



Fort Fraser Despatches, December 2018

The last combat action:

In July 1762, the French, who had long wanted to gain control of the fishing grounds landed in Newfoundland and occupied St. John's. Colonel William Amherst was ordered to raise a force from troops available in New York and in Nova Scotia to clear the French out of Newfoundland. Among the troops in this expedition were two companies of 78th Fraser Highlanders stationed in Nova Scotia, two companies of Montgomerie Highlanders detached from New York to deal with the Indians, the flank companies of the Royals from Halifax with a detachment of the 45th Foot, and a small party of Provincials. This little expedition sailed from Halifax and landed on the Newfoundland coast seven miles North of St. John's on 12 September 1762. Led by the Fraser Highlanders, they marched to St. John's and besieged the town, which capitulated on 17 September without a cannon being fired. The Union flag was raised over Citadel Hill. The French prisoners taken on this occasion were more numerous than the victors. Among the Fraser Highlanders, Captain Charles Macdonell of Glengarry was mortally wounded, three rank-and-file were killed and seven wounded. Montgomerie Highlanders lost one officer and four privates were killed and two wounded.





December 1763 - disbanded:

During the three years after the capture of Montreal, the 78th Highlanders continued their training under their company commanders in their various cantonments, ready to be called to any other actions in America or Canada where their services might be required. Much work was done in making roads and improving communications.

On 10 February 1763, the Treaty of Paris was concluded and peace ensued between France and England. The Seven Years' War was ended. Early in December 1763, orders were received to disband the regiments. Any officer or soldier who desired to stay in Canada could do so and would be rewarded by fourteen days' subsistence pay and a grant of land, the extent of which depended on his rank and length of active service. Those who did not wish to accept this offer were shipped back to Scotland and "paid off" in Inverness.

Some seigneuries, owned by members of the French aristocracy who had decided to return to France after the capture of Montreal, were put up for sale. General Murray acquired in all five large seigneuries, including the one he named Mount Murray, between Quebec and Tadoussac on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, now Murray Bay. This was later sold to Lieutenant Malcolm Fraser, and Lieutenant and Adjutant John Nairn received a Patent for the neighbouring fief of Murray Bay.

Sergeant James Thompson was appointed Clerk of Works in Quebec and later became Overseer of Works on the staff of the Quebec garrison, at four shillings eight pence Army currency per day.

The descendants of these Highlanders may still be found along the banks of the St. Lawrence River, and many of them are now completely Francophone.

from *The Fraser Highlanders*, J. R. Harper
Second Edition, Revised & Indexed 1995





Canadian Rangers' new weapon - at last:

The new rifles have been tested for the harsh conditions of winter and are painted red to easily be identified by the RCMP.



The bolt action magazine-fed rifle is called a C-19 by the Canadian military and fires a 7.62 x 51 mm round or a civilian .308 Winchester cartridge.

The new rifles replace the .303 Lee-Enfield rifles that had been issued to the Rangers for decades. That rifle dates back to the First World War and it's difficult to find replacement parts for it.

The Lee-Enfield is a bolt-action, magazine-fed, repeating rifle that served as the main firearm used by the military forces of the British Empire and Commonwealth during the first half of the 20th century. It was the British Army's standard rifle from its official adoption in 1895 until 1957.



The Colt C19 is a license-built, Finnish-designed Tikka T3 CTR bolt action rifle modified for the Canadian Rangers replacing the longer and heavier Lee-Enfield No. 4 rifles in service since 1947.

The Canadian Rangers, founded in 1947, are a 5000-strong sub-component of the Canadian Armed Forces reserve that provide a limited military presence in Canada's sparsely populated Arctic.



Not to be missed:

- Robbie Burns Dinner: 26 January, 2019
- Whisky Tasting : 01 March, 2019
- Annual General Meeting: 16 March, 2019
- Ste Foy Dinner: 20 April, 2019

Be kind to one another, it's Christmas!



Joyeux Noel,

Feliz Navidad!,

Buon Natale!

Nollaig Shona!,

圣诞节快乐!,

Fröhliche Weihnachten!

