



The Duke

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2010

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Sgt(Ret'd) Don Cameron, assisted by Sgt(Ret'd) "Recce Bob" Remple, laid the wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association.



COMING EVENTS

See page 19 for details.



The Regimental Association on Parade



The BC Regiment (DCO)

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2010

The Regimental Association participated in the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony and Veterans' Parade at the Cenotaph at Victory Square on 11 November 2010. Approximately 25 of our members paraded with our unit. Archie Steacy took the position of right marker and Ted Hawthorne led our group on behalf of President Ray Glover. Don Cameron laid the wreath for the Regimental Association with Bob Remple's assistance. The salute on the march past was taken by Colonel Bryan Gagne, CD, Commander of 39 CBG, a former Regimental Commanding Officer and very good friend of the Regimental Association. We were led by 28 members of The BC Regiment (DCO) Irish Pipes and Drums. The Band was well turned out and did an excellent job maintaining our marching pace. We have commended the Band for their excellent work and support.

Upon our return to the Drill Hall, there were toasts to the Fallen and the Regiment. Our traditional meat pies were served to the members of the Regiment and Regimental Association and our guests. The rum and pies were provided compliments of the Regimental Association. In addition, a keg of beer was presented to the Junior Ranks mess with the first glass drawn by our President, Ray Glover.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Members of the Regimental Association attended the annual ceremony at the 29th Battalion, CEF Memorial on the Pacific National Exhibition grounds on Sunday, 26 September 2010 at 1:00 pm. The ceremony was well attended by numerous other members of the Regimental Family, including HLCol Bob Stanley, DCO Maj Harjit Sajjan, Maj Jim Blomme, CO, staff and cadets of 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC, Lt Paul Campbell, CO and cadets of 2781 BCR (Powell River) RCACC, "Pipes and Drums" President Pat Connell, Pipe Major Alistair Pattison and pipers, and finally our superb Bugle Major John More. Our many thanks extended to Jim Britt, the Parade Commander, for organizing and conducting the excellent ceremony, and to all participants for supporting this important act of remembrance. We are especially proud of our cadet contingent from Powell River, lead by Lt Paul Campbell, for making such a long trip to attend the ceremony!

During the course of the ceremony, Keith Maxwell was asked to say a few words concerning the various units our Regiment now perpetuates and the primary reason for the remembrance ceremony itself. With Keith's kind permission, we have published his presentation verbatim. Many thanks Keith.

In the group photograph below, you will note that the wreath placed at the cairn by the Regimental Association has three new ribbons with appropriate divisional colours for the 7th, 29th and 102nd Battalions.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the attendees adjourned to the reception room for light snacks and soft drinks compliments of the Regimental Association.



29th Bn CEF Memorial – 26 September 2010

Keith's remarks are as follows:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow Dukes –

We are here today to pay homage to the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The Battalion was raised in Vancouver in October 1914 in Vancouver, just as the first contingent was sailing for Europe from Valcartier, Quebec.

They concentrated at a tent camp in Heritage Park, near where we stand, and underwent their initial training under the watchful eyes of their first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Tobin and their first RSM Fred Curtis. Both had been active in the militia in Vancouver before the war. Additionally, Lieutenant-Colonel Tobin was a graduate of the Royal Military College in 1897, and a veteran of the South African war with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). RSM Curtis had served many years in the 6th Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles (6th DCOR) and had been a Company Sergeant-Major in that Regiment at the start of the War.

The 29th Battalion went overseas in the spring of 1915 with the Second Division and arrived in France later that year. They fought for the next three and one-half years as part of the “Iron Sixth” Brigade in the hard-luck 2nd Division. The Battalion distinguished itself in its first major battle on the Somme at Courcellette, France, where they advanced accompanied by Mark I tanks - the first ever attack by tanks in the war - on 15 September 1916. The Battalion went on to great achievements at Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 – where a member of the Battalion, CSM Robert Hill Hanna won the Victoria Cross – Passchendaele, Amiens and in the fighting east of Arras, France to break the Hindenburg Line in August and September 1918.

After the war the Battalion was initially perpetuated by the 2nd Battalion, 1st British Columbia Regiment, which was renamed “the Vancouver Regiment” in 1924. That Regiment was amalgamated with the Irish Fusiliers in 1936, who continued to perpetuate the 29th Battalion. Finally, in 2002 the Irish Fusiliers (Vancouver Regiment) were amalgamated with the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own), who now perpetuate the Battalion. This brings the story full circle. The 29th Battalion was formed from an equal numbers of soldiers from the 6th DCOR and the 11th Regiment, Irish Fusiliers of Canada in 1914 – it was, in a very real if not formal sense, an amalgamation of the two Regiments some 88 years before the official event.”

The amalgamation of three of the four manoeuvre Regiments historically associated with Vancouver – the Vancouver Regiment, the Irish Fusiliers and the British Columbia Regiment - provides a strong historical link between today’s Regiment and our city and province. As Dukes all, we are Vancouver’s Regiment; we are British Columbia’s Regiment; we are The British Columbia Regiment.

Today the BCR (DCO) perpetuates the various fighting units in which 3000 soldiers died for their country and 10,000 were wounded in five wars stretching over one hundred and ten years. We are honoured with the responsibility to maintain the memory and honour of the 6th DCOR, the 7th, 29th and 102nd Battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (BCR), the Irish Fusiliers (Vancouver Regiment) and The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own).

We will remember them.”

REUNION DINNER 2010

By: Bill Diamond

A dinner enjoyed by all!!

The annual Association Reunion Dinner was held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at the Delta Suites hotel. We were very pleased to host Col Bryan Gagne – Commander of 39 Brigade as well as HMajors Senator Larry Campbell. It was also a pleasure to see Don Cameron attend and share a few stories with those in attendance.

The evening started off with Bugle Major More sounding the dinner warning. Members and guests took their seats and head table guests were piped in by Pipe Major Pattison and Director of Pipe Music Seguin. It was announced that evening that these two pipers have also been appointed as the Commander’s Pipers. Whenever the Commander is in need of a piper, he will be calling on pipers from our band – something we are all proud of!!

Attendance was down a bit this year with conflicting functions, indicating a need to review the timing, date and location to see if we can make improvements. Any and all feedback would be appreciated.

Back to the dinner – we were all pleased with how it progressed. Many people commented on the great toasts. The Commander gave a wonderful talk about communication and reconnecting. Our very own President Ray Glover gave a fabulous overview of the year as it related to the Association. After hearing Ray speak we all realized that it has indeed been a busy year.

Association Director Keith Maxwell gave a highlight of a recent article on the Worthington Force. Keith has a way with words and we were pleased that he once again shared a bit of Regimental history with us all.

The dinner also provided an opportunity to recognize a few people for their support to the dinner and the Association. In particular, Carol Glover who has often been referred to as “The Corporal” by President Ray is now known as HMCpl Glover. Congratulations on your appointment HMCpl Glover!!

We look forward to seeing a good crowd at next years’ Reunion Dinner!!

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA ON THE NATO SUMMIT

November 20, 2010
Lisbon, Portugal

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today made the following remarks at the conclusion of the NATO Summit in Lisbon, Portugal:

“This summit was a success — allies emerged strong and united. Allies agreed that organizational reform is critical to NATO’s long-term effectiveness, a position that Canada has consistently advocated for years.

“The decision to streamline NATO’s command structure will leave the Alliance better equipped to operate in an efficient, flexible and cost-effective manner. The adoption of the new Strategic Concept will help NATO move quickly to address challenges of the 21st century.

“We agreed to reach out to our partners, including Russia, in order to enhance our common security.

“We also discussed progress on the ground in Afghanistan. Next year will mark the beginning of a new chapter in Afghanistan’s history. Over a transition period, between 2011 and 2014, Afghan forces will assume primary responsibility for the security of their country.

“As this transition proceeds, Canada will assist the Afghan people build a stronger future. After the combat mission ends next year, this assistance will be in the form of aid, development and military training, centred in Kabul.

“Leaders also re-iterated their deep respect for the contribution and enormous sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform, our development workers and our diplomats. These brave individuals continue to make Canada proud.”

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN PAUL AS AN AFGHANISTAN CASUALTY

November 26, 2010
Ottawa, Ontario

Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the following statement today recognizing a Canadian Forces officer as an Afghanistan casualty:

“It is with greatest sympathy that I extend my condolences, and those of all Canadians, to the family and friends of Captain Francis (Frank) Cecil Paul, who died at home in Canada of natural causes last February while on leave from Canada’s mission in Afghanistan.

“Though he died on Canadian soil, Captain Paul was still an integral part of our mission in Afghanistan and had worked diligently to help bring safety and stability to the people of Afghanistan. For that, he deserves to be recognized with his colleagues who have given their lives for this mission.

“Thanks to Canadian Forces members like Captain Paul, together with our partners and allies, we are saving lives and helping the Afghan people to stand on their own and create a better future for their own country.

“The Government of Canada is proud of our Canadian Forces personnel, such as Captain Paul, and their dedication to this important mission.”

OUR REGIMENTAL HISTORY

By: Keith Maxwell

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

The 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles

In the last article on the history of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) we looked at the early history of the Regiment from its predecessor volunteer companies through to its designation as the 6th Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles (6th DCOR). In this period the Regiment had grown and transformed rapidly with various name and role changes, reflecting the rapid growth and development of the colony and province of British Columbia.

The Drill Hall

By 1900 Vancouver's population had grown to 20,000 people as the port capacity increased and the Canadian Pacific Railroad increased commerce and travel opportunities between British Columbia and the rest of Canada. Vancouver had become the first city of the Province on the mainland, eclipsing New Westminster, and a large influx of young immigrants from Britain retained strong ties to the old country. Additionally, the thriving community in Chinatown, most of whom had arrived during the building of the railway, laid the foundation for the multi-ethnic nature of Vancouver.

In 1898 a new Drill Hall was authorized for the growing city, and the city marveled as this dominating structure rose on the western edge of downtown at 620 Beatty Street, with its castle like turrets built of brick and stone. The Drill Hall, which continues to be the Home of the Regiment, was formally opened on the 30th September, 1901 by HRH the Duke of Cornwall and York, who later became King George V. Two commemorative chairs were built especially for the Duke and Duchess; they reside in the Regiment's Museum today.

In 1904 a soldier of the DCOR, Sam Perry, became the top rifle shot of the entire Empire, winning the King's Prize at Bisley, and became the first native born Canadian to attain that honour.

The increase in population brought with it a general demand for additional Militia units. In 1910 the 104th Westminster Fusiliers were formed in New Westminster from the companies of the 6th DCOR located in that city, and the 72nd Highlanders, later known as the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, were established in Vancouver. In 1913 a third infantry regiment was authorized for Vancouver and on 15 August of that year Lieutenant-Colonel George McSpadden inaugurated the 11th Irish Fusiliers of Canada.

In 1913 came another call to arms in Aid of the Civil Authority. The call out for the Nanaimo Coal strike was the longest in our history. When Chinese and Japanese strikebreakers were brought into the Nanaimo coal mines, one thousand striking miners went on the rampage. They took possession of the town, looting, burning, fighting and destroying property. Many innocent families, including women and children, took to the woods for their safety.

The Premier, Sir Richard McBride was away, but W.J. Bowser, Attorney General and Acting Premier quickly called out the Militia. On the evening of 13 May 1913, a thousand man force, including troops from the 6th DCOR, under the command of Lt-Col A.J. Hall, a former Commanding Officer, sailed for Nanaimo. The strike was brought under control. Most of the troops returned home a month later, but a small guard was maintained until the end of August 1914.

The steamer Komagata Maru arrived in Vancouver harbour on 24 May 1914. On board were 378 Sikhs and their leader, Gurdit Singh, who hoped to immigrate to Canada. Although 34 people were allowed ashore as "returning immigrants", the remainder were refused entry on a technicality, as the number of Sikh immigrants to BC was restricted by order-in council. When ordered to leave they seized the ship and violently repelled police and immigration officers. On July 23rd, men from the 6th DCOR and the Irish

Fusiliers stood by as HMCS Rainbow sailed into harbour, trained its guns on the Komagata Maru, and escorted it out of Vancouver Harbour, thus ending the incident.

The First World War

At the outbreak of the First World War the Canadian Minister of Militia decided to mobilize Canada's main war effort by raising numbered battalions rather than employ the existing Militia Regiments intact. As a part of the Imperial war effort the Dominion of Canada initially offered a division as an expeditionary force; that force grew to four divisions under the Canadian Corps over the course of the war.

Seventeen infantry battalions were raised in British Columbia to serve overseas in the Great War and seven of those are perpetuated by the Regiment today. Three of the Regiment's battalions became part of the order of battle of the Canadian Corps, while the remainder were broken up as reinforcements. Those forming part of the Corps included the 7th, 29th and 102nd Battalions.

The 7th Battalion was raised at Camp Valcartier, Quebec, in September 1914 with an initial strength of 1223 officers and men. Its first CO was Lieutenant-Colonel Hart-McHarg of the DCORs. The 7th was composed of drafts raised by five BC militia units. The 6th DCOR contributed 353 volunteers; the remainder came from other Regiments around the province. More than 6000 men served in the 7th Battalion which suffered 1440 killed and 3294 wounded during its 45 months on the Western Front. Members of the Battalion earned 431 decorations for gallantry, including three Victoria Crosses, the highest award for valour in the Empire. The VCs were earned by Captain Edward Donald Bellew and Privates Michael James O'Rourke and Walter Leigh Rayfield. The 7th Battalion's first battle was the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium. On 22 August 1915 the German Army released chlorine gas against the French Colonial Division manning the trenches to the north of 1st Canadian Division. This collapsed the flank of the Canadian Division and the Canadians had to form a flank guard at the same time as they withstood massed German attacks and follow-on gas attacks on their position. The 7th Battalion manned the apex of the open flank near the Belgian village of St Julien, and fought a desperate battle that stopped the German Army from breaking the line. The Commanding Officer was killed and over half the fighting strength of the battalion were casualties. However, the 1st Canadian Division, including the 7th Battalion, held the line and defeated the most determined attack by the Germans to that point in the war. It was the start of the enviable reputation that the Canadian troops would build throughout the war.

The 29th (Vancouver) Battalion, also known as "Tobin's Tigers", was raised in Vancouver in March of 1915 and had an initial strength of 1227 officers and men. Its first CO was Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Tobin, a veteran of the RCMP and the South African War. Arriving at the front in the fall of 1915 it served with distinction from the trenches of the Kemmel Sector to the Final 100 Days campaign. Of 4524 soldiers who served in its ranks during the war, 606 were killed and 1400 were wounded in battle. More than 355 decorations for gallantry were earned by the men of the 29th, amongst them one Victoria Cross awarded to Company Sergeant-Major Robert Hill Hanna for his valour during the battle of Hill 70.

The 102nd (North British Columbia) Battalion, raised at Comox in December 1915, had an initial strength of 1005 officers and men. The Battalion was known as "Warden's Warriors" after its first CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Warden. J.W. Warden had served in the DCORs fought with the 7th Battalion at St Julien. He was wounded during that battle, returned to Canada, was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, and raised the 102nd Battalion from volunteers in northern British Columbia. Arriving in France on 12 August 1916 the Battalion received its "baptism of fire" on the Somme. The 102nd Battalion served with distinction and great sacrifice throughout the remainder of the war, notably during the Final 100 Days campaign. Of the 3863 officers and men who served in the Battalion 676 gave their lives and 1715 were wounded. The soldiers of the Battalion earned 287 decorations for gallantry; amongst them was a Victoria Cross awarded to Lieutenant Graham Thompson Lyall for his leadership and gallantry during the capture of Broulon Wood and subsequent fighting.

The Regiment's battalions in the CEF took part in every major engagement fought by the Canadian Corps in the war. All three attacked at Vimy Ridge in April 1917, and all three played a major role in the Final 100 Days campaign that ultimately defeated the German Army in the autumn of 1918.

With the defeat of the German Empire, two of the Regiment's battalions, the 7th and 29th, formed part of the Occupation Force on the Rhine river. They returned to base camps in Belgium in early 1919. The battalions returned home in the ensuing months and were demobilized and dismissed with appropriate ceremony and fanfare.

Between the Wars

Perhaps the greatest problem facing the Army after the war was how to reorganize and perpetuate 216 reinforcing and 50 fighting battalions of the CEF within the framework of the "Old Militia" regiments which remained behind in Canada. In British Columbia, National Defence Headquarters decided to create a "1st British Columbia Regiment" with six battalions. The DCOR and 7th Battalion would be joined to form the First Battalion (7th Battalion CEF), 1st BC Regiment (DCO). The 29th Battalion formed the core of the 2nd Battalion, 1st British Columbia Regiment (known as the Vancouver Regiment), and the 47th Battalion, CEF and the Westminster Regiment formed the 3rd (New Westminster) Battalion. The 11th Irish Fusiliers were reformed as the Irish Fusiliers of Canada.

The Drill Hall was a busy place with the Vancouver Regiment parading Mondays and Wednesdays, the Seaforth Highlanders on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the 1st BC Regiment (DCO) the other days.

In May 1924 the Westminster and Vancouver Regiments went their separate ways as the large BC Regiment was broken up. Later that year, the Regiment's affiliation with the Rifle Brigade was reaffirmed. However, we were still classified as an Infantry Regiment and carried Colours on parade. The Regiment was commanded by Lt Col Foster, later the Chief of the Vancouver Police from 1924 – 1927.

In 1927 the Regiment received a new commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Foster CMG, DSO, VD, who did a fine job of leading the Regiment. Lt-Col HFG Letson MC, took over command of the Regiment in 1927 and during his years rifle traditions were strengthened. In 1928, Officers were authorized to wear black ties on parade.

In January, 1930, the Regiment reverted to Rifles and the colours were laid up in Christ Church Cathedral. (Editor note: Where they rest safely in an architecturally striking cabinet, handcrafted in oak and brass, in the sanctuary.) The Regiment's name was changed to The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) and trooping was discontinued; Rifle drill was adopted once again. A new cap badge was designed by LCol Letson, which incorporated the Badge of the 7th with Rifle symbols, a Ducal Coronet, a wreath, and a scroll with "The Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles" on it. The initial version had ten battle honours from the First World War, and the Battle Honour "South Africa" was added in 1933. The cap badge has remained unchanged since this time.

By 1937 the militia in Canada was badly equipped and underfunded, making do with First World War uniforms, weapons and equipment. In spite of appeals from the press this situation did not improve much until the war started two years later. One bright light to emerge this year was another top class rifleman, Corporal PM Gibault, who won many trophies at the BCRA shoot, and later that year shot at Ottawa on the BC Team. He won the MacDougall Challenge Cup and Miniature in competition with more than 450 other shooters from England, Australia, and Canada, as well as the Gooding Gold Medal for the best marksman under 21 years of age.

Thus the Regiment served during the greatest war the world had ever known, and continued to serve our country in times of reductions and neglect, never losing their spirit and loyalty. Its soldiers would need a plentitude of both those qualities in the years to come.

THE VIEW FROM THE BUTTE

By: Jack Drake

As I'm sure you're all aware, winter sports, especially ice fishing, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing are very popular in the Cariboo. There are a number of resorts in this area that cater to visitors from around the world.

Ice Fishing Derbys are held on all the lakes in the area hosted by various organizations such as the Lions, the Rotary, and the Volunteer Fire Departments of the region. Now these events are at an "On Risk" basis for booze as the fishermen could be taken to task by the constabulary for liquor offences --- remember on ice is no different than being on water in the summer regarding regulations --- albeit much colder --- so your sled or truck could be at risk for seizure for various liquor offences.

However, there is one very old resort that sits on a private lake and has for years hosted their own derby --- entry only to guests, good friends, and the staff --- a true Christmas tradition. Horses and sleighs and later skidoos would bring out hot rums to all participants who raised a flag --- catching a fish, cold fingers, annoying wife, ... entitled the person to raise his flag.

Unfortunately, the owner of the lodge, a widow in her early seventies, had had a terrible fire at her ranch in the late fall --- her saloon burnt to the ground! The guest ranch was fully booked for the winter months. Her main house, cook shack, and all the cabins had been spared. However, the Derby was in jeopardy!

There was a wrangler at this ranch that, due to circumstances, was doing double duty as a bartender at our local pub --- the famous Iron Horse in downtown Lone Butte. He mentioned on a Friday the situation at the guest ranch. It was at this time that a group of guys known as the Distinguished Gentlemen Society at the End of the Bar comprised of loggers, ranchers, mechanics, and retirees including one old Duke heard the wrangler's story and decided to take action --- NOT GOOD!

After lots of discussion and libations it was determined that the only way to save money and help the ranch was to make our own booze. One of the society members indicated to us all that he knew how to go about this --- tanks, coils, pipes, mash, etc.

Now you all know I've been involved in the consumption side of these products but never in the production side. The wrangler advised the society that there was an old trapper's cabin within five hundred metres of the ranch --- just off a skidoo trail so the activity wouldn't attract attention. Now this old cabin had a two hundred gallon propane tank in the rear, fairly common up here. The mechanic sets to with his welder. Everybody had a shift. We were supposed to maintain a relatively constant heat under the mash kettle.

In our comings and goings to the ranch we met many of the guests including a very dim but bright blonde from Cape Canaveral in Florida. The woman was most entertaining talking about all the stars in the Cariboo sky and the rocket launches she'd seen from her own back door at home. (Little did she know what was to come.)

It is about 21:00 hours on a clear night on Christmas Eve. All has been going well at the "project" --- product being produced slowly, when the society member on duty at the time determined that more heat would equal more production at a faster rate. Unfortunately, this plan was not discussed with those in the know.

As the wrangler explained the next day; he had taken the Florida couple out for a moonlight sleigh-ride --- when all the stars were dimmed by the flash of the alcohol-fueled propane tank launching. After a shocked pause the woman exclaimed, "I've seen them launch rockets at home but never did I think that

they came so close to ground here in the Cariboo on their way into space!" At this point a soot-blackened member of the society emerged from the brush onto the trail --- scaring the "apples" out of the horse, not to mention the wrangler and his passengers.

As they all watched the tank arc over the Butte in awe --- the member, who obviously had been imbibing, exclaimed, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"

The Princess and I wish you all a good holiday and the best in the new year.

THE START LINE

'Tis the Season to Reminisce / Christmas in the Desert – 1962

By: David Sproule

The Christmas season is about nostalgia and our memories take us back to other times. I remember during WW2, my Mother packing up parcels to send to my brother who at the time was a "guest of the 3rd Reich" as a POW near Brunswick and to my sister-in-law in England. The parcels usually contained newly-knit socks, a "flat-fifty" pack of cigarettes, chocolate, other food stuffs and for my sister-in-law, nylon stockings. Simple items that would help raise and sustain spirits in the dark days that remained ahead and bring memories of home and loved ones. Since these times I have read in family letters of the joy that these few and simple items meant to my brother and his wife. I have read my Father's bleak letters of life in the trenches of France & Flanders during WW1 and apart from the horrors of daily existence he found joy and pleasure in receiving parcels from home. A home that he knew he might never return to. Simple material expressions of love received with joy and gratitude.

I too remember such moments on my tour with the RCD Recce Squadron as a member of the UNEF in the Sinai Desert in 1962. We could not let Christmas be just another day of patrolling and camp routines. We started on Christmas Eve with the adjacent troop and my troop setting up an RV to meet at checkpoint "Oakville" midpoint on our 40 kilometre area of responsibility along the Israelis/Egyptian border. Under cover of the inky darkness our patrols met, lit a fire made from packing cases, opened a few beers and sang carols under the stars. I remember realizing at the time that we were only perhaps several kilometres from Bethlehem the birthplace of Christianity. In typical Canadian fashion, we drank a few beers and sang carols into the night. It was in a way a sacred moment.

We operated from pretty basic troop outposts. We had two – one about 15 Km out in the Sinai and the second about 30 Km south literally in the middle of nowhere. Each outpost was our home for two weeks at a time and for Christmas 1962, I was at the latter and most southerly outpost. It was named Fort Landell after the RCD Commanding Officer that fought the Regiment through much of Italy and NW Europe. Thanks to the Norwegian Contingent, we had a Christmas tree albeit a meagre one. We had decorated it with hand-made decorations and placed a few decorations beneath its sparse branches and beneath it we placed our presents received from our families across Canada. As per normal we started the day with a patrol at 0500 hrs along the border and then my troop sergeant and I served the troops hot-buttered rums filing us all with warmth against the cool desert morning air.

As it turned out it was a day full of activity as later we had a significant confrontation with an Egyptian army patrol operating out of their area of responsibility and testing our Canadian mettle while they attempted to conduct surveillance on an Israelis Kibbutz a kilometre or two across the border. As I learned many years later from one of my NCOs, weapons were drawn while I was negotiating with the Egyptian platoon commander to withdraw from the area.

Later we had turkey with all of the trimmings, pudding and made the best of our holiday – 17 Canadians gathered together among the sand dunes close by the Holy Land.

Over the New Years, I was in main camp in Rafah celebrated more than I needed to and participated in the Camp Rafah Polar Bear swim in the Mediterranean Sea. Not English Bay exactly but cool enough nonetheless. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Dukes past and present.

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

by: Pat Connell

TRIP TO POWELL RIVER

Pipe Major Alistair Pattison, Piper Greg Greene and myself went to Powell River - 23-24 October 2010, to pay a visit to former Pipe Major Ian Inkster of the Irish Fusiliers of Canada. Inkster served in WW2, and was a Piper under P/M - WO1 James Watt of the Irish. Inkster went on to be Pipe Major 1948-1949 and again 1955-1956. He has lived in Powell River for many years and we located him at the Kiwanis Senior's Home next to the hospital. With help from Lt. Paul Campbell, CO of the BCR Cadets in P.R., we were able to surprise him with uniformed Pipers playing at the front door of the home. We had a very nice and emotional visit with him and his wife and more piping was requested to the delight of the Inksters and other residents of the rest home.



Greg Greene, WO(C) Robins, Alistair Pattison and Pat Connell

We also visited the Cadet Corp. who were on a weekend exercise at Timberlane Barracks. They have a very good Cadet Piper who is planning to join up with us and whom we met when they came down for the 29th Battalion, CEF Memorial Service on September 26. The four of us were able to put on a concert for the Cadet Corp. and spend some quality piping time with the Cadet WO Tom Robins. Lt. Paul Campbell and his staff showed us wonderful Powell River hospitality, and it is hoped the Pipe Band will be able to visit again in force at some future date. We also met a number of local folks including a former Piper of the famous Powell River Pipe Band of the 1960's.

BAND REPORT SITREP

The band has had a very busy fall season with weekly practices, including drill and marching instruction. November saw us parade on Nov. 11th with the largest Pipe Band in our history with 28 members. We also had a mini band play on Nov 9, at the ICBC corporate Remembrance Day service. As well on Nov. 10th, Pipe Major Alistair Pattison and the Brigade Commanding Officers Piper Jordan Seguin played at the BCR Association's Homeless Christmas Dinner. The band also played at the 12th Service battalion's dinner on Nov. 13th, and again at the Sikh Remembrance Day at the Darbar Temple in Surrey on November 14th.



Remembrance Day 2010

December is a time for the Pipe Band to help out with Christmas Functions as this year is no different. Jordan Seguin piped at Operation Christmas Wish at Sears Dept. Store on Dec. 2, for the banner which is signed by many people and will join other banners from Sears Stores across Canada in going to Kandahar bearing Christmas Wishes for the Canadian Troops serving in Afghanistan. The band held a very successful AGM and Christmas Party on December 7th, with Lt. Colonel Kadonoff as our guest of honour.

We will have Pipers play at the December 11th dinner for the downtown eastside at the Drill Hall, December 12th at the Wolf & Hound Pub for a charity event for the food bank, and again on December 18th at the Vancouver Christmas Market at the Q.E. Theatre and the Men's Christmas Dinner at the Drill Hall to round off the most successful year in the Pipe Band's history.

A big thank you to all our friends within the Regimental family for their support and help in 2010.

UK/CANADA EXCHANGE

By: Cpl JC Castillo

On October 19th, 2010 Cpl. JC Castillo from The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) presented a regimental plaque to the CO of the Aberdeen UOTC, Lt. Col. MD Wardner (Mercian) as a token of friendship between the Canadian Forces Army Reserve and the Territorial Army (TA). During the event Lt. Col. Wardner highlighted the importance of mutual learning between coalition allies and the special relationship that exists between the British Army and the Canadian Forces. In the last training year Cpl. Castillo was attached to the TA in Scotland where he had the opportunity to train with British colleagues from the 51st (Scottish) Brigade while pursuing his Masters degree in Strategic Studies at the University of Aberdeen.



Cpl. Castillo presenting the regimental plaque to Lt. Col. Wardner

As part of the exchange, Cpl. Castillo undertook a leadership course through the UOTC in which he became familiar with British doctrine and tactics. Using kit such as the SA80 rifle, the Light Support Weapon (LSW) and communication systems such as the Personal Role Radio, Clansman and Bowman he participated in leadership positions at the section and platoon level. Another part of the exchange involved training OCdts in their first Module of the TA Commissioning Course (TACC) as a guest instructor. In the end, Cpl. Castillo was able to participate in activities with other units such as the 7th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, Royal Engineers and the Queen's Own Yeomanry where he had the chance to train and learn with different arms of the British Army.



Cpl. Castillo with members of the TA at the barracks of Barry Buddon Training Area

The exchange helped to renew some important historical links that exist between the Canadian Army and the 51st brigade. During the Second World War many of the units that are part of this Brigade were members of the 51st Highland Division which after being part of Lt. Gen. Montgomery's 8th Army in North Africa it was transferred to the First Canadian Army. Both Canadian and Scottish troops fought side-by-side successfully liberating Northern France and the North-West of Europe. This has created a special bond that is being embraced in the present day by soldiers from the two countries' armies.

SAMSON WANTS YOU



Mark your calendars for the following CO's Parades and "Samson Nights" (5 January [CO's Parade only]; 2 February; 2 March and 6 April). Please join us in the WO's' and Sgts' Mess at approximately 1930 hours, head down to the Parade Square around 2100 hours and retire back to the Mess after parade formalities end.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

By: Bill Diamond

Informative and enjoyable – two words used by the 20 people that attended the showing of the movie "The Devil's Brigade" on September 24 in the Sgts' and WO's' Mess. The intent of the evening was to give people an idea of the history of the First Special Services Force by watching the movie. A lead up to the visit of Major Wm (Sam) Magee's visit.

In addition to the showing of the movie, we had the privilege of Keith Maxwell providing an introduction to the First Special Service Force which included information on the formation of the Force and some of the challenges they encountered along the way.

I have seen this movie a number of times and must say Keith's five minute introduction put parts of the movie into perspective that were previously a mystery to me.

Thank you to all that attended as well as to the WO's' and Sgts' Mess for hosting the night and providing the popcorn.

MAJOR WILLIAM "SAM" MAGEE, CD, OMC

VANCOUVER TOUR (4 – 7 OCTOBER 2010)

It is our very great pleasure to report to you on the success of Sam's very successful tour. Sam's demanding itinerary consisted of the following events:

Fire Side Chat Dinner - 4 October 2010 – Sam was our special guest at this year's \$500.00 a plate fundraising dinner sponsored by the Regimental Association. The dinner was a complete sell out. Our head table guests were Sam, HCol William Ireland, LCol Bruce Kadonoff, CO of the Regiment, and our President, Ray Glover. Colonel Kadonoff welcomed Sam and thanked our guests for their generous support of the Regimental Association's Bursary Program and other initiatives of our Charitable



Trust. Keith Maxwell gave an excellent biography on Sam which we have reproduced with this report. The fireside chat component of the evening was an excellent opportunity to “get to know Sam” and that we did! We plan to continue this format next year as the cornerstone of our fundraising program. Many thanks to the Colonel, the Regiment and to our members and their guests for such an enjoyable and successful evening. Also many thanks for the great support from our friends at Rosedale on Robson Suite Hotel and to our anonymous suppliers of US wine and Canadian beer. Pipe Major Alistair Pattison... we also thank you for your support, excellent piping and adding such colour to this event.



Regimental Museum/Archives Breakfast – 5 October 2010 – Sam attended this event sponsored by the Regimental Association in recognition of the exceptional work performed by our Archives' Committee of The BC Regiment (DCO (RCAC) Museum Society. Many thanks for the excellent work performed by the committee and to Sam for such a good time.



ANAVets/Force 136 Luncheon – 5 October 2010 – Sam lunched on Dim Sum with his World War II confreres at the Jade Dynasty Restaurant on Pender Street. What a wonderful experience to see our veterans having such a good time. Many thanks to a great friend of the Regimental Association, Howe Lee, for his tremendous support in hosting this event.

Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society – 5 October 2010 – Sam toured this excellent museum as a special guest along with the group attending the luncheon. Once again, many thanks to Howe Lee for the first class tour!



39 CBG Tour – 5 October 2010 - Sam attended 39 CBG HQ as the special guest of the Commander, Colonel Bryan Gagne. Colonel Gagne welcomed Sam and introduced him to his staff. What a great opportunity for the serving members to engage with the living history so readily apparent in Sam. After a presentation to Sam by Colonel Gagne, we said our good-byes to a very happy group and proceeded to dinner with the Commander and RSM.

Dinner with the Commander and RSM – 5 October 2010 - Sam dined with Colonel Gagne, 39 CBG RSM, CWO Wishnicki, and members of the Regimental Association board (Ray, Keith, Bill and Ted). It was a great experience for us all. Many thanks to Colonel Gagne and 39 CBG for their support and for hosting this dinner.



15th Field Luncheon – 6 October 2010 – Sam was the guest speaker at the 15th Field weekly luncheon. There was an excellent turn out for the event. As usual, an excellent luncheon by Mrs. Lum and a great opportunity for those in attendance to get to know our special guest Sam. Keith gave the intro and bio and Sam took it from there. You might be interested to check out RUSI's website to review their report.

www.rusivancouver.ca Many thanks to Bob Mugford of the 15th Field Regimental Association for all of his support.

CO's Parade – 6 October 2010 – LCol Kadonoff introduced Sam to our serving members of the Regiment at the monthly CO's Parade. New members were sworn in by the CO and Sam was asked to present two CDs and one Afghanistan medal. President Ray Glover presented Sam with a commemorative plaque marking the event. Many thanks to the Colonel for inviting Sam and the Regimental Association to participate in this parade.



Mess Tour – 6 October 2010 – Well it had to happen! Sam “rang the bell” in all three messes. What a great time for all of our soldiers...”one-on-one” with Sam! What a great evening for everyone and another late night!!



Send off breakfast – 7 October 2010 – A preflight breakfast was held at Rosedale on Robson with Sam, Keith, Bill, Ray and Carol, and Gayle and Ted. Sam was presented with his Honorary Membership certificate and Regimental Tie by President Ray Glover. We said our good-byes to our good friend Sam and thanked him so much for the wonderful support. We enjoyed every minute of your tour!

The Regimental Association would also like to thank Keith Maxwell, Sam's ADC par excellence, and Bill Diamond, planner and operational person extraordinaire, for making this tour such a grand success.



CADET GOVERNOR'S REPORT

By: Roger Prouse

The Cadets have wrapped up the fall portion of the Army Cadet Programme and are looking forward to their various Christmas parties and other fun festivities.

All Corps will be standing down the week of 12 December and will stand to the week of 9 January 2011.

Cadet strength has shown a marked improvement in BC. The enrolment of Cadets at this time last year was approx. 1600 Army Cadets Province wide.

This year, the Cadet population it is up to over 1800 Cadets. This is an increase of 13% over last year. This increase is mirrored in our Cadet numbers as well as all four of our Corps has shown increases in strength over last year.

The Regiment recently put on a CF Familiarization for the BCR Cadets. Over 50 Cadets got the opportunity to get up close to the equipment and to talk to the soldiers about their roles. The week end included a tour of the museum and an opportunity to learn some of the history of The Regiment. The Cadets really enjoyed their experience and wish to convey their appreciation to Regiment.

CF Familiarization is part of the Cadet Training Programme but unfortunately not all BC Corps get the same opportunity due to distance and the training schedules of their affiliated unit.

All our Corps participated in their Communities Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

They truly enjoy being part of this very important observance.

They also help the RCL with their annual Poppy Drive. In the case of Powell River, they send a contingent of Cadets to Texada Island to assist the Legion with their Remembrance Day Ceremonies as well as participating in school ceremonies. All these activities benefit the Cadets by increasing their exposure in the community.

All Corps have had at least two field training exercise and a few more are planned for the New Year.

The Parent Sponsoring Committees have a very important role in the delivery of the Army Cadet Programme. They manage the Corps funds, fund raise, organize fun activities for the Cadets and assist the CO in any way possible. I am pleased report that all four Corps has an active Sponsoring Committee.

Our Corps are truly blessed to have such a fine group of dedicated CIC officers, Civilian Instructors and Volunteers working with our four Cadet Corps. We currently have 18 officers and 11 Civilian Instructors/Volunteers working very hard to ensure our Cadets are safe, are learning how to be good citizens and are having fun.

I can assure you that the BCR Cadet Programme is in very good hands.

On behalf of the Officers, Civilian Instructors, Volunteers and Cadets, I wish all members of our Regimental family a very Merry Christmas and happy, prosperous 2011.

RUGBY, RUGBY, RUGBY TWO FORMER DUKES – VANCOUVER'S FINEST

By: Archie Steacy



The 1936 Vancouver Rowing Club Team

Back row, L to R: T. Roxburgh, E. Gudwill, R. Forrest, R. Bristowe, J.L. Robertson (Capt), Art Lungley, E. Carter, J. Patterson, H. Atkinson.

Front row, L to R: T. Moran, J. Black, D. Rush, Rusty Goepel, T. Rowe, R. Kinnimont.

The unrelenting strictness and toughness of rugby served them well.

Art Lungley and **Rusty Goepel**, as well as being ardent rugby players for the Vancouver Rowing Club, they were dedicated officers of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles). They served overseas during World War II with steadfast service, a credit to themselves and the Regiment.

Captain Arthur F. Lungley fought in the Battle of Normandy, was wounded, and commanded a tank squadron throughout the North West Europe Campaign. He joined the Regimental Reserve Force at war's end, commanding the Regiment from 1953- 1955.

Lieutenant Rustemeyer (Rusty) Goepel distinguished himself during the Leopold Canal battles, and was the troop leader of the "C" Squadron tank troop that engaged and sank three of four German minelayers on 5/6 November 1944, at Zijpe Harbour, located at the eastern end of the Island of Schouwen at the end of the Battle of the Scheldt. This action enjoyed the final shots fired in anger in the Battle of the Scheldt.

During the fighting in the Hochwold, Germany, Lieutenant Goepel lost all his tank troop tanks except his own, fought his way onto the objective and took command of the infantry whose officer had been killed. For this gallant action, he was awarded the Military Cross. At wars end, Rusty Goepel was promoted to Captain, and he also joined the Regimental Reserve Force in 1946.

It was indeed a great privilege to know and serve with these two Dukes.

REGIMENTAL TRIVIA

The following Regimental trivia questions from the September 2010 issue of The Duke were answered by MCpl (Ret'd) Tim Monchomp. Thanks and well done Tim!

1. (a) Who was the first commanding officer of the Regiment?
(b) What military unit was he serving with when he first came to Canada?
(c) What was his rank in that unit?
(d) What was his unit job?

Answers: 1(a) Dupont; (b) Victoria Battery; (c) Major; (d) Artilleryman.

2. (a) What is the exact military designation of the Sherman tank located in front of the Drill Hall?
(b) What is the calibre of the master weapon?
(c) How many crew members did this tank require?
(d) Name the crew positions.

Answers: 2(a) M4AE8 76MM HVSS; (b) 76MM; (c) 5;
(d) Driver, Gunner, Crew Commander, Loader/Operator & Co-driver.

Come-on Dukes, show some interest, test your knowledge, or ask/research for answers to the following TRIVIA questions.

1. What was the first British Army Campaign Medal issued?
2. Lt Col Hart McHarg won the World's Long Range Championship at Camp Perry, Ohio. What is the name of the trophy and the year he won the championship?
3. Name the prestigious shooting trophy won by Cpl Ryan Steacy at Bisely 2010?
4. Name the Regiment's Victoria Cross winners and the battles in which they won their VCs?
5. What is the date of the Regiment's first fatal battle casualty, his name and the war and battle in which he gave his life?

Can you answer the above questions? Let us know your answers. The winner(s) will be announced in the next Duke Newsletter.

Please consider getting involved in REGIMENTAL TRIVIA. Send us some thought provoking questions to test our memories....ted@hplaw.ca or amsteacy@shaw.ca

COMING EVENTS

January 5, 2011	CO's Parade
February 2, 2011	CO's Parade and "Samson Night"
February 26, 2011	Paardeberg Dinner
March 2, 2011	CO's Parade and "Samson Night"
April 6, 2011	CO's Parade and "Samson Night"
April 7, 2011	Vimy Ridge Day
April 2011 (Dates to be confirmed)	St. Julien Dinner
	Annual Drumhead Service
	Association's Veterans' Lunch Vernon, B.C.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Kim Bekesinski
Jerry Couling – Treasurer
Andrew Conradi
Bill Diamond – Secretary
Raymond Glover – President

Ted Hawthorne – Vice-President
Keith Maxwell
Archie Steacy – President Emeritus
Graydon Young

Duke Editor: Archie Steacy
Publisher: Ted Hawthorne

IN THE HOSPITAL / ON THE MEND

We are pleased to report that our President, Ray Glover, has returned home from the hospital and is on the mend after a successful gallstone removal.

Very best wishes from all of us Ray!

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).

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

As many of you know, Duke has been deployed on special assignment to Afghanistan on his second tour of duty. He is now with the 10th Mountain Division, Regional Command South, Kandahar Airfield, in Afghanistan.

Duke is billeted with LCol Harj Sajjan, Special Assistant to the Commanding General, MGen Terry. Col Sajjan has reported

that “Duke A. Bear has been training in a secret location in Afghanistan to prepare himself for patrolling with 10th Mountain Division”. The photos, courtesy of Col Sajjan, are of Duke’s recent trip to Kabul by “Herc” (Embassy photo and the Canadian camp).



Safe travel in those Blackhawks!

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

The Museum Society is pleased to announce that the following elections of directors took place at the Annual General Meeting of Members on 9 December 2010:

BOB HALL
TED HAWTHORNE
RON LEBLANC
DWAYNE SNOW

The following officer appointments were made:

President	-	BOB HALL
Vice-President	-	RON LEBLANC
Treasurer	-	DWAYNE SNOW
Secretary	-	TED HAWTHORNE

The objective of the Museum Society is to continue to enhance the committee system presently in place. Further progress reports will be published in future editions of The Duke.

We wish to extend our thanks to Archie Steacy for his commitment and leadership as Museum Society President, 2002 to 2010. He will continue working with WO Ron Leblanc with artifact displays. Jerry Couling has retired after many years of service as a director and Treasurer of the Museum Society. Jerry continues to support us on accounting matters. Many thanks, Jerry, for your many years of service.

BCIT PRESENTATION (23 November 2010)

Ray Glover and Ted Hawthorne attended at BCIT and presented a plaque to Chris Koroneos, Director of Food Services, Compass Group Canada, in recognition of his many years of support for the annual Homeless Dinner.



L to R: Ted Hawthorne, Head Chef, Chris Koroneos and Ray Glover

CO'S PARADE (1 December 2010)

Representatives of the Regimental Association attended the December CO's Parade and presented five bursaries of \$1,095.00 each as follows:

MCpl. Jessica Anne Schultz (The Sgt Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary);
Cpl. James Alexander (Sgt (R) Donald N. Cameron Bursary);
Cpl. Andrew Baelde (Lt William H. Bicknell Memorial Bursary);
Cpl. Andrew Quong (Pte Michael J. O'Rourke, VC, MM Memorial Bursary);
Pte. Paul Guy Ellis (Capt Edward D. Bellew, VC Memorial Bursary).



Association members and Bursary recipients

The first Sgt. Piero Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary was presented to MCpl. Jessica Anne Schultz by Piero's parents and family. It was a very moving presentation and a wonderful experience for all of us.



At the Annual Fundraiser held on 9 December 2010, the Tpr Einar Erikson Memorial Bursary (initiated and funded by Keith Maxwell's uncle Boe Erickson) was presented by Keith to Cpl. Scott Kristen McLean.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER (9 December 2010)



L to R: Agnes Keegan, Keith Hutchison, Irv White, Jackie & Len Lockmuller

We are pleased to report that this year's Annual Fundraiser was well attended and a great success. Many thanks to our numerous supporters and friends. Special thanks to Gayle Hawthorne for organizing and running the Silent Auction and to Bill Diamond for "MCing" the event.

HOMELESS DINNER (11 December 2010)



Potato Peeling Experts

By any measure, the event was a complete success as we served a sit down dinner to 630 guests and distributed 285 sandwiches to people in the Hastings and Main area, i.e. a total of 915 people fed. We believe this to be the largest number ever served by us.

We would like to thank Catholic Charities, The Salvation Army, and all members of the Committee for their magnificent support: Archie Steacy for taking over ordering and pick-up of food supplies, arranging for delivery and pick-up of turkeys to VCC and BCIT and overseeing the lunch preparations; Lynda Steacy for kitchen control; Graydon Young who performed splendidly as our Chef; Sandra Young who smoothly controlled table setting and serving staff; Ted and Gayle Hawthorne for handling guest entry and ticket taking; Eddie Schmidt of Vitality Foods for providing endless cups of coffee for staff and guests; Kim Bekesinski for personally picking up the turkeys in Langley and delivering to BCIT for cooking and ensuring table return to the Salvation Army; Tom Lith, a master with waste control and disposal; and our serving soldiers with pick-up and delivery of cooked turkeys, tables and their willing and cheerful support.

We also wish to thank our many committed volunteers; Senior Branches, St. Patrick's High School; Girl Guides, and the many devoted members and supporters of the Regimental Association, who peeled and mashed 350 lbs of potatoes, dispensed the cooked food, set up dinner tables and served meals to our guests and assisted with clean-up; members of the BCR Irish Pipes and Drums, and the Salvation Army Brass Band.

Our sincere thanks to LCol Bruce Kadonoff, CD, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, for providing the necessary support to make this event happen!

We are most fortunate to have such a great team of committed people.

ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT, MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that RSM, CWO Mark Arden, CD and WO Ron Leblanc, CD have each been awarded the Order of Military Merit, Member (M.M.M.). General particulars of the award are as follows:

Member

Post-nominal: M.M.M.

Recognizes: exceptional service or performance of duty



Wearing: As prescribed in the protocol for Wearing of Orders, Decorations and Medals (http://www.gg.ca/honours/pdf/wearing_e.pdf)

Description

The badge of the Order is a blue-enamelled, straight-end cross (four arms, narrow at the centre, wider at the ends) with an annulus in red surmounted by St. Edward's Crown. The annulus bears the inscription MERIT.MÉRITE.CANADA.

The insignia is worn around the neck, suspended from a blue ribbon, 1.5 inches wide, with gold edges (0.1875). The lapel badge, a blue cross with a red maple leaf centre, is worn on the undress ribbon. Elevations within the order are indicated by the wearing of the lapel badge of the current and previous levels on a single ribbon.

LEVEL	Edging	Annulus Lettering	Maple Leaf Centre
Commander	gold	gold	red
Officer	gold	gold	gold
Member	silver	silver	silver

Quick Facts

Sovereign of the Order: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
 Chancellor and a Commander: Governor General
 Principal Commander: Chief of the Defence Staff
 Established: July 1, 1972

Related Information

For more information, please see the Department of National Defence Web site for Canadian Forces Honours and Awards: http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/dhr-ddhr/eng/home_e.asp

The foregoing is courtesy of the Governor General's website.

Our congratulations to the RSM and WO Leblanc for this well-deserved honour. Two extraordinary Dukes. The date and time of the Investiture has not been announced.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION PADRE



We are very pleased to announce that Captain the Reverend Paul Beckingham has been appointed Padre of the Regimental Association effective 1 December 2010. Congratulations Padre and welcome abroad! The accompanying photograph was taken at the ceremony at Victory Square on 11 November 2010. To the left is Capt. Don Bentley, ADC and to the right, his Honour, Lt Gov Steven L. Point, OBC.

Padre Beckingham delivering the Prayer of Remembrance

HONOUR HOUSE SOCIETY (10 November 2010)

Ted Hawthorne, Bill Diamond and Keith Maxwell, representing the Regimental Association, attended the official opening of Honour House at its new premises situate at 509 St. George Street, in New Westminster. It was a great experience for all who attended.

Congratulations to Honour House for their tremendous progress!

POST OFFICE CEREMONY (10 November 2010)

President Ray Glover and Keith Maxwell, representing the Regimental Association, attended at the Main Post Office to participate in the commemoration ceremony of two of our 7 Bn CEF members who were killed in action in WWI (Private Carr and Private Quinn). LCol Romano Acconci, DCO of 39 CBG, was also in attendance.

THE REGIMENT SAYS GOOD BYE TO ONE OF ITS OWN



The Regiment and the Regimental Family joined with the friends and family of the late Sgt Piero Dal Magro to say good bye at the funeral held at the Drill Hall on 11 September 2010. Piero died on 2 September 2010 after a valiant fight against cancer.

The Regimental Association wishes to thank the family, friends and members of the Regiment and Regimental Family for their generosity in remembering Piero by their "In Memoriam" donations to the newly established "Sgt Piero Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary". We sincerely hope that with the donations received to date and future donations, Piero's Bursary will last for many years to come. Again many thanks for your support!