



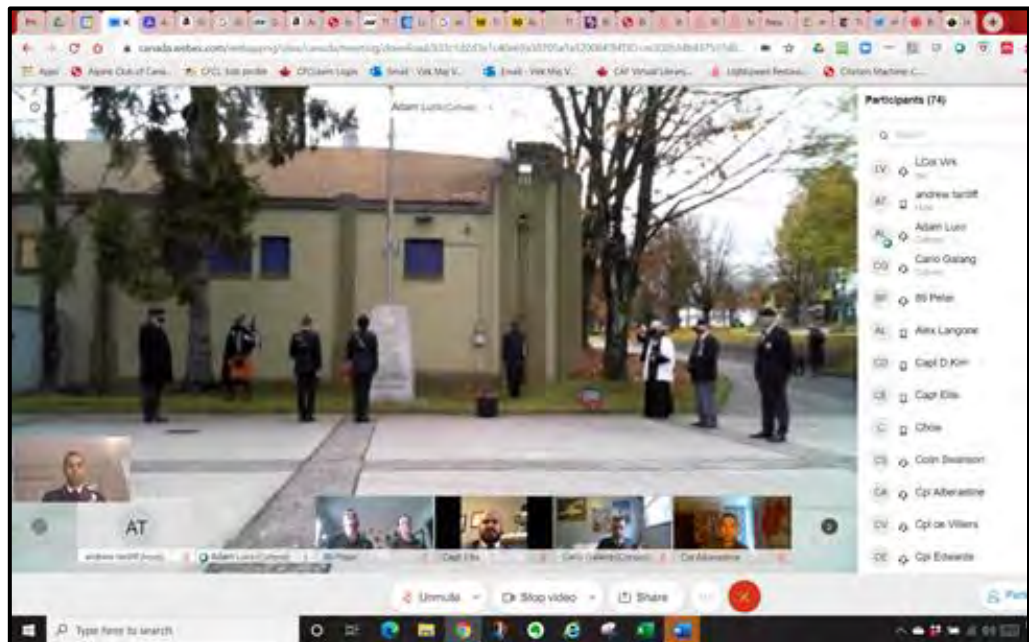
# THE DUKE



## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020

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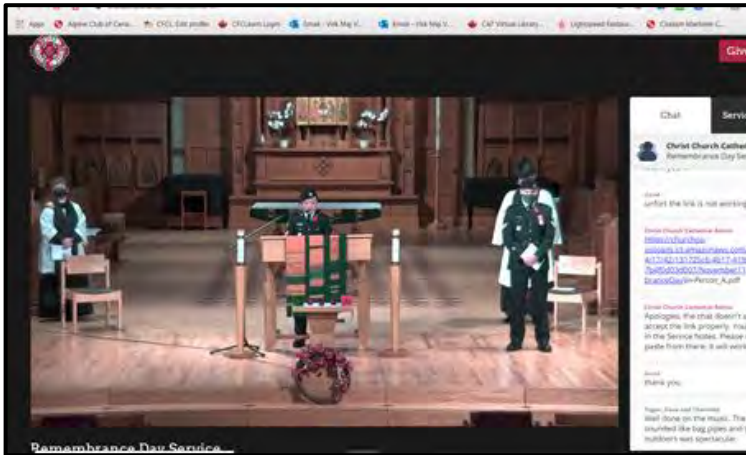
## REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020

Submitted by LCol Vincent Virk, CO

Today we knew was going to be a weird day at best, without our traditional Regimental Parade and march around the Vancouver Cenotaph. It was extra painful for me having to self-isolate this week preventing me from attending with you at the PNE grounds. Though I must say the efforts of the Association and the Regimental wreath parties at key locations has still allowed for us to feel connected on this day.

The remembrance at the 29th Battalion CEF Monument at the PNE was very well done and attended by over 75 BCR soldiers online. Please pass on my kudos to all those involved in putting this together.

The Wait for me Daddy wreath laying party was befitting for such a special and dear monument to our Regiment.



Finally, the readings of the Cpl Alexander and Wu at Christ Church Cathedral as part of a wreath laying party was streamed live and can be found on youtube at <https://www.thecathedral.ca/livestreams/34>.

These efforts show the whole Regimental Family is able to adapt and carry on in face of the greatest challenges of this generation of soldiers.

I once again am emboldened by the capabilities and capacity of the Dukes!

**REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY  
THE 29<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION CEF MONUMENT AT THE PNE  
11 November 2020  
By: Major James D. Barrett, CD**

On Remembrance Day 2020, The BC Regiment (DCO) Association held a brief Ceremony at the 29th Battalion Monument located just outside the entrance of the Pacific Coliseum at the PNE in East Vancouver. On a cloudy and cold morning, attendees were spaced two metres apart and wore NMMs at all times. The service was conducted with 24 members of the Regimental Association and Bands present. Honorary Colonel Bill Diamond attended representing the 39 CER. Captain Manjeet Vinning represented the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk who was in self isolation due to COVID-19 issues, and attended with the RSM, CWO Tony Harris. Together they laid the wreath on behalf of the Regiment and Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne and Mr Graydon Young laid the wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association. Major Jim Barrett, Vice President of the Association, acted as both Parade Marshall and MC for the event. Prayers of service were provided by Captain, the Reverend Gordon Barrett. The BCR Brass & Reed Band provided Bugler Jose Blanco to play the Last Post and Rouse and our BCR Irish Pipes & Drums provided both a piper to play the Lament, Pipe Major Andrew Hayes, but also performed as a mini-band during the service and after dismissal. RSM Harris provided a reading of "In Flanders Fields" during the service and the Toast to the Fallen was given by Major Barrett and to the Regiment by Colonel Hawthorne. Coca Cola was consumed in lieu of the traditional beverage.

We will remember them!

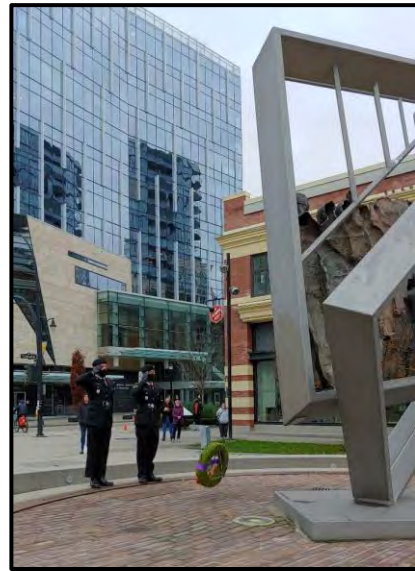
Up the Dukes!







**REMEMBRANCE DAY  
“WAIT FOR ME DADDY” SERVICE  
NEW WESTMINSTER  
11 NOVEMBER 2020**



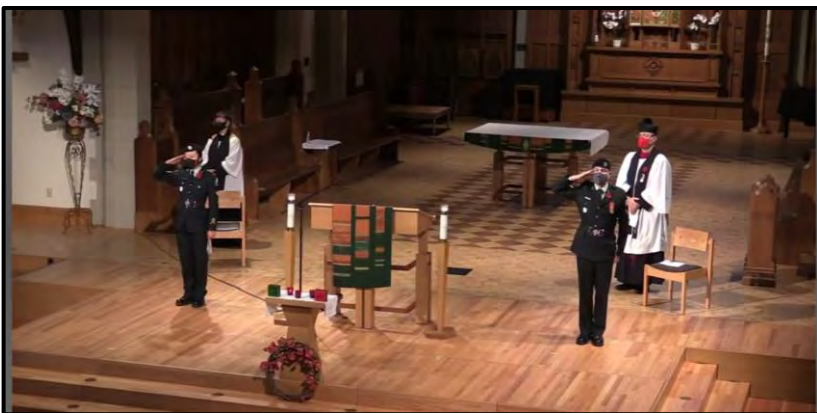
Piper Craig Matthews, MCpl Palmer and Cpl Mak



**REMEMBRANCE DAY  
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
VANCOUVER  
11 NOVEMBER 2020**



At Christ Church Cathedral with Cpl James Alexander reading "In Flanders Fields" (above) and Cpl Tina Wu reciting "The Act of Remembrance" (below). The entire service was live streamed on YouTube.



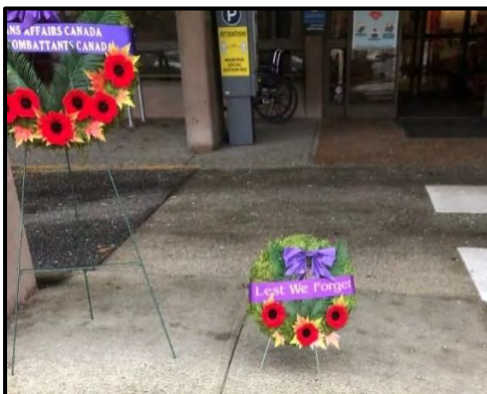
## REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020

By: Jeff Pope

I travelled to the South Vancouver Memorial Cenotaph, waiting until after 12 Noon to ensure a thin crowd. No one was there save for three police vehicles at the entrance and closer to the memorial and scant wreaths from what I could see. I made a decision to lay the wreath at the First World War memorial amongst the actual graves of Regimental members whose grave markers I began tending a few days prior. It felt right to be with them.



I made my way to Oceanview Cemetery. I cleaned the marker on Sgt Dalmagro's final resting place and stood by facing it having removed my head dress. The eerie quiet was broken by the last post played over the radio of a nearby car. I stood head bowed thinking of this great man, friend to all. After the playing of the reveille I laid a wreath on behalf of his Regimental family sharing our love and admiration, saluted and marched off.



In between visiting Sgt Dalmagro and the WW1 monument I popped by the Brock Fahrni Veterans home which is but minutes from my place. The Memorial Garden was closed, I laid a wreath at the front entrance and saluted the Veterans, some 100 live there. What they really wanted was booze and cigarettes...perhaps another day.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY  
BELGIUM – CANADIAN REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE  
11 NOVEMBER 2020**

By: Luke Vandebussche, Secretary BCHC/BCRC-LEKE

We held a Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Belgian War Monument and the Canadian Liberation Monument (Canada Square) under strict Covid-rules. The wreath laying was from NSB- LEKE, the City Council of DIKSMUIDE and the Belgian-Canadian Remembrance Committee-Leke.

**Onderwerp:** 11 november 2020





**VETERANS WEEK 2020**  
**THE HONOURABLE HARJIT S. SAJJAN, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP**  
**MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE**  
**THE DRILL HALL**  
**OFFICERS' MESS**  
**10 NOVEMBER 2020**

Welcome home to The Honourable Harjit Sajjan who has been using the otherwise vacant Officers' Mess at The Drill Hall in order to conduct his Ministerial activities during Veterans' Week, including speaking virtually with children from Canoe Lake, Saskatchewan and two different schools throughout the country as part of the Remembrance Week ceremonies. On Friday, the Minister will be participating in a virtual call to Riga, Latvia, from the Officers' Mess as well.

Up the Dukes and thank you for the visit Minister Sajjan!



**THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION**

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28 October 2020

Members of the Regimental Association and the Regimental Family:

Dear friends:

**Re: Cancellation of the Annual Remembrance Dinner – 10 November 2020 – Sandman Inn**

In light of the recent announcements by the Health Authorities regarding COVID-19 and the spread of the virus, we have reluctantly cancelled the Annual Remembrance Dinner at the Sandman Inn.

The Regimental Association continues with the planning and preparation for a service of remembrance and commemoration on Remembrance Day at the PNE (please note complete details in the Invitation published in **The BCR News**)

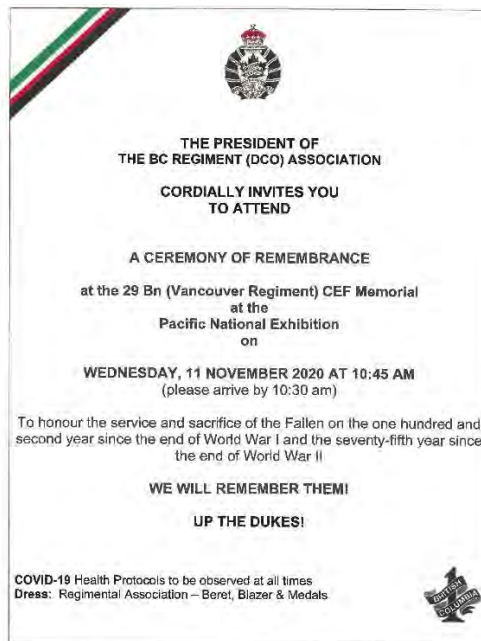
Many thanks for your continued support and all the very best.

Up the Dukes!

Sincerely yours,

Gayle J. Hawthorne, President





## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020 AT VICTORY SQUARE VANCOUVER

The risk and on-going threat caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will dramatically affect how Remembrance Day will be commemorated at Victory Square in Vancouver on this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year that marks the end of World War Two.

Most obvious will be the effect of protocols ordered by health authorities on large gatherings by maintaining physical distancing, the wearing of masks, and a limit of 50 persons taking part at the Victory Square ceremony on November 11th.

Because of these restrictions the public is being discouraged from attending at Victory Square on Remembrance Day and encouraged to watch the ceremony from home on television or on live streaming.



There will be no parade of veterans, military units, and cadets. The Cenotaph will be fenced off and only Official wreaths will be placed. No Recognized or public wreaths will be placed this year. The Sarabande Chamber Choir will perform at a separate venue, along with the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Service Band.

The ceremony itself will be abbreviated but will retain important components such as a soloist, songs by the Choir, a student poet, and at 11 O'clock the Last Post will be sounded followed by the Lament and Rouse, a 21-gun salute, concluding with a fly past of the RCAF Aurora patrol aircraft.

Cam Cathcart  
Director of Ceremonies  
Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee  
6 Nov 2020



**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL VETERANS DAY  
VICTORY SQUARE CENOTAPH - VANCOUVER, BC  
Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 10:30 am**

VETERANS & WREATH presenters INVITE ONLY, PRIVATE service:  
Pandemic Protocol: no exceptions. HUMBLE thank you, respects.  
Speaker: Squamish Nation, Bill Williams, VAHS

10:15 Arrival: COVID 19 protocol, social distancing, sign in.  
10:30 Open Ceremonies: Pipe ceremony, Robert Nahanee & Veterans. Buffalo Spirit Drum  
10:45 Wreath Lay Ceremony, Veterans MC Robert Nahanee, Jamie Thomas  
11:50 - 12:00 Close ceremonies

HONOUR of Veterans, public support, please join Virtual service:  
**LIVE Streamline on FB page**  
**ZOOM with Veterans on FB page: National Aboriginal Veterans Day, November 8**  
**( both are 10:30 - 12:00 noon)**

Highest honours, respects, all my relations.  
INVITE Tribute songs: Veterans Honour, thank you, respects songs:  
Further information:  
Volunteer, Kelly White 604-565-4927

**VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY  
PROCEEDS DESPITE COVID-19  
8 NOVEMBER 2020**  
Submitted by Dan Thomas

Nearly 50 Indigenous veterans and Elders, dignitaries, and their supporters gathered at Victory Square on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Compared with past years, the ceremony was conducted with attention to provincial and municipal COVID-19 protocols. While abbreviated, the ceremony perpetuated Indigenous and civic customs, including the laying of wreaths.

Also as in past years, the ceremony was organized and coordinated by Kelly White, a Musqueam and Snuneymuxw Elder, and the pipe ceremony conducted by Squamish Elder and veteran Robert Nahanee. Congratulations and thanks to all for perpetuating this tradition through difficult times!

HCol Hawthorne laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment. Due to COVID restrictions HCol (39 CER) Bill Diamond observed the service from a distance. After the service ended there was an opportunity for the Honoraries to have a photo with the Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan, and his new star blanket that he received as a gift.



**RCL POPPY TAGGING  
CHAMPLAIN SQUARE SHOPPING MALL  
8 NOVEMBER 2020**  
Submitted by David C. Corrin

A very successful day of Poppy Tagging for the Legion at Champlain Square, 54<sup>th</sup> & Kerr in Vancouver, during Veterans' Week raising well over \$500.00 in only 3 ½ hours! A great day!

Up the Dukes!



REMEMBRANCE DAY / CLARK WILSON



*this is the story of two young friends from Vancouver who played a unique role in the military history of our city, and whose legacy includes the foundation our firm, Clark Wilson LLP.*

Arthur Clark and Alexander Wilson were boyhood friends from Dundas, Ontario who grew up in Vancouver in the early 1900's... more than a century ago.

It was in 1909 when Clark and Wilson, along with other businessmen and professionals of Scottish heritage approached the Department of Militia and Defence to propose the creation of a Highland Regiment in Vancouver. In 1911 a Militia Order created the 72nd Highlanders of Canada, soon to be renamed the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

By May 1915, Arthur Clark had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was the Commanding Officer of the Regiment. Alexander Wilson was his Second-in-Command.

The battle honours carried on the Colours of the 72nd Seaforths, accurately record the war record of Arthur Clark as Commanding Officer and Alexander Wilson as Second-in-Command.

The battle honours awarded to the Seaforths include: Ypres, 1915, 1917; Festubert, 1915; Somme, 1916; Ancre Heights; Ancre, 1916; Arras, 1917, 1918; Passchendaele; Amiens; Scarpe, 1918; Drocourt-Queant; Hindenburgh Lines; Canal du Nord; Valenciennes; Sambre; France and Flanders, 1915 – 1918; and... The Battle of Vimy Ridge, 1917. Canadians of all ages will be familiar with most of these battles, but particularly the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

History records the Battle of Vimy Ridge as a defining moment in Canadian history. It was at the height of World War I on Easter Monday, April 9th, 1917, in an early morning sleet, that the 49 Battalions of the 100,000-strong Canadian Corps

rose along a nine mile line of trenches in Northern France and began to advance against German forces. All four Canadian divisions moved forward through a no-man's land at a walking pace protected by a well-rehearsed creeping barrage of artillery fire. By nightfall, the Germans had suffered a crippling set back. Four days later, Vimy Ridge, which other Allied Troops had previously assaulted and failed to capture, was firmly in Canadian hands. This was the first time Canadians had fought as a distinct national army and Canada, as a nation, was born.

The Order of Battle on that day included the 72nd Battalion (Seaforth Highlanders, Vancouver) as part of the Twelfth Brigade of the Fourth Canadian Infantry Division. This Battalion of "Vancouver's finest" was led by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Clark and his Second-in-Command, Alexander Wilson, both of whom went on to become decorated heroes with many stories of their courage under fire. Clark was subsequently promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and Wilson to the rank of Brigadier.

Both Arthur Clark and Alexander Wilson survived the war and returned to Vancouver where they founded a partnership in the practice of law. Throughout his years in the practice of law, Arthur Clark was respectfully addressed as "General Clark" and referred to in the third person as "The General".

In the years between World War I and World War II, Arthur Clark served as the Regiment's Honorary Colonel, and Alexander Wilson as it's Commanding Officer. Both men played leadership roles in the planning and construction of the Seaforth Armoury, which still stands at the south foot of the Burrard Street Bridge.

General Clark went on to further serve his country as the two-term Member of Parliament from the Vancouver Burrard Constituency.

When World War II broke out in 1939, the Seaforths, thanks in large part to the inter-war leadership of Clark and Wilson, were battle ready and were led into battle by a new generation of Seaforth officers, one of whom was General Clark's son, Lieutenant-Colonel Don Clark.

On October 7th, 1945, General Clark was there, with a crowd of over 100,000 Vancouverites, to welcome home the return of the Seaforths. With the cheering crowds flanking the streets, the Battalion was led down Georgia Street and onto Burrard Street by his son, Don, who had served with distinction in Italy and Holland and was a hero in his own right. Don Clark was promoted to the rank of Brigadier, and later joined his father and Brigadier Wilson in the practice of law.

To get a sense of what it must have been like as the father-veteran watched his son lead the Battalion's return to their Vancouver home, it is best to refer to R.H. Roy's book, *"The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada 1919/1965"* as follows:

The sight of the Battalion led by the Pipes and Drums coming over the Burrard Bridge would never be forgotten. In perfect step, with kilts swinging to the skirl of "Scotland the Brave", with colours flying and the cheering from the crowds growing ever louder, the Battalion swung into the huge playground behind the Armoury. Here the entire Regiment lined up – both Battalions, the Cadets, the Overseas Veterans who marched with the returning Unit. Surrounding the square were the men's families and relatives whom they had not seen for years, yet the discipline was such that no one broke ranks. The formalities were exceedingly brief – a few one minute welcome speeches by several dignitaries, a brief reply by Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Clark, and then the order "Dismiss". There was hardly an instance pause before the Seaforths on the parade square were engulfed as Veterans and civilians merged in an indescribable scene of happiness. The Seaforths were home.

Brigadier-General J. A. Clark CMG, DSO, VD, CD, Q.C. died in Vancouver on June 18, 1976 at the age of 89.

Brigadier Alexander Douglas Wilson DSO, VD, Q.C. died in Vancouver in 1965.

Brigadier Don Clark VD, Q.C. died in Vancouver in 1993.

**EXERCISE CENTURION DUKE 2020  
HEAL'S RIFLE RANGE, VANCOUVER ISLAND  
2 - 4 OCTOBER 2020**

By: Captain Gavin Ducharme, Assistant Adjutant

From 2 October to 4 October 2020, The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) conducted their first exercise of the 2020/2021 training year. Exercise CENTURION DUKE was an Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS) weekend with the aim of conducting annual qualifications on C7 rifle and Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBRN) drills, as well as conduct of mandatory briefings.

The weekend was divided up between range activities and briefs, with troops being set up in rotating groups. Due to the ongoing closure of the Volks Rifle Range in the Chilliwack Valley, troops deployed out to Heal's Rifle Range near Victoria on Vancouver Island for a day, then returned to the mainland for briefings the next day.

The weekend was a success with approximately 80 soldiers qualifying on their C7 rifle, the highest number the Regiment has seen in several years. Additionally, troops received mandatory briefs on hateful conduct, media awareness, conduct after capture and Operation HONOUR.

While participating in the range, troops completed the Personal Weapons Test (PWT) 1, 2 & 3. This includes static shooting at a target from 100 m and 200 m, and a run down from 400m where Troops shoot from a variety of distances from varying firing positions. Some soldiers were also treated to a special shooting program put together by MCpl Law which included close range “snap” shooting, automatic shooting, and multi target shooting. The addition shooting drills were a highlight for members who are not usually exposed to these types of shooting drills.

Congratulations go out to Cpl Alberastine, Cpl Blouin, Tpr Clarke, Tpr de Villiers, CWO Harris, Cpl Lim, Cpl Regala, Cpl Willson, MCpl Young, MCpl Zhou for a perfect score on the PWT 1. To CWO Harris, MCpl Law, WO Li, Cpl Lim, Cpl Luro, Cpl Ocol, Cpl Sutherland and MCpl Young for a perfect score on the PWT 2.

The Regiment’s next Exercise will be Ex LYNX DUKE 2020 from 23 to 25 October 2020. LYNX DUKE will be conducted in the OPSEE Training Area and will have troops working on basic Recce skills.



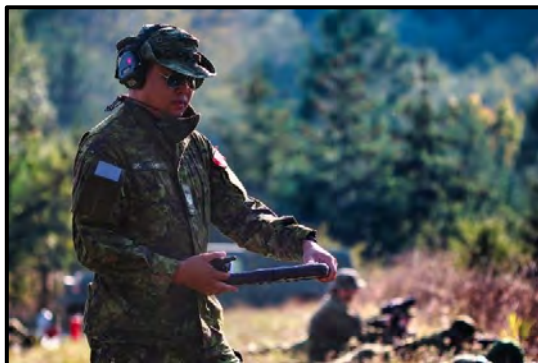
Dukes zeroing their C7 rifles at the 100m firing point at HEALS Range, Victoria BC



Cpl Clarke



Cpl Tina Wu



MCpl Law supervising firers at the 400m firing point during his shooting program



## THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

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4 October 2020

Members of the Regimental Association and the Regimental Family:

Dear friends:

**Re: Happy Birthday BCR!**

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the 137<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of our Regiment. We remember the many years of sacrifice, service and commitment by our members, both past and present.

I am certain that you share with me the pride of membership in our Regimental Family and also share in our stated purpose to support our veterans, the serving members of the Regiment, and our five cadet corps.

So, a happy 137<sup>th</sup> birthday to the Regiment and to its Citizen Soldiers in the third century of service to our country!

As you will appreciate, the COVID-19 restrictions prevent the Regimental Association from providing the usual cake on October 12<sup>th</sup>, so we ask one and all to lift your glass containing your favourite beverage and join me in a toast to the Regiment.

Best wishes to you all and "Up the Dukes"!

Sincerely yours,

Gayle J. Hawthorne, President

## COMMANDING OFFICER'S COMMITTEE MEETING SPECIAL ADDRESS BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER 7 OCTOBER 2020

Congratulations to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, on his first meeting with the CO's Committee held in the late afternoon of Wednesday, 7 October 2020 where he presented his 2020-2021 Operations Plan and his Three Year Strategic Review to the Committee via ZOOM platform. The special presentation was thorough, detailed and very well received by the members and was duly acknowledged as such by the Chairman, Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne. The special address was a great start to the training year with all of the challenges of COVID-19.  
Up the Dukes!







**THE B C REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION**  
Suite 208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue  
Burnaby, B. C. V5C 5T1

October 11, 2020

Members of the Regimental Association and the Regimental Family

Dear Members:

**Re: Happy Thanksgiving**

It has been difficult for all of us to focus on the good things that have happened during this pandemic, however I hope all of you will reflect on the fact that most of us are healthy, show no signs of the COVID-19 virus, and are still carrying on to the best of our ability.

Be thankful for our many blessings rather than dwelling on the inconveniences.

Have a wonderful thanksgiving weekend and celebrate with your families, (always keeping a safe distance, of course).

Best wishes to you all and "Up the Dukes"!

Sincerely yours,

Gayle Hawthorne, President

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY BCR!**  
**12 OCTOBER 1883 - 12 OCTOBER 2020**



Happy 137<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the BCRs and thank you to all fellow Dukes who have served in the Regiment. Today, we remember the many years of sacrifice, service and commitment of our members, both past and present.

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

Up the Dukes!

**THE SOVEREIGN'S MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERS  
PRESENTATION TO MAJOR JAMES D. BARRETT, CD  
THE BUNKER  
13 OCTOBER 2020**

Congratulations to Major James D. Barrett, CD, on being presented with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers ("In recognition of...significant volunteer contributions") by the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, and by Patricia Barrett at a special ceremony held in the Bunker. Major Barrett is the Commanding Officer of 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC and is very well known for his community service. Well done Jim!!

Up the Dukes!

Photos courtesy of Captain Jiri Motak





The Sovereign's Medal  
for Volunteers  
La Médaille du souverain  
pour les bénévoles

is awarded to / est décernée à

*James Douglas Barrett*

In recognition of your significant  
volunteer contributions. / En reconnaissance  
de vos contributions  
bénévoles importantes.

Governor General of Canada  
Gouverneur générale du Canada

2020



Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers  
Médaille du souverain pour les bénévoles

**Major James Douglas Barrett. C.D.**

**Coquitlam, British Columbia**

Over the past 30 years, James Barrett has shared the military history of the wars with people in his community by writing several historical articles and as a guide at the British Columbia Regiment Association Museum. He has also passed on his knowledge to young people through his involvement with cadet programs and the Scout movement in his region.

Durant les trente dernières années, James Barrett a contribué faire connaître l'histoire militaire des différentes guerres aux gens de sa communauté en rédigeant plusieurs articles historiques et à travers ses services de guide au musée de l'Association du régiment de la Colombie-Britannique. Il a également transmis son savoir aux jeunes à travers son engagement avec les programmes des cadets et ceux du mouvement scout de sa région.

**39 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP  
COMMAND TEAM ZOOM MEETING  
B.C. COUNCIL OF HONORARIES  
14 OCTOBER 2020**

A very full meeting of the Command Team of 39 Canadian Brigade Group with the B.C. Council of Honoraries was held in the late afternoon of Wednesday, 15 October 2020 on the ZOOM Platform. The meeting featured a thorough briefing by the Commander, Colonel Paul Ursich, followed by briefings of the Deputy Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron McLean, the Brigade Sergeant Major, CWO Gerald Colgan and the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-Colonel Torrance White. At the conclusion of the briefing, Honorary Colonel Bill Diamond, 39 CER, conducted a brief business meeting where, inter alia, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Farid Rohani was unanimously elected Vice Chair of the Council. Congratulations to Farid on his appointment and our very best wishes to him.



Congratulations to 39 CBG!



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

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18 October 2020

Major James D. Barrett, CD,  
Cadet Governor,  
c/o The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own),  
620 Beatty Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
V6B 2L9

Dear Major Barrett:

Re: Appointment as the Cadet Governor

As Chairman of the Commanding Officer's Committee of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), it is my very great pleasure and honour to congratulate you on your Appointment as the Cadet Governor, by Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Virk, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, effective as and from the date hereof.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your many years of service and support to the CO's Committee and for your dedicated service and commitment to the five Affiliated BCR Cadet Corps.

I wish you every success in your new role, which you are exceptionally well qualified to carry out!

Congratulations and Up the Dukes!

Respectfully yours,

E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne,  
Honorary Colonel

EAHHC2059-BD

**BCR BRASS & REED BAND  
BCR IRISH PIPES & DRUMS  
ANNUAL BAND MEETING  
19 OCTOBER 2020**

By: Band Governor, HCol Bill Diamond (39 CER)

The CO, LCol Virk and the RSM, CWO Harris hosted the annual band meeting at the Drill Hall on Oct 19 with all COVID protocols in place. The Brass & Reed Band were represented by President Chris Munroe and Director of Music Brian Smith and the Pipe Band was represented by Andrew Hayes. Unfortunately, President Rob Greenslade was not able to attend the meeting. Bill Diamond was in attendance as the CO's Committee Band Governor.

This annual meeting is an opportunity for the Command Team to connect with the bands. The CO and RSM gave a brief update on the current COVID situation as it relates to the Regiment. This was followed by each band providing a highlight of the last year and would normally include an overview of planned or anticipated events for the coming year. Unfortunately, COVID has resulted in the bands getting together for practices vs performances. They also discussed ways a few ways the Regiment would be able to assist with bands.

Remembrance Day and the COVID environment was a main topic of this meeting. With the Vancouver service being a minimal attendance, the bands will not be marching with the Regiment this year. They will be providing a piper and bugler for the service at the Drill Hall as well as in New Westminster.

During the meeting the bands wanted the CO and RSM to know of the support they have received from former CO, LCol (ret) David Sproule. For the past couple of years he has been sending BCR cap badges that he has found in Victoria for the bands to use. A thank you is also to be extended to Claymore and HLCol Rohani for providing the custom-made masks. Now each of the band members will all be wearing the same mask.

At the end of the meeting the CO formally appointed the Pipe Major to his new role.



RSM, PM Andrew Hayes, DofM Brian Smith, B&R Pres Chris Munroe and CO

### **BCR IRISH PIPES & DRUMS PIPE MAJOR APPOINTMENT 19 OCTOBER 2020**

By: Band Governor, HCol Bill Diamond (39 CER)

At the conclusion of the Annual Band and Command Team meeting the CO, LCol Vincent Virk, formally presented Piper Major Andrew Hayes with his insignia of appointment. Since the retirement of Matt Dolan in 2019, the Piper Major role has been shared with Andrew and Scott Wood. Scott will be appointed the Piper Sgt at the next band meeting.

We are very pleased that Andrew has accepted the Band's nomination for this leadership position. Andrew started to play the bagpipes in Albany, New York during his youth with a local Irish organization. As he developed his skill, his Pipe Major Donald Lindsay, a well-respected international instructor, facilitated him joining the world famous SFU Pipe Band in Burnaby, BC. Andrew started playing with SFU in 2004 and enjoyed winning two World Championships in 2008 and 2009 with the band, as well as performing in multiple concerts at the Royal Glasgow Concert Hall and on three recorded albums. Andrew is lawyer at a U.S. immigration firm, Millar & Hayes, PC.

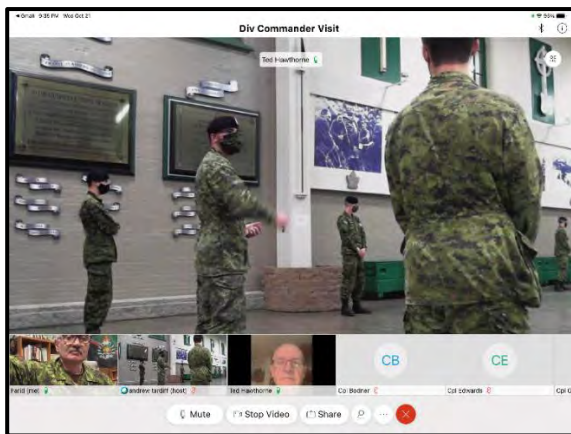
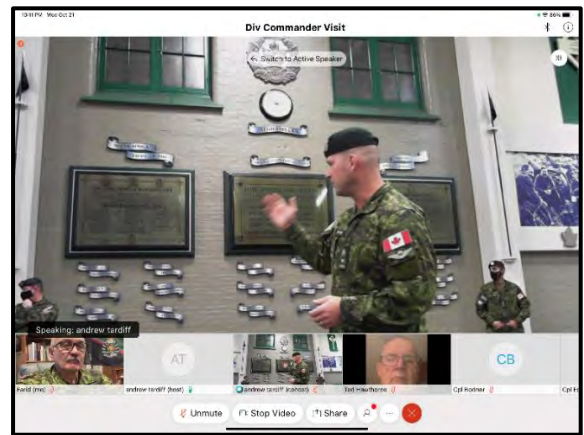
The pipe band will be practicing in the Drill Hall and Commercial Street Legion during the COVID period and would be happy to welcome pipers and drummers looking for a performance band to play with.

Congratulations to Andrew on the appointment.



**COMMANDER 3<sup>rd</sup> CANADIAN DIVISION  
BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILLIAM H. FLETCHER  
VISIT TO THE DRILL HALL  
21 OCTOBER 2020**

The Commander of the 3rd Canadian Division, Brigadier-General Bill Fletcher, visited the soldiers of the Regiment at the Drill Hall and by WebEx during the regular training evening and delivered a comprehensive address and an extended Q & A. General Fletcher's presentation included funding for the Defence Strategy, as announced by the MND, the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, challenges (spare parts and ammo), infrastructure matters, deployment, training and Force 2025, all within a COVID-19 context. The Commander of 39 CBG, Colonel Paul Ursich, presented a Brigade Commendation to Captain Jennifer Hillman to complete the evening.



Congratulations all and well done indeed!

Up the Dukes!

**VETERANS' PARKING IN VANCOUVER  
CITY OF VANCOUVER  
22 OCTOBER 2020  
By: HLCol Farid Rohani**

On Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, Vancouver City Council unanimously rejected the recommendations made by City staff on removing free veterans parking with Councillor Wiebe having declared a conflict of interest and Mayor Kennedy Stewart being absent for the vote.

A replacement motion directed city staff to prepare the necessary bylaw amendments by November 3, 2020 to grant vehicles with BC veterans license plates free parking within the city. This will be a one-year pilot project to examine actual usage and revenue details.

Additionally, the mayor will write to TransLink to suggest the public transit authority develop a policy for subsidized transit options for veterans.

Retired Lieutenant-Colonel Archie Steacy, President of BCVCA, has led this effort for the last year, working closely with councillor Melissa De Genova and BCVCA Treasurer, Sharel Fraser. Other veterans and friends of the military spoke in favour of granting free parking to those with veteran plates including a very strong BCR contingent, Honoraries Ted Hawthorne, Farid Rohani and Bill Diamond, VP Regimental Association Major Jim Barrett, all speaking as private citizens, the President of the Regimental Association, Gayle Hawthorne, Museum VP Rick Hourie and Tim Laidler (Executive Director, Centre for Group Counselling & Trauma, Faculty of Education, UBC), and our good friends and colleagues, former SHoC Honorary Colonel Mike Shields and former 15<sup>th</sup> Field RCA Honorary Colonel, Retired Judge Bill Rodgers.

BCVCA President Archie Steacy opened the first of many support recommendations by stating that “Military veterans have served this country voluntarily, and all they ask is a little recognition, there’s nothing monetary about it.....There is no way that hundreds of veterans that I know of and their families, a son or daughter, would ever take the car to get free parking. That is the most rude and disgusting thing I’ve ever heard... We veterans are extremely proud to be honoured this way, and we appreciate it.”

On the numbers of actual plates and usage, it was stated that there are currently 14,000 Veterans license plates in BC, with 4,900 across the Lower Mainland and just 350 within the City of Vancouver.

Data presented and shared in the past with the City by the BCVCA and other veterans, city council decided that the staff had made an error having overestimated the financial impact by providing free parking to veterans license plates year-round.

NPA councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung acknowledged the challenging process, and personally expressed her regret for any hurt or perceived disrespect for the veterans and went on to say “....they’re not just any group.....they are people who were willing to put themselves at harms way and pay the ultimate sacrifice, and if they were lucky they came back. But they didn’t necessarily come back the same, some suffered from physical afflictions and mental issues like PTSD. Some were able to integrate into society, but it doesn’t matter. Regardless of that, it’s not about the cost of parking, it’s the fact that their service was priceless and from my perspective if we stop remembering and honouring them, we lose part of ourselves and our humanity there... A lot of our veterans who were in significant wars are getting older, and we’re losing them. We can’t lose the memory of what they actually stood for... I’m disappointed we had to have this conversation and spend so much time on it.”

A special thanks goes to Councillor Melissa De Genova who spoke of her connections with veterans and what they shared that “it wasn’t about city staff’s recommendations on taking a few dollars away from their pocket, it was taking away the gesture of thanks and pride they took from the appreciation.”

“That pride that I think of with the veteran who called me made a very big impact on me, when he told me he wouldn’t even use the free parking. But he didn’t want it taken away for other veterans... I want to thank each and everyone of our veterans. If it weren’t for them, we might not be here today.”



Name	In Favour	In Opposition	Abstain	Declared Conflict	Absent	Not'Ve
Mayor Stewart						
Councillor Carr						
Councillor De Genova						
Councillor Fry						
Councillor Swanson						
Councillor Hardwick						
Councillor Wiebe						
Councillor Boyle						
Councillor Dominato						
Councillor Bligh						
Councillor Kirby-Yung						
<b>VOTE No. 6547 TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**PRESENTATION OF HONORARY COLONEL COMMENDATION AND REGIMENTAL COIN  
PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION  
22 OCTOBER 2020**



A special presentation took place early in the afternoon of 20 October 2020 at the 29th Battalion (Vancouver Regiment) CEF Memorial at the PNE where the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, presented an Honorary Colonel Commendation and Regimental Coin to Donald Lee, Director, Year Round Operations, in recognition of the PNE's strong support over the many years for the BCR Great War Battalions Parade held annually in September at the Memorial.

Thank you to the PNE for their great support and thank you Donald for facilitating!

Up the Dukes!

**BRITISH COLUMBIA VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
28 OCTOBER 2020**

Congratulations to the British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association and their new Board of Directors, who were duly elected at the Annual General Meeting held at the offices of HPLaw in the morning of 28 October 2020. At the conclusion of the AGM, Sharel Fraser, Secretary-Treasurer of BCVCA, was recognized for her solid work on the formal written submissions to the City of Vancouver Council and the Standing Committee on Finances and Services with regard to the Veterans' Parking initiative and for her work with veterans generally, by Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne who presented Sharel with his Honorary Colonel Regimental Coin to mark this special occasion.

Well done and thank you BCVCA.





## COMMANDING OFFICER'S "HUDDLE" THE DRILL HALL 28 OCTOBER 2020

Congratulations and thank you to Warrant Officer Derek Murdoch, Operations WO, for his great service to the Regiment and to our soldiers during his two year appointment with the Regiment. Warrant Murdoch will now be returning home to Edmonton to rejoin his family and unit, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), Recce Squadron, and will be greatly missed by all of us. Warrant Murdoch, a gunner enthusiast, presented the "Top Gunner Award, the Trooper Tom Simpson Trophy" to the Regiment and noted that the trophy was made from the base plate of a 120mm round fired by a BCR from a LdSH (RC) Leopard 2 main battle tank which clearly demonstrates once again the present day integration between the two units. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, and the RSM, CWO Tony Harris, thanked Warrant Murdoch for his service and support to the Regiment and presented various gifts to him in appreciation.



The RSM concluded the CO's huddle (on the drill square and by WebEx) with a COVID-19 update and reminded everyone to be flexible and be ready for service at all times.

Well done all and Up the Dukes!!





**2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
28 OCTOBER 2020**

The 2290 Annual General Meeting was held on October 28, 2020 at 1700hrs. Like most meetings these days, it was held virtually. It was one of the largest turnouts in recent years with many returning members, some new faces, CI's, and many officers. Nyal Wilcox was chair of the meeting and welcomed all participants. After the formality of adopting the agenda and the minutes from the previous AGM, Mike Johnson, presented the financial statements for the previous year. Fortunately, due to the hard work of the 2290 family and the continued support by our many benefactors, including the honorary Capt Agnes Keegan and Chuck Davey, OCdt Scott Hamilton and his Carpenter's Society, Mr. Gordon Coburn and Legion 177, and a few others, 2290 is in a good financial position to support the officers' training plan for the 2020-21 training year. Next up was the CO's Report which was presented by Major Liem and his staff. The focus was on how the officers plan to maintain a vibrant cadet program within the limitations of COVID protocols.

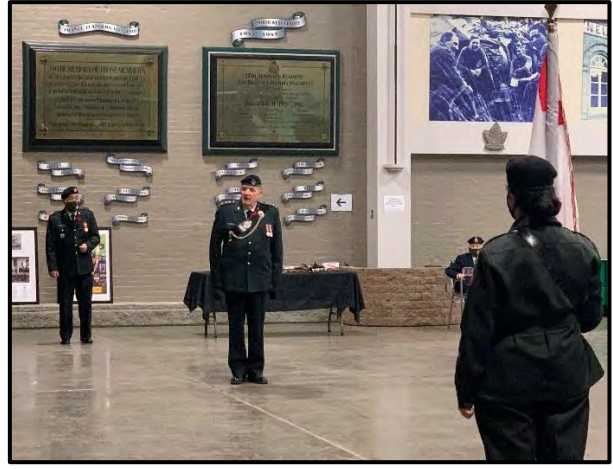
The final order of business was to elect a new Support Committee Executive. Many thanks go to the following individuals for their support of 2290 and taking on the following roles:

Chairman: Nyal Wilcox  
Deputy Chair: Thea Wilcox  
Treasurer: Mike Johnson  
Secretary: Thea Wilcox  
Fundraising Director: Agnes Keegan  
R. C. LEGION and ANAVETS REP: Agnes Keegan and Chuck Davey  
BCR Association Representative: Gayle Hawthorne

**2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC  
CO'S PARADE  
29 OCTOBER 2020**

Congratulations to the Cadets of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC on a very successful CO's Parade at the Drill Hall (38 Cadets) and on the ZOOM Platform (15+ Cadets) on a regular training night, Thursday, 29 October 2020. The Reviewing Officer was the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, who complimented the Cadets on their turnout, drill, dress and deportment and conveyed special greetings from the Commanding Officer of the Regimental, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, and the RSM, CWO Tony Harris. The program for the evening included the official virtual Cake Cutting Ceremony complete with Sabre by HCapt Agnes Keegan in celebration of her 100th birthday, the presentation of a special 2290 BCR Poster to Agnes, the presentation of the Regal Greeting from the Queen by Colonel Hawthorne, numerous awards and promotions, the Presentation of the Honorary Colonel Regimental Coins to C/RSM Paul Chu and OCdt Scott Hamilton, the presentation of new BCR Masks to the CO, Major Tony Liem, for the CIC Officers, by Regimental Association President Gayle Hawthorne, the presentation of a 2290 BCR Poster to Colonel Hawthorne, Scholarship Presentations, an Advance in Review Order and a General Salute for the Reviewing Officer and closing remarks by the Honorary Colonel on Veterans' Week commencing 5 November. Cupcakes were served by Agnes to conclude the wonderful evening.

Congratulations all and Up the Dukes!







## **TROOPER THOMAS SIMPSON**

By: Sgt. Dwayne Snow, CD

Tom Simpson was born on the Duck Lake First Nations Reservation, located just north of Kelowna. He lived in the Kelowna area until he joined the Canadian Army early in the war, initially joined the British Columbia Dragoons. Six members of the family served in the Second World War, four of them as Sherman tank crewmen. Of the six, two were killed and one wounded. His father, Harvey, and two uncles served in the CEF during the First World War. Harvey was wounded at Passchendaele while serving with the 47th (BC) Battalion.

While stationed in England, Tom was transferred to the British Columbia Regiment at the request of his older Brother Percy, under a family reunification program that First Canadian Army had put in place. During Operation Totalize and the BCR's advance on 9 August 1944, Tom was in the lead troop of B Squadron, arriving on Hill 140 just after dawn. His brother was in a follow-on troop of the same Squadron and was killed when his tank was hit by anti-tank fire. Tom fought off German attacks all day long and withdrew when ordered at the end of the day. He assisted a gravely wounded fellow soldier to withdraw, carrying him much of the way. For gallantry during the engagement on 9 August 1944 Tom was Mentioned in Dispatches. Tom was a Sherman tank gunner and had a reputation for his skilled, effective and aggressive gunnery.

Tom advanced across northwest Europe with the Regiment for the next seven months. In the Battle of the Rhineland, Tom's tank was knocked out by anti-tank fire in the village of Veen, Germany on 9 March 1945. Tom was badly wounded in the shoulder and was observed exiting his tank and running down a road when a burst of machine gun fire was fired in his direction. He was observed to then fall into a ditch. He was reported as missing, presumed dead. In fact, he had leaped into the ditch to avoid the MG fire and was taken prisoner a few minutes later. A German doctor performed surgery on Tom to stabilize his wound, and he was medically evacuated through the German Army medical system. He was eventually liberated when the German hospital he was in was overrun by British forces six weeks later.

Tom returned to British Columbia after the war and worked in the forestry industry and other resource sector industries, raising a family and living a good and productive life. He remained in touch with his Regiment and attended a Battlefield Tour in 2001.

## **REMEMBERING CPL STUART LANGRIDGE**

**1979 – 2008**

By: Jeff Pope

Remembering Corporal Stuart Langridge who saw service with the Regiment in the 1990's. Cpl Langridge joined Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) and deployed on tours of Bosnia in 2002 and Afghanistan in 2005, as a gunner with Recce Squadron.

We will remember him!





**FACE BOOK POST  
MELISSA DE GENOVA, CITY OF VANCOUVER COUNCILLOR  
3 NOVEMBER 2020**

\* \* \* \* \* **STARTS TODAY!** \* \* \* \* \*

**FREE PARKING** for vehicles with #VETERANS license plates at City of Vancouver meters year-round!

It's a small gesture of THANKS 🙏 to HONOUR those who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces (past + present) to protect our rights & freedoms.

Today, I was honoured to move for enactment THIS 🗑️ BY-LAW delivering on the commitment City Council made last year with unanimous support, for my motion to honour Veterans with free parking by November 2020.

I'm grateful to my #Vancouver City Council colleagues for taking the action necessary to affirm and deliver on this commitment.

Most importantly, THANK YOU to the many VETERANS and members of the public who spoke to Council 2 weeks ago, sharing personal stories and experiences in support this initiative.

#LestWeForget

BY-LAW NO. \_\_\_\_  
A By-law to amend Parking Meter By-law No. 2952  
Regarding Veteran's Parking

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This by-law amends the indicated provisions of the Parking Meter By-law No. 2952.
2. Council adds a new subsection 6(7) as follows:  
 "(7) Motor vehicles bearing a Veteran's licence plate shall be exempt from any parking fees imposed at any parking meter under this By-law for a period up to the parking time limit."
3. A decision by a court that any part of this By-law is illegal, void, or unenforceable severs that part from this By-law, and is not to affect the balance of this By-law.
4. This By-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

ENACTED by Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020





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

620 Beatty Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada V6B 2L9

Telephone: 604-636-3181  
Fax: 604-299-1523  
Email: ted@hpplaw.ca

3 November 2020

Honorary Colonel Allan F De Genova,  
15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA,  
Bessborough Armoury,  
2025 West 11th Avenue,  
Vancouver, BC, V6J 2C7

Dear Colonel Al:

**Re: Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation**

I was most pleased to receive the news of the very great honour bestowed upon you by the Minister of Veterans Affairs, The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, on being awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation in recognition of your nomination "...for contributions to military personnel, first responders, Veterans and their families with Honour House."

Your exemplary service and commitment to your Regiment, the wider Regimental Family, the Canadian Armed Forces and the greater community is absolutely remarkable.

On behalf of the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, and the entire Regimental Family, I congratulate you on being awarded this most well-deserved and prestigious recognition.

Thank you, Al, for your amazing service!

Up the Dukes!

E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne,  
Honorary Colonel  
EAH/C2059 BD

11/3/2020

Allan De Genova - Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation - Veterans Affairs Canada



**Veterans Affairs Canada**    **Anciens Combattants Canada**

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> [Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation](#) > [Allan De Genova](#)

## Allan De Genova

### West Vancouver, British Columbia

Allan De Genova is nominated for contributions to military personnel, first responders, Veterans and their families with Honour House Society.

He is the "driving force" behind the establishment of Honour House Society and has been its President for over a decade. Through his tireless work, he secured the support of many organizations and individuals, and his vision came to fruition when Honour House opened its doors in 2010.

Honour House Society is a non-profit, charitable organization that seeks to provide a "home away from home" and place to recover for military personnel and first responders while they are receiving medical care or coping with a tragedy. Since opening, Honour House has provided over 10,000 nights of accommodation in a heritage home.

Recently, Honour House Society launched Honour Ranch, which will offer access to natural, agricultural and environmental treatments and will have mental health professionals available on site. Scheduled to open in 2020, the 120 acre property in Ashcroft, BC contains ten separate cottages and a main lodge. He has made the opening of Honour Ranch a priority and, despite running a real estate marketing company, has poured "hours, days, and weeks" of his time in support of our Veterans.

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vecl/who-we-are/department-officials/minister/commendation/bio/1660>

1/2

11/3/2020

Allan De Genova - Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation - Veterans Affairs Canada

He also worked to raise the over \$1.2 million dollars required to refurbish the largest cenotaph in Greater Vancouver.

#### 2020 Recipients

#### RELATED LINKS

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**COMMANDING OFFICER'S PARADE  
THE DRILL HALL  
4 NOVEMBER 2020**

The CO's Parade carries on in this COVID-19 environment. The troops are spread out and wearing masks, presentations are made from a safe distance, but the Regiment carries on. For guests, no longer sitting in chairs on the parade square, now sitting in the comfort of their home and observing via WebEx. It is impressive to see how quickly the Regiment has been able to adjust to this new environment.

It was good to see the following promotions - even in a pandemic, the training must go:

**Promoted to Corporal**

Cpl Lappan  
Cpl Ka  
Cpl Nordin

**Promoted to Master Corporal**

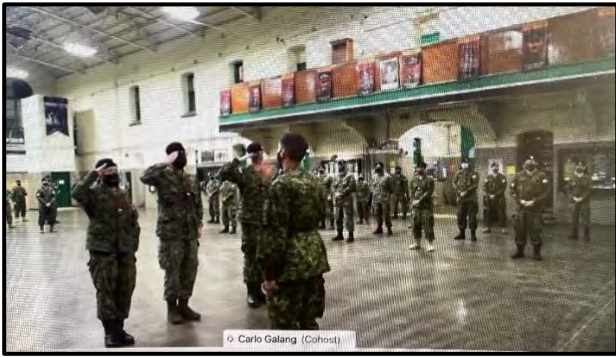
MCpl Eng  
MCpl Lim.

Following the promotions, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, presented Canadian Forces' Decorations to Captain Vinning and Corporal Medrano.

The evening was wrapped up by volunteer Padre Chris Pappas. He spoke briefly about his 10 years as a volunteer Padre with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). This was followed by an update on the Remembrance Service that will be held at Christ Church Cathedral. The congregation is pleased that two members of the Regiment will be in attendance and be part of the service. As the Perpetuated CEF Battalions' Colours are at the Cathedral, the Padre reminded everyone that this is the Regiment's Church and all are welcome to visit. He also mentioned that he looks forward to visiting the Drill Hall and is known to bring pizza with him, so the troops are looking forward to his visit.







andrew tardiff  
Host

**A MESSAGE FROM HRH THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL  
5 NOVEMBER 2020**

*'Riflemen, with the rest of our nation, I am profoundly in your debt for all that you do, especially during these troubled times. Continue to uphold those qualities of discipline, courage and sense of humour that my father spoke of and be proud of all that you represent. Wherever you may be viewing this message, on operations in Afghanistan, deployed to Estonia, on exercise in the U.K. or indeed, enjoying some much-deserved leave, thank you from the bottom of my heart.'*



Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, to mark her appointment as Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment in July 2020 was recently photographed at Highgrove House wearing a brooch commissioned by The Rifles, which she received from General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB CBE DSO ADC Gen at Clarence House last month. For the past 13 years HRH has been the Royal Colonel of 4 RIFLES and with her elevation to the new role is incredibly proud to hold this prestigious post cementing her place within the regimental family.

Central to the heritage of the Regiment is the silver Bugle Horn used as the cap badge of The Rifles. The bugle horn, easily carried, and sonorous and penetrating in sound, was the ideal replacement for the drum and was therefore adopted by Light Infantry and later Rifle Regiments from the early 1800s to pass orders across the battlefield. Today, every Rifleman wears a silver bugle as their cap badge.

The 45mm wide brooch is hallmarked 18 carat white gold and set with 206 cut diamonds. Three round emeralds adorn the bugle cords and sovereign's crown. It is understood that the Colonel-in-Chief will wear the brooch while carrying out her duties and on special occasions where it would be appropriate.

The Duchess' father distinguished himself fighting alongside Riflemen in North Africa during World War II and the sacrifice and fortitude of his generation has always inspired her. There is no doubting how proud he would be to see her as Colonel-in-Chief of one of the finest fighting Regiments in the British Army.

[The Royal Family](#)  
[British Army](#)

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF HONORARY COLONELS ("NCHC")  
APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY COLONEL WILLIAM R. DIAMOND,  
39 CER, AS NATIONAL CHAIR  
6 NOVEMBER 2020**

The National Council of Honorary Colonels (NCHC) is comprised of Army Honoraries from the Brigades across Canada. The Council has traditionally met twice a year with the Commander of the Army (CCA), Director General Army Reserve (DGARes) and members of their respective staff. These meetings provide an

opportunity for the staff to provide briefings to the Honoraries and to share updates from their respective Brigades and provide feedback to the CCA. With the current COVID protocols, the NCHC have been meeting with the CCA and DGARes online.

At the last in person meeting in 2019 the then Chair John Boileau announced that his term as the HCol of the Halifax Rifles was coming to an end in November 2020. As a result, the members of the NCHC would need to elect a member from within their ranks to take on the role of Chair. A nomination committee was struck to solicit nominees, interview the candidates and then recommend a potential Chair to the NCHC for the final vote. At the end of the process, Honorary Colonel Bill Diamond, 39 CER, was elected as the new Chair of the Council.



**Editor's Note:** Honorary Colonel Diamond is a long time BCR supporter and is a past President of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association, a Trustee of the Regimental Association Charitable Trust, a member of the BCR Commanding Officer's Committee, Governor and Treasurer of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) Trust and Band Governor. Congratulations Colonel Bill and thank you for your dedicated service and commitment.

### REMEMBERING OUR DEAR FRIEND WOII (RET'D) GEORGE CHOW





**WOII (RET'D) GEORGE CHOW  
5 NOV 1921 – 6 NOV 2020**

*George in 1941*



George Chow was born in Victoria, British Columbia in 1921. In August 1940, two months before his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, George went to the recruiting centre at the Bay Street Armoury in Victoria to sign up without his parents' knowledge. George was then sent to the Seaforth Armoury in Vancouver, BC, for basic training. After basic training he was transferred to 16<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in Windsor, ON, for advanced training. 16<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery headed off to Halifax where they were to finally board a ship for Scotland. No sooner had the 2000 troops been loaded, an outbreak of measles forced everyone off and the men were placed in quarantine. The Halifax winter would be endured at Camp Debert. It wasn't until April 1941 when George boarded the Polish liner, "*Batory*" and finally left camp life, and Canada behind. On board, George's troop did gun watch and at the end of the 10 day journey, settled at their assigned base in Colchester England.

From the nearby coast, George's detachment would have the honour of being the first all-Canadian gun crew to shoot down a German plane.



During the Normandy Campaign, the 16<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RCA was part of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Group Royal Artillery (AGRA). They were lucky when they came off the Landing Craft Tank (LCT) as the water was only 9” deep during their landing and they continued to move inland to Caen and other regions of France before heading into Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands. After the victory in Europe, George volunteered to prepare for the Pacific theatre, but his new assignment ended soon after the atomic bomb had been dropped in Japan.

*George in the 1950s*

After the Second World War, George joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RCA at Bessborough Armoury in Vancouver, BC, in 1953, as a Gunnery instructor. He attained the rank of Warrant Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (today equivalent to MWO) and was appointed Battery Sergeant Major (BSM) of 210 Battery in 1958. In 1958 43<sup>rd</sup> MAA was absorbed into 15 Field and George continued as BSM. He was honourably discharged in 1963.



George was awarded numerous war medals and the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD). In 2012, George was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. In October 2014, George was awarded the rank of **Chevalier (Knight) of the Légion d'Honneur** by the French Government and was subsequently presented the Medal by Consul General Jean-Christophe Fleury of the Consulate General of France in Vancouver, British Columbia in April 2015.

*George on Sept 17, 2020, receiving Regimental coin from LCol Nick Watts, CO 15 Fd flanked by CWO Rob Garrett (left) and HLCol Don Foster(right).  
Picture taken by Edmund Wu.*

In 2014, George attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy at the Juno Beach Centre. On this occasion, he also visited the grounds of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. George has participated in the Vimy Day Commemoration in Vancouver, British Columbia for many years. In addition, he attended the 'From Vimy to Juno Reception and Ceremony' and exhibition organized by the Juno Beach Centre and held at the Seaforth Armoury in Vancouver, British Columbia in December 2016.

**The foregoing Biography is republished with the kind permission of the Vancouver Artillery Association and RUSI, Vancouver.**

**THE RIGA CONFERENCE 2020**  
**THE HONOURABLE HARJIT S. SAJJAN, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP**  
**MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE**  
**THE DRILL HALL – OFFICERS’ MESS**  
**13 NOVEMBER 2020**



The Honourable Harjit Sajjan participated in The Riga Conference 2020, a “venue for constructive dialogue on international security issues” <https://www.rigaconference.lv>. Minister Sajjan spoke with other NATO leaders about the Covid-19 Pandemic and its effect on collective defence in the West. Once again, the BCR Officers’ Mess was chosen as the venue to broadcast live from, showcasing the Regiment internationally.

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE STUDIES**  
**WEST COAST SECURITY CONFERENCE 2020**  
**“THE SHAPE OF CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT”**  
**23-27 NOVEMBER 2020**

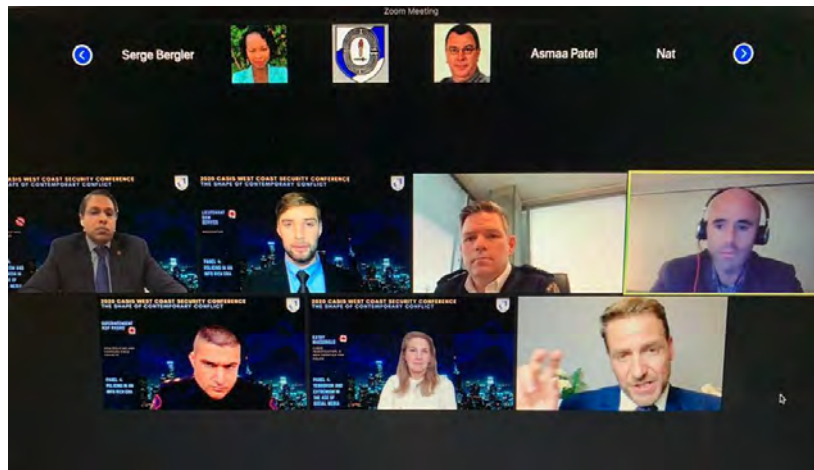
By: OCdt Evan Pearce, Administration Officer, Training Squadron

From the 23rd to the 27th of November 2020, The Canadian Association for Security and Intelligence Studies (CASIS) Vancouver held its third annual West Coast Security Conference. This five day event featured several BCRs as OCdt Pearce and Lt Serviss traded Master of Ceremony and Moderator roles, facilitating the 54 speakers who presented through the week.

The CO of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO), Lieutenant-Colonel Virk, and former CO, The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, were both present to add their knowledge and expertise to the discussion. Each day featured a new theme, and topics spanned a range of security matters, from the military, to intelligence, counterterrorism, and policing. Key points of focus included the use of data in defence strategies, online radicalization through social media, matters of intelligence collection and countering violent extremism. Attendance was practitioner heavy, and surpassed 500 participants, and the Governor General herself spoke on the work the organization has been undertaking here on the West Coast.

It has become a tradition at CASIS Vancouver to end every conference with a mess dinner at the Seaforth Highlanders Armoury. It is a striking way to celebrate a successful event, and features a unique mix of Army, Navy and law enforcement traditions, reflecting the mixed backgrounds of the organizations executives. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing global pandemic, we were unable to host a mess dinner this year, but plans are already underway for 2021.

CASIS’ mandate is to facilitate the handshake between academics and practitioners on matters of national security, allowing for interdisciplinary discussion and research on emerging security concerns. The organization is pro-reservist, with seven executives currently serving or having served in the armed forces. It has been truly spectacular to watch this event grow over the years to the international security forum it is today, and with the Dukes front and centre.



**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE STUDIES - VANCOUVER**  
**West Coast Security Conference 2020 - The Shape of Contemporary Conflict**  
 CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

**5 Days | Over 526 Participants | 54 Speakers | 12 Countries**

**Speakers from around the world**

- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Kenya
- United States of America
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Barbados
- Spain
- United Arab Emirates
- Italy
- France
- Mexico
- Australia

**Participants from diverse industries**

Academics: 7%

Undergraduate & Post Graduate: 37.8%

Private Sector: 6.5%

Military & Public Service: 38.8%

**Conference Proceedings: Special Issue**  
**The Journal of Intelligence, Conflict, and Warfare**

The Conference Proceedings edition of the Journal of Intelligence, Conflict and Warfare is a special edition of the journal released following the West Coast Security Conference. This 2020 edition will feature summaries and highlights from each of the panels and discussions held throughout the week-long event. Additionally, we are pleased to feature publications from a number of speakers who participated in this year's conference.

**Participants from around the world**

- United Kingdom
- Kenya
- United States of America
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Barbados
- Spain
- Jamaica
- Poland
- Brazil
- Pakistan
- Italy
- United Arab Emirates
- France
- Mexico
- Australia
- Gambia
- Holland
- Vietnam
- Democratic Republic of Congo

**Participants & Speaker Feedback**

A gathering such as this one, of intelligence and law enforcement professionals alongside academics, defence and security experts is vital for success. I encourage all of you to continue fostering data driven research and strategic collaborations in intelligence studies. And to keep thinking outside of the box, a step ahead.

**Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Julie Payette, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.G., C.D. Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada**

Today I joined #CASISVancouver for #CASIScon2020. I joined academics, security experts & talented young students to discuss the Shape of Contemporary Conflict and share experiences from [Canada] and around the world.

**The Honourable Harjit Sajjan Minister of National Defence (Canada)**

An insightful and informative conference on the future of intelligence and security.

**Zain Vejee, Senior Associate, Centre for Strategic & International Studies; Former CNR Anchor**

The presentation contents were relevant, contemporary, issue-focused, in-depth, and solutions oriented. The presenters were top-of-the-line and foremost in their respective fields.

**Participant**

I found this event to be very informative on both past, present, and future discussions. With a wide range of speakers it was both interesting and astonishing to hear the developments that have been made, and the developments that need to be made.

**Participant**

CASISVANCOUVER | @CASISVANCOUVER

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE STUDIES - VANCOUVER**  
**West Coast Security Conference 2020 - The Shape of Contemporary Conflict**  
 PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW & KEY TAKEAWAYS

**Day 1: Data Driven Defence: International Strategies**

Undergraduate & Post Graduate: 1.6%

Academics: 64%

Private Sector: 36%

Military & Public Service: 35.8%

**Day 2: Technological Innovations in Intelligence**

Academics: 3.4%

Undergraduate & Post Graduate: 15.4%

Private Sector: 23.4%

Military & Public Service: 36.4%

**Day 3: Terrorism & Extremism in the Age of Social Media**

Academics: 8.7%

Undergraduate & Post Graduate: 25.2%

Private Sector: 33.3%

Military & Public Service: 42.9%

**Day 4: Policing in an Info Rich Era**

Academics: 2.9%

Undergraduate & Post Graduate: 24.5%

Private Sector: 36.4%

Military & Public Service: 33.6%

**Day 5: The Security Ecosystem and New Norms**

Academics: 7.5%

Undergraduate & Post Graduate: 23%

Private Sector: 28.1%

Military & Public Service: 39.4%

**West Coast Security Conference 2020 - 5 Day Attendance Overview**

Day 1: 11%

Day 2: 12%

Day 3: 13%

Day 4: 14%

Day 5: 15%

**Conference Takeaways**

1. Technology complements the human analyst, it does not replace them.
2. International cooperation, interagency collaboration, and private/public sector engagement must continue to be developed in order to develop best practices in intelligence, policing, defence and counter-terrorism/terrorism.
3. Engaging all sectors and generations of society are necessary for ethical, innovative and effective AI & big data implementation for policing and intelligence policies and defence strategies.
4. COVID crisis management draws on the experience of previous disasters and has showcased the adaptability of both the public and private sector.
5. The importance of social networks, norms, narratives and social media are being explored in the context of extremism and terrorism studies, highlighting the need to study the emerging online generation.

**Conference Proceedings will be published in January in the Special Issue of the Journal of Intelligence, Conflict and Warfare**

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**3<sup>RD</sup> CANADIAN DIVISION HONORARY COLONELS CONFERENCE**  
**ZOOM PLATFORM**  
**28 November 2020**  
By HLCol Farid Rohani

The Conference was opened by the Division Commander, Brigadier-General W.H. Fletcher OMM, SMV, CD, Commander 3rd Canadian Division, on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, on ZOOM considering the mandatory COVID precautions. Over 85 attendees received an update on all fronts, from General Fletcher, Brigadier-General D.R.A. Awalt, CD, Deputy Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division, CWO Rene Kiens, MMM, MSM, CD, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division Sergeant Major and many others.

General Fletcher spoke about the challenges we face , from Great Power Challenges from China, Russia and regional powers such, Iran with an unstable Middle East to issues faced with proxy wars and tension, and issues internal to NATO with Turkey and Greece. The subject of terrorism and Insurgency across the Globe rounded the issues the CAF currently deal with and must be prepared for.

General Fletcher went on to say that our traditional superiority was being challenged with targeted investment to catch up in technology, a flatter decision making process and more adept in information medium at large, active and engaged adversaries. China and Russia are most advanced, One is global and one is regional. We are, he went on say in a state of conflict with no bullets being fired. The Arctic is probed and tested constantly, and we have to continue our training to stay ahead of these challenges.

The subject of COVID and the role of the Military was brought into focus with military being the head of the distribution, Ready elements – Soldiers to do support functions, Medical personnel ready to serve where needed and other units ready to serve across the West and planning includes 100+ Soldiers on Standby to serve in BC, an example was used of the Army Medical Team ready to serve in Manitoba at a care facility with 100% infection rate.

With all the challenges we face, Force Generation still is a primary focus for global readiness.

The loss of Cpl Choi was acknowledged – A tragic mistake that has hurt everyone, there is still investigation that is ongoing.

CWO Rene Kiens, MMM, MSM, CD, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division Sergeant Major spoke to the army being a learning machine, welcoming feedback from the Honoraries as feedback is always beneficial to improve service delivery.

Communication in a COVID environment poses challenges as faces cannot be read, feelings and other issues where faces provide feedback. Feedback is needed and welcomed.

Challenges include the need for everyone to remain engaged, to continue with the different lens for army recruitment as army suffers from Group thinking because juniors don't offer up suggestions and Yessir is common thought so as to not cause waves.

It was also presented that there are multiple new Honoraries that have been approved and papers signed, there will be announcements in due course for the public to become aware of the new appointees.

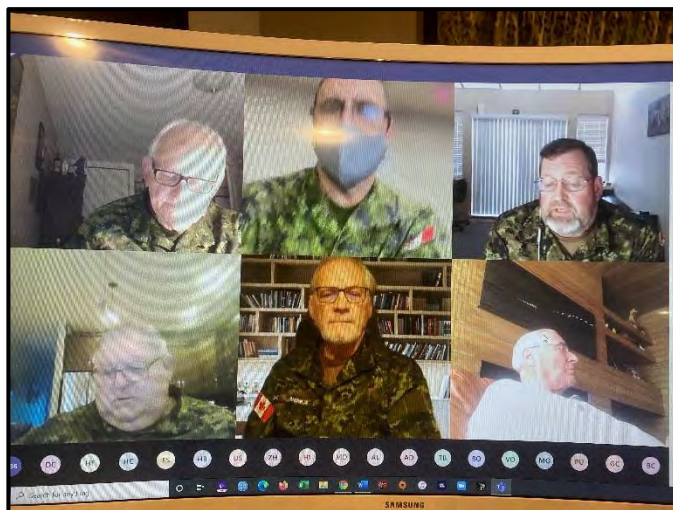
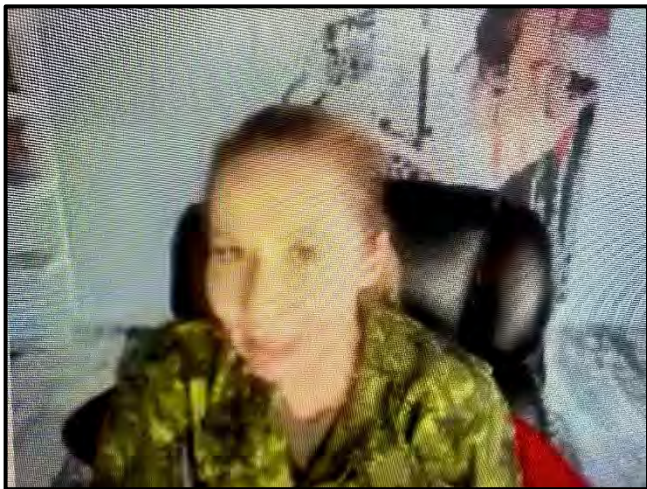
Congratulations to 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division for a job well done!

**Editor's Note:** The comprehensive presentations at the Conference included addresses by the Commander, BGen Bill Fletcher, the Deputy Commander, BGen Dave Awalt, the Director Army Reserves, BGen Nic



Stanton, the Honorary Colonel of the Army, Paul Hindo, the 3 Cdn Div A/COS, Colonel Mike McGinty, the G3 3 Cdn Div, LCol AI Wong, the CFLC RLO Colonel Kevin Weidlich, Honour House/Ranch President HCol AI De Genova, and updates by 38 CBG, Colonel Gwen Bourque, 41 CBG, Colonel Mike Vernon and 39 CBG Commander, Colonel Paul Ursich.





**FOOD BANK 2020 PROGRAM &  
CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDRAISING PROGRAM  
HPLAW  
30 NOVEMBER 2020**

The Regimental Association Annual Christmas Food Bank initiative and the Annual Fundraising Program successfully continues with great support from the Regimental Family, notwithstanding the COVID-19 Pandemic. WWII Veteran Agnes Keegan and PPCLI Veteran Peacekeeper Chuck Davey attended at HPLaw today to deliver an array of canned food and non-perishables and monetary donations to the Regimental Association Charitable Trust in support of our Soldiers' (Bursary Program), Cadets (Cadet Development Program) and Veterans (Commemoration Program). Once again, Sancta Maria House, a women's shelter in Vancouver, will be the recipient of our campaign. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, presented our good friend and colleague Chuck with an Honorary Colonel Commendation and Regimental Coin in recognition of his great support of the Regimental Family.

Many thanks everyone for your wonderful support!

Up the Dukes!



The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own)  
Museum Society  
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver BC V6B 4P4

### **Report to Commanding Officer's Committee – 2 Dec 2020**

To say that 2020 has been challenging is an understatement. Adding to the reality of COVID 19, the pandemic has kept our Museum and Archives “off limits” to members and guests since March of this year.

A Business Reopening Plan has been submitted for approval by the Regiment for limited, controlled access to the Museum and Archives that adheres to pandemic protocols. This includes the wearing of masks, social distancing, signage, cleaning and sanitization, hand washing, and contact tracing.

Given the rising level of coronavirus infections a partial re-opening of the Museum will not occur until the new year at the earliest. However, we do expect the annual maintenance of the weapons collection under the supervision of Bill Whalen can take place on 16 and 23 January 2021.

While we've been prevented from doing active curatorial or archival work in the Drill Hall during the past eight months, I can report that four copies of Swift & Strong have been sold; there have been archival enquiries; two rare first edition books and several items of memorabilia have been donated that need to be evaluated and accessioned.

Following the Change of Command of the Regiment on 20 September, Lt Colonel Vince Virk and I have met on two occasions to discuss the ongoing collaboration between the Museum and the Regiment on a variety of projects. This includes updating pictures in both his and the Adjutant's office, displaying Museum silverware

items in the CO's office, securely reinstalling photos of previous CO's in the Officer's Mess hallway, and renovating the Museum hallway.

Other initiatives that will add historical displays on the parade square, galleries and OM balcony are in the early stages of discussion. All of which will lead to enhance the Museum's profile and its importance to the Regiment. The Museum is keen to engage younger members of the Regiment. We would like this to begin on regular parade nights in January 2021 if possible, where soldiers, observing pandemic protocols, take part in Museum orientation sessions.

On 25 November 2020, the Annual General Meeting of the Museum Society was held that saw the election of myself as President, Bill Whalen as Vice president, Keith Maxwell, Treasurer, Secretary, Bob Clauson, and Don Neish as Curator. Jim Barrett and Rick Hourie were chosen as Directors. All terms are for one year.

An initiative resulting from the 2020 AGM is a team headed by Jim Barrett, assisted by Don Neish, that will begin a survey to determine ownership and provenance of historical items, pictures, and artifacts in all Messes. This updated information will be compared to existing data and added to the Museum database. This task should begin early in the new year.

Recently the offer for sale on the Internet of two items considered to be of significance to the history and heritage of the BC Regiment attracted a high degree of concern and comment. The items were a WW2 tunic worn by Col. John Toogood, a former CO of the Regiment, and a circa 1880's officer's jacket from the Coast Artillery Regiment. Both were included in a batch of surplus uniforms sold by the Museum Society in March and April 2018.

We regret that the tunic was sold privately and subsequently put up for resale online. The original sale was not in keeping with Museum Society policy and appears to have been human error. The person who made the sale inadvertently put items into a batch sale that were of no historical significance to the Regiment. This included the Toogood tunic.

The Society is in possession of a great deal of material that is redundant, duplicates existing items, not associated with the Regiment, and/or of little or no historical value. The Society's Directors have agreed that such material can be sold or exchanged. The items in question are being returned to the Museum where they belong. The Society regrets this incident and the heated level of rhetoric and personal attacks that resulted from it.

The B.C. Regiment (DCO) Museum Society is a foundational component in the history of the Regiment for it provides a glimpse into the lives, actions and sacrifices of former and currently serving soldiers. Former members of the Dukes, and friends of the Regiment, are needed to ensure the Museum will endure. So, for those you know who share this vision, please encourage them to join us.

In closing, if your Christmas gift list is incomplete, I suggest a copy of Swift & Strong at a cost of only \$50.00 will make a lasting and cherished surprise under the tree. If you wish a copy, please let me know.

Submitted,

Cam Cathcart, President.

The B.C. Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

2 December 2020

**FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
2 DECEMBER 2020**

In his regular briefing to the Commanding Officer's Committee, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk reported, inter alia, the following:

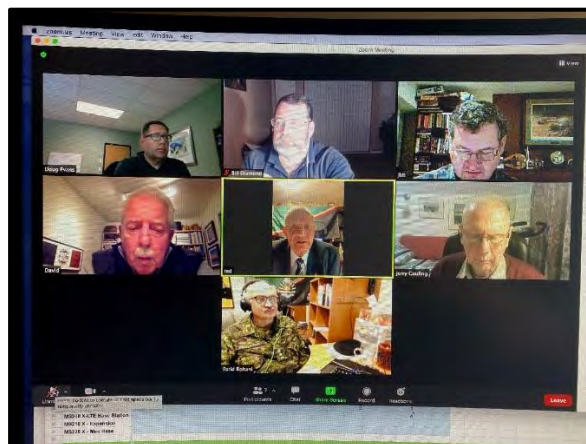
**“Exterior renovations.** Replacement of all the exterior parchment, plaster and windows of the building has commenced. This is a major project and will complete in the Spring of 2021, at a substantial cost. See attached photographs for some of the work ongoing.”



**CO'S COMMITTEE & REGIMENTAL TRUST MEETINGS  
ZOOM PLATFORM  
2 DECEMBER 2020**

The last meeting of the year for the BCR Commanding Officer's Committee and the BCR Trust was held on the ZOOM platform in the early evening of December 2<sup>nd</sup> with an excellent turnout by members. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, chaired the very detailed and thorough meeting which included numerous reports from the Regimental Family and a very comprehensive CO's Report from Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk. Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Farid Rohani chaired the BCR Trust Meeting which followed the CO's Committee Meeting.

Excellent meetings and thank you to all members.

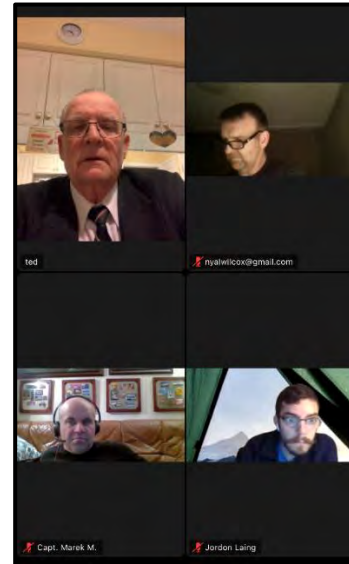


Up the Dukes!

**2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
2 DECEMBER 2020**

The final meeting of the year was held this evening by the Executive of the Support Committee of the 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC on the ZOOM platform and was well attended. Nyal Wilcox chaired the meeting and comprehensive reports were received by all members. Planning continues at all levels notwithstanding the COVID-19 Pandemic. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne was in attendance as a special guest. Gayle Hawthorne, President of the Regimental Association, also attended as an Executive Committee member (Regimental Liaison).

Well done indeed all!



**3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC  
CHANGE OF APPOINTMENT OF RSM VIRTUAL PARADE  
ZOOM PLATFORM  
3 DECEMBER 2020**

Congratulations to the outgoing RSM of 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC, C/CWO Jacob Hayes after three years of service as RSM. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, was in attendance with all Cadets and CIC Officers during the virtual parade. Colonel Hawthorne presented an Honorary Colonel Commendation and his Regimental Coin to each of the RSM and Captain Karm Nagra in recognition of their exemplary service to the Cadets, the Unit and their support of the Cadet Program. The CO, Major Jim Barrett, was the Presiding Officer of the Change of Appointment Ceremony wherein the incoming RSM, C/MWO Samreen Tandhawa, was duly appointed. In his concluding remarks, Colonel Hawthorne conveyed greetings and best wishes to the Cadets on behalf of the CO, LCol Vincent Virk, the Command Team and the Regimental Family.

Congratulations to the Outgoing RSM and the Incoming RSM!

Well done all!

Up the Dukes!





The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own)  
Museum Society  
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver BC V6B 4P4

## STATEMENT FROM THE B.C. REGIMENT (DCO) MUSEUM SOCIETY

In recent months there has been a tidal wave of rhetoric and rumours on social media regarding the sale of surplus items by the Museum. As can be expected these exchanges, at times heated and unfounded, had an unsettling effect on those of us who voluntarily work to protect and maintain the history and heritage of the British Columbia (DCO) Regiment, and to the senior command, soldiers of the Regiment, and to members of the Commanding Officer's Committee.

As previously stated, the Museum has a great deal of items that are redundant, may duplicate existing material, are not associated with the Regiment, or of no historical value. However, it is clear certain items that were sold within the past two years were not carefully checked beforehand and inadvertently included with the batch of surplus uniforms and old coveralls that later appeared for public sale. This was human error, and contrary to Museum Society policy, an oversight.

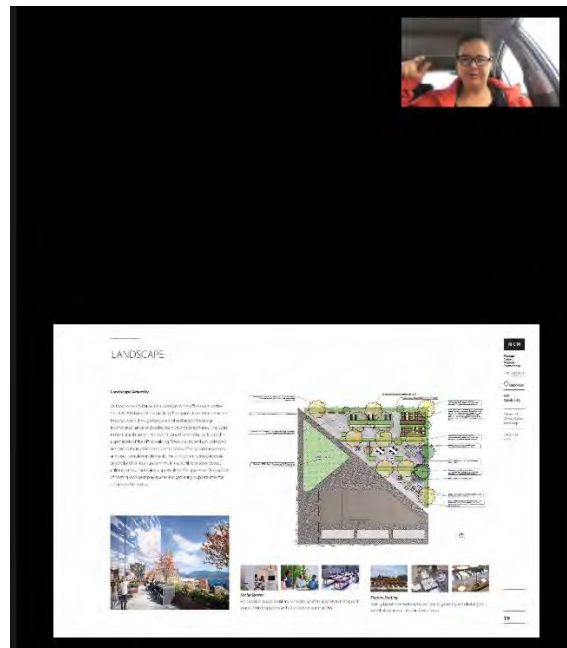
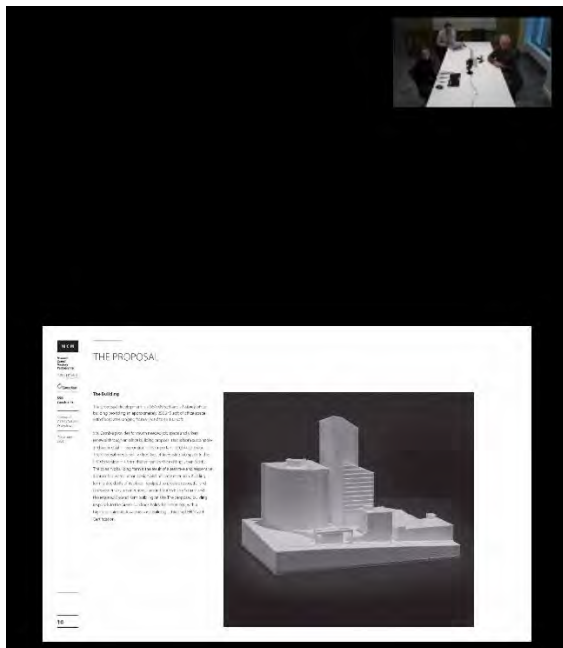
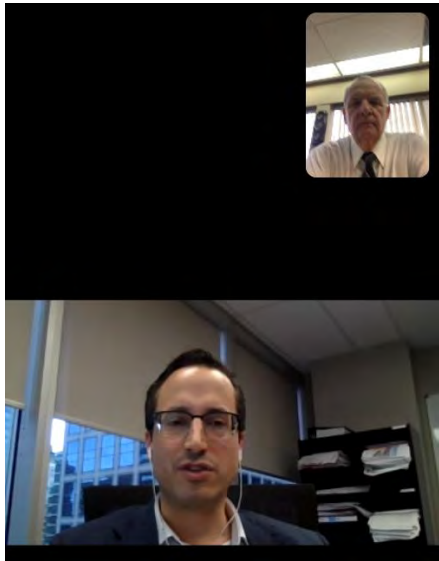
The two items in question will be returned to the Museum. The Museum Society regrets the incident, and the matter is being taken seriously. The result is that a review is being undertaken that will strengthen the Society's existing policy of disposing - through sales, trade, or donation, excess items now in its possession. This will include offering members of the Regiment 'first refusal' to purchase surplus items before public sales are contemplated.

It is our expectation this statement will bring closure to the matter and that the good name of the Regiment, and its history and heritage, will continue to be diligently protected and maintained by The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society.

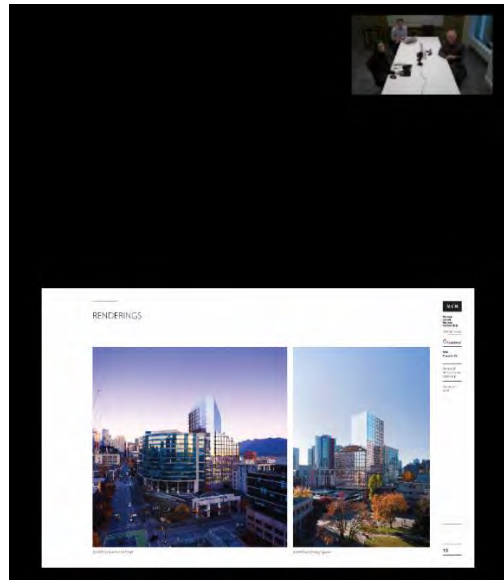
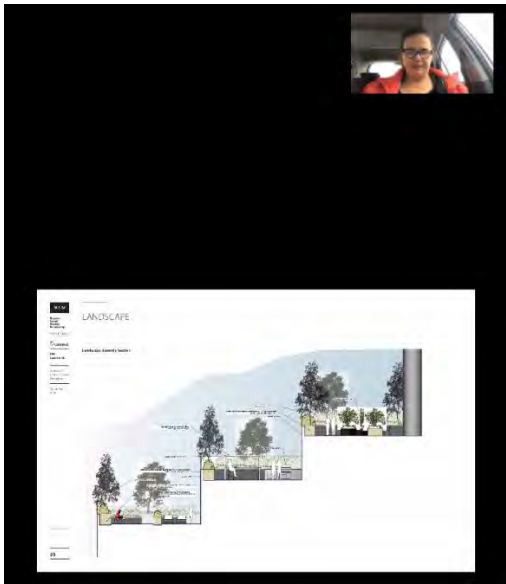
Cam Cathcart, President  
The B.C. Regiment (DCO) Museum Society  
December 2020

# FRIENDS OF VICTORY SQUARE WORKSHOP REDEVELOPMENT OF 550 CAMBIE STREET ZOOM PLATFORM 9 DECEMBER 2020

There was a very good turnout of community representatives at the mid morning ZOOM meeting of the Friends of Victory Square Workshop relating to the proposed development of 550 Cambie Street in Vancouver and the recognition of the history of Victory Square Park and the various opportunities to commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Citizen Soldiers. After the initial briefing, some excellent ideas were exchanged to provide such recognition. Regimental family members in attendance were the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, President Emeritus Archie Steacy, President Cam Cathcart (BCR Museum) and Constantine Pappas.







**FOOD BANK 2020 PROGRAM & CHARITABLE TRUST  
FUNDRAISING PROGRAM  
REMAX SABRE REALTY, GENERATIONS REAL ESTATE PARTNERS  
HPLAW  
9 DECEMBER 2020**

The very successful Regimental Association Food Bank Program and the Annual Fundraiser continue with great success, despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, with strong support from the Regimental Family and our community supporters. Michelle Hawthorne and Scott Johnson of Re/Max Sabre Realty, Generations Real Estate Partners, long-time supporters of the BCR Annual Christmas Fundraiser, attended at the offices of HPLaw and delivered a fine array of canned food and non-perishables for the Sancta Maria House Food Bank initiative along with generous monetary donations from their Team and Team Leo in support of our Charitable Trust Programs for our Soldiers, Cadets and Veterans. The presentations were made to the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, in the reception area of HPLaw. Many thanks for the wonderful and kind support from our good friends at Re/Max and Merry Christmas to everyone!

Up the Dukes!



## CO'S PARADE (STAND DOWN) 9 DECEMBER 2020



The Winter Stand Down parade ended a very strange and difficult training year for the Regiment due to the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions. The parade was an exceptional conclusion to a memorable year with numerous promotions (Captain Serviss, Sergeant Young and Trooper Bangar), presentations by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, of CO's Commendations to three serving members (Trooper Abedrabbo, Master Corporal Zherka and Sergeant Scott) and to four members of the Regimental Association (President Gayle Hawthorne, Treasurer Recce Bob Remple and Secretary Sandra Young and Director-at- Large Graydon Young). The proceedings were available for limited viewing on the WebEx Platform.

Following the Honours and Awards segment of the program, the CO invited the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, to proceed with the presentation of the annual Bursary Awards. Colonel Hawthorne, the Chairman of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust ("Trust"), announced that the Annual Fundraising Initiative had gone very well so that the Trust had awarded six bursaries, each in the amount of \$2,000.00 (an increase of \$500.00 from 2019). The bursary certificates were presented to the recipients along with the cheques and the Honorary Colonel's Regimental Coins by the CO. Details of the Award Recipients are as follows;

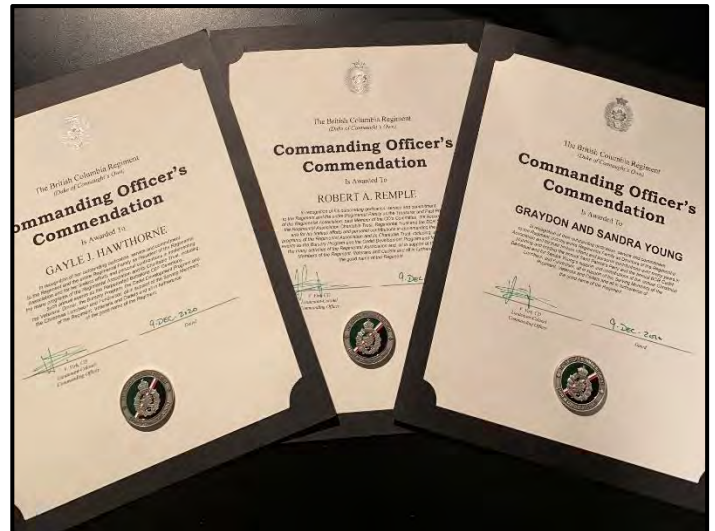
1. **MCpl Kevin Zhou** - The HPLAW Bursary  
SFU – Masters of Arts (Political Science)
2. **Cpl Justin Chen Chung Lee** - The Russell Stonehouse, DFC Memorial Bursary  
Justice Institute of BC – Advance Care Paramedicine (ALS)
3. **Cpl Jeong Il Son** - The Lieutenant William Bicknell Memorial Bursary  
UBC – Faculty of Education
4. **Tpr Harmanpreet Singh Bangar** - The Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary  
Vancouver Community College – Hospitality Management
5. **Pte Arman Deep Dhillon** - The P.C. Simon Memorial Bursary  
SFU – Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (Criminology) \*\*\*
6. **Pte Andy Jonathon Fei** - The Commanding Officers' Bursary  
SFU – Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (Criminology) \*\*\*  
\*\*\*on course and unable to attend\*\*\*

Colonel Hawthorne then presented the CO with a cheque in the amount of \$2,500.00 payable to The BC Regiment (DCO) Trust to be held in accordance with its objectives for the Unit Fund and for the benefit of our Soldiers. This annual donation by the Regimental Association Charitable Trust was made in memory of the passing this year of our good friends and colleagues of the Regimental Association, BGen (Retired) Peter Kilby, Maj (Retired) Dick Grady, WOII (Retired) George Chow and MWO (Retired) Gerry Steacy and Sgt (Retired) Ted Pearson and all other members of the Regimental Family who have passed away this past year,

including June Kadonoff, mother of Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Kadonoff, and Robin Mercer-Spoule, daughter of David Spoule. The donation to the Regimental Trust Fund was also made in recognition and remembrance of our soldiers who served in our Perpetuated CEF Bns in WWI and with the 28th Armoured Corps (BCR) during WWII and the many behind the scenes contributions made by the spouses of our soldiers and also the spouses of members in our Regimental Association. In concluding, Colonel Hawthorne recognized the strong support of Ellen McKenzie and Floyd Murphy for the Bursary Program with The Sgt Dan McKenzie Memorial Bursary, the steadfast support of Bill McCarthy for the Bursary Program, Constantine Pappas and MWL Demolitions Ltd. (the “Litchfields”) for their strong support of the Charitable Trust.

In closing, the CO addressed the members and congratulated them for their accomplishment and reminded everyone of the last event for this training year, namely the upcoming PD Day on Saturday, 12 December 2020.







**FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
BCR WRESTLING MAT  
11 DECEMBER 2020**

Just in time for Christmas, the Regiment has received the custom made “Dukes” wrestling mat. The mat will allow our grappling team to have a top-quality workout space and eventually be the host mat for the “Duke’s Cup” Wrestling Competition. This project was a gift to the Unit from the outgoing Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Lindsay, along with great support from the Unit Trust (BCR Trust), The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust and the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne.





## THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

620 Beatty Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada V6B 2L9

Telephone: 604.421.1521

Email: ghawthorne@shaw.ca

12 December 2020

Members of the Regimental Association,  
Regimental Family, Friends and Supporters

Fellow Dukes:

I have attached your annual dues renewal form for completion by you. I look forward to your continuing support of the Regimental Association and the Charitable Trust. As you know, the Regimental Association and Charitable Trust are actively involved in numerous programs and activities supporting our veterans, our serving soldiers and the five cadet corps the Regiment sponsors. As it is imperative that these activities be maintained and supported, I strongly urge you to renew your membership and consider making a donation, large or small, in order to be a part of what we do for the Regimental Family.

In addition, please look for the December 2020 edition of **The Duke** which will be published at month end.

In conclusion, I wish you and your loved ones a happy and joyous Holiday Season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Up the Dukes!

Sincerely yours,

Gayle J. Hawthorne, President



**The BC Regiment (DCO) Association  
Annual Dues – 2021**

Fellow Duke,

Thank you for your continued support of the Regimental Association's goals and commemorative activities.

Please complete the information section so that our information is current. In addition, also ensure that your military service information has been forwarded to us so that your information is current military service remembered.

Also, please provide us with your current e-mail address.

**NOTE: Please return this form and your payment to #208 – 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5C 5T1. Do not tear-off any portion of the form.**

Many thanks

**Personal Information Up-date:**

Service Number \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Partner Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your e-mail address clearly.

**Donations to The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust**

The primary responsibility of the Association is to serve its members, support the Regiment, our five Army Cadet Corps, provide bursaries opportunities for our soldiers, ensure community links and commemorative activities are maintained and that peace and wartime service is respected, remembered and honoured. To fulfill these obligations, the Association's Charitable Trust needs your support.

1. Annual Dues: **\$40.00** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Charitable Trust Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: If you wish to make a donation, please enclose a separate cheque from your dues, and make payable to The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust. Tax receipts will be provided. Thank you for your support and thoughtfulness.

Up the Dukes.

## PRO D DAY THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER 12 DECEMBER 2020

The annual Pro D Day was held Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Drill Hall for members of the Regiment. The program was divided into two tranches, a morning session and an afternoon segment, in order to observe all COVID-19 Pandemic. The program for each session consisted of an Introduction by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, and the RSM, CWO Tony Harris, presentations by CFLC Liaison Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Brent Purcell (virtual), regarding Employer Support Programs, R2MR, "Road to Mental Readiness" by Sgt Corbett and Cpl Alexander, the Metro Vancouver Transit Police (virtual) reviewing a shooting incident with fellow Dukes, in their civvie life as policemen (Cst Josh Harms, "Officer Down", Sgt Deol and Cst Baelde), relaying their personal experiences as a result of the traumatic incident and last of all a working lunch/dinner with a briefing by the Climbing Team (Summit Duke III and IV) and the Shooting Team. At the conclusion of the morning session, The Honorary Colonel presented a Bursary Certificate and his Honorary Colonel Regimental Coin to Pte Dhillon who was unable to attend the Stand Down Parade last Wednesday due to course requirements. At the end of the afternoon session, the CO promoted Corporal Harvey to his present rank and presented the Canadian Forces Decoration ("CD") to MCpl Randy Sloan.

Congratulations to all recipients. Well done all and enjoy your Christmas break!

Up the Dukes!







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

620 Beatty Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada V6B 2L9

Telephone: 604-638-3181  
Fax: 604-299-1523  
Email: ted@hplaw.ca

12 December 2020

To: The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Members of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own),  
the Regimental Family, Friends and Supporters

Greetings,

As the Regiment stands down for some well-deserved rest over this festive period, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work throughout 2020, an extraordinary challenge in our new lifechanging COVID-19 Pandemic environment with all of the uncertainty that it brings!

Your respective contributions to our Regiment during these difficult times gives testimony to the strength and dynamism of the Regiment which ultimately is an extension of us all. I am truly proud of your sense of commitment, motivation and enthusiasm displayed throughout the training year.

In summation, it is indeed an honour for me to serve with you and to acknowledge your service and commitment to the Regiment and to our great country. It is also my very great pleasure to wish you and your families all the very best, Happy Holidays, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!

Up the Dukes!

E. A. (Ted) Hawthorne,  
Honorary Colonel

## REPUBLISHED WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF THE GEORGIA STRAIGHT

### Public art for a pandemic? What I learned by stepping into the light and observing a poignant sculpture in Vancouver

by Charlie Smith on December 13th, 2020 at 8:04 AM



- The Drill Hall on Beatty Street stands as a monument to our past in the midst of a 21st-century real-estate rush. CHARLIE SMITH

This week's **cover story** in the *Georgia Straight* focused on the impact that the pandemic might be having on our sleep.

Here's what I discovered from researching this article: if we aren't exposed to sufficient natural light, it can disrupt our circadian rhythms. That can lead to serious health problems over time, including depression, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

There's an easy way to prevent this—get outside in the natural light for 15 minutes in the morning.

So in that spirit, I went out for a walk on Saturday morning and made another discovery.

I was strolling near the Drill Hall, home to the B.C. Regiment (formerly the Duke of Connaught's Own).

Many readers will be familiar with this building, also known as the Beatty Street Armoury, completed in 1901.

There's an old tank and cannon outside, appearing like anachronisms amid shiny Yaletown towers.



The tank outside the Drill Hall is a short stroll from Stadium Station.CHARLIE SMITH

There's also a pocket park immediately to the south that celebrates a great romance. Until yesterday, I had never walked through this area, known as St. Julien Square.



Many have walked past this cannon on their way to events at B.C. Place Stadium.CHARLIE SMITH

Much to my surprise, I discovered that this pocket park includes a commemorative sculpture called *Writing to You*, installed in 2007.

Created by Canadian artists Yvonne Lammerich and Ian Carr-Harris, it features two bronze sculptures at opposite ends of a grassy area.



St. Julien Square.CHARLIE SMITH

On the west is a trunk, with a letter on top. On the eastern edge of the square is a table with another letter on top.

It tells the story of a member of the B.C. Regiment, Maj. Lloyd G. Augustus, and his wife, Mary. They exchanged more than 800 letters while he was serving in the Second World War.

The table represents Mary at home with one of Lloyd's letters. And the trunk depicts where Lloyd stored the letters sent by his wife.

The disrupted ground below the trunk and the smooth floor beneath the table demonstrates how different life was for both of them during this tumultuous time. The distance between the objects speaks for itself.

It's a poignant work of art that drives home the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families.



Here's how *Writing to You* appears on a bright, sunny day. CITY OF VANCOUVER

It also left me thinking about the difficult times we've experienced during this pandemic.

So far, there have been 13,350 deaths from COVID-19 in Canada this year alone.

That's almost one-quarter of the number of **Canadian fatal battle casualties** in the First World War from 1914 to 1918.

How will this agonizing period be reflected for future generations in the public arena for those who didn't live through it?

What ideas will our artists have to show the heartache of those unable to be with their loved ones as they took their final breath?

How can sculptors showcase the brave and loving sacrifices made by our health-care workers and emergency responders as they rushed into danger in the course of their duties?

And where in Vancouver would be the best locations to place these memorials?

Outside local hospitals? In Stanley Park? Or in ᓄᓐᓄᓐᓄᓐ Xwtl'e7énᓄ Square on the north side of the Vancouver Art Gallery?

Let's hope that once vaccines beat back this pandemic, city council takes the time to do it right—just as Lammerich and Carr-Harris did in exhibiting how love helped beat back the anguish of a bygone era.

Follow Charlie Smith on Twitter [@charliesmithvcr](https://twitter.com/charliesmithvcr).

**FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
20 DECEMBER 2020**



As we head into the holiday season and close out 2020, I want to wish all Dukes, friends and family a Happy Holidays. Like many of you, the Regiment had a unique 2020 and we look forward to addressing the challenges and opportunities that 2021 will bring with it. It is an active time for the CAF, RCAC and for us and I look forward to sharing the Regimental progress through this journey with all of you.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD,  
Commanding Officer



**THE B C REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION  
CHARITABLE TRUST**  
Suite 208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue  
Burnaby, B. C. V5C 5T1

23 December 2020

Fellow Dukes and Supporters:

**Re: 2020 Annual Fundraiser**

We are pleased to advise you that the 2020 Annual Fundraiser has been a complete success with approximately \$40,000.00 received from our loyal supporters.

We wish to thank you for your continued support of the goals of the Regimental Association and the Charitable Trust. This past year, with your help, we were able to award six bursaries, of \$2,000.00 each, to members of the Regiment presently enrolled in post secondary education. The presentations took place at the Stand Down Parade on 9 December 2020.

Our five BCR cadet corps continue to benefit from the support of the Charitable Trust under our Cadet Development Program ("CDP") where we have awarded \$2,500.00 to each unit this year for training purposes.

Notwithstanding the COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions and economic uncertainty, the Charitable Trust was able to increase the Bursary Awards by \$500.00 each and the CDP Awards by \$1,000.00 for each Unit, based upon ever-increasing financial need.

In addition, we regularly participate in many Veterans' recognition and commemorative events throughout the year. We also continue to pursue one of our main objectives, namely the education of the community at large regarding the tremendous contribution made by the Regiment and our Citizen Soldiers, both past and present, to the remarkable history and development of our Country.

These activities would not be accomplished without the support of donors such as you and we thank you once again.

Yours very truly,

The B C Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust

Honorary Colonel E. A. (Ted) Hawthome, Chairman

**NORAD TRACKS SANTA  
THE HONOURABLE HARJIT S. SAJJAN, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE  
THE DRILL HALL – OFFICERS’ MESS  
24 DECEMBER 2020**

Minister Sajjan participated in the NORAD Tracks Santa program this year, answering phone calls from children across North America and taking their questions about Santa Claus. He took calls from the BCR Officer’s Mess. We are certain that “Santa Duke” was involved somehow. “Merry Christmas Eve and to all a good night....as Santa makes his journey around the world!”



## Strathcona Enews

Dear Mr. Sproule,

With the annual flurry of pre-holiday CANFORGENs being released we are pleased to announce the following Commanding Officer appointments for Strathconas effective APS 21:

- Commanding Officer, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) - **LCol Mike Mallette**
- Commanding Officer, 4th Canadian Division Training Centre - **LCol Clayton Gardner**
- Commanding Officer, 3 CDSG Pers Services - **LCol Fred Hayward**

Recognized for their outstanding performance the following Strathconas are being inducted into the Order of Military Merit as part of the 71st list:

- **MGen Trevor Cadieu** (promoted to Commander within said order)
- **MWO Melanie Parent**

The Strathcona's continue to represent the best of our Forces and on behalf of the entire Regimental Family we offer our sincere congratulations.

Perseverance,

LCol Eric Angell  
CO LdSH(RC)

CWO Kevin King  
RSM LdSH(RC)



**The Governor General of Canada**  
**Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette**

**On the Appointment of Vice-Admiral Art MacDonald, Commander, Royal Canadian Navy, as Canada's next Chief of the Defence Staff, and the retirement of General Jonathan Vance**  
**December 24, 2020**

OTTAWA—As commander-in-chief, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Vice-Admiral Art MacDonald on his appointment as Canada's 20<sup>th</sup> chief of the Defence Staff. Vice-Admiral MacDonald brings many years of experience to the post, which will serve him well as he takes command of the Canadian Armed Forces during a very challenging time. I look forward to working with him and wish him all the best in his new role.

I am very grateful to General Jonathan Vance for his outstanding service to our country, and for his dedicated work as chief of the Defence Staff over the past five-and-a-half years. Under his leadership, the Canadian Armed Forces grew stronger, and continually answered the needs and interests of Canadians, at home and abroad. On behalf of the members of the Canadian Armed Forces and on behalf of Canada, thank you General Vance.

Julie Payette

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## Prime Minister announces the upcoming appointment of the new Chief of the Defence Staff

December 23, 2020  
Ottawa, Ontario

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced the upcoming appointment of Vice-Admiral Art MacDonald, currently Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, as Chief of the Defence Staff. Vice-Admiral MacDonald will be promoted to the rank of Admiral and replace the current Chief of the Defence Staff, General Jonathan Vance, who will be retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces.

Vice-Admiral MacDonald became Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy in June 2019. Before his appointment, he commanded HMCS *Halifax*, the Fifth Maritime Operations Group, and Joint Task Force Pacific. Through these and other naval roles, he circumnavigated the globe, led sea-based humanitarian and disaster relief operations, and commanded a multi-national task group in the High Arctic.

In his new role, Vice-Admiral MacDonald will oversee the Canadian Armed Forces' ongoing operations in Canada and around the world, and their contributions to the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including support for Canada's vaccine rollout through Operation VECTOR.

The Prime Minister thanked General Jonathan Vance for his years of distinguished service leading the Canadian Armed Forces. General Vance will continue to serve in his role until the appointment of the new Chief of Defence Staff takes effect at a Change of Command ceremony to be held the week of January 11, 2021.

### Quotes

"At home and abroad, Canadian Armed Forces members have always answered the call of duty, working day in and day out to keep us and our loved ones safe. Vice-Admiral Art MacDonald brings decades of experience in a variety of command and staff roles, and I am confident that he will provide dedicated leadership to the Canadian Armed Forces as they continue to respond wherever is needed to protect Canadians and our values."

—The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"I thank General Jonathan Vance for his four decades of service to Canada and his immense contribution to the Canadian Armed Forces, as Canada's longest serving Chief of the Defence Staff. Whether helping develop and implement a new defence policy, supporting our allies

overseas, or responding to disasters and a pandemic, he has served with distinction and a strong sense of duty.”

--The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

“I want to extend my congratulations to Vice-Admiral Art McDonald on his upcoming appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff at this important time. Vice-Admiral McDonald will continue the work to transform the culture of the Canadian Armed Forces to ensure zero tolerance for sexual misconduct and harassment while eliminating hateful conduct and systemic racism from the organization. He will also continue the implementation of our unprecedented military investments as outlined in *Strong, Secure, Engaged*. This fully funded 20-year road map makes sure that our military can meet the challenges of the evolving security environment.”

--The Hon. Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank General Vance for his dedication and service to Canada throughout his career. Over the past five years, General Vance has served with distinction as the Chief of the Defence Staff. His sense of duty has always been driven towards looking after the members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families.”

--The Hon. Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence

### Quick Facts

- The Chief of the Defence Staff is responsible for the command, control, and administration of the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as military strategy, plans, and requirements.
- The Chief of the Defence Staff is appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Governor in Council. As commander-in-chief of Canada, the Governor General plays a major role in recognizing the importance of Canada’s military at home and abroad.
- As part of the national pandemic response, Canadian Armed Forces personnel have:
  - deployed to long-term care facilities in Quebec and Ontario.
  - directly supported northern and remote communities.
  - assisted with managing and distributing personal protective equipment.
  - helped with contact-tracing efforts in Ontario.
- Operation VECTOR is the Canadian Armed Forces’ logistical planning and operations support to the federal, provincial, and territorial governments for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

### Biographical Note

- [Vice-Admiral Art McDonald](#)

### Associated Links

- [Prime Minister thanks Chief of the Defence Staff for his service to Canadians](#)
- [Military response to COVID-19](#)
- [Operation VECTOR](#)





THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## The Honourable Janet Austin



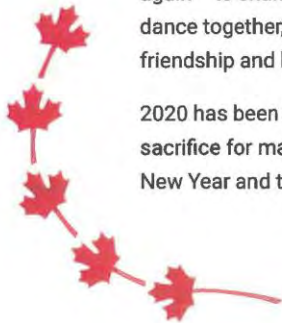
*Above: With MacDuff amongst the Liberation75 tulips, a gift from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands in the Second World War*

**T**he year 2020 started off as it always does, with the grand tradition of the [annual New Years Day Levee](#) at Government House. With our [faithful dog MacDuff](#) by our side, His Honour and I welcomed more than a thousand guests to enjoy each other's company and share some holiday cheer. How we long for the chance to gather again— to shake hands, to embrace, to sing and dance together, and to once more express our friendship and love for one another, face to face.

2020 has been a year of uncertainty and great sacrifice for many. However, with the dawn of the New Year and the emergence of new treatments

and vaccines for COVID-19, we have every reason to expect that 2021 will find us in a much better place. And what a relief that is!

As the year draws to a close, I must say how very proud I am of the way in which British Columbians have pulled together in response to the challenges of COVID-19. We have witnessed countless examples of generosity and compassion throughout our province; been inspired by the selfless work of our front-line workers; and been deeply moved by the humanity of those who house and care for our most vulnerable citizens.





Top: Visiting Nuytco Research Ltd. in North Vancouver with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General, in February; Middle: The first in-person meeting of the LG Youth Advisory Council in January; Bottom: On a tour of Westbank First Nation businesses with Chief Christopher Derickson and Bernice Louie of Indigenous World Winery in Kelowna

We are grateful for the cross-partisan teamwork demonstrated by our political leaders and the competence of our public health leaders who have worked tirelessly to adjust their direction and communication to us, based on emerging science and changing circumstances.

Cultural and faith organizations have found creative new methods of connection, generously reaching out to engage us as a community and keep us hopeful, positive and together; businesses have moved heaven and earth to keep our supply lines open, our shelves stocked, and our economy functioning.

We know better, now, how to value the unheralded work of all the people upon whom we rely; those who go quietly about their daily tasks without fanfare or acknowledgement. Let us not forget them when this reality has passed from view, as it surely will.

With the rhythm and pattern of our daily lives disrupted, we have all struggled to adjust to the restrictions required to protect each other. Weddings, live performances, graduations, and other celebrations have been cancelled or postponed. There have also been business closures, weeks of school interrupted and the tragedy of final moments, without the comforting presence of family and friends. This time has been difficult for all of us, but especially so for those who have lost family members and friends. We hold them in our hearts.

Many are also facing job loss or financial difficulties in their businesses and personal lives, with all the attendant stress and anxiety this must bring. They will need our help to rebuild and we must be there for them.



The spring and summer months brought a disturbing rise in race-based violence and discrimination, which prompted us to create the [Different Together pledge](#) and social media campaign. I was heartened by the broad-based and positive response to this campaign, with leaders at all levels of government, business and social services publicly pledging to uphold the Canadian values of diversity and inclusion and oppose racism and hate in all its forms. This is work that will continue in 2021.

Food insecurity has also been exacerbated by the pandemic, with Statistics Canada reporting in June that close to 15% of all Canadians had lacked sufficient food at least once in the previous month. Inspired by the Victory Gardens planted across Canada during the First and Second World Wars, we created the [Government House Victory Over COVID-19 Garden](#) to provide fresh food to the most vulnerable in our local communities. The Victory Over COVID-19 Garden built on the [longstanding work](#) of the Friends of Government House Gardens Society, who have also contributed fresh produce to local charities.

Throughout it all, I was delighted to recognize extraordinary British Columbians through our awards and honours programs. Post-secondary

students throughout BC received the [Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Inclusion, Democracy and Reconciliation](#). The [Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence](#), a partnership with the BC and Yukon Book Prizes, was presented to Julie Flett and Joy Kogawa – two of BC's exceptional authors. The [BC Lieutenant Governor's Wine Awards](#) named Upper Bench Estate Winery's 2019 Riesling as Wine of the Year. We also recognized the [50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partial decriminalization of homosexuality](#) and celebrated leaders in the Canadian LGBTQ2S+ community.

In partnership with the BC Achievement Foundation, I launched the [British Columbia Reconciliation Award](#), recognizing individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to advancing reconciliation. The concept for this award was initially proposed by the Honourable Steven Point, 28<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and I was delighted to work with him and a committee of Indigenous leaders to bring this to fruition.

I did my best to further our work on democracy with the launch of the [University of Victoria Democracy Dialogue series](#), bringing together a diverse group of students to discuss questions about youth participation in political process



*Left: A socially distanced meeting at Government House with the BC Legislative Interns. Right: A uniquely 2020 swearing-in ceremony conducted in person and virtually in November*

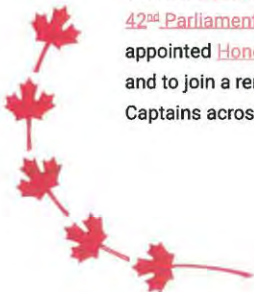
and strengthening civility and respect across partisan divides. With our partners at the [SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue](#), we developed an exciting program called [Conversations on Democracy](#), which has been paused until we are again able to gather in person.

In addition, I have given many speeches and addresses through various technology platforms. Universities moved their convocations online and I installed new Chancellors and Presidents, participated in numerous public dialogues, and joined roundtable discussions with business and community organizations using virtual platforms.

This past July, we closed Government House to [accommodate extensive infrastructure renovations](#) to upgrade mechanical systems and security. The project will take more than a year to complete and has required that we vacate the premises and relocate to temporary accommodation and office space.

Thanks to the [Friends of Government House Garden Society](#), the grounds have been beautifully maintained to their customary dazzling standard and continue to provide important respite to neighbours and visitors. They will remain open, provided that public health directives continue to be respected, and it gives me great pleasure to see our friends and neighbours enjoying the beauty and serenity of the property.

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of [swearing in and reaffirming the Members of the Executive Council of British Columbia](#) and presiding over the [Opening of the First Session of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament](#). I was honoured, as well, to be appointed [Honorary Captain of the HMCS Malahat](#), and to join a remarkable cadre of Honorary Captains across the country.



Above: Harvesting beets in the Victory Over COVID-19 Garden at the height of summer; Below: Making all kinds of new friends during a community visit to Kelowna in March

As always, I wish to extend my personal thanks to my [Honorary Aides-de-Camp](#), the [Friends of Government House Gardens Society](#), the [Government House Foundation](#), the [LG Youth Advisory Council](#), and all those who support the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the activities of Government House. I am most grateful to you all.

Finally, I am wishing you all health and happiness for the season and the New Year. Please stay safe in the time ahead and thank you for all that you do to support and care for one another. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve British Columbians in 2020.



**The Honourable Janet Austin**  
*Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia*



*Immediately above: After a great Conversations on Democracy session at City Hall in Prince George in February, Top: Proudly wearing my Office of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia mask at UBCM*



## EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following **Alumni Profile** of the Honorary Colonel, Ted Hawthorne, originally published in **The Alumni News** on 30 September 2020 by the Peter A. Allard School of Law, The University of British Columbia, is reproduced verbatim with their kind permission.



**PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



### **Alumni Profile: Ted Hawthorne (LLB 1971)**

A Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient, Ted Hawthorne has made tremendous contributions to his community, including his law firm Hawthorne, Piggott & Company where he served as a partner for nearly 50 years.

[Learn More](#)



**PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



- [PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW](#)
- Edwin (Ted) A. Hawthorne

## Edwin (Ted) A. Hawthorne

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Class of 1970-1971

A Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient, Ted Hawthorne has made tremendous contributions to his community, including his law firm Hawthorne, Piggott & Company where he served as a partner for nearly 50 years. He has served as a president, chairman, director and trustee in many non-profit charities including, the Columbus Long Term Care Society, the Veterans' Care Facility, the Royal City Youth Ballet Company Society, The BC Regiment (DCO) Charitable Trust and the Army Cadet League of Canada.

We recently had the chance to ask Mr. Hawthorne a few questions about this career and community work.

**You graduated from law school in 1971. Looking back now, what would you say was the highlight of your time here?**

My attendance at Law School was quite challenging in that my wife and I had three children at the time and we both worked (she was a secretary and I worked at a Liquor Store). I found the coordination of daycare and classes was often quite difficult and my wife Gayle was hospitalized for some time after the birth of our third child during my graduating year. Accordingly, my graduation became the highlight of "our" time at Law School.

**If you could go back and give your law student-self one piece of advice, what would it be?**

I never thought about the extended meaning of UBC's motto, Tuum Est, until I was in Law School and soon realized that, in fact, you are indeed on your own and it is entirely up to you! I was quite naïve in those days.

**How did you originally become involved with the military and the British Columbia Regiment (DCO)?**

I joined Cadets in 1960 and The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) (the "BCRs"), an Armoured Reserve Unit in Vancouver, in 1961. These were quite formative years for me. As my trade was a driver, I drove my first tank at 16 years old which had a lasting impression on me. Years later, I returned to assist the BCRs regarding certain legal matters requiring attention and later become President of the Veterans' Association and then became the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, on appointment by the Minister of National Defense (see attached List of Activities).

**How do you think your involvement with DCO influenced your legal practice? Or alternatively, did your legal education influence your subsequent roles within the DCO?**

As a student, I was given all files relating to Not for Profits (BC and Federal), Charities and corporate governance issues as the called lawyers could not bill on them. I became reasonably proficient at this pro bono aspect of the practice of law and over the years it has expanded to a very large and diverse part of my community support practice (care facilities, numerous support programs for soldiers, veterans' rights, pensions and recognition, cadets, ballet companies, art gallery, offender programs and civilian and military scholarships/bursaries).

**With so many unique and exciting ventures on the go, what would you say has been the highlight of your career to date?**

The National and Provincial Awards recognition of my firm by the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (Department of National Defense) in 2017. Nationally, the firm was recognized with an Award for Support to the Reserve Force and the Most Supportive Employer in BC and Provincially, an Award of Excellence presented by the then Lieutenant Governor of the Province, the Honorable Judith Guichon, OBC.

**What do you feel is the most challenging thing you've faced in your career to date?**

The start of my own firm in 1973. I had been called just over one year and my partner George Piggott was recently just called. Our new legal secretary was my wife Gayle who worked with the firm for 30 years as a first-class legal secretary, accountant and practice manager.

**Outside of your current professional roles, what do you like to do in your free time?**

Enjoy visiting with my family, our grandchildren and great grandchildren, reading and travel (Gayle likes to cruise so we have cruised on 45 voyages all over the world).

**In an alternate universe, if you had not pursued law, what would be your dream career?**

Wheat Farmer.

**Is there anything you would like people to know about you?**

The knowledge I gained at Law School, in my articles and in my early years of practice has enabled me to provide a much-needed service to my community (civilian and military) since 1971. Ultimately, I would say that it defines who I am. I have enjoyed every minute of it. I also feel that my involvement in the community over these many years has contributed to the ultimate success of the firm today (it has not helped our billings though!). Many of the firm's clients respect and support my work for our soldiers, veterans and cadets and other community initiatives I have become involved in. The unconditional support of my wife of 53 years in my civilian and military activities and the excellent support received from the staff and lawyers of the firm have made all such activities a reality. Of minor note, I was a contributor to The UBC Law Review in 1971.

**PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW**

**THE START LINE**

By: David Sproule, Victoria

**Pay Parade**

I'm guessing that pay parade has passed into history like so many things that were familiar to those that served in the pre-direct deposit, pre-digital days. Like puttees and weights, no more pay parades. I still have distinct memories of pay parade and we got paid this way whether in garrison or in the field. It was a simple procedure but not an efficient one by today's standards. The SSM and the troop sergeants got everyone lined up alphabetically which was easy because every soldier knew who he stood behind.

The Paymaster, a captain in the Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps and his pay clerk sergeant sitting to his right, behind a small portable table known as a "3' folding" or perhaps it's larger cousin the "6' folding" and as I was reminded, covered with a standard scarlet army blanket. The brief case full of cash under the table. The Regimental Police sergeant stood behind them with holstered side-arm, looking stern and arms folded. The general impression was, "don't try anything stupid."

It was a parade, and everyone was quiet and there were usually smiles on faces as troopers were planning on how to spend their cash. And the lucky few who had recently been promoted knowing to a penny how much additional cash would be counted out. The Paymaster being ready, Trooper "A" steps up to the table,



leans over and signs the acquittance roll shoved forward by the pay sergeant. The paymaster then counts out the bills, soldier picks up the cash with his left hand, steps back and gives the Paymaster a "Big 5" turns right and marches off. Trooper "B" follows suit and so forth until the last soldier has received his pay. In the meantime, the officers have been idling in the rear but then it is their turn and so follow the same drill. Once the squadron was paid, the paymaster and party jump into their vehicle and head off to the next squadron. I expect this pay parade procedure was as old as soldiering itself.

The Pay staff were highly respected by everyone. When I was in the Dragoons our paymaster was Captain Reg Kearns with two rows of ribbons on his chest from the war, but one was different from our veteran captains and majors as Reg had the Air Crew Europe Star. He had been on Lancaster bombers and flew many missions over Germany and as I remember was a quiet, thoughtful and compassionate man.

I also remember from my COTC and Militia days we were only paid twice yearly, and by cheque, at stand-down at Christmas and in May/June. If we were called out in the summer, then like regular force, line up, pick up cash, salute, turn right etc. Yes, I know everything nowadays is digital, efficient but impersonal too. Pay parade was a big deal with an ancient tradition and as I remember was usually on a Friday – even better.



*I'm waiting to receive my Egyptian pounds from the Canadian Base Units paymaster, Captain Hovey Tripp. UNEF, 1962.*

## **THE BARRETT BUNKER DECEMBER 2020**

As we look towards the end of what has been a very challenging year, perhaps it is best to look to the rear at some of our past Regimental traditions and especially those which we carry on today.

As many of you know the Regiment was formed on 12 October 1883 as the 5<sup>th</sup> Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery out of a number of smaller militia companies including the Seymour Battery from New Westminster and the Victoria Rifles. By 1894 companies were 'stood to' at the Old Imperial Opera House in Vancouver and by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century we had won the coveted Governor-General's Cup for being the best artillery unit in the Dominion of Canada.

With our conversion to the 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) we added the traditions of the Rifle Brigade and that unit became our Allied Regiment in the United Kingdom. With various amalgamations that unit is currently known as 'The Rifles'.



Governor-General's Cup



HRH Prince Arthur Duke of Connaught in Full Rifle Dress

Recruits from the DCOR and other Militia units served in various numbered battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and many that were raised after 1915 were broken up in Britain as reinforcements to replace losses in the Canadian Corps. The soldiers served as infantry in the Great War 1914-18. Following the return of our soldiers from the army of occupation in 1919 and our amalgamation with the 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR, the 104 Westminster Fusiliers, and a number of CEF units in 1920 into the 1<sup>st</sup> BC Regiment (DCO), our alliance with the Rifles was formally terminated by Army Order 430, dated 30 Nov 1922. By May 1924 the Westminster Regiment had split away, and the Vancouver Regiment had retrieved their colours from Christ Church Cathedral and remained an infantry unit until its amalgamation into the Irish Fusiliers of Canada in 1936. Army Order No. 102 dated 30 March 1925 re-established our rifle connections.

Our Regiment began the Second World War as a Rifle Regiment, but by 1942, the Overseas Battalion had been converted to armour and was sent overseas to the United Kingdom where they trained on Canadian built Ram Tanks and then on Sherman Tanks. Eventually our members entered into action in August 1944 and finished the war in Germany in 1945. With the return of the Regiment in 1946 and the retention of armour as its role during the Cold War, the Regiment added the traditions of the Cavalry to our mix.

By 1960 our Guidon was designed to reflect our past and was one of, if not the first, in the Commonwealth, to reflect our former arms of service. The 'White Horse of Hannover' was replaced in the upper left quadrant with the Garrison Artillery Gun and in the Lower Right by the Rifle Bugle in Silver.

With the amalgamation with the Irish Fusiliers of Canada in 2002, the Regiment had absorbed the history of the Irish Fusiliers, The Vancouver Regiment, The Earl Grey Rifles and the North BC Regiment. Her Majesty graciously reapproved our alliance with the Rifles as it would have lapsed with the amalgamation. At such time as a new Guidon is produced the Irish 'Harpie' will replace the DCO in the Lower Left Quadrant and our battle honours will be rearranged.



So our history is retained in so many different ways. I will try to relate some of them for my readers:

1. Full Dress: Busby, 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR Cross Belt, Rifle Green Hussar Jacket & Trousers with Black Trim, Black Accoutrements including buttons, rank badges, and gloves with a Rifle Sword. Perpetuated today by our Brass & Reed Association Band. By tradition the RSM and Adjutant of the Regiment carry Rifle Swords on parade. Full Dress has not been worn by the Regiment since the end of WW II. (See Duke of Connaught above)
2. Undress (Patrol Dress): The current version of this uniform was worn by Officers and the WOs & Senior NCOs of the Regiment from the 1950s until 1972 and since the 1980s. The midnight blue patrol jackets have shoulder chain mail attached and the officer badge ranks are nickel-silver. The Collar badges changes from the silver 'Rifle' Bugles to the Irish 'Harpie' and Canadian Maple Leaf in silver following the 2002 amalgamation. The 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR Rifle Cross Belt is worn and all accoutrements

including gloves are black in the Rifle tradition. Officers (and RSM) have three chains on their cross belts and WOs & Sr NCOs have two of the Inkerman chains. Officers carry the 1911 Officers' Pattern Cavalry Sabre, and the NCOs, who guard the Guidon carry the 1908 Pattern Cavalry Sabre. Silver Cap Badges are worn on the Blue Forage Cap with a Rifle green band for Officers. Black Berets are worn by the WOs & Senior NCOs.



BCR Officers wearing patrol dress

3. Cap Badge: Following the 1925 reaffirmation of our alliance with the Rifles, our Commanding Officer, LCol HFG Letson, MC, designed our cap badge, with the battle honours gained in the Great War on the wreath in Rifle Fashion, with the Scroll at the bottom reading 'Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles' and Ypres at the top below a Ducal Coronet. The Officer's badge was elongated whereas the soldiers badge was rounder in shape. With the addition of the South African Battle Honour won by the volunteers of the 6<sup>th</sup> DCOR in 1930, this Battle Honour was only added to the Soldiers badge just below Ypres. The Officers continued to wear theirs unchanged, presumably due the shortages experienced in the Great Depression.



An embroidered cloth badge was worn during the 1950s to about 1990 by Officers and the RSM of the Regiment prior to the return of the older pattern of silver cap badges which are worn to this date.



OFFICERS BADGE - OTHER RANKS BADGE

In anticipation for the Presentation of the Regiment's Guidon in 1960, the Regiment wrote to the Department of History & Heritage and requested that our WWII Battle Honours be added to the scroll. They were told that any change to the badge would result in the removal of all the earlier battle honours as the Regiment was now armoured. However, as we were still allied with the Rifle Brigade (The Rifles), we were advised that we could keep our current badge unchanged, and so our cap badge remains unchanged to this day.

4. Buttons: The current version of Regimental buttons has its origins in the late 1920s to early 1930s when we reverted back to Rifle Dress. The buttons presented with the Provincial Coat of Arms surmounted with the King's Crown and were anodized black in colour in keeping with rifle tradition.

By the 50's Silver buttons with the Queen's Crown were worn on Patrol Dress and the black versions disappeared along with Khaki Dress in 1972. Our buttons are currently made by Firman & Sons in Birmingham, who inherited the dies from JR Gaunt in the 1990s.



5. British Columbia Metal Shoulder Titles: These have changes little from the 1930s, with the elimination of the black only version in 1972. For many years the CF Greens Dress Jackets did not have shoulder epaulettes, so the Regiment wore Black with Silver Lettering Cloth Shoulder Titles stitched onto the upper edge of the jacket sleeves. They were similar to our Battle Dress Shoulder titles and at the top said BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT with CANADA centred underneath.



CF Greens Shoulder Title

The WW II versions were Black Lettering on Green and this pattern was reintroduced into the unit in the late 1980s with the change to work dress having a camouflaged jacket which disappeared in the late 90s along with work dress. Our five BCR Cadet Corps continue to wear the WWII version of this cloth shoulder title.



6. Distinct Environmental Uniforms (DEU): Arriving in the late 1980s, and which had distinctive uniforms for Navy, Army, and Air personnel, this new pattern of dress had shoulder epaulettes which allowed the return of the silver metal British Columbia titles and the disappearance of the cloth shoulder titles.



BCR OFFICER WEARING DEU AT 29 TH BN MEMORIAL PNE

Originally ranks for Officers were worn on the sleeve as was the fashion following 1972, but since 2014, those have been replaced with silver stars (pips) and crowns worn on the epaulettes. When medals and cross belts are not worn when in DEU, Officers wear our Rifle Whistle Cords (Black & Green) on our right shoulders and WOs and SrNCOs wear an Artillery Pattern Lanyard in green and black on their right shoulders. This is the last of our visible Artillery traditions. Our Cadet NCOs also wear the BCR Artillery Lanyards.

7. BCR Regimental Tie. Historically was rifle (or dark) green over black which was the same tie worn by the Rifle Brigade with the exception that a silver stripe was added between representing the Pacific Ocean. With the amalgamation with the IF of C in 2002, a red stripe was added below the silver.

As you can tell, I have but scratched the surface here, but I hope that I have shown how multi-faceted our Regiment's traditions are, as we have changed over the past century or so from Garrison Artillery to an Armoured-Reconnaissance Unit in the Canadian Armed Forces. I remain indebted to the recent history of the Regiment, Swift & Strong, the internet, and my own experiences as a member of the BC Regiment (DCO).

### **75361 CSM ROBERT HILL HANNA, VC**

Birth: 6 August 1886, Kilkeel, County Down, Ireland  
Death: 15 June 1967, Abbotsford, B.C., Aged 79 Years



Credit: The Comprehensive Guide of the Victoria and George Cross,  
painter is A.Y. Jackson CC CMG RCA,  
the painting is located at The Canadian War Museum, Ottawa

Robert Hill Hanna emigrated from Ireland to Canada in 1905 with his family, initially working as a farmhand near Brandon Manitoba. In the prewar years he was also involved in logging operations in Toba Inlet, B.C. His sisters Amie, Sarah and Jennie followed him out to Vancouver, with Amie working as a cook in his logging camp at Toba Inlet after WWI.

His sisters married the Munn brothers in Vancouver and Jennie's husband later died the Green Hill Park explosion in Vancouver harbour in March 1945.

I located a Robert Hanna in the 1911 census on Valdes Island in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia, occupation Logging Foreman, who I believe may be our man, but not all the dates line up, so this is subject to verification.

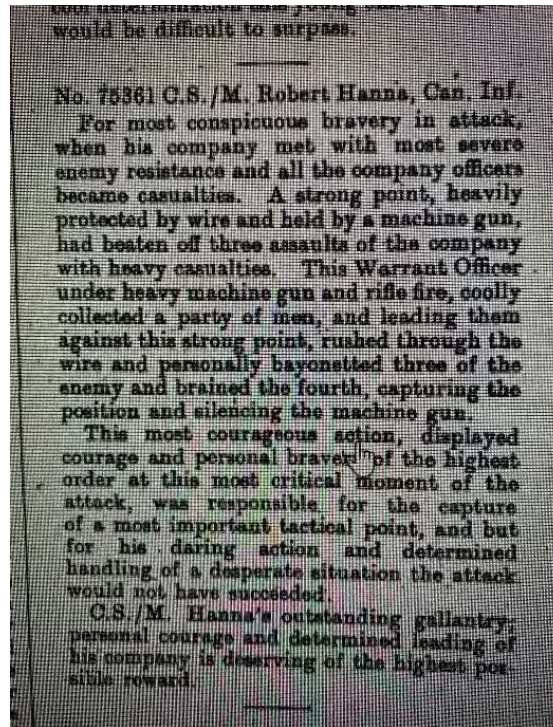
Following the outbreak of WWI, he enlisted at Vancouver, B.C. as a Private with the 29<sup>th</sup> (Vancouver) Battalion, CEF (nicknamed "Tobin's Tigers") on November 9, 1914. His military service record is summarized below, which outlines the progression of his experiences following his enlistment.

His experiences with the 29<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry (Vancouver) Battalion intermingle with the 1<sup>st</sup> Reserve Battalion and the Canadian Forestry Corps.

He is best known for his outstanding performance at Hill 70 and his award of the Victoria Cross in November 1917.

### Victoria Cross

Citation, London Gazette 8 November 1917:



At Hill 70, Hanna was a Sergeant-Major (CSM) and received his Victoria Cross in November 1917 at London, U.K., from King George V, along with Private Michael James O'Rourke, VC, MM of the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion (1<sup>st</sup> British Columbia) Regiment CEF. Here is an image of them together following the ceremony:



Credit: vimyfoundation.ca

This excerpt, taken from [vimyfoundation.ca](http://vimyfoundation.ca) is illuminating:

“Robert Hanna emigrated to Canada from Kilkeel, Ireland in 1905. When war broke out he enlisted with the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion on 7 November 1914. By 21 August 1917, he had risen to the position of Company Sergeant-Major (CSM), when during an attempt to gain a number of trenches atop [Hill 70](#), all the officers of “B” Company became casualties. Leadership of the beleaguered force thus fell to CSM Hanna. In a precarious position, neighbouring “C” Company, and now Hanna’s “B” Company, was taking mounting casualties from an enemy defensive line that centered on a machine-gun post. Already having seen the previous three attacks fail, CSM Hanna nonetheless calmly gathered up a small band of men, leading them on a dash through heavy barbed wire entanglements and enemy fire. Reaching the machine-gun post, Hanna carried the charge through to its end, engaging three of the crew with his bayonet and the fourth with his rifle butt (Canadian War Records Office, *Thirty Canadian V.Cs.*, p. 49). In a momentary lapse, Hanna and his few surviving men created a blocking position in the trench system, before the Germans launched a series of counter-attacks. Each renewed attack was turned back by the small band of Canadians led by CSM Hanna, and they held out until relief arrived later that day (Canadian War Records Office, *Thirty Canadian V.Cs.*, p. 49).

For his immediate actions, leadership and fighting efficiency that day, Company Sergeant-Major Robert Hanna received the Victoria Cross. He would survive the war, returning to British Columbia, Canada. He passed away 15 June 1967 and is buried in the Masonic Cemetery, Burnaby, British Columbia. His grave has since received a traditional Commonwealth War Graves Commission tombstone.”

Following his award of the Victoria Cross, Hanna was sent to England for officer training and promoted to Lieutenant, and famously travelled to his hometown in Ireland to be recognized as an honoured son, and to visit his parents and his schoolmaster. (See Swift & Strong pp.116)

### **Summary, Military Service History, CEF, WWI**

Hanna’s service record is very detailed, including the following:

Attestation Date: 9 November 1914

Assigned Rank: Private, 9 November 1914, Stated Occupation: Lumberman

Taken on Strength: 1 November 1914, 29<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry (Vancouver) Battalion, CEF

Sail for England: 20 May 1915

Treated and Discharged: 1 April 1916 – 13 April 1916 - German Measles – General Hospital, St. Omer.

Rejoins 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CEF, 15 April, 1915

Disembarks Boulogne, France: 18 September 1915

Returns from Woodcutting assignment: 7 January 1916

Returns to unit following treatments for German Measles: 17 June 1916

Treatment for Shrapnel wound: 30 June 1916

Grenade Course, 28 July 1916

Bombing Course, 11 August 1916

Application to Lance Corporal, 20 August 1916

Promoted to Sergeant: 9 October 1916

Training, Canadian Corps: 24 February 1917

21 August 1917 In the "Field", Hanna was Appointed Acting CSM, vice (subordinate) to CSM Lennant WQ (WO).

27 Aug 19 1917 in the "Field", Hanna was Promoted CSM (Paid) (WO), vice CSM Lennant to England.

So Hanna was a platoon sergeant from 9 August 1916 until 21 August 1917 and his promotion was confirmed (promoted) to CSM on 27 August 1917.

In other words, he fought in the Battle of Hill 70, as a CSM from 21 August 1917 to 25 August 1917; Served as CSM for 35 days during the Battle of Hill 70.

Training, CSM: 15 September 1917, Vice CSM Lennant to England

22 September 1917: To England with a view to obtaining a Commission and being posted with the BCR Depot

16 November 1917: Awarded The Victoria Cross

12 February 1918: To be Temporary Lieutenant, B.C. Regiment, 26 January 1918

26 January 1918: 1<sup>st</sup> Reserve Battalion, taken on strength

26 August 1918: Transferred to Canadian Forestry Corps

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918: Taken on Strength, 1<sup>st</sup> Reserve Battalion.

16 September 1918: To be Temporary Lieutenant, Canadian Forestry Corps, from BCR

16 October 1918: Struck off Strength from BD CFC to 51 District CFC

17 October 1918: Taken on Strength from BD CFC to 51 District CFC

16 January 1919: Transfer from 107 Coy to 138 Coy

8 May 1919: Struck off Strength to BDC 78

1 May 1919: Transfer from 51 District CH

1 May 1919: Struck off Strength on transfer to 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion for demobilization

10 May 1919: Transfer to CEF in Canada/Sailed for Canada

De-Mobilized: 24 May 1919, Hastings Park, Vancouver, B.C.

Struck off Strength: 24 May 1919

### Medals, Awarded and Bestowed



From left: Victoria Cross, 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, King George VI Coronation Medal, Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal. Thanks to L Col Archie M. Steacy, CD (Retd) for confirming the medals. His Medals are now in the care of the Canadian War Museum.



Illustration by Sharif Tarabay for Legion.ca, c. 1975



## Life after the Military

Following demobilization in May 1919, Robert Hanna returned to life as a logger, once again in Toba Inlet as well as Stuart Island, on the Lower B.C. Coast and he continued to log until 1938, when he sold his logging business and moved to Bradner in the Fraser Valley, where his spouse and his son were living, purchase acreage so that he could engage in growing potatoes as a crop as well as seed potatoes for sale to other farmers.

Hanna is known to have travelled to his home town in Kilkeel, County Down Ireland a number of times, as well as to London, United Kingdom in 1956 for a Celebration of Victoria Cross recipients hosted by the Queen. When the Queen and Prince Phillip visited Chilliwack, B.C. in July 1959, he was recognized in articles in the Chilliwack Progress newspaper, apparently Prince Phillip was most interested in meeting him as was the Queen.



COMMANDER ARCHIBALD CONWAY, Kilgard, shows Robert Hanna, VC, a Chilliwack Progress dated May 31, 1939, which carried a picture of him taken with the present Queen's parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth when they visited Canada. The Prince later took the paper as a memento.

Credit: Chilliwack Progress, 15 July 1959  
His medals are clearly shown in this image.

## Death

Robert Hill Hanna passed away on 15 June 1967 at Matsqui-Sumas -Abbotsford General Hospital, Abbotsford, B.C. He is interred at The Masonic Cemetery, Burnaby, B.C. His obituary follows from The Vancouver Sun, 17 June 1967. His grave has since received a traditional Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

 HANNA V.C. — Passed away in hospital June 15, 1967, Robert Hanna V.C. of Aldergrove, in his 80th year. Survived by his wife Hannah; a son, Robert Alexander of Toronto; and 2 sisters, Mrs. H. D. Munn and Mrs. M. E. Munn of Vancouver; a brother John Hanna in Ireland; sisters, Mrs. R. Henderson and Mrs. D. McBride and Mrs. J. Hanna and Miss Grace Hanna of Kilkeel, Ireland; and Mrs. William Curtis, Bramdean, England. Deceased served with the 29th Battalion in the First World War and is a member of Lions Gate Lodge No. 115 AF & AM. Funeral service will be held Monday, June 19 at 1:30 p.m. in Nunn and Thomson Chapel, 10th Ave. & Cambie St. The Rev. R. S. M. Kennedy and Major the Rev. George Turpin DD officiating. Interment in Masonic Cemetery, Burnaby.

## VC Winner Dies Before Big Reunion

Sun Staff Reporter

ALDERGROVE — First World War veteran Robert Hanna, who won the Victoria Cross while serving in France, died Thursday in the Matsqui-Sumas-Abbotsford Hospital.

He was 79.

He was to have met Governor-General Roland Michener today in Ottawa with other Canadian Victoria Cross winners to commemorate Veterans' Week.

Mr. Hanna, while a sergeant-major, received his VC in 1917 after all his company officers in the 29th Battalion were killed and he organized the remaining men and defended Hill 70 near Vimy Ridge.

Born near Kilkeel, Northern Ireland, Mr. Hanna came to Canada to work as a farm hand near Brandon in 1905.

Before he enlisted he came to B.C., where he started an independent logging firm on Stuart Island and Toba Inlet.

In 1914, Mr. Hanna joined C Company of the 29th Battalion, known as Tobin's Tigers, as a private. He was promoted to sergeant-major while serving overseas.

In 1917 after the Hill 70 action, he entered officers' training school in England and graduated as a lieutenant.

He is survived by his wife, May, a son, Robert, of Toronto; two sisters, Mrs. M. E. Munn and Mrs. H. D. Munn, both of Vancouver; one sister in England and one brother and four sisters in Ireland.

Credit: Vancouver Sun 16 June 1967

### Memorials

Here follows a selection of Memorials, I am sure that more exist or are planned, including a proposed full size Bronze to be located in the town of his birth.

### Ireland

A memorial was placed in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, County Dublin Ireland in honour of CSM Robert Hill Hanna, as he is remembered there to this day. A link from Find a Grave is shown in the sources section of this article.

## London, United Kingdom

A memorial exists in London, U.K. at The Freemason's Memorial, in his honour:



Credit: vconline.org.uk

## Abbotsford, B.C.

On August 25, 2017, a Memorial was dedicated at the Thunderbird Memorial Square in Abbotsford, B.C. Hon Col E.A. (Ted) Hawthorne is shown with Robert's son Bob Hanna unveiling the plaque honouring Robert Hill Hanna and his actions at Hill 70.



Credit Abbotsford News



Credit: L Col Archie M. Steacy, CD, Retd

## Hill 70 Memorial

This plaque was erected by the Regimental Association near Hill 70 on 7 September 2008, this image is kindly provided by L Col Archie M. Steacy, CD (Retd):



Credit: L Col Archie M. Steacy, CD, (Retd)

This image was taken at a Dedication near Hill 70, on 7 September 2008, during the Battlefield Tour of that year. The image is courtesy Tom Lyth. From left E.A. Ted Hawthorne, then a director and officer of the Regimental Association, Bob Hanna, as well as the Mayor and a policeman who attended. A plaque was also placed in memory of Private Michael James O'Rourke, VC on the same date.



### Sources referenced in this Article:

Vimy Foundation: <https://www.vimyfoundation.ca/company-sergeant-major-robert-hanna-vc/>

Russians in the CEF: <http://www.russiansinthecef.ca/29thbattalion/hanna.shtml>

Vimy Foundation: <https://www.vimyfoundation.ca/company-sergeant-major-robert-hanna-vc/>

Canadian War Museum: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/canadian-army/forgotten-no-more-victoria-cross-display-opens-at-war-museum/2124602420965058/>

VOnline.org: <http://vonline.org.uk/robert-h-hanna-vc/4586892907>

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7768652/robert-hill-hanna>

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192433561/robert-hill-hanna>

CEF Record, Library Canada: <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=4018-30>

Swift & Strong, Leblanc, Maxwell, Snow and Deschenes

The Chilliwack Progress July 15, 1959 (Newspapers.com – subscription required:

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/77128244/?terms=Robert%20hill%20Hanna%201959&match=1>

The Guardian, 27 June 1956 (Newspapers.com) – subscription required:

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/259488995/?terms=Victoria%20Cross&match=1>

Abbotsford News, August 25, 2017: <https://www.abbynews.com/news/photos-world-war-i-hero-recognized-100-years-after-storming-hill/>

Newspaper articles referenced in the article

**Acknowledgments:**

Thanks to Bob Hanna as well as L Col Archie M. Steacy, CD (Retd) and Honorary Col. E.A. (Ted) Hawthorne for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

**Article Prepared by:**

Don Manning

Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

December 2020x



**PRIVATE ALFRED MILLARD,  
7<sup>TH</sup> BATALLION, CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

There are a number of people who make it a priority to visit and tend the graves of deceased members who served in the Regiment during times past. I commend them all for doing so.

On Remembrance Day this year, Jeff A.E. Pope posted the headstone of Private Alfred Millard, who is buried at Mountain View Cemetery on the Regiment Facebook Page, and I was prompted to do some research about this man to find out more about him. I came out of this process realizing that there were many who served overseas in WWI, who never saw military action, nor were decorated for their service and contribution.

**What did I find?**

Here are the details that I found about Private Millard:

Date of Birth: 1 November 1872, Wrington, Somersetshire, United Kingdom (from his enlistment record)

Baptism, Church of England: 18 December 1872, Redhill, Somerset, England

Wales Census, 1891: he appears in the 1891 Census living in Redhill, Somerset, aged 17.

Canada Census, 1911: Alfred Millard appears in the 1911 Canada Census, living in Toronto, Ontario, showing him apparently arriving in Canada in 1893. The Census reports him as married, but there is no evidence that he was, as he reported himself as single on his Attestation papers in 1915.

Death: 5 May 1940: Vancouver, British Columbia (BC Vital Events), aged about 68 years. B.C. Vital Events does not display his death record, making the cause of death undetermined or providing any information as to his relatives or his medical issues.

Burial: Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Veteran's Field of Honor, Burnaby, B.C., Veteran's Section There is no known obituary published about him in searching the Vancouver newspapers, but it is apparent from looking at his headstone that there must have been an active group of veterans from the former 7<sup>th</sup> Batallion, C.E.F. who did remember him, hence the headstone.

Regimental Number: 183860

Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) Military Record: <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B6168-S054>

Date of Enlistment, Canadian Expeditionary Force: December 10, 1915

Occupation at Enlistment: labourer

Date of Discharge: at Toronto, Ontario

### **Military Record:**

Enlistment date: December 10, 1915 into the 89<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CEF at Calgary Alberta, but apparently found himself assigned on 30 August 1916 to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CEF. General Depot following his arrival in the U.K.

He sailed from Halifax on 31 May 1916 on S.S. Olympic, arriving at Liverpool on 8 June 1916.

He reported a history of Myalgia when he enlisted and was treated for that as well as for an apparently recurring medical condition and for Rheumatism by a number of Field Ambulance groups and other medical treatment providers while in military service. He was confined for 14 days during this time due to absence from his unit.

He apparently served for a time with Canadian Field Ambulance and other support units during 1917.

On 27 July 1918 it appears that he was assigned to a series of labour units in France.

On 19 December 1918 he was transferred to the United Kingdom and assigned to Canadian Infantry Works Battalion and to General Depot.

On 29 March 1919 he was returned to Canada.

He was discharged on 8 April 1919, at Toronto, Ontario

There is no evidence of any awards or medals in his military record.

### **Life following Discharge from the Canadian Expeditionary Force**

There does not appear to be any media coverage involving Alfred Millard following discharge, and he apparently never married. How or why he made his way back to British Columbia is unclear, nor is it clear what his occupation was on his return to civilian life, "laborer" may not tell the whole story. We obviously do not have access to his health records but one could safely imagine that his health issues must have continued into his civilian life.

The Vancouver, B.C. Voters list of 1935 shows Alfred Millard, pensioner, living at 640 West 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. with another person at the same address, occupation labourer. This Alfred Millard on the Voter's List appears to be our Alfred Millard.

#### B.C. Vital Events

Event Type:

Death

Registration Number:

1940-09-567431

BC Archives Mfilm Number:

B13167

GSU Mfilm Number:

1953627

Event Date (YYYY-MM-DD):

1940-01-05

Event Place:  
VANCOUVER  
Age at Death:  
67  
Person:  
ALFRED MILLARD

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26330862/alfred-millard>

Alfred Millard

Birth Unknown

Death: 5 Jan 1940

Burial: Forest Lawn Memorial Park

Vancouver, Greater Vancouver Regional District, British Columbia, Canada *[Add to Map](#)*

**Plot Horne 2\*/15/007/0005 (Veterans Field of Honour)**

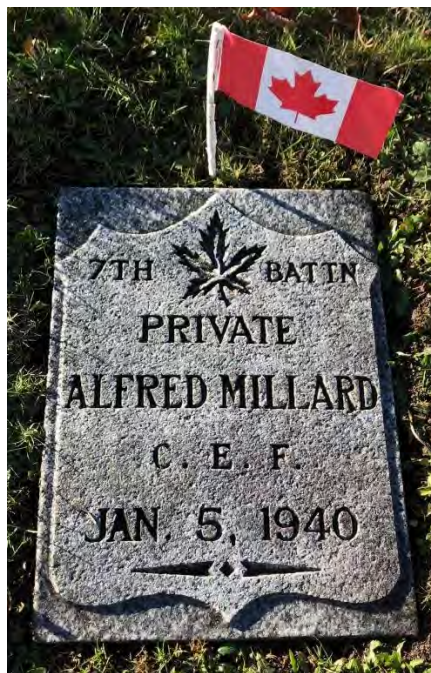


Photo Credit: Jeff A.E. Pope, posted on the Regiment Facebook Page

**Sources used for this article:**

Ancestry.ca

Canadian Expeditionary Force Service Records:

<https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B6168-S054>

Find a Grave

B.C. Vital Events: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26330862/alfred-millard>

Photo: Jeff A.E. Pope, posted on November 11, 2020 on the Regiment Facebook page

Article prepared by Don Manning

Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

November 14, 2020

## PRIVATE MICHAEL JAMES O'ROURKE, VC, DCM, MM

Birth: 19 March 1878, Limerick, County Limerick, Ireland

Death: 6 December 1957, Vancouver, B.C.

*"Next to Major W. Bishop the Most Decorated Man in Canada": Vancouver Daily World,*



Source: Find a Grave

Mickey O'Rourke must have been a real character, judging by the newspaper articles written about him over the years in Vancouver newspapers. Rather than interpreting them, I am including some of them in this article.

It is not clear when O'Rourke moved to Vancouver, but it is clear that he had previously served in the British Army with the 104<sup>th</sup> Royal Munster Fusiliers, as well as serving in The Enniskillen Dragoons, County Fermanagh Ireland in the Boer War, prior to coming to Canada.



Insignia of Royal Munster Fusiliers

O'Rourke had a sister and no other known family in Canada, was not married nor did he have had a family of his own. His civilian occupations included labourer as well as stevedore on Vancouver's waterfront, and he apparently lived his life with very little income with which to support himself.

### Enlistment in 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force



Patch of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion



Enlistment: 1 February 1915, Revelstoke, B.C., 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Westminster Fusiliers, subsequently Canadian Expeditionary Force 8 March 1915, 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Vancouver, B.C. He sailed for Britain on 22nd April 1915, with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Regimental Number, Canadian Expeditionary Force: 428545

Taken on Strength 28 June 1915, aged 36

Discharge: 16 July 1918, Vancouver, B.C., 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Garrison Regiment, Canadian Expeditionary Force

Reading through his CEF record is a humbling experience, it is a story of raw courage, which left him with wounds of all sorts.

### **Victoria Cross – August 15 – 17, 1917 – “Hill 70” Lens, Pas-de-Calais, France**



(example – Credit National War Museum)



Credit – National War Museum

The following Citation says it all:

Citation, from Military record:

“During prolonged operations. For three days and nights Pte. O’ Roarke, who is a stretcher bearer, worked unceasingly in bringing the wounded into safety, dressing them and getting them food and water.

During the whole of this period, the area in which he worked was subjected to very severe shelling, swept by heavy machine gun rifle fire. On several occasions, he was knocked down and partially buried by enemy shells. Seeing a comrade who had been blinded stumbling around ahead of our trench in full view of the enemy who were sniping him, Pte. O’Roarke jumped out of his trench, and brought the man back, being himself heavily sniped at while doing so. Again he went forward about 50 yards in front of our barrage under very heavy and accurate fire from enemy machine guns and snipers, and brought in a comrade. On a subsequent occasion, when the line of advanced posts was retired so the line to be consolidated, he went forward under very heavy enemy fire of every description and brought back a wounded man who had been left behind.

He showed throughout an absolute disregard for his own safety, going wherever there were wounded to succour, and his magnificent courage and devotion in continuing his rescue work, in spite of exhaustion and the incessant enemy fire of every description inspired all ranks and undoubtedly saved many lives.”

For this, he was granted 14 days leave on 26 November 1917, for medical reasons, and of course later the Victoria Cross.

He was gassed at the Third Battle of Ypres in October 1917

On 9 December 1917, he was transferred to The British Columbia Regiment for the purpose of obtaining leave to return to Canada and eventually medically discharged as unfit for service in 1918.

**Distinguished Conduct Medal** – 8<sup>th</sup> September 1916, Moquet Farm, Battle of the Somme

Awarded for leading his men over the parapet and taking their objective well in advance, bombing the enemy for three hours before running out of ammunition, following which he was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division Train, later fighting at Vimy Ridge in April 1917.



(Example)

**Military Medal** – The citation for this medal was not located in preparing this article.



(Example)



Canadian War Museum Portrait

### Civilian Life

The awarding of the Victoria Cross made Mickey O'Roarke a famous and well known character, however he evidently returned to a life of heavy labour and for a time stevedoring on Vancouver's waterfront, not all that far from the Beatty Street Drill Hall.

He worked as a lumberjack as well as a tunneler, working on the Connaught Tunnel on the CPR Mainline and later The B.C. Electric Company tunnel in Coquitlam, B.C.

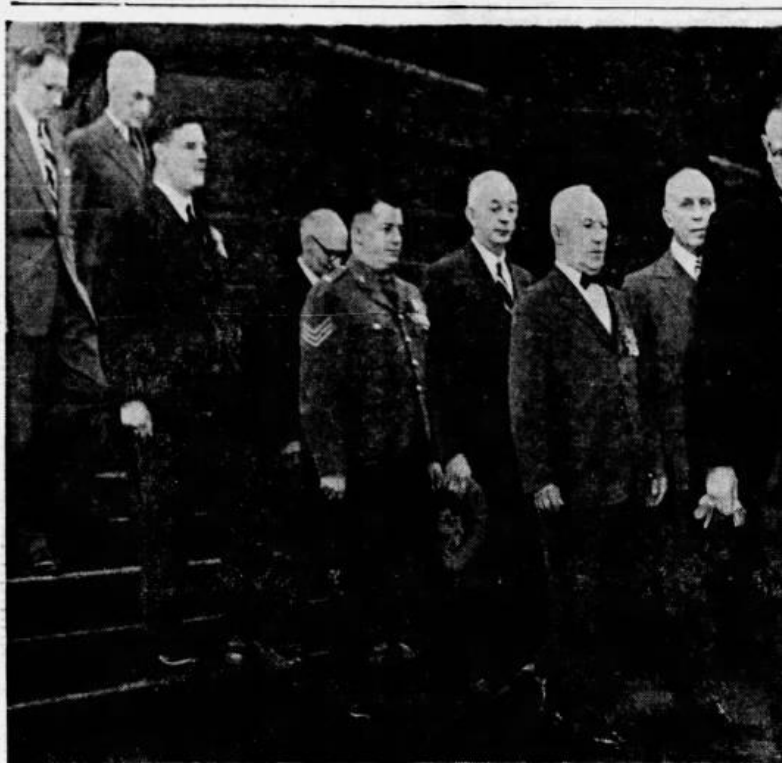
He was an organizer of the Ballantine Riot on Vancouver's waterfront, during the Great Depression.

He was invited in 1929, along with other VC members, to travel to London for a dinner event put on by the then Duke of Windsor, it is not clear whether he actually attended.

He was also invited to meet with royalty over the years, but declined the invitation until later in life, when a friend and a veteran of Vimy paid for his air fare.

### Death

Mickey O'Rourke died at his sister's home in Vancouver on December 7, 1957, aged 79. A Requiem Mass was held at Holy Rosary Cathedral on Dunsmuir Street. Attendees included Chief Justice Sherwood Lett, Major-General Victor Odlum CB CMG DSO, as well as an honour guard of living Victoria Cross recipients including Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Merritt VC, Robert Shankland VC, Harcus Strachan VC, Sergeants E.A. (Smokey) Smith VC, Robert Hanna VC, John Kerr VC, and Charles W. Train VC. The eighth member was Dr. Thomas Dalrymple.



**SEVEN VICTORIA CROSS WINNERS** were in honor guard at funeral of Michael James O'Rourke, Tuesday. Leaving Holy Rosary Cathedral are from left, Dr. Thomas Dalrymple, Lieut. Col. Harcus Strachan, V.C.; Lieut. Col. C. C. Merritt, V.C.; Sgt. Bob Hanna, V.C.; Sgt. E. A. Smith, V.C.; Sgt. Bob Kerr, V.C.; Lieut. Col. Robert Shankland, V.C. and Sgt. C. W. Train, V.C. (Photo by Don McLeod)

Source: Vancouver Province 10 December 1957

# O'ROURKE, VC, WAR HERO DIES

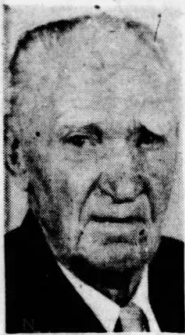
Michael James O'Rourke, VC, DCM, MM, 82, is dead.

The stormy petrel of Canadian war heroes passed away at the home of his sister, Mrs. Sadie King, 3410 Point Grey Road, at noon Friday.

"He was conscious to the last," said Mrs. King, "and fighting to stay alive until his nephew Danny King, my son, could be at his side."

**THE NEPHEW** is a CPA pilot at Whitehorse, Yukon and efforts are being made to have him returned to Vancouver for the funeral. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Center and Hanna.

Mickey had been failing for some time, but it was his last wish that he be allowed to die in his sister's home, not in hospital.



**MICKEY O'ROURKE**  
... hero dies

The fighting Irishman wanted to die looking down on the harbor and the docks, where, in the rip-roaring, two-fisted days that followed the First World War he was undisputed "King of the Waterfront."

"King" not because of his Victoria Cross, Distinguished Conduct Medal or his Military Medal, but because he was both tough and kindly, open-hearted and open-handed.

"HE GAVE AWAY 60 cents of every dollar he ever earned," wrote the late R. D. "Bob" Bouchette, well-known Vancouver newspaperman.

Dublin-born Mickey's exploits along the waterfront and in France were legend.

The war diary of the 7th Battalion, CEF, tells how in August, 1917, at Hill 70, he spent three days and nights in No Man's Land under heavy shell and sniper fire bringing in wounded companions.

A month later at Moquay Farm, the same laughing-eyed Irishman single-handedly wiped out a strongly defended German position with a rifle and hand grenades.

**THESE AND** other exploits made him one of Canada's most

**LADNER** — Christmas carols will be featured at the regular meeting of Delt. Central PTA at Delta Junior-Senior High School Wednesday at 8 p.m.

decorated soldiers, but he has never been known to tell anyone a single "war story."

In May, 1918, he was sent to Oregon to help sell Liberty Bonds. While in Portland word came through that Mickey had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry at Passchendaele, but he didn't tell anyone.

The frantic director of the selling campaign had to wire to Vancouver for facts of O'Rourke's record before he could be lionized before the American public.

**ALONG** the waterfront Mickey's exploits have nothing to do with his medals. They concern the depression dock strike when Mickey, a Union Jack in his hands, led a parade of strikers to the docks where a pitched battle with mounted police developed.

The flag in one hand and a brick in the other, Mickey met face to face with his old friend and fellow soldier, Col. W. W. Foster, chief of police. It was an embarrassing moment for both.

They like to remember too, the time back in 1929 when Mickey was invited to London to attend a banquet the Prince of Wales staged for all VCs.

**STEVEDORES** and veterans presented their friend with a fine new suit for the journey. Prior to the trip he disappeared and a frantic two-week search finally ran him to "sarah."

The suit was gone, but Mickey was unabashed. He made the trip, however, in a suit not quite so new.

Mickey hit the headlines again in October, 1954, when he flatly refused to meet Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip during their visit to Vancouver.

**FROM HIS MAIN** Street hotel room, where he lived on his disability pension of \$56 a month and his VC pension of £5 16 shillings (every three months) he said:

"They wouldn't want to meet an old blatherskate like me. Beside the seagab with all me clothes in it is being held at me last boarding house and I can't get it."

In June, 1956, when VC centennial celebrations were held in London, Mickey again refused to attend.

**BY THEN** he was the oldest living holder of the award (he was also the oldest, at 42, ever to win the great medal) and he was just "too tired" to make the long sea journey.

An anonymous friend, a Vancouver doctor who lost a leg at Dieppe, stepped in and paid Mickey's way to London and return by air.

**On his return**, fatigue showing in his laughing, grey eyes, the redoubtable hero of our waterfront said:

"I've met the Queen. I've met the Princess Royal and I've met Sir Anthony Eden. But not once did I get a glass of Canadian beer."

# HEROES, MAIN STREET PALS SAY FAREWELL TO 'MICKEY'

Generals, judges, aldermen and old pals observed last rites for Michael James "Mickey" O'Rourke, VC, in Holy Rosary Cathedral Tuesday.

It was a requiem mass unique in Vancouver's history, not only because the casket was flanked by seven winners of the Commonwealth's highest award, the Victoria Cross, but because it

was attended by people from every avenue of life.

**MAJ-GEN.** Victor Odlum was there as one of Mickey's former commanders. So was Brig. J. W. Bishop, B.C. Area commander, because Mickey was a soldier who not only won the Victoria Cross but the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal as well.

Alderman Anna Sprott and J. W. Cornett represented the city and Chief Justice Sherwood Lett represented Attorney-General Bonner. Ralph Campney, former minister of defence turned out, as did officials of veterans' organizations.

**BUT MOST** of the 200 mourners were Mickey's old pals from the 7th Battalion and the grey and grizzled dockworkers and homeless old-timers from Powell and Main streets who knew Mickey, in his days as a long-shoreman.

Active pallbearers for the 83-year-old hero, who died Friday, were six red-bereted members of the old 7th Battalion, CEF, the regiment that Mickey won his glory with in France.

**HONORARY** pallbearers included VC winners: Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Merritt, Robert Shankland and Marcus Strachan, Sergeants E. A. "Smokey" Smith, Robert Hanna, John Kerr and Charles W. Train. Eighth member of the honor guard was Dr. Thomas Dalrymple.

The casket, draped with a Union Jack, was topped with a large Maltese Cross made of poppies and a card bearing the words: "With sympathy from the Victoria Cross winners."

The requiem mass was celebrated by Msgr. J. E. Brown and absolution was read by Archbishop M. M. Johnson. Burial was in the Field of Honor at Forest Lawn.

# ERIC NICOL

## U.S. lags because its yeggs are all in private industry

This has proved to be a banner year for safe-cracksmen. Every day in the paper there's news of two or three safes blown. No wonder the Russians are ahead of us in the explosives field—all our best men are tied up in private industry.

The thieves are usually described as experts in the use of explosives. They make less noise with their soup than the average boarder.

Some people wonder how robbers manage to transport a heavy safe to their hide-away. The answer is simple. If the bank won't carry you, you soon find the strength to carry the bank.

The police appear to be powerless to stem the spate of safe-cracking. They are just sitting there with yegg on their faces. The law's only chance of catching the thieves is if they park their truck in a non-commercial zone.

But it's not really fair to blame the law-enforcement agencies for the outbreak of break-ins. The jails are doing their best to improve their prisoners. I heard of one fellow who was sent up to the pen, a second-storey man. While he was doing time he studied to better himself. He became interested in the higher things. They let him out. You guessed it—now he's a third-storey man.


## Writers feel the pinch first

Actually the current recession is to blame for most of the thievery. I read in the paper the other day about a reformed master criminal, one of those fellows who once stole a million dollars and now write books to show that crime doesn't pay. He'd found the books didn't pay either and had been picked up for stealing a \$2 article. We writers are the first to feel the pinch.

Accomplished though he is, the modern safe-cracksmen lacks the finesse of those artists of the past who disdained explosives, preferring to outwit the safe with inspired twiddling of its knob.

Source: Vancouver Sun 10 December 1957 page 7

Source: Vancouver Province  
7 December 1957


**O'ROURKE** — Passed away Dec. 6, 1957, Michael James O'Rourke, V.C., of 3410 Pt. Grey Road, in his 84th year. Survived by 1 sister, Mrs. Sadie King, Vancouver; 2 nephews, Capt. Danny King, Yukon Territory, and Capt. Nickie King, Australia. The deceased served with the Enniskillen Dragoons, Boer War, and the 7th Battalion, W.W.I. Requiem mass will be celebrated on Tuesday at 10 a.m. by Rev. J. W. Stewart in Holy Rosary Cathedral, Dunsmuir and Richards St. Interment Veterans' Field of Honor, Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Simmons & McBride, Broadway at Maple St., funeral directors, in charge.

Vancouver Province 7 December 1957

### Burial

Michael James O'Rourke, VC, DCM, MM is buried at The Veterans' Field of Honour at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Burnaby, B.C. He is listed as one of the most notable persons buried at Forest Lawn in Find a Grave.



Credit: Bill Mullen, Find a Grave

### Sources and References used in preparing this article:

Canadian Expeditionary Force Service Record , No.7484-52

Canadian War Museum, Hill 70: <https://www.hill70.ca/In-Memoriam/Canada-s-Victoria-Cross-Winners/O-Rourke.aspx>

The Comprehensive Guide to the Victoria Cross: <http://www.vconline.org.uk/michael-j-orourke-vc/4587806829>

Newspaper articles as noted in the article

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7768569/michael-james-o-rourke> and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192605988/michael-james-o-rourke> (Dublin, Ireland)

Victoria Cross.org.uk website: <http://www.victoriacross.org.uk/gqcanbrc.htm>

Prepared by Don Manning

Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

November 9 - 10, 2020

**JAMES DUFF – STUART, VD**  
**1886 - 1936**



Photo Credit: City of Vancouver Archives  
As a Major circa 1910

James Duff Stuart, Brigadier-General (Retired), Canadian Expeditionary Force, subsequently Honorary Colonel, The British Columbia Regiment, D.C.O.R. 1933 – 1936

Born 20 May 1866, Dufftown, Moray, Scotland

Died 7 June 1936, Vancouver, B.C.

Regimental Number: 483120

The following is adapted from “Changing Vancouver” City of Vancouver Archives: CVA Bu N283.1,

James Stuart arrived in Vancouver about 1889, appears in The City Directory in 1891 and became employed as a bookkeeper. In 1895 Harold Clarke and James Duff Stuart formed Clarke & Stuart Limited, a name those of us who have roots in Vancouver will recognize as a well known stationery business that was in business well into the 1970’s in Vancouver, B.C.



29 Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C.  
The original location of Clarke & Stuart  
From Changing Vancouver – Clarke & Stuart Limited.

Aside from his military career, Stuart and his business partner Harold Clarke would go on to develop the former Devonshire Hotel, (another well known Vancouver property), which now has been replaced by the HSBC Bank Building on West Georgia St. Stuart and Clarke also build their own printing plant and retail premises.

Stuart and his wife Mary lived at 1220 West Georgia Street, raising three daughters and four sons. One of his sons is known to have been killed in 1917 in France during WWI, in the service of the Royal Flying Corps, holding the rank of Captain at the time of his death. He is buried in Pas de Calais, France. He had originally enlisted as a member of The British Columbia Regiment (D.C.O.R.) Reference: Vancouver Sun 16 April 1917, pp 5.

### **Military Career**

Swift & Strong lists the following appointments on pp. 80:

Commanding Officer 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles. 1910 – 1913

Commander, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 1913 – 1916

District Officer Commanding, B.C. Military District, 1917 – 1920

Honorary Colonel, The British Columbia Regiment (DCOR), 1933 – 1936

Swift & Strong indicates as follows:

“Stuart enlisted in No. 5 Company, as a gunner, in 1894 and remained with the Regiment through its conversion to Rifles. Commissioned from the ranks in 1900, he was appointed CO of the DCOR's in 1910. During his time with the Regiment, Duff Stuart had seen it grow from a handful of gunners to 33 officers, 76 NCO's and 295 men – one of the strongest units in western Canada. As a CO, he was well known for his ability to organize innovative and challenging training for his men; on one occasion, Duff Stuart transported over 500 men from the DCOR's and the 72<sup>nd</sup> Regiment to Victoria, supported by local engineers, service corps, and field ambulance personnel. The force was landed by Naval transport at Cowichan Bay, marched overland, and assaulted the Ft. Rodd Hill Battery overlooking the western entrance to the Esquimalt harbour. Duff Stuart could march and shoot alongside the best of his men, which earned their respect. A crack shot, Duff Stuart was a member of the Canadian Bisley team three times, in 1903, 1907, and 1913.

In September 1913 Vancouver's militia regiments were officially made part of the same formation when the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade was organized. Duff Stuart was promoted to Brigadier - General and appointed as the brigade's first commander, a position he held until 1916. As commander of Vancouver's brigade, during the early part of the Great War, Duff Stuart was instrumental in organizing the recruiting the training of thousands of volunteers for overseas service, amongst them his only son – who was subsequently killed in action. In 1915, he received a secondary appointment as the commandant of Camp Vernon, where most of British Columbia's volunteers after 1915 would receive their initial training before heading overseas; in 1917, he was appointed District Officer Commanding all military units in British Columbia.”

James Duff Stuart enlisted as an officer in The Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on December 13, 1918 at Vancouver, B.C. He reported that he had served 38 years in The Canadian Militia, and at the time of enlistment was serving as a Colonel in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade. The Medical Officer deemed him to be unfit. He was demobilized 14 May 1919. At this point, he would have been 53 years old, having joined the Militia in circa 1880, (about 14 years of age).

Records in the City of Vancouver Archives have a record of James Duff-Stuart becoming Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment, subsequently becoming a General and a Brigadier General.

## Honorary appointment as Honorary Colonel, The British Columbia Regiment (D.C.O.R.) 1933 – 1936

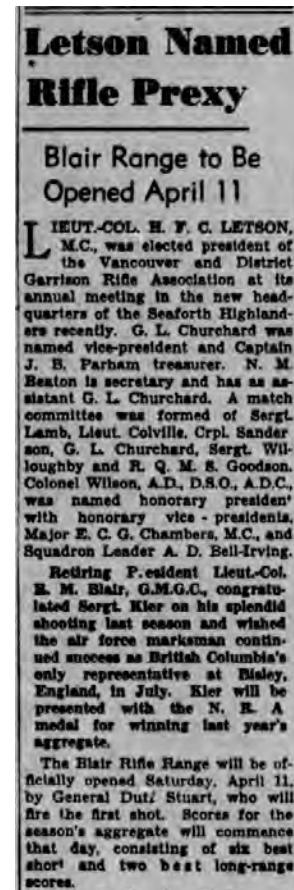
Stuart served as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment from 1933 until his death in June 1936.



James Duff Stuart, Honorary Colonel

### Blair Rifle Range

An article in The Vancouver Province 1 April 1936 records the opening of Blair Rifle Range. I thought it fitting to include it in this article, as Duff Stuart would pass shortly after:



### Death and Burial

Adapted from Swift & Strong, pp 80:

In June 1936, Duff Stuart was killed in his third year as Honorary Colonel while driving along the Sumas Highway, he lost control of his vehicle, and died at the scene.

Stuart received full military honours at his funeral, on 15 June 1936, held at St. Andrews Wesley United Church on Burrard Street in Vancouver. The procession was over two blocks long and included noted



dignitaries from the Military and the Province, as well as a pipe accompaniment provided by the Seaforth Highlanders. Pall and Honourary Pall bearers included Lieutenant- Colonel H.D. Letson M.C. V.D., Colonel H. D. Hulme V.C. , Brigadier D.J. MacDonald, Hon. John Hart, Squadron Leader A.D. Bell-Irving, Brig.Gen Victor Odium, Lieutenant Colonel R.D. Blair, V.C. G.C.C.M ,and many others.

James Duff Stuart is Buried at Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver, B.C., his plot coordinate is: MASONIC-\*-\*-171-0015. His Mary wife survived until 1956 and is buried beside him.



Headstone, Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver, B.C.

**References:**

- Swift & Strong, Leblanc, Maxwell, Snow, Deschenes, 2011, The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), pages 80, 337
- Article on Funeral: The Vancouver News – Herald, 15 June, 1936, page 12
- Changing Vancouver – City of Vancouver Archives
- Article Vancouver News – Herald, June 15, 1933, pp. 6
- City of Vancouver Archives
- CEF Officers Declaration Paper: B9325 S012

Prepared by: Don Manning,  
Member, The British Columbia Regiment Museum Society (D.C.O.)  
October 29, 2020

## **COLONEL HENRY SEYMOUR TOBIN, DSO, OBE, VD**



Photo Credit Matthew K. Barrett

*“Colonel Tobin bore testimony to his appreciation of what all those connected with the 29th had done. They had, he said, received splendid support in looking after the sick and wounded and the prisoners of war, and I know he was looking carefully—being a lawyer—after the money that has been so generously sent out to.*

*(Rev. C. O. Owen, 29th Bn., The Gold Stripe, 1919, 65)” – Referenced in Matthew K. Barrett “the lawyer” .”*

Birth: 12 January 1877, Ottawa Ontario

Death: 8 August, 1956, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, B.C.

Burial: The Abbey, Ocean View Burial Park, Burnaby, B.C., 11 August 1956

### **Introduction**

This is an article about Tobin the man, the man who raised the 29<sup>th</sup> (Vancouver) Battalion, CEF, planned and supervised the organization of the Battalion, and took them to the U.K. He did not have the opportunity to lead his men throughout The Great War, as he was returned to the U.K. to train recruits for a time, but he did have the honour of bringing them home after the conflict was ended. The 29<sup>th</sup> have many distinguished Battle Honours, including Vimy and The Somme, and are today remembered as part of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Regimental Family. The lineage of the 29<sup>th</sup> was perpetuated in 1920 as The British Columbia Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, and in 1936 to the Irish Fusiliers of Canada. There was an active veteran's association, the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association, for many years following the end of the conflict, and as you will read below, they were part of Tobin's Funeral procession.

So, on to the career of Tobin, the man.

### **Royal Military College**

Tobin is said to have been a graduate of the RMC Class of 1897. An image of the Class is linked below in the Sources section of this article, unfortunately the graduates are not named.

### **Yukon Survey 1897-1898**

As a recent recruit from RMC, Tobin became a member of the first overland survey (The Moodie Expedition) to determine a proposed route from Edmonton, then in North West Territory, to Dawson City, Yukon, September 1897, an expedition that took 14 months of overland travel. There is an interesting article about this expedition here: <https://www.yukon-news.com/letters-opinions/the-overland-trail-from-edmonton-to-the-klondike/>

### **Royal North West Mounted Police**

A member of the Royal North West Mounted Police, starting with the Moodie expedition in September 1897 dispatched to the Yukon.

### **Career in Law**

During this period, Tobin would leave the North West Mounted Police and become a member of the Yukon Bar and would in subsequent years would become a member of the Bar in the Provinces of Alberta, and British Columbia. He was known to have served as a director of a gold dredging company in the Yukon.

### **Boer War**

Tobin served as a Lieutenant in Strathcona's Horse, later Lord Strathcona's Horse, during the Boer War. Unfortunately, his service records are quite limited in scope on Library Canada's website, however, he applied for a Dominion Land Grant as a result of his service, but particulars are not available for viewing.

Strathcona's Horse website records that this unit served in South Africa from 1900 – 1901 fighting as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mounted Brigade and the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Brigade, II Division.



Credit: Lord Strathcona's Horse Website

Decoration Awarded: VD, The Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officer's Decoration:



Credit: Wikipedia

### Post Boer War

Tobin returned to the practice of law following his return to the Yukon from South Africa, a letter from him to Ottawa dated July 28, 1902 is in his Boer War Service file requesting his clasps following his return from South Africa, the letterhead is that of White, McCaul & Davies, Barristers & Solicitors, Dawson City, Yukon.

Tobin moved to Vancouver in 1910 and appears on the 1911 Census, living at 626 Granville Street in Vancouver, B.C. as a lodger, reporting his occupation as Attorney. Once Tobin returned from his military service in The Great War, his life would change as he became a successful lawyer specializing in corporate financing and also a businessman. He went on to live for many years on the 1300 block of Matthews Street, in the "Old Shaughnessy" neighborhood in Vancouver, and would become very well connected with many of the luminaries of Vancouver business life moving forward.

### 29<sup>th</sup> (Vancouver) Battalion, CEF - "Tobin's Tigers"



Tobin would return to the military in 1914, his Regimental Number is not clear but his address is listed as Abbott, McRae and Company, 510 West Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C. (Standard Bank Building). While a Major in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, he raised the Battalion and prepared it for the journey to the U.K. and engagement at the Western Front, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.



Credit: Google Images

The following extract is from an article published in the Vancouver Daily World showing the original officer complement of the 29<sup>th</sup>:

Despite all rumors to the contrary, the 29th Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel H. S. Tobin commanding, is still at Hastings Park, and so far as official statements can be gauged, the battalion is likely to be there for some time yet. Rumors of their departure are persistent, and every man in the battalion thinks that it will be on the way before another month comes in at the latest. The organization of the battalion was completed some time ago, and the list of officers and men is now published by The World for the benefit of relatives and friends who wish to preserve a copy, for the first time.

The battalion concentrated at Hastings Park on November 2, 1914. The battalion, when the time comes, will be brigaded with the 27th Battalion of Winnipeg and the 31st of Calgary, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel H. D. B. Ketchen, brigadier of the Sixth Brigade.

#### OFFICERS

Tobin, Henry Seymour, Lieutenant-Colonel, officer commanding.  
Tait, John Spottiswood, Major.  
Sclater, James, Major.  
Ross, John Munro, Major, Adjutant.  
McGregor, Duncan Campbell, Quartermaster, Captain.  
McDiarmid, Colin Andrew, Medical Officer, Captain.  
Morrison, Wm. Geekie, Paymaster, Captain.  
King, Chas. Ernest, Transport Officer, Captain.  
McKnight, Robt. C., Signal Officer, Lieutenant.  
Taylor, Thos. Alex. Hatch, Machine Gun, Lieutenant.  
MacGowan, Roy, "A" Co., Captain.  
Rose, Frederick Arnold, "A" Co., Lieutenant.  
Walker, Jas. C. E., "A" Co., Lieutenant.  
Bell-Irving, Richard, "B" Co., Captain.  
Sanster, Harry Walker, "B" Co., Lieutenant.  
Stewart, Athol, "B" Co., Lieutenant.  
Rolston, John Mitchell, "C" Co., Captain.  
O'Brian, Nigel Evans, "C" Co., Lieutenant.  
Goodfellow, Wm. Don B., "C" Co., Lieutenant.  
Biggs, Hesketh, St. John, "C" Co., Lieutenant.  
Caskey, Thos. Edward, "D" Co., Captain.  
Hunter, Wm. Bruce, "D" Co., Lieutenant.  
Wilmot, Lemeul Allan, "D" Co., Lieutenant.  
Latta, Wm. Smith, "E" Co., Captain.  
Munro, David Harry Carmichael, "E" Co., Lieutenant.  
Fosham, John Gurney, "E" Co., Lieutenant.  
Taylor, Kenneth, C. C., "F" Co., Captain.  
Crosvenor, Hon. Francis E., "F" Co., Lieutenant.  
Montzambert, Harold St. J., "F" Co., Lieutenant.  
Smith, Percy Hustis, "G" Co., Captain.  
Wolfe-Merton, Basil George, "G" Co., Lieutenant.  
Pooley, Charles Richard, "G" Co., Lieutenant.  
Woods, Sir Chas. P. (Bart), "H" Co., Captain.

Credit: Vancouver Daily World 13 March 1915

Image of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion



Credit: Vancouver Archives

*Tobin was Mentioned in Dispatches*

**Decoration Awarded:**

Distinguished Service Order (DSO) awarded for his “great gallantry and devotion to duty in operations near Cambrai on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1918”.



Credit: Veterans.gc.ca

Tobin’s CEF record shows a very active character, listing extensive details of his military service postings, including wounds suffered along the way.

His CEF military record records his rank as Lieutenant-Colonel.

**Post war Military Roles**

He would serve as Commanding Officer of the Vancouver Regiment from 1920 – 1924, as well as Commander of the 23rd Infantry Brigade, 1925 – 1927. (Source Swift & Strong)

**Return to Civilian Life following The Great War**

Tobin would return to Vancouver and remain there to practice law with the firm of Tobin, Tarr & Ross and become more involved with business activities, including the following, taken from the Vancouver Province article of 8 August 1956: Vancouver Breweries Ltd. and later President of Western Canada Breweries Ltd. and Vice President and Director of a number of other companies.

**Honorary Appointments**

Tobin served in a number of appointments as Honorary Aide-de-Camp to The Governor-General over the years, including Lord Willingdon, Lord Tweedsmuir and the Earl of Athlone.

**WWII Contribution**

Tobin was known to be a man who strongly encouraged businesses to get behind the War Effort:

“Everyone must realize that we’ve got to pay for the war as well as fight for it... I’m all in favor of excess war profits, taxes and conscription of capital. If Canada’s lives are going to be sacrificed, her capital should be sacrificed, too.”

At the outbreak of hostilities, Tobin was Vice Chairman of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, becoming its President in 1941. By 1946 he would become CMA president. During this time, munitions manufacture became an important industry in B.C. and he found himself in an important role liaising with Ottawa and the war plants.

He would go on to establish West Coast Industries Ltd. as a Crown corporation and coordinated the work of some 85 shops to produce tools for the manufacture of shells.

## Death and Burial

There are a number of accounts of his passing in the Vancouver Newspapers as well as his obituary, some of which are reproduced below:

### Col. Henry S. Tobin, industrialist, dies

Famed leader of 'Tobin's Tigers' had colorful military career

Col. Henry Seymour Tobin, DSO, OBE, VD, one of B.C.'s most prominent men in military, industrial and legal affairs, died today in General Hospital.



COL. H. S. TOBIN  
... died today

### Funerals

#### Thomas Drury

Thomas Drury, 74, of 3405 Rupert, a prominent lawn bowler for more than 35 years, was buried today. He died Monday.

Born in Keithley, Yorkshire, Eng., he went to Montreal in 1911. He was tailor inspector for the CPR until coming to Vancouver five years later.

He opened a tailoring business in 1920 in North Vancouver and was there 13 years before returning to Vancouver. He retired in 1946.

He was an original member of North Shore Lawn Bowling Club and a member of Stanley Park and Grandview clubs and Central Park Lawn Bowling Association.

He was on a Canadian lawn bowling team that toured Britain in 1962.

Mr. Drury is survived by three daughters: Mrs. Norman Laboyne, Mrs. Winnie Kellas, North Vancouver, and Mrs. Raymond, Vancouver; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Service was in Harold Edwards Chapel, Rev. Frank Patterson officiating. Cremation followed.

#### Mrs. Alice Jordan

Memorial service was held at the Salvation Army Mount Pleasant Citadel for Mrs. Alice Jordan, 76, of 56 East Fifth, who died July 26 in England while on holiday.

She was a member of the Salvation Army for 50 years and a local officer in the Home

Col. Tobin, 1251 Matthews, has a brilliant business career but was probably best known for his name sake, "Tobin's Tigers," the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion CEF.

FORMER PRESIDENT of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and B.C. section of CMA, he was president of Vancouver Breweries and director of Marine Industries Ltd. and many other Vancouver firms.

Under his First World War command, the 29th Battalion marked up impressive records at the battles of St. Eloi, Sanctuary Wood, Somme, Vimy Ridge, Fresnoy, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens and Mons. Col. Tobin was decorated for action at Cambrai.

He was born in Ottawa. After graduating from Ottawa College and Royal Military College at Kingston, Ont., he served in the Boer War with Lord Strathcona's Horse.

COL. TOBIN first settled in Dawson, Y.T., where he started a law practice and became a director of the first gold dredging company in the Yukon. He was also a member of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police for a short time.

He came to Vancouver in 1910, practicing law with special emphasis on corporate financing until 1914. Following the war he resumed his law and business activities in Vancouver, becoming senior partner in the firm of Tobin, Tarr & Ross.

By 1939 he was president of Vancouver Breweries and vice-president or director of several other concerns. He served as a vice-chairman of the B.C. division of CMA in 1939 and 1940 and was named its president in 1941. He held that post for three years and was named president of the Canadian CMA in 1946.

HIS TERM as B.C. division president coincided with the period of Vancouver's growth as a munition centre and he was an important link between Ottawa and west coast war plants.

During the Second World War Col. Tobin established West Coast Industries Ltd. as a crown company, and co-ordinated the work of its shops to produce tools for shell manufacture.

He was a member of the Vancouver Club, Capilano Golf and Country Club and Shaughnessy Heights Golf Club here, the Union Club in Victoria and United Services Club of Montreal.

COL. TOBIN served as honorary aide-de-camp to Lord Willington, Lord Tweedmuir and Earl of Athlone during their terms as governor-general.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; a sister, Mrs. Herbert Robertson; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Frank Hebb, and a daughter, Mrs. Stuart Ross, all of Vancouver.

## Col. Tobin Of 'Tigers' Dies at 79

The leader of Tobin's Tiger's is dead.

Col. Henry Seymour Tobin, 79, DSO, OBE, VD, died today in Vancouver General Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

In the late 1890s he was one of a party of five men who surveyed the first all-Canadian overland route from Edmonton to Dawson. It was a forerunner of the Alcan Highway.

For a time he served with the mounted police in the Yukon, then studied, became a lawyer.

He served as a lieutenant in Lord Strathcona's Horse in the Boer war.

Col. Tobin organized and commanded the 29th (Vancouver) Battalion in the First World War. It became known as Tobin's Tigers.

Major business positions he held were as president, general manager and director of Vancouver Breweries Ltd., and president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

Surviving are his widow, Margaret, 1251 Matthews, Vancouver; two sisters, Mrs. Herbert Robertson, Vancouver, Mrs. Stuart Ross, West Vancouver, and a stepdaughter, Mrs. Frank Hebb.

Vancouver Sun, 8 August 1956

TOBIN—On Aug. 18, 1956, at the Vancouver General Hospital, after a long illness, Colonel Henry Seymour Tobin, D.S.O., O.B.E., V.D., aged 79 years. Survived by his wife Margaret; 2 sisters, Mrs. Herbert Robertson and Mrs. Stuart Ross; 1 stepdaughter, Mrs. Frank Hebb. Military funeral with High Mass will take place at the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Richards and Dunsmuir St., at 10 a.m., on Saturday, Aug. 11th, Monseigneur T. M. Nicholl celebrant. Escort will be provided by the 29th Battalion Association (Tobin's Tigers). The bearer and firing parties will be provided by the 65th L.A.A. Regiment Irish Fusiliers, officer in charge, Major J. A. Chambers, to Ocean View Burial Park for entombment in the Abbey, Center & Hanna in charge.

Credit: Vancouver Sun 10 August 1956

Vancouver Province, 8 August 1956

Lieutenant – Colonel Tobin is entombed at The Abbey at Ocean View Burial Park as is his wife.

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Prepared by:

Don Manning

Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

## **CLARENCE WALLACE, CBE, OD**



Source: Business Laureates of British Columbia

This article is a brief chronicle of the life of an important figure in the history of British Columbia, including reference to his military service as well as his connection to The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own).

**Date of Birth:** June 22, 1894 at Vancouver, British Columbia

**Death:** November 12, 1982, at Palm Desert, Riverside, California, United States

**Regimental Number:** 13301

**Enlisted in Canadian Expeditionary Force:** 23 September 1914

### **Family**

Clarence Wallace's parents were Alfred Wallace and Eliza Eugenie Underhill.

His siblings were William Edmond and Hubert Alfred Wallace.

Hubert served with The 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion (Western Canadian Cavalry) CEF and in the Royal Flying Corps in WWI and returned to join the family business after his military service.

Clarence married Charlotte Hazel Shaw on 12 September 1916, at Vancouver, B.C. They went on to have four sons, each of their sons sacrificed and served in the military during WWII:

#### *Clarence Alfred Blake Wallace*

Would become a Flying Officer in the RCAF 401 Squadron, killed on October 27, 1941, commemorated at Runnymede, U.K. and on page 47 of the WWII Book of Remembrance at the Peace Tower in Ottawa. He is also commemorated on a memorial plaque located at the former Jericho Beach Base, Vancouver, B.C.

#### *Phillip Wallace*

Would also become a Flying Officer in the RCAF, was shot down in his Spitfire in the area of Caen during Operation Neptune/Overlord, and managed to evade capture for several weeks until front lines advanced to his location. He returned to Vancouver on November 1, 1944 according to an article in the Vancouver Sun dated November 4, 1944.

#### *Richard Wallace*

Became a Pilot Officer in the RCAF, was shot down in action and became a Prisoner of War for the remainder of the war.

#### *David Wallace*

Became an RCAF Sergeant Instructor at the Lethbridge Base of the Commonwealth Air Training Program.  
Family Tree Source: Wikitree

### **Military Service, Canadian Expeditionary Force**

The United Kingdom declared war against Imperial Germany on August 4, 1914, bringing Canada along with it. Clarence Wallace enlisted very early, on 23 September 1914, at Vancouver, B.C. Prior to enlisting, he reported that he had previously served three years with the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada, based in Toronto, Ontario.

He was one of the second contingent of soldiers to leave Vancouver, B.C. for Valcartier, Quebec, by train, on 26 September, 1914, according to the Vancouver Sun of that date. He was attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Western Cavalry) CEF. He reported at enlistment that his occupation was as a machinist.

His Military record indicates that he sailed for Europe on 4 October 1914, attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, under the leadership of the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment, B.C. Horse Overseas Contingent.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Western Cavalry) - Canadian Expeditionary Force**

The 5th Battalion (Western Canadian Cavalry) CEF was authorized on 10 August 1914 and embarked for Great Britain on 29 September 1914. It entered the theatre of operations in France on 14 February 1915,



where it fought as part of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, [1st Canadian Division](#) in France and Flanders until the end of the war. The battalion was disbanded on 15 September 1920. (Source Wikipedia).

It's first action occurred at Ypres in 1915, Private Wallace's Medical record reports that he was treated as a casualty from 1 January 1915 to 30 January 1915, in May 1915 he was hospitalized for a gunshot wound to the hand and another to his arm and that he believed he might have been gassed. He was treated for sepsis, and was subsequently discharged on 31 July, 1916, returned to Canada and sent home. He was discharged at Vancouver, B.C. on 5 June 1916 as medically unfit as a result of active service.

His obituary article states that he was captured twice and was able to return to his unit during his Military service.

His military record shows no medals, however it is known that he received the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and The Victory Medal as a result of his service. A representation of these medals is shown below:



Known as "Pip", "Squeek" and "Wilfred"  
Credit to greatwar.co.uk

These medals appear on his Regimental Dress tunic, however are less clear on his Lieutenant Governor's tunic.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Western Cavalry) CEF is perpetuated today under the North Saskatchewan Regiment.

### **Return to Civilian Life in 1916**

Newspaper accounts of the day indicate that Clarence joined the family business on his return from service, then known as Wallace Shipyards, as a director, his father Alfred Wallace was at that time Managing Director (Vancouver Daily World, 19 December 1916, page 16).

Wallace Shipyards and its successor companies were, over the years it was in business, constructors of naval vessels for the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Navy. The Company also produced merchant vessels and munitions for the war efforts of WWI, WWII, ferries for the Province and other commercial vessels as well as pleasure craft. According to an article in the Vancouver Province, 10 October 1921, Clarence was involved in a successful bid to obtain Federal funding to construct a floating dry dock to facilitate repairs of vessels.

On the death of his father Alfred Wallace in 1929, he ascended to the role of President of Burrard Shipyard Company.

Newspaper accounts from the 1920's and 1930's show Clarence to be a serious and competent competitor with The Vancouver Polo Club, winning domestic as well as American competitions. The names of fellow competitors show his business connections were strong, including Eric Hamber, who like him went on to become a Lieutenant Governor of the Province, Austin Taylor, a financier of Corporations like British Columbia Forest Products Ltd., and Colonel J.P. Fell, who served as an Engineer in WWI and was responsible for laying out much of North Vancouver, and including numerous military officers of the day. The J.P. Fell Armoury, in North Vancouver, B.C., is named after Colonel J.P. Fell.

Wallace was an avid yachtsman, the website Nauticapedia.ca shows him as the owner of MV Fifer from 1962 - 1981, one of the most impressive pre war yachts ever to sail in B.C. waters, and, at various times, he owned other classic yachts such as MV "Walithy" for shorter periods, but it is unclear whether they were for business or personal use. Many of these vessels were constructed at Burrard Shipyards.

Wallace was also the owner of Minnekhada Farm, the site of a number of BCR (DCO) events during his tenure as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

## World War II

By 1939 Wallace had remained at Burrard Shipyards/Burrard Drydock Ltd. following his military discharge in 1916, and under his leadership during WWII, the Company was an important military supplier, producing a significant number of cargo vessels on Military contracts. In 1929, he became the Company's President.

Wallace was very active in the Navy League Seaman's Club in Vancouver, B.C. during WWII.

At war's end, he personally financed the refurbishment of the living quarters and constructed a swimming pool for St. Christopher's School in North Vancouver, for mentally challenged youth.

In May 1945, the Company announced completion of "Rupert Park", its 100<sup>th</sup> cargo vessel produced under the wartime construction program.

In February 1946, Wallace was appointed as a Commander of The Order of The British Empire (Civilian Honours) by King George VI.

The following article from The Vancouver Province dated February 8, 1946 provides an overview of his career to that time:

**LUNCHEON HONORS CLARENCE WALLACE**

Tribute to the war service rendered by Clarence Wallace as head of Burrard Dry Dock Company and in other capacities was paid at a luncheon Thursday at which J. Fyfe Smith and Norman Sowers were joint hosts.

In offering the tribute, Mr. Fyfe Smith said Mr. Wallace, a native son of Vancouver, had taken over the presidency of the company in 1929 on the death of his father, its founder.

During the war the company had built 90 cargo vessels of 10,000 tons each, eight 10,000-ton victualling ships, 11 10,000-ton maintenance ships, 10 mine-sweepers and corvettes, one ammunition lighter and two 1250-ton coasters, and had converted 19 aircraft carriers for the British admiralty.

Personnel at the war peak had risen to 14,500 men.

In addition, 750 ships were repaired by the company or converted, including such large jobs as H.M.C.S. Prince Robert.

**INTERNATIONAL FIGURE**

Courage, enterprise and vision had stamped all Mr. Wallace's efforts, said Mr. Fyfe Smith, and had made him, not merely a national, but an international figure in the war effort of the Allied Nations.

In addition to his heavy business responsibilities, Mr. Wallace had given inspiring leadership to the Navy League, had directed its successful campaign for funds, and had given fine service to the R.C.A.F. Benevolent Fund.

Now, he added, Mr. Wallace had gone down to Montreal and landed a shipbuilding contract for the French Government representing \$15,000,000.

**B.C. RECORD RECALLED**

Seconding Mr. Fyfe Smith's remarks, Austin C. Taylor, who was in charge of shipbuilding on this coast for the government corporation directing it, said British Columbia had produced 70 per cent of all the ship tonnage built in Canada. He paid tribute to the courage and efficiency with which Mr. Wallace had tackled every job.

Mr. Wallace spoke briefly in reply, giving credit for the achievements of the shipyards to W. J. Wasie, general manager, and the foremen, most of them the men trained by his father in the early days of the company.

He also paid tribute to the forceful direction and organizing powers of H. R. MacMillan and Mr. Taylor as president and vice-president of the government shipbuilding corporation.



**CLARENCE WALLACE**

**Storm-lashed Ships Arrive**

HALIFAX, Feb. 8.—(CP)—With its feet of water in one of her forward holds and at least 75 per cent of the port cargo of meat and other food supplies in a damaged condition, the United States passenger-freighter Santa Marta limped into this port on Thursday.

The Santa Marta was one of three ships which have sheltered in Halifax harbor from the present storms.

Crew members said the gale which hit them last Saturday was the worst they experienced in many years.

**OTHER SHIPS DAMAGED**

Also arriving in port was the Shakespeare Park, which developed boiler trouble while battling heavy seas on her voyage from Newfoundland to the West Indies.

The Lasalle Park, which January 20 reported severe weather conditions were playing havoc with her steering gear, also arrived here under her own power.

Meanwhile, SS Empire Abbey, which previously sent out distress messages, now is in tow of the Halifax tug Foundation Franklin, and is expected this week-end.

**Ottawa Still Giving**

**Navy League Picks Officers**

Greater Vancouver branch of the Navy League of Canada has elected R. J. Kenmuir chairman for 1946, succeeding K. J. Burns, who served for three successive years.

As a tribute to Mr. Burns' unstinted service, his colleagues on the board presented him with a set of gold cuff links.

Other officers for 1946 are: E. F. (Jack) Cribb, vice-president; Capt. W. Rankin, honorary treasurer and chairman of the finance committee; Ray J. Bickel, chairman of Sea Cadets; L. M. Dryden, books and magazines; P. B. Cooke, relief; Ronald Kenyon, publicity; and W. H. S. Dixon, managing secretary.

**Fast New C.P.R. Freighter Ready**

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The most advanced fast freight facilities of the Canadian Pacific's 10,000-ton turbo-electric cargo liner Beaver-dell soon will be added to the North Atlantic freight service.

Now being completed on Glasgow's famous Clyde-side, the new freighter is scheduled to sail on her maiden voyage from Liverpool to St. John, N.B., on February 28.

Wallace served as a director of many Canadian Companies during his business career, including The Bank of Montreal, B.C. Electric Company, B.C. Telephone Company and many others. To say that he was well connected in the business community would be an understatement.

### Post War Business

In April 1946, Wallace would go on to negotiate the purchase of the Yarrow's shipyards in Victoria Harbour/Esquimalt, making his Company the largest shipbuilder on Canada's west coast. In 1951, the Company acquired Pacific Drydock in North Vancouver, B.C.

A noteworthy postwar vessel constructed by the Company was the launch of the then top secret HMCS Skeena on 19 August 1952, during which time WWII veteran naval ship HMS Sheffield was in port, along with important NATO personnel, the launch being presided over by Mrs. Wallace.

The Company would continue operating as a publicly traded company until March 1972, when it was purchased outright by Cornat Industries, bringing to an end the connection between the Wallace family and the Company. At the time, Wallace was 78 years of age.

## Shipbuilding Wallaces are clearing the deck

Clarence Wallace said he was so used to coming to his office at Burrard Dry Dock, it was a wrench to realize it all had come to an end.

This was the immediate response of the former lieutenant-governor of British Columbia who, at age 78, is getting ready to clean out his presidential desk and turn the family company over to Cornat Industries Ltd., a company run by Peter Paul Saunders, who once built up and then had to give up Lauretide Financial.

"The decision was reached," Wallace said, "with very mixed feelings, both for my brother Hubert and for myself."

Under the arrangements with Cornat, the Wallace family, although, as Clarence Wallace said, "there are many sons and grandsons," will vanish from the operations of Burrard Drydock.

"I doubt if any of the Wallaces will continue on," he said. But he was glad that J. W. (Bill) Hudson would continue on with the company.

"The new company will be taking over a wonderful staff," Wallace said, and he included Ted Jones in Vancouver and W. Maddock in Victoria, Yarrow there.

Wallace was in a reminiscent mood, as he looked back on the long history of the company.

"We were in shipbuilding at the turn of the century," he said. "In our False Creek yard we built the St. George ferry."

**Tanker fleet changes hands**

LONDON (Reuter)—Marine Transport Lines Inc. of the United States has purchased the tanker fleet of the Blandford Shipping Co. for more than \$104 million.

The fleet consists of five British-flag ocean-going tankers totalling more than 1,000,000 tons deadweight, plus a sixth ship now under construction. The crews, officers and office staff of Blandford will be retained.

had risen to purchasing agent of the company. Between the wars, the business of the shipbuilding company was up and down, but with the beginning of the Second World War, it was back in business in a big way again, producing 8,400-ton vessels for the war transport effort.

The Bank of British Columbia, which was in on the financing of the takeover, regarded its role as strictly business. Last year it had offered capital in a situation that might have resulted in a takeover by American interests of Johnston Terminals, to keep ownership in Canadian hands. There was no such factor operating in the Burrard situation.

"We treated the proposition as a good financial deal, a good package," said Victor Dobb, vice president and general manager. "It was a good loan and that's as far as it goes, so far as the bank is concerned."

William E. Donnelly, executive vice president of Cornat, said his company regarded the move as an investment, not as a takeover.


The Wallace family owns 575,000 of the million shares of Burrard Drydock, for which they will get \$10 a share. The share price was \$9 before the announcement. The deal becomes final May 1, or such later date as it may elect, but Cornat is bound to the deal if 95 per cent of the shares have been tendered.

Donnelly said a special board meeting at which new directors representing Cornat will join Burrard will be held, but no extraordinary meeting of shareholders is likely.

**B.C. housing gets financing**

OTTAWA (CP)—Loans totalling \$1,089,872 under the federal government's assisted home ownership program have been approved for construction of 72 housing units in four British Columbia communities.

The loans are for construction in Quesnel, Fort St. John, Vanderhoof and Prince George.



**CLARENCE WALLACE**

"The company's first government contract was for the Kestrel, a fisheries protective cruiser. It had Maxim machine guns mounted on the foredeck and a five-pounder as well.

"I signed on as a cabin boy one summer. That was when Captain Newcome was skipper. We actually had cutlass drill on the main deck. Captain Newcome wore the kind of officer's cap that was pointed fore and aft, like a deerstalker with braid."

The company prior to the First World War, got into shipbuilding on Burrard Inlet. It built tugboats.

"When we moved to North Vancouver about 1908, we had a contract to build six five-masted bald-eagle schooners," Wallace said. "These were made of wood in our No. 2 yard."

Not long thereafter, Burrard Drydock got its first "war" contract, to build a vessel of 4,300 tons for the Japanese. This was a cargo vessel. Before it was completed, the Japanese yielded it to the Canadian government, and it became the first of a number of wartime vessels variously called the War Dogs and the War Powers.

"This led to the 5,300-ton Volunteers and Troopers. We finally got into building 8,100-ton ships for the government, some of them at Prince Rupert."

After the first war, Wallace

Vancouver Province

## Appointment as Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and Order of the Dogwood

Clarence Wallace served as Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia from 1950 to 1955. He was the first B.C. born person to hold that office.

In 1952, a Provincial election took place in British Columbia, which produced an inconclusive result. As Lieutenant Governor, Wallace asked W.A.C. Bennett of the Social Credit Party to form a government. Subsequently, in 1953, the Bennett government lost a non confidence vote, and rather than inviting the opposition CCF Party to form a government, he chose to make the constitutionally difficult decision to allow an election. Mr. Bennett was re-elected and would go on to occupy the Premier's office until his defeat in the 1972 Provincial election.

There is a very personal and compelling article on Clarence "Clary" Wallace in the Vancouver News Herald of 7 February 1953 by G.E. Mortimore of the Victoria Sunday Colonist, which is too large to reproduce here but which I recommend as reading for anyone interested in the life of this man during his tenure as Lieutenant Governor, which includes interesting perspective on his background.



Source: Government of British Columbia

Another reference to Wallace is an editorial from the Vancouver Sun, at the end of his service as Lieutenant Governor:



Source: Vancouver Sun, 3 September 1955 page 4

It is evident from media articles of the time that he was considered for the post of Governor General of Canada, to succeed Vincent Massey, however we know today that Georges Philias Vanier was the person selected.

Wallace was subsequently accepted into the Order of the Dogwood as a result of his service as Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, one of 13 awarded for outstanding public service from 1966 to 1989.



Order of the Dogwood

He would return to the helm of Burrard Drydock, Company, Ltd. until its sale to Cornat Industries Inc. in 1972.

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

The Honorary Colonel Clarence Wallace, CBE, CD appears on page 336 - 337 of Swift and Strong in the gallery of Honorary Appointments by the Regiment, in his dress uniform. He was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in 1946 and Honorary Colonel in 1948.

He served as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and following that, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment from 1948 to 1963. I have learned in the course of preparing this article that he was very supportive of the Regiment during his tenure, and held many gatherings at his own expense for members of the Regiment over the years at Minnekhada Farm. There are indications from the media of the day that the same can be said for his tenure as Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. For many years, Wallace held annual picnics at Minnekhada Farm for the Sergeants of the Regiment.

I have also learned that Wallace was appointed as an Honorary Sergeant of the Sergeants' Mess at the Regiment's Drill Hall, on Beatty Street.



Source: Swift & Strong

The first newspaper reference I located of Wallace's appointment as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment appears in the Vancouver Province of 17 July 1950 page 21 marking a two week visit by then GG Viscount Alexander and Lady Alexander to Minnekhada.

Subsequently, in The Vancouver Sun of 12 May 1960, marks a visit by GG Vanier to Minnekhada, at Wallace's invitation. The previous Saturday, GG Vanier had presented the Guidon to the Regiment, presumably that which resides today in the Officers' Mess at the Regiment's Drill Hall on Beatty Street.

### **Other Honours**

Clarence Wallace was appointed a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John in Jerusalem, February 1946.

As a strong supporter of the Squamish First Nation, he was made an Honourary Chief.

He was ceremoniously named Masoukin Kanu Selth-Miet (Chief Red Cloud) by the Kootenay First Nation as well as Chief Copper King by The Kwakiutil First Nation.

He was awarded the Vancouver Gold Key in 1943.

Navy League of Canada Silver Medal

Clarence Wallace was named a Business Laureate of British Columbia Hall of Fame inductee, 2020.

Note: This may be only a partial list of his honours.

I feel very honoured to have had the opportunity to write an article about a man who contributed so much to our Province, we were very fortunate to have such a man in our midst.

I wish to acknowledge the help of those who contributed anecdotal information to this article. I grew up knowing a little about Clarence Wallace, my father and his brothers knew much more than I about his stature.

I wish to thank Captain R. Hourie, CD, (Ret'd) for suggesting him for an article, I was able to locate information about Wallace from researching on the Newspapers.com database that would have been very difficult to research otherwise, avoiding the need to pore through microfilm. I would in addition like to thank Lieutenant Colonel A. Steacy, CD, (Ret'd) as well as Lieutenant J.M. Roberts (Ret'd) for assisting in clarifying the WWI medals which were awarded to Clarence Wallace.

I regret if I have missed anything I should have covered.

This article was prepared from information available at October 1, 2020, the date of preparation of this article. One of the most important guideposts for someone like myself in preparing these articles is Swift & Strong. I learned recently that there remain unsold a number of copies of this work. Please consider contacting Mr. Cam Cathcart, the President of the Museum Society to obtain your copy.

Respectfully,  
Don Manning  
Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society  
October 1, 2020

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Memory BC - <https://www.memorybc.ca/versatile-pacific-shipyards-fonds>

Minnekhada Farm - <http://www.minnekhada.net/minnekhada-farm/>

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial - Flying Officer Clarence Alfred Blake Wallace:

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/1809512>

Business Laureates of British Columbia: <https://businesslaureatesbc.org/laureate/clarence-wallace/#:~:text=Clarence%20proved%20the%20skeptics%20wrong,the%20British%20Empire%20in%201946.>

Obituary, Vancouver Sun 15 November 1982, page 6

[www.nauticapedia.ca](http://www.nauticapedia.ca)

Swift & Strong, 2011, Leblanc, Maxwell, Snow, Deschenes, Publisher The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own)

## THE VANCOUVER VANGUARD



HMCS VANCOUVER - Spring/Summer 2020

August 2020

### Winter/Spring 2020

After some much needed and well-deserved time off, it was back to the shore office for the crew of HMCS Vancouver, as the ship remains in an extended maintenance and docking work period.

The main task for the entirety of the Officers in the Operations Department was to start planning the Annual Maritime Forces Pacific Naval Warfare Officer (NWO) Symposium and Mess Dinner, for mid-March. The theme of this year's symposium was



"resilience" as it relates to life in the CAF. Many of the presenters tailored their message towards mental health and services available to the RCN. Vancouver's part in planning for the symposium included booking guest speakers, organizing the IT setup for presentations, booking venues at the Naval Fleet School, and planning food and beverage services.

The Symposium was a success and went off without issue. The NWO Mess Dinner, however, was due to occur on the evening of the last day of the symposium, but was unfortunately cancelled due to concerns about COVID-19.

On March 16, 2020 the CAF commenced Op LASER as their response to the COVID-19 threat and included implementation of work-from-home protocol for the majority of units across Canada, as well as standing up platoons in preparation to respond in the event the Government requested it. Members of Vancouver were told, along with the rest of Canada, to stay home and stay healthy. As a result, the Shore Office was reduced to critical staffing in order to ensure crucial tasks were still completed.

As part of Vancouver's support to Op LASER, our Commanding Officer, LCdr Hooper, and several other members of our ship's company were tasked with an Orca sail in support of NWO training. However, once the course finished they remained at sea as part of an isolated group that could be called upon if necessary. Being at sea longer than expected is never easy, especially during such uncertain times.



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## THE VANCOUVER VANGUARD



HMCS VANCOUVER - Spring/Summer 2020

August 2020

Members of the Deck Department helped facilitate a cold move of Vancouver across the harbour for further repairs in early May. For many, it was the first time in a work environment in over a month. Masks were worn and physical distance was maintained as much as possible in order to get the job done safely.



On May 5th, 2020 several personnel from Vancouver Combat Systems Engineering Department gathered at Albert Head under the pretense of filming a promotional video about physical distancing fitness activities. The concept was to give members ideas for activities to do to stay fit and active during the pandemic. SLT Post was to be involved in the video but she had no clue the real reason she was there. Members of the ship's company were filmed running, doing yoga, kayaking, and other physically distant activities outdoors. The CO, LCdr Hooper, and the Coxn, CWO Wist, were playing catch with a football that had Lt(N) rank slip-ons taped to it, when SLT Post ran by on the nearby path they threw the ball with the slip-ons to her, surprising her with an unexpected promotion. Congratulations Lt(N) Post!



Meanwhile the Combat Systems Engineering Department was busy helping HMCS Regina with their preventative maintenance. Members of Vancouver's ship's company also provided support to Regina's duty watch during the month of May, while Regina's ship's company was isolating at home after a two month deployment as part of Op LASER.

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# THE VANCOUVER VANGUARD

HMCS VANCOUVER - Spring/Summer 2020



August 2020

With HMCS *Vancouver* continuing its docking work period (DWP) alongside in Esquimalt Harbour, a great deal of major work is being conducted. Numerous projects are underway, from equipment installations to metal and pipe work, and the Ship is filled with workers getting *Vancouver* back into shape. Soft patches in the decks have been removed and machinery is being moved in and out. Many months of work are still to come, but with the ship located alongside A-jetty just outside the shore office, it is nice to see the progress being made.



CAT 32 Diesel Installation in After Auxiliary Machinery Room

Since entering the DWP in May 2019, HMCS *Vancouver* has received four new CATERPILLER 32 Die-

sel Generators, which are capable of producing 830KW of energy each. The new Diesel Generators are designed with matching generator and diesel engine, which will reduce the risk of accumulating carbon deposits which is known as coking. Carbon deposits can add weight to the valve, causing additional stress on this rapidly reciprocating component of the engine. The new Diesel Generator has panels that each weigh only 14 kg, which 26 kg lighter than the panels of the outgoing MWM Diesel Generator. This will make the Engineering Roundspersons' jobs at sea much less physically demanding. This diesel generator also supports a digital readout of its operating parameters, increasing its usability. It's exciting to have such a reliable, modern diesel generator to support the ship for decades to come.

Chillers No. 2 and No. 3 have now been upgraded to 114 tonne chillers, with the remainder to be upgraded once the ongoing steel work is completed. These new chillers will improve the upgrade potential of the Ship's combat systems, which require chilled water for systems cooling. In this way, we are preparing our ship to be ready to handle equipment upgrades in the future as new, cutting edge technology is developed and produced.

HMCS *Vancouver* will soon get a new set of Shipboard Reverse Osmosis Desalination plants that will provide a higher output of fresh water, and a capability to ballast the ship with that fresh water. Ballast sea water that is transported from one part of the ocean to another can carry pathogens that can negatively affect the ecosystem if discharged into foreign or domestic waters. By ballasting with fresh water, we can ensure that the ecosystem is not negatively affected by the discharge of our ballast water. Through this initiative, the Navy continues to focus on making our operations more environmentally friendly.

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# THE VANCOUVER VANGUARD

HMCS VANCOUVER - Spring/Summer 2020



July 2020

## Summer 2020

In late June, CPOI Wist finished his time as the Coxswain of *Vancouver* and was given a warm send off with a change of appointment ceremony held on the grounds of Work Point. CPOI Wist's name was added to the plaque of *Vancouver*'s past Coxswains and it was presented to him during the ceremony. CPOI Ferguson is taking on the role of Coxswain and charged with the responsibility of being in that role as the ship comes out of an extended work period and ramps up towards an eventual deployment. The crew of HMCS *Vancouver* thank CPOI Wist for his service on this ship and wish him all the best on his future endeavors.



The Sailor of the Quarter is awarded to a person in the fleet who goes above and beyond the requirements of their job, takes initiative, and works to better themselves and their unit. For the first quarter of 2020, I.S. Armstrong, a Steward aboard HMCS *Vancouver* was named Sailor of the Quarter. LS Armstrong's efforts contributed to the success of a variety of ship's activities and initiatives. In addition to helping better her ship and her shipmates, she is also in

the process of completing post-secondary education. Due to COVID-19, an official awards ceremony has yet to take place but will sometime in the future. Bravo-Zulu LS Armstrong!

During July, a hull inspection was carried out by the Marine Systems Engineering Department and Victoria Shipyard Co Ltd, prior to the ship leaving dry dock and returning to the water. Ensuring the quality and completeness of the repairs was a critical step in the getting the ship ready to turn back over to the RCN.

Also in July, the crew of HMCS *Vancouver* was informed that their ship would be coming back from its work period sooner than was previously expected. A rearrangement of funds and workers took months off the expected work schedule, and it was announced that HMCS *Vancouver* was going to be ready in mid-September. This announcement was unfortunately premature as further inspections of the funnels revealed previously unidentified work was going to be required and *Vancouver* is now expected to remain under the custody of Victoria Shipyards until November. Regardless, the Ship's Company is hard at work preparing for Harbour Readiness Training (HRT) which is the first step required after completing a DWP in the Tiered Readiness Program which will see *Vancouver* at sea in the late-spring timeframe.



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# THE VANCOUVER VANGUARD

HMCS VANCOUVER - Spring/Summer 2020



August 2020

## The Final Word

With many months of work still to be completed, the crew of HMCS *Vancouver* remains focused on training and preparing for the return of the Ship in November.

As I turnover to LCDR Matthew Arthur in August, I leave with fond memories and a new appreciation of the technical, logistical and administrative challenges of managing an extended refit and working in a Shore Office.

I look forward to watching as *Vancouver* completes their Docking Work Period and embarks on a Tiered Readiness Program to return to full operational service over the next year.

*Semper Vigilans*

Lieutenant Commander Rob Hooper  
Commanding Officer



*Semper Vigilans*  
"Ever on Guard"

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## Connect With Us



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Canadian Ship *Vancouver*

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# HOW TO CURATE YOUR MICRO-EXHIBITION

## THE STORY BEHIND A LENS ON VANCOUVER'S PAST

Floris Judicus Douwe van Weelderen, P.Eng, PE, PTOE, CD  
Guest Curator

### IT'S MY FATHER'S FAULT!

**JUST KIDDING. REALLY.** Last year, my father Judicus Anton Douwe van Weelderen turned 80 years young. To commemorate this milestone, I decided to chronicle his 1960s sea voyages aboard Holland-America Line (HAL) freighters and passenger liners in a photo-book.

After graduating at the top of his class from the Gemeentelijke Zeevaartschool te Rotterdam in 1960, my father went to sea for eight years, starting as a Leerling Stuurman (apprentice officer/mate) on a HAL K class freighter MS Korendyk until his final voyage as a 3e Stuurman (3rd Mate) on the world-renowned HAL flagship, the passenger liner SS *Rotterdam*. But it was his third ship—the American-built “Victory” cargo ship SS *Arkeldyk*—that brought him for the first time to the spectacular seaport of Vancouver where “By Sea, Land and Air We Prosper.” That first glimpse of the Pacific coast led to my family’s eventual immigration to Canada.



*Judicus Anton Douwe van Weelderen, when he was a 3e stuurman (3rd mate) aboard Holland-America Line's M.S. Moerdyk (2) in 1967.*

**ANYWAY, BACK TO OUR STORY.** While scouring the World Wide Web for suitable images of the 13 ships my father had sailed on while with HAL, I clicked on the Walter Edwin Frost fonds on the City of Vancouver Archives website. This extensive collection of online images captures much of the industrial activity of early-

and mid-20th century Vancouver with a focus on ships in Vancouver Harbour.

In 1984, Walter Frost, a life-long resident of East Vancouver, entrusted his black-and-white prints and negatives to the City of Vancouver Archives. In their underground workshop, an intrepid band of city archivists set to work digitizing, cataloging and



*Photo Credit: Walter Frost. Source: City of Vancouver Archives*

## A LENS ON VANCOUVER'S PAST

Walter Frost's Holland-America Line (1920-1975)



December 3, 2020 - February 21, 2021

subsequently uploading 13,369 images to the Archives website. I used search terms such as “\*dam,” “\*dijk,” and “\*dyk” to find 83 photos of 31 HAL cargo and passenger ships. Since 1900, Holland-America Line has named their ships after places with the suffix “dam” (passenger ships) or “dijk” (cargo ships). “Dijk” was later anglicised to “dyk.” In this way, eight of Frost’s photos, including images of the *Korendyk* and *Arkeldyk*, made their way into my father’s photobook.

**So now what?** After finishing that project in November 2019, I needed a new one. I thought, “Let’s organize a photo exhibition!” Simple but not easy because a lot of questions needed answers: What story do I want to share? Where should I host the show? Who is the audience? How many photos should be included? Which ones? Who will help me pay for this? How do I get the word out? And many more.

First, I needed an objective and a plan. This is where my 24 years of army training and 30 years of engineering/project management experience kicked in. Sometimes it felt like work, but in the end, I had an objective:

*Use 10 photographs taken by Walter Frost between 1920 and 1975 to illustrate the evolution of marine shipping and naval architecture and mark the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first HAL vessel in Vancouver.*

And I also had a plan, actually several plans: an Exhibition Plan complete with budget, a Sponsorship Plan a Communication Plan, Brand Guidelines, etc.

all the while remembering that Winston Churchill declared, “Plans are of little importance, but planning is essential!”

**AND THEN THERE WERE TEN.** Fortunately, there were only 83 photos of 31 HAL ships to choose from. I needed only the top 10. The selection process started with generating a shortlist of 25 photos using criteria such as elements of art, principles of design and contribution to the narrative. Bonus points were awarded if my father had sailed on the ship. A focus group (my wife, my son and I) then chose the final 10.

**CONTACT. WAIT OUT!** While executing the plan, the military maxim “no plan survives contact with the enemy” came into play as COVID-19 formally presented itself in March 2020. The pandemic resulted in funding challenges and difficulties in finding a venue: no one had money for the arts and people couldn’t come together as we used to.

After overcoming these and other obstacles as well as receiving help from many generous people in Vancouver and around the world, the top 10 images were ready for display at the museum, on the exhibition website [www.hal-vas.com](http://www.hal-vas.com) and in an exhibition catalog. The 60-page perfect bound catalog also includes photos of eight other HAL ships, a biography of Walter Frost, a brief history of the Port of Vancouver plus interesting facts and figures about HAL, its ships and the photos. The micro-exhibition is now on display in the alcove at the Vancouver Maritime Museum through February 21, 2021. I invite you to come and see it for yourself.

## DUKE'S DEN



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



**CHALLENGE COIN**  
\$20.00 (plus postage)



**SWIFT & STRONG**  
\$50.00 (plus postage)

To place a coin order please contact Rick Hourie,  
Vice President, at [rickhourie@shaw.ca](mailto:rickhourie@shaw.ca)

For a copy of Swift & Strong, please  
contact Cam Cathcart, President, at  
[lhccathcart@gmail.com](mailto:lhccathcart@gmail.com) or 604-682-5453

The BCR Museum is always looking for volunteers for a variety of tasks. If you are interested in assisting with the Regimental Archives, please get in touch with the Museum President, Cam Cathcart, at [lhccathcart@gmail.com](mailto:lhccathcart@gmail.com) or 604-682-5453.

## ASSOCIATION KIT SHOP

**The BCR Kit Shop is now online:**

<http://www.canex.ca/military/military-kit-shops/army-kit-shops.html?cat=1262>

You can now buy a BCR tie, blazer crest, lapel pin, hoodie and PT Shirts (male and female option) through Canex online. You pay online and they are shipped direct to you.

The blazer crest is available online at <http://www.canex.ca/british-columbia-regiment-blazercrest.html>

The Kit Shop has the following items for sale:

1. Mini Guidons – estimated cost is \$130.00 – in stock.
2. Custom designed BCR Knife - \$140.00 – one left! Once gone, they will not be replaced.
3. **NEW:** BCR cap badge on cuff links, pens and pocket watch.
4. **NEW:** BCR flag (36" x 72") - \$150.00

To place an order, please e-mail [KitShop@DukeABear.com](mailto:KitShop@DukeABear.com)



Mini Guidons



BCR Knife - \$140.00 – one left!



Cuff Links - \$35.00



Pen - \$25.00



Pocket Watch - \$105.00

## ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

<i><b>DIRECTORS</b></i>	<i><b>THE DUKE</b></i>
President – Gayle Hawthorne Vice President – Jim Barrett Treasurer – Bob Remple Secretary – Sandra Young Director at Large – Roger Prouse Director at Large – Graydon Young	Editor & Publisher: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association

## TRUSTEES OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE TRUST

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Don Bentley	Bill Ireland
Andy Conradi	Bill McCarthy
Bill Diamond (Secretary)	Archie Steacy
Ted Hawthorne (Chair)	

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### 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 community outreach program 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 five Cadet Corps). The Association has increased its support of the Cadet Corps by the establishment of the Cadet Development Program. Further information will be published as these programs develop.

A special thank you to all of those members who support the Charitable Trust! Your generosity has made it possible to accomplish many of the commemorative projects your Association has undertaken.

We also wish to thank our supporters for their "In Memoriam" donations. This is a very effective way to remember our loved ones.

### NOTICE TO ALL PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES

The Provincial Employees Community Services Fund ("PECSF") is registered with Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Directorate as a Charitable Employee Trust. Each year the PECSF runs a fundraising campaign for provincial government employees throughout BC. Please consider designating the BCR Charitable Trust when supporting this program.

### MWO (RET'D) GERALD PHILLIPS STEACY, CD GRAVESIDE SERVICE, NORTH VANCOUVER CEMETERY 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

A Graveside Service remembering our friend, MWO (Ret'd) Gerry Steacy, CD, late of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), The Royal Canadian Regiment, was held in the morning of 30 September 2020 at North Vancouver Cemetery with family and friends in attendance. Captain, The Reverend Julie Lees, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, officiated and provided a memorable service of remembering and reflecting with a benediction and blessing. Thank you, Padre Lees!

We will remember him!





## **ASLEEP**

Lieutenant Raya Birgit Regina Fransila, BA, B.Ed., MA, and Ph.D., of Kelowna, B.C., served in the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) RCAC in the late 1970s and 1980s. After high school, she went on to continue her education. She never stopped seeking to achieve new challenges, working as a nurse, school teacher, principal and university professor. After retiring in 2000, Raya continued work as the School Experience Coordinator for the University of BC, Okanagan and spent her free time writing, travelling and spending time with family. Raya was born on 3 September 1943 in Tampere, Finland and passed away on 22 June 2020 after a 2-½ year battle with cancer and is survived by her husband, Kenneth, sons Michael and Daniel Lonquist.

K441852 Sergeant Edwin (Ted) Pearson, BA MA CD, served 18 years with the British Columbia Regiment (DCO) RCAC and Headquarters 24 Militia Group in Vancouver, B.C. He taught school in Vancouver and stints in England and for the Department of National Defense in Lahr Germany over a period of 35 years. Ted was born in Vancouver, B.C. on 24 March 1932 and passed away on 24 September 2020 due to COVID. Ted is survived by his wife Suzanne and daughter Kathryn and son Brian.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember him.