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Memories: A Photo Feature

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Memories: A Photo Feature

Canadian Military History is pleased to introduce a new feature that will showcase never-before-seen photos. This issue presents photos from the wartime scrapbook of Doug McIntyre, who served in the Essex Scottish Regiment during the Second World War.

On 10 September [1944] the Battalion moved a battlegroup of two companies and supporting arms out to reduce an enemy coastal gun position in the sand dunes near Westende [Belgium]. Siege was laid to the position, which consisted of strong concrete dugouts and emplacements under the sand, and which included several good sized guns. Two days of active patrolling and accurate, observed shooting with mortars, anti-tank, bofors and field guns proved to be enough for the defenders, and at a quarter-past twelve on 12 September the appearance of white flags opened the way to a

complete surrender. Prisoners captured totalled 316, including nine officers, and great stocks of weapons and equipment were taken. The gratitude of the civil populace reached amazing heights, and the burgomaster promised to name the street to the fort "Essex Scottish Laan."

On Sunday, 10 June [1945], a detachment from the Regiment attended a formal ceremony at Westende, Belgium, where the street leading to the fort captured in September was named "Essex Scottish Laan." The civic reception for the Battalion was an overwhelming one.

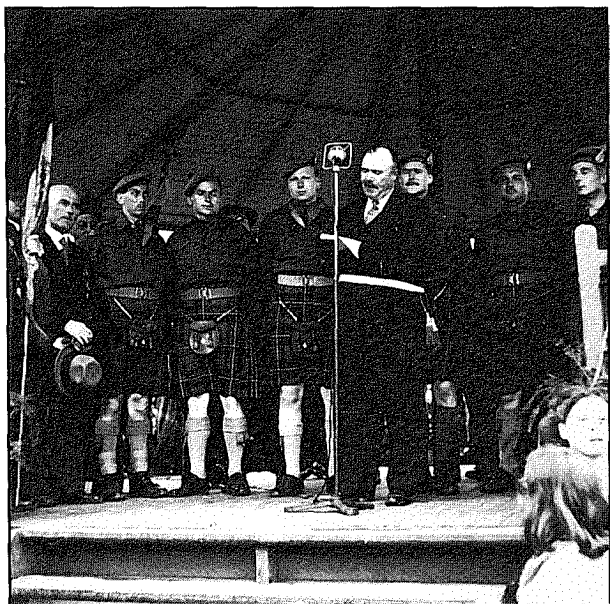
(Excerpts from Essex Scottish Regimental History)



*Essex-ScottishLaan
Plaque unveiled to the regiment
in Westende, Belgium.*



Westende citizens hold parade during street naming ceremony, mocking Germans by dressing up in captured uniforms. On the float is a German V-1 "Buzz Bomb."



Top left: The Mayor of Westende makes a formal address during the dedication ceremony. To his left stands Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Bennett, Commanding Officer of the Essex Scottish during the assault. Major Doug McIntyre and Major Si Steele. Behind the Mayor stands Lieutenant-Colonel K.W. MacIntyre, the current CO of the Essex Scots.



Top right: Lieutenant-Colonel Bennett speaks to the Belgian crowd during the ceremony.

Right: Corporal Tommy Childs pays last tribute to troops killed during the fighting at Westende.

Below: Officers of the Essex Scottish celebrate Christmas at Horsham, England, 1943. (Left to right): Si Steele, Art Zaldon and Bob Morgan.



Send us your photos!!

We would like to continue "Memories" as a regular feature, but we need your help to make it work. Send us your old photos – maybe you served during the Second World War, maybe your father or grandfather did. Maybe it was Korea, the Congo, the Golan Heights or Kuwait. We are looking for personal photos of Canadians' military experience. Send as much caption information as possible. All photos will be returned in the same condition they arrived.

BIRTH OF A REGIMENT

Gentlemen, Stand easy, while I tell you man to man
The story of the Hasty Ps and how they first began.
It's really worthwhile knowing, we'll call a spade a spade,
Why it is the finest outfit in the first brigade.
This is true, no question, they are the best by far.
So far in rear the 48th and dam the R.C.R.

The first hardy settlers to stop by Quinty [sic] Bay
Were United Empire Loyalists who quit the U.S.A.
They tilled the soil, built houses, felled the forest trees
And started a Militia which is now the Hasty Ps.
The record of the Regiment, marches hand and hand
With Canada's History the story of our land.

Skirmishes with savages, petty quarrels and hates
When the year 1812 brought war with the States.
Later came rebellion, then another war
A detachment of the Hastings went to fight the Boer.
Whenever there was fighting, whenever it was hot,
The Hastings and Prince Edward were Johny on the spot.

War in 1914, War in 39
And in each they proved to be the fighters of the line.
Now they're south with Monty, the date is 43.
Again they've taught Tedesci to respect the Hasty Ps.
Once more they are fighting a fight for hearth and home,
And now are headed for Berlin, the route is via Rome.

They've marched a little farther, climbed a higher hill.
Fought a little harder, were in first at the kill.
Starved a little longer, had a few more lice.
You may call this bragging, but they have paid the price.
Drank a lot more Vino, every man-Jack on parade
But they're still the best damned outfit in the first Brigade.

Here is the receipe, jot it down I quote
Take a dash of wild cat, then some mountain goat.
Essence of Commando, well soaked in brine
Add to this a bucket of old Italian wine
Mix all this together and the result will be
Just an average ranker of the Hasty Ps.

*Written by an unknown soldier
from "B" Company of the Hastings
& Prince Edward Regiment, 1943.*

*Compiled by Peter Nayler from the private
collection of Everett "Boggie" Alexander,
Quarter Master with "B" Company
of the Hastings and Prince
Edward Regiment, [1939-1945].*