



# The Duke

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## 125 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CANADA



Regiment Marching Past at City Hall.



## COMING EVENTS

To be celebrated at the Drill Hall  
and Vernon, B.C.

**Paardeburg Dinner**  
Saturday, 28 Feb 2009

**St Julien Dinner**  
Apr 2009. Date TBA

**Annual Church Parade**  
Apr 2009, Date TBA

**Veterans Reunion Lunch**  
Saturday, 02 May 2009



I could have danced all night! Three generations apart having fun. Sgt Ian Patterson and HCapt Agnes Keegan.

# 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REGIMENTAL GALA

By CWO Floris van Weelderen, RSM BCR

“REGIMENT WILL FIRE A FEU DE JOIE; REGIMENT, TAKE – POST.” With this command, the Regiment continued our celebration of two milestones:

- a. Our 125th Anniversary - 2008 marks the 125th year since we joined Canada's Order of Battle as The British Columbia Regiment of Garrison Artillery on 12 October 1883; and
- b. Our Contribution to the Operation Athena - 16 Dukes returned safely from Afghanistan, joining our other 8 Veterans of that campaign.

These milestones were celebrated at a Regimental Gala on Saturday, 11 October 2008. The Gala consisted of a Freedom of the City Parade in the afternoon followed by a Regimental Ball that same night.



In celebrating our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; 146 soldiers, cadets and musicians exercised the Freedom of the City of Vancouver. However this time the Regiment marched to City Hall with bayonets already fixed and carrying the Guidon. After stopping and being challenged at the barrier to City Hall, the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable S. Sweeney escorted our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D.B. Kadonoff, CD to City Hall. In the Mayor's Proclamation by Deputy Mayor Tim Stevenson, the Regiment was again welcomed and invited to exercise our freedom which was conducted by a March Past. Since we are an armoured regiment, the parade also included a Roll Past, wherein the Reviewing Officer, Major-General C.J. Addy, OMM OStJ, CD received the salute from the mounted troops of No. 2 Guard as the Regiment's Irish Pipes & Drums played. As the 14 G-Wagen commanders saluted; the vehicles' machine guns were traversed and dipped. The Roll Past was followed by No. 1 Guard firing a feu de joie (French: "fire of joy") which is described as a "running fire of guns." The gun salute marked this occasion of public rejoicing and consisted of a cascade of three volleys of gun fire interspersed with bars of "O Canada" played by the Regiment's Brass & Reed Band.

The Freedom of the City Parade dates back to ancient times when troops were not welcome within the walls of towns. This stemmed from an aversion by people towards large standing armies, the war-like appearance of bodies of troops in the streets disturbing the civil repose, and the often real threat of infringement on civil rights. In addition, at one time recruiting was conducted by a time-honoured method of "beating the drum," a press gang-like procedure. Consequently, it became an honour and great distinction for a town to grant to a particularly trusted military body the freedom to march through the streets "with drums beating, Guidon flying, and bayonets fixed." Today, the granting of the Freedom of the City is the highest honour a municipality can grant to a military unit and

as you recall our Regiment was initially granted Freedom of the City of Vancouver on 26 April 1983 when we marked our Centennial.

That evening our celebrations continued with a Regimental Ball on the Parade Square of our historic Drill Hall. The history and traditions of the Regimental Ball exemplify our allegiance to Her Majesty and to Canada. Over 250 people gathered to enjoy the evening, leaving with new friends and warm memories. After a sumptuous meal and a few short speeches, Dal Richards & his Orchestra entertained the crowd as everyone danced into the wee hours and sang Happy Birthday at midnight of the 12 October 2008.

## A PARTY THAT WAS 125 YEARS IN THE MAKING!!

It is not often that we hear of anniversaries over 100 years in BC much less 125 years. In 2008 your Regiment hit this magic mark and celebrated in style. The day started off with an afternoon Freedom of the City Parade (more details in this newsletter) and finished with the Regimental Ball.

The Drill Hall was the appropriate place to host this celebration. A wall of historical photos was strategically placed to give the staff from Peake of Catering a staging area. The photos were enjoyed by all in attendance and from the comments overheard; they brought back a number of fond memories.

Thanks to the efforts of Carol Glover, Gayle Hawthorne and Lynda Steacy, the tables were tastefully decorated in the Regimental colours. Their efforts to add to the festivities were greatly appreciated!!



After the reception, it was time to ring the bell and start the Gala. With everyone at their chairs, the cue was given and Pipe Major Jordan Seguin fired up his bag pipes and lead in the Head Table consisting of:

- MGen Clive Addy, OMM, OStJ, CD, Colonel Commandant RCAC and Mrs. Marlene Addy,
- Colonel Glen Richmond, Commander, 39 Brigade & Mrs. Catherine Richmond,
- Hon Colonel Garde Gardom, former Lieutenant Governor of BC & Mrs. Helen Gardom
- Hon Colonel William Ireland, QC, Hon Col BC Regiment (DCO) & Mrs. Heather Ireland
- Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Kadonoff, CD, Commanding Officer & Mrs. Donna Kadonoff
- Deputy Chief Constable Steve Sweeney, Vancouver Police Department and Mrs. Shelley Sweeney
- CWO Floris van Weelderren, CD, RSM BC Regiment (DCO) and Mrs. Amy van Weelderren



BCR, WWII and Afghanistan Veterans enjoy the 125<sup>th</sup> Regimental Gala. Sgt (Ret'd) Don Cameron, Cpl Steven Clews and Tpr (Ret'd) Keith Moore.

With the Head Table at their chairs, it was time to pay the piper. Hon Colonel Gardom provided the Irish whisky and was joined by Hon Colonel Ireland, Lt Colonel Kadonoff and Pipe Major Seguin for a toast.

There were many special guests at the Gala. The organizing committee was very pleased that Col Lowell Thomas, Chief of Armour, Senator and Honorary Major Larry Campbell and Retired Senator Pat Carney as well as veterans from the Second World War, Korea and Afghanistan were able attend the Gala.

The evening continued with a look back in history and a few examples of what was happening in 1883 were shared:

- The Ontario Rugby Football Union was formed – this was the forerunner of the current Canadian Football League
- Congress authorized the 1st steel vessels in U.S. navy
- Sir John A Macdonald was the Prime Minister of Canada
- The 1st telephone call between New York and Chicago took place on March 24, 1883
- Robert Beaven started and William Smithe finished the year as Premier of BC
- "Buffalo Bill" Cody put on his 1st Wild West Show
- The Orient Express completed its 1st run linking Turkey to Europe by rail
- The Royal Canadian Dragoons and The Royal Winnipeg Rifles were formed

Dinner was served for all to enjoy. With 262 people in attendance, it kept the serving staff hopping, but they were up to the challenge and made sure all received their meals and coffee.

Following dinner, the traditional toasts took place.

- The Queen - toasted by 2Lt Manjeet Vinning
- President of the United States – toasted by Sgt Dwayne Snow
- The Fallen – toasted by Sgt Tony Harris
- The Regiment – toasted by Cpl Kyle Roder

In keeping with the theme of an anniversary celebration, we were treated to speeches by Hon Colonel Ireland on the past, MGen Clive Addy on the present and LCol Kadonoff on the future.

What would an anniversary party be without a cake? The signal was given and "The Birthday Cake Party" consisting of Sgts. Huff Mullick, Tony Harris, Ron Leblanc and Cpl Ryan Steacy marched the cake to the stage. LCol Bruce and Mrs Donna Kadonoff were invited to the front of the room to cut the cake. The CO drew his sword and handed it to Mrs. Kadonoff to perform the ceremonial cutting of the cake. There was a rumour that a similar cutting happened at their wedding, but this has yet to be confirmed.

With the formal part of the evening coming to an end, the dancers were getting restless. MGen Addy closed the dinner portion by ringing the bell. The microphone was passed over to Dal Richards and his Orchestra and the dancing began.

It was my pleasure to be the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. A special thank you goes to the Gala Dinner Dance Organizing Committee and the BC Regiment Association for their efforts in making the evening the success it was!! We acknowledge Committee Members Archie Steacy, Ray Glover, Ted Hawthorne and Ciara Martin for their unstinting commitment.

Bill Diamond

## REMEMBRANCE DAY – 11 NOVEMBER 2008

The Association paraded 36 Veteran Dukes, to Vancouver's Cenotaph at Victory Square standing stalwartly under a cloudy sky, drizzling rain and temperature that chilled through to the bone.

This year, I was accompanied by MCpl Frederico Angulo to lay a wreath on behalf of "the Army Veterans of Canada" commemorating the Fallen, and Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Kadonoff accompanied by Sergeant Ronald Leblanc laid a wreath commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO).

During the March Past, the Association Contingent was led by the Regimental Pipe and Drums. They set a fast and furious pace keeping all in step resulting in a great feeling of exhilaration as we passed the thousands of spectators and paying our respects to Lieutenant Governor, Stephen Pointe as we marched past the saluting base.

Upon return to the Drill Hall, we drank toasts, in dark rum, to the Fallen and the Regiment proposed by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Kadonoff and Honorary Colonel Bill Ireland.

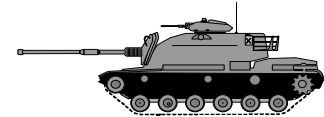
We were proud to be on parade to honour and remember our Fallen.

Archie Steacy, President



Dukes on Parade at the Cenotaph. Photo by Ian Smith....Courtesy of the Vancouver Sun.

# The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Association European Battlefield Tour 02 - 18 September 2008



In early 1997, I had informed Archie Steacy of my desire to join a regimental tour to north west Europe. That for 1997 was cancelled while the terrorist activities on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 prevented my flight leaving from Vancouver to Paris that morning so I was unable to join the tour then in progress. Finally, on my third attempt, this past September I was able to meet up with Ted Hawthorne, who had taken over the tour director responsibility due to Archie's heart problem, and 16 others on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam for the start of the 2008 Tour.

For the next 17 days, our convoy of two vans and a command car each flying a Canadian flag, drove through Holland, Belgium, and northern France visiting a number of the sites where the Regiment saw action in both world wars. Our vehicles communicated with each other using walkie talkies effective for probably no more than a half mile. In the lead was Command Car Number 1, driven by "Recce Bob Remple", which had a very useful "Tom Tom" navigational system. Car Number 2 was driven by Tom Lyth and John Ferguson while Car Number 3 was driven by Terry Burke and Jack Drake.



The Tour Group

During the course of the tour we dedicated seven plaques of which five honoured the Regiment's five Victoria Cross winners in the First World War, an incredible achievement. The sixth commemorated the liberation of the town of Bernay, Normandy, France in August 1944 and the seventh commemorated the action against the German minesweepers at Zijpe Harbour, Holland in November 1944. All plaque dedication ceremonies were conducted by Ted Hawthorne with the ever able assistance of his "Chief of Staff", Keith Maxwell.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>** - We drove to Zijpe Harbour in the Scheldt, Holland where we dedicated a plaque in honour of the sinking of three German minesweepers and seriously damaging one other in a "naval engagement" by Lt. Rusty Goepel's troop of "C" Squadron and an Infantry Company of Lake Superior Regiment (Motor). The vessels were approximately 800 hundred yards across the channel from the tanks' location. Rusty and several colleagues commandeered a small boat to cross the harbour in order to "liberate" a ship's bell as a momento of this achievement. The score: BC Regiment 3 1/2 German Navy 0. Only in the past six months was it confirmed that the bell was off a minesweeper after a registration reference number, found imprinted inside the bell, was researched by Archie Steacy and Bill Diamond.



**September 6<sup>th</sup>** - We attended the dedication of plaques for Pte Walter Rayfield at Villiers-les-Cagnicourt and to Lieutenant Graham T. Lyall at Bourlon, commemorating the awarding of their Victoria Crosses. Rayfield's VC was awarded for exceptional gallantry during the fighting to capture the Drocourt Quéant Switch, the Hindenburg Line. Lyall won his VC during the drive to Cambrai France, from September 27<sup>th</sup> to October 1st 1918, while leading his platoon at Bourlon Wood and Blecourt inflicting heavy casualties and capturing 126 prisoners, 26 machine guns, and 11 artillery field guns. A nephew of Lt. Lyall, Sandy Ferguson and his wife Elizabeth, helped unveil the plaque with the mayor of Villiers-les-Cagnicourt and Ted Hawthorne.



**September 7<sup>th</sup>** - We attended the ceremony dedicating the plaques for Sergeant Major Robert H. Hanna and Private Michael J. O'Rourke at Loos-en-Goholle who both received the Victoria Cross in the storming of Hill 70 just north of Lens France on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1917. This was the first major action fought by the Canadian Corps under a Canadian Commander, Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Currie. The plaques were unveiled by Bob Hanna, the son of Robert Hanna, Ted Hawthorne and the Mayor of Loos-en-Goholle.

That afternoon, we drove to Vimy Ridge which monument commemorates the Battle of Vimy Ridge – April 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 1917, a most difficult initiative in which the Canadians succeeded in taking a major high area which English and French Forces had previously failed. This marble memorial, towering on the ridge, contains the names of many of the Canadians killed in the First World War.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** – We dedicated a plaque to Lt. Edward D. Bellew who won his Victoria Cross at St. Julien on 24 April during the Second Battle of Ypres 1915. Lt Col. (Ret'd) Tom Courtney, Royal Marines and Maj (Ret'd) Allan Fradgley, Royal Engineers, both graduates of Blundell School which Bellew had attended in England made a presentation honouring Lt. Bellew, on behalf of the school.

Thereafter, we visited the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion's "Vindictive Corner" and the town of Passchendaele nestled in a quiet pastoral farming area, an incredible contrast to the battle scenes of mud and carnage portrayed in the film Passchendaele released soon after our return from the tour. This battle, known also as the Third Battle of Ypres (26 October – 10 November 1917), was fought by the Canadians, including the 7 CEF, which suffered over 60% casualties, as one of the lead battalions. It was virtually impossible to imagine the reality of the ground in the valley being stirred into a thick soup by the constant rain and artillery barrages. Such an incredible sacrifice of lives for gaining a few miles of territory which was thereafter retaken by the Germans a few months later!

**September 9<sup>th</sup>** – Our group, in formation facing the wall containing the names of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion CEF fallen, attended the Last Post Ceremony held every evening at the Menin Gate in Ypres since 1920 with the exception of the German occupation during the Second World War. Ted Hawthorne laid a wreath on behalf of the fallen and Paul Campbell recited an Act of Remembrance. The North Yorkshire Police Band, which played during the service attended by over 800 visitors, made it a particularly memorable experience.

**September 13** – We attended the plaque dedication ceremony in Bernay commemorating the liberation of the city by the Regiment. We then marched to the City Hall to attend a civic reception. Don Cameron and I were presented with a gold medal from the city.

**September 14** - Guided by Hon Maj. Dr. Jean-Pierre Bénamou, OBE, MSM, BCR Association and a very close friend of the Regiment, we visited the Brettville-sur-Liase Canadian War Cemetery at Cintheaux, just south of Caen, where 60 members of the Regiment, 40 of whom were killed in the Battle of Hill 111, are buried. After a Remembrance Ceremony led by Ted Hawthorne, I visited the grave of Major Geoffery Sidineous whose "wake" I had attended at age 4. The graves of the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Donald Worthington, his brother Major Jack Worthington who was killed 9 days after the Hill 111 action by an American fighter bomber (both neighbours of my mother when she was growing up in Kitsilano), and that of Major Tommy Baron was located not far away.

Hill 111 is merely a rise reaching 111 meters above sea level and in the distance to the southwest perhaps four miles away, one can see Hill 195 the original objective of the Regiment. We held a Memorial Ceremony on a half half acre site located at the north end of the battlefield with Claudine Ragot, the Mayor of the neighbouring town of Rouvres, together with Don and Barbara Bicknell participating. Don is a nephew of Lieut. W H Bicknell who was killed at the Hill.

To me, the highlight of the Tour was seeing the Regiment's days in England and Normandy through the eyes of Donald N. Cameron who had been a Troop Sergeant in command of one of the tank troops in "A" Squadron and who was the only WW II Veteran on the Tour with us. Don had been wounded, with shrapnel in his leg, and captured at the Hill by the Germans, but was fortunate to be repatriated to England after the allies liberated Paris. While Don is 91, his memory and ability to describe his experiences were extraordinary.

**September 15** - Most of us returned to the Hill the following day and scoured the field for mementos of the battle. Apparently, the rain and ploughing of the field frequently turns up objects from the battle, and we were not disappointed finding a hand grenade minus its detonator, a 50 caliber shell casing still containing propellant charge, a morphine bottle and several pieces of metal from one of the tanks or other armoured vehicles. Don, on the other hand, spent much of his time walking across the battlefield circling towards the memorial, alone in his thoughts.

**September 16** - Because of time constraints, we visited only three of the D Day beaches, Juno – that for the Canadian landings and perhaps seven miles wide, as well as Sword and Gold, the two British beaches, on either side of Juno. With all of the current beachside activities, one can see why such areas today have become inundated with tourists, such a contrast to the activities of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944. Landing approximately 12,000 soldiers, tanks, artillery and a myriad of other equipment that day on the five beaches in stormy conditions and against stiff German opposition in many cases, was an incredible achievement.



After dedicating a 6 inch bronze BCR Cap badge plaque, affixed to the right front sponson of the Sherman Tank Memorial, at Courselles-sur Mer, attesting to the Regiment's participation in the Battle of Normandy, we drove to the northeast of Caen to visit Pegasus Bridge, which crosses the Orne River, where technically the first major landings, on D Day, by the 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, took place.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** – We held our last O Group at 0830 hours, just before our drive back to Brussels. The Command car returned to England taking the ferry from Dieppe while the two vans raced across northern Europe to Brussels, where we celebrated a superb windup dinner organized by Keith Maxwell. Notwithstanding taking the longer coastal route, "Car Number 2" with Tom Lyth at the wheel, won the Grand Prix to Brussels by perhaps 20 minutes.

Particular kudos however should be extended to Archie Steacy who had reconnoitered the tour in October 2007 with Keith Maxwell and Bob Remple visiting the towns in Europe to meet with municipal officials to organize the proposed ceremonies. These activities do not just miraculously happen. Unfortunately, two months before leaving, he and his wife Lynda could not participate with the tour group because of Archie's heart problem. Archie drew-up the tour itinerary, made all hotel and vehicle reservations, wrote the seven dedication speeches, organized the wording, production and shipping the bronze plaques to Europe along with a myriad of other tour details. Lynda Steacy was the financial wizard with budget formulation, provided her years of travel expertise with the tour itinerary and helped to burn the midnight oil to resolve many arrangement frustrations.

Keith Maxwell, a former Duke, Gauthier Hebbelynck, the Association's European Field Officer, must also be recognized for their assistance with visitations to and confirming arrangements with municipal officials for the dedication ceremonies and Hon Maj Dr. Jean-Pierre Bénamou for making the Normandy portion a vary memorable experience.

Moreover, thanks must be extended to Dan McKenzie for videoing much of the Tour, now available in five DVDs including an interview of Don Cameron by Archie Steacy.

The memorial site on Hill 111 is outstanding and it has become really sacred ground for the Regiment. I would encourage everyone associated with the Regiment to visit this Memorial should they visit Normandy, France. The participation by Don Cameron, the 91 year old veteran who was wounded and captured at the Hill, made such tour special and probably, very hard to replicate.

**Names of Participants:**

Ted and Gayle Hawthorne	Tom Lyth	Dan McKenzie	
Jack and Pat Drake	Don Cameron	Paul Campbell	Terry Burke
Irv and Gwen Mathiesen	Bob Remple	Brooke Campbell	Bob Hanna
Ray and Carol Glover	Larry Gemmill	John Ferguson	

**Joined by:**

Sandy and Elizabeth Ferguson – United Kingdom, Lieut Lyall, VC, relatives  
 Donald and Barbara Bicknell – Barrie, Ontario  
 Lt Col (Ret'd) Tim Courtney, OBE – United Kingdom, Royal Marines  
 Maj (Ret'd) Allan Fradgley, MBE – United Kingdom, Royal Engineers

**Organizers and Guides:**

Archie and Lynda Steacy	Gauthier Hebbelynck
Keith Maxwell	Hon Maj, Dr. Jean-Pierre Bénamou, OBE. MSM

Brooke Campbell

Dear Readers:

Our special thanks to Brooke for his excellent article. Please look for Brooke's complete article on the Regimental website.

## CADET CORPS REPORT

I am pleased to report that our four Cadet Corps are doing well. The CIC (Cadet Instructor Cadre) and Senior Cadet Leadership is strong and has positioned itself to deliver an exciting and rewarding program to our Cadets.

The overall Army Cadet population in Canada has declined over the past year. However, this downturn has had little effect on our Corps. Recruiting and retention is a priority and this activity has resulted in many new Cadets entering our program.

The Cadets from our 4 were invited to a CF Familiarization Day held at the Drill Hall on 29 Nov. Approximately 60 Cadets enjoyed a day of interacting with some members of the Regiment and were given opportunity to see some of the weaponry, G wagons, and communications equipment. A talk on Regimental history and a tour of the museum was also on the agenda. The Cadets thoroughly enjoyed their day and look forward to similar opportunities in the future. A big "thank you" to LCol Kadonoff for making this possible,

The **2290 BCR (101 DCOR)** held a change of command parade in September with Captain Mike Blackwell taking over command from Captain Ken Prince. Captain Blackwell brings a wealth of experience to the 2290 having served on the full time staff of the Regional Cadet Instructor School at Albert Head. Captain Prince has become the BCR Cadet Battalion Coordinator for our four Corps.

The **2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers)** continues to thrive under the leadership of Major Jim Blomme. It is currently the largest Army Cadet Corps in Western Canada with 128 enrolled cadets.

This Corps sent 49 cadets to the various Cadet summer camps this past summer. This large number speaks well for the future cadet leadership of the Corps.

Lt. Dane Nicholson was awarded the Sword of Honour at the VACSTC (Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre) this past summer. The sword is awarded to the CIC Officer who is exemplary in his dress and deportment, conduct of an officer, achievement, leadership abilities, physical fitness and commitment to the Canadian Cadet Organization.

The **2781 BCR (Powell River)** continues to struggle to keep its numbers at a workable level. The main problem is the fact that the mill is no where near the main employer it once was and young families are moving out. A recruiting presentation was presented at the local high school in June and subsequent follow up phone calls in September netted five new recruits. The town is largely a retirement community and with the 3 elements of Cadets competing for the same group of young people, recruiting is a challenge. Having said that, with 21 Cadets on strength, this Corps offers an exciting programme with many activities and events in which the Cadets can participate. Captain Jolly and her staff provide a great opportunity for the youth in Powell River and enjoy good support from the Royal Canadian Legion.

The **2827 BCR (Port Moody)** under the leadership of Lt Rothwell, continues to perform very well. The Corps has maintained its strength of 30 Cadets for several years and while they could accommodate up to 50 cadets, 30 is a viable number given their relatively small parade facility.

C/WO McGee was selected to attend the 2008 National Domestic Expedition hosted by Central region. Cadets covered a distance of over 500 kilometers over the course of 13 days using various self-propelled methods of movement including mountain biking, voyageur canoeing, tandem canoeing, kayaking and white water rafting. The quest began in Toronto, Ontario's capital city, and finished in Ottawa, our nation's capital, winding through the urban centers and rural greenbelts of Southern Ontario. Along the way, Cadets passed through many Ontario urban centers such as Oshawa, Trenton and Kingston, and had the opportunity to visit urban places of interest such as Queen's Park, the CN Tower, the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo, and Parliament Hill as well as various historical and present-day military establishments such as Fort Henry, the Royal Military College of Canada, the Diefenbunker, and National Defence Headquarters. The concept of the Urban Expedition is to illustrate that it is not always necessary to travel to wilderness locations to participate in adventure training activities, for there is an abundance of opportunities available in our own back yards.

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



## ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The Regimental Association held its Annual Christmas Fundraising Lunch at the Drill Hall on December 11, 2008. The event was well attended and was a complete success. Turkey with all the trimmings was served. Once again, the silent auction was popular with many outstanding auction items. As all will attest, there were numerous draw prizes for our many guests. The door prizes were two very large turkeys!

Thank you once again to all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers who continue to support the Regimental Association through this event. All net proceeds go to the Charitable Trust to further its very successful programs.



Good Food, Great Prizes and Excellent Company!

## HOMELESS DINNER

The annual dinner for the homeless was held at the Drill Hall on Saturday, December 13, 2008.

Our 92 volunteers (including serving members of the Regiment, Cadets, Girl Guide Rangers, students from St. Patrick's, Salvation Army and Catholic Charities representatives and Regimental Association Members) greeted, fed and entertained our guests. A delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served to 682 guests, representing an increase of over 250 people from last year!

A special thank you to all of our good friends who support the Regimental Association for this special program. Also, our many thanks to Ray Glover for his tireless efforts in organizing this event for the Regimental Association.



Operation Homeless Dinner underway!



"Action Central"

## MUSEUM UPDATE

### By Jerry Couling

This time I actually have some news. We're OPEN!! - and entertaining new initiatives geared to making the collection more accessible to the Regiment's serving members.

#### Back in Business:

More than a hundred of you who returned home to the Drill Hall on Remembrance Day, visited the Museum and no doubt noticed the "new look". Not only has the South Room been repainted and the floor resurfaced (thanks to repairs necessitated by last year's flood) but many of the displays have been modified to improve their eye appeal. Thanks are extended to Tim Monchamp and Dick Grady, who both graciously manned the museum for several hours that day, answering questions and explaining the significance of items on display.

Many thanks to Museum Directors Dick Grady and Tim Monchamp for manning the museum in support of the Regiment's four Cadet Corps activity from 1100 to 1500 hrs., on Saturday, 29 November 2008. Sixty cadets and twenty four Cadet Instructors explored the Museum to learn about the Regiment's history and view the museum collection. It was also great to have LCol Jim Barrett and 12 adult friends pay a visit during the Cadet activity.

#### Work Parties:

In order to have things in place for the re-opening many volunteer hours were invested over the past few months. If it wasn't for the tireless, ongoing hard work of Archie Steacy, Tim and Monchamp, and others on weekends and evenings, rebuilding cabinets, creating new display areas, and restocking each in a better organized fashion than had been the case in the past, the re-opening would have been delayed. During the week preceding Remembrance Day, those two gentlemen, assisted by Jerry Couling, Ron Leblanc and Dwayne Snow, stepped up the work tempo (finishing displays, hanging pictures, etc.) to ensure the museum would be ready on the 11th.

#### Future Plans:

We are currently working with the CO and other serving members of the Regiment to evolve a plan to enhance the museum, by integrating it into the parade day experience. We intend: (1) to use some parade square wall space and unutilized space in classrooms, offices, and institutes for display purposes, wherever practical; (2) to create unified displays that tell a story or stories relevant to the Regiment's history; and (3) to emphasize the human element in the stories we tell. The vision is in the formative stage and will be a collaborative effort involving the Museum Society's Board, the CO, and other members of the Regiment and Regimental Family interested in the dramatic "Duke Story". If any of you care to share your own ideas on the type of museum you would like to see, please pass them on to us by either emailing me ([jcouling@shaw.ca](mailto:jcouling@shaw.ca)) or Archie Steacy ([amsteacy@shaw.ca](mailto:amsteacy@shaw.ca)).

## OBSERVATIONS FROM DUKE A. BEAR

While on the Battlefield Tour of Holland, Belgium and France, I attended the ceremony at Vancouver Corner, where I met a Padre who was conducting the service to commemorate our VC winner, Lt. Edward Donald Bellew. The Padre told me that while he was serving in a British Airborne Division, he got to know one of my cousins, who was the group's mascot. Apparently my cousin was the first one to jump from the plane, with his own parachute, before any of the paratroopers. He always brought them luck. I am happy to know that one of my family had distinguished himself in such a fashion.

Editor's Note: *We would like to introduce "Duke A. Bear." Duke became the Association's mascot when he joined the group on the Battlefield Tour. He has visited 8 countries so far, always wearing his black beret, and hopes to travel to Afghanistan with a member of the Regiment on the next rotation. Duke is expecting to be appropriately outfitted in "regulation" desert cadpat.*



# The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association

## Update by Jerry Couling

### Up! Up! And away!!

No, we, BCVCA, have not taken leave of our senses and headed off into the “wild blue yonder,” at least, not in a physical sense. Our feet are still very much anchored to the ground but it is also great that we are dreamers or, more accurately, some of us are. Some of our mental freewheeling may appear to be “pie in the sky!” What can I say? Fortunately, through perseverance and refinement of thought, the thinkers in our group have: firstly, helped other associations realize their dreams and, secondly, devised a viable plan, supported by government, to cultivate a commemorative spirit within our communities, province -wide. Here’s the story.

### Wallace Tribute

Several months ago, as mentioned previously in the *Duke*, a few ex-Air Force types, who are a vital part of the work party meeting every other Thursday in the Drill Hall, to process Veterans’ License Plate applications, approached Archie Steacy, for assistance with their dream to install a new replacement Wallace Memorial Cairn, to replace the one destroyed years ago, at the time Jericho Park was redesigned. As mentioned before, the original Cairn was commissioned and paid for by HCol Clarence Wallace in 1941, to honour those Canadian airmen who perished during WW2. (Two of Clarence Wallace’s sons fought overseas, one was killed and the other, seriously wounded). The ex-Air Force types, had formed a Committee comprising of representatives from the local Wing of the Air Force Association, and the Air Crew Association of Canada, to bring this dream to life. They recognized they needed help in organizing, financing, and dealing with program and protocol issues. They approached Archie, BCVCA’s President and Chair of the Licence Plate Committee, to which they belonged. Through their ongoing connection with Archie, they have learned what we Dukes have known for many years: - Archie possesses special skills and aptitudes and, once committed, will soldier on, conquering, what for many would be, unbreachable barriers, in order to get the job done.

Well. The job got done! Archie made sure of that. He not only brought BCVCA into the Committee but also: convinced BCVCA’s Board to provide financial support, layed out the program for the rededication ceremony, expanded the monument’s mission to pay tribute to the Army’s post war service at Jericho, and provided counsel and technical expertise to his Air Force friends.

Many of us attended the October 19<sup>th</sup> dedication ceremony at Jericho Beach and the reception following it, held at the Jericho Sailing Club. The ceremony and its float plane fly by, attracted both public and media attention. Arch, I know all of us on the Re-Dedication Committee, are convinced the events on the 19<sup>th</sup> would still be just a dream, if it hadn’t been for your guidance, technical assistance, and advice.

### BC 150 Project

Okay this one was off the wall and thought to be dead. Last Spring, Archie Steacy; John Appleby, one of BCVCA’s directors and a former CO of the 12<sup>th</sup> Service battalion and Sharel Fraser, one of our members and former Regional Director of Veterans Affairs, took a trip to Victoria to talk to BC 150 officials about the government’s plans to celebrate the historical significance of the military, in creating this great province of ours - Well, so much for the military. It became clear that this issue had not, until that point, appeared on the Province’s radar screen. The three left disappointed but not surprised. Over the summer, to help the government improve its vision, Archie enlisted a friend of his with close ties to an influential cabinet minister, to aid in our cause. In fairness to the Province, on reflection, it recognized the need to acknowledge the magnitude of the military’s contributions to this Province. Through that recognition, a further meeting of the above three was held in Victoria, at which time the Province announced it would give \$100,000 to BCVCA, to design and distribute commemoration kits to 90 communities throughout the Province. Each kit will contain information on how to conduct commemorative acts including candlelight tributes, and planting gardens of Remembrance. The kits will also contain a 24 minute DVD integrating separate modules dealing with different facets of the military’s involvement in and contributions to, the Province.

Those of you who were at the Drill Hall, following this year’s Victory Square Remembrance Day Service, witnessed the Premier’s participation in our official launch of this worthwhile program.

### Conclusion:

Well that sums it up. If any of you fellow Dukes, who are not already members, but share BCVCA’s commemorative goals, want to join, membership only costs \$10.00 a year. Let me know ([jcouling@shaw.ca](mailto:jcouling@shaw.ca)). By the way, it is a great place for dreamers.

## IMPORTANT VISITORS FROM BRITAIN



Lance Corporal G. T. Lyall in the uniform of the 19th "Lincoln" Regiment, sometime during 1915. Sergeant unknown. (Photo Credit – Sandy Ferguson)

We all know that members of our Regiment distinguished themselves with honours during WW1. Member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion accounted for three of the VCs - Lt Bellew VC, Pte O'Rourke MM, VC and Cpl Rayfield VC. Through perpetuation The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) claims the VC won by Lt Robert Hanna VC of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion and of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Northern British Columbia Regiment, we claim the honour of the VC won by Lt. Graham Lyall VC.

For the last few years I have kept up an email correspondence with LCol Bill Smy, a former CO of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment and learned of Sandy Ferguson and that he was the nephew of Lt Graham Lyall VC. Sandy and his wife Elizabeth had visited the "Links and Winks" and unveiled a plaque recognizing Sandy's uncle's valour. Graham Lyall joined the 19<sup>th</sup> "Lincoln" Battalion on October 24, 1914 serving for almost a year performing vital point duty along the canal and at Niagara Falls. He joined the 81<sup>st</sup> Bn CEF in September 1915 and proceeded overseas. The Lincoln and Welland Regiment perpetuate the 81<sup>st</sup> Bn. Earlier this year I had an email from Bill Smy advising that Sandy and his wife Elizabeth were planning an Alaskan Cruise and intended on spending a day or two in Vancouver. While here he wanted to view the 102<sup>nd</sup> Bn colours in Christ Church Cathedral. I contacted Sandy and advised him that we (Dukes) would assist in whatever way we could in welcoming them to Vancouver. I mentioned that the Colours were on public display in the Chapel of the Regiments at the Cathedral and that I would

arrange for a visit. I also asked that they visit the Drill Hall. Later Sandy advised that they would in fact be in Vancouver on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Sandy called me from Vancouver Airport in between flights on their way to Alaska and we set the date for a week later when their ship arrived in Vancouver. I asked Ted Hawthorne and Archie Steacy to join me but Archie was unable to make it and so I met Sandy and Elizabeth at their downtown hotel and we walked the few short blocks to the Cathedral where we were joined by Ted. Sandy and Elizabeth were quite gratified to see the 102<sup>nd</sup> Colours as it gave them an immediate connection to Sandy's Uncle. After signing the Cathedral guest book, we drove to the Drill Hall in Ted's van. It was a sunny day and we spent some time in St. Julien Square. Ted and I talked about the Regiment and Sandy illuminated us about the life of Graham who went on to be a Colonel in the REME, commanding the base workshops in North Africa during WW2. He died suddenly while serving in that theatre. Sandy has spent a great deal of time researching the life of his uncle and has written a book about his life and service. We walked around the Square admiring the newly installed plaques on the benches that commemorate our VC winners and then paused in front of Lt Graham Lyall's bench to read the plaque and then he and Elizabeth sat down and we asked a man passing by to take a photo of this historic moment.



Sandy and Elizabeth Ferguson visiting the Chapel of the Regiments, July 7, 2008.

We wanted Sandy and Elizabeth to visit the Museum and that was our next stop. The Museum was in disarray due to repairs and renovations but we managed to show them many of our WW1 artefacts.

Sandy's research had provided him with insights into Graham's life in the 102<sup>nd</sup> and of the lives of some of his comrades. As we concluded our visit, Sandy presented us with a copy of his book on the life of Graham Lyall VC. Entitled, "Interesting Times". Ted presented Sandy and Elizabeth with a BCR Association plaque, a Regimental tie and hat badge as a memento of their brief visit to our Regiment.



Sandy and Elizabeth resting on the bench dedicated to Lt. Graham Lyall VC, 102Bn CEF, July 7, 2008

We departed the Drill Hall and I returned to work. Ted drove them back to their Hotel on Pender Street. Ted was to head off to France and Holland on the Association sponsored battlefield tour in September and would have the pleasure of meeting Sandy and Elizabeth once more at the installation of the plaque commemorating the heroism of Lt. Graham Lyall VC, at Bourlon Wood on that dreary day on 6 September 2008. The Ferguson's visit provided a rare moment linking lives from distant places because of an uncommon act of valour so many years ago.

David Sproule  
December, 2008



Outside Buckingham Palace – 15 March 1919. Lyall wears only the ribbon of the Victoria Cross as the War Medal and Victory Medal had yet to be approved.

## BISLEY 2008 – ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION (ARA)



Fellow Dukes,

I thought you would like to hear something regarding the 2008 Bisley Rifle Competition this past summer. It was indeed a privilege for me to take the Regiment back to Bisley after an absence of 70 years.

The top shooters in the Canadian forces gathered in CFB Gagetown for training before deploying to Bisley and Pirbright ranges in Surrey, UK England to shoot at CENTSAM (Central Skill at Arms Meeting). Selection for the Bisley team was based solely on performance at CFSAC 2007. The top 16 shooters that were available composed the team, along with 3 admin people, a PAFO and 2 civilian team coaches. The shooters included approximately 60 % reservists, and the team had people from all arms of the CF. The team was a young one. Some of the shooters had only shot in one match, CFSAC 2007, which allowed them to qualify for Bisley. A few others, including myself, had shot internationally before.

The coaching staff was composed of Linda Miller and Keith Cunningham. Together they operate a range complex and shooting school in Ontario called MilCun Marksmanship Complex. Their vast experience comes from both the military and civilian shooting worlds.



Cpl D. Ryan Steacy Bisley, UK, July 2008

Training started the day after arriving in Gagetown. Everything was gone over from the ground level up. Rifles were selected by each shooter from a pool of proven shooters with each team member having a primary and backup rifle. Positions were then worked on and solidified while shooting groups. As the positions got better, so did the groups. Emphasis was placed on the mental aspects of firing the “perfect shot” every time the trigger was squeezed. It was something completely new to most of us. Many new things were learned and I’m eager to pass them on to the rest of the BCR. They WILL produce better, more accurate and confident shooters, which is becoming more and more important in operations overseas.



After training was complete in Gagetown, the team deployed to England and enjoyed a 3 day acclimatization period in London. Then we caught a train to Bisley and moved into our accommodations at Canada House (MacDonald Stewart Pavilion). This house was originally built by the Canadian Army in the mid 1800’s to house its troops when they shot at Bisley, but was eventually handed over to the DCRA (Dominion of Canada Rifle Association). Several men from the 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR (BCR) had shot at Bisley and been housed in these premises. A tradition at the house seems to be signing the walls in the rooms for the years that you shot Bisley. In a quirk of fate I was housed in the same room that Rifleman Sam J. Perry, 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment, DCOR, stayed in when he shot at Bisley in 1902 and 1904. His signature was still on the wall where he had signed it 104 years before.

Training commenced the next day with more group shooting to solidify positions and a walk back to confirm zeros out to 500 meters (m). Then we moved from range to range as they became available for practice. Usually we shared the ranges with other teams, but occasionally we managed to have them all to ourselves. All shooting was done in FFO including body armour and plates. Each shooter’s tactical vest had to weigh a minimum of 7.5 kgs or 16.5 lbs not including body armour and plates, helmet and rifle. In the beginning the added weight of the armour was a little uncomfortable, but soon it became an important part of our kit and all of us chose to use the armour even in matches where it wasn’t required. It helped to keep positions tight and muffled out erratic breathing and heart beat. When and if the BCR deploys a team to CFSAC, body armour will be introduced as an important part of operational shooting kit.

It was soon clear that the matches we were practicing were far more complicated in comparison to the matches run in Canada. Although they have 12 matches similar to what we have in Canada, each one of their matches has several practices within it. Most involved some type of fire and movement. Some were longer runs of up to 2km before the match and some were sprints. One you were required to sprint 100m and shoot down one target on an electronic target range all in 25 seconds AND with a gasmask on. Then you would get multiple exposures that would be shot from various positions, behind barricades and from in trenches. Another match had a 500 m sprint in 3 minutes (uphill) and then a 4 man section attack from 600 m to 500 m. Shooting was done at targets that came up for 3 seconds before carrying on with the attack to 400m. More shooting at pop-up targets and then another attack to 300 m. where targets came up for a rapid shoot and then a snap shoot. At that point, the whole team advances at a run to 200 m where they shoot another rapid and a snap. Then gas, gas, gas is called and another rapid and snap are shot masked up. Gas clear and a walk to 100 m begins. Sometime during the walk, targets appear and a sprint to the 100 m point takes place and a standing snap and kneeling rapid occurs. That was one match! Very challenging indeed.

Another interesting match was shot on the moving target range. The shooters were in the standing alert at 100 m. The targets would appear from behind a wall and disappear behind another. Speeds were fast and really fast with the really fast exposure making Ben Johnson look like a slug. The slower exposure would cover 20 m in 6 seconds while the faster covered the distance in 3 seconds. It was challenging to just get 10 hits on the target. When the target appeared the shooter had to identify which direction the target was traveling, what the speed was and what the proper lead was and then squeeze off the shot. After a few hours at it we were consistently getting 8-10 hits which was pretty decent.



We managed to have good access to the ranges we needed to practice the matches which apparently hasn't been the case in previous years. After 3 weeks the matches began. The matches were run by 2 groups. The NRA (National Rifle Association) which is similar to the DCRA here in Canada, and the ARA (Army Rifle Association) which runs the matches for the military. We started out entering 4 Canadian teams in the NRA Falling Plates match. After a series of shoot-offs all that was left was the four Canadian teams to shoot-off against each other. All other teams had been eliminated. My team managed to pick up the win and the gold medal. We were off to a good start.

The matches progressed and we had varying results. The shooters that had been to Bisley and run these matches before were at an advantage. There were so many things to think about that it was hard to concentrate on the shooting when you were worrying what stage was next. After it was all said and done Team Canada had a second place finish in the International category made up of Canadians, Kiwis, Auzzies, Omanis and British. We also managed a 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall finish. That included all the internationals and all the British army teams (about 35-40 teams). We finished behind a Gurkha team and the Omanis. While we didn't mind being beaten by the Gurkhas, being beaten by the Omanis was a different story. They are the Sultan of Oman's personal shooting team. Their only job is to shoot and win at Bisley. If they win they get to stay on the team for another year. Some members have been on the team for 15 years or more. They have an unlimited budget and their trainer is posted from the SAS. Needless to say they shoot pretty well. They also have a penchant for cheating to win and we caught them several times trying to make up points. We wanted to beat them badly.

My own personal shooting was not too bad considering all the factors. I shot consistently putting me in the top 3<sup>rd</sup> of the team. I was selected as 1 of the 6 team members who shot the international match (usually top 6 on the team). My 4 man team won the NRA Falling Plates and came within 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a second of winning the ARA Falling Plates. My 4 man team placed very well in the Parachute Regiment Cup (the match with the section attacks and all the running). My international placing was 28<sup>th</sup> out of 50 and my overall placing was in the top 60 out of 300. While not a stellar performance, I felt, and so did the coaches, that I was just beginning to hit my stride as the competition closed. Another week would have been perfect. Another shot at Bisley would yield better personal results as you really need to be comfortable with the matches and stages in order to concentrate on the shooting.

I took away many new ideas and ways to train new shooters including the concept of always firing the "perfect shot". The mental aspects that make good shooters truly great are very clear now whereas before I had an idea but couldn't really tell what I was doing to make that good shot. B.R.A.S.S. has been replaced by a more effective

P.A.S.T. and if you need correction you just look back at the four points to find the solution to what you need to fix your problem.

Overall, training for and competing at Bisley has made me a far better shooter. Not only did the training teach me new ways to train our soldiers, but the matches themselves were all combat oriented and centered around making hits on targets under stressful and sometimes fleeting conditions. CENTSAM and CFSAC are both operationally effective. Not only do they promote good shooting skills, but they promote the teaching of good shooting skills at the home units of the competitors. Lessons learned in competition are easily translated into combat situations as witnessed by both Sgt. Leblanc and Sgt. Harris who have used the skills learned in competition in defence of their own lives.

Cpl. D. Ryan Steacy  
BC Regiment (DCO)

## CANADIAN FORCES SMALL ARMS COMPETITION (CFSAC) September 2008

Small arms competition still ranks high on the Regiments agenda and the ambitions of many Dukes. The following photos introduce you to the team members during their participation in the small arms competition conducted at Connaught Ranges in Ottawa



BCR CFSAC Team Members. Left to right: Cpl Kyle Roder, Cpl Timothy Laidler; Cpl Stephen Clews, MCpl Ian Millar (Team Capt & Admin) & Cpl Ryan Steacy



Cpl. Stephen Clews zeros the C9 while Cpl. Timothy Laidler spots his shots in preparation for the Soldiers Cup, which is a timed obstacle course run and a 500 meter section attack.



BCR Team Members firing the Soldiers Cup Match while wearing gas masks. Top to Bottom: Cpl. Ryan Steacy, Cpl. Kyle Roder, Cpl. Timothy Laidler and Cpl. Stephen Clews (not visible).

How well did they shoot?

It is most gratifying to see that out of 175 regular and reserve force members, three Dukes qualified as members of the Elite 50 who are eligible to compete for the Queens Medal. Results are as follows:

Cpl. Ryan Steacy, ranked 8th overall winning an International Match Gold Medal; Cpl. Timothy Laidler 21st overall; Cpl. Kyle Roder ranked 45th overall, and Cpl. Stephen Clews did not qualify for the Elite 50 but he ranked 56th overall.

Congratulations to you all for your strengths and willingness to participate in small arms competitions that hold both you and the Regiment in good stead.

Well done for MCpl Ian Millar regarding his captaining of the team and dealing with the administrative matters.

Up the Dukes.  
Archie Steacy



## BURSARIES

The Regimental Association, through its Charitable Trust, has approved the award of five bursaries to serving members of the Regiment.

The bursaries of \$500.00 each were presented by LCol D.B. Kadonoff CD at the Junior Ranks Annual Christmas Dinner on December 13, 2008. The recipients were:

Cpl. Peter John Colenutt  
Cpl. James A. Alexander  
Tpr. Ali Samir Mansour

Cpl. Kameliya Zarkova  
Pte. Andrew Peter Baelde

The Regimental Association wishes to thank all of the applicants for their submissions and wishes all members every success in their studies.

## ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Kim Bekesinski  
Jerry Couling  
Andrew Conradi  
Bill Diamond - Treasurer  
Raymond Glover – Vice-President  
Ted Hawthorne - Secretary  
Archie Steacy - President  
Graydon Young

## REGIMENTAL WEBSITE

Please check out the Regimental website at [www.bcregiment.com](http://www.bcregiment.com) and click on "Association." You will be pleased to find current and past issues of "The Duke", general information, Membership Applications and Regimental Challenge Medallion Applications.

## ASLEEP

**Trooper Bruce Bailey** served with the British Columbia Regiment (13<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment) RCAC. He passed away in September 2008. Bruce and family resided in North Vancouver, B.C.

**HMaj Senator Raymond Perrault** of the British Columbia Regiment Association passed away in December 2008. Ray, Barbara and family resided in North Vancouver, B.C.

**We Shall Remember Them.**

## ON THE MEND

We are pleased to advise that Ray Glover has returned home from his recent stay in hospital. Ray advised that yeast (from beer?) helps to maintain his new pacemaker. All the very best Ray and see you at Levee.



## 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!

We are presently creating a photo collage portraying Dukes who have served in Afghanistan. We will be asking for the assistance of the members in the design of the collage for each rotation to Afghanistan.

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 wish you all a very Merry Christmas and  
a most Prosperous and Happy New Year.*

