



BOOK RELEASE

History
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Canada's Black Watch:
An Illustrated History of the Regular Force Battalions 1951-1970
Simon Falconer

Pride, Romance, and Respect
Black Watch Units Immortalized in History

Between 1951 and 1970 nearly 6,000 Canadians served in The Black Watch, the Royal Highland Regiment. Now, for the first time, records of the stories and panoply of one of the most popular (and colourful) regiments in the recent history of the Canadian Armed Forces are combined to tell the story of The Black Watch.

Canada's Regular Force battalions of the Black Watch were formed in 1951 in response to the Cold War. Drawing on reserve units based in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Victoria, and Nova Scotia, the Black Watch were first based in Aldershot, Nova Scotia; then at Sussex, New Brunswick; and finally at CFB Gaagetown, New Brunswick. The First and Second Battalions were stationed in Germany, served in the Korean Conflict, and also served as a peacekeeping force in Cyprus. Then, in 1970, the government of the day made the controversial decision to disband the Regular Force battalions, and the Black Watch reverted to a one-battalion Militia unit, based in Montreal.

The history of the Regular Force battalions is brought to life in this full-colour book. Photographs of the soldiers and their commanding officers, the bases, the equipment, the uniforms, the badges, and the medals are all represented in lush detail. Each page is rich with surprising and interesting facts accompanied by carefully selected and arranged photographs, including some of the Queen Mother, who was the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief. The book concludes with a comprehensive list of nearly 6,000 people who served in the Black Watch, bringing to life the story of the thousands of men who trained for a war that never came.

A unique and vital addition to the library of anyone interested in Canadian military, *Canada's Black Watch* is a book that sets the standard for illustrated regimental histories.

SIMON FALCONER is the pen name of a former soldier. He has written several dramas for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and is the author of numerous articles and short stories published in Canada and abroad. He lives in Nova Scotia.

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MEDIA INTERVIEWS

COLONEL G. SCOTT “SCOTTY” MORRISON is available for telephone interviews. A Korean War veteran, he served with The Black Watch in Aldershot (Nova Scotia) in the 1950s, and in Germany and CFB Gaagetown in the 1960s. He was commanding First Battalion of the Regiment in Gaagetown in 1970 when the two Regular Force battalions were reduced to ‘nil’ strength, and he commanded the final *Trooping of the Colours* by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Black Watch in Gaagetown on 6 June 1970.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DANIEL F. O’CONNOR, CD grew up among the Regular Force Black Watch Regiments, where his father served as a Warrant Officer. When the time came for Dan to join the Army, The Black Watch had been removed from the Regular Force order of battle and Dan chose the Airborne Regiment. He transferred to the Militia, where he went on to command The Black Watch in Montreal. Dan continues to serve the Regiment as a very active member of its Regimental Advisory Board and The Black Watch Foundation.

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CONTACT INFORMATION For review copies, media interviews, or publication excerpts please contact Susan Baker at sbaker@gooselane.com or call (888) 926.8377. High-res book cover files are available at www.gooselane.com.

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