

The 4th Battalion Pipe Band

- adapted from recollections of Piper J. Stout 1st Btn C Scot R



The 4th Battalion Pipe Band was formed in the fall of 1945, while on occupational duty in NW Germany.

There were 2 pipers, including Jim Stout, from the 1st Battalion C Scot R and another from the Canadian Highland Light Infantry. There was also a side drummer and a bass/tenor drummer.

Lt. Col. Larry Henderson wished to have a complete band to come home with. In order to do this the 5 instructors requested, and got assurance that they and their students be relieved of all other duties, to allow them to devote all of their time to teaching the pipes and drums. Lt. Col. Henderson agreed and even allowed them to put an “Out of Bounds” sign on the barracks door. Even the daily Orderly Officer left them alone. Their quarters looked like a pig sty. They didn’t even make up their bunks! They obtained Henderson practice chanters, Logan’s tutors and drum sticks from ordnance and later Stark pipes and rope tension drums. By the time they were set to go home (8 or 9 months later) there were 12 pipers, 5 side drummers, 2 tenors and a bass. They didn’t sound the best but to “uneducated ears” they passed.

There was an Officer’s Mess party about every second night and 1 other piper with Jim Stout would be summoned to play until the wee hours. They didn’t get much sleep but there were plenty of Piper’s Toasts.

They expected to go to Victoria upon arrival home but got as far as Vancouver where they went their separate ways. They never played as a band on Canadian soil but maybe this just as well as they were never issued kilts and maybe some “educated pipers” may have heard them and spoiled their act.

So ended the hard work and good times in the “Fighting 4th Battalion”.

The 4th Btn was disbanded in June of 1946.