



The Duke

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Time to Reflect and Remember Veterans Week 5 to 11 November 2007



An act of respect and remembrance with the laying of a floral wreath at the BCR Algonquin Hill 111 Memorial Monument in Normandy, France.
(L to R) Gauthier Hebbelnyck, BCR (DCO), Association European Field Officer of Ville D'Array, France and Sergeant Tony Harris, BCR (DCO) of Vancouver, B.C. prior to his deployment to Afghanistan.

Reflect on the deeds and sacrifices of Dukes during their war and peace time military service to Canada.

Remember their commitment, bravery, sacrifices and the loss of our Fallen and their loved ones.

Battlefield Tour and Site Dedications 2008

North West Europe...WWI and WW II

British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Association



WARNING ORDER...Overview.

We are in the planning stages of a 14 day Association Tour of the Regiment's battlefields of WWI in France and Belgium and WW II in Normandy, northern France, Belgium and Holland. The exact dates have not been determined as yet but we are considering mid September 2008. We hope to over-night in three or four cities, taking day trips from those locations, to minimize hotel changes every night or two.

The objective of the tour is tentatively four fold:

1. To create a commemorative tour of interest for Regimental members, past and present, and their families, to visit and learn about a number of the Regiment's major WW I and WW II battlefield achievements in locations throughout North West Europe.
2. To install, in actual locations, and dedicate bronze plaques commemorating:
 - a) the Regiment's five (5) WW I Victoria Cross Winners;
 - Lieutenant Donald E. Bellew at St. Julien, (Vancouver Corner) Ypres;
 - Private Michael J. O'Rourke and Sergeant Major Robert Hanna, at Hill 70;
 - Corporal Walter L. Rayfield at Drocourt Quéant; and
 - Lieutenant Graham Lyall at Bourslon Wood, France, and
 - b) WW II;
 - the liberation of the town of Berny, Normandy;
 - the battle for the crossing of the Leopold Canal, Belgium; and
 - the sinking of German Naval vessels at Zijpe, Netherlands.
3. To pay respects to our Fallen buried in Canadian War Grave Cemeteries at Beny sur Mer; Brettville sur Liase; Adegem; Bergen op Zoom; Grosbeek and Holten and the Bayeux, and to visit the Menin Gate and Vimy Ridge Memorials.
4. To enjoy the many beauties, history, and friendly people of Europe and to associate with other members of the Regiment.

The finalized tour itinerary, cost of land transportation and accommodations and application form will be included in the December 2007 issue of the Duke Newsletter. Members joining the tour will be responsible for making and paying for their own air travel arrangements, personal travel/medical insurance and meals.

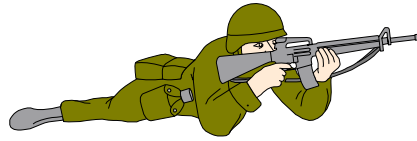
Dukes, we hope you will support this most worthy Regimental commemoration undertaking.

Up the Dukes

Archie Steacy



Regimental Small Arms Team



I'm pleased to advise you of the successes of the Regimental Shooting Team during The British Columbia Service Rifle Competition held in June 2007 at the General Chris Volkes Range located at Chilliwack, B.C.

Who are the Dukes who competed as individuals and BCR team members?

Sgt Tony Harris, Sgt Ronald Leblanc, Cpl Ryan Steacy, Cpl Terry Haigh, Cpl Robert Engh and Col (Ret'd) Tren Williamson, USMC & BCR Association.

How successful were our Dukes?

Cpl Ryan Steacy won the BC Service Rifle Championship for the ninth consecutive year.

- BC Service Rifle Championship – Wisell Bowl and BC Service Rifle Gold Bullion Badge. Aggregate scores from Matches 1 – 12 with a score of 543 29V out of a 600 possible.
- Rifleman Sam Perry, 6th DCOR Trophy for the ninth consecutive year.

Cpl Steacy also won the following Individual Matches:

- Rocky Mountain Ranger Match Trophy - 200 Metre Rapid Fire with a score of 46 3V out of a 50 possible.
- RCMP Match Trophy - 300 Metre Rapid Fire with a score of 49 `1V out of a 50 possible.
- Logana Match Trophy - 500 Metre Deliberate Fire with a score of 50 3V out of a 50 possible.
- Reserve Force Aggregate - Captain C. Dodd Tankard & BC Reserve Champion Gold Bullion Badge with a score of 543 29V out of a 600 possible.
- Cramer Aggregate – Aggregate scores of Matches 1 – 12, Open to all Lower mainland Competitors with a score of 543 29 V out of a 600 possible.
- The Lang Memorial Trophy and BC Service Conditions Champion Gold Bullion Badge. BC Service Conditions Aggregate – Aggregate scores of the BC Service Pistol Aggregate and the BC Service Rifle Aggregate with a score of 1215 54V.
- The Soldiers Trophy – Soldiers 24 – with a score of 51 12V score out of a 60 possible. Open to the highest 30% competitors in the McKinnon Aggregate to a maximum of 24 shooters, 400 to 100 Metre Fire and Movement.



Cpl D. Ryan Steacy, BC Service Rifle 2007 Competition Champion with his trophies.



Sgt Ronald Leblanc won the Don Mitchell Trophy – 500 Metre Snap with a score of 47-3V out of a 50 possible.

Team Matches.

- BC Reserve Team Championship – 4 Man Team from the Canadian Forces Reserve Unit. Score 1741
- Beat the Butts Match – 400 to 300 Metres, 50 seconds Rapid Fire. Score 3V. Team - Sgt Tony Harris, Cpl Ryan Steacy, Sgt Ron Leblanc, Cpl Terry Haigh
- Infantry Association Match . Score – 139. Team Sgt Tony Harris, Sgt Ron Leblanc, Cpl Ryan Steacy, Cpl Terry Haigh
- Wilkerson Team Match – Score 1741 Team – Cpl Steacy, Sgt Harris, Sgt Leblanc, Cpl Terry Haigh

Sgt Ronald Leblanc winner of the Don Mitchell Trophy in the BC Service Rifle Competition, June 2007.



BC Regiment Shooting Team at the BC Service Rifle Competition June 2007. Left to Right- Cpl Terry Haigh, Cpl Ryan Steacy, Sgt Ronald Leblanc, and Sgt Tony Harris.

You are the Dukes who continue the BCR marksmanship tradition. RSM Sam Perry and Lt Col Hart-McHarg and other Duke shooting champions would be very proud of your commitment and accomplishments. Well done.

Congratulations to all of you for your continued participation and your skill at arms expertise.

Up the Dukes

DRILL HALL SURROUNDED

In one of last years' issue, we displayed a photo of the excavation adjacent to the Drill Hall. Since that time, a great deal of construction has taken place. Three 34 story high rise buildings are now virtually completed and ready for occupancy. There are four floors of underground parking and a COSTCO store with 148,000 square feet of floor space. Underground parking for the Regiment's wheeled vehicles has been provided at the south end of the Drill Hall. A small memorial park, featuring wartime letters from the front and home,.....thanks to Major (Ret'd) Lloyd Augustus, will be created on the level above of the military vehicle parking area. Two streets, Citadel Place and Regiment Square, service the high rise buildings.

Our Drill Hall is most certainly the central focus of this new Vancouver development.

Up the Dukes.



REGIMENTAL MUSEUM SOCIETY UPDATE

By Jerry Couling

Additions to the Collection:

Since the last issue of *The Duke* we received the following donations of artefacts for our museum.

Two framed display sets from John L Frazer: The first one contains the medals of Stanley E. Akrigg, 29th Batt. (MM, Victory & War medals), a 29th Batt. Cap Badge and two photos of Mr. Akrigg (one wartime and the other, post WW1 (1994)). The second one contains the medals of John Akrigg, 29th Batt (1914/15 Star, Victory & War medals), a 29th Batt Cap Badge and a wartime photo of Mr. John Akrigg .

BCR Collar Badges (Bugles) from RSM F. van Weelderen: in recognition of their recent retirement as the Regiment's official collar badge.

BCR Collar Badges (Bugles) from the CO, Lt. Col. Peter Bell: in recognition of their recent retirement as the Regiment's official collar badge.

Uniforms from Lt. Col. Andrew P. Conradi: consisting of: Two Mess Kits (New CF style and traditional), Mess Dress (Midnight Blue), and a Green Den Jacket.

Anticipated Acquisition (Still)

It was mentioned in our last issue that through the efforts of Archie Steacy we have reserved the purchase of a 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914 – 20, and Victory Medal. The medals are mounted on a card on original ribbons and are accompanied by a CANADA shoulder title and a General Service CANADA cap and collar badge. The medals were awarded to Pte. A. Somerville 29 CAN INF C.E.F. To date we have received pledges of \$200 towards the \$450 purchase price. To secure this worthwhile ensemble awarded to a soldier of one of Vancouver's best known WW1 battalions, we need a further \$250. Please send your cheques today to the BC Regiment Museum Society care of the Drill Hall.

Roofing Job Gone Bad:

As you know we have had more than our share of rain so far this summer. Unfortunately, one of the storms coincided with the re-roofing project. The end result of these roofing mistakes was severe water damage to parts of the Drill Hall including the Archives Room and the Museum (South Room – once known as the Brass Room). Fortunately, for the Museum, Archie Steacy was in the Drill Hall early the next morning for a BC Veterans Commemorative Association meeting. Archie's quick intervention protected the collection and reduced the water damage to that room and the hallway paralleling the Museum. Because of his quick action the only damage was to a couple of photos and to one cabinet. Fortunately, the photos can be restored and the cabinet repaired. Nothing in the cabinet was damaged. Remediation work on the room and hallway should be done in the near future.

This past Monday night (13 Aug) a work party consisting of: Archie Steacy, Ted Hawthorne, Dick Grady, Tim & Margaret Monchamp, and I, relocated all the portable displays, and paintings into the North Room. Some of the cabinets had to be partially dismantled and "man handled" through the connecting doorway into the North Room. It was quite a job.

Depleted Bank Account:

We are still solvent but we could use a cash injection to help us finance the refurbishing of our display cabinets as well as ongoing administrative expenses. As you know, visitations to the Museum are free and we plan on keeping it that way. For that reason, we are totally dependent on donations to fund our operation and capital improvements. **Fellow Dukes, we sure could use your help.** For those of you that are unaware, the museum society is a registered charity and, as such, can issue tax receipts. For those of you who are willing and able to send us a cheque, please make it payable to The BC Regiment Museum Society and mark it "donation". A tax receipt will be issued upon request. Thanks.

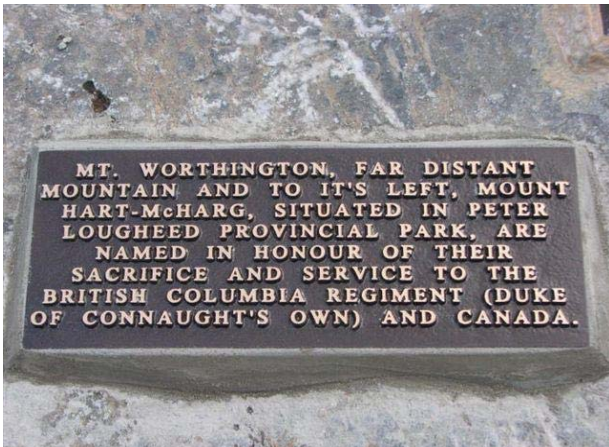
OUR TRIP TO KANANASKIS VALLEY TO MOUNT THE DIRECTIONAL PLAQUE OF MT. HART-MCHARG & MT. WORTHINGTON

We heard that someone needed to go to Kananaskis Valley to mount the direction plaque so we asked if it would be possible that we mount it as we were going to be returning from Lethbridge, Alberta around the same time. The rock wasn't difficult to find, but we did end up having a little adventure. The directions we had were from Highway 1, then south on Highway 40, but we were coming from Lethbridge, heading north on highway 40. We knew the plaques were located on a large boulder adjacent to the dam on Upper Kananaskis Lake. We did find a dam but it was the wrong one. So we reviewed our map and found that there was another dam. So we carried on our adventure.



Graydon Young has just completed installation of the directional plaque for Mounts Hart-McHarg and Worthington, Kananaskis Valley, Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, Alberta.

When we arrived at the next dam, the instructions were to walk across the dam and find the rock with the other plaques, mounted in August 2006 during "Exercise Summit Duke". So we got our equipment together that we needed to mount the plaque and proceeded to walk across this dam. Arriving at the other side we looked everywhere for the rock but couldn't find it anywhere. We got our things together again and headed back across the dam. Back in the vehicle we checked the map and started on the adventure again. It wasn't too far and we finally found the correct dam. Third time lucky! Thank goodness, this last one was a much smaller dam, and low and behold, the rock was right there.



I started mounting the plaque as my wife Sandra, took pictures. The scenery is just beautiful. The Rockies, in the not too far distance and the lush, green valley made the whole scene look so peaceful and pristine.

Now that the directional plaque has been mounted, you now can easily find where Mt. Hart-McHarg & Mt. Worthington are located, as the plaque reads.

It was an honour to be able to mount the directional plaque and it will certainly be an unforgettable trip for us. We recommend that everyone, at some time in his or her life, travel to Kananaskis Valley and view the monument and capture the scenery for themselves. I know we plan to return!

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of "Exercise Summit Duke."

Graydon Young
Director, Membership Committee
B.C. Regiment (DCO) Association

Graydon and Sandra,

On behalf of all Dukes, thank you for taking time during your vacation to install the Mounts Hart-McHarg and Worthington directional plaque. A task well done.

Archie Steacy
President



Sandra Young viewing her husband's handy work.

BC REGIMENT CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT

All Dukes have many reasons to be very proud of our BCR Cadet Corps.

The 2381 BCR Irish Fusiliers Corps in Richmond is the largest Army Cadet Corps in BC. This Corps paraded 120 Cadets at their Annual Ceremonial Review (ACR) in May and sent 42 Cadets to the various Army Cadet Summer Training Centres (ACSTC) in Canada.

C/WO Raven McCallum of the 2290 BCR in Vancouver has won the Major General Howard award for obtaining the highest marks in BC for the National Star Certification Examination (NSCE) during the last training year. These exams are very important in the life of an Army Cadet as it opens the doors to employment at the various ACSTCs in Canada and qualifies them for promotion to senior ranks in their Corps. She was selected to attend the Maple Leaf Exchange in England this summer. C/MWO Brandon Bigras of 2827 BCR Port Moody came 4th and received a trip to England as well. Approximately 240 Cadets from the 49 Cadet Corps in BC were registered to write phase 1 and 2 of the NSCE. 139 wrote phase 2 and C/WO McCallum achieved the top mark. A remarkable achievement for both Cadets. To honour her achievement, C/WO McCallum will be presented with the Major General Howard Medal by MGen (Ret'd) Brian Vernon President of the Army Cadet League of Canada (BC) at 2290 BCR COs parade on 27 September 07, 1900hrs at the Drill Hall.

C/CWO Christopher Congram of the 2827 BCR Port Moody Corps has been selected as the top overall Army Cadet in BC. There are nearly two thousand Army Cadets in the Province. C/CWO Congram has been recommended by the BC Branch of the Army Cadet League to receive the General Walsh Sword as the top Cadet in Canada. This outstanding Cadet is extremely fit, is an honours student, the RSM of his Cadet Corps, and one of the top Cadet shots in the country. He was a medallist at the BC winter games in shooting and has been a member of Canada's Cadet Bisley team for the last two years. We wish him "good luck" in his quest to be recognized as the top Army Cadet in the country.

The 2781 BCR Powell River Corps held their ACR in May with LCol Peter Bell as the Reviewing Officer. They had 28 well turned out Cadets on parade. Several awards were presented to deserving Cadets. A Cadet mess dinner was held at the Legion hall in the evening. Hon Majors Ray Glover, Ted Hawthorne and yours truly, attended the Parade and dinner along with our wives.

The Cadets will be returning home the week of 12 August from the various ACSTC and exchanges and will commence LHQ training the week of 9 Sept 07.

FAUGH-A-BALLAGH
UP THE DUKES

Major (Ret'd) Roger W Prouse
BCR Cadet Governor

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER SPEAKS TO CANADIAN TROOPS DURING VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN

May 23, 2007
KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

Thank you, Minister O'Connor, thank you, General Grant, and first of all, thanks to all of you.

Thank you for your warm welcome. And thank you for your unwavering service here in Afghanistan.

Thank you for proving to Canadians and to people around the world that when Canada makes a commitment, Canada follows through.

And when we all work together--Canada, NATO and Afghanistan--we achieve real results. Perhaps no one appreciates that more than those who appreciate you most. Just over a week ago, I had the pleasure of joining many of your family and friends and loved ones at CFB Petawawa for one of the Red Friday rallies. It was my second Red Friday rally.

And I have to tell you, standing on that stage, I saw men and women, boys and girls, civilians and military personnel, all united in their love for our country, their belief in this mission, and their appreciation for you. The finest men and women in uniform in the world.

I saw thousands of people come together to say with one united voice that Canada is proud of you, and we are behind you.

And it is a timely affirmation for the many unsung heroes here, in Afghanistan. Not just Canadians but all the NATO and allied soldiers who are here with the United Nations, helping the Afghan people reclaim and rebuild their war-ravaged country.

I don't have to tell you the story, the link between Afghanistan and the attacks of 9/11, the oppression and brutality endured under the Taliban and the risk that terrorism will come home if we don't confront it here.

You also know the progress we have made since the beginning of the mission over five years ago.

This progress hasn't all been achieved by men and women in uniform. But none of it could have been achieved unless you had put yourselves on the line.

Because of you, the people of Afghanistan have seen the institution of democratic elections, the stirring of human rights and freedoms for women, the construction of schools, healthcare facilities and the basic infrastructure of a functional economy.

Still, you know that your work is not complete. You know that we cannot just put down our arms and hope for peace. You know that we can't set arbitrary deadlines and simply wish for the best. And you must also know that your hard work is making a real difference to real people and their families.

Consider a letter recently sent from a young girl in Canada to your comrades with the Royal Canada Dragoons patrolling the Pakistan border about 100 kilometres southeast of here. Decorated with coloured hearts, this letter from a youngster born in Kabul tells the story of a family who fled to Pakistan after being chased from this country by the Taliban. She writes:

"My mom wanted a country that was safe and where I would be able to learn so we came to Canada. Thank you so much for staying to make my country a better place and tell your soldier friends that I said thank you."

Friends, you are helping the Afghan people make a better life for themselves and their children.

I saw it yesterday morning at the Aschiana School in Kabul, where Canada is partnering to ensure that children who, because of war, tragedy and chaos, were left out of the school system, are now getting an education. I learned of it through discussions in Kabul with Canadians who are assisting with vaccination programs, reaching nearly 200,000 children and women in this country.

Canadians who are working with Afghans on over 27,000 reconstruction projects now underway, including clean water, sanitation and electrical power.

Such achievements come only through the secure environment you are building here. Now, friends, I know your mission has been at times very difficult. And the nature of your tasks and the sheer brutality of your foe mark inherent dangers along the road to a lasting peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

But there is gratitude, here and in Canada. I heard it yesterday again in the voice of President Karzai, when he thanked Canada for what it is doing for his country. It reminded me of a sentiment he expressed on behalf of all Afghans to Canada's Parliament last year.

President Karzai said, and I quote: "If the greatness of a life is measured in deeds done for others, then Canada's sons and daughters who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan stand among the greatest of their generation."

Each of you stands among the greatest of your generation. You're Canada's sons and daughters and your country, as much as this country, owes you a debt of gratitude and its unwavering support.

As Canadians, we have tremendous pride in our great country and its values. But we truly show our belief in our values only when we put them on the line – only when we are prepared to share them with those less fortunate than ourselves.

Every day, you personify these values and virtues here, in Afghanistan. You are the diligent neighbours and the compassionate workers. You are the courageous warriors and the loyal friends. You're the very best our country has to offer.

I am proud of you. Canadians are proud of you. And I'm here to tell you that we are behind you. Your government will continue steadfastly supporting the men and women of the Canadian Forces as the most professional, disciplined and effective soldiers in the world.

We will let no one diminish all that you have achieved here for Canada.

I thank you for all that you are doing.

God bless you in the work that lies ahead.

God bless your loved ones at home.

And God bless Canada.

The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association

Update by Jerry Couling

Two new major projects undertaken since the last update are the creation of a new website and a newsletter. Details on these initiatives appear below. Also included are details of our upcoming AGM and particulars on how to join this Association. Membership is open to all Canadians whether or not they have ever been in uniform.

New Website:

Check out our new website at www.bcveterans.org. Although it is still under construction, it provides good background on the Association and lists most of the upcoming commemorative events planned for Greater Vancouver. The site also includes information on the Veterans' Licence Plate Program, and will soon have information on The Candlelight Program, including an online order form. The success of this project reflects the effort put into it by Lt. Col. John Appleby.

Newsletter:

Recognizing the need to keep members informed on initiatives and activities undertaken by the Association, a quarterly newsletter has been launched. The focus of the newsletter is on Veterans issues. The first edition came out this spring and is posted to the Associations web site, as will be the case for future editions. The next edition is currently being written and should be released shortly. One of the articles that may appear in it or in a future one will be devoted to Afghanistan Veterans, which, will be circulated to our troops in Afghanistan. Articles on BC Military History will likely be featured in future newsletters. As this venture is a work in progress we would appreciate your feedback.

Annual General Meeting:

For those of you who are members or intend to be soon, the Annual General Meeting is scheduled to occur on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 10:00 am at the Drill Hall.

Membership:

Anyone who would like to become a member of this worthwhile organization, please complete the enclosed membership form and mail it to the Association. The cost to join is only \$10.

MAD HATTER HAPPY HOUR COCKTAIL PARTY

Our hats are off to all who attended the June 22nd Mad Hatter Happy Hour Cocktail Party

It was a tremendous success! Forty-seven mad hatters attended our first attempt of having a Happy Hour put on by the Association. We were expecting approximately thirty for our first try and we exceeded well over that amount.

Everyone was obviously ready to have some fun. The Officers' Mess ran out of most beverages within an hour and a half of the festivities and had to borrow inventory from the Sergeants' Mess. Hurray for the Sergeants!

Many thanks to M/Cpl Iverson who was the bartender and did an excellent job keeping the guests happy.

It was nice to see some faces that have been missing in action for quite awhile. There was lots to talk about. From the Regiment, attending was Capt Mike Mallette and Capt Adam McLeod and our CO, LCol Peter Bell who stayed as long as he could and caught the last boat out to Gibson. He almost didn't make the connection.

Also, many thanks to our working Committee – Graydon and Sandra Young, Kim and Angie Bekesinski, and of course our regular troopers – Lynda Steacy, Gayle Hawthorne and Carol Glover who made the evening run smoothly.

Also, I would like to thank the Museum Society for opening the museum as there were many guests who had not seen our museum. All guest were personally guided by Ted Hawthorne in his infamous Gurkha hat (no Ted did not serve with that Regiment).



Front – left to right – Terry Sawasy, Agnes Keegan and Roger Prouse. Background Kim Varnam and Gayle Hawthorne.



Left to Right – Archie, Ray and Capt Adam McLeod.

We also would like to thank Ozzie Hyland for a superb vacuuming job. We must not forget Ron Gilbert and Tom Lyth for their job on the door.

Footnote: Special thanks to Cam Cathcart, our communication expert, in using his e-mail trap line to get the word out to the members and their guests.

Another special thanks to the PMCs, Capt Darryl Turner and Capt Doug Evans. Without their support the event would have never taken place.

See you all at the AGM on Friday, September 28th at 7:30 pm

UP THE DUKES

Ray Glover

THE BLACK LANYARD

It was a creature of its time but it served Canada well. The Canadian Officers Training Corps or COTC was the army component of the university reserves. It existed for many years before, during and after the war and every major university in Canada had a COTC contingent. I started my army career by joining the COTC while attending a "clubs day" in the UBC Armouries early in the fall of 1955. I intended to join Signals but I wasn't enrolled in a science program and so I had to settle for the RCAC. Life's big decisions often have seemingly inconsequential origins.

Soon I was on parade in C Company, which consisted of all the "newbies". We had a 4th year student, 2Lt Charlie Ireland, as a company 2i/c and a faculty member, with the rank of major, as our OC. Our OC was an "Aggie" professor and had been a squadron commander in the Sherbrook Fusiliers and had won the MC. In retrospect I wish I had talked to him more as I'm sure he was a very interesting man. Our contingent paraded in the old UBC Armoury and I think we were maybe 75 strong. (*Although the Armoury is no more, the big timbers were salvaged and reused in the Choi Building across the West Mall from where the Armoury was*). I got my first issue of kit of a battle dress, khaki shirts, boots, puttees etc and of course my black beret. When I put it on I looked like "crap" but a fellow O/Cdt, Merv Camponi who had served with the Strathcona's in Korea, showed me how to shrink my beret, tie puttees, bone my boots and wear my battledress. Soon I had established a weekly routine of pressing my uniform and spit polishing my boots and looked as good a soldier as my young years would allow. But truly I was not yet a soldier, as I had not yet been tested.

Almost immediately after final exams a bunch of us from UBC travelled via the CPR on a first class rail ticket heading east and picking up other COTC fellows from the prairie universities along the way. We spent a lot of time in the parlour car and I remember having my first beer on our first night out and so it has been all down hill from that moment on. The train ride was three days in duration but in mid-May 1956 I, along with my newly made friends, arrived at the RCAC School in Camp Borden along with eager lads from universities across the country. In the 1950's few students had this same opportunity of spending a summer with colleagues from across the country, as there were few exchange programs and air travel was prohibitive. After changing trains at Union Station in Toronto, we eventually arrived right inside Camp Borden where we were met by our troop officer, troop sergeant and corporal. They promptly formed us up and marched us to our "H" hut, E88, which would be home for the summer. Basic training had started and it would last for ten weeks.

The first couple of weeks were quite an adjustment as we marched everywhere and had to salute anything with a pip on its shoulder. Learning the requirements for a "stand-by-beds" inspection was a steep curve and our troop corporal, Corporal Ed "buttons" House of the RCD checked every detail every day. We were chastised for leaving brasso residue on the back of our buttons, accidentally leaving the bolt in our rifle instead of being locked in our barrack box, (which was worth a round of extra duties) and not laying out our kit in the approved manner. We were learning to be meticulous. Every Friday morning was either a Commandant's parade or a stand-by-beds inspection conducted by either he or the Chief Instructor followed by an entourage of officers and senior NCOs. Our mothers had never scrutinized us with this amount of detail and continuously reinforced the need for neatness, which in my case would become almost an obsession. I remember Thursday nights were some of the most frantic of my life involving; haircuts, pressing uniforms for parade, spit polishing our boots and shoes and especially anything made of brass. The barrels of our .303 rifles were sure to be checked for cleanliness and you had better remember the serial number. Thankfully I have long forgotten this vestige of information from my basic training. We had to "capo" our webbing, all of it, and in my memory this was the most hated chore that we had to do because after fieldcraft or platoon tactics crawling around in the poison ivy and sand of Salisbury plain, whether at night or in the day, we always had to ensure that webbing was polished to a high shine, refitted with the cardboard or wooden blocking ready for the morning. This accounted for many late nights. One of the most important pieces of equipment in the shack was the floor polisher and lucky was the cadet that laid his hands on it first. We had to wax and polish our floors to a very high shine as well as all of the hallways in the building. Often the hallways were a challenge as the wax was often stripped away by the frequent water fights that usually followed a hot afternoon at the ranges. It was pretty tough to try and get to the mess for a beer on a Thursday night. Each and every night the cadet duty officer came by to ensure that lights were out by 23:00 hrs and on Thursday nights some cadets even slept on the floor so as not to mess up their laid-out beds made ready for the morning's inspection.

We spent many hours at the ranges qualifying on the rifle, Bren gun, Sten gun, pistol and 3.5 in. rocket launcher. We practiced the leopard crawl from here to there, two up and one back and we route marched in "ack-ack" formation along country roads. One of the most useful things we learned was the map and compass, we dug trenches and lay barbed-wire and I especially liked the exercises where we were dropped off in pairs from a

shrouded deuce-and-a-half and told to make our way back to camp. I learned the pleasure of eating a hay-box meal from mess tins and buying a pop and a chocolate bar from the back of the Maple Leaf Services canteen truck. After nine weeks of this we were tanned (farmer-style), fit and a pretty close group of friends and ready for the final test, "Exercise Finito." This would be the final test of all of our elementary training and would go non-stop for three days. One of the other troops made life interesting by acting as enemy ensuring that we "stood to" all night long. I remember being hauled off on the final afternoon of the exercise, as I had to run the mile in the RCAC School track meet the following day. Damn.

We only lost one cadet along the way and were now ready for our passing out parade. Every piece of kit gleamed in the sunshine on that day. Our bush uniforms were stiff with starch but hung just right thanks to the puttees and lead weights we wore at our ankles. We looked very smart as we marched onto the parade square. O/Cdt Harry Costerton was our top cadet and had the pleasure of being our troop officer on that day and I was his cadet/troop sergeant. We did our drills, were inspected by the Commandant, marched-past and then what happened next was to make the ten weeks of pain, "chicken shit" and late nights worthwhile. We were presented with our black lanyards, the Armoured Corps' recognition of our achievement. It was such a proud symbol but I guess it went by the boards when cadets started to undergo basic training at the officer candidate school in Chilliwack in the late 60s. I still have my black lanyard, which along with the troop photo taken in Worthington Park, reminds me of those early beginnings 50+ years ago.

"And what good is a lanyard?" the young buck asked.

"Well it prevents me from losing my church-key." I respond.

"Ah, what's a church-key?" the young fellow asked.

"I can't share that with you son as it's classified. Here be a good fellow and fill this glass for me will you?"

David Sproule
Vancouver - September 2007

First Troop COTC in Worthington Park, RCAC(S), Camp Borden, July 1956 after our passing out parade and receiving our black lanyards



BACK ROW—OC's Laishley, Oswald, Cecil, Tanner, Helgesen, Costerton, Rourke, Packman, Prysiazniuk

FRONT ROW — OC's Stephens, Guibert, Kelley, Hadcock, Sgt Wheat, Lt. Patterson, CPL. House, Sigman, Sproule, Hein, Redgwell.



A friendly ghost resides in our beloved Drill Hall. His name is “SAMSON”.

Many stories told over the years refer to a Sergeant Cupid who passed away during the pre World War II years. His widow suggested to two of her husband's fellow sergeants that since he spent more of his leisure time at the Regiment consuming his favorite libations, perhaps his ashes should dutifully rest in the Drill Hall.

Another version of the many stories told was as follows. Mrs. Cupid requested two of Samson's Regimental friends to take his ashes and sprinkle them off of the Lions Gate Bridge. The two friends agreed to perform this action; however circumstances required a stop at the Drill Hall to have one for the road and a final for Sergeant Cupid. One drink led to another until the absolute bloody final and the last drink for the ditch was consumed..... needless to say, Cupid's ashes never reached the Lions Gate Bridge.

I'm certain that Sergeant Cupid was delighted by the oversight of his two friends or was it military strategy at work. The container containing the ashes spent the ensuing years in both the Sergeants' and Officers' Mess Bars. At least once a year, or actually any time one felt disposed, a drink of black rum was provided to Samson by pouring same into his ashes container. Over the years, Samson drank literally hundreds of ounces of black rum that caused the bottom of the container to rust-out.

One must assume that Samson really appreciated this special attention, so he decided to come back from time to time to visit his old haunts. Over the years, many encounters with Samson have occurred....lights being turned on and off, a cold and clammy atmosphere, odd noises and heavy footsteps down the Officers' Mess hallway ending with loud knocking on the door... no one there. I know, because I was there.

In the original editions of the Duke News Letter, a sort of Regimental small talk and gossip column titled “SAMSON Q GHOST”. It was great with loads of good natured humor. In commemoration of our ghost, it is our intention to reinstate the SAMSON Q GHOST column.

If you have anything you would like Samson to include in his column, forward the item to Ray Glover at rglover@telus.net.

Up the Dukes

Archie Steacy

A WW2 BCR Stuart “Honey” Tank - Found but not Lost

In the course of researching my Father's WW1 service, I learned that when he enlisted in September 1915 he was assigned to the 81st Bn CEF. Shortly after arriving in England, the battalion was dismantled to provide reinforcements and Dad spent the remainder of the war in the Machine Gun Corps. Through a nephew, I determined that the Lincoln and Welland Regiment perpetuate the 81st and that they were interested in including any service information about dear old Dad in their regimental archive. I corresponded by email with Bill Smy a former CO of the Lincoln and Wellands and after indicating that I had been a “Duke” and that our Regiment as the 28th Armoured, had fought proudly alongside the “Lincs & Winks” in the 4th Armoured Div. In the following email Bill included the following story taken from their Customs and Traditions in their Regimental Guide. It is indeed fascinating and establishes a bond between our units in perpetuity.

The Second World War Memorial – St. Catherine's Armoury

A Stuart Tank VI (M5A1) is located in the Memorial Garden at Lake Street Armoury as a memorial to those who died overseas during WW II. This type of tank, an American design, was commonly called a “Honey” tank by the British troops, especially those who had served in North Africa and Italy.

The Canadian Army had both Stuart V and Stuart VI (M5A1) gun tanks in North West Europe but the Stuart with a 37mm gun was completely outclassed as a gun tank. Therefore they were used as reconnaissance vehicles (*Ed. in*

Recce Troop in Armoured units). It was found that with the turret removed the reduction in weight allowed for a marked increase in speed, and the profile was considerably reduced. They became popular as recce vehicles, ammunition carriers, ambulances and troop carriers.

The tank is a late production M5A1 (registration number CT271427), with periscope guards on the driver's and co-driver's hatches, a storage box in the rear and a mixture of open spoked and solid road wheels. Access hatches have been welded on to keep children from playing inside the tank and injuring themselves.

Originally the tank belonged to the British Columbia Regiment. It had been disabled by a mine in Holland in February 1945 and was abandoned by the BCRs (some accounts incorrectly state that it belonged to the South Alberta Regiment). The Pioneer Platoon, under Sergeant Roy Johnson of Niagara Falls, was able to get it started and it was decided to convert it to a command post for the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Rowan Coleman.

The tank was taken to a RCEME workshop where the turret was removed and two 30-calibre machine guns were mounted on the old turret ring to provide some "punch" to the vehicle. The CO then used the tank for reconnaissance purposes, but one story relates that since its silhouette was unfamiliar, it tended to draw heavy fire (both friendly and enemy).

The tank's nickname "Press On" came from a favourite expression of the CO.

At the end of the war, regiments were allowed to ship back to Canada, at the Crown's expense, certain war souvenirs. The LinCs decided on the 26-ton tank, adorned with the signatures of all members of the 1st Battalion at the time of the armistice, and that of General HG Crerar, the Canadian Army Commander, it was shipped to Halifax and then by rail to St. Catherines. It was noted that there was one cryptic signature, "Muriel". "Press On" was transferred to a flatbed truck and was unloaded at the armoury on 6th March 1946.

When authority was given to ship the tank to Canada, it was filled with war souvenirs and all the hatches were sealed by welding them shut. At least one German sword survives. A photograph of the tank, with a number of soldiers on it driving down St. Paul Street appeared in the St. Catherines Standard.

On arrival, the twin V-8 Cadillac engines were promptly sold to a local farmer. The tank was placed on a concrete pad supplied by LCol George R. Greer, the first post war commanding officer who owned the concrete company. Up until the early 1980s, flags of the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany in which the tank had served were painted on the front of the tank. It also displayed the battalion "Tac sign" – numeral "61" on a green square – along with the regimental badge and a large white star used to denote allied forces in North West Europe.

The tank was relocated to its current position in June 1994 as part of the 200th Anniversary celebrations, with contributions from Walker Industries, owners of Walker's Quarry.



Lincoln and Welland Regiment's WWII Memorial – Stuart "Honey" Tank w/o turret.
Lake Street Armoury, St. Catherines, Ontario

David Sproule
September 2007

REGIMENTAL and CADET CORPS RECOGNITION BCR Uniform Cad Pattern ID Tabs and Shoulder Titles

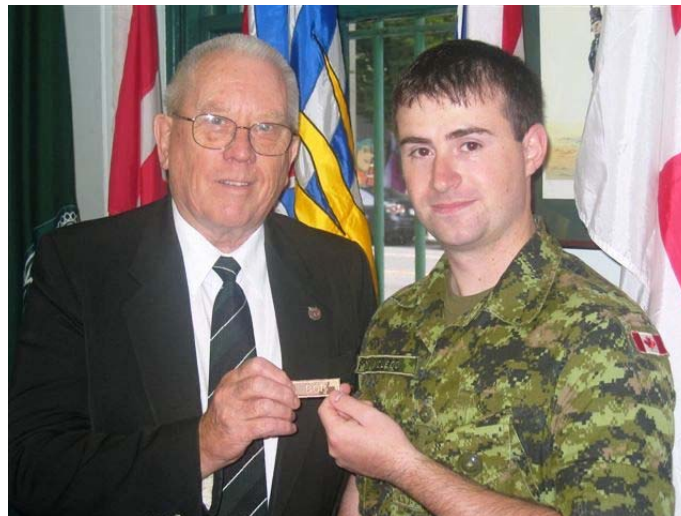


The Association recently purchased 100 sets of the BCR Unit Slip-on Cad Pattern Tabs for Dukes who are deploying to Afghanistan and 120 sets of BCR shoulder titles that will be distributed to Cadets of our four (4) Corps.

The BCR Cad Pattern Tab is affixed to the epaulet worn mid chest on the Canadian Pattern Camouflage Uniform. The BCR shoulder titles will be stitched at the shoulder on both sleeves of the Cadet uniform tunic.

The Association is pleased to provide our soldiers and cadets with these simple but necessary means of Regimental pride and recognition.

Up the Dukes.



President Archie Steacy presents the Cad Pattern Tabs to Captain Adam McLeod.

CLFC PRESENTATION



Presentation of the Canadian Forces Liaison Committee Certificate of Recognition to Vancouver Police Department (VPD) for their continuing support allowing members to take leave to serve with the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. Major Harjit Sajjan (right), is a member BCR (DCO) and VPD. Chief Constable Graham received the certificate. 16 Jun 2007

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Achim Lorenz H. Bekesinski
Raymond Robert Brickell - Treasurer
Andrew Paul Conradi
Raymond Ernest Glover – Vice-President
Edwin Arthur Hawthorne - Secretary
Archie Martin Steacy - President
Graydon Young

REGIMENTAL WEBSITE

Please check out the Regimental website at www.bcregiment.com and click on “Association.” You will be pleased to find current and past issues of “The Duke”, general information, Membership Applications and Regimental Challenge Medallion Applications.

ASSOCIATION SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Association continues to support, through its Charitable Trust, various annual initiatives such as our Bursary Program for serving members of the Regiment and our dinner for the homeless in the month of December. In addition, the Charitable Trust supports various projects which assist in maintaining our link with the history of the Regiment (i.e. commemorative ceremonies, dedication of memorial plaques and support of our four Cadet Corps). A special thank you to all of those members who support the Charitable Trust!

ASLEEP

K37586 Rifleman & Trooper Frank T. Hamilton, served in the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles and the 28th Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 02 August 2007. Frank's family, Jackie and children Mark, Scott and Caroline reside in Coquitlam, B.C. He is buried in Ocean View Cemetery in Burnaby, B.C.

Captain Gerald H. Churley, served with the Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment) during World War II. He passed away in August 2007. Gerald resided in Vancouver, B.C.

In the morning and the going down of the Sun,
We shall remember them.
Up the Dukes Frank and Gerald.

UNDER THE WEATHER

No one has reported on sick parade. However, we sincerely hope that you are all in good health.

Upcoming Events



- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 05 Sep 2007 | Regiment Stands To. |
| 28 Sep 2007 | Association Annual General Meeting, 1930 hrs., at The Drill Hall |
| 30 Sep 2007 | Commemoration Service for BCR Perpetuated Battalions to be held at the PNE Grounds at 1400 hrs. |
| 12 Oct 2007 | Regimental Birthday....124 years Young |
| 06 Nov 2007 | Passchendaele Battle Remembrance Service, Belgium to be attended by Keith Maxwell and Gauthier Ghebbelynck on behalf of the 7 th Canadian Infantry Battalion(1 st BCR) CEF |
| 10 Nov 2007 | BCR Association Hill 111 Reunion Dinner at Delta Vancouver Suites Hotel – Invitations to be mailed. |
| 11 Nov 2007 | Remembrance Day...parade notice to be mailed. |
| 06 Dec 2007 | BCRA Fund Raiser Lunch |
| 15 Dec 2007 | Homeless Christmas Dinner |

Dukes, your Regiment needs your support....mark your calendar and plan to attend these activities.