

This booklet is not presented as a history of World War 11. It is a précis of Captain Tom Bell's book: ***Into Action with the 12th Field*** and from other sources.

During their eleven months in Europe, the 12th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery supported, at various times, all of the Brigades in the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and many others. The ability of the artillery in the Canadian Army to centre from one to hundreds of guns on the same target was truly remarkable and had an impact on the War. The German soldiers mocked much of the Canadian soldiers' weapons but not the potential artillery fire power they could face at any time.

The artillery has received little attention over the years as it was necessary for their role to be initiated by the forward infantry. The placing of Artillery Forward Observation Officers (FOO's), in beside infantry officers at the battle site, created instant results, which usually assisted the infantry. In WW11 there was a high casualty rate for the FOO's as well as infantry commanders.

The Artillery had several possible goals when firing from a few thousand yards away:

Neutralising - To prevent enemy movement and observation and to prevent the effective use of weapons during the bombardment.

Morale - To produce, in addition to neutralising, a lack of will to resist continuing for some time after the bombardment (requires more shells to be fired).

Lethal Material - To kill or wound enemy and destroy his weapons (requires a very large amount of shells).

The aim was to allow the infantry to get to a disorganized enemy and defeat them with as few casualties as possible.

For more information, please see:

Nicholson, G.W. ***The Gunners of Canada VOL 2 1919 – 1967***
Blackburn, George G. ***The Guns of Normandy: A Soldier's Eye View, France 1944***
 Where the Hell Are the Guns: A Soldier's Eye View, of the Anxious Years
 1939-1944
 The Guns of Victory: A Soldier's Eye View, Belgium, Holland and Germany
 1944-45

Harris, Arthur T. (2006) "Report on the Bombing of Our Own Troops during Operation "Tractable": 14 August 1944" ***Canadian Military History Vol. 15: Iss. 3 Article 8***

World War 11 was basically started by four men: Adolf Hitler of Germany, Benito Mussolini of Italy, Francisco Franco of Spain, and Hideki Tojo of Japan.

In 1938 young men in Wellington County and Hamilton were starting to find jobs and were less interested in the world situation. The situation in Poland in late August 1939, with Hitler's threat of invasion and Britain's and France's guarantee to defend Poland, changed everything. Germany attacked Poland September 1st and Britain and France declared war on Germany on September 3rd. Canada would declare War on Germany September 10th. Mobilization orders went out August 25th to defend Canada and create a mobile force to be known as the Canadian Active Service Force (C.A.S.F.). In November 1939 units of the Non-Permanent Active Militia had the 11th Field Brigade consisting of:

16th Field Battery of Guelph
29th Field Battery of Guelph
43rd Field Battery of Guelph
63rd Field Battery of Guelph

The original force was to be the first and second divisions with an initial allotment for each Division of three Field brigades with each having a headquarters and four Batteries with a four-Battery anti-tank unit. In the beginning only individual Batteries were mobilized.

Among the early Batteries were the 29th, a militia unit in Guelph, the 9th and 15th from Toronto, and the 40th from Hamilton. The 11th Field Regiment was formed with the creation of the 9/15th and 29/40th Batteries.

The 11th Field Regiment of Guelph was in the First Division and arrived in England in mid-February 1940.

The Canadian Government was lulled into a stupor during the period from September 1939 until April 1940.

April 9th, 1940 – The Germans defeated Denmark and continued across North West Europe until the evacuation of Allied troops at Dunkirk.

The Dunkirk evacuation compelled the Canadian Government to send the 2nd Division overseas to England piecemeal during the last half of 1940.

The Artillery Batteries which would become the 3rd Division mobilized in May and June 1940.

The 16/43rd Battery was mobilized by Major O.M. McConkey of Guelph and training began within a month. Many of the recruits were from South and Central Wellington County.



Both photos courtesy of the 12th Field Regiment Association

The 11th Battery originated from Hamilton and the 69th Battery hailed from Brantford. The 11/69th Battery began recruiting under Major J.P. Phin, who would command the new Regiment in England in 1942.

The training for both Batteries was foot drill, small arms drill, standing gun drill, and some gunnery. The two Batteries went to Camp Petawawa in September 1940 and formed the 12th Field Regiment, R.C.A., with Lt. Col. G.T. Inch in command and Major Phin as second in command. Major McConkey retained command of the 16/43rd and Major W.J. Brigger assumed control of the 11/69th. The Regiment started to come together and training was stepped up. The gunners began to learn their jobs on the guns. On October 3rd, 1942, the new Regiment left for Camp Sussex, New Brunswick where their permanent quarters were not ready. They slept in tents and bonded early, as they all pitched in to build their own barracks.



All four photos courtesy of the 12th Field Regiment Association

The 12th Field was joined with the 13th and 14th Field Regiments as the artillery support of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division.

Much of the training in Sussex saw the Regiment attached to the 8th Canadian Brigade. The Regiment was firing 18-pound guns from WW1 and learning technique and fire discipline.



Courtesy of the 12th Field Regiment Association

The Tactical Number (TAC) of the 12th Field Regiment became #42.

In February 1941, the 12th was reorganized to conform to the new War Establishment and the 69th Battery left the unit to form part of the 4th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. The departing Battery acquired 25 NCO's and 25 men from the 11th Battery, which set its training back.

In February 1941, Lt. Col L.G. Clark took command of the Regiment.

The Regiment now consisted of the 11th, 16th, and 43rd Batteries and R.H.Q. (Regimental Headquarters). Training continued through the Winter and Spring at Camp Sussex.



Courtesy of the 12th Field Regiment Association

July 1941 brought Embarkation leave and by July 18th, 1941, after 11 months of training, the Regiment paraded out of Camp Sussex in full marching order bound for Halifax.



Courtesy of the 12th Field Regiment Association

12th Field Regiment Waiting to Board Trains for Halifax

They boarded the Duchess of York known as “The Drunken Duchess” because of her tendency to roll even in calm seas. They left Halifax on July 21st in a small convoy of five troopships and eight destroyers and one battleship. They disembarked at Liverpool on July 30th, 1941 and traveled to Leipzig Barracks at Ewshot in the Aldershot area. The Regiment received new 25-pounders, gun tractors, and universal carriers at this time.

The training in England was more realistic than it had been in Canada. The Regiment went to camps such as Seeneybridge, Wales for training on a bigger scale, firing Regimental targets as an example. The men’s training until now had involved learning their jobs as gunners. Now the Regiment was to integrate with a Brigade and Divisional structure. The role given to the Regiment was a defensive one, namely to support the 7th and 8th Brigades, defending the beaches against an expected German attack.

In the Spring of 1942, two exercises of length: Spartan and Welsh were held as the 3rd Division came together in artillery shoots including the Medium Regiment. During the same period, England was suffering from a food shortage due to submarine attacks on food convoys from North America.

In July 1942, Lt. Col. J.P. Phin assumed command of the Regiment from Lt. Col. Clark.

In the Fall of 1942, the 12th Field carried out military schemes with various infantry battalions they supported. The weather was bad but the officers and men from the artillery got a chance to meet with officers and men from the infantry.

In December 1942, Capt. D.A. May and B.S.M. E.A. Ayers were posted to North Africa for experience as observers. Capt. May was killed while manning an Observation Post (OP) in Tunisia with the British First Army. Sergeant-Major Ayers returned and provided experience.

In the Summer of 1941, Hitler had attacked Russia. Now a year later, Russia was turning to the offence. This changed the whole military strategy in England from defensive to offensive tactics. The 12th Field were now going to train to attack across the English Channel.

July /August 1943 – The Regiment had the first practices with a landing craft. The 11th Battery supported the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the 16th Battery the Regina Rifles, and the 43rd Battery the First Canadian Scottish Regiment. There was no fixed rule as to who was being supported on any given exercise or later battle.

In September 1943, it was obvious that 25-pounders could not be landed on beaches. The training on how to drive self-propelled vehicles began and "The Priests", Sherman chassis mounting a 105-mm gun, became the gun for the 12th Field. The gunnery training emphasized more and more "Mike" and "Uncle" targets, air OP shooting, and barrages.



Photo of M7 "Priest" SP, from Camp Shilo, Manitoba

September 26th, 1943 - Lt Colonel R.H. Webb became the commanding officer.

October 1943 – The first "Priests" arrived and the Regiment worked very hard during the next few months to learn and fire this new weapon. The drill was different: the shells had to be lifted seven feet in the air when loading the new guns and the angle of elevation was reduced.

Christmas 1943 was marked by a visit from Lt. Col. George A. Drew, the Premier of Ontario and a former member of the Regiment from N.P.A.M. days.

February 1944 - General Montgomery inspected the 12th Field.

March 24th, 1944 – William Cox died of wounds and was subsequently laid to rest in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands. Cox was posthumously awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM).

April 25th, 1944 - The Regiment was inspected by H.M. King George VI and Lt. General Crerar (something was going to happen).

April 27th, 1944 - Officers started to be briefed on full-scale maps and air photographs but no names were available.

May 1944 - Ten months of training had been required with the self-propelled guns to attain the same level of excellence as reached previously with the 25-pounders.

May 1944 - The officers had a clear indication of the beach and early objectives. The men had a general idea.

May 15th, 1944 - All vehicles which were to leave landing craft and drive onto Normandy beaches were waterproofed.

May 26th, 1944 - Moved into camp A-17 to await "Overlord". A great amount of ammunition and supplies were loaded on the "Priests" and the "Porpoises", which were metal sleighs dragged under the S.P's.

June 6th, 1944 - Once underway, orders opened and the 12th Field was to assist the 7th Brigade in attacking the beach at Courselles-sur-Mer, or as was known in the early maps, as Beach "Mike Green". The 12th Field Batteries were firing on the beach from their landing craft and then landed left of Mike Green, and were the first Canadian Regiment in France to fire their guns. The 7th Brigade made their objectives on D Day but by the next day were being forced back.

June 9th, 1944 saw the Regiment firing "Uncle" and "Victor" targets to assist the 7th and 8th Brigades against tank attacks which helped solidify the Canadian line.

June 26th, 1944 - Supported the 15th Scottish Division in their attack on St Mauvieu, La Gualle, and Cheux. The beginning of large barrages over six hundred guns firing a million rounds in three hours.



Captured German prisoners

July 1st, 1944- Lt General Crerar visited informally and acknowledged the rumour that the 12th would lose their Priests due to camouflage and mobility issues. The Regiment was not pleased.

July 4th, 1944 - The 8th Brigade and the Winnipeg Rifles attacked Carpiquet Airport and village. The Regiment had five FOO's out in place.

July 7th, 1944 - Attack on Caen by bombers. The 12th Field Regiment fired their guns later, with the assistance of an observation officer in a plane. They then fired "Uncle" and "Victor" programs.

July 8th, 1944 - Operation "Charnwood" - the attack on Caen - The 9th Brigade were to capture Gruchy, Buron. Authie and Franqueville. The 7th Brigade would then move through them. The shelling had turned the towns to rubble.

July 17th, 1944 - Heavy shooting to help the Brigades cross the Orne River.

July 19th - The 12th Field assisted the 2nd Division in their attack on St. Andre-sur-Orne.

July 29th, 1944 - Maj. General Kellar, the Commanding Officer of the 12th, visited and passed the word that they would be taken out of the line for a rest. They moved July 30th. They turned in their Priests on August 1st to be replaced by the 25-pounder and the Regiment moved to Rye for a six-day rest. They went to the Channel to swim. They had not moved very far in two months. The Germans were fighting hard.



August 5th, 1944 - Operation "Totalize" was the third attempt to break through the German defence just outside Caen.



Lt. General Simmonds took the discarded "Priests", removed the guns, and placed armour plating across the front. The new machine was called a "Kangaroo" and was designed to carry infantry into battle with tanks.

August 8th 1944 - The Regiment moved to Fauberg and just missed being bombed by Allied Fortresses.

August 10th, 1944 - The Regiment moved to Hautmesnil. The Batteries were deployed around a huge quarry. The Regimental Headquarters were placed in the quarry in tunnels.

August 13th, 1944 - The Regiment drew 200 rounds of smoke shells per gun as they prepared for the attack tomorrow.

August 14th, 1944 was the worst day of the war for the Regiment. The R.A.F. heavy bombers bombed areas ahead of the Regiment. Then the next wave dropped bombs behind the Regiment. Subsequently the following bombers dropped their bombs directly on the 12th. During the time of the bombing, just over an hour in length, officers and men tried to identify themselves to the R.A.F. and R.C.A.F. to no avail. Numbers vary, depending upon the sources consulted, but the toll was approximately 16 killed and roughly 47 wounded. At least four men died in the few days immediately following August 14th, and are presumed to have been fatally injured in the Quarry. The 11th and 16th Batteries were hit hard and ironically, the 43rd Battery was untouched.

Excerpts from Captain Bell's book:

"Through some inexplicable error, a similarity of topographical features perhaps, the next wave bombed behind us. Great pillars of smoke arose and at our gun position we thought perhaps the Luftwaffe was bombing from above our heavies. It wasn't so, however, as the next wave dropped their bombs directly on us. The giant planes came over us at less than a thousand feet and as they approached we could see the bomb doors open and the bombs come tumbling out. It was a horrifying sight and the result was a terrible nightmare. In a steady, stately procession the heavies came over, wave after wave, unendingly. The first bombs dropped on us at 14:30 hours and at 15:40 hours we had our last. ...the agony would have been more bearable had they not been our own."

12th Field Regiment – K.I.A.

Hautmesnil Quarry, France – August 14th, 1944

Avery, Clayton Sawyer
Bittle, Walter Culhane
Bryant, Ernest
Burt, James Ivan
Cunningham, Leonard Garfield
Dunkley, George Albert
Ganton, Beverley Lorne Alexander
Haggerty, James A.

Kelly, James M.
McLaughlin, Bruce
Murtha, James Fergus
Stanley, William Henry
Thomsen, Carl C.
Webb, Mervin A.
Wright, Robert George
Wright, Robert James



For further information, please see an article in the *Globe and Mail* dated August 16th, 1944.

The 16th Battery lost all their vehicles and guns but were back in operation by August 16th.

The tragedy of the short bombing at the Hautmesnil Quarry, France quickly disappeared from the front pages as the success of the bombing run became known. The Germans were in full retreat and it appeared to be the beginning of the end of the war.

August 23rd, 1944 - The Falaise Gap saw thousands of German soldiers dead and wounded, as well as surrendering. Many thousands more were fleeing for the Seine River.

August 29th, 1944 - The 12th crossed the Seine and moved quickly for the next few days crossing the Somme on September 4th.

September 9th, 1944 - The Regiment moved near Freques to support the 7th Brigade on an attack on Cap Gris -Nez . The Royal Winnipeg Rifles and the Regina Rifles were initially successful.

Sept 15th, 1944-The Winnipeg Rifles attacked Onglevert and the Regiment blew up an ammunition dump through shelling.

Sept 17th, 1944 - The 8th and 9th Brigades attacked Boulogne and the 12th Field and the 7th Brigade began a move toward Calais. The 12th fired air burst rounds at the German anti-aircraft sites surrounding Calais.

September 25th, 1944 - Operation "Undergo" - The 8th Brigade and 7th Brigade continue to attack Calais and the outskirts were cleared. The 12th fired many artillery rounds in support.

September 30th, 1944 - Calais was captured.

October 6th, 1944 - Operation "Switchback" - The 7th Brigade, with the Canadian Scottish Regiment and the Regina Rifles, assaulted across the Leopold Canal with flame throwers and Artillery support. The fighting was very intense and only constant intense artillery fire kept the Germans at bay, but the 7th Brigade by the October 19th was relieved.

The 12th supported the English 52nd (Lowland Division) who sustained high casualties while the 7th Brigade rested. The Germans were being pushed back on all sides.

October 31st, 1944 - The Regiment moved into position to support the 8th Brigade with an attack on Knocke, which succeeded with 2,000 prisoners.

November 3rd, 1944 - All resistance ceased and the whole north bank of the Scheldt was in Canadian hands.

November 4th, 1944 - Operation "Relax" - The 3rd Division, including the 12th Field Regiment, moved into Ghent as guests of the city. The infantry really needed this rest.

November 9th, 1944 - The 12th Field now moved to the Nijmegen front from Ghent and made a 100-mile trek.

The Allies were short of supplies at this point and Captain Tom Bell refers to the next three months as dull compared to the preceding three. The conditions were wet constantly and made living conditions difficult. The gun positions and roads were almost impossible to use. Rubble was trucked from Nijmegen to try and improve the situation, but the gun pits were filled with water. Rubber boots were finally issued to the gunners. The Regiment went to Afferden, west of Nijmegen, and relieved the 6th Field Royal Artillery while the infantry was the 101st U.S. Airborne and the British 49th and 50th Divisions. The Canadian infantry was still in Ghent.

The Americans were relieved when the Canadian infantry arrived. The 13th Field replaced the 14th Field east of Nijmegen and dug in with for the next few weeks.

November 29th, 1944 – The Regiment fired to support the 8th Brigade in an unsuccessful attack.

Dec 9th, 1944 - The first snow.

Dec. 14th, 1944 – The 12th Field supported the Regina Rifles, who attacked Eindheshof in order to obtain prisoners. Unfortunately they were not successful. The Regiment was notified of English leave to London (a week to visit England) to start January 1st for "D" Day personnel.

Dec. 21st, 1944 - Went on alert over the German Ardennes offensive (Battle of the Bulge) and possible action but the offensive failed.

Dec 25th, 1944 - The Christmas message from the Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Webb:

" A year has passed since those happy days in Bournemouth when we were engrossed in our new equipment - getting our "sea legs ", learning the lingo of the Royal Navy and going 'Halfway'. Since then we have participated in the greatest invasion in history and fought from the beaches of Normandy to the gates of Germany, where we now stand awaiting the day when the final blow will be struck. During this period the Regiment has gained great experience and a reputation second to none in the Royal Canadian Artillery: though not without heavy casualties.....

... Let us not forget our comrades who have gone west to other dugouts and gun pits: they are with us always."

December 26th, 1944 - The 7th Brigade came into the line and the 12th Field moved in to support them.

January 2nd, 1945 - A new procedure for counter Battery on enemy mortars came out early in January and was named "Smort" bombardment. Captain Bell stated that the Regiment had managed to obtain a very high standard of efficiency throughout operations despite the great turnover of Officers.

January 8th and 9th, 1945 - Fired in support of the 9th Brigade.

By January 31st, 1945, the 12th had 1800 rounds per gun High Explosive and 680 rounds smoke per gun over their usual holding.

February 2nd, 1945 - Orders were given for the Regiment to stay off the roads between 18:00 and 6:00 hours. The build-up for a major attack was beginning.

February 6th, 1945 - Operation "Veritable" was announced. There were 1045 guns prepared to fire. The 3rd Division, including the 12th Field, was located in the area between the Cleve Road and the Rhine.

February 8th, 1945 - The attack began with a huge salvo from the guns including those of the 12th Field Regiment.. This was the first time shells landed on Germany and the 12th fired 600 rounds per gun.



Soldiers crossing the Waal River in "Buffaloes"

The 7th Brigade in the afternoon received support from the 12th, and a Battery was deployed in Germany which was the first Canadian Battery to be deployed and fire in Germany. The Regina Rifles and the Canadian Scottish got their objectives and the Winnipeg Rifles embarked on Buffaloes to get to the Rhine and the Seigfried Line.

The term "WATER RATS" applied to the 3rd Division by Field Marshall Montgomery really applied here as the Germans blew up the dykes on the Waal River and the water rose in the area of the 7th and 8th Brigades assigned attacks. There was very little dry land. In the area of Niel and Beck the gun pits were filled with water and some guns were fired underwater. Supplies became an issue due to the flooding, and the 12th had to cut back on the number of shells fired.

On February 15th, 1945, the Regiment moved through Cleve to Bedburg and remained for five days supporting the 7th Brigade, fighting to take Moyland Wood and Moyland. In this period the Regina Rifles suffered high casualties at Moyland Wood and the Canadian Scottish Regiment attacked an area between Moyland and Luisendorf, which became known as "Slaughter Hill". The Scottish had a high casualty rate. Captain E.J. Farah, a 12th FOO, was killed in the first day of the attack with the Canadian Scottish while another 12th FOO, Captain W.P. Hair with the Scottish, was awarded the M.C. for heroism.

The flooding was so bad that the 43rd Battery floated their equipment to higher ground with rafts.

The Germans were fighting fiercely with their backs to the Rhine and the operation "Veritable" had stalled.

February 25th, 1945 saw operation "Blockbuster". The objectives were to finish off the Siegfried Line and the 3rd Division's job was to take Udem. The attack was successful and Udem was taken. Major A.T.P. Gilbert and Capt. E.J. Hooper of the 16th Battery as FOO's with the Regina Rifles were wounded. That brought the officers killed or wounded since February to seven which compared to the 12th's first three days of fighting in Normandy.

The Regiment on March 3rd moved to a position near Birten, prepared to support the 7th Brigade which attacked Sonsbeck and captured it unopposed.

March 7th, 8th and 9th, 1945 - Fired in support of the 2nd and 4th Divisions on their attack on Xanten.

On March 10th, 1945, the Germans blew up two bridges at Wesel and the German army retreated from the west bank of the Rhine, leaving it in Canadian hands.

The Regiment was given a break for a few days in Cleve for themselves, and the equipment was given an overhaul after a month of hard fighting.

On March 20th, 1945, the guns and gunners of the 12th moved to the Rhine. They were going to be the first to fire a new proximity fuse which exploded the High Explosive Charge (HE) at tree top level. Smoke screens were used along the Rhine to keep the Germans guessing. Then on March 23rd hundreds of guns began firing and continued throughout the night.

March 24th, 1945 - The 9th Brigade crossed the Rhine and the 12th fired in support.

March 26th, 1945 - A bridge was constructed across the Rhine and the 12th crossed it and moved into action. They moved first to Grietherbusch, then to Urasselt to support the 7th Brigade, who were to attack Emmerich.

March 27th, 1945 - The Regina Rifles and the First Canadian Scottish had seized part of Emerich and the Winnipeg Rifles were to take the rest. Emmerich was destroyed and the 12th moved on past it.

April 1st, 1945 - The 3rd Division was now to head north and clear the east bank of the Ijssel River, with the 2nd and 4th Divisions on their right.

April 2nd, 1945 - The Regiment moved to Kilder and the Regina Rifles captured Wehl. Then the 7th Brigade headed towards Zevenaar and the Ijssel River.

April 4th, 1945 - The Regiment moved north near Zutphen and the 7th Brigade attacked the Twente canal to relieve pressure on the 9th Brigade.

April 5th, 1945 - The Regiment supported both the 7th Brigade and the 8th Brigade when they attacked Zutphen.

April 6th, 1945 - The 7th Brigade was to clear from Zutphen to Deventer.

April 8th, 1945 - The 12th Field Regiment moved up to De Veste to give closer support for the attack on Deventer.

April 11th, 1945 - The Regiment fired in support of the 1st Division who were attacking Appeldorm.

April 13th, 1945 - The 7th Brigade moved to so many places that the 12th Regiment had difficulty keeping up. The Regina Rifles took Zwolle unopposed.

April 17th, 1945 - The 11th Battery moved north to Leeuwarden to support the Winnipeg Rifles.

April 19th, 1945 - The 12th moved north to Leeuwarden and east to Groningen which had been captured by the 2nd Division and the 7th Brigade was taking over from the 6th Brigade. Their job was to clear the whole area east and north of Groningen to the North Sea with Delfzijl, a heavily defended port in the area. The Regina Rifles were to clear north and north-west, the Royal Winnipeg Rifles north-east and east, and the First Canadian Scottish Regiment east of Groningen. The three Batteries followed, remained detached, and followed their respective Battalions.

April 20th, 1945 - The 11th Battery carried some of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles to ten Post. The 43rd Battery was at Zuidlaren and the 43rd joined the 11th the next day.

April 21st, 1945 - Capt. D. Innes, of the 43rd Battery, a FOO with the Canadian Scottish Regiment at Wagenborgen, was killed during a counter attacked by the Germans. He was their third troop commander to lose his life in action.

April 23rd, 1945 - The Regiment moved to Hellum via Groningen. The 43rd Battery was shelled in the morning and Sergeant Jack Leaning was killed.

April 25th, 1945 - The Regiment moved to the banks of the Emms, near the Village of Limgun, which was on German soil. The Regiment was to support the 9th Brigade assault across the River Emms and Leda to storm and capture Leer.

April 26th, 1945 - 7th Brigade War Diary: "...The attack was broken up smartly by our old confreres, the 12th Canadian Field Regiment who have always been at the right spot at the right moment whenever we have needed them."

April 29th, 1945 - The 7th Brigade went across to the outskirts of Leer with supporting fire from the 12th.

May 1st, 1945 - The Regiment, without the 11th Battery, moved across the Emms River. The 11th had their guns mired and needed a bulldozer to pull them to dry ground.

May 2nd, 1945 - The 12th, now with the 11th Battery, moved toward Wesel. The 7th and 8th Brigades were going to take Aurich. A mine killed Cpl. Hughes when his jeep drove over it and Sergeant Nixon was wounded.

May 4th, 1945 - Surrender negotiations

May 5th, 1945 - The 12th Field Regiment fired one last time at 2:35 a.m. Then at 8:00 a.m. the cease fire was announced and the Batteries moved their guns to hard surfaces.

Tom Bell ends his book "Into Action with the 12th Field":

"We will honour and remember always those of our "pals" who have given their lives for the cause of freedom."

Repatriation and Reallocation

In 1945, at the end of the European Wars, the Canadian military had several projects. The first was to return over 250,000 members of the Canadian Forces in Europe and England to Canada. This would take over a year.

The second was a force to assist in the fight with Japan in the Far East.

The third was an Occupation Force of approximately 25,000 for Germany.

Gunners' Park



A member of the 12th Field Regiment from the Arthur, Ontario area, George Knowles, donated 10 acres to the 12th Field Regiment Association. Buildings and a 25 pdr were later added. This property, near the intersection of Highway 6 and the 9th Concession in the Township of Wellington North, was the site of many reunions and social events.

We have strived to ensure that all of the information provided within this booklet is accurate but have noted in the course of research that sources consulted do not always agree on pertinent data. We are therefore not liable for damages resulting from the use of the contents of this booklet.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Officers

DOBBS, Joseph David
FARAH, Edward Joseph
INNES, Donald George
KIBLER, John Frederick
MAY, David Arthur
MORISON, Herbert Cecil James
NIXON, William Benjamin
RIVAZ, Charles Percy
SMITH, Anthony Larratt

Clarke, Robert Roy
Coburn, Gordon Ross
Coon, James
Cooper, John Henry
Cooper, Russell
Cox, William
Cunningham, Leonard G.
Dix, John Charles
Dowden, Walter Roy
Dunkley, George Albert
Farrand, William
Fritch, Howard Gordon
Ganton, Beverley L.A.
Gooch, William Frank
Greenwood, Alan S.
Haggerty, Alexander
Haggerty, James A.

Other Ranks

AVERY, Clayton Sawyer
BAWCUTT, Edmund Arthur
BITTLE, Walter Culhane
BROWN, Lloyd George
BRYANT, Ernest
BURT, James Ivan

Hall, Herbert
Hughes, Maurice James
Jarvis, Charles Nicholson
Kelly, James M.
Kozack, Alexander
Leaning, John Alfred
Leighton, Roy William
Lind, Eldon R.
Livesey, William Richard
Ludwig, Roy Frank
Mackie, Elwood Bruce
Mackie, Victor J.
McIlreavey, Joseph
McLaughlin, Bruce
Mercer, William T.
Moulins, Joseph Paul
Mueller, Arthur J.
Murtha, James Fergus
Poley, Harold E.
Rawson, Nelson Ernest
Rice, Kenneth Melvin

Robertson, George M.A.
Robins, Walter Raymond
Ruck, Rudolph
Samuel, James Crockin
Sankey, Charles W.
Scott, Arland Kenneth
Sharples, Henry J.
Stanley, William Henry
Storey, Eldon H.
Stricker, Harry
Suddaby, George
Sutcliffe, Thomas Raymond
Thomsen, Carl C.
Tompsett, Frederick
Ware, George
Webb, Mervin A.
Wilkinson, Harry
Wright, Edwin
Wright, John A.
Wright, Robert George
Wright, Robert James

