



# Princess of Wales' Own Regiment Association

Fall 2010

Lest We Forget

## PRINCESS OF WALES' OWN REGIMENT 150TH ANNIVERSARY

On 28th September, on behalf of the PWOR Association, I attended the first Steering Committee meeting for the Regiment's 150th Anniversary. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel McKay chaired the meeting and I wish to pass on to you the Plan as envisioned by the CO. It must be flexible, executable, and consensus-based. The flow of work will be to develop ideas (end Oct), categorize those ideas (end Nov), and to prepare for the 150th (Dec 2010 – onward). Activities include fund raising, chain of command support, and guide preparations.

There are many ideas already put forward. This list is not in order of priority or importance. It is not exhaustive and is open for further suggestions.

These are:

Coffee-table book  
21st Battalion History  
Freedom of the City  
DHH recognize Vimy Cross as a designated cenotaph  
Commemorative stamp, coin  
Regimental Ball  
Licence Plate  
History Symposium  
Collectables  
Painting

Battlefield Tour  
Touring Regimental Museum Exhibit  
Military Tattoo Fort Henry  
Regimental March on the Rideau Trail  
Conduct a larger March of Dimes Event  
Time Capsule  
March in Santa Claus Parade  
Celebrity at Regimental Birthday Dinner  
Rideau Hall Ceremonial Guard  
Golf Tournament  
Nijmegen March  
Pipes and Drums CD

### Categories.

1. Must do.
2. Sufficiently important to find a champion.
3. Do, if there is a champion.
4. Only if all else is going.

The criteria for each idea put forward must be achievable, sustainable, and a positive effort-to-benefit ratio.

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### **THE PRINCESS OF WALES' OWN REGIMENT**

**The PWOR Association** invites you to participate in the **Remembrance Day Parade** and **ceremonies** to take place at the **Cross of Sacrifice Monument**, (King and Barrie St), and at the **21st Battalion Monument** in City Park. At the conclusion of these, the **Regiment** will march back to the **Kingston Armoury** for a service at the **Vimy Cross** to be followed by a time of camaraderie. Bus transportation will be available from the armoury to the parade.

**Please report to the Armouries by 0915 hrs November 11 if you wish to board the bus for 0945.**

**The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment Association welcomes new members and Friends of the Regiment.**

### **Fallen Comrades**

Lieutenant-Colonel James David (Jim) McQueen  
Former Commanding Officer and  
Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel  
5 May 2010

Colonel Arthur Kirkwood (Art) Twigg  
Former Commanding Officer and  
Honorary Colonel  
24 August 2010

*Ich Dien*

## John McCrae Remembered

*By Linda J Cameron*

"In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Love, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die"



John McCrae was a poet, well known for the famous Remembrance Day, poem he penned on the battlefield near Ypres, Belgium traditionally known as Flanders. Some of the heaviest fighting of the war took place during the Second Battle of

Ypres during the first First World War. The poem written by McCrae, "In Flanders Field" became the voice of every man who died in battle. Because of the poem's popularity, the poppy was adopted as the Flower of Remembrance Day for the war dead in Britain, France, the United States, and Canada.

McCrae was Canadian and more than a poet. Born in 1872 in Guelph, Ontario he graduated top of his class in medicine at the University of Toronto in 1898. While at university, he had some short stories published and later had scientific articles and medical textbooks published. Along with his literary efforts, he dabbled in the visual arts, making numerous sketches throughout his life.

More than a poet and a doctor, John McCrae was a soldier. While at Guelph Collegiate, John joined the Highland Cadet Corps affiliated with the school. At 15, he became a bugler in the local militia regiment of artillery commanded by his father. Later he joined the regiment as a gunner.

With the start of the South African War in 1899, John McCrae felt it his duty to serve. John was commissioned to lead an artillery battery from Guelph which later became part of the D Battery, Canadian Field Artillery contingent. Promoted to Captain then Major, he (continued on page 4)

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resigned from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of Artillery in 1904.

When Canada declared war on Germany August 14, 1914, John signed on and was appointed brigade-surgeon to the First Brigade of Canadian Forces Artillery. He held the rank of Major and second-in-command. In the trenches, John McCrae treated hundreds of soldiers while surrounded by dead and dying men. While under heavy fire and after he buried his best friend, marking his grave with a cross, in Flanders Field, he wrote "In Flanders Fields" as dawn crept over the eastern sky. John's poem would give voice to his fallen comrades who paid the ultimate sacrifice for future generations. It was the last poem he ever wrote.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

In an e-mail sent to members on 14 Sep, I reported that the issue of the headdress had been resolved and that the wedge cap would be the authorized dress. There now has been a change and the beret will become the proper headdress for association members. There was not sufficient numbers of the wedge cap in the Kit Shop and perhaps a procurement problem for future issue. I regret the great inconvenience this change has caused. The beret may be purchased at the C & E Museum at CFB Kingston. Anyone requiring a PWOR cap badge, they may be purchased in the Kit Shop.  
Phil MacKenzie

### **MILITARY WIT AND WISDOM – from Military Manuals**

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

General MacArthur

"Try to look unimportant, they may be low on ammo."

Infantry Journal

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid."

David Hackworth

"Aim towards the enemy."

Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher.

"If your attack is going too well, you're walking into an ambush."

Infantry Journal

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do."

Unknown Marine Recruit

"Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't volunteer to do anything."

US Navy Swabbie

You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3."

Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)

## **E-MAIL and POSTAL ADDRESSES**

To insure that you receive your newsletters and other periodicals, please verify you addresses with us.

### Our Mailing Address:

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Kingston, ON  
K7K 3E8

Our E-Mail Address:      pwor1@yahoo.ca

I wish to thank the Regimental Orderly Room Staff for their assistance in production of our newsletter. I encourage members to contribute to their newsletter. Articles of historical or military significance, cartoons, humorous stories or personal experiences are welcome. Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition.

Phil MacKenzie  
President

## **PRISONERS OF WAR**

*Original story and research by Stephen J Nichol*

Over the years, various issues of The Communiqué reported the number of members of the 21st battalion who were taken prisoner as between eight and twelve. Research through the War Diary and Part II Orders as well as anecdotes, led to the identification of the following eleven men who were taken as prisoners of war.

59281 Dusenbury, Ralf - Was taken prisoner on June 2nd 1916 after being assigned to a working party for one of the Royal Engineers

Tunneling Companies. Dusenbury was sleeping in "The Tunnel" a gallery dug into the reverse slope of Mount Sorrel along with about 250 others in a section of line held by the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles when the Germans launched an attack, which overran the front line. During the artillery barrage "The Tunnel" was blown in and all the surviving occupants were captured. Dusenbury was taken P.O.W. and was reported as being held at Dulmen. He later escaped to Holland and was repatriated to Canada. He was awarded the Military Medal on June 30th 1920.

725138 Groves, Alfred - Was taken prisoner and reported Missing in Action during the action at Hill 70 on August 15th 1917. He was released on December 8th 1918.

2021909 Hedin, Eric, Johan - Was taken prisoner on October 10th 1918 and formally reported Missing in Action on October 11th, 1918. He was released on January 6th 1919.

725570 Miller, Herbert "Red" - Miller, a Lewis gunner in #11 platoon C Company, was "snatched" at Monchy Ridge on August 28th 1918. He survived the war and was repatriated to Canada.

195654 Post, Theodore - Was buried by a shell and dug out by the Germans at Hill 70 August 15th 1917. He was held as a P.O.W. at Limburg and later at Dulmen. In the post war years he lived at Coe Hill, Ontario.

657347 Russell, Thomas Albert - Russell was reported "Missing In Action Wounded" on August 28th 1918.

400596 Taylor, William Sherman - Wounded while on a night patrol in No Man's Land April  
*(continued on page 7)*

## The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment Military Museum



In 1967 a meeting was held to form a committee to organize artifacts and create a museum for the Regiment. This committee was headed by L/Col (ret) JD McQueen and Capt (ret) Doug Thompson. There were several members present, including the current Curator RSM (ret) Bob Pollitt and his wife Marie, Maj (ret) Brit Smith, Maj R Lidstone, and Maj J Hirschfield.

Because no space was available in the Armouries, a location had to be found. At that time Brig-Gen (ret) Bill Patterson was in charge of Old Fort Henry, and he agreed to make a room available to create a museum at the Fort. The committee went to work made the room suitable for a museum and then moved all the artifacts that were scattered around the various Messes and rooms in the Armouries to their new room in the Fort.

On September 28, 1969, following a parade at the Fort which saw the Command of the PWOR change from L/Col JR Kinney to L/Col R Dignum, and the Laying Up of the Retired Colours, the Minister of Tourism for Ontario, the Hon JAC Auld, cut the ribbon for the official opening of the museum. The museum operated very successfully there for 20 years as a part of the Fort

tours.

In the late 1980s the Commanding Officer of the PWOR, L/Col IA Kennedy, made the decision to move the museum to the Armouries, and created the room for it by moving the Quartermaster's Stores out of their space and into their current rooms, which incidentally gave the QM Stores the expanded space that they had been asking for.

Maj Tex Joiner lead the task of making the new room suitable, and moving the displays into the new space, which is it's current location in the Armouries. On October 28, 1991, the Colonel-in-Chief, Diana, Princess of Wales, officially opened the museum during the Royal visit to Kingston. A plaque was presented by the Princess of Wales' Regiment Association to honour the occasion, which is mounted outside the front door to the museum. The museum has a large number of photos of Diana on display in the entrance to the displays.

Maj (ret) Tex Joiner remained on as Curator of the museum until his retirement. The museum was closed for a brief period, until Capt (ret) Gord Hobbs took on the position of Curator, with the assistance of RSM (ret) Bob Pollitt and L/Col (ret) Tom Lodge.

Many changes to the displays took place during this period, and with accreditation by the Organization of Military Museums of Canada, procedures and collections were brought into the modern day. The museum's holdings have grown dramatically in the intervening time and space was becoming scarce. In addition, Gord Hobbs had to step down for health reasons, and Bob Pollitt took on the position of Curator. Bob also owns a military pattern jeep which he keeps on display just outside the museum's entrance. Combined with Tom Lodge and

David Moore, there is a keen interest in military vehicles and their restoration.

Along with the museum's displays, there were many boxes of unorganized records, files and photos. These records had been bounced around the Armouries for many years, and at one time had to be rescued from destruction by the then Commanding Officer, L/Col Mike Shultz. Volunteer Al Lloyd came on board and took charge of this archive of records. These boxes were moved into separate quarters in the armouries which allowed a little more room for displays, but allowed the archives to be organized. This is an ongoing task, and will continue to take many hours of volunteer time to get completely usable as an archive.

The museum has displays and records dating to the Regiment's formation in 1863, with weapons, uniforms, medals and other items of interest that helped form Canada into the country it is today. There is a large WW1 display of items from the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion CEF which was formed and trained in Kingston during the winter 1914-15. Uniformed mannequins bring to life the memory of those who served in Flanders Fields. In addition, there is a display of WWII items from the SD&G and other local units and soldiers.

The museum is open during the summer months, June through August, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. From September through May the hours are Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

The PWOR has a proud record of service to Canada since 1863, right up to and including providing men and women for service in Afghanistan. Their story is told in the displays of the museum. One of Kingston's best kept secrets.

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28th 1918. After returning to their trench the patrol went back out to find him and found only his rifle and helmet along with a German field cap.

59964 Temple, Alfred - Temple was reported "Missing in action believed wounded" on May 7th 1916. He was reported as being a P.O.W. on May 22nd 1916.

675257 Thompson, Percy Herbert - Was buried by a shell (along with Theodore Post) at Hill 70 on August 17, 1917 and dug out by the Germans. He was later held as a P.O.W. at Limburg.

60006 Turcott, Philius - Was wounded in the leg at St Eloi Craters April 1916. His leg was amputated while in hospital in Germany, which led to him being repatriated to England in a prisoner exchange.

60052 White, Frederick Arthur - Was taken prisoner on September 29th 1916 and was reported as Missing In Action on October 23rd 1916. He was later reported as a P.O.W. at Dulmen, Germany.



*RALPHE DUSENBURY  
In Germany, before his  
captors put him on a diet.*

## From the Editor

By Phil MacKenzie

Welcome to our newly revitalized newsletter. Under the capable direction of our new publisher, Al Lloyd, we have attempted to make your newsletter much more dynamic with a professional reader- friendly look. We welcome your comments and suggestions on ways to continually improve your newsletter.

On 17 April 2010, PWOR Change of Command Parade was held when the out-going Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Samis passed command to Lieutenant-Colonel James McKay. On behalf of the Association, I wish to thank Lieutenant-Colonel Samis for his leadership and support to our Association. For Lieutenant-Colonel McKay's command, we look forward to lending our support wherever we can.

On Sunday, 6 June 2010, the 35th Annual Review for the PWOR Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps was held. The Reviewing Officer for this special parade was Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John Cowan. The PWOR Association presented a bursary of fifty dollars to the top cadet in each star level. The winners were Cpl Olivia Goggin – Best Green Star; MCpl Liam Sands-Pelkey – Best Red Star; Sgt Brittany – Best Silver Star; and WO Brendan Hogan – Best Gold Star. Congratulations to these outstanding cadets and a well-done to the Corps for an impressive turn-out.

This past summer, there were as many as 36 soldiers who successfully completed qualification courses in Meaford, Petawawa, and Gagetown.

On August 13, members of the Association sailed the Island Star on our first Thousand Islands Sunset Dinner Cruise. A big THANK-YOU to Rick Wilde, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice and Entertainment Guy for organizing such a fun outing for all those who were able to attend.

On 18 September, a Depart with Dignity Ceremony was held at the Royal Canadian Legion Trenton Branch 110 for WO Dennis Lee in recognition of his 31 plus years of loyal military service. Congratulations Dennis and on behalf all members, we wish you all the best in your retirement. ENJOY!

In September, I reported that the Executive had finalized the draft on the proposed amendments to our constitution. Although our timetable has been set back slightly, I am pleased to report that the amended constitution will be presented to the Commanding Officer and Senate in early November. Following this, it will be sent to the membership for approval and adoption at our next meeting. A huge THANK-YOU to our Executive Secretary Capt Marguerite Ronholm for her dedication and hard work on this important issue.

On behalf of the Association, I wish to welcome our new members to the Association:

Linda Cameron - Daniel Gerard  
Al Lloyd - Marlene MacKenzie  
Steven Sawell - Peter Sherry

## Daddy, Why Are They Crying?

*The following was written by Jim Spalding several years ago for Remembrance Day Ceremonies, and I thought it appropriate to reprint here.*

My dad woke me up very early one morning and said, son I want you to come with me and help set up the Cenotaph for the parade. I was 8 years old when I first learned of the meaning of a Veteran and on that cold November morning I was mad at Dad for taking me away from my warm bed to help him set up the chairs and a sound system at something called a Cenotaph.

We went to the Legion Branch 217 in Mimico and picked up some flags and wreaths in his paint truck and then we went to Hogles Funeral Home to get some chairs. We drove to this little park that had a big cross that had a lot of names on it. Dad and some other men were busy setting up everything and I was helping them set up the chairs, but not understanding what all the fuss was about.

All of a sudden, I heard music and sirens coming around the corner with flags flying in the cool breeze and people marching behind a pipe band. They marched up to the Cenotaph and stayed still in a straight line, while the Padre said some nice things. I looked around at everyone and saw tears in their eyes and that is when I asked.

“Daddy why are they crying”.

Dad looked down at me with his eyes that were filled with tears and said to me because we will never forget the men that died for our freedom. I watched them finish the service and we got everything back in the truck and left with

me still confused about this whole day.

I couldn't forget that day and finally asked my Dad one day while we were out driving by the Cenotaph and he looked at me with a worried look, turned the car around and stopped by the Cenotaph. We got out and sat down on a bench beside the wreaths and he told me all about the wars and how many died to keep us free. Dad told me that he couldn't be called a Veteran because they wouldn't let him join the war because his body couldn't do what was needed. Then Dad said as long as he lived, he was going to do as much as he could to tell everyone to never forget and he wanted me to understand the meaning of “Lest We Forget”

I joined the Legion and have been a member for over thirty years now and buried a lot of friends that I have known that will not be forgotten and I hope you all take the time to say “We Will Remember Them”

Freedom is earned and not given without pain and suffering and if we forget then it will all be for nothing. If War is hell then heaven is freedom so when you see a Veteran thank them because that is the least we could do and I am sure they would love to hear it.

I hope this little message gets through to you whoever you are in this great country that we all call home no matter what religion or colour. When you are at the service in your community this year take the time like my dad did and tell your little ones when they ask “Daddy Why Are They Crying?”

## Medals Reunited

By Al Lloyd  
PWOR Museum/Archives

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to reunite the medals awarded to a 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion veteran with his family. The medals, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, had been lost, the reasons unknown.

I was contacted by the granddaughter of Pte William Lorne Whitmore, number 60060, and asked if I could research her grandfather and his service in WW1 and WW2. I began by ordering his WW1 service file from the Archives in Ottawa, and while waiting for that to arrive, began doing some digging into my own files. Through my contacts with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion Discussion Group, I discovered that his WW1 medals were owned by Steve Nichol, author of the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion history, Ordinary Heroes.

I contacted Steve and he immediately



**Pte WL Whitmore  
21st Battalion**

agreed to sell the medals to the family for exactly what he paid for them and they were shipped to Kingston right away. It turns out that Steve obtained the medals from a collector in Tennessee, USA. How they wound up there is a matter of speculation.

When I informed the granddaughter about this, she was very excited. Her mother, Pte Whitmore's daughter, is still alive and was informed that she would soon be holding her father's medals again.

On July 24 of this year, I was privileged to present those medals to the family, along with a copy of his WW1 service file, and some additional information that I was able to uncover for them. As a volunteer in the PWOR Archives, and having a special interest in the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion, I felt a great deal of satisfaction in being able to do this for the family.



Daughter, June Parnell (on left) and granddaughter, Dianne Gazely, hold the medals for the first time in many years.

For the complete story and more photos, visit the 21st Battalion website at:  
[http://21stbattalion.ca/tributetz/whitmore\\_wl.html](http://21stbattalion.ca/tributetz/whitmore_wl.html)

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## **KIT SHOP**

Hours of Operation: Tuesday (first and last  
each month) 1900 – 2200

Thursdays (parade night) 1900 – 2200

Blazer crest - \$25.00  
Cap badge - \$5.00  
Tie (PWOR crest) - \$10.00  
Lapel pin - \$2.00  
Tie (striped) - \$10.00  
T-shirt (olive drab) - \$11.50  
T-shirt (maroon) - \$10.00  
T-shirt (red) - \$12.00  
T-shirt (wicking) - \$25.00  
Shirt, long sleeve (wicking) - \$30.00  
Hoodie - \$25.00  
Rugby shirt - \$50.00  
Window decal - \$2.00  
Jacket crest (windbreaker) - \$8.00  
Princess Diana pillow cover - \$5.00

## **Deployed Soldiers**

Presently, we have eight soldiers deployed in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

TF 1 - Sgt Orozco, MCpl Latimer, Cpl Hunt, Cpl Upton and Cpl Zeiger.

PRT in Kandahar City – WO Shultz

The above soldiers will be returning home before Christmas.

Deployed for a year are Col Coombs and Capt Bruce.

Maj Fischer deploys next month for six months.

***STAY SAFE AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL***

***Ich Dien***

(continued from page 1)

Caveats.

1. Opportunistic (plan may change, but planning still valued).
2. Limited ability to block off time (+/- two weekends).
3. While consensus-driven, CO remains final arbiter.

Timeline:

16 Nov – Meeting to categorize ideas.  
30 Nov – Planned briefed to Committee.  
Dec – Onward – Preparations for 150th

I ask all members to put forth their ideas on ways to commemorate this significant event in our Regiment's history. If you wish to champion your idea or any other, share your knowledge and talents or volunteer your time, please let us know. Thanking you all.

Phil MacKenzie  
President

**Coming Events**

**Remembrance Day** – 11 November 2010. All Association members are invited on parade.

**Soldiers' Christmas Dinner** – 16 December 2010. All Association members are invited to serve the soldiers.

**148<sup>th</sup> Regimental Birthday Mess Dinner** - 15 January 2011. All Association members are invited to attend.

**Vimy Parade** - April 7, 2011. All Association members are invited to attend.

**Vimy Ridge Anniversary** - April 9, 2011. Lest We Forget

**150<sup>th</sup> Regimental Birthday** – 13 January, 2013

