

Volume 3, Issue 35  
Jun 2024



# THE DUKE



JUNE 2024

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**Articles,  
Announcements  
&  
News Releases**

**Note:** The Duke is only as good as the articles we receive, so we encourage our readers to send in pictures, with stories of the BCR or other event which you feel would interest our readers. Please note that the chapters from April to the end of June 2024 capture the activities from The BCR Weekly News previously published, minus invitations, and **that new articles on Regimental history, activities, and remembrance well worth your reading are enclosed afterwards**. On a personal note, I wish to thank all those who have contributed historical articles for publication, especially Ted Hawthorne who is Editor Emeritus and BCR Regimental Secretary of this publication and is at the heart of many of the articles, and Mr. Don Manning, from our BCR Museum Society, who finds and researches many historical articles focusing on our soldiers so that their memory is not lost.

Jim

LCol (Ret'd) JD Barrett, CD  
Editor: BCR Weekly News & The Duke

**April**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF FLIGHT  
100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF  
THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE  
LANGLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT (YNJ)  
1 APRIL 2024**



The Canadian Museum of Flight, situate at YNJ, celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the RCAF by hosting a special program marking the occasion, complete with an Air Cadet Colour Party and Guard from 746 Lightning Hawk Squadron RCACS, for the Ceremony, with guest speaker Colonel George Miller, OMM, CD (Ret'd), who served with the RCAF Golden Hawks (CF 104s), The Snowbirds and is a member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame.





The program also featured RCAF Aircraft on display, complete with engine start ups and tours and a Veterans' Reception.







Always great to see so many friends in attendance, SSgt Ravi Gill, USMC (Ret'd), Cadet Flt/Sgt Jayden Gill and his Grandparents, and RCAF Veterans, Wes Bowers, Dick Dunn, and Svend Rahn.



**Avro CF-100 Canuck Mk. 3B**

Known as the "Clunk" the CF-100 was the first 100% Canadian designed and built all-weather interceptor and first flew in January 1950. The Mk 3 differs from the operational Mk 4 mainly in having the pointed nose cone, and having the lower-powered Orenda 8, of 6,000 lb. thrust. It was armed with an eight .50 cal. machine gun pack. Once the Mk 4 became available in 1954, most of the remaining Mk 3's were either used at the Operational Training Units or converted to dual control trainers.

Many innovations in radar and quick-change weapons were developed on the CF-100, and some of its design features were incorporated in the Avro Arrow.

RCAF 18138 was one of 56 converted in 1955 from Mk 3B to Mk 3D dual trainers. It saw service with No. 440 Bal Sqn. (Bagotville) and 445 Sqn (Uplands), and with No. 3 AW(F)OTU at North Bay.

18138 was struck off RCAF strength in May of 1963, and used at the British Columbia Institute of Technology Aviation Campus at Vancouver International Airport for training of aircraft maintenance students. The big fighter was kept in running condition and used for engine run-ups. It was then donated by BCIT to CMF and towed out to Surrey in 1987. Unfortunately, the wings, tip tanks, rear fuselage and tail assembly had been sent off to a junk dealer, so CMF had to purchase a replacement set. The aircraft is virtually complete, except for the gun pack.

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

- Serial 38, RCAF 18138
- Manufacturer: 503
- Engines: Two Orenda 8, 6000 lb thrust axial flow gas turbine
- Maximum speed: Mach .85
- Empty weight: 23,000 lb (10,432 kg)
- Maximum weight: 34,000 lb (15,426 kg)
- Span: 37 ft 6 in (11.4 m) (over tip tanks)
- Length: 52 ft 3 in (15.8 m)
- Height: 14 ft 6 in (4.4 m)

**MUSEUM OF FLIGHT**







### De Havilland DH 100 Vampire Mk 3

The Vampire began as an experimental aircraft, with design work beginning at the de Havilland works in 1941, with the first flight at Hatfield in September 1943. The aircraft was entirely a de Havilland project, and it utilized the company's extensive experience with using moulded plywood for aircraft construction. It was the last time composite wood/metal construction was used in high performance military aircraft. This was the second British designed and built jet fighter to go into service with the RAF and the RCAF's first jet type.

The Vampire F. 3 made its first flight in November 1946, having increased internal fuel and provision for auxiliary tanks compared to the first model. The aircraft was progressively developed into the FB Mk 5 with a strengthened wing of reduced span capable of carrying a 2,000 lb. ordnance load, and first flew on June 23, 1948. Vampires served with the RCAF between 1949-1958 and with many other countries. Almost 4,400 Vampires were built, a quarter of them under licence.

The Museum's DH100 Vampire was used by the RCAF (421 and 400 sqns), then sold surplus to the U.S., where it was used as an executive jet. It came to the Air Museum of Calgary some time in the late 1960s. Sold off when the museum failed, it ended up at Kapuskasing in Don Campbell's collection. Don donated the aircraft to the Canadian Museum of Flight in 1983.

Restored to static display under a Canada Manpower grant in 1986, the Vampire Mk 3 is a designated Cultural Property.

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

- Serial: 8942276, RCAF 1708, 88880
- Manufacture: 1948
- Engine: One 2,100 hp Bristol de Havilland Goblin O. Gb. 2 turbojet
- Maximum speed: 545 mph
- Empty weight: 7,350 lb (3332 kg)
- Maximum weight: 11,970 lb (5429 kg)
- Span: 40 ft 11.2 in (12.4 m)
- Length: 38 ft 9 in (11.8 m)
- Height: 8 ft 10 in (2.8 m)
- Wing area: 280 sq ft (24.7 sq m)



### Beechcraft Expeditor (Beech 18)

The C-45 is a military version of the Model 18 (hence the common name Beech 18) light commercial transport that first flew on January 15, 1937. 5,234 military models were delivered during World War 2.

A number of C-45 transports served with the RCAF from 1944-1967 under the name Expeditor 3NM, 3NMT, 3T, etc., as a twin engine navigational trainer, crew transport and a "hack" or taxi. Versions of both the C-45 and its civil counterpart, the Model 18, served with thirty of the world's air forces.

Between 1958 and 1964, the two local RCAF Auxiliary units (442 and 443 Sqns) flew about a dozen of these aircraft.

One of the first business airplanes readily available surplus after WW2, these popular aircraft underwent many modifications and engine variations. Some, including a few fitted with seaplane floats, still fly commercially.

This aircraft served with RCAF 401 (Aux) Sqn (Montreal), 403 (Aux) Sqn (Calgary), plus RCAF Stations Rivers, Portage la Prairie and Summerside. It was sold as surplus in the 1960's and bore the civilian registration CF-CKT, and during its career was used for smoke jumping.

Purchased by the Canadian Museum of Flight in 1982 it was airlifted to the museum in 1984 from Abbotsford Airport by Okanagan Helicopters.

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

- Serial: CA180/782, CF-CKT, RCAF 2307
- Manufacture: 1932
- Engines: Two 405 hp P & W R-985 AN-3 nine-cylinder radial
- Maximum speed: 225 mph (362 kph)
- Empty weight: 5,150 lb (2324 kg)
- Loaded weight: 8,000 lb (3632 kg)
- Span: 47 ft 7 in (14.5 m)
- Length: 32 ft 11 in (10.3 m)
- Height: 11 ft 3 in (3.4 m)





### Lockheed CF-104D Mk. 2 Starfighter

Referred to as the "Missile with a man in it" the CF-104 (single seat version) was built in Canada under license by Canadair in Cartierville, Quebec. It was envisioned as a high speed, high altitude point defense interceptor against the relatively poor maneuvering manned bomber threat that existed in the early 1950's.


The first aircraft produced by Canadair flew in May 1961, with 200 single seaters (CF-104) being produced for the RCAF. 22 Lockheed-built two seaters (CF-104D) were also used by the RCAF. After the RCAF production order was filled in June 1963, Canadair produced another 140 aircraft for other countries.

The aircraft in later years provided a measure of unparalleled stability in the low-level, high speed environment until phased out in 1986. The majority of the Starfighters were transferred to the Turkish Air Force.

The Museum's aircraft was one of a number of Lockheed-built two place trainers, spending its flying career at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, Alberta, before becoming a battle-damage repair airframe at Mountain View, Ontario, near CFB Trenton.

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

- Serial: RCAF 17643 / CAF 104643
- Engine: General Electric J79-19 turbojet
- 11,810 lbs. Gross 17,000 lbs. with
- external stores
- Maximum Speed: Mach 2, 1,450 mph (2330 km/h)
- Loaded weight: 28,800 lb (13,100 kg)
- Span: 21 ft 11 in (6.7 m)
- Length: 50 ft 2 in (15.2 m)
- Height: 13 ft 8 in (4.1 m)
- Wing area: 196 sq ft (18.2 sq m)




### Handley Page Hampden

Handley Page developed the stressed-skin mid-wing monoplane, powered by Bristol Pegasus radial air cooled engines, with its first flight in 1936. It had the most advanced wings available at the time, giving it a remarkably low landing speed of 73 mph for an aircraft of its size, with a top speed of 265 mph. The Hampden went into service in 1938 with the RAF. A total of 1,432 Hampdens were built, 160 in Canada by the Victory Aircraft consortium.


PS436 was one of the Canadian-built Hampdens. It survived only 100 hours of flying time before crashing near Patricia Bay, on November 15th, 1942, while engaged in torpedo dropping practice. The pilot made the error of turning at low speed and altitude, causing the aircraft to fall into a 'stabilized yaw' - a known Hampden flaw. The aircraft quickly sank 660 feet to the bottom. The 4-man crew was more fortunate, as the pilot of a passing Stranraer flying boat had seen the mishap, and they were plucked out of the water, with very minor injuries, within minutes.

Although fairly complete and mostly intact, the aircraft was badly corroded, damaged, and very fragile, making for a difficult salvage operation that was carried out by a remote controlled submarine aided by video camera. The difficult and costly salvage operation was carried out by Jerry Olsen and his crew of C-LOST (Canadian Lake and Ocean Salvage Team), the Thompson Family of Tillamook Towing of Pender Harbour and International Submarine Engineering who loaned the technical equipment.

Restoration work was driven mainly by volunteer Fred Gardham, who worked on Hampdens during WWII, and who had even logged one flight in PS436 following repairs. Vital components from other Hampden crash sites were used in the rebuild.

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

- Serial: RAF PS436
- Manufactured: 1942
- Engines: Two 1000 hp Bristol Pegasus XIII engines
- Maximum speed: 254 mph (408 km/h)
- Loaded weight: 18,750 lb (8,500 kg)
- Span: 69 ft 2 in (21.1 m)
- Length: 53 ft 7 in (16.3 m)
- Height: 14 ft 11 in (4.5 m)
- Wing area: 668 sq ft (62.1 sq m)




Congratulations to The Canadian Museum of Flight for the outstanding event.

Well done!



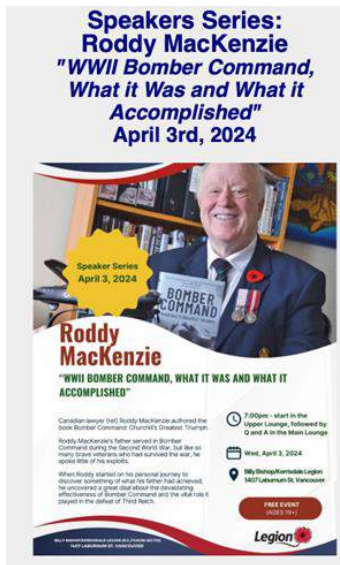
**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
“WWII BOMBER COMMAND, WHAT IT WAS AND WHAT IT ACCOMPLISHED”  
BILLY BISHOP, KERRISDALE, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 176  
SPEAKERS SERIES PROGRAM  
RODDY MACKENZIE  
3 APRIL 2024**



It was a great pleasure to attend the excellent presentation by Roddy MacKenzie, author of the widely acclaimed “Bomber Command: Churchill’s Greatest Triumph”. The event was hosted by The Billy Bishop Legion as part of their Speakers Series Program.



Roddy delivered, in meticulous and convincing detail, the many accomplishments of Bomber Command in an early evening presentation in the Upper Lounge, followed by a Q & A and reception in the Main Lounge. “The Billy” is such an amazing venue and perfect backdrop to this memorable evening.



Many thanks to fellow Duke, Dan Thomas, President of RCL 176, for the wonderful hospitality and a special thank you to Roddy, for a job well done!



We will remember the service, dedication, and sacrifice of those who served in Bomber Command!

**Regimental Secretary Comment:** Roddy graciously acknowledged my presence as a special guest, as former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and the son of a “Bomber Boy”, FO William Hawthorne, 433 Sqn, 6 Bomber Group, referred to in “Bomber Command”.

**Editor’s Notes:** Roddy provided us with a few thoughts as well about the presentation:

### Great Night Last Night!

Last night at *Billy Bishop* Branch 176 of the Royal Canadian Legion at Kits Point in Vancouver was a great night for Bomber Command. My wife Ka Hyun was struck by how attentive the audience was while I spoke, and how friendly everyone was. Downstairs by the fireplace beer flowed while I signed books, and we had a question and answer session. Best of all, we had fun.



## Billy Bishop

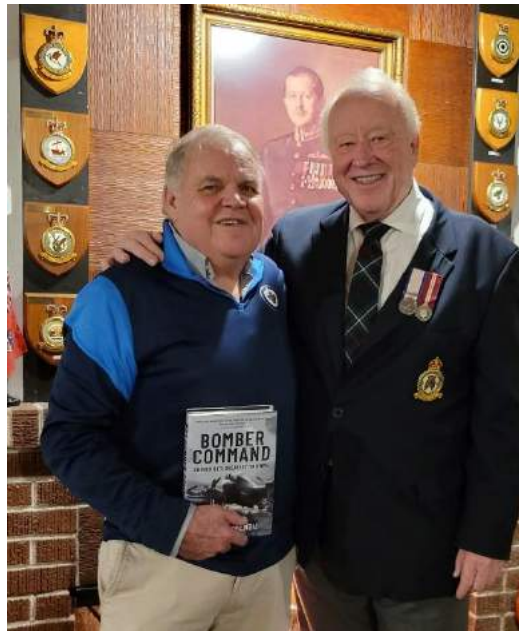
This Legion Branch is named in honour of William Avery Bishop, known to all as Billy. In the First World War, he received the Victoria Cross, and was credited with 72 victories as a flying ace. That made him the top ace of the entire British Empire.

In 1939 he was promoted to Air Marshal and in 1940 he was made Director of Recruiting for the RCAF. He was so successful he had to turn thousands of applicants away. Also, he was key to establishing and promoting the super successful British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. When he died on 11 September 1956, Canada gave him a full military state funeral.

Such funerals were unknown to me because the next one wasn't for fifty years until Ernest "Smokey" Smith VC of the Seaforth Highlanders died on 05 August 2005. I knew Smokey and I attended his military state funeral. To gain entry, I was dropped off at the entrance to the Church in a Rolls Royce driven by a Colonel. As I walked into the Church, guards checking the guest list simply saluted. I overheard one tell the others he assumed I was a former Commanding Officer of the Seaforths (I wasn't).

The 1978 hit Play *Billy Bishop goes to War* made Billy famous again. It was written by and starred in by John MacLachlan Gray. I'd become friends with John because our wives were in the same pre-natal class. I was also the junior lawyer on the team that put the play on Broadway.

**Dan Thomas & Allan Schrag:** Two Billy Bishop Legion officials who did so much for me last night were President Dan Thomas and Master of Ceremonies Allan Schrag. They were wonderful. Photos of both are attached. Allan asked me to speak for an hour. Afterwards, I asked how my timing was. Allan replied, "You were a minute short". "What do you mean?" I asked. "You spoke for 59 minutes." Not bad, given I had no way of knowing the time.



**Special Guests** who came last night included:

- my wife **Ka Hyun MacKenzie Shin** who helps me, guides me and assists me in so many ways in my Bomber Command quest.

■ my longtime friend and fellow lawyer **Ted Hawthorne**, a Bomber Boy's son and the former Honorary Colonel of The British Columbia Regiment. Today Ted wrote a report and took photos for this Sunday's edition of *The BCR News*.

■ my friend and fellow lawyer **Jamie Davidson** and his son **Ross** who is now a partner in his Dad's law firm, James L. Davidson & Company.

■ **David & Belle Nanton** -- David's Grandfather **Augustus Nanton** is the person after whom the Town of Nanton in Alberta is named. Nanton Alberta is the home of the Bomber Command Museum of Canada of which I'm a Life Member. Their photo is attached.

■ My friend **George Plawski**, one of the final pilots to fly with *HMCS Bonaventure*, Canada's last aircraft carrier.

**A Pleasant Surprise This Morning:** Here in the '*Lawyers Area*' of the Downtown Vancouver Courthouse Library, I had a pleasant surprise this morning. The lawyer in the carrel beside mine looked over and said with a huge smile "*You're Roddy MacKenzie!*" I asked how he knew. He replied he attended my Bomber Command speech last night and thoroughly it. We had a great conversation. He's **Patrick Beirne**. Our photo together in the Library is attached.



Next Wednesday I will speak at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto.

Yours faithfully, Roddy



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY  
ORGANIZATION (“NATO”)  
THE DRILL HALL, VANCOUVER  
5 APRIL 2024**



The President of the Regimental Association, Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Barrett, CD (Ret'd) conducted a brief ceremony of commemoration in front of the Memorial Wall to honour the dedicated service and sacrifice of our Soldiers during their deployment on operations with NATO, on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of NATO (for the collective defence of its 31 member nations).



The ceremony originally scheduled to be held at St. Julien Square was moved to the Drill Square due to unexpected construction work being conducted on Beatty Street. Marcus Wong, Co-Chair of the Vancouver Chapter of NATO Association of Canada, conveyed greetings to the Regimental Family to mark the special occasion.



A moment of silence was observed, and Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani and Sgt Joe Chu, CD placed a wreath on behalf of Regimental Family.

A brief reception followed the ceremony to conclude the event.

#### **ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

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

Up the Dukes!



**Editor's Note:** From Bill Whalen, President of the BCR Museum Society we have this update:  
The Cathedral's Web Page upload for the new cabinet;

<https://www.thecathedral.ca/news/new-regimental-historical-displays>

#### **Christ Church Cathedral Military Display Cabinet**

In the Fall of 2023 Father Pappas, the British Columbia Regiment Padre and Hon LCol Diamond were discussing the regiment's presence at Christ Church. Father Pappas had indicated that in Alberta, the



South Alberta Light Horse had a display cabinet in his church, containing regimental exhibits, to show parishioners and visitors the link between the regiment and the church.



In January of 2024 LCol Steacy, a noted woodworker, was asked for his advice on who might build a suitable custom cabinet for the same purpose at Christ Church. He approached Mr Richard Csepregi of “Richard’s Fine Woodworking” in North Vancouver. Mr Csepregi is a proud Canadian and has made pilgrimages to most of Canada’s key World War One and World War Two Battlefields. When he was told the cabinet was for the Army and was to be displayed in a cathedral, he advised that he would build it without charge, and present it to Christ Church and the Regiment.



On April 4th, Mr Csepregi formally presented the cabinet to Father Pappas. It is made of Tiger Stripe Maple with beautiful dark wood inlay. The key surround is African Bloodwood, in the shape of a maple leaf. On hand for the ceremony were Father Pappas, LCol Steacy who presented a custom inscribed regimental plaque to Mr Csepregi and LCol Rohani, who presented his coin. The first display in the cabinet is of items recovered from 7th Battalion NCO Sgt Richard Musgrave’s remains. Sgt Musgrave MM was killed in action at the Battle of Hill 70 on August 17th, 1917. His remains were located at Hill 70 in 2017. Sgt Musgrave was laid to rest by the regiment in 2023.



The cabinet will be blessed during a mass at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, April 28th at 1030 hrs. All are welcome.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY  
COMMONWEALTH GRAVES SECTION  
VANCOUVER  
6 APRIL 2024**





A very memorable parade was held today at Mountain View Cemetery, Commonwealth Graves Section, to mark the 107<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. With well over 250 cadets, parents, CIC Officers, veterans, and volunteers in attendance, it was an amazing event.



All Lower Mainland BCR Cadet Units (2290 BCR, 2381 BCR, 2827 BCR and 3300 BCR) were very well represented and well turned out. The Master of Ceremonies for the mid morning Remembrance Ceremony was our very own Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, BCR Cadet Governor, ably assisted by Parade Marshalls Steve Kern and Bob Underhill. The Deputy Mayor of Vancouver, Lenny Zhou, was the special guest for the morning's Ceremony of Remembrance.







Mr. Zhou read out the Proclamation declaring April 9<sup>th</sup> as Vimy Day in the City of Vancouver.



The Last Post and Rouse were played by BCR Bugler Major Chris Ahern.











Wreath laying included: for the City of Vancouver, Deputy Mayor Zhou, for the BC Regiment, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, for the BCR Regimental Association, President Jim Barrett, for the Seaforth Association, Bob Chown, for RUSI, Vancouver, Jim Howard, for The Army Cadet League of Canada, President Cathy Bach and The Army Cadet League of Canada, BC Branch, Christine Alexander, for the Air Force Officers' Association, President Bob Reid, for ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280, King Wan, Steve Ko and Christopher Sweeney of the Vimy Foundation and for the Chinese Canadian Military Museum, Retired Judge Bud Wong.



Immediate Past President Gayle Hawthorne, Directors-at-Large, Roger Prouse and Graydon Young, and Regimental Secretary Ted Hawthorne, were also in attendance along with Association Members Roi Hirtle, Tom Houghton, Steve and Terry Ko, and Bruce Strom.





A reception followed the ceremony at John Oliver High School, compliments of the Regimental Association (with kudos to our Roger and Louise Prouse for their great work). Special thanks to Mountain View Cemetery, Veterans Affairs Canada and 39 Service Battalion for providing strong support of the event.



Thank you all for a wonderful Commemoration Ceremony!  
Photos courtesy of Steve Ko, BCR Association and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280.



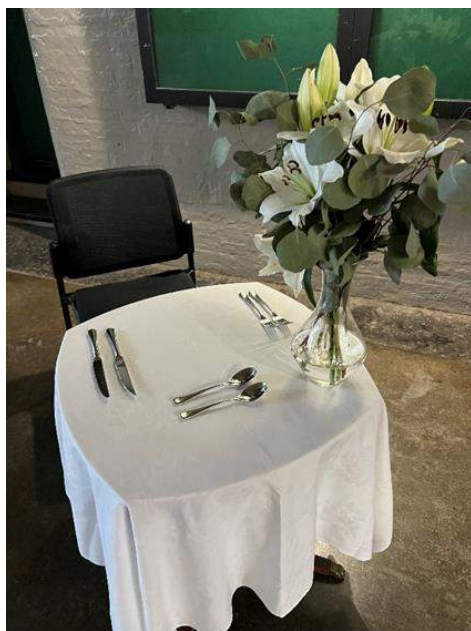
[\[flic.kr\]MVC Vimy Day Commemoration \[flic.kr\]](#)  
[flic.kr \[flic.kr\]](#)

More photos provided by Mountain View Cemetery Photographer Mr Wayne Worden

Our special thanks to Glen Hodges, Ryan Macleod, and the rest of the staff of Mountainview Cemetery, the City of Vancouver, and Veteran Affairs Canada and the Minister of Veteran Affairs and the BCR Association for their ongoing support to our event. A personal thank you to all the volunteers of the Vancouver Vimy Committee who help organise this event in conjunction with Mountainview Cemetery. Major Roger Prouse, CD (Ret'd), Mrs Louise Prouse, Staff-Sergeant Bob Underhill RCMP (Ret'd), MWO Steve Kern, CD (Ret'd) St John Ambulance, LAC Jim Howard, and from the Vancouver Poppy Fund, Stephen Tresidder, and Donna Twemlow from VAC.

LCol JD Barrett, CD (Ret'd)  
Chair Vancouver Vimy Day Committee

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ST. JULIEN MESS DINNER  
THE DRILL HALL  
6 April 2024**



The Officers' Mess held their annual St Julien Mess Dinner commemorating the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of St Julien (24 April – 5 May 1915) on the Drill Square of the Drill Hall on Saturday evening, April 6th.





The Head Table consisted of the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and President of the King's Privy Council, Colonel Scott Raesler, 39 CBG Commander, 39 CBG BSM, CWO Tony Harris, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, the Commanding Officer, the RSM, CWO Arnold Matibag, Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, Colonel Peter Bell, the PMC, Major Greg McCullough and Major-General (Retired) Rob Roy MacKenzie.





The Regiment's two volunteer bands, the Brass & Reed Band, and the Irish Pipes & Drums, had a very strong performance and added a great deal to the overall success of the evening.



The traditional toasts were given to The King (Lt. Evan Pearce), The Fallen (2Lt. Michael Zheng), HMCS Vancouver (Lt. David Liu), The Rifles (2Lt. Grant Novak) and The Regiment (Major Manjeet Vinning).



Colonel Raesler delivered a wonderful address enumerating the many solid accomplishments of the Regiment in the past year and attributed these successes to the great leadership at all levels in the Regiment.





The Commanding Officer closed with the delivery of an excellent “State of the Regiment” report, while circling the dining area and emphasizing his many complimentary points....truly a very memorable occasion!

Presentations by the Commanding Officer and the Commander took place at the pre dinner reception and during the course of the dinner, complete with new challenge coins.





**Editor' Note:**

The BCR Irish Pipes and Drums Band continue to enjoy great success with their new Bb concert pitch pipe chanter, which were made possible through band support donations by William McCarthy (in remembrance of former Honorary Colonel Bill Ireland), Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) David Sproule and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne.

As previously reported, the new pipe chanter allow the Band to accompany the BCR Brass and Reed Band at concert pitch. The bands are excited to collaborate on well-known sets like "Sands of Kuwait" and the



Regimental quick march, "Killaloe". The Irish Pipes & Drums plan to visit in Southern California to play with a USMC Band which enforces the rationale to maintain proper concert pitch chanters!

Photos courtesy of Steve Ko, BCR Association and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280.

**Editor's Note:** From our friends in the LDSH (RC) we learn of the passing of Cpl (Ret'd) Partington.



## Strathcona Enews

Strathconas,

With great regret and sadness, we must inform you that Corporal (Retired) Jeremy Clifford Partington has passed away.

Jeremy was born in Peterborough, Ontario on August 8th, 1975. He joined the Canadian Army on August 8th, 1996, and upon completion of Armoured training was posted to the Strathcona's. Jeremy served with the Regiment as a Coyote Gunner in Kosovo from June to December 1999 and as a Coyote driver and operator in Kandahar, Afghanistan from January to July 2002. Corporal Partington retired from service in September 2006.

Jeremy was a much-loved and exceptional soldier. Always a team player and looking out for his comrades, his nickname was "Mama" because he took good care of everyone in his team.

His Celebration of Life will be held at the Norwood, Ontario, Town Hall on Sunday, April 14th, from 3 to 6 PM. All are invited. Dress for serving Strathconas is DEU 1A.

The family has asked for photos of Jeremy – please send them to Kim Mills at [kim@sheisfierce.net](mailto:kim@sheisfierce.net).

Jeremy Partington's obituary can be found at [https://www.cast-canada.ca/jeremy-obit.html?fbclid=IwAR1fWlvsrs\\_zMVhI3qxMpqTfgbszd821WoyHLR29cyeJy09Y-5gOI0awG2M](https://www.cast-canada.ca/jeremy-obit.html?fbclid=IwAR1fWlvsrs_zMVhI3qxMpqTfgbszd821WoyHLR29cyeJy09Y-5gOI0awG2M)

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to the Partington Family.

Perseverance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Cade".

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



LCol Darryn Gray  
Commanding Officer



CWO Nathan Mills  
Regimental Sergeant-Major

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
FRASER REGION ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRE  
ASSOCIATION (“FRAFCA”)  
SURREY, B.C.  
12 APRIL 2024**



L-R Randy Sloan, Ted Hawthorne & unk

The Regimental Secretary, Ted Hawthorne, was presented with a Ceremonial Woven Blanket (“Honouring Our Life Givers”) by the Family Development Manager of FRAFCA, our very own Randy Sloan, MCpl BCR, in recognition of his longstanding support of the Friendship Centre on Whalley Boulevard in Surrey.



The Friendship Centre serves the at-risk Indigenous youth in the community. Well done Randy and thank you for your dedicated service to the Regiment and your service to the community for the last 25 years!



Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280  
13 APRIL 2024**

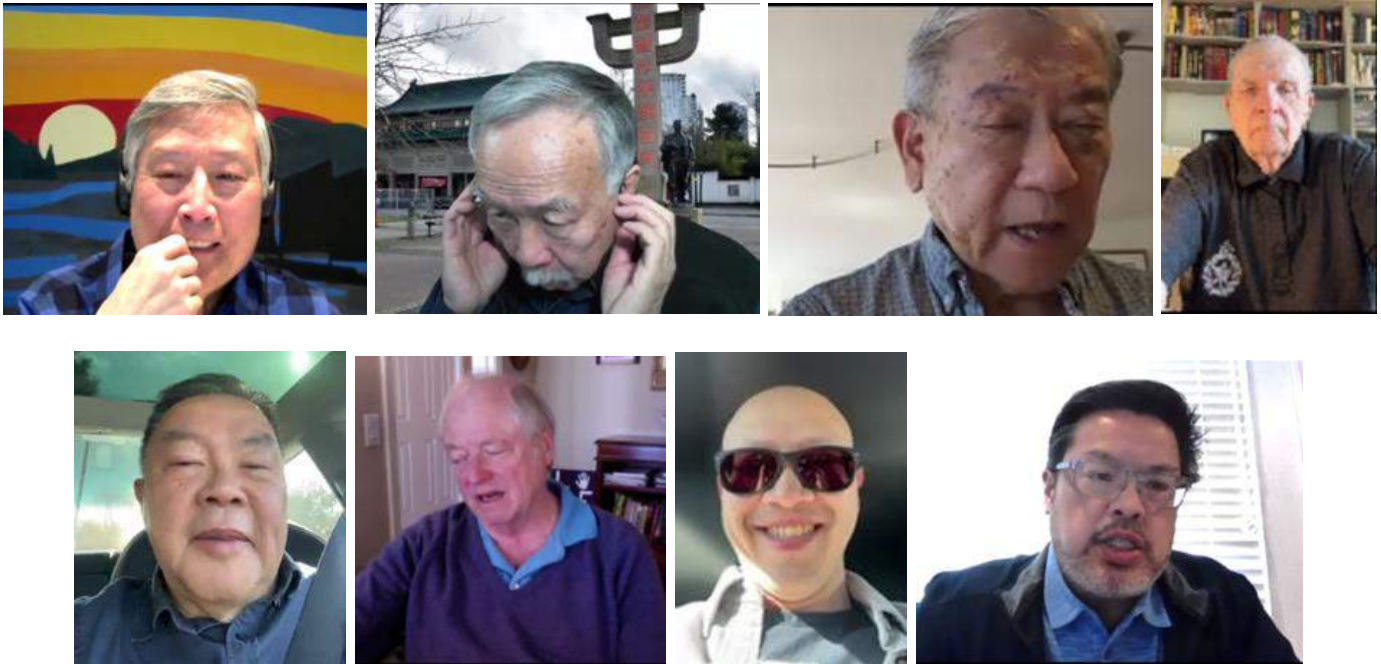


The ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280 (“ANAVETS”), program for the morning forum on ZOOM commenced with an excellent slide presentation of the very memorable annual Vimy Day Remembrance Ceremony, which was held at Mountain View Cemetery, Commonwealth Graves Section, on the morning of April 6 to mark the 107th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

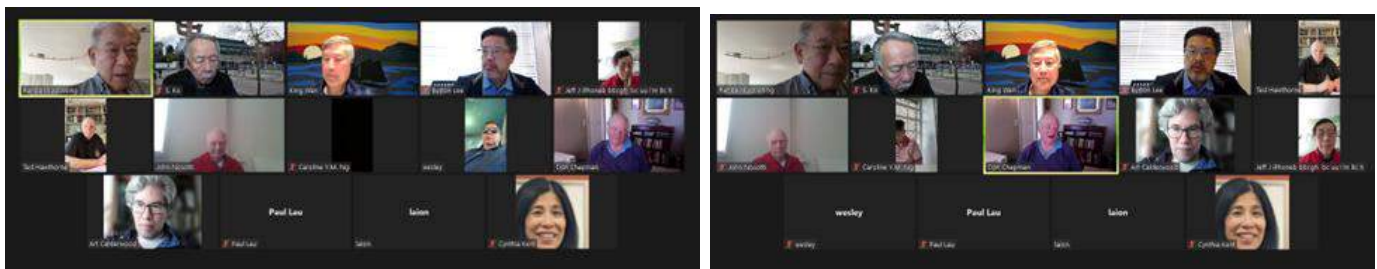


LCol Barrett presents the City Of Vancouver Vimy Day Proclamation to the BCR (Irish Fusiliers) Cadet Corps.

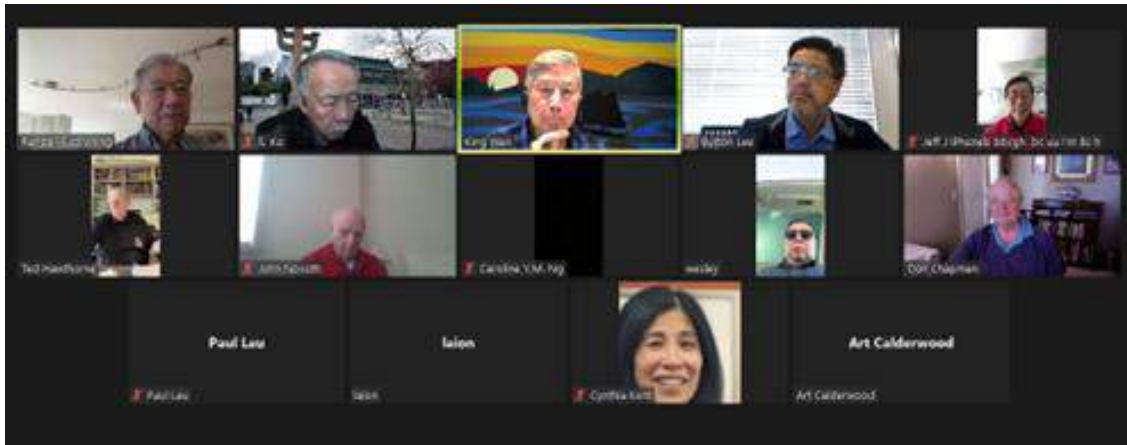
With well over 250 cadets, parents, CIC Officers, veterans, and volunteers in attendance, it was an amazing event. Steve thanked the BCR Regimental Family, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne for the outstanding event.



Many thanks to Vice President Steve Ko for presenting the slide show and providing the narration.

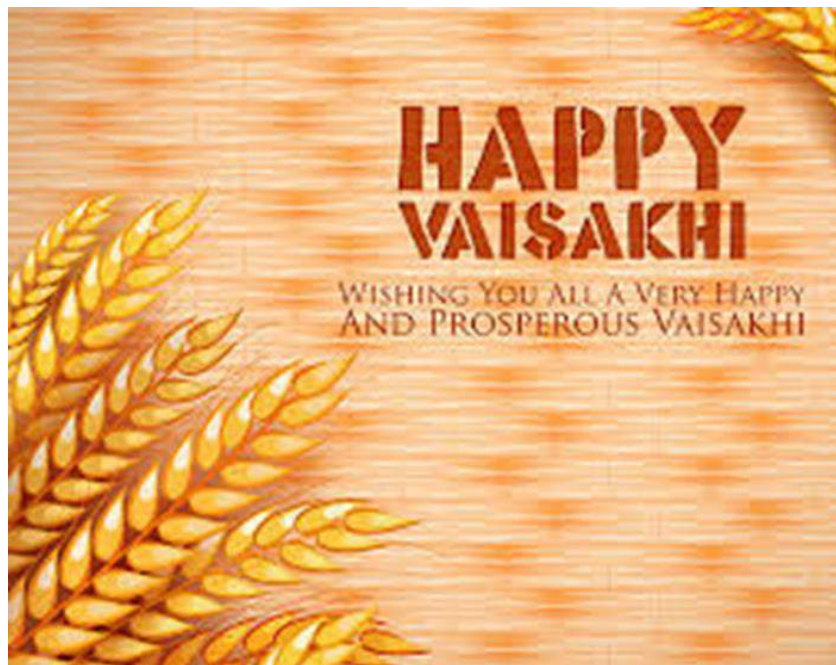






Thank you ANAVETS for your dedication to our veterans and to the community!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
HAPPY VAISAKHI DAY  
13 – 14 APRIL 2024**



Happy Vaisakhi Day and very best wishes to one and all!  
“Vaisakhi marks the first harvest and the coming of a new year...For Sikhs, it also marks the creation of the order of the Khalsa in 1699 — a defining moment in Sikh history which gave the Sikh faith its final form”, according to the Khalsa Diwan Society.

**Editor's Note:** An update from the CO LDSH (RC).



## Strathcona Enews

Fellow Strathcona's,

It has been some time since a Regimental update across this forum, and as many of you expect the tempo here within the Harvey Building has been steady with an Operational focus with our sights set on our role in Op REASSURANCE. Following this enews, the Colonel of the Regiment (CotR) will provide an update on our Society and future initiatives.

As noted on our social media, in November 2023, B Sqn deployed to Latvia with their Tanks as Roto 0 and set the conditions for the main battle tank role as part of the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Group (BG) for Op REASSURANCE. Seized with getting Leopards and Echelon off the cargo ship, suitably inspected / maintained, bore sighted and zeroed; B Sqn set the conditions for future missions of Tank Sqns abroad. In late December, B Sqn conducted a handover with C Sqn RCD, who will perform the role for 6 months before C Sqn Strathcona's will take the reins this upcoming summer.

With Leopard Centralization in full effect and all tanks moving out West to Edmonton this calendar year, we have our work cut out for us to bring all these mounts to serviceable condition ensuring our Sqns can train and prepare for international operations. Akin to the tempo of Tank Sqn deployments to Afghanistan, starting this June, Strathcona's will send consecutive Tank Sqns as part of the eFP BG in Latvia as part of NATO's Deterrence Operations.

Throughout the fall and winter periods, the RSM and I continued to be amazed with the enthusiasm and dedication from the soldiers and officers alike, with everything they did. From the maintenance surges on Ex STEELE STALLION, to multiple Sqn level adventure training serials, and a PCF surge of 6 courses being run with their respective gun camps as part of Ex STEELE LANCE; it was evident that focus and determination has continued to motivate our soldiers.

This past March, C Sqn and RHQ deployed to Fort Cavazos (formerly Fort Hood) Texas for Ex STEELE BEASTS. As per previous years, this was a fantastic training opportunity for the Sqn to refine their skills at the Sqn level and conduct operations in a simulated Battle Group context on M1A2 Abrams simulators. With this exercise now complete, the Sqn is conducting final Theatre Mission Specific Training (TMST) which will deem C Sqn ready to deploy to Latvia this June as part of Op REASSURANCE TF 24-02. The Regiment is now setting sights on the subsequent bounds for the next tank Sqn (A) and eFP BG deployment for TF 25-01.

Lastly, the Regiment celebrated the 106th Anniversary of Moreuil Wood with the standard inter-Sqn sports competition, Regimental parade, and Moreuil Wood Ball. The sports day consisted of a fierce competition of Dodgeball, Basketball, Arm Wrestling and Ball Hockey – and as the CotR stated, “the sports have changed over



the years, but the inter-squadron rivalry and spirit certainly hasn't".

The Regimental Parade was held on March 21st and we were very proud to host Her Honour, The Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, as the Reviewing Officer. Also in attendance was Lieutenant-Colonel Fabiszewski, Commanding Officer of the 1st Tank Battalion of the Polish 10th Cavalry Brigade, reinvigorating the longstanding relationship we have had with the 10th Brigade, and 1st Tank Battalion from Poland.

During the traditional Moreuil Wood commemorative parade, medals, promotions, and awards of merit, were presented. As a new award recently commissioned in honour of Col (Ret'd) Greg Hug, the inaugural Hug Perseverance Award was presented by Maria Rocha-Hug to Corporal Lucas Mullens (see our Facebook or Instagram sites for more details). Also of note, "Sportster," the oldest living horse in Strathcona history, was formally retired on parade in front of the Regiment. A heartfelt congratulations to the well-deserved recipients and an enews outlining each award is forthcoming.

As this is the last time for the foreseeable future that the Regiment will be all in one place for Moreuil Wood, we held a Combined & Mixed Moreuil Wood Ball in a manner not done recently. The Ball was held off site and included the RCA Band, LER Drum Line, artifacts from the Museum, and a live DJ that kept the crowd dancing until the late ours of the night. All in all, it was an excellent way to finish off the winter months as a collective team and down tools for a well-deserved March Break.

Now with Spring upon us, and we are poised to support domestic responses in Western Canada, while focussing attention towards the subsequent bounds of operational readiness.

Perseverance,



LCol D.M. Gray, CD  
Commanding Officer



CWO N.V. Mills, MMM, CD  
Regimental Sergeant-Major

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE  
THE 29<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION (VANCOUVER REGIMENT) CEF MEMORIAL  
PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
9 APRIL 2024**



The Regimental Secretary and former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, attended at the 29th Battalion (Vancouver Regiment) CEF Memorial at the PNE, in the late morning of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in order place a Regimental Family Wreath to honour the service and sacrifice of our soldiers in the 7th, 29th and 102nd Battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, on the occasion of the 107<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.





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

Up the Dukes!



## Strathcona Enews

Dear Strathcona Family,

On Thursday 21 March 2024, the Regiment had the honour of hosting the 106th Moreuil Wood Parade. This year's parade was special as it is the last one where the whole regiment will be present for a foreseeable future. As some of you may know, the Strathconas are going to assume the Canadian tank presence in Latvia for the next several years.

As per tradition with our yearly celebration, the following Moreuil Wood awards were presented;

**Trooper Willoughby Memorial Award**

*“Awarded to the Commemorative Mounted Troop top rider”*

- Corporal Timothy Senff

**Olympic Torch**

*“Awarded to an outstanding athlete”*

- Lieutenant Colin Munson

**The Fox Bugle**

*“Awarded to the Regiment’s Top Corporal”*

- Corporal Justus Janzen-White

**Colonel of The Regiment Silver Stick**

*“Awarded to the Regiment’s Top Master Corporal”*

- Master Corporal Emma Crakle-Skulason

**Ross Gear**

*“Awarded to the Regiment’s Top Maintainer”*

- Master Corporal Marius Buaga.

**Milroy Cross Belt**

*“Awarded to the Regiment’s Top Sergeant”*

- Sergeant Steven Gross

**Neatby Pace Stick**

*“Awarded to the Regiment’s Top Warrant Officer”*

- Warrant Officer Colin Davidson

**Macaulay Sword**

*“Top support trade officer, voted by their peers”*

- Captain Catherine Lacroix

**Hessin Sword**

*“Top subaltern officer, voted by their peers”*

- Captain Philip German

**Prince of Wales Squadron**

*“Awarded to the Regiment’s top squadron”*

- B Squadron

**Colonel of the Regiment Commendations**

*“For 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.”*

- Corporal Manuel Blanco
- Sgt (Retired) Paul Kruhlak
- Sergeant Richard Paquette
- Major (Retired) Dave Scandrett
- Colonel (Retired) Keith Eddy
- Colonel (Retired) John Roderick
- Colonel (Retired) Mike Snell

**Hug Perseverance Award**

*“Recognition of individual members of the Regimental Family who have overcome adversity yet who continue to serve, participate and/or contribute to the Regimental Family as a whole. The adversity challenge can be related to a physical misfortune, a mental health issue, or an illness, either short-term or long-term.*

*On 13 March 2019, the outgoing Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel (retired) Creg Hug, created the Hug Perseverance award. While serving as the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel 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. This award will recognize individual members of the Regimental family who have overcome a significant personal challenge yet*



*continue to serve, participate and/or contribute to the Regimental Family and to the Society as a whole.*

*The Hug Perseverance award will not automatically be awarded annually at Moreuil Wood but will be presented when appropriate and nominations are submitted.”*

- Corporal Lucas Mullens

A heartfelt congratulations to all the recipients.

Perseverance,

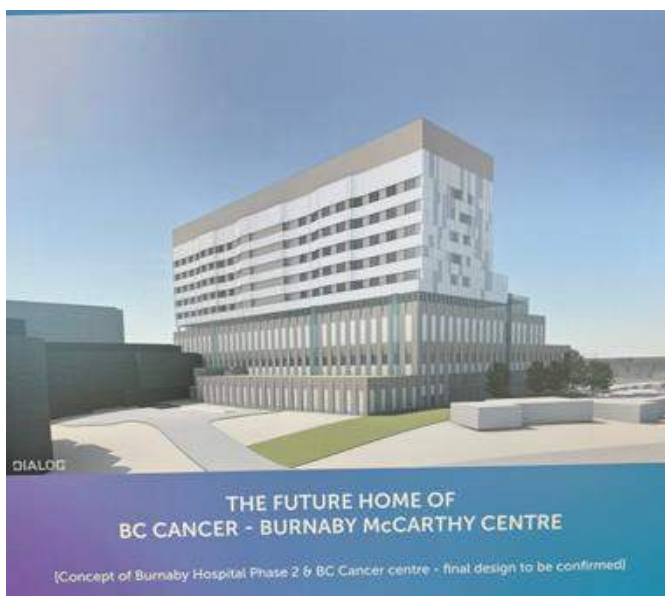


LCol D.M. Gray, CD  
Commanding Officer



CWO N.V. Mills, MMM, CD  
Regimental Sergeant-Major

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
BC CANCER FOUNDATION RECEPTION  
THE FUTURE HOME OF BC CANCER – BURNABY MCCARTHY CENTRE  
RIVERWAY CLUBHOUSE, BURNABY, B.C.  
17 APRIL 2024**



It was an absolute pleasure to attend a very special reception hosted by the BC Cancer Foundation at Riverway Golf Club in Burnaby on Wednesday, 17 April 2024 (5:00 – 8:00pm).



As stated by our good friend and colleague, Bill McCarthy,

“For 50 years, it has been our mission to bring BC Cancer to Burnaby. This is a historic moment for our family. It is a dream come true”.

The reception, with over 150 community leaders and supporters in attendance, recognized the generous gift of \$5 Million (towards a \$10 Million fundraising campaign goal) from the McCarthy Family and announced the name of the new future world class BC Cancer Centre in Burnaby as “BC Cancer – McCarthy Centre at Burnaby Hospital”.





Many special guests were in attendance, including Minister of Health Adrian Dix, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Raj Chouhan, and the Mayor of Burnaby, Mike Hurley. Speakers included the Master of Ceremony, Bill's son John McCarthy (also Chair of the BC Cancer Foundation), Musqueam Elder Larry Grant, Mayor Hurley, Dr. Kim Chi, Chief Medical Officer of BC Cancer, Sarah Roth, CEO BC Cancer Foundation and Bill McCarthy. Bill's eloquent and heartfelt speech received a standing ovation at the conclusion.



Bill paid great tribute to his grandfather, John Jambor, and his belief in community and giving back. This was most certainly the capstone for the McCarthy Family and their sense of community over a lifetime of giving.



In a surprise announcement, Burnaby's Firefighters presented a donation cheque of \$1 Million to BC Cancer.



What a wonderful evening!  
Congratulations to the McCarthy Family and Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE  
73<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GAPYEONG, SOUTH KOREA  
THE BATTLE OF GAPYEONG KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL  
DEREK DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM  
LANGLEY TOWNSHIP  
19 APRIL 2024**



The sacrifice, service and dedication of the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (U.S. Presidential Unit Citation recipient) on the 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Gapyeong, South Korea, was remembered on the morning of 19 April 2024 at the Gapyeong Stone Korean War Memorial in Langle Township in a very well attended special Ceremony MC'd by Tae Young Kim, Director of the Korean War Veterans Association - Western Canada, and conducted by Michael Chang, President.







The ceremony was attended by the Consul General of South Korea, Jong Ho Kyun, many elected officials, dignitaries, leaders of the Korean Community, Veterans, and students from Langley Senior Secondary School, who pinned poppies on the Korean War Veterans in attendance.



The Ceremony featured memorable presentations by Dream Nanta (Opening Drum performance) and the Port Moody Youth Ensemble, at the conclusion.










The Regiment was acknowledged in the introductory greeting and Regimental Secretary and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne placed a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Family with our good friend and colleague Richard Liu, Honorary Brigade Division President, Burnaby Division, St. John Ambulance.

제6회 가평전투 기념식  
(The Battle of Gapyeong Memorial Ceremony)



일시 : 2024년 4월 19일 오전 11시  
 장소 : 데릭 더블데이 수목원 (Derek Doubleday Arboretum)  
 주소 : 21177 Fraser Hwy, Langley, BC

주관 : 대한민국 재향군인회 캐나다 서부지회  
 Korean Veterans Association, Wester Canada Chapter

We will remember them!

**39 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP  
ANNUAL BC MILITARY GALA  
VANCOUVER SHERATON WALL CENTRE HOTEL  
20 APRIL 2024**



The BCR military Gala first began in 1946 when returning veterans from World War Two were formally reintroduced to their families, with Officers presenting their daughters to the Lt-Governor of BC and then having the first dance to start the evening. With the exception of the recent pandemic. The Band of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field regiment RCA provided the dinner music and performed in the dessert show with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and a small contingent from the Canadian Scottish regiment.



With the exception of two years during the pandemic, this year marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Ball and the event was sold out with 464 guests and dignitaries in attendance. The BCR, or 'Duke Dynasty', as MC Colleen Christie from Global News remarked, had the largest contingent with 50 members and guests spread over five



tables. The event recognized the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the RCAF and highlighted the contributions of 39 Service Battalion.



BCR Family at the 2024 BC Military Gala (cakewalk Media Inc.)

Events such as the ball just don't happen without a great deal of work and dedication. 39 CBG Col Scott Raesler indicated as much in his address to the audience. We thank the 2024 BC Military Ball Committee for their work including the Chair, LCol Brent Purcell, HCol Bill Diamond, MWO Nathaniel Senff, Mr. Dan Whittle, Capt Don Lamb, Ms. Christina Bradshaw, and Mr. John Stark.



HLCOL Bill Diamond, BCR

Vancouver Garrison Officers' Society President, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, will be presenting a cheque to the 39 CBG Comd in due order to help support the 39 CBG Soldiers Wellness Fund out of the profits from the BC Military Gala. BGen Steve Graham, Commander 3 Canadian Division also remarked favourably on how the Gala celebrates our military community and helps to support our soldiers.



2290 BCR CO Capt Dil Pangalia with his partner Andrea Grills and his son, Jack Pangalia

From the BCR family, we had many in attendance from LCol Vince Virk, Maj Adam Brown, RSM Arn Matibag, HCol Farid Rohani, HLCOL Bill Diamond, Maj (Ret'd) John Perry, Capt Pat Taylor, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, Maj Adam Macleod, 2Lt Gord Novak, Lt Carnevale, Sgt Trevor Hooker, Capt Lieu, Maj (Ret'd) Dan Thomas, Padre Chris Pappas, Sgt Aliakbar, Maj Tom Clackson, Lt Desmond Wong, Cpl Clarke, Lt Braverman, Lt Pearce, and Capt Dil Pangalia with all their spouses, guests and family members to fill our five tables.

Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF SAINT JULIEN  
24 APRIL - 4 MAY 1915  
SAINT JULIEN SQUARE, VANCOUVER, B.C.  
24 APRIL 2024**



On the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of St. Julien, Second Battle of Ypres, the service and sacrifice of our Fallen was remembered in the early afternoon of Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at St Julien Square, adjacent to the Drill Hall.



A moment of silence was observed, and the Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, and Lieutenant Desmond Wong placed a wreath and a candle of remembrance at the memorial on behalf of Regimental Family.

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

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

Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ANZAC MEMORIAL DAY  
VETERANS PARK MEMORIAL  
PORT COQUITLAM, B.C.  
25 APRIL 2024**



We remember the contribution and sacrifice of all those who have served and died in all wars, conflicts and Peacekeeping operations with our Allies in Australia and New Zealand on this ANZAC Day.



A moment of silence was observed and Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, placed a wreath and a Candle of Remembrance on behalf of the Regimental Family at the foot of the Memorial during a brief ceremony at noon.

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

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

Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR  
CHIEF JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER HINKSON  
FAIRMONT HOTEL VANCOUVER  
26 APRIL 2024**

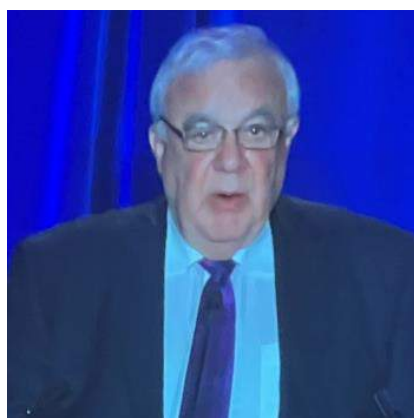


The exemplary service and dedication of the Honourable Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson was recognized in fine form at a Retirement Celebration held at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver in the early evening of Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> .

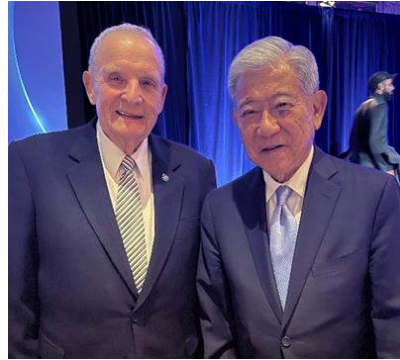




The program for the evening included a reception in the Pacific Ballroom, dinner in the B.C. Ballroom, with a welcome by the MC, The Honourable Mary Humphries, a Musqueam Greeting by Aaron Wilson, and remarks by The Honourable Leonard Marchand, Chief Justice of B.C., The Honourable Richard Wagner, Chief Justice of Canada, The Honourable David Eby, Premier of B.C., The Honourable Melissa Gillespie, Chief Judge, Provincial Court of B.C., Richard C.C. Peck, KC, The Honourable Judge Tim Hinkson, The Honourable Associate Chief Justice (SCBC) Heather Holmes, presentations by The Law Society of B.C. and the Canadian Bar Association and the final word by the guest of honour, Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson.







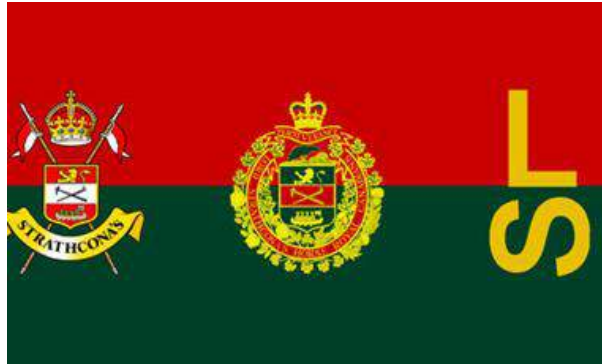
Friends of the Regimental Family in attendance were Senator Larry Campbell (Honorary Major), Retired Judge Bud Wong (President of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society), Retired Judge Bill Rodgers (former Honorary Colonel of 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA) and Don Sorochan, KC, President of Equitas Disabled Soldiers Funding Society.



A long and well-deserved retirement Chris and thank you!

Ted Hawthorne, Regimental Secretary.

**Editor's Note:** An update from our friends in the LDSH (RC).



## Strathcona Enews

Dear Strathcona Family,

We would like to announce the impending retirement of **LCol Mark Connolly, CD** who served his country spanning over three decades.

LCol Connolly has deployed overseas on several operations, including Bosnia, Kosovo and North Macedonia. He has held several positions at the Regiment including Recce Squadron second in command, B Squadron Officer Commanding as well as several senior positions in the CAF such as JTFW HQ G1 and CADTC HQ G1 and in the US within the Allied Command Transformation HQ.

On behalf of all Strathconas, congratulations to LCol Connolly on his tremendous service. You will certainly be missed but it is with pride that we see you off.

Any well wishes for LCol Connolly may be passed along to [ldsh@strathconas.ca](mailto:ldsh@strathconas.ca) and will be forwarded along.

Perseverance,

LCol D.M. Gray, CD  
Commanding Officer

CWO N.V. Mills, MMM, CD  
Regimental Sergeant-Major

**Editor's Note:** A reminder to register for the Juno Beach 80<sup>th</sup> Ceremony.





### **La cérémonie canadienne**

La cérémonie canadienne, organisée par Anciens Combattants Canada, aura lieu au Centre Juno Beach le 6 juin 2024 à 11h.

Si vous souhaitez y assister, vous pouvez dès aujourd'hui vous inscrire dans la "zone debout" sur le lien ci-dessous.

Attention, le nombre de places est limité.

### **Canadian ceremony**

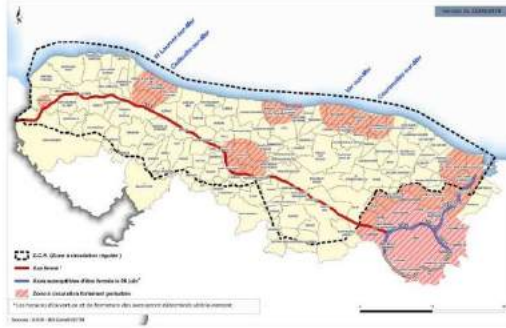
The Canadian ceremony, organized by Veterans Affairs Canada, will take place at the Juno Beach Centre on June 6, 2024 at 11 a.m.

If you would like to attend, you can register today in the "standing area" at the link below.

Please note, the number of places is limited.

**S'inscrire maintenant**

**Register now**



### La zone de circulation régulée

Dans le lien ci-dessous, retrouvez les informations pratiques sur la zone de circulation régulée (ZCR) et le stickage des véhicules, mises en place par la Préfecture du Calvados.

### The restricted traffic zone

In the link below, find general information about the Restricted Traffic Zone and sticker application, implemented by the Prefecture of Calvados.



### La visite du musée

**En raison de la cérémonie canadienne, le Centre Juno Beach sera fermé les 5 et 6 juin toute la journée.**

Les 4 et 7 juin, en raison d'une grande affluence de visiteurs attendus, les conditions de visites ne seront pas optimales. Les visites guidées des bunkers du Parc Juno ne seront pas assurées. Néanmoins, les deux bunkers seront ouverts en accès libre, sans guidage.

### Museum visit

**Due to the Canadian ceremony, the Juno Beach Centre will be closed all day on June 5 and 6.**

On June 4 and 7, many visitors are expected and visiting conditions will not be optimal. Guided visits of the bunkers on Juno Park will not be maintained. However, two bunkers will be accessible for a short self-guided visit.



### CENTRE JUNO BEACH

Voie des Français Libres  
14470 COURSEULLES-SUR-MER

02 31 37 32 17  
contact@junobeach.org  
www.junobeach.org



# AN INTERESTING ARTICLE WRITTEN IN 1983 AT THE TIME OF THE BCR ASSOCIATION'S REGIMENTAL CENTENNIAL TOUR'S RETURN TO NORMANDY

**Editor's Note:** An good read if not always accurate. Thanks to Don Manning from our BCR Museum Society for forwarding to us.

## The living going back to the dead

**HILL 195. NOT A NAME TO PUT** heroic lyrics to.

Not a name that evokes drums and trumpets. Not up there with Belleau Wood, Vimy Ridge, Dunkirk, Wake Island, El Alamein, Iwo Jima, Bastogne, Stalingrad.

It isn't even much of a hill, as hills go. It rises gently in hedge-rowed farmland, a couple of miles east of the main road between Caen and Falaise in France.

What might catch your attention driving by are the mounds at the foot of the hill. Each mound contains the body of a Canadian who died before he was 30, trying to take that little hill that has no real consequence now except as a piece of arable farmland. Unless you were one of the Dukes.

If you were a Duke on Aug. 9, 1944, you wore the shoulder patch of the B.C. Regiment, had gone overseas as part of the 28th Canadian Armored and invaded France with the Fourth Canadian Army. And for a few horrible hours, Hill 195 became the rest of your life. You died on it, or you live with its black memory.

Hill 195 is not the story of a great victory. It is the story of a brief massacre and perhaps that is why so few people know about it. Nobody wrote a song about it.

But early next month the survivors of Hill 195 are going back. There will be 25 of them, 20 from Vancouver. I guess there is some kind of psychic tug that takes men



**DENNY BOYD**

back to the scene of their battles. The surviving members of the old B.C. Regiment, the Dukes, are going back in respect to their dead who, like Leonidas and the Spartans who lie where they fell at Thermopylae, are buried under simple white wooden crosses at Hill 195.

They are taking with them a striking memorial marker, a seven-foot cross with the regimental crest at the top and a brass plate at the foot that says, "Sacred Area. To those who fell August 9, 1944. 28th Canadian Armored Regiment. Fourth Canadian Division. British Columbia Regiment. Algonquin Regiment of Ontario."

The cross is in gleaming stainless steel. It should catch the morning sun, just as the sun rising in the east caught and silhouetted the tanks of the B.C. Regiment at dawn on Aug. 9, 1944, and made them plump targets for the hidden German 88s.

Harvey McDiarmid, a Vancouver businessman who helps raise money for Variety Club charities, is going back with the cross. He was a 28-year-old lieutenant going into that battle. After having three tanks shot

out from under him, he came out a captain with the Croix de Guerre. Harry Lennox is going back. He's the regimental padre; served in two world wars, says he has buried about 200 members of the regiment. Art Biddlecombe will be there. He was the reconnaissance officer at Hill 195, a captain they called Biddy. He abandoned his blazing tank, fought on foot against artillery, helped the wounded and won the Military Cross. Major John Toogood was held in reserve on August 9. The next day, after the top ranking officers had been killed, Toogood took the remnants of the regiment and eventually led them into Germany. They took a German town named Neuhaus so quickly that the trains were still operating. Toogood punched up a ticket to Berlin and will see if it is still valid after he visits Hill 195.

Every Thursday, the veterans of the B.C. Regiment have lunch at the Beatty Street Armory. If they have a guest, they will let him read the terse war diary and plot the battle with their fingers on a large tabletop map.

The European Fortress had been

breached by Allied invasion armies, which thundered across France after the retreating German forces. The plan was to close the pincers on the German Seventh Army at Falaise.

Canadian and British Forces came frontally out of Caen, hoping to engage the German panzers and armor long enough for George Patton's Third Army to flank and trap the German Seventh.

The B.C. Regiment came down the road from Caen. The days were hot, bright and dusty. The nights were as black as evil.

Somehow, in the night, the Dukes got lost. They wound up three miles east of their assigned positions, in a massive nest of 12th SS Panzers, led by Kurt Meyer, a brilliant, cold-blooded soldier.

When the sun came up, the slaughter began. The Dukes, formed in a hollow square, lost all 44 of their Sherman tanks to the German Tiger tanks, mounted with the deadly 88-millimetre cannon. Survival meant taking the high ground, the hill.

By the end of the day, three Canadian tanks got there. Harvey McDiarmid's was one. He and his crew and a few infantrymen huddled under his tank until the order came to get the hell out on foot.

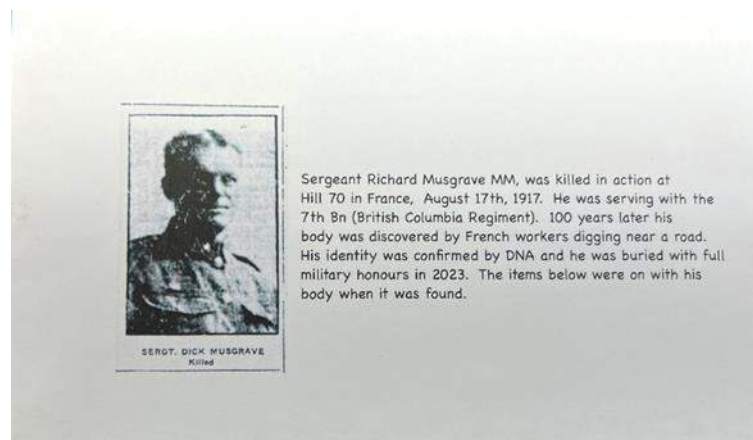
Those who did, survived. They were the minority. They left 200 dead behind them.

Next month, on the road between Caen and Falaise, on a hill too small to have a name, the living go back to the dead.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
OFFICIAL DEDICATION OF THE REGIMENTAL DISPLAY CABINET  
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
28 APRIL 2024**



The dedication of the new Regimental Display Cabinet took place during the regular Sunday service at 10:30 in the morning of April 28 by The Very Reverend Chris Pappas, Rector of Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver.

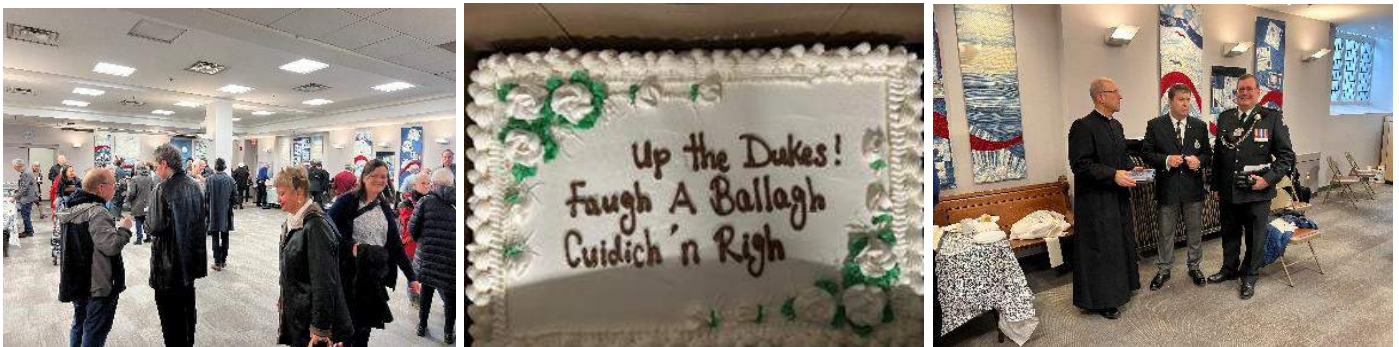


Sergeant Richard Musgrave MM, was killed in action at Hill 70 in France, August 17th, 1917. He was serving with the 7th Bn (British Columbia Regiment). 100 years later his body was discovered by French workers digging near a road. His identity was confirmed by DNA and he was buried with full military honours in 2023. The items below were on with his body when it was found.





The Regimental Display Cabinet was officially presented to Christ Church Cathedral by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, Vice President of the Regimental Association, Scott Hamilton, and the Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne. The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Farid Rohani, was also in attendance with the congregation.



**Editor's Note:**

**VIDEO:** <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6UKVR8PE67/?igsh=NjhpM2thajczMzhp>  
Bill Whalen, President of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) Museum Society, has previously reported, as follows:

"In January of 2024 LCol Steacy, a noted woodworker, was asked for his advice on who might build a suitable custom cabinet for the same purpose at Christ Church. He approached Mr Richard

Csepregi of “Richard’s Fine Woodworking” in North Vancouver. Mr Csepregi is a proud Canadian and has made pilgrimages to most of Canada’s key World War One and World War Two Battlefields. When he was told the cabinet was for the Army and was to be displayed in a cathedral, he advised that he would build it without charge and present it to Christ Church and the Regiment. On April 4th, Mr Csepregi formally presented the cabinet to Father Pappas. It is made of Tiger Stripe Maple with beautiful dark wood inlay. The key surround is African Bloodwood, in the shape of a maple leaf. On hand for the ceremony were Father Pappas, LCol Steacy who presented a custom inscribed regimental plaque to Mr Csepregi and LCol Rohani, who presented his coin. The first display in the cabinet is of items recovered from 7th Battalion NCO Sgt Richard Musgrave’s remains. Sgt Musgrave, MM, was killed in action at the Battle of Hill 70 on August 17th, 1917. His remains were located at Hill 70 in 2017. Sgt Musgrave was laid to rest by the regiment in 2023”.



Also, special thanks to the Regimental Association for underwriting the cost of the museum quality glass and cabinet lighting.



May

**SITREP FROM LEFT COAST LANCERS  
MAJOR (RET'D) DAVE SCANDRETT  
MOREUIL WOOD LUNCHEON  
21 MARCH 2024**



Hello all stations,  
Situation

No change really as we have had St Georges Day and the Moreuil Wood gathering on 21 March. Plans are being made for the next big event on 7 November at the Sidney North Sannich Yacht Club on the occasion of The Action at Leliefontein, one hundred and twenty four years ago.



That was the beginning of my Sitrep but sadly I have to report that LCol Dave Sproule died this past weekend. Dave was a Strathcona, RCD and CO of the British Columbia Regiment in Vancouver. He attended his last LCL function on 21 March and he was a stalwart of the Left Coast Lancers. His gentlemanly bearing, gracious sense of humour and welcoming presence will be missed by all. We will head down to the LCL stables, saddle up a charger, boots in the stirrups backwards and send him off to the Great Tank Park in the sky.



BCR Group



The Left Coast Lancers remain an all ranks organization of all regiments with links to many interests Armoured and we encourage all and sundry to attend and stay on net. Included are some photos of the Battle of Moreuil Wood LCL members who attended the luncheon.





Best wishes to all for a healthy summer and for those venturing off to places unpleasant, a safe return.



**COMBINED CADET FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE  
2781 BCR (DCO) & 2943 PPCLI RCACC  
FTX LOST SOULS  
HAYWIRE BAY, POWELL RIVER, BCX  
26-28 APRIL 2024**



(photos by Robert Francis)

On the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, Cadets from 2943 PPCLI and 2781 BCR joined for an excellent field training exercise at Haywire Bay, Powell River, BC. Cadets and Staff, for Vancouver Island arrived by Ferry on the Friday night and were welcomed by CI Diane Sheldon and the cadets from 2781 BCR at Timberlane Barracks, Powell River, where the cadets were quartered for the night.







Following Breakfast, the cadets and staff headed off on a route march from their barracks to Haywire Bay Regional Park and Campground which is regionally owned (local government). The weekend's planned training focussed on basic fieldcraft including a six kilometre hike along the trails into the campsite followed by camp routine, including setting up tents, and map & Compass training as well as use of radio communications.





Commanding Officers Capt Caroline Visser 2781 BCR and Lt Sean Smith from 2943 PPCLI were joined by BCR Association President and CI with 2781, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett for the Saturday Training. Lt Sean Smith started his service with the BC Dragoons and served with many of the BCRs including on several at the same time as LCol Barrett. A small world. The on-site first aider all weekend was 2781's CI Chris Reimer, and CI Alia McPhee from 2943 rounded out the adult staff. Corps RSMs MWO Butler and RSM Balduc provided excellent supervision to the cadets helped by CSM Warkington from 2943 and the Sr NCOs of both corps.



Overall the weather was cooperative for the training that was carried out although strong winds off of the lake occasionally were an issue.



A successful combined FTX completed 2943 PPCLI headed home to their LHQ in Campbell River having a great experience and having made a few new friends.

"Fantastic weekend on joint Field Training Exercise with 2781 BCR Army Cadets in Powell River. Everything from a 6.5Km trek through the rain forests to Haywire Bay, to Army Arts and Crafts (making their own set of Pace Counters for future Orienteering training). Tired and dirty but smiles all around!"

Lt Sean Smith

Well done!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE – VANCOUVER SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
15<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RCA)  
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY  
1 MAY 2024**



The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the members of Royal United Services Institute–Vancouver Society was held in the lecture room of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment (RCA) Armoury on Wednesday, May 1st. Accordingly, RUSI, Vancouver is pleased to announce the election of directors and appointment of officers of the following members:

President - Keith Maxwell  
1st Vice President – Leon Jenson  
2nd Vice President – Jim Howard  
Secretary – Bob Mugford  
Treasurer – Richard Dunn  
Director – Heather Garrison  
Director – Bob Mackay  
Director – Archibald Pel  
Director – Caron Cave – Pel

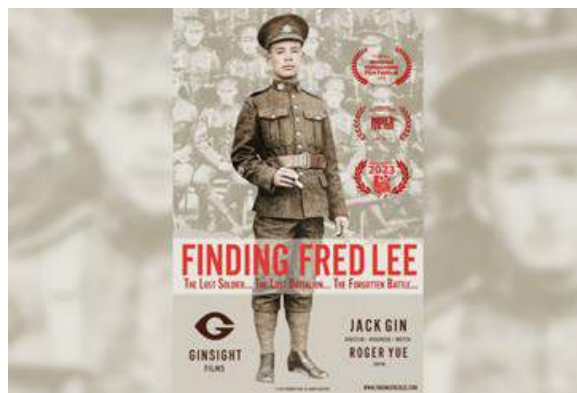
Director – Bob Underhill

Congratulations on your election/appointment and thank you for your ongoing service!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE, VANCOUVER  
OFFICERS' MESS, 15th FIELD REGIMENT, RCA  
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY  
LUNCHEON & "FINDING FRED LEE", BY JACK GIN  
THE 2024 RUSI VANCOUVER SPEAKERS SERIES  
1 MAY 2024**



Colonel (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, President of RUSI, Vancouver, introduced and welcomed today's special guest speaker, Jack Gin, the writer, and producer of **Finding Fred Lee**.



As stated in the briefing notes:

"Finding Fred Lee is told through Gin's eyes as he journeys to Lee's hometown of Kamloops to uncover traces of this forgotten son. Lee was an honour roll student and the son of a pioneer businessman. He signed up with the Rocky Mountain Rangers at a time when Chinese Canadians couldn't vote. Most could not hold a traditional job. He left town on the CPR—the railway that his father supplied with timbers and that thousands of Chinese men helped build. Lee survived Vimy



with the 47th Battalion but was killed during the battle for Hill 70. The hill was captured but 1,877 Canadians lost their lives. His remains were never found.

The documentary takes viewers to a recently commemorated Hill 70 Memorial Park at Lens, France. A walkway emblazoned with maple leaves, named after Fred Lee, who is remembered on a panel dedicated to him. Jack Gin located Fred Lee's nephew, and the search continues for other family members. The film has screened in Kamloops, at the Canadian War Museum, and at the Asian Film Festival in Vancouver, and it has won the best short documentary award at the International Art Festival in Berlin. Private Fred Lee is no longer forgotten."

The presentation was preceded by the ever-popular luncheon (featuring a vegetable or meat entree, bread, potatoes, and pastries for dessert, tea and coffee). Once again, another sell-out!



Special thanks to the Commanding Officer of 15th Field Artillery Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew William Grieve and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Don Foster, for the outstanding hospitality.



(Jack Gin 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left)

Congratulations to RUSI, Vancouver for another excellent presentation in their highly popular "Speakers Series"!

Photos courtesy of HLCol Don Foster.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ANNUAL CEREMONIAL REVIEW AND  
CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY  
2381 BCR (IRISH FUSILIERS) RCACC  
COLONEL SHERMAN ARMOURY, RICHMOND, B.C.  
30 APRIL 2024**



The Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk, CD, was the Reviewing Officer at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Ceremonial Review for 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC held on the parade square of Richmond's Colonel Sherman Armoury, home of 39 Service Battalion, on a beautiful evening on Tuesday, 30 April 2024. The Parade Commander of the ACR was RSM, C/CWO Tyler Yue.





The evening's programme included the March On by the Cadets, complete with a Flag Party and a strong contingent of The BCR Association Irish Pipes & Drums led by Pipe Major Andrew Hayes, and the arrival of the Reviewing Officer, LCol Vince Virk, CD, Commanding Officer BC Regiment (DCO).





Following the inspection of the Corps by the Reviewing Party, which included LCol Virk and the President of the Regimental Association, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, and Capt Chris Smith representing the RCSU (Pacific) Headquarters, the March Past was led by the outgoing Commanding Officer, Captain Michael Azzano.



L-R: Incoming CO, Capt Raven McCallum, Capt Chris Smith RCSU (Pac.), Outgoing CO, Capt Mike Azzano





The March Past was followed by Awards and Presentations, the Change of Command Ceremony (Signing of Certificates and Flag Transfer), the March Past led by the new Commanding Officer, Captain Raven McCallum, the Advance in Review Order, the departure of the Reviewing Officer and the March Off by the Cadets.









The Awards and Presentations segment of the program included the following presentations:

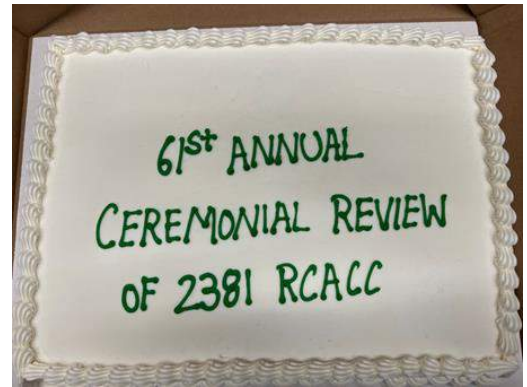
- The Sgt. RW Laing, CD (Ret'd) Top Junior and Senior Marksmanship Award by Sgt Laing;
- The Captain Archie Pow, CD (Ret'd) Participation Award by Captain Pow;
- The Jeffrey Ng Award for Most Improved by 2Lt Jeffrey Ng;
- The Roger & Louise Prouse Top Troop Cup by Major Prouse and Louise,
- The Honorary Colonel (Ret'd) E.A. (Ted) Hawthorne Perseverance Award by former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne;
- The Best All Around Fusilier Award by Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk;
- RSM's Award for Top NCO by C/RSM, C/CWO Tyler Yue; and
- The Lord Strathcona Medal by Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Virk.



Colonel Virk delivered his RO's address and thanked the Cadet Corps, CIC Officers, the Sponsoring Committee, parents, and volunteers for their work, and emphasized the many opportunities to learn leadership and teamwork skills under the Cadet Programme.



At the conclusion of the program, a reception followed where two ceremonial cakes were cut by Captains McCallum and Azzano with a "cake cutting sabre".



BCR Regimental Family in attendance

Other BCRs in attendance included Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond and Past President Gayle Hawthorne. Guests included Suman from the Army Cadet League (BC) and Stan Clark, long time supporter of BCR Cadets at 2290 and the programme.

Congratulations to the Cadets of 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC, Captains Mike Azzano and Raven McCallum, CIC Officers, and volunteers for on another successful year!

Up the Dukes!



# BCR (DCO) REGIMENTAL HOCKEY TEAM WIN ASHL DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 30 APRIL 2024



Our Regimental Hockey Team was piped onto the ice by our Sgt Rosalie MacDonald of the BCR Irish Pipes & Drums on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. In a hard fought game, the Dukes were victorious winning 4-1 against their opponent.



On behalf of all members of the BCR Regimental family, well done!

Up the Dukes!

May

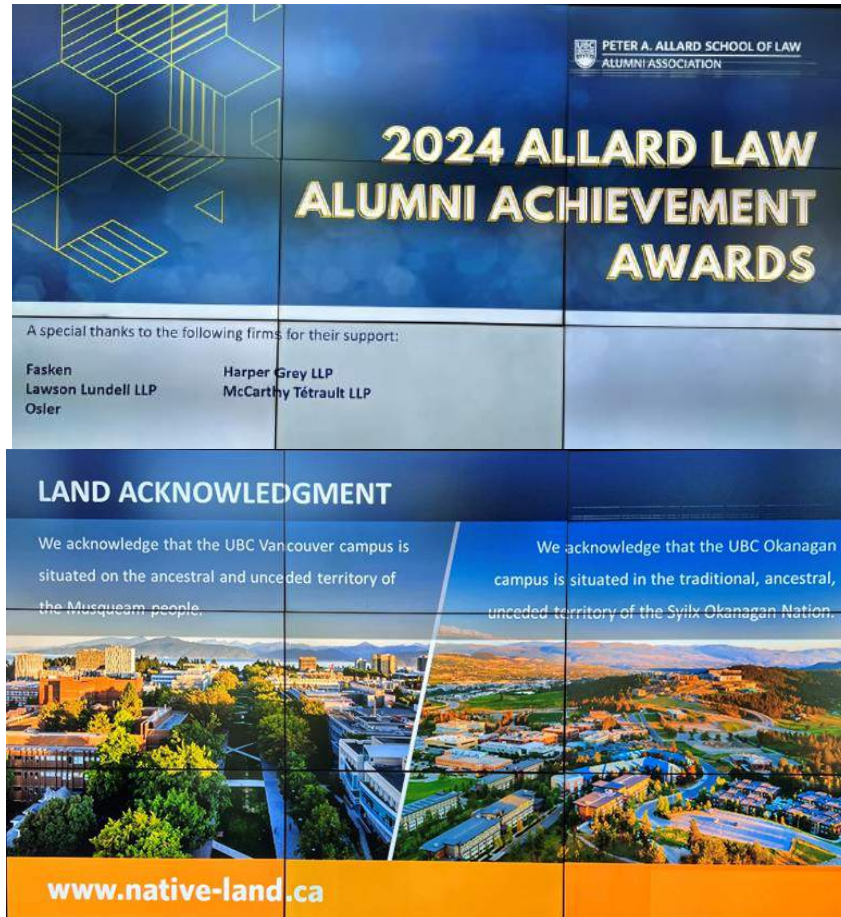
**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
2024 ALLARD LAW ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS  
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (“VIFF”) CENTRE  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
1 MAY 2024**



The Allard Law Alumni Achievement Awards, held every two years, celebrates, and acknowledges the achievements of a small number of the many outstanding members of Allard Law's alumni community.







The Board of Directors of the Allard Law Alumni Association held a special awards ceremony and reception at VIFF in the early evening of Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. The following outstanding individuals were honoured at the ceremony for their remarkable work in the profession as well as the community we serve:

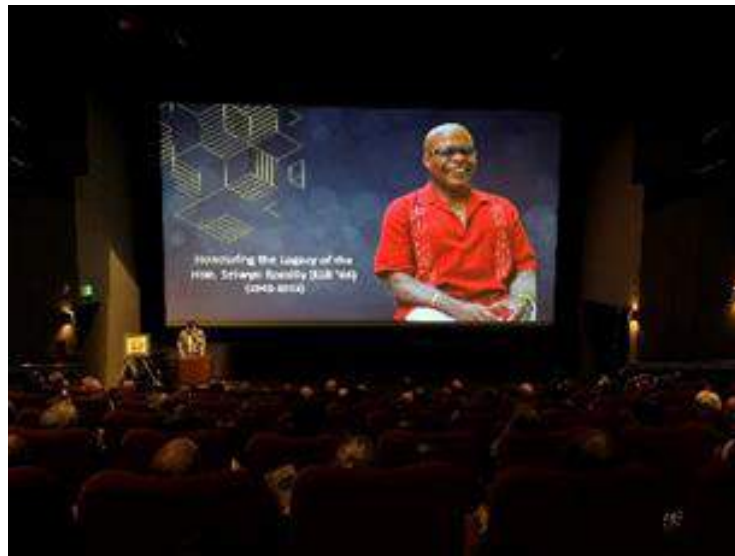
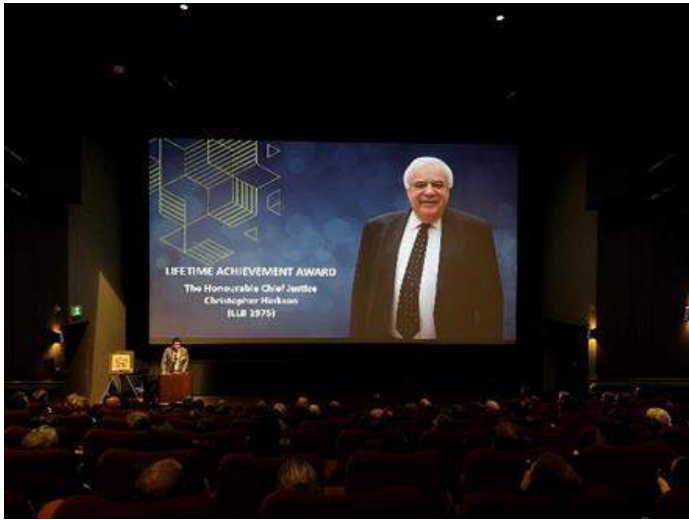
Lifetime Achievement Award: The Honourable Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson (LLB '75)

Alumni Award of Distinction: Mary Ainslie, KC (LLB '91)

Outstanding Young Alumni Award: Caitlin Ohama-Darcus (JD '15) & Randy Robinson (JD '16)

Alumni Award for Research: Professor Isabel Grant

Special Tribute: The Hon. Selwyn Romilly (LLB '66)





It was a great pleasure to catch up once again with Emily MacKinnon, a litigator with Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, a director of the Allard Law Alumni Association and a JAG legal officer with 39 Canadian Brigade Group.



Emily nominated me for the **Alumni Award of Distinction**, which was awarded and presented in 2022, after my service as the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. Thank you again, Emily, for your dedicated service and your amazing work in the community!  
Congratulations to all recipients!

**Editor's Note:** Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson is a member of the Sovereign Order of Saint John, Vancouver, which is dedicated to the funding and the delivery of palliative care programs, hospice, and other services to the community. Former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne is also a member along with many other friends and colleagues in the military community.

**Editor's Note:** Attached is the latest newsletter received from Valour Canada.



## Valour Canada Newsletter

### Special Update: General Sir Arthur Currie Award Dinner 2024



Photo (L to R): John Q Adams (Valour President), George Brookman (award recipient), and Brad Pierce (Valour Board Director)

On Monday, April 22, 2024, [Valour Canada](#) hosted the 2024 General Sir Arthur Currie Award Dinner at the Calgary Golf and Country Club. Nearly 200 guests attended the award dinner and unanimously provided very positive feedback.

Due to the generous donations and support from our patrons, the event was a huge success. Valour Canada would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who helped make the evening so well-attended and memorable!

The **2024 General Sir Arthur Currie Award** was presented to distinguished Calgary business leader, philanthropist, and community advocate, **Mr. George Brookman**. Having held many notable roles, such as being the CEO of West Canadian Digital Imaging (WCD), Past President and Chairman of the Board of the Calgary Stampede, a long-time volunteer, and founder of the "Breakfast on the Bridge" fundraiser to support the Military



Family Resource Centre, George's efforts demonstrate his commitment to the Calgary business community, civic engagement and education about Canada's military history and heritage.

The Award Dinner started at 5:30 pm. During the reception, guests were engaged in lively conversations, bonded among friends and family over wine and hors d'oeuvres, participated in silent auctions, and enjoyed browsing military artifacts.

At 7 pm, following bagpiper Bill Hawes' call to dinner, guests moved into the dining room and sat down at their tables. John Q Adams, President, delivered an introductory speech followed by a short video about Valour Canada's vision and mission. Land Acknowledgement was provided by Dr. Glenn Wilkinson, Board Chair, and all guests arose to sing "O Canada".

Valour Canada was honoured to have Canadian Military Historian Dr. David Bercuson speak about General Sir Arthur Currie. Then the podium was passed to Mr. Greg McLean, M.P., who spoke about Mr. Brookman's achievements and contributions. A video honouring Mr. Brookman was played before all guests, which was very well received and everyone arose from their seats to congratulate him.

Click [here](#) or below to view the video honouring Mr. Brookman:



As the evening drew to a close, Mr. Brookman was presented with the General Sir Arthur Currie award. He graciously expressed his appreciation and delivered a lively and humorous speech that elicited bouts of laughter from the audience. The evening ended in a warm and celebratory atmosphere, marking another successful General Sir Arthur Currie Award Dinner.

Here are some photos of the evening:



Dr. David Bercuson



Mr. Greg McLean



(L to R:) Ms. Ellen Matthews, Mr. George Brookman and Mrs. Marjorie Brookman



Mr. Brookman at the podium



Mr. Brookman at the podium



Standing ovation from all attendees

More photos will be shared soon. Check the album later at [ValourCanada.ca/Events/TY-GSAC2024/](https://ValourCanada.ca/Events/TY-GSAC2024/)

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Our [military history library](#) contains over 250 compelling and educational stories from Canada's military history. Today, let's learn about General Sir Arthur Currie:





**General Sir Arthur Currie, GCMG, KCB**

General Sir Arthur William Currie, GCMG, KCB (December 5, 1875 – November 30, 1933) was the first Canadian commander of the Canadian Corps, succeeding Sir Julian Byng on June 9, 1917 two months after the Battle of Vimy Ridge.



**Byng and Currie**

Commanders in the First World War are often thought to have been heartless and incompetent. Not so in the case of Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Julian Byng, or the Canadian man who would eventually replace him, Sir Arthur Currie.

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**Our [YouTube](#) channel hosts over 180 short, Canadian military history documentaries. Check out this video today:**

### **Sir Arthur Currie (Video)**

General Sir Arthur Currie was a prominent Canadian figure in WWI. Some historians argue that he was, in fact, the best general during the Great War.

Watch this short video on Sir Arthur Currie by clicking [here](#) or the image.



**Please subscribe, like and share our videos [here](#)!**

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## WE NEED YOU!

Your support helps us to continue providing free resources for students and teachers across Canada.

Receive a free 1-year membership for each annual \$50 donation, which covers the cost of bringing 3 students to our in-museum program. Every donation helps us to continue to keep our services offered at no cost to those students.

**Please consider a donation to Valour Canada as part of your annual giving.**



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Thank you for reading!

Valour Canada

**Valour Canada**  
1820 24 St SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 0G6





**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
REMEMBRANCE DAY (NATIONALE DODENHERDENKING)  
AND  
LIBERATION DAY  
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS  
ST JULIEN SQUARE  
4 - 5 May 2024**



Remembering the service and sacrifice of our soldiers of the 28th Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) on the occasion of the annual Remembrance Day observance for the Kingdom of the Netherlands on May 4th and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on May 5<sup>th</sup>.



A wreath was placed at St Julien Square on behalf of the Regimental Family by Colonel Peter Bell, CD, and the Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, to mark these special days of Commemoration. Also, in attendance were Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond and Major (Ret'd) Don Bentley, CD.

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

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

Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
CHANGE OF COMMAND  
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S  
OWN)  
FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL VINCENT VIRK, CD  
TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ADAM BROWN, CD  
THE DRILL HALL  
4 MAY 2024**



The Regiment held a Change of Command Parade in grand style at the Drill Hall early in the afternoon of Saturday, 4 May 2024. It was a mild spring day in Vancouver and the ceremony was very well attended by the military and civilian community, cadets from 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC, friends and family and veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces.





39 CBG Commander, Colonel Scott Raesler, CD, promoted the Incoming CO to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel at a brief ceremony in the Officers' Mess immediately prior to the parade.







The programme included General Salutes for the Honorary Colonel, Farid Rohani, and the Reviewing Officer, Colonel Scott Raesler, Commander of 39 CBG, followed by an Inspection by the RO, a final March Past by the outgoing Commanding Officer, LCol Vincent Virk, the Change of Command proceedings and the signing of Certificates followed by the symbolic transfer of the CO's Sabre by the RO from the outgoing CO to the Incoming CO and the Transfer of the Guidon by Colonel Rohani from Colonel Virk to Colonel Brown.













LCol Virk piped off the parade by Pipe-Major Andrew Hayes

Speeches included the outgoing Commanding Officer's address, the Reviewing Officer's address, and the incoming Commanding Officer's address.















Mayor Sim arrived in time for the Roll Past



The programme concluded with a March Past with the new CO, an advance in Review Order and the departure of the RO and Dignitaries preceded by the customary General Salutes.





The Parade was concluded by an impressive Regimental Roll Past with a reception following in the Officers' Mess, where Colonel Peter Bell called for a minute of silence to be observed to remember the recent passing of our dear friend and colleague, LCol (Ret'd) David Sproule, CD.

We will remember him!

Our very best wishes and thank you to Lieutenant-Colonel Vince Virk for his exemplary leadership, service and commitment to the Regiment and the Regimental Family and our hearty congratulations to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Adam Brown! Kudos to the RSM, CWO Arnold Matibag, CD, for an excellent parade and to the BCR Association Brass and Reid Band and to Pipe Major Andre Hayes of the Vancouver Regiment Irish Pipes & Drums, for their excellent work! Thank you to Steve Ko for most of the amazing photographs.

Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY  
AND  
ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280  
4 MAY 2024**



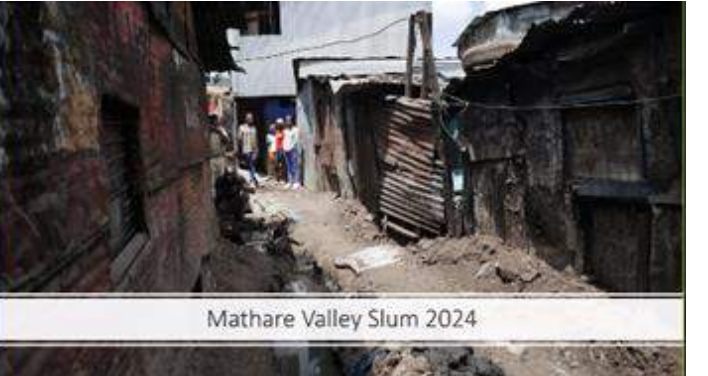
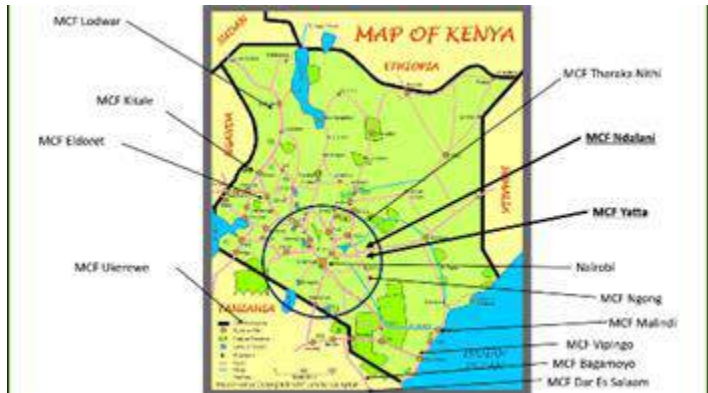
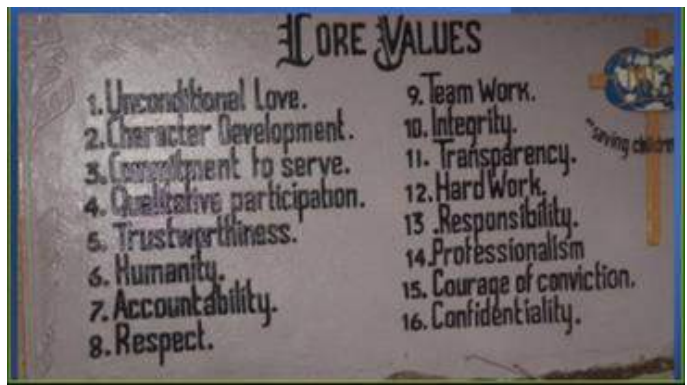
The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280 programme for the morning forum on ZOOM commenced with special guest speaker, the Reverend Captain (N) George Zimmerman, speaking on the topic of “Good news from the Cradle of Humanity, Mully Children’s Family,” an amazing presentation providing “an overview of the rescue, rehabilitation, and restoration wonder called Mully Children’s Family of Kenya”, a very successful, Christian, non-governmental facility located east of Nairobi, Kenya.



**MCF Highlights from 2024**

- Dr. Charles and Mother Esther
- MCF Mission and Vision Statement
- Sunday Presentation showing Talent development
  - Choirs, athletics, poetry and drum dance
- Mully Model Leadership Workshop
- Worship in a new precis
- The Graduation at MCF Yatta
  - Maasai, MCF Malindi, and Lilli
- A new Rescued arrival Salamai
- Stories of change
- Cynthia
- Amen

Prof Dr. Charles  
and  
Mother Esther







Malindi Grads

Balling the chapati on chapati Saturday



Maasai grads and families



Lilly



Morning Assembly Secondary School 2024

**Vision**

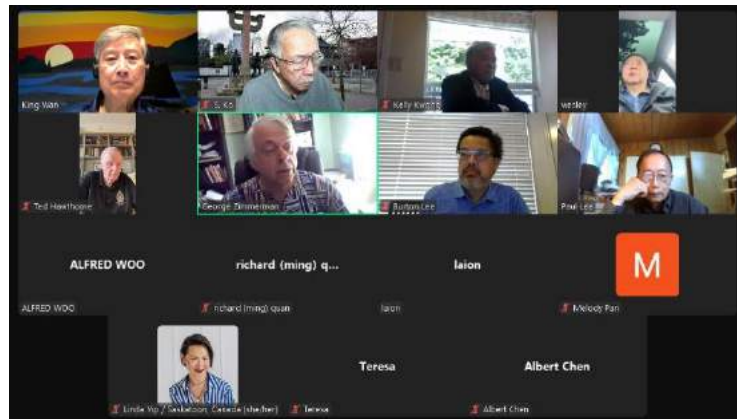
To see children, youth and marginalized members of the society lead dignified livelihood

Mully Children’s Family was founded by Dr. Charles Mutua Mully, a very successful businessman turned philanthropist. Captain Zimmerman, who originally spoke to us on 1 October 2022, provided an update on his recent two-month trip to Kenya in the early part of 2024.

Once again, the many members present thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. The host, King Wan, thanked Captain Zimmerman for his moving and touching presentation which was very well received by all members.



The regular business meeting of ANAVETS chaired by President King Wan, as the Chairman, followed the presentation. The regular business meeting of CCMMS with Teresa Mew in the chair concluded the morning's proceedings.



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

Reverend Captain (N) George Zimmerman profile:

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

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
FORMER HONORARY COLONEL ROD HOFFMEISTER,  
SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
11 MAY 2024**





The passing of our good friend and colleague, former Honorary Colonel Rod Hoffmeister, was very well remembered at a Celebration of Life Service held in the early afternoon of Saturday, 11 May 2024, at the Armoury of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in Vancouver.



The Order of Service included the Mounting of the Vimy Cross Guard, Words of Welcome by Reverend Julie Lees, the Opening Prayer by Captain, the Reverend Carla Wilks, Words of Remembrance by George Hungerford, Colonel Scott Raesler, Commander of 39 CBG, and sons Chris and Stephen Hoffmeister, The Last Post, a Lament and Rouse, a Moment of Silence, a Reading of Scripture by Captain Wilks, a Reflection and Prayer by Reverend Lees, a Benediction by Reverend Lees, the Dismount of the Vimy Guard and the Recessional.



A reception followed in the Officers' Mess, the Anderson Room, and the WOs' & Sgts' Mess where everyone remembered so many good times and accomplishments.



The Celebration of Life was very well attended by serving members of the CAF, veterans, family, and friends. Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond were in attendance and represented the Regiment and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, Regimental Secretary, represented the Regimental Family.



Thank you for your service and dedication, Rod. We will remember him.  
Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC  
79<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION DINNER  
AND  
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE NAVAL RESERVE IN  
VANCOUVER  
HMCS DISCOVERY  
4 MAY 2024**



Bridge from Stanley Park leading over to HMCS Discovery

Commander Rebecca Hardie, the Commanding Officer of HMCS Discovery, hosted the well attended Annual Battle of the Atlantic Dinner on the parade square of HMCS Discovery on Saturday, 4 May 2024.



The program for the evening included a reception, delicious dinner, excellent music by the Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA, traditional Naval Toasts, and an address by the keynote speaker and special guest, Commodore P.J. Montgomery, OMM, CD, Commander of Naval Reserve, who acknowledged the tremendous service and sacrifice of the personnel of the RCN, RCAF and Merchant Navy during the longest continuous battle of the Second World War.



The Commander of 39 CBG, Colonel Scott Raesler and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne were acknowledged during the course of Commodore Montgomery's address. Also, in attendance were BCR Major (Ret'd) Dan Thomas, CD, Manager Stakeholder Engagement Office Western Canada, Vancouver Garrison and our good friend and colleague, Commander (Ret'd) King Wan, President of ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280, and The Naval Association of B.C. The Regiment was recognized during the playing of the Military Marches by the Band when "I'm 95" was played!

Up the Dukes!



It was a grand evening enjoyed by all!

Bravo Zulu!

Special thanks to Steve Ko, ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280 and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society, for the superb photos!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY  
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, UNIT 119  
PORT MOODY, B.C.  
8 MAY 2024**



The service, dedication and sacrifice of the soldiers of the 28th Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) were remembered on the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day at the Memorial of The Royal Canadian Legion, Unit 119, in Port Moody, on a beautiful spring morning on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.



A Regimental Wreath and a Candle of Remembrance were placed at the foot of the Memorial on behalf of the Regimental Family, by the former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne.



Legion members were on site to share in the Act of Remembrance.

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

Up the Dukes!



**Editor's Note:** From last week's News we include an important photo from the 'Celebration of Life' gathering for former HCol Rod Hoffmeister at the Seaforth Armoury. It is a picture of many of the former Commanding Officers of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
PETER A. ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
15 MAY 2024**



As a follow up to The Allard Law Alumni Achievement Awards held on May 1<sup>st</sup> last at VIFF Centre, I was invited to the Peter A. Allard School of Law (“Allard Hall”) at The University of B.C. by the Alumni Association for a special tour of the facility, which was opened in 2011, replacing the structure that I was accustomed to as a graduate of the UBC Law School in 1971, i.e. old Army H-Huts from World War II.



Upon my arrival at Allard Hall, I was greeted at reception by Jennifer Regan, Alumni Relations Manager, Linda Foster, Associate Director, Development and Aarthi Kamatchinathan, Student Alumni Representative.







An appropriate description of Allard Hall is provided on its website, as follows:

“Allard Hall, home of the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia (UBC), creates a welcoming and inspiring learning, research and meeting place for students, faculty, staff and the wider legal community. When it opened in 2011, Allard Hall was the first purpose-built, all-new law building for a Canadian law school in 30 years. The facility is a beautiful, light-filled, four-storey, 141,000 square foot building with spacious, contemporary classrooms, dedicated group study rooms and abundant informal learning spaces. Allard Hall is situated on the north end of the UBC campus, offering stunning views of the Pacific Ocean and nearby Coastal mountains.”







Thank you once again to the Alumni Association Team for their excellent tour of Allard Hall. It was an exceptional experience for me after saying goodbye to my old Law School in May 1971.

## 29<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION MONUMENT AT PNE UPDATED WITH THE STORY OF WARTIME SERVICE



### Hastings Park and the PNE during The World Wars

With the outbreak of the Great War 1914-18, Hastings Park and the PNE became a location used for training. The agricultural and exhibition buildings, as well as the Hastings Race track, were adapted for use in order to train soldiers before they embarked to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) Overseas in France and Belgium.

The 29th Battalion and many other Battalions raised, trained, and quartered in at the PNE site are now perpetuated by the BC Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, 39 Canadian Engineer Regiment, 39 Service Battalion, and the 15 Field Regiment RCA.

The 29th Battalion CEF Monument, and this sign, stand near the point where the soldiers departed by train for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Once they left, they underwent further training in Britain, before joining the Canadian Corps on the Western Front in September 1915.

Hastings Park and the PNE buildings also proved useful locations for holding patriotic events and military parades. Troops were fed and housed in the agricultural buildings, and other buildings acted as classrooms and offices for the military.

**World War II**

Hastings Park and the PNE were again moved into service from 1939 to 1945 during World War II as a storage and training depot. The PNE's 1940 and 1941 Annual Fairs displayed military hardware and displays of marching and drills.

Following the attacks on Pearl Harbour and Hong Kong in December 1941 by Japanese forces, the site also became a temporary processing site in 1942 for more than 8,000 incarcerated Japanese Canadians.

The fairgrounds remained under control of the Department of National Defence from 1942 until 1946, compelling cancellation of the Annual PNE Fair during those years.




The 29th Battalion CEF in formation at Hastings Park in 1915. 1942 CEF soldiers during the 1942 PNE Fair. The building to the right is the old all-ages PNE Coliseum (see 1942).

We are pleased to report that the Pacific National Exhibition has recently erected a plaque near our 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion monument just across from the Pacific Coliseum's Ticket Office. The newly erected plaque tells the history of the PNE during both World Wars and is the culmination of LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett research and narrative, with the assistance of former HCol Ted Hawthorne. Our special thanks to Donald Lee, the management, and staff of the PNE for supporting the military history of both our Regiment and the units of British Columbia which trained at this site prior to deployments overseas.

Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE  
“THE KNIGHT IS YOUNG”  
2024 ASIA PACIFIC YOUTH COMPETITION GALA  
CONTINENTAL SEAFOOD RESTAURANT  
RICHMOND, B.C.  
17 MAY 2024**



The Gala officially commenced with a Special Greeting (video) by Dr. André M. Levesque, OMM, KStJ, OOnt, CD, Chancellor, the Priory of Canada of the Order of St. John, followed by many other dignitaries who greeted the full house of guests from St. John Ambulance and the wider community of supporters.



The evening's event was held in support of the St. John Ambulance Cadets who will be travelling to Hong Kong this summer "to take part in the Asia Pacific Youth Competition on July 26 – 30, 2024 to showcase their skills, exchange knowledge, and learn best practices from their peers from various countries. This competition will allow our youth to foster international connections within the spirit of service to humanity." The Team of Cadets will represent Canada and will compete against Cadets from five other nations.



The Gala was a complete success with an excellent ten course dinner thoroughly enjoyed by so many friends and colleagues. I was honoured to represent the Regimental Family, to be recognized in the Opening Remarks and to be seated at a table with fellow members of ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280 and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum.





(photo by Steve Ko)



(photo by Steve Ko)







(Photo by Steve Ko)



(Photo by Steve Ko)

Congratulations and well done to our friends at St. John Ambulance. Also, our very best wishes to the Cadet Team on their upcoming trip to Hong Kong.



**Editor's Note:** From our friend, LCol John Appleby, we received this publication from the PPCLI Association on the life and career of Major Michael George Levy.



Major Michael George Levy, Irish Fusiliers

In November 2003, the office of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, on behalf of the Government of Canada, granted a personal Coat of Arms to Major Michael George Levy in recognition of his distinguished service during the Korean War to his country and to his Regiment, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.



"I Have Prevailed" - Coat of Arms

Awarding this very unique and high honor to a Canadian soldier, so many years after his wartime service, represented not only belated recognition for Major Levy of his heroic actions during the infamous Korean War battle of KAPYONG, but also of his distinguished military service during two wars and many peacetime conflicts throughout which, and as the Motto to his Coat of Arms reads, "I HAVE PREVAILED".

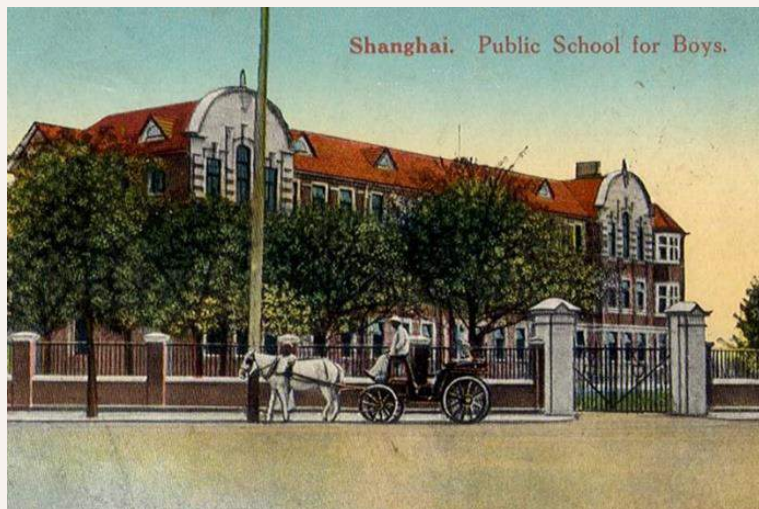
## BORN IN BOMBAY - RAISED IN SHANGHAI

The life of Michael George Levy has been a journey rich with adventure, adversity and survival. Major Levy was born in 1925 in Bombay, India, the first born to his parents, George and Sophie, who traveled frequently throughout Asia and the Middle East. George Levy eventually settled his family in Shanghai, China where Major Levy, his brother Albert, and sisters Emma and Katie spent most of their childhood years. Growing up within the International Settlement of Shanghai during the twenties and thirties was an extremely exciting period.



6-Months Old with Mother Sophie

Major Levy attended the Shanghai Public School for Boys and was as an active YMCA member and Boy Scout, achieving King Scout status and winning many athletic awards in soccer, swimming, boxing, rugby and roller skating.



Shanghai Public School for Boys



In December 1941 the Japanese Army attacked and occupied Shanghai. As a British subject and at the age of 16, Major Levy was arrested by the Japanese, placed in the Pootung Internment Camp and subsequently transferred in 1943 to the Lungwha Civil Assembly Camp (depicted in the Steven Spielberg movie "Empire of the Sun"). On the night of May 22, 1944, Major Levy and four colleagues escaped from Lungwha and set off on a harrowing 2000-mile journey on foot and by junk through occupied China, evading the Japanese for nearly two months and eventually making their way to Kunming where the RAF flew them "over the hump" and to freedom in India.



Group of 5 Escapees from Lungwha Posing with Chinese Guerilla Commander:  
Reg Uhlich, Michael Levy, Tom Huxley, Chinese General, Roy Scott, Louis Murray Kidd

In 1992 the remarkable story of their escape was the subject of a Thames Television documentary in Great Britain, "Across the Jade Divide", which was also featured on the American PBS television Adventure Series.

### **WORLD WAR II – SOE FORCE 136**

Once in India, Major Levy was recruited by the British Army's elite Special Operations Executive, "SOE", Force 136. With his knowledge of Chinese culture and ability to speak the language, he was sent to Poona and Jessore for specialized training in industrial sabotage, guerilla warfare and parachuting. Given the wartime rank of Captain and at the age of 19 he was placed as second in command of the Force 136 "Galvanic Brown" Patrol Liaison Team, which on April 22, 1945, was flown by Dakota on a 11 hour flight from Ceylon and dropped behind enemy lines in the Malayan jungle north of Kuala Lumpur where they operated until the Japanese final surrender in November 1945.



Force 136 Team - Kuala Lumpur, Malaya 1945

Major Levy received a Mention In Dispatches "MiD" for his bravery in one of Force 136's engagements at Salak South. In the MiD citation, his commanding officer described him as "a young chap with previous experience in a recent escape from internment in China ... full of guts and really at his happiest when Japs or Puppets were reported in the vicinity ... deserves full praise when he led his men with flying colours." The wartime exploits of Force 136 were immortalized in the Oscar winning film "Bridge On The River Kwai".



Major Levy Medals

Following the end of the war, Major Levy was attached as an investigator to the War Crimes Tribunal in Hong Kong and Singapore where he served until 1948, at which time he took his voluntary discharge from



the British Army. Having learned a great deal about Canada from several of the Chinese Canadian soldiers he served with in Force 136, Major Levy decided to emigrate to Canada and helped to re-locate his family from Shanghai to join him in Vancouver.

### EMIGRATION TO CANADA

Once in Vancouver Major Levy tried his entrepreneurial hand at owning and managing a small restaurant. Although the fish and chip restaurant was not a huge success, the experience gained and particularly the people he met certainly were – he courted and married his favorite customer, a local girl, Marjorie Edith Arthur. They went on to have a daughter and 3 sons.



Wedding Day 1951

While a civilian in post-war Vancouver, Major Levy maintained his military involvement by parading with the local militia regiment, the Irish Fusiliers of Canada. At the outbreak of the Korean War, Major Levy sold his restaurant and answered Ottawa's call in 1950 for a volunteer Canadian Army Special Force to assist in the United Nation's effort to push back the Communist invasion of South Korea. He joined the newly created 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), was sent for training to Fort Lewis, Washington and flew on to Tokyo on his way to Korea as the Battalion Intelligence Officer to Lieutenant-Colonel JR Stone.



Levy Departing Tokyo

## **KOREAN WAR and BATTLE OF KAPYONG**

The 2nd Battalion arrived by troop ship in Pusan, South Korea in December 1950 and just two months later the Princess Patricias were committed to battle as part of the 27th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. In late April, the Patricia's and the then Lieutenant Levy, commanding 10 Platoon, found themselves in a defensive position controlling the hills along a strategic section of the Kap'yong river valley.

On April 21 the North Koreans aided by the 60th Chinese Infantry Division, employing some 600,000 soldiers, launched a massive offensive thrust against American and UN troops with the objective of breaking through allied lines and capturing the South Korean capital city of Seoul. The evening of April 25, 1951 heralded the start of what many military historians have characterized as "Canada's most memorable battle of the Korean War" – it has become known simply as KAPYONG, and Major Levy's pivotal role in the outcome of this historic battle has become legendary.

Having successfully attacked several allied positions in the days leading up to April 25, the Patricia's were situated on vital remaining hilltop positions that prevented the enemy from achieving their final breakthrough. Throughout the evening of the 25th the Chinese attacked the Patricia's. As well-defended Canadian positions initially held out, it became evident that the overwhelming number of enemy attackers in what "could only be described as suicide attacks" could soon overrun the Patricia's. Major Levy had been directing his 10 Platoon against wave after wave of attackers – options for his survival and those of his men had been reduced to withdrawal or call for friendly artillery fire on top of his own position to drive away the enemy. He chose to stand and fight and radioed the Company commander for close-in support and directed the ensuing artillery and mortar fire on his own position ("Danger Close") – an estimated 4500 rounds were delivered upon and around 10 Platoon that night. The resulting fire storm inflicted tremendous casualties to the enemy and caused them to withdraw in defeat.





Treated by Medic for Shrapnel ... With Captured Chinese Machine Gun



Discussing Operations With Brigadier Rockingham

"A summary of the actions of Major Levy at Kapyong is taken from the splendid book revealing the 2nd Battalion's experience in Korea "BEYOND THE DANGER CLOSE", authored by Hub Gray (Capt ret'd):

*“Ten Platoon and D Company were fortunate to have had an officer of Levy’s experience and calm manner..... Levy is a very understated individual, with strong powers of observation. At times his ‘silence’ of observation unnerves those around him. At Kapyong, in a situation that can only be described as frantic life or death battle, Levy demonstrated his capabilities under the most trying of conditions. In the heat of the battle he called upon artillery to impact on his own position. His accuracy was impeccable, “pin pointing” the impact so it would not annihilate his own badly outnumbered and beleaguered men.*

*With his strong presence of mind he gave a unique order to the artillery; not for so many rounds, but to fire on a continuous basis. This was necessitated by the unrelenting suicidal attacks of Chinese soldiers thrown at his position. Totally without regard for his own safety he moved continuously over open ground to where he could be most effective. Levy exposed himself to the fusillade of thrusting fire from enemy burp guns, machine guns and mortars. Private Walker attests to the impact Levy’s equanimity had on his men in a time of high tension and shattering nerves.”*

Toronto Sun Newspaper Columnist and PPCLI Korean War Veteran, Peter Worthington, has written that *“when I was a soldier in Korea, how Levy fought his platoon was inspiring and the stuff of legends. I’d say Levy was the ideal Platoon commander who, arguably, may have saved Seoul.”*

In 1991 the PPCLI in Winnipeg celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong. To mark the occasion, a painting of the battle was presented to the Regiment and following a traditional Trooping of The Colours ceremony a speech was read from Lady Patricia, the Regiment’s Colonel and Chief. It read in part *“Michael Levy – on behalf of the Veterans of Kapyong –I salute you..... the courageous defense of Kapyong conducted by Lieutenant Michael G. Levy and the men of 10 Platoon, is an inspiration to all Patricias”.*



2nd Battalion PPCLI

For their *“extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of combat duties in action against the armed enemy near KAPYONG”*, the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry was awarded the prestigious United States Presidential Unit Citation. The PPCLI was the only Canadian unit to have ever received this award.





United Nations Service ... Korea Medal ... Volunteer Service Medal



### POST-WAR MILITARY SERVICE & RETIREMENT

Following his return to Canada and his marriage to Marjorie, Major Levy stayed in the Army and went on to serve in various battalion positions with the PPCLI in Calgary, Germany, Edmonton and Victoria. During this period he spent one year in Vietnam as part of the International Commission for Supervision and Control and did a tour in Cyprus as the deputy commander of Canada's peacekeeping operations there.



Special Service - NATO ... ICCS Vietnam ... UN Cyprus



Major George Levy With Lt. Governor George Pearkes (Victoria 1960)





Major George Levy With Lord Louis Mountbatten (Edmonton 1964)



Major George Levy At Vimy Ridge Memorial, France 1963

In 1968 Major Levy was selected to attend the prestigious United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia. Following graduation, he was posted to Washington, D.C. where he spent two years as a member of the Canadian Defense Liaison Staff in the U.S. capital.

In 1971 Major Levy moved into the military intelligence directorate at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa where he managed the China desk. After a distinguished 25 year career, Major Levy retired in 1974 from the Canadian Armed Forces and settled in Vancouver. He worked for the Federal Departments of External Affairs and Public Works until his final retirement in 1986. In his retirement years both he and Marjorie remained active as dedicated "Greencoat" volunteers at Vancouver International Airport.

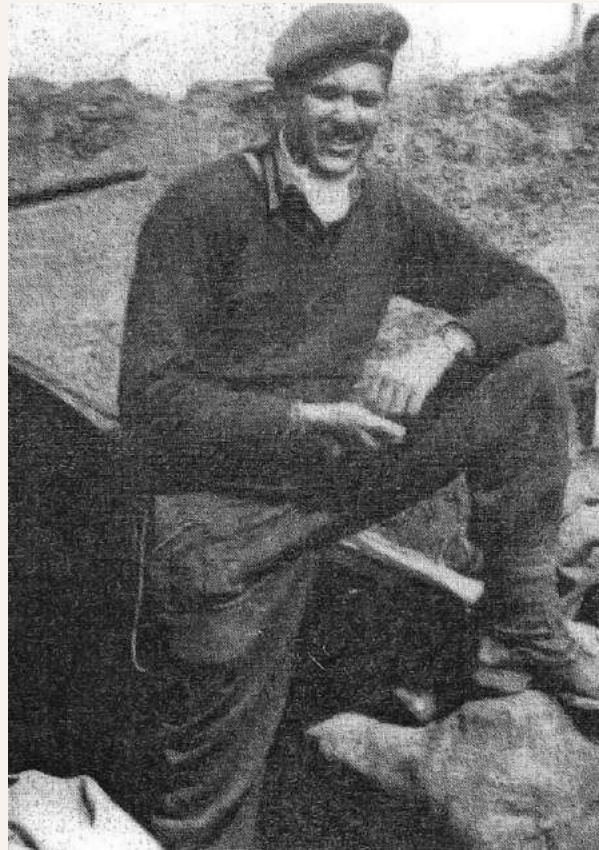


Canadian Peacekeeping Medal ... Canadian Forces Decoration - CD and BAR





Parliament Buildings, Ottawa 1995



Lt. Hub Gray - Mortar Platoon

*Author and veteran of the KOREAN WAR, Lt. Hub Gray, as a young Lieutenant, with sixteen men and eight machine guns, engaged 500 enemy troops in the Battle of KAPYONG. His publication called "BEYOND THE DANGER CLOSE," THE KOREAN EXPERIENCE REVEALED, contains references to Lt. Mike Levy, 10 Platoon, D Company, 2 PPCLI, during the battle.*

*Following are excerpts from his book:*

Page 111: "Let the Bastards Come!" At this time, on Levy's order the 16 RNZA launch a barrage that will last for 40 minutes. The New Zealand artillery alone delivered 2,300 shells to descend upon and around 10 Platoon. When the order reaches Moore, the Battery Commander 16 RNZA, at Patricia's Tactical HQ, he questions Levy's order. "But that is your own position." The answer comes back immediately - "Yes, my Sunray wants it now!"

Lieut. Richard Coote, 16 RNZA Forward Observation Officer, advises: "At a distance of 7,000 yards the 24 guns cover a front as long as a football field and to a depth of 50 yards." For Levy to bring the mean point of

impact to within 15 - 20 yards of his position meant that he was ordering the fire to descend directly on his men. This was a calculated and necessary risk that Levy took. To issue an order of this nature in the face of a charging enemy requires the cool nerve of an experienced, confident, and gutsy officer.

Page 112: The Australian's official history of their army in Kore describes Levy's defensive fire order for continuous firing as "...a rare and possibly unique order...given to the New Zealand Field Regiment; the guns to engage at a designated rate of fire rather than as so many rounds. In an area 150 - 200 meters across. It was repeated on several occasions" Captain Porter, Adjutant 16 RNZA, writing in "Duty First," "In training they often referred to firing on one's own troops, but this was for real!" Porter, after about 15 minutes, halved the rate of fire in support of 10 Platoon to conserve rapidly depleting ammunition. The Chinese, ignoring their increasing casualties, take advantage of the lessening artillery and are pouring through the slower rate of fire. Levy orders the fire to be doubled. The American Variable Time fuses inflict heavy casualties. The noise is deafening.

Page 113: Levy, directing the defensive supporting fire, is continually moving from sector to sector, over open ground, to encourage his men. The reserve section is out of ammunition and 50 % of his two forward sections are wounded. Casualties are evacuated to the reserve section and replacements are brought forward. One soldier, a recent reinforcement, refuses to go forward. Crying, he is curled up in a foetal position at the bottom of his slit and no amount of persuasion or orders can mobilize him. Levy has a dozen extra grenades and during the night he moves about distributing them sparingly, exhausting his supply.

— Jack Bates  
PPCLI Association  
Victoria Branch

## **COMMANDING OFFICER'S PARADE STAND DOWN PARADE THE DRILL HALL VANCOUVER, B.C. 22 MAY 2024**

By: Lieutenant Desmond Wong, Troop Leader







This Wednesday evening marked the last parade night of the training year and the first CO's Parade of LCol Adam Brown. As such, the Regiment celebrated and recognized Dukes with promotions and annual awards for their performance throughout the year.

Promoted to the rank of Corporal:

- Cpl Karlis Birzneck
- Cpl Cody Warrington



The following individuals were presented awards:

- **Col Bryan Gagne Trophy (Top Junior Officer):** Lt Desmond Wong



- **LCol A.F. Lungley Trophy (Top Armoured Trooper):** Cpl Dane Smith



- **BGen Arthur G. Chubb Trophy (Top Crew):** Sgt Kevin Zhou, MCpl Ken Wu, Cpl Maxwell Peacock, Cpl Karlis Birzneck, Cpl Hadi Fawaz





- **Sgt Mark Salessé Drill Cane (Top Master Corporal):** MCpl Colin Vanthournout (Absent this day as he was on tasking)



- **Sgt Pierangelo Dalmagro Trophy (Top Senior NCO):** Sgt Gabriel St-Jean



- **Pte Walter Stevenson Memorial Trophy (Top Instructor):** MCpl Trim Zherka Couture – **Van Heerden Trophy and Roman Helmen (Most Physically Fit):** Lt Gordon Carnevale



- **7th Bn Association – BCR – Marksperson Trophy (Top Shot C7):** Cpl William Upton



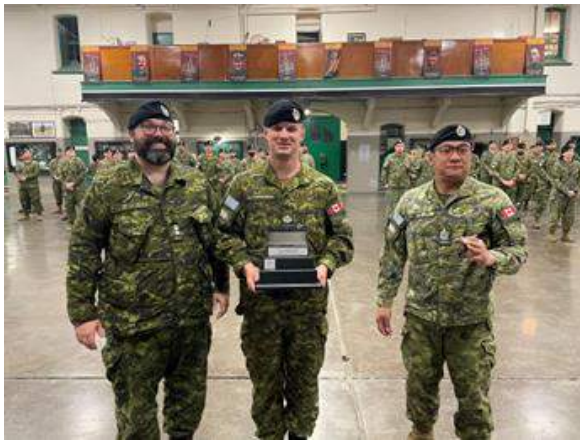
- **Top Gunner Trophy (Top Shot TAPV DRWS):** MCpl Neil Sutherland



- **CO's Coin for Unit Civic Volunteer Award:** Cpl Iqbal Athwal







The parade ended with the Commanding Officer addressing the troops on what to expect for the next year in terms of training and deployment opportunities.

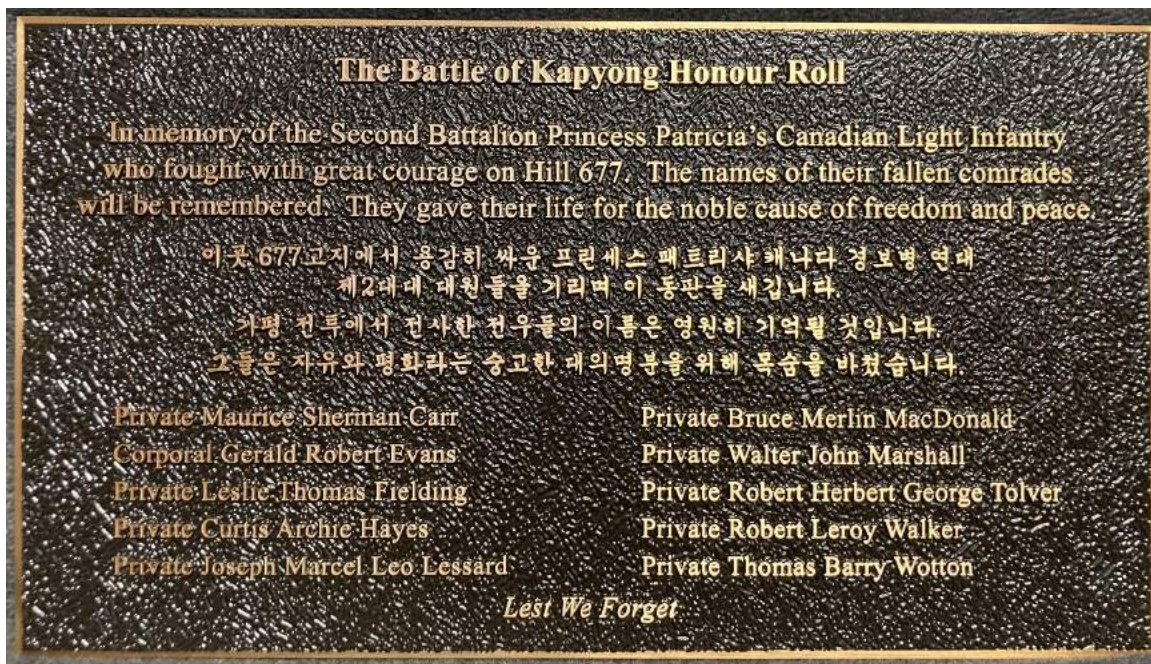
**Editor's Note:** I did my best to identify the award winners. My apologies for any errors on recipients, but our congratulations to all.





Also in attendance were Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, and Padre Christopher Pappas.

## NEW MEMORIAL HONOURS CANADIAN KOREAN WAR VETERANS



By Guy Black

The battle of Kapyong took place between April 22 to April 25, 1951. It is a legendary feat of arms that for the Korean War, stands next to the triumph of Vimy Ridge and the D-Day Landings.

In April 1951, the Chinese People's Volunteer Army launched their Spring offensive. They advanced Southward pushing aside anyone who stood in their way until they reached the Kapyong River Valley. They were met by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal Australian Regiment who fought hard until their ammunition had nearly run out and many of their men lay dead or wounded.

The men of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, were the last barrier standing between the enemy and South Korea's capital city, Seoul. They stood alone, entrenched on hill 677 at the



foot of the valley. It was roughly 700 men against 5,000. The odds were weighed heavily against Lieutenant Colonel Stone's battalion. The Canadians fought gallantly until the enemy gave up.

After the battle, the Patricia's counted their dead which numbered 10, and 23 soldiers were wounded. One man who died on the hill was Corporal Gerald Evans who was from British Columbia. Another man was Robert Tolver, who is reported to have rushed back to rescue Evans who had been severely wounded in his legs and could not walk. The next morning their bodies were rolled in blankets, neither survived. The Canadian Embassy in Seoul, and its Commonwealth allies with the support of Gapyeong (kapyong) County, host an annual service of remembrance every year in April. Throughout the area there are memorials to each nation who participated in the battle. There is a large Canadian monument, and a hiking trail up Hill 677. The trail leads hikers to a Korean style pagoda appropriately named "Canada House". I was fortunate to visit South Korea last year. During my visit, I trekked up the very steep dirt trail that winds its way up and along the ridgeline. It's unimaginable how anyone could fight on that steep sided expansive feature. After visiting the Canadian Memorial and Canada House, I noticed something was missing. There was no Honour Roll. When I returned home, I decided to dig deeply into my empty wallet, and after much discussion with the Canadian Embassy in Seoul, I commissioned the making of a bronze honour roll plaque. This project to make an Honour Roll took 7 months to complete. It involved countless changes and corrections to the text which required sending every revision back to Korea for proof reading and translation into the Korean language. Samples of the proposed wording were also provided to the Canadian Embassy and Gapyeong County for their approval. The Honour Roll is written in English and Korean, and proudly displays the names of the ten men from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion PPCLI who died in the battle of Kapyong. The bronze memorial plaque was cast in Richmond and is now in South Korea with the Canadian Embassy, who with the collaboration of Gapyeong County, will install it next to Canada House on Hill 677.

Guy Black,  
Honorary Citizen of Gapyeong County, South Korea  
Recipient of the Medal of Civil Merit, South Korea

This Is BC: B.C. man keeps memory of fallen heroes alive | Watch News Videos Online

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ANNUAL CEREMONIAL REVIEW  
2827 BCR (PORT MOODY) RCACC  
MOODY MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PORT MOODY, B.C.  
26 MAY 2024**





The Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Farid Rohani, was the Reviewing Officer at this year's Annual Ceremonial Review of 2827 BCR (DCO) (Port Moody) RCACC ("2827 BCR") held at the Moody Middle



School in Port Moody in the early afternoon of Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Over thirty cadets, including colour party, were present. The cadets were well turned out for inspection by the Reviewing Party. The Cadet Corps performed well and their drill was noteworthy. The awards, promotions and presentations segment of the program was impressive.







Regimental Association Members in attendance were the Vice President, Scott Hamilton, Roger (Past President) and Louise Prouse and the Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne. The Commanding Officer of 2827 BCR, Captain Dean McLennan, complimented the Cadets, the CIC Officers, the Support Committee, parents and volunteers.



Congratulations 2827 BCR and well done!

Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
THE GUILD OF WAGGONEERS AND ARTIFICERS  
GUILD PATRONS' GALA  
HMCS DISCOVERY  
DEADMAN'S ISLAND, STANLEY PARK  
25 MAY 2024**



The Guild of Waggoners and Artificers held its annual Guild Patrons' Dinner in the Chief and Petty Officers' Mess of HMCS Discovery on Saturday evening, May 25<sup>th</sup>.





The well attended event included several special guests: the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of 39 Service Battalion, Alexa Loo, the Commanding Officer of 39 Service Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Anh Foort, former RCMP Deputy Commissioner for Western Canada and the North, Peter German, KC, PhD, Chief Superintendent, Richmond Detachment of the RCMP, Dave Chauhan, Richmond Fire Chief Jim Wishlove, Jerymy Brownridge, Private Secretary to her Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C., Janet Austin, Honorary Patron of the Guild, Honorary Colonels Karen Baker-MacGrotty ("Westies"), Bill Rodgers (15<sup>th</sup> Field, RCA), and Ted Hawthorne (BCR), Commander (Ret'd) King Wan (President of NABC and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280), the Director of the Seaforth Museum, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Rod Bell-Irving and special Guest Speaker for the evening, Sam Sullivan, CM, former Mayor of the City of Vancouver and Honorary Major, BCR.







The evening's extensive program featured the play throughout by a sextet from the Band of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA, a solo performance by a member of the JP Fell Pipe Band, a standout performance by Highland Dancers and one of their "Sailors", an impressive Silent Auction and Draw segment, an excellent dinner, traditional toasts, short speeches and a unit march component.



Congratulations to our friends at the Guild and kudos for providing "educational and charitable support to soldiers, military families, veterans, cadets, Indigenous communities and civilians across B.C." and support to the 39 Service Battalion. "In 2024, the Guild is commemorating the heroism of Canadians in the

Liberation of Northwest Europe in 1944-1945, including Canada's first-ever large-scale humanitarian mission – 'Operation Faust' ". Alison MacLean, Documentarian, Tomboy Digital Productions, spoke on the upcoming documentary on **Op Faust** to be released later on this year.



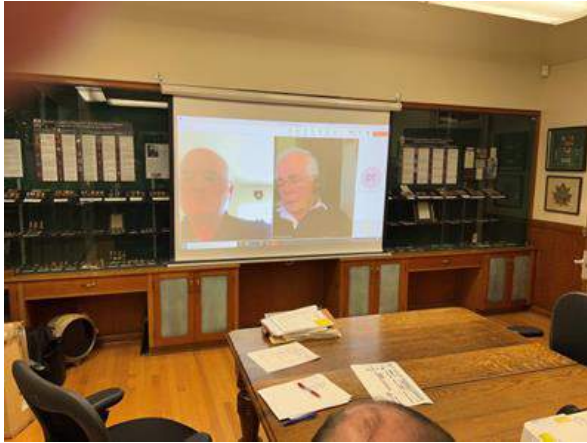
Our congratulations and best wishes to our friends at the Guild for their exceptional dedication and service!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
CO'S COMMITTEE AND REGIMENTAL TRUST MEETINGS  
THE DRILL HALL  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
22 MAY 2024**





The May meeting of the BCR Commanding Officer's Committee was held in person and virtually via MS Teams in the late afternoon of Wednesday, May 22nd. 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, the President of the BCR Museum, Bill Whalen, the Cadet Governor, LCol (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, the Band Governor, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, the Regimental Secretary, Ted Hawthorne, the Report of the BCR Trust, by Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, and the Commanding Officer's Update, by Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Brown, who provided a thorough review of the training year with a Unit Command Snapshot, at his first meeting of the Committee as the Commanding Officer of the Regiment.



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 their continuing support of the Regiment.

Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY  
ROBERT MOLES VETERANS PARK  
ALLIED VETERANS MEMORIAL  
AVENUE OF THE FLAGS,  
FERNDALE, WASHINGTON  
27 MAY 2024**



At the invitation of Ravi Gill, USMC S/Sgt (Ret'd), a good friend of the Regimental Family, the former Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Ted Hawthorne, attended the moving Ceremony of Remembrance held in the early afternoon at the Allied Veterans Memorial on Monday, 27 May 2024.











As part of the ceremony, Ted placed a wreath in remembrance of the service and sacrifice of our Fallen allies of the US Armed Forces, on behalf of the Regimental Association.







Many thanks to Colonel (Ret'd) Wes Weston, USMC, the Master of Ceremonies, the CAP Cadets, Ravi Gill and his family and to our friends in the American Veterans' Community for their friendship, support, and hospitality.



We will remember them!

Up the Dukes!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ROYAL VANCOUVER YACHT CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON  
29 MAY 2024**



The Naval Association of British Columbia (“NABC”) held its Annual General Meeting of members in the late morning of Wednesday, 29 May 2024, at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club.





The new Board of Directors and Officers were duly elected by the membership for the 2023 – 2024 term, as follows:

- President - King Wan
- Vice President - Mark Fletcher
- Vice President – David Reese
- Secretary - John Nosotti
- Treasurer - Arthur Hastings
- Membership - Lynn Harrison
- Webmaster - Bob McIlwaine
- Dog Watch Editor - Bob White
- Director - Sergio Calado
- Social Committee - King Wan, Mark Fletcher, Jody Doll, Sergio Calado

Congratulations to the newly elected Directors and Officers of NABC and thank you for your on-going service to our community, both military and civilian!





The Annual General Meeting was followed by a delicious luncheon with camaraderie all around!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SEASPAN, VANCOUVER SHIPYARDS  
NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.  
29 MAY 2024**



Members of the Naval Association of British Columbia (“NABC”) were given a first class tour of the Seaspan, Vancouver Shipyards facility, on Wednesday afternoon, 29 May 2024.





Seaspan is building large non-combat vessels for the Canadian Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Navy under Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy ("NSS").







The tour group was escorted by members of the RCN and were provided with a thorough tour of the future HMCS Preserver (completion in 2027) and HMCS Protector (completion November 2024).



As stated in Seaspan's information posting:

“Seaspan Shipyards is proud to be Canada's long-term, strategic shipbuilding partner for the Canadian Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Navy under the NSS. The NSS is a nation-building effort to create a sustainable Canadian shipbuilding industry, secure long-term job opportunities and build the next generation of ships for the Canadian Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Navy. Through its NSS-related work, Seaspan Shipyards is leading the redevelopment of our domestic shipbuilding industry on the West Coast and delivering on the promise of ships built in Canada, by Canadians.”



Our many thanks to Seaspan and our RCN Tour Guides for the most informative and thorough tour!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ANNUAL CEREMONIAL REVIEW  
3300 BCR (BHAJ KANHAIYA) RCACC  
GOBIND SARVAR SCHOOL (FLEETWOOD)  
SURREY, B.C.  
30 MAY 2024**



The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ceremonial Review of 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC ("3300 BCR") was held in the gymnasium at the Gobind Sarvar School on 160<sup>th</sup> Street in Surrey, before a full house of families and friends, special guests and supporters of the Unit.





The Reviewing Officer was Commander Paula McHale, CD, the Commanding Officer of the Regional Cadet Support Unit Pacific.

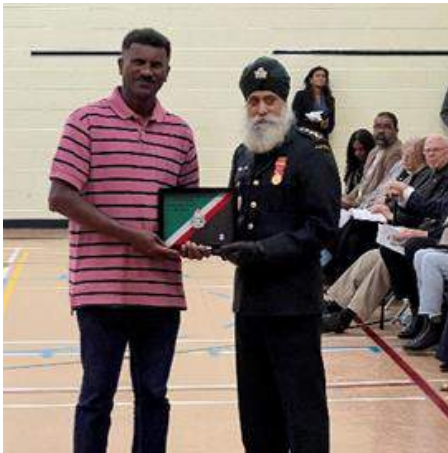




The Parade Commander was C/RSM C/MWO Jasleen Mangat. The Cadet Corps was well turned out with well over 50 cadets on parade, complete with an impressive Colour Party.











The awards segment of the programme was extensive and included many presentations by numerous dignitaries, including Commander McHale, the Commanding Officer, Captain Karm Nagra, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, Major Manjeet Vinning, National President of the Army Cadet League of Canada, Cathy Bach, B.C. President of the Army Cadet League of Canada, BC Branch, Christine Alexander, Palvinder Kundan, Chair of the Support Committee, Director-at-Large Sandra Young and Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel, Ted Hawthorne. Lt. Harminder Palak, Training Officer, was the Master of Ceremonies of the very successful Annual Ceremonial Review.



Other BCRs in attendance included the Commanding Officer of 2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC, Dil Pangalia, and the Past President of the Regimental Association, Gayle Hawthorne.



After the group photograph was taken, a reception followed which was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.





Congratulations 3300 BCR and well done!

June

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY  
AND  
ANAVETS, PACIFIC UNIT NO. 280  
1 JUNE 2024**

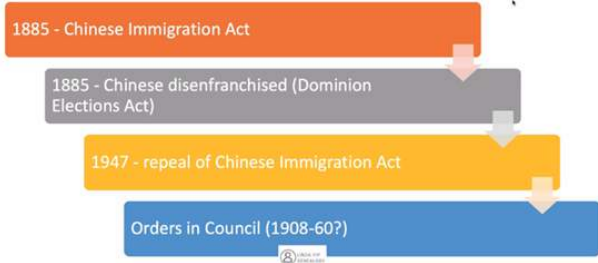




what we're talking about today

- Why did Canada need a national museum of Chinese Canadian history?
- Why choose Wing Sang?
- Who built Wing Sang and why is he important?
- How a museum comes into being

### The anti-Chinese legal framework (Canada & the US)

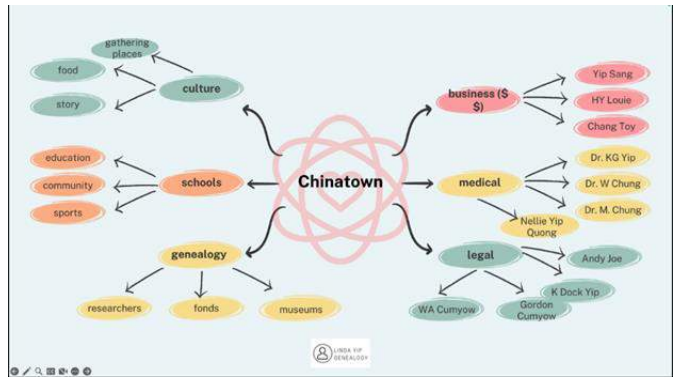
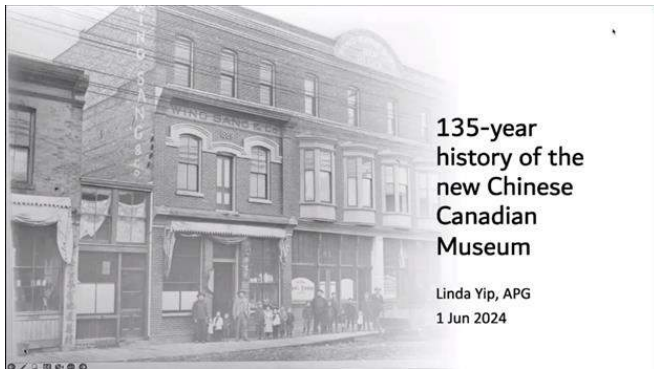


### Chinese Immigration Certificate #45 - Canadian born Chinese

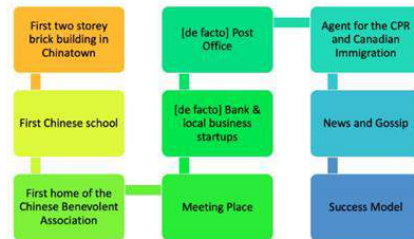
- Yip Wing See
- b. July 1922 in Vancouver, BC, Canada



Canada, Department of Immigration and Colonization, Chinese Immigration Service Branch, C.I. 45 No. 16313, Yip Wing See, image scanned from the original. © Yip Family Archives, all rights reserved.



### What was Wing Sang to the community?







Yip Sang (1845-1927) 葉生, 葉春田



- Advocate, Leader, Spokesperson
- Founder
- Philanthropist
- Progenitor



[Photo of a wedding], 21 Sep 1946, Vancouver, BC, Canada, photo of the wedding of Yip Kew Art and Molly Luani Mar. 51-69 East Pender Street, privately held by Linda Yip, Saskatoon, SK in the Molly Yip fonds.



[Photo of Wing Sang store], abt. 1920s, Vancouver, BC, Canada, photo of [Yip Kew Mow] and [unknown] working in the storefront at the Wing Sang Company, 51-69 East Pender Street, privately held by Linda Yip, Saskatoon, SK in the Dick and Yvette Yip fonds.



[Photo of a party], abt. 1940s, Vancouver, BC, Canada, photo of a dance party, 51-69 East Pender Street, privately held by Linda Yip, Saskatoon, SK in the Dick and Yvette Yip fonds.

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (“CCMMS”) and ANAVETS, Pacific Unit # 280 (“ANAVETS”), programme for the morning forum on ZOOM featured special guest speaker, Linda Yip, APG, genealogist, speaking on the topic of the 133 year history of the Wing Sang Building and the official opening (with much fanfare) of the new Chinese Canadian Museum, which took place on 1 July 2023. “It was a momentous occasion for Canada and the Chinese Canadian community”. Linda outlined the history of the building, built in 1889, and used as a store, warehouse, family complex and the focal point of much of the community activity in Chinatown during the Exclusion Era. Members were provided with details of the legal framework and of the necessity of community, complete with many stories of resilience. After the Q & A segment, King Wan thanked Linda for her very informative and comprehensive presentation.



Following the guest speaker, ANAVETS continued and completed its meeting and CCMMS held its regular monthly business meeting immediately thereafter. The meetings were very well attended and included many informative updates for the members with respect to the various projects and activities of each organization. The meeting for ANAVETS was chaired by President King Wan, and the meeting of CCMMS was chaired by President, Retired Judge Randall “Bud” 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  
D-DAY MESS DINNER - 39 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENT  
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J.P. FELL ARMOURY  
NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.  
1 JUNE 2024**





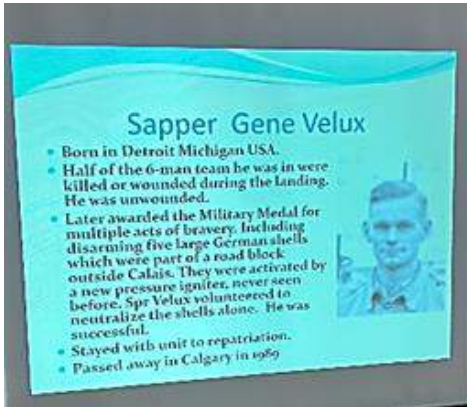
The annual D-Day Dinner, commemorating the landings of 6 Field RCE, The Royal Winnipeg Rifles, The Royal Regina Rifles and The Canadian Scottish (Princess Mary's) on D-Day, 6 June 1944, was held at the Lieutenant-Colonel J.P. Fell Armoury in North Vancouver on Saturday, 1 June 2024. The Mess Dinner was hosted by the Commanding Officer of 39 CER, Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Piers, and the A/RSM, MWO Mader, and was well attended by serving members and guests.



The attendees were treated to an excellent reception and dinner and were feted by the play of the JP Fell Pipe Band and a quintet from the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA. BCRs present were the Honorary



Lieutenant-Colonel, Bill Diamond, Lieutenant-Colonels Paul Lindsay and Vincent Virk, Major Adam McLeod, Brigade Sergeant Major, CWO Tony Harris, Kevin Bracewell, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne and our very good friend of the Regimental Family, Mike Roselli, Vancouver College Alumni.



An excellent dinner was enjoyed by all along with the traditional toasts, short speeches and Military Marches acknowledging the unit affiliation of the attendees.





Many thanks to our friends at 39 CER and, in particular, to the unit's Museum President, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel, Bill Diamond, for the great hospitality!

Chimo!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
THE 121<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CEREMONIAL REVIEW  
2290 BCR (101 DCOR) RCACC  
THE DRILL HALL  
2 June 2024**



The 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Ceremonial Review (“ACR”) of 2290 BCR was held at The Drill Hall on Sunday afternoon, 2 June 2024.







The Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment, Bill Diamond, was the Reviewing Officer and the Parade Commander was RSM C/CWO Eva Yarantseva. Lt Harminder Palak was the Aide-de-Camp to the RO.



The Unit, complete with Flag Party with Cadets from 2381 BCR (Irish Fusiliers) RCACC and 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC, with over 40 Cadets on parade, was very well turned out and their dress, drill and deportment were excellent. Other BCRs in attendance included Vice President Scott Hamilton, Directors Graydon and Sandra Young, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne, and



Past Present Gayle Hawthorne. Captain Jordon Laing, Training/Admin Officer, was the Master of Ceremonies, and Lt Roger Wong. Training/Admin Officer was the Sound System/Parade Coordinator.



In his RO address, Colonel Diamond, complimented and acknowledged the contributions of the Cadets, the Commanding Officer, Captain Dil Pangalia, his Officers and Staff, the Sponsoring Committees, Volunteers and Parents/Guardians. The RO also acknowledged the support of the Regimental Association and the Charitable Trust to 2290 BCR. In his superb address to the Cadets and the Cadet Family, the CO echoed the comments of Colonel Diamond and congratulated the Cadets for a remarkable year of accomplishments and good times!

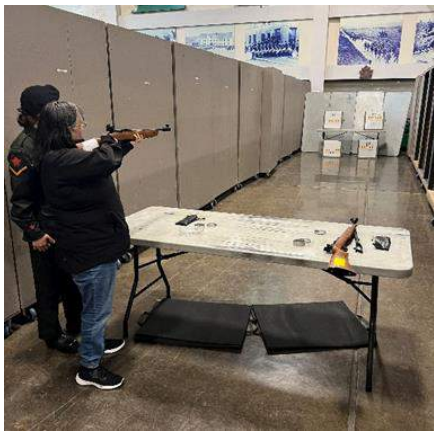






A reception followed the parade, demonstrations, and award presentations.





Many thanks to the Cadets, CIC Officers, Volunteers and Sponsoring Committee for their great work!



Congratulations 2290 BCR for an excellent ACR!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
A SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF “GINO, A CHILD OF WAR”  
IL CENTRO, ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
2 JUNE 2024**



IL CENTRO ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

IS PROUD TO PRESENT

a ROBERT CURTIN film

**GINO:  
A CHILD OF  
WAR**

Saturday, June 2nd  
7:00 pm

Exclusive Q&A with the  
Production Team

**Tickets:**  
[www.italianculturalcentre.ca](http://www.italianculturalcentre.ca)

TICKETS \$27.50 EVENING

Members of the Regimental Family, friends and colleagues attended the special presentation of “Gino, A Child of War” at the Italian Cultural Centre in the early evening of Sunday, 2 June 2024. As stated in the promotional literature:

“Gino A Child of War” is an awe-inspiring docu-drama which sheds light on the boundless hope and resilience of the human spirit amid the chaos of war. The film narrates the incredible story of Gino Farnetti, a five-year-old boy discovered frightened, hungry, and wandering amidst the war-torn ruins of Torrice, Italy, in 1944, by compassionate Canadian soldiers. For the next ten months, Gino found shelter, nourishment, and care among his Canadian guardians. A special bond formed between Gino and “Red” Lloyd Oliver, and this film portrays their remarkable relationship and the untold story that connects them”.



BCRs in attendance included, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, Audrey Diamond, Graydon and Sandra Young, Palvinder Kundan, Chair of 3300 BCR (Bhai Kanhaiya) RCACC Support Committee, and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne. Our group was joined by our good friend and colleague, Bob Mugford of RUSI, Vancouver and the Vancouver Artillery Association. Congratulations and thank you to Cathy Bach, President of the Army Cadet League of Canada, and Christine Alexander, President of the Army Cadet League of Canada, B.C. Branch, for sponsoring this remarkable story of our soldiers and “Cpl Gino” during World War II.



Welcome to the newly appointed Consul General of Vancouver, Paolo Miraglia Del Giudice, who was also in attendance and greeted all invited guests to the special presentation. Kudos to the Alpini Colour Party for



their fine ceremony and thank you to the Italian Cultural Centre for their hospitality and for hosting this great evening!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY  
CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE  
ST. JULIEN SQUARE  
THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 2024**



The Regimental Family and many honoured guests remembered the dedicated service and sacrifice of the members of the Canadian Armed forces and our Allies during the D-Day Landings and the ensuing Battle of Normandy which resulted in the defeat of the German Army in Normandy and paving the way to an advance into North-West Europe culminating in the defeat of Germany less than one year later.







Prior to the commencement of the Ceremony of Remembrance, the Consul General of France, Nicolas Baudouin, presented the Legion of Honour to World War II Veteran Joseph Vogelgesang, who served with The Calgary Highlanders. The Candle of Remembrance was placed on the Memorial and lit by some of our soldiers and the Honorary Colonel, Farid Rohani. The President of the Regimental Association, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, acted as the Master of Ceremonies and provided the attendees with the historical background of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

The programme continued with the reading by Deputy Mayor and Counsellor Brian Montague of the Proclamation marking the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy issued by the Mayor of the City of Vancouver, Ken Sim. The Proclamation was then presented by the Deputy Mayor to Honorary Colonel Rohani, on behalf of the Regiment.





The Regimental Association Padre, The Reverend Captain (Ret'd) Gordon Barrett, delivered a very moving homily of commemoration and remembrance.



The Last Post was played by BCR Bugle Major Chris Ahern, followed by a minute's silence and Rouse. The Lament was played by the Piper Rich Nichol, of the BC Regiment Irish Pipes and Drums Band.







Memorial Wreaths were placed at the foot of the Memorial by Bonita Zarillo, MP, Port Moody-Coquitlam, and Rampee Lidder, on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada, the Consul General of the United States of America, by Public Affairs Officer Joseph Geraghty, the Regiment by Honorary Colonel Rohani, the Regimental Association by Greg Tripp, ANAVETS, Pacific Unit No. 280 by Kelly Kwong, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Royal Canadian Legion, BC/Yukon Command by Bob Underhill, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society by Judge (Ret'd) Randall Wong, Naval Association of B.C. by Commander (Ret'd) King Wan, St. John Ambulance by Richard Liu, Honorary Brigade Division President, and Guy Black, in memory of the Recipients of the National Order of the Legion of Honour and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Walk. A Benediction by the Padre followed, and the Dismissal concluded the formalities.







At the conclusion of the Parade, a light reception was held for all attendees complete with steeped tea, coffee, water, and Tim Horton's donuts compliments of the Regimental Association and served by Past President Gayle Hawthorne. The reception was a great success with the many reminiscences recounted by the attendees, interviews by the press and with the company of our two World War II Veterans present, newly decorated Joseph Vogelgesang and Harry Greenwood, RN, also a Legion of Honour recipient.

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

Our many thanks to Warrant Office Gerri-Anne Davidson and her Operations Staff for their outstanding support!

Up the Dukes!

Thank you to Regimental Association member Steve Ko for many of the wonderful photos included with this item!



**Editor's Note:** Some additional photos from our parade for our readers thanks to Steve Ko.



Former HCol Ted Hawthorne, Sgt (Ret'd) Roi Hirtle, & Lt (Ret'd) Bill Whelan





**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY  
CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE  
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 119  
PORT MOODY, B.C.  
6 JUNE 2024**



The service, dedication and sacrifice of the Canadian Armed forces and our Allies during the D-Day Landings and the ensuing Battle of Normandy were remembered on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D- Day at the Memorial of The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 119, in Port Moody, on a very pleasant evening on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.



The Ceremony of Remembrance was conducted by the Master of Ceremonies, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Jim Barrett, President of the Regimental Association. The Programme featured a contingent of first responders from the City of Port Moody; the Chief Constable, David Fleugel, and members of his team and



members of the Port Moody Fire Rescue, complete with pumper unit, a display of military vehicles from "Western Command", the playing of "O Canada", a memorable address by Colonel Barrett touching on the significance of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy and the notable part played by our "Citizen Soldiers".



The playing of "The Last Post" and "Rouse" was performed by BCR Bugle Major Chris Ahern, followed by the laying of wreaths at the foot of the Memorial by Member of Parliament for Port Moody - Coquitlam,



Bonita Zarillo, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne and 2Lt. Mike Daily, on behalf of the Regiment, Brenda Miller, President of RCL Branch 119, Western Command Military Vehicle Historical Society, Ron Baker and Sergeant (Ret'd) Monty Black, CD and the final wreath placed by Guy and Sean Black, in memory of the recipients of the National Order of the Legion of Honour and the 80th Anniversary Memorial Walk and the recitation of the Act of Remembrance by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Malcolm Harkness, to conclude the ceremony.



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







Thank you to Guy and Sean Black for their support and RCL Branch 119 for the wonderful hospitality!  
Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE BC REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION  
THE BARRETT BUNKER  
7 JUNE 2024**



The Regimental Association is pleased to announce the election of the following members at the Annual General Meeting held at The Barrett Bunker in Coquitlam and on ZOOM this evening: Jim Barrett - President, Scott Hamilton - Vice President, Patricia Barrett - Treasurer, Sandra Young - Secretary and Directors at Large – Gayle Hawthorne, Ted Hawthorne, James Norman and Graydon Young.

Kudos to Jim and Patricia Barrett for their gracious hospitality!

Congratulations to the Regimental Association and thank you for your support and service to the Regiment and the entire Regimental Family.

Up the Dukes!

Photo by HLCol Bill Diamond

## 2781 BCR (DCO) RCACC – POWELL RIVER ANNUAL CEREMONIAL REVIEW 1 JUNE 2024



On a bright but overcast day in Powell River, BC, 2781 BCR (DCO) Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps held their Annual Ceremonial review at Timberlane Barracks. In attendance as Reviewing Officer was Honorary Colonel Farid Rohani from the BC Regiment (DCO) our affiliated unit in the Canadian Armed Forces. Capt Jiri Motak from New Westminster acted as Aide-de-Camp for Col Rohani.



The Cadets were led on Parade by their RSM, MWO Jennifer Butler, with Sgt Lux Pierce as Corps 2IC. The Reviewing Party consisted of Col Rohani, Capt Caroline Visser CO 2781, RSM Butler, Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific) Rep WO Daniel Bodden, and RCN Veteran CPO2 Chris Carnell (Ret'd).









Following the review and inspection, the cadets conducted a march past followed by the presentation of a number of awards as follows:

Lt Blyth Trophy for Outstanding attendance: Tpr Hiltz, H  
 Qathet Regional District Trophy for Best Recruit: Tpr Hiltz, H  
 First Credit Union Citizenship Trophy: Sgt Styner, J  
 HMCS Vancouver Trophy for Best Senior NCO: MWO Butler, J  
 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 164 for Espirit de Corps: MCpl Hudson, R  
 Most Improved Cadet: Sgt Reimer, J  
 RG Boyd Shield for Best Dressed Recruit: MCpl Williamson, B  
 2781 RCACC BCR(DCO) Trophy for Best Jr NCO: Sgt Zroback, D  
 Powell River Military Association Top Shot: MCpl Chesney, M  
 Richard Davies Trophy for Most Dedicated Shooter: MCI Bajwa, G & MCpl Bajwa, J  
 Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence: MWO Butler, J  
 Long Service Medal Bar: MWO Butler, Sgt Pierce  
 Long Service Medal: Sgt Reimer & Sgt Hoffman



Following the presentations, the address by the Reviewing officer and Commanding Officer Captain Visser, and the final advance in review order, the parade was dismissed by the RSM, and the cadets conducted demonstrations of their training including how to erect temporary shelters.





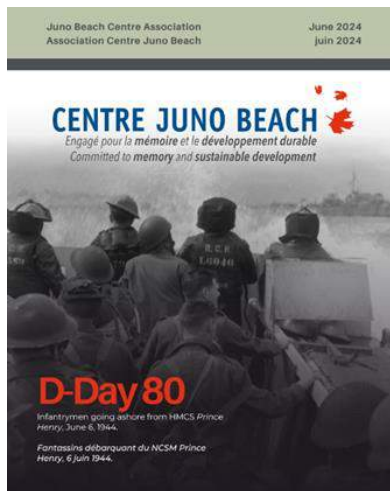


The day was concluded with a very successful Mess Dinner organised by Civilian Instructor Chris Reimer which was enjoyed by all, including former CO and long time supported of the Corps Captain Larry Gemmill, CD (Retired).



Congratulations to all for a job well done. Up the Dukes

**Editor's Note:** From our friends at Juno Beach.







**On June 6, 1944, 14,000 Canadians and 7,000 Brits landed on Juno Beach.**

Between 7:45-8:15am, units from the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, supported by tanks of the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade, launched attacks along an eight-kilometre stretch of beach between Saint-Aubin and Graye-sur-Mer.

Despite the heavily entrenched enemy, the Canadians overcame the German defences and started inland. By evening, a Canadian bridgehead had been solidly established on the coast of Normandy. So started the Battle of Normandy.





On the morning of June 6, thousands gathered in front of the Juno Beach Centre to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the Canadian landings on Juno Beach. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was joined by William, Prince of Wales and French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal.



Soldiers of the Régiment de la Chaudière approaching the beach at Bernières-sur-Mer, France, on June 6, 1944.

*Soldats du Régiment de la Chaudière s'approchant de la plage de Bernières-sur-Mer, France, le 6 juin 1944.*





**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
BC HIGHLAND GAMES & VANCOUVER'S SCOTFESTBC  
TOWN CENTRE PARK, LAFARGE LAKE,  
COQUITLAM, B.C.  
14 - 15 JUNE 2024**



**“ScotFestBC** is an annual event featuring athletic competitions, Celtic dancing, live music, whisky tasting and bagpiping! It’s a family friendly event and lots of fun.” This year’s event took place on Friday and Saturday, 14 and 15 June 2024 by Lafarge Lake at Town Centre Park in Coquitlam.

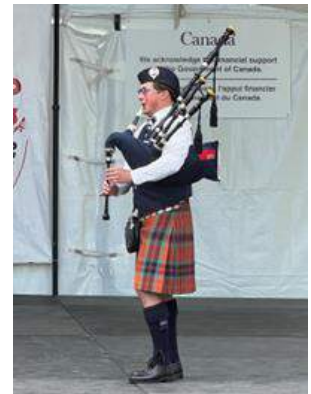




The Fort Fraser Garrison, 78th Fraser Highlanders, fired the opening gun on Friday evening at 6:30pm and another opening gun after noon on Saturday.



The Frasers also provided demonstrations on musket firing at their booth situated near the south side of Lafarge Lake on the way to the Sky Train Lafarge Lake-Douglas Station. Regimental Association President Jim Barrett commanded the Unit in the course of their duties.







The Frasers will also be firing the closing gun to conclude the event at 4:00 pm.



Regimental Family members in attendance were Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond and Audrey, James Norman and his children, and former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne. Kudos to the Frasers, as its hard to keep your powder dry when its raining!

Up the Dukes!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
CHACKO & LIZE SIMON SCHOLARSHIP FUND (“SIMON TRUST”)  
2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
21 JUNE 2024**



The Simon Trust held its 2024 Annual General Meeting in the late morning of Friday, 21 June 2024 and reported another very successful year of operations.



The Simon Trust provides financial assistance by awarding numerous scholarships to those demonstrating financial need while achieving high academic standards. Appointments to the Executive Committee for the ensuing year were as follows:

Chairman of the Board and President	- Lize Simon
Vice President	- Ted Hawthorne
Treasurer	- Margaret Harris
Secretary	- Gayle Hawthorne

The Simon Trust continues to be a strong supporter of The B.C. Regiment (DCO) through the Annual Bursary Programme and the European Battlefield Studies Programme of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust, benefitting serving members of the Regiment.

Congratulations to the Simon Trust for their exemplary work!



**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA ARMOURY  
THE 39 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP  
CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
22 JUNE 2024**







The Change of Command Ceremony from Colonel Scott Raesler, CD to Colonel Paul Lindsay, CD was held in the Seaforth Armoury in the late morning of Saturday, 22 June 2024. The Commander of the 3rd Canadian Division, Brigadier-General Steve Graham, OMM, MSM, CD, was the Presiding Officer. Soldiers from the various units of 39 CBG constituted the guard and The Band of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, RCA, provided the music appropriate to the ceremony.







Numerous members of the Regimental Family were in attendance, including Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Diamond, and the Second-in-Command, Major Manjeet Vinning, CD, representing the Regiment.











A reception followed the ceremony which was held in the Anderson Room of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.



LCol Jim Barrett (Ret'd) President BCR Association and President of the Vancouver Garrison Officers' Society on behalf of the 39 CBG Military Gala Committee presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the 39 CBG Soldiers' Wellness Fund to the new Brigade Commander, Col Paul Lindsay.



Seaforth Highlanders of Canada from when they paraded at the Beatty Street Drill Hall circa 1912  
Centre: HRH Arthur Duke of Connaught



Congratulations to the outgoing Commander, Colonel Raesler, on his successful command, and congratulations to Colonel Lindsay on his promotion and his appointment as Commander of 39 CBG!

Well done 39 CBG!

## **3300 BCR (BHAI KANHAIYA) RCACC DEEP COVE YEAR END DRAGON BOAT – HIKE & PICNIC SATURDAY JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 2024**



3300 BCR Cadets & Staff at Quarry Rock Lookout – Deep Cove N Van.

On Saturday June 8 the 3300 BCR (BHAI KANHAIYA) RCACC held their end year exercise and picnic at Deep Cove. Upon arrival at Deep Cove, the day started with Capt Nagra and Lt Palak and all the cadets hiking to Quarry Rock Lookout.



Departing for the adventure in Deep Cove





Arriving and Departing on the Hike to Quarry Rock



The hike was as a moderate hike up many stairs and a few bridge crossings, but once there the view was spectacular. After their hike the cadets were divided in two groups and alternated between lunch & Dragon Boating.



Enjoying the picnic at Deep Cove







Dragon Boat paddle training, warm up and a couple group shots



In attendance were Capt Hayes, Support Committee members Palvinder Kundan, Lakhjit Sarang, Navneet Brar, Annie Laghan and Graydon & Sandra Young (BCR Association Reps) and many other family members.

Many thanks to everyone who made this a successful event.

Sandra Young  
BCR Association  
3300 Support Group Representative

**Editor's Note:** From our friends in the LDSH (RC). Congratulations to the recipients and especially LGen Derek Macaulay who served at the BCR as our RSSO in the mid 1990s when I was OC A Sqn BCR. Well done!

## Strathcona Enews

Dear Strathcona Family,

It is an honour and privilege to confirm the announcement by CANFORGEN 088/24 CMP 034/24 181754Z JUN 24, that **LGen Derek Macaulay, CMM, MSM, CD** and **BGen Dwayne Parsons, OMM, CD** have been recognized for their distinguished service during extra-regimental employment.

*On behalf of the King, permission for the acceptance and unrestricted wearing of Commonwealth and Foreign honours has been granted to the following members of the CAF. The list hereunder includes approvals granted between 21 Oct 23 and 07 May 24 which have not yet been published in the Canada gazette or a CANFORGEN.*

*Decorations conferred by the President of the United States of America*  
**LGen D.A. Macaulay** – Legion of Merit, Degree of Officer, Second Award

*Decorations conferred by His Majesty in right of the United Kingdom*  
**BGen D.R. Parsons** – King Charles III Coronation Medal

Strathconas continue to bring honour and pride to their country and Regiment. A heartfelt congratulations to them both.

Perseverance,

LCol D.M. Gray, CD  
Commanding Officer

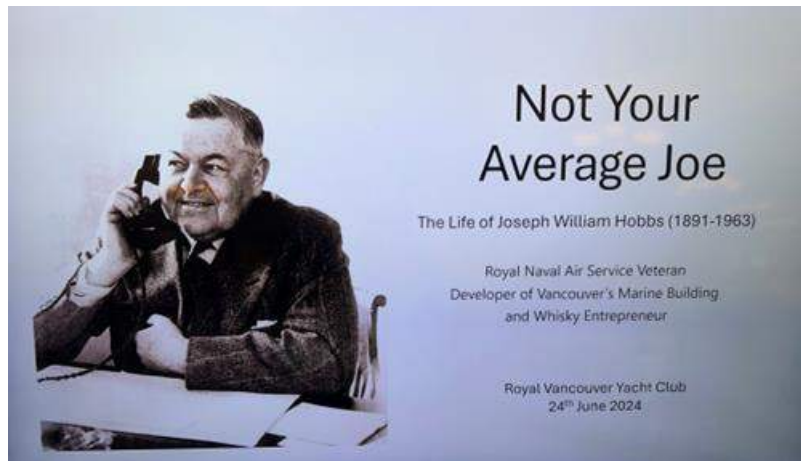
CWO N.V. Mills, MMM, CD  
Regimental Sergeant-Major

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
THE NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ROYAL VANCOUVER YACHT CLUB  
24 JUNE 2024**



Congratulations to The Naval Association of B.C. (“NABC”) for hosting the highly successful reception, luncheon and excellent presentation by Tim Smith, biographer of Joe Hobbs, held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on Monday, 24 June 2024. As billed, Tim spoke on the life of Joe Hobbs, truly **Not Your Average Joe!**





### Joe Hobbs Presentation at the RVYC

On Monday the 24th of June, there will be a speaker, Tim Smith, talking about Joseph Hobbs, who was the brother of one of the founding officers of the RCAF, Group Captain Basil Hobbs.

Joe Hobbs' biographer, Tim Smith, is on a cross-Canada tour and will be speaking at that date.

Joseph Hobbs (pictured) flew in the Royal Naval Air Service and RAF during WWI, served in the new and short-lived Canadian Air Force component of the Air Board of Canada, served as the first CO of HMCS Discovery (the Vancouver Half Company), built the Marine Building after having been a Rum Runner and later became a Whisky Baron with a Castle and Cattle Ranch in Scotland.

Clearly, "Not Your Average Joe."



If you would like to know more....

- Published by Troubador Books on 25th July 2024, price £34.99.
- <https://www.troubador.co.uk/bookshop/biography/not-your-average-joe>
- Also available via Amazon, Barnes & Noble etc.

**TIM SMITH**

The presentation was very well received by the full house and was followed by a few questions and a number of presentations to the special guest speaker and author. As the Master of Ceremonies, King Wan thanked Tim for his exceptional and informative presentation about one of Vancouver's most colourful historical figures.





The Regimental Secretary, Ted Hawthorne, was in attendance, and joined with our many friends in NABC to welcome and thank Tim for his outstanding presentation.





The reception and luncheon were preceded by a meeting of the Board of Directors of NABC, where former Honorary Colonel Hawthorne was appointed a Director-at-Large.



Kudos to NABC and President, King Wan!  
Photo credits to Roddy MacKenzie



Thanks to Steve Ko for these additional two photos!

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE WEEK (23-29 JUNE)  
PASSING OUT PARADE  
SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA ARMOURY  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
29 JUNE 2024**



The Passing Out Parade, hosted by the St. John Ambulance, B.C. Yukon Brigade, was held at the Armoury of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in the early afternoon of Saturday, 29 June 2024.



The Guest of Honour, The Honourable Yonah Martin, Senator, was in attendance as the Reviewing Officer.





The Parade celebrated the achievements of the 130 Cadets of the Brigade during their training year. The Parade was very well attended with friends, family members and supporters of the St. John Ambulance Family, including the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Farid Rohani, and Regimental Secretary, former Honorary Colonel Ted Hawthorne.



The program for the afternoon featured a Class of 2024 Group Photo, the Parade March On, a Land Acknowledgment and Welcome, the formal arrival of the Guest of Honour and the introduction of the Inspecting Officer, a General Salute, an Inspection by the Senator Martin, a March Past, an Opening Prayer and Remarks, the St. John Ambulance Hymn, a Division 881c Drill display, Leadership Promotions and Enrolment, Awards Announcements, Benediction and Closing Prayer, God Save the King, an Advance in Review Order and Closing Remarks and Dismissal.







Congratulations and well done to our friends at St. John Ambulance.

## **THE BARRETT BUNKER JUNE 2024**

For this edition's effort I have decided to relate a somewhat interesting and trying experience that I had back on Militia Concentration (MILCON 87) in Wainwright, Alberta as part of the BCR's Recce Squadron.

The Regiment had departed from the Vancouver airport via CAF Hercules transport aircraft and arrived on the gravel airstrip near Centurian Field in CFB Wainwright for the annual 11 Brigade (Now 39 CBG) August concentration. For the most part over the two weeks the BC Regiment (DCO0 had worked in a combined 'Pacific Armoured Regiment' with the BC Dragoons from Vernon and Kelowna. Our Commanding Officer was Lt-Col Ernie Wesson, who had come over to the Regiment from the RCDs and had taken command of in 1985. Recently arrived with the Regiment was Major Dave Sproule, who had started a career with the BCR back in 1955, when BGen Peter Kilby left to join the Regular Force (Peter had handed over to Dave his BCR Rifle whistle cord and other BCR accoutrements). Major Dave Sproule had served with both the LDSH (RC) and RCDs before returning to his original unit in 1987.

Lt Bill Whalen and I had both started on the same Summer Youth Employment Programme in 1982. Bill was a legitimate High School Student, and I was 25 years old at the time and a substitute teacher. I had joined the army too late in the year to go to Gaagetown for officers training, so I demoted and enrolled as a private soldier to take the summer training that year and was bumped up from trooper to Second Lieutenant in September 1982. Lt Bill Whalen was designated as the senior Troop Officer on the FTX as 41 Troop Officer and I was 42 as next in line. Both of us had some pretty senior NCOs working for us at the time. I had WO Glyn Lee (future RSM) as my Troop WO, Sgt Dave Holwell, and Sgt Rick Gallant as my other two patrol Leaders. We had two seven car Troops using the newly arrive Bombardier built Iltis jeeps based on the German design.



BCR Iltis Patrol in wooded area circa late 1980s

As an additional bonus, for the final trace of the FTX, we would have helicopters for 408 Helicopter Sgn assisting us with Recce from above, which was a rare asset for us to have back in those days. When Maj Sproule issued his orders for the coming operation, I was given the nod to be the first troop across the Start Line, or Line of Departure (LOD). I was to clear the route and area to a point roughly 800 metres past the North/ South Blue Route on the map and hold my location until Lt Bill Whalen and the rest of 41 would take over the advance.

I issued my orders to my Troop, directing that we would cross the LOD using a three up 'T' formation with the Troop WO Lee's patrol (Alpha, Foxtrot) on either side of the Route. Bravo/ Charlie (Sgt Holwell) to the left and Delta/ Echo (Sgt Gallant) to the right. I should probably add that my driver was Officer Candidate (OCdt) Bob Moorhouse, who had just been commissioned from Corporal in Transport to be a Logistics Officer with the BCR. With H Hour arrived and being under radio silence until first contact, I gave the hand signal to advance, and we were off. I told Bob where I wanted him to put us beside a tree on the obvious next bound. Bob took me literally, hit the gas and drove straight forward into a sandpit where we promptly got stuck. I reminded Bob that as the driver he could avoid an obstacle and pick his route avoiding lakes and sandpits (probably in less than polite words). In the meantime I was fortunate to flag down help with a tow cable and we were quickly back in the war chasing down my forward patrols, which I managed to do after a few kilometres of travel. Fortunately we had not had any contacts at this time and no need to call the 'HOTEL' Call Signs (helicopters). It seemed as though the SrNCOs were playing a successful game of 'Lose the Troop Officer' as we entered rolling hills and neared an escarpment. I had lost sight of them but saw a road leading up into the escarpment and presumed that was 'Club' route and it looked to be the correct one to follow. I crossed Blue Route which was marked on all CFB Wainwright Maps running North/ South from the base, followed the road east up the escarpment and trucked forward to where I figured I had been ordered to hold. I sent in my Situational Report (SITREP) as ordered and then awaited the orders for 41 to take over the advance. I will have to admit that I had no contact with any of my patrols as we had been under radio silence to that time. I recall that was a barbed wire fence to the right of the road I was on and that was troubling. I could neither see either too far forward, nor could I see to either side due to the rolling hills in the badlands. I began quickly to get worried that I was not where I was supposed to be. Grabbing my map, binoculars, and silva ranger compass, I dismounted and set off on foot up a nearby hill to see what I could see and hopefully triangulate my position. No luck with seeing anything helpful, including the rest of my troop. I could shoot a bearing on the big water tower in camp and one other structure, but no matter which hill I climbed between sending in SITREPS as calmly as possible every



twenty minutes, I had no idea exactly where I was. All I could know that I was on a line North/ South just about 800 east of Blue Route.

Finally, A Sqn OC gave the order for 41 to take over the advance and have Bill and his Call Signs had passed through our positions, and I must also admit that no one passed near me, further convincing me that I was not on the right road. I was given permission to collect my troop in a hide and await further orders. Feeling somewhat down for being totally lost but 'making good time' and having had no interaction with the helicopters, I told Alpha to send someone down Blue Route to guide me back to their location. With that OCDT Bob Moorhouse drove me back to Blue Route where looking North and South I was able to see no one at all. Suddenly in the distance from the south I saw a column of dust approaching. Could I have been that far north? When they got close enough to recognise, I saw that it was Sgt Rick Gallant and his patrol. They had gotten lost even worse and had wound up on the southern boundary of the Wainwright. In the meantime from the north came our guide and we head back to where the rest of my troop was in a hide. WO Lee had them cook up some MRE lunch for the 'lost souls' and I listened in on the actions of my replacements.

For a while it seemed as though Lt Bill Whalen and his troop were doing everything successfully that I had not, and contacts were being called in. All was well until Hotel 10 (Helicopter) came on and the pilot advised that most of 41 was heading off in other directions and asked if 41 intended on fighting this war on his own. Not good. Not good at all.

Inevitably, all good or bad things must come to an end and this one did, with both of our 41 and 42 Call Signs ordered to end ex and head to the squadron rendezvous point (RV). Both Bill and I were ordered to report to the CP on arrival. I recall that neither Bill nor I were all too happy at how the day had gone and we were both fully expecting a good dressing down or chewing out over the performances of our respective troops. What happened was something totally unexpected. The door to the CP opened to laughter from both the CO and Sqn Commander. They couldn't believe how calm I sounded on the radio and complimented Bill on his work as well. Apparently, their own Squadron Commander had done the same thing to them back in the 1950's and they wanted to see how we would handle ourselves under duress.

That day was also memorable as it had started off as another one of those hot days in Wainwright where by lunchtime you could fry an egg on your vehicle, but by the time we collected our steaks at the end of camp smoker it was raining hard. Bill and I retreated to our dry crew tent and enjoyed our steaks with a bottle of wine before calling it a night. In the morning, I noticed it seemed just too quiet and zipped open the tent to a couple of inches of snow on the ground in late August. With the snow melted, and the kit turned in and feeling a bit recovered, we headed home that Sunday via Hercules and the CAF back to Vancouver. As for Major Dave Sproule, he took command of the BCR in 1988, and I became his Adjutant, and he also promoted me to Captain in 1991. Lt Bill Whalen left us in 1988 to have a long and successful career with the RCMP. OCDT Bob Moorhouse eventually made it to Captain and was a long term Transport Officer for the Unit and became Godfather to my youngest son in 1994.

Capt Bob Moorhouse passed away suddenly in 2016, and both Cols Ernie Wesson and Dave Sproule are gone as well. Two of my favourite Cols to work for. LCol Ernie Wesson will be remembered for his humour and making serving as a soldier under his command a lot of fun, and LCol Dave Sproule will be remembered by me for also his thoughtfulness, kindness, and for being a true friend and gentleman.

## **DUKE'S DEN**

### **SUMMER 2024**

## SPECIAL GREETINGS FROM MCPL DUKE A. BEAR



May your summer adventures be filled with excitement and new experiences, complete with sunny skies, warm beaches, and endless relaxation (i.e. countless picnics and barbecues). For those on deployment, I wish you a successful mission and a safe return.

I am proud of you all!

Up the Dukes!

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

#### MAJOR GEOFFREY SIDENIUS 28<sup>TH</sup> ARMoured REGIMENT (BCR) RCAC



**MAJ. GEOFFREY SIDENIUS.**  
... presumed killed.

Credit: Find a Grave



Birth: 16 March 1911, Calgary, Alberta, per Attestation document

Death: 9 August 1944 Calvados, France (Hill 140)

Parents: Harry Godfred Sidenius and Dora Emma Hendrikz

Spouse: Harriet Ethel Sidenius nee Home, marriage: October 1937, Cranbrook, B.C.

Employer at Enlistment, American Can Company, Vancouver, B.C., occupation: Clerk

Enlistment: 30 November 1939, Vancouver, British Columbia

Major Sidenius' s career with the Dukes began between the World Wars, accordingly, I have taken the liberty of reviewing "The Dukes" for references to him prior to his enlistment in 1939. Major Sidenius's military record is very detailed and contains a number of detailed staff evaluations. He was well known before the war in the highest levels of the Regiment of the day, including the late Lt. Col. Donald Worthington. I hope this article does Major Sidenius and his career justice.

**Excerpts from "The Dukes", author Douglas D. Harker, The British Columbia Regiment (D.C.O.), 1974**

Lt. Sidenius is referenced on p. 165 as leading a successful recruit match and were also highest in the direct fire portion of the Forster cup match of 1933.

Lt. Sidenius is noted as the Recruiting officer at the outbreak of war in September 1939 on page 184.

Our man next appears on page 185, where he is noted to have the rank of Captain, planning and conducting an officer's training course in small arms and military procedures.

In November 1939, major changes took place amongst the regiment officers of the day as many were transferred to other units, while Captain Sidenius remained, with the rank of Adjutant (page 185 and 186). The Regiment would not be mobilised until June 1, 1940, following the defeat of France, with officers who had been assigned elsewhere returning to the Regiment due to its mobilization.

From the Vancouver Sun, 13 June 1940, Captain Sidenius swears in a Reservist at the Beatty Street Drill Hall, Vancouver, B.C. as Adjutant.



"The Dukes" reproduces an image of the officers of The British Columbia Regiment, pictured below, dated April 1940 on page 187, Captain Sidenius appears front row, left.



Officers of the British Columbia Regiment, April 1940. All except one of these officers served in the Non-Permanent Active Militia.

L. to R. back row: Lieuts. J. Grass, D. Harker, J. McPhillips, E. Barlow, D. Christie, J. Hope, H. Bardon, N. Pattullo, Middle row: Capts. C. Lewis, D. Verchere, A. Goodson, G. Okulitch, C. Errington, Lieuts. J. Toogood, F. Baron. Front row: Capts. G. Sidenius, H. Davis, Major D. Bartlett, Lt. Col. G. Carmichael, Capts. H. Pentreath, Jackson, G. Letson.

On page 195 of "The Dukes" reports that "Captain Sidenius, Lieutenants Jack Worthington and Carl Allen, along with 70 NCO's and men were dispatched to Ucluelet", in addition, two other dispatches of men were dispatched to Coal Harbour and Bella Bella respectively, following a reported sighting offshore of an IJN Cruiser and accompanying oiler.

From this point, I move to Major Sidenius's Military record to trace his career in the 28 Armored Regiment  
**Excerpts from The British Columbia Regiment (DCOR) record, followed by WWII Military Record (28<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment (CAR))**

18 September 1931: Qualified Lieutenant #77184

1932: Equitation, Cert. No. 77694

18 September 1933: Promoted Lieutenant

18 September 1933 to 1 August 1936: Attached Kootenay Regiment

1936-1937: Captain Annual Training

1937-1938: Captain Annual Training

31 March 1939: Qualified Captain Infantry Cert. # 89829

10 December 1939: British Columbia Regiment (DCOR): Rank Captain, D.O. 134

1 September 1939: Appointed to the C.A.S.F., Rank Captain

11 November 1939: Appointed Adjutant

15 June 1940: Relinquishes appointment of Adjutant B.C. Regiment DCOR CASF pending from D.R.D.

25 October 1939 to 5 Feb. 1940: Various vaccinations

1 July 1941: On Command to RMC Kingston (3 months)

4 September 1941: 14 day course under CARO 699 on completion of Coy. Comm. Cree at RMC

20 September 1941: Special Leave & Furl Warrant #A21146 issued

29 September 1941: Ceases "on Command" at R.L.C. Kingston

6 December 1941: Attached to H.Q. 10<sup>th</sup> Can.. Def. Bde. For Duty

24 November 1941: Change of District to ?D. 6

4 May 1942: Ceases to be attached to H.Q. 3<sup>rd</sup> Cdn. Bde.

18 May 1942: Detailed to perform duties of Bde., Major on ? Bde.

27 April 1942: "On Command" to No. 4 Junior War Staff Course – R.M.C. Kingston

27 April 1942: Ceases to draw Class 7, Spec. rate of pay as a A/Bde Major

29 June 1942: Promoted to Major, transferred to C.A.C. , 28 C.A.R.

15 July 1942: Attending Junior War Staff Course, Kingston, 28<sup>th</sup> C.A.R., attending X1 DD

19 September 1942: Detached to proceed to Canadian Army Overseas

6 October 1942: Embarks Overseas

3 November 1942: Transfer to H.Q. 4 Can. Armed Bde. On appt. as Brg. Major 4<sup>th</sup> Cdn. Armed Bde.



18 December 1942: S.O.S. to 4<sup>th</sup> Armed Bde.  
19 December 1942: T.O.S. from 3 CACRU  
23 January 1943: Pd. Leave to 30 January 1943  
1 May 1943: Pd. Leave to 7 May 1943  
13 August 1943: To be G.S.O.II from B.M. 4CAB  
27 August 1943: S.O.S. to HQ 1 Cdn. Army  
3 August 1943: T.O.S. from HQ4 Cdn. Armored Bde.  
3 August 1943: To be GSO II (CAR)  
31 December 1943: On Combined Ops (Long) to C.T.C. Largo?  
31 December 1943: Awarded The Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp.  
13 January 1944: Returned from Combined Ops (Long)  
31 January 1944: Proceed on Arm & Projectile Course (?) Military College of Science, attached to School of Tank Technology  
21 March 1944: Vacates appt. of GSO II (CAC)  
21 March 1944: TOS to 28 Cdn Arm'd Regt.  
22 March 1944: TOS from HQ 1 C.A. (28 Cdn. Armored Regt.)  
22 July 1944: Embarked at UK  
24 July 1944: Disembarked at France.  
9 August 1944: SOS to XG List CAC(C), Missing believed killed in Action  
10 August 1944: TOS X6 Linst from 28 CAR. Missing believed killed  
9 August 1944: Presumed Killed 28 CA Rgt. CL.A 557

#### **"Swift & Strong"**

An excerpt from "Swift & Strong" p. 176 indicates that at the Operation Totalize action of 9 August 1944, Major Sidenius was to lead a company of infantry behind, "A" Squadron in the rear guard of the operation.

#### **Memorial Cross**

A Memorial Cross was sent to his widow at her residence in Nelson, B.C. as well as Mrs. Alice Cutler of San Francisco, California on or about 22 June 1945.

#### **Awards**

Major Sidenius was entitled to the following awards:

1939-1945 Star  
France-Germany Star  
Defence Medal  
War Medal  
CVSM & Clasp

#### **Burial:**

Major Sidenius was initially buried at Estrees-La-Compagne, France, the exact location is unclear, however it is known that other casualties from the 9 August 1944 engagement with 12 Waffen SS were buried near the church at this location. His remains were transferred on 23 October 1947 to its permanent resting place at:

Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, Calvados, France, Plot XXVI.F.1



Credit: Veterans Canada

At the time of his death, Major Sidenius and his wife Harriet had at least one child together, His widow apparently never remarried, living until 3 January, 1997, in care at the time of here death, at Chilliwack, B.C. She was 84 years of age.

**References for this article:**

Veterans Canada: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2335576>

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56157818/geoffrey-reginald-sidenius>

Grave Image (Veterans Canada): <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2335576>

Ancestry.ca: [https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/112978:9145?tid=&pid=&queryId=7ae9eac9-ac1b-42b0-bda8-8bb0c14a10ba&\\_phsrc=axG120&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/112978:9145?tid=&pid=&queryId=7ae9eac9-ac1b-42b0-bda8-8bb0c14a10ba&_phsrc=axG120&_phstart=successSource). Ancestry.ca subscription suggested. See pages 30568-30678 to review his military record.

Ancestry.ca – CMHQ Recommended List for Captain Sidenius dated 4 May 1943 – provides a synopsis of his career and career recommendation that Captain Sideinius seek Armored Command:

[https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/112978:9145?tid=&pid=&queryId=df747665-3ca8-4ea0-a06a-3e17ba38d5e3&\\_phsrc=axG171&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/112978:9145?tid=&pid=&queryId=df747665-3ca8-4ea0-a06a-3e17ba38d5e3&_phsrc=axG171&_phstart=successSource). Note: Subscription with Ancestry.ca suggested.

“The Dukes”, author Douglas E. Harker, 1974 Publisher: The British Columbia Regiment (D.C.O.)

“Swift & Strong”, Leblanc, Maxwell, Snow and Deschenes: The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) 2011

Point of View: CBC Saskatoon: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/point-of-view-your-turn-saskatchewan-second-world-war-normandy-1.5200052>

Royal B.C. Museum: <https://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Image/Genealogy/ae3a3e4c-f1a7-4d85-8466-bebcf9ff7ea1>

Nominal Roll, 28<sup>th</sup> C.A.R.: <https://wartimes.ca/forums/viewtopic.php?t=1243>

Note: it appears that public news about the Hill 40 battle with 12 Waffen SS Hitler Jugend did not receive public disclosure until December 1944 in both Vancouver Sun and Vancouver Province newspapers. I have saved these articles for the Museum’s use in the event that they would be useful moving forward.

Prepared by:

Don Manning

Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

7 March 2024



## PRIVATE EDMOND FALCONER SEED 7<sup>th</sup> BATTALION (1<sup>st</sup> BC) CEF



Credit: Veterans Canada

I would like to start this article with a "Thank You" to Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Archie Steacy for highlighting Private Seed. It turns out that Archie knew of the Seed family following their move from Chilliwack, B.C. to North Vancouver, B.C. This story is about a 19 year old son who never came home. Private Seed enlisted with the Christian name Edward, not Edmond, later corrected to Edmond.

**Birthdate:** 19 July 1897, MacGregor, Manitoba, now amalgamated with Rural Municipality of Norfolk

**Parents:** Mr. Stanley Watson Seed (13 February 1872 - 11 December 1944), Mrs. Sybil I. Seed, is shown living at North Vancouver at time of enlistment in his military record..

**Enlistment:** 25 August 1915, Vernon, B.C., at the time he was living in Chilliwack, B.C.  
Regimental Number 116587

**Military Record:** Private Seed's military record includes the following:

9 July 1915: Military record indicates he was a member of the Seaforth Highlanders, taken on strength 9 July 1915.

12 July 1915: Transferred to 11<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles, C.E.F.

25 July 1916: Arrival in England on S.S. Lapland

13 October 1916: Transferred from 11<sup>th</sup> C.M.R. to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion C.E.F.

14 October 1916, he appears as a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, C.E.F.

14 October 1916: Taken on Strength, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion. C.E.F.

Notes: The information posted by Chilliwack Museum contains relevant information that does not appear in his military record, presumably provided by Private Seed's mother (her husband was also serving in the military as an engineer at the time) the following:

The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion trained him as a sniper in the intelligence section.

In January 1918 his mother was informed of Private Seed's death, in May she was informed that he was captured, which raised her spirits until later in the month when it was confirmed that he had been killed in action.

**Reported Missing:** believed wounded: 10 November 1917, as a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, C.E.F.  
(Subsequently Confirmed) Killed in Action: 10 November 1917.

Based on the date recorded of his death, he died on the final day of the Battle of Ypres, 10 November 1917.



Passchendaele Canadian Monument  
Credit: Veterans Canada

**Medals:** Private Seed's Military Record indicates he was not eligible for 1914-1915 Star, Victory Medal, or British War Medal

**Memorial Cross:** Memorial Cross was forwarded to his mother 22 August 1921

**Headstone:**



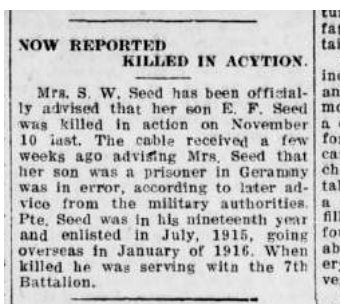
Credit: Johan Moors

#### Headstone Details

Inscription: "HE SHALL ENTER INTO PEACE"

Location: Passchendaele New British Cemetery, Arrondissement Ieper, West Flander, Belgium, Plot: VI. A. 1.

Death: 10 November 1917: Cemetery: Passchendaele New British Cemetery



Chilliwack Progress, 30 May 1918



**HIS WORK WAS OF  
HIGH STANDARD**



**PTE. EDMOND FALCONER SEED.**

Was killed in action on Nov. 10th last, and was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Seed, of Chilliwack, his father also serving his country overseas, with the engineers. Pte. Seed was born at McGregor, Man., and would have been 19 in February next. He left St. Johns' College, Winnipeg, in 1915 to come to Chilliwack with his parents, and enlisted July, 1915, with the C. M. R.'s, and went overseas in January, 1916. On going to France he was drafted to the 7th Battalion as a sniper in the intelligence section, spending thirteen months in the trenches. His Lieutenant writes that Pte. Seed was killed by the exploding of a large shell during the attack on Passchendaele, and that "his work with the section has been of a high standard and his moral conduct has been an example to all."

Credit: Operation:PictureMe

**References for this article:**

Chilliwack Museum: [https://www.chilliwackmuseum.ca/war-memorial/WW1\\_S\\_names.html](https://www.chilliwackmuseum.ca/war-memorial/WW1_S_names.html)

Veterans Canada: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/461501>

Canada Fallen: [https://canadianfallen.ca/soldier\\_data.php?id=42471](https://canadianfallen.ca/soldier_data.php?id=42471)

Attestation Document: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=220657>

Service File, PDF: [B8762-S015](#)

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13961154/edward-falconer-seed>

Casualties of 10 November 1917: <https://firstworldwaronthistoday.blogspot.com/2017/11/1105-died-on-this-day-sat-10111917.html>

Chilliwack Poppy Project: <https://chilliwackmuseum.ca/poppy-project/worldwar-one.html>



Article Prepared by:  
Don Manning  
Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society  
20 March 2024

## **CORPORAL ALEXANDER WINDRAM 7<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION (1<sup>ST</sup> BC) CEF**



Credit: Find a Grave

This article is as much a story of a couple who emigrated from Scotland to Fraser Mills and started a family together in Canada as Alexander Windram enlisting as a soldier in the CEF, only to lose his life at Vimy.



Alexander Windram would leave behind a substantial record of his family life and later his military service which his family kept and ultimately donated to the Coquitlam Archives. The materials he left behind tell as much of a record of his life as does his CEF Record.

Thank you to Keith MacDonald, a former Warrant Officer of the Regiment, for pointing me in Alexander Windram's direction by sharing an image of his headstone at Arras Road Cemetery. If I ever get back to Arras, this will be a place for me to visit and pay my respects.

**Regimental Number:** 790686

**Date of Birth:** 1881-02-21,

**Place of Birth:** Eyemouth Scotland

**Enlistment Date:** 1916-02-22

**Place of Enlistment:** New Westminster BC Canada

**Unit prior to Enlistment:** 131st Overseas Battalion

**Reference:** RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 10491 - 48

**Item Number:** 321702

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

**Digitized service file - PDF format:** [B10491-S048](#)

Birth: 21 February 1881, Eyemouth, Scottish Borders, Scotland

Migration to Canada: 1910 with his wife Mary and son John.

Death: 9 April 1917, France, noted in his military record as "Killed in Action". His Military record indicates he was associated with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, C.E.F.

Burial: Attas Road Cemetery, Roclincourt, Department du Pas-du-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, Plot: I.A.11

### **Personal Information**

Living, at Enlistment, at Fraser Mills, B.C. (now Coquitlam B.C., near New Westminster)

Occupation on Enlistment: Steam Fitter

Married to Mary nee Muir, she was also born in Scotland (29 September 1876 – death 26 December 1956, New Westminster, B.C.). It appears that Mary never remarried.

Mary received a Memorial Cross in 1921 as did his mother, the latter residing in Scotland.

Mary is buried at New Westminster, B.C.

Alexander and Mary had a daughter during his marriage, Elsie, as well as two sons, John and Andrew, see the reference links below.

I noted the fact that our man had two brothers, William, and John, both of whom enlisted and were killed in 1917, during the Great War.

### **Military Record**

104<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Western Fusiliers of Canada (New Westminster)

**Attestation/Enlistment:** to 104<sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., transferred to 131<sup>st</sup> Battalion C.E.F. on the same date, as noted above, he was transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, C.E.F. on 10 January 1917.

Date of Enlistment: 22 February 1916

21 July 1916: Promoted to Corporal

Family information indicates that he completed training at Vernon, B.C. before heading with the 131<sup>st</sup> Battalion to the U.K.

1 November 1916, embarked from Halifax, Nova Scotia on S.S. *Coronia*, arriving at Liverpool 11 November 1916.

13 November 1916, transferred to 30<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion and Taken on Strength with 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion CEF on the same date. He joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 20 January 1917.

Apparent date, Killed in Action: 9 April 1917, it appears he was hospitalized as late as 5 May 1917. It is clear that Corporal Windram was killed as a result of his engagement at Vimy.

Corporal Windram regularly sent postcards to his family following his arrival in England, doing so stands as a memory for his family, I commend it to the reader, a link is provided below.

**References relied upon for this article:**

CEF Record: <https://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.item/?op=pdf&app=CEF&id=B10491-S048>

Find a Grave: Arras Road Cemetery: <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1993517/arras-road-cemetery>.

Note: This cemetery is located 9.1 km South of Vimy, the cemetery is located close to the N17 autoroute.

Grave Reference: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56140105/alexander-windram>

Death Record, Mary Windram: <https://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Image/Genealogy/2ed51190-7291-439e-973d-955bc2a90685>

Vancouver Daily World, 10 May 1917: reporting him Killed in Action.

Vancouver Sun, 1 June 1917 references him Killed at Vimy Ridge.

Coquitlam Archives: <https://www.coquitlam.ca/763/Dont-Forget-Your-Dadie-Coquitlam-Family->

Canadian Virtual War memorial: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/279556>

Remembrance: Alexander Windram's Story: [https://searcharchives.coquitlam.ca/uploads/r/city-of-coquitlam-archives/c/e/6/ce6a3eca7ba7ea2fcddf6f7b0ee4558c677700b7173a98cc163e0121413d1741/Alexander\\_Windrams\\_Story\\_1881-1917.pdf](https://searcharchives.coquitlam.ca/uploads/r/city-of-coquitlam-archives/c/e/6/ce6a3eca7ba7ea2fcddf6f7b0ee4558c677700b7173a98cc163e0121413d1741/Alexander_Windrams_Story_1881-1917.pdf)

<https://www.canadianletters.ca/collections/all/collection/61968>

Coquitlam Archives: <https://searcharchives.coquitlam.ca/index.php/windram-alexander>

**LIEUTENANT GRAHAM THOMSON LYALL, VC, MM, MiD (1939-45)  
102<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION (NORTH BC) CEF**



Birth: 8 March 1892, Chorlton-Cum-Hardy, Manchester, County of Greater Manchester, United Kingdom

Death: 28 November 1941, Mersa Mantru, Egypt (Aged 49), (Believed to be the result of a Coronary)

Buried: Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt

Military Service:



**CEF Record:** Graham Thompson Lyall signed his CEF Attestation papers on September 24, 1915 at St. Catherine's Ontario with the 81<sup>st</sup> Battalion, with the rank of Lieutenant. He reported that he had previous experience with the XIXth Regiment for about one year. His profession was listed as Mechanical Engineer. He served in WWI: Canadian Expeditionary Force, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion (North British Columbians), later renamed 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion (Central Ontario) in 1917.

Rank: Lieutenant  
Regimental Number: 158528

**Victoria Cross:** Meet Lieutenant Graham Thomson Lyall of the 102nd Infantry Battalion. #OnThisDay in 1918 (sic 27 September 1920),

“Lieutenant Lyall led his platoon in an advance while fighting in Bourslon Wood near Cambrai in France. He and his men outflanked a German position and captured 13 prisoners, four machine guns and a field gun.

Later the same day, his platoon came up against another enemy strongpoint. With his platoon weakened by the day's fighting, Lieutenant Lyall charged the enemy alone and single-handedly killed the officer in charge and took 45 prisoners and five machine guns. He then led his men to their final objective and took another 47 prisoners. Finally, a few days later, Lyall assaulted another enemy position, and captured another 80 German prisoners and 17 machine guns.”

Source: VICTORIA CROSS,: <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/31067/supplements/14775>. Lieutenant Graham Thomson Lyall, 102nd Battalion, 2nd Central Ontario Regiment, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

For his acts of bravery and skillful leading, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.”

Source: The Canadian Armed Forces Facebook Page.

**Editor's Note:** Of interest to our readers, Captain Graham Burton, CD of the CIC was working as adjutant at the Cadet Camp in Whitehorse in 2018 and identified a German 77 MM Artillery piece on the camp as the gun captured at Bourslon Wood by Lt Lyall in 1918 which was taken to Canada as a war trophy following the Great War and eventually located to the camp in Whitehorse where it rests today.





Lyall is pictured here at the time of his award of The Victoria Cross



The Victoria Cross

**Lieut. Graham Thomson Lyall, 102nd Batt.  
2nd Central Ontario R.**

Whilst leading his platoon against Bourlon Wood, the leading company was held up by a strong point, which he captured by a flank movement, together with thirteen prisoners, one field gun, and four machine-guns. Later, his platoon, much weakened by casualties, was held up by machine-guns at the southern end of Bourlon Wood. Collecting any men available, he led them towards the strong point, and springing forward alone, rushed the position single-handed and killed the officer in charge, subsequently capturing at this point 45 prisoners and five machine-guns. Having made good his final objective, with a further capture of 47 prisoners, he consolidated his position. During two days of operations Lieut. Lyall captured in all 3 officers, 182 other ranks, 26 machine-guns, and one field gun.

Credit: The Guardian 17 December 1918

Lyall was promoted to Acting Lieutenant-Colonel as a result of his actions at Cambrai in 1918. It appears that he achieved the formal rank of Captain in the Canadian Overseas Military Forces, and subsequently



Captain in the Royal Engineers by the end of hostilities. ([https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/records/18133697/private-graham-thomson-lyall-canadian-infantry/.](https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/records/18133697/private-graham-thomson-lyall-canadian-infantry/))



Credit: [HQ 102 Canadians102ndbattalioncef.ca](http://HQ 102 Canadians102ndbattalioncef.ca)

#### Memorial Plaque Dedication, Hon. Lincoln Alexander and Countess of Wessex



Credit: 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion Website

Pictured: Sandy Ferguson (nephew of Colonel Lyall), Colonel The Honourable Lincoln Alexander (Chairman The Ontario Heritage foundation), The Countess of Wessex (Colonel in Chief, Lieutenant Colonel Roy

Dwyer (Commanding Officer)

Post Great War and WWII Military Information  
British Army



Following the end of hostilities in 1918, the then Lieutenant Lyall and his wife decided to remain in the U.K., and subsequently joined the British Army, and served until his death in 1941. His seniority date was 26/04/1939, Rank Major. There is reference to service in The Royal Navy, however that has not been researched for this article.

Service Number (British Army): 48647  
Served in: Royal Army Ordnance Corps  
Rank at the time of his death: Colonel, slated to become Lieutenant-Colonel  
Place of Death: Mersa Matruh, Egypt  
Burial: Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt (Commonwealth War Graves)



Credit: Ralph the Cemetery Guy

Medals Awarded for his Service in WWII (United Kingdom)





1939-1945 Star



1939-1945 Military Medal

### **Col. G. T. Lyall, V.C., Killed in Near East**

LONDON, Dec. 11.—Col. Graham Thomson Lyall, V.C., attached to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, was reported killed in action in the Middle East Thursday.

Col. Lyall, born in England 42 years ago, went to Canada before the last war and was educated at Toronto.

Col. Lyall served in France with the 81st infantry battalion of the Canadian Mounted Rifles in the First Great War.

His Victoria Cross was awarded Dec. 14, 1918 after operations at Bourn Wood, near Cambrai, where he captured 185 Germans, 26 machineguns and a field gun.

Credit: Edmonton Journal 11 December 1941

On sad postscript to Colonel Lyall relates to the marriage of his daughter Rose to Corporal Harry Thompson, R.A.F. on 15 November 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Davy, Newcastle.  
**THOMPSON—LYALL.** At Ford Parish Church, Northumberland, Nov. 15, 1941, Corporal Harry Thompson, R.A.F., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, 39, Briary Gardens, Shotley Bridge, to Rose Lyall, youngest daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Lyall, Etal, Northumberland.

Credit: Evening Chronicle Newcastle-upon Tyne 17 November 1941

Sources referenced for this Article

Meet Lieutenant Graham Thomson Lyall: <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianForces/posts/meet-lieutenant-graham-thomson-lyall-of-the-102nd-infantry-battaliononthisday-in/3000047813555734/>.

(Note: a posting on this link suggests that Lyall Street in Esquimalt, B.C. is named in his honour.)

CEF Record: <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=539801>

102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, CEF: <http://www.102ndbattalioncef.ca/>

Department of National Defence: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/medals/victoria-cross-recipient/graham-thomson-lyall.html>  
Royal Army Ordnance Corps: <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/royal-army-ordnance-corps>  
Forces War Records: <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/records/4708283/major-graham-thomson-lyall-british-army-royal-army-ordnance-corps/>  
Graham Thomson Lyall, Canada.ca: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/medals/victoria-cross-recipient/graham-thomson-lyall.html>  
Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham\\_Thomson\\_Lyall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Thomson_Lyall)  
Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/102nd\\_Battalion,\\_CEF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/102nd_Battalion,_CEF)  
Department of National Defense: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/medals/victoria-cross-recipient/graham-thomson-lyall.html>  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2057573/GRAHAM%20THOMSON%20LYALL/>  
Citation, London Gazette 13 December 1918: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2057573/GRAHAM%20THOMSON%20LYALL/#&gid=1&pid=1>  
Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/7726856/graham-thomson-lyall>  
Swift & Strong, Leblanc - Maxwell - Snow - Deschenes: p. 133  
Credits from media articles as shown in the article.

Lest we Forget.

Prepared by Don Manning, Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society  
Prepared: June 9, 2022

**LT-COL JOHN WILLIAM TOOGOOD, EM, CD, SILVER STAR (US)  
28<sup>TH</sup> CANADIAN ARMoured REGIMENT (BC)  
ROYAL CANADIAN ARMoured CORPS**



Credit: City of Vancouver Archives

This article was a little different to research, it relates to a man who fought on World War II with the 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment), Canadian Armoured Corps, and who led his Regiment back to Vancouver from Northwest Europe. His military records are not available to refer to the



public as he survived the war, I have relied on public information from media of the day for much of the content.

He was born in Kent, United Kingdom in emigrating to Canada about 1937, beginning a career in newspaper advertising, and who join the British Columbia Regiment (DCOR) in 1937 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

Date of Birth: 24 January 1914, Lewisham, St. Paul Deptford. Kent, United Kingdom, Father James Toogood, a soldier, and Miss Lilian Lawlor, London, United Kingdom

Death: 19 October 1997, Vancouver, B.C.

Occupation: Advertising Director, at Retirement in 1973

Marriage: 6 July 1940, Bride Margery Aileen Cullum, St. Mary's Church, Victoria, B.C.



Credit: Leader Post 5 July 1940

He subsequently married Audrey April Craig Hall, date unknown.

At the time of his death, he had three children as well as a stepchild.

### **28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armored Regiment, (British Columbia Regiment), CAC**

Major Toogood is referenced in "The Dukes" (Major Douglas Harker) several times, I have relied upon those references in the absence of his Military Record.



Credit: Vancouver Sun, 1945

Here is a brief summary of Major Toogood's actions and accomplishments while in the 28<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC.

Shortly after the declaration of war, in September 1939, the Regiment was assigned numerous guard duties in the Vancouver area to which Lieutenant Toogood was assigned to the defence of Coal Harbour whaling station near Port Hardy, British Columbia.

In 1940, the Regiment moved to the Army Camp in New Westminster, B.C. In October 1940, the Regiment continued training when posted to the military base in Nanaimo, B.C. Lieutenant Toogood, along with other new officers, not yet qualified, were given an officer's training course in small arms and military procedures.

In September 1942, John accompanied the Regiment when transferred to the U.K., arriving in the U.K. via Glasgow, Scotland, moving to Hove, near Brighton, East Sussex, U.K. He was in Sussex with the overseas contingent. When the Regiment had participated in Exercise Spartan in the U.K., he had been promoted to the rank of Captain.

He spent time training on Ram Tanks, where he was Acting Squadron Commander of "B" Squadron.

Captain Toogood landed in Normandy on 26 July 1944, and during Operation Totalize II, on 09 August 1944, he was Left out of Battle (LOB), during the battle in the vicinity of Hill 140, Normandy.

On 10 August 1944, he was appointed as Acting-Major, on 10 October he was appointed as Squadron Leader, and as Squadron Commander prior to Operation Tractable, 18 August 1944, for the crossing of Le Laizon River at Rouvres, Calvados, Normandy.

Lt. Colonel Donald F. Worthington, Commanding Officer, was killed during the battle, and Major C.E. Parish was promoted to Lt-Colonel and appointed Commanding Officer of the Regiment on 11 August 1944. 47 Sherman tanks were lost during the battle for the Hill 140 area; however, 32 replacement M4A2 Sherman tanks were issued to the Regiment from the 25<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Armored Regiment (Tank Delivery Regiment) CAC.

From 17 to 21 August 1944, the Regiment was engaged in the battle to close the Falaise Gap (near St. Lambert-sur-Dive, Orne, France), and given the lead for the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Division to the River Seine.

On the evening of 16 September, in Northern Belgium and the Netherlands, "B" Squadron, led by Major Toogood's Squadron, advanced across the Derivation Canal using a Bailey Bridge prepared by Canadian Engineers.

At New Years 1945 Major Toogood was appointed Second in Command.

By the end of Operation Blockbuster (end of March 1945) and the clearing of the Rhineland, Maj Toogood becomes Commanding Officer with Lt. Col. Chubb is transferred.

In March 1945, with Operation Block Buster, the clearing of the Rhineland Major Toogood temporarily acts as Military Governor of Neuenhaus, Germany, during the withdrawal of German troops.

In May 1945, the Commanding Officer Lt. Col. A.G. Chubb is transferred, and Major Toogood is promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed as Regimental Commanding Officer.

On 1 February 1946 after boarding Isle de France for Halifax, and taking Canadian Pacific Railway, marching south on Granville Street, East on Georgia Street to the Cambie Street Park, adjacent to the Drill Hall, where Lieutenant-Colonel Toogood gave his final order: 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armored Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC, "Dismiss".



Mrs. Audrey Toogood contacted L Col Archie M. Steacy, (Retd), that she wished to donate Lt. Col. John W. Toogood's medals to The Regimental Museum Society. Col. Steacy received the medals, presented the medals to L Col H. Sajjan, CD, MSC, Commanding Officer. The medals were turned over to Master Warrant Officer Ronald Leblanc, CD, Curator, Regimental Museum Society.



Lt. Col. Toogood's medals residing in The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum are as follows:

1939-1945 Star, France – Germany Star, Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with (overseas) clasp, War Medal 1939-1945, Queen Elisabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal, Efficiency Decoration, Canadian Forces Decoration with two bars, Silver Star (United States).

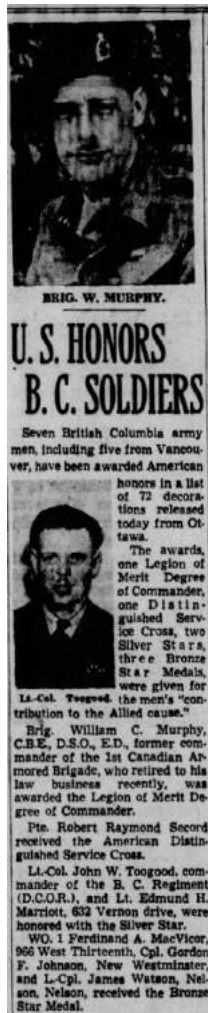
In addition to the medals in the Museum collection, according to an article in the Vancouver Sun dated 22 October 1997, he was also awarded the 125th Anniversary medal of the Confederation of Canada:



February 1946: Silver Star (United States), authorized by King George VI at the request of The President of the United States, for his "Contribution to the Allied Cause". A total of 72 awards were issued according to the article above, each of which were issued to acknowledge the role played by Canadian Troops during WWII.

DECORATIONS - C. A. S. F.				REG. NO.	RANK	C.A.S.F. UNIT
TOOGOOD, John William					Major	3326-10 R.C.M.A.C. 0932 T
AWARD	L.S. AUTHORITY	DATE	PAGE	DEED OF ACTION OR CITATION OR REVERSE SIDE		
SILVER STAR	C.O. 13	30-3-46	1846	The KING has been pleased to grant unrestricted permission for the wearing of the following decorations which have been conferred upon the undermentioned in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the allies.		
Conferred by the Pres. USA				<div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">H</span> </div>		
92F						

Citation re: Award of Silver Star (United States): Link (forces.gc.ca): <https://dnh-dhp.forces.gc.ca/cao-aco/details-en.asp?firstname=John%20William&lastname=Toogood&rec=id3780>



Credit: Vancouver Province, 29 March 1946  
 "For the Men's Contribution to the Allied Cause"

From a discussion with Lt-Col. Archie M. Steacy, CD, (Ret'd), I learned that The 28<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment (British Columbia Regiment) CAC) did have contact with U.S. Forces following the conclusion of the action of closing the Falaise Gap on 21 June 1944, while advancing to the River Seine. A discussion regarding the background behind the award of Silver Star appears above in the medals section of this article.

### **Career after Demobilization of The 28<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment follows.**

Lt-Col, Toogood took command of the Regiment from Lt. Col Gerry Chubb in 1944 ( Source: Swift & Strong) , and in civilian life he returned to his pre-war employment, now as the Advertising Manager of The Vancouver Sun. He retired from The Vancouver Sun in June 1979:

### **Military Service following return to Vancouver**

Lt-Col Toogood continued in his military position until 1948. Some of the major events during this time include:

- The change of name of The British Columbia Regiment (DCOR), reorganized to become 13 Armored Regiment (BCR), on 9 April 1946.
- The Fraser River Floods of 1948 in the Defence of the Barnston Island Dykes and related evacuation.



- Lt-Colonel Toogood successfully defeated a Federal Government move to take over the Drill Hall in July 1948.
- A proposed move coming from Ottawa to ship extra tanks to Eastern Canada for scrapping was stopped by Major-General H.F.G. Letson, based on Lt-Colonel Toogood's contrary arguments to maintain the Regiment's war time armoured role, as a Militia Regiment.
- Lieutenant-Colonel Toogood was appointed to the positions of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in 1963 until his appointment as Honorary Colonel in 1992, serving in the latter appointment until 1997.

## Civilian Life

John Toogood then returned to civilian life with The Vancouver Sun, his pre 1940 employer prior to the 1939 call-out. He would eventually retire from Pacific Press in 1979. He was known in those days simply as "The Colonel" and was well known as a marketing expert during the years of growth in newspaper circulation in the postwar period.

**Sun's advertising chief, 'The Colonel,' retires**

It's been a good life for John Toogood, who retires today as The Vancouver Sun's marketing and advertising director.

When he says "I'm just happy to be alive," he means it.

During the Second World War he fought through some of history's worst tank battles and survived. He started the war as a second lieutenant and ended it as commanding officer of the B.C. Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles), the "Fighting Dukers" of Falaise Gap.

In one of the most vivid moments in Vancouver's young history, Lt. Col. Toogood marched the remains of his men up Granville Street through a light rain on Feb. 1, 1946, and dismissed the parade for the last time.

"The toughened tankmen who had ripped through German defences from Normandy to the Rhine staged their last home march in quiet dignity, symbolic of the hope they were the last war heroes the city would ever have to greet," was the way The Vancouver Sun of the day reported it.

Toogood picked up exactly where he left off seven years earlier, in the advertising department of The Sun.

First as national advertising manager, then as general advertising manager and finally as director of marketing, Toogood built the commercial side of The Sun as the city grew.

In 1946, the Greater Vancouver population was about 400,000 compared with 1.2 million today. In 1947, the paper sold 11.9 million lines of advertising; in 1977 the lineage was almost 50 million.

At one time before television and the proliferation of radio outlets, The Sun offered 50 per cent of the Vancouver market by home delivery.

Today, even after a debilitating seven-month, 36-day shutdown and the resulting rise in alternative outlets, Toogood believes The Sun will be the market leader again.

He was proved right. Today's Sun — the first paper in almost eight months, and Toogood's last — rolled off at 82 pages, more than 10,000 column inches of which is paid advertising.

"The Vancouver Sun now does as much business in two weeks as we used to do in a year," he said.


Toogood fondly remembers his early days at The Sun when it was a highly-individualistic newspaper owned and operated by the Cromie family.

"I was fortunate to be associated with the paper during a period of tremendous growth," he said. "It was during the period of the move to the suburbs and the Sun was ready."

There was a tremendous expansion of the department stores. When Simpson-Sears built the first shopping centre in Burnaby some people thought they were crazy. But people moved to the suburbs and the business followed.

"In the old days an advertising salesman needed was a rate card and a circulation statement. Now he has to be a very sophisticated marketer," Toogood says of the changes he has seen.

"Purchasing power has shifted to working women and younger people. Lifestyles



**JOHN TOOGOOD**  
... war, publishing veteran

have changed. People have become much more sophisticated. Now you have to research the demographics of a market before you start selling.

"Distribution has become a real struggle in an affluent society," he says. "There used to be a waiting list of boys wanting to be carriers — not any more. Then there's the readership shift — people living busy lives in downtown apartment buildings, the new Canadians in the city core where English is a second language for many."

Few people call Toogood by his wartime nickname "Johnny." To his colleagues he is "John" and to hundreds of people in the Pacific Press building and around town, he is "The Colonel."

Although he left active military service as soon as he could, he has always maintained his commanding manner and a strong personal code of honor.

"John Toogood is an extremely proud man and he has a great deal to be proud of," said Sun publisher Clark Davey. "He had a very high standard which he lived up to and he expected everyone around him to do the same."

Says Toogood of his career: "It's been an exciting business, even if it's not the highest paying for executives."

Now he plans to travel and play some golf.

Also, he plans to do some consulting work, because, he says, he is a man who saw almost 1,000 tanks blow up around him! "I'm not used to sitting on my ass."

Publisher Davey said Toogood's successor would not be named immediately.

"There has been a wide-ranging search for a marketing director which has identified an outstanding candidate and we are now in negotiations," Davey said.

In the meantime, advertising department heads will report directly to his office, the publisher said.

Vancouver Sun 29 June 1979

## As Honorary Colonel

Following his retirement from Active Service in the Regiment and his retirement from The Vancouver Sun, Lt-Col. John W. Toogood, EM, CD, (Ret'd) accepted the role of Honorary Colonel of the BC Regiment from 1992-1997.

about

# Regiment is ready, aye ready

**F**or now the talk is of 1,000 Canadian troops to join the NATO force in the former Yugoslavia.

If our history as United Nations peacekeepers is any measure, a fair percentage of the force eventually will come from the ranks of those who call themselves soldier-citizens, the reserve forces.

And it is no little irony that at a time when the need for their services may be on the increase, Canada's reserves — air, land and sea forces — are being trimmed as the federal government hunts for ways to cut spending.

"The Reserve Force must... be scrutinized to extract the maximum efficiency and savings, while maintaining the capability of the Canadian Forces to meet all their commitments," warns the preamble to a recently released report from the national defence department's Special Commission on the Restructuring of the Reserves.

The Militia (army) component of the reserves will have to be reduced from its current paid number of about 20,000 to 14,500 by April 1, 1999, the report says.

All of which is what took me to the Beatty Street Drill Hall (almost always incorrectly called the armory) to check out the state of the B.C. Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) which claims to be our oldest serving unit.

Eight of its members have been to the Bosnia-Croatia conflict; eight more have already volunteered to go when called upon.

I found The Regiment (they speak of it in upper case only) if naturally concerned about the proposed cuts, filled with vigor both old and new, and anxious to continue being a vital part of not only our armed forces, but of the community that has been its home for more than 130 years.

The regiment was officially formed in 1883 as the B.C. Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery, but has roots back into the 1860s when former members of the Royal Engineers, who had come to build the Cariboo Highway and remained as settler-farmers, formed up as volunteers in response to a threatened invasion by U.S.-based Irish revolutionaries, the Fenians.

It is now an armoured-reconnaissance regiment and its record of service covers actions from the Boer War to Bosnia.

Those two fellows in the photo are John Toogood, coming up 52, and 33-year-old Master Cpl. Jim Beaton.

Toogood joined the regiment as a second lieutenant in 1939, two years after he had immigrated from England. Seven years later as a lieutenant-colonel and its commanding officer (two other C.O.s had been killed), he brought the regiment home from the war in Europe. He currently is Honorary Colonel.

Jim Beaton is a provincial corrections officer, a job made possible by a grant from the regiment to put him through the required program at the B.C. Justice Institute. He was one of our peacekeepers in Croatia, from October 1992 to April 1993, and he surprises me with the information that fully 40 per cent of our peace-keeping force there was militia, the part-time, soldier-citizens.

In Croatia he was attached from the B.C. Regiment to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. In fact the regiment has never gone into active service as a single unit — but wherever it has gone — as the largest component of the 7th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War, for example — it has earned remarkable distinction, including three Victoria Crosses.

The regimental history is well preserved in a collection and thought is being given to presenting it as a museum tourist attraction. The regiment is proposing that a piece of city property on the same block as the historic drill hall (opened in 1901 and now a Class A Heritage Building) be named St. Julien Place, in memory of a small town in the Ypres Salient, Belgium, where in 1915 regiment members came up against the first German gas attack.

The regiment has a complement of 185 ("That's all we're allowed to pay," grumbles Toogood) and about 80 cadets. It has three regular-army members for day-to-day administration.

The C.O. is Lt. Col. Joe Seymour, owner of an air-express company by day. He points out that among whatever else the militia offers young people, including the chance to travel to exotic, if perhaps sometimes fraught, destinations, it is a paying job.

Attendance on two nights a week and one weekend a month pays between \$400 and \$500, and involves a broad selection of trade training. Add to that the opportunity of guaranteed summer employment for up to 13 weeks.

I'm sounding like a recruiting sergeant, you say?

Good, because there's an awful lot worse a young person could do than check out the reserves — of which of course there are other units, army, navy and air force, in Greater Vancouver and other B.C. centres.

And given two considerations — the earlier-announced decision to shut down CFB Chilliwack, thus denying B.C. a permanent army presence, and the way things are going with NATO, we could well end up needing more of them, not less.

Contact Don Hunter by phone or fax at 273 4252 or e-mail to [dhunter@haven.unityserve.com](mailto:dhunter@haven.unityserve.com)

Swift photos by Nelson Neudorfer



Credit: Vancouver Province: 8 December 1995



Credit Swift & Strong (colorized by the writer)



On 19 October 1997, John William Toogood passed away in Vancouver, B.C. at the age of 84.

**Obituary:**

389082



**TOOGOOD** — John William, born January 24, 1914 in Kent, England, died October 19, 1997, suddenly after a valiant fight through 2 throat operations. Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his wife Audrey; children, Grant, Maureen and Susan, stepson Tom Allen; grandchildren, Jason, Aaron, Megan, Mark, and Anna. In 1937 he came to Canada and joined The Vancouver Sun Newspaper as salesman. In 1939 he enlisted with the British Columbia Regiment and served with them in World War II in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany bringing the regiment home in 1946 as Lieutenant Colonel. He was decorated by the American Government with the Silver Star. He rejoined the Vancouver Sun in the Advertising Department, retiring in 1979 as Advertising Director. In 1970 he was made Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the B.C. Regiment and in 1992 was made Honorary Colonel, retiring in 1997. He was a life member of the Terminal City Club, and an ardent golfer at Point Grey Golf Club. A memorial service will be held Saturday, October 25th at 2 p.m. in Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church, 2733 West 41st Ave. Also a Drum Head Service at the Beatty Street Armouries, B.C. Regiment, date to be announced later. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Cancer Society.

Credit: Vancouver Sun 23 October 1997

**References for this article:**

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Library & Archives Canada (Silver Star): <https://dhh-dhp.forces.gc.ca/cao-aco/details-en.asp?firstname=John%20William&lastname=Toogood&rec=id3780>

Newspaper articles as noted in this article.

Dukes arrive in Vancouver: Vancouver Sun: 1 February 1946

John Toogood Decorated Officer, Sun ad Executive: Vancouver Sun, 22 October 1997

Thanks go to Lt-Col. Archie Steacy, CD. (Ret'd) for his input during the preparation of this article.

Article prepared by:

Don Manning

Member, The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) Museum Society

2 May 2024

## BCR ASSOCIATION KIT SHOP

The BCR Kit Shop is now online:

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

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

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

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

The Kit Shop has the following items for sale:

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

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

Mini - \$130.0



Cuff Links - \$35.00



Pen - \$25.00



Pocket Watch - \$105.00



# REMEMBRANCE

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

**FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY  
CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DAVID A. SPROULE, CD (RET'D)  
(1937 – 2024)  
THE DRILL HALL  
19 JUNE 2024**



The Regimental Family remembered the passing of our good friend and colleague, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) David Sproule at a Memorial Service held in the early afternoon of Wednesday, 19 June 2024, at the Drill Hall in Vancouver.



Dave served in the Regiment for a brief period in 1959 and returned to the Unit in 1987 and was its Commanding Officer from January 1989 to January 1992. Dave was a great supporter of the Regimental Family and served on the CO's Committee from 1992 to the date of his passing.



The Order of Service at the Celebration held on the drill square before a full house included Opening Remarks and a Greeting by the Master of Ceremonies, Major Adam McLeod, the Eulogy by the Regimental Secretary and former Honorary Colonel, Ted Hawthorne, the singing of "Song for the Mira" by the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir, the recitation of the Poem "Immortality" by Drew Lirag, "Remembering Dad" by Daughter-in-law Traci Mercer, a piano solo of "For All We Know" by Michael Creber, "Yellowknife Recollections" by Darryl Watkins, "On Friendship" by Judith Hardcastle and Joe Blake, the singing of "But Beautiful" and "I Wish You Love" by Sue Doman, "Neighbours Celebrate Neighbours" by Pam Clancy, "Amazing Grace" in Inuktitut by Inuk daughter, Mary Olibuk Tatty, and in English by the Welsh Choir, "For the Joy of Singing" by Barry Spruston, a Slideshow narrated by daughter Sidney Sproule, Closing remarks by Major McLeod and the "Last Post and Rouse by Bugle Major Chris Ahern and a Lament, "Oft a Silly Night" by Pipe Major Andrew Hayes.

A reception followed in the Officers' and the WOs' & Sgts' Messes where we continued to remember so many good times.





A strong presence of the Regimental Family was in attendance along with many members of Dave's family, and friends.



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

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 April until the end of June 2024. 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 on a regular basis.