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The Hamilton Spectator

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# The Hamilton Spectator

#### DAY'S TEMPERATURES

Highest temperature in Hamilton for 24 hours—87° F  
Lowest for 24 hours—70° F

VOL. XCVL

HAMILTON CANADA FRIDAY AUGUST 21 1942

NUMBER 195



MA



THOMAS J. BROWN, 116  
Killed in Action



A. V. I.  
Killed in Action



# HEAVY TOLL OF R.H.L.I. AT DIEPPE

## Nine Officers, Eight Men Already Listed as Dead

### Ancaster Family Informed Sons Casualties at Dieppe

Lieut. Ian H. V. Wright  
Reported Killed—Lieut.  
Gerald Wright Missing

A stunning blow to a family which for years has been identified with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, was that received by cablegram at the home of Capt. E. Vaughan Wright, R.C.A.P.C. and Mrs. Wright, Carrickville, Ancaster. One son, Lieut. Ian Hamilton Vaughan Wright, an original member of the R.H.L.I. overseas force was reported to have been killed in action at Dieppe. Lieut. Gerald Wright, another son was reported missing and was presumed to have lost his life.

#### Father Is Serving

Word of the loss of these brave officers was conveyed to the Spectator this morning by their father. A former member of the R.H.L.I. himself and a veteran of the last Great War, Capt. E. Vaughan Wright is now attached to the R.H.L.I. at a pay centre at Camp Borden.

In addition to his two sons, Capt. Wright's popular son-in-law went overseas with the R.H.L.I. The son-in-law is Lieut. H. A. H. Welch, prominent football star, who arrived overseas recently with reinforcements for the unit.

A third of Captain Wright's sons is serving overseas also. He is Lieut. Gordon Wright, R.C.O.C. the youngest of the sons. It is not known whether he took part in the action at Dieppe.

All of Captain Wright's sons were educated at Highfield school. Lieut. Ian Wright was employed as a sales man at the Wentworth Motors at the time of his enlistment.

The Wright brothers are nephews of H. H. Leather, 341 James street south.

### Capt. R. C. W. Bowery Among Those Killed In Action at Dieppe

Former Brantford Man Was  
In Command of Company in  
R.H.L.I.—Had Trained  
as Commando

Capt. Richard Charles Bowery reported killed in action at Dieppe lived at 164 Dundas street, Brantford, and was for two years an officer with the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles battalion before the war. Before the war he was known to a large circle as Bud. He was transferred to the R.H.L.I. with several officers and 100 men shortly after the outbreak of war and went overseas with the rank of lieutenant. He was promoted to captain and two months ago was appointed to the command of a company in the R.H.L.I. He

(Continued on page 11, column 5)

### Brig. Southam Accorded Praise

From The Spectator's London News Bureau by A. C. Cunningham. Copyright 1942 by Southam Co. London, Eng. Aug. 21.—Brigadier William Wallace Southam of the Canadian forces is among those specially praised to day in United Kingdom news papers for his participation in Dieppe operations. His name is bracketed with Major-Gen. Roberts and Brigadier Sherwood Lettis as specially prominent Canadian figures. Brigadier Southam's connection with Canadian newspaper work is emphasized in the Yorkshire Post.

### Painfully Wounded, Major Wilkinson Still Went Ashore

Suffering intense pain from a severe wound in the arm, Major F. S. Wilkinson, second in command of the R.H.L.I. at Dieppe, insisted upon going ashore with his men where he remained for over five hours. This was revealed in a Canadian Press dispatch from a military hospital overseas this afternoon. After sheltering on the beach behind the frail protection of a Bren gun carrier he was carried back to a boat by four German prisoners whom a junior officer captured.

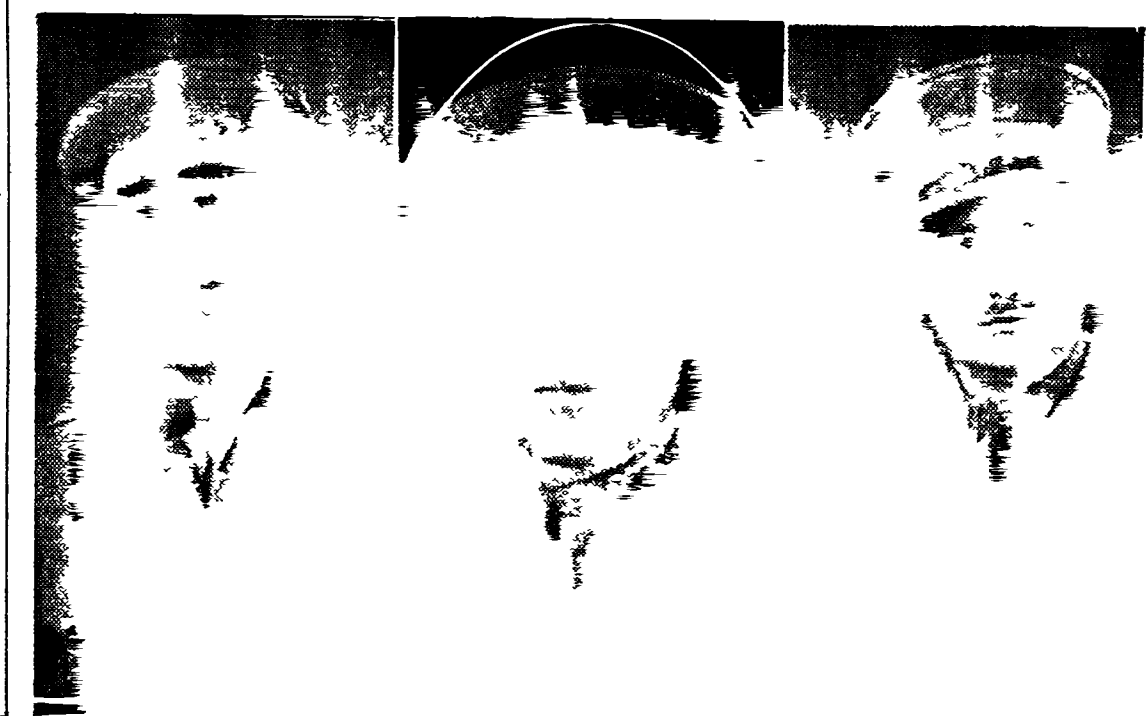
Pte. George McChesney of this city suffered a fractured arm in the assault according to the C.P. story. Pte. Charles Boomer of Brantford also serving in the R.H.L.I. was wounded in the leg. He said he knew some of them would not come back when he was leaving the coast of France.

### Lieut. L. C. Bell, Toronto, Killed

Toronto, Aug. 21.—(CP)—Lieut. L. Clarke Bell, 31, well known Toronto athlete, was reported killed in action. He is believed to have been killed in the Dieppe commando raid. Lieut. Bell was with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry which participated largely in the raid. Born in Alton, Ont., son of the late William Arthur Bell, barrister of Alton and Barrie, Ont. Lieut. Bell enlisted with the R.H.L.I. in July 1940. He was educated at Ridley College, St. Catharines, Ont. and was a well-known cricketer, playing on the Hon. R. C. Matthews Canadian cricket team which toured England in 1936.

### Sent to Reformatory

St. Thomas, Ont., Aug. 21.—(CP)—Mrs. Vera Konkle, 27, and Mrs. Francis Knabb, 23, Hamilton, sisters, who pleaded guilty a week ago to the theft of \$500 from a Kent county trucker in a hotel room here were sentenced to day to two years in the Ontario reformatory. Most of the stolen money was restored. George Carr, night clerk at the hotel, charged with being implicated in the theft, was sentenced to three months in the reformatory.



IN (Inf.) office. Poag is adjutant in the R.H.L.I. who was wounded in the engagement.

### Commander of Battalion Is Missing After Leading Famous Unit Into Battle

Lieut-Col. R. R. Labatt, Distinguished Soldier—  
Major F. S. Wilkinson, Second-in-Command,  
Wounded, and Capt. Herbert V. Poag,  
Adjutant, Is Missing

A distinguished soldier son of a distinguished soldier, the officer commanding the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, Lieut-Col. R. R. Labatt, along with two other officers of his headquarters staff has been reported among the casualties of the Canadians who drove into France in the commando raid on Dieppe. Lieut-Col. Labatt is reported missing and believed prisoner of war, while Major F. S. Wilkinson is reported wounded, according to advices reaching Hamilton to-day. Captain Poag was the unit's adjutant and Major Wilkinson the second in command.

### Brilliant Leader

A brilliant and courageous military officer, Lieut-Col. R. R. Labatt, who at the age of 39 had been for two years the officer commanding the local unit which carried Canadians to bloody paths of glory on the French coast, had a phenomenal career when he entered Royal Military College at Kingston. He won a lieutenant's commission in the R.H.L.I. on leaving the military college.

For four years from 1932 to 1936 he was captain and adjutant of the R.H.L.I. then passed a military staff course which qualified him for the rank of major in 1936.

Another step of interest to Hamiltonians came when Lieutenant-Colonel Labatt represented his regiment at the coronation in London in 1937 and he commanded the first Canadian detachment ever to stand guard at Buckingham palace. At that time holding the rank of captain, Lieut-Col. Labatt was selected from all Canadian officers on the Continent as an officer of the guard which performed duty at the palace. It was the second time a member of the Labatt family had been represented at the coronation in a military capacity. Lieut-Col. R. H. Labatt, father of the youthful commander of the R.H.L.I. was present at the coronation of King George V in 1911. He father went to France in the first Great War in command of the fourth Battalion, which was recruited largely from the old 13th Royal Regiment which later became a part of the R.H.L.I.

### Receives Assuring Message

Major F. S. Wilkinson, second in command, has had many years service in the militia in peace time and was with the R.H.L.I. for some years before being mobilized with the unit at the outbreak of war. He went overseas with the unit in July 1940. His wife was informed by an official message that Major Wilkinson was wounded and a personal message was received to day revealing that he was all right in peace time. Major Wilkinson was (Continued on page 11, column 1)

### Ottawa Receives Casualty Lists

Notify Next of Kin Before  
Public Is Given Names

Ottawa, Aug. 21.—(BUP)—The list of Canadian casualties in the battle of Dieppe to day commenced to reach the records office of the department of national defence here.

The list was described by officials as fairly heavy.

The total of dead and wounded was not immediately available but it was indicated that every unit that had participated in the attack had had its share of the total. Authorities indicated also that at least part of the list might be available to the public later on in the day but such action depended on next of kin being notified first.

### Purse Is Stolen

Theft of a purse containing about \$72 was reported to police last night. Mrs. Annie Tonkovich of Lynden, told detectives that she left her purse on the fruit stand at the Central market while serving a customer and when she went to get change the purse was missing. Detectives are investigating.



PTF W. K. L. A. H.

### Others of Gallant Fighting Unit Missing After Action or Wounded; Casualty List Is Not Complete

### Next-of-Kin Told Of Casualties in R.H.L.I. Battalion

War's cruel toll struck home to Hamiltonians and district residents to day as citizens learned the price their gallant sons had paid in the commando raid upon Dieppe. First major engagement in which Canadian troops have figured since the outbreak of war. Early messages from the officer in charge of records overseas told of the loss of many outstanding young men of the R.H.L.I. flower of the country's manhood.

The casualty list of 27 names as compiled from information received by the Spectator from next of kin listed 17 officers and men killed in action, two missing presumed killed, two missing one severely wounded and four wounded. The majority of the men whose names were listed were officers of the unit.

Just over two years ago these gallant leaders marched through crowded downtown streets to proceed overseas—many of them never to return. Sacrificing all the future held in store that the freedom they loved so well might live they have laid down their lives for their King and country.

### KILLED IN ACTION

Major Norris A. Waldron, 174 George street.  
Capt. George E. Malobett, 256 Fairleigh avenue south.  
Capt. Thomas James Brown, 215 Jackson street west.  
Capt. R. C. W. Bowery R.H.L.I., Brantford.  
Lieut. Ian H. V. Wright, Carrickville, Ancaster.  
Lieut. Eleanora C. Counsell, Ancaster.  
Lieut. Reginald S. Basley, Winona.  
Lieut. L. Clarke Bell, Toronto.  
Lieut. Edward J. Norris, Naughton, Ont.  
Sgt. William J. Bennett, 187 Catharine street north.  
Cpl. Murray Henderson, Brantford.  
Lt.-Col. Samuel Harris, 49 West avenue north.  
Pte. William Alexis Grant, 154 Hatt street, Dundas.  
Pte. Melvin Ball, Tolton road, Normanhurst.  
Pte. George Cruickshank, Ayr, Ontario.  
Pte. William L. Turner, Ayr, Ontario.  
Pte. Robert Megson, Oakville.

### MISSING, PRESUMED KILLED

Lieut. Col. R. R. Labatt, 55 Undermount avenue.  
Capt. Herbert V. Poag, 5 Beulah avenue.  
Major R. E. McLaren, 31 Wycliffe avenue.

### SEVERELY WOUNDED

Lieut. John Gartshore, Ancaster.

### WOUNDED

Lieut. George Tinsley, 10 Mountain avenue.  
Cpl. John James Montgomery, Bensenville.  
Major Fred Wilkinson, 29 Spruceville avenue.  
Company Sgt.-Major Lloyd A. Harris, 44 Locke street south.

### INJURED IN ACTION

Pte. George McChesney, Hamilton.

### "Old Thirteenth" Tradition Gloriously Upheld in Furious Fighting This Week on the Beaches of France

### Hamilton Mourns for Fighting Men Who Formed Spearhead of Attack Which Won Glory for Their Country

Proudly, sorrowfully, the citizens of Hamilton reviewed to-day the gallant action of officers and men of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry on the beaches and in the streets of far-off Dieppe. Hamilton's oldest fighting unit, upholding the traditions of the glorious 13th, attacked at the spearhead of British forces which raided France on Tuesday. Forward in the face of withering enemy fire, up and over the jagged crags and into the town, they poured in gallant procession. The headquarters company was almost annihilated. Among the missing are Lieut-Col. Robert R. Labatt, officer commanding, and Capt. Herbert Poag, the adjutant. It is believed Lieut-Col. Labatt is prisoner of war. Major F. S. Wilkinson, second in command, is reported wounded. Nine officers and eight men already are reported to have lost their lives. Two officers are "missing and presumed dead," another two are reported "missing." One is reported "severely wounded," and two officers and two men are reported "wounded." These are the casualties known for certain at noon to-day and the list is by no means complete.

This was part of the price of an action which thrilled the allied world and took a heavy toll of German troops of the occupation army. Grief struck twice at the home of Capt. E. Vaughan Wright, Carrickville, Ancaster. One of his sons, Lieut. Ian H. V. Wright, was reported killed. Another son, Lieut. Gerald Wright, is missing, presumed killed.

These are the sounds of reckoning to come. And across the channel other Canadians lie in wait. The old familiar Semper Paratus (always ready)—motto of Hamilton's famous regiment—expresses the vigilance and determination of the whole Canadian Corps.

### Carried Main Attack

The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry regiment, with the Essex Scottish of Windsor and the Calgary Tank regiment, carried the main attack of the Dieppe raid yesterday right into the town itself and battled the Germans in the streets to capture the main portions of the town. That was the first brief bulletin received in Hamilton which swelled the hearts of a thousand parents with just and excusable pride. Right at the spearhead of British, Canadian and American forces fought and died some of Hamilton's finest soldiers.

They were not from any one district. The oldest names in Hamilton military history were represented among the casualties. And there were names from other parts of the city—from the north, the east and the west.

Throughout the morning Spectator telephones rang incessantly. Parents reported the loss of sons. Neighbours inquired about rumours they had heard.

### Fought in Dieppe Streets

Surely in Dieppe on Tuesday the proudest traditions of the glorious 13th were upheld by Hamilton soldiers. Officers of the regiment advanced up the beaches before their men and fought in the streets with the enemy.

The appalling toll of officer dead is some indication of the way they led their units forward in the face of withering enemy fire up and over the jagged crags and into the streets of the little French town they poured in gallant procession.

At the west end of the promenade at Dieppe is a casino taken over by the Nazis. The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry attacked and occupied it.

They pressed on into the town and went through some of the heaviest fighting of the raid. Street fighting which had been a fundamental part of their training served (Continued on page 11, column 5)



M. L. P. O.