

THE LISTENING POST 2014 - 2017



The British Columbia Regiment
Duke of Connaught's Own



The Listening Post

2014 - 2017

A summary of events within

The British Columbia Regiment

Duke of Connaught's Own



The Listening Post 2014 – 2017

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Editor

Sergeant Dwayne Snow, CD

Graphic design

Megan Paris-Griffiths

Printer

Digitech Printing

621 West Pender Street

Vancouver BC

V68 1W7

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The British Columbia Regiment

Duke of Connaught's Own

The Drill Hall

620 Beatty Street


Vancouver, BC

Canada V6B 2L9



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Commanding Officer: Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Evans, CD

Our mission is to train armoured reconnaissance soldiers for domestic and international operations; and we have done just that. In the past year members of the regiment have deployed to Eastern Europe on Operation Reassurance, to Africa on Operation Soprano and a significant portion of the Regiment deployed to assist the province of British Columbia control forest fires on Operation Lentus.

We have accomplished a great deal in the last three years. For me highlights include being on parade at Vancouver Corner for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of St Julien, greeting our soldiers as they completed the Mountain Man competition, and being in the field for live fire exercises in Yakima and the brigade concentrations.

We can take pride in the size and scope of our regimental family including our five affiliated cadet corps, our two volunteer bands, the museum society, the regimental association and all Dukes past and present and their families. Together we promote and build the legacy that is the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own).

In 2014 the Listening Post was revived to document the evolution of the British Columbia Regiment on a tri-annual basis. This 2017 edition

builds on that success and captures much of what has occurred in the last three years. Many have contributed to these pages, but particular acknowledgement is due to Sgt Dwayne Snow and Maj John Perry without whose efforts this would not have been possible.

It has been a genuine honour to have the opportunity to serve as commanding officer for the last three years. I could not imagine a better way to complete my twenty years as a serving member of the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Evans, CD



Regimental Sergeant-Major

Chief Warrant Officer Huf Mullick, CD

As I reflect over the past several years I feel an overwhelming sense of pride. During each training year on any given Wednesday night, I witness something quite remarkable in our Drill Hall. I see young soldiers, NCOs and Officers training and honing their craft surrounded by the memories and artifacts of their forefathers that are exhibited in various display cases, murals and memorial plaques surrounding the parade

square. The Dukes are preparing to answer the call of the nation, whatever that might be, and perpetuating a proud tradition of service just like the many BCRs that have gone before them. As the Regimental Sergeant Major I continue to be inspired by this legacy of service, dedication and passion demonstrated by so many of our serving members against the backdrop of the Regiment's history.

The Regiment certainly maintained a close connection

to its history by participating in many commemorative events over the past three years. In 2014 the Dukes participated in an event hosted by the City of New Westminster. The city was unveiling a sculpture depicting the famous "Wait for me Daddy" photo. This iconic photo taken in 1940 showed BCRs marching in column down Eighth Street heading off to war. While the photo was being taken, Warren "Whitey" Bernard ran away from his mother to his father, Private Jack Bernard. This photo was so popular that it was used extensively during the war bond campaign throughout WWII. A contingent of Dukes and Westies lead by the BCR Command Team added the requisite military flair to this auspicious event. Commemorations continued throughout 2015 as the Regiment embarked on another Battlefield Tour. During this time serving members had the opportunity to honour the Fallen by participating in the various ceremonies in France and Belgium. As this was the centenary year of the Battle of St Julien the BCRs were the lead unit for the Vancouver Corner commemoration at the monument of the Brooding Soldier. I was fortunate



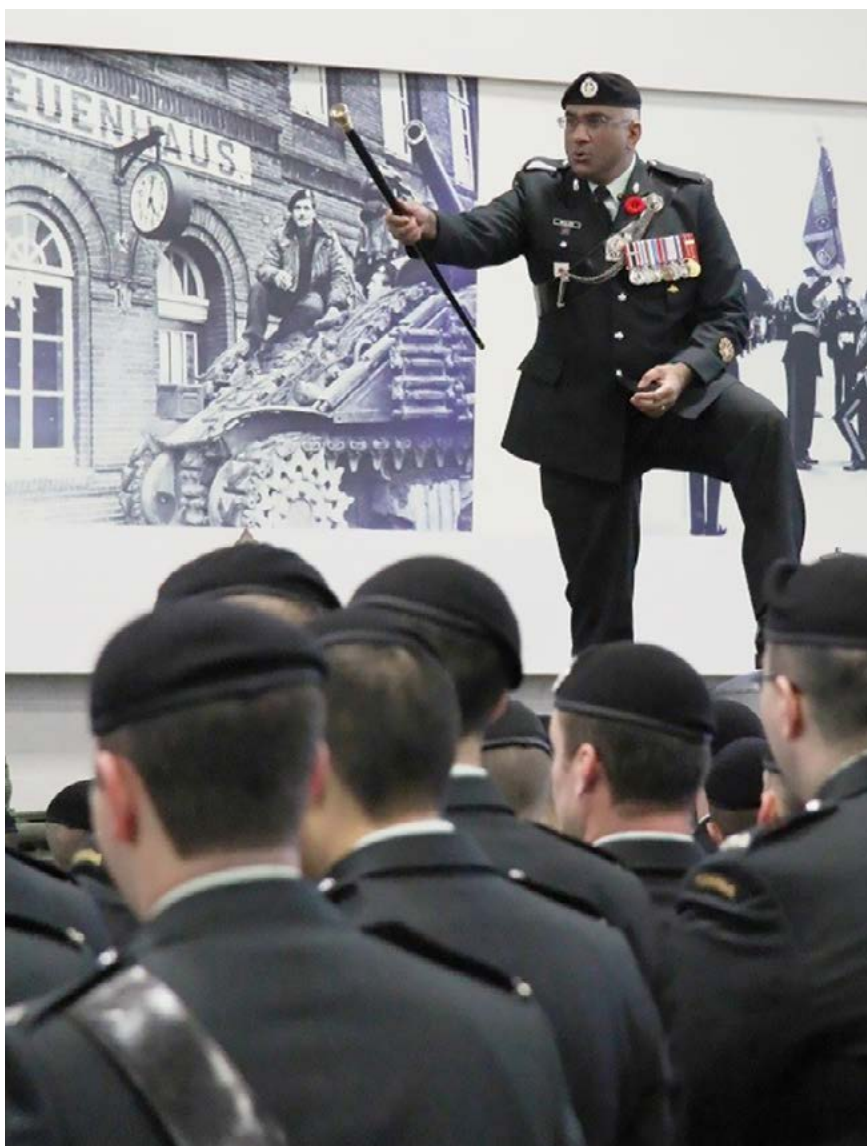
Chief Warrant Officer Huf Mullick, CD

to be the Parade Sergeant Major for this event and for the Menin Gate Ceremony in Ypres. Our soldiers also were able to take part in a parade alongside other Canadian regiments at Vimy Ridge. In 2016 The BC Regiment was front and center in the annual Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Vancouver. The Command Team were honoured with being the Parade Commander and Sergeant Major, Cpl James Alexander was interviewed by Global TV, the Vigil Guard was commanded by Sgt Stephen Cobb and the MC of the event was our long-time friend of the Regiment, Mr Cam Cathcart. The Regiment also sent soldiers to participate in the National Sentry Program and Ceremonial Guard in Ottawa and also had the opportunity to send Dukes to participate in the Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele 100th Anniversary commemorations. Finally, last August the Regiment sent a small contingent to the City of Abbotsford to celebrate Sergeant Major Robert Hanna's receiving of the Victoria Cross at Buckingham Palace 100 years ago.

But it wasn't all pomp and parades for the Dukes, while the operational tempo was significantly less than previous years it was still a challenge keeping up with the exigencies of military life in the Army Reserves. "Part time job" is a bit of a misnomer. Over the past three years the Regiment conducted a number of career courses in order to train our soldiers to

become members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Armoured Recce Soldiers, and leaders. The Regiment has conducted several BMQs and provided staff to the various Brigade units running similar courses. We have deployed personnel on operations - Cpl Pouya Aliakbar and Capt Paul Ellis have recently returned from OP Reassurance in support of NATO while Captain Greg McCullough is still serving in the Sudan as a United Nations Military Observer. Our success as a regiment would not be possible if it were not for the backing of our families at home and that of the Regimental Family. I'm emboldened by the support of our Honouraries, Association, Bands, Cadets and Museum society. Finally, this year we say farewell to LCol Doug Evans. whose vision, determination and ability to navigate through adversity was an example for us all. We wish him and his family well.

Up The Dukes!



RSM Mullick recites
In Flanders Fields 11
Nov 2014

Honorary Colonel

Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne

Fellow Dukes, I am most pleased to congratulate the Regiment on the publication of this edition of The Listening Post. This exceptional work is testimony to the extraordinary service and commitment of our soldiers, veterans and cadets and the wider Regimental Family.

As many of you will know, The Listening Post was originally authorized for publication as a newsletter in 1915 in order to provide for a more reliable form of communication among the dispersed members of the 7 Bn CEF in the field during WW 1. The request for approval to Brigade was written by the Commanding Officer of 7 Bn CEF, Lieutenant Colonel Victor Odium, in order to provide a weekly regimental journal in the field (please refer to The Dukes, a regimental history written by Douglas Harker at page 89 and Swift & Strong at page 82).

The 2014-2017 edition of The Listening Post covers the period of command of Lieutenant Colonel Douglas C. Evans, CD (2014 to 2017), and of Lieutenant Colonel Paul Lindsay

(2017-2020), a very high tempo operational time indeed for the Regiment and the Regimental Family. I am so very pleased to see that The Listening Post continues to promote and enhance the great legacy inherited by all of us, namely the tremendous role played by our members of the Regiment, past and present, by their service and commitment to the Regiment, Canada and to the wider community we serve. The great tradition continues! As Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, it is my very great honour to acknowledge and thank our serving members for their service and commitment to the Regiment and to the Regimental Family for their tireless support of the Commanding Officer, our Regiment, Veterans and Cadets.

Congratulations and Up the Dukes!

Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne



Honorary Lieutenant Colonel

Honourary Lieutenant Colonel Scott Shepard

Fellow Dukes, It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to thank each of you for the honour you have bestowed upon me. By inviting me to serve as your Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel for the last five years, you have provided me with a lifetime regimental home and great experience as the National Chair of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC). It is my privilege to serve with you and to have the chance to know many of you on a personal basis.

I am so proud of each of you. You personify the example of service to our nation and your fellow Canadians. You are indeed, as Winston Churchill once said of Reservists, twice the citizen! Your hard work, dedication, commitment and selfless sacrifice are unique in this day and age when many

are worried about only themselves. You each care and personally contribute to the forging of a better Canada.

While I will soon retire as your Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, I will remain very much active in supporting Reservists through my post at CFLC. I very much look forward to helping you further in your careers with the Canadian Armed Forces and in civilian life.

With warm personal regards,

Up the Dukes!



Honorary Lieutenant Colonel
Scott Shepard

Introduction

The following article was written by Col. (ret) K.D. Maxwell, OMM, CD in 2016 for *The Bugle* - the annual journal of our allied regiment, The Rifles.

The last article for The Bugle submitted by The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) was four years ago and the Regiment has been very active since that submission. In the Fall of 2011, the Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Kadonoff completed a successful three-year tour of command and handed off to Lieutenant Colonel Harjit Sajjan, who had just completed his third tour in Afghanistan. LCol Sajjan brought his recent operational experience and his usual enthusiasm to his tenure as CO which was highlighted

by a well-attended battlefield tour and an expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

In August 2012 thirty-five serving Dukes and another twenty veterans from the Regiment and other members of the Regimental family flew to Paris and proceeded by bus and passenger van to visit battlefields in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. Notable visits were made to Normandy, the Somme, Vimy, Ypres, the Scheldt battlefield, and the Rhineland. The Regiment gained insight into the challenges

and sacrifices of their predecessors so many years ago. Many on the tour were Afghanistan veterans and it was a chance to pause, think of lost comrades and appreciate the continuity of the Regiment's history.

In September 2012 Master Corporal Pesklevits and Corporals Sloan, Farr, Docherty, and Alexander attended a small unit exchange with 7th Battalion, The Rifles in Cyprus for two weeks and took part in a number of interesting and adventurous activities. This was another opportunity to strengthen our ties with

The Rifles and remember the strong affiliation with our Allied Regiment through many years and Regimental name changes. The bond endures!

The annual Spurs Ride armoured skills competition, sponsored by the US Army 1st/303rd Armoured Regiment, was held in July 2013 in Fort Lewis in Washington State. The BCR sent a six-man team to this military skills competition. After a month of work up training, under the instruction of past members of the regiment who had completed the challenge, all members of the Regimental team successfully completed this gruelling competition, which involved intense physical effort, lengthy route marches, and tests of basic soldier skills, and were duly awarded the coveted silver spurs.

In 2012 and 2013 the Regiment teamed with the Royal United Services Institute - Vancouver to host Military Studies Conferences, which attracted a great deal of public attention. In 2012, the noted Canadian Historian Professor Terry Copp delivered the first Lieutenant-Colonel William Hart-McHarg memorial lecture, which is named for the first Commanding

Officer of the BCR to be killed in action. In 2013 notable speakers included Major-General (retired) Ed Fitch, a former Commander of the Army in Western Canada and the noted British journalist and foreign correspondent Robert Fisk.

Highlights 2014

The trip to Mount Kilimanjaro was held in January and February 2014 and more than twenty members of the Regiment and the Regimental Family took part in the expedition. After a great deal of conditioning and preparation to ensure a successful climb, all members of the team made it to the summit of Africa at 20,000 feet. Climbing the mountain was an excellent team building exercise and a great adventure.

On 28 September 2014, a change of command parade was held. Lieutenant-Colonel Sajjan moved on to a staff appointment and command of the Regiment was assumed by Major Doug Evans, a long service Duke who had served in the Balkans with the NATO peace support operations

in 2002 - 2003. The ceremony in the presence of many former Dukes, friends of the Regiment, and citizens of Vancouver included a traditional roll past as a farewell salute to the outgoing CO.

In October 2014 Major Evans led the Regiment in a well-publicized commemoration parade in on the anniversary of the world-famous "Wait for me, Daddy" photograph, which was taken on 1 October 1940.

The photo of all the Dukes marching down the hill in New Westminster, BC being joined by a young son of one of the soldiers appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the western world and became one of the most recognized photographs of the Second World War.

Canada continued to support operations in Afghanistan in 2014 and 2015, deploying in support of training for the Afghanistan Army and Police forces. The three Dukes who deployed in this effort were Master Warrant Officer Ron Leblanc, Captain Greg McCullough and a former Commanding Officer of the British Columbia Regiment, Colonel Bryan Gagne. At the completion of the tour Colonel Gagne was awarded the United States Bronze Star and Captain McCullough was awarded the United States Army Commendation Medal for their dedicated service.

Training and Exercises – 2014

After significant preparation the Regiment was joined by the South Albertan Light Horse and supporting units from 39 Brigade for Exercise



SHERMAN DUKE, the culminating event for the 2014 training year. Under the leadership of Squadron Commander Major Vince Virk and Battle Captain Manjeet Vinning, reconnaissance soldiers were tested in their abilities to coordinate multiple units and respond to changing tactical situations during dynamic live fire scenarios at the Yakima Training Centre in eastern Washington State.

In August, the Regiment capped off a summer of individual training by participating in Brigade Exercise KOOTENAY COUGAR near the town of Trail in the interior of British Columbia. A team of eighteen members competed in a series of skill testing stands while a headquarters element provided support and administered one of the stands. After a gruelling four days of competition the Dukes, ably lead by Sgt McKee as troop leader, received top marks on two stands.

Highlights 2015

The Regiment recognized the 100th anniversary of the Battle of St Julien with the annual officer's mess dinner, a drumhead service for all ranks and a two week Battlefield Tour from 18 April to 3 May 2015. The tour, organized by the BCR Museum Society and supported by the Regimental family, was able to send thirty-five serving members along with more than twenty Regimental veterans and supporters to visit where the Dukes of the past had fought in two World Wars. The tour had the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Saint Julien as its focus. The battle was the first in the Regiment's history and the unit suffered more than 70% killed or wounded. Casualties included their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Hart-McHarg who was killed on the third day of the battle, 24 April 1915. In the end, the Canadian Division played a

key role is stopping the German offensive, which involved the first major use of chemical weapons in modern warfare. The tour went on to visit battlefields in the Netherlands and France and took part in a number of commemorative ceremonies and parades.

The 2012 and 2015 Battlefield Tours and the expedition to Mount Kilimanjaro were sponsored and supported through generous donations from the Regimental Association, the Regimental Museum and a number of very generous friends of the Regiment, enabling many serving members who might not otherwise have been able to do so to attend the trips.

In the summer of 2015, a national election was called and Lieutenant-Colonel Harjit Sajjan left the Canadian Forces to run for Member of Parliament for the riding of South Vancouver. He was elected in October 2015 and, two weeks later, was appointed Minister of National Defence. As had happened on a number of occasions in the past, a long serving member of the Regiment had risen to national prominence. He truly made Dukes everywhere proud.

Training and Exercises — 2015

Early in the year thirty soldiers completed the Basic Winter Warfare Course in an exercise near the Coquihalla Summit high in the mountains east of Vancouver. In February, Reconnaissance Squadron participated in Ex WORTHY SAPPER, a



Minister Harjit Sajjan

combined armoured/engineer exercise in Chilliwack where soldiers rafted their vehicles across Cultus Lake, used assault boats and practiced other core reconnaissance tasks at the troop level. Exercise GOLD RUSH DUKE, held in late May 2015, was the culmination of the 2014–15 training year. The Regiment was joined by the South Alberta Light Horse and the British Columbia Dragoons to conduct live fire manoeuvres at the patrol level in the Chilcotin Training Area in the interior of British Columbia.

In August the Brigade Training Event, Ex COUGAR DEFENDER, capped off a summer of individual training. Squadron Commander Major Paul Lindsay and Squadron Sergeant Major Tony Harris led a British Columbia Regiment/British Columbia Dragoons composite squadron in the Chilcotin training area. Reconnaissance Squadron was at the forefront during a

lengthy withdrawal under contact and delay battle culminating in a bridge demolition guard and defensive battle. The exercise was highlighted by the Squadron engaging in some impromptu forest fire fighting as result of a test demolition igniting part of the training area. At the completion of the exercise, Brigade Commander Colonel Dave Awalt recognized Sgt Kevin McKee and MCpl Colin Canavan for their outstanding performances during training.

The serving members of the British Columbia Regiment are at the core of a large and active Regimental family. The Regiment is proud to have both the BCR volunteer Brass Band and the Irish Pipes and Drums included in the Regimental Family. The Regiment now has five affiliated cadet corps including the newest corps – BCR 3300 RCAC - based in Surrey BC.

The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) has continued its traditional high tempo,

high quality pace in all aspects of Regimental life. The end of Canadian operations in Afghanistan gave way to an invigorated training schedule and much emphasis was placed on renewing the connection of all ranks with the Regiment's long and honourable history and heritage. The future remains unpredictable and the Regiment stands ready to serve Canada as the challenges of tomorrow unfold.

Change of Command 2014

The Change of Command Parade took place at The Drill Hall on Sunday, 28 September 2014, before a standing room only crowd, including numerous members of the Regimental Association, represented by President Bob Remple, the greater Regimental Family, members of the military community, family, friends and supporters of the Regiment. The BCR Brass Band and The BCR Irish Pipes &

Drums were well turned out and added very much to the happy occasion. The Regiment paraded in fine form under the ever watchful eye of a very proud RSM, MWO A.H. "Huf" Mullick, CD. The Reviewing Officer was 39 CBG Commander, Colonel M.P. Haussmann.

The program commenced with a Regimental Salute by the Regiment to Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne and then proceeded with the customary

General Salute to the Reviewing Officer, Inspection, Regimental March Past (outgoing CO), Change of Command, Regimental March Past (incoming CO), Advance in Review Order and Departure.

During the course of the ceremony, Honorary Colonel Hawthorne was given the honour of formally transferring the Commanding Officer's Sword and passing the Guidon from the outgoing Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Harjit S. Sajjan, OMM, MSM, CD to the incoming Commanding Officer, Major Douglas C. Evans, CD. In addition, the Honorary Colonel addressed the Regiment and the overflow audience (the balconies were even packed), taking the opportunity to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Sajjan for a tremendous command and to thank him for his numerous accomplishments on the non-operational side which have directly benefitted our soldiers, the



LCol Evans leads the Regt in the Roll Past



Regiment, our veterans and the greater Regimental Family.

The Program of Events was concluded by the traditional Roll Past by the Regiment in front of The Drill Hall on a gorgeous Vancouver day. The salute was taken by the Commander, Colonel Sajjan, and the Honorary Colonel on the Reviewing Stand situated at the entry to Saint Julien Park. The impressive Roll Pass concluded an extraordinary Change of Command Parade honouring two very fine Commanding Officers. Receptions followed in all three messes.

A heartfelt thank you to Lieutenant Colonel Harjit Sajjan for his service and commitment and a resounding congratulations to our new Commanding Officer Major Douglas Evans!



Above: Passing of the Guidon

Recce Squadron 2014-2017

MWO Arnold Matibag, SSM Recce, and Sergeant Dwayne Snow

The last three years have been busy ones in recce squadron. Each year saw us follow the same training pattern. As for time immemorial, the Squadron kicked off each year with Exercise CENTURION DUKE: a range and IBTS EX conducted at Vokes Range in Chilliwack. These range and IBTs days are critical training events that ensure the troops maintain our customary high standards of marksmanship, and individual soldier skills.

The 2014-15 training year in earnest began with EX FERRET DUKE, an intense dismounted navigation exercise in the small, but effective, Columbia Valley training area. Later that year the signal event, EX WORTHY SAPPER, saw the squadron take the lead for the Brigade training event in Fort Lewis, Washington, where we conducted RAPZ and Rear

Area Security taskings in support of the Brigade mission.

The 2015-16 year saw the squadron focus on mounted recce skills. At EX VIRTUAL CREWMAN (a virtual battle simulation conducted at Sherman Armouries in Richmond) we joined our interior cousins, The British Columbia Dragoons, to focus on tactical skills and crew/patrol commander refresher training. The lessons learned in the virtual battle space were leveraged during a combined field exercise later that year – EX SHERMAN DUKE. At SHERMAN DUKE, we lead a combined squadron of BCRs, BCDs, and SALHs at the Yakima Training Centre in Washington. The training in Yakima, was a complex live fire and maneuver range with 4x LUVW being flat bedded from Vancouver to YTC, kitted out with camera's and all of our latest gear.

Heavy winds in the valley added extra challenges during the exercise.

The highpoint of collective squadron training during the 2016-17 was EX LYNX DUKE, held at Joint Base Lewis-McCord in October of 2016. It was quite the exercise: individual, crew and patrol recce crewman skills were the focus. The Ech had an opportunity to support the entire squadron by conducting running Replens and resupplying the F Ech in leaguers and hides/harbours. By giving crews the time to shake out, we were able to identify areas that require further training and enhance our strengths. By working as part of a squadron, crews learned how to sustain themselves for operations longer than a weekend, while training our echelon.



BCR vehicle crews preparing their machine guns for their next trace. Ex Ferret Duke, October 2015

Training Squadron 2014-2017

Sgt Stephen S. Cobb, CD Regimental Recruiting Officer

Every year, Training Squadron's role is to attract and recruit new soldiers as well as prepare them for their BMQ and BMQ Land courses. In addition, the Squadron is responsible for providing the organisation and leadership to conduct at least 1 Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) and 1 BMQ – Land to be conducted as weekend city courses per training year.

In the Spring of 2014, Training Squadron ran a BMQ city course consisting of 35 staff and students from the Lower mainland units of 39 CBG. Squadron OC Major Bentley was the course officer while OCdt Vinluan was employed as the administration officer to learn the ropes of being a future BMQ course officer. In addition, Sgt Cobb was the course Warrant officer. After 13 alternating weekends, the course was completed with 33 candidates graduated from the course.

In the fall of 2014 to the new year, the Squadron and regimental junior leadership and instructors were at it again, hosting another Primary reserve BMQ city course. This time 2Lt Vinluan was the course officer with Sgt Cobb again taking the

spot of the course Warrant. Sgt Copp, MCpl Canavan, MCpl Langone were employed as section instructors while MCpl Halpin, Cpl Medrano and Cpl Kovacs were utilised as support staff. Again the 22 candidates hailed from various units from the lower mainland. The course graduation parade was presided over by the BCR R2IC – Major Lindsay and the HCol Hawthorne.

Further along the training year, Training Squadron was responsible for running a Basic Winter Warfare course for the Regiment. Course staff were

Capt Couture, Sgt vanHeerden and MCpl Chase (RSS), with WO Harris and Sgt Copp from the Regiment. The 15 candidates plus course staff conducted theory and practical lessons at the Drill Hall on Wednesday nights followed by a weekend confirmatory Exercise in the Coquihalla Lakes area. The students operated in tent groups while also receiving a LOSV (snowmobile) familiarization. While the area was abnormally warm for the time of year, all candidates were successful in training.

Squadron Command Teams 2014-2017

2014-2015	Maj Bentley and MWO Leblanc
2015-2016	Maj Bentley and Sgt Snow
2016-2017	Capt Brown and WO Matibag/MWO Rochlow



BMQ Candidates catching up on some sleep enroute to the range

The Wait for me, Daddy! Memorial Unveiling – 4 October 2014

Lieutenant Colonel (ret) Andy Conradi, CD, former CO BCR(DCO) 1978-1982

Thanks to the City of New Westminster, a moment of Regimental history captured by the famous and iconic 1 Oct 1940 photo by Claude Dettloff of The Vancouver Daily Province has been immortalized in bronze by Veronica and Edwin Dam de Nogales. Not only in bronze, but in silver coins by the Royal Canadian Mint and on paper in a stamp by

Canada Post. It all speaks of duty, service and the pain and suffering of the loss of loved ones and comrades and family separation and break-up. These all were, and still are, the price of our freedom. From the City, we are particularly indebted to Councillor Lorrie Williams and city staffer Ruby Campbell – but also many, many others including volunteers.

The Unveiling on 4 October 2014 was preceded by the Association Dinner (thanks to Bill Diamond) the night before at which the Guests of Honour were the only two original marchers able to be present, Riflemen Charlie Bernhardt and Henry Kriwokon. They were flown return from Penticton in a private Lear jet arranged by Mr. Kerr of London Air at the request of Allan DeGenova, President of Honour House – just two examples of the many people who were behind this memorial. I was firmly instructed by the City to make sure Charlie and Henry were returned to Honour House in good time to get a good night's sleep! I replied they are Dukes so I cannot promise that – but being Dukes they will, without fail, be on parade the next morning! (Been there, done that!) I presented them with new Regimental ties which they wore to the Unveiling with pride and Certificates produced by Archie Steacy. Some family members of those unable to attend were also in attendance. They are rightly proud of their relatives' service and the recognition of it.

I would especially like to recognize the efforts of Archie Steacy and Dan Mackenzie in maintaining contact with and recording the memories of our vets; and of Hon Col Ted Hawthorne and Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell for hosting Candace Macpherson, the



Claude Dettloff's original "Wait for me, Daddy!" photograph, Oct 1, 1940

granddaughter of Claude Dettloff (the original artist without whose photo the memorial would not have happened), at the Curry Lunch when I was away in Colombia. (In Bogota I introduced myself as being from Colombia, which they could tell from my accent was not true. Then I would say the other Colombia! No, not DC, the British one!). Dettloff's grandson, Scott, served in the Regiment during my tenure of Command and would have been offered a commission had he not taken his release to concentrate on his university studies.

Unveiling day started for some with a breakfast hosted by the City at which Hon Col Ted Hawthorne and some other BCRs, including the two Riflemen, were in attendance. The military presence was a 50-man Guard commanded by CO, BCR, Maj Doug Evans and "moulded" into shape by RSM Huff Mullick. It was composed of half BCR and half Westies. In the BCR Guard was Sgt Marr, a grandson of one of the original marchers, Rifleman William Marr, who was unable to attend. Riflemen Charlie Bernhardt and Henry Kriwokon were on the stage with the Lieutenant Governor and spoke a few words. Charlie, 93 years old, recalled: "I feel quite emotional sometimes, because I can't look at that picture without thinking about the guys that didn't make it."

"You have to remember, I am one of the many that gave you the freedom you have enjoyed all your life", said 94-year-old Henry Kriwokon. In the Guard were Afghan vets, God bless them! Lest we forget! Capt Don Bentley was the LG's aide de camp. Adding to the ceremony, also present and performing were Bugle Major John More and the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums and the brass band of the Royal Westminster Regiment.



HCol Hawthorne, Whitey and LCol Evans in front of the new monument

Whitey Bernard, the little boy in the photo, now 80 years old, was there with his family, including a blonde five-year-old granddaughter (he was five when the photo was taken). The Memorial was dedicated by Maj the Rev John Steele, 39 Brigade Chaplain.

There were many speakers (13!) and our soldiers had to endure over two hours of standing – luckily it did not rain – apart from a very slight drizzle for a few moments at the start. I would say that every speech taken on its own was good and relevant, but 13 in a row is a lot to take. The Dukes acquitted themselves superbly; we can be very proud of our serving members. Also, we can be proud of the support of the many members of the Regimental Association

present in mufti "uniform" (tie, blazer, beret and decorations) including the two original marchers, whose generation's service is recognized by the WWII Battle Honours on the Guidon and whose example was, and always will be, an inspiration to us who follow in their footsteps.

The Guard and bands were hosted at lunch by the City and included acknowledgement of the WFMD City Task Force, which included me as the BCR CO's rep. New Westminster's Anvil Centre Museum opened two weeks ago and right opposite the memorial has a "Wait for me, Daddy!" exhibit that is worth seeing.

Former RSM, Major Chris Mullins Promoted To Lt. Colonel

At a recent ceremony, former RSM, Major Chris Mullins was promoted to Lt. Colonel.

Chris joined the Regiment in 1976 when he turned 16. During the next four years, Chris attended every course he could get loaded on and, due to his drive and determination, gained accelerated promotion to Sergeant. His civilian work in the high technology industry led him to a job at 39 Brigade HQ managing the installation of the first computer network. Chris was promoted to CWO and RSM in 1997. In 2000 Chris transferred to the 6th Field Engineer Squadron and was promoted to Captain. He serviced with the Squadron as Troop Leader and United Training Officer.

For the last 10 years Chris has been employed full time at National Defence HQ in Ottawa in Force Development in C4ISR which translates into Command, Control, Communications, Computers,

Intelligence, and Reconnaissance. C4ISR is all about getting the right information to the right Commander in the right format when and where required. During this period he was promoted to Major.

Chris' new position is Branch head of Joint Information Infrastructure Management at the Canadian Forces Warfare Centre outside of Ottawa. He is responsible for a \$3 million budget and leads a team of 13 systems and network engineers. He is also the "Canadian Lead Representative" for the Coalition Federated Battle Lab Network (CFBL) which is a global "federated network" (each member country is responsible for their portion) that includes NATO nations and what's called the "5EYES" community (Canada, US, UK, Australia and New Zealand). Never before has a Reservist been responsible for representing Canada at this organization.

In Chris's own words he will also be involved in the following:

"The most intriguing and interesting initiative I will be involved in includes working with Industry, scientists and environmental reps (army, navy, air force) to connect existing CF-18 simulators (i.e. in Cold Lake Alberta), future army vehicle simulators (in Wainwright) and SOF targeting simulators (in Gagetown) such that ongoing "joint" training and/or pre-deployment training can be conducted in a virtual environment simulating the terrain and actual threats in areas where Canadian expeditionary forces might be deployed.

And here's the coolest part of the work I will be involved in (design, development and sustainment of this particular capability). In the future a deployed Canadian commander in his (and his staff's) conduct of the Operational Planning Process (OPP) would engage real warfighters back

Left: LCol Mullins' promotion ceremony Right: LCol Mullins as a Recce Sqn Patrol Commander



at their bases in Canada to fly or fight various missions “virtually,” in order to determine which outcomes produce the best results and then provide

recommended Courses of Action (COAs) back to the theatre commander “before” he commits troops/pilots/sailors to combat. So cool.”

We all wish Lt. Colonel Mullins the best of luck in his new position. Even though Chris is badged Engineer we know “Once a Duke - Always a Duke”.

Sergeant Mark Salesse, MB, CD

He was a literal giant among men. Sergeant Mark Salesse had a physical presence that made people notice him, but it was his natural tendency to reach out and help others that made him a person others could call a brother or a friend. Last seen alive by three of his search and rescue brethren from 435 Transport and Rescue Squadron in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sergeant Salesse, 44 years old, was in his element on Thursday, February 5, 2015, before an avalanche swept him away, leaving him buried in the snows covering Polar Circus in Banff National Park, Alberta. Initial search efforts by his climbing partner immediately after the avalanche, and subsequent searches by Parks Canada visitor safety specialists, were made more difficult by poor weather conditions that increased the risk of more avalanches. Finally, on Wednesday, February 11, Sergeant Salesse’s remains were recovered from the treacherous terrain. “Our consolation is that Mark has died doing what he loved most, in the majestic mountains that so beckoned him. He chose his final resting place. He is at peace,” said his mother, Liz Quinn.

Originally from Bathurst, New Brunswick, where his father Maurice still resides, Mark Salesse joined the Canadian Armed Forces in the fall of 1989 at the age of 18 as a member of the Governor General Foot Guards, a Primary Reserve infantry unit in Ottawa, Ontario. After serving with the Foot Guards for a year, he moved

to British Columbia and joined the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own), a Reserve Force armoured reconnaissance unit in Vancouver, British Columbia. His love of outdoor sports and physical challenge lent themselves well to life in British Columbia. With the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean at his doorstep, Sergeant Salesse pursued his interests in mountaineering, rock climbing, ice climbing, and SCUBA diving. Encouraged by his training in the Canadian Army, parachuting was quickly added to his active way of life.

Deciding to return to the infantry after nearly nine years with the armoured corps, Sergeant Salesse transferred to the Regular Force and was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It was as a member of 2 PPCLI that Sergeant Salesse’s ability to adapt quickly to changing situations, as well as his professionalism and his willingness to help others, became more evident. Receiving a Land Force Western Area Commander’s Commendation for his service on Operation

Prudence, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, from October 1998 to January 1999, he was noted as a role model and a team builder. He “volunteered to work extremely long and arduous shifts as the contingent driver so that he could interact with soldiers and civilians from other contingents,” wrote the commander who recommended him for the commendation. “He was well respected by his superiors and by leaders from the other contingents. Through his tireless energy and good-mannered approach to the mission he was able to project a highly professional image of what a Canadian soldier

Sgt Salesse’s Memorial Plaque and Medal Group now residing in the Warrant’s and Sergeant’s Mess



should be to the soldiers of other nations.”

Sergeant Salesse went on to serve overseas again, but this time with the NATO mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Operation Palladium. He served with the mission on two separate tours, for which he was awarded with the NATO Medal for Former Yugoslavia, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, and the Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for Operations in the Balkans. Building on his experiences in the Canadian Army, Sergeant Salesse decided to apply to become a search and rescue (SAR) technician. Recruiting only from within the Canadian Armed Forces, the SAR technician occupation is highly competitive; out of the dozens of applicants who are selected to attend a two-week pre-selection course in

February in Jarvis Lake, Alberta, no more than 16 are chosen to attend the 11-month training course at the Canadian Forces School of Search and Rescue (CFSSAR) in Comox, British Columbia.

Sergeant Salesse’s exemplary service record, combined with convincing recommendations from his chain of command at 2 PPCLI, his high level of fitness, and his experience in mountaineering, ice/rock climbing, SCUBA diving and parachuting, made him an ideal candidate for the specialist trade. Transferring to the Royal Canadian Air Force in June 2004, Sergeant Salesse began his SAR technician training in earnest in August. His previous experience with the Canadian Army prepared him for various aspects of his SAR training, including winter operations

and mountain operations. However, it was his ability to motivate and inspire others to accomplish tasks as a team when faced with challenging circumstances that really stood out in the minds of his instructors. Adapting quickly to the demands of the SAR technician occupation,

Sergeant Salesse successfully graduated from CFSSAR. Further training as a diver, as a primary care paramedic, and as a SAR technician supervisor followed over the years. A known leader, this giant among men also served with his brethren at 442 Transport and Rescue Squadron at 19 Wing Comox, British Columbia; 444 Combat Support Squadron at 5 Wing Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador; and 435 Transport and Rescue Squadron at 17 Wing Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Sgt Mark A. Salesse Drill Cane

CWO Tony Harris, CD

Former Duke Sgt Salesse, who would go on to join 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and serve in the RCAF as an elite Search and Rescue Technician (SAR Tech), was tragically lost in an avalanche in February, 2015 while conducting a training mission. Afterwards, his family bequeathed Mark’s drill cane to the Regiment in 2018. His former colleague and current RSM, CWO Tony Harris, wanted to find

an appropriate manner to remember Sgt Salesse’s legacy of leadership and service. During his time with the Regiment, Mark rose through the ranks to become a Master-Corporal (MCpl) and made his own drill cane for use as an instructor as required by the PPCLI Battle School. It was only befitting that the drill cane remain in the hands of the MCpl ranks and it was decided that it would become an award for the Top Master Corporal of the year. In 2018,

MCpl (now Sgt) Carlo Galang was the inaugural recipient of the Sgt Mark A. Salesse Drill Cane which permitted the member to both carry it on parade and to fall-in the supernumerary position with the other Sergeants. In 2019, MCpl Randy Sloan would earn that title.

During this time, Mark’s drill cane was missing an appropriate stand and in 2020, former Duke and current RCAF member Cpl Jeff Pesklevits (192 Construction Engineering Flight), manufactured a stand from rosewood in his honour. It was a symbolic gesture that a Duke and RCAF member would craft the drill cane stand for a fallen Duke and RCAF SAR Tech.

“Up The Dukes”
“That Others May Live”

The Sgt Mark A. Salesse Drill Cane



FTX Cougar Destroyer 2015

WO Tony Harris, CD

Exercise Cougar Destroyer was conducted 14-23 August 2015 at the Chilcotin Training Area with 39CBG deploying Task Force Cougar (TF Cougar) consisting of all Brigade units. Under the scenario of a NATO intervention into the failing state of West Interior, the BCR (DCO) and BCD formed a composite Reconnaissance Squadron under the leadership of Maj. Paul Lindsay and WO Tony Harris.

Once RSOMI and WES kitting was completed, Recce Squadron screened North to make contact with the enemy (provided by elements of 1 PPCLI) and established a screen line to observe their activity and identify their main effort. The enemy, equipped with LAVIII, advanced rapidly along their main axis of advance and quickly overwhelmed elements of the recce screen which forced Sgt McKee's OP into a layback position that was not only able to report significant information but was able to destroy a LAV hide as they withdrew back to friendly lines.

During the Recce Squadron screen ops, TF Cougar infantry units prepared battle positions to delay the enemy's advance. With Recce Call-signs in contact, the Squadron conducted a withdrawal in contact and passage of lines to handover the enemy for destruction whereupon the Squadron established a harbour for much deserved rest and replenishment after 72 hours of continuous operations. Not long after establishing the harbour routine, a large explosion and subsequent fireball was observed and the radio net reported that the engineers had detonated a shaped charge beehive



Top: FTX Cougar Destroyer 15, Recce Sqn15

Right: 49C' WO T Harris SSM Combined Recce Sqn, FTX Cougar Destroyer

as part of preparation for the main defensive battle. Unfortunately, there was a miscalculation as this detonation ignited a substantial brush fire. As the only unit in reserve, Recce Squadron deployed rapidly to fight a raging brush fire stoked by strong winds that threatened to consume 25% of the training area and possibly jump the perimeter. Equipped with only integral equipment, Recce soldiers were observed trying to establish a fire guard with shovels, axes, machetes and water jerry cans. After a valiant 5-hour fight, the fire was deemed beyond Recce Squadron's capabilities and the task was handed off to civilian forestry firefighters and air tankers dropping fire retardant.

The final defensive battle saw Recce Squadron funnelling the enemy into the designated kill zones for destruction before ENDEX was called.

Key highlight of Ex Cougar Destroyer 2015 was the strength of the



unit senior NCOs (WO Matibag, Sgt Lee, Sgt McKee, Sgt MacWilliam) to fill key Troop leadership positions due to a shortage of available officers. Dukes of all rank levels stepped up to fill leadership vacancies 2 to 3 positions above their qualifications which reinforced the importance of the "2 up" principle.

After a much deserved Brigade smoker, Recce Squadron was tasked at



last minute to establish Traffic Control Posts (TCP) from Williams Lake to Hope for the redeployment of Brigade units which validated the highly regarded reputation of the Armoured Recce Soldier as always “first in and last out.”

Fighting a range fire on
FTX Cougar Destroyer 15

St Julien Mess Dinner – 10 April 2015

The Officers’ Mess held their annual St Julien Mess Dinner commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of St Julien (24 April – 5 May 1915) on 10 April 2015 in the Drill Hall. It was a memorable evening enjoyed by all. Head Table guests were the CO, Major Douglas Evans, Colonels Haussmann and Gagne, Colonel (Ret’d) Keith Maxwell, Honorary

Colonel Hawthorne, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Shepherd, 2IC Major Don Bentley and PMC, Major Paul Lindsay. The Regiment’s two bands, the Brass Band and the Irish Pipes & Drums, had a very strong performance and added a great deal to the overall success of the evening. The Commanding Officer, Major Douglas Evans, delivered an excellent speech to the assembled guests with a state of the Regiment report. Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Scott Shepherd then proceeded to acknowledge the tremendous service and commitment of our members. Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne acknowledged the great support received from the Regimental Family for the upcoming 2015 European Battlefield Studies Tour, namely the Regimental Association Charitable Trust, Colonel Harjit Sajjan and Tochi Sandhu and their colleagues and the Legion

Foundation. On the organization side, Colonel Hawthorne acknowledged Colonel (Ret’d) Keith Maxwell, Hon Major Bill Diamond and Major John Perry, Captain Jennifer Hillman and WO Tony Harris. Prior to the dinner, our Senior Serving Duke, Colonel Bryan Gagne, COS 1st Canadian Division, presented the Commanding Officer, the Honorary Colonel, the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and Keith Maxwell with a 1st Division patch (traditional red) and pin, for ceremonial purposes for the upcoming ceremony at Menin Gate in Ypres with the Guard to be led by the CO and our members. As part of the ceremony, the 1st Division Flag will be flown in recognition of the 7Bn CEF and other units which were part of the 1st Division at that time. It was truly a very memorable occasion and greatly enjoyed by all.



Lieutenant James Norman and Agnes Keegan, St Julien 2015

St. Julien Dinner Toast to the Regiment – Major Vincent Virk, OC Recce Sqn

In 1883 the British Columbia Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery was formed and this marks the start of our Regiment as we know it. What else happened that year:

- The Ontario Rugby Football Union (forerunner of CFL) forms;
- Italy signs military treaty with Austria-Hungary & Germany (foreshadowing...);
- A holy war in Egypt is declared;
- Canada adopts Standard Time;
- Regina is officially declared a town;
- Our head of state is Queen Victoria;
- And the Prime Minister is John A. Macdonald.

Over the next one hundred years the Regiment went through many transformations, rebranding and amalgamations and in 1985 we finally settled on our current name The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own). I am not going to share the wonders of 1985 with you but our head of state was still a Queen. A lot has transpired since our inception and more than just name changes in our 132 years. Today the Regimental Family consists of five cadet corps, two bands, one allied regiment, one allied ship, the Association, the Museum Society, and CO's Committee. Couple this with the Regimental RHQ, our two sqns, RDG,

and Musketry Team and what do you have...a lot of moving parts.

A senior NCO recently told me that we only know one way to operate here in the BCRs and that is at 100 km/hr. You know what...that is absolutely correct! We need that speed and drive to keep all our moving parts fused together. Over the past years, our Regiment has transformed and grown and in so many ways we are nothing like those who joined in 1883. Yet so much of the world seems the same and our history is always what guides us and gives us our foundation to grow and strive to be better day in and day out.

This leads me into the future of the Regiment, which is here and now with us. (Subalterns please stand up)... everyone, those faces standing now were not even born in 1985. That does not matter. They are faster, stronger, and hopefully smarter than those before them, and they are going to need all of those traits because our 132 years plus of history will one day be led by them. It is up to them to decide if they carry that history on their shoulders or use it as a foundation to push the Regiment to new heights. Ladies and gentlemen please rise and join me in a toast to the Regiment.

The Regiment

L to R: HCol Ted Hawthorne, HLCol Scott Shepherd, Col(R) Keith Maxwell, Major Douglas Evans & Colonel Bryan Gagne



Basic Military Qualification Course 2015

A Letter From Pte Fan, Trg Sqn

TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE PROUDLY SERVED IN THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES Different people may have different values to share; to me, seven months of basic military training was the most valuable experience which I

have ever gained in my life. In the past training session, I conquered every difficulty and challenge, and grasped all essential skills which are demanded of every soldier. Although it was extremely challenging to coordinate my school workload with

the military training, and for so many uncountable days, I had to sacrifice my spare time in order to accomplish tasks and assignments, ultimately I accomplished it with pride and dignity. In my opinion, the real asset which I have acquired from military training

is not solely learning how to shoot and fight, but also developing a strong personal management skill (such as determination, motivation and fighting spirit) which enables me to face my weaknesses and strengthens me to conquer them. Adverse environmental condition and interminable durability of rucksack marches are things which I find extremely formidable among all training lessons. Before I joined the Canadian Army, I had nil sense about the significance of different weather conditions. Because of the availability of various resources and implements of modern facilities, people could always respond instantaneously whenever there was a change of the weather condition in the urban environment. It is extremely rare to see how human lives could be profoundly impacted by the environment, unless there is a natural disaster happening. However, it is a completely different story when it comes to military field training. One of the most remarkable experiences I endured was the three consecutive field exercises which happened on

my B.M.Q-Land course. Due to the encounter of monsoon season in the West Coast, our 26 physical and mental endurance was tested to the threshold; hunger, cold and fatigue were our constant companions. Although we all had some type of rain protection gear, the unremitting rainfall eventually seeped through. And it was the moment that I had an epiphany of realizing how vulnerable human beings are against Mother Nature. Long distance rucksack march is the most challenging lesson of all. It does not merely test a soldier's physical stamina, but also a person's mental readiness and determination. Based on my personal experience, there were a couple occasions where I was pushed beyond my limits during the marches while carrying the heavy weight on my back; each additional step felt heavier, as if a huge mountain was crashing down on me. At those moments, I thought I was going to surrender to exhaustion. However, thanks to all the course staff who were constantly encouraging and supporting us along the side; they

ignited my fighting spirit and helped me to achieve the goal where I had never anticipated I could. Subsequently, the rucksack march has become one of my favorite exercise routines. Even though the B.M.Q-Land course is far done, I constantly seek opportunity in my spare time to enhance my rucksack march. In my opinion, exercising rucksack march does not merely improve my physical fitness; in the meantime it also strengthens my mental readiness, to make me more self-motivated and determined. Overall, the military training that I have received produced several profound impacts on my life. It has shaped me in so many different ways that while I am living my civilian side, I cannot cease to think and act as a soldier. Two of the most important personal features, the determination and motivation that I have acquired from the military, have constantly accompanied me, so that I know I must complete every task, whether trivial or important, with professionalism and responsibility.

Pte Fan and his fellow recruits



Battlefield Tour 2015

Major Don Bentley, 2IC BCR(DCO)

In the British Columbia Regiment's (BCR) history, April 2015 marked a significant event - 100 years prior was the battle of St. Julien (part of the larger 2nd Battle of Ypres), marking the first attack by German Army using chlorine gas against allied troops. The BCR and BCR Museum Society planned and executed a two-week battlefield studies tour from April 18 to May 2 to coincide with the anniversary of the battle. The tour visited many battlefields of significance to the regiment in the Netherlands, Belgium and France. The BCR tour linked up with tours from Canadian Scottish Regiment, the Calgary Highlanders Regiment and members of other units perpetuating the battalions of the

1st Division Canadian Expeditionary Force for commemorative ceremonies at Vancouver Corner, Menin Gate and the Vimy memorial. Tour participants included 32 serving members, 20 retired members & friends of the regiment, with one very special participant: 95-year-old WO2 Vern Salisbury, MM (Military Medal), a veteran of the Northwest Europe campaign in 1944-1945, who fought as a Tank Troop Sergeant in the 28th Armoured (BCR).

Planning for the Battlefield Studies Tour began a number of years prior, and as no public funds were to be used, a fund-raising campaign to offset some of the tour costs for serving members was initiated. The BCR

Honorary Colonel, Ted Hawthorne was a key individual in coordinating the effort, and reflected that "...for the serving members, especially the younger Junior Ranks, we didn't want the cost of the tour to be a barrier to participation. We had some very generous contributions, which enabled some serving members to participate with a modest contribution from the member, the remaining balance was subsidized through generous donations. I would like to publicly thank the many donors who made this possible: The Royal Canadian Legion Foundation; The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust; and a

Members of the Regiment at
Vancouver Corner





Top: The Old Guard, the Canadian Scottish, the BCR

Above: WO Vern Salisbury MM talks to school children at Adagem Canadian War Cemetery

Left: Major Bentley leads the BCR and Calgary Highlanders Parade at the Vimy Memorial

large number of other organizations and individuals”.

Major Doug Evans, the BCR Commanding Officer, remarked “... the BCR battlefield studies tour was designed to be more than just an academic study, it was a mechanism to bond soldiers of the regiment, both serving & retired, with each other and with regimental history.” The BCR Regimental Sergeant Major, MWO Huf Mullick added “... we used this occasion to rededicate ourselves to the service

of our nation and the international community.”

Some of the soldiers on the tour offered their thoughts: “From the gravestones and monuments of those Canadian soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice to the unique bond with my comrades in arms, it was truly an unforgettable experience that reminds me why I’m proud to be a soldier and a Canadian.”

Cpl Michael Medrano “If I could say anything about the battlefield tour,

it would be this: the parades that I was part of at Vancouver corner, Vimy Ridge, Menin Gate, and all of the graveyards that we visited were the most moving and significant of my life.”

MCpl Joseph Rusen “After viewing the vastness of Juno Beach and the densely concentrated clusters of German fortifications, it is difficult to imagine the daunting opposition the men of 3rd Canadian Division faced seizing the beach. I feel the sacrifices made and the bravery displayed by our

forefathers on the beach to overcome the daunting challenge they faced defined the character of our nation and it should be remembered and passed on to our future generations.”

Tpr Kevin Zhou “Marching at Vimy and in Ypres were my proudest moments in uniform.” Cpl Noel Wright “Seeing what the soldiers had to endure and what they were expected to do in repeated battles numbs my soul. The strength and stoic actions of all soldiers from the great wars show the resilience and professionalism of Canadians.”

Maj Vincent Virk: “The trip really demonstrated the enormity and scale of the war, not only in the geographic

sense, but as well the material and human cost. Numbers and statistics can only show so much...” Cpl Joshua Faber “My biggest reflection was Hill 140 and having WO2 Vern Salisbury with us there 71 years after the battle. It was like stepping back in time where he was and fought, it was a rare and humbling experience.” Cpl Jonathan Eng “Across the ocean in a foreign country, in a huge unmarked field, down a muddy dirt track, between two woods, in a small, lonely, manicured cemetery, I noted a grave marked: ‘A Canadian soldier of the Great War; known unto God’, and I thought here lies an unnamed man who heeded the call, left all that he knew, his parents,

his wife, his children to fight for the liberty and future of a people that he did not know.” MCpl Alejandro Langone The BCR’s Commanding Officer (CO),

Major Doug Evans concluded, “I am extremely pleased by the outcomes of the battlefield studies tour, and the impact it has had on the members of the regiment that were able to participate. Its value is beyond words, and I will be laying the ground-work so the next CO will be positioned to repeat this experience for other members of the regiment 3 to 4 years from now.”

The Honourable Harjit Singh Sajjan, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP

Minister of National Defence

The Honourable Harjit Singh Sajjan, late of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught’s Own), was elected to Parliament as the Member for Vancouver South on 19 October 2015 and was appointed Minister of National Defence by the Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, on 4 November 2015.

The Minister joined the Regiment as a Trooper in 1989 and completed his service upon his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and upon his appointment as the Commanding Officer for the period 2012 to 2014. Prior to commanding the Regiment, Minister Sajjan served on an operational tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina

with the Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians) and three operational tours in Afghanistan. In addition, Minister Sajjan served as an Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and served eleven years as a police officer with the Vancouver Police Department.



The Honourable Harjit
Singh Sajjan

Captain Manjeet Vinning

Sr. Special Assistant – Operations/ Director of Operations to the Minister of National Defence 2015-2019

From January 2015 to the federal general election in October 2015, I was the Campaign Manager for Lieutenant Colonel Harjit Sajjan's campaign in Vancouver South. This

was a great experience in itself but only the start to the next 4 years. After his appointment as Minister of National Defence (MND), the newly appointed MND offered a position to me on his staff as Sr. Special Assistant – Operations. Over the following years I would have the privilege to travel across Canada as well as to Jordan and Kuwait to visit deployed CAF members. A few of the highlights of my time included being part of developing Canada's new defence policy,

“Strong, Secure, Engaged”, hosting the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference in Vancouver, visiting numerous CAF bases, attending the national Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa and working with the Chief of Defence Staff and other General Officers. I officially left the Minister's office in March 2019 as Director of Operations to the Minister of National Defence. On my departure, I received a Minister of National Defence Commendation Coin and a Chief of Defence Staff challenge coin.



Captain Vinning, Sr Special Assistant – Operations to the MND

FTX Steel Sabre 2016

October 11-15th, 2016 members of the British Columbia Regiment Mounted up and took on sandy tracks and scrubby hills of the Wainwright Alberta training area for exercise “Steel Sabre” attached to the Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment.

The seven members of the BCR who attended jumped at the opportunity to take part in this exercise knowing they would be able to get some raw, hands on experience with the Regular Force members and their vehicles.

Once settled in Alberta, before first light they set out, all kit in hand, for the LdSH Reconnaissance squadron at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton. Upon having stepped foot within the building, the training began. Distribution of rations and consumables, acquiring of assigned weapons, repacking of kit for ease of use in the field, and finally the loading of supply trucks. “Listen up gents; everyone has a job whether or not assigned one. LdSH operate like a well-oiled machine. Do as they do.” Warrant Matibag told the BCRs. How

the Regular Force exercises run and operate are very similar, yet different.

First are the types of vehicles and the preparations needed for those vehicles. The Coyote reconnaissance vehicle is much larger than the Reserves G-wagon yet surprisingly less spacious. Due to the slight surplus of space in the G-wagons, the backseat can be neatly packed to the roof with kit with relatively easy accessibility.

Coyote crews BCRs inclusive, had to strategically load the Coyote with sleeping kit towards the front of the vehicle behind the driver, rucksacks

bungee corded to the outside of the vehicle, and small packs compressed into the corners of the rear area where the dismounted troop would be. Next would be how the mission end state could be achieved.

Exercise STEEL SABRE for the Reservists was based around conducting observation posts and carrying out observation post 24hr routine. Back home BCRs and their vehicles are forced to establish and an OP Base which can be hundreds of meters away from the actual OP due to the lack of ranged surveillance equipment. This meaning noise and light discipline was a large factor in remaining undetected by enemies. With the use of the coyote however, reservist got the opportunity to take a different approach on retrieving information.



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A Letter From Steel Sabre 2016 – Cpl J.C.C. Lee, Recce Sqn

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spacious. Due to the slight surplus of space in the G-wagons, the backseat can be neatly packed to the roof with kit and relatively easy accessibility. Coyote crews BCRs inclusive, had to strategically load the Coyote with sleeping kit towards the front of the vehicle behind the driver, rucksacks bungee corded to the outside of the

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The Day Begins, FTX STEEL SABRE



FTX STEEL SABRE

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With the use of the coyote however, reservists got the opportunity to take a different approach of retrieving information. Cpl Lee, J was amazed at the range of the equipment used. "While using the coyotes mast, we are almost 2 kilometres out from the objective, and we don't even need to

leave our vehicles to obtain further information!". Cpl Lee, J was also amazed at the coyotes ability to crush any agriculture in its way to obtain the perfect observation location.

Finally what stood out for all of the BCRs is the collective teamwork and morale within the crews. Members were tasked with cold sentry shifts in the middle of the night, sleeping on the ground without tents while snow and sleet hammered down on them, and sitting in the chilly rear area of the coyote monitoring the surveillance equipment 24 hours while fighting to stay warm. When tasked with their rest shift, everyone would take turns huddling around their warm Coleman stoves, taking heater bags whilst still warm and wrapping them up and sticking in their jackets and pockets to extract the remaining heat from them. All this was going on whilst joking around about an even WORSE, colder time than the present.

Afghanistan Theatre Honour Memorial Wall

The new Afghanistan Theatre Honour scroll has now been installed and has taken its place on the Memorial Wall along with our other three Theatre Honours, South Africa, 1899-1900, France Flanders 1915-1918 and Northwest Europe 1944-1945. We now have four Theatre Honours in

three centuries! As the painting of the inside of The Drill Hall is now complete, the Memorial Wall project is now finalized with the display of all of our historical cap badges, Battle Honours, Theatre Honours, Memorial Plaques and Memorial Crosses.



The Afghanistan Theatre Honour scroll

From California to Southeast Asia with 2-2 SBCT, US Army

Captain Greg McCullough

In October 2016 39 CBG put out an email asking for nominations to go train with 2-2 Stryker Brigade (2-2 SBCT), both in a CPX and following this a three week exercise at the National Training Centre in Fort Irwin, California. I put my hand up to go and was selected. It turned out to be an excellent training opportunity and allowed me to work with a fully equipped Stryker Brigade on the final part of their equivalent of high readiness training.

I attended the CPX with 2-2 SBCT for a week in December. I was told I would be working with 2-1 Infantry Bn in their Planning Cell (G5). In addition, 12 RBC was coming as well, with a platoon of The Royal 22nd Regiment (the 'Van Doos') and so was also assigned to work as the Liaison Officer. The CPX went well, with me being introduced to the US planning process and how they operate... including how to set up a 'Drash' tent. They're way more complicated than ours.

It was a bit of a lonely experience travelling to Fort Irwin. Here I was, a Canadian Reservist, travelling to work not just with a US unit but one at the peak of its training cycle. I rented a car in Las Vegas and drove there on my own with some apprehension.

Upon my arrival the Americans were very welcoming, and of course from the CPX I knew some of them. The barracks and dining facilities are by design austere in order to contribute to the overall experience of being isolated. Cell phones were even taken away before deploying to the field! The food-

honestly- was poor. But off we went into the field for a Brigade level ex against OPFOR who work full time at this and mimic Eastern Block tactics- full spectrum warfare. It was impressive to see the entire Brigade deploying... about 1000 vehicles and 6000 soldiers.

The exercise went well, with all the usual friction, lack of sleep and food that makes any exercise a challenge. Planning for operations was a challenge due to the high tempo of operations. I was proud to be Canadian- our Coyotes and LAVs, with their 25mm guns, moved quickly and at various points were able to influence how the battle went, operating as a sort of combat team. I found that our planning process and FRAGOs make us able to react

more quickly than the US forces. It was great to be able to be part of it all and be an integral part of the planning process. At the end I also got to assist planning for the brigade level live fire portion.

As a result of my participation at the NTC I was contacted by 2-2 SBCT and asked if I wanted to go on exercise with them in Thailand and Malaysia. Oh, yes!

Due to my civilian job and getting time off there I was only able to go to the Thai part of the exercise. I flew into Bangkok and was picked up at the airport. On to a crowded bus and we went to a base about an hour north of Bangkok.

Maj McCullough and officers of 2-2 SBCT





On Ex at NTC Fort Irwin

On this exercise I was assigned to work as the battalion (in Canadian terms an armoured regiment) Battle Captain for 8-1 Cavalry, an armoured

reconnaissance unit. It was an honour to be put in this position; responsible for movement of the Bn and working with my Thai counterpart was a huge task. It was a credit to the Americans to place me in this position and ensure I had a good spot in the

organization. Long days were the norm, but I had a lot of fun and it was a great experience. One of the funny moments of the exercise was that there were

only three Canadians on the exercise- and me the only reservist. On Canada Day I put a Canadian Flag up at the Tactical Operations Centre (TOC), and never got around to taking it down. At the end of the exercise there was a meeting with US and Thai generals and planners for the exercise. It's a major point in military cooperation between the two countries. In any case there were pictures up from the exercise- and the ones of the TOC had a Canadian Flag in all of them! Talk about being a presence far beyond our numbers...

All in all, in 2016 I spent about three months with the US Army, including field time and CPXs. More time by far than the exercises with the Canadians!

The Road to High Readiness — Influence Activities

Many Dukes have taken part in Influence Activities (IA) over the years, and many newer troops have expressed an interest in it. And with good reason. IA is a capability that the Canadian Armed Forces are still in the early stages of developing and exploring, yet it is viewed as an increasingly important aspect of modern warfare. It consists of two separate groups: Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) and Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC). IA is primarily concerned with attitudes, cultures and behaviours of civilian populations (although PSYOPS deals with enemy elements as well), and how these attitudes, cultures and behaviours effect CAF operations. PSYOPS is concerned with gathering information, developing and disseminating messages and media to influence a specific

group. CIMIC handles liaison with key communicators, and has the money to help them make deals, such as infrastructure projects, with civilian organizations that might benefit CAF relations and operations.

In the past few years, several BCRs who are also members of the 3 Div IA Company, have gone on CIMIC and/or PSYOPS courses, which take place at CFB Kingston in Ontario. The courses included staff and candidates from other NATO countries, such as the USA, Germany, and the Netherlands. The training that takes place not only teaches the candidate how to be a PSYOPS or CIMIC soldier, but indirectly how to be a more effective reconnaissance soldier as well. Civilians are an inevitable part of the battlespace these days. IA training helps a soldier make the most of civilian interactions.

It puts an emphasis on effective information gathering, including interview techniques and surveys. Training also explain how things like presence, posture and profile can affect the type of interaction you might have with a civilian. Candidates practice things like using a translator, analyzing hostile propaganda for intelligence purposes, and operating tactically in built up areas, through close-quarter combat training.

Many of the recently qualified soldiers from the BCR were qualified in anticipation for the High Readiness period, which lasted from June 2016 until July 2017. During the "Road to High Readiness" period, for about 18 months prior, members of the IA company were very busy. On top of civilian jobs and regular duties/exercises at their home units, members



BCR IA soldiers

attended IA exercises every other month. Because the company was made up of people from across 3 Div, the locations of exercises changed constantly, with the majority being in Esquimalt, Edmonton and Winnipeg. This training was very important, as it gave both PSYOPS and CIMIC the opportunity to hone their skills and shake out in their teams. Establishing team SOPs and different drills could be a challenge at times, as people came from a variety of trades and backgrounds, including people with extensive IA experience and multiple deployments. Everyone's basic soldier skills needed to be on point, in order to be seamlessly amalgamated into whichever maneuver element they would be attached to. All of this training and effort was going to culminate in the summer of 2016, when the 3 Div IA Coy would participate in Maple Resolve 2016, the regular force exercise that would green light the company for operational readiness.

And so, in May 2016, BCRs belonging to both CIMIC and PSYOPS

arrived in Wainwright, where they would spend the following 4 weeks in the field. The exercise experience varied greatly depending on your role, who you were attached to, and so on. Corporals Wu and Zhou were tasked as IA drivers. Others, like Cpl Alikabar and Cpl Parker were tactical operators (TacOps) or analysts. MWO Harris represented the BCRs in the CIMIC platoon. In the field, TacOps met with village leaders, conducted loud speaker operations, and helped provide security with the use of their G Wagens and C6s. One PSYOPS project involved hosting an IA operated radio station from the back of a SEV. The analysts stayed at the FOB to help develop themes and messages, and to operate the radio equipment. Drivers and TacOps distributed hand-held radios to the actors playing civilians, and later gauged their responses to the station and its messages. Another project involved creating a fake social media account in order to gather information about soldiers in the AO who were not observing OPSEC measures. This

project was extremely successful, as members of 3 Div IA Coy learned about the plans and movements of enemy IA thanks to an unsuspecting OPFOR soldier.

For many of the BCRs who attended Maple Resolve 2016, this had been the first opportunity to attend a regular force exercise. They got to see how supply and support works on such a large scale, became familiar with different command relationships, and learned how good it feels to shower after 4 weeks in very dusty field conditions. Although the actual High Readiness period itself ended up being pretty uneventful, the training that led up to it was valuable and exciting. The BCRs who participated gained experience that will help them not only on the next High Readiness cycle, but in their armoured reconnaissance careers, and likely in their civilian lives as well.

FTX Cougar Conqueror 2016

Cpl Alberastein, Recce Sqn

I had only been in the Army for year when I attended this exercise in Wainwright, Alberta in the summer of 2016. I was really fortunate to attend this Brigade exercise as a Pte(B) and actually put in a crew with among qualified soldiers, because at that point I only had completed my BMQ and BMQ-L. At first I was thinking that I'll be no use to the team and didn't really have any knowledge of Armoured Recce tactics besides the SOP tactics that I've learned in basic. But I decided to give it a go even though I'll most likely be put somewhere else or wherever I'm needed. I had a full-time job but it wasn't too much of problem because the Brigade exercise was only 2 weeks, and my employer gave me the time off.

The day we arrive on the training ground (I cannot honestly remember the exact date) there was brief of the exercise, safety, and so on. Mind you at this point I only had my BMQ-L and

I didn't know about W.E.S gear. So when the W.E.S. gear was given out I was pretty much excited because it's a bit more realistic and there will be feedback during engagements. Also, I heard that simulation rounds are used too but the W.E.S gear was still cool because there will be feedback and it'll be more engaging. Once the briefing of the exercise was completed and were given our training gears the exercise kicked off. From what I can recall the crew I was with were Cpl Wu, Tpr Kim at that time, and MCpl Langone at that time. I can't recall what the call sign was. I was assigned as the G.I.B (guy in back). During that time, I didn't really know what to expect because as mentioned before I'm only BMQ-L qualified. But as far what I can recall I remember doing some gap drills, OPs, being temporarily on the C6, and did a point recce. From a Pte(B)'s view it was cool to see how the crew operates

in real time and getting O.J.T at the same time. We were taught P.O.W techniques from an M.P that is from a National Guard unit in the U.S. We were also taught bomb/IED search techniques and how booby traps are constructed and briefly how to disarm them from one of the Combat Engineer units. One of the most memorable moment for me was navigating through a UXO (unexploded ordnance) field. I thought it was part of the exercise and I was thinking time to use our newly acquired knowledge/skill, but I was told later on that it wasn't and we took just a slight detour. No, I didn't attempt to disarm an UXO and I don't think the crew would appreciate it. We just needed to bug out quickly and safely. Nonetheless it was quite an enjoyable moment to say. We also saw a live run from a fighter jet doing gun runs and eventually dropping an ordnance on a building. I couldn't remember what was the type of the fighter jet, but it displayed an awesome run. Everyone enjoyed it and got everyone motivated more.

Overall, my experience with the Brigade exercise was quite a good experience. I was grateful that I was able to participate considering I didn't have my trades qualification during that time. If you're able to attend a Brigade exercise, go ahead and do it because you'll learn things, have unique memories, and bond with your unit, other units in the CAF and also out-of-country units, which in this case were a couple of National Guard units from the U.S.



Ready to Start the Trace, Recce Sqn,
FTX Cougar Conqueror 2016

Cpl Adam Luro, c/s 61, Recce Sqn.

In the summer of 2016, from the 13th to the 22nd of August, I took part in Exercise Cougar Conqueror. Taking place at CFB Wainwright, Cougar Conqueror was a brigade level training exercise combining units from across the Canadian Forces, as well as units from the American National Guard. I was attached to the RHQ under callsign 49, performing rear echelon duties under the leadership of (now) RSM Harris and SSM Matibag, and alongside Pte Davidson and Cpl Leverman (of the British Columbia Dragoons).

The training exercise started with two days of preparation at a forward operating base, where we conducted refresher training on patrolling, minefields and IED threats and SOP's for the exercise. During this time, my callsign worked on preparing the rear echelon vehicles, storing recce squadron's personal kit, and ensuring that the LUVW vehicles were properly equipped. One of the more memorable moments of this time

was a demonstration given by the American military police unit. They had brought along their K9's and gave an introduction to the capabilities of their dogs. This entailed not only showing their K9's obedience training, but also allowing several soldiers to wear an armoured bite sleeve, demonstrating the dog's ability to catch fleeing subjects. After completing all preparations, recce squadron deployed to the field, with the rear echelon close behind. During our time in the field, RHQ utilized MSVS and Milcot vehicles to follow behind recce squadron, taking up positions in well-hidden hides and creating harbors for the unit to fall in to. We also conducted running replenishments with not just recce squadron, but also with the service battalion in order to replenish our own stores of supplies. This entailed offloading waste and loading supplies into our vehicles from service battalion's own vehicles in the dead of night, using low light in order to remain hidden to the OPFOR.

The exercise culminated in a final assault on the OPFOR's dug-in position, conducted by American and Canadian infantry, and supported by recce squadron. After successfully winning the battle, the end-ex order was given, signaling the end of another successful training exercise. The day ended with a large barbeque, with Canadian and American troops finally able to get together and socialize as one large gathering. Lots of friends were made, patches and flags exchanged, and stories told. Personally, this exercise gave me a greater understanding of the roll of the RHQ and the importance of rear echelon operations. As a member of recce squadron, I had never given much thought to the activities conducted by the supporting units. This exercise gave me an appreciation of all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in order to support a main combat unit. To me this is a perfect demonstration of the idea of teamwork, and part of what the military ethos is all about.

Cpl AC Park, Recce Sqn

It was near the end of August 2016 when I attended FTX Cougar Conqueror, just coming off a course as a stores man for a DP1 course that was held in Wainwright. Cougar Conqueror was one of many exercises I have gone to since joining The British Columbia Regiment in 2012 but was only my second brigade exercise. I was really hoping to get put into a crew with my friends but ended up driving the MSVS for the first time since getting my qualification in 2015.

It wasn't until day 2 or 3 when the exercise actually started as vehicles and weapons had to get kitted up with WES gear, which I believe stands for

Weapon Effects Stimulation – a great training aid the Canadian Forces use to train like a real-life situation. It wasn't until day 2 or 3 when I found out I was not going to be with my friends and driving the MSVS. I was a bit disappointed at first but quickly realized it was no big deal as I gained a few things from being a part of the echelon and didn't realize how important of a role it can be. There were days that were fun, and there were days that were not. Every day my partner, untrained Cpl. Luro and I always loaded and unloaded the MSVS in the field to hand out rations, water, tools for the field and personal

kit that was stored in back all the time. I believe the experience is something that I will never forget as it has made me a better packer and organizer when it comes to military life and civilian life. There were also times when I would be in a hide and harbour to do sentry which has made me be aware of my surroundings and always stay alert during the day or even at night.

Overall, my experience with Cougar Conqueror was a good experience. It was great to use all the training skills that we learned throughout the year and use it the field for 2 weeks – that does not happen too often as our training exercise

would only be 3 days and 2 nights. One highlight I will never forget is working with the Americans as it was something I did not get to do on my first Brigade

exercise in 2015 and have a smoker where we get have a nice meal and beer to celebrate. I did get lost once during the exercise, which is something

I am not proud of, but it was a very important life lesson.

The Regimental Climbing Club

Cpl J Lee, Recce Sqn

The BCR climbing club began in 2016 with the intention of providing Dukes a new activity to participate in, develop an array of technical climbing and mountaineering skills and to build further esprit de corps among members. The group has welcomed members of all skill level, from pure beginners to experienced climbers and everything in between. Cpl Kai Li and Cpl Mike Medrano have been able to provide tons of valuable experience and advice to newer members on climbing meets,

who share years of time and dedication in the sport cumulatively. The climbing meets usually see upwards of 10 or more members and continues to grow as word spreads of the invaluable and fun events had by current members

The BCR climbing group follows the schedule of typically 1 climbing meet a month with the exception of a few instances where the schedules of the members do not align. Members have principally climbed at The Hive (bouldering gym) and Cliff-hanger

(climbing gym) in both Vancouver and Surrey locations. A new addition to the club profile has included 2 recent annual trips to the Apex Adventure gym where members were able to perform in tournament style obstacle courses and acrobatic feats. The BCR climbing group also intermittently holds instructional style workshops, in house at the Beatty St armory, where everything from harness operation, knot types and carabiner training are taught.

The BCR climbing group hopes to continue to grow in the coming years, providing members with an outlet for physical training and a unique technical outdoor skill set. The group aims to train members to be better, more efficient climbers, to build confidence physically and mentally and to establish a group logo or insignia to be recognizable for future members.



The BCR Climbing Club



Shooting Team 2017

MCpl Law

The 2017 training year was monumental one for the BCR Small Arms Teams. The shooting team broke a number of records and personal bests for all members of the team. The team for that training year was made up of WO Matibag, Sgt Roder, MCpl Law, Cpl Zhou, Cpl Redrov, Cpl Medrano, Cpl Lam, Cpl Zheng, and Pte Alberastine.

The training year was a difficult one for the team in the beginning. Due to ammunition shortage with regards to training, there was no ammunition available for small arms team training prior to the Blair and BCRA competitions. Despite these difficulties, the team persevered and adapted to the lack of ammunition with training on the Small Arms Training simulators and dry-fire drills at the regiment.

When the Blair Shoot took place in May of 2017, the dry-fire and simulator training paid off handsomely. All eight

soldiers of the BCR team broke their personal bests on the shoot. The most glaring of which was MCpl Law who took second place on the shoot with an impressive 522 points out of 600. Out of the eight soldiers, seven were able to qualify to shoot to represent 39 Canadian Brigade Group and the 3rd Canadian Division to compete at the British Columbia Rifle Association and Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Concentration. Furthermore, the BCR Black Team made up of MCpl Law, Cpl Zhou, Cpl Redrov and Cpl Zheng took home the team moving target shoot. An award that had not been won by the regiment for nearly three years.

Prior to going on CAFSAC, the 39 CBG Small Arms Team needed to refine its list of shooters from those who qualified from Blair in order to generate a team that can represent the 3rd Canadian Division

on CAFSAC by getting their shooters to compete at the BCRA. From the qualifying soldiers, MCpl Law, Cpl Zhou, Cpl Redrov, and Cpl Medrano competed in an effort to secure their position on the division team. During the course of BCRA, once again all the shooters broke their personal best scores at the competition. Again, MCpl Law proudly represented the regiment placing third at the competition ranking after Cpl (Ret.) Ryan Steacy and MWO Matthew Quenet, who were both veteran shooters within 39 CBG and had a history of achieving astounding results at CAFSAC.

Fast-forward to September, 2017, after an entire summer of preparation and training, members of the regiment arrived in Ottawa eager to compete with the best shooters the CAF had to offer. Fighting against the high

Left below: 2017 Team Movers trophy won by BCR Black Team Cpl Zhou, Cpl Zheng, Tpr Redrov, MCpl Law

Right above: MCpl Law with his individual trophies at BCRA 2017

Right below: MCpl Law takes aim at CAFSAC





Top left: The 2017 Blair Shoot BCR team Rear WO Matibag Cpl Zhou Cpl Zheng Tpr Redrov MCpl Law Front Cpl Medrano Pte

Top right: Cpl Zhou firing from the sitting position

Left: BCRA 2017 Trophies won by 39 Brigade Team Two Cpls Zheng, Carvalho, Herriot and MCpl Law

temperature, humidity, strong winds, and mosquitoes, shooters from the regiment fiercely competed against their fellow competitors at CAFSAC. Overall, the members of team ranked

in the middle among more than 300 shooters that competed.

2017 was a special year for CAFSAC, it was the first year in which specialized targets developed by Lockheed-Martin Canada were introduced where the target themselves controlled by range staff will fire back at the competitors at the dynamic matches with paint balls. Dynamic matches were events

where all the shooters' skills were put to the test under a realistic operational environment where they will apply their marksmanship abilities under the stress of close-quarter battle within an urban environment. With the "feedback" the range targets provided, many members of the unit were able to refine the room-clearing tactics that they had learned training with the regiment over the years.

FTX Joint Cooperation 2016

EX Joint Cooperation 2016 – MWO Tony Harris, CD

In October 2016, MWO Tony Harris was selected to join the Canadian contingent participating in Exercise JOINT COOPERATION in Nienburg, Germany. EX JOINT COOPERATION is the only NATO-wide Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) exercise focused to promote and enhance capabilities in the domain of tactical field work and staff functions within a multinational planning and command and control

environment. This two-week exercise was attended by 20 nations with more than 500 participants and role players parachuted into a NATO crisis response scenario in the fictitious country of Framland.

Split between two task forces, participants were tested in realistic and complex situations involving riots, refugees, civil emergencies and terrorist attacks. MWO Harris was

assigned as a Tactical CIMIC Team Leader consisting of Belgian, German and Canadian soldiers tasked with conducting reconnaissance of local infrastructure for detailed municipal assessments and interviewing key leaders to negotiate the establishment of refugee camps and associated air and land humanitarian corridors. Given a large area of operation, the team visited potential logistical hubs

such as the HQ for a German Panzer Grenadier Battalion and the Wunstorf German Air Force Base which had just become the new home of the A400M transporters. In trying to identify the requirements of a refugee camp for 5000 persons, the team visited an actual refugee camp that was being built to house recently displaced persons from Syria. The role players of the townships were the actual civic officials and emergency response leaders which added a degree of authenticity that normally cannot be replicated. The local fire brigade induced a rail disaster with actual overturned railway cars and chemical tankers on fire which forced the teams to react to requests for assistance. CIMIC centres were established in key communities and relationships were built with the local inhabitants to facilitate the commander's mission, intent and end state.

Ex JOINT COOPERATION provided a unique opportunity to exercise the CIMIC and soldier skills



FTX Joint Cooperation 2016 WO Harris and members

within the day-to-day operation of multiple municipalities in a foreign environment much like what will be experienced on actual operations. The leveraging of each nation's expertise and best practices combined with an inherent collaborative spirit and comprehensive lessons learned reinforced the importance of continued

integration with our NATO partners to ensure Canada can operate seamlessly within a joint, coalition environment. The culminating BBQ smoker hosted by the German Army reinforced their reputation as the World's beer and sausage masters and provided an exceptional venue to learn about the different cultures of our NATO allies.

A Letter From the South Sudan

Major G. McCullough, CD – Military Liaison Officer, Malakal, South Sudan, UNMISS

Hello All, After spending the first half of my tour in Juba with Force Headquarters as a LO to the SPLA HQ I'm now in Malakal, Upper Nile State, where I will spend the remainder of my tour. I'm pretty close to the border with Sudan. There's a fair bit of fighting around here, as the eastern half of the state is a SPLA-iO (rebel) stronghold. An offensive by government troops has led to counterattacks; in the last few weeks a few strategic towns have changed hands and- according to unconfirmed reports some SPLA troops have crossed the Ethiopian border

and been disarmed while there are reports the Nuer White Army is moving north as reinforcements for the rebels. If true they will almost certainly attack Malakal. But it's all conjecture at this stage.

Life up here is pretty austere; food is virtually non-existent on the local economy other than some vegetables and bread, and there's a cafeteria that serves meals- one choice

Major McCullough on the shores of the Nile





On the banks of the Nile, Upper Nile State, South Sudan

only. We order food through the UN, but it can take up to a month to arrive. My mom has send food, as she is by Esquimalt and the military will ship it for free... although the Canadian Forces can't seem to get the concept of 'mail' down and it takes 3x as long (six weeks plus) for Canadians to get mail versus the other western nations. Afghanistan was about the same. It takes longer to get mail than it did in World War Two!

All of this may sound like complaining, and I guess a bit of it is, but in the end I knew what it would be like and still volunteered, so how much can I really complain???

We conduct patrols from Malakal State Support Base. Town patrols are pretty much daily, both to assess the local population (for example, an indicator of pending combat would be the disappearance of women and children, or military preparing to move) and as well to show the UN presence in the area as a way of improving security. Right now people are moving around in a relaxed manner, and the small market at least shows that it's stable enough that people are able to open shops and grow produce. But it's a fragile peace. Most of the town- once South Sudan's second largest city- is in ruins, and

between battle damage and looting which has occurred it's in pretty bad shape. The Upper Nile University is abandoned and closed. It's hard to describe the scene adequately. By one intersection there's even a bunch of dumped RPG (rocket propelled grenade) launchers and live artillery shells, just there, rusting away.

Next to my base is a camp for internally displaced persons, with 30,000 people in it, referred to as Protection of Civilian (POC) camps. Driving through the POC camp one day last week I saw a child of about ten point a stick at us as though it were a rocket propelled grenade and pretend to 'shoot' our vehicle. He's been taught we are the enemy, I guess. There are so many children in the camp. No education, many of them orphans, and no real future. They are another lost generation in this country.

The camp is crowded and with not enough fresh water and food. Housing consists of tents or huts made from tarps. Ditches are full of fetid water- in which children are playing, and people washing clothes. When it rains the roads in there turn to mud (I got stuck in there at night last week, which is dangerous because we might get attacked, and the truck briefly got stuck. It was a bit of a moment when I

thought 'not good', I am in a bad spot here, but I got the truck into 4WD and out of there). It's impossible to adequately describe the misery, and taking pictures isn't encouraged and honestly would seem exploitive in any case.

The population is predominately Dinka, Nuer, and Shilluk. This factors in because the conflict is in the end ethnically/ tribally based. Dinka move about the Malakal area relatively freely, while the Nuer and Shilluk are largely in the POC camps as the risk of being harassed/killed/raped by the SPLA is so high. They will come out of the camp in the day to fish, make charcoal, and work, and in the night return to the protection of the UN. We've done patrols in isolated areas to try to in particular protect the women from being assaulted, as they often have to walk long distances to gather water, food, and firewood or charcoal. The women do most of this work; culturally, that is how it is here. But we have too few troops to adequately do all the tasks given to us so it is always a trade-off.

I dealt with a kidnapping/ unlawful confinement (of sorts) last week that was horrific in its implications. Three women and a young boy of ten were out making

charcoal when they were approached by a soldier asking for water. Once he got this he held them and threatened them, saying they were Shilluk and responsible for the instability in the area. He then gave them a choice: be shot or hacked to death with an ax. One of the women told the boy to run, which he did, distracting the soldier.

Thinking quickly, she then began to shout as though she saw people coming, and the soldier got frightened off and ran away. They were held for about two hours, and snuck back to the POC after escaping, where we were called along with Human Rights workers to deal with it.

We complained to the SPLA, but really- nothing will be done beyond documenting the abuse.

These incidents aren't isolated and illustrate the basic problem: without the security situation being improved people can't farm, fish, and be confident enough to return to their homes. And the many NGOs and humanitarian groups who are trying to improve the situation can't make any headway. Fifteen wells were drilled in a town to the east of here. Fourteen were destroyed when the SPLA withdrew under a counterattack so the opposition couldn't use them. Oxfam wants to start an irrigation project. Great idea, and not expensive to implement. But I don't see it being successful at this point because of the instability.

We patrol here by road, helicopter and boat. I went on a river patrol this week, just south of our location on the Nile River. Kaldak. It's a town that lies in SPLA held territory, but at this point it's a military strong point/garrison town. With Force Protection (a combination of Indian Army and Bangladeshi Navy) we travelled about two hours by boat to meet with

the SPLA commander (a Lieutenant Colonel) and assess the security situation, as well as any humanitarian issues in the area. We passed by a World Food Program plane that was shot down some time ago, and a score of villages, most either abandoned or with a small population living in poor conditions. One town had three barges sunk in the river.

The Indians did a good job of providing a cordon while we met with the leadership. It was evident they didn't really want us there but tolerated our presence. Which, in fairness, is often the case with the rebels as well. But presence is part of being here. It's odd to be surrounded by troops that you know have committed war crimes, and still have to deal with them and 'play nice'. For lack of a better phrase the look in the eyes of some I can only describe as 'dead'. A battle in this area is inevitable. It's just when. I counted about two hundred soldiers, but of course there were more out of sight. Some of them have their families living there as well, but other civilians have

fled the area and there are not many people in the countryside except the rebel forces.

Anyways. It was an interesting patrol. They claim that the rebels are causing the problems, not them, but of course it's all unsubstantiated claims. Both sides exchange claims of forced recruitment of soldiers, including children, and atrocities upon the population. And both are guilty of this.

It's kind of a grim sort of letter, but the conditions are what they are. My dual background as an army officer and police officer has been a huge asset here. Being able to gather detailed information, provide detailed reports, and conduct investigations is of huge benefit. The patrolling is different, of course...

Onto some funnier things: Getting a haircut. Simple, right?

OK. So the first step is to ask around as to where you actually go. There aren't any signs around. 'Go to the NEPBATT' (Nepalese Battalion) I'm told. So I head over there... and then have to find the right gate to access their compound, only one will





Major McCullough, sharing goodies from home with local children

let you in. The sentries really don't speak English, naturally enough. Then, feeling lost, I stumble around until I find a shipping container with 'barber' written in felt pen on the door. Bingo, I've found it. I go in, and sit on a wooden bench until one of the two barbers notices me and insists I move to the chair right next to where I'm sitting. Insists. I move.

I wait. He indicates I'm next. I get in the chair and- like the sentries, he doesn't speak more than a word or two of English- I have a sort of discussion about my haircut.

"Two on the sides, not much off the top (always say the second part to a military barber...)." I hold up my fingers "two". Not one, he asks, to which I reply "no".

Proceeds to cut me hair short on top... one or less on the sides. Followed by what can only be described as a very masculine head massage which does not quite hurt but is not all that relaxing. It's a cultural thing, apparently, in Nepal, to get a massage with your haircut. All this for 600 SSP (about four dollars). I would pay extra to skip the massage. When I get back one of the Zambian officers asks if I've joined the Marines...

When I was in Juba there are a few dogs that wander around the base. They are not owned per se, but people watch out for them and feed them a bit. Anyways, I was cleaning up after Canada Day and 'Charlie' came up to me and was hanging about, so he got a tummy rub. The next day he showed

up and slept on my doorstep. He got a bit of ham.

The next day Charlie was at the door, whining. I let him in... and he lay on the floor while I made dinner. No begging, nothing. But the next thing you know I look over and the little guy's climbing on a couch I had there.

He is so quiet, and so content, I don't have the heart to kick him out. And somehow I cooked up the last two eggs, so he gets a meal before he goes back out! I was out of eggs (still am, actually...). But he was happy. And I'll survive.

Overall, the tour is going well. I realize this letter contains descriptions of some horrible conditions, but this is part of why the UN is here. Trying to stabilize it all and create the conditions for stability. Is it a frustrating? 100%. But we either try to help or walk away. I'm happier knowing at least in some small way people are better off for our efforts.

I miss being home, and my family, and the Regiment- but the work being done here is important, and I'm glad to be here for now.

Up the Dukes!
Regards, Greg

100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 2017

Cpl Edwards KK. Recce Sqn

Being a representative for the BCR at the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge was a great honour. Participating in a commemoration to those who fought at Vimy and those who made the ultimate sacrifice was an experience I, and the other Canadians in attendance, will never forget.

Being a member of the BCR made the experience especially salient. Knowing that members of our regiment who paraded and lived in the Drill Hall we still call home fought on the ground the ceremony took place did not leave my

mind. To see the headstones that read 7th Infantry Battalion and the names of those who formed the foundations of our regiment served to remind me that the uniform and regiment we perpetuate was not created without sacrifice. Those that came before us did so in the worst of conditions but formed the honour of our regiment and the Canadian military as a whole.

The site of the Vimy monument dedicated to those who fought at Vimy and in the First World War is surreal. The rolling grass hills and dense forests serve as a veil to the horrors that existed 100 years ago. The mud, swamp, and death of the battlefield has been replaced by the calm of the French countryside. Without the preservation of the shell craters and

mine blasts the Ridge would hide the history of French, English, Canadian, and German sacrifice. However, the hundreds of thousands of lives lost is not forgotten and the victory of the Canadian Corp is well preserved.

Those who fought at Vimy are not forgotten. With over 20 thousand Canadian citizens, soldiers, and veterans making the journey to honour them at the memorial. The French countryside was covered in Canadian flags and citizens who remember that how we live today is a result of how they sacrificed 100 years before.

In addition to the Vimy commemoration a smaller ceremony was held to honour the battle at Hill 70. The soldiers of 3rd Division formed the honour guard at the newly created Hill 70 memorial and took part in a ceremony that honoured a lesser known but equally significant battle. With Hill 70 being a battle honour for the BCR and a site where two BCR soldiers earned the Victoria Cross it was an honour to be part of a ceremony to remember their sacrifice. This ceremony also served to

remind citizens and soldiers alike that Vimy did not end the war but was one battle amongst many. The Canadian Corp fought together for the first time at Vimy but continued to fight for the duration of the war. Commemorations such as the one at Hill 70 reminded those in attendance that Canadian sacrifice did not end after one battle but has continued for the last 100 years.

Corporal Edwards at Vimy



A Letter from Trooper Charlie Burnhardt

Editor's note: Charlie Burnhardt served with the Regiment in WW2.

Dear Dukes, It was a great honour & privilege to be the delegate for The BC Regiment (DCO) and I was most appreciative to attend. There were 158 delegates, 12 of which were a youth group. The staff of DVA were with us at all times and were very considerate and helpful. We had buses at our disposal every day.

On day 1 we went to Vimy Ridge to view how the ceremony on the 9th would take place. We walked through the trenches and tunnels which have been restored for public viewing.

The two pillars created by Justice Capillaires for freedom and justice and the statue of Mother Canada have a commanding view from the top of the ridge and can be seen from afar. In keeping with all the places we saw, the grounds were in perfect order and there were quite a number of tall evergreen trees positioned among the mounds of grassed terrain. These majestic trees are clean of branches on the lower half

of the tree and the spreading branches on the upper half creating an effective umbrella protecting the ground below.

To stand in silence and contemplate the scene makes you realize that you stand on hallowed ground and you recall the thousands of lives lost that make it so. It is a very moving experience.

The numerous cemeteries in Flanders are placed in the flat country away from the ridge. Many farms are small compared to Canadian farms. All are beautifully kept, providing a very peaceful background to the cemeteries. Much work and effort was employed in the construction and maintenance of these cemeteries. Silent contemplation leaves a lasting impression. After 4 years of war, the numbers are staggering.

The Ring of Remembrance is a large area enclosing at least two acres by a standing wall of bronze panels standing about 10 feet tall, listing the

names of the fallen in alphabetical order with no distinction between friend or foe, 580,000 names. A broad walkway allows ample space for people to search the names. The field inside the circle is a grass expanse, with a landscaped depression to one side over which the ring floats. The depression in the field is marked with pieces of lumber marking landscaped plots that seemed to point out the damage to home and family caused by taking away those that are needed to maintain and nurture; the message is clear.

The smaller cemeteries, beautifully maintained but at times lack information to the identity of the soldier. The headstones that have a particular impact are the ones that state a soldier "known unto God" it points out the concern that one of the fallen be forgotten and be left out of remembrance.

On April the 9th, the day was warm with a hot sun. We felt sorry for the soldiers in battle dress who had to stand in the hot sun for the royalty and dignitaries to arrive. It was a test of endurance. So different than the wet snow and rain experienced by the soldiers 100 years before. Musical entertainment was provided to sooth the crowd. The program was beautifully done, and a tribute to Canadians. At the conclusion of the ceremony royalty and elected officials came to greet and thank the handful of WWII veterans. As we departed the venue thousands youth in attendance crowded the fence separating the veterans from the crowd to shake our hands and say thank you for the service. I noticed one youth



Tpr Charlie Burnhardt and his son Rob at the Association Reunion Dinner 2014

push his way through the crowd to get to the fence after recognizing me as a veteran he had met the day before. He was in tears, thanking me for what we had done, and saying he would never forget. I have had many experiences over my 96 years but being wheeled past those thousands of youths was perhaps the most moving experience of my life.

The youth at Vimy deserve special mention. Both delegates and the thousands of others who came to be present at this amazing gathering of generations. They came from all

parts of Canada and sat or stood on the open ground in the designated area. Their behaviour set an example to all, they took it all very seriously. They sought out veterans to talk with and ask piercing questions. The youth group of delegates performed two ceremonies of remembrance, a boy and a girl alternating in French and in English. It was done with dignity, the last paragraph of the ceremony being spoken by the oldest of the veterans' present, a 97-year-old nurse who served. Other ceremonies were held by First Nations in their own language,

all performed with dignity. They very much appreciated and brought us closer together.

The cemeteries of Flanders are the torch of John McCrae that lights the way for world peace; the only just reward for their sacrifice. Books have been written on the subject, spreading understanding of what took place on those hills, and in the hope such events will not be repeated.

Signed as a soldier on a pilgrimage to Vimy.

Trooper Charlie Bernhardt
Regimental # K37436

OP Lentus 2017 – Fighting Fires

The summer of 2017 was the worst wildfire season that BC had ever seen. British Columbians watched the news every day with a feeling of increasing dread and helplessness. The RCMP and the BC Wildfires service were completely overwhelmed. They needed help, and the military was ready to step in. Requests for assistance were filled first with air force assets, and then, in early July, the BCR orderly room began calling members to help fill positions for the land contingent. The unit responded with enthusiasm. Dozens of members volunteered, and, by the middle of the month, members were deploying to Chilliwack for their RSOM and to do their pre-deployment training. At the same time, WO Harris, and later on MWO Harris, was working out of the RCMP Headquarters in Surrey. He was acting as the CAF liaison, helping to set the stage for the ground troops who would be heading to William's Lake in the following days. Meanwhile in Chilliwack, the troops were staying at the RCMP training facility, getting qualified in their S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety

course. This training included learning to operate pumps and lay hose, and, of course, hours and hours of power point slides about safety, fire behaviour, etc. Once the training and paperwork were all complete, the troops were ready to deploy to the interior.

The first couple of rotations to be sent up were going as part of

something called ALEA, which stood for "Assistance to Law Enforcement Agencies". The troops arrived in Williams Lake, which had previously been evacuated, and took up residence at a local rec centre. The RCMP were out manning ORPs (Observe and Report Points), and the members of 39 Brigade, along with their regular

OP LENTUS 2017





OP Lentus 2017

force counterparts already on the ground, were there to help man these check points. The purpose of the ORPs was to ensure no one was entering a dangerous fire zone that shouldn't be there, and keeping track of numbers inside the zones in case there was a need to evacuate suddenly. During their time in Williams Lake, BCRs had an opportunity to work alongside the RCMP, and engage with the local population. The RCMP were very generous, taking good care of both their members and ours, by frequently dropping off more energy drinks and snacks than the troops could ever hope to finish during their 24-48hr shifts at the ORPs. The locals were also very grateful for the CAF's presence, and dropped off coffee and homemade food at the check points.

As the weeks went on, the focus for the CAF shifted. ORPs were

shut down as areas of the city were reopened to residents. Williams Lake had been repopulated. But the fires still raged on in other parts of the interior, and showed no sign of slowing. Around the end of July, the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) put in their own request for assistance to the government. 39 Brigade stood up a Domestic Response Company (DRC), whose focus would be helping to contain and put out the fires. The BCRs sent several troops to the DRC, and a number who had already been part of 'ALEA' extended their contracts to get on the fire line and do the job they had been hoping to do all along. The troops were given red BCWS jumpsuits, hard hats, respirators and everything else they would need to fight the fires, and were sent to Riske Creek, just South West of the city of Williams Lake, to the fire camp there. Every morning, the members of

the DRC would hop on the back of an MSVS and go, with one professional BCWS firefighter per platoon, to hunt for 'hot spots'. Using shovels and pulaskis, pumps and hoses, the troops spent all day putting out open flame, and building 'fire guards' around still burning areas to prevent the fires from spreading.

The troops arrived back at camp each evening tired and hungry, and covered in dirt and ash. However, morale remained extremely high for the most part. People felt like they were making a difference, despite how small these fires were in the scheme of things. Everyone, reg force and reserve, regardless of rank or trade, were there for a common goal. They had one job, and they were good at it. For once, the public was pretty much unanimously in favour of the army being there. And possibly the most important face, was those reservists who deployed, including over a dozen BCRs, were doing what most of them had join the military to do- helping Canadians out in their time of need. (... and the Class C pay wasn't bad either!)

FTX Centurion Duke 2017

Corporal Regala, Recce Sqn

Soldiers of the BCRs and 15th Field Regiments participated in their first Weekend Exercise at General Vokes Range. For both Regiments it was their yearly Field Ex which consisted of Rifle qualifications and Gas Hut.

With an early 6am start for the day, 15th Fd were the first to hit the Rifle Range. Troops did their Personal Weapons Test (PWT) 1, 2 and 3. Troops from the BCRs started to put on their MOP suits and began their yearly dose of CS Gas. In Chilliwack, Saturday's weather was warm and sunny with clear skies.

It would be a busy day, since both Regiments had to complete both the

Rifle Range and Gas Hut. After Lunch, it was the BCRs turn at General Vokes Rifle Range. Major McLeod of the BCRs noted that the BCRs take their Rifle qualifications seriously and that there was a competitive nature about it. As the day progressed into evening, the BCRs hurriedly raced against the sunset to complete their last serial of PWT3.

The last serial of PWT3 and the range staff were thankful that Lori's Catering waited until they completed their shoot. Soon after dinner, the night shoot began, and the sound of rifles echoed into the night as the surrounding mountains of Vokes Range reverberated with the loud booms.

Sunday morning began early, another 6am start, with Lori's waiting at base camp as the soldiers awoke. Base Camp would have to be collapsed and the BCRs would prepare for their 12km ruck march to finish their Range Ex weekend. 15th Fd would be continuing at General Vokes Rifle Range and would be firing C9 LMGs and Browning 9mm.

The BCRs rucked from General Vokes Range along Chilliwack Lake Road. The bus back to the Drill Hall was stationed 12km down. The BCRs boarded the bus back to their unit in downtown Vancouver completing their first Exercise of the training year.

Mountain Man Competition 2017

Officer Cadet Serviss, Training Squadron

Once a year come September, soldiers from across the 3rd Division gather in Edmonton along the North Saskatchewan River to test their mental and physical endurance in the Mountain Man Challenge. Unique from a typical marathon, this 50.8km ultra-marathon breaks down into 4 legs consisting of a 32km ruck run, a 3.6km portage, a 10km canoe, and finishes off with a 5.6km ruck run to the finish. For the ruck portion of the race, every soldier's ruck must weigh a minimum of 15kg (33lbs). During the portage portion of the race, every soldier must carry their own canoe in addition to their 33lb ruck sack, making for a very difficult 3.6km trek. The race is meant to test the physical readiness of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG), and this year the

British Columbia Regiment accepted the challenge.

For the first time in the unit's history, the BCRs sent a team to CFB Edmonton to challenge for the minor unit title. Training began as early as last spring, with the team members meeting outside of normal working hours to go on long ruck runs, or lift some weights in the Regiment's gym. The soldiers carried on individual training throughout the summer while stood down or stationed in Galetown, Edmonton, or elsewhere

OCdt Serviss





Portaging

for summer courses. Come September, the BCRs were ready to represent not just the Regiment, but the 39th Canadian Brigade Group as well. The event was very professionally run, and the weather could not have been more perfect for a race that would last up to 8 hours for some competitors. Cpl Palmer of the BCRs said that the portage must have been the most difficult part of the experience, an answer most would agree with. When asked what his favourite memory from Mountain Man was, Cpl Palmer said it would have to be finishing the race, a feat that should not be overlooked.

Tpr Tessa was the BCRs top finisher, completing the race in a very impressive time of 5 hours 42 minutes and 49 seconds. Tpr Tessa's time was

good for a 13th place finish out of the over 200 competitors and brought him in only about 30 minutes behind the first place finisher Capt Henderson. Maj Lindsay was a close second on the team, placing 19th with a time of 5 hours 52 minutes and 57 seconds. Cpl Robinson (52nd, 6:34:19) and Tpr Symes (61st, 6:47:30) rounded out the team's top four. Other BCR competitors include OCdt Serviss (68th, 6:54:08), Cpl Willson (70th, 6:55:27), Cpl Palmer (78th, 7:07:17), Cpl Alexander (85th, 7:12:08), and Capt Couture who had to leave the race for health reasons. Every participant was met with a medal at the finish line to commemorate the achievement of finishing the Mountain Man Challenge. The morning of the race, the Commanding Officer

of the Regiment, LCol Doug Evans, flew from Vancouver to Edmonton to personally hand each BCR member their medal as they crossed the finish line, reminding the exhausted soldiers that the Regiment was proud of their accomplishments.

Team scores are calculated by taking the average time from the top four competitors on each team. The BCRs top four runners had an average time that was good for a 2nd place finish in the minor unit category. However, a calculation error on the day of the event led to the BCRs being left out of the awards ceremony after the race. It wasn't until days later when LCol Evans filed a complaint after double checking the results, that the correction was made. Even before it was revealed that the BCRs scooped up the silver medal, many competitors and spectators alike were very impressed by the performance put on by the armoured reconnaissance reserve unit. On the official facebook page for The Mountain Man Challenge, the BCRs received a warm congrats with comments such as, "British Columbia Regiment had a very good representation at this years challenge! Hope they are back in 2018!!".

The BCR Mountain Man team could not have been possible without the leadership of Capt Couture. A previous competitor himself (5th in 2015), Capt Couture organized and motivated the team from start to finish. Our success can very much be attributed to his hard work, and in recognition of this, Capt Couture received a COs medal of commendation for his efforts. The BCRs are looking forward to returning to Edmonton in the future to improve upon their silver medal.

Dukes on Operations – 2014-17

OCdt Pearce – AO, IA & Training Sqn

The following Dukes served on operations between 2014-2017.

Captain McCullough – Fort Irwin and Thailand - 2016

In 2016, Captain McCullough received the opportunity to work with 2-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (2-2 SBCT), an American unit base out of Washington. A SBCT acts like a small Division in terms of Capabilities. This tasking would involve one month at Fort Irwin, in the Mojave Desert, working as a plans officer with an infantry battalion.

A squadron of 12 RBC was on the exercise as well, and McCullough acted as a liaison officer between them and the infantry battalion. This period at Fort Irwin was followed on by a position in Thailand, as battalion Battle Captain for 8-1 Cavalry, a US Armoured battalion.

Major McCullough - TF Sudan (Op Soprano) – 21 May 2017 – 04 December 2017 – Military Liaison Officers

OP SOPRANO is the ongoing Canadian component of the larger United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). The main goal of this mission is to help facilitate aid, protect civilians, and investigate human rights violations in order to help the local population and maintain peace and stability in the region. For most of 2017 Maj McCullough was deployed to South Sudan as a military

liaison officer, operating primarily out of Malakal the South Sudanese capital of Juba. The deployment featured austere conditions and there was fighting throughout the region as government and rebel factions sparred for strategic positions. Maj McCullough utilized his experience as both an Army Officer and a Police Officer to run patrols, direct multiple elements, and bolster the UN effort.

Major McCullough, South Sudan 2017



Captain Ellis – OP REASSURANCE – 23 February 2017 – 11 September 2017 – LAND TF HQ

After four weeks of workup training in Edmonton, Captain Ellis set off for Poland and his first deployment, OP REASSURANCE. The operation is a NATO mission involving all branches of the Canadian Armed Forces and a multitude of NATO countries. The primary focus of the mission is to show support for Central and Eastern Europe, reassure European Allies, and display the combined efforts of the NATO alliance. Captain Ellis was deployed to Poland as part of the Land Task Force and was quickly involved in interoperability training with the other NATO soldiers on location. This interoperability between allied forces is developed through a series of joint exercises and it was Captain Ellis' role to assist the HQ with running everyday operations and long term strategic planning. During this period, Captain Ellis, gained valuable experience contributing to the greater NATO mission.



Capt Ellis on the range
– OP REASSURANCE

OP Lentus 2017

OP LENTUS is a domestic operation which supports provincial and territorial authorities during times of crisis caused by natural disasters. The summer of 2017 saw flooding in Quebec, civilian evacuations from fires in Manitoba, and British Columbia declare a state of Emergency due to wildfires throughout the province. The tasks outlined in this operation included evacuating locals, assisting firefighters in combatting wildfires, and the transportation of aid and personnel. A number of Dukes deployed, including Captain Ducharme, Master Warrant Officer Matibag, Warrant Officer McKee, MCpl Sloan, MCpl Zherka, Cpl Chow and Cpl Daniels, with CS 73. Chief Warrant Officer Harris, Warrant Officer Harris, and Cpl Parker with 39 CBG. MCpl Zhou, Cpl Eng, and Cpl Hothi with 2 Section. Cpl Luro with 1 Section. Cpl Swanson with 3 Section. Cpl Fan with 1 PI HQ and Cpl Willson with VS 73. Through their efforts and those of the local authorities, the effects of these disasters were mitigated and on 15 September 2017, the government of British Columbia would end its state of emergency.



Fighting fires in OP Lentus 2017

OP Reassurance 2017 – present

Lt Serviss, Recce Sqn

Since 2014, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has contributed to Op REASSURANCE in Central and Eastern Europe. The operation is in support of NATO's assurance and deterrence measures and is meant to "reinforce NATO's collective defense" and to "demonstrate the strength of allied solidarity". Canada's contributions consist of a land, sea, and air component. At any given time, there are roughly 240 sailors, 540 soldiers, and 135 members of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) deployed from Canada, making Op REASSURANCE Canada's largest current overseas military operation.

In 2014, Canada's land component consisted of a Land Task Force (LTF) in Central and Eastern Europe based out of Poland. In 2017, the Canadian led NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group (eFP BG LVA) stood up in Camp Adazi, Latvia to replace the LTF in Poland which stood down

later that year. As the framework nation in Latvia, Canada fills most of the key leadership positions, and with 540 boots on the ground, is the largest contributing nation. There are currently 3 other enhanced Forward Presence Battle Groups throughout Eastern Europe. One in Estonia (led by the UK), one in Lithuania (led by Germany), and one in Poland (led by the USA). The eFP BG LVA is the most diverse battle group, with a total of nine contributing nations: Canada, Spain, Italy, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Poland, Albania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. In 2018, Justin Trudeau announced the extension of Canada's contribution to NATO's enhanced Forward Presence until March of 2023. To date, The British Columbia Regiment has deployed 3 soldiers on Op REASSURANCE. Capt Ellis and MCpl Aliakbar deployed with the LTF in Poland back in 2016; Lt Serviss deployed with the eFP BG LVA in 2020.

On May 6th, 2019, two Albanian Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) soldiers deployed with the eFP BG LVA were killed after an accident while conducting a controlled explosion. These were the first fatalities in the history of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Groups, and their passing was a sombre reminder that while the operation is a peacetime operation, NATO's work in Central and Eastern Europe remains naturally dangerous. On April 29th, 2020, 6 members of the CAF were killed when a RCAF CH-148 Cyclone helicopter crashed while conducting maritime surveillance operations in the Mediterranean Sea. The members were crew aboard HMCS Fredericton and were conducting joint training with the Italian and Turkish navies. This was the first fatal accident for Canadians during Op REASSURANCE, may they rest in peace.

4 Multinational Battlegroups

ESTONIA: United Kingdom Denmark France Iceland	LATVIA: Canada Albania Czech Republic Italy Montenegro Poland Slovakia Slovenia Spain
LITHUANIA: Germany Belgium Czech Republic Iceland The Netherlands Norway	POLAND: United States Croatia Romania United Kingdom
 Valid as of 14 June 2019	



NATO Enhanced Forward Presence





Left: Colour Party on Parade OP REASSURANCE

Right: Captain Ellis upon his arrival in Vancouver after deployment on OP REASSURANCE

A Letter from Captain Ellis, RHQ

Just to provide a little insight to what I am doing on Deployment:

Workup was fast and furious, but relatively painless as our OR sent me out the door with my files in a row and four weeks in Edmonton, conducting ranges, receiving various deployment briefs, and multiple immunizations was over before I knew it. I was lucky enough to go home for just over a week, and see my family at home, and at the unit. After receiving many well-wishes from both of my families, I was back in Edmonton, and getting loaded on a plane bound for Eastern Europe.

After a brief stop-over in Prestwick Scotland we landed in Poland and took a cruiser on a long ride for 5 hours to the DPTA training area in Western Poland. This base is approximately 342 square kilometers temporarily housing many NATO nations for training, mostly Poles, Dutch and US. We received a quick handover

from the previous rotation, and got straight to work on our rotation. Our main task on Op REASSURANCE is to conduct interoperability training with NATO allied through a series of joint exercises, and my role is the Ops 2/ Plans 2 responsible assisting the HQ with day-to-day ops, and long-term strategic planning. We are housed in a former Communist barracks, with a full kitchen, and proper gym facility for exercise. I will be attending our first major exercise, which is a month-long exercise in Hoenfels Germany, and will be the on-the-ground ops

representative from the Task Force. The lead unit will be of US origin, and it should be a great opportunity to conduct some effective training.

I am looking forward to more operations later on, as well as traveling to the different training locations that we will be visiting throughout Europe over the next six months. I will be able to provide more updates as time progresses, was just looking to check in.

Paul – 06 Mar 17



Captains Ellis and Tardiff

The Bands

The Irish Pipes and Drums

The summer of 2014 started with the Squamish Sikh Parade, part of the Squamish Sikh Festival at the end of June, followed a few days later by the Canada Day Parade in Downtown Vancouver. At the end of September the band participated in the Change of Command Ceremony welcoming LCol Evans as our new Commanding Officer. Our first performance under the new CO was in October at the 'Wait for Me Daddy Memorial Unveiling Ceremony' in Hyack Square, New Westminster. This war memorial is a sculpture based on Claude P. Dettloff's iconic photograph "Wait for Me, Daddy" taken in October, 1940 that shows BCR soldiers marching in New Westminster as part of WWII deployment

preparations. 74 years later the band was honored to take part in an event to remember them.

Being an Irish band CelticFest, and particularly St. Patrick's Day, are always big events on our calendar but Mar 17, 2015 was extra special as the band was part of the Vancouver Canucks Pat Quinn Night, a tribute to their former player and head coach fittingly known as "The Big Irishman". It was a truly Canadian although a somewhat nervous moment walking out of the gate into the midst of Roger Arena as pipe bands and ice generally don't mix very well! Fortunately everyone stayed upright and delivered an outstanding performance for the huge crowd.

We didn't know it at the time but March 2016 was the band's last performance in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade as it was cancelled in 2017. We still hope it returns one day as we will be back to lead it. In November, 2016 we celebrated Irene Ronnie's 101st birthday at the Royal Canadian Legion Br 42, Kerrisdale. Irene was a WWII veteran who was a great friend to the band and always had a pint waiting for us at the end of any performance. The Kerrisdale Legion was always a stop on our Remembrance Day list of venues which made this performance extra special due to the fact it was scheduled for closure the following spring.

The BCR(DCO) Irish Pipes and Drums





Top left: Leading the Canada Day Parade 2016
 Top right: Saint Patirck's Day celebrations in the Warrant's and Sergeant's Mess
 Left: The Pipes and Drums play at a Legion on Remembrance Day 2016

a performance at the BC Highland Games, and the 3300 BCR Cadet Corps Freedom of the City Parade.

The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Irish Pipes & Drums is proud to be part of the Regimental family and support the Regiment through its community and military performances. The band annually takes part in Regimental events such as Paardeberg Dinner, St. Julien's Dinner, the Perpetuated Battalions Memorial, Remembrance Day, and the Soldier's Appreciation Dinner. Annual community events include CelticFest, the All British Field Meet Classic Car Show, the European Festival, and the Bowfest parade and performance on Bowen Island.

In June, 2017 the band hosted at the Drill Hall one of the saddest events in its history; a Celebration of Life service for our side drummer Nathan MacKinnon who died suddenly in March just after St. Patrick's Day. The

band now has an annual tradition of a toasting his memory.

Other events of note that took place over this timespan were the Sergeant's & Officer's Mess Whisky Tasting evening, the band's first trip to Victoria, the Vimy Drumhead Service,

BCR Brass and Reed Band 2014-2017

During the period, the band maintained and added to its annual calendar of community events, including:

- Vancouver St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Kerrisdale Carnival Parade
- Vancouver Sun Run
- Fort Langley May Days Parade
- Point Grey Fiesta Days Parade
- Vancouver Halloween Parade
- BC Lions' Salute to Veterans ceremony at BC Place
- Whistler Granfondo

The band began to expand its calendar of performances in 2016

with the addition of a now-annual performance at the Pacific National Exhibition, and an annual Christmas performance, which has seen the band travel across Vancouver to various venues, including the Vancouver Christmas Market and Robson Square Ice Rink, playing traditional and modern carols.

The band also increased its focus on the tradition of military bugling. With a change in the Bugle Major role from John More to Chris Ahern, additional buglers joined the ranks and have

provided their services at events around the Lower Mainland, building to a one-day record of ten performances on Remembrance Day in 2017.

Led by Chris Ahern, the band also created a

smaller brass-only group, providing an additional small ensemble to increase the band's presence in the community at smaller venues, including the Burnaby Village Museum and Kitsilano Showboat.

Highlights of the band's activity during the period included the honour of performing at the 2016 Change of Brigade Sergeant Major Ceremony for outgoing BSM CWO Mark Arden, MMM, CD and a return to out-of-town travel, with performances at the 2016 Interior Provincial Expo in Armstrong and the Vernon Winter Carnival, which has since become an annual tradition for the band. The band's trips to the interior culminated in a performance at the 2017 Kimberley Pipe Band 90th Anniversary Tattoo, an event only occurring every 10 years in celebration of the pipe band's long history in Kimberley.



Left: Sefl Flack and Chris Ahern playing last post at the ANZAC 2015 ceremony. Photo by Shoot MacRae.

Below: BCR Brass and Reed Band at the 2016 PNE



The BC Regiment (DCO) Association

The Regimental Association and its Charitable Trust continued their support of the Regimental Family, Serving Members, Veterans and Cadets through various established programs, during the command of LCol. Douglas Evans, CD.

During this period, we continued our support of the annual Bursary Program for our Soldiers, from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 each, awarded to (from 6 to 9) individuals as directed by the awards committee; of our five Cadet Corps, including, in 2016, the newly Sponsor Chartered (Association) 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC; of the Regiment by annual In Memorium Donations to the BCR Trust for the Unit Fund to benefit the Serving Members; and by donations to help with both of the Regimental Volunteer Bands. We also support various veterans' commemorative events, such as the annual Vimy Day, in April, the annual BCR Perpetuated CEF Battalions Parade in September, the Remembrance &

Veterans' Dinner on 10th of November, Remembrance Day on November 11th and our signature event, the Annual Christmas Luncheon and Fundraiser, in early December of each year.

A highlight of this period was the Battlefield Tour in 2015, led by the CO, then Major Evans. The tour consisted of 32 Serving Members, whose costs were subsidized by the Association, and 20 Association Veterans. In April of 2017, Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne,

and President of the Association, Robert Remple, attended the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the Memorial Monument Dedication at Hill 70 near the Vimy Ridge Monument. In addition, on 31 August 2017, the Governor General of Canada, David Johnson, as Host and Patron of the Hill 70 Memorial Project, recognized the Charitable Trust and others for their support of the Project at a Reception held at Rideau

Right: The 1960s Dukes
HCol Ted and Sgts (Ret'd)
Recce Bob Remple &
Barrie Remple

Below: Rideau Hall
Reception for Hill 70
Memorial Project Donors'
Recognition



Hall. In attendance at this event were Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, then Association President, Robert Remple, then Vice-President, Gayle Hawthorne, President Emeritus, Archie Steacy and wife, Lynda Stacey. During LCol Evans' Command, we also assisted in the Regiment's 133 Birthday Gala; arranged for annual luncheons in Kamloops, BC for our Okanagan Veterans; presided at French Legion of Honour presentations to our WWII Veterans, attended the Army Galas; the Centennial Recognition and Plaque Dedication for CSM Robert Hill Hanna, VC at

Abbotsford City Hall and the "Wait For Me, Daddy" Memorial Unveiling in New Westminster, BC.

We continue to maintain and promote numerous other events such as the monthly curry lunches (which terminated in May 2017), the annual St. Patrick's Day reception, the annual Cadet Summer BBQ for the Cadet Development Program, the quarterly publication of The Duke and the publication of the weekly Bulletin. We also attend all CO's Parades, update the soldiers on parade regarding the activities of the Regimental Association

and the Charitable Trust, attend all Cadet Annual Ceremonial Reviews, Changes of Command, annual Mess Dinners, numerous CO's Parades and the annual Sunset Ceremony at Vernon Army Cadet Training Camp. We, together with the Regimental Family, contribute to the Annual Food Bank Program and deliver all non-perishable goods to Sancta Maria House, a women's shelter in Vancouver.

Gayle J. Hawthorne, Vice-President
Ted Hawthorne, Honorary Colonel,
Chairman & Trustee



INSTITUTES OF THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY (2014 – 2017)

The Commanding Officer's Committee

Acconci, R. O. "Romano" (LCol Ret'd)
Barrett, J.D. "Jim" (Maj)
Bell, P. W. "Peter" (LCol)
Cathcart, L. C. "Cam" (Hon Maj)
Conradi, A. P. "Andrew" (LCol Ret'd)
Couling, G. A. "Jerry" (Capt Ret'd)
Diamond, W.R. "Bill" (Hon Col - 39CER)
Drake, J.D. "Jack" (Maj Ret'd) (up to 6 Dec 2016)
Evans, D.C. "Doug" (LCol & C.O.)
Gagne, B. H. "Bryan" (Col)
Hawthorne, E. A. "Ted" (Hon Col) (Chairman)
Ireland, W. E. "Bill" (former Hon Col)
Kadonoff, D.B. "Bruce" (LCol)
Mathieson, G. I. "Irv" (LCol Ret'd)
Maxwell, K.D. "Keith" (Col Ret'd)
Philcox, P.A. "Paul" (LCol Ret'd)
Prouse, R.W. "Roger" (Maj Ret'd)
Remple, R.A. "Bob"
Shepherd, C. "Scott" M. (Hon LCol)
Sproule, D. A. "David" (LCol Ret'd)
Stanley, R. W. "Bob" (Col Ret'd)
Steacy, A. M. "Archie" (LCol Ret'd)
Thomas, D. "Dan" (Maj Ret'd)

The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Trust

Acconci, R. O. "Romano" (LCol Ret'd)
Couling, G. A. "Jerry" (Capt Ret'd)
Gagne, B. H. "Bryan" (Col)
Hawthorne, E. A. "Ted" (Hon Col)
Ireland, W. E. "Bill" (Hon Col Ret'd)
Sproule, D. A. "David" (LCol Ret'd)

The BC Regiment (DCO) Association 2017

Barrett, James
Couling, Gerald
Hawthorne, Gayle
Prouse, Roger
Remple, Robert (President)
Young, Graydon
Young, Sandra

The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust

Conradi, Andrew
Diamond, William
Hawthorne, Edwin (Chairman)
Ireland, William
McCarthy, William
Steacy, Archie

The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) (RCAC) Museum Society

Barrett, James
Clauson, Bob
Hall, Robert (President)
Holwill, David
Hourie, Richard
LeBlanc, Ronald
Maxwell, Keith
Neish, Don

Bursary Recipients & Unit Fund In Memoriam Donations

2014:

1. Sgt Stephen Cobb – The Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary;
2. MCpl Joe Rusen – The Sergeant Major Robert H. Hanna, VC Memorial Bursary;
3. Cpl Josh Faber – The Lieutenant William H. Bicknell Memorial Bursary;
4. Cpl Joseph Lam – The Private Michael James O'Rourke, VC Memorial Bursary;
5. Cpl Justin Lee – The Dr. P.C. Simon Bursary;
6. Cpl Kathleen Parker – The H/Major Raymond Ernest Glover Memorial Bursary; and
7. OCdt Kevin Kim – The Hawthorne, Piggott & Company Bursary.

2015:

1. Sgt. Stephen Clews – The Private Michael James O'Rourke, VC Memorial Bursary;
2. Sgt. Jessica Schultz – The Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary;
3. MCpl. Joe Rusen – The Sergeant Major Robert H. Hanna, VC Memorial Bursary;
4. MCpl Sebastien Therrien – The Hawthorne, Piggott & Company Bursary;
5. Cpl. Matthew Kovacs – The Lieutenant William H. Bicknell Memorial Bursary;
6. Cpl. Justin Lee – The Dr. P.C. Simon Bursary;
7. Tpr. Troy Ocol – The Dan and Ellen McKenzie Bursary;
8. Pte. Yongcheng Fan – The William E. Schmidt Memorial Bursary; and
9. Pte. Yaniv Pereyaslavsky – The H/Major Raymond Ernest Glover Memorial Bursary.

2016:

1. Sgt. Sebastien Therrien – The Hawthorne, Piggott & Company Bursary;
2. Cpl. Riley Lafferty – The Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary;
3. Cpl. Kai Yuan Li – The Lieutenant William H. Bicknell Memorial Bursary;
4. Cpl. Ken Wei Wu – The Dr. P.C. Simon Bursary;
5. Cpl Kelden Edwards – The Russell Stonehouse Memorial Bursary;
6. Cpl. Troy Ocol - The Honorary Major Raymond Ernest Glover Memorial Bursary; and
7. Tpr. Byunghoon Kim – The Grace Lungley Bursary

2016: Unit Fund In Memoriam Donation (Presentation to the CO)

1. A \$2,000.00 cheque payable to the Regimental Trust (Unit Fund) for the benefit of the Regiment's soldiers;
2. This donation by the Regimental Association Charitable Trust is made in memory of the passing this year of Audrey Toogood (wife of the late Colonel Toogood), Jean Sproule (wife of LCol (Ret'd) David Sproule) and Maj (Ret'd) John D. Drake;
3. The donation also is in recognition of the many behind the scenes contributions made by the spouses of our COs, past and present, and also the spouses of members in our Regimental Association.



The British Columbia Regiment

Duke of Connaught's Own

The Drill Hall
620 Beatty Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 2L9
bcregiment.com