

Lady Borden Presents Regimental Colors To N. S. Highland Brigade

Presented
By
Lady Borden
Wife of the Right Honorable
Sir Robert L. Borden,
G. C. M. G.
To The
85th Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.,
Nova Scotia Highlanders
1916

Such is the legend, as above, inscribed on a silver plate attached to the pole of the regimental colors of the 85th O. S. Battalion, Nova Scotia Highland Brigade. The same legend, with the name and number of each of the other three Battalions (185th, 193rd and 219th) which with the 85th comprise the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade, is properly inscribed on a silver plate attached to the poles of their respective colors.

The beautiful, coveted and welcome regimental colors came into possession of the Nova Scotia Highlanders last Monday, being presented in person by the First Lady in the Land, Lady Borden, wife of Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada; and presented amidst impressive religious ceremonies and thrilling military eclat.

For general design the colors show a large centred Maple leaf, topped by the Crown, beneath are a wreath of thistles and Mayflowers, and a scroll with the Brigade motto, "Siol Na Fear Fearail." All this is on a ground of silk, crimson for the 85th, green for the 185th, blue for the 193rd and purple for the 219th. The effect is handsome.

A glorious day of clear blue sky, and sheer sunlight, pleasantly cooled by salubrious breezes made the occasion specially inviting and promised smiles from nature on the happiest event in the homeland experiences and annals of the N. S. Highland Brigade.

Sir Robert and Lady Borden who had arrived from Ottawa Sunday evening at Grand Pre in the Prime Minister's private car, and who spent the night in the Premier's boyhood home, arrived at Aldershot Monday morning, Sept. 25th, where they were met at 10 o'clock by Colonel W. E. Thompson, Camp Commandant, and driven in auto to the saluting base on the field, ready for the impressive functions that were to follow their arrival at that point. In the first car, leading, were Lady Borden, Mrs. Thompson, wife of the Camp Commandant, and Mrs. Stanfield, wife of Lt. Col. John Stanfield, the Brigadier of the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade. In the second car, immediately following, were Sir Robert Borden, Colonel W. E. Thompson, Camp Commandant, and Colonel Winter, Secretary of the Military Council, Department of Militia and Defence, Ottawa.

Alighting, Sir Robert and Lady Borden, supported by Col. Thompson and Col. Winter, advanced about 100 yards to the acclivity above the saluting base in front of four sets of drums, tiered as altars for the consecration of the regimental colors, and set up facing the respective Battalions which were drawn up in companies in line in the form of a hollow square, with the Chaplains in position at the respective consecration altars of drums to which the colors for each Battalion had been, with due military ceremony, been brought by color-bodies of N. C. O's and on which they were laid awaiting the arrival of Lady Borden, and the supporting high officers of militia. On the arrival of the party, the massed Bands under the direction of Lieut. Dan Mooney, played a salute. Prayers were recited by the various chaplains consecrated the colors, Capt.

Chaplain Ronald MacDonald reading the ritual for the 85th Battalion, Captain Chaplain Michael Gillis for the 185th, Capt. Chaplain J. F. Tupper for the 193rd, and Camp Chaplain Clarence Mackinnon for the 219th.

Then followed the formal presentation of the colors to each Battalion. A line of non-commissioned officers of the Highland Brigade stretched right and left of the saluting base, one each bearing colors of the respective regiments. An officer called out in proper sequence the name of each unit and the color party into whose hands the colors were to be delivered marched up to where Lady Borden stood, who addressed a few felicitous words to the delegated wardens, expressing her pleasure at the opportunity and honor of presenting colors to the Battalions. The Highlanders lowered the colors, Lady Borden touched them lightly with her right hand, and they were handed to their rightful bearers who marched proudly away to the front of their own special detachment in the square. The first to receive colors was the senior battalion of the brigade, the 85th, then followed the 185th, 193rd and 219th.

When the whole of the parties had received their colors and returned to line inside of the square, the order was given "salute your colors." This was an impressive moment. On the order, the Brigade saluted the colors, which were then brought by the color-bodies of N. C. O's to the respective Battalions, advancing in slow-march tempo to the music of the National Anthem played by the massed bands.

Sir Robert and Lady Borden with Col. Thompson and Col. Winter now returned to the saluting base for the March Past. The Brigade formed up in columns of companies, and, bearing the colors, marched past in splendid dress and step to the music of the various regi-

mental tunes, played by the massed bands under the direction of Lieut. Mooney, and returned to their original positions. Then the Brigade advanced in review order, and gave a general salute. Sir Robert addressed the Brigade briefly, noting the significance of the colors and signaling his confidence and that of Lady Borden that the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade would maintain the honor and preserve the splendid ideals which had been set by the soldiers of Canada who had already brought glory on our broad Dominion.

Sir Robert called for three cheers for His Majesty, King George and then for three cheers for the Governor General, Lieut. Col. F. P. Day, who acted in command for the Brigadier, Lt.-Col. Stanfield, called for three cheers for Sir Robert and Lady Borden.

Sir Robert and Lady Borden, following the close of the presentation of the colors and accessory functions, were entertained at luncheon by Colonel W. E. Thompson, Camp Commandant. The guests were Colonel Winter, Mrs. Thompson, wife of the Commandant, the personal staff of the Commandant, with their ladies, the Brigadier and staff with their ladies, and the Officers Commanding, with their ladies. The 85th Band, under the direction of Lieut. Mooney, played a special concert program during the luncheon. After the luncheon, Lady Borden and party visited the hospital and inspected the camp. They were also given an opportunity of witnessing mimic trench warfare, and a bayonet charge by the Highlander boys in training. Sir Robert and Lady Borden entrained for Ottawa at 4 p. m.

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