



# The Duke

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

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BCR Association Marching Contingent in the Vancouver Veterans Parade on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2009. Photo by Bill Diamond.

Remembrance Day – 11 November 2009.

The marching contingent of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) RCAC Association, at the conclusion of the Remembrance Day Ceremony, parading west on Hastings Street to the Reviewing Stand. Twenty-one Dukes strong, the smallest number since the end of World War II.

Sergeant (Ret'd) Donald N. Cameron, 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (BCR) and Vice-President Ted Hawthorne laid a wreath commemorating the Regiment's Fallen.

## 7 & 11 - A Time for Remembrance

The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Association Annual Reunion Dinner took place at the Delta Suites Hotel in Vancouver on Saturday, 7 November 2009. There was a good turn-out, and by all accounts was an enjoyable evening for everyone.

This year there were some special guests. President Emeritus Archie Steacy has been dialoguing with Lt Col and Major Worthington's sister, Elizabeth (Betty) Findlay and her daughter Katy and son-in-law Dave Findlay-Jackson. Invitations to attend the reunion dinner were extended, but only Katy and Dave were able to attend. Katy and Dave were seated next to WW II Veteran, Sgt (Ret'd) Don Cameron providing an opportunity for Katy to learn about her uncles and their service with the Regiment.



During conversation over dinner it was noted that Katy's mother and father enjoyed red wine, so the Association sent Katy home with a bottle of the Association's "Black Beret" red wine for their pleasure.

Katy Findlay-Jackson & Betty Findlay (Worthington) in the Museum viewing Lt Col Don Worthington's medals.

Sgt (Ret'd) Don Cameron proposed the toast to the Regiment and in his inimitable manner entertained us with a number of his enlightening and humorous WW II anecdotes. Don is 92 years of age....nothing stops him. He has traveled from Kamloops to Vancouver for many reunions, the Regimental Gala (125 year celebration), Remembrance Day Ceremonies and a special meeting on 12 November 09 with Archie Steacy and Betty (Worthington) Findlay to talk with her regarding her brothers, Lt Col & Major Worthington. Our sincere thanks to you Don.

Vice-president Ted Hawthorne made a special presentation on behalf of the Association. Prior to the dinner, only one person, Lt Col Arthur Lungley had been granted Honorary Life Membership. By the end of the evening this membership category had doubled with the addition of former CO, LCol (Ret'd) Archie M Steacy, President Emeritus. The Association Board of Directors are pleased to award this honour to Archie in recognition of his sixty years of service he has given to the Regiment and Association.

We hope that you will continue your support and hope to see you all again next year.



Archie Steacy, Betty Findlay (Worthington) & Don Cameron

Honorary Life Member, President Emeritus Archie Steacy



## TELUS STEPS UP



Ted Hawthorne, Ray Glover, Gen(R) Rick Hillier and RSM Mark Arden

On September 10, 2009 TELUS hosted a “Support our Troops BBQ” in the Atrium of their “boot building”. Over 300 people gathered to enjoy the BBQ and hear former CDS General (Retired) Rick Hillier address the crowd of TELUS employees, military members, military families and supports of the military. It was a BBQ that Mainland BC MFRC Executive Director Rick Cuttell was glad to attend as he left with a cheque for \$10,000. TELUS has been a strong support of the MFRC and furthered that support by making the donation to the MFRC.

The Association was well represented by President Ray Glover and he was joined by a number of members and three directors while the RSM Mark Arden was representing the Regiment.

A special thank you to TELUS for providing the accompanying photo from their BBQ. The RSM’s camera encountered technical difficulty and did not capture this rare occasion of the Association President, Vice President and the RSM posing for a photo with the former CDS.

## A GREAT EVENING AT THE DRILL HALL SEPTEMBER 16, 2009



The Regimental Association was well represented at the Drill Hall for the regular parade night on 16 September 2009. In attendance were Bill Diamond, Ray Glover, Ted Hawthorne, Tom Lyth and Dan McKenzie. We were all welcomed with the usual hospitality of the RSM in the WOs’ and Sgts’ Mess. The old guard had arrived.

The purpose of the evening was to present copies of the excellent book “On Combat” written by LCol Dave Grossman, US



Army, to members of the Regiment deploying to Afghanistan on Task Force 03-09 on or about 8 October 2009. In addition, the official handover of our mascot, "Duke A. Bear", from the Regimental Association to MCpl Terry Haigh was also on the agenda. As everyone is aware, Duke is also deploying to Afghanistan.

RSM Arden arranged for the presentations to take place at the Junior Ranks Mess. The CO, LCol Bruce Kadonoff, RSM Mark Arden and Regimental Association members were invited into the mess where the books were presented and Duke was given to Terry. Short greetings were given by the RSM, the CO, Ray, and Ted. The photos say it all!! We all had a great time, especially

when, inexplicably, Duke rang the bell and bought a round. What a hit Duke was. We were promised lots of good photos of Duke and our soldiers in Afghanistan for future editions of "The Duke".

Next on the agenda, we moved up to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess where RSM Arden presented Sgt. Pierangelo Dal Magro with his new drill cane. Piero promptly rang the bell with the cane in celebration of the occasion. By this time, the "Old Guard" was operating under diminished capacity!

Many thanks to LCol Kadonoff, RSM Mark Arden and members of the Regimental Association for their support in making this evening such a memorable occasion.



## A CARIBOO CHRISTMAS

Its official - the Regimental Association Dinner has been successfully conducted; Remembrance Day solemnly observed. What's next? Presents and Lights!

Who knew that Holt Renfrew would be that close to our accommodation - I swear the Princess and President Ray are in cahoots when it comes to setting up these dinners!

After paying the excess baggage fee for all the purchases, we finally arrive back in Williams Lake. Having dug the truck out of the parking lot snow bank, we proceed home. As I pull into my driveway I notice that my new neighbour has put Christmas lights up around his ranch house. GOOD LORD! IT'S NOT EVEN GREY CUP YET! What nutcase would do this to his friends?

NOW the Princess determines that it is time for those fuzzy warm electrical decorations to be mounted on OUR domicile. Of course, as you all know, when given an order I spring to the task! My reluctance to do so earlier is totally based on knowing that the longer my lights are up - the more money flows from my pocket to the pocket..... and now VanOC wants us to keep them on for the Games - Good Luck!

I head for the oil shed where I last saw the boxes of lights. Now of course they are neatly wound and labelled as the Princess suggested last spring - NOT! Now at - 20 C I am untangling the many strings of lights and finally putting them in place with such warm seasonal thoughts in my mind.

Thank God, the task is complete and I sit now with a very good beverage, my feet up, and the fireplace crackling!

At this time I recommend you all follow suit - think of all the good things in your life and the good times you served as a DUKE!

Jack Drake

P.S. The Princess and I wish you all the very best of Christmases and a most prosperous New Year.

## **THE START LINE**

**by: David Sproule**

### **THE OFFICE**

Over the years of my working life I have had many offices from a humble tank turret to the well appointed and spacious. After all, an office is a place where we do our work. Nowadays my office is contained within a cubicle and the fittings are all part of a system, blonde maple dominated by my desktop computer, padded wall divider and ergonomic chair. It is a functional space. If you take away the computer, then it is more like what I had when I was a young sprog in the tank lines in Camp Gagetown. Then as now I shared space with colleagues but then it consisted of mismatched tables and chairs, wire in-trays and a book shelf with QR&O and a few of the old blue army pamphlets detailing the roles and responsibilities of the various branches of the combat arms . A map of the training area and a vehicle state were tacked to the wall with a chinagraph pencil dangling from a string. Us troop leaders rejected the office, because we were rather contemptuous of paper work believing that our place was in the field practicing drills with our troops. We often found ourselves burdened with summary investigations into lost ID cards and lost equipment, participating in Regimental mess stocktaking and audit boards and squadron 2 i/c's were good at finding things to delegate to us so that they could slip away to the golf course or attend meetings at Brigade. Of course all of this had a distinct purpose in honing our skills as in years to come paperwork for most of us, would be become our life's work. In short it was far cheaper and more productive for subbies to push paper rather than charge around the training area in gas-guzzling Centurions and operating at 5 gallons to the mile.

One of the first tasks I was given when I arrived in Gagetown was as a member of a Board of Inquiry into regimental losses and costs from a firefighting operation in the Tyne Valley, PEI. I was the only member and the president of the Board was a major and I learned from him that "the devil is in the details." A good report, letter, board of inquiry or set of orders should be about attempting to achieve perfection, you know Appenidix 5 to Annex B dated 30Oct60 etc etc . My tour in Egypt was terrific – no office, only a Jeep, bins and a map case. A year at Staff College confirmed that paperwork and at least attempting at perfection was to occupy my future punctuated by brief and splendid moments in the field.

Throughout my years I continued to share office space without any hope of escaping to the field but developing syllabi, writing lesson plans, etc and learning about the Army filing system and how to prepare messages to far flung headquarters. While serving on the "I" staff in London, Ontario I found myself seconded to the area HQ as a staff learner looking after minor things like allocating ammo for militia units to blast off at the Ipperwash ranges. Militia units in the early 60s were involved in National Survival training – aka "Serious Knots and Lashing" training. Moments of joy came on weekend trips to Meaford AFV Range where there were tanks and all matter of tracks would I get that chance again?

As the years past, I had many offices mostly humble but a few were splendid. One I had in Yellowknife was spacious and had a nice red sofa that I coveted. Out of the window, I had an excellent view of the local Liquor Store. At SkyTrain I had a nice office next to the elevator and of course at the Drill Hall, there is that fine round office in the North tower. It was a humbling experience to sit at the desk where Johnny

Toogood, Arthur Lungley and other fine men sat and wrote letters to their version of area, district, region or brigade doing their best for the Regiment. Here they designed exercises for Wainwright and Fort Lewis as we always have to find our way out of the paper and back to the field even for a brief period.

I know paperwork has its own rewards and even today at the Canada Line where I work in a so-called paperless office and all documents are electronic, I have had plenty of rewards for developing training programs, I am among young attendants who can't wait to get to their station assignments – field stuff. I'm like a staff officer visiting a unit in the field, enjoy getting out to those stations and trains to see the eager fresh faces engaging the public. On these moments I know I will always be a field soldier – maybe one day I'll show up in combats with binos dangling and a map-case in hand. A flight of fancy and I know my Canada Line colleagues wouldn't get it. Maybe on Halloween.

At home I also have an office complete with my Grandfather's desk and a Centurion driver's seat as my ergonomic chair. I am surrounded by photos and certificates reminding me of former careers and a few military Dinky toys from my childhood – it is a small but comfortable space. As I look at the photos I realize that they are all taken in the field – none in any office that I have occupied which kind of puts it all in perspective.

## **SAMSON, OUR FRIENDLY GHOST**

by: Terry Ko

I found the article regarding Samson, the Drill Hall's long term resident, very interesting. Samson appears to be a very strong spirit able to materialize and be heard. I had one encounter at the Drill Hall during 2005-2006 after a Monday night BC Regiment Association Band practice. While



band members were taking refreshment upstairs I was attracted to the flickering light in the museum hallway. I had heard stories of ghostly encounters and knew the Sergeant's ashes were resting in the Sergeants' Mess but did not expect any phenomena at this time. I always enjoy looking at the historical photographs and documents lining the hallway. At about midway down the hall I sensed the air was thickening like a change in air pressure. As I moved further down the hallway the air grew thicker up to the window at the end where the thick air was

strongest. The light was still flickering and a water leak was evident down the wall alongside the left side of the window. I had the sense that some unseen person was observing me with scrutiny. I straightened up and directed my thoughts to the presence. I greeted the Sergeant, explained I was a member of the BC Regiment Association Band and was there to look at the photographs and flickering light. I took my leave and bid the Sergeant good-bye. I proceeded slowly back down the hallway while looking at the photos and to my relief the thick air became less and less. I felt I had just passed inspection. The whole incident was about five to ten minutes. I related my experience to a senior BCR Association Band member at the next practice. At this writing I have not experienced any further encounters at the Drill Hall.

## **MUSEUM UPDATE**

by: Jerry Couling

### **Additions to Our Collection:**

For those of you who visited the Museum on Remembrance Day you no doubt noticed the new medal display in the Conference Room (the Brass Room - for those who served in the 60's or earlier). A notable addition is the World War II medals of Lt Col Donald G. Worthington, recently donated to the Museum Society by the Worthington family. As most of you (probably all) know, Col. Worthington

commanded the Regiment and lost his life during the Hill 111 battle, a keystone event in our Regiment's history. The medals are now court mounted and, as mentioned, on display in the Brass Room.

Recently, we, the Museum Society, received a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver from Mr. Michael N. Darcy, of Vancouver, used by his uncle while servicing in France during World War I.

Another gift to the Museum Society, received since the last report, was from Mr. Fred Biddlecomb, son of Captain Art Biddlecomb, MC who served overseas with the Regiment during WW2. The items donated are: a series of WW II photos and a copy of Capt. Biddlecomb's After Action Report, covering his actions during the battle on Hill 111, on 9 August 1944. His report provides new information regarding tank and infantry routes, positions, the location of Col Worthington's body and the wounds causing his death.

### **Help Received:**

The Museum Society's directors wish to acknowledge the extra work done by the following individuals: Ron Leblanc, Dwayne Snow, Keith Maxwell, Bob Hall, and Archie Steacy and Mark Arden.

#### **Ron Leblanc for:**

- His capable assistance with the new medal display located in the Conference Room;
- Photographing a number of medal sets for inclusion in the photograph book he is completing on behalf of the Regiment; and
- His assistance to the Archives.

#### **Dwayne Snow for:**

- Searching out and securing two steel flat map drawer cases, donated to the Museum Society by The University of British Columbia. (The cases will be used by our Archives to store photographs and other materials.) and
- His assistance to the Archives.

#### **Keith Maxwell for:**

- The incredible amount of work done to date in setting up a well thought-out and organized system for the Regiment's archival material. Once completed, we will have a research facility to be proud of and one that will be the envy of other units. Keith is getting a lot of help from Bob Hall with this endeavour.

#### **Archie Steacy and Mark Arden for:**

- The now completed additions to the Drill Hall's Memorial Wall. It presents the essence of our history in a symmetrical, attractive way - that immediately catches the eye of everyone entering the Drill Hall.
- Filling the new display cabinets located on the parade square and south wall mezzanine level.

What a difference!

### **29<sup>th</sup> Battalion medals:**

In my last article I mentioned that through the efforts of Dwayne Snow and Ron Leblanc the Museum Society was able to secure a group of medals and other commemorative pieces, awarded to Lance Corporal Edwin A. McVeety - who enlisted in the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 11 November 1914.

At the time, we had received donations totalling \$500 towards the approximate \$1,100 cost. Since then, the request for additional donations from the regimental family was answered, in abundance. We covered the cost and then some. The additional donations are being held in our Medal Acquisition Fund pending future acquisitions.

The directors would like to thank Ted Hawthorne, Jerry Couling, Archie Steacy, Tom Lyth, Darrell Dean, Jim Britt, John Nossotti, Terrance Leith, Dave Sproule, Bill Schmidt and Rob Greenslade for their generosity in making the above purchase possible.

**AGM:**

The Museum Society held it's AGM on December 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Drill Hall, electing Archie Steacy, Dick Grady, Ted Hawthorne, Bob Hall, Jerry Couling, Keith Maxwell, Ron Leblanc, and Dwayne Snow to its board of directors. The latter three will be joining the board for the first time. In the board meeting immediately following the AGM –

Archie Steacy (President),  
Ted Hawthorne (Vice President),  
Keith Maxwell (Secretary), and  
Jerry Couling (Treasurer), were elected as officers.

**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) PIPE BAND**



The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Pipes and Drums  
11 November 2009

**FOREST FIRE - AUGUST 2009 – LILLOOET, B. C.**  
by Captain (Ret'd) Bob Hall

A lightning strike grounded-out on Mount McLean, setting fire to a thick layer of forest duff. Soon, the fire reached out threatening the town of Lillooet, British Columbia.

## **A Duke Stands-to.**

Captain (Ret'd) Bob Hall, CD, BC Regiment(DCO), a resident, retired B.C. Government Agent and retired Fire Chief of Lillooet, B.C. ensured his family's safety and played a major command role during the fighting of this monstrous forest fire. He has kindly given us an insight of his commitment to his family and community when threatened with disaster.

## **Evacuating Lillooet, B.C. - August, 2009**

**Background.** The historic town of Lillooet is situated on ledges, rising from the west bank of the Fraser River. It is surrounded by steep mountain slopes. In the summer of 2009, conditions were ripe for fire: virtually no rain since May, the extra fuel load created by the dead and dying pine trees and heat induced electrical storms in which every lightning strike caused a fire. Current forest fire fighting practice is to use Ministry of Forests (MOF) manpower and, where the terrain allows, a combination of helicopter water drops and traditional ground crew attack.

**Fire on Mt. McLean.** On Wednesday, July 22 at 5 pm a bolt of lightning struck on the top of Mt. McLean, a ridge forming the west border of Lillooet. Water bombing began immediately. By the next morning, rolling debris had brought the fire well down the steep slope and a potentially dangerous fire was evident. The strategy to fight it was a continuation of the water bombing, an air drop of retardant and guards created below the fire by bulldozers and excavators. Three lines were eventually put in place. Afternoon bursts of wind were moving the fire rapidly. At times it was moving at 100m/minute - downhill. Not usual fire behaviour. On the evening of July 30th it escaped the northern guard and pushed fire down into the District of Lillooet watershed and within a kilometer of homes in the T'it'q'et First Nations Community. An evacuation alert was issued and distributed to every household by police and the local fire department. It advised on how to prepare one's home in case of an order.

**Preparations.** I knew things could escalate quickly, so I saw that wife, Leslie was ready to go. Noah's Wish (an international animal rescue group) took our two dogs and two cats. After Leslie left, I picked up a few treasured photos, my regimental blazer and locked the house, returning to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

**Leslie.** *My scare came on Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4am. In the darkness, the fire glowed far too brightly and far too closely. Robert had gone to the drill hall in Vancouver, so I occupied myself packing: receipts for income tax, house insurance and personal documents, food, water and a few clothes. I updated him at 6 am and was relieved to know he would return immediately.*

*Following the alert, the hospital began measures to evacuate all its patients and those of the adjacent seniors' residences, sending the most vulnerable away in the early hours the next day. A day later it was determined that all patient's and residents should leave. Knowing I would see little of Robert, I decided to go with them to be a companion to my mother. It was a most unusual 10 days; sometimes being mistaken for a resident and called "honey" and at other times filling the somewhat thankless job of recreation person. We were comfortably housed on an empty floor in a beautiful, but outdated care facility in Kamloops. Sadly, two residents did not recover from the rigours of the forced move, but, on the other hand, some were enlivened by the it. Returning on August 11<sup>th</sup>, seeing all as it had been left, was an indescribable pleasure.*

**Evacuation** On Sunday, August 2, when the integrity of the guard could no longer be guaranteed, the senior fire commander advised the Mayor that evacuation was recommended.

As Emergency Program Coordinator (EPC) for the District of Lillooet it was my responsibility to establish the EOC. The function of this group is to provide support to the community and its organizations. We had 19 different structural fire departments supporting the Lillooet Fire Department. One function of the

EOC was to see to their housing, feeding and supplies. We had a kitchen set up in our REC Centre which at last count had served over 2500 meals.

On receiving the Order, we moved the EOC from town centre across the Fraser River to a new location at the Jehovah Witness's Kingdom Hall (They had previously offered their building). I found sleeping in my vehicle or on the church lawn was not the same as doing FTX's as a young Duke. At least I was up before the lawn sprinklers came on, dousing my EOC colleagues. After a while I began to think beverages came only in cans (not that kind!) and all food was served between two pieces of bread. The days at the EOC were long, many running into the next day. But I worked with an excellent team: a retired teacher, ex Toronto PD officer, a professional teamster and the newly hired town treasurer - she had arrived to start work as the town was emptying! It was a joyful day for the town's residents when, late on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, a graduated return was announced.

**Aftermath** It's still wrapping up as the paper work dribbles in and I am trying to remember who requested what and who was to pay for what and what was needed at 0230 hours on what day at the EOC - with 2 cell phones, 2 land lines, a multichannel radio and 15 people all talking at once. It was a fascinating experience, but as I have noted earlier, I am not a 25 year old Duke on ex at Wainwright.

In 1970 a fire did enter Lillooet and destroyed several homes. We had a close call in 2004 and a more serious danger this year. With the drought projected to continue, the increasing fuel load what will the next years be like? The community is more knowledgeable and better prepared should we have to face this again.

Bob,

Thank you for sharing your experience and commitment to your family and community during a most terrifying disaster. Well done, you stand tall in our eyes.

Archie Steacy

## KAZAKHSTAN



7<sup>th</sup> Btn Bugler – “Sunset in Kazakhstan”

All,

We had two of our Cpls attend a 7<sup>th</sup> Btn exercise in Kazakhstan this past month (Cpl Alexander and Cpl Laidler) – if you recall we hosted 37<sup>th</sup> Btn soldiers earlier this year. This link (compliments of Sgt Tony Harris – our Sabre Troop WO) will take you to their site which features photos from their ex. Attached is my favorite – a 7<sup>th</sup> Btn Bugler playing at sunset.

<http://www.army.mod.uk/news/17104.aspx>

You know.... Dukes are everywhere!  
"Up the Dukes!"

RSM

## REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY 29<sup>th</sup> CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION (VANCOUVER) CEF

ASunday, 27 September 2009, PNE Coliseum Promenade...What a beautiful Vancouver fall day (clear and 18C) to commemorate the service of the members of the 29th Battalion C.E.F., perpetuated today by our Regiment.



The ceremony was conducted by Jim Britt. Sixteen members of 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC lead by the cadet RSM were piped to the 29th Battalion cairn by two pipers from the BCR Pipes and Drums. Other members of the "Irish Contingent" included Darrell Dean, Mal Goodman, Terry Leith, Ken Whitney, Cliff Mawson, Drum Sgt Pat Connell and Cpl Rob Greenslade. The CO of the Cadet Corps, Major Jim Blomme, was also in attendance with Training Officer Capt Karm Nagra. Padre Walter G. Bayley delivered a very fine homily. Ray Glover, Ted Hawthorne and Bill Diamond represented the Regimental Association. Ted laid a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association and Mal Goodman

laid a second wreath on behalf of our Irish confreres. It was an excellent turnout! We are certain that you will agree that this event recognizes an important part of our Regimental history.

The contingent adjourned to the PNE Boardroom for the customary reception. As many of you know, the Regimental Association supports this event and looks forward to the day (2010?) when all C.E.F. Battalion perpetuated by the Regiment are recognized by us at this venue.

An excellent regimental history lesson was delivered to the group (with particular emphasis for our cadets) by Darrell. What a fine group of young people they are! Ted gave a brief sitrep to the group with respect to the Regimental Association and the "Medal Find Project" of the Regimental Museum. A special thank you to those renewing their membership, applying for membership and to those supporting our 29th Battalion WW I Trio acquisition. Our mobile kit shop was quite a hit with our cadets. The complimentary copies of the September issue of "The Duke" were available and were all taken.

Sandwiches and non alcoholic beverages compliments of the Regimental Association were well received.

In summation, we thank all attendees for remembering those who have proceeded us and for remembering their service to our country and to the Regiment which perpetuates the 29th Battalion.



## **CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT**

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

Our Cadet Corps have had a busy but very successful first part of the 2009/10 training year and will be standing down for the Christmas break the week of 13 December. All Corps will stand to the week of 4 January 2010.

The current strength of our 4 Corps is approximately 208 Cadets. Our strongest Corps in terms of Cadet strength is the 2381 BCR Irish Fusiliers RCACC in Richmond with 120 enrolled Cadets. Considering that this Corps has had to vacate their parade facility in the Col. Sherman armoury because of the Winter Olympics, this an remarkable achievement. They are currently parading in a Church Hall at Steveston Hwy and No. 3 Rd. in Richmond.

Our Corps are very fortunate to have a group of very dedicated CIC officers, Civilian Instructors and Volunteers delivering the Army Cadet programme to the Cadets. However, this success is greatly assisted by the many supporters of Cadet Corps including the BC Regiment, the BCR Trust, BCR Association, the Royal Canadian Legion, ANAVETS and the Army Cadet League. All of our Corps has an active Parents Sponsoring Committee. Their mandate is to manage the Corps funds, assist in recruiting, hold fund raising activities, and to assist the Commanding Officer in any way possible to the benefit of the Cadets. All of the contributions by these organizations are vital to the success of our Corps and it is very much appreciated.

A special thank you to our Regiment for inviting several of our senior Cadets to participate in C7 familiarization shoot at the Chilliwack ranges on 7 November 09. The participating Cadets truly enjoyed their range experience.

The 2010 Winter Olympics will affect two of our Corps in the short term. As previously mentioned, the 2381 in Richmond are already out of the Col Sherman Armoury and the 2290 will likely have to vacate The Drill at the end of January 2010. The 2781 in Powell River and the 2827 in Port Moody are not affected as far as their parade facility is concerned. However, the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific) has ordered that all Cadet Corps in BC will stand down for duration of the Games in February. This will allow the Cadets to enjoy the Winter Olympic Games experience in their communities.

On behalf of all BCR Cadets, Officers, Civilian Instructors, and Volunteers, I wish to take this opportunity to wish all Dukes and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous 2010.

Major (Ret'd) Roger W Prouse CD  
Cadet Governor  
FAUGH-A-BALLAGH

## **DUKES AND "DUKE" IN KAF (Remembrance Day)**

The photo below of the members of the Regiment deployed on TF 03-09 in Afghanistan, is complements of Cpl Terry Haigh. The photo was taken after the Remembrance Day ceremony in KAF. We assured Cpl Haigh that his photos would be circulated in and about the Drill Hall after the Remembrance Day Parade. We also conveyed our very best wishes to all members serving in Afghanistan. The photos were circulated among the members of the Regiment and guests. The parents of one of the soldiers in the photo were so surprised and pleased to see their son. The photo of the group was presented to the Junior Ranks Mess during our visit to the Mess. We rang the bell to convey our appreciation to the members for their service and for a great parade. Our members serving overseas were also remembered by all those present.

The entire ceremony at Victory Square, parade and post parade activities at the Drill Hall were exceptional! Even the weather was fine. The Drill Hall has never looked better. The recent improvements are absolutely amazing. The meat pies and rum/soft drink toast were appreciated by all. Special thanks to the Regimental Museum for their excellent medal display. The museum was open after the parade and was very busy indeed.

Remembrance Day 2009 will not soon be forgotten.

Many thanks to LCol D.B. Kadonoff, CD, RSM CWO M. Arden, CD, all members of the Regiment and the entire Regimental Family for their contribution in making this wonderful commemorative event so memorable.



TF 03-09 BCR's deployed in Afghanistan

Greetings to our members and supporters from "Duke" in Afghanistan. The photo is compliments of our Cpl Terry Haigh, deployed in Khandihar. Please note Duke's weapon and NATO pin. Thanks Terry!



All of our best wishes to our members serving in Afghanistan.

Rumour has it that Duke may visit Paardeberg, South Africa, on 27 February 2010, while on leave from Afghanistan.



## **Canadian Forces Small Arms Concentration(CFSAC) 2009**

**By Corporal D. Ryan Steacy**

“Wow! We’re actually going to get some training in this year before CFSAC” was my thought when I was informed that LFWA was not only putting together regular and reserve force team for CFSAC 2009, but that there would be a 10 day workup beforehand as well. The BCR would get spaces for 4 shooters. After finding out who was available it was decided that the 2009 team would consist of MCpl. Ian Millar, MCpl. Martin Soon, MCpl. Kyle Roder, and Cpl Ryan Steacy. The BCR shooting team, who were all experienced shooters who weeks before had already shot outstandingly well at the British Columbia Provincial Matches was looking forward to carrying on at the National Matches. We had good momentum!

The time for the work-up came, and we found ourselves on the Major General Chris Volkes Range, in Chiliwack for 10 days. The training was designed primarily by myself and WO. Dave Oakie from Edmonton, who is a two time Queen’s Medalist and a fantastic mentor to the team. Together we would run the training and do the coaching. Needless to say it went well and all our shooters scores, both regular and reserve force went up quite drastically. The down side to the whole thing was that our training was in June and the competition was in September. We would need some range time in between to make sure we were still sharp. MCpls Millar and Soon did a fantastic job getting it organized considering we had basically no support from our chain of command in Edmonton 1000 miles away. While they may have ruffled a few feathers in the process, these Master Corporals and the staff at the unit came through and got us pretty much everything we needed to get in some good practices. It paid off as many of us were peaking at the right time.

Off to Ottawa we went. MCpl Ian Millar drove a cube van across the country to ensure we had weapons, which had been a problem in the past, ready for us when we landed. We started out by shooting the National Service Conditions Championship (NSCC) which is the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA) civilian version of CFSAC. Some of the team members shot pistol and some showed up after for the sniper matches. We had “procured” three sniper rifles to use, two C3’s (7.62 mm) and one of the new C14’s (.338 “ Lapua). After some annoying last minute re-organizing by certain administrative staff who decided they wanted to shoot sniper, it was decided that MCpl Martin Soon would shoot one of the C3’s with his partner from the C Scot R and I would shoot the C14 with my partner from 5<sup>th</sup> Field in Victoria. Both teams shot well and got in some good practice for the sniper matches at CFSAC even though it was a little hard to keep up with some of the civilian rifles firing hand loaded match ammunition. It was still good training and we all knew we’d be on more even ground at CFSAC.

Next up was the NSCC Service Rifle matches. Even though these matches are the civilian national championships, we considered them good practice for CFSAC. We all shot well and used the opportunity to work things out under match conditions and stress. MCpl Ian Millar won his first match ever, taking match 3 overall and MCpl Kyle Roder did the same winning match 4 overall. Pretty much everyone shot personal bests which is all you can ask for at a national competition. I managed a come from behind win to take top overall military and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall behind two ex national champs. I also shot a 555 and

broke 550/600 in the process which is nationally recognized as being the landmark of an elite level performance. It was the first time I had done so at a high level competition. It was a good sign!

After NSCC week finished we went immediately into the CFSAC practice week. We would get another chance to shoot all the matches again under match conditions. It was welcomed by everyone. Once again the BCR shooters bested themselves by bettering their NSCC scores. Things were getting even better.

CFSAC kicked off immediately after the CFSAC practice week with the Canadian Forces Sniper Concentration (CFSC). I moved on to shoot with WO. Mike Bergan from the Royal Westminster Regiment. Mike is a keen shooter with lots of experience although he hadn't shot in any competitions before. Our adversaries would be our own teams, an RCMP team, a US Army team and 12 teams from the Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment (Vandoo's). We faired well and stayed consistent back to 900m where the larger .338L caliber rifle really shines. In the end Mike and I finished as the 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall team, beating all the Vandoo teams in the process. Individually, I came in 2<sup>nd</sup> behind one RCMP sniper. Mike put in a great performance and finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

Next up was the Combat Pistol competition. Trying to keep matches operationally relevant has caused the pistol matches to be completely reshaped for the better. They are now a combination of accuracy and speed, while maneuvering through a scenario with walls, doors, pop-up targets and missions. Your score was a combination of your shooting score minus the amount of time you went over the allotted "par" time. It was a bit tough to remember exactly what you had to do so that made it challenging to move and engage everything without missing a target or going too slow. When it was all said and done we did pretty well considering none of us really shoot that much pistol. MCpl Martin Soon placed 83<sup>rd</sup>/100, MCpl Kyle Roder placed 58<sup>th</sup>/100, MCpl Ian Millar finished 53<sup>rd</sup>/100 and I ended up in 2<sup>nd</sup> overall again behind the same RCMP officer that beat me in the sniper matches. The combat pistol matches were excellent and we all agreed that we'd shoot them again in a heartbeat.

Finally the day arrived for the beginning of the Service Rifle Matches. These are the matches that award the coveted Queen's Medal for Champion Shot and they were what we were there for. They consist of two stages, the first contains 12 matches from 100-500 metres and an aggregate score of 600 points possible. The second stage, which is only open to the top 50 shooters from stage 1, takes the toughest matches from stage 1 to be shot over again and added to their stage 1 score for a total possible score of 800 points. The matches are tough and test your fundamental marksmanship skills while shooting from various positions, shooting targets only exposed for small amounts of time and firing after running anywhere from 100 to 500m. Needless to say, less than a third of the competitors even break 500 points, and to do so puts you in high regards within shooting circles.

After the first stage (which takes 2 days to shoot) was completed, things were looking pretty good. MCpl Soon shot a \_\_\_/600, placing \_\_\_ out of 195, and MCpl Millar shot a \_\_\_/600 placing \_\_\_ out of 195. While they didn't break 500 they shot well and showed great improvement over the course of the competition. Next year they will both break 500 without problem. MCpl Kyle Roder, on the other hand, put in a personal best throughout matches 1-12, ending stage 1 with a 552-37v/600. It was at least 20 points higher than he had ever done before. What a great time to do it! Kyle finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall (regular and reserve forces) in stage 1. I had a consistent shoot finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with a 561-53v/600. It was the third time I'd broken 560 but only the first time in an important competition. Astonishingly, I was in second place behind our LFWA team mate and my roommate, MBdr. Will MacKeigan from 5<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA in Victoria. I don't think he had ever shot higher than in the upper 520's before. Now he was sitting at 565-44v! The BCR shooting team had kind of adopted Will as he had been shooting and training with us for a couple of years and was showing great promise. Unfortunately for us his promise had shown up at the right time! He was 4 points ahead of me going into stage 2. Having your No.1 competition as your room mate made for an interesting dynamic. I'm sure the old "soap in the sock/blanket party trick" was mentioned more than once if he beat me, as was poisoning his food. It didn't help. After a nasty, gusty, windy stage 2 was said and done, Will had opened his lead to 8 points

and had the Queen's Medal. Dave Oakie came up to me after, as I'm sure I had a dejected look on my face, and said "Ryan...I thought it was yours...but sometimes, when a guy is in the zone, it doesn't matter if he's 4 points ahead or 400". Truer words have never been spoken..... Will was unbeatable that day. He was in the zone and on a roll. I guess if you have to lose, it might as well be to one of your own guys.

Kyle finished with a 2 stage total of 723-43v to earn 6<sup>th</sup> place for the reserves and 7<sup>th</sup> overall. This was a finish to be proud of. Kyle is now shooting at the elite level of which there are probably fewer than 10 people in the entire CF and has made the 2010 Bisley team. Fantastic! I ended stage 2 with 737-63v which was good enough for 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall and a spot on the Bisley team again. Will took it with 745-51v. My only comfort was that I had won the coveted Para Ordnance Cup which was the rifle and pistol aggs combined. With the trophy comes a \$1,400 Para Ordnance .45 calibre handgun, so that was nice. Second place went to that RCMP officer that beat me in the sniper and pistol matches. Sometimes karma sucks.

The LFWA Reserve Team came ready to go and the results showed. We won the right to represent Canada at a match in Arkansas in 2010 by winning the Army Training Authority Cup and at a match in Melbourne, Australia in 2010 by winning the coveted Soldier's Cup. Both were based on a 3.2 KM run with an obstacle course in the middle, followed by an 8 man, 600m section attack. Not only did your shooting count for score but also your run time.

The following are the awards won by BCR Team Members at CFSAC 2009.

**MCpl. Ian Millar**

NSCC Service Rifle Match 3 (200 m rapid fire).

**MCpl. Martin Soon**

Soldier's Cup winning team. (Trip to Australia)

Army Training Authority (ATA) Cup winning team. (Trip to Arkansas)

**MCpl. Kyle Roder**

NSCC Service Rifle Match 4 (200-100 m run down, with moving target).

CFSAC Service Rifle Match 3 (200 m rapid fire).

Elite 50 Pin (given to top 50 shooters, regular and reserve forces combined).

Soldier's Cup winning team. (Trip to Australia)

Army Training Authority (ATA) Cup winning team. (Trip to Arkansas)

Squad Competition (International) Match Trophy winning team.

Queen's Medal for Champion Shot 7<sup>th</sup> place finish overall 2009.

**Cpl. Ryan Steacy**

NSCC Service Rifle CF/RCMP Champion 2009.

NSCC Service Rifle 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall.

NSCC 550 Badge.

CFSAC Service Rifle Match 8 (300-200 m run down, kneeling snapshot).

CF Sniper Competition Match 601 (100 m standing, moving target).

CF Sniper Competition 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall team.

CF Sniper Competition 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall individual.

Army Combat Pistol Champion 2009.

CF/RCMP Combat Pistol 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall.

Fox-Decent Trophy (top non tyro reservist combat pistol).  
Mobile Command Trophy (top army 4 man pistol team).  
Mobile Command Unit Combat Pistol Team Trophy (top 4 man pistol team with highest agg)  
Atlantic Trophy (top 4 man reserve team from stage 1)  
Elite 50 Pin (given to top 50 shooters, regular and reserve forces combined).  
Soldier's Cup winning team. (Trip to Australia)  
Army Training Authority (ATA) Cup winning team. (Trip to Arkansas)  
Squad Competition (International) Match Trophy winning team.  
Para Ordnance Cup winner (highest service rifle and combat pistol scores combined)  
Queen's Medal for Champion Shot, 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish overall 2009.

Dukes,

I asked Cpl Steacy to provide us with a shooters point of view outlining the achievements of BCR (DCO) Members who stood-to when presented with the opportunity to compete with Regular Force Members as part of the Land Forces Western Area Team in the 2009 Canadian Forces Small Arms Concentration at Connaught Ranges in Ottawa, Ontario. He has done just that, but also provides us with a feeling of many of the trials and errors associated with the art of competitive shooting.

On behalf of all members of the BC Regiment Family, our most sincere congratulations to Cpl Steacy, MCpl Roder, MCpl Millar and MCpl Soon for your outstanding small arms competitive performance and achievements during CFSAC 2009....the best ever since Bisley 1938. Your unstinting efforts and successes are second to none, adding to the Regiment's 126 years outstanding record of small arms competitive achievement.

Up the Dukes  
Archie Steacy  
Editor

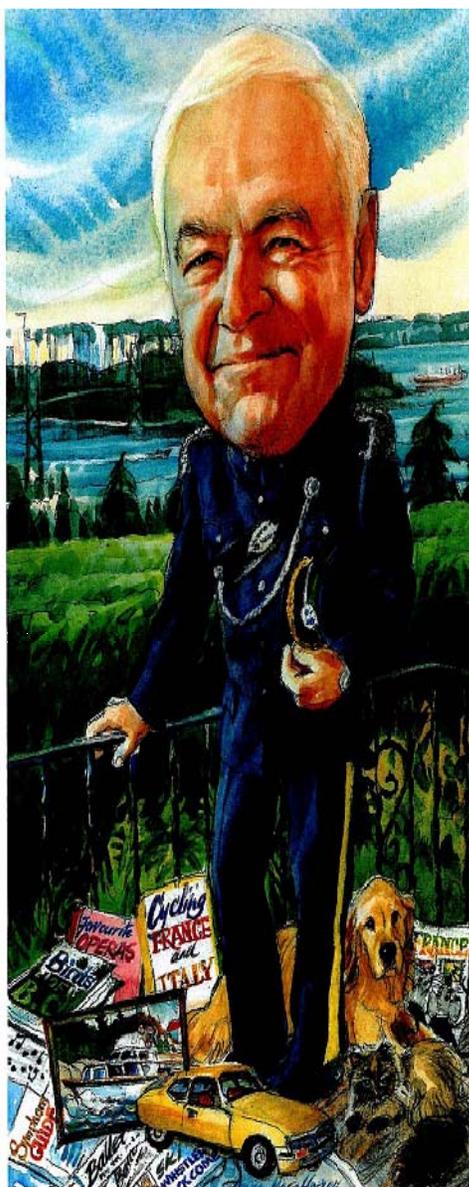
## **HONORARY COLONEL WILLIAM E. IRELAND, Q.C.**

The following portion of an article published in the September 2009 issue of "The Advocate", a journal published by the Vancouver Bar Association, is reproduced with the kind permission of "The Advocate".

On behalf of the Regimental Association, our friends and supporters, we congratulate Colonel Ireland on the recognition of his exemplary service to our Regiment and the Community. We are privileged to have Colonel Bill represent the Regiment and the Regimental Family.

# the ADVOCATE

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He continues to serve his community as the Secretary of West Vancouver Community Centre's Services Society.

Despite Bill's staggering workload in charitable and professional activities, Heather and Bill manage to enjoy some recreational time together. They love to ski, cycle, kayak and spend as many summer days aboard *Serena* as work will allow. Vacations in foreign lands have always been high on their agenda, and they travel frequently to France, Italy and Iceland and make single visits to other parts of Europe, South America and Asia. Bill's prowess as a master mariner was such that he recently served as a commodore of the Burrard Yacht Club.

Bill has a passion for history, especially military history. He is an ardent student of Canada's role in the two world wars. His father was a first lieutenant with the Canadian Army in World War I, serving for three years in the trenches in France. Bill's passion ultimately led to his appointment as honorary lieutenant colonel of the British Columbia Regiment in 2005. He was promoted to honorary colonel in 2008. This is not a mere sinecure; Bill regularly attends messes and mixes with both the officers and the enlisted men. The regiment is a source for auxiliary troops for the Canadian armed services. Members of the militia are regularly sent abroad, including service in Afghanistan. While Bill's title is "honorary", he is nonetheless an active participant in the training regime. At the age of 75, he recently attended a full-scale training exercise in Fort Lewis, Washington, where he was crawling around the ground in battle fatigues, shooting rifles (with rubber bullets), climbing over walls and doing all of the things that military personnel in their 20s do when undertaking their rigorous training regimes. Ireland was a kid all over again and loved every minute of it. With little prompting, he will bring out the photos of himself in the tank used for military training.

Some of his happiest moments are when he can don full military dress gear, as you will see from the cover of this issue.

Recently, the Law Society of British Columbia organized a luncheon to recognize lawyers who had been members of the bar for 50 years. Ireland was one of those. While some of the recipients were extremely frail, Ireland, when his name was called, bounded to the stage, demonstrating that he still possesses the vigour and enthusiasm of someone 20 years his junior.

Bill continues to practise law full time, with no let-up in sight. The firm, which owes him so much, is very glad he is doing so.



# REGIMENTAL HISTORY

The men and women who voluntarily served The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) for the past 126 years established an historical background of unstinting loyalty dedication and service during war and peace times to the Regiment, British Columbia and Canada.

To provide you with an opportunity for review, we have requested Keith Maxwell, a 1960s Duke, to create an on-going column dedicated to the deep and rich history of the Regiment.

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

### **History to 1900**

The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) is the Province's oldest Regiment and represents a long military tradition in southwest British Columbia. This article is the first in a series and is intended to serve as an appetizer for the impending publication of a Pictorial History of the Regiment in book form. Our history is the collective memory of the Regiment - it establishes us as a distinct family of Canadian soldiers. This proud history also provides a foundation for today's soldiers as they defend our country on operations fulfilling our international obligations and commitments.

Soldiering on the southwest coast of British Columbia goes back to time immemorial. The First Nations of the area, the Salish, used citizen soldiers raised from the general male population to form self-defence forces and raiding parties to gain resources or undertake retaliatory operations against invaders. These marine light infantry of the Salish rarely raided amongst themselves. However, conflict with the Kwakiutl from the northern part of Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland area was long standing. The last major raid in this conflict took place around 1860 when a force made up from Salish soldiers from the Cowichan, Saanich and Songish areas annihilated a Kwakiutl war party at Maple Bay near Duncan. The party then travelled north in their enemies' canoes and destroyed the Kwakiutl village from which the raiders had set out.

The European settlement of British Columbia can be traced back to the early explorers of The Northwest Fur Trading Company who first established trading posts west of the Rocky Mountains. In 1821 the company was taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company, who operated throughout much of the Pacific Northwest. As the Americans expanded northwards and their settlers moved into the Oregon Territory, the Governors of the Hudson's Bay Company decided to build a fort at Camosun on Vancouver Island in 1843. Three years later the name of the fort was changed to Victoria. The dispute between Britain and the United States over ownership of the Oregon Territory, which extended from Alaska to northern California, ended in 1846 with a treaty which fixed the 49th parallel as the border to the Pacific. The border was adjusted south through the Strait of Georgia and out through the Strait of Juan de Fuca, ensuring that the whole of Vancouver Island remained British.

### **Early Years**

In 1849 Vancouver Island became a Crown colony and, with the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1854, Governor James Douglas spent funds to build Hospital Huts to look after the expected wounded from a British attack being planned on the Russians at Petropavlovsk. In 1855 the attacking Fleet found the Russian fort abandoned. With the unused hospital facilities on their hands, the Admiralty moved their Pacific Squadron from Valparaiso, Chile, to Esquimaux. The Colony also raised a temporary defence force of a Rifle Company, initially consisting of an Officer, one Sergeant, one Corporal and eight Privates.

With the outbreak of the Fraser Valley Gold Rush in 1858, the crown colony of British Columbia was established on the mainland. The British dispatched a detachment of approximately 165 Royal Engineers, under the command of Colonel Richard Clement Moody, to the colony to help develop

infrastructure and provide a foundation for the establishment of defence forces. They were to assist in the establishment of a Seaport town and a Seat of Government, to survey lands, and to open roads. Many of the roads they built in the lower mainland still survive, such as North Road, Douglas Road and Coast Meridian. The Capital city they chose came to be named New Westminster. Their most significant achievement was the construction of the Cariboo Wagon Road up through the Fraser Canyon. The Engineer detachment was disbanded in 1863 and only 15 men accompanied Colonel Moodv back to England; the remainder settling in the new colony. These men later formed the nucleus of the volunteer soldiers which led to the formation of the Regiment.

In 1864 the old Volunteer Rifle Corps in Victoria was reformed with a strength of two companies and continued to flourish. This force would eventually become number 4 Battery when the Regiment was formed in 1883.

At the same time the militia was developing on the Island, a small militia force came into being in the New Westminster area. In November 1863 The New Westminster Volunteer Rifles were formed with a strength of 73 all ranks.

Enthusiasm in local defence was revived in 1866 with the Fenian scare. The Fenians were Irish Americans who, after the American Civil War, decided to invade and conquer Canada and use it to negotiate the independence of Ireland from Britain. Several actual invasions took place in the Niagara peninsula, where battles were fought between the Fenians and the British Regulars and Canadian Militia. A force of Fenians arrived in San Francisco soon after the Civil War and tried to hire a boat to sail north to the British colony on the Pacific. They were unsuccessful.

In response to the Fenian threat the Seymour Artillery Company formed at New Westminster on 16 July 1866. Many members were former Royal Engineers. The War Office provided guns, rifles, ammunition and accoutrements for this unit, and a Drill shed for them was built for them at New Westminster at the cost of \$1400.



On 12 October 1883 the BC Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery was formed by amalgamating all but one of the existing British Columbia militia companies into a single unit. As the senior company the New Westminster battery was granted the honour of being designated No. 1 Battery, with the remaining batteries being located in Victoria alongside the new Regiment's headquarters.

The authorized strength of the new Regiment was about 200 all ranks, and its first band was authorized on 9 November 1883. By April 1884 the unit was ready for its annual Inspection, and later that year members attended at the Victoria School of Artillery. 64 pounders were provided by the Royal Navy for training.

A Rising was reported amongst the Skeena First Nation in the summer of 1886, and the Premier and two members of the Colony's Cabinet in their capacities of Justices of the Peace called out the Militia for active service. A Battery from Victoria was embarked on a warship which sailed north to the mouth of the Skeena River. Two days later, when they reached the offending village, all was quiet. The men remained encamped for another month hunting and exploring the area.

In 1886, the City of Vancouver was incorporated just before it was burnt to the ground in a brush fire that raged out of control. The city was rebuilt and promptly went into a period of rapid growth; by 1892 it was a city of some importance. When authority was given in 1894 for the raising of Number 5 Company of the Regiment in Vancouver, Major T.O. Townley, who was also the Mayor of Vancouver, was placed in command. Artillery training was carried out by gun squads drilling on 32 and 64 pounder guns. "The main event of the year was the gun practice. One gun detachment from each company went down after one day's drill, manned and fired the 6 inch guns at a moving target, making 60% of direct hits and a ricochet."

Rifle shooting was important and Martini-Henry rifles were used until their replacement by Lee-Enfield and Lee-Enfield rifles.

Since the late 1880's there had been talk of raising an infantry force on the mainland; during the annual inspection of 1898 Major Charles Worsnop, who had recently succeeded Townley as commanding officer of the Regiment's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, was tipped off that Ottawa was determined to convert his gunners to infantrymen. This suggestion was met with great disappointment and outrage by all ranks of the Battalion - they were rightly proud of their trade and accomplishments. Despite his best efforts Worsnop received orders in July of 1899 to convert to infantry. Worsnop was given a choice by Ottawa to establish his new Battalion as rifles or fusiliers. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century there was really no difference in the employment infantry units; the titles were a hold over from the Napoleonic era. However, rifle units had always been considered elite amongst the various types of infantry; given the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's esprit d' corps, its skill at arms, and its focus on marksmanship, and perhaps his own former service as a rifleman, Major Worsnop requested that the unit be designated a rifle regiment. The request was duly approved by Ottawa and the unit was designated the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Rifles. The official date was set for 1 August and the reorganization was declared complete on New Year's Day, 1900. The 6<sup>th</sup> Rifles was organized with 2 companies based in New Westminster and 4 companies in Vancouver, co-located with Regimental Headquarters.

### **The South African War**

In 1899 war broke out between Britain and the two Boer Republics in South Africa. There was a strong demand from English Canada to send troops, and considerable opposition from French Canada towards any involvement at all. The Prime Minister, Wilfred Laurier, decided to compromise by sending a limited force of 1,000 volunteers for a term of service not to exceed twelve months. Volunteers were selected from each province and 24 members of the Regiment became part of 'A' Company, 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment. The battalion was commanded by Lt-Col W.D. Otter, ADC to the Governor-General, Lord Minto. The Regiment showed great distinction during the Battle of Paardeberg. On 18 February 1900 they participated in a wild and unsuccessful charge on the Boer positions. On 27 February the battalion attacked again under the cover of darkness and Boer General Cronje surrendered with 4,100 of his men. It was the largest single defeat of the Boers, and ironically fell on the anniversary of the Boer Victory at Majuba Hill in 1881.



Private W. E. Jackson, Royal Canadian Regiment was the Regiment's first member killed in action, 18 February 1900. Private F. Whitely, RCR and Trooper F.C. MacKintosh, Strathcona's Horse died of enteric fever. Their names are immortalized on the brass plaque on the Drill Hall Floor which was donated to the Regiment by the grateful citizens of Vancouver. Queen Victoria inspects the Canadian Contingent on its way home from the South African War.

The volunteers returned to Canada on 30th December, 1900, and received a hero's welcome. They had earned for their Regiment their first Battle Honour, which was not formally awarded until 1933. Many of these young men would go on to command battalions in the First World War.

### **The 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles**

Back in the Regiment in Vancouver, the change to rifles from artillery brought new uniforms, traditions and affiliations. One surviving artillery tradition appears in the form of a lanyard worn by Senior NCO's. The lanyard itself is in rifle colours of green and black, but the lanyard is woven in the artillery fashion and is worn on the right shoulder.

On 1st May 1900 the Regiment was formally designated Sixth Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) and the Regiment became formally affiliated with the Rifle Brigade.



Barely a hundred years old, the Rifle Brigade had won sixty battle honours, more than any other unit in the British Army. The Rifle Brigade had fought so well during the Napoleonic Wars as the 195th (Rifle) Regiment that it was designated as The Rifle Brigade and was promoted out of the numbered line, an honour never before conferred on any Regiment. Since that date, the Rifle Brigade (now The Rifles) has retained the privilege of parading on the left of the infantry on ceremonial occasions.

It was Colonel Conte Manningham, first commanding officer of the Rifles, who decided that the rifleman must be an expert shot, highly trained and resourceful, able to travel light and quickly to seize and hold tactical points until the slower-moving heavy infantry could arrive. Their marching pace was 140 to the minute where the normal infantry pace was 120. They carried no colours and their battle honours were carried on their cap badges. Finally, they were the first to discard the Scarlet Jackets worn by the British Infantry in favour of dark Rifle Green.

"He dressed them up in Jackets of green  
And sent them where they couldn't be seen,  
And sent them in front, an invisible screen  
To fight for England's glory."

The Regimental adopted the Rifles motto - Celer et Fortis (Swift and Strong) - and adopted the Rifles march past, "I'm 95."

The transformation to Rifles was the last major reorganization of the Regiment until the First World War. In the intervening years the 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR became an institution in Vancouver, forming the heart of military traditions for the entire Province.

The next article covering an overview of our Regiment's history, covering the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, will be published in the next article of "The Duke."

Keith Maxwell

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM KAF

Dukes,  
Merry Christmas from KAF  
24 Dec 2009

Greetings all, this marks almost 3 months in theatre. Being here at this time of year is almost surreal. Back home, there are endless commercials, decorations everywhere and yet another rendition of some Christmas carol on the radio. Here, the only coniferous trees are of the plastic variety. The mess halls and boardwalk have decorations up, but apart from that and the calendar there is no real indication of the season. I still go to the fitness centre in shorts and t shirt most days. Occasionally the thermometer drops below 0° C at night, but the days usually warm up to 15~20°. It has actually rained here a few times, which turns everything into a giant mud pit. It at least keeps the dust down for a time. The rain rarely lasts for more than a day, and then it's back to sunshine.

Life here is pretty much routine. Unless we are going out on a mission, generally we get up and do self directed PT, then show up at our compound to do any needed maintenance on our vehicles and gear. I was sidelined for about a week and a half, because someone stepped on my foot and fractured my toe while playing ball hockey. I ended up wearing a plastic foot cast for that time, which kept me from going

out at all. Fortunately it healed up well enough so I could dump the cast and go back to work before I went totally insane with boredom.

I have personally yet to see any real opposition in the way of enemy contact to our presence here. Most people are just going about their normal daily lives, trying to eke out a living. Sometimes an IED may go off in the night, causing delays for us because it was on a common route. Since we only go during daylight hours, this rarely affects us since Timmy Taliban is trying to turn the populace against coalition forces and blowing up locals is bad PR for them as well. About the most I have seen is sometimes kids will throw rocks at our vehicles as we pass. Usually they do it because there is someone bribing them with candy to antagonize us. Usually the presence of locals is a good sign because they generally know if there is anything in the area. However this is not always the case so we remain vigilant. Children are a double risk, because they usually look for handouts. You kind of want to do something for them but if you do, you run the risk of running over one because they will mob the vehicle if they know they will get something.

It is remarkable just how much garbage there is – you see it almost everywhere, in the middle of nowhere, on rooftops, and in the streets and storefronts. Some of the open plains look like there was an explosion in a landfill. The ‘awnings’ over the storefronts can be made of anything from corrugated steel to straw to old canvas. Quite often there is garbage of all types on top, ranging from old tyres to rocks. They often look on the verge of collapse. Not everything is in such a state though. . Some of the houses we see are large and well kept.



Corporal Terry Haigh buying naan bread in a food store during a convoy stop in Kandahar.

The automobiles range from old Corolla wagons to late model luxury SUVs. Apparently a lot of the cars are imported from Japan, where older cars are legislated off the roads. Toyota is by far the most popular make, followed by Honda and Suzuki. Motorcycles range from common Japanese brands to other Asian makes such as Jawa or others such as Hooda, or Yamada. Often they are used as the family car, with Dad, Mom, and as many as 3 kids balanced precariously on the seat and fuel tank. Helmets are by far the exception to the rule as well. Pickup truck beds are usually standing room only, with as many as will fit wishing they were the lucky ones with a seat in the cab. Or not, depending on individual hygiene practises. Another common sight is seeing a minivan filled with people and another 6 clinging to the roof rack.

City traffic is pure mayhem, with the occasional policeman trying to maintain order at the odd intersection. Traffic lights are nonexistent here; instead local drivers have traffic circles and signage to ignore. If there is a gap in traffic, something will immediately fill it. Motorists routinely drive on the wrong side of the road, or 3 abreast on a 2 lane road. Pedestrians, cyclists and livestock are a constant hazard. Not many people can say they had to swerve around a wayward herd of sheep in the middle of town. It is a testament especially to the truckers who manage to pilot a tractor trailer through some pretty tight spaces.

I should sign off for now, so I will wish you all a merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

Cheers

Cpl Terry Haigh  
Roto 8, TF 3-09  
NSE Force Protection

## **VANCOUVER CANUCKS Armed Forces Night – Sunday, November 1, 2009**

The Regimental Association organized a night out to watch the Vancouver Canucks play the Colorado Avalanche on Sunday, November 1, 2009. The night started with a meet and greet in the Sgts Mess at 5 p.m. where we enjoyed drinks and appetizers before departing for the game at 6:45 p.m. Bill Diamond, one of your directors, had come up with the concept for the evening. To qualify for the Canucks special pricing and seating we had to commit to 20 tickets for the game. In the end we had 22 members attend. We were pleasantly surprised when our tickets were upgraded to our own private booth. The seats were spectacular and between periods we could mingle without having to rush to the concessions or washrooms because we had our own private bathroom. The only negative was the price of drinks - \$8.00! The game was exciting as the Canucks scored three goals and allowed none, winning 3 to 0. At the end of the game we retired back to the Sgts Mess where our president was waiting patiently for our return to the mess with hot snacks and drinks.



General Walt Natynczyk, CDS, and CWO Mark Arden, RSM.

Because it was Armed Forces night at the game, there were a number of complimentary tickets for serving members of the Armed Forces. A great number of these persons, with their families, also returned to the mess to unwind after an exciting game. At one point there was close to 70 people in the mess. As the night wound down around 11:00 p.m. we departed for home with an added bonus – no traffic. Following the success of this night the Association is proposing another night out on Thursday, January 21, 2010 when the Canucks play Dallas. If you are interested, please notify the Association.

## 2009 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER LUNCH

We are pleased to report that the annual fundraiser held at the Drill Hall on December 17<sup>th</sup> was a complete success! Attendance was up over last year and the funds raised for the various programs of the Charitable Trust exceeded last year's. We would like to thank our many contributors and attendees for their tremendous support! A special thank you to the CO, LCol Bruce Kadonoff, and various members of the Regiment for their assistance and support.

## 2009 ANNUAL HOMELESS DINNER

We are pleased to report that we served 545 meals at the Drill Hall on December 19<sup>th</sup>. 170 sandwich meals were delivered to the Hastings and Main area by members of the Regiment. Approximately 100 volunteers were in attendance to serve (including members of the Regiment, Army Cadets, students from St. Patrick High School and Archbishop Carney High School and 42 members of the Regimental Association). Also in attendance was the Salvation Army Band and their mascot. A special thank you to LCol Bruce Kadonoff, the Regiment, Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army for their support of this annual event.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Agnes Keegan on her recent appointment as an Honorary Captain in the Regiment. LCol Kadonoff presented Agnes with her Certificate on 11 November 2009, in recognition of her many years of service and support to 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC.

Photos courtesy of Tricia Dong.

## ASLEEP



SL104433 Trooper J. C. Painter served with the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II, with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC) in Korea and was one of the original members of the Fort Gary Horse when it was it went regular force in the 1950s. He passed away on 22 November 2008. Jim and family resided in Provost, Alberta.

Major Ernest Kroeger served with the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps during World War II. Ernest entered the ministry after the war and served as Chaplin of the BC Regiment in the 1960s. He passed away on 3 December 2008. Ernest and Alvera resided in Delta, B.C.

K37452 Trooper A. McNair served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 19 August 2009. He and Betty resided in Britannia Beach, B.C.

Trooper H. Lindsay served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) during World War II. He passed away on 16 August 2008. He and family resided in Richmond, B.C.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MILITARY SERVICE  
TO THE REGIMENT AND CANADA**

**At the going down of the sun, and  
In the Morning, we shall remember them.**