

ANGLICAN ORDINARIATE FOR THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES ADVENT 2015

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BISHOP ORDINARY TO THE FORCES

THE RIGHT REV'D PETER COFFIN STB, MA, DD

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CANON RESERVIST

LCdr the Rev'd J. Gosse
CANON SECRETARY

LCol the Rev'd M.L. Staples
CANON RECRUITER

LCol the Rev'd T. Meaker, CD
CANON TREASURER

Maj the Rev'd D. Friesen, CD,

LCdr the Rev'd E. Swayze, CD

Maj the Rev'd S. Samson, CD

This bulletin is an informal document for the members of Clericus, intended as a means of communication and as an expression of our fellowship. It is issued under the authority of the Anglican Bishop Ordinary. To submit an article, please email Capt the Rev'd Dr. Michael Peterson at michael.peterson@forces.gc.ca.

A Word From Our Archdeacon

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. (Isaiah 61:1)

[A]nd she laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7b)



Col. the Ven. Nigel Shaw
Ordinariate Archdeacon

Amongst the many traditions of the Advent and Christmas seasons the Nativity Pageant, in its various different forms, remains one of my abiding favourites. I have fond memories of participating in pageants as a young person, of watching my own children do the same, and seeing the Christmas story presented afresh year by year. This season, the scene which will have a special immediacy and relevance for me will be that of Mary and Joseph seeking for, and finally finding, refuge. Scripture does not provide details but it is easy to imagine their fear and despair as they searched in vain for a place to stay, as well as their immense relief when someone offered them sanctuary. This image of the holy family should resonant strongly with us as we consider the urgent needs of the Syrian refugees.

The leadership of our government in responding to this crisis is a global example, both in its scope and timeliness. Other nations are studying our methods of rapidly selecting and screening refugees as a model to be emulated. There is a stark contrast between the scale of commitment by Canada (25,000 refugees taken in) and that of the USA (10,000), especially when one considers the relative size of the host populations, and the willingness of the provincial governments to accept refugees as opposed to

the refusal of many US state capitols to take them in. This positive picture is reinforced working within the CAF, with our focus on Operation Provision and our readiness to help in whatever ways are needed. Unfortunately, the reality is that the welcome across Canada is far from uniform. Whether the causes are general anxieties about immigration, or fears of violence in Canada that are exacerbated by the recent attacks in Paris and California, there are disturbing signs of intolerance and rejection in many places.

The vandalizing of mosques in a number of locations has been in the national news but there have been many other examples of intolerance and bigotry that have passed unreported. In the sermon I heard on the First Sunday of Advent, I was made aware of some local incidents in the Ottawa region. Briefly, these stories were of people refusing to work with someone who was Muslim, of refusing service to Muslims, and, especially jarring at this time of year, refusing to rent accommodations to a family of Syrian refugees. What I find troubling, beyond the events themselves, is that if these unreported incidents are occurring in Ottawa, then I imagine they are also occurring elsewhere in the country.

In the Advent season we focus on spiritual preparation for the coming of the Christ child in our lives. We pray for the “grace to put away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light”, that we might be inspired “to turn our disobedient hearts to you” and that God would “remove those things which hinder love of you”. I believe that the concrete response to these prayers would be a softening of our hearts so that we might respond generously and graciously to the needs of those seeking refuge, and courage so that we might rise above our fears and fully welcome the children of God soon coming to Canada. I also believe that as we do so our celebration of the Christmas season will be more meaningful and transformative.

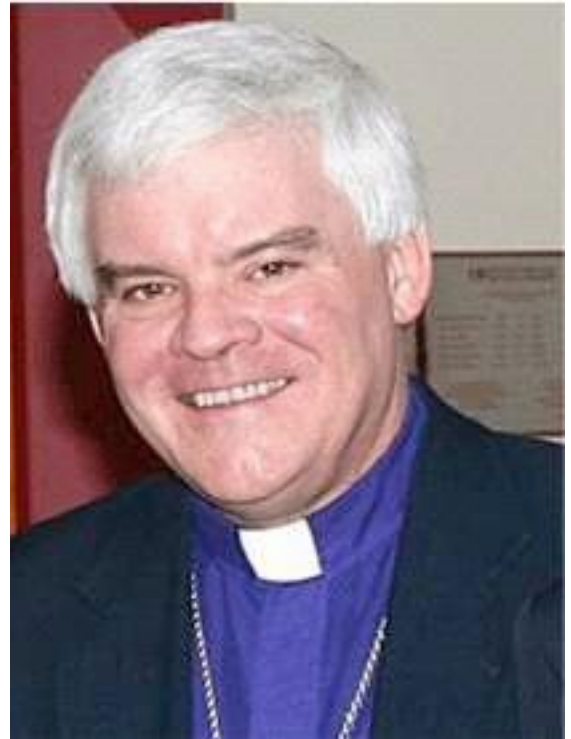
In closing may I wish to you, to those you love, and those with whom and for whom you serve, a blessed Advent, a holy Christmas, and a New Year filled with promise and peace.

A WORD FROM OUR BISHOP

Advent, 2015

“For God alone my soul in silence waits;
From him comes my salvation.”
(Psalm 62:1)

We are now well into the glorious season of Advent and as the days grow shorter I think of that old “Eventide” prayer of the Book of Common Prayer: “Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed and fever of life is over and our work is done. Then Lord, in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.”



While it could be a prayer at the end of life or at the end of the day, it is a prayer of trust to the One who entered the dark night of the human condition and became Emmanuel - God with us. And it is the expectancy of Advent and of the coming of Emmanuel that makes this a time of comfort and joy. So, “for God alone my soul in silence waits” once again for a new and always glorious encounter with God who once sought the shelter of a stable and now seeks a home within a heart open to receive Jesus who stands at the door and knocks (Revelation 3:20).

It can be a busy season for sure and that may be both enjoyable and trying. For some it can be a lonely time, and for some the “ghosts of Christmas past” can evoke a deep sadness. Some are far from home literally, or in some figurative exile of the soul. It is for this reason that I seek in Advent a time of stillness to wait upon Emmanuel - Jesus, who promised that we would never be left alone (John 14:18) or without the strength that only he can provide when he said “My grace is sufficient for you” (2 Corinthians 12:9). In this holy time of waiting there can be a profound and expectant hope of God’s presence when we are so often overcome or overwhelmed

by so much, or are just weary. “Come to me all that labour and are heavy laden”, said Jesus, “and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

One of the altar servers in a parish I once served remarked, quite correctly, that I only ever had one sermon for Christmas and that was that Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us. And so I will leave it at that with a couple of verses from Phillips Brooks’ beautiful carol, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, written for his parish of Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, in 1868 after his return from the Holy Land. It is one of my favourite Advent meditations on the divine gift and a prayer by those to whom it is offered.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in the world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend on us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

May you all have a blessed Advent and may your homes be blessed this Christmastide and New Year with our Lord’s abundant grace.

+Peter





A FIRST FOR THE ORDINARIATE AS WE ELECT OUR NEXT BISHOP ORDINARY

By the AMO Episcopal Search Committee and Archdeacon

Throughout our history in both the Anglican Church of Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces, we have been blessed with able and faithful leaders chosen for us by the wider Church. Now, for the first time in our history, we are able to elect our next Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces.

In 2013, General Synod adopted Canon XXII, allowing for the election of the next Bishop Ordinary. Bishop Peter Coffin will retire from his post in the coming months, and the election of his successor will take place on March 5th, 2016. The next Bishop Ordinary will continue this important task of shepherding Anglican padres, lay members serving in the CAF, and their families as they face personal challenges and serve Canada in an increasingly uncertain world.

To make this election possible, the first significant task to be accomplished was the drafting of the call letter, subsequently distributed by the Primate to the House of Bishops on 16 November and then distributed within the Ordinariate by Canon Gosse on 17 Nov. Concurrently the Nomination Form and Acceptance of Nomination Forms were developed with the guidance and assistance of our Chancellor, Ann Bourke, and by members of National Church House staff.

The AMO Search Committee is now seeking nominations to fill this important office. All candidates must be nominated by two lay members and two clergy members. Nominations for the position are now open, and will be accepted until the 20th of February, 2016. More information can be found on the ACC website (www.anglican.ca/amo/amo-episcopal-election/) or on the Anglican Military Ordinariate page on Facebook.

The Search Committee will continue to be very active in receiving nominations and in aiding candidates in the discernment process as we move into the New Year. This process will culminate in the preparation of materials for the Electoral College and ultimately with the election itself on 5 March.

The Archdeacon and members of the Search Committee encourage all members of the AMO, clerical and lay, to pray that God sends us a faithful bishop to take up the good work that +Peter will soon, deservedly, lay down.

AROUND THE ORDINARIATE

THE STATE OF THE AMO

By Archdeacon Shaw

As the year comes to a close I want to provide a brief update on the AMO and to thank you all for your generous support of its work, both in time and effort and also financially. It has been a very busy year with significant

contributions being made by many. The work of the Search Committee has already been described here, and I commend the efforts of its members: Christina Barrett, Jeannine Friesen, Justin McAuley, Kristin Mills, Gordon Mintz, Michael Peterson and Shaun Turner.

Recruiting efforts are starting to bear fruit but I would encourage everyone to remain active in seeking candidates for either the Regular or Reserve chaplaincy. Finally, I thank Padre Torchinsky for his ongoing work with COGs as they prepare for the upcoming General Synod.

ANN BOURKE APPOINTED AMO CHANCELLOR

By Bishop Peter

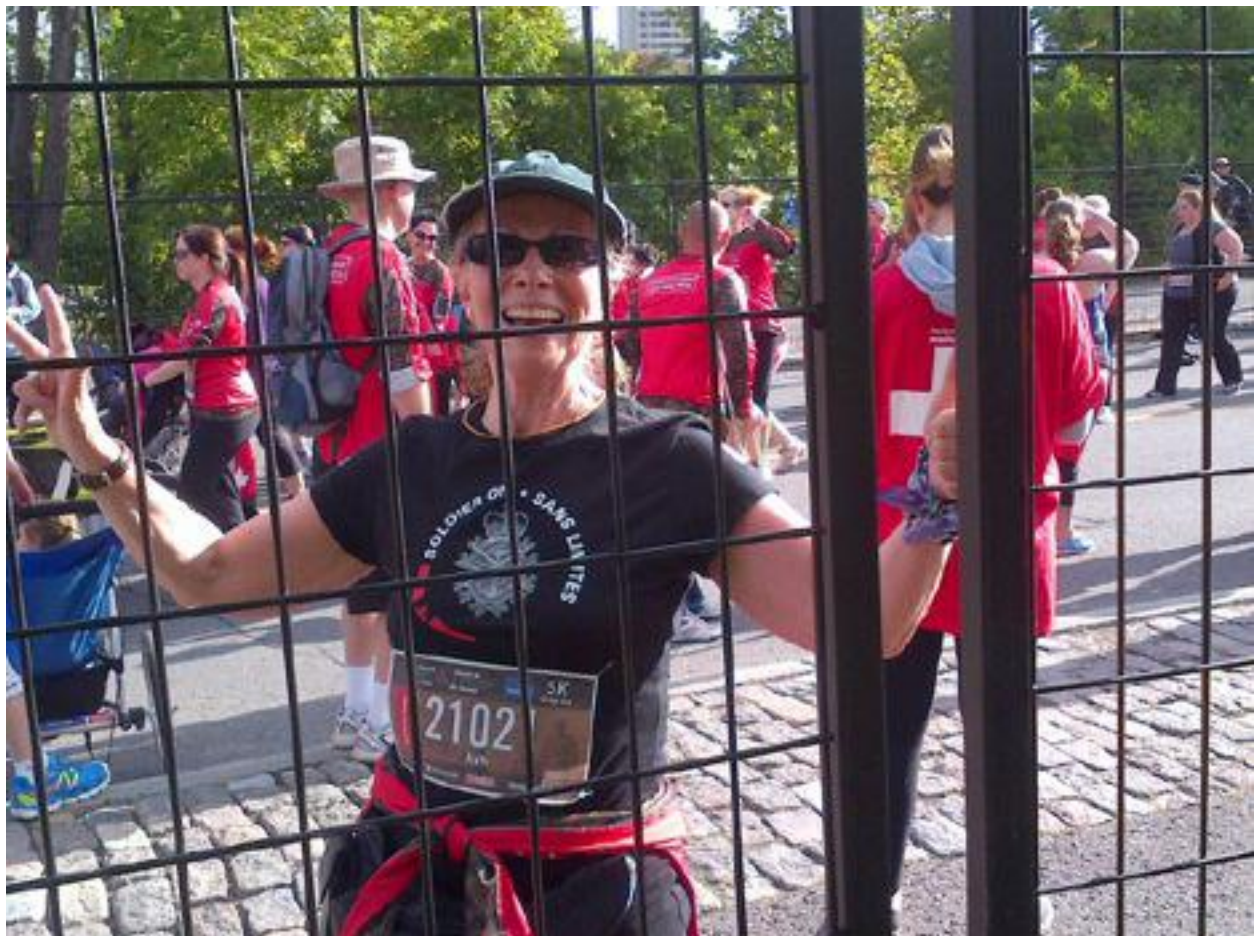
At the beginning of June, 2015, Ms. Ann Bourke was appointed as the first chancellor of the Anglican Military Ordinariate by the Bishop Ordinary, Peter Coffin.

Ann is a resident of Ottawa and a member of Christ Church Cathedral. A lawyer of the Bar of Ontario (Law Society of Upper Canada) since 1992 and a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School (1990), Ann served as Vice Chancellor for the Diocese of Ottawa from 2001-2005. She was also appointed Vice Chancellor of General Synod for the Anglican Church of Canada in 2010 and continues to hold that position. Having come from a military family (father in the Second World War, grandfather in the First), Ann is proud to be able to serve the AMO in the capacity of Chancellor. She gladly join with AMO chaplains in this year's Army Run. The purpose of a chancellor is to provide legal advice to the Ordinariate, to maintain our Canons (the rules by which we operate) and to provide sage counsel to the Bishop and Bishop's Council. In the forthcoming election of a new bishop she will be very much involved to see that the process runs smoothly and will have duties at the Consecration. We are grateful to her for having accepted this position with much enthusiasm.

PADRES RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE SET BEFORE THEM *By Padre Jeannine Friesen*

Thanks to a posting to the NCR this past summer, I was finally able to cross the Army Run off my running bucket list. This year's Army Run saw over 25,000 people running and walking in 5K and Half Marathon Events in Ottawa. The AMO was ably represented in the 5K by Michelle and Chuck Staples, Chancellor Ann Bourke, Lisa Pacarynuk, Liam and Debbie Thomas, Daniel Thomas, myself and my son Jacob, the AMO Youth Delegate to General Synod. Tackling the Half Marathon were Col. Bernard Rousseau (spouse of Lisa Pacarynuk), Doug Friesen, and Beata Friesen who was doing her first half marathon. Special mention goes to Daniel Thomas, who finished 20/399 in his age bracket with a chip time of 18:32.9.

It was a glorious day and a breathtaking route that took the runners past Parliament Hill and along the Rideau Canal. This year's Army Run raised approximately \$400,000 for the Soldier On and Military Families Fund



Chancellor Bourke looking energized at the Army Run

charities. I found it very moving to experience the *esprit de corps* of the runners and to participate along with ill, injured and disabled participants who ran (on prosthetics) or rolled the courses in various types of wheelchairs.

The motto for the Army Run is “No ordinary runners. No ordinary race”. I will certainly be there next year. Won’t you join me?



THE BISHOP'S BLESSING *By Padre Nigel Tully*

During the end of the hectic training season, as we witnessed a joint exercise between light cavalry regiments of both the British and Canadian armies, CFB Suffield received a special visit from Bishop Coffin. This visit had many on the Base and within the village of Ralston

buzzing with excitement as our ICCMC representative toured the unit lines amidst the roar of tanks and helicopters.

Bishop Peter was able to bless the unique team ministry of UK and Canadian chaplaincy at Suffield as he presided over our All Saints service and blessed our new cenotaph. “It’s absolutely smashing having the Bishop here” commented one UK family who came to see the ceremony to honour those who had given all. British Army Padre Heather Rendell, originally from Belfast and now based in Germany, felt that “it was really nice to have the Bishop with us as we crack on with our exercising troops”. Others agreed that the Bishop’s visit from distant Ottawa was a true indication of the importance of the interoperable chaplaincy work done at this lonely prairie base amidst Commonwealth soldiers.

AT THE DEAN’S DINNER

By Padre Jeannine Friesen

Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, hosted The Dean’s Dinner on the evening of 1 October. As this is also the Ordinariate’s Cathedral, a group of our members get together to go and support this event which raises funds for the various ministries of the parish.

Our group had a delightful evening of dining and conversation punctuated by music from the gifted vocal and instrumental musicians of the Cathedral.

Our Ordinariate is represented at the Cathedral on an on-going basis through the ministry of LCol the Rev’d Canon Michelle Staples who is an Honourary Assistant. Padre Staples celebrates and preaches regularly for the Cathedral community.

The Dean’s Dinner was a wonderful opportunity for some of the Ordinariate’s members to don their Mess Kits, support our Cathedral and



Left to right: Gordon Mintz, Deborah Coffin, +Peter Coffin, Michelle Staples, Doug Friesen, Margaret Mintz, Charles Staples and Jeannine Friesen.

mingle with members of the parish. All Ordinariate members are encouraged to attend so please consider this event next year.

INSIDE THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

By Christina Barrett and Kristin Mills

This article comes to you from Christina Barrett and Kristin Mills, two faithful Anglicans and military spouses. We have very different lives, but currently, we share a duty—to assist in electing a new Bishop Ordinary for our military Anglican community.

Greetings. I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Christina Barrett. I am a retired Air Force Engine/Airframe techie from the Cold War era. I am also a licensed Anglican Lay Reader, with 21 years of both civilian Parish and military Chapel experience.

I am presently a part of a small group of Chaplains/Laity designated as the Search Committee for the Nomination of Candidates for the Anglican

Military Ordinariate's next Bishop Ordinary. That's a mouthful. Its also a huge honour and privilege. Up until now, the AMO Bishop Ordinary had been appointed by the Anglican Primate. This is our very first election of an AMO Bishop Ordinary.

In my experiences as a Lay Reader/Lay Leader, I have been blessed to witness first-hand, the work of the AMO Bishop. I can attest to the demands of this ministry's scope, and the personal commitment of this individual. Seeing both leadership and humility, in the same person, was inspiring. I actually once asked myself, "If I was somehow able to have a say in how our Bishop was selected, what would I say?" I never would have dreamed that I'd be nominated for, let alone voted onto, a Selection Committee to seek a new Bishop.

I will say, straight up, that it was a bit intimidating at first. Receiving a congratulatory email from Padre Gord Mintz, saying that Kristin Mills and I were voted onto the Committee. WOW. Then, reality hit me, and I thought, "I'm really going to be one of the people who helps vet candidates to run for the AMO Bishop." This is a big responsibility. And then I did what I always do when I need guidance, presence of mind, and know that I cannot do a task alone. I prayed.

I am truly thankful for Kristin Mills and Padre Jeannine Friesen. We three were tasked with composing questions for potential candidates. There was much thought, discussion, aided by retired Ordinariate members and bishops. We three ladies were most diligent in ensuring that the questions covered a wide but defined scope. According to our fearless leader, Padre Gord, we have a Bingo!!

There are others on the Selection Committee, who had equally challenging tasks. Shaun Turner, Michael Peterson and Justin McAuley excelled in their work on the Call Letter, CANFORGEN, the Nomination Form, and the Acceptance Form. We have some very skilled people. It's a treat to work with such a group. And everybody has a sense of humour. In some lighter moments during our conference calls, people read the sometimes pompous language of our documents in Shakespearean tones, which made it all funny.

The Lord knew what He was doing when He placed Padre Gord Mintz in the leadership role. Organized, cordial, and not afraid to challenge someone to push a little further. Padre Gord is a “get it done” kind of person. I admire that.

My guess is that the easier work is done. Once the Call Letter is released to invite nominations, then the vetting ensues and we produce a “short list”. This full process will affect someone’s life—somebody will become the new AMO Bishop Ordinary. We pray the Lord will guide us in His purpose.

AMO TREASURER’S REPORT

Padre Todd Meaker, Canon Treasurer

I would like to begin by thanking each of you for your ongoing support of our mission through your faithfulness, prayers and monetary donations. As well, I would like to provide you with a financial update. Your support this year has been exceptional and has resulted in a return to a surplus budget from a significant deficit position. Thank you.

Your generosity not only allows us to move forward with confidence but has also enabled the AMO to make contributions to the needs of others. In particular this year we have continued to provide support to the Diocese of Jerusalem, had made a contribution to the PWRDF to aid its work in support of Syrian refugees, and have also provided bursary support to theological students.

I have included again for reference three (3) ways to make a donation to the AMO.

- a) www.canadahelps.org Type: Anglican Military Ordinariate into charity search then select it for easy donation (<https://www.canadahelps.org/anglican-military-ordinariate/>)
- b) GCWCC - the Anglican Ordinariate number is 868473315RR0001; or
- c) cheque mailed to Canon Treasurer: 37 Darlington Drive, Middle Sackville, NS B4E 0H4 Attn. Canon Meaker.



First Christmas In The Trenches: Remembering Anglican Chaplaincy in the Great War

By Padre Michael Peterson

To make the centennial of the First World War, the AMO Newsletter continues a series of vignettes of Canada's Anglican chaplains and their ministry throughout that conflict. Each instalment in the series will recall a time one hundred years prior to the date of each Newsletter.

During the second half of 1915, Canada's Army and its Chaplaincy had both matured. The Canadian Corps, now with two divisions in the line, had suffered its baptism of fire in the spring at Second Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy. By the winter the Corps' strength had reached ninety-five thousand, and it held a line in Belgium south of Ypres and north of Messines, between the villages of St. Eloi and Wulverghem. While the positions were static, the British high command expected all units to carry out trench raids under cover of darkness in order to improve combat skills, gather prisoners and intelligence, and to maintain the troops' fighting spirit.

These orders were more easily given than executed. The historian of the Second Battalion (Eastern Ontario Regiment), described the Flanders rains that winter as "like no other that had ever fallen on earth".

There was no escape from it. The trenches, which were nothing more than sandbagged breastworks, simply dissolved. The earth within the

sandbags liquefied and oozed out. Everything collapsed. Every indentation of the ground filled with water, and, to make things worse, the enemy, being on higher ground, delighted in draining his trenches across No Man's Land into those occupied by the Canadians.

Those in damp billets and flooded dugouts fared little better, and as there was not sufficient waterproof clothing, particularly rubber waders, troops suffered from influenza and a new ailment known as “trench foot”.

While the Canadian Chaplain Service had been formally established in August 1915, it suffered from the divisive leadership of its first Director, Col. Richard Steacy. His partiality towards Anglicans and Orange Lodge factionalism meant that many Catholic and other Protestant chaplains were kept out of the line, and as Corps numbers increased, so did the number of padre vacancies.



Canadian soldiers endure the winter of 1915.

Chaplains in the rear areas found opportunities to enhance morale. Some set up sports events and libraries, while others worked with the Red Cross and church groups in Canada to distribute comforts to the troops. Arthur McGreer, an Anglican priest (Trinity College 1910) assigned to Third Field Ambulance, was tasked with setting up a concert troupe which became wildly popular. By the end of the war there were some thirty such concert troupes entertaining Canadian soldiers in Europe, the most famous being the Dumbbells.

Through the second half of 1915, padres had earned greater freedoms to pursue their frontline ministries. Canon Scott wrote that “Chaplains were being looked upon more as parish priests to their battalions. They could be visited freely by the men, and could also have meals with the men when

they saw fit". During the sodden winter of 1915-1916, some found that maintaining morale could be difficult. Even the diligent Canon Scott discovered this challenge when he met a unit, "wet and muddy", coming out of the line.

I stood by the bridge watching them pass and, thinking it was the right and conventional thing to do, wished them all a Merry Christmas. My intentions were of the best, but I was afterwards told that it sounded to the men like the voice of one mocking them in their misery.

Christmas 1915 was a varied experience for Canadian troops. If they were in the front line, it might pass with scant celebration. The 10th BN (Calgary Rifles) spent Christmas in the trenches, supporting the engineers with working parties day and night. The 10th's war diary states tersely: "No notice of Christmas Season other than issue of plum puddings and gifts of cigars and fruit at midday meal". However the men of the 7th BN (British Columbia Regiment) found time to publish a Christmas edition of their regimental newspaper, "The Listening Post", with an image of a stern Father Christmas and wishes "To one and all of our Fellow Countrymen at home in Canada, and to our many friends and relatives where 'ere they be ... a right MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR".

Pte. Alan Manderson with the 49th BN (Edmonton Regiment) wrote to his mother to describe a fine Christmas dinner of chicken, plum pudding and beer served by the sergeants.

We got a Christmas sock from the people of Canada for the Canadians in France. Mine came from a lady in the east end of Toronto. I may write and thank her for it. At seven we had supper - just custard and figs. Then followed the concert — a pantomime, "The Babes in the Wood". It was great. The actors were all soldiers in camp here, but I've seen worse shows in Toronto lots of times.

For those troops in the front lines, however, war and danger were ever present. Canon Scott was summoned on Christmas Eve by a sergeant "who told me he had some men to be buried". After prayers over their graves with the burial party, he set up in a barn "which for some reason or other, although it was in sight of the enemy, had not been demolished and

was used as a billet” and celebrated a midnight Eucharist with the men of the 16th BN (Canadian Scottish). This candlelit barn, with empty biscuit tins as an altar, was a far cry from Scott’s previous Christmas, celebrated in the lovely English parish of St. Mary and Melor, Amesbury.

The Highlanders assembled in two rows and I handed out hymn books. There were many candles in the building so the men were able to read. It was wonderful to hear in such a place and on such an occasion, the beautiful old hymns, “While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night,” “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” and “O Come All Ye Faithful.” The men sang them lustily and many and varied were the memories of past Christmases that welled up in their thoughts at that time.



Commonwealth Cemetery of St. Quentin Cabaret, near Wulverghem, Belgium. Somewhere near here, Canon Scott celebrated the Eucharist on Christmas Eve.

Christmas 1915 also saw one of the famous informal soldier's truces. For some Canadian troops, the memories of the gas attack at Second Ypres left them feeling too uncharitable for such a gesture. The CEF official history notes that "front-line battalions were instructed that any attempt by the enemy 'to bring about a temporary cessation of hostilities' must be met by rifle, and if necessary artillery fire". However, in Canon Scott's part of the line, all was peaceful. To the Canon's "astonishment", German and Canadian soldiers strolled in plain view of one another, and bottles of beer were exchanged as gifts. Miraculously the rain had stopped. "Christmas parcels had arrived and the men were making merry with their friends, and enjoying the soft spring-like air, and the warm sunshine".



The soldiers' informal Christmas Truce was a significant media event in 1915. Afterwards the high commands of both sides were anxious to stop their recurrence, lest the troops become too friendly with one another.

Later that day Scott celebrated Eucharist with another battalion, "in the cellar of a ruined building" and "down some broken steps". He would later

write that “We had two more war Christmases in France, but I always look back upon that first one as something unique in its beauty and simplicity”.

No Canadian soldier that Christmas could imagine that three more years of war, each more terrible than the last, lay ahead of them.