



# The Duke

## FRIENDS OF VANCOUVER

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HMCS Vancouver Departs for the Coast of Libya

### REGIMENTAL AFFILIATIONS

The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) has been privileged to have tens of thousands of dedicated men and women, from all walks of life, serve in its ranks over the past 128 years, resulting in deeply entrenched traditions and affiliations with other military and civilian organizations.

### Master Corporal Duke A. Bear ships out with HMCS Vancouver to Libya; his third overseas Tour.

ESQUIMALT, BRITISH COLUMBIA--(Marketwire - July 7, 2011) - Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Vancouver departs Esquimalt on Sunday at 3 p.m. to take up station in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya. The Halifax Class frigate is assigned to replace HMCS Charlottetown on Operation

MOBILE to continue Canada's support of the NATO-led arms embargo against Libya in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

"As with HMCS Charlottetown before it, the deployment of HMCS Vancouver to the Mediterranean Sea demonstrates the steadfast commitment of Canada to protect the Libyan people from all threats of violence," said the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Peter MacKay. "The men and women of the Canadian Forces have performed admirably, and I have complete faith in the crew of the Vancouver to perform equally well while serving on this NATO-led mission."

Vice Admiral Dean McFadden, the Chief of the Maritime Staff, will join Commodore Peter Ellis, Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific for the departure salute at Duntze Head in HMC Dockyard. Vancouver will sail across the Victoria waterfront to Beacon Hill Park and Clover Point before heading out of Juan de Fuca Strait.

Under the command of Commander Bradley Peats, HMCS Vancouver with 225 sailors and a CH-124 Sea King Helicopter detachment from 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron at Patricia Bay will join Standing NATO Maritime Group one (SNMG1) upon reaching Gibraltar next month.

The United Nations Security Council has authorized SNMG1 to take appropriate measures to board and inspect vessels reasonably believed to be carrying prohibited cargo and passengers and use all measures necessary to protect civilians under threat of attacks in Libya. HMCS Vancouver will also be available for humanitarian assistance, search and rescue and other response options as required by the Government of Canada.

#### **AFFILIATION**



**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT  
(DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN)**

**AND**



**HER MAJESTY'S CANADIAN SHIP  
VANCOUVER**

The Affiliation of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) and HMCS Vancouver was planned by Lieutenant Colonel (then Captain) Paul A. Philcox, supported by the Commanding Officer's Committee and approved by the Chief of the Defence Staff in July 1994.

It was forty-seven years since a Warship of the Royal Canadian Navy had been named after the City of Vancouver. The extensive history of "*The Dukes*", both in the province and in its historical association with the Navy provided the incentive to request the Affiliation.

The Dukes and the Navy share a long history together, when in 1896 they provided the Regiment with two 64 Pounder canons to defend Vancouver Harbour; in 1905 the Regiment provided the Drill Hall as a Naval Reception Centre, and in 1994 Colonel (Ret'd) (then Major) Patrick Reid, of The BC Regiment (DCO) RCAC was appointed and served as a Naval Honorary Captain.

HMCS Vancouver (FFH 331) a *Halifax*-class frigate, 4,770 tons displacement, commissioned as a Warship of the Canadian Navy at Canada Place, Vancouver, B.C., on 23 August 1993, and is the fifth ship in the Canadian Navy to be named Vancouver. She is one of the most advanced Warship designs in the world, is capable of speeds in excess of 28 knots, carries extensive anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface weapons and sensors which compliment its anti-aircraft warfare defenses. The Ship's compliment is 224 officers and men.



The first HMCS Vancouver 1928 - 1936

The first Vancouver, a Thornycroft S Class Destroyer, HMS Toredor, 1,087 tons displacement, was acquired, from the British Admiralty, renamed HMCS Vancouver F6A and commissioned in Portsmouth 1 March 1928. HMCS Vancouver sailed for Esquimalt, B.C., via the Panama Canal arriving in Esquimalt on 24 May 1928 where she was to be based.

On 5 January 1932, HMCS Vancouver sailed with HMCS Skeena for Panama en route to Bermuda. When the two destroyers were near the republic of San Salvador, they received word that a revolution there was endangering the lives of British Subjects. On receipt of instructions from Naval Headquarters, the destroyers sailed into the Port of Acajutla on the 23rd, and gave temporary shelter to five ladies. By the 10th, the Republican Government was again in control, aided no doubt by the presence of the Canadian warships.

The remainder of HMCS Vancouver's service in the RCN was uneventful. She was paid off and scrapped in 1936, in accordance with the LONDON NAVAL TREATY.



The second and third HMCS Vancouver, Flower Class Corvettes

The second HMCS *Vancouver* (K225) was a Flower class corvette that was renamed HMCS Kitchener (K225) before her launch in November 1941.

The third HMCS *Vancouver* (K240) was a Flower class corvette, 950 tons displacement, commissioned on 20 March 1942. She was not the sleek looking ship that her predecessor had been. She was a typical "*Flower Class Corvette*", small, stout and tough. Now the name Vancouver was going to war.

HMCS Vancouver spent almost two years in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean. This time was spent escorting convoys and carrying out anti-submarine patrols. The high seas and dense fog, as well as the treacherous rock-bound coasts, were the enemies of the small ships in the North Pacific, and HMCS Vancouver's role in the war was not glamorous.

However, there were moments of excitement in this area. The Japanese had penetrated the North American continent by way of the Aleutian Islands. There was a constant danger from Japanese aircraft and submarines. On 12 September 1942, HMC Ships Vancouver and Dawson had contact with a submarine and carried out an attack. After both ships had fired depth charges, contact was lost, and the results of the attack remain unknown.

On 23 March 1943, the Commanding Officer of HMCS Vancouver made the following observations:

*“One year ago to-day, HMCS Vancouver was commissioned. During this time we have sailed a total of 42,238 miles. This distance has been covered on anti-submarine patrols and convoy escort duties. Of this total, 15,000 miles have been steamed in Alaskan and Aleutian waters. During the year, 10 officers and 161 men have served in the ship, gaining experience and training”.*

American military power moved into the Aleutians to stop the march of the Japanese. HMCS Vancouver was for a time attached to the American fleet. In this capacity, HMCS Vancouver escorted American convoys to their Alaska destinations and patrolled off shore while troops and equipment were landed. By 31 May 1943, Japanese resistance on Attu Island was broken, and during June a number of remaining enemy pockets were eliminated. HMCS Vancouver remained serving with the USN during these operations. The US Alaskan commander expressed his appreciation to HMC Ships Dawson and Vancouver for their splendid service and willing cooperation while serving under him in the Alaskan Sector.

In February 1944, the war in the Pacific was over for HMCS Vancouver. On 13 February, she sailed for Halifax where she served in the Battle of the Atlantic. She arrived in Halifax on 24 March 1944, commencing preparations for operational Duty. For the remainder of the war she was employed in convoy and anti-submarine sweeps on the Atlantic seaboard between Quebec and Goose Bay.

At the close of the World War II, the corvettes of the fleet were ordered into port from operational duty to have their armament, asdic and radar equipment removed. HMCS Vancouver, like most of the other Flower Class corvettes serving in the Atlantic, sailed on her last passage under the White Ensign. All the way up the St. Lawrence these gallant little ships received, as they passed each village and town, a genuinely spontaneous “Welcome Home”. At Sorel, not far from Montreal, HMCS VANCOUVER was turned over to War Assets Corporation, and sold for scrap to Dominion Foundries Ltd., of Hamilton.

The fourth HMCS Vancouver was a survey ship, launched in June 1965 and sold in 1982. She was tasked with oceanography and hydrograph surveys.

All ranks BCR wish MCpl Duke A. Bear’s tour to Libya, as a crew member of HMCS Vancouver, will be enjoyable, an outstanding experience to help others in need of freedom, and be helpful for his Navy friends to become acquainted with Army lore.

Smooth sailing to HMCS Vancouver!

Editor’s note: It is quite possible Duke A. Bear will be wearing Navy round rig on his return to The Regiment!!!

## **SECOND ANNUAL MEDICINE HAT MILITARY HERITAGE EXHIBITION**

By: Scott Payne (Captain, The South Alberta Light Horse)

On 28 May 11, in Medicine Hat, the Regiment once again put on great show for its members, local military members and for the City of Medicine Hat. The second iteration of the MHMHE was ramped up from last year’s event with more demonstrations and even finer static displays.

For this year's exhibition, the Regiment dedicated itself to raising funds for Valour Place. Valour Place is a barrier free hospice that is being built in Edmonton to support injured soldiers and their families during the time when the injured are undergoing surgeries and medical rehabilitation. This year the Regiment managed to raise \$2400 on the day of the event, but we also sent out pledge sheets to our regular supporters and to local civic leaders to get the word out about this worthy charity.

The Regiment really stepped up to support this event from individual and collective perspectives. Sgt Rob McCue outfitted both the Axis and Allied forces with uniforms and weapons for the SAR Normandy Re-Enactment. Maj Shawn Thirlwell once again brought down his Universal Carrier for the exhibition, which played a central role along with the Regimental Half-track 'Old Reliable' in the re-enactment. Many blank rounds were used to defeat the Axis forces. Cpl Todd Hall brought his Willys Jeep into the battle and carried Sgt Doug Fode and WO Scott Schall in to mop up the remains of what the Universal Carrier had soundly defeated. The re-enactment was the highlight of the day from a Regimental perspective and all the participants from both locations at all ranks did a great job and had a great time doing it.

The day had several other re-enactments and demonstrations. LCol (Ret'd) Charlie Miller led a rag-tag band of retired soldiers in an 1885 Horse Artillery re-enactment. LCol Miller's group known as the South Alberta Horse Artillery Fort Whoop-Up Detachment wore period uniforms and rode in on a carriage towing a vintage cannon. LCol Miller expertly guided his gunners in setting up the limber and cannon. The keen eye of the detachment commander allowed for quick movement to fire for effect. The gunners were prepared to defend themselves and they beat down a small counter-attack with their carbines before resuming firing.

The family of Sapper Stephan John Stock a former member of the Regiment who was killed in Afghanistan on 30 Aug 08 were presented with a flag that was flown from the Peace Tower in Ottawa in honour of Stephan's memory. The Stock family are good friends of the Regiment and supporters of soldiers. Stephan's parents David Leona were joined by his brother Brian for the presentation.

The A/RSM worked out a fine plan for the day. He managed to schedule the necessary rain around the parade so that we could complete the exhibition in fine style. MWO Talty had the troops well prepared and motivated for the parade and the audience were duly impressed. The Feu de Joie was executed perfectly and was a treat for the people of Medicine Hat as it has been well over a decade since that has happened in the city.

The CO had invited the A/Bde Comd to be the Reviewing Officer for the parade. LCol Delaney was very pleased with the parade and the efforts put forth by the members of the Regiment to show case military history and the Regiment to the City. He was also pleased at the support that we have given to Valour Place. LCol Delaney along with the CO and A/RSM were pleased to present several medals/commendations on parade as well as trophies at the CO's Dinner later that night.

The presentations included:

- CD1 to WO Scott Schall
- Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation for the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group for Operation Archer in 2006:
  - Sgt Robert McCue; and
  - Cpl Keith Alexandrovich
- Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation for the Royal 22nd Regiment (Vandoo) Infantry Battle Group for Operation Archer in 2007 and 2008:
  - WO Christopher Seefried

- Chief Warrant Officer Scroll to Regimental Sergeant-Major Chief Warrant Officer Charles Howie.
- Promoted to Captain: Lt Jennifer Gebhardt of the Cadet Instructor Cadre (SALH 2313 Army Cadets)
- Top Corporal/Troopers in the Regiment:
  - Cpl Stuart Wall – Edm
  - Cpl Mike Hutchings – MH
- Top MCpl
  - MCpl Adam Symington – MH
  - MCpl David McMurtry – Edm
- Top SNCO
  - WO Scott Schall – MH
  - Sgt Anthony Sowards – Edm

The CO's dinner was well attended by the Regiment and many of the Regiment's friends and supporters. The comradeship was enjoyed by all and it was a fitting end to the celebrations of the day.

The weekend ended with words of congratulations and thanks from the Commanding Officer at the Regimental Briefing. The 2/IC articulated the way forward for the upcoming trg year with the calendar and the manning slate. Questions, complaints and ideas were asked for, which generated some good two way discussion.

The weekend ended with steaks in our bellies and satisfaction that all of our hard work leading up to the weekend by all members really paid off.



## **THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SERVICE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP 2011**

By: Archie M. Steacy

The British Columbia Service Rifle Championship, founded in 1874, held its 137<sup>th</sup> annual competition at the General Chris Volkes Range, CFB Chilliwack, over the weekend of 4-5 June 2011.

Its great to see that a renewed interest in competitive shooting has been triggered in the Units of 39 Brigade Group; thanks to Colonel Bryan H. Gagne, CD, Commander, 39 Brigade Group. A review of the 2011 BC Rifle Association nominal roll corroborates a very definite increase in the number of competitors over the 2010 competition. Seventy-one challengers from The BC Regiment (DCO); BC Dragoons; 5<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA; 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RCA; Royal Westminster Regiment; Seaforth Highlanders of Canada; Canadian Scottish Regiment; Rocky Mountain Rangers; 39 and 41 Service Battalions; 39 Brigade Group; 39 DBB HQ; 30 and 39 CER; 4<sup>th</sup> Cdn Rangers. Also the BC Rifle Association; Vancouver Police Department Revolver; Port Coquitlam Rod & Gun Club, all members of BC Rifle Association, fired the same matches as the militia units but were not eligible to win the military trophies.

I am pleased to point out that the Regiment fielded the largest single contingent of shooters. MCpl Ian Millar; Cpl Ryan Steacy; Cpl Steven Gross; Cpl Ali Mansour; Cpl Sean Marr; Tpr Alejandro Langone;

Tpr Norman Dionco; Tpr Henry Chan; and Col (Ret'd) Tren Williamson (USMC). Also, Lt (Ret'd) Chris Ng and Tpr (Ret'd) Jack Scott, former Dukes competed as BC Rifle Association members.

How did our soldiers place in this age old competition? The competition statistics produced by Mrs. Robert Pitcairn and her able assistants relates the results:

**Corporal D. Ryan Steacy wins the 2011 BC Service Rifle Championship.**

His wins and scores are as follows:

**BCRA Rifle Championship**

Match 2. Zwolak Match – 200 Metre Snap; 50 with 6V Bulls.

Match 3. Rocky Mountain Ranger Trophy – 200 Metre Rapid Fire; 49 with 5V Bulls.

Match 4. BC Regiment Match – 200 to 100 Metre Rundown; 50 with 6V Bulls.

Match 8. HMCS Discovery Match – 300 to 200 Metre Rundow; 49 with 3 V Bulls

Match 10. Don Mitchell Trophy – 500 Metre Snap. Tied for first place; 49 with 4 V Bulls.

Match 12. Dunbar Match – 500 to 100 Metre Rundown; 49 with 6V Bulls.

BC Services Rifle Championship Aggregate, Scores from Matches 1 to 12; 577 with 47 VBulls, and BC Service Rifle Open Championship Gold Bullion Badge.

Cramer Trophy. Highest lower mainland competitor, Service Rifle Aggregate; 577 with 47 VBulls.

The Captain C. Dodd Tankard - BC Reserve Force Service Rifle Aggregate – Open to Canadian Reserve Force Personnel only. Matches 1-12; 577 with 47 VBulls.

BC Service Conditions Aggregate Score (Aggregate score of the BC Service Rifle and BC Service Pistol Championship). Score 1478 with 47 VBulls out of 1500,

**BCRA Service Pistol Championship:**

Match 2. Big Ed's Dots - 10 Metre Standing Slow Fire Score 40.

Match 4. Keep Shooting - 10 Metres Standing Rapid; Score 60.

Match 6. Long Range Engagements; Score 93.

Match 8. 15 Metre Attack - Standing Double Tap; Score 98.

BC Service Pistol Championship Aggregate –Aggregate Scores from Matches 1 through 10. Score 901 and BC Service Pistol Gold Bullion Badge.

**Corporal Steacy's BC Service Conditions Aggregate Score (Aggregate score of the BC Service Rifle and BC Service Pistol Championship) is the highest score fired in the history of the BC Service Rifle Championships (1874 -2011) – 1478 with 47 VBulls out of 1500, earning the Lang Memorial Trophy and BC Services Conditions Gold Bullion Badge.**



Corporal D. Ryan Steacy, CD. 4 -5 Jun 2011

Corporal Ryan Steacy has placed Top Shot on the BC Service Rifle Association Championships from 2006 to 2011 inclusive. He is a world class shooter ranking with former Rifleman Sam Perry, Lieutenant Colonel Hart-McHarg and many other expert Duke shooters. Congratulations on your most outstanding shooting record and expertise.

The other Duke competitors performed well, shooting scores in the upper half of the seventy-one Army Reserve Force competitors. Your interest and continued participation adds to the Regiment's long standing shooting tradition. Well done Dukes, we are very proud of you...*never give-up*.

Its hard to keep Dukes off the range...Former BCR Lieutenant (Ret'd) Chris Ing and Corporal Jack Scott continue their shooting competition under the BC Rifle Association banner. Good to see you both continuing to meet the challenge.

Col (Ret'd) Tren Williamson, USMC is a long standing associate member of the The BC Regiment (DCO) Association. Tren is a resolute shooter and a proud member of the BCR Shooting family. He is in his late seventies; continues to compete and win. This year he fired in a number of pistol matches and turned out top shot as follows:

Match 7. Forgot Your Ammo – 10 Metres Standing Rapid, Score 150.

Match 10. Tren Williamson Trophy. Score 100.

Colonel Tren, we are deeply proud of your longstanding musketry affiliation with The BC Regiment (DCO). Sincere thanks for your friendship and shooting incentive.

Up the Dukes!

## **PM ANNOUNCEMENT**

By: Archie Steacy

### **PM announces the appointment of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to the highest ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces**

June 10, 2011  
Ottawa, Ontario

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced that His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has been appointed as an honorary admiral and general in Her Majesty's Canadian Armed Forces on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

"I am delighted that His Royal Highness has accepted this honour from Canada in recognition of his significant contribution to our national life," said Prime Minister Harper. "His unwavering support of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and his commitment to the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as to many other fields of endeavour in this country, are worthy of our highest recognition and deepest gratitude."

It is the first time that an honorary rank is granted at the highest level of the Canadian Armed Forces, which underscores the importance of the honour being granted to His Royal Highness by Canada. With these appointments, The Duke of Edinburgh becomes an Admiral in Maritime Command and a General in Land Forces Command and Air Command, and His Royal Highness may choose to wear these ranks on all three uniforms of the Canadian Armed Forces.

"The Duke of Edinburgh has had a close association with the Canadian Armed Forces since the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen in 1953. His Royal Highness is currently Colonel-in-Chief of five

Canadian regiments, and holds similar appointments with all three cadet organizations. His service to the Canadian Armed Forces in this capacity has been recognized by the award of the Canadian Forces' Decoration with four clasps."

"On this important day, it is most appropriate for Canada to honour The Duke of Edinburgh for his outstanding record of service and dedication to the Canadian Armed Forces and to Canada over the past 58 years. He is truly an inspiration to us all and I know that all Canadians join me in extending congratulations to His Royal Highness on these appointments and best wishes for many more years of continued health and happiness," added the Prime Minister.

## **NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION CEREMONY IN DUBLIN, IRELAND**

By: Robert Greenslade

As most of you know, our pipe band shares lineage with the Royal Irish Regiment Pipes and Drums, headquartered in Portadown, N. Ireland, and keeps close ties with them. This year their pipe major, WO James Knox MBE, invited our pipe band bass drummer, Drum Sgt. Robert Greenslade to N. Ireland to play with him for festivities surrounding the 12<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations.

Before departing, Robert made contact with The Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum in Armagh, N. Ireland to arrange a visit. Learning the date of Robert's arrival, the museum curator, Ms. Amanda Moreno MA generously invited him and WO Knox to attend as her guests, The National Day of Commemoration Ceremony on July 10 in Dublin, Ireland.



L to R: Drum Sgt. Robert Greenslade, Major General David The O'Morchoe CB, CBE, KLJ, WO James Knox MBE

The service was held in the courtyard of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin, Ireland. This high profile event was broadcast nationwide and attended by many dignitaries including the President of Ireland, the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), and the Mayor of Dublin. A full military honor guard was present and inspected by the President. After the formal ceremonies, Robert had the opportunity to meet with many former members of the Royal Irish Fusiliers including Major General David The O'Morchoe CB, CBE, KLJ, hereditary Chief and Prince of the Ó Murchadha (Murphy) clan, President of the Leinster Regiment Association, and President of the Royal British Legion for the entire Republic of Ireland. Major General David The O'Morchoe CB, CBE, KLJ was commissioned in 1946 and served mostly with the Royal Irish Fusiliers but also commanded a Paras battalion and the Sultan of Oman's army. He is also a Trustee of the National War Memorial at Islandbridge, Dublin, a Trustee and former Chairman of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum in Armagh and, more importantly for us he was the last CO of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Also attending were Mr. and Mrs. L. Col. Charlie Bennett. L. Col Bennett served in the Ulster Defense Regiment Headquarters, Northern Ireland and commanded a Belfast Battalion of the UDR. He is currently Chairman of the Trustees of the Royal Irish Regiment Museum.

After the reception Amanda took Robert, Jimmy and L. Col. Bennett to tour a couple of military cemeteries on the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. The group then traveled to The Irish National War Memorial at Islandbridge to pay respects at the cenotaph and walk the sunken rose

gardens. It was at the National War Memorial that Robert took the opportunity to present Ms. Moreno with an engraved BCR plaque honoring her efforts during the BCR Pipe Bands March 2010 trip to Ireland, coordinating a visit to the museum for the band and organizing a very successful fundraising concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh, showcasing our pipe band and raising funds for the restoration of the Regimental Chapel.



L to R: WO James Knox MBE, Ms. Amanda Moreno MA, Mrs. Mavis Bennett, Lt Col Charlie Bennett, Drum Sgt. Robert Greenslade



Robert Greenslade and Ms. Amanda Moreno MA, curator of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum

The remainder of Roberts visit was spent touring N. Ireland during the week long festivities associated with the 12<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday and playing performances. As well as being Pipe Major of the RIR 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, WO Knox is also pipe major of a very successful grade 4b civilian competition band which this spring won the All Ireland contest. Robert was provided with one of their uniforms and played bass drum for them on parade. Robert is honored to have been asked to play with this band as they also just won the World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **CANADA AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR – PART II**

By: Keith Maxwell

In the last instalment, we reviewed the Canadian Corps role up to the spring of 1918. It had developed into a superb fighting force and the government had recently instituted conscription. Accordingly, the flow of reinforcements was guaranteed for the next year at least. However, Germany, Britain and France were all suffering manpower shortages and had used up enormous reserves of material. The Germans were worried about the imminent arrival of large numbers of Americans following the entry into the war of the USA.

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

On 21 March 1918 the German Army launched an attack with 63 Divisions on a 100 kilometre wide front held by 23 British Divisions. The operation is known as the Michael Offensive. Using specially trained Storm Troopers with new tactics, they broke through and put 5<sup>th</sup> British Army into full retreat. The German aim was to break the line, advance to the Channel, and then roll up the flanks.

The offensive lasted ten days, cost more than a quarter million casualties, and drove the British Army back 40 kilometres; this map shows the progress of the battle in chronological detail. In the end the offensive failed; the British were able to maintain contact along the line as they fell back. German logistics limitations and British tenacity were equal factors in the failure. The grand offensive deteriorated into the normal Great War stalemate with men in trenches behind barbed wire.

The Canadian Corps was not involved in the fighting – they held the Vimy sector north of Arras and relieved British Divisions on both flanks, until they were holding 28 kilometres of trenches with 3 Divisions. Haig had detached three Canadian Divisions early in the battle to be used as reserves. Currie wrote to the Canadian Overseas Minister in London, pointing out that the Canadian Divisions fought best under Canadian command. Under political pressure, Haig returned the Divisions to Currie's command and fumed in his diary about uppity colonials!

In fact, the Canadian Corps was holding one fifth of the British line.

At one point Haig, in prescient irony, commented that the Canadians were acting like Allies rather than citizens of the Empire. He was finally getting the message.

On 9 April 1918 the Germans tried again with Operation Georgette, this time just to the north of the Canadians. The offensive continued for 20 days with less success than Operation Michael. The Germans knew there was little chance of victory in this war and sought a negotiated peace. However, the allies knew they had the upper hand and were convinced they would defeat Germany, perhaps in 1919.

In the meantime, Canadian reinforcements continued to arrive, and the Corps was rotated into reserve. Training continued, but this time for manoeuvre warfare. The Canadian Corps, at more than 110,000 men, was a superb fighting machine. They benefited from four years of costly experience, good leadership, high esprit de corps, and a common identity as Canadians. They were the elite of the British Expeditionary Force. Having large numbers of reinforcements in immediate reserve and thousands more in the pipeline added to their confidence. This was the finest fighting formation of its size in the world. They knew it, the British knew it, and the Germans knew it.

Things were active on the political front as well. Borden returned to London in early June 1918 to attend another round of Imperial War Cabinet meetings. This time he considered himself an equal at the table.

Borden prepared himself well before the series of meetings, and spent a great deal of time with General Currie in France. Both Borden and Currie, at this stage of the war, believed that the Canadian Corps was truly Canada's national army, and that the Corps owed its first loyalty to the Canadian government. Borden patiently heard out Currie's opinions and perspectives, which were darkly shaded by his four long years in command of troops in a frustrating war. Additionally, Currie was very disappointed that the British Army had abandoned HIS Passchendaele ridge without a fight in April.

In his biography of Lloyd George, John Grigg describes the Imperial War Cabinet meeting of 13 June 1918 as follows –

"Borden made a general statement reviewing Canada's war effort in all its aspects. At the end he said that he was convinced the BEF's lack of military success was 'largely due to lack of foresight and

preparation, and to defects in the organization and leadership of the forces'. He urged the 'imperative necessity of putting aside every consideration in appointments except efficiency'. In this context, he drew attention to the 'high degree of organization' attained by the Canadian forces 'under officers of whom only a small proportion were professional soldiers', suggesting that if it were true that in the British army only professional soldiers had the chance to rise above the rank of brigadier general 'that was equivalent to a wholesale scrapping of the brains of a nation in its struggle for existence'."

In Dennis Winter's book "Haig's Command", a volume highly critical of the British High Command on the Western Front, he describes the same Cabinet meeting –

"The final attack on Passchendaele village was described by Borden, the Canadian Prime Minister... He spoke with mounting anger and concluded his denunciation by striding up to Lloyd George, seizing his lapels and shaking him...."

Perhaps the quote from the meeting that best illustrates Canada's emerging independence came during Borden's summary of his one hour speech. He addressed Prime Minister Lloyd George directly -

"Prime Minister, I want to tell you that if there is a repetition of the Battle of Passchendaele, not a Canadian soldier will leave the shores of Canada so long as the Canadian people trust the government of their country to me."

There is some speculation that the theatrical performance was orchestrated by Lloyd George!

Field Marshal Haig learned of the proceedings of the meeting and kept them closely in mind throughout the remainder of the war. He was already on thin ice with Lloyd George, whom he knew wanted to replace him. Lloyd George is quoted as saying "Haig is brilliant...to the top of his boots."

Meanwhile, the competent and innovative Marshal Foch of France was appointed to the Supreme Command of all forces on the Western Front on 26 March 1918 in response to the German offensive. Haig went along with the proposal as it put a buffer between himself and the Prime Minister.

Foch knew that the Germans were worn out and he intended to hit them where they were most over-extended.

The decision was made to attack with the Australian and Canadian Corps at the centre of the offensive just east of the French city of Amiens. That placed the two best fighting formations on the western front side by side. If the German army found out that the Canadians were coming into the line beside the Australians it would be a dead giveaway that an attack was imminent. Accordingly, unprecedented secrecy was imposed. Currie did not inform his Division commanders until a week before the start of the offensive.

The Corps detached two battalions to the Kemmel sector to the north in Belgium, where they carried out raids and deliberately dropped equipment and documents indicating that they were Canadians. A radio signals squadron was also dispatched to that sector and transmitted fake tactical instructions to Canadians in a code they knew had been compromised. It was the first ever signals deception operation!

Currie took great pleasure later telling the story about King Albert of Belgium, who complained to Marshal Foch that an offensive spearheaded by the Canadians was being planned for the Ypres salient in **his** country, and he had been neither consulted nor informed! Clearly, the deception plan was working.

Meanwhile, the Corps was moving south from their concentration area near Arras, toward Amiens. They moved only at night and rested in wooded areas during the day. Royal Air Force aircraft flew continuously over the sector to mask the noise of the supporting tanks moving up.

The Canadians moved into the line on the night of 7 August, and the Australians side-stepped north. The last Canadian troops moved into the trenches just 20 minutes before the artillery barrage started.

At 0420 hours on 8 August 1918, with 96 days left in the conflict, the offensive was launched. The famous historian JFC Fuller described the battle as the most decisive of the First World War. The troops moved forward with the barrage under cover of very thick fog. The German defenders were caught completely off guard. The forward defences were shattered and the troops surged forward, reaching their initial objective ahead of schedule.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> British Cavalry Division, which included the Canadian Brigade, advanced through the infantry, and proved one more time that brave men on horses were no match for machine guns. The infantry again took the lead. By 6:00 PM virtually all of the day's objectives were taken. The Canadians had advanced 11 kilometres – the greatest advance in a single day in the war. They suffered a relatively light 4000 casualties, took 5,000 prisoners and captured hundreds of German artillery pieces. The Australians had done as well. The British and French Corps on the flanks had both made significant advances.

The day was a startling success. General Ludendorff - Field Marshal von Hindenburg's Chief of Staff and the *de facto* commander of German forces on the western front – noted in his memoirs that, "August 8<sup>th</sup> was the black day of the German Army in the history of the war". General Currie agreed, with some satisfaction.

However, the German army retained a remarkable ability to react. By the end of the day they were moving four new divisions into the Canadian sector and they spent the night improvising their defences.

The following day was never going to be as spectacular as the first. In spite of confusion in timing and reinforcements, the Corps advanced 6 kilometres on 9 August. A further advance of 3 kilometres on 10 August led to the traditional entrenched slug fest. The momentum had been lost. It was time to try elsewhere.

The battle had cost the German Army more than 75,000 casualties. Fourth British Army casualties were approximately 25,000 between 8 and 19 August – almost half of them Canadians. Ironically, the Canadian Corps had a combat strength slightly higher than when it had started the battle – a strong steady flow of well-trained conscripts was starting to bear fruit.

In the next instalment we will look at the defeat of the Hindenburg Line and the final defeat of Germany in November 1918.

## **THE START LINE**

By: David Sproule

### **They Called Me "Crusher"**

*(The following story is the first one that I ever wrote for a military association newsletter. It was published in the Strathcona Association newsletter in December 1996.)*

As a twenty year old second-lieutenant in the COTC at the University of British Columbia I was delighted when I received notice that I would be posted to the Strathconas for my 3rd phase of officer training. It was 1958 and the Regiment was still garrisoned in Currie Barracks although Sarcee Barracks would officially open later that summer. I was assigned to A Squadron which according to the OC, Major Danny McLeod's motto meant, "Always Able, Active and Aggressive." I arrived off the train early in May and after a quick beer and a meal in the mess found myself in the Sarcee training area in the middle of the night. I believe as call-sign 4C. The Squadron was doing work-up training for Wainwright. I remember hearing the coyotes howling for the first time in my life that night and watching the sunrise over Calgary as we practiced our leaguer drills over and over until we got it right.

The Regiment made all of us COTC officers feel at home for the summer as we were allowed to wear Strathcona regalia and encouraged to participate in all activities. We didn't need convincing. I learned later that other COTC types that went to other regiments didn't experience the same warm reception that was accorded to us. There were six of us altogether, Brian Harvey from Saskatoon, Don Heine from Vernon, Sam Yoshida from Hamilton, Dave Redgwell and Alex Prysiasniuk from Winnipeg and myself. We were assigned two per squadron.

When we went to Wainwright, Danny McLeod made Brian and me troop leaders as he lost one subby to Brigade and Jim Ellard went off to RMC on the Long Course. I was entrusted with Two Troop. My call-signs were 'A' Sgt Rowland, 'B' Sgt Wheeler and 'C' was Cpl Thody. Other in the Squadron at the time were Lorne Glenndinning (BC), Chris Bashford (2i/c), Bob Gross (1<sup>st</sup> Troop), Rod Tomlinson (3<sup>rd</sup> Troop), and Brian Harvey had 4<sup>th</sup> Troop. Barry Robison of the KOCRs kept drifting in and out. I believe that Sgt Getz was acting/SSM. A Squadron was to work with the 2Bn QOR of C and to play enemy force so that we had endless troop and sub-unit exercises up and down the training area.

I will never forget one night after a final Battalion/Squadron exercise before the GOC's exercise when a significant event in my life occurred. My tank was the lead c/s in a three troop column moving tactically with lights out (of course) in the tank track that paralleled Grey Route I believe. We were going to meet our echelon near Hart Hill and then go into harbor. As Snoopy would imagine in "Peanuts" – "it was a dark and stormy night when suddenly..." I encountered a Queen's Own ¾ ton truck bogged down in a depression in the tank track. My driver and I discovered it at the same time when we heard the crunch of steel on steel. It was superfluous to shout driver halt but I imagine that I did. Our tank came to rest somewhere around the fire-wall of the ¾. The rest went something like this:

"Hello niner this is two, I have just run over a truck."

The reply was something like, "unknown c/s say again" or "Two from niner was anybody hurt?"

Two, I don't know yet."

"Niner- well get the bloody hell down there and find out."

"Two roger out."

You can picture the scene – 0300 hrs darker than Toby's with my crew and I assessing what we had just done. My first thought was that I had just mangled a section of 'C' Company, QORs finest until I heard moaning from within the cab. You may recall that ¾ ton trucks were proto APCs while the infantry waited for the Bobcats. (*As it turned out the Bobcat never was manufactured and the Government bought the American M113 instead but not until the late '60s.*) We pried the door off with a pry bar and hauled the driver out and as it turned out, he was the driver for the CSM of 'C' Company and when he got bogged down, the CSM went off in another vehicle leaving him to await recovery. The mush of the 26 set in his ear had put him to sleep and he had lain down on the seat. Fortunately he was not seriously hurt sustaining a cut to his head. The impact had knocked him onto the floor and the back of the cab crumpled over him and provided some protection. My brief career flashed before my eyes that night as I was certain that I would be on the next train to Vancouver but fortunately that didn't happen. At a smoker in the QOR field mess the following night before the big exercise, I was invited to cut a cake which had a

pastry tank pushing a pastry ¾ ton truck down into the icing. For the rest of the summer I responded to the nickname “Crusher” and occasionally in some mess or other since that time some smiling face with graying hair will call from across the room “Hey Crusher over here” and I am immediately transported back to that time and place. The Provost Platoon (*Military Police*) towed the truck to a prominent place in the training area and put up a warning sign about safe driving. We really did a number on that vehicle.

The remainder of the summer was relatively uneventful as I remember it although like most of you have experienced, there were many pleasant evening in the field swapping stories over a cold beer served from the back of the canteen truck and Danny even let Brian Harvey and I get to Calgary via the laundry truck, to take in the Calgary Stampede.

The camaraderie and warmth that the Strathconas extended to me that summer solidified my career choice and after completing university I experienced similar moments of pleasure in the field as a troop leader and squadron commander and occasionally terror on some night move from here to there.



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

By: Pat Connell



July 1, 2011 Canada Day Parade

The BC Regiment - Irish Pipes & Drums have had a very busy summer starting with the July 1, Canada Day Parade in Vancouver where the Band was the only Pipe Band in the parade and was placed near the front to the delight of over 150,000 people on the parade route up Georgia St, Burrard & Hastings St. A number of small group events occurred over the summer including several weddings, as well as a mini band putting on an afternoon performance at the Youth Detention Center in South Burnaby.

August saw 8 members of the Band under Dir. of Music Jordan Seguin and Pipe Major Alistair Pattison proceed to the Vernon Army Cadet Camp on the weekend of August 13 & 14, to put on a workshop for the Piping Drumming School and to meet the Cadet members of Band Company. Excellent hospitality was extended to the Band who also put on a Sunday morning concert for all members of Band Company.



L to R: Alistair Pattison, Chris Bronson, Jordan Seguin, Rob Greenslade, Mike Giles, Pat Connell, Terance Cadiente and Alex Johrden

August 20th was the RSM's wedding held at the Drill Hall with first the RSM, Mark Arden, led in by four pipers and then his bride.



RSM's wedding pipers (pictured right) L to R: Pipe Sgt. Matt Dolan, Director of Music Jordan Seguin, Piper Greg Greene and Pipe Major Alistair Pattison, usher the RSM in on the Lynx.



Our final yearly summer event was held on August 27th, which is the annual Bowfest Parade on Bowen Island. The band was ferried over by water taxi, then bused to the start of the parade leading it back downhill, followed by an opening performance in the fairgrounds.

The event is hosted each year by former Irish Fusiliers of Canada members Hank Strubin assisted by Vern Castle. The day also marked the debut of our newest side drummer - Liam Diamond who has been in training the past 10 months.

Pictured left: Hank Strubin (in wheelchair) with Vern Castle beside him.

The band starts its new season on September 11<sup>th</sup>, with the change of Command parade.



Presentation of Pipe Banners by members of the BC Regimental Association to the Pipe Band on August 24, 2011. Banners presented by William E. Schmidt to the band honouring service by H/Colonel Bill Ireland, Brig. General Darrell Dean (Rtd) and Colonel Archie Steacy, as well as a presentation to William E. Schmidt himself for his service to the BCR and the Irish Pipes & Drums.



L to R: Archie Steacy, Bill Ireland, Darrell Dean, Bill Schmidt

Many thanks to Bill Schmidt for his tremendous support and best wishes from the entire Regimental Family!

## SAMSON WANTS YOU



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

We will meet for a directors' meeting at 7:30 p.m. and attend to the CO's Parade at approximately 9:00 p.m. The dates are as follows: November 2, 2011; December 14, 2011; and January 4, 2012.

## W5 BBQ

We are pleased to report that the BBQ hosted by Ken and Linda Whitney on Sunday afternoon/evening (August 7<sup>th</sup>) was a tremendous success. The event was very well attended (50 guests) and the Cadet Development Program was well supported by the attendees and by the generous donations of those members unable to attend. Approximately \$2,200.00 was raised for our Program. Our many thanks to all the good folks who supported this event!

On behalf of the Regimental Association, we thank Ken and Linda Whitney for their exceptional hospitality and great support.

See you at next year's BBQ!!



Certificate of Appreciation presented by Ted Hawthorne to Ken and Linda Whitney

## THE SALVATION ARMY



Ray Glover, Capt. Jim Coggles and Ted Hawthorne

We are most pleased to report that we visited Belkin House on Homer Street (August 11<sup>th</sup>) and presented Capt. Jim Coggles, Executive Director, with a Regimental Plaque. The plaque was awarded in recognition of the tremendous support for the Homeless Dinner Program given by The Salvation Army to the Regiment and the Regimental Association over these many years. We were delighted to meet Jim's team ("behind the scenes folks") who are instrumental in making our working relationship with The Salvation Army such a great success. Once again, many thanks to The Salvation Army who have always been there for us in war and peace!

Our next recognition ceremony will be for our other "partner" in the program, Catholic Charities. We expect to make a formal presentation to the Archbishop of Vancouver, The Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB, in October. We will be reporting to you on this presentation in due course.



## **REGIMENTAL CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT**

By: Roger W. Prouse

### **BCR CADETS READY FOR A NEW TRAINING YEAR**

Our Cadet Corps commenced the fall training year the week of September 4. The enrolment of Cadets in our four Corps has increased over the last 18 months with over 200 Cadets taking part in Army Cadet program.

Last training year was an outstanding year for our Cadets which saw many individual and Corps awards being achieved.

C/CWO Tiffany Lu of the 2381 BCR Irish Fusiliers was awarded the President's trophy for being recognized as the top Army Cadet in BC. She also won the Sword of Honour for being selected as the top Company Sergeant Major at the Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre (VACSTC).

Two other 2381 Cadets were recognized for outstanding achievement at the VACSTC. C/Sgt Aaron Yim as the top military band musician and C/SGT Travis Wu as top course Cadet in Basic Cadet Sports and Fitness.

C/CWO Anton Humeniuk, C/RSM of the 2290, was employed as a Staff Cadet at the Rocky Mountain Cadet Train Centre near Canmore, AB. The camp specializes in outdoor adventure training. C/CWO Humeniuk led a platoon of Cadets through six weeks of very challenging training.

The 2827 BCR Port Moody Corps surprised us again by having another senior Cadet being accepted to attend RMC. C/RSM Jay Kwak will begin his studies this fall. That is three Cadets it has sent to RMC in the past two years. A former Cadet RSM, now Capt. Sarah Hanson also from this Corps, is a Graduate from RMC and currently serving in Afghanistan.

C/Cpl Holly Johnson of the 2827 was top in her platoon in Basic Marksmen at VACSTC.

The 2781 BCR Powell River continues to represent us well in Powell River. The Corps is growing in numbers and is currently the largest of the three elements that parade in Powell River. C/MWO Tom Robins of the 2781 was employed as a pipes instructor in the pipes and drum course at VACSTC. Tom is a very accomplished piper and it was very gratifying to see Tom at Vernon this past summer wearing his Irish Fusilier uniform with saffron kilt.

Some members of the BCR Pipe band paid visit to the VACSTC for a few days this past summer. They assisted in some of the instruction and played for the Cadets. Thanks to all the pipe band members who made the trip to Vernon. Once again, they represented us very well.

The BCR Association has recently launched a Cadet Development Program designed to assist our Corps in areas that DND does not fund or provide officers. Items such as fund raising techniques, accounting procedures and systems, recruiting drives and presentations to schools and youth organizations, Parent Committee structure and organization, etc.

While they may not necessarily carry out the various tasks that have been identified, they may be in a position to provide the expertise necessary to complete the task. The Cadet Development Program was

launched in the Spring of this year with \$500.00 grant to each of four Corps. The money is to be used for worthwhile project that has been identified by the Corps CO. On behalf of the our four Cadet Corps, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the BCR Association for their kind donation and offer of assistance.

“Faugh-a-Ballagh, Up the the Dukes”

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

## VACSTC SWORD OF HONOUR



C/MWO Tiffany Lu 2381 RCACC, Richmond, BC awarded the VACSTC Sword of Honour. The Sword of Honour was presented to the 8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14 Canadian Hussars) and is now presented to the outstanding Company Sergeant Major, based upon performance throughout the summer. Cadet MWO Lu is the Sergeant Major for Alpha training Group.

C/MWO Lu, OCdt Jon Carpino (2010 winner), BGen Paul Wynnyk (1978 winner), nurse Laura Cormons (2008 winner), Padre Art Gans, LCol Lyle Johnson. (VACSTC/Wayne Emde)

## RSM GETS MARRIED

(Compliments of “The Listening Post” August 2011)

The RSM got married to Heather Bottrill on August 20, 2011. The service and reception were held in the Drill Hall and was well attended by over 200 family and friends.



RSM Mark Arden (Groom) and Best Man MCpl (Rtd) Jack Macleod



Padre Beckham makes it official!



Mr. and Mrs. RSM!

## EUROPEAN BATTLEFIELD REPRESENTATIVES

The Regimental Association had the great privilege of welcoming Gauthier Hebbelynck, our representative in Belgium, Holland and France (for WWI Ceremonies), at an informal reception. Gauthier and his family also joined us at the W5 Summer BBQ Fundraiser.



On 23 August 2011, the Regimental Association was pleased to welcome our good friend Luke Vandebussche from Leke, Belgium who paid us a courtesy visit at the Drill Hall. Luke brought his tour group of 18 people with him. We conducted a tour of the Drill Hall and the Regimental Museum and all had a very great visit (pictured above).

Luke presented us with a framed photograph of Leke circa the Liberation and the flag which appears in the photograph. In addition, some fine Belgium chocolate was given to us which the day staff easily handled. We presented Luke with a Certificate of Appreciation for all of his support, a desk flag and an RCMP insignia patch (he is a collector).

The above items have been donated to the Regimental Museum.



Ted Hawthorne and Luke Vandebussche

## HONORARY MAJOR DOCTOR JEAN-PIERRE BÉNAMO, OBE, MSM BCR European Field Officer

Jean-Pierre Bénamou was a young lad residing in Caen, Normandy when Canadians landed at Juno Beach on 6 June 1944. After the Battle of Normandy had ended, Jean-Pierre's uncle took him on a tour of the Normandy D-Day beaches. He was fascinated by the German gun emplacements and the debris of battle. He happened to spot a .303" rifle casing lying in the sand. He picked it up and while handling it, wondered what part it had played on D-Day. This simple act inspired Jean-Pierre to collect and safeguard wartime artifacts.

Over the subsequent years he and his uncle amassed an enormous amount of Allied and German military relics...wheeled vehicles, tanks, weapons, uniforms, photos, etc., and even a crashed typhoon fighter plane, and displayed them in the Battle of Normandy Museum located in the city of Bayeaux. This museum has now been closed; but Jean-Pierre has opened his D-Day Academy, a hands-on museum, near the village of Long-sur-Mer.



Hon Major Le Docteur Jean-Pierre Bénamou, OBE, MSM

Jean-Pierre's interest and knowledge of the Battle of Normandy grew with leaps and bounds enabling him to liaise with and assist Canadian, British and American veteran associations and tourists to visit the D-Day landing beaches, other Normandy battlefields and Commonwealth War Cemeteries while discussing battle strategy and tactics.

Jean-Pierre Bénamou is a great friend of Canadians, all Regiments (especially the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) that fought in Normandy in 1944). He has munificently facilitated the following Regimental Association's activities in Normandy: four battlefield tours (1983, 1993, 2001 and 2008) individual tours; presented Normandy Thank You

Medals to our 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Veterans in Vancouver (1995); acted as my liaison officer during my Hill 111 Monument reconnaissance trip, helped with the planning phase, and carried out all duties to procure refurbishing materials and labour for the Hill 111 Memorial Monument project (1998); assisted with the planning and conduct of the Hill 111 Memorial rededication ceremony (1999); conducted numerous tours of the Hill 111 battlefield; provides and lays floral wreaths annually on Hill 111 Memorial Monument and the Brettville sur Liaise Canadian War Cemetery commemorating the Regiment's Fallen, and has had 6" bronze cap badges installed on the D-Day Sherman Tank Monument situated at Courseulle-sur-Mer and Hill 67 commemorating BCR actions during the Battle of Normandy.

Herewith a short note regarding a commemoration event:

*"Hello Archie,*

*I am just back from the Hill where an exceptionally strong attendance was there including a French army detachment and fully dressed with green jacket in BCR bullion/buttons, tie and black beret you supplied, I read your VE day message and laid a wreath of flowers for the Dukes.*

*I presented Claudine Ragot and Michel Lebaron with their BCR commemorative medallions which turn very emotional, and amazing to have succeeded in getting all these names on such a small surface of nice metal. We really enjoy it and will treasure it for ever.*

*Next time some of us will assemble to celebrate the fallen gallant men of Hill 111 will be Aug 9th for the 65th anniversary of the Canadian offensive. I'm surprised that you mention, Archie, the Algonquin association since I*

*had their ultimate bulletin 2 years ago announcing their disbandment. I had been connected with them for many years starting with Clem Duchesne. I wish you a prompt come back to normal life my friend, I also had recent health problems with backbone but never stopped".*  
*Up the Dukes Jean-Pierre*

His personal friendship and unstinting commitment to our Regiment and Association over the years warranted his appointment of Honorary Major, Membership in the Association and Field Officer for Normandy. We are indeed honoured to have Hon Major Le Docteur Jean-Pierre Bénamou OBE, MSM as a member of our Association. On behalf of the Regiment, he proudly wears his Regimental blazer, tie and black beret to all memorial activities.

Jean-Pierre, It's a great privilege to have you as a friend. All ranks of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) and its Association hold you in high esteem and thank you for your unstinting commitment to our Regiment.

Archie M. Steacy, President Emeritus



Hon Major Le Docteur Jean-Pierre Bénamou attending a ceremony at Hill 67 on behalf of the Association.

## CO'S PARADE 7 September 2011

### THE PIRATE PARTY WAS A SUCCESS!



Ray Glover & Ted Hawthorne – Presentation of collage



LCol Bruce Kadonoff, Ray Glover, Ted Hawthorne & RSM Mark Arden – Life Membership presentation

While it was not a real Pirate Party, but it was a success! A reception was held on 07 September 2011 in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess after the Association Board meeting to recognize Ray Glover for his years of dedication and service to the Association as Vice President for 15 years and then 3 years as President.

A number of friends were in attendance to thank Ray and see the presentation of a collage of photos in a nice frame - a special thank you to Gayle Hawthorne for making Ray's gift.

The evening started with socializing around the bar and enjoying the snacks provided by the Association. Mid way into the reception Ted gave a recap of the many activities Ray has been involved with over the years. He also reminded everyone that Ray has stepped down as President, but remains as a Director and will continue to offer his support where he can.

There were many friends in the Mess. A few were not able to attend and sent notes for Ted to read out. We also took a minute to acknowledge one friend that was not able to join us. As most know, Ray's long time buddy King passed away and he will be missed by all.

Ray wrapped up the "formal" part of the evening by thanking all for coming. It was then back to the bar and socializing before the start of the CO's Parade.

At the CO's Parade, the recognition continued. Deputy Commander LCol Romano Acconci was in attendance and presented Ray with a Commander's Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Col Bryan Gagne. The Commander was unable to attend as he was in Edmonton for meetings.

The next presentation was by Ted Hawthorne to make Ray an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Ray received a nice certificate, but has to keep paying his annual dues 😊

After the CO's Parade, it was back to the Mess. Later that evening, Ray completed the last task from his time as President of the Association. He presented the CO, LCol Bruce Kadonoff with the "Book of Honoraries". More to come on this project in a later newsletter.



Certificate of Appreciation presented to Past-President, Ray Glover, by Deputy CO, 39CBG, LCol Romano Acconci



Presentation of the Book of Honoraries to LCol Kadonoff by Past-President, Ray Glover

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own)

On 11 September 2011, during the Regiment's 138<sup>th</sup> year, Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Kadonoff, CD, the 48<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer, turned over command of the Regiment to Lieutenant Colonel Harjit S. Sajjan, CD, AdeC; and Regimental Sergeant-Major CWO Mark T. Arden MMM, CD, after two terms as RSM, relinquished his appointment to Master Warrant Officer Patrick G. Taylor, CD during an impressive ceremony and march past. Colonel Bryan H. Gagné, CD, Commander, 39 Brigade Group was the Reviewing Officer.

The Regiment was privileged to have His Honour Stephen L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, The Honourable Iona Camponella, past Lieutenant Governor of BC, Major General J.H. Vance, OMM, CD, Director National Strategic Joint Staff, Dr. Hedy Fry, MP, Police Chief Jim Chu, eleven former Commanding Officers, the Regimental Association and many family members and friends of the Regiment.

The Change of Command parade was concluded with a first class Regimental Roll-Past reviewed by Colonel Bryan H. Gagné, CD, and led by the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Harjit Sajjan, CD, AdeC.

We extend our sincere congratulations to Col Kadonoff and RSM Mark Arden for their "exemplary leadership and a job well done".

Our best wishes to Colonel Sajjan during his command. The Association stands ready to continue our full support of the Regiment.



Lieutenant Colonel Harjit S. Sajjan, CD, AdeC  
and Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Kadonoff, CD



Former RSM, Mark Arden,  
and newly appointed RSM, Patrick Taylor

## US ARMY BRONZE STAR



On September 11, 2011, Col Acton Kilby, son of long time Duke, BGen Peter Kilby, was presented with a US Army Bronze Star for meritorious service. The presentation was made by MGen Terry, CO, 10th Mountain Division.

Col Kilby served with the 10th for the past year in Afghanistan. He is now wrapping up his tour and expects to be home for Thanksgiving.

Congratulations Col Kilby!

Thanks to Jim Stanton for this item.

## ANNUAL REUNION (10 NOVEMBER 2011)



The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Association  
cordially invites you to attend a Reunion Dinner  
commemorating the Battle of Hill 111, Normandie  
the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 1944

To be held at the Moxies Ballroom (part of Sandman Hotel)  
Thursday, November 10, 2011 – 6:30 pm for 7:30 pm  
180 W Georgia Street, Vancouver, B.C.

(Special \$10 rate for parking available from the front desk – please obtain before parking)  
(Hotel is one block south of the Drill Hall and Stadium Skytrain Station)

(No Host Bar)

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RSVP by October 21, 2011  
to Charlotte Yen  
Email: corporate@hplaw.ca  
Telephone: 604-630-4585  
*Please advise of any allergy concerns*

Price \$50.00 per person  
\$95.00 per couple  
Guests Welcome  
Dress: Jacket & Tie

Cheques payable to:  
The BC Regiment (DCO)  
Association  
#208 – 1899 Willingdon Avenue,  
Burnaby, B.C., V5C 5T1

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Rooms available at Sandman Hotel for \$79.00 plus taxes (604.681.2211)

## ANOTHER ASSOCIATION BENEFIT

By: Bill Diamond

As you will see in this newsletter, our annual Reunion Dinner is moving to Moxies - part of the Sandman Hotel Group. In addition to being the host for our annual dinner they have agreed to partner with the Association and offer all members the government rate at all of their properties. Just call their reservation line or the property directly, identify yourself as a BC Regiment Association member and you will get their best rate.

Please note that on occasion we may be able to arrange even better rates, so always ask for the Association rate.



## COMING EVENTS

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>September 25<sup>th</sup></b> | 29 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Remembrance Service at the Battalion Memorial located at the PNE (1:00 p.m.) |
| <b>October 12<sup>th</sup></b>   | Regiment's 128 <sup>th</sup> Birthday – Activity TBA  |
| <b>November 2<sup>nd</sup></b>   | CO's Parade and Samson Night (8:30 p.m.)  |
| <b>November 10<sup>th</sup></b>  | Association Reunion Dinner – See Page 25 for particulars<br>Mark your calendar NOW.                     |
| <b>November 11<sup>th</sup></b>  | Remembrance Day – Particulars TBA   |
| <b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b>  | CO's Parade and Samson Night (8:30 p.m.)<br>Stand Down  |
| <b>December 15<sup>th</sup></b>  | Association Fundraiser Lunch – Particulars TBA  |
| <b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>  | Association Homeless Christmas Lunch – Particulars TBA  |
| <b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>    | Levee   |
| <b>January 4<sup>th</sup></b>    | CO's Parade and Samson Night (8:30 p.m.)<br>Stand To  |

## ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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

### IN THE HOSPITAL / ON THE MEND

Thankfully no reports! Best wishes from all ranks BCR.

### ASSOCIATION SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Association continues to support, through its Charitable Trust, various annual initiatives such as our Bursary Program for serving members of the Regiment and our dinner for the homeless in the month of December. In addition, the Charitable Trust supports various projects which assist in maintaining our link with the history of the Regiment (i.e. commemorative ceremonies, dedication of memorial plaques and support of our four Cadet Corps). The Association has increased its support of the Cadet Corps this year by the establishment of the new Cadet Development Program. Further information will be published as the program develops.

A special thank you to all of those members who support the Charitable Trust! Your generosity has made it possible to accomplish many of the commemorative projects your Association has undertaken.

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

### REGIMENTAL TRIVIA

**Answers to the trivia questions from the May 2011 issue of The Duke:**

1. Can you name the Artillery Company from which the Regiment is directly descended?

**Answer:** *The Seymour Artillery Company formed in New Westminster in 1866.*

2. The Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery was formed on what date; who was the Commander; what was its strength and in what cities were the headquarters located?

**Answer:** *It was formed on 12 October 1883. Major Charles Dupont was the Commanding Officer. The two Headquarters were located in Victoria and New Westminster.*

3. Provide me with the official date of the opening of the Drill Hall; and the title of the individual who performed the official duty?

**Answer:** *It was opened on 30 September 1901 by the Duke of Kent and Cornwall the future King George V.*

4. Name the Regimental Marksman, and in what year did, he win the King's Prize at Bisley?

**Answer:** *Rifleman Sam Perry won the King's Prize in 1904.*

5. What former Commanding Officer created the link to the Rifle Brigade, the year and on what occasion?

**Answer:** *Lt Col HFG Letson on his honeymoon in 1928.*

**Due to lack of interest with the Regimental Trivia, it will not be continued.**

**The Editor**

## DUKE'S DEN



Sporting a playoff beard on the Canucks run for the Cup!



Official transfer of MCpl Duke to Commander Brad Peats (HMCS Vancouver) while his good friend, the Cox'n, CPO1 Gino Spinelli, looks on. Next stop Libya!



Working aboard the HMCS Vancouver



S, S & S aboard HMCS Vancouver



Keeping in shape aboard HMCS Vancouver

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

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

By: Keith Maxwell

The Museum Society has been active over the summer, though at a reduced rate. The main focus has been on the refurbishment of the displays and the interpretive materials associated with them.

The Collection of Decorations and Medals has been updated with some posters on the collection, biographies of some of the most famous people represented in the collection, and the method of display. We have also updated the displays for the Artillery period and the South African War. The refurbishment of the displays should be completed by the end of the year. Come have a look!

There is a fair bit of administration in the process and work in that area is never ending. The Archive is in good shape and we are looking at an update to the digital inventories of both the Archive and the museum artefacts.

The Society continues sales of "Swift & Strong - a Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment". Sales so far have been brisk and steady, and a public launch of the book will be conducted in the early fall to introduce the book to the general public and to libraries and book stores.

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



The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (CCMMS) has received federal funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada's *Canadian Historical Recognition Program* (CHRP) to interview, scan and photograph artefacts of Chinese Canadian veterans who fought for a country that discriminated against them. The CCMMS is looking for Head Tax, immigration papers, and other documentation of a discriminatory nature; war medals, military uniforms, service records, discharge papers, and other related materials. The end result from collecting all these artefacts will be an exhibition in Vancouver and at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, a display at our Museum, access to archives online, and publications. The Museum's intent is to educate the public about the contributions of Chinese Canadians despite adversity: their loyalty to Canada, the value they placed on citizenship, their tolerance of prejudice, and their demand for equality. These veterans who proudly and loyally served Canada are a rich part of Canadian history and their legacies are extremely valuable to recognize, educate and commemorate.

**Do you know a Chinese Canadian veteran? We are looking for artefacts and information to assist with our research project and display. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.**

Judy Lam Maxwell, Project Manager  
Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society  
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# COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

September 25, 2011

The annual ceremony commemorating the service and sacrifice of the members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn, 29<sup>th</sup> Bn and 102<sup>nd</sup> Bn, CEF, all perpetuated by the Regiment, was very well attended by members of the Regimental Family, including, Honorary Colonel Bob Stanley, Major Doug Evans, Cadets from 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) and 2781 BCR (Powell River), the Irish Pipes and Drums, members of the Regimental Association, friends and family.

Our many thanks to the Parade Commander, Jim Britt, for organizing and conducting the ceremony, to Padre Walter Bayley for performing the service of remembrance and to all the participants supporting this Act of Remembrance.

The wreath, with appropriately coloured divisional ribbons for each Battalion, was placed at the cairn by the Regimental Association (Ted Hawthorne and Paul Campbell).

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the attendees adjourned to the adjacent building (i.e. out of the rain). The group was warmly welcomed by RCD Honorary Colonel Darrell Dean. The Candle of Remembrance was lit by Honorary Colonel Bob Stanley and Ted Hawthorne provided a brief historical sketch in the words of Keith Maxwell given to us last year at this time. Many thanks Keith! Light snacks and soft drinks compliments of the Regimental Association were served and the Regimental Kit shop was open for business (including the sale of our new Regimental book "Swift & Strong").





## ASLEEP

K804062 **Sergeant Glenn M. Salmon** served with the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) RCAC. He passed away on 11 July 2011. Glenn, Sharon and family resided in Vancouver during his firefighting career with Vancouver Fire Department and on Pender Island, B.C. during his retirement.

TK99503 **Captain John David Barker** served with The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) (13<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment) RCAC. He passed away on 4 August 2011. Dave, Boo and family resided in North and West Vancouver, 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.