've ever been a part of. We marched 6 km through the town of Wageningen, normally 30 to 50,000 people, but today there were over 130,000 watching us on the streets. We marched as two guards behind the veterans, and I can truly say that it was my proudest day in the military. I felt very honoured to march behind all of the veterans and felt very proud to be a Canadian soldier; it was easy to walk tall with my head and eyes straight to the front. Halfway through the march we received an "eyes right" marching past the Canadian Prime Minister, Chief of Defence Staff, and the Prime Minister of Netherlands along with other dignitaries. At the end of the parade, we had the chance to shake hands with and thank all the veterans for their courage and sacrifice. Then, we were on our own to explore the town and meet some locals. That's when I was able to visit the building where the Germans surrendered to the Canadians on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1945. This was by far the best day of my Netherlands trip. During the last few days we were there, we visited battle fields where Canadians fought, and we learned the history of each battle. On the last day we had a professional development day in Amsterdam, an awesome experience where I got to better understand the culture and meet some locals. Overall my trip to the Netherlands was an outstanding experience and the opportunity of a life time; I have a better understanding of what the West Nova Scotia Regiment did over there and also I have a greater respect for WWII veterans.

Cpl JLJ Draper, 3PL, WNSR

**Comments on the photos:** On page 1, Cpl Draper and Mr. Edmond Arsenault at 92 years old (93 this July). In the group photo above (2nd from the right) is Mr. Arsenault in the front row of the official Canadian Delegation of veterans for the celebrations in Holland. The black and white picture to the right shows Pte Arsenault in a trench in Italy in January 1944, operating the PIAT (Projector, Infantry, Anti-tank). You can learn more about his part in WWII by visiting *The Memory Project* at <http://www.thememoryproject.com/stories/1959:edmond-arsenault/>. While you're there, you can look up Oren Foster, Alec MacInnis, Lawrence Durant, Morton Beazley, and Frank Hartlen, five other West Novas featured on this site which allows you to hear the veterans tell part of their story.



## Get a deal on a Regimental Blazer



Looking for a suitable blazer to be properly dressed at our annual reunion and at other functions where you wish to show your pride of membership in the Regimental Association? We've negotiated a deal with *Moores: Clothing for Men* on a specific blue blazer. This item is available to any WNSRRA member at any Moores store across Canada for \$25 off the regular price of \$169 when you identify this jacket by quoting #0100.10062 and identifying yourself as a member of the West NSR Regimental Association.

## Fallen Soldiers Italy

Clerisy Entertainment, a film production company located in Dartmouth, is currently working on a production called *Fallen Soldiers Italy*. This is their description of the film: "The West Nova Scotia Regiment's role in the second world war was nothing short of extraordinary. Farmboys, fishermen, students and pastors assembled in Bridgewater at the beginning of the conflict, and ultimately played a crucial role on the Italian front. Clerisy Entertainment of Dartmouth, NS, is proud to produce a documentary that tells their wartime story. Using accounts from recorded history, family, and even some veterans who were there, we will capture the battle from their eyes and explore the details of their service. The documentary is currently in production, and will be completed in time for Eastlink TV to air the one hour program in the fall of 2015.". You can see the quality of their productions at their website: <http://www.clerisyentertainment.com/>



## West Nova Cadet News



Annual Cadet Reviews (ACRs) are finished for 2015. The WNSR Regimental Association had members attend every West Nova affiliated Cadet Corps ACR this year. Some RA reps were invited to make presentations, a very pleasant and easily accepted task and a great way to maintain connections within the Regimental Family. HonCol John Leefe was the Reviewing Officer at 686 RCACC Bridgetown, and the HonLCol Eric Meisner was Reviewing Officer at 2444 Kings County RCACC at Aldershot. The combined corps of 603 Weymouth and 1714 Annapolis Royal were reviewed by The Honourable Stephen MacNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia, and 2688 Bridgewater was reviewed by MWO (Ret'd) David Haines.



The fine young Canadians on parade were wearing the shoulder flashes and hat badge of the West Nova Scotia Regiment. By the way, your Association has taken on the responsibility to supply the five West Nova Cadet Corps with shoulder flashes whenever they need resupply. Some of you will remember the shoulder flashes from battle dress, and others will remember wearing them with the Garrison Dress camouflaged jacket in the 90's.



**Top row L-R:** HLCol Eric Meisner makes a presentation at 2444 Kentville; Kel Hancock promotes Sgts at 2444 Kentville; HCol Leefe makes presentation at 2688 Bridgewater;  
**Bottom row L-R:** HCol Leefe presents a trophy 686 Bridgetown; Combined 603 and 1714 ACR at Annapolis Royal; Premier Stephen MacNeil inspects combined Weymouth and Annapolis Royal corps.

## Regimental Coin

Paid up members of the Regimental Association have a Regimental Coin. If you join this year, you'll get a Regimental Coin as part of your membership. However, you can also purchase coins for friends and family for \$25 each.

We still have a supply of the three variants of the coin: Memorial, Blank, and Cadet. To date, we've purchased 252 engraved coins to commemorate the sacrifice of West Nova soldiers who died during WWII. Those soldiers include surnames from "Alcorn to McLaughlin". We plan to have the remaining names engraved as soon as funding will allow. If there is a special soldier whom you wish to honour by the purchase of his Memorial coin, you can send a request by email to bertf@eastlink.ca. Our plan is to order the requested coins when we place our next order. The Memorial coins will each be one of a kind; that is, a soldier's name will not be used a second time.



## Visit West Nova Battlefields in Italy



Additional details of our planned tour to Regimental battlefields in Italy includes an itinerary with sites such as Monte Cassino, Pompei, Potenza, Foggia, Campobasso, Gambatesa, Castel di Sangro, Ortona, and Rome. We'll also have the opportunity to visit the graves of hundreds of Canadians and up to 160 West Novas.

The daily rate for the tour is \$250 a day which would cover the cost of accommodation at 3-star hotels with breakfast and evening meal daily, admission to all planned excursions, all ground transportation for the duration as well several days in Rome with passes for sightseeing in the "Eternal City".

At this time, we would like a response from those interested in participating in such a tour. We'll begin serious planning as soon as we have a group large enough to proceed. Fifteen or more participants would be a nice sized group to visit Italy when the weather is still mild and most of the tourists have gone home. The experienced guide, Gren Jones, is a member of the Regimental Association and will accommodate any reasonable request and assist participants in any way possible to make this a memorable trip. If interested, please let me know as soon as you can at stonier@live.ca. Our tour begins by flying out of Halifax, or an airport near you on 02 Nov 2015, and there are two options below:

Option	Flight	Days/ nights	Cost per person per day	Outline Plan
A	Return flight between Halifax and Rome is in the range of \$1,000 per person, including taxes and fees. Plus \$100 for 2nd checked bag each way. Leave Canada on 02 Nov 15.	Italy: 12/11 Leave 12 Nov	\$250 per person per day includes double occupancy accommodation at 3-star hotels with breakfast and evening meal included. This also covers ground transportation in Italy and admission to any historic sites or events during the tour. Cost: \$2500/p	D1 - Arrive Rome and travel to Gaeta (2 nights) on the Mediterranean Coast. D2 - Monte Cassino and Minturno Cemeteries D3 - Pompei and Vesuvius D4 - Potenza (2 nights) D5 - Foggia D6 - Campobasso (1 night) D7 - Castel di Sangro (2 nights) D9 - Ortona (3 nights) D10 - Moro River Cemetery D11 - Ortona D12 - Travel to Rome and fly home
B		Rome: 3/3 Leave 16 Nov	Admission to the Sistine Chapel in Rome will be additional cost to the regular daily cost. Cost: \$750/p	Same as Option A plus 3 nights in Rome with Roma-Pass to cover all transport in Rome. Tickets for the Papal Museum could be booked in advance to avoid the long waiting lines.



**WNSR Rings** - DM Reid Jewellers in Kentville is the supplier of official West Nova Scotia Regiment rings. To the right, you can see a gold and a silver Regimental Ring. Mr. Reid has made generous donations to the Regimental Association in the past when people have purchased West Nova rings from his store. Support local business, show your pride in the Regiment, and give him the opportunity to serve you by visiting DM Reid Jewellers in Kentville or on their website for further information.



## Minutes of the 65th WNSRRA Annual General Meeting - 14 Sep 2015

When you get this newsletter, you will also receive the minutes of the 2014 AGM. You would normally not see these minutes until the morning of the 2015 AGM; however, we want our membership to be informed and prepared to participate in the one meeting a year that they attend. This initiative provides every member at the Association a chance to become involved. The AGM has always been a short meeting, and we'd like everyone to know that your voice counts.

**The Regimental Watch** is a fundraising project initiated by the WNSR. The Regiment is pleased to partner with one of Canada's leading watch designers, *Time is Ticking Inc.*, which has a long and honourable history of creating watches which reflect our nation's historic military milestones.

To help show your continued pride in the West NSR and its illustrious history, we're pleased to offer a Limited Edition West Nova Scotia Regiment watch. Your cost is only \$78.00 plus sales tax and postage. The watch is being sold far below its retail value of approximately \$200.00. The slim-line watch has Seiko movements, 24K gold plating on its face, an engraved case back and a designer Speidel leather strap which is being offered in black, red and blue. The watch will be delivered in an embossed velveteen collector's box. This limited edition commemorative watch will make an excellent gift. All sales are final.



The West Nova Scotia Regiment receives money from the sale of each watch. Wear your commemorative watch with pride! Semper Fidelis! To order your West Nova Watch, please go to: [www.wnsr.ca/watch](http://www.wnsr.ca/watch)

## Bridgewater invites all West Nova WWII Veterans

The Annual Bridgewater Garden Party will be held at 130 Jubilee Road, Bridgewater, 9 August from 1 PM to 4 PM. The Party will have a theme of "Wartime at Home 1939-45". Event will include: opening ceremonies with the town crier, blessing, words of greeting by local dignitaries;

followed by era music by Fire Department Band, refreshments, mock WW II canteen, and kiosks of the era.

The garden party is an annual event bringing together the residents of the town and county ( and beyond). Bridgewater is inviting local groups with a definite connection such as war brides and legion. It is a relaxed event, with people in costume, games of the time, a 1938 vintage car and 1933 fire truck will also be in attendance, swing music by the fire department band, kiosks of the day, a canteen, picture taking, and a refreshment booth. It was felt that the West Novas played a significant role in this community as many young men enlisted and served in this regiment. So, please let us know if you plan to attend by contacting Peter Oickle, Chair, Bridgewater Garden Party.



## Afghanistan Veterans

Here are two photos of some of our most recent veterans showing their Regimental pride by displaying the Camp Flag while deployed to Afghanistan in 2012.

The West Novas made a significant contribution to the effort in the War in Afghanistan. They never failed to answer the call, and they performed to a high standard while there. All members of the Regimental Association are indeed very proud of and grateful for the service to Canada provided by those who served.

Over the twelve years of this war, there were several operations, and these are the names of the West Novas who served in that theatre and earned our most recent battle honour: AFGHANISTAN

Sgt S Adams	Lt W Armstrong	Sgt R Aston	MCpl Bain	Cpl S Bond
Cpl A Brittain	Cpl D Cox	Cpl J Croft	Capt S Currie	Pte Davis
Sgt A Everett	Sgt G Gallant	MCpl R Garrett	Sgt G Hill-Stosky	LCol T Harris
Cpl J Hebb	Capt B Joudrey	Pte Juurlink	MCpl G Maddison	Maj G Marshall
Sgt D McCann	MCpl K Merrell	Sgt D Morse	MCpl C O'Dell	Capt M Perry
MCpl C Theriault	MCpl B Ward	Maj J Wigmore		

I apologize for any missing names, but this is what I had at the time of printing. If anyone can add to the list, please feel free to send me the information.

These are RSS currently serving in WNSR who also served in Afghanistan: Capt K Johnson, Sgt Martin, and Sgt J Walsh.



Pictured L-R are: An Arty Col, MWO Wade Hunter, MWO Brad Rogers, Lt Will Armstrong, MCpl Kyle Merrell, Sgt Andrew Everett, Capt Jeremy Wigmore, and the Camp Sgt-Maj. Both MWOs Hunter and Rogers began their military careers in the West Novas, and Capt Wigmore has since been promoted to major. MWO Rogers has recently retired from the RegF and rejoined the WNSR. Also in Kabul at the time but unable to be in the photo were MCpl Gary Maddison and Sgt Paul O'Brien.

Then three of the group who really wanted to "fly" the Camp Flag took it on a little trek up an Afgan mountain for an impromptu photo shoot. Shown here are Wigmore, Merrell, and Armstrong.



# 2015 Reunion Schedule

## WNSRRA 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Kentville and 5 Cdn Div TC Det Aldershot - 18-20 September 2015

**Registration** Royal Canadian Legion Br. 006      Sat 19 Sep 0930-1200 and 1300-1600  
 36 River St, Kentville - 678-8935      Bar will be open for general get-together  
 Borden Hall, Camp Aldershot      Sun 20 Sep 0830-0930

**Fees** Annual Dues .....\$30      These fees can be paid online  
 Registration for Members..... \$20      at *Reunion 2015* on [www.wnsr.ca](http://www.wnsr.ca)  
 Member's spouse or Guest....\$20      by Paypal, using a credit card, or  
 WNSR Widows.....No Charge      debit card

\*\*\* **Please let us know you're coming by sending **RSVP** online** \*\*\*  
 Before 1 September -- [www.wnsr.ca/reunion2015](http://www.wnsr.ca/reunion2015)

Time	Activity	Place and Details
<b>Friday - 18 Sep</b>		
1900-2330	Barbeque and Social Hour	Borden Hall, Aldershot (Open bar, food costs extra)
<b>Saturday - 19 Sep</b>		
0930-1200 1300-1600	Registration and general get-together	Kentville RCL Br. 006 Pick up nametags, membership cards, and Regimental Coins Check out the Regimental Kitshop Legion bar will be available for socialization
1800-1930	Reunion Banquet	Legion Main Hall - Roast beef dinner Bar will be available 1700-1930 Guest Speaker: Dale Stevens, CEO of Clerisy Entertainment
1930-2359	Social time	Borden Hall or Legion Dance <i>(State preference in RSVP no later than 1 September)</i>
<b>Sunday - 20 Sep</b>		
0830-0930	Registration	Borden Hall, Aldershot Kitshop open - Free coffee available
0930-1045	Annual General Meeting	Borden Hall, Aldershot All members are encouraged to attend
1100-1130	Memorial Service	WNSR Memorial - Aldershot Colour Party available for the service, Wreaths laid at Memorial
1130- departure	Happy Hour and Farewell	Borden Hall, Aldershot Sandwiches, sweets, tea/coffee available Bar will be open 1130-1330

**Have a good Reunion  
and  
Travel safe**

**Reunion Committee**  
 Ron Stonier - Bill Goodwin - Bert Fitzgerald  
 Peter Bailey - Garry Randall

**Please remember to RSVP at <http://www.wnsr.ca/2015reunion>  
by 1 September (it helps us reduce costs)  
You can also pay dues and registration in advance through PayPal.**

### Stay Overnight at Aldershot

Limited accommodation may be available at Aldershot on a first-come first-served basis. To book a room, please call Garry Randall at 902-678-6899. Arrangements for payment can be made through Garry.

