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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

December 31st, 1962.

Dr. T. H. Raddall,
Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.

Dear Tom,

Early this month, at the luncheon provided by the Bank of Nova Scotia following the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, it was my good fortune to sit at the same table with Dr. Norman MacKenzie (in the 85th Bn. he was known as "Larry") and three or four men who had been in the same Unit with Larry before he joined the 85th gathered around, and were talking more or less about the 5th and 6th Canadian Mounted Rifles.

I do not know what brought the subject up but Norman MacKenzie referred to Hon. Frank Ross, a recent Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and also made reference to the 8th Battalion of Winnipeg. My recollection is that Larry said that he had heard Frank Ross mention that Capt. Raddall was shot through the heart but did not die instantly, and in fact spoke afterwards.

It seems to me that I should pass on this observation to you although it may be information that you knew previously.

I saw Hon. Frank Ross at Vancouver in May, this year, and walked alongside him in the procession from the Administration Building to the Armouries where 700 degrees were to be issued that afternoon, and where Mrs. Frank Ross was also, that same day, appointed Chancellor of the University.

Larry MacKenzie was going to call on Frank Ross, as the head of the Ross Clan, to put in a word for our 85th plaque in the National Scottish War Memorial at Castle Hill in Edinburgh but recently Mr. Ross has been seriously ill so now I have to prepare material again, and send it to Larry in the hope that he can personally do something in one of his several capacities. We have deposited our Honour Roll, and

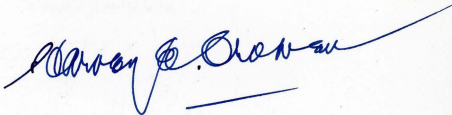
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a History of the Battalion by Hayes but no plaque, or tablet, to indicate that we were Nova Scotia Highlanders and wore the Argyll and Sutherland tartan, and because we were not officially affiliated all the authorities said, "What a pity that we did not have affiliation with the old 91st or some other Battalion in Pictou". Subsequently, we applied for permission to place a tablet in St. Giles' Church but it must be overcrowded or for some other reason we received a final polite refusal.

Best wishes for Mrs. Raddall and yourself for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Murray E. Crowell", with a horizontal line underneath.

HEC/H

January 2, 1963

Dr. H.E. Crowell,
Box 2001,
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Harvey,

Thanks for your interesting letter. It was very good of you to write. It's quite true, as Frank Ross remembers, that my father spoke a few words after receiving the fatal burst of M.G. bullets in his chest. He had been knocked down, a few minutes before, by a M.G. bullet in the right arm. He had a runner with him, and the runner bandaged the wound, crouching in the wheat. Father then jumped up again and moved forward, at the same time lifting his field glasses to see how the attack was progressing. Then came the M.G. burst. He managed to gasp to the runner, "Pass word to Major Saunders, to take command at once."

Saunders was his 2/i/c, a wiry little fellow known as "Bug", who survived the battle and remained in command of 8th Batt'n. for the rest of the campaign.

Like your own 85th, the 8th Batt'n. still keeps a Memory Association, although their people are much more scattered, with (for example) more men now living in British Columbia than in Manitoba itself. I had a letter from the secretary, and two others later, mentioning their annual Ypres ('15) anniversary dinner in Winnipeg, at which about 50 members were present. A surprising number of these were veterans of the war from 1914 on, and remembered my father from the time he was first posted to the 8th as machine-gun officer, at Valcartier. The secretary informed me that the Memory Association has the addresses of nearly 300 veterans of War One still living in various parts of Canada and the United States.

I have met Dr. Norman Mackenzie two or three times, and enjoyed brief chats with him.

I'm sorry to hear that you are still having difficulty in getting the 85th memorial plaque installed in the National Scottish War Memorial in Edinburgh. I should have thought that they would be eager to have it.

My wife joins me in every good wish to you and Marian for '63.

Sincerely,

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July 4th, 1963.

Dr. T. H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Tom:

I thought that I would have been down your way before this date but other things have taken my time, and I may not see you for a few weeks.

I noticed something recently about the death of a 8th Battalion Victory Cross officer. In your letter to me of January 2nd I was glad to note that the 8th Battalion also has a Memory Association.

I had to transfer a lot of my old records to the cellar of my residence as we have no room here in the top floor of the new Canada Permanent Building, and I ran across a booklet entitled "The Final Blow of The First Army in 1918". It is "a briefly comprehensive account (from August 25 to November 11, 1918) of the operations as a whole". Just in case you have not seen this pamphlet with its excellent maps, I am sending it herewith, for you to keep unless you already have a copy, in which event I would like to have it returned in due course.

Yours sincerely,



HEC/w
Encl:

P. S. My last two golf scores on Saturday afternoons were 80 and 82. I'll be looking for you.

*Wrote & returned
booklet, July 20/63*