

Volume 3, Issue 28  
September 2022



# THE DUKE



DECEMBER 2022

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Published by The BC Regiment (DCO) Association  
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**Articles,  
Announcements  
&  
News Releases**

Editor's Note: We mark this December Edition with the closure of another year and the hope of better things to come in 2023.

The Duke is only as good as the articles we receive, so we encourage our readers to send in pictures, with stories of any BCR or other event which you feel would interest our readers. Please note that the chapters from June until the end of September capture the activities from The BCR Weekly News previously published, minus invitations, and that new articles on Regimental history, activities, and remembrance well worth your reading are enclosed afterwards. On a personal note, I wish to thank all those who have contributed historical articles for publication.

## **OCTOBER**

### **CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY AND ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280 1 OCTOBER 2022**

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280 program for the morning forum on ZOOM commenced with special guest speaker, the Reverend Captain (N) George Zimmerman, speaking on the topic of "Good news from the Cradle of Humanity, Mully Children's Family," an amazing presentation providing "an overview of the rescue, rehabilitation, and restoration wonder called **Mully Children's Family** of Kenya", a very successful, Christian, non-governmental facility located east of Nairobi, Kenya. Mully Children's Family was founded by Dr. Charles Mutua Mully, a very successful businessman turned philanthropist.

The many members present thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. The host, King Wan, thanked Captain Zimmerman for a riveting presentation which was very well received by all members. The regular business meeting of ANAVETS chaired by President King Wan, as the Chairman, followed the presentation. The regular business meeting of CCMMS with Judge Wong in the chair concluded the morning's proceedings.

Thank you ANAVETS and CCMMS for this most interesting forum. Very well done indeed!

**Reverend Captain (N) George Zimmerman profile:** Reverend Captain (RCN) George Zimmerman was ordained Presbyterian in 1978. He served as a naval officer and then chaplain to the Canadian Armed Forces for 38 years. Postings included Squadron Chaplain Halifax and NATO, NDMC, where he was in the team that stood up the national PTSD clinics for serving members, the Commandant of the Chaplain School, and Command Chaplain, RCN. Retired in 2010, he was called to St. David and St. Martin Presbyterian Church, the charge in which he now serves. George took a sabbatical in 2022 living for six weeks in Kenya. As he put it "Everyday brought new insights into the resilience of humanity. In this place where poverty kills, I was filled with hope, calmness, and awe beyond human imagination."

Photos compliments of Steve Ko, CCMMS





# CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE SAINT LAURENS, BELGIUM BELGIUM – CANADIAN REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE 1 OCTOBER 2022

The annual Ceremony of Remembrance was held at Sint-Laureins in Belgium to remember the service and sacrifice of our soldiers during Operation Switchback in the autumn of 1944 (the second main operation of the four phase Battle of the Scheldt under the command of Lieutenant General H.D.G Crerar). The Fallen are remembered at the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery in Belgium.

Up the Dukes!

Photos courtesy of Johen Du Pre.





## 139<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF THE REGIMENT THE DRILL HALL 12 OCTOBER 2022

After a very busy training evening, our Soldiers took a well-deserved break to celebrate in fine fashion the 139<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of our Regiment. Director-at-Large of the Regimental Association, Scott Hamilton, arranged for two large birthday cakes to highlight the celebration and the Regiment's two Honoraries, Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, officially cut the cake and served same to our Members with the able assistance of the Acting Commanding Officer, Major Adam Brown. Scott Hamilton addressed the soldiers and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne read the birthday greeting of the President, Jim Barrett, which stated in part that....." we remember the many years of sacrifice, service and commitment by our members, both past and present." A memorable rendition of "Happy Birthday," led by MCpl Allan Luna, was sung by all those present.

It was a great evening to visit and reminisce with our Soldiers on such a memorable occasion. The evening also featured the swearing in of four new Soldiers by Captain Peter Stocker.

Congratulations and welcome to the Regiment!

Up the Dukes!







## 2781 BCR (DCO) RCACC POWELL RIVER BCR HISTORY NIGHT AND REGIMENTAL 139<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

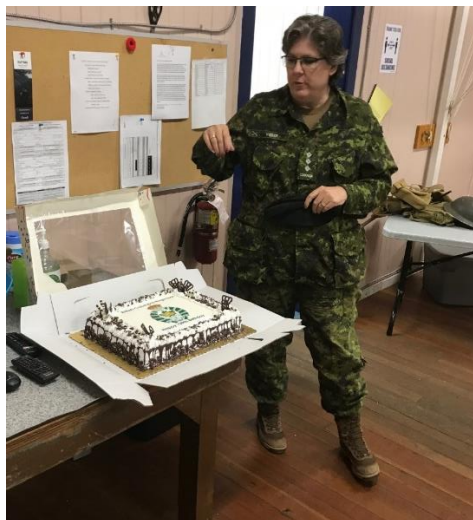


On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Officers, Staff and cadets joined together to celebrate the 139<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of the formation of the Regiment on the Canadian Order of Battle in 1883. Seventeen of the nineteen cadets currently on strength attended the evening where Jim Barrett, BCR Association President and Vice President of the BCR Museum Society conducted a presentation on the evening on the History of the Regiment from its pre-confederation origins, through its service through two world wars, the Cold War and to its service in Bosnia and Afghanistan. A daunting challenge in two periods of instruction. Former Commanding Officer of 2781 BCR Powell River, Capt (Ret'd) Larry Gemmill, CD joined the corps for the evening.



Capt Larry Gemmill (LR) next to SSM and cadets

Most popular were the cutting of the 139<sup>th</sup> Birthday cake by CO, Capt Caroline Visser, using a WWI Mark III Enfield Bayonet.



Also, popular were a number of artifacts from LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett's (aslo a CI with the corps) own personal collection including a complete set of WWII Webbing with entrenching tool and Respirator, as well as an example of his original Helmet and 1954 pattern webbing he used when he enlisted bask in 1982.



Cadets were allowed to handle all the artifacts ranging from WWII Service binoculars through to shrapnel balls and shell fragments collected from a Great War battlefield in Belgium. As you can tell from the photos, the hands on session was greatly enjoyed.

The BCR Association covered the cost of the cake and has done so for the celebration with the serving soldiers of the Regiment at our Historic Drill Hall on Beatty Street and will do so for all of our cadet corps. We look forward to providing you pictures of those events as well in the next week or so.

## **DUKES ARE RECOGNIZED DURING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION TRIBUTE DINNER**

By Major (retired) Dan Thomas, CD

For several years, Ted Hawthorne and Dan Thomas have attended the Aboriginal Veterans Day Ceremonies, which are gaining momentum in Vancouver on November 8<sup>th</sup>. We were pleasantly surprised, however, to be invited to a dinner to help honour Indigenous veterans on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The opening territory welcome was performed by Mary Point, who also manages the relationship between the Musqueam people and Vancouver International Airport. A song and drum performance followed from the Moonstone Singers – three young women whose music reflected several First Nations' traditions.

We were very pleasantly surprised to be presented with ceremonial blankets and drums – significant honours in First Nations culture – beside Indigenous veterans Dave Ward (RCR), Jamie Thomas (USMC), and Georgia Jules (RM Rang and SHC). All spoke about our personal reflections on Reconciliation. The evening also included sharing an excellent dinner of salmon, Bannock, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and pie, provided by Musqueam caterer Gina Point.

Elder in Residence Kelly White, who coordinates the Aboriginal Veterans Day Ceremonies, also organized the Tribute Dinner. Indigenous Innovations - an organization represented by John Su and Janarae Tom that arranges health care solutions for Indigenous peoples - supported the dinner, in collaboration with business media expert Robin Ashmore, of All Purpose Creative Inc. We look forward to getting back together with our friends, starting at 10 a.m. at Victory Square, Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>, and we encourage fellow Dukes to join us in paying our respects to Aboriginal veterans and fallen comrades.





# BC REGIMENT (IRISH FUSILIERS) RCACC CELEBRATE THEIR SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

## Army Cadets Celebrate “Strong Sixty”



2381's cadets posing strong for a “Strong 60<sup>th</sup>” anniversary – Photo Credit: 2381 RCACC

A sixtieth birthday is always cause for celebration and it's no exception for Richmond's 2381 “BCR Irish Fusiliers” Army Cadets. Affectionally dubbed “The Irish”, the Corps entered their seventh decade of service on October 1, 2022.

The Cadet Corps was founded in 1962 and has undergone numerous evolutions to keep up with changing times, norms, and needs of the community. Hundreds of cadets have passed through the doors of 2381 and left with lifelong friendships and unforgettable experiences.

“We're proud to have served our community for such a long time”, remarks Commanding Officer Captain Jeff Ng. The Corps has grown exponentially since the time Ng had taken the helm of the unit. From a population of 20 cadets in 2019, 2831 is now more than 80 members strong.

“This is a very special anniversary for us, especially with the energy and momentum around our growth; it has really served as a rallying call around our place and purpose in the lives of youth. The pandemic has displaced young people in terms of being active and involved in their self-development. We're here to help structure that developmental experience and really create a second home for youth.”

2381 Cadets trains every Tuesday night from 6:30-9:30 PM at the Sherman Armoury located at 5500 No. 4 Rd. The program is 100% free for all youth ages 12-18, and does not charge any registration or admin fees, dues, or other costs to families. Interested individuals can visit [2381armycadets.com](http://2381armycadets.com) for more information.

Published in the Richmond News.

## 2781 BCR (DCO) RCACC PORT MOODY CELEBRATE 139<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF REGIMENT



Reported by OCDT Mark Daily:

The new training year for 2827 BCR (DCO) RCACC is now in full swing with 37 cadets currently on strength. The past month and half have been very busy for our officers and cadets as we continue to return to our normal training program. Our senior cadets are doing an outstanding job teaching in areas including drill, marksmanship, and leadership. In the weeks ahead our cadets will continue their lessons in these subjects and will also work on perfecting their drill in preparation for Remembrance Day next month.



On 11 October we celebrated the British Columbia Regiment's (DCO) 139<sup>th</sup> birthday with a cake kindly supplied by our own BCR (DCO) Association. To make this a truly memorable evening, nine of our cadets

also received promotions to recognize their hard work, dedication, and their continued commitment to both the army cadet programme and our corps.



Looking ahead we have New Recruit and NCO Professional Development days planned for Saturdays in October and November, and our training staff is busy planning a number of FTXs scheduled to start in early 2023.

Up the Dukes!



**MESSAGE FROM THE KING  
TO MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES**

On the occasion of my accession as Sovereign, I would like to send to every one of you in the Canadian Armed Forces my heartfelt gratitude for the unstinting loyalty and professionalism you displayed through the reign of my beloved mother.

I know that The Queen took the greatest possible pride in the way service members from Canada performed their duties in many parts of the world and often in the most testing and difficult circumstances.

I share my Mother's high regard know for your courage and commitment. I know, for my part, that you will continue to serve your country with the dedication and bravery which you have demonstrated with such success over the years.

## **2381 BCR (IRISH FUSILIERS) RCACC CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE 25 OCTOBER 2022**

On Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, a Change of Command Ceremony was held at the Colonel Sherman Armoury in Richmond, BC to honour both outgoing Commanding Officer, Captain Jeff Ng and to welcome the incoming CO, Captain Michael Azzano.



Capt Azzano 'Falls in the Officers'

In attendance, representing the BC Regiment and LCol Virk as Reviewing Officer was Major Vinning, OC A Squadron BCR. Major Ken Prince represented RCSU (Pacific) and signed the Change of Command

Documents on behalf of the Commander. LCol Anh Foort, CO 39 Service Battalion, welcomed Capt Azzano and Capt Jeff Ng, who is in the process of completing his transfer to her unit as a member of the Primary Reserve. Capt Jeff Ng is to be congratulated for his dedication and service to the Cadets and Officers and for his former corps growth in numbers to over 80 on strength. A remarkable achievement during the challenges of the pandemic.

Sixty-Six Cadets and Officers were on parade for the ceremony.



Maj Vinning reviews the cadet on parade



Change of Command Certificates Signed  
L-R: Capt Jeff Ng, Maj Ken Prince (RCSU (Pac.)), Capt Mike Azzano



Cadet Warrant Officer Elina Fu receives her award as Top Cadet in BC

Also present from the BC Regimental family were HLCol Bill Diamond, LCol (Ret'd) John Nosotti (former 2381 CO) Major (Ret'd) Roger & Louise Prouse, Capt Leah Yauk, Capt (Ret'd) Archie Pow, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett and Scott Hamilton from the BCR Association and many other parents and supporters.

Congratulations to Captain Mike Azzano and best wishes to Captain Jeff Ng.

Up the Dukes!

### **November**

## **Dukes Enjoy Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Passchendaele Mess Dinner 5 November 2022**

By Major (Retired) Dan Thomas, CD

Canada fought its Battle of Passchendaele in late 1917, when the Canadian Corps took its objectives where other allies had been unsuccessful. The seizure of Crest Farm on October 30th by the 72<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), raised and perpetuated by The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, was a particular success – studied by unit officers and commemorated in a Mess Dinner in following years. (Unit history reference: <https://www.seaforthhighlanders.ca/events/vimy-1917-2rq7z>)



Thus, the Seaforths renewed their Passchendaele tradition on Saturday evening November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, following a hiatus due to COVID-19. The event brought together the unit family and many guests from neighbouring Reserve units, including eight Dukes – the most of any visiting unit. Several former Seaforth COs in attendance, and who remain in service, included MGen Rob Roy Mackenzie, Col Paul Ursich, and Col Scott Raesler.



“Our units are tied together right from the start,” explained LCol Vince Virk, CO BCR. “It was cool how they talked about the battle during the dinner, and emphasized how the CO, LCol John Clark, conducted a personal recce and arranged a last-minute change to his plan of attack because the unit’s frontage was flooded.”

After the dinner, LCol Virk and others visited the large photo mural of the founding Seaforth officers and their own guests at the time – including a Duke, Capt William Hart-McHarg. This officer would later die as CO 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion (1<sup>st</sup> British Columbia) CEF while conducting personal recce during the Battle of St. Julien in 1915, which we perpetuate on or near April 25<sup>th</sup>. Our historic leaders took high risks to protect their soldiers’ lives, and often made the ultimate sacrifice themselves.



Photo by Capt Kaine

Currently, the Seaforths and Dukes work together very effectively, such as during exercises and Domestic Operations. Relationships developed during social events can contribute to such success by facilitating integration and strengthening shared *esprit de corps*.

Many thanks to our Seaforth comrades: LCol Kent Wickens, CO; Maj Steve McNally, DCO, PMC, and G3 39 Canadian Brigade Group; CWO Rob Deans, RSM; and all our hosts. Dukes in attendance included: HCol Farid Rohani; HLCOL Bill Diamond; LCol Vince Virk, CO; Maj Adam Brown; Maj Adam McLeod; Maj Greg McCullough; Capt Pete Stocker; and Maj (retired) Dan Thomas.

## **2827 BCR REGIMENTAL HISTORY NIGHT PROMOTION TO CWO PARNELL**

**8 NOVEMBER 2022**

On Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, BCR President, Jim Barrett, who is also the Vice-President of the BCR Museum Committee attended with staff and cadets of our BCR Port Moody Corps to present on the history of the Regiment beginning with the early history of BC prior to its entry into Confederation in 1871 and its formation from the colonial period volunteer militia units in New Westminster, Victoria and Nanaimo, into its formation as BC Garrison Artillery on 12 October 1883. Cadets also had the opportunity to handle numerous artifacts, including webbing, helmets, etc., from LCol (R) Barrett's own collection, including many which he personally used in his period of service including binoculars used to call in Artillery & Tank Fire.



LCol Barrett fits out Port Moody Cadet with WWII Webbing

LCol Barrett demonstrates how to wear respirator

With 139 years of service, we were only able to cover the history up to the start of the Great War in 1914, as the corps had an important promotion to make that night to the rank of CWO for their corps RSM.

CWO Parnell was promoted by Capt Robert Rothwell, former CO 2827 BCR, on what would be his last night of service prior to him leaving the cadet programme on the eve of his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 11<sup>th</sup>. He will be attending in civilian dress on Friday for the first time in many years.



CWO Parnell spoke to the cadets assembled about what the cadet system had brought to him in importance. We wish him well as he embarks on his future as a young adult. We know he will do well. Commanding Officer, Capt Dean McLellan presented CWO Parnell with his outgoing Mug and a corps photo as a memento of his excellent service. In attendance were a CWO Parnell's parents.



The corps finished with the taking of their Annual Group Photo for 2022.

Up the Dukes!

## ICBC REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY ICBC HEAD OFFICE 10 NOV 2022

On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, Veterans and Members of the BCR Association attended for the 28<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Service at The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's headquarters located at the Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver. Originated by the initiative of BCR Association Padre, Captain The Reverend Gord Barrett, as a manager with ICBC, and with LCol (Retired) Jim Barrett, BCR Association President as Guard Commander, the service has gone on each year attended by a number of veterans, and supported by the Pipes & Drums of the 39 Canadian Engineer Regiment.



Organized this year by ICBC's Katrina Meng, she expressed her gratitude for the service of our veterans and our participation in our respective organisations as for volunteering our time to attend the ceremony.

The band and veterans were welcomed by Vice-President of Claims, Mr. Vito Albanese, and an Indigenous Employee gave a talk on the importance of Remembrance Day to First Nations and their service.



LCol (Ret'd) Archie Steacy, presented a mounted Veteran's Plate with citation to ICBC for their support of the Veteran's Licence Plate Programme of which he had been a founding member. Association Padre, Gord Barrett presented his sermon on the importance of Remembrance Day which was followed by the Act of Remembrance. Following the ceremony, the attendees were treated to tea and coffee in the Staff lunchroom.





## VANVOUVER REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2022

On Friday the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Soldiers of the Regiment and the Regimental Family Gathered at the BCR Drill Hall on Beaty Street for the first full Remembrance Day since the Covid-19 Pandemic started in March of 2020. A group photograph was taken first of the BCR on Parade and then a second one with the Soldiers and the BCR regimental Family Members.

The day started both cold and with a light mist of rain as the Regiment and BCR Association Members headed down to Victory Square and the Vancouver Cenotaph. Following the BCR Brass and Reed Band in their Rifles uniforms, LCol Virk, CO BCR, led our Regiment of approximately 150 soldiers on parade, and BCR Association President, LCol (R) Jim Barrett, led our BCR Veterans and the rest of the Veterans down to their parade location led by our BCR Irish Pipes & Drums. On parade with the BCR Association were HCol Farid Rohani and HLCol Bill Diamond.



At the service, the Master-of-Ceremony, Jim Stanton acknowledged the contribution to the ceremony made by our late Association Member, Cam Cathcart, and the Cam Cathcart Memorial Bursary was awarded to the student poem reader by the new Mayor of Vancouver, Shim. Cam's family were in attendance for the presentation.

Major (R) Roger Prouse and Cpl (R) Graydon Young laid the official wreath on behalf of all Veterans of the Canadian Army. Later BCR Association President, Jim Barrett, accompanied by Scott Hamilton, laid the recognised wreath for the BCR Association, just prior to falling back into position for the March Past where the Veterans and soldiers were reviewed by MGen RR Mackenzie and Col S Raesler Comd 39 CBG.

On return to the Drill Hall the Toast to the Fallen was given by BCR President, Jim Barrett and to the Regiment by HCol Farid Rohani. BCR 2290 Cadets and Officers participated with Coca-Cola.

Our thanks to Debra Wold, Territorial Manager Pacific Wines & Spirits for the kind donation of the rum for the toasts.

## **BCR (DCO) ASSOCIATION 11 NOVEMBER 2022**



Photo by Steve Ko



Photo by Steve ko



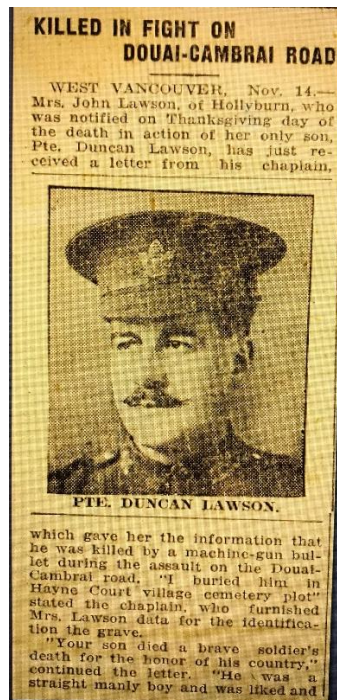
Photo by Steve Ko

## NEW REMEMBRANCE DAY DISPLAY FOR THE ROEDDE HOUSE MUSEUM

A friend of the Regiment, Mr James Gibson, in 2021 did a presentation on the 29<sup>th</sup> Bn CEF and this year has prepared a new exhibition which is open to the public at this historic downtown Vancouver home. And museum.



"SHE IS SHOWING WHY DUNCAN WAS SUCH A SON BROTHER AND HERO"  
Duncan Lawson 1897(Revelstoke, BC)- 1918(France).  
196th Battalion-46th Battalion. WW1



The Fall/Winter Hours for the Roedde House are Fall/Winter Hours 2022-2023.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm.

The display is in the first floor parlour room.

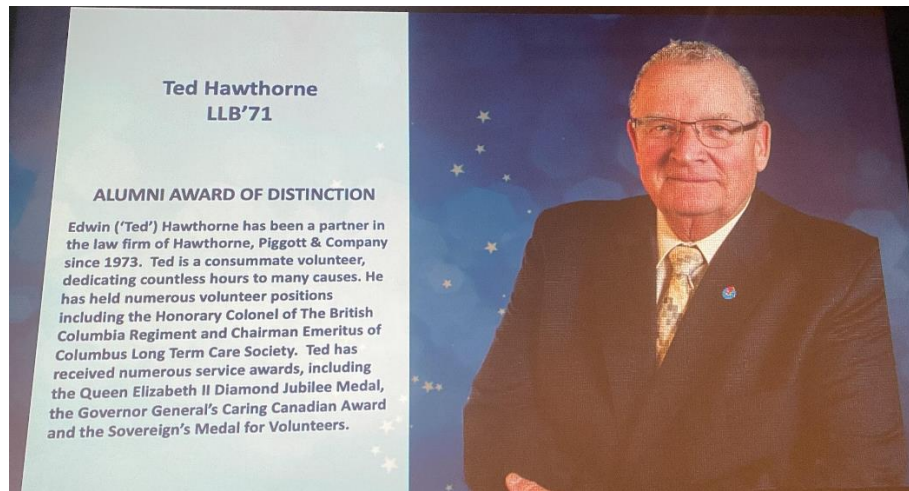
Tickets can be purchased onsite. However, Jim Gibson has left some tickets with the front desk for interested Regimental family members. Please contact Jim in advance at: [jim.gibson@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jim.gibson@mail.utoronto.ca)

## UBC ALLARD LAW ALUMNI AWARDS 15 NOVEMBER 2022

On the evening of November 15th, the UBC Allard Law Alumni Society presented their annual awards at the VIFF Centre and there were two former Honoraries as recipients.



Former Lt-Governor of BC, former HCol of 39 Service Battalion and former HCapt of the Navy, and current Chancellor of UBC, The Honourable Steven Point, OBC (LLB '85) was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



Former HCol of The British Columbia Regiment, Ted Hawthorne (LLB '71) received the Alumni Award of Distinction. This award recognized Ted for his many contributions over the past fifty years as a lawyer with a focus on his volunteer and pro bono work. The evening included a pre-recorded interview of each of the recipients along with a colleague to give further insight into the contributions of the recipient. This video provided Ted the opportunity to explain why he makes the contributions that he does. Major Emily McKinnon (JD '12) nominated Ted for this award based on her knowledge of his volunteer and pro bono work with the military. During the evening she learned about the many non-military organizations he supports.



Unfortunately, Ted was not able to be present to receive the award in person. His "number one daughter" Michelle stepped in to receive the award and share a few comments that Ted had prepared. Joining Michelle at the event were her husband Sean Harvey, her brother Troy and wife Catherine Hawthorne, "Chief of Staff" Charlotte Yen, BCR Association President Jim Barrett and BCR HLCol Bill Diamond and Audrey Diamond.



L-R: Charlotte Yen & Michelle Hawthorne

It was a great event organized by the UBC Allard Law Alumni Society. Congratulations to all the recipients with a special congratulations to our Former HCol - a career that spanned 50 years heading up a busy law practice while advocating for so many non-profit societies. He continues to be an example to follow and a credit to all organizations that he has been involved with.

HLCol Bill Diamond

## 2827 BCR (DCO) RCACC PORT MOODY REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

2827 BCR has provided photos from the two ceremonies that their corps participated in for the two RCL Branches that provide support to their corps. They split their cadets into two troops to cover both Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119 and RCL Branch 263 . Troop 1 at Coquitlam and Troop 2 at Port Moody





On Guard RCL Branch 119 Port Moody



Sentinel Duty Coquitlam RCL Br 263



Sgt Butler 2781 BCR Powell River at Powell River Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Ceremony

## **LEKE BELGIUM REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2022**

The accompanying photographs were taken on Remembrance Day, November 11, 2022, at the Belgian War Monument and the Canadian Liberation Monument (Canada Square).

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Ludwig (Luke) Vandenbussche  
Secretary Belgian-Canadian Remembrance Committee - LEKE  
Honorary Major (BCRA)  
Member of the Board vzw Belgium-Canada





## **PRESENTATION OF PICTURE OF CAM CATHCART TO OFFICERS' MESS 11 NOV 2022**



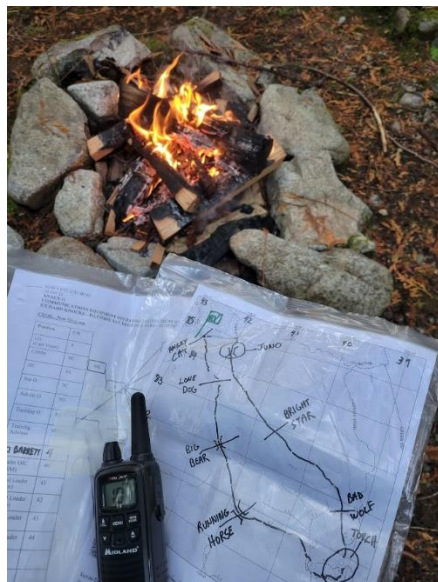
Following the 11<sup>th</sup> of November Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Vancouver Cenotaph, MC Jim Stanton and his wife, Paula Walsh, presented a framed photograph of the late Hon Maj Cam Cathcart to CO BCR, LCol Vince Virk, to be displayed in the Officers' Mess, in memory of Cam's many years of dedicated service to the Regiment. Cam's family attended and were delighted to see him so recognized.

## **2827 LEADERSHIP/ INSTRUCTOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**



November 19, 2022 - 2827 conducted a Leadership/Instructor Professional Development Day with our Cadet NCM's . Our cadets received several lessons and opportunities to learn and demonstrate basic principles of leadership and instruction. With the last few years being disrupted we wanted to ensure our youth leadership group can develop and exercise new skills.

## **2781 BCR (DCO) POWELL RIVER 19 NOV 2022 ONE DAY HIKE – SUICIDE CREEK**



On 19 November 2022, the staff and cadets from 2781 BCR Powell River embarked on a one-day hike near Powell River on a frosty and clear day with the sun shining. CI Barrett had conducted prior training on Radio-Telephone Procedure and setting up a radio net as well as map marking. Leading eleven cadets from the corps different cadets took time leading and sending basic reports on the handheld radios. VI Robert Francis brought up the rear and with familiarity with the trails kept us from straying too far from our objectives. Capt Caroline Visser set up a camp for lunch halfway along the trail as evidenced by the fire where all enjoyed their MRE lunches before visiting the Suicide Creek waterfall and resuming the hike back to the pickup RV point. The trail at time being along old and abandoned steam logging railroad beds.

## **CO'S COMMITTEE & REGIMENTAL TRUST MEETINGS IN PERSON AND BY ZOOM 23 NOVEMBER 2022**

The November meetings of the BCR Commanding Officer's Committee and the BCR Trust were held in person and virtually via ZOOM in the early evening of Wednesday, November 23rd. Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani chaired the very comprehensive CO's Committee meeting which included thorough reports from the President of the Regimental Association, LCol (R) Jim Barrett, the Chairman of the Regimental Association Charitable Trust, Former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, the President of the BCR Museum, Bill Whalen, the Cadet Governor, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, the Band Governor and the Treasurer of the BCR Trust,

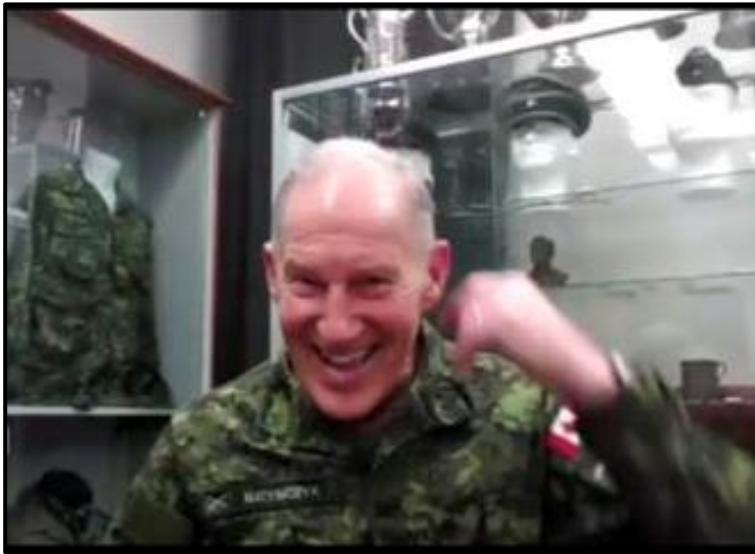
Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond and the CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, who provided reports on the upcoming training year, "Heritage Duke", a Command Snap Shot and a review of his Strategic Plan (2020-2024). All reports were very well received by the members. In concluding the afternoon's proceedings, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Bill Diamond, chaired the BCR Trust meeting.

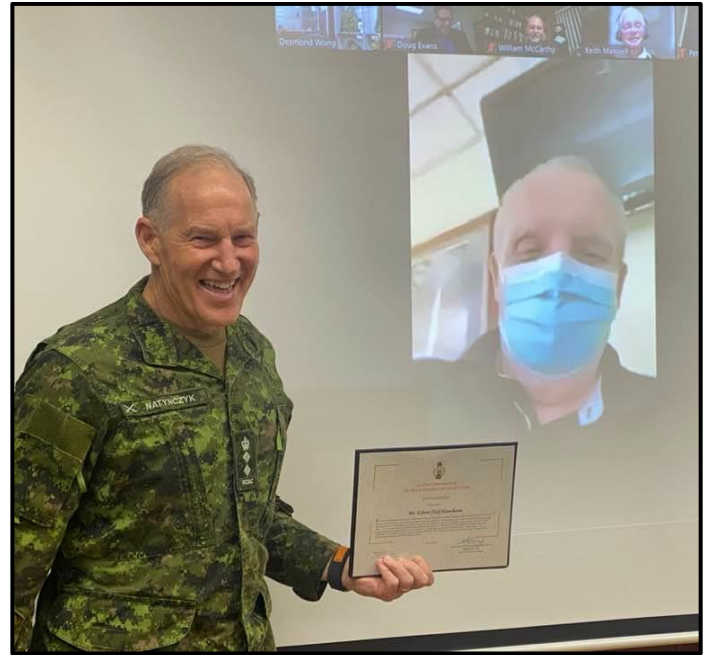
A definite highlight of the meetings was a visit by the Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, General Walt Natynczyk, who greeted the members of the CO's Committee and the BCR Trust and thanked them all for their service and leadership. In addition, General Walt presented Commendations to Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Dave Sproule and Former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne for their exemplary service, dedication, and leadership.

Congratulations all around and thank you to the RCAC Colonel Commandant for his support of the Regiment and the Regimental Family!

Up the Dukes!







## December

### FOOD BANK 2022

The Annual BCR Food Bank initiative will be sponsored once again by the Regimental Association. The Regiment will be supporting the Food Bank as well with donations from our serving members delivered to the Drill Hall.

For all our friends and supporters of the Regiment, please deliver your donations of canned food and/or non-perishables to the Offices of **HPLaw at #208 - 1899 Willingdon Avenue in Burnaby** (one block north of the Brentwood Sky Train Station). Sancta Maria House, a women's shelter in Vancouver, will be the recipient of our efforts. Many thanks and we look forward to your support.

Please drop your donations off before 14 December 2022.

Up the Dukes!



**2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
THE BCR (DCO) MUSEUM SOCIETY  
1 DECEMBER 2022**

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors of the BCR Museum who were duly elected by the Members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on ZOOM this afternoon. The directors elected are Bill Whalen, President, Jim Barrett, VP, Keith Maxwell, Treasurer, Bob Clauson, Secretary, Don Neish, Curator and Rick Hourie, Director at Large. The former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and the Museum's legal counsel, Ted Hawthorne, was also in attendance. The BCR Museum continues to do a great job preserving, maintaining, and displaying so many items of our Regimental History. Thank you for your great work!

Up the Dukes!



## CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY AND ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280 3 DECEMBER 2022

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280 held their respective regular monthly business meetings on the ZOOM platform this morning. The meeting for ANAVETS was chaired by President King Wan, and the meeting of CCMMS was chaired by the President, Judge Randall Wong. CCMMS also conducted their annual election of directors and officers for the ensuing year. Congratulations to the duly elected and appointed members!!

Thank you ANAVETS and CCMMS for their continuing service and dedication to our veterans and to the community!





Group photo courtesy of Steve Ko, CCMMS

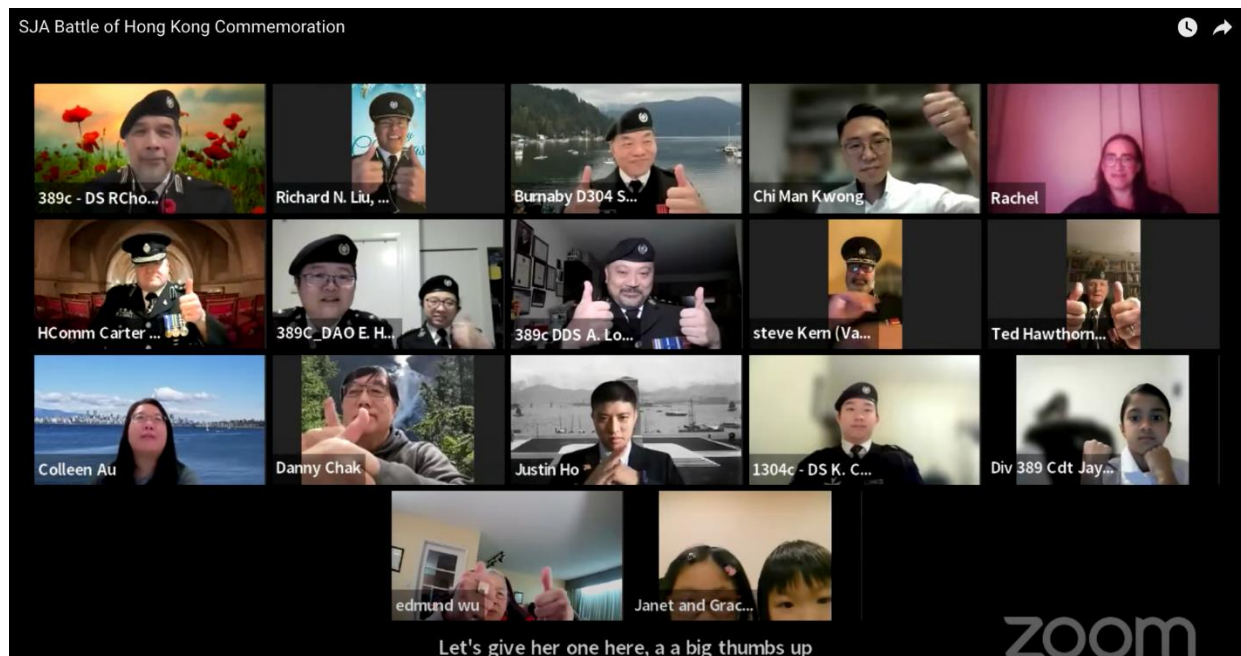
## ST. JOHN AMBULANCE REMEMBRANCE OF THE 81<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG 5 DECEMBER 2022

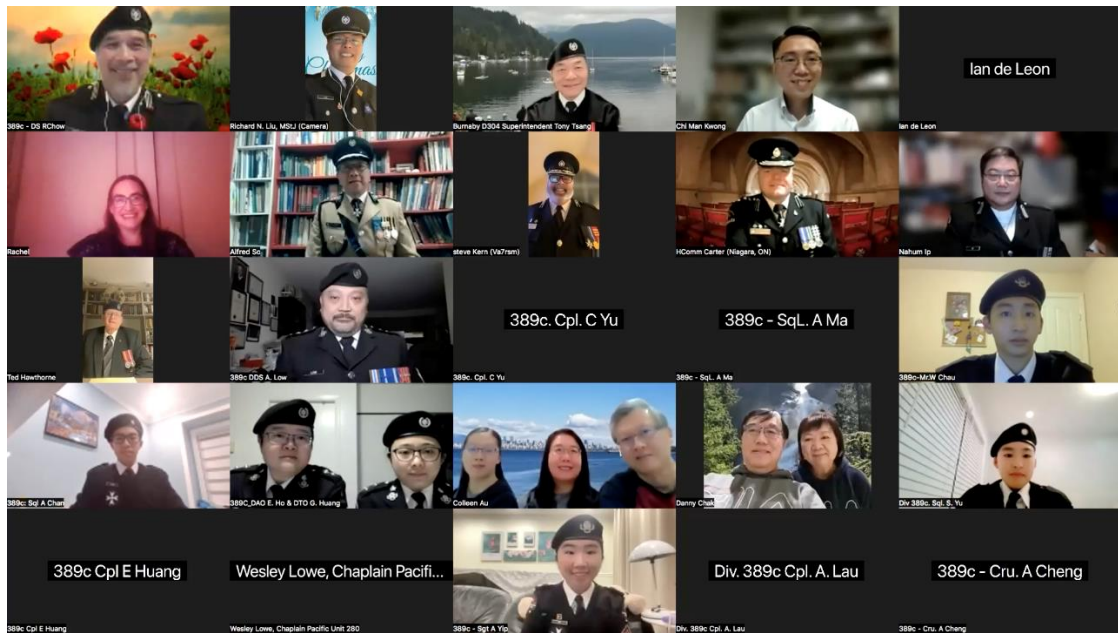
Congratulations to St. John Ambulance, Burnaby Division, and Richard Liu, Honorary Brigade Division President, on hosting the 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony of The Battle of Hong Kong (8-25 December 1941). The ZOOM presentation was very well attended by members of St. John Ambulance from across Canada and Hong Kong and by military, veterans and civilian members of the community. The service, dedication and sacrifice of our soldiers during the defence of Hong Kong and as POWs was remembered. Former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and Vice President of the Regimental Association, Ted Hawthorne, was recognized at the reception preceding the ceremony and Ted acknowledged the great honour to participate.

We will remember them!

At the conclusion of the program, a special presentation was made by Rachel Dell of the Bay Chaleur Military Museum / Musée Militaire Baie-des-Chaleur and Dr. Chi Man Kwong, Associate Professor, Department of History at the Hong Kong Baptist University, regarding the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of WWII Veteran of the Battle of Hong Kong, the late Dr. Po Tin Chak, from the Sham Shui Po POW Camp and the untold story of the group of 100 POWs released, as they were declared non-combatants (including the amazing artefact of the handkerchief signed by all 100 POWs).

The (edited) full video of this fascinating story is available via the SJA Youtube channel, just in time for the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the actual start of the Battle of Hong Kong which was 1245pm PST on DEC 7<sup>th</sup> / 0445am HKT DEC 8<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYVairKYZig>





## **A HOLIDAY GREETING FROM OUR AFFILIATED ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY SHIP HMCS VANCOUVER**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HMCS VANCOUVER  
JOYEUSE FÊTES DE LA PART DU NCSM VANCOUVER

## **COMMANDING OFFICER'S PARADE (STAND DOWN) THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C. 7 DECEMBER 2022**

The Stand Down Parade was held at the Drill Hall in the late evening of Wednesday, 7 December 2022, after all training sessions were concluded. The memorable evening's program which was well attended included the presentation of nine Bursaries, each in the amount of \$2,000.00, awarded by the Chairman of the Regimental Association Charitable Trust, Ted Hawthorne. Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond presented the Certificates and President Jim Barrett presented the cheques. The recipients were Sergeant Nathan Palmer, Corporals Zhensen Cao, Andy Fei, Geoffrey Nordin, Paul Sauer, Jeong Il Son and Shawn Zhang and Troopers Iqbal Singh Athwal and Fraser Alexander Rostad. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, was also presented with a cheque in the amount of \$2,000.00 by former Honorary Colonel Hawthorne for The BCR (DCO) Trust, for the benefit of our soldiers. The Bursary presentations were preceded by the Opening Remarks of the Commanding Officer, followed by one promotion, the presentation of two CO's Commendations and three Regimental Coins. The CO concluded the evening with his Closing Remarks which included the training which lies ahead, an update on the 2023 Battlefield Tour, along with

reminders for the Soldiers' Recognition Dinner on Saturday, "Santa Duke" on Sunday and the Unit Football Game (Senior NCOs and Officers versus The JRs) in January. The Parade was followed by "Pizza Night", compliments of the Padre, The Very Reverend Christopher Pappas, and the Regimental Association. Congratulations everyone on an excellent CO's Parade and very best wishes and Merry Christmas!

Remember the Food Bank!!

Up the Dukes!

#### **Editor's Note:**

Prior to the evening's training program, the Regiment was honoured to receive a visit from the Canadian Army Sergeant Major, CWO Jim Smith, and 39 CBG Sergeant Major, CWO Tony Harris. CWO Smith conducted a Town Hall Meeting with the members followed by a Q&A, all of which was well received by our soldiers. At the conclusion of the presentation, CWO Smith "coined" our very own Cpl Stephen Delaat for his dedicated service to the Unit.









## THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE TRUST

### 2022 BURSARY PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

1. **Sgt Nathan Palmer** – The 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (BCR) Bursary  
Pacific Rim Aviation Academy – Commercial Pilot's License
2. **Cpl Zhensen Cao** – The General (Retired) Walter Natynczyk Bursary  
Langara College – Associate of Arts Degree (Political Science)
3. **Cpl Andy Fei** – The HP Law Bursary  
SFU – Bachelor of Arts (History)
4. **Cpl Geoffrey Nordin** – The Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary  
Langara College – Langara School of Management
5. **Cpl Paul Sauer** – The Roger and Louise Prouse Bursary  
BCIT – Metal Fabrication Foundations Level 1 Qualification
6. **Cpl Jeong Il Son** – The Ted & Gayle Hawthorne Annual Bursary

UBC – Diploma in Education

7. **Cpl Shawn Zhang** – The Clackson / Davidson Bursary  
UBC – Computer Sciences
8. **Tpr Iqbal Singh Athwal** – The B C Regiment (DCO) Association Bursary  
UBC (Sauder School of Business) – Masters Degree in Management
9. **Tpr Fraser Alexander Rostad** – The P.C. Simon Memorial Bursary  
JIBC – Security and Investigations Course

#### **2022 UNIT FUND IN MEMORIAM DONATION (PRESENTATION TO THE CO)**

1. Presentation of a \$2,000.00 cheque to The BC Regiment (DCO), Trust for the benefit of the Members of the Regiment;
2. This donation by the Regimental Association Charitable Trust is made in memory of the passing this year of our good friend and colleague of the Regimental Association, Corporal (Ret'd) Ron Gilbert, those who served in the 28<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (BCR) during World War II and the passing of all other friends and members of the Regimental Family who have passed away this past year, including Tommy Wong, Dave Letson, George Ing, Peter Hebb, Keith Moore, Al Cormons, Donald Lim, Captain Tony Liem, Grace Lungley, Henry Kriwoken, Mike Rossiter, Kinsley Griswold and Greg Brentall.
3. The donation to the Regimental Trust Fund is also made in recognition and remembrance of our soldiers who served in our Perpetuated CEF Bns in World War I and the many behind the scenes contributions made by the spouses of our soldiers and also the spouses of members in our Regimental Association.

**Editor's Note:** From Former RSM, CWO Huf Mulick, we are reminded that the holiday season can be a difficult time for some veterans and their family members. We have included the following link this week and will find a place in future newsletters of this link where there is a directory of services for members of the larger Regimental Family where they can look to see what services are available to them.

Thank You Huf.

Directory of Services - Atlas Institute for Veterans and Families ([atlasveterans.ca](https://atlasveterans.ca))

### **FOOD BANK 2022 PROGRAM AND CHARITABLE TRUST FUNDRAISING PROGRAM HPLAW 12/13 DECEMBER 2022**

The Regimental Association Annual Christmas Food Bank initiative and the Annual Fundraising Program successfully continues with great support from the Regimental Family. Regimental Association members Jerry Couling and Michelle Hawthorne (Generations Real Estate Partners, ReMax Sabre) together with colleague, Kristen McNaughton (Team Penley McNaughton, ReMax, Central in Calgary) attended at

HPLaw this week to deliver an array of canned food and non-perishables and monetary donations to the Regimental Association Charitable Trust in support of our Soldiers' (Bursary Program), Cadets (Cadet Development Program) and Veterans (Commemoration Program). Once again, Sancta Maria House, a women's shelter in Vancouver, will be the recipient of our very successful Food Bank campaign. Chairman of the BCR Association Charitable Trust, Ted Hawthorne, received the generous donations at HPLaw and thanked all donors on behalf of the Regimental Family for their wonderful support.

Up the Dukes!



**Editor's Note:** We just received a message from our friends of our BCR Regimental Family in Belgium, Daniel and Iris Van Landschoot. In the Fall, they were busy attending commemoration ceremonies for their WWI & WWII liberators and have passed on pictures to share with our readers.

Thank you, Iris, for sharing these with us.

### **CEREMONY SEPTEMBER 11th 2022 ADEGEM CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY (BELGIUM)**



**MY PROJECT FOR GRADE 3 ON 26th OCTOBER AND 9th NOVEMBER 2022**



## **LIBERATION OF FLANDERS (BELGIUM) SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1944 VILLAGE : SINT-LAUREINS – AREA : LEOPOLD CANAL – BATTLEFIELD : SWITCHBACK OPERATION - ADEGEM CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY**

When my mother, Elisabeth Van de Walle, was 9 years old her village, Sint-Laureins, was liberated by Canadian soldiers. They stayed in our village for a few weeks in September/October 1944. One of them, Bill (William) Murphy from Glace Bay (Nova Scotia), gave her a photo of himself and his sister because her name was also Elisabeth like hers. On the back of this photo was an address and many years later she wrote a card (in Flemish) and mailed the photo back to Canada. More than 2 years went by and then a card from his wife Cecelia arrived. She explained she found my mother's card, after Bill's parents died, in their house. Later I learned some English at school and became the translator and cards became small letters. Bill wrote us that three of his brothers were also in the war and two of them did not return home. Colin died in the battle near Monte Cassino (Italy) and David crashed with a Lancaster near Saint-Nazaire (France), John and he survived the war.

When I got married my husband and I made a lot of trips to battlefields and museums, and we learned a lot about the liberation of Europe by the Canadian and Polish soldiers. And later when I became a mother, I began to realize what his mother must have felt....and we were lucky to meet battlefield tour operators who took pictures for us at both graves of Bill's brothers in Italy and France so we could send them to the Murphy family in Canada.

For my husband and me it was the start of so many contacts in and letters from Canada asking for a photo of a grave, place, or monument, find a Flemish family etc. We are very active Royal Canadian Legion zone Europe members, involved in Canadian Veteran Ass. and Maple Leaf Legacy Project, I was a volunteer guide at the Canada-Poland War II Museum at Adegem for over 20 years and in 1995 I started my "Thank you for the peace" project for grade 3 children.

Bill died years ago (May 12<sup>th</sup> 2006) but I used to phone him and tell him about our activities. I know he appreciated all what we are doing, and I treasure the memory of the long conversations we had on the phone. He often spoke about coming back to Europe but guess reliving the bad memories of battle and losing comrades were too much for him.

In 2019 we met his daughter Maureen and her husband Marc Arseneau. They followed Bill's and his regiment, the Canadian Grenadier Guards, footsteps all the way from Normandy to The Scheldt area and were the first ones of his family to do this.

### **CEREMONY AT MOERBRUGGE (BELGIUM) ON SEPTEMBER 4th 2022**





**CEREMONY AT MOERKERKE ON SEPTEMBER 18th, 2022 (BELGIUM)**





**CEREMONY AT VIMY (FRANCE) ON NOVEMBER 6th 2022**



## 6 COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN NOVEMBER 2022 AT OUR REGION (NORTH-WEST BELGIUM)







## UPDATE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE LORD STRATHCONA HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS)



### Strathcona Enews



Dear Strathcona Family,

On behalf of the Regimental Family, it is my great pleasure to congratulate **Lieutenant-General Steve Kelsey** as he assumes the title and responsibilities of Senior Serving Strathcona. As in the past, we are indeed fortunate to welcome such a gifted leader to represent the Regiment as SSS, and convey to General Kelsey the very best wishes of all Strathcona's in this important role.

Perseverance,

Brigadier-General D.C. Hilton OMM, MSM, CD (Retired)  
Colonel of the Regiment  
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

## AN UPDATE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM 'KUDOS'

Hello,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I send you the latest edition of *Kudos!* — our supporter newsletter. At this special time of year, I want to thank you so much for your dedication to preserving and sharing Canada's history. I hope that you enjoy reading about the programs, stories and people at the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History. Thank you for your part in making it all possible. If you have any questions or wish to discuss what you read in this edition, please contact me at [sylvie.madely@historymuseum.ca](mailto:sylvie.madely@historymuseum.ca).

Wishing you all the best,



Sylvie Madely  
Vice-President, Development and Membership



## **Witness to History: Bringing history to life through human experience**

The Witness to History program connects visitors and students to the most important part of military history — the human side. Many Canadian War Museum volunteers are veterans or members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Their participation brings displays to life and elevates school programs to a whole new level, in ways that cannot be matched.

[READ MORE +](#)



## **In Conversation with John Moses**

John Moses, Director of Repatriation and Indigenous Relations, discusses his role, which involves working closely with Indigenous communities. This includes the repatriation of artifacts, among other activities. He reflects on his own background and how it helped shape his professional path.

[READ MORE +](#)



## **Celebrating the Story Behind a Name**

Flying Officer Donald Howard Bennett joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in May 1940, before his 20th birthday. Learn about his story and sacrifice, and how his family is honouring his memory.

[READ MORE +](#)



### **Meet Ralph: He'd love to take you on an exclusive guided tour**

Ralph Brassard shares his 33-year relationship with the Canadian Museum of History. Find out what his favourite artifact is and how you can get a free tour with him or another one of our guides.

[READ MORE +](#)



### **An Enduring Love: A sacrifice that deserves to be honoured**

Meet John Hodges, who donates in memory of his parents and their place in Canada's history. He was deeply touched to learn of his family's legacy of giving to the Museum.

[READ MORE +](#)



### **Thank you!**

Sylvie Madely, Vice-President of Development and Membership, expresses her appreciation for your engagement with the Museums and shared passion for Canada's history and cultures.

[READ MORE +](#)



**Did you know that everything in this newsletter is made possible by  
people like you?  
Support your Museum and help bring history to life.**

**DONATE**

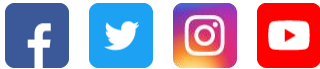
**CANADIAN MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

100 Laurier Street  
Gatineau QC K1A 0M8  
819-776-7014 | 1-800-555-5621  
historymuseum.ca

**CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM**

1 Vimy Place  
Ottawa ON K1A 0M8  
819-776-7014 | 1-800-555-5621  
warmuseum.ca

Canada



Canadian War Museum



Canadian Museum of History

**3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC  
ANNUAL BATTLE OF SARAGARI MESS DINNER  
CELEBRATING THE LATE HM QUEEN ELIZABETH'S PLATINUM  
JUBILEE AND 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE  
CADET CORPS**

On Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Officers, Cadets, Support Committee and invited guests gathers for the first time since 2019 to hold their annual mess dinner and to honour the memory of our late Queen as part of the Jubilee Celebrations. In attendance were both HCol Farid Rohani and HLCol Bill Diamond, Mr Scott Hamilton represented the BCR Association as did Major (R) Roger Prouse and Mrs Louise Prouse. Mrs Cathy Bach, National President of the Army Cadet League attended as did Mr Michael Johnson from the BC Branch.

The dinner was conducted in a manner to that of the army in which the most senior cadet becomes the Corps RSM for the event and the most junior becomes the CO for the dinner and wore Capt Nagra's tunic. Second-Lieutenant Harminder Palak was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

The 3300 Support Committee are to be congratulated for putting on an excellent dinner and event. Mrs Simar Pabla is to be thanked for her past service as Chair of the Committee and her efforts in obtaining funding to honour and celebrate our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As you can tell from the attached photos, a good time was had by all.

Up the Dukes!









Newly Promoted Lt Harminder Palak with her two sons.



Past Support Committee President Mrs Simar Pabla with her family



**Editor's Note:** From Former RSM, CWO Huf Mulick, we are reminded that the holiday season can be a difficult time for some veterans and their family members. We have included the following link this week and will find a place in future newsletters of this link where there is a directory of services for members of the larger Regimental Family where they can look to see what services are available to them.

Thank You Huf.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

After 50 years, I will be retiring from the practice of law with the firm of HPLaw effective the close of business on 31 December 2022.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the firm's clients, partners, lawyers and staff, past and present, for their wonderful support throughout these many years!

I wish you all the very best and a happy and healthy New Year!



Retirement Party



Law Society 50 Year Practice Certificate

## THE BARRETT BUNKER DECEMBER 2022

I am reminded as the years have passed how grateful it is to be with your family and friends over the Christmas Holidays, and the 'Stand Down' effect of having a few weeks off from military training and to be at home getting recharged.

The tradition of hosting a soldier's 'Christmas Dinner' is an old one likely going back into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, if not earlier, with the Officers and Senior NCOs feasting their troops as a way of thanking them for their work and service over the past year. Although in today's world, it may in some cases, now be called a Soldier's 'Appreciation Dinner' the concept remains the same. Officers and Senior NCOs peel potatoes, trim Brussel sprouts, and assist the Regimental Cook, if you are lucky enough to have one, with the cooking of the turkey. Now before we get into the story, I will freely admit that prior to my first BCR Christmas dinner, I was not overly fond of the Turkey served at home on Christmas Day, no matter how well my father stuffed the bird and how well my mother cooked it. Best thing of all was the dark meat from drumstick and snagging a pair of the sausages that my dad had draped over the breast of the bird to moisten the white meat. I also loved the sprouts and mashed turnips which my brother did not, so all the more for me.



2Lt Jim Barrett Fall 1982

Forty years ago, to this month, I attended my first Regimental Dinner down at the old Drill Hall of the Regiment on Beatty Street in Vancouver. Sgt Roi Hirtle, our Regimental cook, presided over the festivities and upon the arrival of the Junior Officers, we were assigned tasks to help prepare the meal. Major Jack Drake, my Squadron Commander, assigned me to a forty-pound box of sprouts and handed me a paring knife to get busy. Others, peeled potatoes, carrots, and prepared the stuffing. No one regardless of rank, with the exception of the CO, was exempted from work. For stoves, Sgt Hirtle had the burners from our Regimental field kitchen which were propane powered and the meal was entirely cooked on the floor. Thirsty workers had access to the provisions of the Mess to have a libation or two whilst working, and a bottle of white wine went into the Gravy.

Tables and Chairs were placed on the floor in front of the large Christmas Tree decorated in front of the memorial plaque for our fallen from the South African War, and with tablecloths, and lighted candelabra, a suitable atmosphere was created for the arrival of our Junior Ranks in their Dress 'Greens', which in today's

uniform terminology would be our DEUs of the day. I had been tasked the prior Thursday Parade night to organise the tree decorating party of Junior Officers helped by the Sergeants.

By custom the Officers and the WOs & Sgts wore Regimental Ties and their Rifle Crossbelts and acted as the servers of the meal and as wine stewards for the soldiers. Once the CO and RSM of the Regiment joined with the PMC of the Jr Ranks Mess and their President of the Mess Committee (PMC) the oldest of the Junior Ranks was called forward to exchange tunics with the RSM to become the 'acting' RSM for the festivities, and the youngest recruited soldier, likewise, exchanged with the CO and took their place next to the CO.

Overall, a night of fun and frolic was held by all, and I managed to get into the final for the darts match. By the end of the evening, we all said our goodbyes until the 1<sup>st</sup> of January when we would meet again as Officers, Warrant Officers, and Senior NCOs to welcome in the New Year at Levee. As for me, I discovered that I now loved to eat Turkey, and to this day, I am grateful to the army for giving me this experience. Even more so that it was through the army that I was ordered fill a role at the Annual Military Ball, which is where I met my future wife, who was similarly ordered to be the chaperone for the debutantes. Best of all, she knows how to cook turkey, and my brother, first Pipe-Major of our BCR Irish Pipes & drums and BCR Association Padre, still leaves me plenty of sprouts and turnips. His loss.

## **DUKE'S DEN**

### **MCPL DUKE A. BEAR OP REASSURANCE, LATVIA 31 OCTOBER 2022**

Duke A. Bear is currently on deployment on Op Reassurance in Latvia. Duke is deployed with Captain Sam Serviss and Cpl Adele Ka, as seen in the attached photos.

Up the Dukes!





**MCPL DUKE A. BEAR  
OP REASSURANCE, LATVIA  
12 DECEMBER 2022**

Well, Corporal Adele Ka and Captain Sam Serviss are on the way home after completing their tour of service on Op Reassurance and have been “replaced” by three other Dukes, Sergeant Zhou and Corporals AG and Clarke, who are now in theatre in Latvia. MCpl Duke A. Bear will remain on deployment in Latvia and will welcome everyone.

Up the Dukes!





Dec 2022: Capt Serviss and Cpl Ka were able to do a handover with Sgt Zhou and Cpl Clarke in Latvia

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

**Private George Wallace Mallows, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CEF**



On a recent visit to Victoria, B.C., I had occasion to visit Ross Bay Cemetery to visit some of my family whose graves are located there. I was particularly struck by the sheer number of C.E.F. headstones throughout the cemetery, some of which relate to casualties from pre - 1918, and even more from the 1920's. In particular, there is a memorial placement of casualties that look to be very recently restored at the Southwest side of the Cemetery, near the Cross of Sacrifice, which was erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission many years ago. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists 136 casualties of The Great War and WWII buried there.

During my visit, I visited a number of CEF burials throughout the cemetery grounds and was interested when I came across that of Private George Wallace Mallows.

A little research led me to some information about Private Mallows including his military record, his capture by the Imperial German Army in 1915 at St. Julien, Belgium, his incarceration in several German military camps and hospitals and his eventual repatriation via Rotterdam in early 1918. He was gassed at St. Julien, suffering from serious lung damage and would pass away in 1922 at the age of 26, having contracted Tuberculosis.

**Birth:** 21 December 1896, St. Germans, Cornwall Unitary Authority, Cornwall, England (Find a Grave), but more likely Wimbledon, England per his Enlistment document. He appears in the 1911 England Census with his parents, the father (William) appears to have remained in England.

Note: Military Record records his birthplace as Wimbledon, Surrey, England, a father (William) is named, however he does not appear to have come to Canada. As noted in Find a Grave, his mother Jenny is also buried at James Bay Cemetery. Royal B.C. Museum shows a similar name to his mother marrying in 1921, however his death record indicates her surname as Mallows.

**Death:** 14 June 1922, Victoria, British Columbia Canada, obituary shown below.

### **Military Service**

**CEF Regimental Number:** 17245, enlisted 4 August 1914 at Victoria, B.C.

Private Mallows enlisted 4 August 1914, at Victoria, B.C., he appears on the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Nominal Roll in Base Company, Taken on Strength at Valcartier, Quebec September 23, 1914. He arrived in England in October 1914, France February 1915.

Attached is a copy of page 33 from his CEF Record, which succinctly records his presence at St. Julien (reported missing 14 May 1915), his incarceration by German Army up to his repatriation in February 1918, his arrival back in England and his later treatment at Vancouver General Hospital in October 1918. It appears that he laid wounded and alone on the battlefield for some ten hours before his capture.

His Military record indicates he may have been or was a member of Victoria Fusiliers while in England.

His military discharge took place at Lenham Canadian Special Hospital 18 September 1918. There is no evidence of any military awards nor evidence of the granting of a Disability Pension in his Military Record.

Don Manning  
BCR Museum Society

## **PRIVATE WALTER LEIGH RAYFIELD, VC BELGIUM OC (Silver) 7<sup>th</sup> BATTALION (1<sup>st</sup> BRITISH COLUMBIA) CEF**



Credit: Find a Grave

Note: He is wearing his Victoria Cross in this image

### **Background**

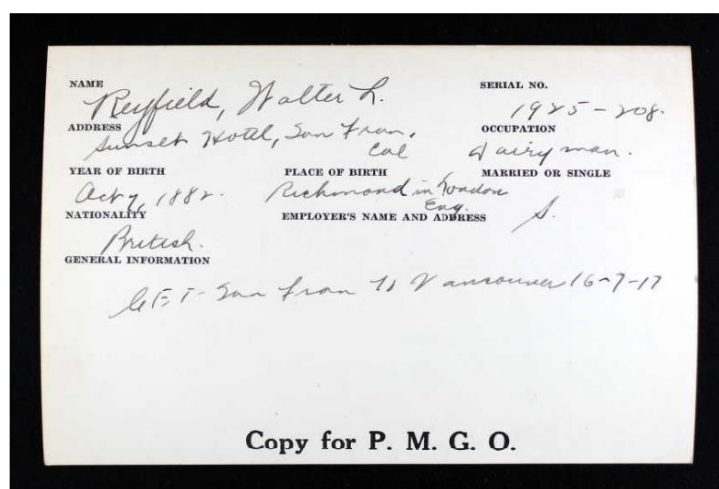
Much scholarly research exists about the life of Walter Leigh Rayfield, some of which is linked below for the interested reader. This paper is prepared as a summary document to introduce those who do not know of him to this very interesting character, who was awarded the British Victoria Cross in September 1918, in the last few months of hostilities on the Western Front, he is one of fewer than ten men who were awarded a VC who hailed from British Columbia, although he did not live long in B.C. For the record, the title of the article shows his rank at the time of his award of The Victoria Cross.

### **Birth**

His attestation papers and a visit to Ancestry.ca indicate that he was born at Richmond, Richmond-on-Thames, Surrey, United Kingdom on 7 October 1881. Private family trees on Ancestry give his birth year as 1880.

### **Efforts to Enlist.**

It appears that he attempted to enlist in Vancouver on two occasions, during which he was rejected. He enlisted on 10 July 1917 at Victoria, B.C., applying to become a Member of the Forestry Corps, indicating that he was a "Lumberjack". He listed an address in Los Angeles, California, and a next of kin located in Redmond, Washington State. A Forestry Corps document date stamped 13 July 1917, 27 November 1917 and 22 December 1917 may indicate/suggest his multiple attempts to enlist. His attestation document indicates he reported himself divorced, with a son, who appears to be named after him. He reportedly managed to enlist in Los Angeles and was ultimately accepted. After the above rejections, he managed to be accepted, from Los Angeles. Ancestry.ca shows him travelling as a U.S. Resident travelling from San Francisco by sea bound for Vancouver, B.C. on 16 July 1917:



**Attestation Information (From Library Canada)**

**Name:** RAYFIELD, WALTER LEIGH

**Regimental Number:** 2204279

**Date of Birth:** 1881-10-07

**Place of Birth:** Richmond England

**Enlistment Date:** Jul 10, 1917, 12:00AM

**Place of Enlistment:** Victoria BC Canada

**Unit:** Forestry Depot, Vancouver

**Reference:** RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8114 - 55

**Item Number:** 590448

**Record Group:** Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)

**Digitized service file - PDF format:** [8114-55](#)

**Extracts from Military Record (Library Canada)**

Sailed from Halifax: 8 January 1918

Arrival Liverpool England: 26 January 1918 via SS Justicia

Taken on Strength in England: 26 January 1918 from 16 Reserve Battalion

Struck off Strength to 1<sup>st</sup> Reserve Battalion: 15 February 1918

Struck off Strength to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion: 11 April 1918

Promoted to Corporal: 19 November 1919 Field 27 September 1918

Medical treatments: reported between 16 September and 25 September 1918.

Awarded Victoria Cross: 1 August 1918

Taken off Strength 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion: 16 March 1919

He was demobilized on 25 April 1919 from the First Canadian Infantry Battalion. Interestingly, his intended destination was listed as Santa Anita, California, later changed to Toronto, Ontario.

**Award of British Victoria Cross**

The Citation copied from The London Gazette dated 14 December 1918 follows:

*"For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty, and initiative during the operations east of Arras from 2nd to 4th September 1918.*

*Ahead of his company, he rushed a trench occupied by a large party of the enemy, personally bayoneting two and taking ten prisoners.*

*Later, he located and engaged with great skill, under constant rifle fire, an enemy sniper who was causing many casualties. He then rushed the section of trench from which the sniper had been operating, and so demoralised the enemy by his coolness and daring that thirty others surrendered to him.*

*Again, regardless of his personal safety, he left cover under heavy machine-gun fire and carried in a badly wounded comrade.*

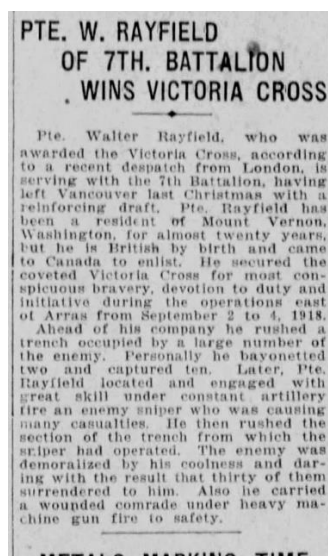
*His indomitable courage, cool foresight, and daring reconnaissance were invaluable to his Company Commander and an inspiration to all ranks."*

He was one of seven men who were awarded the Victoria Cross in the same action and on the same day. He was 36 years of age when he was awarded his VC.



Credit: Canada.ca Department of National Defence

His Victoria Cross is today located at The Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.



Credit: Vancouver Sun 19 December 1918

## Last War's V.C. List Tallied Thirteen

### Seven Officers, Six In Ranks Of British Columbia Honored

By R. A. McKELVIE.

**B**RITISH Columbia fighting men of the last war made an enviable record in winning the Victoria Cross, no less than 13 of them being awarded the highest honor for bravery. They were:

Capt. John MacGregor, V.C., M.C., D.C.M. (1st Canadian Mounted Rifles) won his V.C. near Cambrai on September 29, 1918. When his unit was held up, Capt. MacGregor led a charge in which he personally killed four Germans and took eight prisoners. The citation lauded his courage and leadership and said that his prompt action had saved many casualties and permitted the advance to continue.

Lieut.-Col. Cyrus W. Peck, V.C., D.S.O. (16th Battalion) was decorated for his courageous leadership in a battle on September 2, 1918, when he made a personal reconnaissance of the enemy's positions under intense fire and with entire disregard for his own safety. With the knowledge gained he was able to make a successful advance with his unit.

#### Many Casualties, Reorganized Group

Lieut. George M. Flowerdew (Leeds Strathmore's Horse) was given the coveted honor for "conspicuous bravery and dash" on March 30, 1918. His squadron was badly cut up; 75 per cent. of officers and men were casualties. Lieut. Flowerdew reorganized the effectives and led a charge that broke the enemy lines.

Lieut. Com. Rowland Bourne, V.C., D.S.O. (R.N.V.R.) went back into the terrific fire of shore batteries at the second blocking of Ostend, May 8-10, 1918, to rescue the crew of a block vessel.

Lieut. Graham T. Lyall (102nd Battalion) won his V.C. at Cambrai two days before Capt. MacGregor won his. Lieut. Lyall was leading a platoon against Bourlon Wood. German machine-gunners held up the advance; Lieut. Lyall made a lone attack, killing the officer and capturing 45 of the enemy. In another action, with his platoon, he took 80 prisoners.

Capt. Edward Donald Bellew (7th Battalion) in the German breakthrough at Ypres, April 21, 1915, fought like a tiger. He and Sergt. Fearless, left alone, manned two machine-guns. Fearless was killed, but Bellew continued to man his gun until he ran out of ammunition; then he seized a rifle and fought until overpowered and taken prisoner.

Major George Randolph Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O., M.C. (5th C.M.R.), now Major-General

Pearkes, O. C.-in-Chief Pacific Command—although wounded with disregard for his own safety, led his men in the taking of a difficult objective. He took further action on his flank that was of importance. His courage, disregard of personal safety, and leadership were lauded in the citation.

#### Piped Men Forward At Regina Trench

Private (Piper) James Richardson, V.C. (16th Battalion) was one of the youngest men of the unit. It was on October 8, 1916, in the fighting at Regina Trench that he volunteered to pipe the men forward. They were held up against the German wire, but young Richardson calmly walked up and down in front of them, in a hail of bullets, inspiring them with his battle music. "The effect was instantaneous," states the citation. "The position was carried. Richardson was ordered back with prisoners but returned to get his pipes that he had laid down and forgotten. He was never seen again."

Private Walter Leigh Rayfield (7th Battalion) in the fighting east of Arras, September 2 to 4, 1918, did heroic deeds. He killed two Germans and took 10 prisoners in an attack he made on a machine-gun nest. Later he took 40 more prisoners and climaxed his heroic work by carrying in a wounded comrade under fire.

C.S.M. Robert Hanna (5th Battalion), won his decoration Aug. 21, 1917, at Lens. When all the officers of his company became casualties in an attack on a position defended by machine guns, he reorganized the men and led another attack, killing three Germans with a bayonet, and braining another with his rifle. The objective was taken, due to his courage and leadership.

Private Michael James O'Rourke (7th Battalion) while acting as stretcher bearer, Aug. 15-17, 1917, "performed many acts of bravery" in bringing in wounded. His utter disregard for his own safety was an inspiration to his comrades.

Lance-Cpl. William Henry Metcalf (16th Battalion), when his battalion was temporarily held up by a machine-gun nest, saw a British tank. Jumping out into the open he ran to the tank and led it back through a hail of fire. The tank was able to give the support required and the objective was taken.

Private Philip Konowal (47th Battalion), Aug. 22-24, did prodigies of valor. In a personal attack on a machine-gun nest he bayoneted the crew. He took three machine-gun nests and killed at least 15 men.

Credit: Vancouver Province: 12 August 1944

He was subsequently awarded the Silver Medal of the Belgian Order of the Crown on 22 December 1919.



IDENTIFYMEDALS.COM

Life following his Military Service

The following were noted from Newspaper articles, marriage records and the like:

### **Marriages:**

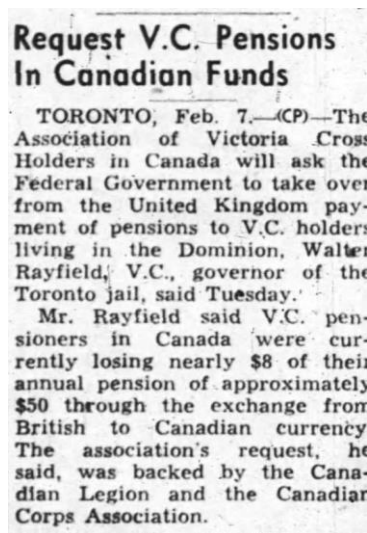
Ancestry.ca shows he married Nina Hickling on 25 July 1921 at Niagara, New York, indicating his parents as Thomas Guy Rayfield and Annie Leigh. (see links below). He subsequently married Bridget M. Hodsmen in the United Kingdom in October 1941. As noted above, he may also have been married prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

### **Political Life:**

Rayfield was the Progressive Party of Canada "Soldier candidate" in the federal election of 1921 for Toronto East. Liberal nominee Mrs. Philip G. Kiely (Elizabeth Bethune Kiely) stood aside for Rayfield, so that her votes could go to him, but the Conservative candidate won.

### **Pension Issues: Victoria Cross Pension**

The following article references issues that came to light in 1945 related to his Victoria Cross pension:



Credit: Ottawa Journal 2 July 1945

### **Governor of The Don Jail:**

An article was located dated 21 February 1941 in the Windsor Star indicating his appointment as Governor. During his tenure, it appears that there was some controversy regarding conditions inside the prison. The article indicates his rank had been raised to Captain. He was Governor at the time of his death.



Credit: The Windsor Star, 21 February 1941

Prior to his appointment as Governor of The Don Jail, he was apparently Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the article below indicates that he held that post for about a year during 1934-1935.

## **Death**

The then Captain Rayfield died 19 February 1949, and is buried at Prospect Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

(Soldier's Plot, Section 7, grave 4196). Particulars of his burial location can be referenced below (see Find a Grave).

### ***Governor of Don Jail Dies Suddenly at 59***

TORONTO, (CP)—Toronto Don Jail governor Walter Rayfield, 59 a Victoria Cross winner in the First World War, died Sunday. He was appointed sergeant-at-Arms of the Ontario Legislature in 1934 and held that position for about a year before becoming deputy governor of the jail.

He won the Victoria Cross near Arras in September, 1918. His citation said that he captured 30 men and bayoneted two others in two separate rushes on German trenches and also rescued a wounded comrade under heavy machinegun fire.

Credit: The Windsor Star 21 February 1949

References relied upon for the preparation of this article:

CEF Record: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=590448>

Ancestry:

Marriage: (1921, US) [https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/890278:61377?tid=&pid=&queryId=11b7c4b84ec116b4024509041fe99d1b&\\_phsrc=PVJ542&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/890278:61377?tid=&pid=&queryId=11b7c4b84ec116b4024509041fe99d1b&_phsrc=PVJ542&_phstart=successSource)

Marriage: (1941, UK) [https://search.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=8753&h=46890074&tid=&pid=&queryId=ee2bc8244cb772bdc3917c0c69a21a58&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=PVJ545&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=8753&h=46890074&tid=&pid=&queryId=ee2bc8244cb772bdc3917c0c69a21a58&usePUB=true&_phsrc=PVJ545&_phstart=successSource)

Travel from San Francisco, California, July 1917: <https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/20069:9177>

NAME <i>Rayfield, Walter L.</i>	SERIAL NO. <i>1985-208.</i>
ADDRESS <i>Sunset Hotel, San Fran. Cal.</i>	OCCUPATION <i>Army man.</i>
YEAR OF BIRTH <i>Oct 7, 1882.</i>	PLACE OF BIRTH <i>Richmond in Windsor Eng.</i>
NATIONALITY <i>British.</i>	MARRIED OR SINGLE <i>S.</i>
EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS <i>Gett- San Fran to Vancouver 16-7-17</i>	
GENERAL INFORMATION	

**Copy for P. M. G. O.**

Victoria Cross: (London Gazette, no.31067, 14 December 1918)

Department of National Defence: <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/medals/victoria-cross-recipient/walter-leigh-rayfield.html>

Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter\\_Leigh\\_Rayfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Leigh_Rayfield)

Veterans Canada: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/walter-rayfield>

the Discover Blog: <https://thediscoverblog.com/2018/09/04/private-walter-leigh-rayfield-vc/>

Profile: <https://vcgca.org/our-people/profile/793/Walter-Leigh--RAYFIELD>

Library and Archives Canada: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=590448>

Case Study, Library Canada: <https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/ww1-canadian-vc-recipient-walter-leigh-rayfield>

Victoria Cross Recipients: <https://victoriacrosslondon.co.uk/recipients/pte-walter-rayfield/>

Victoria Cross Online: [https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page\\_id=12922](https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page_id=12922)

Belgium Order of the Crown: [https://www.northeastmedals.co.uk/foreignguide/belgian/order\\_crown.htm](https://www.northeastmedals.co.uk/foreignguide/belgian/order_crown.htm)

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7033962/walter-leigh-rayfield>

Article Prepared by:

Don Manning

Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

22 November, 2022

# BCR ASSOCIATION KIT SHOP

The BCR Kit Shop is now online:

<http://www.canex.ca/military/military-kit-shops/army-kit-shops.html?cat=1262>

You can now buy a tie and lapel pin. They also have the BCR hoodie and PT Shirts (male and female option).

The blazer crest is available online at <http://www.canex.ca/british-columbia-regiment-blazercrest.html>

These items can be purchased online and shipped to you at home.

The Kit Shop has the following items for sale:

1. Mini Guidons – estimated cost is \$130.00 – in stock.
2. **NEW:** BCR cap badge on cuff links, pens and pocket watch.
3. **NEW:** BCR Camp Flag (36" x 72") - \$150.00

To place an order, please e-mail [KitShop@DukeABear.com](mailto:KitShop@DukeABear.com)

Mini Guidon



Cuff Links - \$35.00



Pen - \$25.00



Pocket Watch - \$105.00

## REMEMBRANCE

We remember all past members of the Regimental Family who have passed away during 2022.  
May they Rest in Peace knowing they are not forgotten



### ASLEEP

TPR Kingsley Griswold  
Born July 1, 1937, passed November 2, 2022  
Served in BCR early 1950s  
Uncle of LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett & Capt (Ret'd) Rev. Gord Barrett

Corporal Ron Gilbert  
27 April 1942 – 21 November 2022



It is with sadness that we learn that longtime BCR and Association Member Ron Gilbert passed away at the age of 80 earlier this week. Ron joined the 2290 BCR Cadet corps at the age of eleven in 1953 and joined the BC regiment 1957 and played trumpet with the Regimental Band and participated in the quarter-guard. His friend Tom Lyth recalled that Ron spoke fondly of skipping school to go to Nanaimo with advance party's and that he attained the rank of L/Cpl or Cpl with the Regiment before joining the Regular Force's Royal Canadian Army Service Corps at the age of eighteen. He left the Service Corps when he was twenty-one and returned to Vancouver, driving cab until he started working for Overwaite Grocery Store until it closed, and he moved to Abbotsford and returned to driving cab until he retired. Tom added that whenever he and Ron talked on the phone that the conversation invariably turned to his time in the Regiment which was a source of enjoyment to him.

Editor's Note: Ron was a good member of the BCR Association for many years and your editor recalls him almost always manning the reception table with Dan McKenzie to greet us at the Association Annual Dinners. Ron you will be missed. RIP.

Sergeant (Retired) Mike Rossiter

Former Duke Sgt (Ret) Mike Rossiter has recently passed away in Richmond from a long battle with cancer. He served in the 60's

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember them.

#### **Editor's Final Note:**

We hope that you enjoyed reading this edition of The Duke, which covers off all the activities engaged in by the BC Regiment and our Regimental Family from 1 October until the end of December 2022. This becomes part of the history of the unit. We thank all those who have contributed to the many articles attached, especially those who write articles for us on a regular basis. Of course, any errors are mine to admit and correct.