



Volume 3, Issue 33
December 2023



THE DUKE

DECEMBER 2023

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Articles, Announcements & News Releases

Editor's Note: For this edition we mark the 140th Anniversary of the founding of our Regiment on 12 October 1883 as an act of Parliament. Keeping in mind that the origins of our unit go back to the early 1860's in defence of the Colony of British Columbia as it was known prior to joining Confederation in 1871. 'The Duke' continues to be a tool to capture the history of the BCR (DCO) and our perpetuated units. For this edition, we continue with capturing the events for the last prior months month by month as seen in the BCR

Weekly News followed by new historical articles and items. As always, we rely upon our regular columnists to make this an excellent read.

LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett
Editor

OCTOBER

PRESENTATION TO 39 CBG SOLDIER'S WELLNESS FUND VANCOUVER GARRISON OFFICERS' SOCIETY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023



Following last week's article on the presentation of \$5,000 by the VGOS to the 39 CBG Soldiers' Wellness Fund, we are reminded to acknowledge the contributions to the success of the BC Military Gala Ball by both Dick Whittle and MWO Nathaniel Senff.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM LAST WEEKS BCR PERPETUATED WWI CEF BATTALIONS COMMEMORATION PARADE AT THE PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION 30 SEPTEMBER 2023





Editor's Note: Thanks you Ted for sending me these additional photos that were missed in last week's article, and a special thank you out to all the BCR Association members and Cadet Parents who assisted with the reception.

FORMER BCR OFFICER COL CHRISTOPHER QUINLAN, CD AWARDED CHIEF OF DEFENCE COMMENDATION

On behalf of the BCR Association and regimental family congratulations are in order to Col Chris Quinlan.

Well Done!

DEPARTURE WITH DIGNITY CAPTAIN (RETIRED) HUF MULICK, MMM, CD, MA THE DRILL HALL - OFFICERS' MESS VANCOUVER, B.C. 7 OCTOBER 2023



The Captain (Ret'd) Huf Mullick Departure with Dignity dinner/reception was very well attended by serving members of the Regiment, Veterans of the Unit, PPCLI and The Royal Westminster Regiment, family, and friends.



The evening's programme included a brief reception, a delicious Indian dinner, speeches by the Commanding Officer of The Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk (who also presented a Certificate of Service to Huf), the Regimental Secretary and the former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, the Honorary

Colonel Farid Rohani, former CO, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Doug Evans, former BCR Padre Paul Beckingham, Sergeant Law on behalf of the WO's & Sgts' Mess, Corporal Alan Luna on behalf of the Junior Ranks Mess and many others who had served with Huf during his 38 years of dedicated service in the Canadian Armed Forces.



The last words or rebuttal were given by Huf, who graciously thanked his wife Surinder for the wonderful evening of recognition and his family and friends, the many Veterans and Serving Members in attendance.



The programme was concluded by Regimental Secretary Ted Hawthorne, as Chairman of the Charitable Trust, announcing that one of the Bursaries to be awarded and presented to a member of the Regiment at the Stand Down Parade in December will be named “The Huf and Surinder Mullick Bursary”, in their honour.



It was most certainly a night to remember and was marked by great hospitality and camaraderie of the first order and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



All the best in retirement, Huf and Up the Dukes!

Many thanks to the PMC, Major Greg McCullough, for acting as Master of Ceremonies and for assuring a successful evening!

2827 BCR (DCO) PORT MOODY CADET CORPS REGIMENTAL 140TH BIRTHDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023



Vice-President Scott Hamilton cuts the cake

On the 12th of October the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) turned 140 years old. Supported by the BCR Association and Vice-President, Scott Hamilton, thirty-five cadets plus their officers celebrated the occasion on their Tuesday Parade night. Scott talked to the cadets about the importance of being part of the Regimental Family and encouraged them to take pride in their Regiment's proud history and record of service. Each cadet was presented with a small keepsake memento by Scott. Apparently, the cake and wooden cap badges went over very well, and Scott was both impressed with the training he observed that that night as well as the desire of the cadets to learn.



Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
PROMOTION – MAJOR TOM CLACKSON
11 OCTOBER 2023**



On behalf of the Regimental Family, congratulations and our very best wishes to Major Tom Clackson, CD on his recent promotion to the rank of Major. Major Clackson, formerly OpsO and Adjutant of the Regiment, is presently posted to 39 Canadian Brigade Group as the Director of Recruiting.

Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
CO'S COMMITTEE AND REGIMENTAL TRUST MEETINGS
THE DRILL HALL
11 OCTOBER 2023**



The newly mounted 29th BN and 102nd Bn's CEF plaques in St George's Church, Ypres, Belgium

The October meeting of the BCR Commanding Officer's Committee was held in person and virtually via MS Teams in the late afternoon of Wednesday, October 11th. Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani chaired the very comprehensive CO's Committee meeting which included detailed reports from the President of the Regimental Association, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, the Chairman of the Regimental Association Charitable Trust, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne (which included an update on the installation of the new plaques for the 29 & 102 Bns CEF in the St. George's Memorial Church in Ypres, Belgium), 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 Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, who provided a thorough update on the training year. All reports were very well received by the members.



A brief meeting of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) Trust, chaired by Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, was held to conclude the afternoon's proceedings.



Congratulations to all members for the very successful meetings.

Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
CO'S PARADE
140th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
THE DRILL HALL
11 OCTOBER 2023**



The evening busy training program included a well attended CO's Parade featuring numerous promotions and medal presentations. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, gave a brief presentation on the state of the Regiment and then proceeded with the Honours & Awards segment.
HONOURS & AWARDS SEGMENT:

1. Promotions:



- a. Tpr Warrington
- b. Tpr Chen
- c. Tpr Dezon



d. MCpl Ksor



e. Lt Liu
f. Lt Donovan

2. Canadian Forces Decoration:



a. Sgt St. Jean



b. First Clasp – Maj Brown



The CO then introduced the President of the Regimental Association Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett who delivered greetings from the Regimental Family on the occasion of the Regiment's 140th Birthday (12 October 2023).



Two large birthday cakes, compliments of the Regimental Association, were presented and the CO then proceeded to officially cut the cakes with his saber.



The Honorary Colonel, Farid Rohani, complimented the soldiers and the CO's Parade was concluded with the final remarks by Lieutenant-Colonel Virk.



On dismissal, the soldiers were formed up into an open square and were addressed by the Commander of 39 Canadian Brigade Group, Colonel Scott Raesler and the Brigade Sergeant Major, CWO Tony Harris, both emphasizing the amazing history of the Regiment and the dedicated service of its soldiers, past and present. The Commander then proceeded to present the Commanding Officer with the first Bar to his Canadian Forces Decoration.



To conclude the evening, the cakes were served by the Brigade Commander, the Commanding Officer, the Brigade Sergeant-Major and the President of the Regimental Association.

Congratulations BCRs and Up the Dukes!

CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY AND ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280 14 OCTOBER 2023



The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society ("CCMMS") and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280 ("ANAVETS"), held their respective regular monthly business meetings via ZOOM this morning.



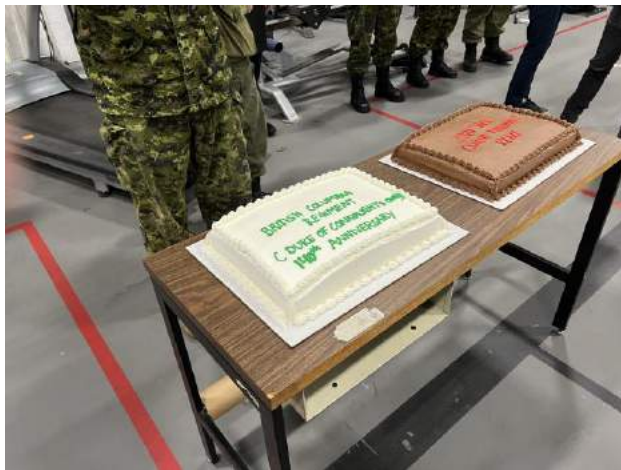
The meetings were very well attended and included many informative updates for members with respect to this very busy time of year. The meeting for ANAVETS was chaired by President King Wan, and the meeting of CCMMS was chaired by the President, Judge (Ret'd) Randall Wong. Thank you ANAVETS and CCMMS for your continuing service and dedication to our veterans and to the community!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
2381 BCR (IRISH FUSILIERS) RCACC
COLONEL SHERMAN ARMOURY
BCR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
17 OCTOBER 2023**



At the end of the evening's busy training program, a traditional cake presentation was held on parade with the recognition of the Regiment's 140 years of service (1883 – 2023), in three centuries, emphasized by the Commanding Officer of 2381 BCR, Captain Mike Azzano, and the Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, in their respective addresses to the well-turned-out Cadet Corps. The cake cutting was led by Captain Azzano (BCR vanilla cake) and followed by Ted Hawthorne (2381 BCR chocolate cake) duly executed with the "official cake cutting" Cavalry Sabre.







Well done and congratulations to the Cadets of 2381 BCR, their CO and CIC Officers, the Support Committee and Volunteers!

Faugh a Ballagh!

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.
25 OCTOBER 2023**

British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association ("BCVCA") is pleased to announce the election of the following directors at the Annual General Meeting held in the Brass Room at The Drill Hall, home of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO):

Michael Cook	President
Darrel Smith	Vice President
Sharel Fraser	Secretary Treasurer
Ken Harvey	Director
Ted Hawthorne	Director

Kathleen Larkin
Robert McIlwaine
Archie Steacy

Director
Director
Director



Congratulations to the new Board of Directors on their election and congratulations to the outgoing President Archie Steacy for his twenty years of dedicated service to BCVCA and for his key role in the establishment of the very successful Veterans Licence Programme in British Columbia. Archie will remain as a director and Mike Cook will succeed Archie as President.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
THE CAMERON CATHCART YOUTH POEM OF REMEMBRANCE AWARD
PRESENTATION AT VANCOUVER CITY HALL
31 OCTOBER 2023**



Former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, Chairman of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust, presented the award notice and trust cheque for this year's winner of The Cameron Cathcart Youth Poem of Remembrance to Natti Schmid, Acting Chief of External Relations & Protocol of the City Clerk's Office, on behalf of His Worship, Mayor Ken Sim.



Ted Hawthorne & Natti Schmid



The brief ceremony was held in the early afternoon in the foyer of the Council Chambers. The trust cheque is to be presented by the Mayor to this year's winner during the Annual Ceremony of Remembrance to be held on November 11th at the Cenotaph, Victory Square, in Vancouver.

NOVEMBER

PROMOTIONS 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC 2 NOVEMBER 2023

Last night during CO's parade, the RSM and CSM were appointed their new parade positions. Numerous cadets were promoted ranging from Corporals to Warrants.





Congratulations to the RSM- MWO Shergill and CSM- MWO Kundan and all the cadets who received their new ranks.

BCR CPL (RET'D) DDAVID CORRIN POPPY TAGGING 4 NOVEMBER 2023

David Corrin proudly sent in this photo after a very successful day of Poppy Tagging and learning the stories of a Japanese Veteran of the Great War from his Great-Granddaughter and meeting with former Dukes and BCDs.



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY AND ANAVETS,
PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280
4 NOVEMBER 2023**



The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (“CCMMS”) and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280 (“ANAVETS”), held their respective regular monthly business meetings via ZOOM this morning. The meetings were very well attended and included many informative updates for members with respect to this very busy time of year. The meeting for ANAVETS was chaired by President King Wan, and the meeting of CCMMS was chaired by the President, Judge (Ret’d) Randall Wong.



Between meetings, President King Wan, provided a Power Point display of photos and descriptive notes of the very successful 2023 George Eng Memorial Battlefield Tour (Western Europe - 22 September to 2 October).

World War I Canadian Statistics	Major battles (Canadian involvement)
Start: 4 August, 1914	- 2nd Ypres (1915) ✓
End: 11 November, 1918	- St. Eloi (1916) ✓
Canada's Population: 8-million	- Mont Sorrel (1916)
Canadians who served: 630,000	- Somme (1916)
Who went overseas: 425,000	- Vimy Ridge (1917) ✓
Canadians killed: 60,661	- Hill 70 (1917) ✓
Canadians wounded: 172,000	- Passchendaele (1917) ✓
Treaty of Versailles Signed: 28 June 1919; Treaty in Effect: 10 January 1920. It established the League of Nations, an organization for international co-operation, with Canada as a founding member.	- Amiens (1918)

Affect on War on Canada

BEF won the war in the final 100 days

- CEF engaged and defeated almost a third of the German divisions encountered by the BEF

Strong point of leverage for peace negotiations

- Won a seat at the table
- Set a precedent for Canada to negotiate for herself in the international arena
- Enshrined in British (and therefore Canadian) law in 1931 - "Statute of Westminster"

The single most influential factor leading to Canadian political independence

The Canadians at Vimy Ridge

On the morning of 9 April 1917, more than 100,000 Canadians and their allies stood shoulder to shoulder at Vimy Ridge. Their objective? Capture of a German stronghold and control of the high ground overlooking the Douai Plain.

It was a difficult challenge requiring all four divisions of the Canadian Corps to fight together for the very first time. Their success was a defining moment in Canada's First World War experience. Over time, it has also come to represent an important Canadian cultural and historical turning point.

Today, carefully preserved sections of original tunnels and trenches help us learn about the battle and those who fought it.

VIMY RIDGE CANADIAN MEMORIAL

Canadian soldier Frederick Hain was not found but his name is remembered at the Vimy Ridge Memorial along with 11,285 other World War I Canadian soldiers whose bodies were never found. His name is engraved on the memorial.



Thank you ANAVETS and CCMMS for your continuing service and dedication to our veterans and to the community! Well done indeed!

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOUNDATION GALA BALL VICTORIA, B.C 4 NOVEMBER 2023





The annual Government House Foundation Gala Ball (in support of its charitable works) was a sell out and a complete success with a full program including opening remarks by the Master of Ceremonies, Jermy Brownridge, the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of B.C., and the President of the Foundation, Colin Smith, a Toast to the King, dancing, raffle draws, and performances by The Naden Band of the RCN (featuring Diane Pancel), Morry Stearns, Pianist, and Daniel Lapp, Fiddler.





The gourmet food and desserts were remarkable by any standard! Well done indeed!

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY VETERANS WEEK



Claude Dettloff's famous photo Wait For Me Daddy depicted young Warren Bernard running after his father. Pte. Jack Bernard, as the British Columbia regiment left its New Westminster barracks On Oct. 1, 1940 to board a troop ship for a training camp in Nanaimo. The photo was published in the Oct. 2 Vancouver Province and a couple of weeks later was named Life Magazine's photo of the week. PHOTO BY CLAUDE DETTLOFF /Vancouver Daily Province

During Veterans Week (5 - 11 November), we remember the service and sacrifice of our Veterans and of those who are still serving.



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
NO STONE LEFT ALONE
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BC/YUKON
LAST POST MEMORIAL, FOREST LAWN CEMETERY
BURNABY, B.C.
5 NOVEMBER 2023**



As reported by Richard N. Liu, MStJ, Honorary Brigade Division President, Burnaby Division:

“Members of St. John Ambulance BC/Yukon were honoured to host the annual No Stone Left Alone service on this blessed morning at the Last Post Fund Memorial in #Burnaby. We thank everyone, from the leaders of the Canadian Armed Forces and the BC RCMP to Senator Martin and Mayor Hurley, to the reps of the the Invictus Games and Veterans Affairs Canada, and many who joined in making this another meaningful community gathering to remember our Canadian veterans who served and sacrificed. We closed by observing Mrs. MacKenzie, DGStJ laying the last poppy at the grave of #WW2 Battle of Hong Kong veteran, Dr. Po Tin Chak, SBStJ”.



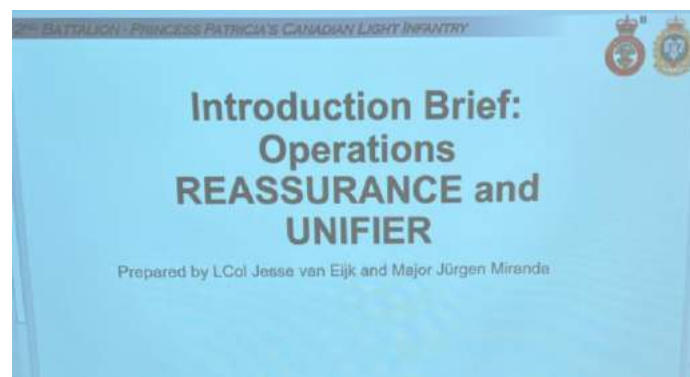
The Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD, placed a wreath at the foot of the Memorial.
Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE, VANCOUVER
OFFICERS' MESS, 15th FIELD REGIMENT, RCA
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY
OPERATIONS REASSURANCE AND UNIFIER
THE 2023 RUSI VANCOUVER SPEAKERS SERIES
9 NOVEMBER 2023**



Colonel (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, President of RUSI, Vancouver, welcomed today's special guest speakers, Lieutenant-Colonel Jesse Van Eijk, the Commanding Officer 2 PPCLI, and Major Jürgen Miranda, the Officer Commanding Combat Service Support Company, 2 PPCLI. Colonel Eijk and Major Miranda spoke about their collective experiences with "...Operation Unifier, the military training and capacity building mission in support of

the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and with Operation Reassurance, Canada's contribution to NATO assurance and deterrence measures in Latvia and Central and Eastern Europe. These operations are one of Canada's top defence priorities and are critical to NATO's collective defence and deterrence."



An informative Q & A followed to conclude the detailed presentation on a very important and timely subject.



Thanks to Captain Jamie Blois of the Regional Public Affairs Office for making this top-notch presentation possible. The presentation was preceded by a luncheon (roast chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salad, buns, cake for dessert, tea and coffee)....another sell out!! Congratulations to RUSI, Vancouver for another excellent presentation in their highly popular "Speakers Series".

CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE ICBC HEAD OFFICE, NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. 9 NOVEMBER 2023



The Annual Ceremony of Remembrance was held at the Head Office of ICBC in North Vancouver on Thursday, November 9th at 11:00 in the morning. Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Archie Steacy, the Past President of the British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association, and members were piped into the rotunda for the ceremony by the 6 Engineer Squadron Lt. Col. J.P. Fell Pipe Band.



The observance included words of hope while emphasizing the duty to remember by the Regimental Association Padre, Captain (Ret'd), the Reverend Gordon Barrett. The Parade of Veterans was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) James Barrett. Other BCRs in attendance were the Regimental Secretary, Ted Hawthorne, and Kelly Parkes. Guest speakers included Robert Nahanee, of the Squamish First Nation, the CEO of ICBC, David Wong, and Colonel Steacy, who addressed the large audience of ICBC employees and participants.



The duty to remember the service, dedication, and sacrifice of our CAF personnel, past and present, was emphasized by all speakers. Light refreshments were served after the ceremony.



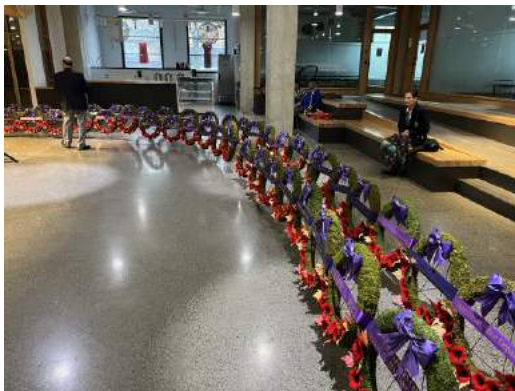
LCol Archie Steacy and the first BC Veterans Licence Plate

Congratulations and thank you to ICBC for the memorable ceremony and wonderful hospitality!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL VETERANS DAY
“312 MAIN, A CENTRE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INNOVATION”
A PARADE TO THE CENOTAPH AT VICTORY SQUARE
VANCOUVER, B.C.
8 NOVEMBER 2023**



The annual National Aboriginal Veterans Day of remembrance and commemoration organized by Coast Salish elders Kelly White (Musqueam and Snuneymuxw First Nations) and Robert Nahanee (Squamish First Nation) was a very successful and well attended event, which started with a traditional First Nations welcome and blessing ceremony held at the Great Hall at “312 Main” for Veterans, Colour Guards, Flag Bearers, special guests and volunteers at 9:15 AM. The next segment of the program was the Veterans Parade along Hastings, from 312 Main to the Cenotaph at Victory Square.





(Photo by Steve Ko)



(Photo by Steve Ko)



(Photo by Steve Ko)





(Photo by Steve KO)



(Photos by Steve Ko)



(Photo by Steve Ko)



(Photo by Steve Ko)



(Photo by Steve Ko)



(photo by Steve Ko)





WO McKee BCR (DCO)



(Photo by Steve Ko)



The Veterans were led by the ANAVETS Pacific No. 280 Flag Party and followed by the Buffalo Spirit Drum, Traditional Dancers, Wreath Bearers, RCMP and VPD Members, Volunteers, and other Community groups. At the Cenotaph, the participants were welcomed by First Nations Elders, Veterans, and a Youth Tribute to Veterans.

A Moment of Silence was observed followed by a Piper's Lament. The final remarks of support and recognition were given by the Mayor of the City of Vancouver, His Worship Ken Sim. All Veterans were then presented with ceremonial blankets to mark this very special occasion. The extensive Wreath laying segment concluded the formalities of the Ceremony. Of special note, the sentries at the Cenotaph were led by BCR Sgt. Nathan Palmer with MCpls Ka and Wu. Also, in attendance were 39 CBG Commander, Colonel Scott Raesler, and BSM, CWO Tony Harris.

BCRs in attendance included WO Kevin McKee, Major (Ret'd) Dan Thomas and Former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne.



Following the Ceremony, many participants adjourned to the Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society on East Hastings to enjoy lunch, compliments of BCGUE.

British Columbia Regiment Afghanistan Memorial @ Shiloh Hill November 11, 2023.



FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

**THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION
REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE DINNER
MOXIES BANQUET ROOM, THE SANDMAN HOTEL
VANCOUVER, B.C.
10 NOVEMBER 2023**



Sandra & Graydon Young



Once again, it was a great turnout for this year's Remembrance Dinner held at The Sandman Hotel in Vancouver, a venue so very convenient for our members, being a short walk to the Drill Hall and the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day services on November 11th. The guest registration desk was manned by Graydon and Sandra Young.



The evening's program commenced with the customary reception, which was followed by the Head Table, consisting of the Honorary Colonel, Farid Rohani (Nika), the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk (Noor), Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Archie Steacy (Lynda), and special guests, Robert, and Susan Bernhardt, being piped into the dining room by Band Sergeant Rosalie MacDonald of the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums.



Master of Ceremonies and President of the Regimental Association, Jim Barrett, said grace and welcomed the close to forty guests, a great turnout. Other speakers included, Ted Hawthorne, Chairman of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust, who outlined the Charitable Trust's support of our serving Soldiers, Cadets and Veterans and the importance of the Annual Christmas Fundraiser to be held at the Drill Hall at noon on 7 December 2023, followed by Chris Mullins who spoke of the highly successful 2023 European Studies Battlefield Tour. Colonel Virk concluded the speakers' segment of the evening by complimenting the Regimental Association and the Charitable Trust for their fine support of the Regiment.



An excellent dinner was then enjoyed by all. The toasts followed with The King by Cpl Stephen Delaat, PMC Junior Ranks, HMCS Vancouver by Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, The Rifles by Chris Mullins, the Fallen by Roger Prouse, with the Last Post and Rouse by Bugler Major Chris Ahern and the Lament by Band Sgt MacDonald and the Regiment by Captain Dil Pangalia.



During the break, desserts and coffee were provided and draw tickets sold by Treasurer Patricia Barrett and Director-at-Large Sandra Young. The draws for the door prizes and the lucky tickets were conducted by the MC, Patricia, and Sandra. Other special guests in attendance were the former RSM of the Regiment, 39 CBG BSM, CWO Tony Harris and Susan Powelson.

Thank you to the Regimental Association for a thoroughly enjoyable evening of friendship and camaraderie!

Up the Dukes!

BCR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT VISIT TO BARCLAY MANOR, VANCOUVER 10 NOVEMBER 2023



On November 10th, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, BCR Association President, visited Barclay Manor in Vancouver to join with the Remembrance eve ceremony and to view the display set up by Friend of the Regiment, Jim Gibson. Jim enjoyed the Show through YouTube highlighting Canada's remarkable contributions during the Second World War and enjoyed a hour of talking with the attendees. Jim Gibson comes out to Vancouver and sets up a number of displays at historic sites remembering the service of our veterans.



This year Jim Gibson had displays as well at Hastings Mill and at Roedde House Museum.

Thank You Jim.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY
THE CENOTAPH AT VICTORY SQUARE
VANCOUVER, B.C.
11 NOVEMBER 2023**



It was a rain free morning with cloudy skies in Vancouver (after a windstorm and heavy rain overnight) where thousands observed the annual ceremony of commemoration and remembrance at the Cenotaph in Victory Square marking the 105th Anniversary of the end of the First World War.



Many thanks to our Right Marker, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Chris Mullins, and a very strong contingent of members! Also, our special thanks to The BC Regiment (DCO) Irish Pipes & Drums for leading the Regimental

Association on parade. The President of the Regimental Association Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett had the honour of leading the Regimental Association and Major (Ret'd) Roger Prouse and Captain Jiri Motak placed the wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association and Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond placed the wreath for the Regiment.

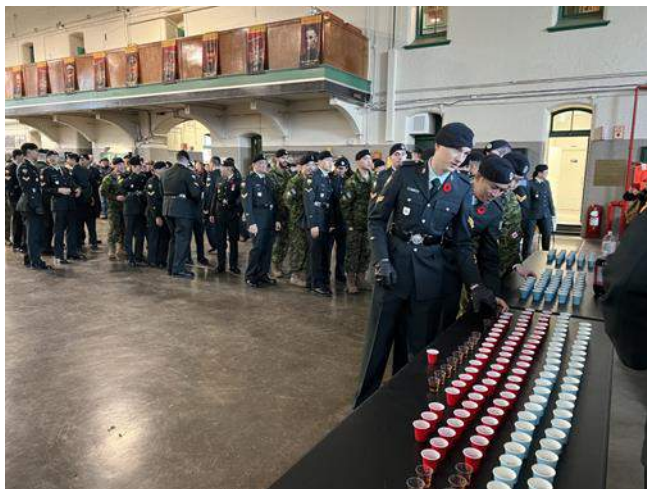


The Regiment looked great and in fine form on this special day of remembrance, being led by The BCR Brass & Reed Band. The Parade Commander was Lieutenant-Colonel Kent Wickens, the Commanding Officer of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, and Captain (N) Peter Sproule, COS MARPAC, took the salute at the Reviewing Stand.





Upon the Regiment's return to The Drill Hall, the parade was dismissed and assembled around the Table of Remembrance, the focal point for the concluding formalities on Remembrance Day.



The traditional toasts were given with the Toast to the Fallen, by President Jim Barrett, and the Toast to the Regiment, by Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani. Many thanks to the Regimental Association for providing the beverages for the Toasts.



A highlight of the post parade proceedings was the presentation of the medals, beautifully mounted and framed with citation, of the last surviving member of the 28th Armoured BCR, the late Charlie Bernhardt (LCpl Retired), by his son Robert and wife Susan, to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk who in turn presented same to Bill Whalen of the Regimental Museum.



Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Steacy conducted a brief ceremony and provided all those present with the biographical background of Charlie, a great supporter and friend of the Regimental Association.



In concluding the formalities on the Drill Square, our soldiers and guests placed their poppies on the Table of Remembrance as a final gesture of remembrance.

Congratulations to our good friend, Jim Stanton, Director of Ceremonies, Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee, the Regiment, the Regimental Association, the BCR Brass & Reed Band, the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums, the Cadets of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC and the Regimental Family for an extraordinary day of Remembrance! Well done indeed!

Many family and friends attended the post parade activities on the Drill Square and all three messes.

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them”.

Up the Dukes!

Programme of Remembrance (Remembrance Day Committee)

1. Prelude – Young singers from the Vancouver Bach Family of Choirs
2. Mounting of Vigil Guard
3. O Canada
4. Change of Vigil Guard
5. Combined Band – Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen
6. Youth Poem: They Do Not Chill Us So – Jacqueline Murray, Grade 12, Little Flower Academy
7. Prayer of Remembrance
8. The Maple Leaf Forever – Andy Greenwood, Young singers from The Vancouver Bach Family of Choirs
9. The Last Post – Trumpeters: Joe Foster and Dan McClelland, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services
10. Two Minute Silence – 21 Gun Salute, Hallelujah Point, 15 Field Regiment, RCA
11. The Lament – Pipe Major Daniel Bell, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
12. Rouse
13. Flypast
14. Dismount of Vigil Guard
15. In Flanders Fields, Young singers from The Vancouver Bach Family of Choirs
16. Official Wreaths
17. God Save the King
18. Parade March Off
19. Recognized Wreaths



Editor's Note: BCR Association member points out that former BCR RSM and Captain Huf Mullick made the cover of the November/December of the Legion Magazine 2023.

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

REMEMBRANCE DAY CHINATOWN MEMORIAL PLAZA VANCOUVER, B.C. 11 NOVEMBER 2023



Chinatown's Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony was held today at noon at the Chinatown Memorial and was very well attended. Supporters of the service were ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society, HMCS Discovery and 39 Service Battalion.



Many public dignitaries were in attendance, including the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, the Mayor of the City of Vancouver, Ken Sim, Captain (N) Peter Sproule, COS MARPAC, the Commander of 39 Canadian Brigade Group, Colonel Scott Raesler, and BSM, CWO Tony Harris.





Many wreaths were placed at the foot of the Memorial, including wreaths placed by Minister Sajjan on behalf of Canada, His Worship Ken Sim, on behalf of the City, Captain (N) Peter Sproule, on behalf of Maritime Forces Pacific, President King Wan and Vice President Kelly Kwong on behalf of ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No 280, President Judge (Ret'd) Randall Wong, on behalf of CCMMS, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond and MCpl (Ret'd) Chuck Davey on behalf of the Regiment/Regimental Family and Director/Elder Kelly White and Joy Dockrey on behalf of National Aboriginal Veterans.



Well done and thank you to our good friends at ANAVETS Pacific and CCMMS for a memorable ceremony.

We will remember them!

Up the Dukes!

Ted Hathorne, Regimental Secretary

BCR REPORT REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE MEMORIAL PARK VANCOUVER 11 NOVEMBER 2023

By Cpl (Ret'd) Dave Corrin

Dave Corrin reported that he attended the service just off 41st Avenue and Fraser Street at the Memorial Park Cenotaph which is near 44 TVS Branch of the RCL.



(Here is the Picture of the Cenotaph as I arrived)



(Here is the Colour Guard as they Marched In)



Dave reports that one of the Parade Marshals, who is a member of the ANAF, wore a BCR Black Beret & Cap Badge. Dave unfortunately did not get his name. Whilst they did not manage to observe the regular 'fly past' Dave observed a flock of Canada Geese.

When the Ceremonies were over and the Crowd dispersing, Dave came upon a BCR Veteran who served in the 1970s.



Mr Greig Hatch served in the BCR from the early 1970s up to 1977 and after his release he worked as a Teamster and wore his union jacket to the service.



Dave provided this photo with #44 Branch President Heddy Bing and himself at the Cenotaph where I was representing the BC Regiment Association. For next year Dave will be representing the BCR Association at 120 Nipawin Saskatchewan's Ceremonies.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
REMEMBRANCE DAY
AMBASSADOR OF PEACE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL
CENTRAL PARK, BURNABY, B.C.
11 NOVEMBER 2023**



The annual Remembrance Day Ceremony was held at the Ambassador of Peace Korean War Memorial in Central Park at 3:00 on Saturday, 11 November 2023, and consisted of an extensive programme, including, opening Remarks by Michael Chang, President of the Korean War Veterans Association and Honorary Ambassador of Seoul & Gyeonggi, the introduction of Dignitaries (Consul General of South Korea, Jong Ho Kyun, Minister of Citizens' Services, Terry Beech, Bonita Zarritto, MLA, Mayor Michael Hurley, Burnaby, and many other dignitaries, the singing of the National Anthems of Korea and Canada, the Act of Remembrance, recited in both Korean and English, followed by the Last Post, a Moment of Silence for the Fallen, a Lament and Rouse, and the placing of numerous wreaths at the foot of the Memorial, including one by Former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne on behalf of the Regimental Family. Closing Remarks were delivered by Michael Chang, Master of Ceremonies.



Thank you KVA for an excellent Remembrance Ceremony, notwithstanding the high winds and downpour!

We will remember them!

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

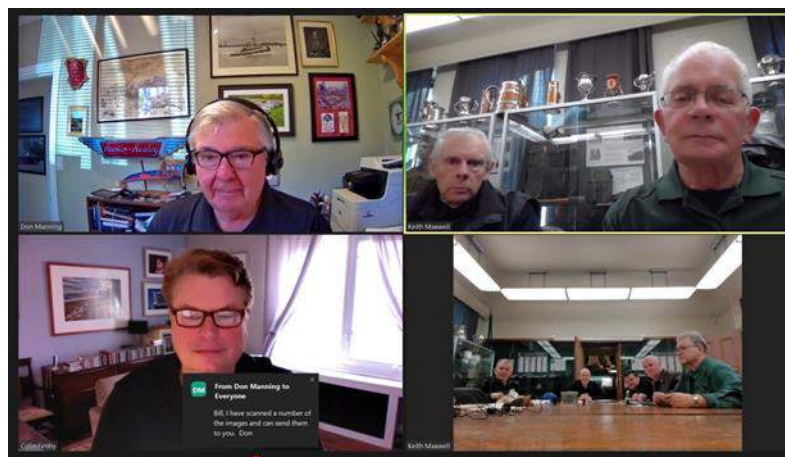
2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE BCR (DCO) MUSEUM SOCIETY

16 NOVEMBER 2023



Congratulations to the new Board of Directors of the BCR Museum who were duly elected by the Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting held at The Drill Hall and on ZOOM this morning. The directors elected are Bill Whalen, President, Jim Barrett, Vice President, Keith Maxwell, Treasurer, Bob Clauson, Secretary, Don Neish, Curator and Directors at Large, Romano Acconci, Ted Hawthorne, and Rick Hourie. The BCR Museum continues to do an amazing job preserving, maintaining, and displaying so many items of our Regimental History.



Thank you for your great support of the Regiment and the Regimental Family!

Up the Dukes!

LEFT COAST LANCERS LUNCHEON SYDNEY YACHT CLUB 16 NOVEMBER 2023



A large contingent of Dukes turned out to enjoy the Annual Battle of Lilefontein Luncheon at the Sydney Yacht Club on a fine sunny day. They joined numerous old friends from across the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps for a fine lunch and conversation. Former BCR CO's LCol Dave Sproule and LCol Paul Philcox joined with Maj Roger and Louise Prouse and LCol Jim Barrett and some other old time Dukes for the Regimental Photo.



Our thanks to Maj Dave Scandrett and the rest of the 'Left Coast Lancer' team for another great event.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
FOOD BANK 2023
SANCTA MARIA HOUSE
VANCOUVER, B.C.**



The Annual BCR Food Bank initiative will be sponsored once again by The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust. The Regimental Family will be supporting the Food Bank program with donations from our serving members and our cadets, as well as our guests at the Annual Christmas Fundraiser to be held at noon on December 7th at the Drill Hall.

For all of our friends and supporters of the Regimental Family unable to attend at the Drill Hall, please deliver your donations of canned food and/or non-perishables to the offices of **W.P.J. McCarthy and Company Ltd.**, #700 – 4980 Kingsway in Burnaby (Nelson & Kingsway area). 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.

Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
BRITISH COLUMBIA VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION
RECOGNITION LUNCHEON ON RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ARCHIE M. STEACY, CD (RET'D)
NORTHLANDS GOLF COURSE
NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.
21 NOVEMBER 2023**



Congratulations to Archie Steacy on his retirement as President of BCVCA after 25 years of dedicated service!

A special volunteers' luncheon was held at Northlands to honour Archie and to thank him for his amazing service and dedication. The program included a welcome from the Master of Ceremonies, newly appointed President of BCVCA, Mike Cook, followed by the keynote speaker, the former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, Regimental Secretary, who thanked Archie on behalf of the entire Regimental Family and delivered greetings from Her Honour, Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of B.C. and the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and President of the King's Privy Council.





In concluding his remarks, Ted presented Certificates of Appreciation to Archie and Lynda.



Ted was followed by fellow 1960's Duke, Kelly Parkes, who spoke briefly and presented Archie with a silver BCR ring. After lunch, Sharel Fraser presented a bouquet of flowers to Lynda in appreciation of her support and Mike presented some recognition gifts to Archie.



The luncheon was concluded with brief remarks ("The Last Word") by Archie who thanked everyone for their wonderful support. The kitchen staff of Northlands then entered the dining area and presented Archie with Happy Birthday cupcakes while singing "Happy Birthday" (Archie turned 94 years old yesterday). Archie then proceeded to serve cupcakes to all of his guests!

Well done BCVCA!!

28th ARMD (BCR) TROOPER MCGOVERN REMEMBERED



Former Duke, Don McGovern who served in the BCR from 1986 when we both 'were a lot younger and energetic', provided me this photo of his father standing in the middle who was with the BCR and 28th Armoured (BC) from 1941 until 1946. He was a mechanic and was Lt-Col Toogood's driver. He served in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany and passed away in March 1987.

Thank you, Don, for sharing your father's service.

Lt-Col Jim Barrett

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
3300 BCR (BHAI KANHAIYA) RCACC
SIKH ACADEMY SCHOOL, SURREY, B.C.
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
25 NOVEMBER 2023**



A Pancake Breakfast was hosted by the Cadets of 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC ("3300 BCR") at the Gobind Sarvar School on 160th Street in Surrey, at 9:00 in the morning of 25 November 2023.



It was a wonderful opportunity to visit with the Cadets, the Commanding Officer, Captain Karm Nagra, other CIC Officers and members of the Support Committee.



After breakfast, the morning's program continued with a video presentation by Kal Dosanjh, a VPD Member and CEO of KidsPlay Youth Foundation, "a non-profit organization working towards keeping kids away from the lifestyle of drugs, gangs and violence."



To conclude the morning's activities, the Cadets continued with their training program by participating in a Marksmanship Practice.

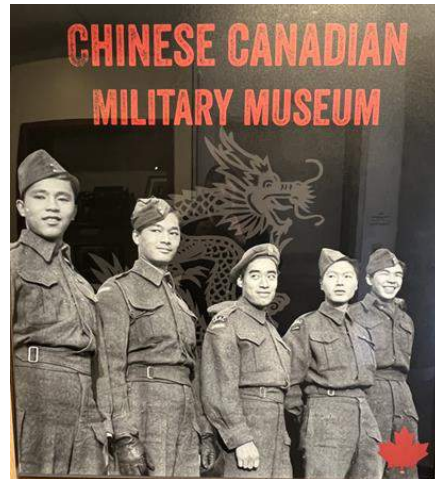


BCRs in attendance included the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, the President of the Regimental Association, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, Directors-at-Large, Major (Ret'd) Roger Prouse, Graydon and Sandra Young, and former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne.

Thank you so very much for your hospitality, 3300 BCR!

Well done!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PHOTO EXHIBITION (REAL LIVES AND
STRUGGLES)
“ONE HEART, ONE CANADA”
CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY AND
ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280
25 NOVEMBER 2023**



The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (“CCMMS”) hosted the official opening of “The Photo Exhibition, Real Lives and Struggles”, “One Heart, One Canada,” followed by the film “Unwanted Soldiers,” on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act.





ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280 ("ANAVETS"), provided the Colour Party and Alfred Woo acted as the Master of Ceremonies.



The programme included a welcome from the President of CCMMS, Retired Judge Randall Wong, and an overview of the Exhibition by Nancy Siew, former Citizenship Judge and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Military Police Academy in Ontario.





The theme of the exhibit is primarily a tribute to early Chinese Immigrants with particular reference to the contribution of Chinese Canadian WWII Veterans.



Former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, was in attendance and represented the Regimental Family.

Thank you and well-done Nancy, CCMMS and ANAVETS!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN)
SERVING OFFICERS' DINNER
OFFICERS' MESS, THE DRILL HALL
25 NOVEMBER 2023**



The Officers of the Regiment held their annual fall dinner in the Officers' Mess at the Drill Hall on Saturday, November 25th.



It was a relaxing and most enjoyable evening complete with an excellent dinner, the customary toasts and short speeches by the Honorary Colonel, Farid Rohani, and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk.



The atmosphere was completely conducive to a most enjoyable evening. In traditional BCR fashion with great comradery and good conversation.



Well done and kudos to the PMC, Major Greg McCullough, and thank you for a great evening!

DECEMBER

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY FOOD BANK 2023 PROGRAMME AND CHARITABLE TRUST CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING PROGRAM W.P.J. McCARTHY AND COMPANY LTD. 28 NOVEMBER 2023



MCpl Duke A. Bear, in disguise, along with Mrs. Santa Duke, paid a visit this afternoon to the offices of the Chairman of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) Trust, Bill McCarthy, of W.P.J. McCarthy and Company Ltd., situate at #700 – 4980 Kingsway in Burnaby (this year's community food drop off location) and delivered their generous donation of canned food and non-perishables. Once again, Sancta Maria House, a women's shelter in Vancouver, will be the recipient of our Food Bank campaign. The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust's Annual Christmas Food Bank initiative and the Annual Fundraising Program successfully continue with the support from the Regimental Family and our friends in the Community.



Donations in any amount are always welcome. Your donation will support our Soldiers' (Bursary Programme), Cadets (Cadet Development Programme) and Veterans (Commemoration Programme). Methods of payment, are as follows:

- By cheque – mail to The BCR (DCO) Charitable Trust at 682 Wilmot St, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 6P4;
- E-transfer – trust@dukeabear.com

Up the Dukes!

BCR A SQN CONDUCTS ASSAULT PIONEER TRAINING

"An assault pioneer is an infantry soldier." Those are likely the first words found in any definition of an assault pioneer and there is truth to them. When I turned to look around the class of Assault Pioneer Course 0001 the only black beret in the room was on my head. The only other non-infanteer on the course from 39 CER was a former infantry Master Corporal from the Queen's Own Rifles. As the only armoured soldier, I had been given a rare opportunity, that I had recognized.

Apart from defining the assault pioneer as an infantry soldier, I soon learned that there was a lot more to that definition. The assault pioneer course began with the rigging phase and our first lesson came in the form of knot tying. To name a few, the fisherman's bend, sheet bend, bowline, square knot, clove hitch, prusik, and figure eight were some of the knots we were to be tested on. In addition, were also to be examined on several anchor tying methods which included the tensionless hitch, deadman anchor, picket holdfast, and radium release hitch. In many ways, the practice of knot tying is analogous to the military itself. On the surface, the art of knot tying was a rather mundane task rather pointless on its own yet when done poorly could have catastrophic effects, and when placed in a well designed system could produce something that was more than the sum of the parts. When crossing chasms, fording rivers, or climbing mountains by way of rope, the significance of knot tying becomes an evidently necessary detail. After two weeks of practice, we spent the weekend at Chilliwack to put our rigging to the test. Of all the knots we were tested on, the radium



Radium Release Hitch

release hitch surpassed all others in terms of difficulty by a significant margin. Anything from an extra twist in a knot or the use of too much rope could spell failure. However, after a night of practice, we demonstrated our proficiency in rigging and put our skills to use in the construction of a short zipline. By incorporating pulleys and leveraging mechanical advantage we were able to tighten the line and zip across it one at a time. Thus, marked the completion of the rigging phase of the Assault Pioneer course, an intricate yet practical capability of every pioneer.

Quintessential to the responsibilities of an assault pioneer is the construction of obstacles, defensives, and helicopter landing zones. Construction was to be the next phase of the course, emphasizing the use of power tools, such as motorized drills, nail guns, and chainsaws. To familiarize ourselves with the power tools our first task was the construction of a wooden birdhouse. Once comfortable, we moved on to bigger tools, the chainsaw.



Barber Chair

Throughout the course, safety continued to be emphasized especially when working with dangerous equipment. Our primary objective with the chainsaw was to learn how to properly fall a tree. When considering how to cut down a tree we focused on the different cuts that can be made to influence the tree's direction of fall. Besides overhead hazards such as dead branches, and powerlines, improperly cut trees can also lead to a precarious situation known as a "barber chair" whereby the tree splits vertically and is held intact by a thin strand of wood. The end of our lesson on tree felling, also marked the completion of the first phase of the construction portion of the course.



Thus far the Assault Pioneer course has been one of the most engaging learning opportunities I've had the pleasure of being a part of. Skills such as rigging and the operation of motorized tools are not only capabilities valuable to the infanteer, but in cases such as vehicle extraction, these capabilities can prove critical to the armoured soldier. As the course progresses, we move on to conducting searches, operating assault boats, and handling the shotgun. It's been a privilege to learn from the infantry and as time goes on, I am reminded that despite our differences in attire, headdress, occupation, or trade we still stand united under the same colours of red and white as soldiers, Canadians, and people.

Up the Dukes!
Cpl Zhang, SC

BCR A SQUADRON TRAINING EX HIGHLAND CAVALRY 23



An infantry section shakes out behind a LUVW. Photo by MCpl Lam.

From 26 - 29 October 2023, A Squadron participated in EX HIGHLAND CAVALRY, a joint exercise in Kamloops, BC. Participating units included The British Columbia Regiment (DCO), the Seaforth

Highlanders of Canada, the Royal Westminster Regiment, and 39 Service Battalion. The exercise was our first Squadron level exercise in the training year and was an opportunity for the troops to shake out and dust off some cobwebs. It was also a significant opportunity for us to learn how to work with our infantry counterparts in an offensive manoeuvre.

Arriving in the early morning hours of the 27th, the Squadron arrived at J.R. Vicars Armoury in Kamloops and quickly went to ground for a few hours of shuteye. As the sun rose, the troops quickly packed their kit, readied the vehicles, and set off for the Lac du Bois Grasslands just outside of town. The 2 cavalry troops in the Squadron immediately began practicing troop level movements and contact drills for the day. With each bound and enemy contact, the dust was shaken off and the crews began moving more aggressively and proficiently down the trace. While the new cavalry doctrine presents significant changes in tactics from armoured recce, the basic concepts of movement, support and fire remain largely unchanged. Captain Kim, A Sqn's Battle Captain, designed the weekend's traces to challenge the troops in implementing cavalry tactics and manoeuvre in challenging terrain. The crew commanders and crews adapted well, and the four car troops continued down the trace advancing to contact and engaging the opposing force.

Going into the evening, the troops practiced blackout driving and tactical movement with night vision equipment. Troops also practiced dismounted recce patrolling, ensuring that the skills from our decades-long history as armoured recce are not lost and passed down to new troopers. Once the evening training concluded, the troops adopted hides and worked on their hide routines before going to ground.



Members of Assault Troop.

This exercise was also Assault Troop's first field exercise together. It showed the troops what their limits may be and how to push past them. While 11 and 12 were working on cavalry tactics, Assault Troop began the exercise with a ruck march through the hills of Lac du Bois where the soldiers quickly learned if they packed their rucks correctly. They refreshed on how to adopt an OP as well as creating range cards. Later, the troop established a patrol base and conducted rehearsals for the night patrols ahead. As the patrols returned to their patrol base later in the night with temperatures reaching close to -10 degrees Celsius, the

soldiers learned a valuable lesson within the phrase “pack light, freeze at night”, owing their comfort to the issued sleeping system.



Maj Vinning, OC A Sqn, reviews combined arms tactics with the combat team leadership. Photo by MCpl Lam.

On Friday night, using a large-scale map model, Major Vinning provided the Sqn and Coy leadership, the plan for the combined arms portion on Saturday. Troop Leaders and Platoon Commanders were present and eager to be working together. After the brief, rehearsals began at the troop and platoon level.



11 and 12 stage outside of the assembly area. Photo by MCpl Lam.

For most, the highlight of the exercise was our combined arms attacks with the infantry on the 29th. This was a huge learning experience for everyone involved to go from crawling to walking to finally running as a combined arms combat team. For the drivers, they had to learn to keep symmetry across the frontage

while matching the pace of dismounted infantry across rough and hilly terrain. The gunners had to spot and communicate enemy contacts with not only their crew commanders, but the infantry section commanders around them. As a troop leader, it was a challenge to maintain our symmetry and spacing across the difficult terrain while fighting the vehicle and constantly painting the picture for the infantry company commander from our advantaged forward position. Coming out of the day, we all felt more comfortable moving and fighting with our infantry colleagues.



Assault Troop stacked up behind 11C in the Assembly Area.

Assault Troop had the opportunity to be attached to the Seaforth Highlanders acting as 3 Section, 1st Platoon. During rehearsals, they were a part of the main attacking force supporting 11C and later as the reserve component advancing with the HQ element. Members of Assault Troop learnt how challenging keeping our spacing could be in demanding terrain and how to overcome difficult situations and keep pushing to continue the fight. The challenging first Ex introduced a level of cohesion within the troop and proved that no matter what, Assault Troop will "Wreak Havoc".



The combat team attacks an enemy position. Photo by MCpl Lam.

At the end of the weekend, we returned to Beatty Street Drill Hall. Many lessons were learned by all of the troops across the Squadron over the course of the exercise. The troops were happy to get back into the field as

a Squadron and work with our infantry friends after a long summer of individual training and fighting fires.



Maj Vinning, OC A Sqn BCR, and Capt Duvall , Acting OC A Coy SHoC, conduct an AAR with the combat team over lunch. Photo by MCpl Lam.

Lt David Liu
Troop Leader
2 Troop, A Squadron

With contributions from Cpl Matthew Green, Assault Troop, A Squadron.

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY AND ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280 2 DECEMBER 2023

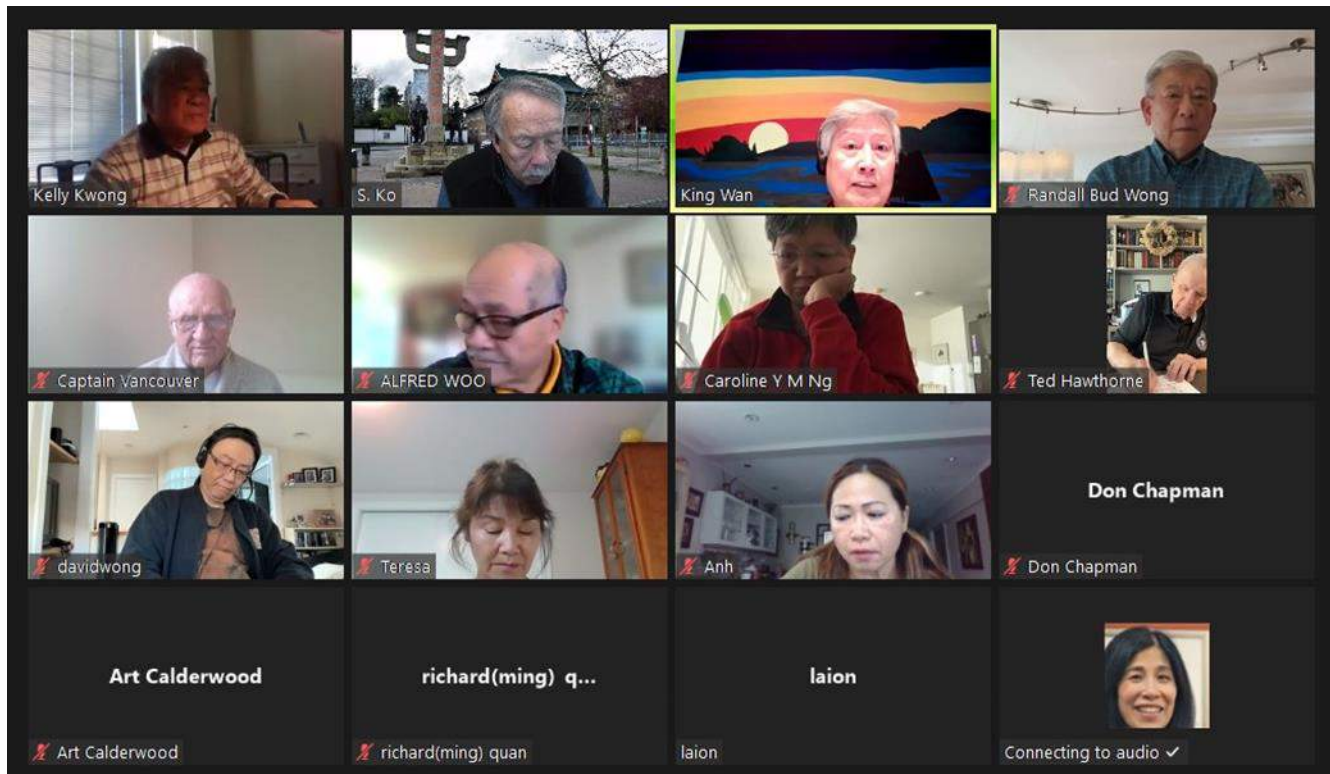


Photo by Steve Ko

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society ("CCMMS") and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280 ("ANAVETS"), held their respective regular monthly business meetings via ZOOM this morning. The meetings were very well attended and included many informative updates for members with respect to this very busy time of year. The meeting for ANAVETS was chaired by President King Wan, and the meeting of CCMMS was chaired by the President, Judge (Ret'd) Randall Wong.





The Regimental Secretary, Ted Hawthorne, at the request of King Wan, provided full details of the upcoming Annual Christmas Fundraiser to be held at the Drill Hall on Thursday, December 7th. Always a great event to attend and thank you to ANAVETS and CCMMS for the great support!

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

Well done indeed!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
SAINT BARBARA'S DAY
15th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT,
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADIAN ARTILLERY
SPECIAL GUEST DINNER
2 DECEMBER 2023**



The annual St Barbara's Special Guest Dinner held at Bessborough Armoury was very well attended. Members of the Regimental Family in attendance included the Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Virk, Majors Adam McLeod, Greg McCullough and Peter Stocker, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, Major (Ret'd) Dan Thomas and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne.



Former CO's 15 FD RCA with LCol Grieve presenting CO's Pennant to former CO, LCol Watts

Many acknowledgements and presentations took place after the Pre-Dinner Welcoming Remarks, followed by an excellent dinner, the traditional Toasts and fifteen Regimental Marches played by the Band. Guests were treated to an enjoyable evening with a standout performance by the 15th Field Band.





Brigadier-General (Retired) David A. Patterson, MSM, CD, Colonel Commandant RCA was the guest of honour and provided the formal address.



Judge William Rodgers receives his HCol's Pin from the Col Commandant



MGen Stu McDonald receives his HCol's Pin



BCR Contingent at St Barbara's Dinner 2023

Many thanks to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew William Grieve, for the great hospitality, camaraderie, and a wonderful evening!

RCA COLONEL COMMANDANT BGEN (RET'D) DAVID PATTERSON TOURED THE 15 FD RCA MUSEUM AND BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY 2 DECEMBER 2023



Colonel Commandant BGen (Ret'd) David Patterson toured the museum and Bessborough Armoury on Dec. 2 2023 prior to the 15th Field Artillery Regiment St. Barbara's Day Special Guest Night Mess Dinner.



The Colonel Commandant shared compared notes with Leon Jensen and Doug Loney while reviewing the highlights of artifacts and the military vehicles on display.

Don G Foster
Honorary Lieutenant Colonel
15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

VANCOUVER REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE 11 NOVEMBER 2023



By MC Jim Stanton

On November 11th, 2023, 15,000 people attend the 99th Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony on a crisp sunny day at Victory Square. The Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee, an all-volunteer group organizes the ceremony in cooperation with the City of Vancouver. Former RUSI Vancouver President, Jim Stanton was the Director of Ceremonies again this year at Victory Square. Jim follows in the footsteps of Cameron Cathcart, long time RUSI member and former MC of the Remembrance Day ceremony who passed away in 2021.



Each year an original poem, written by a Vancouver area school student, is selected as the winner of the “Cam Cathcart Youth Poem of Remembrance Award.” The programme is named in honour Cameron Cathcart who passed away two years ago, his memory lives on in perpetuity through this award. The poetry programme was initiated by Cam to ensure students were connected to Remembrance Day ceremonies. Cam’s family attended the Ceremony. The winning poet this year was Jacqueline Murray. Her poem is called, “They do not chill us so.” Jacqueline was presented with a City of Vancouver Certificate of Appreciation and a cheque for \$300.00 is Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim. The BC Regiment generously manages the Cam Cathcart Poem of Remembrance Fund. Vancouver Mayor Sim presented the commemorative scroll and cheque, thanked the student winner, and offered his remarks.



Shaun Cathcart, Erin Cathcart, Jim Stanton, Christine Cathcart

Silver Cross Family Representative, Captain Roxanne Rees, laid the first Official Wreath on behalf of the family of Corporal Andrew Eykelenboom who was killed in a road-side bombing in Afghanistan. The Silver Cross is awarded to parents or next of kin of a Canadian soldiers who died on active duty or whose death was consequently attributed to such duty.



Veteren Percy Smith with Jim Stanton



Jim Stanton being interviewed by Global TV

The Ceremony paid tribute to four anniversaries this year: the role of Chinese Canadians in World War Two: the end of the Korean War in 1953, and the 30th anniversary of the Battle of the Medak Pocket in the former Yugoslavia. The fourth act of remembrance was conducted by Percy Smith, now 100 th years young, who served in the Merchant Navy during World War II. Percy placed a single long-stem white rose at the Cenotaph as a symbol of remembrance to his fallen comrades.

The ceremony was carried live on Global TV and included major contributions by the band of the Vancouver Fire Rescue Service, pipes and drums of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, solos by Andrew Greenwood, beautiful trumpet work by Dan McClelland and Joe Foster, the fabulous voices of the Vancouver Bach Family of Choirs and a fly over by the RCAF, and vintage aircraft.

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Vancouver War memorial.

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY ST. JOHN AMBULANCE REMEMBRANCE OF THE 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG 8 DECEMBER 2023



Congratulations to St. John Ambulance, Burnaby Division, and Richard Liu, Honorary Brigade Division President, on hosting the 82nd Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony of the Battle of Hong Kong (8-25 December 1941) with Raymond Chow, Brigade Cadet Commissioner as Master of Ceremonies.

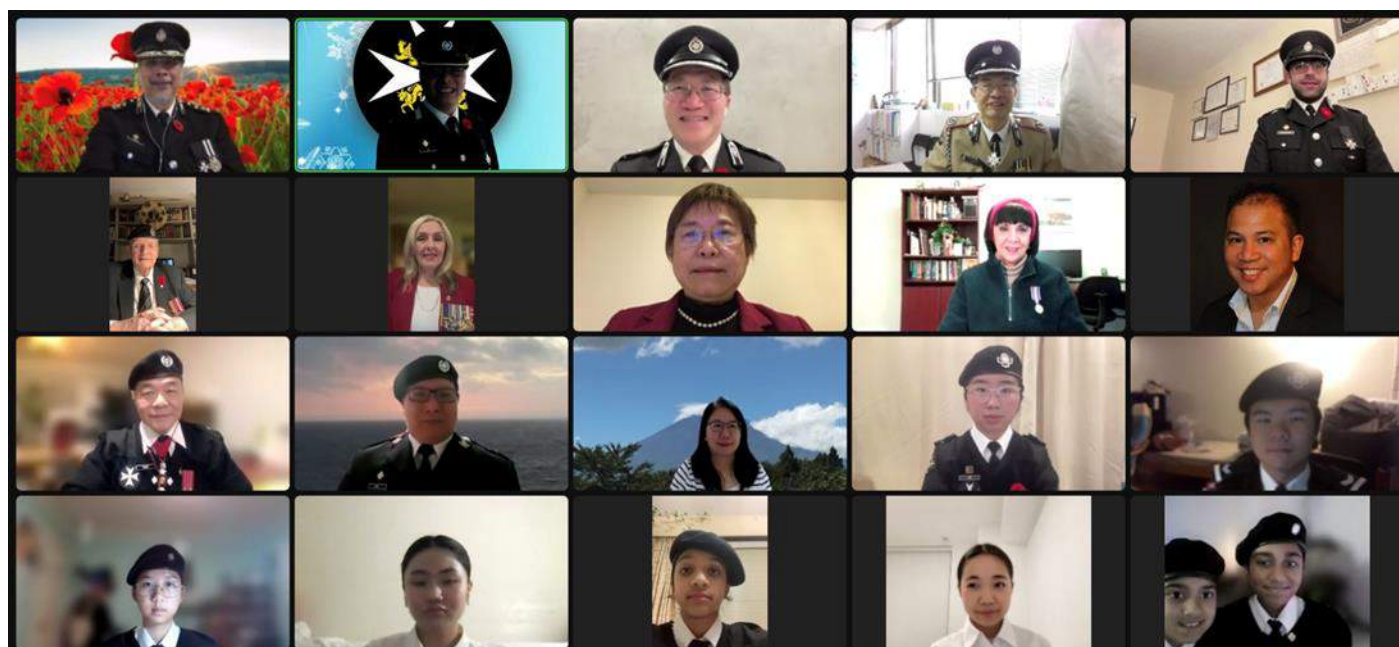
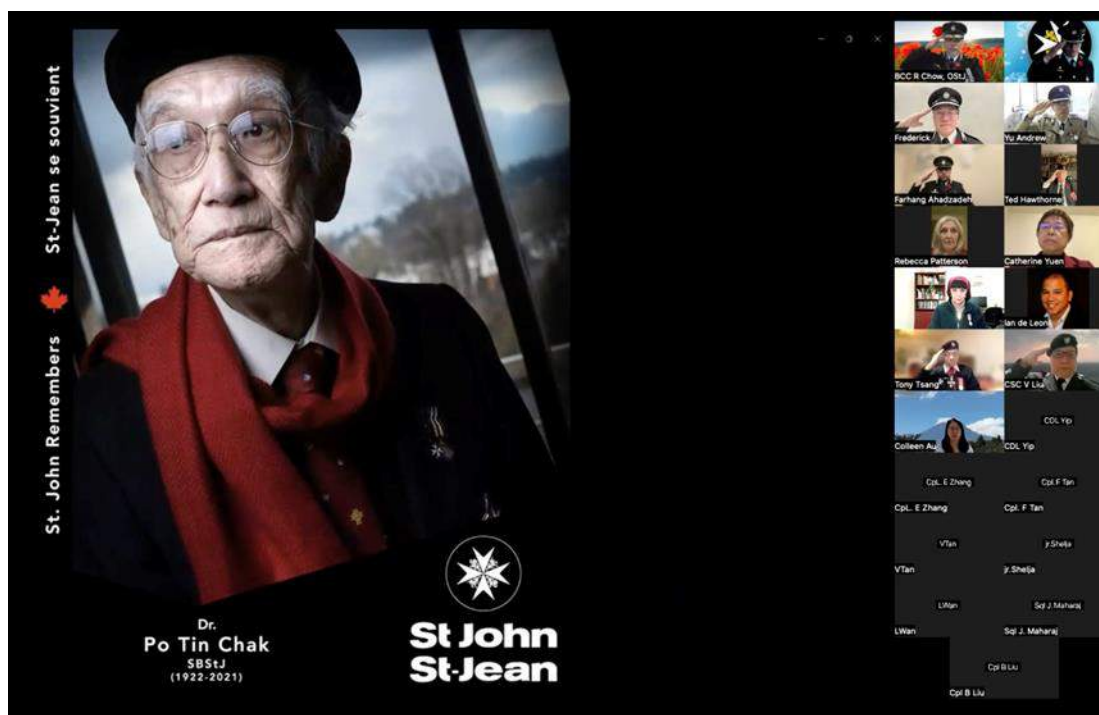


The ZOOM presentation was very well attended by members of St. John Ambulance from across Canada and Hong Kong and military and civilian members of the community where the service and sacrifice of our soldiers were recognized for their defence of Hong Kong.



The Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, represented the Regimental Family

and recited **The Act of Remembrance**. A brief statement was delivered by RAdm (Ret'd) The Honourable Rebecca Patterson, OMM, MSM, CD, RN, Senator for Ontario, on the passing of LCol (Retd) Jessie A. Chenevert (nee Urquhart) SSStJ, CD. Nursing Sister LCol Jessie Chenevert was one of only 60 Canadian nurses to serve in the Korean War.



We will remember them!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE TRUST
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER B.C.
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER
7 DECEMBER 2023**



The Annual Christmas Fundraiser (the first since 2019 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic) was a complete success with well over 100 guests in attendance.



The funds raised go to support the many programmes sponsored by The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust such as Bursaries, Cadet Development, Commemoration, Veterans' Recognition and Community Outreach.



The traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, hospitality and camaraderie were first class and everyone had a great time. As usual, the silent auction was the highlight of the event with well over 70 items hotly contested.



In addition, there were numerous door prizes and a multitude of excellent draw prizes. Event Master of Ceremonies, Captain Duncan Maillie, North Vancouver City Fire Department (former BCR Sergeant), greeted everyone and thanked the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, our serving members, in particular the Ops Staff, and all three messes (Officers, WOs & Sgts and Junior Ranks) for their assistance and great support of this signature event. The MC thanked the many members, friends, and supporters, including ReMax Generations Partners and ReMax/All Points/Team Léo and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society, ANAVETS, Pacific Unit #280 and The Naval Association of B.C. for their continuing support.





Speakers included President of the Regimental Association, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, Colonel Virk, the Chairman of the Charitable Trust, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, and Padre, the Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas, Rector & Dean, Diocese of New Westminster.



Kudos to Cpl Stephen Delaat, PMC of Junior Ranks Mess, for providing the excellent bar service throughout the event and finally a big thank you to Lori's Catering who always does such a fine job every year!



Congratulations to the entire Christmas Fundraiser Team, in particular, Patricia Barrett, Sandra and Graydon Young, for this standout event in support of the Regimental Family.

Photos compliments of Steve Ko, Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
REMEMBRANCE OF THE 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG
CHINATOWN MEMORIAL PLAZA, VANCOUVER, B.C.
9 DECEMBER 2023**



The service and sacrifice of our Canadian soldiers, members of The Royal Rifles of Canada and The Winnipeg Grenadiers, who fought valiantly in the Defence of Hong Kong, eighty two years ago (8-25 December 1941), were remembered at the Chinatown Memorial Plaza in Vancouver by the Regimental Secretary, Ted Hawthorne, on Saturday, 9 December 2023 in the early afternoon.



A Regimental Wreath and a Candle of Remembrance were placed at the Memorial on behalf of the Regimental Family.

We will remember them!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
BCR IRISH PIPES AND DRUMS HOLIDAY PARTY
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.
12 DECEMBER 2023**



Regimental Secretary Ted Hawthorne and MCpl Duke A. Bear (“Santa Duke” with his trusted friend “Jameson”) made a brief appearance during a very busy evening at the Band’s Christmas Social hosted by Regimental Association member Terry Haigh and Pipe Sergeant Rosalie MacDonald in their beautiful home in New Westminster. The evening Social featured the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Band Society with Pipe Major Andrew Hayes in the Chair and ample opportunity to visit and enjoy the Christmas spirit which permeated the evening’s festivities along with the Band’s trademark hospitality!



Congratulations to the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums for another great year of service to the Regiment and the Regimental Family!

Also, special thanks to the Band Governor, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, for his great work with our two volunteer bands! Kudos Colonel Bill for all you do for the Regiment and the Regimental Family!



Strathcona Enews

Dear Strathcona Family,

It is our pleasure to announce that in the coming year, a reunion for Canadian Armed Forces members—including our own—who have served on Op SNOWGOOSE, will be held in remembrance of its 60th anniversary in Nicosia, Cyprus from November 2nd to 12th.

In 1964, Canada was one of the seven original contributing nations to the UN Force in Cyprus, maintaining a presence until 1993 and rotating through over 25,000 personnel over the years, Strathconas included. Some of you reading this letter will still remember being on the ground as peacekeepers during a time of conflict and hardship, deployed as part of the contingent in armoured support roles and other crucial tasks. We remember your hard work and sacrifice, and the challenges you

overcame as part of an excellent and professional team working together to promote peace and security in Cyprus.

This invitation extends to all past and currently serving Strathconas who have served on Op SNOWGOOSE. This is an excellent opportunity to revisit areas such as the Buffer Zone as well as pay our respects to the fallen at the Dhekelia and Waynes Keep Cemeteries, and the Wolseley Barracks Memorial. The full itinerary as well as details on how to register if applicable can be found in the link below.

Though the Canadian footprint in Cyprus has now been reduced to a single position at UNFICYP headquarters, the legacy of LdSH(RC)'s contributions remains proud and strong.

Perseverance,

[2024 Cypress Commemoration.pdf \(strathconas.ca\)](#)

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
COMMANDING OFFICER'S PARADE (STAND DOWN)
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER, B.C.
13 DECEMBER 2023**



The Stand Down Parade was held at the Drill Hall in the late evening of Wednesday, 13 December 2023, after all training sessions were concluded.



The memorable evening's programme which was well attended included the awarding of eleven Bursaries, each in the amount of \$2,000.00, by the Chairman of the Regimental Association Charitable Trust, Ted Hawthorne. Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, President of the Regimental Association, presented the Certificates to the recipients. The 2023 Bursary Recipients were:



1. Sgt Nathan Palmer – The 28th Armoured Regiment (BCR) Bursary - Montair Aviation – Fixed Wing, Multi-Engine and Class 1 Instrument Rating Program;
2. Sgt Kevin Zhou – The Catharina Van Loon Memorial Bursary Simon Fraser University – Master of Arts Degree (Political Science);
3. Cpl Randy Abedrabbo – The LCpl Charlie Bernhardt Memorial Bursary - Thompson Rivers University – Bachelor of Health Science Degree;
4. Cpl Zhensen Cao – The P.C. Simon Memorial Bursary - Langara College – Bachelor of Arts Degree (Political Science);
5. Cpl Andy Fei – The Tochi & Guddi Sandhu Bursar - Simon Fraser University – Bachelor of Arts Degree (History/Criminology);
6. Cpl Koelin Lapell – The Sergeant Pierangelo Dal Magro, CD Memorial Bursary - University of British Columbia – Bachelor of Arts Degree (Psychology);
7. Cpl Sabrina Trinh – The Ted & Gayle Hawthorne Annual Bursary - Vancouver Community College – Medical Lab Assistant Program;
8. Cpl Tina Wu – The Lieutenant William Harrison Bicknell Memorial Bursary - University of British Columbia – Faculty of Education – International Development & Human Security Program;
9. Tpr Rutherford Dizon – The B C Regiment (DCO) Association Bursary - BCIT – School of Transport (Aircraft Maintenance) Program;
10. Tpr Landon Ho – The Lieutenant-Colonel David Sproule, CD (Ret'd) & Family Bursary - University of British Columbia - Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Doctor of Pharmacy); and
11. Tpr Larson Leong – The Huf & Surinder Mullick Bursary - Simon Fraser University – Bachelor of Arts Degree.





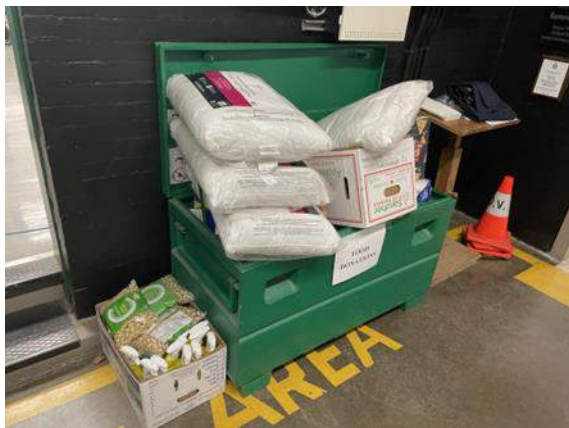


The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, was also presented with a cheque in the amount of \$2,000.00 by former Honorary Colonel Hawthorne, which sum is to be held to or for the benefit of our soldiers by The BCR (DCO) Trust.





The Bursary presentations were preceded by the Opening Remarks of the Commanding Officer, followed by three promotions (Corporal Wong, Sergeant Lum and Lieutenant Braverman) and the presentation of two 39 Canadian Brigade Group Commendations (Sergeant Lim and Petty Officer Tipper, Chief Clerk). The CO concluded the evening with his Closing Remarks.



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! Up the Dukes!

Editor's Note: At the conclusion of the Parade, Major Tom Clackson (former OpsO), presented to the Officers' Mess new BCR Mugs for each recipient of an appointed position as a serving officer of the Regiment. Former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne bought a round to recognize the arrival of a fifth Great Grandchild, Tanner Nikos McLaughlin (25 June 2023).



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Seasons Greetings

Dear E. Hawthorne,

The team of the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Vancouver wish you Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year! We would like to thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. We are looking forward to the new year and to a continuation of our cooperation and friendship! Kind regards,

Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Vancouver



From left to right: Almar Davids, Sebastiaan Messerschmidt, Adriaan van Velthoven, Robin Heijmans, Marieke Luit, Rianne Kamphuijs, Toon van den Heuvel, Ima Nahumury, Mitra Davari and Maarten den Ouden

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
3300 BCR (BHAIR KANHAIYA) RCACC
ANNUAL SARAGARHI MESS DINNER
GOBIND SARVAR SCHOOL
16 DECEMBER 2023**



The annual 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC Saragarhi Mess Dinner commemorating the historical battle in the NW Frontier of India, between the British Indian Empire and the Afghan tribesmen in 1897, was held on Saturday, the 16th of December 2023 at the Gobind Sarvar School in Surrey, British Columbia.



The dinner was a great success and well attended by the Cadets, CIC Officers (Captain Karm Nagra, Commanding Officer), volunteers and members of the 3300 BCR Support Committee (Chair Palvinder Kundan).



Special guests included, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, Major Derek Gee, RCSU (Pacific), Cathy Bach, the National President of the Army Cadet League of Canada, Christine Alexander, Vice President of The Army Cadet League of Canada - BC Branch, and Directors of the Regimental Association, Graydon and Sandra Young and Ted Hawthorne (Regimental Secretary), Steven Purewal, Indus Media and author of "Duty, Honour & Izzat, Historical Contributions of the Indians to the WW1", as well local politicians, Surrey City Counsellors Rob Stutt and Pradeep Kooner.



Captain Mitchell Hayes, DCO, acted as PMC and introduced the Head Table and conducted the evening's programme which included the traditional toasts after the delicious dinner, the evening's entertainment, many Head Table Speakers and presentations, including Roger and Louise Prouse's presentation of a gavel and engraved stand to the Support Committee Chair, Palvinder Kundan.



Kudos to the Cadets of 3300 BCR, the CO and CIC Officers, the Support Committee and Volunteers, for an extraordinary evening.

Well done!

**MEMORIAL SERVICE AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE
SERGEANT (RET'D) ROBERT A. REMPLE
CAMP LUTHER, MISSION, B.C.
17 DECEMBER 2023**



We remembered the passing of our good friend and colleague Recce Bob Remple at a Memorial Service held in the early afternoon of Sunday, 17 December 2023, at Camp Luther in Mission. Bob served in the Regiment from 1961 to 1971. Bob was a great supporter of the Regimental Family and served on the Board of Directors of the Regimental Association in many capacities, including President. A reception followed in the dining room where we remembered so many good times. A strong presence of the Regimental Family was in attendance along with many members of Bob's family, and friends.

On behalf of the Regimental Family, we thank you for your service and dedication, Bob.
You will be sorely missed!

We will remember him.

Up the Dukes!

EDITOR'S NOTE: From our friends in the LDSH (RC)

Strathcona Enews

Dear Strathcona Family,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and looking forward to spending the holidays with family and friends. The last months of 2023 have flown by and so it's already time to update you on Regimental Family activities.

The Serving Regiment

Dedication of the New Warrant Officer Trevor "Trapper" Allen Leopard 2 Tank Maintenance Building. November 30th was a landmark day for the Regiment as the former Base TAPV Vehicle facility was repurposed and assigned to the Strathcona's as the maintenance building for Leopard 2 variants. The Regiment was on parade to dedicate the building to Warrant Officer Trevor "Trapper" Allen, a RCME soldier who served with C Squadron, LdSH (RC) during the Korean War. A World War Two veteran, Trapper distinguished himself in Korea during a heroic recovery of a dozer tank while under enemy artillery fire. With his daughter, grandson and family, and grand nephew present, the naming of the "Warrant Officer Trevor 'Trapper' Allen Building" was an emotional and proud day that highlighted the continued unity between the Regiment, RCME and 1 Service Battalion – Once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona.

Operations

Latvia. The 11 tank crews of B Squadron deployed to Latvia and did an excellent job preparing the Leopard 2 Tanks for the RCD tank squadron that deploys in January, as evidenced by the photos on the Regimental Society Instagram https://www.instagram.com/ldsh_ig and Facebook sites: <https://www.facebook.com/Strathconas>. C Squadron RCD, consisting of RCD and 12eRBC, will now be tri-regimental as MWO Jesse Patterson will be their Squadron Sergeant Major. Congratulations SSM Patterson!

C Squadron Strathcona's will assume the 15-tank squadron mission in the summer with two half-squadron deployments over a year. RHQ will assume command of the entire multinational Battlegroup in early 2025.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Darryn Gray, has placed a personal priority on coordinating Reserve augmentation for our deploying squadrons with the western Canadian armoured regiments. The Regiment's commitment to Latvia is for the foreseeable future therefore participation of the Reserves is essential.

Black Hat Week. The last week of November saw the traditional gathering of the serving 3 Canadian Division Black Hat clan for meetings with Career Managers and professional development sessions. The week was capped off by Mess Dinners at the Officers' Mess and Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess. The Officers' Mess Dinner was also an occasion to "Dine Out" Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Shane Gifford and Major (retired) Rob "Hogg" McKenzie. The Officers' Dinner was typically "spirited," and after the dinner, "crashed" by the Senior NCOs' Mess Dinner attendees!

Having visited the Regiment at the end of October and again in November for Black Hat Week, I can personally attest that the Regiment's morale is high with great excitement about the future.

The Regimental Family

Celebration 2025. The preparations for **Reunion 2025**, Thursday July 24th to Saturday 26th, 2025, continue to progress. The big event will include a Meet and Greet at the Regiment, the Change of Command Parade, a Strathcona Mounted Troop performance, All Ranks Dinner and Dance, and a golf tournament. Thanks to hard work by Tony Batty, Tom Falls, Dave Proctor, Tony Sowards, Brian Talty, and others, this is going to be a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with the Regiment and old comrades.

Although detailed events are still being formulated, the date for the ceremony honouring the **80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Harderwijk, Netherlands**, has been set by the town for April 19th, 2025. Harderwijk and surrounding towns were liberated by the Regiment during the Second World War, and the towns of Harderwijk and Nunspeet have continued to maintain close ties with the Strathcona's. In the new year, we will be providing details on the events that will surround this ceremony so as to encourage Strathcona attendance at what promises to be a very special event.

For all those who have contacted us asking about how to purchase items bearing the new **Regimental Tartan, "Perseverance,"** we're on it. In the new year we will be stocking the Regimental Kitshop with a selection of tartan decorated items – your patience is appreciated; volunteers to help organize this will be equally appreciated.

Historical Vehicle Troop. The focus of the Troop has been the restoration of our 1942 Harley Davidson Dispatch Rider motorcycle, which is nearly completed. The Troop has also begun putting together a Calgary Harvey Barracks' "Martin Park" type display area as well as planning displays for Reunion 2025. Next on their list is getting the Ferret Scout Cars back on the road to add that "Strathcona style" to our Guidon Party.

Pipes and Drums Band. With the Band in reconstitution, Warrant Officer Colin Davidson and Pipe Major Master Corporal Davies are active with establishing musician training initiatives and a plan for eventual transition to the Regimental tartan.

Regimental Museum and Archives. Corporal Miguel Blanco has joined the museum staff of Captain Phil Webster and Sergeant Todd Giberson. As well, the Regimental Society stood up the DND-mandated Museum Committee. Chaired by Brigadier General (retired) Craig Hilton, the committee will oversee our museum gallery upgrades and develop options for a new Regimental Archive. Our museum team continues to work closely with The Military Museums (TMM) staff supporting school educational programmes and museum special events. When I had the opportunity to visit our museum in late October, I was amazed at how much the TMM has grown, and it is now second only in size to the National War Museum in Ottawa.

Strathcona Mounted Troop. Disbanded at the outbreak of the Second World War and reformed in 1974, 2024 marks the 50th Anniversary of the current Strathcona Mounted Troop. In cooperation with the Ceremonial Mounted Troop Foundation, the non-profit organization that makes the Strathcona Mounted Troop possible, the Troop is working on replacing its worn-out scarlet uniforms, helmets and lances. This programme will also see the Guidon Party uniforms replaced (this funded by the Regimental Society). Additionally, the Troop has to purchase new mounts as horses such as "Sportster" and "Stinger" have earned their retirement.

Association Branches. I had the honour of getting together with retired Strathconas in Calgary at the end of October and with the Edmonton crew the end of November. At both events it was "a tonic for the soul" seeing so many old friends and reliving past events in our collective careers. If these two evenings are anything to go by, Reunion 2025 is going to be terrific.

Family Ties. Thanks to Major General (retired) Cam Ross, while in Victoria I had the honour to meet Mr. Allan Sutherland, the 97-year-old brother of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Sutherland, who served with the Regiment during the Italian and Netherlands campaigns. Still spry for his years, Allan is very proud of his

deceased brother's service with the Regiment during the war, reminding me that emotional ties to our Regiment extend well beyond those who served in uniform.

Another Loss from a Unique Strathcona Generation.

Sadly, on December 16th, Laverne Tufts passed away in Killarney, MB, at the age of 101. Laverne served proudly with the Strathconas during the Second World War, serving at Melfa River and other key battles in the Italian campaign, and in France and Holland. In 2014, Laverne attended the Melfa River Dinner, leaving a lasting impression on many serving Strathconas with his own remarkable stories of service.

Recognition within the Regimental Family.

The 2024 Moreuil Wood Parade will take place on Thursday, March 21st. Nominations are still being accepted for the following awards to be presented at the parade:

- **Colonel of the Regiment's Commendation.** The Colonel of the Regiment's Commendation is awarded to Strathconas or friends of the Regiment who have made a significant, long-term contribution to the Regiment. Recipients may also have undertaken a specific act that has either made substantial impact on or brought great credit to the Regiment or Regimental Family.
- **The Hug Perseverance Award.** While serving as Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel (Retired) Greg Hug suffered a catastrophic injury that resulted in him being a quadriplegic. The support and encouragement of the Regimental Family was an instrumental motivator as he sought to improve his quality of life. In many ways, his determination could be seen as the epitome of our Regimental motto, "Perseverance." This award recognizes individual members of the Regimental Family who have overcome a significant personal challenge yet who continue to serve, participate and/or contribute to the Regimental Family as a whole.

Should you feel there is someone within the greater Regimental Family that may be deserving of either recognition, I encourage you to contact our Regimental Society Secretary, Major (Retired) Kelly Callens, at societysecretary@strathconas.ca for further information on the nomination process.

"A Call to Arms."

Selfless volunteers from the Regimental Family are keeping our many unique Strathcona activities and institutions viable. More are needed, however, so I ask any member of the Family to consider the following positions that need to be filled as soon as possible:

- **Communications Committee** – committee member who has experience with web design.
- **Grant Writers** – we are looking for volunteers to help with preparing grant applications. If required, formal training can be provided for you at no cost.
- **Museum Gallery Display Writers** – as part of the museum gallery upgrades, concise explanation panels must be drafted for each of the exhibits. The museum staff is therefore looking for volunteer assistance with the drafting of these information panel texts. Working remotely, this is an opportunity to leave your personal "mark" on the representation of the Regiment's history. Writers fluent in French are also needed.

If you, anyone in your family or friends have an interest in helping with what is important and personally rewarding work, please contact us at societysecretary@strathconas.ca or ldsh@strathconas.ca

Our Regiment is unquestionably unique – our attachment to community, initiatives such as our Band, the Mounted Troop and Historical Vehicle Troop, and the style we approach every task with are very special.

None of this can happen, however, without our volunteers. In this letter, I'd like to give a "shout out" to Dani Sanchez and Michelle Walz, our volunteer master's students at the Regimental Museum – their dedication, hard work and introduction to current "best practices" have been invaluable. Ross Prokopy and Alex Fanni's work in "opening doors" for the Society and Foundation is showing great promise, while Tanya Grodzinski has been helpful with advice for the Regimental History Book Project and acquiring sample uniforms for the Strathcona Mounted Troop. My personal thanks to you and the many other Strathconas and members of the Regimental Family whose individual efforts keep our Regiment remarkable.

Please remember, I welcome your ideas, help and suggestions. You can talk to me personally or email me at chair@strathconas.ca.

Beth and I wish you a fun holiday season, and good fortune and health in 2024.

Perseverance,

Col (Ret'd) Jamie Cade
Colonel of the Regiment
LdSH(RC)

Strathcona Enews

Dear Strathcona Family,

At a time of the year that is meant to be joyous, I have sad news – Laverne Tufts passed away on December 16th, at the age of 101.

Laverne served proudly with the Strathconas during the Second World War, serving at Melfa River and other key battles in the Italian campaign, and in France and Holland. Those who knew him remember him as a remarkable man, full of spirit and amazing stories of service with the Regiment.

Laverne Tufts was one of the few remaining of this unique generation of Strathconas whose perseverance in the harshest of times helped shaped the future of our great nation. Our deepest sympathies go out to his children, Joan, Carmen, Leonard and Dennis, and their families.

A memorial reception will be held at the Killarney Legion Hall in Killarney, Manitoba, at 2 PM, December 28th. All Strathconas are welcome to attend.

Perseverance,



Col (Ret'd) Jamie Cade
Colonel of the Regiment

FROM THE CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM UPDATE ON THEIR FALL PROGRAMMES KUDOS

EDITOR'S NOTE: From our Friends at the Canadian War Museum we include articles reformatted from the original version for inclusion in our BCR Weekly News. Congratulations on another excellent edition.

REMEMBERING THE KOREAN WAR

In July 1953, the Korean War armistice was negotiated between the United States and the Soviet Union, marking the end of eight arduous years of conflict between the two superpowers. The Korean War is being remembered with a new exhibition titled Canada, Korea and the War. This exhibition explores not only the War itself, but also the enduring relationship forged between Canada and South Korea. Through personal accounts, photographs, and select objects, this new exhibition shares the stories of Canadian soldiers, nursing sisters, and Korean Canadians, from the early 1950s to the present day. Visitors to the exhibition will encounter one of the Canadian Army's first Inuk soldiers, Eddy Weetaltuk, along with Herbert Gardner, a decorated survivor of a key Korean War battle who, like many of the 30,000 Canadians who served in Korea, was a veteran of the Second World War. Also included are the stories of nursing officer Jessie Chenevert, and Canada's only known Korean war bride, Lee BaikWhua. The War's legacy is revealed through the stories of Koreans who came to Canada, as well as the accounts of those who keep the past alive in South Korea today. "The Korean War, though sometimes known as 'the Forgotten War,' was of immense importance," said Dean F. Oliver, Acting Vice-President and Director General of the Canadian War Museum. "It was the first major struggle between the superpowers in the post-war world. It led many like-minded nations to bolster their defences against communist threats around the world. And, as this new exhibition shows, it established a lasting bond between Canada and South Korea." The Canadian War Museum developed Canada, Korea and the War to mark the 70th anniversary of the armistice of the conflict. For a more comprehensive story of Canada's involvement in Korea, visitors are invited to explore the Museum's Gallery 4 – From the Cold War to the Present. Canada, Korea, and the War is presented along the Portrait Wall in the Lobby at the Canadian War Museum until March 31, 2024.

IN CONVERSATION WITH CAROLINE DROMAGUET

President and CEO, Canadian Museum of History and Canadian War Museum

Congratulations on your appointment as President and CEO in December 2022. What are your main priorities for this year and beyond? Thank you! I'm extremely humbled to have been confirmed in the role and am excited about leading the organization during my mandate. I'm proud of the work of our Museums, and eager to bring a bold vision and exciting new strategic directions to help guide us. These renewed strategic directions were developed collaboratively with our Board of Trustees and include a focus on innovation, Indigenous rights, engagement, and technology, and are intended to help us better focus, to re-energize, and to reinforce who we aspire to be as an organization moving forward. These directions help us fulfill our role as a national museum, which comes with a responsibility and an accountability to all people who live in Canada, who entrust us to keep our collective and diverse stories alive for future generations. You recently shared a new vision with Museum employees and the general public: Dare to inspire tomorrow's history. What does this statement mean to you? For me, it's an aspirational call to action, challenging us to think beyond the present, while also inspiring people to explore and understand the history

of our country in a way that helps to shape our collective future. It means that we are committed to redefining boundaries in all areas of our work. It also means being bold and innovative, while building relationships and telling stories that allow us to take risks. It means challenging assumptions and pushing beyond the limits of what we know and understand about Canada's history. The phrase "tomorrow's history" may sound counterintuitive at first. Within the context of our vision statement, however, it reflects our belief that history is an ongoing process, constantly evolving and changing as we learn more about the past. It reminds us that we have a responsibility to ensure that future generations have the knowledge and context they need to understand the world around them, while also being inspired to shape a brighter future. Speaking of the future, where do you see the Museum 10 years from now? It often feels as though the world around us is changing at breakneck speed, and it can be challenging to keep up. Our Museums are actively working to become more nimble in their ways of working collaboratively. We want to increase our resilience and adaptability, expand our digital literacy, and continue to embed equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility within our organization's DNA. As we grow and move forward, I see our Museums having the ability to be more responsive and open to the world around them, while remaining trusted sources of shared and diverse knowledge, as well as safe spaces for respectful dialogue. In the end, we want to reach people and communities in new and ever-more-innovative ways — wherever they may be. I'm excited to see what our future holds!

IN CONVERSATION

WITH CAROLINE DROMAGUET

President and CEO, Canadian Museum of History and Canadian War Museum

Caroline Dromaguet, President and CEO,

Canadian Museum of History, 2023

THE GREAT WAR: EXPLORING MEDICAL REALITIES WITH DR. TIM COOK

Last month, the Canadian War Museum hosted an exclusive lecture featuring Dr. Tim Cook, Chief Historian and Director of Research at the Museum. The evening offered members a unique opportunity to engage with Dr. Cook as he discussed his latest book, *Lifesavers and Body Snatchers: Medical Care and the Struggle for Survival in the Great War*. In this captivating new volume, Dr. Cook delves into the remarkable medical experiences and heroic actions of the doctors and nurses who helped save lives during the First World War. Dr. Cook transported attendees back to that tumultuous time through rare historical images, while also revealing some of the groundbreaking emergency surgical techniques and battlefield innovations that emerged amidst the challenges of war. Despite being faced with an array of unimaginable wounds, doctors discovered new ways of mending torn and shattered bodies, combatting infection, healing gas-scarred lungs, and easing traumatized minds. One of Dr. Cook's most intriguing discoveries was an unsettling collaboration between Canadian medical personnel and their British counterparts. The clandestine program involved harvesting the body parts of fallen soldiers for medical research. Attendees were shocked to learn that, although the program was aimed at advancing medical knowledge, there was little informed consent or communication with soldiers and their families. Dr. Cook's book is the first to reveal this macabre side of the war and has been the focus of many media stories. *Lifesavers and Body Snatchers* is the result of more than a decade of meticulous in-depth research, spanning multiple archives across Canada. Drawing upon letters, diaries and memoirs from soldiers, doctors and nurses, Dr. Cook shines a light on the human side of war, battle, and combat. Each book, letter, and archival document that Dr. Cook examined has contributed to our growing understanding of the past. Without generous supporters like you, groundbreaking research like this would not be possible. With your help, we are able to deepen knowledge of Canada's military history. Thank you. If you would like to learn more about exclusive invitations and events for members, please visit our website at warmuseum.ca/support/membership.

NEW TOOL WILL BE A GAME CHANGER FOR CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

When we look at an object, we can make general observations about its material, like identifying that a Victoria Cross in the Canadian War Museum's collection was made with bronze. Or that tools at the Canadian Museum of History from Skraeling Island — an 800-year-old Inuit site whose occupants may have met Norse (Viking) explorers in what is now Nunavut — were made from metal. But there can be many different types of metals and other materials within an object that are invisible, even under a microscope. And because materials deteriorate differently and at varying speeds, without knowing an object's specific composition, it can be challenging to learn more about it and prevent its deterioration. That's why having a portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer is crucial. Specialists at the Museum of History and the War Museum need this game-changing piece of technology to learn more about historical objects and preserve them for future generations. With this tool, we'll be able to identify the exact composition of objects — revealing their history, as well as how to proactively fight their deterioration. The Museums' specialists are thrilled about the possibility of getting a spectrometer. In light of a recent study suggesting that Victoria Crosses are not, as once thought, all made entirely of the same metal, our specialists will be able to analyse the composition of the War Museum's Victoria Crosses, which may help to uncover hidden stories within them. And, in addition to assessing iron tools from Skraeling Island, they'll be able to assess beaded Indigenous items, with the goal of preventing deterioration before it begins. Similar projects will unfold with many other objects. "It's the missing piece of the puzzle that will help ensure preservation for years to come," said James Whitham, Director of Collections at the War Museum. Purchasing a spectrometer depends entirely on the generous support of people like you. Our sincere thanks to those who have already contributed. If you would like more information about this initiative, please contact Kim Strydonck, Senior Fundraising Officer, Annual Program, at kim.strydonck@warmuseum.ca.

IN THEIR OWN VOICES – EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF MILITARY SERVICE

Canadian Army veteran Bruce Moncur almost died on September 4, 2006, during Operation Medusa in Afghanistan, when American aircraft mistakenly strafed a Canadian position and left Moncur with a devastating head injury. Moncur now describes September 4 as his "Alive Day." "My Alive Day is that fork in the road," he said. "It changed my life. Everything I have — my sons, my partner — comes from that day. Your life is going one direction, then changes dramatically." Moncur spoke with me as part of the Canadian War Museum's In Their Own Voices oral history project about the Canadian veteran's experience. Our goal is to better understand the many ways — both subtle and profound — that military service shapes the lives of veterans and their loved ones, and how those veterans in turn shape Canada itself. Since launching the project last year, we have travelled across the country and have interviewed nearly 200 veterans and their family members, from 103-year-old Second World War veterans to younger men and women who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. The stories we have heard are rich and diverse, reflecting the many different backgrounds and experiences of veterans in Canada. For Al Jones, Honorary Colonel of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters in Barrie, ON, the military legacy of a relative he never met has influenced him since he was a boy. His great-grandfather was Jeremiah Jones, a Black Canadian who charged a German machine-gun nest at Vimy Ridge. Although Jeremiah got little public recognition at the time, his story was passed down through the family. Al says the lesson he absorbed from learning about Jeremiah was: "Be very proud of who you are, because you and your family have contributed to the fabric of Canada for many generations." Collectively, the stories we are gathering show that the impacts of war and military service continue long after a veteran's service ends in ways that are intimate and far reaching. While no two veterans' experiences are the same, many common themes emerge, even between veterans of different wars and different eras.

The In Their Own Voices team will continue to interview veterans and their loved ones throughout the coming year. We are now also working on an online educational portal that will launch in the fall of 2024, and a book and conference that will follow soon after. We are uncovering history that has often been hidden and overlooked but is an integral element of conflict and military life. We cannot wait to share it with you. Dr. Michael Petrou Historian, Veterans' Experience Canadian War Museum

IN THEIR OWN VOICES – EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF MILITARY SERVICE

In Their Own Voices: Stories From Canadian Veterans and Their Families is completely funded by donors including The A. Britton Smith Family, Azrieli Foundation, Arthur B.C. Drache, C.M., Q.C. and Judy Young Drache, The Royal Canadian Legion, Legion National Foundation, Friends of the Canadian War Museum, Robert Stollery, in honour of his service in the Second World War, Colonel (Ret'd) Stanley A. Milner, OC, AOE, MSM, CD, LL.D., and individuals from across Canada. We are most grateful for their generous support.

From the Vice-President of Development and Membership A LASTING LEGACY

One of the great joys I have working at the Museums is the opportunity to meet such interesting and generous individuals — people who care about the value of museums and the importance of our shared past. The joy I felt was met with sadness in July when I learned about the passing of General Paul David Manson. Indeed, General Manson's passing was felt by so many of us at the Museums. He was an extraordinary individual, whose unwavering dedication and exemplary service to his country left an indelible mark on Canada and on all who had the pleasure of knowing him. General Manson was a staunch supporter of the Canadian War Museum and was instrumental in establishing the new building on LeBreton Flats in 2005. He chaired the Passing the Torch Campaign, which raised more than \$16 million towards the construction of the Canadian War Museum. As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation, he also chaired the Board's Canadian War Museum Committee and the Canadian War Museum Building Committee. General Manson continued to support many Museum initiatives and projects throughout the years, such as Supply Line, In Their Own Voices, and the War Museum's archival collection. He was a frequent visitor for both formal events and informal strolls through the galleries that he had been so instrumental in creating. General Manson will forever be remembered as a selfless leader and a man of unwavering honour. His tireless efforts to provide support, resources and opportunities for veterans have left a lasting legacy that will continue to benefit generations to come.

Sylvie Madely
Vice-President
Development and Membership

I hope that you continue to enjoy reading our Kudos! newsletter, which offers some of the latest news on 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 issue, please contact me at: sylvie.madely@historymuseum.ca.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE FRONT

'Tis strange that a peaceful message
Should come from a land of strife;
'Tis strange that from the form of death
Should spring the germs of life,
So spring the germs of life and joy
From the forms of grief and pain,
Which combined with love make the sweet alloy
Of the message we send again.

'Tis the same old Christmas greeting,
But its meaning deeper seems
Because of that longed-for meeting
Which we picture in our dreams;
But with hope and love and courage
We shall surely reach the end,
When, instead of a distant mirage,
We shall welcome the face of a friend.

Private J. Spittal, "C" Company 1915



TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE OF THE 49TH BATTALION,
THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
PRESENTATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
49 BATTALION, THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
CALGARY, ALBERTA
21 DECEMBER 2023**



The President of the 49 Battalion, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Association, our good friend and colleague, Jack Bowen, sent along a great photograph of “Len Corbett in his 99th year..... one of the last Eddie WW2 Veterans....and the last Canadian Veteran of the First Special Service Force (Devil's Brigade).” Jack presented a Quilt of Valour to Len in Calgary last Thursday! Jack also sent along special greetings to the Regimental Family from the Loyal Eddies. Well done and thank you, Jack! Our very best wishes and compliments of the Season to “The Loyal Eddies”! Up the Dukes & “Fear No Foe”!



Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year to all Members of the Regimental Family, our Friends, and Supporters!

Thank you for all you do!

Up the Dukes!

E.A. (Ted) Hawthorne, JD

Regimental Secretary

Commanding Officer's Committee

The BC Regiment (DCO)

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Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 2L9

Cell: 604-961-7522

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Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BCR.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.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
HONOUR HOUSE SOCIETY
SERGEANT PIERANGELO DAL MAGRO, CD DONATION
509 ST GEORGE STREET, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.
27 DEC 2023**



Our friends at "Honour House" in New Westminster have recently been in touch to advise us as follows:

"An anonymous donor has provided \$10,000 in funding for one of our rooms to be named in memory of Sgt Pier Angelo Dal Magro, for 2024. He asked me to provide you with the attached photograph. As always, Honour House and Honour Ranch are absolutely dedicated to supporting all of our serving and retired members of our Canadian Armed Forces and their families.
Craig Longstaff – Executive Director"

As our readers know, "Honour House is a refuge, a 'home away from home' for members of our Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, Emergency Services Personnel, and their families."

<https://www.honourhouse.ca>

Congratulations to the good folks at Honour House and thank you to the anonymous donor for his generosity and for remembering our Piero!

Up the Dukes!

Editor's Note: I received an email from our BCR Museum Committee member, Don Manning, who is a regular contributor to our Quarterly Edition of 'The Duke'. The link from YouTube is an interesting battlefield tour on the Worthington Force action at Hill 195/ 140. Worth viewing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pURoNKm7fVA>

Attachments area

Preview YouTube video THE WW2 ALAMO! | This Battlegroup Was Destroyed on Film | Normandy WW2



THE START LINE – PRIVILEGE AND HONOUR

by LCol (Ret'd) Dave Sproule, CD

Those of us that have worn or continue wearing the uniforms of the Canadian Forces know that it was and remains a privilege and an honour to serve. For those of us that are veterans we recognize both the importance of these elements when we put on our blazer, beret and medals and remind our fellow citizens of our duty served but also and more importantly, that the torch was passed to us and we held it high and of course the tradition will continue in perpetuity – such a privilege, such an honour. Perhaps just as John McCrae imagined.

And because we serve or have served, honours are bestowed including, rank, medals, decorations, and awards or recognition of some kind. I want to recount an honour that came my way a few years ago. As many of you know, I was a member of the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir (VWMC) for many years, a great organization and it was a privilege to sing with like-minded men. I had been on tour with the choir in Europe four times previously but 2017 was different as it was the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the choir did a battlefield tour. We sang songs of remembrance on Juno Beach at Dieppe and at Commonwealth cemeteries. On April 26th we mounted Walter Allward's magnificent monument at Vimy and lifted our voices singing out to the distant maple trees in this sacred corner of Canada. Although some of us had family that served on that day in April, 1917 all that were present couldn't help but feel the emotional pull of being there and feeling pride and thanks to those men for the job done and for their sacrifice. Vimy was after all, a significant unifying event in our history. The following day we were in Ypres and after visiting the Flanders Field Museum, another choir member and I were offered the opportunity to visit our uncle's graves just outside of town at The Railway Dugout Commonwealth Cemetery. Uncles I never knew but seeing their names chiselled in stone made them more than a boyhood image on a faded photograph. I couldn't help wondering - what might have been.



That evening we made our way to the Menin Gate to find our place for the daily act of remembrance, The Salute to the Fallen, was to take place at 8:00pm as it had every day since July 2, 1928, so the choir lined up close to the wreath laying place. Along with fellow baritone Richard Vedan and Petty Officer Susie Chant, we were given the honour of laying the wreath on behalf of the choir. The Last Post was played by the buglers and the choir sang, "In Flanders Fields" we then stepped forward, marched across the square, laid the wreath, stepped back and saluted. It was an unforgettable moment. Richard had served in the RCAF and he and I were stationed at CFB Winnipeg back in the early 70s. He is a member of the Secwepemc First Nation and the National Aboriginal Veterans of Canada. Susie is the wife of choir member Rick Chant and the MLA for North Vancouver. Fortunately for me, my daughter was present for all these events. She had known of our family's service and sacrifice, but because she was there, she was now able to reconcile these places where great events occurred, with her family's service and to appreciate how honour continues to be paid. She now had an historic context and an emotional understanding of remembrance. Two other groups laid

wreathes that day, a group from the Royal Australian Airforce Association and a group from England whose identity I can't remember.

Because we served, an honour was given, and a duty fulfilled. For me, Remembrance Day remains an important and sacred day but in Ypres, Belgium at the Menin Gate people from around the globe come to remember and every day is Remembrance Day. Lest we forget.



The buglers sound Last Post



The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir at the Menin Gate, April 27, 2017. Behind the choir are some of the names of the fallen inscribed on the wall, for whom there is no known grave.

David Sproule, Victoria

THE BARRETT BUNKER DECEMBER 2023



Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John Toogood and CO BCR Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Stanley cut the BCR Centennial Cake 15 October 1983

This past October marked the 140th anniversary of the founding of the BC Regiment on the 12th of October 1883 and as I look back, I realize that both CWO Mark Arden and I were probably the last two soldiers to recently retire, who were actually on that parade. I took the only picture of Honorary Lt-Col John Toogood cutting the Centennial Cake. How time has passed! All of our Great War and 28th Armoured veterans have now passed and now those of us who served during the Cold War are the current old guard of the BCR and Association.

As I look back over the notes that I took back in 1983, I see that we were still highly busy at that time, with the BCR parading Tuesday evenings each week and volunteering our time on Thursday nights with the use of the old 'pink' pay sheets with field exercises each and every month. Private soldiers were making \$25.10 for a full day's work and as a Second Lieutenant I was making the lofty sum of \$32.60.

For me, I had been away on a course at Nanaimo Military Camp, which prior to the mid-60's cuts had been home to C Squadron BCR and returned back in time to see OCdts Joe Dindo and Chuck Schell join the Officers' Mess. Both Joe and Bill Whalen had been in the same SYEP Summer course with me in 1982. Bill would take his commission by 1984.

February 25th saw us heading off to CFB Chilliwack for a range field exercise which started out on the Saturday firing M72 anti-tank rockets. All initially went well and Trooper Burgess (who had been the Cadet RSM of 2290 BCR) successfully hit one of the two derelict Sherman Tanks left out on the range. OCDT Joe Dindo and I fired next also hitting our targets. The next shot missed, and another wound up lodged in a pile of scrap metal which after training from Lt Bob Greenhalgh, Joe and I assisted in the demolition of both 'blinds' which happened without incident. In those days we were expected to use plastic explosives, blasting caps and det cord to look after our own unexploded munitions.

In March, we were back with the Regiment in Chilliwack throwing hand grenades and being run through the tear gas chamber by Sgt Macdonald. A number of Junior Officers and NCOs including your writer, were able to be qualified as instructors on the obstacle/ confidence course. Later in the day, I was able to

demonstrate and run the 30 candidates on the Spring General Military Training (GMT now BMQ) candidates through. In doing the qualification, I had managed to lose my grip and fall off the 10 foot wall landing on my right shoulder which I'd injured the week before playing ice hockey. A good reminder to hang onto the rope and to make sure that you do not repeat your error in front of the new candidates.

April saw the BCR deployed to Wainright, Alberta on a Gun Camp for a week. In those days, the 12th (Vancouver) Service Battalion (now the 39th Service Battalion) was located out at the Vancouver Airport on the South Runway in a WWII hanger. It was from that location that we flew out on Hercules Transport aircraft for the field.

Sgt Macdonald and I were put in charge of the GMT for the week, and we started out at the 600 yard Rifle range where all the soldiers qualified with a few showing promise as future members of our shooting team. The next day we fired the 9mm SMGs and then conducted full field training as the rest of the Regiment fired .50 Cal machineguns off of Lynx Armoured Recce Vehicles borrowed from the LDSH and fired Karl Gustav and M72s.

On our last day in the field, I had the GMT course dug in and following an attack on our position, which was successfully defeated, and during the debriefing of the candidates I was admiring the red glow of the setting sun just moments before hearing the NODUF on the radio and calling us in to fight a major range fire which threatened our ammo point. I remember Sgt Thomas Houghton driving a tracked vehicle to make a bit of a fire break as we handed out shovels and picks before leading the troops through the flames to break the fire from the rear, which we were able to do successfully and save the ammunition. Covered in soot and tired we headed back to barracks where we cleaned weapons and washed our uniforms. I was tired from the day and had unfortunately left my wallet in my tunic, and it was rather well soaked when it came out of the washing machine. When I went to pay for a RCAC tie the bartender agreed to accept a cheque. I opened my damp wallet and took out a wet cheque from the old Bank of BC which had a picture of a duck on the front. With a laugh the bar manager stuck the cheque from 'Bank of Duck' on the fridge to dry. I recall it wasn't cashed for several months.



Commanding Officers of the BCR joined with other veterans from both wars

Front Row: L-R: LCol B Letson, Padre Lennox, HLCol Toogood, HCol H Letson, LCol B Stanley

Rear Row L-R: LCol Lane, LCol Johnson, Unk, Capt Harker, LCol Conradi, LCol Aird, LCol Matheson, LCol Steacey, LCol Larkin, Unk.

The April St Julien Dinner commemorating our Stand at St Julien in 1915 had Maj-Gen Harry Letson present at the dinner. Although walking somewhat shakily, his voice and mind were clear and on speaking with him he recalled being there when the Drill Hall was opened in 1901. MGen Letson not only designed the CD medal but had six bars to it when he passed away as our HCol in the early 90s.



L-R: Lt Roland Peters, OCDT Joe Dindo, OCDT Pat Murphy, 2Lt Jim Barrett



The after party with Maj Ernie Wesson signing old war songs. I have fond memories of joining Padre Maj Harry Lennox a veteran of both World Wars at such events

A week later we were at the Annual Military Ball in which I was tasked to escort one of the prior debutants, Miss Cyndi Molyneaux, who's father served on the VPD with my father, and who I also knew through Cricket. Shows again what a small world it was and is in Vancouver.

We finished our last FTX on Sea Island by the Vancouver Airport, and then it was off to summer training in which I finished my qualifications as a 2 LT and returned home in time for our annual Brigade MILCON in Fort Lewis where I was assigned to be Major Jack Drake's Liaison Officer (LO) for the FTX. Major Drake was OC of our BCR A Squadron providing recce for the Brigade HQ. The BCR had two seven car troops of Lynx, one seven car with Jeeps, and a four M113 Carrier troop of GMT. There were two Command Post Vehicles and a full echelon of trucks including a tracked Maintenance Det from the LDSH. I believe the Brigade had almost 1800-1900 troops in the field working out of the North Fort at Ft Lewis, Washington. As LO, my driver and I were lucky enough to be assigned to a new CJ7 jeep which was an interim vehicle for us, which eventually was replaced by the Iltis later about 1987. The CJ7s were excellent road vehicles and reliable compared to the 1966 pattern jeeps that we'd been using up until then. Downside was that they had all season tires not suitable for cross country and were not modified with pintle mounts for machineguns.

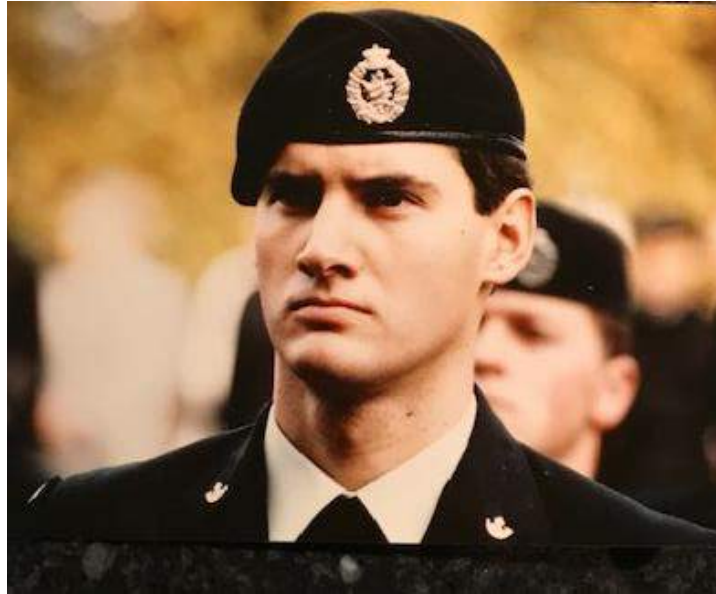
The exercise went well for the week and on the final parade in the North Fort parade square, the BC Regiment was awarded the BC Military District Trophy for the Best Annual Drill on parade for 1983 by BGen Hepple. We had been evaluated at a Regimental parade earlier in March for which we hadn't done any practise. One rehearsal and then we were evaluated. A very pleasant surprise to us all.

Sept 1983 at the Regiment was spent with getting the fall training courses going and doing drill in preparation for our Freedom of The City of Vancouver Parade scheduled for the weekend of the 16th of October. In the meantime, my notes from one evening show me between recruiting and getting prepared to run the fall GMT course, teaching drill to brand new OCdts Fred Burns and Pat Murphy in the Brass Room (Museum).

The centennial of the Regiment was celebrated with an all ranks party on the 15th of October with a cake cutting by HLCOL John Toogood, followed by the main parade at City Hall the next morning. Supported by the 15 FD Artillery Band and over 100 cadets from 2290 BCR led by Maj Ken Parr, the Regiment formed up in two Squadrons at City Hall where LCOL Bob Stanley, rapped on the door demanding to have access, where he was greeted by Mayor Mike Harcourt. After reading of the Proclamation and the inspection of the Regiment by the Mayor, the Regiment, led by the band, marched back the three kilometres to the Drill Hall over the old Connaught Bridge, named in 1908 after our Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Connaught.



Centennial Freedom of the City Parade at Vancouver City Hall Guidon marched on



2Lt Barrett looking very serious on parade really trying hard not to move



15 FD RCA Band leads the BCR back to their Beatty Street Drill Hall



October finished with another Range FTX in Chilliwack on the 29th, where we joined the Officers' Mess later in the evening for their Oktoberfest party. As I recall we did well at the range shooting the next day and my team won the falling plates competition. We also were awarded the Worthington Trophy for being the best

Armoured Reserve Unit that year along with the Dunwoody Trophy for being the best in the west. We won the Worthington again in 1985.

Following November 11th parade, we played our annual Regimental football game at Strathcona Park before returning back to the Regiment for an Officers Dining in. I believe the Offrs, WOs & Sgts team managed to squeak out a narrow victory that year.

We headed out for a final range FTX to Chilliwack on the weekend of Dec 2-4th for another weekend of shooting on the 600 yard range.

17 Dec 1983 was the Men's Christmas dinner with our Regimental Cook, Sgt Roi Hirtle overseeing the cooking, with Officers and Senior NCOs peeling potatoes, brussels sprouts and all the other required fixings throughout the day before serving the soldiers in the old tradition. I recall sitting there with Major Drake, who was peeling potatoes, whilst I tackled a 40 pound box of sprouts, enjoying a beer and Jack a glass of white wine (strictly for the gravy). The work crew included Majors Don Hein, Major Mal Goodman and all of the Senior NCOs setting up the tables for the feast. A fine night it was.

The next morning, I was there to assist at the annual Children's Christmas party in anticipation of the arrival of Santa Duke. A tradition that goes back to 1944 when the Regiment hosted a party for the children in a Dutch village that had been liberated. An excellent party and the end to our training and centennial year.

Our Centennial Year was as you can tell, quite a busy one, but one that shows the high achievement level of training that we were able to accomplish at that time in the Reserves, and one to which the BC Regiment continues to strive to the current time.

DUKE'S DEN



Duke apparently into hibernation for December

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

Major Stuart Bruce Van Kleeck, 2nd Mounted Rifles (British Columbia Regiment), CEF



Credit: Ancestry.ca

This article is about a man who served in pre Great War Militias in Canada, followed by three years in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, from 1916 to 1918. At the time of his death, he had achieved the rank of Major, and lies at Bourlon Wood Cemetery in France. He was 34. For the observant reader, I have used the inscription on his headstone for the military reference.

Note to Reader: I have noted several differences in the spelling of Major Van Kleeck's surname. All surround whether his surname is spelled in two words or one, and whether the letter K is shown in caps or lower case. The above image shows it to be one word and note from his family tree and his attestation document shows it as two. For the purposes of this article, I have adhered to the way he wrote his surname in his attestation document.

One of the highest ranking soldiers buried at Bourlon Wood Cemetery is Major Stuart Bruce Van Kleeck. This article is about him and his three years in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.



Credit: Find a Grave

Personal Information

Birth: 18 September 1884, Madoc, Hastings County, Ontario, Canada. It appears that Major Van Kleeck was descended from United Empire Loyalist stock, who emigrated to Upper Canada during the American Revolution, and were provided with land by the British authorities of the day to settle in the then Hastings County, Upper Canada. Much of Hastings County was settled in this manner.

Marriage to Helen Ruth Clark: 3 August 1915, Vernon, B.C. (Source: Ancestry.ca)

Parents: his parents lived as farmers in Hasting County, they predeceased him on the same date in 1905 (Source: Ancestry.ca). Following that, he found his way to Vernon, in the Okanagan Valley of B.C.

Death: Major Van Kleeck died on 29 September 1918, aged 34, Cambrai, Department du Nord, Pas de Calais, France. This date suggests that Major Van Kleeck was killed during the build up to the Second Battle of Cambrai (8 to 9 October 1918), or, in relation to Canal du Nord (27 September to 1 October 1917), given the location of Bourlon Wood Cemetery the latter suggests Canal du Nord or Bourlon itself more likely.

Occupation at Enlistment: Our man was a Barrister, in British Columbia, and previously in Ontario. He is Memorialized at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario, along with other members of the Ontario bar who were killed during the Great War

Osgoode Hall Memorial



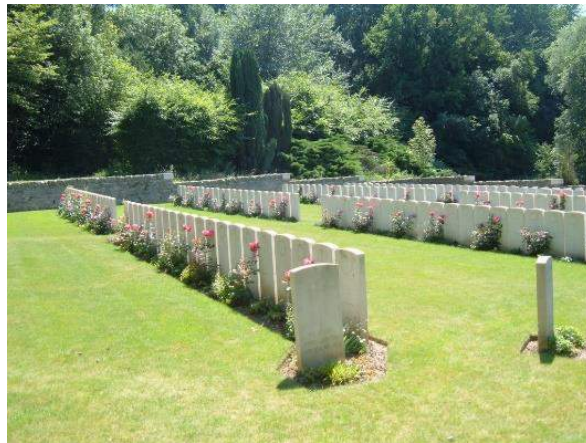
Situated on Queen Street in Toronto, Osgoode Hall's Great Library (1858) houses the First World War Memorial (1924). Created by Frances Norma Loring (1887-1968), the Memorial is made of Carrara marble. The Memorial contains the names of law students and graduates who died as a result of the war.

Photo courtesy of Marika Pirie
Photo fournie gracieusement par Marika Pirie

Military Career

From his CEF Record: Attestation: 23 October 1915, Vernon, B.C., into 62nd Overseas Battalion, CEF. Note that the 62nd Battalion today is perpetuated by The British Columbia Regiment (DCO). Its' commander at that time was L. Col. H.D. Hulme, the unit was absorbed by the 30th Battalion, CEF, also perpetuated by the Dukes, which was itself absorbed as a reinforcement Battalion. Our man appears in the Nominal Roll of the 62nd in March 1916 with the Rank of Captain. I have not been able to locate a reference to the date he was elevated to the rank of Major.

Note: During the recent Battlefield Tour of May 2023, those of us participating visited the Bourlon Wood Memorial and the nearby Bourlon Wood Cemetery, where Major Van Kleeck is buried, and note there are several burials there attached to the 102nd Battalion, which was also raised by the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), "North British Columbians". By this time, it was attached to the Central Ontario Regiment.



Bourlon Wood Cemetery (Commonwealth War Graves)

From his Attestation Document:

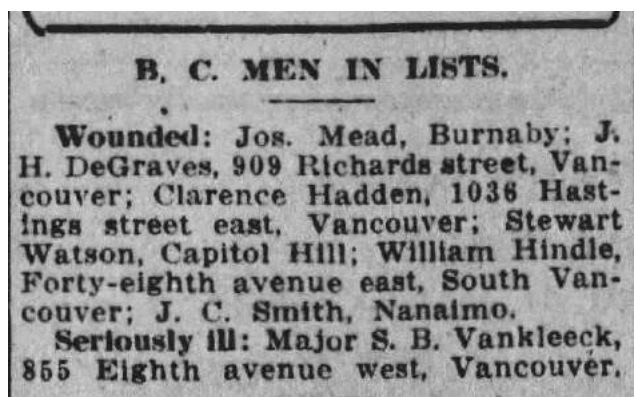
Current Militia at Attestation: 102nd R.M.R. (Rocky Mountain Rangers))

Previous Military Service: 1907 – 1911: 49th Regiment

January 1915 – December 1915: 102nd Rocky Mountain Rangers

From the 62nd Nominal Roll: Our man was one of the original group of the 62nd Battalion that embarked from Halifax on S.S. Baltic on 20 March 1916 for England, rank Captain.

Military Action while in France: Newspaper Reference: January 1917 Reported Seriously Ill:



Credit: Vancouver Sun, 17 January 1917

His Military Record does not provide much information in the way of details as to his military activities, but it does indicate that he was wounded on 10 January 1917, returning to his unit on 12 January 1917. The location of this event is unclear as there were no battles by the CEF in progress on this date, the closest action to that date was Battle of the Ancre (Somme) in November 1917. There is no mention of any of the battle honours one would expect to see for the battles of 1917 and 1918 other than what is referenced in this article.

Death

Major Van Kleeck was killed in action of 29 September 2018.

Burial Location: Bourlon Wood Cemetery, Bourlon, Department-du Pas-de-Calais, France, Plot 1.E.1

Note: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial suggests that he was killed close to the Village of Bourlon.

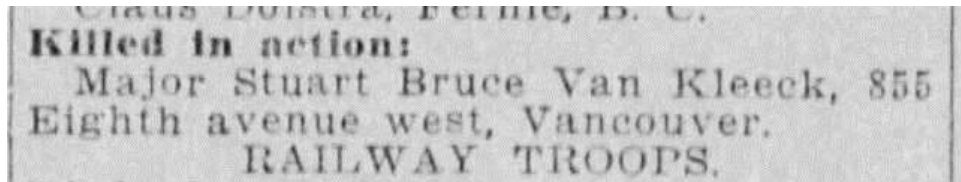
Book of Remembrance

Major Van Kleeck appears on page 510 of the Book of Remembrance, see link below.

His spouse received a Memorial Cross, forwarded to her in San Francisco 5 January 1922.



Headstone - Credit: Find a Grave



Credit: Vancouver Sun, 17 October 1918

Medals Awarded: His Military Record indicates he was awarded the following: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Sources and References relied upon for this article

The Canadian Great War Project: <https://canadiangreatwarproject.com/person.php?pid=38701>

CEF Record: <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B9906-S003>

Nominal Roll, 62nd Reserve Battalion: <https://data2.archives.ca/e/e444/e011092654.pdf>

Find a Grave 1: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56795358/stuart-bruce-van_kleeck

Find a Grave 2: (Memorial at Madoc, Ontario) : https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/159548605/stuart-bruce-van_kleeck

Department of National Defence: <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/battle-honours-honorary-distinctions/cambrai-1918.html>

Ancestry.ca (Family Tree Information: <https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/120877734/person/262204491614/facts>

Veterans.gc.ca: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/596529?Stuart%20Bruce%20Van%20Kleeck>

Book of Remembrance, WWI, Page 516:

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=516&book=1&sort=pageAsc>

Swift & Strong, (LeBlanc/Maxwell/Snow/Deschenes) 2011, p. 132

Newspaper references, Vancouver Sun as noted.

Prepared by:

Don Manning

Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

PRIVATE EDWIN VICTOR COOK, DCM
102nd BATTALION (NORTH BRITISH COLUMBIANS) CEF



Credit: itcinc.ca

Private Edwin Victor Cook is an honoured person in the Namgis (Nimpkish) First Nation, his home village was Alert Bay, Cormorant Island, British Columbia. He is remembered each year at the Remembrance Day Service held at Alert Bay. He was born 10 May 1897 at Alert Bay, Malcolm Island, British Columbia. His parents, Jane and Stephen Cook were both survivors of The Residential School System, and he was himself in the second generation of that system. Jane was a noble member of the Kwagut Clan and Stephen was a member of the Thunderbird Clan (Namgis). The itcinc.ca link shown below provides a family history overview of his ancestry and his warrior background and the family values he was raised under.

He met and married an English woman while in the U.K., it is not clear whether they had any issue. As an interesting side note, Private Cook appears on the Nominal Roll of the 102nd (North British Columbians) Battalion CEF, dated 18 June 1916. At the time of his posthumous award of Distinguished Conduct Medal, which at the time was one of the highest awards of the British Army, then second only to The Victoria Cross, he was noted as a member of the 7th Battalion, CEF. He is thus shown as a member of the 7th Battalion on the Commonwealth War Graves Website.

Military History
Prior to The Great War

Our man served on HMS Conway, a 19th Ship of the Line which served as a training ship from 1859 -1974. He returned to Canada at the outbreak of hostilities in 1914.

102nd Battalion, CEF

Regimental Number, CEF: 703323

102nd Battalion, CEF

Taken on Strength, Vancouver, B.C. 15 January 1916

Embarked on S.S. Empress of Britain 18 June 1916, from Halifax, Nova Scotia

Arrival in the U.K.: 28 June 1916

Embarked for France from the U.K. 8 November 1916

It is believed that Private Cook was a scout, which would expose him to contact with the enemy.

Wounded, gunshot wounds and shrapnel, near Vimy, late March 1917 (from Canadian Encyclopedia)

Wounded, admitted to hospital for a GSW: 14 April 1917

Wounded: 27 April 1917 to 5 July 1917

Wounded: 5 July 1917 to 3 August 1917

Struck off Strength, assigned to 16th Reserve to 1st Reserve Battalion

Proceeded to the Front: 26 November 1917

7th Battalion, CEF

Taken on Strength from 1st Reserve Battalion: 30 November 1917

Wounded: 12 March 1918

Permission to marry: 4 May 1918

Wounded: 21 August 1918 (Reported Dangerously Ill – Note from Veterans Canada: Wounded by Shrapnel)

Died of Wounds: 2 September 1918

Awards: Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.): 11 December 1918

His record states he was not eligible for the Star, I believe this relates to the 1914-1915 Star. There is no evidence of any service medals being awarded to him or forwarded to his spouse.

His D.C.M. was forwarded to his widow Dorothy Cook in the U.K. in 1920, followed by a Scroll in 1921, and finally a Memorial Cross forwarded to his Mother in Alert Bay in 1922.



Credit: warmuseum.ca

The Citation for his DCM award dated 12 November 1918 reads as follows:

Citation: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in advance of his company as a scout and single-handed he rushed an enemy machine gun and killed the crew, thereby saving many of the lives of his own company and permitting the advance to proceed unchecked. He showed splendid gallantry and determination."

Death: According to Private Cook's CEF record, he died of his wounds on 2 September 1918.

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
703323	Private	COOK	Edwin Victor
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
7th Battalion	28-8-18	649-C-10157	Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
<p>"Died of Wounds"</p> <p>During operations East of Damery, he was wounded by shrapnel in the stomach. He was immediately attended to and evacuated to No.42 Casualty Clearing Station where he later succumbed to his wounds.</p>			

Credit: Veterans Canada

As many readers will be aware, Dury was at the start line for military actions at the beginning of what is known today as The Last Hundred Days. One of the eight Canadian Great War Monuments is located at the start line and commemorates the actions of The Canadian Corps at the Second Battle of Arras (Drocourt-Quéant) and the offensive to take the Hindenburg Line). It is pictured here, and was one of the stops on the recent Battlefield Tour in May 2023:



Credit: YouTube

It is known that the initial advance of the battle began on 26 August 1918 and continued to 3 September 1918, and the 7th Battalion Battle Honours puts the Battalion in the area. Given the fact that Private Cook was initially wounded on 21 August 1918 and was treated at Dury Military Hospital suggests he was wounded days before the offensive was put in motion.

Burial:

Private Cook was initially buried at The Dury Military Hospital Cemetery. Private Cook's remains were subsequently exhumed following the end of hostilities and were reburied at Villiers-Brettonneux Military Cemetery, near Amiens, in the Somme, where he remains. Villers-Bretonneux is a village 16 kilometres east of Amiens on the straight main road to St Quentin. The Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery is about 2 kilometres north of the village on the east side of the road to Fouilloy. Source: Veterans Canada



Credit: Veterans Canada - Burial Plot: XVIA.A.13

Images – Private Cook in Uniform



Credit: Veterans Canada

Acknowledgement:

I would like to acknowledge the attention that has been paid by Veterans Canada to Private Cook to record his military service. It has made the preparation of this article most helpful.

Links and References

CEF Record: <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B1948-S012>

The Canadian Encyclopedia: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/edwin-victor-cook>

Veterans Canada: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/575790?Edwin%20Victor%20Cook>

Veterans Canada Great War Book of Remembrance:

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=388&book=1&sort=pageAsc>

Veterans Canada – Memorials - Image: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/575790?Edwin%20Victor%20Cook>

Intinc.ca: Edwin Victor Cook, Indigenous War hero: <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/edwin-victor-cook-indigenous-war-hero>, Author Wedliidi Speck

HMS Conway (Training Ship): <https://menaibridges.co.uk/history/local-area/hms-conwy/>

102nd Battalion Nominal Roll – 18th June 1916, Embarked from Halifax, N.S. “Empress of Britain”

Commonwealth War Graves: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/search-results/?Surname=Cook&Forename=Edwin&Initials=&ServiceNum=703323&Regiment=Canadian+Infantry&ServedWith=Australian&ServedWith=Canadian&ServedIn=Army&WarSelect=1&CountryCommemoratedIn=null&Cemetery=&Unit=&Rank=&SecondaryRegiment=&SecondaryUnit=&AgeOfDeath=0&DateDeathFromDay=1&DateDeathFromMonth=January&DateDeathFromYear=&DateDeathToDay=1&DateDeathToMonth=January&DateDeathToYear=&DateOfDeath=&Honours=null&AdditionalInfo=&Tab=&Page=1>

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56558650/edwin-victor-cook>. Note: I have added an image of Private Cook’s headstone.

Ancestry.ca:

<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/?name=Edwin+Victor+Cook&event=1918+france+5087&pg=3&birth=1897+alert+bay-british+columbia-canada+1647372&gender=m&types=tp>

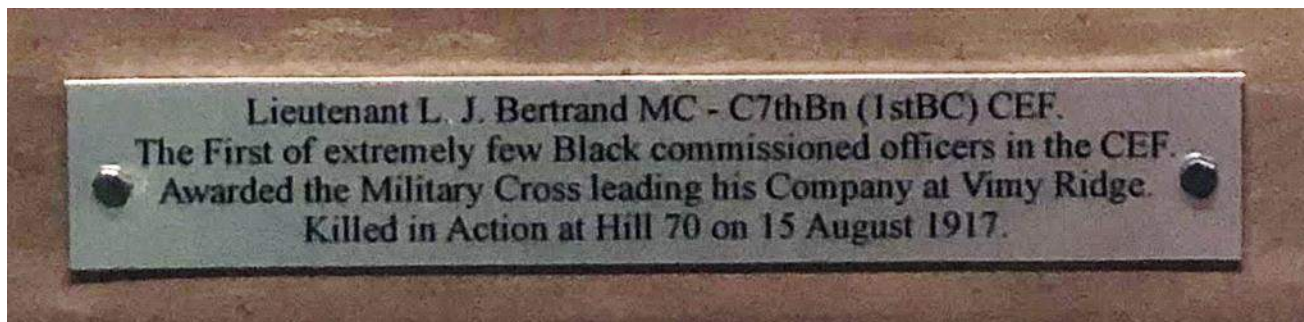
Note to reader: I note that there is also a military record for an Edwin Ernest Cook, an Ontario Machine Gun Corps soldier killed at Paaschendaale. This is a different person from Edwin Victor Cook, the subject of this article.

Lest we forget.

Article prepared by Don Manning, member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society
10 October 2023

LIEUTENANT LANCELOT JOSEPH BERTRAND MC 7th BATTALION (1st BC) CEF





Regimental Number: 21803 (7th Battalion)

This article was prepared to honour Lancelot Joseph Bertrand, who was born 18 November 1892 in St. George's, Grenada, British Virgin Islands. He was to become the first Black Infantry Officer in the CEF, and at the time of his death, at Hill 70, on 15 August 1917. He is memorialized on the Vimy National Memorial, which is fitting, as he was awarded his Military Cross for his actions at Vimy. The image above was recently mounted and hung in the Officers Mess, and it is, to date, the only image of him that is known to exist.

Personal Data

Birth: 18 November 1892, St. George's, Grenada, British West Indies to John Randolph Bertrand and Florence Collier. There is doubt as to his actual birthdate. He had a number of siblings, all of whom are believed to have emigrated to the United States and very likely Canada over the years, although I have learned that his older brother Walter returned to Grenada following Military Service in the British Army during The Great War. Walter Randolph Bertrand, served in the 2nd King Edward's Horse and later the British Army Tank Corps. He survived the war, returning to Grenada to live, and died in St. George's Grenada in 1964.

Arrival in New York: 17 April 1913

Killed: August 15, 1917, Hill 70, Loos-en-Gohelle, Pas-de Calais, France

Military History

Grenada, B.V.I.: served 2 years in Grenada Volunteers prior to coming to Canada. A website operated by GlobalSecurity.org indicates that The Grenada Volunteer Force was formed in February 1911.

Lt. Bertrand's C.E.F. Record indicates that on enlistment, September 23, 1914, he reported his occupation as clerk. His medical exam considered him fit for service, on September 13, 1914, at Valcartier, Quebec.

Promotions, etc. from Military Record

Lt. Bertrand appears in 1914 on the Pay List of "B" company, 95th Regiment, Regina, as Bugler.

Lt. Bertrand's C.E.F. Records shows the following, under Promotions

- Joined 11 Battalion, Rank Sergeant, 23 September 1914
- Promoted to Temporary Lieutenant, 30th Battalion, 21 August 1916, subsequently referenced as Lieutenant.
- Proceeded Overseas to 7th Battalion, 21 September 1916
- Taken on Strength, 7th Battalion, 23 September 1916
- Awarded Military Cross, 18 July 1917, London Gazette 30188 (e.g. Vimy National Memorial, Givenchy-en-Gohelle, Pas de Calais, France)
- Reported Killed In Action, 20 August 1917 (e.g: Hill 70 – Loos-en-Gohelle, Pas-de-Calais, France)

Lt. Bertrand's record shows him to have been wounded and treated for shrapnel wounds. He was wounded twice, first a shrapnel wound in the shoulder on **25 May 1915**, as well as a gun shot to the shoulder on **1 Jul 1915**. The dates indicate he was wounded in the latter stage of the 2nd Battle of Ypres. He was also treated for influenza 16 June 1915 at Warrington, returning to his unit on 28 June

1915. The dates of his injuries and medical treatment suggest that he fought and was wounded at Ypres or Third Battle of Artois, subject to verification.

Medals and Awards – Military Cross

It is interesting to note that the below citation was issued under the authority of General Currie. The Military Cross of WWI ranks fourth in WWI British Medals, below Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Order, and Distinguished Service Cross. The Military Cross Citation is referenced below:

NAME		RANK	NUMBER	UNIT	HONOUR OR AWARD
BERTRAND, Lancelot, Joseph.		Lieut.		7th. Can. Inf. Bn.	MILITARY CROSS.
AUTHORITY	DATE	DETAILS			MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES
H.O. 5976 Currie	6-6-17	TO BE CONTAINED ON BACK OF CASE IF NECESSARY.			AUTHORITY
L.O. 30188	18-7-17	For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During an advance, after the remaining officers of his company had become casualties, he took command and led his men to their objective with great determination and courage, and showed marked ability in reorganising and consolidating his position. He set a splendid example throughout. L.O. 30188			DATE
OTHER AWARDS					
NATURE	AUTHORITY	DATE			

Citation, Military Cross Credit: Ancestry.ca



Military Cross

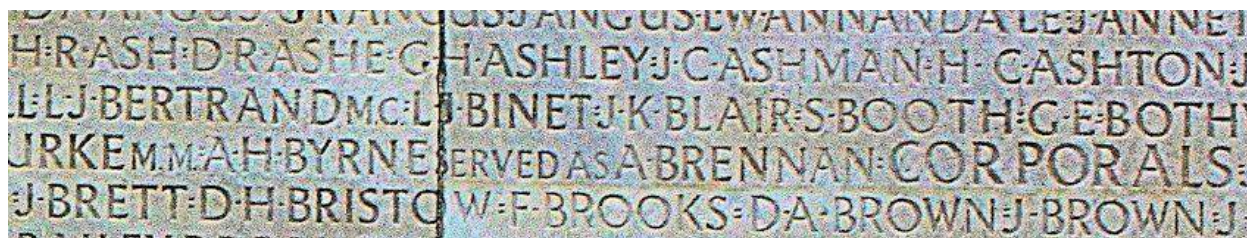
Credit: IdentifyMedals.com



1914 – 1915 Star

Credit: IdentifyMedals.com

Inscription in honour of Lt. Bertrand on Vimy National Memorial, Givenchy-en-Gohelle, Pas-de-Calais, France, Credit Vimy Memorial:



An article appeared in a number of newspapers in Canada that reference Lt. Bertrand following Vimy Ridge and his award of The Military Cross. The article below is taken from North Bay Nugget, dated 23 July 1917:

COMPANY SERGEANT-MAJOR THOMAS SAMUEL GAGE 102ND (NORTH BRITISH COLUMBIANS) CEF



Credit: Vancouver Sun 19 February 1951

This article is about a man who served in the British Army in Burma, India, and South Africa in his late twenties, emigrated to Canada in his late thirties and went on to serve in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France and Belgium with the 102nd Battalion. His name is Thomas Samuel Gage-Cole.

From his 1915 Attestation Document:

Rank: Sergeant
Regimental Numbers: 703005, 463623
Date of Birth: 10 February 1875

From Family Trees posted online, he appears in the 1911 UK Census, indicating that he had returned to the UK from his deployment by The Royal Scots Regiment to South Africa (Boer War). He married his wife Mary while in the U.K.: "**Thomas S Gage-Cole** was born circa 1874, in London Hammersmith, London and married Mary E Gage-Cole circa 1908, at age 34. Mary was born circa 1875, in Mitchel Troy, Monmouthshire. They had 2 children: Ena G M Gage-Cole and Thomas W O Gage-Cole and their family as of April 2 1911 lived at Burnt House, Mitchel Troy Common, Near Monmouth, Monmouthshire, Wales. His occupation was Insurance Agent, Life."

Service in The Boer War – The Royal Scots Regiment



Royal Scots Cap Badge credit: Wikipedia

It appears that prior to coming to Canada in circa 1913, our man served in the Royal Scots Regiment in the U.K., he indicates in his Attestation document that he was in that Regiment for 1.5 years. British Records show that the Royal Scots served in the Boer War between 1899 and 1902. It is safe to assume that he detached from that Regiment prior to his emigration to Canada.

Arrival in Canada

The 1913 Henderson's Vancouver Directory does not show our man living in Vancouver, however the 1914 Henderson's Vancouver Directory shows him living at 778 E. 38th Avenue, and we can see from his attestation document in February 1915 that he was living on Sophia St. This suggests that Thomas and Mary arrived in Vancouver in circa 1912-1913. A check on the 1911 Canada Census does not show him living in British Columbia. This does not tie in exactly to his statement that in February 1915, he had already served three years with the 6th DCOR's, but there may be an explanation for that. His Attestation document of 31 July 1915 from Vernon, BC, 21 August 1915 indicates his Occupation as Chauffeur and that his spouse was Mary Elizabeth Gage-Cole, Vancouver, BC

Service with the 6th Regiment Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles (DCOR's)



Credit: Wikipedia

Following arrival in Vancouver, our man served as a reservist in the 6th DCOR's. He reported in his attestation document that he served in the militia (6th DCOR's) in Vancouver for 3 ½ years immediately before enlistment in the C.E.F.

Service with Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)



CSM Gage-Cole's Attestation document on 21 August 1915 shows that he was accepted into the 102nd Battalion CEF, on 11 October 1916, training with the original members of the Battalion at Comox, B.C. The 102nd Battalion Nominal Roll shows that he was present as a CSM when the Empress of Britain departed for the United Kingdom on 18 June 1916.

The Canadian Armed Forces describes a Company Sergeant-Major (CSM) as follows:

"The **Company Sergeant-Major** is the senior non-commissioned soldier of a **company** in the armies of many Commonwealth countries, responsible for administration, standards and discipline. In combat, their prime responsibility is the supply of ammunition to the **company**."

Military Service During the Great War

He reported on his discharge papers that he had served in active military operations in the CEF from October 1916 to December 1917. The 102nd Battalion held several Battle Honours during this period, Source Wikipedia and was awarded the following battle honours:

- SOMME, 1916, 1 July–18 November 1916
- Ancre Heights, 1 October–11 November 1916
- Ancre, 1916
- ARRAS, 1917, '18
- Vimy, 1917, 9–14 April 1917
- HILL 70, 15–25 August 1917
- YPRES 1917, 31 July–10 November 1917
- Passchendaele, 12 October 1917 or 26 October–10 November 1917
- AMIENS, 8–11 August 1918
- Scarpe, 1918, 26–30 August 1918
- Drocourt-Quéant
- HINDENBURG LINE, 12 September–9 October 1918
- Canal du Nord, 27 September–2 October 1918
- VALENCIENNES
- FRANCE AND FLANDERS, 1916-18^[5]

It is impressive to note that CSM Gage-Cole, aged well into his forties, would have been actively involved in a combat role, would have been present at the Somme in the fall of 1916, where he is known to have been wounded, and was transferred to the Canadian Corps Training School effective 13 March 1917, and survived the war.

Excerpts From his Service Record:

Assigned to 62nd Overseas Battalion: 31 July 1915 (perpetuated by the BCR (DCO))
Assigned to 102nd Battalion (Comox/Atlin): 3 December 1915
Arrived in England: 28 June 1916
Assigned Rank of Acting CSM on arrival in England: 26 July 1916
Arrived LeHavre: 6 October 1916
Promoted to Sergeant: 14 December 1916
Assigned to Canadian Corps Training School: 13 March 1917 to 7 April 1917
Transferred to 46 Co, C&C: 1/4 /1918
Arrived Halifax on Empress of Britain: 25 February 1919
Discharged as Medically Unfit, Vancouver, B.C.: 26/3/1919
At Discharge he was presented with "A" and "B" War Service Badges
There is no evidence of any medals awarded as a result of his service, other than service medals.
Apparent Health Issues during Military Service: Trench Fever, Myalgia, Arterio-Sclerosis

Life after military service

In civilian life, Mr. Gage-Cole was employed in the Federal Civil Service. He retired in 1940 from The Canadian Postal Service and died in 1951, aged 78. He is revered within his family, he is known to have raised not only his three children but stepped up to support family members of his predeceased brother, who did not survive the war.

Obituary



T. S. Gage-Cole, 80, Boer War Vet, Dies

Funeral rites for T. S. Gage-Cole, 80, South African and First World War veteran who lived nearly 40 years in Vancouver, will be held Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Harron Bros. Chapel of Chimes with Rev. F. A. Ramsay officiating.

He died suddenly Saturday at his home, 245 East Twentieth.

Before coming to Canada in 1912, Mr. Gage-Cole saw service with the Royal Scots in Burma, India and South Africa. In First World War he served overseas with the 102nd Battalion from B.C. and was wounded at the Somme.

He joined the Civil Service on his return from overseas and was in the city mail delivery of Vancouver post office until retirement in 1940.

He was a former member of South African Vets Branch No. 1, Canadian Legion, later transferring to Mt. Pleasant Branch No. 177.

Mr. Gage-Cole leaves two sons and a daughter; Thomas and Donald and Mrs. Ena Warner, all of Vancouver; a sister, Mrs. A. D. Hodge, Vancouver; a sister-in-law, Mrs. M. L. Gage-Cole, Vancouver; nine grandchildren, seven nephews and two nieces, all of Vancouver.

He will be buried in Field of Honor Cemetery.

LAST RITES will be held Tuesday for T. S. Gage-Cole, 245 East Twentieth, who died Saturday.

Club Sponsors

Credit: Vancouver Sun 19 February 1951
Mr. Gage-Cole died on 17 February 1951 at Vancouver, B.C.

Burial

Mr. Gage-Cole is buried at Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver, B.C., Plot Arbray 19.008-0012
Prepared by Don Manning, Member, The British Columbia Regiment Museum Society from information available.

September 4 September 2023

Links/Sources relied upon for this document:

Royal Scots: <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/royal-scots>

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/35332795/thomas-samuel-gage-cole>

CEF Records Attestation: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=405220>

CEF Record: <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B3351-S051>

Geni: <https://www.geni.com/people/Thomas-Gage-Cole/6000000030181841712>

My Heritage: https://www.myheritage.com/names/thomas_gage-cole

My Heritage: <https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-10446-33615366/thomas-s-gage-cole-in-1911-england-wales-census>

The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2010/jun/24/boer-war-soldiers-records-online>

Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/?name=Gage+Cole&residence=Vancouver-British+Columbia-Canada>

Death Record (no certificate): https://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/Results?as.type=birth=true&as.type=marriage=true&as.type=death=true&as.type=baptism=true&as.type=colonial_marriage=true&as.first_name=&as.last_name=&as.male=&as.age_start_str=&as.age_end_str=&as.place=&as.registration_num=1951-09-002430&as.bc_mfilm=&as.gsu_mfilm=&as.start_year_str=&as.start_month_str=&as.start_day_str=&as.end_year_str=&as.end_month_str=&as.end_day_str=&as.bride_first_name=&as.bride_last_name=&as.groom_first_name=&as.groom_last_name=&as.mother_first_name=&as.mother_last_name=&as.father_first_name=&as.father_last_name=&as.denomination=&as.church_name=&as.other_location=&as.birth_location=&as.birth_year_str=&as.birth_month_str=&as.birth_day_str=&as.affiliation=&as.comments=&search=Search

City of Vancouver Archives. Major Matthews created a file folder about T.S. Gage-Cole, located at Vancouver Archives in Vancouver: <https://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/gage-cole-t-s>

Walter Archibald Gage Cole: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=644106>

Imperial War Museum: <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/searchlives/field/lastname/Gage-Cole/filter>

Veterans Canada: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/550866>

BCR ASSOCIATION KIT SHOP

The blazer crest and buttons are available through Claymore Clothiers in Vancouver. These items can be purchased online and shipped to you at home.

The BCR Kit Shop is your source for 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 flag (36" x 72") - \$150.00
4. **Regimental Ties:** \$45.00
- 5.

To place an order, and confirm items are in stock, please e-mail KitShop@DukeABear.com

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

The Kit Shop has the following items for sale:

6. Mini Guidons – estimated cost is \$130.00 – in stock.
7. **NEW:** BCR cap badge on cuff links, pens and pocket watch.
8. **NEW:** BCR flag (36" x 72") - \$150.00

To place an order, please e-mail KitShop@DukeABear.com

Mni-Guidon \$130



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 2023.
May they Rest in Peace knowing they are not forgotten

PASSING OF WO TED MCLEOD 7 OCTOBER 2023

Strathcona Enews

Strathconas,

It is my very sad duty to inform you of the passing of Warrant Officer (Retired) Edward (Ted) Donald Macleod.

Born in Port Alberni, BC, in 1961, Ted Macleod enrolled in the Canadian Army on July 19th, 1984, and joined the Regiment in Calgary as a Reconnaissance Crewman in 1985. He deployed with the Regiment to Cyprus in 1988/89 and Kiseljak, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in 1994. He was deployed a second time to Cyprus in 2008 as part of the support team to the mission in Afghanistan. I know from many personal experiences, Ted was a superb and reliable soldier and leader, who never let the team down. He is perhaps best known to the Regimental Family for his many years as Curator of our Regimental Museum and Archives in Calgary. WO Macleod was passionate about our Regiment's history, its preservation and continually searched for and found "clues" that helped put together stories from our rich history that had been long lost. His work's impact cannot be overstated.

Ted will be cremated and his Celebration of Life will be held in the spring. Details will be shared when available.

Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Anne.

Perseverance,



Col (Ret'd) Jamie Cade
Colonel of the Regiment
LdSH(RC)

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (RETIRED) WILLIAM "Bill" PROUSE, CD 1929-2023

It is with great sadness that I am announcing the passing of my brother Bill Prouse. Bill began his military career as a reservist in the BC Regiment 1945. In 1947 he enrolled in the regular force. During his career,

he served on two peace keeping missions, plus two separate postings to Germany. His career in the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps spanned more than 37 years. He retired as the Base RSM at CFB Suffield in 1984.

Major (Ret'd) Roger Prouse, CD
Director, BCR Association

Sgt (Ret'd) Robert Remple former BCR Association President passed away 3 December 2023
We will remember him

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY THE PASSING OF SERGEANT (RETIRED) ROBERT (“BOB”) REMPLE 1945 to 2023



Memorial Day, 2023

“Recce Bob”, the Past President of the Regimental Association, passed away unexpectedly in hospital on Sunday, 3 December 2023, as a result of a severe infection and complications due to diabetes. Bob was 78 years old and is survived by two children, his daughter Teresa and his son Tony, both of whom were at his side on his passing.

Bob was a long-time supporter of the Regimental Family and freely provided his financial and accounting expertise wherever it was needed. The Commanding Officer’s Committee, the Regimental Association, where he held many executive positions such as president, vice-president, treasurer, and director-at-large, the Charitable Trust, the BCR Trust, the BCR Museum and British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association were the fortunate recipients of his leadership, professional skills and generous nature. In addition, his community involvement was extraordinary in every sense of the word, from helping and caring for our Veterans, to supporting our youth in the community through our Cadet Development Program for the five Cadet Corps

sponsored by the Regiment and summer youth programs such as Camp Luther in the Mission Area of the Fraser Valley.



In his early life, Bob joined 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC in 1960 and joined the Regiment in 1961. Bob retired from service with the rank of Sergeant in 1971. In the year 1969, the Regiment was awarded The Dunwoody Trophy for the Best Reserve Armoured Unit in Western Canada. Bob was always so very proud of this accomplishment as he was the Recce Troop Sergeant that year and felt that the service of his Soldiers in the Recce Troop contributed greatly to the success of the Regiment in receiving this award. Professionally, Bob became a Registered Industrial Accountant (now known as a Chartered Public Accountant) in 1971. For most of Bob's very successful business career, he was engaged in the manufacturing business until his retirement in 1999. Bob always attributed any success in business to the leadership skills he learned in the Regiment.

Subsequent to Bob's passing, Veterans Affairs Canada has announced the award of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation to Robert Allen Remple for "exemplary contributions...benefitting Veterans." and that the Commendation is to be presented posthumously to Bob's family in March of 2024.

Rest easy soldier, your duty is done!

We will remember him!

Up the Dukes!



ASLEEP

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 Oct until the end of December 2023. 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.