



THE DUKE



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2015 EUROPEAN BATTLEFIELD STUDIES TOUR 18 April – 2 May, 2015



St. Julien Canadian Memorial at Vancouver Corner
"The Brooding Soldier" on the 100th Anniversary

In The British Columbia Regiment's (BCR) history, April 2015 marked a significant event - 100 years prior was the battle of St. Julien (part of the larger 2nd Battle of Ypres), marking the first attack by German Army using chlorine gas against allied troops. The BCR and BCR Museum Society planned and executed a two week battlefield studies tour from April 18 to May 2 to coincide with the anniversary of the battle. The tour visited many battlefields of significance to the regiment in the Netherlands, Belgium and France. The BCR tour linked up with tours from Canadian Scottish Regiment, the Calgary Highlanders Regiment and members of other units perpetuating the battalions of the 1st Division Canadian Expeditionary Force for commemorative ceremonies at Vancouver Corner, Menin Gate and the Vimy memorial.

Tour participants included 32 serving members, 20 retired members & friends of the regiment, with one very special participant: 95 year old WO2 Vern Salisbury, MM (Military Medal), a veteran of the Northwest Europe campaign in 1944-1945, who fought as a Tank Troop Sergeant in the 28th Armoured (BCR).

Planning for the Battlefield Studies Tour began a number of years prior, and as no public funds were to be used, a fund-raising campaign to offset some of the tour costs for serving members was initiated. The BCR Honorary Colonel, Ted Hawthorne was a key individual in coordinating the effort, and reflected that *"...for the serving members, especially the younger Junior Ranks, we didn't want the cost of the tour to be a barrier to participation. We had some very generous contributions, which enabled some serving members to participate with a modest contribution from the member, the remaining balance was subsidized through generous donations. I would like to publicly thank the many donors who made this possible: The Royal Canadian Legion Foundation; The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust; and a large number of other organizations and individuals"*.

Major Doug Evans, the BCR Commanding Officer, remarked *"... the BCR battlefield studies tour was designed to be more than just an academic study, it was a mechanism to bond soldiers of the regiment, both serving & retired, with each other and with regimental history."* The BCR Regimental Sergeant Major, MWO Huf Mullick added *"... we used this occasion to rededicate ourselves to the service of our nation and the international community."*

Some of the soldiers on the tour offered their thoughts:

"From the grave stones and monuments of those Canadian soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice to the unique bond with my comrades in arms, it was truly an unforgettable experience that reminds me why I'm proud to be a soldier and a Canadian." Cpl Michael Medrano

"If I could say anything about the battlefield tour, it would be this: the parades that I was part of at Vancouver corner, Vimy Ridge, Menin Gate, and all of the graveyards that we visited were the most moving and significant of my life." MCpl Joseph Rusen

"After viewing the vastness of Juno Beach and the densely concentrated clusters of German fortifications, it is difficult to imagine the daunting opposition the men of 3rd Canadian Division faced seizing the beach. I feel the sacrifices made and the bravery displayed by our forefathers on the beach to overcome the daunting challenge they faced defined the character of our nation and it should be remembered and passed on to our future generations." Tpr Kevin Zhou

"Marching at Vimy and in Ypres were my proudest moments in uniform." Cpl Noel Wright

"Seeing what the soldiers had to endure and what they were expected to do in repeated battles numbs my soul. The strength and stoic actions of all soldiers from the great wars show the resilience and professionalism of Canadians." Maj Vincent Virk

"The trip really demonstrated the enormity and scale of the war, not only in the geographic sense, but as well the material and human cost. Numbers and statistics can only show so much..." Cpl Joshua Faber

"My biggest reflection was Hill 140 and having WO2 Vern Salisbury with us there 71 years after the battle. It was like stepping back in time where he was and fought, it was a rare and humbling experience." Cpl Jonathan Eng

"Across the ocean in a foreign country, in a huge unmarked field, down a muddy dirt track, between two woods, in a small, lonely, manicured cemetery, I noted a grave marked: 'A Canadian soldier of the Great War; known unto God', and I thought here lies an unnamed man who heeded the call, left all that he knew, his parents, his wife, his children to fight for the liberty and future of a people that he did not know." MCpl Alejandro Langone

The BCR's Commanding Officer (CO), Maj Doug Evans concluded, *"I am extremely pleased by the outcomes of the battlefield studies tour, and the impact it has had on the members of the regiment that were able to participate. Its value is beyond words, and I will be laying the ground work so the next CO will be positioned to repeat this experience for other members of the regiment 3 to 4 years from now."*

Article written and compiled by Maj Don Bentley, 2IC BCR



The British Columbia Regiment at the Leke Memorial. The village of Leke was liberated by the 28th Armoured Regiment (The British Columbia Regiment). Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



Leke Memorial Plaque. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



BCR Battlefield Studies Tour "Old Guard" with members of the Leke fire brigade. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



The "Old Guard", The Canadian Scottish, The British Columbia Regiment & The Calgary Highlanders in front of the Vimy Memorial. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



The BCR CO (Maj Evans), Honorary Colonel (Ted Hawthorne), and RSM (MWO Mullick) lay a wreath at the Vimy Memorial. An honour guard composed of the The Canadian Scottish, The Calgary Highlanders and The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) are in the background. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) contingent, led by Maj Don Bentley, accompanied by contingents from The Canadian Scottish and The Calgary Highlanders march to the Vimy memorial. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



The BCR at the Vimy Memorial. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



Left: The current CO of the BCR, Maj Doug Evans, pays his respects at the grave of a former BCR CO (LCol Hart-McHarg). Lieutenant- Colonel Hart-McHarg was mortally wounded April 23, 1915 at St. Julien (2nd Battle of Ypres). Photos by Maj Vince Virk



Colonel (ret'd) Keith Maxwell describes the historical significance during one of many sites visited during the Battlefield Studies Tour. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



The BCR at Menin Gate with Ambassador James Lambert, the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands & WO2 Vern Salisbury, MM



Maj Vince Virk leads the BCR contingent at Menin Gate. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



Buglers from the local fire brigade sound "Last Post" at Menin Gate, with soldiers from the British Columbia Regiment, The Canadian Scottish and The Calgary Highlanders in the background. Following the Menin Gate Memorial opening in 1927, the citizens of Ypres wanted to express their gratitude towards those who had given their lives for Belgium's freedom. Every evening at 20:00 (except for the occupation by the Germans in World War II), this ceremony has been carried on uninterrupted since July 2, 1928. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



Plaques on the church in Villers-lès-Cagnicourt, France recognizing 4 Canadian Expeditionary Force Victoria Cross recipients: top-left: Pte Rayfield 7th Battalion (1st British Columbia Regiment), bottom-left: Sgt Knight, 10th Battalion (The Calgary Highlanders), top-right: LCpl Metcalf 16th Battalion (The Canadian Scottish), bottom-right: LCol Peck, 16th Battalion (The Canadian Scottish). Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



Maj Don Bentley leads the BCR contingent at the ceremony to re-dedicate/unveil plaques to 4 Canadian Expeditionary Force Victoria Cross recipients in Villers-lès-Cagnicourt. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



WO2 Vern Salisbury, with his stepson and villagers in Villers-lès-Cagnicourt during the ceremony to re-dedicate/unveil plaques to 4 Canadian Expeditionary Force Victoria Cross recipients. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



Above: Some members of the BCR Junior Ranks pose for a self-portrait. Photo by Cpl Riley Lafferty



Right:
Bugle-Major John More (BC Regiment Association Brass Band) and Pipe-Major Matt Dolan (BC Regiment Association Pipes & Drums Band) sounded "Last Post" and the lament at numerous venues throughout the BCR Battlefield Studies Tour. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



The BCR at St Julien Memorial (Belgium), with WO2 Vern Salisbury, MM in the centre. Photo by Capt Kevin Fuhr.



WO2 Vern Salisbury, MM, talks with school children at the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery where 1150 soldiers were laid to rest after the Battle of the Scheldt. A contingent of school children, led by a local volunteer, Iris Van Landschoot greeted the tour at the cemetery and took Vern Salisbury's hand to lead him to the Cross of Remembrance. The children recited poems and a heart-felt thanks to Canada and all Canadians for returning freedom to their country so long ago. Photo by Maj Don Bentley.



The gravestone of Sgt Clendinning, who served with WO2 Salisbury during the Battle of the Scheldt. The children had marked the graves of BCR soldiers with a Canadian flag in the Adegem Cemetery to make them easier to find amongst the rows of headstones. Photo by Maj Don Bentley.

FOOD BANK PROGRAM

The substantial collection of non-perishable food donated by the members of the Regiment and the Regimental Family during the Christmas Season was delivered to a very grateful Sancta Maria House (Kitsilano area) on 8 January 2015. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne was greeted by the President of Agape Street Ministry, Dan Dobin, and the House Parent of Sancta Maria House, Yvonne Rodriguez. The Regiment and the Regimental Family were heartily thanked by Dan and Yvonne for their great support. The Honorary Colonel conveyed greetings from the Regiment and the entire Regimental Family and thanked Agape and Sancta Maria for their good work. Plans to expand the Food Bank program in 2015 are presently under review. Many thanks to the Regiment and the Regimental Family for their generous support of this important community outreach program!



L to R: House Parent of Sancta Maria House, Yvonne Rodriguez, HCol Ted Hawthorne & President of Agape Street Ministry, Dan Dobin

2827 BCR (DCO) RCACC (PORT MOODY) CO's PARADE – 13 January 2015

The first CO's Parade held on January 13th was a very good start to the new year. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, was the Reviewing Officer. After the customary inspection, the RO presented four year service medals with the able assistance of Louise Prouse, Honours and Awards Executive of The Army Cadet League of Canada, BC Branch, to C/WO McLennan, C/MWO Lin, C/WO McDougall, C/WO Maclean and C/MWO Chun. Captain (R) Chris Ng, former CO of the unit, presented rank insignia to newly promoted C/MWO Chun, Cpl Jeon and Cpl Neugebauer. After a brief address by Colonel Hawthorne, the parade was dismissed and the cadets proceeded with their regular training for the evening. Director at Large and Cadet Governor Roger Prouse, was also in attendance and represented the Regimental Association. A light reception was hosted by the CO, Captain Robert Rothwell, for the invited guests and the CIC Officers.



L to R: Chris Ng, HCol Ted Hawthorne, Cadet Governor Roger Prouse, WO C. Callander-McLennan, MWO S. Lin, WO J. McDougall, WO C. Maclean, Louise Prouse, MWO Y. Chun, Cpl. Jeon and Cpl. Neugebauer

Congratulations to everyone at 2827 BCR in Port Moody!

BASIC MILITARY QUALIFICATION (“BMQ”) 0059 GRADUATION PARADE – 18 January 2015

The BMQ 0059 Graduation Parade was held at The Drill Hall on Sunday evening, 18 January 2015, with Major Paul Lindsay, OC. The Parade Commander was Lieutenant Vanessa Vinluan with Duke Sergeants Stephen Cobb, Course Warrant, and Bryan Copp, in attendance. The Reviewing Officer was Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne. The parade consisted of a General Salute, Inspection, Presentations, Address by the Reviewing Officer and an Advance in Review Order. The RO complimented the graduates and congratulated them on their graduation and complimented them on their commitment. Also in attendance was the Commanding Officer of 39 Signals Regiment, LCol D.W. Whittier. Well done on a very well executed parade!



CURRY LUNCHEON – 29 January 2015

The first Curry Luncheon of the year was a most enjoyable affair. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne greeted and welcomed all guests, including Honorary Colonel Howe Lee, 39 Service, Major Jim Barrett, CO 2290 BCR, Captain Jackson Wong, DCO 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) and Bob Remple, President of the Regimental Association. Major Douglas Evans, Commanding Officer of the Regiment, addressed our guests and delivered a thorough briefing of the excellent state of the Regiment. In addition, the CO updated everyone on the status of the fast approaching 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour (18 April to 2 May 2015). The Tour Group



will consist of approximately 35 serving members of the Regiment and 15 "Old Guard". Colonel Hawthorne also emphasized the great success of the 2012 Battlefield Tour led by Colonel Sajjan, also in attendance, and noted that the 2015 Battlefield Tour led by Major Evans will most certainly also be every bit as successful and beneficial (in many ways) to our soldiers. The attendees then proceeded to enjoy a very delightful "South Korean Curry" Lunch prepared by our very talented "Two Peas in a Pod Catering".

Many thanks to all of our friends for supporting this successful event!

2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC SITREP – 31 January 2015



2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC recently conducted a winter indoctrination training day on 31 January 2015, up on Mount Seymour, where the recent rains made finding snow a bit difficult. However, the cadets were able to conduct lessons on setting up the Arctic tents, building snow shelters, and with a bit of a hike up the mountain were able to find snow and use their snow shoes (pictured left).

Last weekend, 2290, with Major Jim Barrett as chief Instructor, conducted a Professional Development Day for senior staff, at the Drill Hall on 7 February 2015. In attendance were the 2290 Officers and

Cadet WO Ho, joined by one officer and seven senior cadets from 3300, as well as 2LT Gord Barrett, the Admin O from 15 FD RCA Cadets. Presenters included, Capt Don Lamb from 39 CBG HQ, who spoke on the new forms of Operations Orders, and Col Hawthorne, who spoke to the cadets on the support roles of the Regimental Association, the duties of the Hon Col, and the role of the Commanding Officers' Committee/ Cadet Governor and how they support all of our five cadet corps. Topics covered off by Maj Barrett included a refresher on Military Writing, Radio Telephone Voice Procedure, and a presentation on Regimental history from the early years up to the fall of 1900. Volunteer Instructor, MCpl (Ret.) Stan Clarke, gave a demonstration of how to issue patrolling orders to those present.

WOs' & SGTs' MESS PAARDEBERG DINNER – 7 February 2015

The annual Paardeberg Dinner hosted by the WOs' & Sgts' Mess on 7 February 2015 commemorated the 115th anniversary of the Battle of Paardeberg and was a most enjoyable evening and a complete success. The Regiment's two bands, the Brass Band and the Irish Pipes & Drums, had a very strong showing and added so much to the evening's festivities. In addition, one members of the Mess, Sgt Cameron Byers was dined out and appropriately recognized by the RSM, MWO Huf Mullick and the CO, Major Douglas Evans. In addition, the OpsO, Captain Warren Kerek and OpsWO, WO Marvin MacNeill, were recognized by the RSM. Sgt (R) Zoltan Szilvassy was also dined out and recognized by the CO and the RSM and was presented with a Certificate of Service in recognition of his past service with the Regiment. A somber part of the evening was the RSM's announcement of former BCR MCpl, SAR Tech, RCAF Sergeant Mark Salesse, who has been reported missing when he was swept away by an avalanche during a military winter training exercise in Banff National Park on 5 February 2015.

Also in attendance were Colonel Bryan Gagne, COS 1 CDN Division, HCol Ted Hawthorne, HLCol Scott Shepherd and our good friend and supporter of the Regiment, CPO Tom Curley.

Upon our return to the mess, Zolton Szilvassy presented to the WOs' and WOs' Mess an original bound copy of **Punch** in which the iconic poem "In Flanders Fields" written by LCol John McCrae was first published. What an extraordinary gift! Congratulations to Zolton for his thoughtfulness and generosity.



L to R: Sgt Dayal, WO Matibag & Sgt Copp



L to R: RSM, MWO Huf Mullick, Sgt Cameron Byers & CO, Major Douglas Evans

It was a memorable evening with good food and camaraderie while recognizing our Regimental traditions.

Up the Dukes!

CURRY LUNCHEON – 26 February 2015

February's Thai Curry Luncheon was very well attended and was a very enjoyable time. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne greeted and welcomed all guests, including the Consul General of Greece, Mr. Illias Kremmydas, Colonel Bryan Gagne, COS, 1 Canadian Division, Honorary Colonel Howe Lee, 39 Service, Major Jim Barrett, CO of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC and Bob Remple, President of the Regimental Association. Retired Honorary Colonels Bill Ireland and Jim Happer, and retired President of RUSI Vancouver, Jim Stanton, visiting from Labrador City, were also in attendance. Special guests included our friend and colleague Tochi Sandhu and his guests, Amar Sidhu and Raman Samra, along with Bill McCarthy and his son John. Colonel Hawthorne recognized the excellent support received from Tochi Sandhu for the 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour (18 April to 2 May 2015) where 35 serving members of the Regiment and 17 "Old Guard" will constitute the tour group. Bill McCarthy was also acknowledged for his fine support of the Regimental Association Annual Christmas Fundraiser. The Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Major Douglas Evans, addressed our guests and provided a brief update. Special thanks to our very talented folks from "Two Peas in a Pod Catering".

Many thanks to all of our friends for supporting this successful event!



L to R: Amar Sidhu, Bob Remple, Bill Diamond, Tochi Sandhu, Raman Samra & HCol Ted Hawthorne



L to R: Amar Sidhu, Bob Remple, CO Major Doug Evans, Tochi Sandhu, HCol Ted Hawthorne & Raman Samra

RCAF SAR TECH SGT MARK SALESSE MEMORIAL CFB COMOX – 28 February 2015



A contingent of 21 members of the Regiment, complete with two G-Wagons for the “Last Patrol”, attended the Memorial Service for one of our own, former MCpl Mark Salesse, who was killed on an ice climbing exercise in Banff on 5 February 2015. The contingent was led by the 2I/C, Major Don Bentley, and the RSM, MWO Huf Mullick.

Sgt Salesse was also remembered at the annual Paardeberg Dinner on 7 February 2015 by RSM Mullick and by the Regiment with a Memorial Table complete with Memorial Book of Condolences. Many thanks RSM for your great work!

We will remember Sgt Mark Salesse!

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ANNUAL MESS DINNER – 28 February 2015

The annual mess dinner, hosted by the Commanding Officer, LCol D.J. Vernon, CD and the Officers' Mess, was held on the drill square at The Armoury in New Westminster. The guest speaker for the evening was Colonel M.P. Haussmann, CD, Commander 39 CBG.

Members of the Regimental Family attending were Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne and Major (R) Ken Whitney. Special guests included the Consul General of Poland, Doctor Krzysztof Olendzki, the Mayors of the City and surrounding Municipalities in the County of Westminster, MGen (R) Brian Vernon, CD and MLA Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, Doctor Doug Bing.

A most enjoyable evening indeed!



L to R: HCol Lee, HCol Baker-MacGrotty, Dr. Doug Bing, HCol Hawthorne & HCol Happer

AFGHANISTAN THEATRE HONOUR MEMORIAL WALL



The new Afghanistan Theatre Honour scroll has now been installed and has taken its place on the Memorial Wall along with our other three Theatre Honours, South Africa, 1899-1900, France Flanders 1915-1918 and Northwest Europe 1944-1945. We now have four Theatre Honours in three centuries!

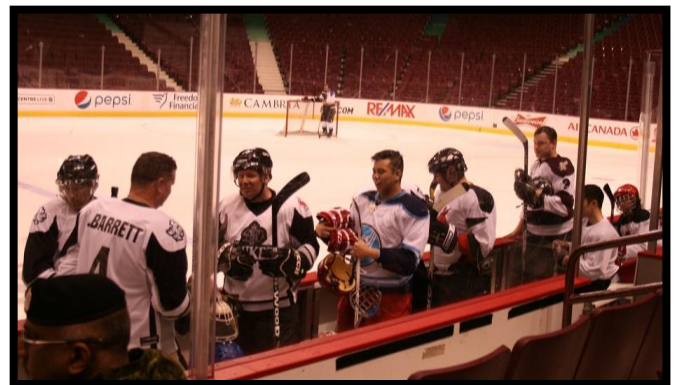
As the painting of the inside of The Drill Hall is now complete, the Memorial Wall project is now finalized with the display of all of our historical cap badges, Battle Honours, Theatre Honours, Memorial Plaques and Memorial Crosses.

Members will be pleased to note that a comprehensive report is being drafted by the OPI of this project, LCol (R) Archie Steacy, and will be published in due course in a Special Edition of **The Duke**.

Our sincere appreciation to Archie Steacy for his excellent work in completing this very extensive project! Congratulations and many thanks Archie from the entire Regimental Family.

ANNUAL REGIMENTAL HOCKEY GAME ROGERS ARENA – 4 March 2015

On 4 March 2015 at Rogers Arena, the Annual Regimental Ice Hockey Game was held between the Officers' and Sgts' Team and the BCR Junior Ranks Team. At stake was "The Barrett Cup", donated in 1994 by the then Captain Barrett in Memory of his Grandfather, Pte William Barrett 7th BN (1st BC Regt) CEF, which replaced the earlier hockey trophy dating back to the early 70's. Played in front of a large turnout of Regimental soldiers and supporters, the Junior Ranks Team dominated the game offensively, and was held off from complete domination by a hard defensive effort led by the CO, Maj Evans, and Sgt McKee and by solid goaltending in the Officers' and Sgts' net by Lt Ellis. The final outcome was 7-0 for the Junior Ranks, winning decisively for the third year in a row. The Barrett Cup was presented by Major Jim Barrett to the JRs at the end of the game. Congratulations Junior Ranks!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY – 15 March 2015



The annual Regimental Association St. Patrick's Day Party held in WOs' & Sgts' Mess was a fun filled day with old and new friends catching up, good food, prizes and listening to the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums. In attendance were H/Col Ted Hawthorne, VP Association Gayle Hawthorne, President Emeritus Archie Steacy (Lynda), Cadet Governor Roger Prouse (Louise) and Agnes Keegan, to name just a few. The Regiment's new Padre, the Reverend Michael McGee, was also in attendance and enjoyed himself visiting with his new friends in the Regimental Family. Lunch was Irish Stew (Sandra Young), Salad Bar (Lynda Steacy), Meatballs (Liisa Lyth), Desserts were Trifle (Ellen McKenzie) and Cupcakes (Gayle Hawthorne). The BCR Irish Pipes and Drums led by Pipe Major Matt Dolan played a fantastic set for us. Everyone enjoyed their entertainment and we thank them very much for making time for us during their busy schedule. There was a ballot taken for Best Dressed and the winner was Steve Scott for his Clover pants. However, it was a close race between Ellen McKenzie and Steve.



L to R: Agnes Keegan, Roger & Louise Prouse



L to R: Sandra Young, Steve Scott, Graydon Young & Gayle Hawthorne

There were door prizes to be won, 50/50 and a lucky draw raffle. Some of the winners were Tom Lyth for the 50/50. Some of the lucky draw prizes were won by Lynda Steacy who won the grand prize, two tickets to a Vancouver Canucks 2015/16 season game and also the Scratch ticket tree. Wayne Sasaki was also a winner, winning a few prizes Grey Goose & the Bailey's. Congratulations to them as well as all the other winners. I guess some had a lucky charm or a leprechaun was with them! The afternoon came and went fairly quickly. A special thanks to Sgt Kevin Baker for taking care of the bar, Lynda, Gayle, Ellen & Liisa for their help with the food and to those who helped set up and clean up. Also a special thanks to Dan & Ellen McKenzie for once again taking care of the door check in.

We hope everyone had a good time and we thank you for helping to make this another successful event. Hope to see you and more next year. A very special thanks to our very own Sandra and Graydon Young for their excellent work in making this event such a success!

THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) OFFICERS' MESS CURRY LUNCHEON – 26 March 2015

The March Curry Luncheon (“Taste of India theme”) hosted by the Officers’ Mess and coordinated by the Regimental Association was a most enjoyable time for all attendees. It was noted that the next Curry Luncheon will be held on May 28th as the upcoming 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour with 35 members of the Regiment and 20 Old Guard attending, will take place between April 18 and May 2nd. Attendees included the CO, Major Douglas Evans, LCol Harjit Sajjan, HCol Ted Hawthorne and Vice President of the Regimental Association, Gayle Hawthorne.

A very good time was enjoyed by all. Our very special thanks to Pat and Cynthia from **Two Peas in a Pod Catering*** for their excellent service and delicious “Taste of India”!

* Two Peas In A Pod Catering

"we love what we do"

Contact: info@twopeasinapodcatering.com



THE 2015 BRITISH COLUMBIA ARMY GALA – 28 March 2015

This year’s Army Gala was held once again at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and was well attended. Special guests included the Consul General (Vancouver) for the Netherlands, Mr. Gert Heijkoop, Senator Larry Campbell, the Commander, Maritime Forces Pacific, Rear-Admiral Bill Truelove, the Commander of 3 Canadian Division, BGen Wayne Eyre, the Deputy Commander of 3 Canadian Division, BGen Rob Roy MacKenzie, and the Commander 39 Canadian Brigade Group, Colonel Matthew Haussmann. The MC for the evening was once again Global TV Morning News co-anchor Steve Darling. Regimental members included the CO, Major Douglas Evans (Zinat), HCol Ted Hawthorne (VP Gayle), HLCol Scott Shepherd (Carolyn), Major Vince Virk (Noor), Major Dan Thomas (Jana), Major John Perry (Sherri), Captain Warren Kerek (Adria), Captain Adam McLeod, Captain Kim Funk, WO Marvin MacNeill (Evelyn) and 2290 BCR CO, Major Jim Barrett (Patricia). Regimental Association members Past President Bill Diamond (Audrey), Bill Whelen and Ken Whitney (Linda) and retired Dukes, Heather Arden (BSM, CWO Mark Arden), Tim Laidler and Jason Villeneuve were also in attendance.



L to R: HCol Hawthorne, Mike de Jong, QC (Minister of Finance), Consul General Gert Heijkoop, Dienske Heijkoop and Senator Campbell



L to R: HCol Hawthorne, BGen Eyre, Major Evans and Senator Campbell

**ANAVETS UNIT #100, KINGSWAY
2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC FUNDRAISER – 29 March 2015**

The annual cadet fundraiser held at the ANAVETS Unit #100 by Agnes Keegan, a longtime active member of the Sponsoring Committee for 2290 BCR, was well supported by a full house of our friends at ANAVETS. Vice President Gayle Hawthorne, also a member of the Sponsoring Committee, attended as well. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne was acknowledged as a special guest at the unit. Colonel Hawthorne took the opportunity to thank ANAVETS for their grand support of 2290 BCR and the Cadet Program in general. Colonel Hawthorne also acknowledged the great work of Agnes Keegan which naturally received a sustained round of applause.

Congratulations Agnes for a job very well done indeed and to unit President Debbie Stratton and her members for their wonderful support and tremendous hospitality.

L to R: Debbie Stratton, Agnes Keegan,
Gayle Hawthorne and HCol Ted Hawthorne



**CAPTAIN JEFFREY HUME AITKEN, CD
FUNERAL SERVICE AND RECEPTION – 31 March 2015**

An impressive number of the “Old Guard” said good bye to a friend and great supporter of the Regiment and Cadets at a grave side ceremony at the Surrey Centre Cemetery, with Padre Gordon Barrett officiating. Jeff was remembered by his friends and colleagues, and by Wane Banks, President Emeritus Archie Steacy and Terry Sawasy in their eulogies. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne also acknowledged Jeff’s great service to the Regiment, to BCR Cadets and the Cadet Program. All those present experienced, in some measure, Jeff’s encouragement and leadership so many years ago. The padre’s service included readings from scripture, an Act of Remembrance by Archie Steacy and The Last Post and Reveille by BCR Bugle Major John More. 39 CBG BSM, CWO Mark Arden was in attendance and Vice President Gayle Hawthorne represented the Regimental Association.



A reception was held at Northview Golf & Country Club compliments of Jeff's good friend Sam Begera.

Good bye old friend. We will remember you Jeff!

Up the Dukes!

CHANGE OF RSM PARADE FOR 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC – 2 April 2015

The Change of RSM Parade was held by 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC at The Drill Hall on Thursday, 2 April 2015. The parade followed the traditional protocol, namely a General Salute to the Reviewing Officer, Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Inspection, March Past (outgoing RSM Richard Vo in command), signing of the Official Appointment Certificates, presentations, RSM Sabre and RSM Pace Stick exchange from the Outgoing RSM to the Incoming RSM with the Commanding Officer of the unit, Major Jim Barrett, and Colonel Hawthorne presiding, an address by the CO and RO, March Past (incoming RSM Ho in command), the Advance in Review Order and General Salute.



The unit was well turned and their drill was spot on. Many thanks to the unit's good friend, Volunteer Instructor MCpl (Ret) Stan Clarke. An excellent ceremonial parade complete with flag party in recognition of these two excellent cadets was enjoyed by all. Sponsoring Committee members Agnes Keegan and Gayle Hawthorne (VP Regimental Association) were also in attendance.



ST JULIEN MESS DINNER – 10 April 2015

The Officers' Mess held their annual St Julien Mess Dinner commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of St Julien (24 April – 5 May 1915) on 10 April 2015 in the Drill Hall. It was a memorable evening enjoyed by all. Head Table guests were the CO, Major Douglas Evans, Colonels Hausmann and Gagne, Colonel (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, Honorary Colonel Hawthorne, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Shepherd, 2IC Major Don Bentley and PMC, Major Paul Lindsay. The Regiment's two bands, the Brass Band and the Irish Pipes & Drums, had a very strong performance and added a great deal to the overall success of the evening. The Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans, delivered an excellent speech to the assembled guests with a state of the Regiment report. Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Scott Shepherd then proceeded to acknowledge the tremendous service and commitment of our members. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne acknowledged the great support received from the Regimental Family for the upcoming 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour, namely the Regimental Association Charitable Trust, Colonel Harjit Sajjan and Tochi Sandhu and their colleagues and the Legion Foundation. On the organization side, Colonel Hawthorne acknowledged Colonel (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, Hon Major Bill Diamond and Major John Perry, Captain Jennifer Hillman and WO Tony Harris.

Prior to the dinner, our Senior Serving Duke, Colonel Bryan Gagne, COS 1st Canadian Division, presented the Commanding Officer, the Honorary Colonel, the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and Keith Maxwell with a 1st Division patch (traditional red) and pin, for ceremonial purposes for the upcoming ceremony at Menin Gate in Ypres with the Guard to be led by the CO and our members. As part of the ceremony, the 1st Division Flag will be flown in recognition of the 7Bn CEF and other units which were part of the 1st Division at that time.

It was truly a very memorable occasion and greatly enjoyed by all.



Presentation to the Mess
PMC, Major Paul Lindsay and Jeff Pope



Major Douglas Evans and
Colonel Bryan Gagne



Lt James Norman and
Agnes Keegan



L to R: HCol Ted Hawthorne, HLCol Scott Shepherd, Col(R) Keith Maxwell, Major Douglas Evans & Colonel Bryan Gagne

ST. JULIEN DINNER TOAST TO THE REGIMENT – 10 April 2015

By: Major Vincent Virk

“In 1883 the British Columbia Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery was formed and this marks the start of our Regiment as we know it.

What else happened that year:

- The Ontario Rugby Football Union (forerunner of CFL) forms;
- Italy signs military treaty with Austria-Hungary & Germany (foreshadowing...);
- A holy war in Egypt is declared;
- Canada adopts Standard Time;
- Regina is officially declared a town;
- Our head of state is Queen Victoria;
- And the Prime Minister is John A. Macdonald.

Over the next one hundred years the Regiment went through many transformations, rebranding and amalgamations and in 1985 we finally settled on our current name The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own).

I am not going to share the wonders of 1985 with you but our head of state was still a Queen.

A lot has transpired since our inception and more than just name changes in our 132 years. Today the Regimental Family consists of five cadet corps, two bands, one allied regiment, one allied ship, the Association, the Museum Society, and CO's Committee. Couple this with the Regimental RHQ, our two sqns, RDG, and Musketry Team and what do you have...a lot of moving parts.

A senior NCO recently told me that we only know one way to operate here in the BCRs and that is at 100 km/hr. You know what...that is absolutely correct! We need that speed and drive to keep all our moving parts fused together.

Over the past years, our Regiment has transformed and grown and in so many ways we are nothing like those who joined in 1883. Yet so much of the world seems the same and our history is always what guides

us and gives us our foundation to grow and strive to be better day in and day out. This leads me into the future of the Regiment, which is here and now with us.

(Subalterns please stand up)...everyone, those faces standing now were not even born in 1985. That does not matter. They are faster, stronger, and hopefully smarter than those before them, and they are going to need all of those traits because our 132 years plus of history will one day be led by them. It is up to them to decide if they carry that history on their shoulders or use it as a foundation to push the Regiment to new heights.

Ladies and gentlemen please rise and join me in a toast to the Regiment. The Regiment”

3300 BCR (BHAJ KANHAIYA) RCACC FUND RAISING GALA and CHARTER SIGNING – 10 April 2015

By: Major(R) Roger Prouse, CD

On Friday, April 10th, Bob Remple, President of the BCR Association and yours truly (Roger Prouse), BCR Cadet Governor, along with Sgt Lee from our Regiment, had the pleasure of attending our BCR Cadet Corps Fund Raising Gala and Charter Signing in Surrey.

The dignitaries included the Minister of National Defence Jason Kenney, Revenue Minister Kerry-Lynn Findlay, Minister for Multiculturalism Tim Uppal and BC Minister of Technology Amrik Virk. The Charter signing by the Commanding Officer of the 3300 Major Lee Taylor, the Friends of the Surrey Sikh Cadet Society Mr. Babar Tumber, the 3300 Parent Sponsoring Committee Chair Mrs. Mina Ghag and the President of the Army Cadet League BC Branch Mr. Philip Sherwin. The signing made the 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC the first Army Corps in Canada to be formed and sponsored by the Sikh Community.

The 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) Cadet Corps was named after a soldier in the Sikh Army in days of yore who bravely attended to the wounded in battle, be it friendly or the enemy, by giving them water and nourishment.

Over 400 dignitaries and members of the Community attended this memorable event.



39 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENT CHANGE OF COMMAND – 11 April 2015

On April 11th the 39 CER held their Change of Command parade at the JP Fell Armoury- home of the 6th Engineer Squadron. Each of the three Squadrons – 6th, 44th and 54th were well represented as was the 2573 6 Engineer Squadron Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

All of the guests were seated and the parade started promptly at 13:00 with the troops marching into the Armoury. Once the Sappers and NCOs were formed up, the Officers marched on. Each Officer had a sword and they are all to be commended for the great showing of sword drill throughout the parade.

With everyone in place, the outgoing and incoming CO's along with the 39 CBG Commander and Brigade Sgt Major marched on. The Commander promptly performed an efficient inspection of the regiment as the JP Fell pipe Band performed.

The outgoing CO, LCol Allan Moreau, CD took the opportunity to say a few words and congratulated and thanked the regiment for their support during his command. He said he was very pleased to be turning over command to newly promoted LCol Cameron McLean, CD who will be a great CO.

After the traditional signatures to turn over command, LCol McLean took the opportunity to address those in attendance. He thanked LCol Moreau for turning over a strong Regiment and that he looks forward to his time as the Commanding Officer.

The new CO led the Regiment in a march past and shortly there-after the parade was dismissed. After the parade all were invited to the Vimy Ridge Combined Mess for post parade socializing.

The BC Regiment and Association were represented by the Commanding Officer, Major Doug Evans, RSM MWO Huf Mullick, HCol Ted Hawthorne and Association Past President Bill Diamond.

That evening the Regiment hosted a Change of Command dinner. The dinner was attended by the HCol and Gayle Hawthorne along with Bill and Audrey Diamond.

THE VANCOUVER VIMY DAY COMMEMORATION – 12 April 2015

By: Major (R) Roger Prouse, Cadet Governor

The weather was cool but dry on Sunday April 12 when BCR Cadets from the 2290, 2827, and the 2381 joined approx. 300 Army Cadets from other Cadet Corps, paraded at the Commonwealth Grave section at Vancouver's Mountain View Cemetery (MVC). It was the 4th Annual Cadet Vimy Parade and the location could not have been better. In past years, the Parade was held in downtown Vancouver at the Cenotaph where we had to deal with traffic noise and other unwanted distractions. At MVC, the setting was very quiet, serene and a safe place for our Cadets.

The Cadets formed up on the roadway at Celebration Hall (situated on the grounds). Led by the Vancouver Cadet Flag Party and the military band of the 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC they marched to the Commonwealth Grave section, a distance of approx. 700 metres. Upon arrival, the Cadets covered off the head stones of WWI Veterans who are buried at the site. The Vancouver Flag Party took their post each side of the Memorial Cross and a four person Cadet Vigil Guard was in position at the Memorial Cross as well.



Photos courtesy of John Karmazinuk

A moving poem, "The Ballad of Vimy Ridge", was read by Christopher Gaze, Artistic Director of Bard on the Beach. A student from Winston Churchill High School told of her experiences during a recent visit the Canadian Monument at Vimy in France. She was sponsored by the Vimy Ridge Foundation. Bugle Major John More, from the BC Regiment (DCO) Brass Band, played the Last Post and the Rouse and a Piper from the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada played the Lament. Wreaths were laid by the Army Cadet League (BC), The City of Vancouver, The Consulate General for France in BC, the RCL, ANAVETS plus other Veterans organizations. The wreath for the Regimental Association was laid by Vice President Gayle Hawthorne and Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne. At the conclusion of the Ceremony and on the command of the Cadet Parade Commander, the Cadets removed their Poppies and placed them on the Veterans Headstones. They then re-formed on the roadway and marched back to Celebration Hall where a lunch consisting of chili, buns, cookies and water was served. Also attending from the Regimental Family were the Cadet Governor, Roger Prouse, Louise Prouse, Agnes Keegan and Tom Houghton.

It was a great day and one we are sure the Cadets and all who attended will remember.

ST. JULIEN DRUMHEAD SERVICE & CO'S PARADE – 15 April 2015

The Regiment and Regimental Family commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of St. Julien by conducting a non-denominational Drumhead Service at The Drill Hall on a regular parade night. The traditional service consisted of marching on the Guidon while the Regiment and 2290 BCR(101 DCOR) RCACC were on parade, the singing of O Canada, the “Piling of the Drums” to form an “altar” precisely executed by drummers of the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums, presenting the Guidon to the Padre, the Reverend Michael McGee, piping the Lament by Pipe Sgt Greg Green, reciting of the scriptural Readings, playing the Last Post and Reveille by Bugle Major John More and concluding the service with marching off the Guidon.

The Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Major Douglas Evans, proceeded with a CO's Parade by addressing the soldiers and complimenting them on their turnout and by awarding four CDs (MCpl Iredale, Sgt Schultz and Capt McLeod). Cpl Delaat received his first clasp to his CD.

Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne addressed the Regiment and complimented all members on such a great turnout and excellent parade. In addition, Colonel Hawthorne acknowledged the presence of our Senior Serving Duke, Colonel Bryan Gagne, COS 1st Cdn Division, and President Bob Remple. Colonel Hawthorne also acknowledged the great support of the Regimental Association and the Association Charitable Trust, Tochi Sandhu and his colleagues, Colonel Sajjan and his colleagues and of course The Legion Foundation for the upcoming 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour (18 April to 2 May). Colonel Hawthorne and Recce Bob presented the CO with a cheque in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the Association Charitable Trust to the Regimental Museum.

Many thanks to the Regiment and Regimental Family for a great evening!



VE DAY – 70TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION DINNER – 16 April 2015

By: Bill Diamond

On April 16th the Province of BC hosted a commemorative dinner for the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe. The pre-dinner reception provided a great opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones. The BC Veterans Commemorative Association had their National War Memorial replica displayed and it was well received and provided a great back drop for many photos.

The dinner began with two Seaforth pipers leading in the Official Party and 45 WWII veterans. This was followed by a bilingual singing of O'Canada by Mark Donnelly. Just like at a Canucks game, many in attendance joined in and sang along with Mark. As the salad was being enjoyed, the evening's host, The Honourable Michael de Jong, QC welcomed the attendees with special attention to the many WWII vets who were able to be at this dinner. He also acknowledged the "Red Tail" Tuskegee Airmen in attendance. It was a case of good timing as they were in town visiting their "Dragon Tail" friends.

The next speaker was the Consul General of the Netherlands in Vancouver, Mr. Gert Heijkoop. In addition to his comments, Mr. Heijkoop showed a power point presentation including maps and many period pictures of the Canadians liberating his home country. He expressed his country's gratitude for the sacrifices made to liberate the Netherlands.

During the main course there was opportunity for more visiting and the Seaforth Pipe Band played a few sets. This was followed by a delicious dessert – a great ending to a fine meal!! Next to speak was the Consul General of France in Vancouver, Mr. Jean-Christophe Fleury. He also thanked the many veterans for the freedom that we all enjoy. Mr. Fleury explained that 2 years ago there were approximately 20 Legion D'Honneur medal recipients in Canada and that this medal is equivalent to the Order of Canada. At last year's dinner commemorating D-Day, he presented medals to 20 veterans and he was very pleased to present additional medals this evening. When all of the presentations are made, there will be approximately 600 Legion D'Honneur medal recipients in Canada.

This fine evening was enjoyed by over 250 people and the BC Regimental Family was well represented by Col Bryan Gagne (Erika), President Emeritus Archie Steacy (Lynda), Past President Bill Diamond (Audrey), Jeff Pope, Sharel Fraser, Mark Arden and Bob Ashton. We were pleased to see in the table program the Province of BC's acknowledgement of Bill Diamond's contributions to making the commemorative dinner such a success.



L to R:
Erika Rouby,
Col Bryan Gagne,
The Hon. Mike de Jong, QC,
Mrs. Heijkoop,
Consul General Heijkoop,
Audrey Diamond,
President Emeritus Archie Steacy

LETTER OF THANKS – 27 April 2015

From: Lieutenant Colonel M F Richardson OBE (Retired)

[Personal Address
in England]

Colonel E A Hawthorne
Honorary Colonel
The British Columbia Regiment
(Duke of Connaught's Own)
620 Beatty Street
VANCOUVER
British Columbia
Canada V6B 2L9

27th April 2015

Dear Colonel Ted,

It was an enormous privilege to be able to join your Regiment to commemorate the Battle of St. Julien last week and I was honoured to be invited to take part. Keith Maxwell put it all into superb historical perspective, the splendid parade was greatly moving and inspiring, and I was thrilled to be able to participate in my Rifles regalia. I thought that the British Columbia Regiment did its forebears proud.

I was made to feel very welcome by everyone I met, not least the 'old guard', and I made many new friends. Your officers and soldiers were most forthcoming about their military careers and experiences, and I learnt a lot about the Canadian Army. In turn, it was an honour to be able to describe to everyone the experiences my great uncle Kenneth Foyster had a hundred years ago.

Thank you so much for giving me such an outstanding opportunity. I will never forget it.

*Yours ever,
Mike.*

TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE PROUDLY SERVED IN THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

By: Pte Fan - K 45 589 125

Different people may have different values to share; to me, seven months of basic military training was the most valuable experience which I have ever gained in my life. In the past training session, I conquered every difficulty and challenge, and grasped all essential skills which are demanded of every soldier. Although it was extremely challenging to coordinate my school workload with the military training, and for so many uncountable days, I had to sacrifice my spare time in order to accomplish tasks and assignments, ultimately I accomplished it with pride and dignity. In my opinion, the real asset which I have acquired from military training is not solely learning how to shoot and fight, but also developing a strong personal management skill (such as determination, motivation and fighting spirit) which enables me to face my weaknesses and strengthens me to conquer them.

Adverse environmental condition and interminable durability of rucksack marches are things which I find extremely formidable among all training lessons. Before I joined the Canadian Army, I had nil sense about the significance of different weather conditions. Because of the availability of various resources and implements of modern facilities, people could always respond instantaneously whenever there was a change of the weather condition in the urban environment. It is extremely rare to see how human lives could be profoundly impacted by the environment, unless there is a natural disaster happening. However, it is a completely different story when it comes to military field training.

One of the most remarkable experiences I endured was the three consecutive field exercises which happened on my B.M.Q-Land course. Due to the encounter of monsoon season in the West Coast, our

physical and mental endurance was tested to the threshold; hunger, cold and fatigue were our constant companions. Although we all had some type of rain protection gear, the unremitting rainfall eventually seeped through. And it was the moment that I had an epiphany of realizing how vulnerable human beings are against Mother Nature.

Long distance rucksack march is the most challenging lesson of all. It does not merely test a soldier's physical stamina, but also a person's mental readiness and determination. Based on my personal experience, there were a couple occasions where I was pushed beyond my limits during the marches while carrying the heavy weight on my back; each additional step felt heavier, as if a huge mountain was crashing down on me. At those moments, I thought I was going to surrender to exhaustion. However, thanks to all the course staff who were constantly encouraging and supporting us along the side; they ignited my fighting spirit and helped me to achieve the goal where I had never anticipated I could.

Subsequently, the rucksack march has become one of my favorite exercise routines. Even though the B.M.Q.-Land course is far done, I constantly seek opportunity in my spare time to enhance my rucksack march. In my opinion, exercising rucksack march does not merely improve my physical fitness; in the meantime it also strengthens my mental readiness, to make me more self-motivated and determined.

Overall, the military training that I have received produced several profound impacts on my life. It has shaped me in so many different ways that while I am living my civilian side, I cannot cease to think and act as a soldier. Two of the most important personal features, the determination and motivation that I have acquired from the military, have constantly accompanied me, so that I know I must complete every task, whether trivial or important, with professionalism and responsibility.



FROM THE BARRETT BUNKER

By: Major Jim Barrett

April 22-25 marks the 100th Anniversary of our Regiment's first battle as a 'Regiment,' when as part of the 1st Canadian Division CEF, the 7th Battalion (1st British Columbia Regiment) CEF marched into battle to hold the line near the village of St Julien near Ypres, Belgium, following the collapse of French Colonial Troops on our left flank after poisonous chlorine gas was unleashed by the Germans.

At the time the 7th BN CEF went into France, its total strength was 1,136 soldiers All Ranks. Of those, 5% declared their birth as either in the USA or other nations, with the Americans being the largest group to join our troops. What should be no surprise is that 69% of the troops were born either in the British Isles or elsewhere in the British Empire. Our first VC winner, Captain Edward Bellew, declared that he was, 'Born at Sea.' What is interesting is that 26% of our soldiers were born Canadian. From the February 1915 Nominal Roll there is much more than can be learned of interest. A surprising 75% of the Soldiers of the 7th BN CEF declared that they had former military training, ranging from all over the British Empire, the Canadian Militia, the Royal North-West Mounted police, and to foreign armies such as the US Army. If this fact is true for the other units of the 1st Canadian Division, then we should not be too shocked that they were disciplined, fought hard as the veterans that most of them were, and that they held their ground at the end of the battle.

It is at the Battle of St Julien in the early afternoon of April 24th, 1915, that, we take up the tale of the Regiment's most famous escape artist, Captain Jack Thorn. Although the Regiment had held off the German attacks throughout the 23rd, they broke through our trenches following a heavy attack on the 13th BN CEF on the 7th's right flank, and using a heavy barrage and poisonous gas broke through at about 8 am in the morning and on our left flank at 930 am. Captain Thorne went out to scout the situation and learned that they were practically surrounded. By 11 am they were forced to retire in contact with the 48th Highlanders on their right and remnants of the other battalions on their left. By 1 pm, with their Company surrounded by the Germans, nearly all the men killed or wounded and having no ammunition, they were taken prisoner. Thus begins Thorn's ordeal and adventures as a prisoner-of-war.



Major J.C. Thorn 1919

Following rough treatment near the front at Louvain, Maj Thorn arrived at his first POW Camp near the Austrian Border in Saxony at Bischofswerda. As camps went, it was fairly comfortable with nine officers to a room, and an area where they could play soccer or tennis. Together with a Russian Officer, they made their plans to use a disused staircase into the basement, get out of a window, and pass under the wire when the sentry's back was turned. Having saved food from their Red Cross packages, they awaited their opportunity. Then another way of escaping presented itself on Christmas Day 1915 when the camp's civilian cooks were being replaced by German Army cooks. Several large wicker baskets were to be used to remove the cook's equipment from the camp. Thorn and Capt TV Scudamore (7th BN) conspired to take advantage, and decided that as Capt Scudamore spoke both German and fit the basket of similar shape and size they had 'borrowed', that he would have the opportunity.

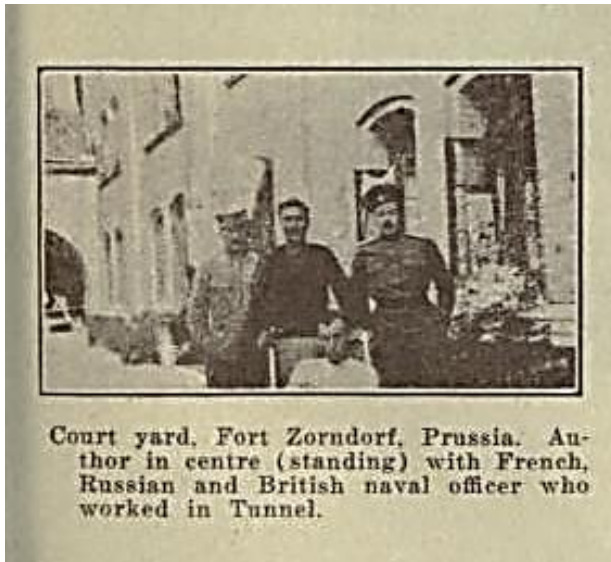
Captain Thorn, and other helpers, would assist getting the basket down the corridor to where the cook's baskets were waiting to be loaded onto a truck. Capt Bellew, also of the 7th BN CEF, assisted the escape by opening up a newspaper to obscure the vision of the posted German sentry down the barracks corridor. The basket and Capt Scudamore were loaded successfully into the vehicle, but upon driving away, he shifted to be more comfortable and the movement of the basket was observed by a sharp eyed sentry, and he was recaptured by the Germans. Captains Thorn and Scudamore were placed in solitary confinement.



Major Scudamore (on the left) who escaped in a basket from Bischofswerda.



Types of German soldiers guarding us in 1916.



Court yard, Fort Zorndorf, Prussia. Author in centre (standing) with French, Russian and British naval officer who worked in Tunnel.

As punishment for helping another prisoner to escape, Captain Thorn was placed in a cell for ten days of solitary confinement and then told that he was to be shipped off to another camp. In February 1916, he was taken to the train station under guard, and was taken to a location north-east of Berlin to the Fort Zorndorf Fortress. More like a large bunker, the Fort was dug almost 125 feet under the surface and was built of solid concrete and bricks and had corridors running off in all directions, which had been partitioned off for the prisoners. Around the building was a deep brick lined ditch 30 feet wide. Within a few weeks, Thorn partnered with a British Naval Officer, and some French and Russian Officers to start digging a tunnel. They cut a trap door through the floor of their cell and then through the concrete, where they found a large gap between the concrete and the sand where they could easily hide their excavated dirt. Three or four

months later the tunnel was over 125 yards long and a few days later would have seen them tunneling up into the forest and escaping. However, the wily Commandant had noticed a lack of escape attempts and a new 'Russian' prisoner was planted in amongst them to discover what was really going on, and thus their tunnel was discovered just shy of success. At this time Thirty Russians, Twenty-Five French and Five British Offices were prepared to escape. The tunnel was filled in by German Engineers and several of their digging tools were sent off to the War Museum in Berlin.

After eight months, Maj Thorn was moved to his third camp at Augustabad, in Mecklenburg. This was a much nicer location being a former hotel, surrounded by a fence of barbed wire, a wooden palisade mounted with lights every 20-30 feet. It did not take him long to look for ways to escape. Within a week he started carefully watching the sentries, noting the time they changed guard and the work they did around the camp and decided that there were only two ways to get out of the camp. One way was tunneling and the other was by way of a disguise of some sort. His first plan was to hide in a barrow which took out of the camp manure from the stables, and while he waited for the long nights in November and December, Thorn helped with another group of officers, who were digging a tunnel. One afternoon he observed an old German war widow visiting the camp, wearing black crepe, and decided that her clothing would be the perfect disguise. Bribing a guard for material, they made a large veiled hat, and copied her long coat, making it and a skirt out of a French Officer's black cape. With the assistance of a Belgian orderly, they were able to obtain enough hair to make a convincing wig, and so after three months, Maj Thorn was ready to take his chance. On the 23rd of December 1916 at approximately 7

pm, he crawled into the wheel barrow and was properly covered up in manure by the Belgian Orderly, where three minutes later a German Soldier wheeled the barrow and Captain Thorn out the front gate and dumped him undiscovered onto the manure pile about twenty yard from camp. The night prior the Belgian had buried Thorn's 'widow's' disguise, a 'tommy cooker', some food, and water into the pile. Locating his supplies, Thorn crawled into a disused icehouse for the day and awaited the evening and his escape partner. A Frenchman, who was rather small, but spoke fluent German, was smuggled out the same way the next evening, with a disguise to make him appear as a hump-backed boy, and the two of them set off for the Dutch Border. The next night waiting a train station they were discovered and recaptured and returned to the camp. Sentenced to a month's solitary confinement and four months in a fortress, Captain Jack Thorn spent his second Christmas as a guest of Germany.



THE WIDOW'S WEEDS
Made by the Author and Belgian officers at Augustabad. (1) Hat and Veil; (2) Part of hair worn on skull cap; (3) Jacket which was worn under coat; (4) Vanity bag, made out of crepe and striped dyed in ink; (5) One of the gloves; (6) Babler's paw for putting on the wig.

On the 15th of February, 1917, Captain Thorn and the French Officer were taken away by train through Bavaria to one of the worst fortresses in Germany, known as Fort Nine, Ingolstadt.

Two unsuccessful attempts to escape later, but uncaught, Thorn and the rest of the British Officers and some Russians were sent off back to Fort Zorndorf, where he was greeted by the German sentry as, "Widow Thorn." His reputation had preceded him. Conditions had improved in his absence in terms of the food and treatment of the prisoners, and prisoners were allowed to walk the surrounding countryside for two hours a day having given their 'parole'. As chances of a successful escape from the fortress were slight, the plan was to show good behaviour, get transferred to a different camp, where chances of escape would be better. In the meantime, they had broken into the Commandant's Office and used several acquired letters to make stamps which were put to good use making false passports and other documents for future use.

On 18th September 1917, Captain Thorn was advised that he and others were to be moved to a new camp, which turned out to be the infamous Holzminden Camp. Holzminden had been an infantry barracks at the start of the war. The Commandant, Hauptmann Karl Niemeyer, known to the prisoners as 'Milwaukee Bill' for his atrocious American English and his Kaiser Bill moustache, was one of the worst possible, who had a reputation for making money off of the prisoners through the exchange and brutally punishing any offenses, real or otherwise.

After being shown to his room, Captain Thorn was delighted to see Capt Bellew as one of the prisoners. It did not take long for Thorn and his friend, Wilkins, to come up with another plan for escape. They found their way into the sealed top floor using wire cutters stolen from a German working in the courtyard pointed out to them by Captain Bellew.



Specimen of paper money given to prisoners so that they could only cash it in the camp designated at the bottom.



Hauptmann Karl Niemeyer

They has assembled bits of uniform which would allow them to pass on loose inspection for Germans and in the evening one night carrying their civilian clothes in water jugs, marched out the front gates past the two sentries unchallenged and walked away. Their absence the next day at Roll Call was covered by Capt Bellew, who called out his name, and the other prisoners. Their escape was quickly detected when Thorn was called forward to see the Commandant to receive a receipt for some money the Commandant had confiscated.

After calling Thorn's name three times, Capt Bellew stepped forward and informed the Commandant that Captain Thorn had left the evening before on a journey to Holland. After leaving the road they travelled through the forests for about fifteen miles and then settled down for the day. The next evening they renewed their travel, cautiously crossing roads, wading streams, climbing hills, and avoiding habitations as much as possible, all the time trying to head west towards the Dutch border. After four nights they had travelled 50 miles. The next evening they were within 150 miles of the border. On the ninth night of their escape from Holzminden, they were walking along discussing what to eat for their first meal when enjoying their liberation when across the border in Holland, when they found themselves looking down the barrels of the rifles of two German Soldiers. In their overconfident state they had forgotten to keep on the alert and had crossed a railroad by a level crossing. Captured twenty-five miles away from freedom, they were returned to Holzminden where they were promptly thrown into solitary confinement cells. After seven weeks in confinement Captain Thorn was told he was to be sent to another camp in Northern Hanover known as Stroben.

Thorn was not idle at this camp either, first helping two Australian Officers make a successful exit over the wire, and then, making a subsequent attempt at cutting through the wire, until the German Sentries were attracted by other Officers gathering to join in the attempt. He barely managed to get away in time. Captain Thorn's next effort came just prior to spring 1918 when he and another officer, Blake, figured out a way to crawl into laundry baskets without disturbing the locks by cutting a wire hinge. Unfortunately the other Officer was placed inside the exiting wagon upside down and was discovered, as was Thorn. Back into solitary confinement, again.



Some of the Russian officers who advanced into East Prussia—This photograph was taken in a Billet a few days before the German advance and several of them were taken prisoners.

By then end of January 1918, Captain Jack Thorn and Blake were on their way to another Camp located in the Hartz Mountains at Clausthal. There he had a shock until he realized that the Commandant was the twin brother of the Commandant at Holzminden. He was not much better than his brother. The camp, however, was a vast improvement having been a health resort before the war and for the first time in many years Thorn enjoyed the comfort of a mattress and sheets. The camp was occupied by almost 200 British Officers, including quite a few Canadians, including some taken prisoner at Ypres in 1915.

Captain Thorn and others were offered the opportunity to be 'exchanged' into Holland in March 1918 and worked out plans to escape on route if opportunity presented itself. At their last stop prior to entering Holland they were kept in a camp Aachen for almost a week, and just prior to exiting through the shower room, a German entered and began heating up the water. Just as they were getting ready to exit the windows, more Germans came in and it was with some difficulty they convinced the Germans that they were only looking to get a shower and managed to be returned to their rooms. Soon he was in Holland and several months later had been medically returned to England and like his friend, Captain Bellew, was promoted to the rank of Major.

Many have seen the movie the 'Great Escape,' remembering the large number of escapees from Colditz in WW 2, in which Canadians played a key role. Forgotten by most, is that on the night of 23 July 1918, also involving Canadians, the largest POW escape of WW I was engineered from one of the worst POW camps, Holzminden, through a tunnel over a 150 feet long. Eighty-Six British and Canadian Officers lined up to try their luck, and just over twenty had escaped successfully when the tunnel was discovered. Many managed to reach Holland safely.

It is worthy to remember, Major Jack Thorn, and others, who rather than being content to remain safely in custody as prisoners of war, risked their lives to escape, disrupt the German military effort, and have the opportunity to return to fight for their country. We also remember those like Major Edward Bellew, VC, who aided and abetted those going out 'over or under' the wire as the case may be.

The materials for this article were taken from Maj Thorn's excellent account of his exploits, "Three Years a Prisoner of War in Germany 1919", and Neil Hanson's book, "Escape from Germany (2011)." I dedicate this article to my Great-Uncle, Pte. Jack Adam, one of the original 7th BN CEF soldiers, who fought with my Grandfather in the Battle at St Julien in 1915, was taken prisoner in February 1917, escaped once himself, but was recaptured near the Dutch Border.

THE START LINE ARMY – VESTIGIAL BITS

By: David Sproule

I have had the good fortune to have served in the army through the period of transition from the “old brown army” that officially ended in December 1971 and into the “green army” that emerged immediately as part of the complete unification of the Canadian Forces. The army went from a battledress uniform that required a great deal of maintenance to a green uniform requiring little. It is worth remembering that in order to look smart in battledress, one had to spend money having the uniform tailored to remove all of the surplus blouse from the jacket. The bottom of our pants was held in place by putties that required lead weights inserted into the pant-leg to ensure that the pants hung in a uniform way. All of us took our parade boots to the cobbler to have toe caps installed to help with the perfect spit polish shine and cleats nailed onto the heels to emphasize the precision of our drill movements. Combat clothing came into general issue back in the mid-1960s but could only be worn in the field. From 1967 until 1971 I worked at Training Command HQ in Winnipeg and we wore either battledress or serge uniforms but never combat clothing. With the advent of “Greens” (DEUs), putties and weights and battledress went the way of the Dodo bird. We did look smart on parade though in those scratchy uniforms. Of course battledress was designed for soldiers to wear in the field during the wartime but then so were scarlet tunics.

The other day I went into the basement to polish my shoes. I have a wooden box in which I keep two sets of shoe brushes (one for the field and one not), as well as black and brown shoe polish and an assortment of shoe creams for my wife’s shoes and handbags. Anyway, under all of this stuff I found it. It being a “wait for it”, button stick. Strange as it may seem this thin piece of brass brought back many memories.



Button Stick

My Dad had a button stick and I remember during WW2, when I was a lad, seeing him polish the buttons on his RCAF tunic prior to boarding the train and heading back to RCAF Station Trenton where he was stationed during most of the war. I used the above button stick when I was an officer cadet at the RCAC School in what was then called Camp Borden. It got lots of use and you simply slid the button into the slot, applied the Brasso and polished, ensuring that no residue remained on your Tropical Worsted tunic. I remember we often got into great discussions on the merits of Brasso versus Silvo to ensure the most gleaming buttons – go figure. The black spots on my button stick are from Salvatore which was a “gloop” that came in a bottle and we applied it liberally to our black belts to make them shine. Nothing that was issued to us actually fit properly nor did it have any natural shine qualities and yet that was what was expected of us on parade and as recruits, whether in the ranks or officer cadets. We were shown how to do it and did it – all character building experiences.

I think I’ll hang onto my button stick as a reminder of those days in the “shack” in Borden. When I joined the regular force in 1960 we all wore anodized buttons on our serge and TW’s and so no more polishing but we had to buy those buttons but then, anything to avoid the button stick. I no longer have a set of putties or weights or even a “spiffy” to keep the points of my shirt collar pointed. Such were the effects from Unification of the Forces and perhaps I should add – thankfully.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) BRASS BAND

By: Bugle Major John More

The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Brass Band is today, a healthy, proud and active group of musicians that enjoys making a noise and supporting the BC Regiment, while providing a musical backdrop for various Annual Regimental Engagements.

The Band is actively involved in a number of yearly community events throughout the Lower Mainland, and has received many accolades from communities, for their participation.

The Band survives today, in no small way, because of the great support we have had, and continue to receive from the BCR (DCO).

We are also justly proud to be able to continue the role, of the fast failing historic part of the BUGLER in the military environment. The Band now has three Buglers, able to respond to the Call, when made.

The Rgt'l BMaj, John More, has been honoured to accept an invitation to join the BCR (DCO) Battle Field Tour 2015, as the "DUTY BUGLER".

BMaj More will take a Bugle that was used by a Bugler of the BCR's in WWI.

The Bugler was killed in action, but his Bugle was recovered from the battle field, and later returned to his family.

The BCR Band of today is in good health and, under the Baton of its Band Master Bdr Brian Smith, is doing very well. Membership is good and strong while the Band does credit to the Regiment it represents.

CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT

By: Major (Ret'd) Roger W. Prouse CD

I am pleased to report that our five BCR Corps had another very successful training year.

Our Regiment is truly blessed to have a very dedicated group of CIC officers attached to our Cadet Corps. Their commitment to the Cadet programme is remarkable when you consider that many of the days/evenings spent training our Cadets go unpaid. They receive a certain amount of "paid days" per training year; after that; they are on volunteer time. I have yet to come across a CIC officer who complains about the pay. They are in it for the Cadets and it shows every time I visit a Cadet Corps on a training night. They deserve a lot thanks and respect for what they do for our Cadets and for the programme as a whole.

An Important presentation ceremony took place at the 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC on May 7, 2015. The 3300 BCR was the only BCR Corps not to have a cross belt for their RSM accordingly, Mrs. Betsy Lane, wife of the late William T Lane a former Commanding Officer and Honorary Colonel of the Regiment thought it fitting that the Colonel's cross belt be presented to them. The cross belt will be passed down to the next RSM. LCol (Ret'd) Archie Steacy was on hand to present the cross belt to C/RSM MWO Tumber on Mrs. Lane's behalf.

L to R: LCol(R) Archie Steacy, C/RSM MWO Tumber and Major Lee Taylor CO 3300 BCR



Our Corps have completed the mandatory portion of the programme and are preparing for their Annual Ceremonial Reviews.(ACR) The Reviewing Officer for the 2290/2827 BCR combined ACR on 30 May and the 2781 BCR Powell River Corps on 23 May will be HCol. Ted Hawthorne. The Reviewing Officer for the 2381 BCR on 31 May and 3300 BCR on 4 June will be our CO, Major Doug Evans. The ACRs are a culmination of the years training where they get the opportunity to show off what they have learned in front of family friends and guests.

If you have not witnessed an ACR I recommend you do so.

Here is a list of our Corps ACR dates, times and location:

2781 BCR (Powell River) – Saturday, 23 May 2015 – 1300 – Timberline Barracks, Powell River
2290/2827 BCR (combined)- Saturday, 6 June 2015 – 1220 seated – The Drill Hall, Vancouver
2831 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) – Sunday, 31 May 2015 – 1300 – Col. Sherman Armoury, Richmond
3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) – Thurs., 4 June 2015 – 1845 – Academy School, 12895 85 Ave Surrey

Plan to attend an ACR. Your attendance is very much appreciated.

Major Jim Barrett, CO 2290, received some very good news on his arrival at the Army Cadet League Pillars Conference and AGM that was held in Victoria on 1-3 May 2015. One of his Cadets had won the BGen Darrell Dean Award for Excellence in Fitness. Our congratulations go to C/MCpl Emile Yan.

Nominations are been forwarded to the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pac) from BC Corps naming their candidate for the Welsh Award. This award is for the top Army Cadet in Canada. The winning nomination will have their application forwarded to Ottawa for final selection. The Cadet named from BC will win the President's Trophy as BC's Top Army Cadet. We are confident we have the winning Cadet from one of our Corps. I will keep you posted.

Many of our Cadet Corps participated in a variety of Commemorative Ceremonies this spring.

The 2781 BCR Powell River Corps participated in a candle light service held in Powell River honoring the men and women who had served in both World Wars and are buried in Powell River. The largest by far was the Vimy Commemoration held at Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver. HMajor Cam Cathcart did an outstanding job of putting this event together that was attended by over 340 Army Cadet from the lower mainland. (Please read the article on the Parade in this issue of the Duke.)

Leadership, Citizenship and outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, abseiling and field training exercises, continue to be the main stay of the Army Cadet Programme.

“UP THE DUKES”

A BRIEF FROM JOHN MORE – BUGLE MAJOR

Battlefield Tour 2015

During 29 years of my involvement with the BCR (DCO) Band and some 15 years served with 2381 Irish Fusiliers and 2290 RCACC – BCR (DCO) CIL, I have been honoured on a number of occasions, but to have been invited to join the ranks of “The Old Guard” along with serving members of the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaughts Own) on their Western Europe Battlefield Tour 2015, was indeed received with great pleasure but also with some trepidation (a fear of the unknown), but none the less a great honour for me to have been asked and for which I am most grateful.

Pre-trip meetings and coms were received with no difficulty and I was left with all the basic info needed to get me off the ground.

Appreciation goes to the behind the scene BCR Staff, Capt Jennifer Hillman, and others that made it happen. A job well done!

I will not give a day by day run of the Tour events at this point, as I know that so much has already been offered. I will simply touch on the more personal aspects of what I experienced. Of course, photos will no doubt add to the experience of all that were on the tour, but they are for all of us to see and share at a later time.

Throughout the Tour I carried the knowledge that my foster Dad had been in some of the same fields as those of the BCR's and as a young eleven year old child back in England, I knew the names of The Canal Du Nord, The Somme and Vimy Ridge, to name just a few.

Browsing through his collection of WWI pictorial encyclopedia, told much of the suffering and what the real battlefields looked like. What I saw on this tour was not the same, but I tried to visualize such as it was back then.

Dad never talked about his service and I never asked questions. In hindsight, perhaps I should have asked him.

Our visits to the many Canadian and Allied Cemeteries held a great emotion for me, which needed some self-control to overcome.

It was, however, shattered when reading the Headstone of young Rifleman V.J. Strudwick from the Rfle Brigade...died...age 15!

When called to sound the Last Post and Rouse in these sacred sites, it was not without its challenges, the reason simply being, why we were here now!

The Tour was demanding, sitting on a bus for so much time and for so many days, but each day brought on a new experience and reinforced the reason for my being there. I slept well throughout the Tour and shared accommodation with Pipe Major Matt Dolan. We were lucky to have found a better understanding of our music roles and plan to further the cause of our joint efforts with both Bands in the future. We were able to share some good down time, to unwind and enjoy the company of other members of the BCR Battlefield Tour.

Menin Gate had a special connection and the story of the Tour Bugle I used was a special moment when the Pipe Major Matt Dolan and myself confirmed the name of Sgt Freddy Cocroft engraved on the StoneWall of Honour. The story of the Sgt Freddy Cocroft Bugle was not shared with the BCR (DCO) tour bus members until a day before we left Amsterdam, to return to YVR. Sgt Bugler Freddy Cocroft did not return to Canada, lost and never found in action around Ypes, but his bugle was recovered and eventually returned to his wife and son. That same bugle returned to the fields of Ypes 100 years later, on this tour with the BCR (DCO). Indeed, I was very honoured to have been able to bring and use Sgt Freddy's Bugle on this tour. Its safe return to the Cocroft Family will include some photos taken during the tour.

I am still living the moments of the tour, and am trying to absorb the events, so full of emotion, but hopefully time will allow me to adjust and realign my feelings in all that has happened.

A walk through the streets of Arras with David Letson, a little rain, heavy at times, was a most beautiful experience. We were lost from time to time, but were able to recover and get our bearings, heading to the Citadel. The sounding of "General Salute" in the tunnel entering the Citadel was impressive, but the sounding of the "Last Post" in the Citadel Chapel was even more so.

We were never challenged. Security was really good.

A walk from the Citadel took us to the British Military Cemetery, a most impressive monument, dedicated to our Allied Forces. Bugle in hand, duty was paid and the sounding of the "Last Post" and "Rouse" was done, to also honour our allies of Australia and New Zealand for their ANZAC Day Services.

David and I returned to the general area of the hotel, stopping for a most enjoyable dinner in the plaza of Veterans and planning to meet later and take night time pictures of the square. David, after getting back to the hotel to freshen up and get out, was not to be seen again until 07:00 hours the next morning! He had crashed! I admit, we had walked a lot!

A chunk of the business end of a Typhoon rocket is a little piece of the past that I was able to bring home from Hill 140. The rain, the mud, the walk, all added up to a very memorable day, but having Sgt Maj Vern Salisbury MM on the Hill with us, was that more impressive to the whole experience. Will we ever know what his thoughts really were, of his real time back then, on the hill?

The St Julien Day Parade at Vancouver Corner, was very stirring and solemn. Facing a stiff wind, the sounding of the Last Post was not my best, but I live with it and carry on. The Monument is most impressive and our second return to this memorial site was indeed a day that will encapsulate my total experience of the St. Julien visit and of the return to the fields of former conflict, with the Sgt Freddy Cocroft Bugle, 100 years later!

Behind a dark and ever threatening cloudy sky, the two spires of the Vimy Ridge Memorial were an imposing sight to behold, which I saw for the first time on leaving our tour bus, in preparation for the formal parade, soon to follow.

I was disappointed not to have been the Duty Bugler, however, the experience was amazing, and very impressive.

The BCR (DCO) contingent on parade were very sharp and very much the best dressed unit and formation on parade. A biased opinion? No, as I was to watch the event unfold as a spectator and saw and noted everything!

There are other great moments of the tour that I will remember, but a unique and not to be repeated one, will probably be the Juno Beach visit, prior to the small and formal parade, at which time I was called to be the Duty Bugler, quite unexpectedly and in civilian dress, but duty was done.

Juno Beach, low tide, sunny skies and a cool breeze from the South West. Given a twenty minute break, we made our own way onto the beach to reflect and remember the past. An opportune moment and the sounding of the "Last Post" filled the air. All movement on the beach stopped and came to attention. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pipe Major playing a Lament, followed by the sounding of "Rouse". This all unfolded before me, as I had positioned myself well left down on the beach with the wind behind me. The sound of the bugle simply carried over the beach helped by the prevailing winds, for all to hear.

I will not soon forget this very moving moment, the location, the sound of the sea, the peaceful view of the golden sands of the beach, the drones of the Pipes, drifting ever longer into the distant shore, over another

time of Juno's past, that once saw a most different reception, during the landing of our brave Canadians on this very same beach back in 1944.

Col (R) Keith Maxwell is to be commended on his narrative and great knowledge of the history of both wars and of the Regiment's involvement. Keith shows great compassion in his presentations and it is very clear to the attentive observer, that he too carries so many memories of his former time of service.

To HCol Ted Hawthorne, the CO, Major Doug Evens and Officers of the Regiment and members of "The Old Guard"...thank you all for your great support.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to RSM Huf Mullick for his guidance and positive support throughout the tour. To WO Tony Harris, always ready to respond to my questions at any time, and to all the other NCO's and Jr Rank's personnel for their help and assistance gladly offered to me throughout the Battlefield Tour.

To each and every one of you, on the BCR (DCO) Battlefield Tour 2015, thank you. You made me feel welcomed to be among you and I felt it.

THE PIPE MAJOR'S REPORT

By: Matt Dolan, Pipe Major
BCR Irish Pipes and Drums

The 2015 Battle Field tour was undoubtedly one of the best experiences I have ever had as a piper and a Canadian, and there were so many highlights. So many it is hard to pick a few.

When I talk about my tour to other people I always focus on the fallen and the amounts of grave sites there are in the countries I have visited. I can tell by the look on someone's face that the way I describe it to them they can feel what I felt when I was there, and I feel like I am a conduit for them to have the experience. As when I talk about the people in Holland, Belgium and France and their never-ending appreciation for Canadians and what we as a country have done for them. Then too I see smiles on people's faces who I am telling the stories of my tour to and I know I am being a conduit to what I have seen. I describe my role on the tour as being the lone bagpipe and having my partner in crime the Bugle Major to provide music for the fallen, living soldiers and those who are present at the ceremonies and cemeteries. Playing with John on the Bugle and me on the bagpipe was a great match. I do not like to blow my own horn, but I will this time. The Bugle Major and I played with passion and purpose. It was something out of a history book. We both took in our environment, what had happened in the past, and what was presently happening and made everything come to life with our music. It was probably one of the most emotionally driven series of performances I have ever done, and I purposefully played with passion, and even though I was playing the same tunes everywhere I went, I made sure it sounded full of life and spirited. It was an honour to play with the Bugle Major, as he is the best I have ever heard and hope we can do it together again for the fallen.

Some of the highlights on the tour for me are:

* At Flanders Field, the RSM talked about and recited the poem "In Flanders Field", it struck home with me and the way he described it you could feel the spirits among us. I will never forget it.

* Having the honour of playing the lament for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of St. Julien, to the day, was an honour indeed. Then afterwards hearing the personal accounts from people whose family had been in the Battle and about the Battle itself added more and gave me insight to the Regiment.

* Playing and marching with other pipers and drummers towards Menin Gate was also a pretty great feeling, although it would have been a much prouder moment to lead our guys instead.

* Going to Normandy was somewhere I really wanted to go after hearing about it and seeing it in the movies. When we were driving in the bus towards the beach in Juno, I saw many Canadian flags in the windows, but I did not see any other flags. This also showed me the important role we played in those countries over the 2 wars and the appreciation for Canada. While I was on the beach in Juno, I learned that this is where Casen Van Delden lost his grandpa, so in honour of him I played amazing grace on the beach in his memory.

* Having Vern as a veteran of the Second World War on the tour was something special and being on hill 140 with him where he was in his tank 70 years ago will be something I will not forget. Vern told me repeatedly how much he like my bagpipe playing and I hope I have the opportunity to play for him again.

* On the tour we had the honour to do many ceremonies in different towns and always afterwards there was a reception. The warmth of the locals towards us was incredible and I couldn't believe there kindness towards us with food and beverage. At one reception, in the French village of Villers Les Cagnicourt, I remember seeing an older man playing a French bagpipe, which is something I hadn't seen before and I enjoyed the sound very much. The people of the village kept filling our glasses with champagne and beer on top of the sandwiches they provided. It was like this everywhere we went.

* On our day off I had the opportunity to bring some of the young lads to Paris and see the sites. We travelled up and down the canal by boat and then went up the Eiffel Tower as well as stopped by the Great Canadian Pub. It was great to go with the lads and I made sure we all got on the last train home.

Overall the tour was great and I really enjoyed bonding with the Regiment, old guard, Bugle Major and all of our guests. The Bugle Major and I, as civilians, felt so included in every aspect of the trip and it was great. I almost felt like a soldier myself.

In conclusion, the number of fallen will be forever in my mind, as with those who were on the tour and the locals. I feel privileged to have played for fallen, the locals and The Regiment. The 2015 Battle Field Tour was a life changing experience for myself on so many levels and I also feel privileged to be a part of the history of the Regiment as the Pipe Major and the piper on the tour! Up the Dukes! Faugh A Ballagh!

“A TRIBUTE TO WINSTON CHURCHILL – THE 50th ANNIVERSARY”

Submitted by: Archie M. Steacy, President Emeritus, BCRA

This tribute chronicles ninety of the most momentous years of British and of world history - the life span of what many consider to be the greatest man of his time, Sir Winston Churchill. He lived through the fastest transformation of warfare the world has ever known, charging with the 21st Lancers at Omdurman in his youth, and in his old age arming his country with the hydrogen bomb. He was also the only man to hold high Cabinet office in both world wars. As Prime Minister, in the Second World War, Churchill gave his countrymen their finest hour, guiding Great Britain out of the peril of invasion and subjugation by the Nazis and on to victory. Churchill entered Parliament in the reign of Queen Victoria, and when he retired sixty-four years later, it was in the reign of Victoria's great-great-granddaughter.

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was born to an aristocratic family on 30th November, 1874. In the early days, he displayed the traits of his father, Lord Randolph Churchill, a British statesman from an established English family. His mother, Jennie Jerome, was a wealthy New York socialite. When he entered formal school, Churchill proved to be an independent and rebellious student. He did poorly at his first two schools and in April, 1888, he was sent to Harrow, a boarding school near London. Within weeks of his enrolment, he joined the Harrow Rifle Corps, which placed him on the path to a military career. At first it didn't seem the

military was a good choice for Churchill. It took him three tries to pass the exam for the British Royal Military College. However, once there, he did well and graduated 20th in his class of 130. While at school, Churchill wrote emotional letters to his mother, begging her to come see him, but she seldom came.

Churchill enjoyed a brief but eventful career in the British army. He joined the Fourth Hussars in 1895 and served in the Indian northwest frontier and the Sudan, where he saw action in the Battle of Omdurman in 1898. In 1899, Churchill left the army and worked as a war correspondent for the Morning Post, a conservative daily newspaper. While in South Africa, reporting on the Boer War, he was taken prisoner by the Boers when his armoured reconnaissance train was derailed at Chiveley Natal, and made headlines when he escaped, travelling almost 300 miles to Mozambique. Returning to England in 1900, Churchill became a Member of Parliament for the Conservative Party at Oldham.

As First Lord of the Admiralty, Churchill helped modernise the Royal Navy, ordering that new warships be built with oil-fired instead of coal-fired boilers. Though not directly involved in the disastrous Battle of Gallipoli in 1915, Churchill resigned his post because he felt responsible for proposing the expedition. For a brief period, he rejoined the British Army commanding a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers on the Western Front. In 1917, he was appointed Minister of Munitions for the final year of the war, overseeing the production of tanks, airplanes and munitions. He served as Chancellor of the Exchequer, returning Britain to the gold standard. With the defeat of the Conservative government in 1929, Churchill was out of office.

Churchill recognised the threat of Hitler and became a leading advocate for British rearmament. By 1938, as Germany began controlling its neighbours, Churchill had become a staunch critic of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement toward the Nazis. On September 3, 1939, the day that Britain declared war on Germany, Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty and a member of the War Cabinet. The signal went out, 'Winston is back'! In April, 1940, Germany invaded and occupied Norway, which was a setback for Neville Chamberlain. On May 10, 1940, the same day that Hitler struck west, Churchill was appointed prime minister. Within weeks, the German Army had overrun the Low Countries and France. Britain, after Dunkirk, stood alone against the Nazi onslaught.

After the Battle of Britain, Churchill secured vital U.S. aid through the Lend Lease Act and strove to form a 'Grand Alliance' with the United States and the Soviet Union against the Axis powers. This was finally realised in December 1941, after the United States and Russia had entered World War Two. Churchill was now confident that the Allies would eventually win the war.

Near the end of the war, Churchill was unable to convince the British electorate to re-elect him. Perhaps, seeing him only as a war-time leader. During the next six years, Churchill was the Leader of the Opposition and continued to have an impact on world affairs. In March 1946, while on a visit to the United States, he made his famous "Iron Curtain" speech, warning of Soviet domination in Eastern Europe. After the general election of 1951, Churchill was returned as prime minister. However, he was by now showing signs of fragile health. In June 1953, at age 78, he suffered a series of strokes. He recuperated at home, and returned to his work as prime minister in October. Churchill retired as prime minister in 1955. On April 9th, 1963, Sir Winston was proclaimed an Honorary Citizen of the United States. He was almost 90 years old when he was awarded the Freedom of Estcourt in Northern KwaZulu-Natal on the 10th October 1964. By then, however, he was too frail to travel to South Africa to receive it personally. On January 15th, 1965, Churchill suffered a severe stroke that left him gravely ill. He died at his London home nine days later, at age 90, on January 24. Seventy years to the day after his father. Britain mourned for more than a week, and Churchill was accorded a state funeral. He will always inspire with his words, "In War: Resolution; in Defeat: Defiance; in Victory: Magnanimity; in Peace: Good Will".

Credit: Mr. Bill Brady, Past Chairman, at the first 2015 meeting of the KwaZulu-Natal Branch, South African Military History Society.

Operation SNOWGOOSE

Credit: Department of National Defence
Submitted by: Archie M. Steacy, President Emeritus, BCRA

Former “Duke” Commanded the First Canadian Army Contingent in Cyprus and 23 “Dukes” Served in Cyprus



Brigadier A. James Tedlie, DSO CD, then Major, who served with the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC during WW II, led the first rotation of Canadian troops from the 1st Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment. He assumed command of the Nicosia zone from Brig R.C. Gibbs, Commander of the British 16th Parachute Brigade Group, on 29 April 1964.

Brig Gibbs praised the Canadian contingent at the change of command ceremony that day. “I am impressed by the patience, courage, vigilance and good humour with which you have accomplished your task despite numerous provocations. Perhaps the most difficult task was to live so close to the situation and remain neutral and divorced from the politics. I congratulate you all for your behaviour during this situation”.

Origins of UNFICYP

In 1960, after 82 years as a British possession, Cyprus became an independent state with a constitution designed to balance the interests of Greek and Turkish communities, both long-time residents of the island. At the same time, Cyprus entered into a treaty with Britain, Greece and Turkey to guarantee the basic provisions of the new nation’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, and the basic provisions of its constitution.

Independence in Cyprus was followed by a series of constitutional crises that led to the outbreak of inter-communal violence in December 1963. After attempts by the international community failed to restore peace, the matter was referred to the U.N. Security Council, which voted unanimously on 4 March 1964 to adopt Resolution 186, recommending the deployment of peacekeeping forces to separate the island’s opposing factions.

Starting with only four troop contingents — from Canada, Denmark, Finland and Ireland — UNFICYP stood up at Nicosia in April 1964 with a mandate to use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities and to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order, and a return to normal conditions. That mandate remains unchanged.

Canada in UNFICYP

From 15 March 1964 to 15 June 1993, Canada maintained a battalion-sized contingent of peace-support troops in UNFICYP. During this period, the Canadian contingents, from every Regular Force Regiments and Militia soldier call-outs, went through 59 rotations and some 25,000 Canadian Forces personnel completed six-month tours on the island.

With Denmark, Ireland and Finland, Canada was one of the four original contributors of troops to UNFICYP, committed by the government of Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson on 12 March 1964. The lead elements of the initial rotation of the Canadian contingent arrived on 15 March 1964, followed by a brigade headquarters, the 1st Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment, and a Reconnaissance Squadron from The Royal Canadian Dragoons mounted in Ferret scout cars that were transported to Cyprus by HMCS Bonaventure.

By 1993, when Canada withdrew its combat arms contingent from UNFICYP, every infantry battalion of the Regular Force had deployed to Cyprus at least once, and Regular Force artillery and armoured regiments had reorganized for infantry duties to take their turns.

The operation name “Snowgoose” dates from July 1974, when the Canadian contingent in UNFICYP — originally made up of 1 Commando, Canadian Airborne Regiment, and the Airborne Field Squadron (the combat engineer element of the Canadian Airborne Regiment) — was rapidly augmented by 2 Commando and 3 Commando in response to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus that began on 20 July 1974.

Task Force Cyprus To-day

The Canadian Armed Forces currently contributes one officer to the Operations staff at UNFICYP headquarters in Nicosia. The normal tour of duty on Operation SNOWGOOSE is one year.

UNFYICYP To-day

As of 31 May 2014, UNFICYP comprises 858 military personnel and 62 civilian police officers from 20 countries. Four countries — Croatia, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine— deploy both military and police personnel.

UNFICYP troops are responsible for:

- maintaining a buffer zone between the ceasefire lines of the opposing forces,
- investigating ceasefire violations, and
- supervising civilian activities in the buffer zone.

Dukes who served in Cyprus:

Lt B. Kadonoff; Sgt J. Gilmartin; Sgt H. Nagel; Tpr S. Parker; Pte A. Carten; Tpr D. Snow; MCpl M. Hatch; MCpl C. Laidlaw; MCpl K. Lucas; Cpl C. Murdoch; Cpl J. Abraham; MCpl D. Archibald; Cpl S. Pinch; Cpl J. Scofield; Cpl E. Smith; Cpl B. Sutherland; Cpl C. Walker; Tpr D. Butcher; Tpr C. Dahl; Tpr J. Gauthier; Tpr M Geisbrecht; Tpr M Klugh; Tpr R. Prasad; Tpr R. Rocan.

Thank you for you military service to the Regiment and Canada.

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA NEWS RELEASE

Submitted by: Archie M. Steacy

Government of Canada announces enhanced lifetime support for injured Veterans and their families
New monthly benefit addresses significant gap for Canada’s moderately to severely disabled Veterans and survivors

March 9, 2015 – Toronto – Veterans Affairs Canada

The Honourable Erin O’Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs, unveiled a proposed new financial benefit today aimed at providing financial stability to Veterans who are moderately to severely disabled and their families. The Minister was joined by Veterans’ groups, members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Veterans Ombudsman, Guy Parent.

Currently, the Earnings Loss Benefit—upon which many moderately to severely disabled Veterans rely—is not available after the age of 65, resulting in a drop in the Veteran’s annual income. The new *Retirement*

Income Security Benefit announced today would provide these Veterans with continued assistance in the form of a monthly income support payment beginning at age 65.

The proposed *Retirement Income Security Benefit* would work in concert with existing services and benefits to establish a continuum of support that spans a disabled Veteran's entire life. It is designed for those whose ability to save for retirement was directly impacted by their service to our country. Income support would also be extended to families through continued payment of a monthly benefit to the Veteran's survivor.

The Government of Canada also recognizes the complexity of financial benefits available for moderately to severely disabled Veterans. As part of a continued commitment to Veteran-centric care, Minister O'Toole indicated that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is examining ways to combine these new and existing supports into a single monthly pension for severely injured Veterans.

Quick Facts

- The *Retirement Income Security Benefit* would ensure that an eligible Veteran's total annual income is at least 70% of what he or she received in financial benefits from VAC before age 65.
- Monthly payments would be calculated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account how much the Veteran was receiving before age 65 and other sources of income he or she may have beyond age 65.
- It is estimated that by 2020, approximately 5,800 Veterans and survivors would qualify for the Retirement Income Security Benefit upon turning 65. An estimated 261 Veterans and survivors would receive payments by 2020.
- Today's announcement responds directly to concerns raised by the Veterans Ombudsman and the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Quotes

"Today, we are closing a major gap in the New Veterans Charter that was identified by the Veterans Ombudsman and others in recent years. The Retirement Income Security Benefit will ensure that Veterans who are moderately to severely disabled receive lifetime financial support beyond the age of 65. This new benefit will provide security and peace of mind to Veterans and their families as they grow older."

The Honourable Erin O'Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs

"The Retirement Income Security Benefit meets the intent of my recommendation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs on the most urgent New Veterans Charter shortcoming: after age 65 financial support. I congratulate the Minister of Veterans Affairs for his leadership on this issue and I encourage all parliamentarians to pass this new pension benefit without delay."

Guy Parent, Canada's Veterans Ombudsman

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA NEWS RELEASE

Submitted by: Archie M. Steacy

Government of Canada delivers on supports for Canadian Veterans and families

Veterans Affairs Canada to begin implementing recently announced changes

April 2, 2015 – Ottawa – Veterans Affairs Canada

The Honourable Erin O'Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs, [today](#) advised that two recent announcements to help Veterans and their families are now in effect.

The Government of Canada is broadening eligibility for the Permanent Impairment Allowance, (PIA) and leveling the playing field for disabled Reserve Force Veterans who receive the Earnings Loss Benefit.

- The Permanent Impairment Allowance (PIA) provides lifelong monthly financial support to Veterans whose job opportunities have been limited by a permanent service-related injury or illness. Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is expanding the number of Veterans eligible for the PIA by being less restrictive about the requirements relating to their ability to independently carry out most daily activities.

Also effective immediately:

- **Reserve Force Veterans** will have their Earnings Loss Benefit calculated in the same way as Regular Force Veterans. The Earnings Loss Benefit provides income support for Veterans with service-related injuries while they are participating in VAC's Rehabilitation Program or if they are unable to be suitably employed.

Starting this month, all Veterans of the Reserve Force eligible for the EL Benefit will be ensured a minimum annual income of \$42,426, which is the current EL Benefit of a basic corporal in the Regular Force. Higher ranks may receive more as the EL Benefit is calculated at 75% of a Veteran's monthly salary.

The Department will be contacting Veterans who are eligible to receive increased Earnings Loss benefits.

The Government of Canada continues to ensure that Canadian Veterans and their families have the support they need and are treated with care, compassion and respect.

Quote

"Our Government is taking major strides to close the gaps and address the areas of greatest concern to Veterans and their families. Two of our recently announced improvements came into effect [today](#). We will continue to move swiftly to improve the lives of those who have given so much on our behalf."

The Honourable Erin O'Toole, Minister of Veterans Affairs

Associated Links

- [Backgrounder – Expansion of Permanent Impairment Allowance eligibility](#)
- [Backgrounder – Respect for Reservists](#)

Contacts

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Veterans Affairs Canada
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ASSOCIATION KIT SHOP

The Kit Shop has the following items for sale:

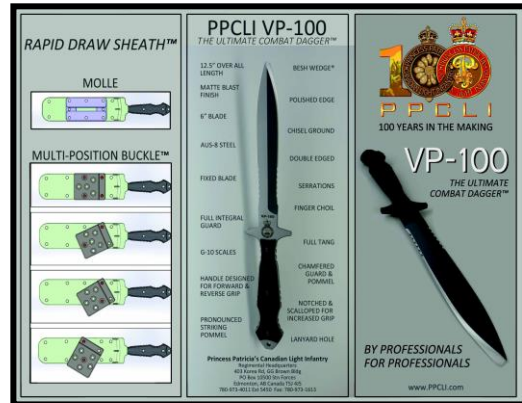
1. Mini Guidons - \$115.00. Once we have 10 confirmed requests, the order will be placed.
2. BCR Knife - \$135.00.
3. License Plate frames - \$10.00.
4. Crests - \$35; Lapel Pins - \$20.00; BCR Ties - \$45.00; and Flags - \$12.00.

To place an order, please e-mail Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com

Mini Guidons - \$115.00



BCR Knife - \$135.00



ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

<i>DIRECTORS</i>	<i>THE DUKE</i>
President – Bob Remple Vice President – Gayle Hawthorne Treasurer – Jerry Couling Secretary – Sharel Fraser Director at Large – Roger Prouse	Editor & Publisher: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association

ASSOCIATION SPECIAL PROJECTS

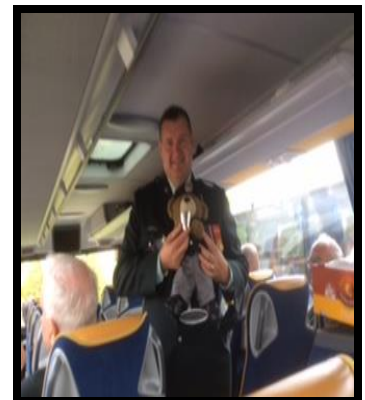
The Association continues to support, through its Charitable Trust, various annual initiatives such as our Bursary Program for serving members of the Regiment and our community outreach program in the month of December. In addition, the Charitable Trust supports various projects which assist in maintaining our link with the history of the Regiment (i.e. commemorative ceremonies, dedication of memorial plaques and support of our five 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 these programs develop.

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

Duke's 3rd Battlefield Tour





THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

620 Beatty Street
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V6B 2L9

24 March 2015

The Algonquin Regiment Veterans Association,
Parry Sound Branch,
76 Gibson Street,
Parry Sound, Ontario,
P2A 1X3

Dear Comrades:

It was with very deep sorrow that we received the news of the passing of our very good friend and colleague, President Jack Patterson. Jack represented your Association so very well for many years. He was always very quick to acknowledge the service of our Regiment while giving us the benefit of his many vivid memories as a young soldier in our mutual action on Hill 140 in Normandy.

On behalf of our entire Regimental Family, we extend our deepest sympathy to all of your members, the Regimental Family and to Jack's family and friends for their loss.

We remember and acknowledge Jack for his extraordinary service and commitment to all veterans, his Regiment, the Community and this country.

We will remember him!

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Remple, President



ASLEEP

Victor Peter Lockie, Trooper C Squadron, passed away December 30, 2014, at the age of 95, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. His tank and crew were one of the few survivors of Hill 140 and escaped with cover fire from the Poles. After WWII, Victor spent 25 years with General Motors of Canada, Plant Protection and Fire Service. He kept in touch with a few other Dukes, Elliott Crawford of Six Nations, Brantford, Ontario, Frank Kaufield and Andy, of Wynyard, Saskatchewan. Victor donated both to the Dukes and the Algonquin Monument in Parry Sound, Ontario. He lived at Hillsdale Estate Long Term Care in Oshawa the last six years.

Rifleman & Trooper Bernard (Ben) Van Snellenberg served in the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) pre WWII and the Canadian Active Service Force and the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC during WWII. At 98 years, he passed away on 15 January 2015. Ben met Marcelle, a war bride, in Brussels during the war. They have 17 nieces and nephews and resided in Vancouver, B.C.

Chief Warrant Officer (Ret'd) Ron Francis, OMM, CD passed away peacefully on Friday, 30 January 2015. CWO Francis was a great friend of BCR, possessed a high degree of professionalism and a sincere caring for the welfare of the Reserves. CWO Ron Francis was the 36th Regimental Sergeant Major of the Strathcona's from September 1976 to July 1979. He was a Korean War veteran and served Canada for 38 years. He is survived by his wife Alice, of 59 years, and children Michael (Cindy), Cathy (Joe) and Ronald (Shaun), and his seven grandchildren. The Celebration of CWO Francis' life will be held in Ottawa, Ontario on Sunday, 22 February 2015 from 2pm to 4pm.

K441599 Captain Jeffery H. Aitken served with 2290 BCR Cadet Corps, the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) RCAC from 1952 to 1975, transferring to the Cadet Instructor Cadre, serving until his retirement in 1980. Jeff passed away on 17 February 2015. He served through the ranks from Trooper, Sergeant, Staff/Sergeant to Captain. Jeff was an outstanding NCO, a superb promoter of rifle shooting, Regimental recruiting and as a volunteer; the first reporter on the launching of the Regimental "DUKE" newsletter. Jeff resided in Vancouver and Surrey, B.C.

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.