

Marshal Frock, the Allies Commander-in-Chief, said after the Armistice of 1919,

“I think the finest act of the war was the counter-attack of the 10th and the 16th battalions of the Canadians after the divisions had been so frightfully punished by the German gas. This counter-attack so amazed the enemy who counted on gas demoralizing or killing the Canadians that they slowed down their advance to the coast and Calais was saved.”



The Brooding Soldier monument at St. Julien, Belgium, commemorates the first devastating gas attacks of the Great War, and the courage with which Canadian soldiers withstood it.



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Earn the Right to
Wear the Glengarry

Part One

The Battle of St. Julien
- Kitcheners' Wood



AIRAGHARDT
(Onward)

Summary

The town of St. Julien was located east of Ypres (pronounced EE-pray), in the south-western part of Belgium known as Flanders.

On April 22, 1915, west of the St. Julien area, the Germans forces released chlorine gas over the troops of two French divisions causing a disastrous defeat and leaving a gap in the front line.

The Tenth Battalion was called forward on the night of 22-23 April to counter-attack the strong German formation advancing through the large gap.

The Tenth Battalion formed in front of the Sixteenth Battalion and both units mounted a hasty assault on an oak plantation known as Bois-de-Cuisinères, or Kitcheners' Wood, so named because the French had located their field kitchens there.

The assault cost the life of the Tenth's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Boyle, and only 193 men survived out of the 816 who crossed the start line on 22 April. Only 100 returned home with the unit.

The German advance was stopped. This action moved the overall commander of the French Army to describe the attack as the single bravest act of the entire war.

Key Points to Remember

- The Battle of St Julien took place during World War One on the 22 of April 1915.

- It was important for the Tenth Battalion to retake the wood so that the allied forces would not lose any ground to the German army.

- The Tenth and Sixteenth Battalion were ordered to retake the oak plantation at Kitcheners' Wood to fill in the gap in the front line.

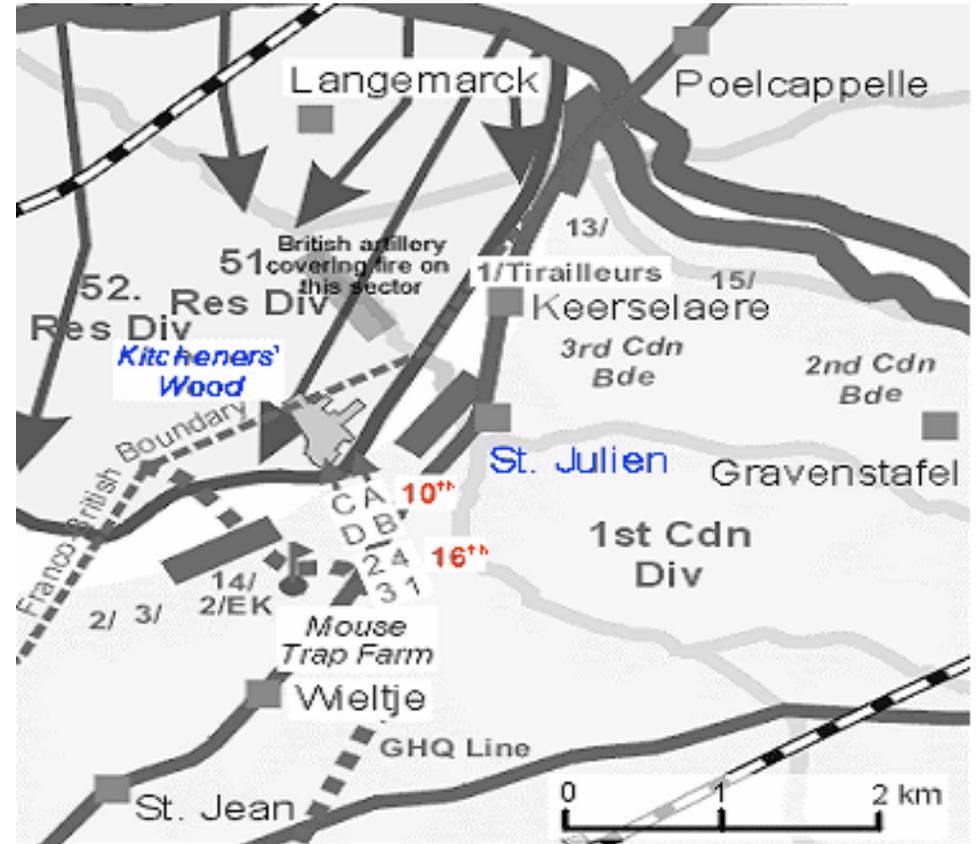
- In the oak plantation, the leading wave of the Tenth ran into a strong hedge interlaced with wire and were forced to break through the obstacle with rifle butts.

- The German forces released five thousand canisters of chlorine gas over the Canadians.

- This was the first time Canadian troops were confronted with gas.

- Following the gas cloud were two divisions of the German Kaiser's crack troops

- The Canadian Division was startled and



dazed but held their positions.

- The Allied Forces held this little piece of ground secure and only lost it for a short time on April 22, 1915 after which they retook it.

- The Battle of St Julien – Kitcheners' Wood was one campaign in the Second Battle of Ypres.

- There were 60,000 Canadian and British casualties and 10,000 French casualties in all.

- The Germans had 35,000 casualties.

Badges

The distinctive shoulder badges with the acorn and oak leaf worn by the Calgary Highlanders are symbolic of the heavy oak trees of Kitcheners' Wood, which were a significant obstacle to infantrymen in 1915.

They are a dress distinction awarded in 1938 for the part the 10th and 16th Battalions played at Kitcheners' Wood.



These are the badges belonging to the late Chief Warrant Officer Martin James McCumber, MMM, CD who passed away on May 16, 2003.

You should study the different badges of the Calgary Highlanders, as well as the Argyll and Sutherland Highlander badge found in this brochure.



Sergeant George Marcellus

As a Lance Corporal in August 1918, Marcellus was awarded the Military Medal. Marcellus proudly wears the red shoulder title of the First Division surmounted by the red square denoting the Tenth Battalion, as well as the distinctive “C-over-10” collar badges and brass Tenth Battalion cap badge.

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Part Two

**History and Traditions of the
Calgary Highlanders**



**AIRAGHARDT
(Onward)**

The 103rd Calgary Rifles

The Calgary Highlanders (CH) were known as The 103rd Calgary Rifles prior to World War One (WW1).



The 103rd Calgary Rifles

During WW1, the 103rd was called upon to provide five companies to the 10th Battalion. (An additional three companies were provided by the 106th Regiment of the Winnipeg Light Infantry.)



103rd Calgary Rifles cap badge

The regiment continued to exist as a home service battalion unit

recruiting and training in a part-time capacity.

They provided soldiers to Canada's full-time army, the Canadian Expeditionary Force, throughout the Great War.

The Tenth Battalion participated in every major Canadian battle of the Great War, from the first gas attacks at the Second Battle of Ypres (pronounced EE-pray) in 1915, through the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele and



10th Battalion CER cap badge

In 1924, the Calgary Regiment was re-designated and split into two units. The first battalion became the Calgary Highlanders. The second battalion remained Calgary Regiment, a tank unit, which was later called the King's Own Calgary Regiment.

Since the main formation of the 10th Battalion had come from both the 103rd Calgary Rifles and the 106th Winnipeg Light Infantry (WLI), both adopted certain common distinctions and both were awarded the Battle Honours of the 10th Battalion. The WLI were absorbed into the Royal Winnipeg Rifles in 1955, and the WLI badge fell out of use. Only the Canadian Scottish and the Calgary Highlanders can wear these honours today.

The Argylls



Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders cap badge

eventually the last 100 Days and the final victory.

In 1921, the 103rd Calgary Rifles were disbanded and re-designated the Calgary Regiment

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The Calgary Highlanders were a new regiment and lacked important traditions. So they allied themselves with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who were referred to as the Argylls, for short.

It was from the

Argylls that the Calgary Highlanders adopted the use of the Black Watch tartan and the Glengarry in 1932.

The Argylls are best known for the Battle of Balaklava where they beat back the oncoming cavalry. They had so few soldiers that they formed two ranks rather than three, earning the title "The Thin Red Line."

The Glengarry

The Glengarry is a headdress with a Gaelic (Scottish) history behind it. Glen means "a deep valley", and in this case it refers to the Great Glen, which bisects Scotland. Garry is the name of a river in Scotland.

The tails at the back of the Glen headdress represent the meeting of the River Garry and the Great Glen.

The torrie at the top of the headdress represents the place where the battle took place in the middle.

On the side of the Glengarry you can see the red and white checkers that symbolize the Sutherland pattern, which is worn by the Calgary Highlanders, the Argylls and the house of Stuart. Most other units adopted the British Army pattern.