

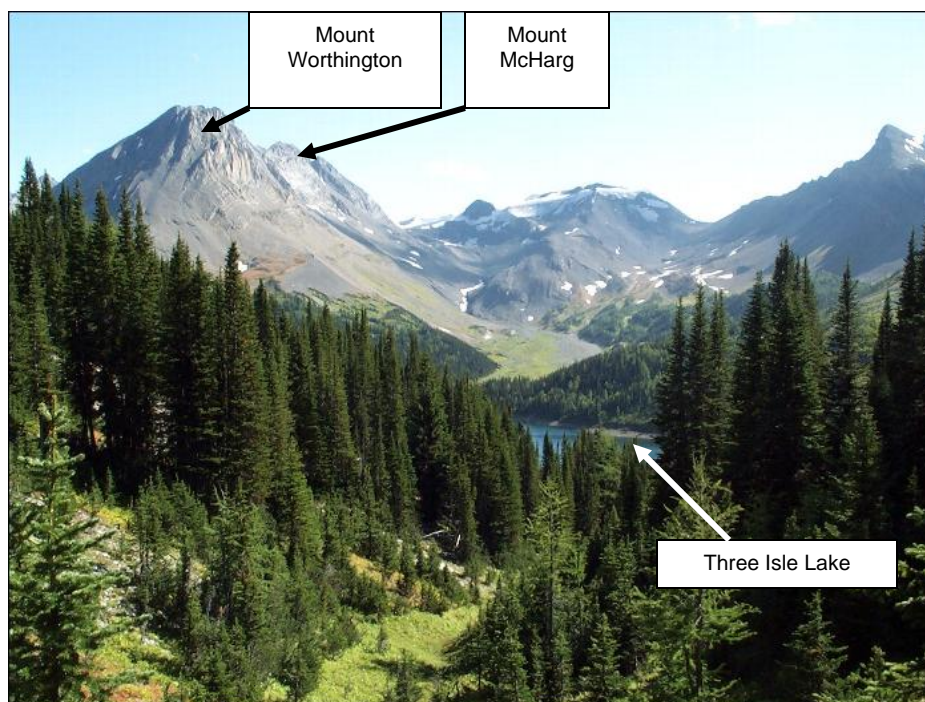


# The Duke

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## REGIMENTAL MOUNTAINEERS Exercise Summit Duke - 10 -14 August 2006 Mounts Hart-McHarg and Worthington Peter Lougheed Provincial Park Kananaskis, Alberta.



The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) has always been blessed with soldiers who are leaders brimming over with enthusiasm and initiative. One such Duke is Sergeant Ronald R. Leblanc, Regimental Recruiting NCO. In addition to his recruiting responsibilities, he is very involved in retrieving Regimental photos and articles for the Regimental Museum Society Archives.

Sergeant Leblanc recently initiated and conducted a most noteworthy commemorative mission for serving members to participate in climbing Mounts Hart-McHarg and Worthington. The mountains were named in honour of Lt. Col. William R. F. Hart-McHarg, Commanding Officer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion, C.E.F., killed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres, 24 April 1915 and Lt. Col. Donald G. Worthington, Commanding Officer of the 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment), killed during the Battle of Normandy, 9 August 1944 in recognition of their leadership.

The lofty peaks are located in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park in Kananaskis, Alberta at the western end of the Kananaskis River Valley and Three Isle Lake Valley in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

Sergeant Leblanc had hoped to place bronze plaques at the summit of each peak recognizing both the climb and the Colonels. Archie Steacy met with Mr. Jim Dennis, Alberta Parks Special Events and Permit Coordinator for the Kananaskis/Fish Creek Area, on 10 July 2006 to determine a specific location for the bronze plaques installation and outline the specifics of the dedication ceremony. It was agreed to install the commemorative bronze plaques on a very large granite boulder adjacent to the trail head at Upper Kananaskis Lake, facing Mounts Hart-McHarg and Worthington, for viewing by future hikers and climber. Also two, 4 inch ABS Tubes containing signature books will be placed in stone cairns for registration of future mountaineers ascending the peaks. Alberta Parks enthusiastically accepted our proposals

The Regimental Association accepted responsibility to design, produce, install the plaques and organize a dedication ceremony with a Firing Party at 1300 hours on 13 August 2006.

**Event Schedule:**

1. 10 Aug - BCR Team and Association Members depart for Kananaskis, arriving in the early evening. Climb Team overnights in a Parks campsite at Lower Kananaskis Lake.
2. 11 Aug - 0900 hours - Association Team install the two bronze plaques at the trail head.  
-1200 hours - Climb Team departs for Three Isle Lake Campsite. Located at the base of Mounts Hart-McHarg and Worthington.  
- Overnight at Wilderness Campsite.
3. 12 Aug - Climb Team to complete the climb on McHarg and Worthington Mountains and camp overnight at Three Island lake Wilderness Campsite.
4. 13 Aug - Climb Team returns to Kananaskis lake Trailhead by 1300 hrs.
5. 13 Aug - Conduct the Dedication Ceremony at 1330 hrs.  
- Dedication speech  
- Firing Party (three rounds fired using .303" blank cartridges) using a Ross, SMLE and No 4 Mk1\* Rifles  
-Traditional BCR Black Rum Toast to the Regiment and the Fallen.  
-Association Members depart for Vancouver.  
-Regimental Climb to overnight in Canmore, Alberta.
6. 14 Aug - Regimental Climb Team depart for Vancouver.

**Regimental Climb Team Members:** Captain Paul Lindsay; Captain Michael Mallette; Lieutenant Vincent Virk; Master Warrant Officer Floris van Weelderren; Sergeant Ronald Leblanc; Corporals Jesse Callejo; Terry Haigh; Jonathon Mishrie and Jason Op de Beeck.

**Association Members and Wives:** Archie and Lynda Steacy; Ray and Carol Glover; Ted and Gayle Hawthorne; Charles (Pat) and Wilma Nairne and Master Corporal Ian Patterson, former Duke now serving with KOOCR in Calgary, Alberta.

**Firing Party: Commanded by MCpl Ian Patterson:**

Charles (P) Nairne, 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (BCR): Ted Hawthorne and Ray Glover.

On 11 August, Archie Steacy and Pat Nairne installed the two bronze plaques by drilling holes in the surface of the granite boulder and fastening the plaques with fast drying hydraulic cement. While drilling the holes an inquisitive mountain chipmunk scampered to the top of the rock to investigate our hole drilling. After the third or fourth visit, we decide to name him "**DUKE**". We soon discovered **DUKE'S** home was under the boulder. Guess he wanted to see what all the noise was about. Next day, we created a real friendship with enough peanuts to last all winter. See photo.

The Climb Team climbed the lofty peaks but was unable to gain access to the summits as a glacier denied safe travel for the climbers. However, two stone cairns were erected on the upper slopes of the peaks to house the signature tubes, and two Inuksuks were built to commemorate the leadership and courage of the Colonels. Well done gentlemen.

On Sunday, 13 August the climb Team returned to the Trail Head to participate in the bronze plaque dedication service. Archie Steacy presented a short introduction regarding the reason for the climb and congratulated the serving members for their initiative and unstinting enthusiasm. Sgt. Ron Leblanc gave the dedication speech and Ted Hawthorne read the prayer.

Master Corporal Ian Patterson, Firing Party Commander, gave the orders to the Association's Firing Party who in excellent military manner fired three rounds each in honour of Colonels Hart-McHarg and Worthington.

Archie Steacy presented the Act of Remembrance while Gayle Hawthorne and Carol Glover placed a poppy on each plaque.

Gayle Hawthorne and Carol Glover provided glasses and an ounce of the Regiment's traditional black rum (disguised as diet cola) for the toast to the Regiment and the Fallen.

Archie Steacy and Ted Hawthorne presented a framed certificate of recognition and a small Inuksuk figure to each member of the Climb Team. Lynda Steacy and Wilma Nairne snapped numerous photos of the occasion.

On behalf of all Dukes, a debt of gratitude to Sgt Leblanc for his splendid initiative in the execution of Exercise Summit Duke 2006....sincere thanks Ron.

Ladies and gentlemen, sincere congratulations to all for participating in this remarkable and memorable occasion.

Up the Dukes.

Archie M. Steacy  
President  
BC Regiment (DCO) Association



The trail head across the dam on Upper Kananaskis Lake. The plaques are mounted at the far end of the dam.



Jim Dennis, Alberta Parks and Archie Steacy checking granite boulder to mount memorial plaques.



Charles (Pat) Nairne, 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (BCR) chiseling some granite to make a smooth surface to mount the memorial plaques.



Archie Steacy drilling mounting holes in the granite boulder.





Firing party practice. L to R – Ted Hawthorne, Ray Glover, Pat Nairne, MCpl Ian Patterson and Archie Steacy.



Mounted plaques, Inuksuk, rifles and toasting diet cola (black rum) ready for the dedication ceremony.



Archie Steacy addressing the Climb Team, firing party, and spectators (not visible)



Sergeant Ronald Leblanc presenting the dedication address.



Ted Hawthorne offering the prayer.



Placing poppies on the plaques. L to R – Carol Glover and Gayle Hawthorne.



Plaques with poppies.



Firing three rounds honouring Colonels Hart-McHarg and Worthington





The traditional Regimental black rum toast to the Fallen and the Regiment.



The Climb Team with Association recognition certificates. Standing L to R – Lt. Vincent Virk, Cpl Terry Haigh, Capt Mike Mallett; Kneeling L to R – Cpl Jesse Callejo, RSM Floris van Weelderden, Cpl Jonathon Mishrie, Cpl Jason Op de Beeck and Sgt Ronald Leblanc.



Alberta Parks members and BCR Association members. Standing L to R – Mr. Davie Neilson, Manager Alberta Parks, Ted Hawthorne, Ray Glover, Pat Nairne and Archie Steacy; Kneeling L to R – Sgt Ron Leblanc, MCpl Ian Patterson and Christine Scotland, Park Ranger.



Association ladies. L to R – Wilma Nairne, Gayle Hawthorne, Lynda Steacy and Carol Glover.



The memorial Plaques, Inuksuk and “DUKE”, our friendly mountain chipmunk.



A Regimental task completed...well done Sgt Leblanc. Up the Dukes.

**Dedication Ceremony of the Bronze Plaques for  
Colonels W.F.R. Hart-McHarg and D.G Worthington.  
At the Trail Head at Upper Kananaskis Lake in  
Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, Alberta  
In the Canadian Rocky Mountains**

**13 August 2006**

**Dedication read by Sergeant Ronald R. Leblanc,C.D.**

How do we begin to pay tribute to the strength, leadership and devotion to Canada of two men whose contribution to this nation are so outstanding? Two mountain peaks now proudly bear their names. Lt Col William R.F. Hart-McHarg and Lt Col Donald G. Worthington served with distinction, each in their own generation.

Lt. Col. Hart-McHarg practiced law in Rossland, B. C., and served in the Boer War before being killed in action in World War I on 24 April 1915, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres, Belgium while leading the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion, C.E.F. His mountain was named in 1918.

Lt. Col. Worthington commanded the 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) Canadian Armoured Corps during World War II being killed in action on 9 August 1944 on Hill 111, Normandy, France, during Operation Totalize II. Hill 111 is located half a mile east of Route N158 approximately midway between Caen and Falaise. His mountain was named after him in 1956.

Time does not permit us to recount their histories. Their names live on in the Regimental histories and their biographies make worthy reading.

Our focus here is to remember them and raise a memorial to two exceptional leaders of our Unit, **the British Columbia Regiment (DCO), "The Dukes"**.

This week we have chosen to do that by climbing to the top of their mountains, and in a form of two bronze plaques that will truly commemorate Lt. Col. William Hart McHarg and Lt. Col. Donald Worthington.

The bronze memorial plaques are a fitting reminder of the strength of presence of these two leaders. The two mountains and their most excellent example of leadership remind us of the ancient Canadian Inuit structures.... **"The Inuksuks"**. They are the signature on the Arctic landscape of a hunter who has previously passed this way. Inuksuks represent strength, leadership and motivation providing comfort to the traveler, assuring him that he is not alone. They are also messengers indicating safe passages, natural shelter and good hunting.

Our Regimental Padre, Captain Paul Beckingham is unable to be with us to-day, but he has written this prayer of dedication for these memorial plaques.

**Prayer read by Hon Major E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne**

Lord God,

From ancient times your people have raised stones of Remembrance  
to honour those who have gone before  
and blazed a trail for us to follow.  
bless, we pray, these bronze plaques placed  
here today,  
in honour of Colonels Hart-McHarg and Worthington  
and may their example of vigor, dedication and courage  
be to us a shining light and a worthy example of duty, leadership and human strength  
given in the service of many.  
in the Name above all names. Amen

**The Act of Remembrance read by Lt. Col Archie M. Steacy, C.D.**

“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We shall remember them”.

**Firing Party commanded by Master Corporal Ian R. Patterson**

The Association Firing Party, Trooper(Ret'd) Charles (Pat) Nairne, Sergeant (Ret'd) Raymond Glover and Hon Major E.A. Hawthorne fired three rounds from a Ross, S.M.L.E. Mk 111 and a Lonbranch No 4 Mk1\* Rifles in honour of the Colonels Hart-McHarg and Worthington.

The Ceremony concluded with the traditional Black Rum Toasts to the Regiment and the Fallen.

**UP THE DUKES.**

## **MUSEUM UPDATE**

By  
Jerry Couling

**BC Historical Map Society Tour**

Through Cam Cathcart's involvement with both the regimental museum and The B.C. Historical Map Society, a three hour evening tour of the Drill Hall and, in particular, the museum occurred early in June. About twenty five members of the map society attended. After a brief overview of the Regimental "story" as told by Cam Cathcart, the attendees received an informative lesson from Archie Steacy on military map markings and symbols. Having an appreciation for maps, the guests were delighted on being offered to take back with them some outdated B.C. military maps destined for the garbage bin. Tours, such as this one, broaden the museum's community reach.

**Four Additions to the Museum's Collection**

Through kind monetary donations from members of the regimental family, we were able to reserve and finally acquire the WW1 trio awarded to Sgt. Dickinson of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. The second addition is a 22 calibre rifle with "BCR" stamped on it, donated by Mr. Dennis Erickson. The rifle was probably one of the ones used for target shooting in our former indoor range. The third and fourth additions, a "broom handle" Mauser and a WW1 flare gun (probably German), were donated to us by James J. McDougall, a former trooper in our regiment, who served with the Elgin Regiment during WW2.

We are thankful for the above additions and encourage anyone willing to donate military medals, memorabilia, equipment, uniforms, artifacts, or other things significant to our Regiment, to do so in order for members of the Regiment and public to appreciate their existence.

## **The Independent Reconnaissance Squadron A Canadian Contribution to UN Peacekeeping**

We often hear in the media that Canada's great contribution to international diplomacy is peace keeping. Certainly it was the brainstorm of Lester Pearson when he was serving as Canada's external affairs minister in 1956. Most of us have forgotten how fearful we all were during the cold war, of the threat of nuclear war and of the potential of Soviet aggression. Two very real examples come to mind, the Middle-East Crisis in October 1956 and the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962.

In October 1956 Britain and France invaded Egypt to protect their national interests after Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal and simultaneously Israelis troops raced across the Sinai Peninsula attempting to link up with the British and French forces on the canal. Rushing to the defence of its ally Egypt, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev stated that unless these countries withdrew their forces, Soviet missiles would be landing in Paris and London. John Foster Dulles of the United States was also encouraging its allies to withdraw as well.

Enter Lester Pearson. As a way of ensuring that all parties were able to withdraw their forces and therefore not precipitate any further conflict, he proposed that a multi-national force under the United Nations, be sent to Egypt thereby allowing the Brits, the French and Israelis to withdraw. The UN Force would then occupy positions along the Armistice Demarcation Line (ADL) demarking the Gaza Strip and along the International Frontier (IF), the boundary between Egypt and Israel. The force was named the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF).

Initially Canada was to send the Queen's Own Rifles but the Egyptian President, Gamal Abdul Nasser, objected as the regiment's name sounded too British. The battalion was on board the aircraft carrier the HMCS Magnificent, when they were recalled to Halifax. This must have been a disappointing moment for the entire battalion. I can imagine the scurrying that went on in the halls of the old "B" Building at Army HQ for none of our Canadian infantry regiments would really pass muster name-wise. There was the RCR, the PPCLI, the R22eR, the Canadian Guards, RHC (the Black Watch) so I think you get what I mean. Canadian General ELM Burns was the first UNEF force commander and he wanted a Canadian combat presence in the Sinai and so it was decided to send a composite reconnaissance squadron cobbled together from troops from the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the Strathcona's with the new designation of 56 Recce Squadron. All other Canadian units bore this numeral designator as well including 56 REME Workshops and 56 Signals Squadron thereby getting around the too-British problem. In 1956 Canada had two battalions of all of the above infantry regiments and had just completed including the 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Canadian Hussars (8CH) into the RCAC regular orbit. Our commitments to NATO were a brigade group so we had plenty of troops to offer the UN.

Now in 1956 there were no recce elements in regular armoured regiments. On paper there was a recce troop made up of light tanks on each regiment's establishment. In our Canadian way we stumbled into peacekeeping by providing a makeshift and unproven organization that had not trained together prior to its deployment to the Sinai in January 1957. They were equipped with Ferret scout cars which were a fine recce vehicle but proved to be too heavy and unsafe in the soft sand and so after a couple of fatalities, the squadron was re-equipped with M38 Jeeps which did the job very well.

Various nations contributed contingents including the Sweden, Denmark, Norway, India, Brazil and Yugoslavia as well as Finland and Indonesia early in the life of UNEF. With the exception of Canada and Yugoslavia, all of these nations deployed along the ADL on the Gaza Strip and operated from static inter-visible guard posts. From what I observed this was pretty boring soldiering and it was not the sort of duty that Canadian infanteers are cut out to do. On the other hand the Canadian recce squadron and the Yugoslav recce battalion patrolled the Egyptian/Israeli border from Rafah in the north to the Gulf of Aqaba in the south. The Canadians patrolled the first one-third of the border and the Yugoslavs the remainder. The Canadian sector was mostly sand dunes and rocky desert with very little vegetation and was populated by various Bedouin tribes. We operated from two troop outposts and each troop consisted of seven jeeps armed with Bren guns. Each troop patrolled an area along the border of approximately 20 kilometres in length and up to five Km in depth. This was an ideal job for a recce squadron.

In the history of the Canadian army it should be noted that this was the first time that a reconnaissance squadron had operated completely independently and to the best of my knowledge it is the only time in all of the UN and NATO deployments since, that a Canadian sub-unit has operated independently from any other Canadian units or HQ. The recce squadron CO, a major, reported directly to the UNEF commander an MGen. Canadian squadrons



performed this role from January 1957 until March 1966 when the recce squadron was withdrawn. A total of nine recce squadrons rotated through UNEF including 56 Recce, 3 x 8CH, 2 x RCD, 2 x LdSH (RC) and 1 x FGH. UNEF was unceremoniously kicked out by Egypt just days before the start of the Six Day War. In all subsequent deployments in which Canada has participated, infantry battalions have taken the lead role with attachments from the other combat arms. In a few cases armoured and artillery units have deployed in the infantry role such as happened in Cyprus.

Reconnaissance is something that we do well, for it takes a well-trained and intelligent person to be a good recce soldier and one has to be curious, relentless and a bit of a sleuth as well. What recce squadron OC wouldn't give his right arm for the opportunity to command an independent squadron in an operational theatre.

The RCAC soon realized back in 1956 – 57 that it needed reconnaissance as one of the roles as the emerging tactics of the nuclear battlefield and the independent Canadian brigade group demanded a formation level recce. Within the year all three regular armoured regiments had recce squadrons. It was however several years before the doctrine caught up to organization. Thanks to the experience provided by wartime officers and NCOs the Corps got on with the job. It is therefore somewhat ironic that we stumbled into both peacekeeping and reconnaissance. Peacekeeping, the icon for many Canadians, as the role that the Canadian Forces seems best suited for and reconnaissance a task we take great pride in undertaking and now thoroughly established in our armoured lexicon.

David Sproule  
June 2006

## **G-WAGEN IS ON THE GROUND**

On 23 March 2006, as the Regiment formed up for its Thursday evening Parade, it did so under the watchful gaze of the Regiment's first G-Wagens. The Command & Reconnaissance variant of the Light Utility Vehicle Wheeled (LUVW) Mercedes Benz G-Klasse is equipped with a 196hp, 5-cylinder turbo-charged diesel engine, permanent 4-wheel drive, and a 5-speed automatic trans-mission with Tiptronic gearshift. Most importantly, the G-Wagen comes with a weapons station. This will allow us to once again fire machine guns from our vehicles. We have not been able to do so since we retired the M38A1 Jeep over 20 years ago. The G-Wagen replaces the Bombardier Iltis, which has been the Regiment's workhorse since 1985. As many of you recall, the Iltis replaced the AMC CJ-7, which had replaced the M38A1. The two G-Wagens (CFR 63621 and CFR 63622) that rolled through the doors of the Drill Hall are the first of 16 LUVWs that will form the two 8-car recce troops of our Reconnaissance Squadron.



Special thanks to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess for their permission to publish this extract from "The Listening Post" (Volume 9, Issue 2, April 2006).

# The 76<sup>th</sup> British Columbia Service Rifle Shoot, 3-4 June 2006



Since the late 1800s members of the Regiment have proven themselves as world class marksmen. To-day, Dukes are still proving their competitive skill at arms doing so at the recent BC Service Rifle Shoot held at the Major General Chris Volkes Range located in the Chilliwack River Valley of British Columbia.

This years' Regimental competitors, Sergeants Tony Harris; Ronald Leblanc; Corporals Stephen Clews; Terry Haigh; Tyler Laidler; Kyle Roder; Ryan Steacy; Wei Kang Teng and Lt Col (Ret'd) Tren Williamson, USMC (BCR Association).

What did these stalwart Dukes demonstrate and achieve during two day the competition?

They were dependable, hard working and aspiring to win. They achieved success individually and were successful as team members.



BCR Black Team – L to R – Cpl Kyle Roder, Cpl Ryan Steacy, Sgt Ron Leblanc and Sgt Tony Harris, Ready for the Team Matches

How well did our soldiers perform? Lets review the results.

## Individual Results:

Corporal Ryan Steacy was top shot winning the BC Service Rifle Championship Aggregate, Wiswell Bowl and Gold Bullion Badge scoring 562-35 V out of 600. This is his seventh Championship of BC Service Rifle Shoot.

He also won the following matches:

Match 7 – RCMP Match 300 Meter Rapid Shoot scoring 49-6V out 50.

Match 8 – HMCS Discovery Match 300 to 200 Meter Snap Shoot scoring 43-2V out of 50.

Match 9 – Logan Match 400 Meter Deliberate scoring 49-3V out of 50.

Taylor Trophy - Individual Aggregate Scores from Matches 1, 5 and 9, scoring 17-11V out of 150

McKinnon Trophy - Aggregate Scores from Matches 1 through 8, scoring 377-27V out of 400.

Col. G.M. Letson Trophy – Aggregate Scores from Matches 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10, scoring 229-14V out of 250.

BCRA Gold Winner Medal - Open Service Rifle Aggregate. Aggregate Scores from Matches 1 through 12 scoring 562 – 35V.

BC Reserve Force Service Rifle Champion - Dodd Tankard Trophy and BCRA Reserve Champion Gold Bullion Badge scoring 562 – 35 V.

Cramer Trophy – Cramere Aggregate – Highest lower Mainland Competitor in the BC Service Rifle Championship scoring 562 – 35V.

Sergeant Harris won the following Matches:

Match 3 –Rocky Mountain Ranger Trophy - 200 Metre Rapid Shoot scoring 48-V out of 50.

Lt. Col. A. Steacy Trophy – Aggregate Scores from Matches 4, 8, and 12, scoring 135-V out of 150.

## Individual Final Scores:

Position	Name	Final Score
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Corporal Ryan Steacy	- 562 - 35V
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Sergeant Tony Harris	- 516 - 20V
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Trooper Wei Kang Teng	- 507 - 17V
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Corporal Tyler Laidler	- 480 - 15V
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Sergeant Ronald Leblanc	- 461 - 11V
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	Corporal Kyle Roder	- 450 – 15V
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	Corporal Stephen Clews	- 443 – 11V
13 <sup>th</sup> Place	Corporal Terry Haigh	- 332 – 6V

## Team Matches:

### Military District XI Infantry Association Shield (Lewis Gun).

Won by the BC Regiment Black Team

Sergeant Tony Harris



BCR Rifle Team Members and Trophies. L to R – Tpr Wei Kang Teng, Cpl Ryan Steacy, Cpl Stephen Clews, Cpl Kyle Roder, Sgt Ron Leblanc, Cpl Terry Haigh and Sgt Tony Harris.

Corporal Ryan Steacy  
Sergeant Ronald Leblanc  
Corporal Kyle Roder

BC Regiment Silver Team took 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

### **Wilkerson Shield**

Won by the BC Regiment Black Team  
Corporal Ryan Steacy  
Sergeant Tony Harris  
Sergeant Ronald Leblanc  
Corporal Kyle Roder

BC Regiment Silver Team took 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

### **Blair Challenge Team Trophy**

Won by the BC Regiment Black Team  
Corporal Ryan Steacy  
Sergeant Tony Harris  
Sergeant Ronald Leblanc  
Corporal Kyle Roder

BC Regiment Silver Team took 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

### **3PPCLI Service Trophy Match – 300 to 200 Metres Fire & Movement**

Won by the BC Regiment Black Team  
Sergeant Tony Harris  
Sergeant Ronald Leblanc  
Corporal Kyle Roder  
Corporal Ryan Steacy

BC Regiment Silver Team took 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Thanks to the initiative of Colonel Bell, Segeant Tony Harris, Corporal Ryan Steacy and Trooper Wei Kang Teng attended the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competition held at Connaught Ranges, Ottawa, Ontario during late July. Unfortunately, military transportation of weapons regulations denied team members from taking their rifles to Ottawa. Arrangements were made to borrow rifles from the Regiment de Hull for this national competition, As you can imagine, our Dukes were at a serious disadvantage with results were not as they would have been with their BCR rifles. However, Corporal Ryan Steacy won the 300 Metre Rapid Fire Match.

Our soldiers have done the Regiment and themselves proud with their accomplishments and continue to uphold the Regiment's 123 years of competitive shooting achievements.....congratulations and well done.

## **BCR Trooper Awarded First CBC Pensioners' Bursary**

During the past six years the Regiment has welcomed the CBC Pensioners' Association as part of the regimental family. This relationship developed because the Association and its members have used, and continue to enjoy using various facilities within the Drill Hall for meetings and social events from time to time. Recognizing this strong tie with a community-based, non-profit group, and by way of acknowledging the goodwill and cooperation shown by the Regiment to the Pensioners' Association, their Board of Directors earlier this year established an annual bursary for a deserving member from the Junior Ranks to support his or her post-secondary education. The first annual British Columbia & Yukon CBC Pensioners' Association Bursary was awarded to Tpr. Patrick Halloran by Cam Cathcart, President, and Serafine Crawley, Treasurer, of the CBC Pensioner's Association at a Drill Hall ceremony on 20 April 2006



BCR Black Team and Trophies. L to R – Cpl Ryan Steacy, Cpl Kyle Roder, Sgt Ron Leblanc and Sgt Tony Harris.



BC Rifle Team Members and Trophies with, far left – LCol (Ret'd) Archie Steacy and far right Col (Ret'd) Tren Williamson, USMC



## **“Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment)”**

### **Part 2**

The construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway had necessitated the removal to a new location, the monument erected many years ago commemorating the battle of Chrysler's Farm fought on 11 November 1813 and in which the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 89<sup>th</sup> Foot played an important part. On 24 June 1961 the monument was rededicated in its new location. On this occasion the Regiment had the honour of providing a Colour Party to carry the colours of the 89<sup>th</sup>. Field Marshall Sir Gerald Templer and the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General T.P.D. Scott were also present at the ceremony

A few weeks later, Major General and Mrs. Scott traveled westward to visit the Canadian Irish and see some of the natural beauty of western Canada and British Columbia. The visit of the Colonel of the Royal Irish Fusiliers to the Regiment was indeed a great occasion for all ranks and former members of the Regiment. It was an occasion which helped to strengthen the tie binding the Canadian Unit to the parent Regiment. At the same time it afforded General Scott the opportunity of seeing the Canadian Unit at its summer camp and later of meeting members and friends of the Irish Fusiliers of Canada. A round of events, were arranged for this purpose as well as providing an opportunity for the visitors to see as much as possible of British Columbia during the time they were able to spend with us. It was indeed a very happy occasion which passed all too quickly. It did, however, impress on everyone that we are in fact all members of one large Regimental Family sharing many traditions and customs and united by blood and allegiance to the Crown.

The Canadian Irish had one more opportunity to meet and entertain personnel from the Royal Irish Fusiliers. In 1964, the massed bands, drums and pipes of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, Royal Ulster Rifles and Royal Irish Fusiliers and dancers of the W.A.R.C. (Women's Royal Army Corps) all under command of Lieut. Col. B.D.H. Clark toured North America. They gave one concert in Vancouver on the evening of October 20<sup>th</sup>. It was indeed a tremendous occasion. Since World War II, innumerable British Army bands have toured through Canada and the United States. Most of them have visited Vancouver and have always received a very warm welcome. However, on this occasion, to have the opportunity of seeing and hearing bands from Northern Ireland, and more particularly from the Royal Irish Fusiliers was a very special occasion. Arrangements were made in order that all ranks, veterans and Friends of the Regiment might be provided with tickets for the Concert. Arrangements were also made to assist with the sale of tickets in order to give the visitors a warm welcome. Following the concert all of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Women's Royal Army Corps were transported to the Armoury where they were entertained by the Canadian Irish with party continuing on well into the early hours of the following day. It was indeed a very happy occasion for everyone. It was much regretted that a tight schedule did not permit the visitors to remain longer in Vancouver.

Early in 1964, the Canadian Government issued a white paper on defence. A radically new defence policy was outlined in this document. Fundamentally, the object of the new policy was to economize on the expenditure of defence funds with the object of providing much larger sums for the purchasing of arms and equipment. In order to accomplish this purpose much streamlining of the Armed Forces was to be carried out. Separate headquarters and staffs for the three services were to be integrated into a single headquarters from the highest level on down the chain of command. Administrative services were also to be fully integrated. Finally it was visualized that the Royal Canadian Navy, The Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force would be unified into one body to be known as the Canadian Armed Forces, wearing a common uniform, similar badges and having a common rank structure. As a part of all this process, particularly in conjunction with the reduction of expenditure of funds, a reorganization of the militia would be carried out.

A special committee was appointed by the Minister of National Defence to consider what changes should be carried out within the militia in order to implement this new policy. The committee made a very comprehensive and thorough study of the matter, traveling across the country and visiting the majority of militia units. Briefly, insofar as our Regiment was concerned, the committee recommended that our two outlying companies in Powell River and Prince Rupert become inactive but that the remainder of the unit should continue to carry on in the Vancouver area. Unfortunately, the Minister did not see fit to accept this particular recommendation and ruled that the Regiment should be reduced to a nil strength and placed on the Supplementary Order of Battle of the Canadian Army. Technically, for a militia unit to be placed on the supplementary order of battle did not remove it from the Canadian Army. Such a unit could, if the necessity should arise, be again reactivated by order of the Minister of National Defence without the necessity of first obtaining approval of Parliament. Eventually of course parliament would have to approve any additional funds required for such a purpose.

It was indeed a sad blow when the Regiment was officially advised that the effective date of being placed on the supplementary order of battle would be 31 December 1964. There was an immediate rallying of friends and supporters of the Regiment as well as former serving personnel. A very active campaign was launched from every possible angle with object of pressing the Minister to rescind the order. Unfortunately our efforts did not meet with any success and the Regiment ceased to be an active unit as 1964 drew to a close.

The opportunity was afforded to all ranks to transfer to other militia units. Many did so, transferring to the British Columbia Regiment, the Seaforths and possibly the greatest number to the Royal Westminster Regiment

Before concluding the story of the active Regiment, mention should be made of our honorary officers. During 1953 the honorary lieutenant colonel, Lieut. Col. Herbert R. Fullerton was appointed honorary colonel of the Regiment, holding his appointment until 1963 when he retired and was replaced by Colonel A. M. Brown, OBE, VD. Colonel Brown proceeded overseas with the 121<sup>st</sup> Battalion, C/E.F. He was severely wounded in action and subsequently served in the Canadian Records Office in England. He became second in command of the Regiment and subsequently succeeded Lieut. Col E.J. Ryan as commanding officer. Upon the out break of World War II, Colonel Brown was called upon to proceed overseas to take command of the Canadian Second Echelon and then later during the war he became officer in charge of Records for the Canadian Army overseas. Colonel Brown held the appointment of honorary colonel of the Regiment until it was placed on the supplementary order of battle.

On 1 January 1934, Mr. Harold S. Foley, a prominent industrialist and a Prince of the Church of Rome was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment and remained in this appointment until the standing down of the Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Foley, through business interests had a close association with Powell River and was of tremendous assistance to "C" Company of the Regiment.

Canada has been a very active member nation of the United Nations. It is only natural therefore that personnel of the Regiment should have served with Canadian Forces engaged upon United Nations operations. A substantial number of personnel of all ranks served during the Korean Campaign with the Canadian Brigade Group. Lieut. Col. F.E. Eaton, a former commanding officer of the Regiment served for one year with the United Nations Kashmir Commission. When the decision was taken to establish the Vietnam Truce Commission composed of personnel both military and civilian provided by Canada, India, and Poland, the first Canadian Group was headed by Brigadier Sherwood Lett. Following his return from his tour of duty he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and a few years later he became the presiding judge of the Court of Appeal. He held this appointment until his untimely death in July 1964.

For a number of years the honorary colonel was chairman of a small group of trustees drawn from former serving officers. This group was charged with the responsibility of administering the Regimental Trust Funds and other Regimental assets. When the Regiment became inactive, the decision was taken to increase the number of trustees and for this group to widen the scope of its activities. Since 1 January 1965 this group has been instrumental in arranging such annual events as the Officer's Barosa Dinner and the Sergeants' annual dinner. Other social activities have been arranged at appropriate times. Contact is maintained with all former members by publishing of News Letters periodically. The trustees maintain a constant watching brief with the object of being prepared to press at the appropriate time for reactivation of the Regiment in a practical form.

Throughout its active life the Regiment always maintained one or more groups of Cadets. The Trustees have continued with this policy and in recent years have been supporting three groups, one in Powell River and two in the greater Vancouver area. This is the most worthwhile project. Not only does it provide a means of keeping the name of the Regiment before the public but in addition the Cadet Movement is the most active deterrent to juvenile delinquency.

The closing of the last chapter of the history of the Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment) marks the ending and the beginning of an era. For over three hundred years, from the days of the French Regime on the British Colonial period, then confederation and forward to modern times, embracing two world wars, the fundamental policy of Canadian defence as based on the volunteer citizen soldier.

Only since the termination of the Korean conflict has the strength of the regular forces exceeded militia strength in peace times. Then in recent years, as the result of a combination of many factors such as the changing concepts of how modern wars may be fought.; the theory of "forces in being", ever increasing necessity to economize upon

defence expenditures and more recently a committal to a bold but untried and untested development of a single unified armed force embracing the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force has resulted in a drastic reduction in the strength of the militia. The rural units detached squadrons, batteries and companies, many with outstanding records of service in some instances dating back to colonial days, have been eliminated. Even the remaining urban militia units are constantly being reduced. Without the militia and the training it afforded the citizen volunteer it would have been virtually impossible for Canada to have formed a Corps in the Great War and an army in the Second World War. In both wars it was from the ranks of the militia that Canada found its commanders and staff and had the core of regimental officers and non commissioned officers. Although the span of life of the Irish Fusiliers of Canada was brief, it was, however, in being during the critical years of the two world wars and it was in keeping with the best traditions of the Canadian Militia to make a valuable contribution to the Nations war effort.

The spirit of the Regiment remains very much alive. Should the necessity arise it is hoped that the Irish Fusiliers will in some form be afforded the opportunity of again serving the Sovereign and this Nation.

Note: Since the writing of this history, one Cadet Corps in the Vancouver area has been closed on recommendation of headquarters and the Corps in Powell River is being changed in affiliation.

Note: The Powell River Cadet Corps is now proudly affiliated with The British Columbia Regiment (DCO).

Part 3 , The Irish Fusiliers of Canada (The Vancouver Regiment) Succession of Commanding Officers will be contained in the next issue of the Duke.

Again man to thanks to Jim Munro for providing us with this synopsis of the Irish Fusiliers history.

Thanks Jim.  
Archie Steacy

## **AGENT ORANGE**

In June 1966 and June 1967, aerial test sprays were conducted at CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick. These sprays contained various herbicides including the substance known as Agent Orange. All current and former Canadian Forces members who think they may have a medical disability that is related to these test sprays or other military service should contact Veterans Affairs Canada at 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1866-552-2022 (French) to make a disability pension application.

For more information about VAC's Disability Pension Program, Agent Orange, check their web site at [Http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=services/pensions/orange](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=services/pensions/orange). Look for items regarding AGgent Orange Salute- Special Supplement; Use of herbicides at CFB Gagetown – 1952 – Present; Base Gagetown and Area Fact-Finders Project and Media Centre.

If you were training at any time in CFB Gagetown from 1952 to date, have a medical problem that may be related to Agent Orange, contact VAC as noted above. **Don't hesitate!!!**

## **The Regimental Challenge Medallion (RCM)**

The RCM was designed to be minted and ready for release in 2005, the year of the Veteran. The medallion memorializes the Regiment's WW II Fallen...their names are recorded on the reverse side. It is intended to be a Regimental challenge symbol of member loyalty and service to the Regiment and an "In Memoriam" Medallion. To date, sixty RCMs have been purchased by Dukes and two RCMs have been donated to the Regimental Museum Society.

It is the Association's intention to present an In Memoriam Medallion to only one member of the immediate family of a Fallen Dukes.

You will find a description of and an application form enclosed with this issue of The Duke.

Engraving is made by the Associations Goldsmith and Engraver, Kelly R. Parkes, 115-525 Seymour Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3H7 - 604-687-4661



# The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association

Update by Jerry Couling

As mentioned in the last issue of *The Duke*, BCVCA is an organization dedicated to commemorating the contributions made by Canadians in service of their country during times of war and peace. A number of Dukes are members. One of BCVCA's most visible undertakings, which was sanctioned by the Province and operated in conjunction with ICBC, is the BC Veterans Licence Plate program. To date 25,333 plates have been issued to Veterans through ICBC Agents. For those who are interested application forms for these plates can be obtained from any ICBC agent. The form is easy to complete and, once completed, can be forwarded to Archie Steacy, BC Veterans Commemorative Association, P0 Box 4903 STN Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4A6 accompanied with an application fee of \$5.00. It is worth noting that Veteran Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defense definition of a veteran is -...**any person who served in the Canadian Forces with a Military Occupation Classification (MOC) (trade qualification) and has been honourably discharged.** Any former Dukes who meet the above condition and have not already obtained their veterans plates are encouraged to do so.

## ASLEEP

K37558 Trooper Jack E. Harrop, served in the 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR and the 28<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment (BCR) during World War II. He passed away in April 2006. Jack and family resided in Chilliwack , B.C.

TM91908 Major John (Jack) H. Hostler, served in the British Army and the British Columbia Regiment. (DCO) RCAC. He passed away on 14 June 2006. Jack and Jean resided in Oliver, B.C.

K37538 Trooper David C. Cameron, served in the 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR and the 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (BCR) during World War II. He passed away in September 2006. David resided in Vancouver, B.C. and latterly in Vernon, B.C.

**At the Going Down of the Sun  
And in the Morning  
We shall Remember Them**

## UNDER THE WEATHER

Ray Ferguson of Sylvan Lake, Alberta has a heart problem and is presently in the Red Deer Regional Hospital, Room 3321 -3942 – 50<sup>th</sup> "A" Avenue, Red Deer, A.B. T4N 5S1.

Eugene Homer-Dixon of Calgary, Alberta suffers from a stroke that has caused him some difficulties.....he is not complaining, Eugene is a tough old Duke. He'd love to hear from you. His address is 504 Brunswick Avenue, SW, Calgary, Alberta, or call him at 1-403-243-5609.

Best wishes to you both from all Dukes.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2006

### Afganistan - Dukes return home.

- August 2006 Corporal David Pelly, two Tours of Duty; and Corporal Neal Carswell.
- 31 August 2006 The Regiment Stand-to for the 2006/07 Training Year.
- September 2006 Major Harjit Sajjan; Lieutenant Adam McLeod.
- 24 September BCR Perpetuated Battalions Memorial Service at Hastings Park.\*
- 24 September Canadian Citizenship Ceremony in the Drill Hall.\*
- 29 September BCR Association Annual General Meeting
- October Afganistan Veterans, Welcome Home Reception – date TBA
- 10 November BCR Association Annual Reunion Dinner.\*
- 11 November Remembrance Day.\*
- 07 December Homeless Christmas Fund Raiser Lunch\*
- 09 December Homeless Christmas Lunch\*

\* Please see details in the Duke Newsletter

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DETAILS



### **BC Regiment(DCO) Perpetuated Battalions Annual Memorial Service. 7<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 62<sup>nd</sup>, 102<sup>nd</sup> and 158<sup>th</sup> Battalions.**

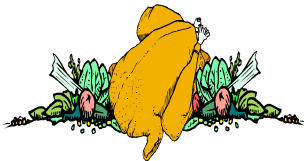
The commemorative service will be conducted on Sunday, **24 Sep 2006**, 1400 hrs., at the 29<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion, C.E.F. Memorial Cairn located in Hastings Park, Vancouver, B.C. adjacent to the Race Track Office. Regimental Guard of Honour, a Piper Refreshments after the service in the PNE Board Room.



**BCR(DCO) Association Annual General Meeting – 29 Sep 2006, 1930 hrs.**, in the Officers' Mess at the Drill Hall, to receive annual reports, financial statements, election of directors and consider a membership special resolution. Hope to see you there.



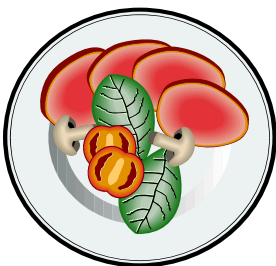
**Canadian Citizenship Ceremony** to be held in the Drill Hall on **24 September 2006**. The first such ceremony to be conducted in a military establishment.



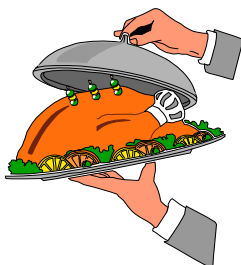
**The Annual Association Reunion Dinner** will be held on **10 November 2006** at the Delta Suites Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.. You won't have to drive home and return next morning as Ray Glover has arranged a special hotel room rate of \$100.00 per couple to facilitate your attendance at the Victory Square Remembrance Day Service. Your spouse will be able to enjoy a leisurely breakfast and hopefully attend the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph and the Drill Hall. You will receive your invitation in mid October. Hope you will be with us on these two special occasions



**Remembrance Day, 11 November 2006.** Dukes. Stand-to with your Regiment to remember Canada's Fallen....our own Dukes and those Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in Peacekeeping Missions and in anti- terrorist actions in Afganistan. Refer to the Remembrance Day Parade Instructions included as a separate page with the newsletter. See you there.



**Homeless Christmas Fund Raiser Lunch, 07 December 2006.** Plan to attend this fun filled lunch to help with the funding for the Homeless Christmas Dinner.(See below). A great lunch for \$25.00. A super raffle for great prizes. Get into the Christmas spirit to make Christmas a little better for a homeless adult and children



**BC Regiment(DCO) Association's Homeless Christmas Lunch** will be held at the Drill Hall on **09 December 2006**. The dinner will be served to our guests (up to 450 turkey dinners) at approximately 1130 hrs., but the potatoe peeling and set-up starts at 0800 hrs. There are many tasks to be handled before serving lunch and the clean-up by 1600 hrs., to enable the Regiment to hold the Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner. Its great fun and nice to provide a little Christmas cheer for many homeless adults and children. Hope you will volunteer your generosity and a little of your time to be with us.  
**Dukes and your friends, we are counting on you.**

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

**Remembrance Day Parade**

**11 November 2006**

Dear Duke,

Plan to attend the Remembrance Day Service as a member of the BCR Association marching contingent to the Vancouver Cenotaph. Family members of deceased Dukes are welcome to march with the Association in honour of their fathers, grandfathers and uncles to ensure the torch of remembrance continues to flame.

BCR Association will parade with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division from the Assembly Area to the Cenotaph and the March Past on Hastings Street at the conclusion of the Remembrance Service.

Please note the following parade information:

**1. Timings:**

- **ASSEMBLY AREA** – Parking Lot at the corner of Cambie and Pender Streets.
- **0940 hrs.** - Association Marker. Report to the Assistant Parade Marshal.
- **1000 to 1015 hrs.** - Marching Contingent Members fall in at the Assembly Area.
- **1025 hrs.** – Cross the Start Line

**2. Regimental Dress:**

- **Regimental Blazer and tie**
- **Black or Blue Beret**
- **Medals**
- **A poppy is to be worn on the beret immediately to the left of the cap badge.**

**NOTE:** Wear warm clothes and a raincoat if the weather is inclement.

**3. Pipers:**

- The Regimental Pipe Band will lead the Association Marching Contingent to the Cenotaph and the March Past on Hastings Street. **The step will be 108 to the minute.**

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**4. Dismissal:**

- The Association marching contingent will dismiss in the 400 block on Seymour Street.

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**5. Return to the Drill Hall:**

- Members will make their own way back to the Drill Hall.
- Association Members will remain on the Drill Hall Floor to await the return of the Regiment.
- The Regiment will march into the Drill Hall to be dismissed.

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**6. Toasts to the Regiment and the Fallen:**

- Black rum toasts will be made by:

***LCol Peter W. Bell – The Fallen***

***LCol (Ret'd) Archie M. Steacy – The Regiment***

Stand with your Regiment to honour and remember our Fallen Soldiers.

See you there.  
Up the Dukes.

Archie M. Steacy  
President