



The Duke

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SWIFT & STRONG – A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN)

The long-anticipated Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment was completed in early April and was received from the printers on 3 May 2011; it is the culmination of five years of effort and will be a keep-sake and a “must-have” for Dukes of all ages and eras. The book was initiated by Warrant Officer Ron Leblanc, MMM, CD in 2006 as the Regiment was approaching its 125th Birthday.

The story of how the development of the book unfolded is best told in Warrant Officer Ron Leblanc's words –

"I never intended to write a book on the history of the Regiment. I'd always enjoyed Douglas Harker's "The Dukes" since I was a 2290 BCR Cadet back in the late 80s. In fact this project started out by accident.

"Back in early 2006 I was looking for pictures to add to my BCR Recruiting Power-Point presentation. I started to digitize some of my old pictures and searching the internet for more information. I came across the Vancouver and Canadian Archives websites which lead me to some amazing pictures of the Regiment and our perpetuated battalions. I immediately ordered a few images for my own interest. About this time I became involved in the BCR museum society as a warden. I took advantage of the position and started sorting through the many pictures, photo albums, and scrap books in the archives. I was amazed! What a treasure of old images! Soon enough I started compiling what I had, what I ordered, and what was in the archives. I quickly realized I was on to something. I wanted to do a book on the Pictorial History of the Regiment. That first year I spent most of my time gathering information, reading anything to do with our history, ordering images we didn't have in our own archives, and scanning what we had archives into digital images. I found this "work" very enjoyable and loved reading about the interesting and prominent persons who have served before me in our beloved Regiment. I hounded past and currently serving members to lend me their personal photo albums, and before I knew it I had a couple thousand images scanned.

"I had no idea what I was getting myself into; RSM Mark Arden told me just over five years ago, "*It's going to take you five years*". At the time I didn't think so, but I soon realized I couldn't do this on my own. Sergeant Dwayne Snow, CD had shown interest in helping me with the project. With Sergeant Snow's enormous knowledge of Regimental history and keen interest, we developed the framework for the book. It seemed just as we started to gain momentum the opportunity came up for me to deploy to Afghanistan. After 18 months of work up training and deployment I returned to the Regiment, eager to start working on the book again. While on mid-tour leave from Afghanistan I met Colonel (Retired) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD for the first time in Normandy, France (*yes I spent my mid-tour leave doing battlefield tours; my wife was impressed. I spent my 2nd wedding anniversary doing the "WW2 Canadian Highlights" tour*). While we were in Normandy, I told Keith about the BCR book project and he committed to helping once he moved back to Canada.

"On my return to the Regiment I found a new officer amongst us, Captain Kelly Deschênes, CD. He jumped on board offering to help write and obtained our International Standard Book Number (ISBN). Soon after, with Keith Maxwell now living Sechelt, he dedicated himself to helping complete the book. He interviewed our Afghan vets, wrote, edited, and his extensive knowledge of history added a level of inspiration to the rest of us. We had intended to be done for the 125th anniversary of the Regiment, a timing we can safely say we blew! We did have a few hiccups along the way; the project went from using Microsoft word to the more common publishing software of Adobe InDesign in three different versions! I'd taught myself the basics of InDesign program by watching YouTube videos but mostly by making mistakes. The Regimental fund provided funds to hire a graphic design artist to give the book the right "look" I was after. Two months later we fired him, which caused further delays in fixing his mistakes. I set out to become a competent Adobe InDesign user and learned all I could.

"During our last year of work on the book Captain Deschênes was posted back to Ottawa. Keith, Dwayne and I pushed on, trying to make our new deadline for the Military History Conference, which was held last month. Again we missed our deadline.

"*Swift & Strong, A Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment* was a united effort by many people, I would like to point out that without Keith and Dwayne our new history book wouldn't be as impressive as it is. Thank you both. Great credit is also due to Captain John Perry who designed the cover and for his endless hours touching up images on my demanding timeline. We also owe a debt of thanks to Mrs Dylan Szilvassy, the wife of Sergeant (Retired) Zoltan Szilvassy, CD, for her artistic contribution and many hours spent retouching images for the project. Again, thank you both. Finally, I would like to thank

all the generous people who donated financially to make this project possible and allow current and future generations the opportunity to discover our rich and fascinating history.

“Up the Dukes!

“WO R.R. Leblanc, MMM, CD”

The book is a full pictorial history with 600 carefully chosen and researched photographs as the book’s main feature; those photos are all fully captioned and they collectively tell a vivid visual story. The photographs are accompanied by a full narrative history of the Regiment from colonial times to the conflict in Afghanistan; the narrative is punctuated by the personal stories, recollections and memoirs of hundreds of soldiers from the Artillery days of the 19th Century to modern times. The book depicts the Regiment at work, at play and at war, and includes a summary of Regimental distinctions, honours and awards. The final section also includes a full listing of the Regiment’s Honorary Appointments, Commanding Officers, Regimental Sergeants-Major, and those Dukes who have filled senior appointments outside the Regiment.

The final product is a handsome volume with a striking dust cover making it suitable for coffee-table display; it would command a place of honour in any personal library. It is a high quality hardcover volume of 360 pages embossed with the Regiment’s cap badge in silver on the cover; the title of the book is similarly embossed on the spine. The printing was done with the finest automated offset printers in the industry by Glenmore Printing of Richmond, BC. That quality of printing was needed to present the photographs at a quality and level of detail suitable for such an important history. Reviewers have already commented on the professional, artistically appealing presentation of the book as well as the quality of the historical research and writing.

This book is the second history written to cover the Regiment’s history and it represents the first occasion for the photographs from the Regiment’s archives to be publicly presented. The publisher of the book is The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society with the assistance of the Commanding Officer’s Committee and The British Columbia Regiment Association. Its publication was made possible through the generous donation of many of the Regiment’s friends and supporters. Special thanks go to Mr William PJ McCarthy, P.E.P. of Burnaby, a former officer in the Regiment, who was the principal benefactor, and to former Sergeant-Major Bill Schmidt for his enormous generosity.

The book can be ordered through the BCR Museum Society or through the BCR Association at a price of \$50 including tax.

CANADA AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

By: Keith Maxwell

Note – this is the first of three instalments giving an informal overview of Canada in the First World War. The articles give a quick overview of the whole war, with an emphasis on the operations leading to victory in 1918.

The First World War was a critical period in the political development of Canada. During this period our national development toward an independent country in the community of nations accelerated quickly. In many ways, it was the most important development in the history of Canada. In 1914 Canada was, effectively, an autonomous colony within the British Empire, with all responsibilities for foreign policy resting with Britain. By the end of 1918 Canada was well on its way to political independence.

When war broke out in August 1914 Canada had a minuscule regular Army and a sizeable but unstructured Militia. They carried out a chaotic mobilization in Valcartier, Quebec in September and October 1914, and shipped a Division of infantry to England; that Division entered the trenches in early 1915.

They then fought a series of battles with names famous throughout Canada – Ypres and Saint Julien in 1915, and the Somme in 1916. They emerged from those battles with a solid reputation as aggressive, competent troops who could be relied on when the going got tough.

By the end of 1916 the Canadian Corps was at its stable strength of four Divisions. The foundation unit, which the soldier considered home, was the battalion. There were four battalions in a brigade and three brigades in a Division, along with engineers, Artillery and support units. The Canadian Corps had four Divisions and significant elements for engineering, heavy artillery, intelligence, communications and other supporting tasks. It was, in effect, a stand-alone Army, but was reliant upon the theatre lines of communications for logistics support.

In 1917 the Canadian Corps fought three major battles. The first was at Vimy Ridge in April, where they captured the strongest German defences on the Western Front. The success was both remarkable and unexpected. Overall, however, the British offensive was costly and only achieved limited objectives.

The commander of 1st Canadian Division at Vimy was Major-General Arthur Currie, a reserve officer from Victoria, who had risen to Division command in 1915 and had proven his significant abilities through two years of fighting. When Lieutenant-General Byng, the Canadian Corps Commander, was promoted to command Third Army following his success at Vimy Ridge, Currie took command of the Canadian Corps. He was younger by a decade than any other Corps Commander in the collective Imperial expeditionary force.

The follow-on French offensive in May was a disaster as General Nivelle's innovative new tactics failed in every respect. The French troops refused to advance into certain death, but held their defensive line. There would be no further offensive action on the French front for the rest of the year.

Field Marshal Douglas Haig, the aristocratic and inarticulate Commander-in-Chief of British forces on the western front, was determined to continue offensive operations. He planned to strike north from the Ypres salient toward the northern Belgian coast to capture the ports of Zee-Brugge and Ostende, which were being used by German U-Boats and surface raiders.

That offensive started on 31 July 1917 and is officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres. It is better known as Passchendaele. The fighting was conducted in the polder country east and northeast of Ypres in the wettest summer on record. It soon became a blood bath in the mud and filth of the quagmire.

Currie knew that the Canadians would be ordered into the morass at Passchendaele and he got word to move the Corps north in early October. Currie's reluctance to join the blood bath was over-ruled; but after an historic face to face confrontation with Haig he was able to gain some critical concessions. He would attack only when he was ready to, and would be given access to sufficient ammunition and logistics to ensure a reasonable chance at success. The Corps captured the ridge line after fifteen days of fighting, on 10 November 1917. It cost the Corps 16,000 casualties – 6,000 of them fatal. It also cemented the reputation of the Corps as the Shock Troops of the British Empire.

Going back to look at political developments, in late 1916 the fiery orator, David Lloyd George had taken over as British Prime Minister, determined to take firm control of the war effort. He acceded to the demands of the Dominions, led by Canada, and formed an Imperial War Cabinet. The Prime Ministers of the Dominions gathered in London in April 1917 and met regularly for two months. Prime Minister Borden

exercised significant influence in the Imperial War Cabinet, influence bought with the blood and successes of the Canadian Corps. The meetings laid the seed for the Statute of Westminster, and the Dominions were acknowledged to be independent, if junior, partners in the “Commonwealth” of the British Empire.

As the war progressed through 1917 the major allied powers fighting Germany were in serious trouble. The Russian Army suffered a series of defeats with enormous casualties and its troops were in revolt. The French near-mutinies were compounded by British manpower shortages, notwithstanding the introduction of conscription in Britain in 1916. While the United States entered the war on the allied side in the spring of 1917, it would be more than a year before that great nation could bring its industrial and manpower resources to bear. They would only field significant numbers of troops in mid-1918. German U-Boats were sinking allied ships on the Atlantic in large numbers, critically hampering supply and reinforcement of Britain and France.

Borden returned to Canada in May 1917 determined to sustain Canada’s war effort. The Canadian Corps was an all-volunteer force, but recruiting had dried up, and the Corps was facing manpower shortages as a result of the recent intense fighting. More losses loomed ahead.

Borden and his cabinet made the fateful decision to institute conscription. The issue was the ultimate political hot potato, dividing French and English speaking Canada; however the linguistic divide was not the only cleavage associated with conscription. It also divided rural and urban Canada, as farmers worried about having enough hands to bring in the harvest. It divided the more recent British immigrants from those whose family ties to the “old country” had diminished. Nevertheless, Borden pushed ahead and enacted the requisite legislation in August 1917. The government then came under enormous pressure to renew their electoral mandate.

The last election had been in 1911 and the election that should have taken place by 1916 was postponed under the provisions of the War Measures Act. Borden retained hope of forming a coalition government with Sir Wilfred Laurier’s Liberals for the duration of the war; however, with conscription on the table there was no hope of such an arrangement. Borden, a Conservative, formed the Unionist Party for the election and received the support of a large number of Liberal MPs from English speaking Canada. The election was held on 17 December 1917 and it was the dirtiest election in our history. In the run up, Borden passed a law to enfranchise women, but only those who had a close relative serving in the Army. He disenfranchised both conscientious objectors and Canadians who were born in enemy countries and had arrived in Canada since 1902. He also enacted a provision that soldiers could choose in which riding their votes would be counted, rather than being required to vote in their home ridings. The soldier’s ballot choice was simply “government” and “opposition”.

Predictably, the election split along linguistic lines. Borden won 153 seats to the Liberals 82. Of Quebec’s 65 seats, Laurier won 62. Conscription was put into effect on 1 January 1918.

Of 405,000 men eligible for conscription, 385,000 applied for deferral. Local boards considered the applicants and approve exemptions; in Quebec 98% of conscripts applied for exemptions and 91% were approved by the local boards set up under the Act. Those not deferred in Quebec were almost exclusively Anglophones. Quebec was not alone – 95% of Ontario’s conscripts also applied for exemptions. On 1 April 1918 four civilians were killed in Quebec City during a protest against conscription. The inquiry found that those killed were bystanders; however, the government insisted that the first shots were fired from the crowd.

In any case, the Military Service Act was amended immediately after the incident in Quebec City and all exemptions were removed. Conscription went into full effect and the Canadian Army processed the conscripts with despatch. The earliest of them arrived in France in February 1918, and were arriving in

large numbers by early summer. The country may have been thrown into a crisis, but the Canadian Corps' manpower problems were solved for the time being.

Field Marshal Haig's were not. Lloyd George kept the flow of scarce reinforcements to a minimum, fearing that Haig would launch another offensive like Passchendaele if he could build up reserves.

The British Army reduced the strength of its Divisions from twelve battalions to nine to spread out the thinning manpower. Canada was encouraged to do the same. Currie resisted an offer to command a Canadian field Army of six reduced Divisions. Instead he maintained the existing Canadian Corps organization, and added one hundred supernumerary infantrymen to each of the 48 battalions. His oversized Divisions had almost twice the punch and sustainability of their British counterparts. As the conscripts arrived, Currie had the manpower coming on line to keep his formations at strength for the rest of the year. Time would prove his decision to be a wise one.

As they moved into 1918 the western front went through its quietest period of the war. It was the calm before the storm, and the storm would last eight months. With Russia knocked out of the war, Germany transferred most of its Divisions to the western front. The Germans knew that the Americans would have several dozen Divisions in Europe by the end of 1918 - they had a limited window of opportunity to knock out the British and French.

To be continued!

THE VIEW FROM THE BUTTE

By: Jack Drake

Jack is on temporary leave with Pat awaiting the arrival of their first grandchildren, i.e. twins! Back to work for the September issue, Jack!

THE START LINE A COLD WAR REMEMBRANCE

By: David Sproule

We have all watched the terror and the horror being experienced by the Japanese people in the days and weeks following the earthquake and tsunami. It wasn't enough that the city of Sendai and its surroundings were destroyed beyond recognition with great loss of life but the population is now having to contend with the radiation effects from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear facilities. They endure with remarkable stoicism and civility.

Watching events unfold, got me thinking back to a time in 1959 when as a young troop leader in B Squadron, I was sent on a radiation monitoring course down at Jericho. The cold war was unfolding in Europe and Canada had responded by sending a brigade group and an air division as our nation's contribution to NATO. Back in North America, our cities were suddenly vulnerable to attack from long-range bombers and ICBMs. In response to this we had NORAD with its string of radar sites in depth across our northern latitudes as a first line of defence against a soviet attack. All Regiments were given additional NBCW tasks. For the Dukes training for our conventional armoured role was put on hold. The focus for militia units was National Survival training. Our part was to be radiation monitoring as part of the re-entry operations following a nuclear attack on Vancouver.

Tactically squadrons would be allocated a sector with boundaries and our troops would drive into the destruction Geiger counters in hand and establish the Green Line which had a measurement of so many roentgens and we would continue measuring until we established the red line which was so many roentgens more. You know I can't remember how many as it's a long time ago. We would explore laterals, directing civilians to safety in the rear and marking buildings, sending in route reports etc. Infantry units were the ropes and ladders performing rescue of the injured and distressed.

Regular force units also had a National Survival role in addition to their conventional combat roles but of course, operational training had to adjust to the threat of tactical nuclear weapons. I do remember an exercise when I was with the RCD in Gagetown where 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade Group did re-entry operations into Saint John NB. It was called "Exercise Nimble Phoenix". Coincidentally I was again in B Squadron and my troop's task was to perform search and rescue of casualties from a fertilizer plant. I was not yet in the recce squadron who were performing the radiation monitoring task. It was dirty work and after several hours of searching through the plant we stirred up such a cloud of potassium and nitrates that you couldn't see anyone. All of us must have ingested great amounts of fertilizer. We completed all of our tasks and at endex we rolled through downtown Saint John heading back to Gagetown.



In 1963, I was on the Instructional Staff in London, Ontario when militia units were once again able to conduct armoured training. We had to set up D&M and gunnery courses and I found myself at Borden and Meaford for several weekends teaching tactics. It was good to be back in a turret again with a map in hand bouncing around the training area.

The cold war basically ended when the Berlin Wall came crashing down. The remnants are now graffiti covered tourist attractions. These remnants serve to remind us of that period of world history that should never be repeated. Hopefully the Dukes will never have to consider Geiger counters as a piece of crew equipment or conduct re-entry operations into our beautiful city.

CO'S PARADE 2 February 2011

Well it was a busy CO's Parade! The parade was well attended by members of the Regimental Association, family and friends of three new recruits and newly promoted WO Mullick. In addition, five uniformed members of the Irish Pipes and Drums also attended.

Highlights of the CO's Parade were as follows:

1. New Dukes – The CO, LCol Bruce Kadonoff, conducted the swearing ceremony of three new Dukes; the RSM, CWO Mark Arden, welcomed the recruits to the Regiment;
2. Promotion of Sgt. Mullick to Warrant Officer (WO Mullick received a standing ovation from all guests!);
3. The CO received the first bar to his CD for 22 years of service;
4. Ray Glover and Ted Hawthorne presented Capt Paul Beckingham with a Certificate of Appointment as Chaplain of the Regimental Association; and

5. After the dismissal of the Officers, the RSM invited WO Mullick to lead the Regiment in a march past which included an impressive eyes right to his mother. A most touching moment, clearly a demonstration of the class of the members of our Regiment.

Many thanks to all those who attended and particular many thanks to the LCol Kadonoff and RSM Arden for inviting us to be a part of this parade.



Presentation to Association Chaplin, Capt. Paul Beckingham. L to R: LCol Bruce Kadonoff, President Ray Glover, Vice-President Ted Hawthorne and Chaplin Capt. Paul Beckingham



CO's Parade – February 2, 2011. "Mother's March Past" lead by our new Warrant Officer A.H. Mullick. Once again, congratulations Huf from all of us!

PAARDERBERG 2011



Many members of the Regimental Association attended the annual Paardeberg Mess Dinner held by the WOs' and Sgts' Mess at the Drill Hall on Saturday, 26 February 2011. Many thanks for a grand time to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess!

Presentation of certificates to Archie Steacy, Bob Remple and Ted Hawthorne by President Ray Glover in recognition of their trek to Paardeberg, South Africa, on the 110th anniversary of the battle on 27 February 2010 and the Remembrance ceremony conducted at Vendusie Drift War Cemetery. L to R: Archie Steacy, Ray Glover, Bob Remple and Ted Hawthorne

ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

By: Angelika Bekesinski

March 19th, 2011 was the annual St Patrick's Day party put on by the Regimental Association and held in the Sgt and WO's mess. Big thank you to both Messes for letting us use their space. This year Graydon and Sandra Young were in charge, they poured their heart into it and it definitely showed. They did a wonderful job. We had a great turnout, with over 50 people attending. There was a meet and greet followed by the Regimental Pipers entertaining us with quite a few tunes. We were lucky to have two guest pipers join us, Pipe Major WO Jimmy Knox, from Dublin, Ireland and Andy Carlisle also from Ireland but by way of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our very own "Duke A Bear" was awarded the status of "Honorary Piper" during a presentation of the Irish Pipes and Drums, making him an honorary member. LCol Bruce Kadonoff, BGen Dean and CWO Mark Arden were in attendance and the Colonel was kind enough to buy a well-deserved round for the pipers. After that we had our first draw for best costume, won by Dan McKenzie's wife, Ellen. Both she and Dan went all out dressing up for the event. This was followed by the first of many door prizes. After all those lovely tunes everyone noshed on an abundance of salad, Irish stew and bread (lovingly prepared by Sandra and Graydon Young, who spent two months trying different recipes to make it as authentic as possible), with yummy cupcakes, cookies and trifle for dessert. Of course they had some expert help from Carol Glover, Lynda Steacy and Gayle Hawthorne who pulled out all the stops with the decorations, salad bar and dessert preparations. No one was left hungry to be sure. Once dinner was over, there were more door prizes and the winner of the Pot O' Gold Contest (a bag of chocolate coins where you had to guess how many coins were in the pot). After a generous sharing of chocolate, it was onto the traditional Horse Races, run by Graydon and Kim Bekesinski. It was a close one this year but the winner ended up being "Filthy Limerick" sponsored by none other than the Regimental Pipers. Second place went to friends of Graydon and Sandra. There was more entertainment by the pipers and yet more door prizes. All in all a very successful event and a great time was had by all.



MCpl Duke A. Bear presented with a certificate on his appointment as Honorary Piper with "Momma Bear" Gayle Hawthorne, all of his friends in the band, LCol Kadonoff and special guests WO James Knox, MBE and Andrew Carlisle.

THE B.C. REGIMENT (DCO) IRISH PIPES & DRUMS REPORT

By: Pat Connell

From the start of January until St. Patrick's Day the Pipe & Drums have been busy preparing for CelticFest in March and the St. Julien Dinner in April. The band is pleased to announce our newest Piper is Tom Robins from the BCR Cadet Corp. in Powell River. Tom has made 2 trips down to Vancouver these last few months for training and to participate in the week long CelticFest activities with the Pipe Band from March 15-20.

The band was very involved with CelticFest activities as well as having two guests, WO James Knox, MBE, and Pipe Major & Piper Andrew Carlisle, from the Pipes & Drums 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, join us in our activities for the week. Both gentlemen were very "instrumental" in the Pipe Band's trip to Northern Ireland in 2010.

The band played at 17 different events over nine days. This either involved the entire pipe band or mini bands, individual pipers and duets at a variety of different venues.

Apart from the big parade on March 20th, attended by some 200,000 people in brilliant sunshine, the band enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day party at the Sergeants' Mess hosted by the Association. On this occasion, we initiated "Duke A Bear" as an Honorary Piper in the Pipe Band. He is now complete with kilt and caubeen with his jacket to follow shortly.

The band is grateful to the BCR Association for all the support we have received, especially over CelticFest. Many thanks to RSM Mark Arden for ensuring the Drill Hall was open on Sunday for the Pipe Band to muster, and return for refreshments and entertain our guests. We also wish to thank LCol Bruce Kadonoff for his continued support, especially during our busiest month of the year.

We also are proud to report that our Director of Music, Jordan Seguin, received the honour of being appointed 39 Brigade Commander's Piper. Jordan was presented with the Brigade Commander's Pipe Banner by Colonel Bryan Gagne and LCol Bruce Kadonoff at a ceremony at the Drill Hall on 9 March 2011.

The Band entertained at the Officers' St. Julien Dinner and the Military Historical Conference on 16 April and the Military Ball on 21 May 2011.



CelticFest 2011

FIRST WORLD WAR SOLDIER RETURNS TO VIMY CANADIAN REBURIED WITH FULL HONOURS AT LA CHAUDIÈRE MILITARY CEMETERY

By: Archie Steacy

Thomas Lawless, born on April 11, 1889 in Dublin, Ireland, immigrated to Alberta with his brother Matthew in 1909 and worked on a farm near Gleichen. He enlisted in the CEF in 1915, nine months after Matthew. Lawless and 15 others went missing the night of 8-9 June 1917 during a massive trench raid on the German lines south of Avion near Vimy. In October 2003, the remains of two of these missing soldiers were unearthed by a construction crew while building a gas pipeline.

Through DNA, the first soldier was identified in 2007 as Private Herbert Peterson of Berry Creek, Alberta. In early 2011, after four years of anthropological, historical and biological research, the second set of remains was confirmed as those of 28 year old Lawless.

“The courage and dedication of our Canadian First World War heroes will never be forgotten,” said the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence. “After all these years, we finally recognize Private Thomas Lawless with the honour and dignity he so greatly deserves.”

Herbert Peterson and Thomas Lawless are now buried side by side at La Chaudière. May they rest in peace.



The remains of Private Thomas Lawless of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) were reburied with military honours by the Canadian Army on March 15 at the La Chaudière Military Cemetery at Vimy in France. Photo: Canada, Department of National Defence

ANNUAL REGIMENTAL ICE HOCKEY GAME 2011

By: RSM Mark Arden



This year's game was held on 2 April at UBC's main rink, which was completely rebuilt for the 2010 Olympics.

This annual event encourages all members of the Regimental family to come out and play or cheer regardless of skill. I myself learned to skate at these very games as a new Duke! This game sees the Junior Ranks compete against the WO's, Sgt's & Officers and is usually a 'clean', fun, spirited match. Team Captains were: Cpl Villeneuve and Capt Virk – sadly Capt Virk was sent to the hospital via ambulance after an early game back injury – he was ok and drove home that same day. Maj Evans finished the game for him. Due to numbers the teams are usually lopsided and we saw this again this year with 24 JR's attending vs 6 on the other side. This year's game was considered fast, challenging, competitive and surprisingly the game stayed tied as both teams traded goals until the JR's took the lead in the last minute of play. The JR's finally ended a winning slump – they hadn't won in years – and celebrated with the 'winners' champagne in our Regimental Ice Hockey trophy – the Barrett Cup.

Here is the Scoring Summary:

1 st Period	Scoring Summary	Score
JR's 08:22	Cpl Farr	JR's 1 – 0
2 nd Period	Scoring Summary	Score
Sgt's/Officers 12:30	Sgt Patterson, assisted by Maj Evans	Tied 1 – 1
JR's 11:40	Cpl Farr	JR's 2 – 1
JR's 10:15	Cpl Sloan	JR's 3 – 1
Sgt's/Officers 08:20	2Lt Federley	Sgt's/Officers 3 – 2
Sgt's/Officers 01:20	Capt. Lindsay	Tied 3 – 3
3 rd Period	Scoring Summary	Score
JR's 14:26	Cpl Haig	JR's 4 – 3
Sgt's/Officers 14:15	2Lt Federley	Tied 4 – 4
JR's 05:57	Cpl Farr (Hat trick)	JR's 5 – 4
Sgt's/Officers 04:00	Maj Evans	Tied 5 – 5
JR's 01:20	Cpl Birzneck (Game winner)	JR's 6 – 5

Penalty Summary:

1 st Period	
JR's	Cpl Villeneuve – Charging
2 nd Period	
3 rd Period	
JR's	Cpl Villeneuve – Boarding
JR's	Cpl Sloan – Torpedoing
Sgt's/Officers	Sgt Mckee – Interference
Sgt's/Officers	Sgt Patterson – Boarding

Score Keeper: Mrs. RSM

Time Keeper: Mrs. Sgt Patterson



The players in action!



Former Mayors Sam Sullivan, Larry Campbell and Philip Owen, and present Mayor Gregor Robertson, attending Vancouver's 125th Birthday, were piped in by Drum Sergeant Pat Connell, Pipe Major Alistair Pattison and Piper Graham MacLennan.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY VANCOUVER!!

By: Bill Diamond

125 years ago on 6 April, the City of Vancouver was founded. The organization Vancouver AM (www.vancouveram.ca) took the opportunity to recognize this birthday by acknowledging the current and all former Mayors of the City of Vancouver by presenting them with their annual Wake Up Award. The annual Wake Up Award is presented to individual(s) that make a significant contribution to tourism in Vancouver.

The breakfast meeting started at 7 am. Three former Mayors (who also happen to be HMajors of The Regiment) were led into the ballroom at the Convention Centre West by members of The BC Regiment Irish Pipes and Drums. Pipe Major Alistair Pattison and Piper Graham MacLennan were joined by Drum Sgt Pat Connell. The photo that accompanies this article is of the band members and former Mayors at the front of the room as O'Canada is sung and being led by Dal Richards on his saxophone. Shortly after this photo the band members were paid with their shot of scotch, they piped themselves out of the room and it was off to work.

The 250 plus attendees appreciated the performance, and it was good to see Vancouver's oldest Regiment represented at the City's 125th Birthday.

REMEMBRANCE VIMY RIDGE 2011

By The Association's Honorary Captain Gauthier Hebbelynck



Dear Dukes,

I just sent out a link to my photos taken at Vimy. Many others will follow as lots got taken by other people I exchanged mails with so that they can send them through. I left Paris yesterday at 5 in the morning heading to Albert (Somme), where I met a couple of friends I wanted to drive around for a battlefield tour in the area(a very pale copy of what Keith would have been able to do here and I pray he will never ask for a copy of my notes), reaching Vimy at noon for a visit of the trenches (while lining up, a person from Vancouver spotted the cap badge and thus stayed with us for the rest of the day...He's passing the Drill Hall every day on his way to the office, it's a small world !)

The ceremony was beautiful as always, the sun was shining bright, reflected by the marble of the monument. 36 wreaths - but only one coming from a Regimental Association... it's always a very special moment when you hear the name of the Regimental Association being called out in front of the crowd and all official delegations. As usual Canadian military representatives (based in Mons, Belgium - Shape) wanted to hear the full story behind my presence there...

Again, a very special occasion, a beautiful day and lots of new contacts made... What more can you expect?

I'm taking the occasion to thank you all again for your trust, your comradeship and the friendship I receive from each of you.

Not to mention having received the privilege to represent the Association of such a fine Regiment, with such a fantastic history.

When I come to Vancouver, it feels like coming home and that's a unique feeling.

I will continue to represent the Regimental Association as long as you allow me to, with all my dedication, pride and commitment. It's just my way to pay my debt to those who died on the ground where I was born and grew up without knowing fear, misery or war.

As most of you now know my wife and daughter, I just would like to pass their regards to all of you. They're both as excited as I am to come back this summer, to this wonderful place "somewhere over the rainbow".

Up the Dukes,
Gauthier



Gauthier – Your remembrance actions continue to be boundless and most moving. Heartfelt thanks from all Ranks BCR.

VIMY DAY COMMEMORATION THE CENOTAPH AT VICTORY SQUARE 9 APRIL 2011



Regimental Association members and friends attend Vimy Day Commemoration Ceremony 2011

The ceremony was well attended by members of the Regimental Association. Honorary Colonel Bill Ireland and RSM Mark Arden attended on behalf of the Regiment. It was great to see the Cadets in great numbers organized by the Regimental Cadet Governor Roger Prouse. Ted Hawthorne laid the wreath for President Ray Glover on behalf of the Regimental Association. Colonel Bryan Gagne, Commander, 39 Brigade and LCol James Barrett, CO 15th Field Regiment, RCA were also in attendance.

The following is a summary by Maj (Ret'd) Bob Mugford, 15th Field Regiment, RCA:

“The Vimy Day Commemoration ceremonies went off very well on Saturday. I was pleasantly surprised by the turn out. I was expecting to see a couple of dozen people, instead there was around 200. There were parties from all the local unit associations, local units, 39 CBG HQ, RUSI Vancouver, NOABC, the Legion and ANA Vets (both colour parties attended), RCMP, Salvation Army, French war veterans, the VFD and a good contingent of Army Cadets from local units, who are adopting Vimy Day as their day to parade. (Navy Cadets parade for the Battle of Atlantic and the Air Cadets for the Battle of Britain Commemorations.)

The weather cooperated nicely, although it was a little chilly, especially sitting on those concrete benches (took a bit to get my legs moving after I stood up).

Student Preston Arens gave a description of his recent visit to the Vimy site and later gave a Commitment of Remembrance. Christopher Gaze gave a reading of Rudyard Kipling's 'My Boy Jack' and later gave the Act of Remembrance.

The ceremony lasted about 30 minutes and flowed smoothly, ending with a proclamation signed by Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson declaring April 9, 2011 Vimy Day.

There was great media coverage and most major TV networks had items on their local news shows that night. A well done to Cam Cathcart, who is the moving force behind this Commemoration ceremony.

Hope to see more of you in attendance next year.”

A TIME OF REFLECTION, REMEMBRANCE AND THANKS

By: Archie M. Steacy

REFLECTION

Sit back, close your eyes and reflect on the men and women who *commanded*, selflessly fought the battles, tended the wounded, buried the Fallen from the Boer War to Afghanistan, and to those who safeguard “*The Passing of the Torch of Remembrance*”.

Think about a citizen soldier person holding the senior most appointment during World War I. Captain Theodore Goodridge Roberts, aide-de-camp to the 12th Battalion under the command of Colonel Max Aitken, Lord Beaverbrook, wrote official reports and battlefield accounts. His account titled “The Corps Commander, The War Career of Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Currie, C.B., K.C.M.G.”, offers a complimentary insight of Canadian soldiers in battle in Canada In Khaki, No. 2. The article is reproduced in full as follows:



“SIR ARTHUR CURRIE (pictured on the right), commanding the Canadian Army Corps in France, is a big man with a big command. Fortunately, he is as big in mind and spirit as in body; otherwise, he should not be worth any more to us than any two ordinary men.

The First Canadian Division, the original unit of the Canadian Corps, is not much more than three years old; and yet the Corps as a whole possesses battle traditions and a fighting reputation equal to those of any Army Corps in the field. I make this statement with the assurance strengthened by the knowledge that any officer of any other unit in the British Army who has fought with or beside the Canadians will be glad to confirm it.

The Canadian Force has grown unfalteringly from one division to its present strength; and Arthur W., Currie has grown unfalteringly with it. He was at Valcartier and on Salisbury Plain in 1914, and commanded an infantry brigade during the Second battle of Ypres and other desperate and vital engagements of about that time and locality.

When our Second Division arrived in the field in 1915, he was promoted to command of First Division. During the following winter the science of trench raiding was brought to perfection by 7th Battalion of his 2nd Brigade and practiced industriously by the whole command. During those muddy months opposite Messines, many brilliant feats of arms were performed.

The Corps, now three divisions strong, moved back to the tragic salient of Ypres in the late spring of 1916, with Currie still in command of the premier division. In the meantime, our Second Division, under command of Major General Turner, V.C., had been proved in the terrible and prolonged battles of St. Eloi and the seven craters. In the salient all three divisions were employed in foiling Germany’s third gigantic and unsuccessful attempt at this point to break through – the third terrific assault to be delivered and the second to be faced and stayed by Canadian troops. These were the days of Sanctuary Wood and Mount Sorrel, of Amagh Wood and Hills 60 and 61 – of heroic defense against overwhelming odds of iron and

fire and flesh, and of heroic counterattacks –the thirteen June days that shall live forever in Canada’s great memories.

The Corps at this time, commanded by Sir Julian Byng, moved to the Somme late in August. The premier division led the way, after being relieved in the salient by the Fourth Division, fresh from England. The fighting and conditions on the new front were bitter in the extreme; but again the Canadians held, gained ground and held again, and Regina Trench and Courcellette were added to our vocabulary of proud names.

From the Somme they went north again, this time to the Arras front. There a formidable task was to be done; and in early April last we drove the enemy from Vimy Ridge and the fortified villages and woods beyond-from sinister positions in and before which Frenchmen and Germans had died by the scores of thousands, in the earlier days of the war. Here the Canadians fought throughout the summer and autumn, adding one important position after another to their gains. Here, early in June, one great general handed the Corps over to another- Sir Julian Byng, promoted to command of an Army, was replaced by Sir Arthur Currie, of the odd division. And still the good work went on without a pause.

In the fall of the year, in rain and mud, the Canadians were yet again recalled to Ypres, where a typical Canadian task awaited them. They did good work. The great story of Passchendaele is too fresh in your minds to require a word from me.

The war career of the Canadians, as a division and an Army Corps, is one with that of our present Corps Commander; so in roughly sketching the former I have outlined the latter.

The Corps Commander is a great general. To be a great and trusted general, a man must possess exceptional powers of observation and of concentration. He must be able to think and decide swiftly and yet without haste; he must possess unflinching energy and an intimate knowledge and understanding of his officers and men, his guns and roads, his defenses and his battlefields; he must know his ground, the heart of his men and the enemy. He must possess the spirit of justice and a high sense of duty; and always he must keep the one great purpose of his being bright of mind- to beat the Boche in every encounter with the least possible loss of life to his own courageous battalions.

The Corps Commander is like that.
T. G. Roberts”

REMEMBRANCE

Association Honorary Captain Gauthier Hebbelnyck, his wife Sandrine and daughter Clémence recently took time to visit and pay respects to World War II Dukes who are resting peacefully in Belgium’s Adegem Canadian War Cemetery. Gauthier’s unstinting commitment in respect of the Regiment’s Fallen continues unwaveringly in support of “The Passing of the Torch of Remembrance”.

The following letter offers heartwarming testimony that the “Torch of Remembrance” has been passed to Clémence, daughter of Gauthier Hebbelnyck. Gauthier is one of the Association’s French Field Officers who regularly represent the Regiment on many commemoration ceremonies throughout North West Europe.

“Dear Dukes

At the end of last week (15 April 2011) Sandrine and myself decided we would head to Belgium to spend the weekend with my parents as the weather forecast looked great (Besides, my mom's cooking is anyway an absolute first class excuse to go there it doesn't matter what the weather looks like).

On Sunday afternoon, just after lunch, we were talking about the Regiment and our next visit to Vancouver next summer. It ended up with talking about Adegem, and half an hour later Clémence, Sandrine, my mother and myself jumped into the car and decided to visit "our Dukes" resting in Adegem War Cemetery.

We stopped by in a flower shop and we explained to Clémence that we were about to buy some flowers to honour the graves of the fallen of the Regiment. She asked if she could choose the flowers for our tribute. Needless to say she received "carte blanche" - she picked out white roses...

When we asked her about the choice she made, she told us she learned at school that white roses are standing for innocence, purity, reverence, humility, silence ... But they also mean "I'm worthy of you" ... and she thought that would be the most appropriate message to give to "her" soldiers.

Needless to say sometimes I just feel so proud about my little "trooper", as I now call her



Gauthier & Clémence Hebbelnyck, Adegem Cemetery, Belgium

At the Adegem cemetery, she looked up all Dukes, laid a rose and added a flag when she could. It was a very intense moment for me and my family, we were the only ones to visit the cemetery, it was the first time for my mother, it brought back lots of memories linked to her childhood, and of course seeing Clémence with the white roses....was quite an emotional thing.

Interestingly enough, she put two roses in front of Sgt William Henry Clendinning's grave - she told me that she did this because she heard about his story (related to Hill 111 battle in Normandy) and that he was about my (Gauthier)age when he got killed. She ended with "you know what, I will salute him to thank him for what he did".



Clémence Hebbelnyck remembers Sgt Bill Clendinning.
Thank you Clémence from all Ranks BC Regiment (DCO)

I've been asking myself what the reaction of Sgt Clendinning's family would be, if they would find out about the picture...and that little girl on the other side of the ocean.

It's been a wonderful afternoon for all of us, and I just wanted to share the pictures with you.

They once all walked through the main door of the Drill Hall, and now rest here in Flanders, it made sense to me to tell them we still remember them.

Up the Dukes
Gauthier”

Gauthier – Please thank Clémence for her heart-warming Act of Remembrance...she has stolen our hearts – Archie

THANKS

Association Honorary Major Anton Grobбен and his wife Betsie have been associated with the British Columbia Regiment Association more than the past two decades.



Unreservedly, they have given their friendship, generously assisted with our battlefield tours to the Netherlands and have given endless thanks to Canadians for their kindness and liberation.

Over the years Anton (pictured left) and Betsie have personally made and placed floral arrangements in Hengelo's Centrum during the Silence March on 4 May annually, in memory of the Regiment's "Fallen" and the Regiment's wartime actions of liberation. This year the Association forwarded a number of wreath ribbons, displaying the Regiment's name, to place on their floral arrangements.

Anton advised me of their newest museum of "MEMORY" located in Nijverdal, NL. It contains many military displays, a photograph hall and military vehicles. He sent me a photo of his grandchildren enjoying time looking over military vehicles. His grandson *Mike Libery* just happens to be standing on one of the Regiment's "53", M5A1 Stuart (Recce) Tank while his sister *Amber Libery* enjoys a wheeled vehicle (pictured below).



There are many things the Dutch folks are thankful to Canadians for, as a country and personally on many occasions. Anton related one of his heart-warming experiences to me, for "thanks"....I want to share it with you.

He has titled it, "**Hereby the following little story about liberating**"

1945 the war goes to this end time is a very bad time without heating, electrical and bad little food. 3 April 1945 the family Grobбен living at that time in the village of Borne, 5 kilometers from Hengelo. The family count, Father, Mother, one brother, three sisters and I, so on 3 April, 5 o'clock in the afternoon we were liberated by the English Dorset Regiment and we took a look at the very big tanks (German) and to the other military vehicles from the Allied Army.

So in the night from 3 upon 4 April we were wake up early by a Canadian Sergeant telling my Father we get 3 guns in the surrounding from our house and also 7 Soldiers from the Canadian Artillery for many

days to sleep. My Mother said ho ho, the poor boys they have been fighting the whole night...(Twente Canal, near Delden) and now I have only potato pan cakes for them. These pancakes were baked in rape oil, and the morning after we eat them cold but the pancakes then had a poison green colour. As we think about the war we get thinking we get 7 soldiers for breakfast and we only have cold pancakes. So around 7 o'clock, the 7 Soldiers came in and shake kindly hands and one of the Soldiers take up the plate with the poison pancakes, and walk outside to the chicken run, and put it in the run. My Mother was completely in panic, but I see the Soldier walk to our meadow where there was a very big tent. The Soldier came back and on the plate there was very nice white bread with cheese, corned beef, marmalade and cigarettes (Players) for my Father, and for me my first chocolate - it was a tablet need ration. We will never forget that and is also the reason from our thanks feelings towards the CANADIAN SOLDIERS.

So all with all we can say, "the Germans steal our food, the Canadians our hearts".

WITH THANKS TO OUR LIBERATORS.
Anton Grobben, Hengelo, Nederland

SAMSON WANTS YOU



Give some thought and take action to visit your old Regiment and meet today's soldiers who are looking after the Regiment.

Look for details of future Samson Nights in the September issue of The Duke.



REGIMENTAL CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT

By: Roger W. Prouse

BCR CADETS PARADE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE FOR VIMY RIDGE

The Army Cadet League of Canada in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Legion has officially declared April the 9th as the Army Cadets official Commemoration Day.

In keeping with this declaration, the 2290 BCR Cadets along with the 72nd Seaforth Cadets and the 2472 15th Field Cadets paraded at Victory Square on April 9th with many former and serving armed forces personnel to mark the day 94 years ago when many thousands of Canadian WW1 soldiers attacked Vimy Ridge at a great cost of human life. Vimy Day will be observed by the Army Cadets in Canada for many years to come.

In other Cadet news, our 4 BCR Corps have enjoyed another banner year. Increases in enrolment have been realized and all training objectives have been achieved. The BCR Irish Fusiliers had 14 senior Cadets write the National Gold Star Certification Exam and all 14 passed. This is a very significant part of

the Cadets short career as it qualifies them for promotion to senior positions at the Corps level and makes them eligible to apply for Cadet Staff positions at the Army Cadet Summer Training Centres.

The Corps will be participating in their spring field exercises and are in the planning stages for their Annual Ceremonial Reviews (ACR).

The ACR dates are: 2290 Sunday 22 May at 1500 hours; 2381 BCR Irish Fusiliers Sunday 5 June; 2781 BCR Powell River, Saturday 21 May; and 2827 BCR Port Moody, Saturday 4 June.

Capt Mike Blackwell CO 2290 BCR has stepped down as CO to take a full time position at the Regional Support Cadet Unit (Pacific) effective 1 April. Lt Leah Yauck has assumed command. A date for the change of command parade has not been announced.

The Cadet Corps would like to take this opportunity thank our Regiment, The BCR Association, the CO's Committee, the Royal Canadian Legion, ANAVETS, the Army Cadet League and their Communities for the great support they have received over the past training year.

“Faugh-a-Ballagh, Up the the Dukes”

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

CANADIAN MILITARY STUDIES CONFERENCE 15 – 16 April 2011

The inaugural Vancouver Canadian Military Studies Conference was held 15 – 16 April 2011, with presentations at the Vancouver Community College downtown campus. Social and historical display sessions were held in the BCR Drill Hall.

The Conference had its beginnings when Professor Michael Bechthold, of Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, was researching an academic article on Worthington Force in 2009. That article was based on new aerial photography of the battle found in the archives of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies. As he was researching the article he contacted the BCR Museum Society, and the Society provided a wealth of new information from the battle that had recently been discovered during the reorganization of their holdings. The article, when it was published in “Canadian Military History”, provided significant new insight on the fate of Worthington Force on 9 August 1944 and was well received by the Regiment. The Laurier Centre has sponsored a number of Military Studies Conferences in Ontario but had never ventured west before and the idea of holding a similar conference, sponsored by the Centre and The British Columbia Regiment, was mooted.

A general outline for the Conference was agreed and serious efforts began toward the end of last year to organize and host the event. The British Columbia Regiment family, including the Regiment itself, the BCR Museum Society, the BCR Association, and the CO's Committee all had a role in putting the event together. We were fortunate to have five knowledgeable, professional presenters, led by Professor Bechthold as the keynote speaker, who presented further detail on the events leading to the destruction of Worthington Force in Normandy during Operation Totalize.

It is worth noting the following four presentations – Professor Jim Wood from the University of Victoria gave a superb look at the development of the Militia before the First World War, and Colonel (retired) Patrick Dennis gave an overview of the history of the NATO AWACS Force from the Cold War to Afghanistan and Libya. The next presenter was Ms Christine Leppard from the University of Calgary

who spoke on the politics in the Canadian Chain of Command during operations in Italy in the summer of 1944, including significant tensions between senior Canadian and British commanders. The final historical presentation was by Dr Geoff Hayes of the University of Waterloo, who spoke on the operations of 4th Canadian Armoured Division on the right flank of the battle of the Seheldt Estuary fought in Belgium and the Netherlands in October and November 1944 – in his terms, “The Most Important Battle.”

The Conference attendees had lunch in the Drill Hall with a performance by the Irish Pipe and Drum Band and visits to the BCR Museum and various static displays.

The final event was a Panel Discussion with a number of veterans of the Afghanistan conflict. The members of the panel spoke of their experiences, from training, to deployment and employment in theatre, to the problems associated with coming back to Canada. Their insight and forthright presentation style gave a rare look into the efforts and sacrifices our soldiers are making in defence of Canada 8000 miles away.

Feedback from the event clearly indicated that the event was well received by the attendees, notwithstanding a number of minor technical hitches. The event was timed to coincide with the annual Saint Julien Dinner held by the Officers’ Mess and the synergy effect enhanced both events.

It was a good weekend to be a Duke! Watch for next year’s Conference.

ST. JULIEN 2011

The annual Officers’ Mess St. Julien Mess Dinner was the culmination of a tremendous week (i.e. The Vancouver Military Studies Conference and the debut of “Swift & Strong”, A Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own), a new book to be published and released in a matter of days).

The very well attended dinner was extraordinary. Archie Steacy was acknowledged by the Commander of 39 Brigade, Col Bryan Gagne, with a certificate for the over 60 years of service to the Regiment and the greater community. Congratulations Archie! Regimental Association Secretary, Bill Diamond, was promoted to Honorary Major. Well deserved, Bill! The Regimental Association was very well acknowledged by the CO for its support. In addition, Keith Maxwell and Ted Hawthorne were presented with framed BCR Pennants by LCol Kadonoff in recognition of their efforts. In summary, it was another great night for us all.



L to R: LCol Bruce Kadonoff, Col Bryan Gagne and LCol (Ret'd) Archie Steacy
Photo courtesy of the RSM

THE ANNUAL 28TH ARMoured APPLEKNOCKERS LUNCHEON

By: Ray Glover

The 64th Reunion lunch took place at the Village Green Hotel on 30 April 2011 in Vernon, B.C. Six 28th Armoured Regiment (BCR) and 25 retired Dukes and spouses and friends attended. Members and friends of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Association shared the “unveiling” of the book “Swift and Strong” – A Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own) with the soldiers who were part of the history of the Worthington Force Group. On behalf of the 28th Armoured Veterans and the Association, we would like to thank Warrant Officer, Ron Leblanc, Colonel (Ret’d) Keith Maxwell, Sergeant Dwayne Snow and Captain Kelly Deschenes for allowing us permission to display and promote the books before the official launching here in Vancouver.



“Unveiling” of “Swift and Strong” – A Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own).
Above: MCpl Duke A. Bear
L to R:
Carroll Willems, Don Cameron, Keith Moore, Dorothy Harrop, Henry Kriwoken, Mal Land and Ted Weddell

We indeed appreciate the opportunity to travel to Vernon to spend some quality time with our 28th Armoured Veterans. Believe me, they enjoyed and felt privileged to be the first Dukes to see and procure “Swift and Strong”.

Ted Weddell read a letter of greetings from the Algonquin Veterans Association:

“GREETINGS FROM THE ALGONQUIN VETERANS ASSOCIATION HERE IN PARRY SOUND TO “THE BCRS ASSEMBLED” AT VERNON 2011.

COMRADES IN ARMS THEY ARE TO US ALGONQUINS AND PERSONALLY REMEMBERED BY MYSELF AS I WITNESSED THEIR BRAVERY ON HILL 140 ON AUGUST 9TH 1944.

COMRADES IN ARMS WE WERE THAT DAY AND OFTEN THROUGHOUT THE WAR.

AND EVEN NOW AS WE SHARE OUR MEMORIES AT REUNIONS, AND IN THE COFFEE SHOPS AND LEGION HALLS, THAT UNIQUE BOND OF THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN SO MUCH, FOR THOSE OF US WHO STILL REMAIN, WE HAVE A HERITAGE TO PASS ON TO FOLLOWING GENERATIONS SO THAT THEY IN TURN WOULD STRIVE TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD AND A BETTER CANADA.

NE KAH NE TAH

*JACK PATTERSON
CHAIRMAN, THE ALGONQUIN REGIMENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION.*

PS WE WILL BE HOLDING A CEREMONIAL FLAG RAISING AND PLACING OF FLORAL TRIBUTES AT THE ALGONQUIN ROLL OF HONOUR HERE IN PARRY SOUND AT 2.30 P.M., SUNDAY JUNE 5TH. IF THERE ARE BCR VETS AROUND WE WOULD BE HONOURED TO HAVE THEM COME. MY PHONE NUMBER IS 705-746-8578. WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM THEM.”

Regimental Sergeant Major Mark Arden was unable to attend due to a military commitment. However, his excellent report regarding the state of the Regiment was presented by Ted Hawthorne.

MC Archie Steacy stated that the very high standard and morale of the Regiment was directly related to the spirited leadership of the Commanding Officer, LCol Bruce Kadonoff, RSM Mark Arden, the NCOs and the esteem of the Regiment held by the Junior Ranks.



Front Row L to R: Carroll Willems; Don Cameron; Keith Moore; Dorothy Harrop; Henry Kriwoken; Mal Land; Ted Weddell; Ray Glover and King. Rear Row L to R: Bob Remple; Tom Lyth; Kim Bekesinski; Archie Steacy; Dan McKenzie; Curt Cipra; Jack Drake; Graydon Young; Jerry Couling; Ron Gilbert and Ted Hawthorne

Sgt (Ret'd) Dan McKenzie videotaped the event. Group photos of the 28th Armoured Veterans and members of our Association were taken with our camp flag proudly displayed.

Many thanks to Archie Steacy for a fine job as MC, and Ted Hawthorne for all the memorabilia displayed (he is truly a high-pressure salesman).

REGIMENTAL TRIVIA

Try answering the following trivia questions regarding Regimental history. Know where to find the answers if your memory has played tricks on you???? Check-out Major Douglas Harker's book "The Dukes" 1973.

1. Can you name the Artillery Company from which the Regiment is directly descended?
2. The Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery was formed on what date; who was the Commander; what was its strength and in what cities were the headquarters located?
3. Provide me with the official date of the opening of the Drill Hall; and the title of the individual who performed the official duty?
4. Name the Regimental Marksman, and in what year did he win the King's Prize at Bisley?
5. What former Commanding Officer created the link to the Rifle Brigade, the year and on what occasion?

Come on Dukes --- get involved --- *"Audio, video, disco"*.

Answers to the trivia questions from the December 2010 issue of The Duke:

1. What was the first British Army Campaign Medal issued?

Answer: The first medal awarded by the British Government to all soldiers present at a battle, was the WATERLOO MEDAL, 1815 awarded to 39,000 soldiers.

2. Lt Col Hart McHarg won the World's Long Range Championship at Camp Perry, Ohio. What is the name of the trophy and the year he won the championship?

Answer: Hart-McHarg placed first and was awarded the National Guard Championship Cup, the Gold Cup and the Gold Medal (the gold cup was not gold but silver gilt) and had been presented by the German Kaiser and was colloquially called the "Kaiser Cup".

During the competition with Hart-McHarg winning first place, other Canadian competitors placed 2nd and 3rd and Canada was awarded the "Palma Trophy" emblematic of the worlds' best marksmen.



Rifle Range, Camp Perry, Ohio 1913.

3. Name the prestigious shooting trophy won by Cpl Ryan Steacy at Bisley 2010?

Answer: Corporal Ryan Steacy of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) won the prestigious Queen Mary Match, scoring 187/200 in the Central Skill-at-Arms (CENTSAM) international shooting competition. To put this achievement into perspective, the Queen Mary Trophies are insured for UK £4,000,000 and the overall competition is described as "*the Olympics of service rifle shooting,*"

4. Name the Regiment's Victoria Cross winners and the battles in which they won their VCs?

Answer:

1. Lieutenant Edward Donald BELLEW: 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion (1st British Columbia Regiment) CEF. 24 Apr 1915, Keerselaere, Belgium.
2. Private Michael James. O'ROURKE: 7th Canadian Infantry. Battalion (1st British Columbia Regiment) CEF. 15-18 Aug 1917, Hill 70 (near Lens), France
3. Corporal Walter Leigh RAYFIELD: 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion (1st British Columbia Regiment) CEF. 2-4 Sep 1918, Arras, France
4. CSM Robert Hill HANNA: 29th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Vancouver) CEF. 21 Aug 1917, Lens, France.
5. Lieutenant Graham Thompson Lyall: 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion (North British Columbians) CEF. 27 Sep-01 Oct 191, Bourlon Wood, France.

5. What is the date of the Regiment's first fatal battle casualty, his name and the war and battle in which he gave his life?

Answer: The Regiment's first fatal battle casualty occurred on 18 February 1900 when Private William Jackson, killed in action during the Battle of Paardeberg, the Second Boer War 1899 – 1900, South Africa.

Roger, your answers to questions 1 thru 4 are correct. See above for the correct answer to question 5. A memorial brass plaque installed on the Drill Hall's east wall commemorates the Regiment's South Africa "Fallen".

Many thanks for participating in The Duke's Trivia – well done. Colonel Roger Turnell is a former officer member of 2290 BCR Cadet Corps and the Regiment (1964 to 1976 circa).

On behalf of all ranks BCR, sincere congratulations on your appointment to Honorary Colonel of The Royal Canadian Hussars.

*Minister Ministre of National Defence de la Defense nationale
CANADA
September 21 2010*

Colonel Roger William Turnell, C.D. (Retired) Honorary Colonel 437 Twin Brooks Crescent North West Edmonton AB T6J 6W7

Dear Honorary Colonel Turnell:

Upon the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Staff, I am pleased to approve your appointment as Honorary Colonel of The Royal Canadian Hussars Montreal.

The practice of honorary regimental appointments in Canada dates back more than a century. Although the tasks and roles of units have changed over the years, it remains the role of the Honorary to serve as a link between the community and the Canadian Forces. In this activity, distinguished Canadians, such as you, serve extremely well.

I am certain that over the next three years you will gain a heightened appreciation of the importance of your unit within the community. And in turn, this appointment will provide unique and satisfying experiences and will benefit the Canadian Forces.

I wish to congratulate you on your appointment and thank you for your interest in the Canadian Forces and the community.

Sincerely,

Signed, Peter MacKay

Minister National Defence

COMING EVENTS

June 4, 2011	2827 BCR (DCO) (Port Moody) ACR
June 5, 2011	2381 BCR (DCO) (Irish) ACR
June 15, 2011	Association Annual General Meeting
September 7, 2011	Stand To (CO's Parade)
TBA	Change of Command

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Kim Bekesinski
Jerry Couling – Treasurer
Andrew Conradi
Bill Diamond – Secretary
Raymond Glover – President

Ted Hawthorne – Vice-President
Keith Maxwell
Archie Steacy – President Emeritus
Graydon Young

Duke Editor: Archie Steacy
Publisher: Ted Hawthorne

IN THE HOSPITAL / ON THE MEND

Master Corporal Mark Salesse, SAR TECH and former Duke, was seriously injured in a fall while attending a rescue course geared for ice climbing in Colorado, USA. The extent of his injuries is not fully known but he has a broken pelvis and possible internal injuries. The Canadian Forces will be moving Mark back to the Ottawa Veterans Hospital in 10 days. Mark will not let an accident of this nature deter him. He is tough young man with the will of a bull elephant.

All ranks BCR send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.
Up the Dukes Mark!

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Ernie Wesson recently spent time in Lions Gate Hospital after surgery to repair him due to wear and tear. We were pleased to be with him at the St. Julien Dinner; evidence that he is well on his way to recovery.

Best wishes from all ranks BCR.

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! Your generosity has made it possible to accomplish many of the commemorative projects your Association has undertaken.

We also wish to thank our supporters for their "In Memoriam" donations. This is a very effective way to remember our loved ones.

DUKE'S DEN



We have attached two photos received from LCol Harj Sajjan, deployed with "Duke" in Afghanistan. In the photo to the left, Duke is held by MGen James Terry, Commander of Regional Command South & the 10th Mountain Division, and in the photo below with our own LCol Harj Sajjan, BCR and MGen Terry. Col Harj advises that Duke now has his own Divisional Patch (right shoulder...not visible) as he has served with the 10th Mountain Division in a combat zone (note: LCol Sajjan earned his patch in 2006). Officially, there are now two Dukes who have served under the command of a US Division in Afghanistan.

Duke returned home in time to attend the annual WOs' and Sgts' Mess Paardeberg Dinner on 26 February 2011.



Many thanks to LCol Sajjan for the great photos and for taking care of our intrepid Regimental Mascot!

If you wish to follow Duke's many pursuits, why not follow him on Facebook.

Duke will be travelling to Disneyland in May for a little rest and recreation. Thereafter, Cadet ACRs are on the agenda.



Duke upon his return to Vancouver for Paardeberg 2011.



Duke on the crane (on the Concord Project) with an excellent view of the Drill Hall. Photo compliments of Duke's buddy, Sean Harvey, site superintendent.

THE B.C. REGIMENT (DCO) MUSEUM SOCIETY REPORT

The Museum Society has been active in a number of areas over the past months and has facilitated a number of activities within the Regimental family. The Museum Society provided coordination for the Vancouver Military Studies Conference and, with the BCR Association, manned the various desks, sold books, helped set up the lunch and opened the Museum for the Conference. The Society also acted as the official publishing organization for "Swift & Strong - a Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)", which matched with the Museum Society's mandate of history and heritage very well. We are proud to be a part of the publication of this important historical work.

Work continues in the archive on indexing and cataloguing the holdings, particularly for the pictures. The archive holds literally thousands of photographs and the effort to index them, properly categorize them and put them into a digital filing system is substantial.

The Museum Society is looking at a major renovation of the Museum's displays. The artefact holdings are substantial and represent the Regiment over a period of 150 years. In addition to the material on display now, there are dozens of boxes of artefacts in storage. The displays will be renovated by era and new interpretation and explanatory material is being developed. The Society is also working with the Regiment to provide more public access to the Museum to increase the public profile of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO), its Drill Hall and the Museum.

The BCR Museum Society is always looking for new members, as well as volunteers to help look after the Society's holdings. You would be welcome as a Society member and any time you can spare would be a bonus. So if you are interested in the Regiment's history contact any member of the Board or working committee member to sign up or check us out at the Regimental website www.bcregiment.com.

CANADIAN FORCES SERVICE PIN – NEW DESIGN



ARE YOU ENTITLED? Read-On...

The Canadian Forces has announced changes to the design of the Canadian Forces (CF) Service Pin, and provided the following information.

The CF service Pin has been awarded to eligible personnel at the time of their release since its introduction on 19 August 1985. The CF Serviced Pin provides a means by which former members of the

CF may be identified, and by which they are encouraged to continue their observance of the CF Military ethos in civilian life.

All member of the CF who are in possession of their Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) at the time of release from either the Regular or Reserve Force are eligible to receive a CF Service Pin. The eligibility factors and the availability of the CF Service Pin in three finishes remain unchanged:

- A. Bronze – in receipt of a CD at time of retirement.
- B. Silver - in receipt of a CD1 at time of retirement.
- C. Gold – in receipt of a CD@ at time of retirement.

CF Members who are released on or after 01 April 2011 will be awarded the new CF Service Pin.

YOUR ACTION REQUIRED:

To order the CF Service Pin, please send a written request to the address below Director Military Careers Administration will have to verify the entitlement prior to sending you the CF Pin. You must include the following information:

Service Number (or Social Insurance or Regimental Number)
Full Name
Date of Birth
Period of Service
Complete Return Address

The maximum allowable order per person is two pins and cost \$10 each. The Money Order must be made out to "The Receiver General of Canada"

Send request to:

Director Military Careers Administration 4-2
National Defence Headquarters
MGen George R. Pearkes Building
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

Should you require any further assistance, you may contact Sergeant Sharon Eloff at:
Telephone | Téléphone: (613) 995-0953, or Facsimile | Télécopieur: (613) 995-4532

APPRECIATION

A note of appreciation for all the work Gayle Hawthorne and Bob Remple do for the preparation of financial statements. I know it takes a lot of their time and knowledge to keep the books in order.

Ray Glover



ASLEEP

K100263 Trooper Louis (Kelly) Joseph Bohemier served with the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC during World War II, and a long standing member of the Regiment Association. He was Lt Col John Toogood's driver in northwest Europe, 1944 - 1945. Louis passed away on 6 March 2011. Louis, Hazel and family resided in Courtenay, B.C.

K37622 Lieutenant R. Eugene Homer-Dixon served with the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC during World War II, and a long standing member of the Regimental Association. He passed away on 5 April 2011. Gene will always be remembered for his physical fitness passion. He resided in Calgary, Alberta.

Major General J.P. Robert LaRose served as a troop leader with the Strahcona's in the Korean War and in the Fort Gary Horse. He established the 12e Regiment de Blindée du Canada, commanded all troops Middle East, was Chief of Land Doctrine and Operations at NDHQ and topped his career as Colonel Commandant of the Armoured Corps. General Bob passed away on 15 May 2011 in Kingston, Ontario. He was a soldier's officer and a good friend.

Thank you for your service to the Regiment and Canada.

At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
We shall remember them.