



The Duke

REMEMBRANCE DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011 MENIN GATE, YPRES, BELGIUM

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Memorial Wreath – Menin Gate

On the early morning of Friday November 11th, I left the small village of Nazareth where my parents live in Belgium, heading to the city of Ypres, to attend what has now become the biggest and most noteworthy WW1 remembrance ceremony in Western Europe: the annual ceremony at Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium.

This ceremony is organized by the Belgian Last Post Association, a non-profit organization based in Ypres. This is the same association which is taking care of the daily ceremonies at Menin Gate, with the Last Post being performed at 8 o'clock sharp, by at least six bugle players.

This traditional final salute to the fallen is performed by the bugle players (all are active or past serving members of the local fire brigade) in honour of the memory of the soldiers of the former British Empire and its allies, who died in the Ypres Salient during the First World War. It is the intention of the Association to maintain this daily act of homage in perpetuity.

Every evening since 1928 the last Post has been played under the Menin Gate memorial, even when Belgium was occupied in WW2. I'm writing these lines on November 19th, and tonight it will be played for the 28,671st time.

A brilliant example of duty of remembrance by the Belgians! Noteworthy is the fact that they all are volunteers, the most senior one is 86 years old and is present every night. As a result of his commitment to honour the fallen, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Their mission statement can be found on their website: "We remember, too, that many died on the other side of No Man's Land: enemies then, but partners now in a united Europe". In this sense, the Last Post is not only a mirror reflecting Europe's troubled past, but also a beacon of hope for all our futures.

Every day, just before 8 o'clock in the evening, the local police halt the traffic passing through the Menin Gate. For a few brief moments, the modern world is brought to a stop and the Last Post ceremony takes us back in time to the terrible and turbulent years of the Great War, as we pause to remember our dead.

Originally, the Last Post was used to signal the end of the day.

In the context of the Last Post ceremony, it represents a final farewell to the fallen. In similar manner, the Reveille was traditionally played at the break of day, to waken the soldiers and call them to duty. In the context of the Last Post ceremony, it not only symbolizes the return to daily life at the end of the act of remembrance, but also expresses the resurrection to 'eternal life' of the fallen.

The Menin Gate was chosen as the location for the ceremony because of its special symbolic significance: it was from this spot that countless thousands of soldiers set off for the front, many of them destined never to return. The memorial to the missing of the Salient was completed in 1927 and lists the names of 54,896 men who fell in the Salient and who have no known grave. Think about it on your next visit: thousands of names are on these panels, and still these are "just" the men who have no known grave, registered prior to 16th August 1917. Those with no known grave killed or listed as missing in action after that date are listed on Tyne Cot Cemetery, a few kilometers away.

Attending the ceremony at 8 PM on "regular" days is a special experience, but it is particularly difficult to describe how moving the annual Remembrance Day ceremony is. Thousands of people travel overseas to honour a parent, relative or a Regiment and end up in this small city, which played a central role in WW1. The name of the city nowadays stands for the horror of warfare in WW1.

It's particularly difficult to explain to people if they never attended one of the annual ceremonies, how special this moment is. People from different countries, religions, social classes and backgrounds find themselves united with a common mission: honour the fallen.

You find yourself talking to perfect strangers, often living thousands of kilometers away, though it feels like, because of this common sake, you 've known each other for years.

Music performed by the pipe bands and amplified by the marble walls of the Arch sends shivers down your spine, no matter if you're a civilian, a serving member or veteran. The lament is a very significant example: not one word, not a whisper when it is being performed.

A Welsh Police officer asked if I knew how they call this ceremony in Britain. I didn't. He said: "They call it the "no-dry eyes ceremony". I guess that says it all.

Besides proudly representing the BCRA and Regiment at the Menin Gate, my presence in Ypres always has another, more personal meaning to me: commemorating my family members who fought in the area now almost 100 years ago.

My great grandfather, and his two brothers, served in WW1 with the Belgian Army. The three of them survived the war, even though the youngest was taken prisoner, badly wounded, being the only surviving NCO of his Regiment, in the ruins of the city of Dixmude and in the very famous battle with the same name on November 10, 1914. This happened only a few kilometers away from the Leke BCR monument. He returned in 1919 (!) after 5 horrible years in two different German POW camps.

Still, he enlisted after the war and ended his career as the equivalent of the RSM in his Regiment.

I had the chance to hear them tell their stories by themselves, the three of them all passed away in the mid-eighties, almost 100 years old. What a generation...!

The Belgian Army was absolutely not prepared, nor equipped in 1914 to enter a conflict which would eventually put the whole western front on fire (but who was, besides the Germans?). Nevertheless, despite that they suffered an estimated 93,000 casualties (44,000 KIA) on a total of 267,000, they succeeded in pinning down the German army for four years, by flooding the area around Dixmude, close to Ypres, spending 4 years in trenches behind the Yser River, sometimes with barely a couple of meters in between them and the German trenches. They were the last rampart before the Germans would reach the sea, which would have been fatal to the Western front. Historians today still wonder how such a poorly equipped army managed to resist for so long.

The Belgian government never did a lot to commemorate those incredible pages of our national Belgian military history and most of the sites in the area today are but visited by a couple of passionate (amateur) historians. By the way, the Belgian Yser front route is of an absolute beauty with lots of interesting sites to be visited.

But times are luckily changing.

Impressed by what's happening in Ypres, various projects have now been launched by the Government to make sure 2014 will be the year of countless ceremonies and events around the Great War. Amongst them, a project inspired by the Vietnam memorial in Washington: a wall with all names of the Belgians listed as missing, with no known grave.

So, the whole area for me generates lots of thoughts, emotions and is the perfect link between Belgian and Canadian military history, and of course my connection to the Regiment and its history.

But let's go back to the city

Located in the West Flanders region of Belgium, Ypres is an old city, which became very wealthy in the 13th / 14th centuries due to the textile industry. The Lakenhalle (Cloth Hall), originally constructed between 1260 and 1304, is a majestic building, often used as the symbol for the city. However, how incredible this might seem today when you walk through town, all of the medieval buildings and houses are actually not older than 90 years, all were rebuilt based upon the original plans after WW1. The city had been completely erased.

In fact, after the War, a proposal to preserve the ruins of the town as a memorial to the British and Empire soldiers was put forward. This was then modified to the preservation of just the ruined Cloth Hall and cathedral.

Still, when you see the houses you would think they're original.

The lines of battle in Ypres did not move significantly in more than four years of fighting and absolute destruction is emblematic for the massive slaughter which took place here. The ferocity of the fighting in and

around Ypres enabled mankind to “optimize” battle techniques and warfare at a previously never achieved level in human history, which resulted, amongst others, in the first poison gas attacks by the Germans.

Another example is the Mine Battle of Messines Ridge; fifteen enormous subterranean charges, consisting of 16 tons of explosives, were detonated. At least one of these mines has yet to detonate, and lies unexploded somewhere under the hills of Mesen (Messines). Think about it when you leave your car or tour bus next time you're in the area!

But why did Ypres play such a major role in the overall picture of the First World War? There are many reasons for that. Here are the two major ones:

- Proximity to the channel sea ports which would give the Germans an ideal base for U boat attack;
- Strong symbol: last little piece of Belgium still under Belgian sovereignty, the image of “Brave Little Belgium” was based on the resistance in the area, and became a true symbol of defiance.

The casualties which occurred around Ypres are of a scale which make it impossible to fully realize how much of a slaughter this has been. During the Battle of Passchendaele, the Allies suffered 300,000 casualties, or 35 men for every meter of ground gained. Overall, the four years of fighting in Ypres generated approximately 1 million casualties spread amongst the British, Commonwealth, French, and German armies.

Unreal...and impossible to realize.

But let's go back to the ceremony now.

I arrived in Ypres more than two hours in advance, around 9 am, which I always do so that I can look around and catch up with some people I know.

I knew HRH Princess Mathilde of Belgium would attend the ceremony, which would attract even more people. Roads were indeed jammed by tour buses, most of them coming from the UK, but in addition to that thousands of Belgians were now heading to the center of the city.

I had to park my car in the outskirts of the city and walk for 20 minutes with my wreath to make it to the Cloth Hall. All the way to the center, all I could hear was English with various accents, coming from different regions and countries all over the world.

Though the ceremony would start only 90 minutes later, most of the troops and representations were already forming up next to St. Martin's Cathedral. At 10:45 I joined the parade going alongside the impuissant market place with its famous gabled buildings, all the way up to Menin Gate. (I took a couple of pictures while marching.)

Looking at the crowd, on both sides of the main street, it soon became clear the attendance was way higher than usual (2-3,000 people), and indeed I would find out the next day more than 8,000 (!) people made their way to Menin Gate. Just like every year, a giant screen on the market place would give a chance to the crowd to see the actual broadcast of the service. Indeed, seats under the Menin Gate Arch are strictly reserved for the Association members. Needless to say I'm a full member, renewing my membership every year on behalf of the BCRA and the Regiment.

I must say it is quite an experience to march up all the way, being accompanied by hundreds of musicians and bands.

Finally when I arrived, I looked up my seat, and was glad as I found myself only a few metres away from the panel listing all the missing of 7th Bn. CEF. I was nearby “my” Dukes ...

Dignitaries and representatives from various countries, as well as MilReps (including Germany) arrived shortly afterwards, followed by HRH Princess Mathilde.

The service started with prayers said by representatives from all religions, followed by the usual speeches, and finally the wreath laying part. This part is the longest one of the ceremony and is supported by bands playing traditional and of course the national anthems. An estimated 400 wreaths were to be laid. I decided to wait until the very end. I wanted our wreath to be below the stairs to allow me to take a picture.

Shortly before I was about to lay the wreath, I asked a young, tall lady if she could try to take a picture of me, a quite challenging request looking at the distance and the crowd. When I came back from laying the wreath I found out she was part of a delegation of the IOC, and gold medal winner on one of the last Olympic Games. I thanked her wholeheartedly, she told me she was surprised by my request as most of the time people want a picture of her, and she was not used taking pictures of others she said, jokingly.

I however had no clue who that young lady was!

Anyway, who dares, wins...

Another impressive moment was the end of the ceremony, with thousands of poppies coming down from the top of the Arch and all the music bands marching off.

It took me half an hour to get close to the wreaths, as now the crowd wanted to access Menin Gate, coming from the opposite direction.

I thought it would be a nice picture if I would lay my beret next to the wreath, which almost ended up with seeing it disappear in the crowd trying to close the breach between me and the stairs. Obviously people were showing more interest for the beret than for me, desperately trying to get my job done!

I took the time to chat with some WWII veterans and a couple of people I come across every year. It was not yet time to go though. I had another wreath to lay.

I wanted to salute a famous Duke, buried in the middle of nowhere, lost in Flanders Fields, in a small village called Poperinghe. The only son of Maj. W. Hart-McHarg (Essex Regt.) and Jane Scott Hart-McHarg, of 18, Cambridge Gardens, Hastings, England: Lt Col William Frederick Richard Hart-McHarg.

Standing in front of his grave with the wreath I remembered the odyssey which took him from Kilkenny to Canada, to finally die here in the area, finally not far away from where he was born. I suddenly had to think about all those who walked out of the Drill Hall, through the same gate I walked in and out last summer. Particularly meaningful because of his rank and link with the Regiment, but unfortunately his story was very similar to thousands of others Canadians who now rest here. Each stone tells a different story, often a short one, most of the people buried here didn't even have time or a chance to make plans for the future. But at least they have a known grave.

An estimated 90,000 men disappeared in the mud of Flandersin, an area of approximately 60 square kilometers, and have none.

But their heroism, sacrifice and suffering will never be forgotten. They now rest in Flanders Fields, where I was born, where my generation grew up and made the solemn promise to remember them, for evermore.

Before turning around and walking away, I promised him and the other fallen I'd be back next year.

I also told them the lads on Beatty Street do not forget them....
(Hon) Capt G. Hebbelynck

CANADA AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR – PART III

By: Keith Maxwell

In the first two articles we covered Canada's role in the First World War leading up to the final 100 days of the war, and the Battle of Amiens. Amiens was the definitive turning point of the war – the beginning of the end, and the Canadian Corps played a critical role. Canadian soldiers continued to lead the Imperial effort which finally led to the collapse of the German war effort and victory.

Following the Battle of Amiens, the Canadian Corps was moved thirty kilometres north and formed the spearhead to pierce the Hindenburg Line – a massive defensive installation long considered impregnable. The general thrust of the attack was southeast from Arras, France. They faced three prepared defensive systems spread out over 15 kilometres in front of the main fortifications. The Canadian Corps was about to begin what Currie called, “the hardest battle in history.”

The initial attack went in at 3:00 AM on 26 August and the two lead Divisions quickly penetrated the outer defences with a series of flanking attacks - the advance was rapid and successful. The next day desperate fighting penetrated a second defensive line by early afternoon; however, the advance was slowing. At the end of the second day the two lead Divisions had advanced another three kilometres; they were exhausted and the 2nd Division, in particular, had suffered enormous casualties.

They were still five kilometres short of the Hindenburg Line and Currie made the fateful decision to keep the 2nd and 3rd Divisions in the line for a third successive day. The 2nd Division was unable to advance more than a few hundred metres. Major Georges Vanier, a future Governor General, commanded the VanDoos that day, was wounded and lost a leg. The 2nd Division was so battered that it had to be taken out of the line for more than a month to recuperate.

Next Currie ordered a series of limited, set-piece attacks onto the slopes approaching the main Drocourt-Queant Switch, or D-Q Switch, as the Hindenburg Line was known in this sector.

The Canadian Corps attacked on 2 September 1918 with three Divisions and the Hindenburg Line fell after furious fighting. The First Division advanced rapidly south of the Arras – Cambrai Road and moved into the supporting defences. The two Divisions north of the road had more trouble and were just able to clear the D-Q Switch by late afternoon. The Germans carried out a tactical withdrawal and surrendered all territory west of the Canal du Nord.

The Corps' impressive gains had come at a steep cost – the assault on the D-Q Switch alone added another 5,600 dead and wounded to the casualty list and what Desmond Morton and Jack Granatstein have described as “near annihilation for the 10 battalions that bore the brunt of the attack”.

The breaking of the Hindenburg Line was stunning and seven Canadians would receive the Victoria Cross for their valour that day. Three were from British Columbia Battalions – Private Rayfield of the 7th (1st BC) Battalion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Peck and Private Metcalf from the 16th (Canadian Scottish) Battalion.

Currie next planned the attack across a dry sector of the Canal du Nord for late September. The location is shown on this map. Currie planned to move three Divisions across that narrow defile in rapid succession covered by a massive barrage. When Haig learned of the plan he got cold feet – he knew that Lloyd George was looking for an excuse to replace him, and heavy casualties in his best Corps would provide the Prime Minister with the pretext. He sent General Byng to examine the plan. Byng had a great deal of confidence in Currie and pronounced the plan sound.

At 5:20 AM on 27 September, 4th Division stormed across the Canal straight ahead to Bourlon Wood, a prominent rise three kilometres to their front. The 1st Division wheeled left and spread out like a fan. The advance was like clockwork. Bourlon Wood was taken by 12th Brigade with the 102nd (North BC) Battalion on the Corps right flank.

In the process Lieutenant Graham Lyall of the 102nd Battalion won the Victoria Cross for gallant leadership in the taking of Bourlon Wood. Lieutenant Lyall was a native of Manchester, England and immigrated to Canada as a young man. He settled in Saint Catherines, Ontario and joined the 19th Lincoln Regiment at the outbreak of the war. He joined the 81st Battalion CEF in 1915, proceeded to England in 1916 and was assigned to the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles that summer. He was commissioned following the Battle of Vimy Ridge and assigned to the 102nd (North BC) Battalion CEF. He remained in the United Kingdom following the First World War and settled in Scotland, taking employment as a construction engineer. He died as a Colonel on active service in North Africa in November 1941. At the time of his death he was commanding lines of communications troops for the British Army.

The next day another British Columbian, Captain John McGregor of Powell River, received the Victoria Cross for his gallant leadership as a company commander in the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, now the BC Dragoons. He led a group of men to take out a series of machine gun nests, and was wounded in the process. Captain McGregor was the most decorated Canadian soldier of the war, he received four decorations for gallantry - in addition to the VC he was awarded the DCM and the Military Cross twice.

The advance continued the next day and bogged down as the Germans reinforced and supply lines became tenuous. The Corps had to clear another defensive line in front the City of Cambrai, a major railroad centre. 2nd Division was placed in the lead on 10 October to outflank Cambrai to the north. Troops entered the city, as depicted in this famous painting, and the Germans were thrown into full retreat.

The Corps had carried out the most intense campaign of any formation of its size in the war. From 26 August to 11 October the Canadian Corps advanced 45 kilometres, suffered 30,000 casualties, took 15,000 prisoners, inflicted more than 50,000 casualties and captured more than 300 German artillery pieces; they also broke the strongest German defences on the Western Front.

The Corps had little time to rest; they shifted north and advanced east toward the border city Valenciennes, capturing it on 2 November. That action resulted in the last Canadian Victoria Cross of the war – Sgt Hugh Cairns of the 46th Battalion single-handedly attacked a series of German machine gun emplacements, knocking them all out. He was subsequently killed by a German officer who shot Sgt Cairns after surrendering under cover of a white flag. There were no survivors from the group of German soldiers surrendering with him.

For the next eight days the Canadian Corps pursued the retreating German army relentlessly, arriving in the outskirts of the Belgian city of Mons on 10 November. As they continued to advance they got word of the armistice, with the message arriving at the Canadian Corps Headquarters around 6:30 AM while Currie was in his bath! By 9:00 AM all the troops had received the word – the armistice would go into effect at 11:00 AM; in the mean time they were to stop the advance, get into a protected defensive position, maintain tactical security and wait. After the armistice, the soldiers were instructed to maintain security, not to fraternize with the Germans, and not engage them unless attacked.

Private George Price of the 28th (Northwest) Battalion, a young conscript from Saskatchewan, and four friends got tired of waiting as they huddled in a ditch. They crossed a small bridge over a canal in the eastern fringes of the Belgian town of Havre – about 5 kilometres east of Mons. They moved into a house and, when Private Price decided to take a look out the front door, a German sniper shot him in the chest. He died almost immediately. It was 10:58 AM on 11 November 1918.

Private Price was the last soldier of the Empire to die in the war. He is buried at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in St Symphorien, some four kilometres west of where he died. In the same cemetery lies the first British soldiers killed in the war in the First Battle of Mons on 21 August 1914. They had come full circle.

50 years later George Price's friends returned to the site of the tragedy and built a small memorial with a brass plaque in his memory. The village of Ville-sur-Haine now uses that Memorial for their annual Remembrance Day ceremony.

The plaque reads: "To the memory of Private George Lawrence Price, 28th North West battalion, 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division. Killed in action near this spot, at 10:58 hours, November 11th, 1918. The last Canadian soldier to die on the Western Front in the First World War. Erected by his comrades, November 11th, 1968."

That afternoon the Canadians paraded into the main square of Mons, led by the Black Watch Pipe Band.

In the entry way to their City Hall, seen in the centre background of this painting, the citizens of Mons put up a bronze plaque – it says, "Mons was recaptured by the Canadian Corps on 11th November 1918. After 50 months of German occupation, freedom was restored to the City. Here was fired the last shot of the Great war."

The battles of the last 100 days of the Great War were an abrupt departure from what had been experienced up to that point. Overnight, siege warfare became manoeuvre warfare. The consolidation of command under Foch gave focus to the Allies' strategy.

The Corps – at every level from Corps HQ to rifle section – benefited from the collective experience of three and one half years of war. It was a Darwinian process – the most capable of those who survived became the commanders, leaders, trainers, and staff officers in the last 100 days. The Corps ran its own effective training system, and they were fortunate to have superb leadership, with Currie at the apex.

Changes to the organization helped the transition to manoeuvre immensely. They used aerial reconnaissance, tactical radio communications, motor transport in large numbers, armour-infantry cooperation, updated and accurate artillery techniques, and an effective staff system to coordinate all of these capabilities. It looked more like the Second World War than the First.

Very importantly, the Corps had a steady, reliable source of manpower to replace the soldiers lost at the very high casualty rate suffered in the last 100 Days. These conscripts were, by policy, treated no different from volunteers, though I am sure they still experienced some petty harassment. In any case, they were well trained and ready for combat when they went to their fighting units.

Finally, the Corps had the strong advantage of knowing they could not lose; the Germans were fought out and the Americans were coming!

The accomplishments of the Corps were remarkable. They can only be comprehended in comparison to other significant achievements. With one sixth the strength of the American Army, the Canadian Corps sustained offensive operations over a longer period of time and captured significantly more territory. They defeated more divisions, took twice as many prisoners, and captured more guns. All this at a casualty rate less than half that experienced by the American Army.

These are Currie's figures and they have stood up to academic analysis and examination.

However, not everything was rosy. Conscription divided Canada in a way that still affects us. The Corps experienced almost a quarter of its casualties for the entire war in the last 100 days, and that rate was

particularly high on the newly arrived conscripts. No historian has yet had the ambition to research 600,000 personnel records to get an accurate count, but at least two thousand conscripts were killed and many more wounded.

As a measure of the ferocity of the fighting in that period, almost a third of the Victoria Crosses earned by Canadian soldiers in the war were from the fighting in the last 100 days.

Currie was a superb commander but he was not infallible. He could be vain, short tempered and occasionally arrogant and bombastic. Though one of the best commanders in the war, his egotism was not an attractive attribute. He was paranoid that the Canadians in England were plotting against him at every turn – it wasn't true. With all his faults, he was a superb soldier and general.

Borden returned at the end of the war and insisted on participating in the negotiations to draft the Treaty of Versailles. In order of influence, the French, the British and the Americans tolerated the Canadian presence but the delegation didn't have much influence. Borden insisted that Canada sign the Peace Treaty. The Americans objected – they saw it as just so much more British influence. Borden used the argument that Canada had more men in cemeteries than some countries had put into the field. If those countries could sign, Canada could sign. The Americans couldn't argue the point, as they had experienced fewer battle casualties than Canada or Australia. In the end, Canada signed below the United Kingdom, but the signature line was indented. Empires, new and old, never cease to amaze!

The Treaty imposed crippling penalties on Germany – that country was forced to dedicate an enormous portion of its wealth and its industrial capacity to meet the terms of the treaty, resulting in widespread hardship and resentment in Germany. It also led to the final phase of the Second Thirty Years War.

Canada's most traumatic and defining war had ended. The British Army had won the war in the field, and the Canadian Corps contributed to that victory in a very significant way. The accomplishments of the Corps won Canada an independent seat at the table when it came to negotiating the peace. Canada entered the war as an autonomous colony of the British Empire; by the time it ended Canada was – both in theory and in practice - an independent, loyal member of the Empire as it evolved into a Commonwealth of Nations. Our national evolution and history accelerated rapidly between 1914 and 1918.

Our country was shaped enormously by the Great War, from the suffering of the soldiers to the political independence of our constitution. It was a nation building experience and it defined the Canada we know today. Though the young Mother Canada at Vimy still grieves for her lost sons, the war gave us the country we know and love.

THE START LINE

By: David Sproule

CHRISTMAS, ALWAYS A REMINDER OF THE GOOD THINGS

December is the time of year when we think about others as Christmas Day approaches. It is a time when giving is more important than receiving and kindness trumps self. We look forward to the postman's visit daily as Christmas cards from across Canada and overseas bring news from those friends and family that we have connected with through our many postings across Canada. We are thankful and joyful for their greetings and that they remain loyal friends across time and space.

As most of you know from reading my "Start Line" articles, I was a Reconnaissance Squadron troop leader many years ago. Not only is "time spent in reconnaissance never wasted" for me it is not forgotten. Christmas is when I remember our time with the United Nations and it is also a time when I maintain contact with the dwindling roster of the members of First Troop of the RCD, Recce Squadron. We are now all men

in our 70's and a few in their 80's but at Christmas we remember how fortunate we were to have served together and we care enough to keep in touch if only at Christmas. Thanks fellas for that and let's keep it going until the "last man standing."

We have such great traditions in our regiments and how we remember our history and the blood, sweat and tears of the men and women that have forged our units. All across the country, regiments will be celebrating as we "Dukes" celebrate with activities such as Santa Duke and the Soldiers' Christmas Dinner. There is a common thread that unites us all and whether we are in Kandahar, Kabul, Gagetown or Vancouver time will always be taken to celebrate the things that matter most in life - family, faith, hearth and home.

Last week I attended the Association's annual Christmas fundraising lunch and it was very well attended and from what I observed a successful event - the aim was achieved. Monies have been raised that will permit the Association to continue with its program of assisting the Regiment, its soldiers, our cadets and the broader community. Whether serving or retired, we are all Dukes and I can't think of a prouder thing to be. I would like to wish all Dukes and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

By: Pat Connell



On parade, 11 November 2011

The Pipe Band, since the change of command parade on September 11th, has spent the fall in intensive training on both new and old tunes.

The Band has added a new Piper and a new side drummer, both of whom are very qualified in their respective areas.

The band participated in a number of events notably the "Salute to Veterans" at the Lions Game half time on November 5th, which saw the band on parade with 28 members. Being the largest Pipe Band there and the only Army attached Pipe Band we took the right flank and with the BCR Brass Band merging in between our ranks we boosted 7 across and 7 down for a very large BCR Contingent that night and we are proud to say the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums had the largest Pipe Band on parade that evening.

Following closely on this successful event we had our Pipe Major Alistair Pattison and Director of Music Jordan Seguin at the BCR Association dinner on November 10th, to parade in the CO and the Brigade Commander respectively.

November 11th, saw the band in full turnout as we were honoured that day to lead the Regiment to Victory Square for the Remembrance Day Ceremonies and then lead them in parade past the Reviewing Stand and back to the Drill Hall. The band then moved on to entertain Veterans and their families and friends at Royal Canadian Legions 30, 142, 118, 114 & 148, making for an extremely long but satisfying day in Honour of our Veterans and Serving Members in both the Regular and Reserve Forces.

November 12th, saw a mini band attend at the Sikh Darbur Temple in Surrey for a special Remembrance Day Service along with members from HMCS Algonquin.

The band held its annual AGM & Christmas Party on December 6th, and were honoured with attendance from the CO, Lt. Colonel Harj Sajjan, and Band Officer Capt. Greg McCullough. Further attendees of note were Deputy Brigade Commander Lt. Colonel Romano Acconci and Lt. Colonel Jim Barrett also from Brigade HQ.

The BCR Irish Pipes & Drums wish all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and looks forward to another successful year in 2012.

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 the CO's Parade at approximately 9:00 p.m. Look for further details in future email communications.

128TH BIRTHDAY



The Regiment's 128th Birthday was very well observed by the Regiment and the Regimental Family on Wednesday, 12 October 2011! The "formal" event took place during the break on the regular parade night.

Two slab birthday cakes, appropriately decorated, were carried onto the parade square by the President and Vice President of the Regimental Association. WO Alistair Pattison, Pipe Major, lead the procession with Pat Connell, President of the Irish Pipes and Drums, in support.

The Commanding Officer, LCol H.S. Sajjan, delivered a brief address to all of his soldiers formed up in an open square. We were all reminded of the history of our great Regiment and the formidable commitment of our serving members and what each soldier represents. The CO graciously asked us to say a few words to those assembled which we were more than pleased to do.

The cakes were officially cut with a multi-purpose cavalry sabre by an honoured trooper and then further cut and served by members of the Regimental Association. All was enthusiastically received by our serving members.

What a great few moments to remember the greater meaning of the Regiment's Birthday!

Many thanks to the CO and the Regiment for a very fine evening. We will see you all once again at the Regiment's Birthday next year!



ARCHDIOCESE PRESENTATION



L to R: Andy Conradi, Frances Cabahug, Scott Small, Archbishop Miller, Ray Glover, Capt. Yauck, Colonel Sajjan and Ted Hawthorne

We are most pleased to report that we attended at the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver at 150 Robson Street on Thursday, 13 October 2011 and presented his Grace, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB, with a Regimental Plaque in recognition of the tremendous support for the Homeless Dinner Program given by the Archdiocese to the Regiment and the Regimental Association over these many years. Past President Ray Glover, the Chairman of the Homeless Dinner Committee for so many years, presented the plaque to his Grace and Ted read the citation. Also in attendance from the Archdiocese was Scott Small, Archdiocesan Liaison and Manager of the Catholic Charities Men's Hostel, and Frances Cabahug, Assistant Manager, the Door is Open DTES Drop in Centre. On the Regiment and Regimental Family side, those who attended the ceremony were the CO, LCol Harjit Sajjan, the BCR 2290 Cadet Corps CO, Capt Leah

Yauck, director Andy Conradi and President Ted Hawthorne. It truly was a great experience for us all. Again, many thanks to the Archdiocese for their years of support!

The above photograph is compliments of Brent Mattson of The BC Catholic (published in the 24 October 2011 edition of The BC Catholic at page 3).

RCL VEDDER CROSSING BRANCH #280

We are pleased to report that we received a visit from the Vedder Crossing Branch #280 of the Royal Canadian Legion at The Drill Hall on Tuesday, 1 November 2011. The Branch was represented by President Tom Quirke, Sgt at Arms Walter Webster, Walter Georgeson and Monica Meusse.

President Quirke presented the Victory Medal of Pte. William Christian, 7 Bn, CEF and archive material to us in the Officers' Mess. The Regimental Association was represented by President Ted Hawthorne, Secretary Treasurer Jerry Couling and President Emeritus Archie Steacy. The Victory Medal will be displayed with those medals of Pte. Christian's comrades in arms in the Regimental Museum.

Ted Hawthorne presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Branch in recognition of their support.

Our guests were provided with a thorough tour of The Drill Hall, including the Officers' Mess, WOs' and Sgts' Mess, the Regimental Museum, the Memorial Wall and the many excellent display cabinets on the drill square. Needless to say, our guests were very impressed with the entire tour.

Many thanks to our new friends from Vedder Crossing for a great visit and most enjoyable time!



Walter Webster, Walter Georgeson, Tom Quirke, Ted Hawthorne, Archie Steacy and Jerry Couling

180194 Pte W Christian

This story started a few years ago. A unknown man came into the Branch and asked to see somebody about a medal. I was called and he handed me a medal without a ribbon, What is it he asked me, I explained it was a WW1 Victory Medal, has it any value he asked, I explained that it had no monetary value but had historical value. After a long pause he said you guys keep it. I asked where did you get it, from a guy at a gas bar, I paid \$50.00.

I went to the RCMP to see if it was stolen, they had no record of the medal.

Engraved on the rim was Pte Christian 7th Battalion. The National Archives were most helpful and sent me a copy of Pte Christian's enlistment documents. At that time Pte Christian began to come to life.

William Christian was born 19th May 1895 in Liverpool England, to parents Wm & E J Christian of Liverpool England. The family came to Canada, and settled in Errington BC, he worked as a rancher. He enlisted in the 88th Battalion Victoria Fusiliers 1 Nov 1915, 5ft 4in, fair complexion, green eyes, brown Hair. Sgt E Tucker was the enlisting NCO in Victoria. He trained at Valcartier and went to France and served with A Company, 7th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division. The war diary of the 7th Battalion shows him being wounded on the 15th Feb and dying on the 16 Feb 1918. Bill is interned in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Barlin Communal Cemetery and remembered on page 384 of the Book of Remembrance in Ottawa.

Bill was almost certainly at the Battle of Vimy, and endured the horrors of trench warfare for a long time. It was impossible to trace the family,

Bills medal is displayed in our Medal Case, when you look at it remember a young man of 23 who gave his life for Canada. It's fitting that Pte W Christian`s story should be told as the Branch remembers the sacrifice of our Veterans on Vimy Day Parade 9 April 2011.

Tom Quirke, President

CO'S PARADE 2 November 2011



Regimental Association Members with Colonel Sajjan and RSM Taylor

We are pleased to report that it was a very busy evening at the Drill Hall last Wednesday with the Regimental Association's open board of directors' meeting at 7:30 pm and the first CO's Parade for our new CO, LCol Harjit S. Sajjan. The impressive schedule included promotions (Regimental and the Pipes & Drums), awarding of a bar to his GCS ("Afghanistan Medal") to WO Tony Harris, second bar to his CD for Capt. Don Bentley, swearing in of six new recruits and the Appointment of Lynda Steacy as an Honorary Captain in the Regiment in recognition of her 44 years of service to the Regiment and the Regimental Family. Congratulations to all recipients on such a remarkable evening. Many thanks to the CO and the RSM for including us in such a memorable evening!!

REMEMBRANCE – VANCOUVER POST OFFICE



L to R: Bugle Major More, Jim Bain, Tom Cottingham,
Ted Hawthorne, John Yorke and Bruce Holvick

The Regimental Association was invited to participate in the annual ceremony of Remembrance held at the Main Post office in Vancouver on 10 November 2011 at 11:00 am. Ted Hawthorne attended and represented the Regimental Association.

Jim Bain, President of the Vancouver-Fraser Heritage Club, conducted the ceremony which was very well attended. Five sailors from the Russian Federation Missile Cruiser “Varyag” from Vladivostok (the first such visit in 35 years by a Russian war ship) showed up unexpectedly and were greeted and made to feel very welcome by all.

Ted Hawthorne presented a brief historical sketch to the attendees of two of our Fallen who were former employees of the Post Office, namely Pte. Frank Edward Carr and Pte. Alexander Filmore Quinn, both members of 7 Bn, C.E.F. Many thanks to our Keith Maxwell for providing the necessary research and final script. The name of each Fallen member (19 in total) was read out by individual attendees. Posters of each of the Fallen were prominently displayed at the ceremony. Bugle Major John More performed very well in playing The Last Post and Reveille. The ceremony was concluded by Jim Bain reciting the Act of Remembrance.

Many thanks to Jim Bain for the invitation and to Canada Post for their hospitality. It was a pleasure to attend this ceremony and an honour for the Regimental Association to be asked to play such a prominent role.

Photographs of the event will be posted on Face Book (including the Russian sailors, the refurbished/relocated plaque and invited guests). In the above photograph you will note former 6 DCOR, D-Day Veteran Tpr. John Yorke, 1st Hussars. Also shown is Major (R) Tom Cottingham, PPCLI, and Bruce Holvick, 12th Field Ambulance.

We will remember them!

ANNUAL REUNION (10 NOVEMBER 2011)

Well....another great Reunion Dinner has come and gone! Our change of venue was very well received by our members. The Sandman Inn's room rate was very popular and the service and the dinner (served in reverse order thanks to our creative MC Bill Diamond) in Moxie's Ballroom was excellent.

Our special guests for the evening included the Commander of 39 CBG, Colonel Bryan Gagne, Honorary Colonel Bob Stanley, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, LCol Harj Sajjan, LCol Jim Barrett, 39 CBG, BGen (R) Peter Kilby, Don Cameron (28 Arm'd BCR) and Ted Weddell (28 Arm'd BCR), his wife Betty, together with their family, Sheila, Michael, Dianne, Christopher, Tanis and Carla.

Colonel Gagne provided us with an update of the State of 39 CBG and LCol Sajjan delivered a State of the Regiment sitrep. Many thanks to both gentlemen for their excellent presentations and support of the Regimental Association.

Bill Diamond also recognized the spouses of our serving member guests and spouses of all Past Presidents and the current President of the Regimental Association. Many thanks to Bill for that very kind gesture. Pat Connell was also recognized for his attendance and arrangements for the CO's Piper, Pipe Major Alistair Patterson and the Commander's Piper, Jordan Seguin, the Pipe Band Director.

Presentations were made to Past President Ray Glover, Bugle Major John More and to Heather Arden on behalf of CWO Mark Arden, MMM, CD, who was out of town (see attached photographs).

We adjourned in time for a night cap and a few good stories and retired in good time for the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph at Victory Square.

Our many thanks to all who attended the Reunion Dinner, Lynda and Gayle for set up and table decorations, Archie for providing the transportation for our two 28Arm'd BCR veterans to and from Kamloops and creating the excellent table ID cards with the names and bios of several of our Hill 111 Fallen, Dan and Ellen for reception duties, Dan for video, the directors for all draw prizes, Georges Couling for the microphone and Bill Diamond for such an excellent job of planning the event and acting as MC. A great job by all!

Please visit Facebook for some additional photographs.



President Ted Hawthorne and
Past President Ray Glover



Bugle Major John More and Ted Hawthorne



Heather Arden and Ted Hawthorne

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY - THE CENOTAPH AT VICTORY SQUARE

Many thanks to our Right Marker LCol (R) Dave Sproule and all members who joined us. Our special thanks to the BCR Brass Band lead by our very good friend and colleague Major (R) Ken Whitney. The band did an excellent job in leading us, especially on the march past! Our congratulations and best wishes to our 28th Armoured BCR Veterans Capt (R) Ted Weddell, assisted by LCol (R) Archie Steacy, who layed the wreath for the Veterans of the Canadian Army, and Sgt (R) Don Cameron, assisted by Sgt (R) Tom Lyth, who layed the wreath for the Regimental Association. Many thanks to Archie for providing the transportation to and from Kamloops so Ted and Don could attend. Also, our congratulations to Cam Cathcart and his Committee for another excellent Remembrance Day Service.

Upon the Regiment's return to The Drill Hall, lead by the Irish Pipes & Drums, I had the honour of delivering the traditional toast to the Fallen and the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Col (R) Bob Stanley, gave the toast to the Regiment. Meats pies were then served to all participants compliments of the Regimental Association. It was truly a family affair and makes you proud to be a Duke.

Next stop...The Junior Ranks Mess where I was cordially greeted by the VPMC and PMC, delivered a congratulatory message from the Regimental Association and bought the traditional round for our soldiers. They are indeed a great group of young people and we are very proud of them all!!

CANADA HOUSE, BERNIÈRES SUR MER, JUNO BEACH, NORMANDY

Gauthier Hebbelynck's report:

Dear Ted,

Attached a couple of pictures taken at Canada House, Bernières sur Mer, Juno Beach, Normandy earlier this month. On my last visit to the House I was made once again very welcome by Nicole and Hervé Hoffer. Their house is believed to be the first House liberated by Canadian Troops on D-day.

Hervé and Nicole Hoffer have been welcoming thousands of Canadian visitors over the last decades and always have time for a coffee or drinks.

Remembrance ceremonies wouldn't be what they are without their strong support and commitment.

Hence, I was very proud to present them with a Regimental Association plaque on my last visit.

All Dukes on their next trip to Europe will be most welcome and they're looking forward to have a delegation of the Association visit the House in August!

Gauthier



Presentation by Gauthier to Nicole and Hervé Hoffner



Hervé and Gauthier at "Canada House"

BOOK LAUNCH

The official Book Launch of Swift & Strong, A Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) was held in the Officers' Mess on 23 November 2011. Cam Cathcart was the MC of the event and gave the introduction. We were given special background information from three of the four authors, namely, WO Ron Leblanc, Keith Maxwell and SSM Dwayne Snow. The CO, LCol Harj Sajjan, greeted the attendees and made a special presentation of the book to the City of Vancouver Archives. Special guest, Colonel Bryan Gagne, Commander of 39 CBG, was also in attendance. It was a very memorable occasion for all who attended.

On behalf of the Regimental Association, congratulations for a great book launch.



Cam Cathcart, Master of Ceremony



L to R: Authors Keith Maxwell, Ron Leblanc and Dwayne Snow

CFL ALUMNI LEGENDS LUNCHEON

We would like to share a great photo taken at the recent CFL Alumni Legends Luncheon held at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel on November 25th last. The luncheon was sponsored by the CFL Alumni Association and the PPCLI Foundation. The Regiment and the Regimental Family were very prominent at this event.

Congratulations to the Irish Pipes and Drums for their excellent work (piping in the guard and the Grey Cup and performing an excellent rendition of "Amazing Grace"!!) and to our Regimental Guard. Many thanks to the CO, LCol Harjit Sajjan, for including us in this great experience.



The Grey Cup with our serving members and members of The Irish Pipes and Drums

INVESTITURE CEREMONY Rideau Hall – December 2, 2011

It is our very great pleasure to include these excellent photographs of our serving members, CWO Mark Arden, MMM, CD and WO Ron Leblanc, MMM, CD, who were presented with their medals as Members of the Order of Military Merit by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief at the investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall on 2 December 2011. The Governor General is the chancellor of the Order.

On behalf of the Regimental Association, congratulations to Mark and Ron for this well-deserved honour and for their extraordinary service to this great country and to the Regiment. We all are extremely proud of you and your dedicated service.

Up the Dukes!



Above: CWO Mark Arden, Right Honourable David Johnston and WO Ron Leblanc
Below: WO Ron Leblanc and Right Honourable David Johnston



Mrs. Heather Arden, CWO Mark Arden, GG David Johnston, WO Ron Leblanc and Mrs. Tami Leblanc

FUNDRAISER

December 8, 2011

We are pleased to report that our annual fundraiser was a tremendous success! Every aspect of the fundraiser exceeded our prior experiences from the largest attendance so far (110 plus), cash donations, draw tickets, silent auction bidding to the net proceeds realized from the sale of luncheon tickets. Needless to say, we all had a great time!

Please visit our Face Book for additional photographs in addition to the one shown.

Many thanks to all of you who supported this event. Your generosity enables us to deliver the many programs developed by the Regimental Association and its Charitable Trust to our members of the Regiment, our four Cadet Corps and the community we serve. Further reports on the specifics of those programs will follow in due course (i.e. bursaries, Cadet Corps development, and further initiatives with our partners, Catholic Charities and The Salvation Army).



Super attendance and an excellent silent auction were elements of this most successful event.

CO'S PARADE

December 14, 2011

Once again, we are pleased to report that the evening of the CO's Parade and Samson Night held at The Drill Hall on 14 December 2011 was a very busy time and a most enjoyable experience for the Regimental Association. It has been quite hectic this fall for the Regiment and the Regimental Association and this fact was reflected at the stand-down parade.

We started off the evening with our open meeting of the Board of Directors and Trustees. A considerable amount of business was discussed at these meetings as all will attest. Immediately thereafter, we were seated as guests on the parade square.

First of all, the CO, LCol Harj Sajjan, presented the sixteen graduates of the DP1 Course with their new BCR Hat Badge and Regimental rank/insignia slip on and welcomed all graduate Troopers as members of the Regiment. The new Troopers are a fine looking group and the Regimental Association congratulates them and welcomes them to the Regimental Family.

Secondly, the CO presented two first bars to the General Campaign Star (“GCS”) (“Afghanistan Service Medal”) to MCpl Callejo and Cpl Gallen. A second bar to the GCS was also presented by the CO to WO Brown. Congratulations to all recipients for their excellent service. We are all very proud of you.

Thirdly, the CO announced some of the forthcoming events for 2012, namely, the Hockey Heroes Challenge Program (1 and 3 February 2012), the 2012 Regimental Battlefield Tour (5-14 August 2012), Adventure Training and Cougar Salvo in April/May. Further details will be published in due course.

Fourthly, the Regimental Association announced the award of six bursaries to serving members of the Regiment pursuant to the Charitable Trust’s 2011 Bursary Program. The following recipients will each receive a certificate and a cheque for \$1,095.00:

1. Cpl. Andrew Siwy – The Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary;
2. Tpr. Ashley Lewis – The Lieutenant William H. Bicknell Memorial Bursary;
3. Cpl. James Alexander – The Sergeant (R) Donald N. Cameron Bursary;
4. Cpl. Andrew Quong – The Private Michael James O’Rourke, VC, MM Memorial Bursary;
5. 2Lt. Jennifer Matheson – The Captain Edward Donald Bellew, VC Memorial Bursary; and
6. Cpl. Lawrence Cheung – The Sergeant Major Robert Hill Hanna, VC Memorial Bursary.

Congratulations to all recipients and keep up the good work!



Our Bursary Recipients (L to R) Cpl. Alexander, Cpl. Quong, Cpl. Siwy and 2Lt. Matheson

Last of all, the CO asked us to say a few final words. We took the opportunity to remind all members of the Regiment and the Regimental Association of the Junior Ranks’ initiative to support a Christmas Food Bank Drive. We advised that Regimental Association Director Kim Bekesinski would lead the initiative and coordinate the delivery of goods to our Homeless Dinner partners and colleagues at Catholic Charities on Robson and The Salvation Army (Belkin House). Many thanks to the Regiment, Cadets and our members for supporting this worthy project. Many thanks to Kim for his good work in managing this undertaking.

In conclusion, it was a great evening enjoyed by us all. Many thanks to the CO and RSM for their hospitality and for inviting us to be a part of this event.

Please refer to our Facebook for further photographs of the CO’s Parade.

2011 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We are pleased to report that our continuation of a modified Homeless Dinner Program has been very successful and has been executed as follows:

1. **Turkey Delivery – Catholic Charities on Robson** – On December 14th last, Andy Conradi delivered the turkeys purchased by the Regimental Association to our Homeless Dinner Partner and Colleague, Catholic Charities, in support of their programs conducted in our immediate community;



Turkey delivery to Catholic Charities on 14 December 2011

2. **Turkey Delivery – The Salvation Army** – on December 19th last, our group, including OPI Kim Bekesinski, Andy Conradi and Archie Steacy, delivered turkeys donated by Jim Peach and his wife from Duncan, B.C., to our Homeless Dinner Partner and Colleague, The Salvation Army (Belkin House), in support of their programs carried on at Belkin House;

3. **2011 Food Bank Drive** – This initiative, originating from the Junior Ranks' Mess of the Regiment, with the support of the Regiment, Cadets and the Regimental Association, collected a considerable amount of canned goods and non-perishables for food bank distribution by Catholic Charities and The Salvation Army (Belkin House). Andy Conradi and two Regimental volunteers (MCpl Booth and Cpl Chan) separated the collection of donations into two equal shares and proceeded with their deliveries to Catholic Charities and to the Salvation Army with Kim Bekesinski and Archie Steacy; and

4. **Bosa Foods Donation** – Arrangements are now underway for the delivery of six pallets of food product generously donated by Bosa Foods of Vancouver to our Catholic Charities and Salvation Army contacts. Many thanks to Tpr Canavan and MCpl Callejo for their excellent work in making this happen!

The Regimental Association would also like to thank the many generous donors (cash and goods) for their excellent support of the 2011 Food Bank Drive. We also thank and acknowledge the great work of our partners, Catholic Charities, represented by our good friend Scott Small and his team, and The Salvation Army (Belkin House), represented by our good friend Capt Jim Coogles and his team. In addition, we acknowledge the great job done by Kim Bekesinski, OPI and his proactive assistants, Andy Conradi and Archie Steacy. Many thanks to the Junior Ranks' Mess for their initiative and enthusiasm. A job well done!

Please check out our Face Book for further photographs.



Delivery of food to the Pastoral Centre (L to R): Tpr Chan and MCpl Booth (of The British Columbia Regiment), Andrew Conradi, Kim Bekesinski and Scott Small. Photo courtesy of Brent Mattson



The Salvation Army – Belkin House - delivery

COMING EVENTS

January 1st	Levee
January 4th	CO's Parade and Samson Night (8:30 p.m.) Stand To
January 19th	BCR Luncheon (11:45 a.m.)
February 1st	Heroes Hockey Challenge Gala Dinner
February 3rd	Heroes Hockey Challenge Game
February 23rd	BCR Luncheon (11:45 a.m.)
February 26th	Paardeberg Mess Dinner
March 7th	CO's Parade and Samson Night (8:30 p.m.)
March 29th	BCR Luncheon (11:45 a.m.)
April 13th / 14th	Vancouver Military Studies Conference
April 14th	St. Julien Mess Dinner
April 26th	BCR Luncheon (11:45 a.m.)

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 Ray Glover – Past-President	Kim Bekesinski Andy Conradi Jerry Couling Bill Diamond Ray Glover Ted Hawthorne Archie Steacy Graydon Young	Archie Steacy – Editor Ted Hawthorne – Publisher

IN THE HOSPITAL / ON THE MEND

Thankfully no reports! Best wishes from all ranks BCR.

ASSOCIATION SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Association continues to support, through its Charitable Trust, various annual initiatives such as our Bursary Program for serving members of the Regiment and our 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.

DUKE'S DEN (A special report from the Friends of HMCS Vancouver)

Here are some photos from HMCS Vancouver. It would appear that MCpl Duke A Bear is integrating well with the crew from sitting in the Captains seat to participating with the boarding party as well as chopping tomatoes.

Who ever said you can't take an Army Guy out of the bush. I am still looking forward to seeing MCpl Bear in full Navy whites. I've been told they are having a difficult time finding a Sailor of similar physical stature to lend the MCpl some whites.

For any of you Army guys out there, what are the minimum height requirements to join the Army?

Regards, Mark Zwanski
Chair "Friends of Vancouver"





ASLEEP

D123038 Trooper Norman Kipnis served with the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC during World War II. He passed away in Kamloops, B.C. on 22 October 2011 in his 89th year. Norman, wife Pamela, daughter Wendy, sons Evan and Christopher resided in Newfoundland and latterly in Kamloops, B.C.

K66782 Trooper Malcom G. Land served with the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC during World War II. He passed away in Vernon, B.C. on 9 November 2011, in his 88th year. Mal, wife Laverne and son Glenn resided in Vernon, B.C.

Sixty-seven years ago, 14 September 1944 to 30 March 1945, while fighting in offensive battles of the Scheldt, the Maas and the Rhineland; the Regiment suffered the loss of thirty Dukes:



Lieutenant John T. Scudamore; Lieutenant Ralph B. St. George Smyth;
K37627 Sergeant William H. Clendinning, MM; Sergeant Nigel Coombs;
K73556 Sergeant Roy V. Dickson; B53779 Sergeant Victor L. Panes;
M1058 Corporal Walter Taylor; K74667 Corporal Walter P. Wysoski;
K74655 Lance Corporal John Miller; K74697 Lance Corporal Alfred Saunders;
D76571 Trooper Grant E. Almond; B136535 Trooper Douglas J. Bovair;
D27218 Trooper Donald Crawshaw; D77618 Trooper John J. Finnigan;
K37920 Trooper George A. Francis; G23730 Joseph A. Goulette;
L36515 Trooper Henry J. Hayman; C121185 Trooper John H. Hardy;
F65109 Trooper John J. Higney; K45356 Trooper Harold Ilingworth;
M106823 Trooper Leon Jouan; B62183 Trooper John J. Kendall;
K37671 Trooper Reynold D. Kenschuk; K37671 Trooper James L. Levers;
K68573 Trooper Lewis E. Marinello; C102995 John F. McManus;
K37706 Trooper Evander D. Rogers; B14566 Trooper Charles H. Sharrard;
D76725 Trooper John K. Somerville; and B76314 Trooper Stanley V. Taylor.

They gave their lives in the liberation of northwest Europe for the preservation of freedom.
Think not only upon their passing, but remember the glory of their spirit.
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.