



THE DUKE



ANNUAL VETERANS' REUNION LUNCHEON KAMLOOPS – April 21, 2012

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Back row (L to R): Graydon Young, LCol Jim Barrett, Jerry Couling, Bob Remple, Lt Van Wagoner, Maj Doug Evans, Arjun Singh, Bob Fearnley, Bill Diamond and Dan McKenzie
Front row (L to R): Ray Glover, Terry Burke, Don Cameron, Ted Weddell and "Duke", Keith Moore, Jack Drake and Ted Hawthorne

The 64th annual Regimental Association veterans' luncheon held in Kamloops was a great success. Our special guests included 28th Armoured BCR Captain (R) Ted Weddell, Sergeant (R) Don Cameron and Trooper (R) Keith Moore, Deputy Mayor of the City of Kamloops, Arjun Singh, Lieutenant Kireran Van Wagoner, representing the RMR and LCol Jim Barrett from 39 CBG. Deputy Commanding Officer Major Doug Evans, representing the Regiment, gave an excellent "State of the Regiment" update which was greatly appreciated by all of our members. A highlight of the afternoon was the birthday cake presentation by Graydon Young complete with bayonet at the ready while marching Jack Drake, the cake porter, to Don Cameron's table. The "formal parade" was accompanied by a Regimental rendition of "I'm Ninety-Five" in celebration of Don's 95th birthday. Congratulations Don and we wish you many more birthdays!

We would like to pass along messages received from Ted Weddell and Peter Kilby for your information.

First of all from Ted:

"I just wanted to say how very much I enjoyed the lunch yesterday. As I said in my brief remarks I find it simply amazing how so many people could put so much work into an event dedicated to only three people. To paraphrase Churchill's famous remarks, never have so few been so very honored by the hard work and organization of so many! I know that both Don and Keith were equally impressed and moved, especially Don. I'm sure he had no idea that such a wonderful tribute to his birthday was about to happen."



28th Armoured Vets (L to R) Ted Weddell, Keith Moore and "Duke" and Don Cameron

Secondly from Peter:

"Many thanks for yet another flawlessly planned and executed Association event. It was most enjoyable and I thoroughly appreciated thinking about our time together as I drove home through the beautiful afternoon. In all, a reaffirmation of the value to be found in folk with a common bond coming together to keep that bond alive and well."

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EX COUGAR SALVO 2012

As guests of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (President Ted Hawthorne and Vice President Bill Diamond), it is our very great pleasure to report to you regarding our ExecuTrek Tour of Ex Cougar Salvo 2012 held in Boise, Idaho on 4 and 5 May 2012. Our group consisted of thirty guests. We left Vancouver on board our chartered "Air North" Hawker Siddeley 748 and arrived in Boise at noon MDST on Friday, 4 May 2012. Our tour OPI was Commander King Wan. We were greeted by the Deputy Commander of 39 CBG, LCol Romano Acconci, and transported on our bus to Gowen Field, Idaho National Guard (see the attached link for full details of this excellent training centre: www.idahoarmyguard.org/GowenField/GowenField.asp). We dined in the mess hall with various members of 39 CBG.

The initial plan was to proceed to "Orchard Training Area", about one hour out of Boise, in order to observe the various units of 39 CBG in the field. The trip was cancelled when the troops were ordered to stand down for safety reasons when an unexpected sand storm with winds of seventy knots and driving rain made it unwise to proceed. The backup plan was implemented and we were brought to a lecture theatre where we were briefed by 39 CBG Commander Colonel Bryan Gagne who clearly outlined the mission and provided us with full details of the unit participation in this complex scenario of a combined Field Firing Exercise at Level 3/4 (Troup/Squadron) Task Force capability. We were advised by Colonel Gagne that the 39 CBG unit participation exceeded initial estimates and was now at 54 percent of 39 CBG strength with 830 participants. This operational tempo is very meaningful to our soldiers and particularly so for our many Afghanistan veterans in 39 CBG. The briefing continued with a presentation by the Exercise Director, Chief of Staff, LCol Doug Poitras, CO of RWR, for the Exercise Director, BCR LCol Harj Sajjan who remained in the field dealing with an ever changing environment. We were also briefly addressed by Captain (N) Cavanaugh, RCN, regarding the support to the Task Force by Health Services. The significant logistical support component was also clearly demonstrated by the speakers. LCol Acconci concluded the briefing and we were off on our bus to the Marriott Courtyard where we checked in and went out to dinner. Most of

us went to Ram's Sports Bar for a quick dinner, socializing and a review of the afternoon's events. We were then picked up and returned to Gowen Field for a reception hosted by 39 CBG. The excellent relationship between the 39 CBG and the Idaho National Guard ("Guard") was clearly evident by the number of presentations by both sides, including a presentation by the Guard to our own Colonel Harj Sajjan. Clearly, a great relationship with the Guard has been established!

On Saturday, our revised program necessitated a start at 5:00 am in order to proceed to Orchard Training Area to observe the combined Task Force Live Fire Exercise (armoured recce, infantry, artillery and engineers). Upon arrival, we were issued flak jackets and helmets and transported to our Observation Post where we were thoroughly briefed by Colonel Sajjan who provided full details of the attack (an infantry assault with other arms in support) on a "rogue warlord outpost" by the Task Force. We were all very impressed with the results of the exercise and the professionalism of all of our reservists! It was truly a well-planned and well executed exercise under rather inhospitable conditions...quite cold with high winds. We said our goodbyes, returned our kit and were transported back to the base for lunch where we dined with some fellow Dukes. Next stop...the airport where we boarded our chartered plane and returned to Vancouver by mid-afternoon.



Colonel Bryan Gagné and Ted Hawthorne

Our special thanks to all members of 39 CBG for their hospitality and for a great tour experience and to our CFLC friends, Honorary LCol Scott Shepherd (BC Chair), Commander King Wan and Bill Diamond for their great work!



Ted Hawthorne and LCol Harj Sajjan

PELLET GUN TARGET FRAME/BACKSTOP PRESENTATION TO 2290 BCR - 19 APRIL 2012

We are most pleased to report that the Regimental Association presented four brand new "state of the art" backstops to the 2290 BCR RCACC on 19 April 2012 at the Drill Hall. The CO, Captain Leah Yauk, originally asked us for assistance in replacing the preexisting/antiquated backstops and Archie and Ryan Steacy were most pleased to oblige. The result was the excellent work of art presented by Archie Steacy to the CO and the Cadet Corps, namely four all-purpose target frame and backstops complete with lighting system and maintenance kit. Well done Arch and Ryan for a tremendous job!!



Archie Steacy addressing the assembled cadets



Archie Steacy and Capt. Leah Yauck

The Cadets were very pleased to receive their new equipment which will result in more shooting time due to reduced preparation and maintenance time.

Congratulations to the 2290 BCR RCACC on their new acquisition!

2012 SAINT JULIEN WEEKEND

VANCOUVER MILITARY STUDIES CONFERENCE, SAINT JULIEN MESS DINNER and RICHMOND ROTARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Well...St. Julien weekend was one to remember!

The Military Studies Conference started things off on Friday evening with the excellent key note address of the inaugural "William Hart-McHarg Memorial Lecture" by Professor Terry Copp. Dr. Copp's presentation was "War & Memory: Canada and the Second Battle of Ypres". It was truly a tremendous address and a great start to the Saint Julien weekend. On Saturday, excellent presentations were given by Judy Lam Maxwell on "Chinese Canadian Veterans: Loyalty to Country", Dr James Wood on " 'I couldn't begin to tell you': Oral Histories of BC Veterans of the First World War", Professor Mike Bechthold on "Raymond Collishaw and the Development of Naval Aviation in the 1930s", BGen Andre Corbould on "A Canadian Perspective on Coalition Command in Afghanistan" assisted by Colonel Eric Peterson, 10th Mountain Divison, US Army, Dr. Taylor Owen on "The Comprehensive Approach to Afghanistan and the CF Training Role" and LGen (R) Ray Crabbe on "Canada's Post Cold War Military: The Balkans and Beyond". It was truly an amazing conference with top notch presenters. Congratulations to the conference Facilitator Cam Cathcart for a job well done and to Keith Maxwell for organizing such a successful event!

Saturday evening started off with the Officers' Mess annual Saint Julien Mess Dinner. An excellent dinner was enjoyed by all at this well attended mess dinner. Congratulations to the PMC, Major Don Bentley, for a well-organized dinner and a great time! The receptions in the mess before and after the dinner provided an excellent opportunity to socialize with our serving members, special guests and our many presenters from the Conference.

The weekend was capped off with the Richmond Rotary 50th Anniversary Gala held at the River Rock Resort Casino Theatre. ("A Yellow Ribbon Tribute to our CF Members"). Regimental Association member Ken Whitney hosted the grand event as President of the Richmond Rotary Club. Our CO, LCol Harj Sajjan, was the keynote speaker at the Gala and gave an excellent presentation highlighting the great service and commitment of our serving members who consistently demonstrate, through their service, the values of our Country. 39 CBG Commander, Col Bryan Gagne, who was piped in by BCR Irish Pipes and Drums Director

of Music MWO Piper Jordan Seguin at the beginning of the festivities, conveyed greetings from the Brigade to the packed house. Table # 6 (occupied by our serving members and dates...and hosted by Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Scott Shepherd), had a great evening and represented the Regiment very well. We are proud of them! Many thanks to Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Shepherd for his great support! The Band of the 15 Field RCA and the Pipes and Drums of the Seaforths gave an excellent performance and were well received.

A memorable weekend indeed!!

VIMY DAY COMMEMORATION, VICTORY SQUARE, VANCOUVER 9 April 2012

It was a warm and sunny day in Vancouver for this year's commemoration service held at Victory Square at 11:00 am this morning. The service this year marks the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge which started on 9 April 1917. The ceremony was very well attended by all local Regimental Associations, RUSI Vancouver, RCL, ANAVETS, RCMP, Salvation Army and French Veterans. In particular, some 120 Army Cadets from four sponsoring units (BCR, Seaforths, 15 Fld and RWestR) were in attendance. The City Proclamation declaring this day to be "Vimy Day" in Vancouver was read by Christopher Gaze. Student speaker, Stephanie Nowak, gave an excellent presentations of her "Impressions of Vimy". "My Boy Jack" was read by Christopher Gaze. Jerry Couling and Ted Hawthorne laid a wreath to remember our Fallen on behalf of the Regimental Association. A moving ceremony it was! Many thanks to Cam Cathcart and his team for an excellent program!

Many thanks for all who attended at the Cenotaph and at the Drill Hall after the ceremony. 39 CBG Commander Bryan Gagne, CD and 39 Brigade CWO R.G. Wishnicki, CD presented Vimy Medals to a select group of cadets on parade in the Drill Hall. Both Colonel Gagne and CWO Wishnicki addressed the assembled cadets and complimented them and their leaders for a grand turnout and a job well done.

It was a day to remember!



Front row (L to R): Ken Whitney, LCol Jim Barrett, Jerry Couling, Agnes Keegan, Gayle Hawthorne, Capt. Leah Yauck and Maj. Ken Prince.
Back row (L to R): Ted Hawthorne, Kelly Parkes, Bob Fearnley, Col Bryan Gagne, Roger Prouse, RSM Rob Wishnicki, Bill Schmidt. Cam Cathcart, Arthur Hughes and Bill Diamond

THE HEROES HOCKEY CHALLENGE GALA EVENT

The Heroes Hockey Challenge Gala Event held on Wednesday, February 1st at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver was a terrific evening for members of the Regimental Association and the entire Regimental Family. The Gala attendees were treated to The Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA during the excellent

dinner and to the highlight of the evening, our very own Irish Pipes and Drums. The Irish Pipes and Drums opened the sold out event with the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC and closed it with a great rendition of "Amazing Grace" (at the CO's request). The evening also featured an excellent cocktail reception, an impressive sports memorabilia silent auction and Vancouver Canucks Alumni as table guests. At the table for Regimental Association Members, we were most pleased to welcome as our dinner guests, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff (#7) Ronning. The evening finished with dance band entertainment by "R&B All Stars".



It is noteworthy that the Regiment was recognized for the great support given to this most successful and worthwhile event.

L to R: OCdt Paul Ellis, Maj Don Bentley, WO A.H. Mullick, MCpl Jesse Callejo and Lt. Manjit Vinning

The Gala Evening saw the official return of MCpl Duke A. Bear to his Regimental duties upon his return to Vancouver with Mark Zwanski, the Chair of the Friends of HMCS Vancouver, after serving on Ops Unified Protector and Active Endeavour aboard HMCS Vancouver in the Mediterranean off the coast of Libya. "Duke" and members of the Regimental Association were well received by members of the Irish Pipes and Drums at the band's post event reception. Many thanks for your great hospitality and excellent work at the Gala. We are all proud of you!

Welcome home "Duke"!

"CHINESE CANADIAN VETERANS: LOYALTY TO COUNTRY" EXHIBITION LAUNCH RECEPTION 24 January 2012 – Chinese Culture Centre

Members of the Regimental Association (Messrs. Arthur Hughes, Keith Maxwell, Darrel Smith and Ted Hawthorne) attended the Launch Reception for the Exhibition at the Chinese Culture Centre on Tuesday, 24 January 2012. The reception commenced with a full guard of ANAVETS being piped into position. Commander King Wan was the MC and provided the full house with important background information of the excellent photographic exhibition of our military heritage. Guest speakers were Wai Young, MP, Vancouver South, John Yap, MLA, Richmond-Steveston and Kerry Jang, Vancouver City Councillor. All speakers did an excellent job and emphasized the courage, commitment and service of our Chinese Canadian Veterans and their contribution to the fabric of Canadian society and history. Very well done!

Our Commanding Officer of the Regiment, LCol Harj S. Sajjan, CD, AdeC was in attendance and was recognized by Commander Wan. Colonel Sajjan was assisted by his very own "AdeC", daughter, Jeevut.



LCol Sajjan, Jeevut and Commander Wan



The exhibit was most informative and well done. Congratulations to Commander Wan, Judy Lam Maxwell, Howe Lee and the entire team for an excellent launch.

Also note the excellent write up in the January 24th edition of The Vancouver Sun at Page A9 entitled "Patriotism" by Tara Carman.

LCol Harj Sajjan with our ANAVET friends

CURRY LUNCHEON RETURNS

Well the return of a Regimental tradition, namely the monthly lunch program, was a tremendous success as all attendees will attest! The inaugural monthly curry luncheon held on 19 January 2012 hosted by the Officers' Mess and coordinated by the Regimental Association was very well attended. Special guests included the Commander of 39 CBG, Colonel Bryan Gagne, and the Deputy Commander, Colonel Romano Acconci. The food was great and the comradery tremendous. Needless to say, a great time was had by all!

Compliments of the highest order to our very own, Vice President Bill Diamond, who managed the entire event. Excellent work Bill!

Many thanks to the CO, Colonel Harj Sajjan, and the Officers' Mess and WOs' and Sergeants' Mess for their support.

Two highlights of the event were the presentations regarding the upcoming Heroes Hockey Challenge ("HHC") (refer to the HHC Website @ <http://www.heroeshockeychallenge.com> for the Gala Dinner on 1 February) and the first public unveiling of the Regimental Family's new logo by the Commanding Officer. We hope to be in touch with you shortly regarding the new logo and the many opportunities relating to the publication of same.



LCol Sajjan and our new logo



Curry luncheon attendees at the presentation

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION (18 January 2012)

We are pleased to report that the Regiment has officially acknowledged the support received from The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver, The Salvation Army, Belkin House and the Regimental Association regarding the 2011 Food Bank Program, initiated by the Junior Ranks Mess and lead by Kim Bekesinski on behalf of the Regimental Association. This recognition took the form of a presentation of Certificates of Appreciation at a ceremony in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess on 18 January 2012. The CO, LCol Harj Sajjan, thanked the recipients for their great support of the Regiment in carrying out this initiative. Certificates were presented jointly by the CO and the President of the Regimental Association, Ted Hawthorne, who also thanked Catholic Charities and Salvation for the tremendous support of the Homeless Dinner Program over the last 21 years and read the citations given by the Regiment. The certificates were presented to Scott Small, Manager and Archdiocesan Liaison on behalf of the Archdiocese, Alvin Chong, Food Services Manager, Belkin House on behalf of The Salvation Army, Malin Jordan, Editor, of The B.C. Catholic newspaper and Kim Bekesinski, director of the Regimental Association.

It was readily apparent that the Regiment's close relationship with our neighbours in this community continues to be very strong as evidenced by the very positive comments of support given by the grateful recipients.

Congratulations again to our great friends!



Recipient Malin Jordan



Recipient Kim Bekesinski



Recipient Scott Small



Recipient Alvin Chong

BOB HALL, FREEMAN OF THE DISTRICT OF LILLOOET

We are pleased to report that Bob Hall has received Lillooet's highest civic honour for his many volunteer contributions to the community and for his many years of good citizenship. Bob was presented with a certificate and an etched glass award by Mayor Dennis Bontron at a special ceremony held on 28 November 2011.

For full coverage of this item, please refer to page 3 of the December 7th edition of the "Lillooet News".

Congratulations Bob for your excellent work in your community and for your years of service to the Regimental Family.

MINISTER'S COMMENDATION – BILL WHALEN

We are pleased to report that Regimental Association member and supporter, Bill Whalen, was awarded the Minister's Commendation at a ceremony in Richmond on January 17th last. Bill was one of 13 recipients to receive this very great honour. We have attached an excellent photograph of Bill in uniform with Minister, Steven Blaney, in the middle and brother Patrick to the left with his brand new Regimental Tie. Both Bill and Patrick served in the Regiment in the 1980s.

Congratulations Bill for your service, commitment and dedication. A well deserved honour indeed!

Up the Dukes!



L to R: Patrick Whalen, Minister Steven Blaney and Bill Whalen

CO'S PARADE – January 4, 2012



The first CO's Parade of the New Year was highlighted by members of the Regiment wearing their new PT Kit. The new "uniform" looks great, is very comfortable and was well received.

The CO and the RSM addressed the Regiment regarding the upcoming intensive training year and the challenge to be equal to the tempo. Although no mean task, Dukes are always there!

L to R: LCol Sajjan, Cpl Cheung, Ted Hawthorne and RSM Pat Taylor

Colonel Sajjan made presentations to the following members of the Regiment in recognition of their service:

1. CO's Commendation – originally awarded to MCpl Jessica A. Schultz by LCol D.B. Kadonoff;
2. General Campaign Star ("GCS") first bar to the "Afghanistan Medal" awarded to MCpl Jessica A. Schultz; and
3. Regimental Achievement Awards – awarded to MCpl Callejo and Tpr Canavan for their support of the generous Bosa Foods Donation to our very successful 2011 Food Bank Drive.

The next presentation was by the Regimental Association. We presented the 2011 Bursary Award from our Charitable Trust to Cpl Lawrence Cheung. Cpl Cheung is the recipient of The Sergeant Major Robert Hill Hanna, VC Memorial Bursary. Our congratulations to Cpl Cheung and keep up the good work!

Last of all, the CO asked us to say a few final words which we were more than pleased to do. We announced that MCpl Duke A. Bear, "deployed" with HMCS Vancouver for Op Unified Protector and Op Active Endeavour, will be attending the Change of Command Parade (Commander Bradley Peats to Commander Dave Mazur) on the flight deck of the ship on 13 January 2012 at Funchal, Madeira, The Azores. Needless to say "Duke" must be appropriately attired for the occasion. Accordingly, Mark Zwanski, Chairman of the Friends of HMCS Vancouver, has generously offered to deliver Duke's patrols in time for the ceremony. We look forward to Mark's report and photographs which we will post on Face Book (both "Dukes" and the Regimental Association's). Congratulations to Commander Peats for a successful tour and command and to Commander Mazur on his appointment. We all value the Regiment's affiliation with HMCS Vancouver and wish the Commander and crew aboard HMCS Vancouver every success!

THE START LINE

Books, Books and More Books

By: David Sproule

I am a lover of books and reading and my shelves are full to overflowing. I have clutches of books or subjects and themes that have appealed to me for many years including art, design and architecture. But also Canadian History because I believe it is important and interesting. Some of those books on history are military books but I'm far from ever being classified as a military historian. Among my valued books are a few from my childhood that I regard as a link to my past and far too precious for a garage sale.

My father was born at the end of Victoria's reign and among his and my older brother's reading material were books by G. A. Henty (1832 – 1902) who wrote books for boys about "Wulf the Saxon", "Bonnie Prince Charlie", "Wolfe at Quebec", "Clive in India" and "Kitchener in the Sudan" to name a few. He had been a captain in the army which obviously affected his subject matter for he wrote books about Britain and empire and were hugely popular among boys during the 19th and early 20th Century. I have a few of these which I inherited and treasure.

I was a boy after WW2 and was given a series of books about Dave Dawson who was a fighter pilot during the war. They had titles like; "Dave Dawson at Dunkirk" and "Dave Dawson in Libya" etc. The purpose of all these books was of course to instill a love of books and reading. They were given as Christmas gifts by dear aunts and uncles in an effort to ensure their nephew's literacy. I think their efforts paid off.

When I joined the RCD we were all reading the John Masters books. He lived from 1914 – 1983 and was an officer in the Indian Army serving with the 4th Gurkhas and fought in WW2 in the Burma Campaign serving as a Brigade Major in Chindits even commanding a brigade for a short period near the end of the Pacific War. I loved his writing and devoured almost every one of his books including "Bhowani Junction", "Night Runners of Bengal", "Bugles and a Tiger" and "Road Past Mandalay" to name a few. The latter being his memoir of his time in Burma. Wonderful reading and I highly recommend him even today because he was a

regimental officer and his books are laden with references that all of us can relate to. Late in his life he wrote a trilogy about WW1 – “Now the Gods Be Thanked”, “Heart of War” and “The Green of Spring”. These books tell about the effects of the war on families living in an English town and on British society in general. If you enjoyed watching “Downton Abbey” you will enjoy reading his trilogy. It may be hard to find them now but check online.

I cannot forget the “Flashman” books by George MacDonald Fraser (1925 – 2008). These books are great fun as we follow the antics of Flashman from the First Afghan War through to the Charge of the Light Brigade and on to North America in “Flashman Among the Redskins”. If something was happening in the 19th century, our man Flash was there.

I also enjoy Bernard Cornwell’s writing including several for the Sharpe’s series and more recently the Viking series. These are all still available and have provided many hours of pleasure with a glass of scotch by the fire. Most of you will agree that these are among life’s greatest pleasures and believe me are far better than watching reality TV.

I’m not into computer war games which I know many currently favour and I also don’t have an e-reader (although I think they would be great when travelling.) Life is short and there are just far too many books to read and as my wife reminds me, we don’t have room for anymore book shelves. Hey, maybe that e-reader would come in handy after all.

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

By: Pat Connell

The Pipe Band has been very busy from the start of January with a number of events culminating in the Military Ball on March 24th and the St. Juliens Dinner on April 14th.

The Hero's Hockey Challenge on February 1, at the Fairmont saw a mini band on a good rocking show for the audience as well as the Honour of Parading in the Lt. Governor of B.C.

Playing for the 12th Service Co. Dinner on January 14th, gave us the opportunity to run through our planned performance for the Military Ball on March 24th. February 26th, saw Jordan Seguin attending a special ceremony in loco for the unveiling of a plaque to honour 3 young men from that area who joined the RCAF during the WW2 and did not return. The plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Port Moody and City of Port Moody Heritage Commission at the loco United Church.

March of course is devoted to the all the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations around Metro Vancouver and without a doubt it was the busiest St. Patrick's ever for us. In order to attend the 18 events spread over 5 days the band broke into two smaller bands on March 17th, along with several two person teams to play at the venues that had requested us. In addition the entire band turned out on Sunday morning, March 18th, to lead the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Vancouver. Our thanks to the Regiment for making the Drill Hall available before and after to muster the band and relax after the parade was over.



St. Patrick's Day Parade 2012

The Military Ball on March 24th, saw the band put on one its best performances to date with its new sets of jigs and so forth to the total enjoyment of all those attending. We also again had the Honour of Piping in the Lt. Governor and the Brigade Commanders party to the head table. The St. Julien Dinner on April 14th, saw the band again put on a good show for all those in attendance.

On the competition front we had Piper Thomas Budd win several events in Grade 4 Piping during February. We also had up and coming Drummer Liam Diamond win the Grade 5 Aggregate drumming competition and move on to win several Grade 4 events as well as placing 2nd overall in Grade 4 drumming at the BC Pipers Indoor Meet on April 7th.



2012 Military Ball



Director of Music MWO Jordan Seguin at the special ceremony

MUSEUM SOCIETY REPORT

Well it's my pleasure to update the Regimental family as your new Museum president. In December 2011 a new committee was voted in:

President: WO Ron Leblanc, MMM, CD
Vice President: Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD
Treasurer: Sgt Dwayne Snow, CD
Secretary: Robert Hall

There's has been a great deal of work completed in these last months. The museum displays have been completely updated with new signage, lighting, artefacts and most of the cabinets have been refurbished. Many items relevant to the Regiment have been purchased, such as medal groups, badges, a Irish fusiliers fur Busby with badge, Boer war badges, pictures, Vancouver Regiment badge set, and many others. We also ordered the General Victor Odlum files from National Archives Canada. The thousands of pages we've received have been an invaluable source of information, mostly pertaining to the 7th Battalion (1st BC Regt) of which Odlum became the Commanding Officer upon the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Hart McHarg in April 1915. General Odlum kept everything!

We've have also made the most of our use of the display cabinets on the Drill Hall floor, filling them with items from World War One to Afghanistan.

Most of the funds to be able to this come from the successful sales of Swift & Strong with all the profits of the book going to the Museum. We still need donations!

Work in the Regimental archives continues, with Keith Maxwell and Robert Hall plowing on, forever sorting and filing.

The BCR Museum society will donate funds to the upcoming Battlefield Tour; this will help sponsor a couple of those young Troopers who would not otherwise be able to attend the trip. The Regimental Museum will do its part in ensuring the Regiment is armed with information so the troops can get the most out of their visit to our battlefields.

The second annual Vancouver Military Studies Conference will take place 13-14 April 2012. The Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies will be partnering with the Regimental Museum to make it all happen; Keith Maxwell is taking the leading role. This year features speakers such as Professor Terry Copp, Dr James Woods, Professor Mike Bechthold and BGen André Corbould to name a few.

We have been very busy, I'm proud of the work my team has achieved; we are certainly making progress in bringing a relevant and meaningful Regimental museum to all Dukes and their families.

A special thank you must go to Mr. Jerry Couling, who behind the scenes who does most all of our banking and accounting work, also Mr Archie Steacy again with Jerry helping to accession our artefacts. As always Ted Hawthorne for his valuable advice and hard work. Thank you all.

WO Ron Leblanc, MMM, CD
BCR Museum Society President

SWIFT & STRONG

New! Swift & Strong wins major prize for historical writing in BC!
By: Ron Leblanc

The British Columbia Historical Federation has announced that "Swift and Strong: A Pictorial History of the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own)" is the winner of second prize in the Federation's competition for the Lieutenant-Governor's Awards for Historical Writing in 2011. Winning entries are selected for making, "the most significant contribution to the historical literature of British Columbia" and are judged on scholarship, presentation and accessibility. The BC Historical Federation is an umbrella organization representing more than two hundred and seventy historical, museum and archive societies and organizations from across the Province. These are the most prestigious awards for historical writing in British Columbia. The web site listing the awards and the background to the competition is at: <http://www.bchistory.ca/awards/book/index.html>

SWIFT & STRONG PRESENTATION



The presentation of Swift & Strong was a good opportunity to present the Premier with one of our new Regimental Pens!

L to R: LCol Harj Sajjan, Premier Christy Clark and Lt. Manjit Vinning



REGIMENTAL CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT

By: Roger W. Prouse

I begin my report with some very exciting news. The BCR family will soon have a new member. The Commander 39Bgde, the Army Cadet League of Canada (BC), the CO, Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific), the CO, BCR and the leadership within the Surrey Sikh community have all agreed to proceed with plans to stand up a new BCR Cadet Corps in Surrey. There are some hurdles that still must be cleared but all involved are confident that the 3300 BCR (Surrey Sikh) RCACC will become a reality in September this year. The enrolment of Cadets, CIC officers, and volunteers is underway.

Our four Corps have had another very successful training year and two of our Corps is in the running to receive major awards of excellence. The names and Corps numbers of the winners will be announced at the Army Cadet League (BC) Pillars Conference and AGM in Vernon on 27, 28, 29 April. Cadets from our four Corps participated in CF Familiarization activity at the Drill Hall on 3 March. The Cadets got the opportunity to see the equipment the members of the Regiment use and LCol Stacey showed them around the museum. This activity is one that the Cadets look forward to and appreciate the willingness of our Regiment to provide this positive experience.

The Cadets from six Lower Mainland Army Cadet Corps were front and centre at the Vancouver Cenotaph on Monday 9 April as the Vancouver Vimy Commemoration Committee honoured the fallen at the Battle of Vimy Ridge 95 years ago. The 2290 BCR joined over 100 other Army Cadet Corps in the Commemoration service. One Cadet each from The BC Regiment (DCO), Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, 15th Field Artillery Regiment and the Royal Westminster Regiment, formed a four Cadet Vigil Guard at the Cenotaph. They represented their affiliated units that fought at Vimy 95 years ago. Following the Parade, the Cadets returned to Drill Hall for presentations of the Vimy Commemoration Medal to the senior Cadets who held key position on the Parade. Lunch was prepared and served by 2290 BCR sponsoring Committee. C/CWO Anton Humeniuk of the 2290 BCR was the Cadet Parade Commander.

2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC – Capt Leah Yauck is very proud of the accomplishments of her Corps this past trg year. Cadets Zheng and Wong attended Spring Rifle at Vernon and qualified to attend Connaught Summer Training Centre this summer. Their shooting skills place them in the top twelve Cadet Shots in BC. Cadet Zeng achieved her level 3 flute at spring music camp. Cpl Quong and Cpl Langone have been conducting a leadership improvement Course for the senior Cadets. This is helping them to be better prepared for the National Star Certification Exam. This assistance is very much appreciated. The Regimental Band is continuing to support their fledging musicians. The instruction of Brian Smith and John Moore is very much appreciated. C/CWO Anton Humeniuk applied for acceptance at RMC. We are hoping he is successful. Anton has had an outstanding Cadet career which spans 7 years and has achieved nearly all awards and Cadet Decorations possible including his jump wings. He is an outstanding individual and one this Regiment can be very proud of. Plans are now underway to relocate the 72nd Seaforth Cadet Corps to the Drill Hall while the Seaforth Armoury is being seismic upgraded. The equipment will start moving over in May with the Cadets and staff following thereafter. Major Prince and his Seaforth counterpart, Major Thompson, will help ensure a smooth transition. Both Corps will parade on Thursday night. The 2290 will hold their Annual Ceremonial Review (ACR) on 9 June.

2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC – Under the leadership of Major Blomme, this Corps continues to be among the top Corps in BC. They have an enrolled strength of 101 and regularly parade in the area of 85 Cadets. They have developed a very accomplished brass band as well as continuing to provide a well-rounded programme for the Cadets. Major Blomme has completed his term as CO and will be relinquishing command in Sept. Their ACR is on June 3.

2781 BCR (POWELL RIVER) RCACC – Lt Paul Campbell has now retired and handed over command to Lt(N) Alan Walker at their change of command parade on 28 March. The Corps is parading 23 Cadets and has two CIC officers and 5 Civilian Volunteers delivering the programme. They have had three training exercises since January. This Corps continues to be very active in the community by supporting many fund raising drives for their Sponsoring RCL Branch and the Salvation Army. This year's ACR on 26 May will be a tri-element review. Admiral Nigel Greenwood is from Powell River and will be the reviewing Officer.

2827 BCR (Port Moody) RCACC – The CO, Capt. Shannon Rothwell will be retiring at the end of June. Capt. Orlando Banman has been appointed CO and will officially take command in September. Capt Rothwell has been with this Corps for fourteen years the last three as CO. Under her leadership, this Corps has nurtured some very fine Cadets four of which have gone on to attend RMC. We wish Capt. Rothwell a long and happy retirement. The Corps is currently parading 32 Cadets. Cdt Chun achieved top shot at Spring Rifle and will be attending Connaught this summer. This Corps has 6 officers and 4 CIs. They have conducted two field training exercise since January. They will hold their ACR on 9 June.

BCR CADETS TAKE TOP AWARDS FOR 2011-2012 TRAINING YEAR – The Annual Army Cadet League, Pillars Conference, held in Vernon, British Columbia this past week end, witnessed the presentation of three major awards to Cadets of the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Family.

- The Top Army Cadet Corps in British Columbia - 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers), received the Roy Rigby Jones Cup.
- The Top Army Cadet in British Columbia - 2290 BCR (101DCOR) C/CWO Anton Humeniuk RSM, was awarded the President's Trophy, and
- The BGen Darrell Dean award for Fitness
- The Major Charles Whisker Award for the Top Army Cadet League Volunteer in British Columbia, won by Mrs. Bonnie Banman, of the 2827 BCR (Port Moody) Sponsoring Committee.

Sincere congratulations from all members of the Regimental Family; you continue make the Regiment stand proud and tall.

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

HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL C. SCOTT M. SHEPHERD

We are pleased to report that C. Scott M. Shepherd has been appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment.

Accordingly, on behalf of the Regimental Association, it is my very great pleasure to congratulate Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Scott Shepherd on his appointment and to wish him every success. Welcome to the Regimental Family Colonel Scott!

Great news indeed! We have reproduced the biography of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Shepherd below.

Up the Dukes!

Mr. Scott Shepherd is Chairman of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council for British Columbia.

Mr. Shepherd was born in Chatham, Ontario. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto (BA-Hon) and Dalhousie University (MBA) and is a Fellow of the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of NORTHSTAR Trade Finance Inc. in

Vancouver, an organization that provides financing to credit-worthy international buyers of Canadian goods and services. The company has regional offices located in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal.

Prior to founding NORTHSTAR in 1994, Mr. Shepherd had wide-ranging executive careers in finance in both the private and public sectors. He was formerly President of Dalhousie Financial Corporation in Richmond B.C., Chief Financial Officer of the Nexus Group of Companies, Burnaby B.C., Treasurer and Finance Manager of Chemetics International Company, Vancouver B.C., Export Finance Officer for the Export Development Corporation in Ottawa, Ontario and Assistant Trade Commissioner for the Dept of External Affairs in Manila, Philippines.

Mr. Shepherd currently holds directorships in the NORTHSTAR group of companies, Sovereign Star Trade Finance Inc. (UK), MDS Aerospace Corporation (Montreal) and Pender Financial Corporation (Vancouver). He also serves and has served on a number of charitable and volunteer boards and committees including: The Richmond Hospital Foundation (Vice-Chair and Treasurer), Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (National Board Director and Chair of Export Finance and Insurance Committee), York House School (Chair of Capital Campaign) Saint Georges School (Past-Chair New Parents Committee), Dalhousie University-Associate Governor (Management Without Borders Capital Campaign), the B.C. Institute for Studies in International Trade (Director) and the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (B.C. Chair).

Mr. Shepherd was honoured with the Transport Canada Award by Transport Canada in 1982 and 1983, and the Export Excellence Personal Leadership Award by the B.C. government in 1999.

He was appointed the B.C. Chair of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council in the Year 2004 after serving several years as a Regional Director. s.shepherd@northstar.ca

A DUKE IN PALESTINE

From the end of January to the middle of March, 2012, I had the opportunity to deploy on a technical assistance visit (TAV) to OP PROTEUS. OP PROTEUS is Canada's contribution to the United States Security Coordinator (USSC) in Jerusalem. whose role it is to help coordinate security issues between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The primary focus is on building capacity within the Palestinian Authority Security Forces (PASF), although there is coordination with DFAIT and CIDA personnel on a number of initiatives.

The specific role of the TAV was to instruct on the PASF Intermediate Leaders Course, serial 10 (ILC 10). This course is roughly equivalent to the army staff college in Kingston. It covers tactical and operational planning, leadership, law, ethics, and human rights, and is aimed at captains and majors from the across the PASF. Due to a previous lack of formal Palestinian courses, as well as the wide range of security training and experience, planning procedure taught on the course runs the gamut from "task procedure" (Canadian Army battle procedure) all the way to the Operational Planning Process. Canada sent over two officers: me and LCol Matt Richardson of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

ILC 10 had 44 students in 4 syndicates of eleven students. Each syndicate had a member of the Police, Intelligence Agencies, Preventative Security, and National Security Force (an army-like organization). For the instructors, each foreign instructor was paired with a Palestinian instructor and a language assistant. Although we were warned in advance that motivation might be an issue, I was pleasantly surprised to have a syndicate of intelligent students who were in fact highly motivated with respect to the material and with respect to the opportunity to provide their perspective to a Western officer.

The classroom experience was highly rewarding, as was the the cultural "exchange". Accepting that I was dealing with PASF members from the West Bank who had been vetted by the USSC, it was nonetheless nice to learn that all of them believed in a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine. Their sole focus

was on building up their own institutions of statehood, and not on tearing down those of Israel. They also did not want anything to do with Iran, and understood how they had been used as pawns in the past to further Iran's own objectives. On a more personal level, the Palestinians were a generous group that took pride in their hospitality. We were very well treated throughout and were always offered assistance from the course staff and language assistants.

While the fact of life under occupation created a unique world view, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) certainly did not appear to do much to assist in a positive way. Incidents of undercutting the PASF, or acting inhumanely at checkpoints, were often highlighted. It was interesting to compare and contrast the current IDF security "operations" with the performance of the army (and particularly the Armoured Corps) in the defence of the nation during times such as the 1973 Yom Kippur war. The TAV as a whole was a great opportunity to learn much of the detail, on all sides, that does not get reported in the news over here.

The TAV also gave some opportunity to see the regional sights, from the Old City of Jerusalem, to the Baha'i Gardens in Haifa, to the tombs of Petra in Jordan. As a bonus, I was able to join on a Canadian contingent professional development tour of the Golan Heights with a focus on the '73 war. Those deployed for the year-long tour certainly took the time and made the effort to integrate us in their activities.

Overall, from the short deployment it remains clear that a political solution remains some time off. However, at least in the West Bank, the Palestinian leadership and their security forces appear headed in the right direction. Hopefully they can continue to build their capacity in a positive direction.



LCol Peter Bell



LCol Peter Bell with syndicate after graduation

“MARCH FORTH”

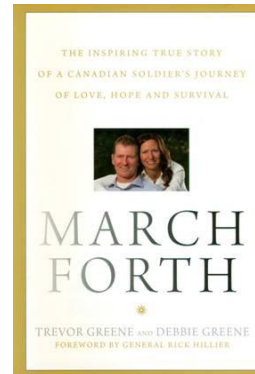
By: Jim Stanton

I have just finished reading "*March Forth*" by Trevor and Debbie Green and would recommend it to all Dukes.

This is a compelling story about incredible determination, and what Christy Blatchford calls "precious, fabulous life and how these two remarkable Canadians fought so tenaciously for it." Trevor's journey back from the devastating injury suffered in Afghanistan serves as an inspiration to us all. He and Debbie are true Canadian heroes.

They have created the Greene Family Education Initiative, a foundation that provides scholarships so women in Afghanistan and other conflict zones can train to become teachers. Some of the proceeds from the book are going to the Foundation. "Education is the key, especially of girls," Trevor says, adding, "that it's a good feeling to be able to help." The first scholarship was awarded last week to a 16-year-old girl in Afghanistan, who will be trained in Kandahar. "I'm hoping it's a source of inspiration for people," said Trevor.

Debbie said, "That was my motivating force for keeping my notes because Trevor is a writer and he was a natural-born leader and I thought that he could help a lot of people." The couple have created a website, www.marchforth.ca to go along with the book and foundation. It features a blog written by Trevor.



The book is published by Harper Collins and can be found at any bookstore or may be order on line www.harpercollins.ca

COMING EVENTS

May 16th	BCR Stand Down (CO's Parade)
May 26th	2781 BCR (Powell River) RCACC ACR
May 27th	39 CBG Change of Command
May 31st	"China" Curry Luncheon
June 3rd	2381 BCR (Richmond) RCACC ACR
June 9th	2290 BCR (DCO) RCACC ACR
June 9th	2827 BCR (Port Moody) RCACC ACR
June 21st	Annual General Meeting
June 28th	Curry Luncheon
August 4th – 14th	Regimental Battlefield Tour
August 25th	Annual Whitney BBQ
September TBA	BCR Stand To

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA on the 95th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge Submitted by Archie Steacy

April 9, 2012, Ottawa, Ontario – Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement to mark the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge:

"On this day let us honour the courage and sacrifice of those Canadian soldiers who triumphed over the German army at Vimy Ridge 95 years ago.

"The four divisions of the Canadian Corps captured much more than a hill that day. Their remarkable victory helped create a new and stronger sense of Canadian identity here at home. They showed the world the strength and fortitude of our young country as well as our unwavering commitment to defending peace and freedom.

"While the Battle of Vimy Ridge was a remarkable triumph for Canada , it came at great cost with 3,600 lives lost out of 11,000 casualties. Today we honour the brave young Canadians who were injured or perished and pay tribute to their sacrifice.

"In 2007 we had the privilege to visit the majestic Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France which sits atop Hill 145 and overlooks the battlefield. It endures as a tribute to all the brave men and women who

served their country in battle during the First World War and reminds us of the high price paid for the peace and freedom that Canadians enjoy today. It is also a reminder of the special friendship and historical connection that Canada has with France.

"Our Government is proud to pay tribute to those who fought in this historical battle, just as we are proud to honour all of the heroes who have kept and continue to keep our country safe.

"Lest we forget."

YOUR REGIMENTAL HOME

THE BEATTY STREET DRILL HALL



620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, B.C.

This massive, low-massed symmetrically composed, Scottish Baronial style structure, with two large castle-like turrets, complete with battlements, whose main entrance is a central troop door, was built to house The Sixth Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, 1899-1900, David Ewart, Architect.

Canada's Register of Historic Places; Recognized, and is a Vancouver landmark and Class-A heritage building, Vancouver, British Columbia.

The standard North American armoury model incorporates medieval military features such as jutting towers, buttresses, dentilated stringcourses, corbelling, crenellations, battlements and a large troop door reminiscent of a fortified gate. The distinguishing characteristics include functional design, good quality materials, excellent craftsmanship and unobstructed volume of floor space in the drill hall enabled by a gable roof. The foundation is frequently stone with a concrete floor supporting a steel frame. The exterior walls are frequently constructed with red brick and quarry-faced stone generally Limestone or Sandstone with a course of arched wood Sash windows and doors. An armoury generally encloses a large drill hall, messes, classrooms and storage facilities.

A number of Standard Drill Hall Class E armouries were built in a straightforward utilitarian design with modest architectural embellishment in an Edwardian Baroque 1901-1922 style. The design incorporates a large, unobstructed drill hall with exposed Fink style designed steel trusses, its gallery and supporting arcades. The decorative Flemish style parapets, towers, crenellated turrets and a low wide arched entrance, reminiscent of a fortified gate show very good craftsmanship. Edwardian Baroque 1901-1922 armouries incorporate distinguishing features such as red brick with a stone foundation, stone sills, window surrounds and decorative shields which contribute to a powerful image of stability and stateliness. To evoke the impression of a medieval castle, the walls incorporate buttresses, parapets, crenellated moulding, corbelled stonework and crenellated towers flanking its troop door. The distinguishing characteristics include double or triple Tudor gothic arches and projecting surround at the front entrance, defence towers, and wall treatments which step out at the corners. To convey an image of solidity and impregnability, the building have small narrow windows, bartizans, and small turrets complete with firing slits.

Definitions:

Baronial Style – A very large, imposing or sumptuous structure.

Edwardian Baroque – Characteristic of British society during the reign of Edward VII in the first decade of the 20th Century.

Tower – A tall structure, of a fortress or castle, designed to withstand attack

Buttresses – A solid structure, usually made of brick or stone, that is built against a wall to support it.

Dentilated - A small rectangular block that is arranged with others to look like a row of teeth, used as a form of architectural decoration.

Stringcourses – A decorative feature on a building in the form of a horizontal band or moulding.

Corbelling – A bracket of brick or stone that juts out of a wall to support a structure above it.

Crenellations – A gap in the top of a castle wall or parapet, used for firing missiles or shooting.

Battlements – A structure built in order to strengthen a place's defenses, (ie) by building walls or digging ditches.

Bartizan – A small turret that projects from a tower or wall of a fortress or castle, used as a lookout or defensive position.

Turret – A small rounded tower that projects from a wall or corner of a large building such as a fortress or castle.

Credits: Drill Hall photo – Archie Steacy; & Wikipedia.

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

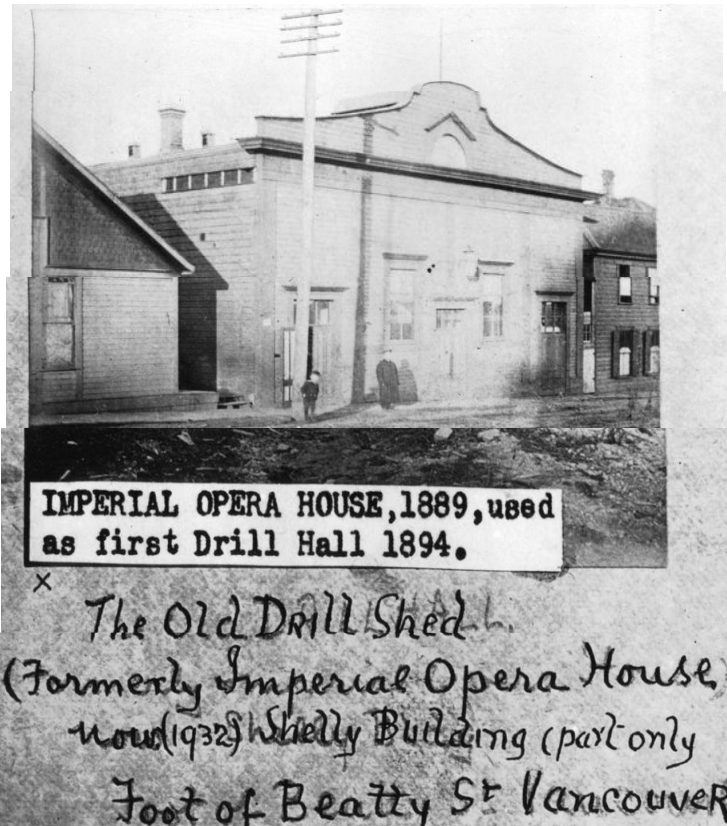
By Archie M. Steacy

WHO WAS VANCOUVER'S FIRST SOLDIER?

"Vancouver's first volunteer soldier was Corporal J.Z. Hall, who in 1885 journeyed from Gas Town to New Westminster through the tall timbers to attend drills. His uniform is that of the British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery, a descendant unit of the historic Seymour Battery of crown colony days. His residence in later days was the well-known "Killarney," Point Grey Road, still the residence of his widow, Mrs. J. Z. Hall".
Corporal J. Z. HALL.

British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery

THE REGIMENT'S FIRST VANCOUVER HOME



Credit: Major J.S. Mathews, City of Vancouver Archives.

FRIENDS OF VANCOUVER

By: Mark Zwanski, Chair

The following is an excerpt from Mark Zwanski, Chair, Friends of Vancouver. Mark, thank you for keeping us informed!



“After a 7 month deployment, HMCS Vancouver is now back home in Esquimalt. The Ship arrived Sunday, February 19th approximately 10:30. I have included some photos of the homecoming for your viewing pleasure. Thank you to Mr. Stuart Clyne and Mr. Rajesh Taneja who took time out of their busy schedules and travelled to Esquimalt to greet the Ships Company. The members of the Ships Company have departed for some much deserved leave, rest and relaxation.

Some of you may have seen the coverage yesterday on the local news stations.

I have been told that after the leave period expires, the Ship might be visiting Vancouver in the April/May period. Once I know the specific details, dates and duration of the visit I will pass on to you all. Since this will be the Ships first visit to Vancouver after their long deployment to the Med, this will also be their official welcome homecoming to Vancouver. I welcome any ideas you might have to make this a special occasion. This would also be a good time to host the Ships Company at our Friends of Vancouver Mess Dinner. Those of you that attended the last one remember the program. I will look forward to seeing you all back as well as any new FOV's.

HMCS Vancouver has also been designated as the official Ship to come to Vancouver and take part in the July 1st festivities. Further information also TBA.”

REPORT ON VIMY RIDGE CEREMONY

April 9, 2012 - 95th Anniversary

Dear Dukes,

On the website of Veteran Affairs Canada the following introduction to the Vimy memorial can be found:

“Canada's most impressive tribute overseas to those Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the First World War is the majestic and inspiring Canadian National Vimy Memorial which overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge, about ten kilometres north of Arras. The Memorial does more than mark the site of the engagement that Canadians were to remember with more pride than any other operation of the First World War. It stands as a tribute to all who served their country in battle in that four-year struggle and particularly to those who gave their lives. At the base of the Memorial, these words appear in French and in English:

To the valour of their
Countrymen in the Great War
And in memory of their sixty
Thousand dead this monument
Is raised by the people of Canada

Carved on the walls of the monument are the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who were killed in France and whose final resting place was then unknown. Standing on the monument's wide stone terrace overlooking the broad fields and rolling hills of Northern France, one can see other places where Canadians fought and died. More than 7,000 are buried in 30 war cemeteries within a 20-kilometre radius of the Vimy Memorial. Altogether, more than 66,000 Canadian service personnel died in the First World War.

I can't remember exactly how many times I read those lines in the past few years... but each time it just strikes me just as much as the very first time.

These lines summarize very well the significance of Vimy Ridge.

They reflect the birth of a nation and the sacrifice of thousands of young Canadians, many of them barely adults, who disappeared in the mud in the middle of nowhere here in France, but also in Belgium

Vimy...

A place visited by so many Canadians feeling amazingly proud about their history, and what was achieved here 95 years ago.

You don't have to be Canadian however to express respect for the sacrifices which were done here by a whole generation of young Canadians.

And share the pride.

It is a most horrible place, and a beautiful location at the same time. The name of Vimy recalls other places where whole generations fought and died for the sake of justice and freedom: Ypres, Passchendaele, The Somme, Verdun and all those other places where the landscapes will carry huge scarves for evermore, as a reminder to future generations.

That morning, I crossed the French border coming from Belgium and was thinking about those thousands of kids, barely men, who disappeared on the numerous battlefields in both countries. How would modern society look like if all this wouldn't have happened...?

The weather forecast didn't look good at all, and it seemed it wouldn't take very long before heavy rain would come my way.

And it didn't take long....

This meant the ceremony would take place under more or less the same circumstances as the battle 95 years ago: rain, occasional smog and an ice-cold wind.

When I left the highway, I switched on the local radio stations and all I heard was about Vimy: they were expecting thousands of people despite the weather conditions, biggest contingent would be a group of 5000 students from Canada. If you consider that usually 2 to 3 thousand of people attend the "regular" (annual) ceremonies this would take us to 8000 And that's a lot!

It didn't take me long to come across the first buses loaded with Canadian tourists, lots of them waiving at me as I had a maple leaf as a car flag. It must be a pretty strange feeling for them to drive through the area and see all those flags on the houses, in the gardens, everywhere around...

My car is quite big by the way, so it happens pretty often that whenever I run into a roadblock of the French Gendarmerie, they salute and open up the road for me to let me get closer to the main entrance of whatever ceremony I'm attending. What a difference a car flag makes.

Well, not this time...

The main road leading to the smaller road which goes up to Vimy ridge was simply jammed by hundreds of cars and coaches, and I had to park alongside the road and wait for one of the buses which would take me up on the hill. It was the only way to get up there (and back).

It all became quite amusing when one of the buses stopped to let me in. It was almost full so I had to go through to the back end, and of course my beret and blazer (getting pretty wet by the way despite a poncho) initiated lots of greetings and questions. At that very moment I crossed fingers I wouldn't have to tell my story on how I got involved with the Regiment 20 years ago to each and every of the 8000 people up there.

On the bus were a group of students I met the day before in Gent, Belgium (my home town) - They had been visiting the city center, I spotted a maple leaf on one of the backpacks so I didn't need much more to start a discussion. They were from Nova Scotia, coming from Amsterdam, heading to Vimy and eventually Normandy.

And now they were here again... It is a small world!

It was quite a ride as the buses were driving through all villages around the Hill to pick up as many people as they could.

And then came this special moment where the bus began to climb the road to Vimy Ridge, with on both sides those hundreds of craters and remains of trenches. Despite the crowd on the bus it became very quiet.

A truly special moment.

I got off the bus, took a deep breath as what I saw was unreal : at first I thought half of Canada was on the hill : rows and rows of people, lining up to get closer to the monument, trying to stay on the small trail and not to step on the grass.

I've been to Vimy more than 20 times in my life, and 5 times to represent the Regiment but this was new to me. It now became very clear that the ceremony would not start at 14.30 as planned. By no means ever the Gendarmerie and French Army would be able to streamline this. It was simply almost mission impossible to walk alongside the monument and to reach the other end. Rain was now pouring down, and a pretty strong wind came on top of that. Some of the students were barely dressed in a t-shirt or a sweater absorbing every little raindrop. They looked desperate (and they were actually), and it was only a beginning. It was barely 12. 30, with more than two hours to go, without any shelter or a place to have a seat or rest a bit. The true lucky ones were the representatives of all ranks, part of the Guard of Honour, seated in the buses, waiting for the ceremony to start and waving to those who once were laughing, cheerful and motivated students. But that was before they got on the hill. The students did not wave back by the way.

It all now became pretty complicated because of the crowd, the horrible weather and the fact that there was absolutely no way to go back to my car and shelter for the time being: a bus driver told me that they were not allowed to take people down the hill before 6PM for security reasons.

My goodness: 5 hours to go and all I could do was hope and pray I would not disappear flooded away in one of the many shell holes in the area. Sometimes in life, though there are thousands of people nearby, you feel very lonesome!

I took the option to go for a walk in the woods and trenches around, where at least I would have some shelter from the trees. It was actually a good choice: the main paths were deserted as most of the people were patiently waiting as close as possible to the monument for the ceremony to start.

Lots of things went through my mind there, while on my own. I forgot about the rain and cold, and looked around, trying to imagine the atrocity of what had happened there. Each shell hole has been the theatre of terrible suffering, death, agony, desolation, pain and terror, to such an extent people can hardly imagine today.

What went through their minds? Where did they find the tenacity and courage?

I asked myself who might have been the people who got killed there: Where did they come from? Did they have a family and kids? Did they die left behind and all alone? How many of them still rest on the hill there? Do people still honor them or think about them? Who knows...?

And what about myself? How would I have behaved stuck in this inferno ?

My thoughts went to all the Dukes who once walked out of the drill hall on Beatty Street and disappeared or died here, in the middle of nowhere, in this small village completely unknown at that time, and now a symbol for a whole nation.

I walked back to the monument, to be on time for the ceremony, which took me a while. The rain had drawn a curtain between me and Mother Canada. All dignitaries were late, but the ceremony was beautiful as always. His Excellency the Right Honorable David Johnston was clearly impressed by the momentum and the massive attendance. So were all other, countless dignitaries, present that day.

By the time I was my turn to lay a wreath to the Fallen of the Regiment, I decided not to lay it with the others on the designated spot. People were leaving massively due to the terrible weather conditions, and I didn't want to have the wreath lost in the middle of hundreds of others. Most of the wreaths were now more being thrown on a pile than respectfully laid.

That's why I walked around to the other side of the monument (the side you're facing when coming from the parking) and decided to have my own, almost "private" kind of ceremony for our Dukes.

I laid my wreath against one of the marble walls. It looked really nice as it stood alone, surrounded by little candle lights.

I could feel people gathering in my back to see what I was doing but felt just like I was there on my own, just me and "my" Dukes.

I stayed there for a couple of minutes, head down, thinking about what they had been through and telling them that they are in the hearts of their fellow Dukes, past and present.

Here I stood; with mixed feelings of pride and sadness, honoring the Dukes, on one of Canada's most sacred places. I deployed the colours of the Regiment for a few moments, but the wind was blowing too hard to take a picture.

I saluted, turned around and left. I looked over my shoulder and saw many people taking pictures of the wreath and knew I had chosen the right location. A group of nine cadets, stopped, and saluted the wreath.

I got pushed back to the buses by this immense crowd moving back to the parking, all soaked and shivering, and desperately hoping they would get on the buses as soon as possible.

I had been out there for 6 hours, so could easily understand their determination to find a comfortable and warm seat inside. It would be a long trip back to Paris for me as well as this was the last day of a long Easter week-end with lots of people crossing France to visit their families.

The bus didn't leave instantly, as people were running into all directions, which made it difficult to maneuver.

While sitting in the back of the bus, with the heating on, all voices dimmed. Nobody said anything, torn between the sadness of leaving and the overwhelming emotions they had been through. Some of the people on the buses were travelling from Canada just to attend the ceremony. I don't think many other nations would follow that example.

Some say Vimy Ridge is haunted.

It might be actually.

I never really felt alone that day, who knows I've been kind of escorted by a few Dukes, taking care of me somehow.

The bus left, I waived though there was nobody left in particular out there.

But the lads from 7th battalion were there.

As long as I'll be able to, I will come back every year to honor them.

I will not let them down.

And they know it.

(Hon) Capt. G. Hebbelynck

BCRA

95th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

By: MCpl Jesse Callejo

Our journey to the 95th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge started on Tuesday April 3rd in CFB Trenton. The first day of training was an eye opener especially to see the wide array of head dress, uniforms, belts and accoutrements adorned by regiments within Canada. The CF contingent was composed of members from military units that bestow the Vimy Ridge battle honor. To pay homage for the significant accomplishments and sacrifices of the Canadian Army in 1917, the contingent formed a 50 person guard, a vigil party and a 30 person band.

The first days were spent on drill practise, ensuring our movements were synchronized. French drill commands! By far was the most challenging part experienced. For the soldiers from the West it was a "fast and furious" second language training. It was humorous at times which provided much needed comic relief.

Three days of drill practice concluded on Saturday and now we were doing it for real. The first ceremony commemorated the 2000 Canadian soldiers that fell and lie from the first German gas attack at St. Julien. Next we travelled to Menin Gate to be part of the Last Post ceremony. Til this day, every evening at 20:00 the citizens of Belgium pay formal tribute to those that had given their lives for its liberation.

The 9th of April was the Vimy Ridge ceremony at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. It was an ominous, rainy, windy, cloudy and cold day. Similar conditions faced by the brave men and women that served in the battle of Vimy Ridge 95 years ago. A proper tribute was given that day to those that lie in Vimy Ridge that represent a reminder to us all that "Freedom isn't Free."

It was an honor and a privilege to represent the BCR(DCO) during the 95th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge. The experience will certainly last a lifetime. I learned so much about the valiant efforts of Canada's Army during this period and am eternally grateful for their sacrifice.



MCpl Jesse Callejo 03 Apr 12 – 13 Apr 12

Lest we forget.

I WAS A SOLDIER ONCE.....

I liked the idea that as the commercial said; we did more by 0700 than most people did all day. I loved as range safety officer, getting shots down range by 0800. I loved the brutality of route marches because they set us apart from my civilian friends, as most of them could never have hacked the pace. I liked standing in a United Nations observation post just before dawn in a far away land, realizing that I and other soldiers in my unit were doing something very special by representing Canada and the Canadian people, undergoing physical and mental strains that many could not or would not face to keep our country safe and ready. I loved climbing up cargo nets in full battle order and repelling down cliffs. I loved running the assault course. I liked the early morning runs and the late night polishing before a parade.

I liked the smell of the quartermaster stores, an odd mixture of gun oil, canvas preservative, leather, hemp rope and cigarette smoke. I liked the racks of rifles and sub machine guns and I loved the gun sheds and tank hangers where the vehicles and weapons of war gleamed dully and exuded strength and capability and the power to "git 'er done" if need be. I loved the name of the equipment when I started off, Sherman, Fabrique Nationale, Sten and Bren because they spoke to me of the proud days when our Fathers used them successfully in WW2. Our #36 Grenade was the same as our grandfathers used in WW1 for God's sake! I also loved when the 105 mm and the M 109 gave way to the M 777 and the guns could shoot accurately over 30 kilometres. I loved it when the old lady "the duce and a half" was finally replaced by the modern MLVW. The Centurion tank gave way to the Leopard and within weeks our tankers showed NATO they were the best.

I liked our soldiers, from all parts of the land, from cities of upper Canada, small towns of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. They came from the mountains and from the prairies from all walks of life. I trusted and depended on them as they trusted and depended on me for professional competence, for comradeship, for strength and courage. In a word we were "soldiers", then, and forever. I liked the surge in my heart when word was passed that a unit was deploying, and I loved the infectious thrill of riding homeward in convoy waving at the cars we passed and at pedestrians who I was sure looked at us with envy as we rolled through their villages on our way back to Base. I loved waving from the back of a truck at the kids in cars that would trail us for a while before finally passing.

The work was hard and dangerous; the going rough at times; and the parting from family painful, but the companionship of robust army laughter, the "all for one and one for all" philosophy of the military was ever present. I once enjoyed the best 2 hours sleep in my life laying on the ground at a rest halt while doing a

patrol. The weather was overcast but warm and a slight drizzle did not deter my snoring, which could be heard 4 men down the line. Another 4 or 5 hours would have been nice, but there was work to be done.

I liked the fierce and dangerous activity of the Infantry Rifle Coy as we began an advance to contact. I liked doing the recce for a harbour where I had to hide up to 40 pieces of wheeled and tracked equipment from the enemy. I hated having to run ahead of our vehicles in complete darkness and trying to be quiet as the drivers and co-drivers tried to back vehicles and trailers into a black hole as quickly as possible so others in line could pass and find me and also be properly positioned and put away. One could hear cursing and unmeant bitching as crews stumbled in the dark to erect cam nets and digging in for protection from an enemy attack, we cut and poked branches holding up the nets to break the vehicle outline so as not to be recognised. The lucky ones had a relatively small vehicle, others, a two and a half or a 5 ton to cover that even in day light would take an hour or more. At night it was dangerous, demanding and extremely hard work. In the rain or freezing snow this necessary chore was brutal.

Watching my fellow soldiers as they took down the cam nets, loaded fuel, ammunition and rations for yet another long day, feeling truly exhausted and knowing it was going to get a lot worse before it got better, actually added value to the experience. We were soldiers and this is what it was like.

I loved the name and the history of the Regiments; "The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada"; "The Royal Canadian Regiment"; "The Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers"; "The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) RCAC"; "**The Royal Canadian Engineers**"; "**The Queens Own Rifles of Canada**"; " **The Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry**".

I loved the parades, the colours on parade and the guidon presentation, the march past, the roll past, the advance in review order and the sound of my hand slapping the stock of my rifle during the Present Arms. I could feel the National Anthem inside me while the band played it. Some liked "The Queen" or "O Canada". I loved "The Maple Leaf Forever".

I loved walking through our position in complete darkness checking the welfare of my men and NCO's and ensuring them that they were not alone, as we stood in our trench at first light, on stand to. I liked the weight of my steel helmet on my head and the embrace of my webbing. It made you feel like superman though in your heart you surely knew you were not. I loved the weight of my rifle or pistol and knowing I could outshoot a lot of my men. It was an ongoing competition during range practice to out do your friends as well as your superiors. There was pride in self and country; and growing mastery of the soldier's trade. An adolescent could find adulthood. A man could find fulfilment and an old man finds great joy. I will never forget that I was once a soldier. There is no higher calling. I would do it again in a heart beat. I liked the traditions of the Army and those who made them.

Author unknown, but He was a Soldier once.....

Submitted by Archie Steacy

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER of Canada on Victory in Europe Day

May 8, 2012

Ottawa, Ontario

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement to mark the 67th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day):

"Today I join Canadians and the international community in marking the anniversary of Victory in Europe Day – the day in 1945 when Nazi Germany capitulated to Allied Forces.

“It is a day for the world to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, of Allied victory over a fascist regime that stained history with the atrocities of the Holocaust.

“It is also a time to remember those brave Canadians and Allies who left the warmth of their homes and the comfort of their families to face the hardships of war to preserve the values of freedom, democracy and rule of law that we continue to hold dear today.

“Let us honour the one million Canadians who served their country during the Second World War, and never forget the 42,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“Canadians have always answered the call to stand up for what is just in the world. It is part of what defines us as a nation.

“As we remember this victory, let us offer our heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Canadian Armed Forces – both past and present – and their families who have put the interests of our great nation ahead of their own.

“Their courage and self-sacrifice make us proud to be Canadian.

“Lest we forget.”

CANADIAN FORCES FAMILIARIZATION

By: Ken Prince, Major, ACICO, BCR Cadet Training Group

On Saturday, 03 March 2012, the four BCR Cadet Corps joined together at the BCR Drill Hall in Vancouver to participate in a full day of Canadian Forces Familiarization training. These four BCR Army Cadet Corps consisted of 2290 Vancouver, 2381 Richmond, 2781 Powell River and 2827 Port Moody. During this event, the BCR Reserve Instructors carried out a full day of training that consisted of displays and demonstrations of vehicles, miscellaneous weapons, and other equipment utilized by the Regiment.

The BCR Museum was also open for all cadets and staff to view and there were additional guided tours of the historic drill hall building.

This annual event was a major success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all participating cadets and staff.

The Army Cadet Program aims accomplished during this special event were the following: To promote citizenship and regimental cohesion and to stimulate an interest in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Sincere appreciation goes to 2Lt Osborne, MCpl Clews and the remainder of the BCR staff involved with this activity.



Up the Dukes!

Cadets at the BCR Drill Hall, Vancouver

A letter written by MCpl(C) Abella Ip from 2381 RCACC follows:

2012-03-20

CF Famil Activity, BCR 2012-03-03

"I found the Canadian Forces familiarization to be a very enjoyable and informative event. My favorite part was when we got to talk to the CPLs and PVTs who have served overseas in places such as Afghanistan. A Cpl shared with us his experiences while he was on active duty. He talked about peacekeeping and the realistic dangers of it. It is not like the video games we normally play because in reality, people do die and there are unfortunate incidents in the process of a mission.

The familiarization allowed me to see how much the army could allow a person to experience. To be the gunner riding on top of the G wagon, to fire a rocket launcher knowing that you only had one chance to hit your target, and to be able to find your way through the dark with ease with night vision equipment. A normal job in the city would never be able to provide such great experiences. I was thrilled to be able to catch a glimpse of what their training was like. All this had made me want to join the Canadian Armed Forces.

This experience was not only a great learning opportunity to know more about the Canadian Armed forces, it also allowed us to meet cadets from the same regiment and reunite with friends from summer camp."

Abella Ip
Cdt MCPL
(Age 15)
2381 RCACC

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	DIRECTORS	THE DUKE
Ted Hawthorne – President Bill Diamond – Vice-President Jerry Couling – Secretary/Treasurer Ray Glover – Past-President	Kim Bekesinski Andy Conradi Jerry Couling Bill Diamond Ray Glover Ted Hawthorne Archie Steacy Graydon Young	Archie Steacy – Editor Ted Hawthorne – Publisher

IN THE HOSPITAL / ON THE MEND

Thankfully no reports! 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 community outreach program 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). The Association has increased its support of the Cadet Corps by the establishment of the Cadet Development Program. Further information will be published as the program develops.

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.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Lt Paul Campbell

We are pleased to report that a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Lt Paul Campbell, outgoing Officer Commanding of 2781 BCR (Powell River) RCACC, at the St. Julien Mess Dinner on 14 April 2012.

Our sincere congratulations to our friend, Paul, for his excellent work with 2781 BCR and his great support of the Regimental Association.

Ted Hawthorne and Lt Paul Campbell



DUKE'S DEN



L to R: LCol Sajjan, BGen André Corbould and "Duke", Col Eric Peterson and LCol Mason Stalker

Since his return from Libya, "Duke" has been quite busy. First of all, "Duke" toured South East Asia aboard the cruise ship "Oceania Nautica" with many calls, including, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Borneo, Brunei, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Thailand (see "Duke's" Facebook for further information).

"Duke" also attended the Annual St. Julien Mess Dinner and was a major attraction in the mess afterwards.



ASLEEP

K38519 Trooper Paul (Pacsquale) Lanfranco served with the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) and the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment), Canadian Armoured Corps during World War II. He passed away on 18 March 2012, just after his 90th birthday. Paul, Mary and three sons, David Alan and Bill resided in Vancouver and the Sullivan area in Surrey, B.C.

K37442 Sergeant (Ret'd) Joseph Walstyn Bernard served with the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) and the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) Canadian Armoured Corps during World War II. He passed away on 6 April 2012. Joe was born and raised in Summerland, B.C., and prior to the war he served with British Columbia Dragoons in Penticton, B.C. Joe, Florence and children, Donna and Victor settled in Vancouver, B.C. in 1946.

Joe's brother, Rifleman Jack Bernard is the soldier holding out his hand to his son Warren (Whitey) in the famous 1940 photo, "Wait For Me Daddy".

One hundred eleven years ago, the Regiment suffered its first casualties from battle and disease while serving with the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry (RCR) and Strathcona's Horse (SH) during the Boer War, October 1899 to November 1902. On Bloody Sunday, 18 February 1900, the first day of the Battle of Paardeberg, Private William Jackson lost his life. Private William Whitley (RCR) died on 19 June 1900 and Trooper Edward Mackintosh (SH) 28 Jan 1901, both succumbing to enteric fever.

Sixty-seven years ago, 05 April 1945 to 10 May 1945, while fighting in offensive battles in Holland and Germany, the Regiment suffered the loss of eighteen Dukes.

KF65066 Trooper Edmund S Richard; K38058 Trooper William W. Latoski;
Lieutenant Raymond Walmsley; B133522 Trooper Willam N. Kozarichuk;
B117209 Trooper Ronald R. Clewes; G13095 Trooper Stanley L. McBeath;
K37168 Trooper Victor J. Foster; F86035 Trooper Robert C. Harvey;
K38057 Corporal William Mather; L102635 Trooper Thomas P. Birkett;
L50084 Trooper James R. Gow; H94465 Trooper Wilbert Howald;
G3906 Trooper Sterling E. MacLean; B4716 Trooper Roy S. Boyd;
H22022 Trooper James A. Gilmore; L101563 Trooper Russel R. Shier;
K37806 WO II Frank D. Putman; B134661 Corporal James Swales.

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.