



39 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – 2018 - 1

Introduction

In 2016 LCol McLean (then CO of 39 CER) and others discussed the formation of an association of military engineers based on the Regiment. HCol Diamond and others were instrumental in getting the association legally recognized in the province of BC and now that it has the association can operate as a legal entity.

On 8 November 2016 the founding members of the association gathered to hold the first Annual General Meeting of the 39 Combat Engineer Regimental Association.

President's Report

Welcome all to the first newsletter of the 39 Combat Engineer Regimental Association (39CERA). It is our intent that we share information with you about both retired and serving members.

You will see, later on in the newsletter, the list of the current executive, but I would like to thank the outgoing President Bill Wenman, former Commanding Officer Lt Col Cameron McLean and HCol Bill Diamond for leading the charge in getting the Association up and running.

A number of us attended the Mess Dinner at 44 Engineer Squadron, Trail on 27 October 2018 and this was an great opportunity for both retired members and serving members to get together.

One of the challenges that we have is in forming an Association with potential members that live throughout the Province and across Canada. With locations of 39 CER in Chilliwack, Cranbrook, North Vancouver and Trail we have Directors of the Association selected to cover off those areas eg;

- Bill Wenman – Cranbrook and Trail
- Grant Acheson – Chilliwack
- HCol Bill Diamond and myself – Vancouver area

I would like to thank Pararin Rahmani of North Shore Law in helping us with registration of the Association name as well as with establishing our Constitution and Bylaws. Throughout the process they have waived all fees. So we are very appreciative of their support.

I would also like to thank Derek Kline, Branch Manager and Keenan Dagenais, Financial Services Manager of BMO for helping us set up the Association bank account and for providing us with essentially free banking.

Chimo

Bill White, President

Certificate of Incorporation

We are legal, and here is a copy of our Certificate of Incorporation.



Purpose of the Association

The purpose of the association is to

- To promote fellowship among all ranks of former and present members of 39 Combat Engineer Regiment, the Regimental Family and friends of the Regiment. Regimental Family members includes but is not limited to family of serving members, related Cadet Corps, museums and bands;
- To support the Regiment and Regimental Family in general and the activities of each; and
- To further the traditions of the Regiment and Regimental Family.

Membership

Attached with this newsletter is an application form. The data from this application will allow us to build a communications list so that we can forward news to members of the association (and ultimately to all members of the 39 CER Engineer family), and to satisfy the legal issue of a society to establish who are the members when it comes to providing notice for meetings, ability

to be elected, etc. By submitting an annual membership fee the association can update its membership list and hopefully the pertinent contact information necessary for distributing the newsletter.

Remembrance Day Participation

HQ And 54 Sqn

39 CER led the Chilliwack parade onto the All Sappers Cenotaph where they marched past the reviewing Officer, Maj W. Trythall, C.D., DCO 39 CER. This popular ceremony which sees a greater attendance than the official Chilliwack ceremony (at the former City Hall) is a tribute to the many Engineers and military personnel who have served at CFB Chilliwack.

Maj Trythall's speech to the assemble crowd is a perfect reminder for why we assemble and remember the fallen.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, honoured Veterans, it is my great pleasure to join you for this ceremony today to honour veterans, and commemorate our fallen.

Annually we acknowledge and remember the soldiers, sailors and airmen that have served our country faithfully; especially those who have died while carrying out their duties. These are men and women of Canada who, through their sacrifices, left us, who are gathered here today, with the freedom to choose how we might conduct our lives. I think it is therefore appropriate on this of all days then, to consider the words of the author Victor Hugo, who wrote a poignant reminder for us, “Those who for their country gave their lives should hear the prayers of many at their grave”.

Remembrance Day is a commemoration; which is to say an act of sharing of our collective, and individual, memories of those who sacrificed so much. It is not a day where we seek to glorify war and the implements of destruction, for there is no true glory in war for war's sake. It is a day established initially by our Sovereign, King George V in November 1919 when he sent greetings to our ancestors and the veterans of the First World War. His message was simple.

“To all my People: Tuesday next, 11 November is the first anniversary of the Armistice, which stayed world-wide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom. I believe that my people in every part of the Empire fervently wish to perpetuate the memory of the Great Deliverance. To afford an opportunity for the universal expression of this feeling, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, there may be for the brief space of two minutes, a complete suspension of our normal activities...we shall all gladly interrupt our business and pleasure whatever it may be, and unite in this simple service of Silence and Remembrance.”

The anniversaries of major military events allow us all to reflect on the debt we owe to our veterans. They embody the reason why Canada maintains armed forces. Their service and sacrifice is a concrete record of our country's dedication to upholding peace, security, the rule of law, the sanctity of borders, human rights, and other principles that underscore Canadian values.

Today in particular marks the 100th anniversary of the moment that the guns fell silent over the fields of France and Belgium, of the armistice that ended one of the bloodiest conflicts in history; but sadly that conflict did not live up to it's name as the “War to end all wars”. But, for Canada that event also marked a beginning. For the first time Canada stood on the international stage as an independent nation. We achieved that status through the courage and sacrifice of the

Canadians who fought in the First World War. Our population was only eight million then. Still, some 650,000 men and women signed up to serve in uniform. Of those, 66,000 gave their lives and more than 172,000 were wounded.

Many of us hold an image in our minds of the years of trench warfare. We're familiar with the names of places such as Passchendaele, and Ypres, and Vimy Ridge. But the last 100 days of the war was marked by bloody battle across open areas. All Canadian Army Divisions, fighting together as the Canadian Corps, helped push the enemy toward defeat in a series of battles that lasted to within minutes of the armistice. But their successes came at a steep price. Close to 46,000 Canadians were killed or wounded during the last 100 days.

We can no longer hear stories firsthand about the hardships and triumphs of the First World War. Sadly, all those who came home are now gone. But veterans of more recent conflicts are still here to share their memories with us.

This spring, Canadians laid wreaths to remember those who gave their lives during the longest battle of the Second World War: the Battle of the Atlantic. That battle ended 73 years ago. But it remains vivid in the minds of the sailors who once guarded convoys against attack from enemy U-boats. It's equally clear in the memories of the merchant mariners who left the safety of harbour over and over despite the constant threat of sinking.

2018 also marks the 65th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the fighting between North and South Korea. Decades later, a peace treaty has yet to be reached. Our soldiers held remote mountain positions and fought with distinction to stop North Korean and Chinese troops from overtaking the south. More than 26,000 Canadians took part in the sea, land, and air operations in and around the Korean Peninsula. Sadly, 516 brave Canadians never came home.

2018 also marks a more modern milestone in Canada's military history: the 10th anniversary of National Peacekeepers' Day. Every year on August 9th, Canadians gather at the Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa and other venues across the country. They do so to honour members of the military, RCMP, and other police services who have worn a blue beret or blue helmet to help people in trouble spots move from conflict to peace.

And finally we must not forget those that gave their lives battling terrorism and extremism in Afghanistan; those 158 souls who perished defending our freedom. Over 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members took part in that conflict and there are many young men and women amongst us here today for whom that conflict is still a vivid and terrible memory.

Let us also consider today that the members of our Armed Forces are presently defending us abroad and domestically. This past summer, Canadian peacekeepers travelled to Mali, one of the poorest countries in Africa, as part of the UN stabilization force in that region. Called Operation PRESENCE, this mission will see 200 and more members of our Armed Forces providing helicopter transport and medical evacuation for peacekeepers, in a sometimes hostile environment.

Canada also contributes to international peace and security as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO. Canadian troops are currently in Latvia, participating in Operation REASSURANCE in an effort to preserve peace and avoid conflict in Central and Eastern Europe.

In the Middle East, under Operation IMPACT, our forces are providing training and assistance to the Iraqi security force and helping regional forces build their capacity in the Global Coalition effort to defeat Daesh also known as ISIS or ISIL.

At home, the Canadian Armed Forces stand guard in a different way. Our Forces conduct air and maritime search and rescue operations. We also help deal with disasters. This past

summer, for instance, Forces members, including members who are on parade before you today, joined in fighting forest fires in British Columbia.

We are fortunate to live in one of the most peaceful countries in the world. But we can't ignore the reality of a security environment that is changing rapidly — and not always for the better.

We have to be vigilant and hone skills to deal with new threats.

To prepare for the future, you must understand the past.

Remember the men and women who have served our country — and especially those who fought and died for the freedom, security, and prosperity we enjoy today. Help to keep the flame of memory alive for those who are gone.

And I bid you show your gratitude to the veterans who are still with us. We owe all of our veterans — our heroes — a debt that we can never repay, but we can honour their legacy, through remembrance.

Thank you



Major Trythall and Warrant Officer Fiessel laying the 39 CER wreath.

6 ES

6ES had a fairly involved event which was made extra special with an addition of 40 sailors from HMCS Vancouver who joined 6ES from the ship which was alongside at the Lonsdale Pier. Prior to departing the Armoury, 6 ES gathered in the mess for the traditional toast to the fallen of 6 Coy.

At this point the cenotaph guard departed, led by MCpl Feasby, its made up of 2 Spr's (Cpl Boechler, and Cpl Wotherspoon), 2 x RCMP, and 2 Cadets from each service.

In addition Maj Kwok and Cpl Kim also departed to attend the West Vancouver Service.

At around 0930, the J.P. Fell Armoury Garrison formed up under the SSM of 6ES which included 6 ES, 2573 RCACC, 103 RCAC, and 105 RCSCC Lonsdale. All lead by the J.P. Fell Pipe Band.

At 0945, as OC of 6ES Maj Piers took the parade and stepped off under police escort up 15th to St Georges where the parade halted in front of the RCMP detachment. At this point approx. 40 RCMP officers joined the J.P. Fell Armoury Garrison along with the North Van City Fire Dept. Maj Piers then led the parade down St Georges, marched around Victoria Park and halted behind the cenotaph along Keith Road. There they linked up with HMCS Vancouver and they fell in as lead Troop in the Squadron. On order by the civic parade marshal all marched into the cenotaph and attended the civic service.

VIP's of note at the service: MP Jonathan Wilkinson , MLA Bowinn Ma and Jane Thornthwaite, Mayors Linda Buchanan (city) and Mike Little (district) , we were also joined by the French Consulate General Philippe Sutter (in recognition of the 100 year armistice) and Commander Jonathan Kouwenberg CD, CO HMCS Vancouver as the Reviewing Officer.

After the customary wreath laying the parade was moved onto Lonsdale in preparation for the march back to the Lt Col J.P Fell Armoury, passing the saluting dais along the way.

Once back at the Armoury, OC 6 ES dismissed the parade and all attended a reception on the Armoury floor organized by the North Shore Vets Council.

The J.P. Fell Pipe Band did a show on the floor and then departed on its traditional Remembrance Day bus tour of North Vancouver's Legions. This year 6ES added a twist and seized the opportunity to take the band down to the ship. After piping down the pier (those out for an afternoon stroll got a show) the band played a few tunes on the flight deck for those sailors on duty.



Major Piers leading the parade (Photo Silvester Law)

44 ES

44 ES had two contingents on parade, one in Trail led by Capt Luchia, and one in Cranbrook led by the OC, Maj Wilson. 44 ES retains a Civil Defence Air Raid siren that the squadron sounds every Remembrance Day at 11:00 hours to commence the two minutes of silent remembrance. The Trail Cenotaph was commanded by Sgt Sheill with MCpl Horney on guard. Additionally 44 ES provided cenotaph guards in Fruitvale (Cpl Screzlec) and Rossland (Cpl French).



Trail Cenotaph 11 Nov 18 (Photo: Trail Times)

Upcoming Events

26 to 31 December 2018 – Exercise Paladin Response – Chilliwack

19 January 2019 – Grand Opening of the Armoury in Cranbrook

39 CER Association Directors

Bill White – President (president@39CER.ca)

HLCol Roli Krueger – Vice-President

HCol Bill Diamond – Treasurer (treasurer@39CER.ca)

Grant Acheson – Secretary and Director responsible for Membership (secretary@39CER.ca)

LCol Cameron McLean – Director

Bill Wenman – Director

Achim von Wiedner – Director and Editor of the Newsletter



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North Shore Law LLP

6th floor, 171 West Esplanade
North Vancouver, BC
V7M 3J9

Telephone: 604-980-8571

Fax: 604-980-4019

Toll free: 1-877-980-8571

Email: inquiries@northshorelaw.com