

HIGHTY-TIGHTY

NOTES



The official newsletter of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc.
Volume 37 Number 1 Winter 2013

HIGHTY-TIGHTY ALUMNI, INC.

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Front Cover: The Highly-Tighties only have two female Drum Majors in their history. This year at homecoming both of them took the field at the same time. Pictured are C/ CPT Lauren Adolph, HT '13. and Lori Keck-Beach, HT '92 (Photo by Mike Diersing).

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Bert Kinzey, HT '68

Hail and Farewell

All of us who have served in the military are familiar with the regular hail and farewell ceremonies where thanks and good-byes are expressed to departing members of a unit, and new members are welcomed into the ranks. Just before the fall semester began, we had a very significant farewell as Colonel Rock Roszak retired from his position as Alumni Director of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Rock served for eleven years as the Corps alumni director, and before that he was a deputy commandant, with Band Company among the units for which he was responsible. Previously, he had been the Professor of Air Science for the Air Force ROTC detachment at Tech. During his time on the commandant's staff, he was instrumental in helping build the Corps in size and raising the levels of quality, particularly in leadership development. As the alumni director he had a truly remarkable relationship with alumni groups and individual alumni that always bore his personal touch that was so much appreciated.

In recognition of his support for the Highty-Tighty alumni, the board of directors of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. voted unanimously to make Rock an honorary member of the board. A framed photograph and proclamation conveying this honor was presented to Rock upon his retirement along with a check from the board to go to the account for the Roszak Scholarship. Rank and file Highty-Tighty alumni joined alumni from the Corps in contributing to that scholarship account as well.

As the fall semester began, Colonel Patience Larkin, USAF (ret.), VTCC '87, joined the commandant's staff as the new Corps alumni director. She was officially welcomed by the Highty-Tighty alumni at our general meeting and banquet during the homecoming weekend. During her first semester as alumni director, Colonel Larkin has been very helpful and supportive of Highty-Tighty alumni activities as well as the alumni efforts and functions for the entire Corps.

In addition to saying farewell to Rock and welcoming Patience as his replacement, the Highty-Tighty alumni also welcome Lt. Col. Don Russell, USAF (ret.), to the commandant's staff. Lt. Col. Russell is the Deputy Commandant of Cadets for VPI Citizen-Leader Track. Alumni will recognize this as what used to be called the cadet only or civilian-leader track. Opportunities for cadets who are not seeking military commissions are expanding, and the numbers of these cadets within the Corps and the Highty-Tighties are increasing. As Highty-Tighty alumni talk to high school musicians who are the potential Highty-Tighties of the future, the benefits of the citizen-leader track should help attract those prospects who may not want to serve in the military. So the work Lt. Col. Russell is doing is important in helping attract the best and the brightest into the Corps and

the Regimental Band.

Highty-Tighty alumni wish Rock all the best in his retirement and will always be thankful for the dedicated and unselfish efforts he made for so many years to the Corps and the Band. We welcome Patience and Don, and wish them the very best as they continue to build on the traditions of excellence established before they arrived and make the Corps even better for the future.

During the fall semester, we also said farewell to Major General Stanton Musser, U. S. Air Force (ret.), who passed away on October 8, in Blacksburg. General Musser was commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets from 1989 to 1999, making him the second longest serving commandant in history. Even after his retirement as commandant, General Musser remained a strong and loyal friend and supporter of the Corps, and he loved the Highty-Tighties. He will be greatly missed.



The Highty-Tighty Alumni Organization officially welcomed Colonel Patience Larkin as the new Alumni Director for the VTCC at the annual banquet and general meeting during the homecoming weekend on campus. (Photo by Gene Harrison, HT '68)



DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

Major George McNeill, Virginia Militia

In the past three years...

we have seen a steady increase in the number of cadets joining the ranks. In 2010, sixty-nine freshmen became members of the Highty-Tighties. In 2011 there were 66 who became members and in 2012 there were 64. In spite of the attrition rate the numbers still remain relatively high. We began the year with 154 members total allowing the performance staff to field 144 for our shows at the beginning of the year. As we moved into the semester the numbers began to decline losing approximately 10 freshmen and five sophomores. This high number of losses has been typical from year to year and is to be expected. As we start the second semester, a total of 19 freshmen have changed their status to re-assignment to other companies or to civilian life. The main reasons for these losses are time constraints and "not fitting in" to the military lifestyle.

Recruiting is a year-round task that requires a great deal of personal time by contacting prospective freshmen telephonically and through emails in the evening and on weekends. In February, the recruiting drive starts by reviewing hundreds of applications from the Admissions Office of prospective

freshmen. The next step: wait for the offers. Once the offers are received, the recruiting team makes contact with everyone on the offer list. This phase is crucial because many of these prospective students are also looking at offers from other universities as well. Our job now is convincing them to accept the offer and become members of the Highty-Tighties. Accepts: once the applicant has accepted the offer he/she is contacted again to confirm their acceptance into the band by signing the Highty-Tighty scholarship form. The Admissions Office keeps us updated weekly on those who have accepted the offer. The final phase of this recruiting project is making personal contact with every prospective cadet during the orientation period which occurs in the month of July. This also gives us an opportunity to meet those who elected not to join the Band and hopefully win them over.

Attrition is still a big issue in regards to retention. For example: Nineteen of our 64 freshmen have left band since the beginning of the year. Six upperclassmen have changed their status this year as well. The attrition rate is high but nonetheless our total numbers are holding strong. Presently, we have 129 band members (down from 154 at the start of the year). We are confident 100 to 105 cadets will return next Fall semester. If we can maintain our recruiting numbers, we should have a band of about 160 for the 2013-2014 for the academic year.



HTA President, Bert Kinzey, HT '68, presents a framed photo and proclamation to Colonel Rock Roszak at his retirement as Alumni Director for the VTCC. At right, HTA President Emeritus, Charles Cornelison, HT '67, looks on. The proclamation expressed the appreciation of all Highty-Tighty alumni for Rock's outstanding service to the Corps and the Highty-Tighties, and it declared him to be an honorary member of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. Board of Directors. (Photo by Lynda Kinzey)

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cadet Major Corey Combs, HT '13

Before I begin...



I would like to first extend my thanks to all of you for your tremendous support for the Band this past semester at all of our performances and other events. This past fall was one of the busiest I can recall in my four years in the Highty-Tighties. The Band performed well at six home football games, three pass in reviews, a Veteran's Day Parade and countless spirit rallies. Among these normal performances, we also had various performances among our smaller groups. The Southern Colonels performed at many venues, including the Swing Dance Club, while the Brass Ensemble played Christmas carols around campus during the last few weeks of the semester.

For the first time in a number of years, I have been given the honor of remaining the commanding officer of the Band for the full year. Over the past semester, every member of the Band has been working to ensure the success of our new company structure and with great results. Again this semester, there are two Sections within the company, with C/CPT Elaine Altman and C/CPT Richard Drabek as the commanders of each one. The three of us, along with all the cadet leaders, will continue the work started last semester in upholding the long lasting traditions and success of the Highty-Tighties.

Perhaps the most exciting news for the spring semester is the return of the concert band. It is credited to the ambition and work of our Drum Major, C/CPT Lauren Adolph, to bring back this aspect of the Band. She has been working diligently with her performance staff to put together a wide collection of pieces to be performed at a concert during April. We will perform many of the classic marches as a whole Band, while allowing those with high levels of talent to perform in a separate group, showcasing other great pieces of music. Aside from the

concert band performance, the Band will continue to support the University at Spirit Rallies, Women's Basketball games and the annual Spring Football Game. The Southern Colonels and Brass Ensemble will also perform at various events across campus.

Countless hours in the fall semester were dedicated to developing and executing training plans for the freshmen and sophomore classes. This semester, these plans will be continued and improved upon, along with mentoring the junior class to take on their leadership roles within the Band next year. Academics will again play a key role in the success of every Bandsman, ensuring that they are all able to continue through their college careers as well-rounded students. As a whole, the Band will be participating in many service projects to continue our outreach to the local community, yet another way we incorporate the eight pylons into our .

To the alumni, we will be finalizing a date for the concert band performance in the early weeks of the semester, and will be sure to announce it through all of our media channels. These include our Facebook and YouTube pages, as well as the Flickr site hosted by Mike Diersing, our photographer. For those who may not be able to make it, we will use these same media channels to give you access to the concert with videos and photos. Thank you for your continuing support we pursue new endeavors to spread the Highty-Tighty name around the world!



The Highty-Tighties perform in many venues off the field and parade ground. In this photo, the Highty-Tighty Brass Quintet plays as part of the Commandant's Holiday Coffee in December. (Photo by Col. Patience Larkin)

Homecoming 2012

Friday Night Band Practice At the Rector Field House



Left: Greg Gilbreath, DM/HT '91, stands at ease during practice. Top: The Highty-Tighties and the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band come together during Friday night practice. This usually requires a couple of run-throughs, but the high standards of both Bands makes the show look great each year. Right: A future member of the Highty-Tighties warms up on the sidelines. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



Right: Drum Major C/CPT Lauren Adolph, HT '13, leads both Bands in their pregame show practice. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



Left: Band Director Major George McNeil presents a framed set of stripes and a retired bass drum head to Ralph Bradley, HT '87. Ralph was the Regimental Bugler as a sophomore and the Drum Major his senior year, but lost his Highty-Tighty memorabilia due to a tragic house fire. His appearance at Homecoming was a great opportunity to restore part of his personal collection and celebrate his accomplishments while part of the Band. (Photos by Mike Diersing)

Homecoming 2012

Homecoming Parade & Pregame



Left: The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band marches past the War Memorial during the Homecoming Parade. Bottom: Future Highty-Tighties carry the banner for the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band as they march down Main Street. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



Top: The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band stands at attention, ready to take the field and begin the pregame show. Right: The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band gathers near the end zone before the pregame show. This hurry-up-and-wait procedure actually affords alumni the opportunity to socialize and catch up with friends before the show starts. (Photos by Mike Diersing)





Homecoming 2012

Homecoming Football Game

Right: The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band marching during the pregame show. Bottom Left: The Bands perform before the crowds in Lane Stadium. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



**Duke
Vs.
Virginia Tech**

October 13, 2012



Top: The Highty-Tighties and the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band are about to join together in their annual Homecoming pregame show. Left: The Highty-Tighty Alumni Band drum line prepares for the entrance of the Hokie Football team. Both Bands line up and play 'Tech Triumph' when Coach Beamer and the Hokies take the field. (Photos by Mike Diersing)

2012 Annual Meeting



Top: The head table gets ready to start the annual alumni meeting, which is held every year during Homecoming weekend. Right: Charlie Moore, HT '48, gave an inspirational talk at the meeting, and was given the highest honor accorded an alumnus, that of Distinguished Highty-Tighty Alumnus. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



New Cadet Knowledge:

The Highty-Tighties have marched in the Presidential Inaugural Parade many times since 1917, and once won three parades in succession before the parade was declared a non-competitive event. Which years did they win this prestigious competition back-to-back?



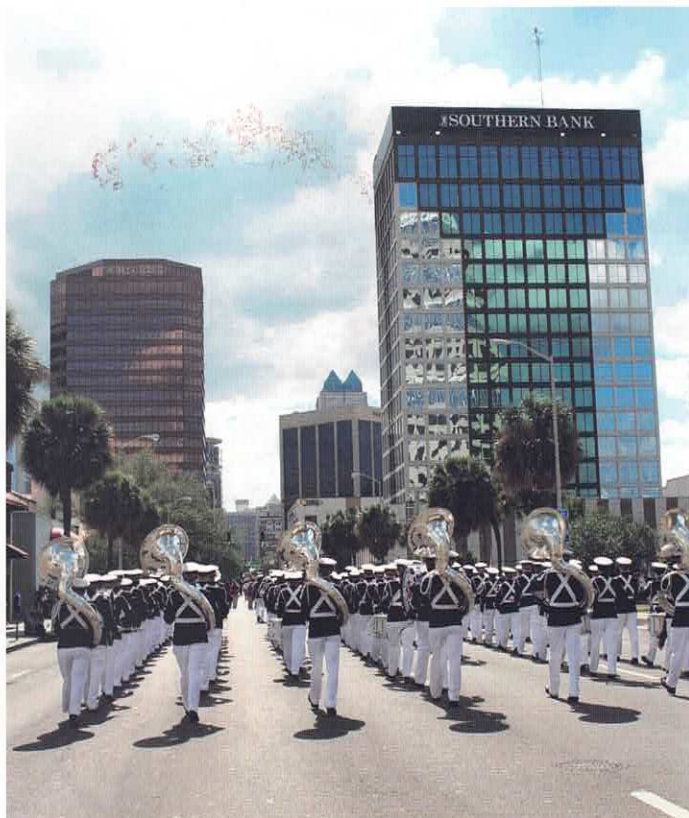
Top and Left: The Highty-Tighty Alumni annual meeting affords alumni and cadets the opportunity to talk and eat together while getting an update on the state of the Highty-Tighty Alumni, Inc. Both alumnus and cadet gain insight into the operation of the Band, ranging from the "Old Corps" memories to the latest trends in leadership and military training offered today in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. (Photos by Mike Diersing)



2012 Veteran's Day Parade

Orlando, Florida

On November 9th, 112 Highty-Tighties traveled to Orlando, Florida to participate in the Veterans Day Parade held on November 10th. The schedule was tight because of the Florida State football game the evening prior. The night game left them very little preparation time before departing for Florida at 4:00 a.m. After the long ride, the Band arrived in Orlando around 7:30 p.m. at the Marriot. The remainder of the day was strictly for rest and relaxation in preparation for the parade. The hotel staff provided an outstanding breakfast buffet for the Band on Saturday and Sunday. The parade kicked off at 10:00 and the weather was absolutely perfect. Since the parade was within walking distance from the hotel (about four blocks), the town provided police escort while they marched as a unit to the parade site. The Band received a warm welcome from many spectators and other bands upon their arrival. As with most parades, there was considerable waiting time before step-off so the Band filled that time by entertaining the crowd with some of their popular pep songs. An hour later, we finally stepped off. We heard lots of cheers and "GO HOKIES" as we marched the parade route. The Band's performance, in my opinion, was outstanding and represented the University and the Corps to the highest degree. The trip was very successful and we will certainly accept an invitation to return again if invited. Once again, I commend the leadership for their hard work in making this trip a huge success.



Development Update



The Highty-Tighties are growing...

...and so is our commitment!



This, therefore, brings us to a great need for alumni and friends to help us grow the funds available for giving the \$1,000 freshman stipend to each entering Highty-Tighty. The success we are having in growing the Band requires a greater commitment for donations to support this growth.

To contribute to the **Schaeffer Endowment**, please make your check to:

Virginia Tech Foundation; and send it to Virginia Tech, University Development (0336), Blacksburg, VA 24061, ATTN: Corps of Cadets. Note on the check that you want your contribution to go to the Schaeffer Endowment!

Two other new initiatives to consider supporting are the "**Freshman Stipend Sponsor in Perpetuity**" program, which is a pledge of \$5,000 per year for 5 years; or the "**Annual Freshman Stipend**" program, which is a pledge of \$1,000 per year for 5 years. For more information about either program, please call VTCC Director of Development, Dave Spracher at 540-231-2806 or Sarah Woods at 540-231-2085.

We also still need help to get the **Joshua Lilliston scholarship** endowed. You will recall that Josh was a devoted Highty-Tighty who succumbed to cancer his sophomore year back in the fall of 2011. His memorial scholarship benefits a Highty Tighty not enrolled in ROTC for medical reasons.

Remember those important pylons you had to memorize as a new cadet? The concepts of Brotherhood, Loyalty, Sacrifice, and Service continue to guide our actions as alumni, and both the Highty-Tighty Alumni and the current Band needs our continued commitment. To sign up as an HT Sponsor or inquire about other ways to serve the Band, please contact:

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT (800) 533-1144
 Dave Spracher, VTCC '70 Director of Development (540) 231-2806
 Sarah Woods, VTCC '04 Associate Director (540) 231-2085
 Charles Cornelison HT'67 Office of Gift Planning (540) 580-6312



Alumni Notes

Bertram Aaron, HT' 43

A special Happy Birthday goes out to Bert Aaron, HT '43. Bert and his wife Gladys celebrated with a joint birthday party - his 90th birthday in January 2012, and her 80th in November 2011. Bert lives in Williamsburg, Virginia and is on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, as well as a founder of the 220 member Virginia Symphony Society of Greater Williamsburg. While a cadet and Highly-Tighty, Bert played first clarinet, organized the first Signal Corps unit of the cadet corps, taught fencing, and was a member of the amateur radio club. (Photo provided by Bert Aaron)



New Cadet Knowledge Answer:

The Regimental Band has gone on to march in eleven Presidential Inaugural Parades. Impressively, the Regimental Band was awarded first place in 1953, 1957, and 1961. Just before the 1965 Inauguration, the parade was declared a non-competitive event, and a few days later the Highly-Tighties marched past President Johnson as "Retired Champions". The Highly-Tighties effectively ended the days of competitive Presidential Inaugural Parades!



Calling all HT Alumni...

...don't wait for Homecoming to catch up with your friends and classmates! Send in your photos, announcements, and class reunion plans to the *Highly-Tighty Notes*.

Please refer to the back cover for submission details. All content should be sent to the newsletter editor. To aid in the submission process, please include pertinent dates, places, names, and the HT class for alumni, as well as your updated contact information in the event of editing or other questions.

Ut Prosim :)



Top: The Hokie Bird stopped by while the Highly-Tighties and the Highly-Tighty Alumni Band were warming up for the Homecoming Parade. (Photo by Mike Diersing)

History Notes



Moving Into the 1920s With A New Director



When the 1920 – 1921 school year began, the V.P.I. Cadet Band had been known as the “Highly-Tighties” for about two years. They were one of the largest college bands of the day, and they had a reputation of being the finest band of its kind in the South. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)

By Bert Kinzey, HT '68

*Author's Note: This is the fourteenth in a continuing series of articles about the history of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band, the Highly-Tighties. The purpose of this series is to provide an accurate record of the Band's proud and amazing history that dates back to 1893. The photographs and historical information here were taken primarily from the late Harry Temple's outstanding and meticulously researched six-volume history of the Corps of Cadets, entitled **The Bugle's Echo**, which traces the history of the Corps from the first day the college opened its doors through 1934.*

As the 1920 – 1921 school year began, Jim Schaeffer had been director of the V.P.I. Cadet Band for four years. Under his direction it had grown to forty members, making it one of the largest college bands in the South. Additionally, the Drum and Bugle Corps had twenty-six members that could join with the Band for parades and other special events. But Schaeffer's leadership had also improved the quality of the Band. Annual inspections of the V.P.I. Battalion by the U. S. Army always had special praise for the excellence demonstrated by Band Company. During Schaeffer's years as director, the Cadet Band had participated in its first inaugural parade for a President of the United States, and it had become known as the Highly-Tighties.

But Schaeffer's own success worked against him. With more than sixty musicians between the Band and the Drum and

Bugle Corps, the college administration came to the conclusion that they needed someone more experienced and formally educated in music to lead the music program. After all, Jim Schaeffer was rather young, and although he was a very competent and well-trained musician, he did not have a formal education in music. No one questioned the outstanding job Schaeffer had done as director, improving the Band in both quality and quantity, but the administration insisted upon hiring someone with more experience and formal music training.

In the fall of 1920, Professor William Luther Skaggs of St. Marys, West Virginia, was hired to take over the music program as “Director-in-Chief.” Jim Schaeffer was retained as “Assistant Bandmaster.” Skaggs was a composer of some note, and was an eminent musician with a national reputation. Further, he was a graduate of a music conservatory in West Virginia. With these credentials, he certainly fit the bill for what V.P.I. was looking for to head its music program.

V.P.I.'s administration had not planned for obtaining a new music director very well. They had not allocated any money to pay the salary for the new position, so the Band Company cadets all chipped in to pay the \$85.00 due as Skaggs' salary for the first month. After that, the college came up with funds from within their budget to continue paying the salary.

Skaggs immediately began to expand the Band's music library, adding many of his own works to it. He and Jim Schaeffer had a great deal of training and experience between them to provide excellent leadership for both the Band and the Drum and Bugle Corps. They were assisted by Angelo LoMascolo from the Tailor Shop, and Mr. E. B. Kinzer of the Heating



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and Plumbing Department. Both LoMascolo and Kinzer were trained musicians, and they participated as "member musicians" in the Band. Such "member musicians" had been a part of the Cadet Band since its formation in 1893, and Jim Schaeffer had been one of them between 1908 and 1912.

In the Cadet Regulations, Paragraph 68 read: "Band Members of the R.O.T.C. may be trained and employed as members of the Band, provided their prescribed military training is not unduly interfered with. Members of the Band must qualify for Reserve commissions by the same standards as the members of the R.O.T.C." This meant that band practices had to take place in what would otherwise be free time for the Band cadets. But the pride, esprit, and morale of the Band cadets were very high, thanks to Jim Schaeffer's years as director, and they readily accepted this "hardship" very enthusiastically and cheerfully. As a result, they had achieved and maintained a reputation of being the finest band of its kind in the South.

The first off-campus appearance with Skaggs as director was at the Halifax County Fair in South Boston for four days beginning on September 27, 1920. All expenses were paid by the Fair. Shortly after their arrival, the Highly-Tighties led the parade through South Boston. Each day they played concerts to the enjoyment of those in attendance and were enthusiastically received.

Another example that illustrates the quality of the Highly-Tighties at that time took place on the last day of the show. The leadership of Keystone Exposition Shows, a company that put on expositions and shows throughout the United States, was very impressed with the Band. They extended an invitation to Director Skaggs to have the Highly-Tighties be hired by the Exposition and participate in nationwide tours giving concerts and leading parades. Skaggs declined the invitation, but thanked Keystone Exposition Shows for their very generous offer.

Upon its return to Blacksburg, the Band settled into the routine of supporting the football team at games. Noteworthy in the 1920 season was the game against Washington & Lee which was to be played at a neutral site in Lynchburg. The entire Battalion travelled to the Hill City, and upon its arrival, the Highly-Tighties led the Battalion on a parade through Lynchburg to the fairgrounds where they held a pass in review. A company of V.P.I. alumni formed up behind the Battalion and marched with them to the game. The supporters of W&L also had their parade, and the fans of both schools came together at the fairgrounds to witness the game and cheer on their teams. The game was hard fought, but W&L capitalized on two V.P.I. miscues to win the game 13-0.

A similar event was held in Roanoke on Thanksgiving Day when the cadet battalions of V.P.I. and V.M.I. marched through Roanoke prior to the annual Turkey Day game between the two military schools. But again V.P.I. came out on the losing end by a score of 24-7.



In addition to the forty members of the Highly-Tighties, the Drum and Bugle Corps numbered twenty-six cadets. Both the Band and the Drum and Bugle Corps had been under the direction of Jim Schaeffer since 1916, and he had developed both into outstanding units. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)

After Christmas break, the cadets returned to Blacksburg for winter quarter. For several years, the Band had made concert tours of women's colleges in Virginia, and requests for such concerts in 1921 were being received by V.P.I. A concert tour was set up, and a program with a wide variety of music was planned. It included serious numbers as well as popular music, and Skaggs included four of his own works. The tour would be conducted by a concert band that was made up of thirty of the bandmen.

To pay the expenses of the tour, a concert was held in Blacksburg on March 26 where admission was charged. It was well attended by the townsfolk, and enough money was taken in to travel to four women's colleges for the tour. These included Radford, Martha Washington in Abingdon, Bristol Sullins College and the Virginia Intermont, and Marion Women's College. At the conclusion of the concert at each college, the Highly-Tighty Concert Band would play "Tech Triumph" as an encore, and at Abingdon it was received so enthusiastically it was played a second time.

Following the tour, the Band settled in to giving a series of concerts on campus for the remainder of the school year, and each would feature several of Director Skaggs' own compositions and arrangements. The one given at commencement that June consisted entirely of Skaggs' compositions except for the National Anthem that concluded the concert.

The Highly-Tighties lost a lot of seniors to graduation in 1921, and when the 1921 - 1922 school year began, only nineteen upperclassmen returned. Nine freshmen were added, bringing the number to twenty-eight. But although the numbers were down, the quality was not. Major M. Crawford, the inspector for the U. S. Army Third Corps, inspected the V.P.I. Battalion and Military Department that fall and was particularly impressed by the Highly-Tighties. In his report he stated that the V.P.I. Cadet Band was "undoubtedly one of the finest college bands in the entire nation."

The Highly-Tighties competed in various military and sporting events with the rest of the Battalion. Of note was that

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Virginia's Governor Davis (in the top hat) rides next to Generalissimo Ferdinand Foch, as his car drives past the V.P.I. Cadet Battalion in Richmond on November 23, 1921. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)

the Highty-Tighty rifle team finished first among all of the teams in the rifle competition. The Lyric Theater gave free passes to all shows for a week to the top-scoring riflemen.

The big event for the 1920 – 1921 school year took place in late November when the entire Battalion travelled to Richmond to be one of the units in a very special salute for Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of France and Generalissimo of Allied Armies during World War I. On November 22, the Battalion, more than 800 strong, left Blacksburg aboard a train bound for Richmond. They arrived at Broad Street Station at 5:00 p.m., and led by the Highty-Tighties, marched east on Broad Street then turned north on Seventh Street where they continued to the armory. Along the way the Band played "Southern melodies" and were cheered enthusiastically by the citizens of Richmond and many visitors who had come for the event. Once at the armory, they made their quarters for the night.

The following morning, the units that had assembled to honor Generalissimo Foch lined up on Monument Avenue. The V.P.I. Battalion extended from the Jefferson Davis Monument east on Monument Avenue. Other units, including the V.M.I. Battalion, extended on down to the Robert E. Lee Monument at the intersection with Allen Street. This monument was surrounded by Confederate veterans. Ferdinand Foch was in the lead car of a motorcade that passed in front of the units, each of which rendered the appropriate salute as he passed.

Once he arrived at the Robert E. Lee Monument, Foch got out of his car and walked up to the monument, motioning for his staff to remain back. For a moment he gazed up at Robert E. Lee on Traveler, then he clicked his heels together and rendered a sharp French, palm-forward salute to the man he so studiously admired. He then took a large wreath from an assistant and placed it at the base of the monument. Just as he did so, the sun broke through the overcast sky and lit the scene in bright sunlight. Foch then stepped back and stood in silence for a full minute. He then spoke to the assembled Confederate veterans, and once he completed his remarks, he again rendered a salute to Robert E. Lee's statue.

Foch then got back in his car and moved to the head of the units that remained in their positions along Monument Ave-

nue. The motorcade became the lead unit of a parade as the rest of the units followed in behind it, marching through Richmond. The parade was judged, and first place was awarded to the V.P.I. Battalion, with V.M.I. coming in second.

The Richmond News Leader reported, "The Old Point (U.S. Army Coast Artillery Band), the Quantico Band (U.S. Marine Corps Band), the Acca Temple Band, the Samis band, and the I.O.O.F. Band were all cheered, but the crowd gave its best applause to the music of the Cadet Bands from Blacksburg and John Marshall High School."

For many years, a myth was circulated that the name, "Highty-Tighties" came about because of an incident related to the ceremony and parade honoring Generalissimo Foch. The story was that the Drum Major, William W. "Skinny" Lefevre, had rendered a salute to Foch, but had dropped his baton in the process. The baton bounced on the street back into his hands and Lefevre rendered a perfect salute. The story went on to say that Foch, or someone along the route, yelled, "Hoity-Toity," French for "show-off." The claim was that this was then Americanized to "Highty-Tighty." But the truth of the matter was that the name "Highty-Tighty" came from a cheer as reported in the last installment of the History Notes.

Also as reported in the last installment of these History Notes, a baton dropping incident actually did happen in 1917 at inaugural parade for Woodrow Wilson when Drum Major, Harry Preston Humphries dropped his baton while saluting President Wilson. It did not bounce back into his hand. Instead Humphries had to retrieve it and then render the salute. No one yelled "hoity-toity" or anything else when that happened.

The fact is that the units at the ceremony honoring Foch did not even march past him for review. Instead, he reviewed them as he rode past them in his motorcade while they stood in place along Monument Avenue. Drum Major Lefevre did not render a salute as Foch passed. That honor went to the Battalion commander. After the myth got started, Lefevre refuted it and tried to set the record straight years later, but although often challenged, the myth persisted for more than eighty-five years before the record was finally set straight in 2006.



After Generalissimo Ferdinand Foch reviewed the units in his motorcade, the Highty-Tighties led the V.P.I. Cadet Battalion in the parade in his honor. The parade was judged, and the V.P.I. Band and Battalion took first place honors, with V.M.I. placing second. (Photo from Virginia Tech Special Collections)

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1. Be sure that your address and other contact information are up to date with Virginia Tech Alumni Relations. The person to contact is Sharon Croy at scroy@vt.edu. Sharon can also be reached at (540) 231-8905. Make sure she has your present address, and if you move Sharon is the one you should notify about your change of address. It is her list that is used to mail out this newsletter. **Please do not provide your contact information or changes of address to the newsletter editor**
2. Everyone needs to go to the Highly-Tighty Alumni website and check their contact information in the database. Go to www.highlytightyalumni.org and click on Database. The site provides a way for you to provide and request and update of your address, phone number, and e-mail address.
3. If you know of any Highly-Tighty alumni who are not receiving the *Highly-Tighty Notes* newsletter or the *Highly-Tighty Half-Notes* e-mail updates, please pass this information on to them.

HIGHTY-TIGHTY HALF-NOTES

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The *Highly-Tighty Half-Notes* are periodic e-mails sent to Highly-Tighty alumni and friends of the Regimental Band. They are intended to supplement the news included in the *Highly-Tighty Notes* newsletter, which only comes out twice a year. These e-mail updates include both photographs and information about the present Band and alumni. Early information about homecoming and other items of interest to alumni are often subjects of *Half-Notes*. If you would like to receive these occasional e-mails with photographs and updates about the Band's activities, as well as information about alumni, please send your e-mail address and your request to receive the *Half-Notes* to: bertkinzey@verizon.net

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