



The Blazon

Patron of the BC/Yukon Branch: The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Winter 2013

The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada

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60th Anniversary of Korean War

BC Veteran Honoured With Grant of Arms

by Carl A. Larsen

The Korean War ended 60 years ago and has been dubbed “The Forgotten War”. Sandwiched between the Second World War and the Vietnam War, it never really captured the public imagination. Over time, wars are usually defined by one specific battle and for Canadians, it’s Vimy Ridge for the First World War and probably the Dieppe Raid for the Second. For Korea it has to be the Battle of Kapyong, Considered the perfect defensive battle, in that it delivered a resounding defeat to the attacking Chinese and inflicted heavy casualties on them, for relatively few casualties among the Patricias (700 Patricias held Hill 677 against at least 5,000 Chinese, with 10 dead and 23 wounded for at least 2000 casualties for the enemy).

There is also an interesting heraldic addendum. Fifty-one years after the end of the Korean War, an officer who had served in the newly created 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI) received a gift of arms, flag and badge for his officially unrecognized actions, leadership and bravery during the Battle of Kapyong. His name was Michael George Levy, Lieutenant, 10 Platoon, D Company and we’ll meet him later in the story.

But First Some History

Korea became a colony of Imperial Japan in 1910. As the war in Europe drew to an end in 1945, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, invaded Korea, defeated the Japanese stationed there and occupied the northern half of the country to the 38th parallel, leaving the southern half to the Americans as agreed. The plan was to hold elections and reunite the country, but neither event ever happened. The Russians withdrew in 1948, having ensured that the People’s Republic of North Korea (PRNK) was a full fledged Stalinist state with a large, well armed, well equipped army of 223,000 men. The US facilitated a democratic government in South Korea and withdrew in 1949, leaving a poorly equipped, poorly trained army of 95,000 men to fend for themselves. Both North and South Korea wanted a united country but under very different regimes.

By early 1950, China was firmly under Communist control and the Soviets were testing atomic bombs, confident of their



The Canadian government declared 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran.

26,791 Canadians served in Korean War in the Canadian Army, RCN and RCAF.

Only an estimated 9,900 are left, most in their eighties or nineties.

future. Stalin agreed to support an invasion of South Korea and sent Soviet officers to plan the attack after he had obtained the assurance of the Chinese that they would intervene, if necessary.

North Korea Attacks – South Korean Army Retreats to Pusan

On 25 June 1950 an army of 150,000 North Korean troops surged across the 38th parallel, supported by artillery, tanks and aircraft and decisively routed the South Korean Army, occupying Seoul, the South Korean capital, within a few days. A UN resolution branded North Korea an aggressor and called upon member states to aid South Korea. Twenty-one countries responded and the UN Command was born.

By August, the remnants of the South Korean army, with a small contingent of US troops, was forced into the Pusan perimeter, 400 km to the southeast (see map on page 3). Pusan is only 200 km across the Korea Strait from Japan, where the US army of occupation was based, and it was from there that men and equipment poured in to strengthen the defenders. Following the US amphibious landing on September 15 at Inchon, Seoul’s harbour, the UN forces at Pusan broke out the perimeter and the two forces joined together, shattering North Korean forces and driving them back across the 38th parallel. Seoul was liberated and UN forces moved northwards capturing the North Korean capital Pyongyang, continuing their advance to the Yalu River, the border between North Korea and China. It looked like the war was over and Korea would be united with a democratic government. But then the Chinese began crossing the Yalu River under cover of darkness and everything changed. ▼

Con't from Page 1 – 60th Anniversary



Cap Badge of PPCLI

THE BATTLE OF KAPYONG

April 23-26, 1951



Battlemap showing positions of 2 PPCLI and 3 RAR



Cap Badge of
Royal Australian Regiment

by Carl A. Larsen

Prelude to Battle – Chinese Cross Yalu River into North Korea

During October and November 1950, 180,000 Chinese Communist soldiers secretly crossed the Yalu River at night and positioned themselves in front of advancing UN forces. Their massive attack caught UN troops by surprise, turned their advance into a fighting retreat which did not end until they crossed the 38th parallel and set up a new front 70 km south of Seoul, which fell to the Chinese in January 1951.

Patricias Fight Major Battle at Kapyong

The 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI) arrived in Korea in December 1950. It was formed for service in the Korean War, consisted of volunteers and was commanded by Lieut. Col. J. ("Big Jim) Stone, a decorated, Second World War combat officer. The Patricias were ordered into the line in February 1951 as part of the 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade, which included two British battalions, along with the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), supported by the 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery after which the exhausted Chinese suddenly withdrew north of the 38th second time.

On April 22, Chinese and North Korean forces launched their Spring Offensive, the main thrust directed at the Kapyong Valley, the most direct route to retake Seoul. Under heavy attack the US forces were ordered to withdraw, leaving a 10,000 man Division of South Korean infantry to block the enemy advance. On the 23rd, as the front line collapsed, the Patricias and 3RAR were ordered to take up defensive positions at Kapyong to hold the escape route of the retreating UN forces. The Australians dug in on Hill 504, to the east of the Kapyong River, with the Patricias doing the same on Hill 677 to the west of the river. From their position the Patricias could see the thousands of fleeing South Korean troops streaming southwards and knew the Chinese were not far behind.

Lieut.-Col. Stone positioned his four rifle companies in preparation for the battle to come. Just after midnight the sky lit up with

flares and for the next 16 hours the Australians battled wave after wave of Chinese, often in close combat, while all the Patricias could do was watch and wait. Finally, with ammunition running low and in danger of being surrounded, they were ordered to withdraw and the Chinese turned their attention to the Canadians.

The first attack fell on B Company and was driven off with mortar fire and bayonets. A force of about 500 Chinese was spotted by Lieut. Hub Gray, advancing behind company positions to attack Battalion HQ and they were driven off with 50 calibre machine gun fire, leaving over 100 casualties behind. Had they been able to make it to the top unseen, the Battalion would likely have been wiped out.

D Company's commander, Captain J. Mills, established his HQ over 100 metres away from his men and just over a rise, where he was not exposed to enemy fire but could not see his soldiers or anything of the battle. He left his platoon officers to make their own decisions and played no active part in the battle. However, at one point in the battle he called Battalion HQ on his radio and asked for approval to withdraw his company from the action, and was bluntly refused by Lieut.-Col. Stone. Lieut. Michael Levy, commander of 10 Platoon, was everywhere, directing fire, always on the move over exposed ground between each sector, to encourage the men and control the battle. D Company came under relentless attack as successive waves of the enemy charged his position, knowing that if they could take that high ground they could destroy the Battalion. Finally Levy made a daring decision to radio for an artillery strike on his own position and Capt. Mills readily agreed when asked. Levy moved his men into their trenches and personally directed a continuous barrage of 2300 shells in less than an hour, from the New Zealand Field Artillery, exploding within metres of his position. It decimated the Chinese ranks and forced them to withdraw. In Levy's own words: "The Chinese are so aggressive they are taking heavy casualties. I do not have time to think, I am reacting to their attacking formations. I am proud of my men, although greatly outnumbered and outgunned they are holding the enemy. The artillery support is awesome; without it we could not sustain ourselves."

The next morning, as dawn broke, USAF transport planes dropped food, water and ammunition to the exhausted defenders who were expecting more attacks during the day. But the Chinese had had enough and did not return. Their forces were cleared from the roads below and the Patricias withdrew to new defensive positions to the south.



Cap Badge of
Royal New Zealand Artillery

Con't Page 3

Con't from Page 2 – Battle of Kapyong

After Kapyong, there were a few more battles to be fought but the war became static, with trench warfare with patrols into No-Man’s-Land and long drawn-out peace negotiations which finally resulted in a cease-fire signed on July 27, 1953. 2PPCLI completed its tour of duty in Korea in the fall of 1951 and returned to Calgary to be trained as an airborne unit.

However Capt. Hub Gray spent six years of intense research and interviewed 70 of the Patricias present at the Battle of Kapyong to “set the record straight” on many aspects of the period 2PPCLI was in Korea. He also called for Major Levy to be officially recognized for his vital role at Kapyong. Following is an extract from Hub Gray’s book, *Beyond The Danger Close – The Korean Experience Revealed* which could have formed the basis of a citation for the award of a Military Cross to Levy, the decoration many in the Patricias believe he should have received.

“Summary of Actions of Lt. Michael Levy (Major (retired))

Ten Platoon and D Company were fortunate to have had an officer of Levy’s experience and calm manner.At Kapyong, in a situation that can only be described as a frantic life or death battle, Levy demonstrated his capabilities under the most

trying of conditions. He took the initiative to command the actions of the men of an adjoining platoon. In the heat of battle he called upon the artillery to impact on his own position. The 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 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 pressure. Lieutenant Michael G. Levy and the men of 10 and 12 platoons are deserving of official recognition by the Government of Canada at the Battle of Kapyong.”

There is no doubt Hub Gray’s book ultimately led to the decision of Governor General Adrian Clarkson to award Major Levy the gift of armorial bearings in 2004, the most appropriate honour it was within her power to grant, fifty-three years after the battle. ♣

Canadian Red Ensign (1921-1957)

This version of the Canadian Red Ensign had, in the fly, the arms granted in 1921 and was the version in use during the Korean War

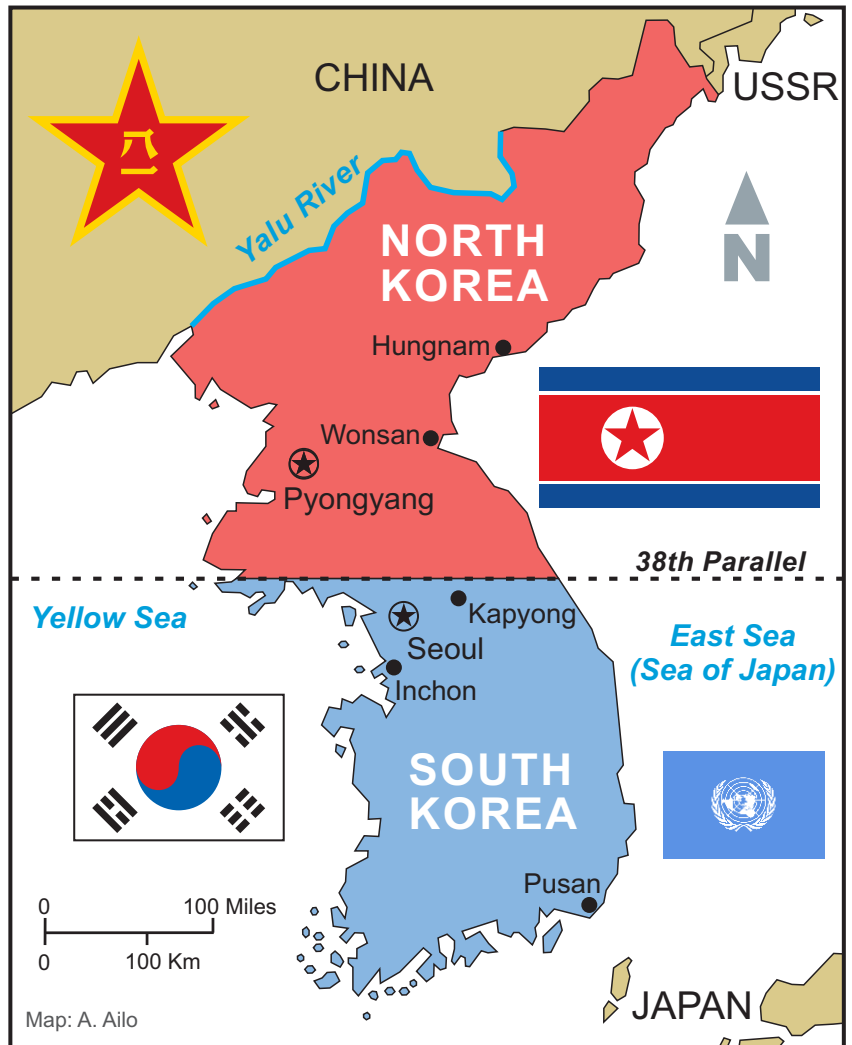
In 1957 the arms were modified by changing the colour of the “maple leaves proper” to Gules and the harp to a Celtic harp.



Illustrations: A. Ailo

Korean War Medals

L. - R.: **Canada Korea Medal** issued 1951 for service from 2 July 1950 to 27 July 1953; **Canada Volunteer Medal for Korea** issued 1991 for service in any period from 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954; **UN Service Medal for Korea** issued 12 December 1950 to members of multinational force that assisted in the defence of South Korea. First international award created by the UN.



A Gift of Arms to Michael George Levy

An Interview with Judge Robert D. Watt, LVO, FRHSC

by Carl A. Larsen

In April 2004, a grant of arms, flag and badge was made to Major Michael George Levy of Richmond, BC, and the design was largely based on his military service during the Korean War, particularly in the Battle of Kapyong. This makes it especially relevant now during the 60th anniversary year of the end of that war.

In his book, *Triumph at Kapyong*, author Dan Bjarnason tells the story of this famous battle and “the forgotten hero of Kapyong”, Lieutenant Michael Levy of 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI), whose bravery and cool leadership went unrecognized when medals were awarded to others in the battalion. Bjarnason makes the intriguing comment “Finally, in 2003 the governor general at the time, Adrienne Clarkson, granted Levy a coat of arms for his valour at Kapyong”. He goes on to say that “his new coat of arms was actually delivered by the Chief Herald of Canada, Robert Douglas Watt”. Clarkson wrote the Foreword to the book in 2007, by which time she was also Colonel-in-Chief of the PPCLI. In it she observes, “For the first time, the moving story of Major Levy, in which I played a marginal personal role, is revealed in its sad complexity.”

It seemed to me there was another story inside this grant of arms to a gallant officer of the PPCLI and his role in the Battle of Kapyong, and I thought an interview with Judge Robert Watt, retired Chief Herald of Canada, might be a good way to discover it. What follows is that interview.

Q: Thank you, Judge Watt, for doing this interview on what seems to be a unique grant based on exceptional circumstances. Can we start at the beginning? At the time, you were Chief Herald of Canada, the director of the Canadian Heraldic Authority. How did you learn of Major Levy and the facts surrounding his not being recognized for his bravery and exceptional leadership during the Korean War at the critical Battle of Kapyong in 1951, when others received decorations and medals?

A: The Deputy Herald Chancellor came into my office one day in 2003 and told me about Major Levy, and the fact that he had not been recognized, as you say, for his outstanding bravery and leadership during the Battle of Kapyong. He said it was far too late to consider a medal but he wondered how I felt about a grant of arms as a way to honour him at this late date. It seemed to me it was a very good idea and I gave it my full support.

Q: What steps had to be taken in the Chancellery of Honours to approve this award?

A: Like all such things, it had to pass through the “chain of command”. The Deputy Herald Chancellor had to recommend the grant to the Herald Chancellor, who in turn had to seek the approval of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, all of whom gave it their full support.

The Head and Officers of the Canadian Heraldic Authority 2003-2004



**Head of the
Canadian Heraldic Authority**
The Right Honourable Adrian Clarkson,
PC, CC, CMM, COM, CD,
Governor General of Canada
1999-2005



Barbara Uteck, CVO
Herald Chancellor
2000-2006



Lieutenant General
J. C. Gervais, CMM, CD,
Deputy Herald Chancellor
1993-2004.



Judge Robert D. Watt, LVO, FRHSC
Chief Herald of Canada
1988-2007

Con't from Page 4 – Interview with Judge Robert Watt

Q: What was Governor General Adrienne Clarkson's actual involvement in the grant which she described as a "marginal personal role". It's noteworthy that she became Colonel-in-Chief of the PPCLI in 2007, the regiment in which Levy served.

A: Her Excellency approved the recommendation for the grant to Major Levy and also wrote a personal letter of congratulations to him, the only one I am aware of.

Q: How did Major Levy respond when you contacted him with the news that he was to receive this recognition? Did you meet with him in person?

A: He was absolutely delighted from the first moment of my contact with him. When he realized it was a special honour from the Canadian Crown to him, related to his service in Korea, he could not have been more pleased. As he learned more about the significance of the coat of arms he was to receive and the possibility of creating something which would not only recognize him, but which he could pass on to his children, he embraced the whole concept with enthusiasm.

Q: I gather that Major Levy did not need to petition for the grant of arms in the usual way.

A: That's right, no petition was required. As you know, a grant of arms is part of the Canadian honours system and is within the power of the Governor General to offer a grant of arms in circumstances and to individuals deemed worthy of such a gift from the Canadian Crown. That was the case in the Levy grant.

Q: Have other grants been offered by Governors General over the years?

A: Yes. Grants of arms are offered to Lieutenant Governors, Prime Ministers, some spouses of governors general and in other limited cases. In many ways it is a very appropriate gift and historically has always been within the heraldic powers of the sovereign and their representatives to bestow.

Q: Did you personally work with Major Levy to develop the design for his arms and badge? Did he have any particular thoughts about what sort of emblems he would like to incorporate into his arms and badge. I thought the Korean pine cones, the emblem of Kapyong province, and the lightning bolt to represent exploding artillery shells were particularly effective?

A: Yes I absolutely did work on these personally and in conjunction with other heralds at the Authority. Major Levy had some ideas as we developed the concept but we had to look at the location of the battle as to what natural objects might be appropriate. The Korean pine cones resulted from this research. He was very pleased with the final designs, as was his family.

Q: Author Dan Bjarnason states that Levy's coat of arms was personally delivered by you to Major Levy. Could you tell us something about that as to where it took place, who attended, etc.?

A: Yes that's true. I visited his home in Richmond, BC and presented the letters patent to him, with versions for his children. It was a grand celebration. All his immediate family with their spouses and a good number of his friends were gathered there to

participate and offer their congratulations. It was a privilege for me to be able to read the letter from the Governor General and present it to him on her behalf.

Q: Just a final question ... totally off topic. I have heard it said that a book entitled "The Founding of the Canadian Heraldic Authority - Nineteen Years of Good News", would be a best seller. Do you have any idea when such a book might be published?

A: That is something I am frequently asked and that I regularly reflect upon. At this point, I cannot ever imagine I will ever have the time to write such a thing. I have so very many other projects and assignments and activities which occupy my attention.

Q: Thanks very much, Judge Watt, for sharing these insights and for clarifying the question of a forthcoming book. Is there anything else you would like to add?

A: I can't think of anything at the moment, except to say it was a pleasure to do this. ♥

Major Michael George Levy – A Brief Bio

Michael Levy was born in 1925 in India. His father was a geologist in the oil industry and was transferred with his family to Shanghai the following year. Levy grew up in China and spoke fluent Chinese in the Shanghai dialect.

He and his family were imprisoned in 1942, following the Japanese occupation of Shanghai.

Levy was later moved to the Lungwha Internment Camp along with nearly 2000 other Europeans and Americans, including James Ballard who, inspired by his experiences there, wrote *Empire of the Sun*, followed by the movie. Levy and four others managed to escape and made an epic journey across China to reach Kunming to a US Army Air Base and was flown to India where he joined the British Army. Upon completion of his training in the use of weapons, explosives, and hand-to-hand combat, he qualified as a parachutist and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant.

He joined Special Operations Executive (SOE) and was parachuted into Malaya where he led a band of guerillas against the Japanese. He was promoted to Captain and Mentioned in Dispatches. In one report he was described as "full of guts, and at his happiest when Japanese were in the vicinity".

Levy learned about Canada from Canadian Chinese serving with him and immigrated to Vancouver after the war. He married and went into the restaurant business. However, at heart he was a warrior, and immediately signed up for duty in Korea when the call went out for volunteers in 1950. He served with great distinction at the Battle of Kapyong and remained with the PPCLI as a career soldier and retiring with the rank of Major. In 2004 he received the gift of a coat of arms, flag and badge from the Canadian Crown. He lived in Richmond, BC, had four children, and was a man content with his life. He passed away in 2007 surrounded by his family. ♥

Grant of Arms, Flag & Badge to Major Michael George Levy, CD

Symbolism

Arms

The colours red, blue and gold are the regimental colours of Major Levy's regiment, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. The diagonal division symbolizes the rough terrain of the battle of Kapyong, the engagement in which Major Levy gave distinguished service. The lightning flash represents the wireless unit used by Major (then Lieutenant) Levy to call for artillery fire in the battle, and it also refers to the glare and heat of battle. There are ten points on the flash, referring to the number of Major Levy's platoon.

The Korean pine is the county tree of the county of Kapyong. It is a beautiful evergreen with very large cones that contain edible fruit. Here it refers to the part of Korea where Major Levy acted so heroically. The number of cones represents his four children. Cones generally are a sign of new life, so here they can represent new beginnings arising after a fierce and deadly battle.

Crest

The floral circlet honours Major Levy's service to Canada and his home in British Columbia. The word "Freedom", in Chinese characters, represents his own escape to freedom at age 18 from a Japanese internment camp in Shanghai.

The tiger is the insignia of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) Force 136, with which Major Levy parachuted behind enemy lines and fought with in Malaya during World War II.

As a creature of strength and determination, the tiger also represents Major Levy's own spirit. The wings refer to his dramatic flight across free China to India, his journey to Malaya, and his varied overseas post- World War II service.

The sword is a classic symbol for a military officer, representing his defence against enemy attack and his skill in battle. The blue rectangle edged in gold on the tiger's wing represents the unique Distinguished Unit Citation awarded by the President of the United States to Major Levy's Regiment for their extraordinary heroism and combat performance at Kapyong.

Motto

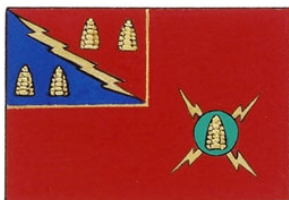
It indicates Major Levy's ultimate triumph through many harrowing challenges.

Flag

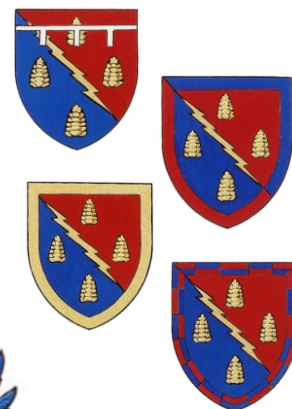
The symbolism of this emblem is found in other element(s) of this record.

Badge

The flashes repeat the symbolism of the shield. The green disc refers to the Jade Trail across China, which Major Levy used for part of his escape from the internment camp in Shanghai. The cone refers again to Kapyong and his exploits in battle as well as the promise of a new start.



Differenced Arms for:
Michael Guy Levy
Don Garry Levy
Linda Gay Levy
Paul Garth Levy



Blazon

Arms

Per bend Gules and Azure overall a lightning flash bendwise between four Korean pine cones (Pinus koraensis) Or;

Crest

Issuant from a circlet of maple leaves Gules and dogwood flowers Argent, a demi tiger guardant Or, striped Sable, winged Azure, charged on the sinister wing with a billet fesswise Azure fimbriated Or, bearing on the shoulder a torteau inscribed Or with the Chinese word "Freedom", holding in its dexter paw a sword Gules;

Motto

I HAVE PREVAILED;

Courtesy of The Canadian Heraldic Authority

Canadians at Kapyong Memorial

Pacific Rim National Park - Vancouver Island

by Carl Larsen

Not many people know that atop Radar Hill, near the town of Tofino, on the edge of Pacific Rim National Park, is a monument honouring the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry who fought at the Battle of Kapyong, April 23-25, 1951.

The memorial consists of three plaques; the English and French versions of the battle on either side with the third plaque in the centre, commemorating the twinning of the park with Hallyo Haesang Sea National Park on the southernmost tip of South Korea. An identical memorial has been placed in the Korean park.

A dedication ceremony was held at the unveiling of the plaque in April 1998 which was attended by many of the veterans of the battle including Major Michael Levy and his fellow officer, Captain Hub Gray, who published a book titled *Beyond the Danger Close – The Korean Experience Revealed - 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry*".

It's a good spot for the memorial as it is straight across the Pacific from there to Korea; our soldiers were trained in Fort Lewis, Washington, just over the border, and they sailed from Seattle across to get to the war.

The site itself was formerly a radar station, part of the Pinetree Line, designed to detect a Soviet bomber attack and scramble fighter jets of the RCAF and USAF to destroy them. It has been dismantled now but the cement foundation remains. It's an easy hike up from the parking lot and the view from the top is magnificent ... of forest, mountains, Clayoquot Sound and the Pacific Ocean.

Whenever I am on the west coast of Vancouver Island I always visit Radar Hill. There was a photo on the Internet some years ago of Major Michael Levy, 10 Platoon, D Company, 2PPCLI, visiting this spot with his family, but it's gone now. He passed away in 2007. ♥

Major Michael Levy & Captain Hub Gray at the dedication ceremony of memorial to 2PPCLI in April 1998



◀ Both Major Levy and Captain Gray were members of the Korea Veterans Association who participated in the dedication ceremonies



Photo: C. Larsen

The "Canadians at Kapyong" Memorial honouring 2PPCLI on Radar Hill, Pacific Rim National Park on Vancouver Island

Text on the plaque with the official version of the Battle of Kapyong



CANADIANS AT KAP'YONG
APRIL 22 -25, 1951



On the night of 22 April, 1951, Chinese and North Korean forces attacked American and Republic of Korea (ROK) troops north of Seoul. Heavy losses inflicted on the ROK army and the withdrawal of the American Corps required the intervention of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade, consisting of the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Light Infantry (PPCLI) as well as Australian and British regiments. Through April 23rd, the battered 6th POK division withdrew down the Kap'Yong River Valley, protected by the Australians on Hill 504 and the Canadians across the river on Hill 677. Attacked relentlessly, the Australians were also forced to withdraw. The enemy then ordered an assault on the Canadian position. The battle, lit only by flares, was fought hand to hand. Outnumbered and about to be overrun, the Princess Pats D Company ordered allied mortar and artillery fire on their own position, routing the enemy. The bombardment forced a Chinese retreat. Honoured for exceptional bravery, the PPCLI received a Unit Citation from the President of the United States, the only Canadian battalion to ever receive this distinction.

This memorial honours those Canadians who fought for freedom and ensures that those who made the supreme sacrifice at Kap'Yong will never be forgotten.

Duke of York Visits BC

Opens Highland Games and Unveils Jubilee Windows

by Carl Larsen

HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York, arrived at Vancouver Airport on Wednesday, May 15 for a four day visit over the Victoria Day long weekend, and was met by Her Honour, Judith Guichon, the Lieutenant Governor. He spent the next two days in Vancouver at various events, including visits to the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, where he opened a new dock, and the Vancouver Rowing Club where he was greeted by a guard of honour of rowers standing in their boats with their paddles upright. His father, the Duke of Edinburgh, is Patron of both clubs. In the evening, Prince Andrew attended a dinner hosted by the Lieutenant Governor at Government House in Victoria.

On Saturday morning the Duke of York attended a reception at Government House for young people who had achieved the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. In the afternoon he opened the 150th Highland Games and Celtic Festival at Topaz Park in Victoria. Prince Andrew had been invited to open the games two years ago and this was the major event of his visit to BC. A record number of 25,000 people from Canada and the US attended. He closed the event on Sunday afternoon to the rousing sound of the massed pipes and drums.

Earlier on Sunday he did find the opportunity to visit the Royal Victoria Yacht Club of which he is patron.

During the weekend Steve Cowan and John Neill manned a booth during the Highland Festival at Topaz Park, promoting the branch and distributing bookmarks, with contact and other information, to interested visitors.

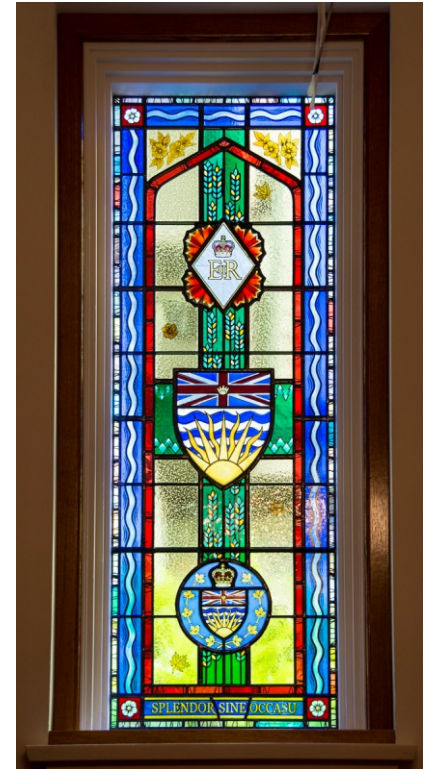
Government House took advantage of the Duke of York's plans to visit Victoria and arranged for him to attend a reception on Sunday afternoon to unveil two stained glass windows installed at the entrance to the House. John Neill, President, Allan Ailo, Vice President and Carl Larsen, Past President of the branch and a Director of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, were invited as guests.

The magnificent stained windows were installed to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, one bearing Royal Arms of British Columbia, and the other the Royal Arms of Canada. They were created by Tom Mercer and Ed Schaefer, partners in Mercer & Schaefer Glasstudios in Victoria. Tom is also a member of the branch executive and was accompanied by his wife Regina.

There were many guests present, including a large number from the Friends of Government House Society, whose members tend the extensive gardens on the property. Following the reception and unveiling of the stained windows, the Duke of York was given a guided tour of the gardens full of spring flowers.

Absolutely everybody was delighted to see the Duke of York, with his friendly, approachable, relaxed manner and ready smile. He seemed comfortable with everyone and happy to be with us. He asked some excellent questions about the Jubilee windows which Ed Schaefer and Tom Mercer answered. The whole atmosphere was very casual and the event was a great success.

The "British Columbia" Jubilee window with the official Queen's Diamond Jubilee emblem, followed by the shield of the arms of British Columbia and the badge of the Lieutenant Governor, below which is the provincial motto.



Photos courtesy of Government House

The "Canada" Jubilee window with King Edward's Crown above the Queen's Cipher followed by the Royal Arms of Canada and the badge of the Governor general, below which is the motto of Canada.



Con't from Page 7 – Duke of York



The Duke of York unveiling one of the windows as Tom Mercer looks on.



L to R. John Neill, Ed Schaefer, Tom Mercer, Allan Ailo, Carl Larsen attending reception prior to unveiling of the Diamond Jubilee Windows

Photos courtesy of Government House

The Duke of York and the Lieutenant Governor study the windows as Tom Mercer and Ed Schaefer wait to answer their questions.



The Duke of York attending a black tie dinner hosted by the Lieutenant Governor at Government House, Victoria on 17 May.



The Duke of York is introduced to Regina Mercer. L to R: Regina Mercer, Tom Mercer, John Neill, Ed Schaefer, Allan Ailo, Carl Larsen, Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon



Duke of York inspects the 78th Fraser Highlanders



Photos courtesy of the Victoria Highland Games



Sharing a joke at the Highland Games

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE BLAZON

by Carl A. Larsen

For this issue we have chosen the charming little rhyme from the Hudson's Bay Company magazine *The Beaver*, which was republished in 1983 in the first issue of the Branch's newsletter to bear its new name, *The Blazon*, 30 years ago this year.



The calligraphy for "The Blazon" at the top of the page was the work of one of our founding members, Irene Alexander, calligrapher, heraldist and artist.

The Blazon Volume 2 Number 1 Jan. 1983

HERALDIC MISCELLANY

From The Heraldry Can Be Fun Department.....

Courtesy of Charles Maier and with a tip of the (fur) hat to *The Beaver*, we reproduce this delightful rhyme, written in 1929.

December 1929 **The Beaver** 325

H B C Coat of Arms

(A Rhyme for Hudson's Bay Company Kiddies)

This is the Arms that we all know.

This is the Shield
That centres the Arms that we all know

These are the Elks with tremendous horns,
That Guard the shield
That centres the Arms that we all know.

This is the Cap of Maintenance –
Up over the Elks with tremendous horns,
That guard the Shield
That centres the Arms that we all know

This is the Fox with crafty glance,
Who sits on the Cap of Maintenance,
With head and tail he surely scorns
The upright Elks with tremendous horns,
That guard the Shield
That centres the Arms that we all know.

These are the Beaver known to fame,
Who furnish the fur with the beaver's name,
Who crouch from the Fox with crafty glance,
Who sits on the Cap of Maintenance;
With head and tail he surely scorns
The upright Elks with tremendous horns,
That guard the Shield
That centres the Arms that we all know.

This is the Scroll with motto clear,
That's stood for Fair trade year by year,
Upholding the Beaver known to fame,
Who furnished the fur with the beaver's name,
Who crouch from the Fox with crafty glance,
Who sits on the Cap of Maintenance,
With head and tail he surely scorns
The upright Elks with tremendous horns,
That guard the Shield
That centres the Arms that we all know. –R.W.

2013 Annual Black Tie Dinner

by Carl A. Larsen

Our annual dinner this year was held on 26 October at the Quamichan Inn in Duncan on Vancouver Island and organized by long time member Shirley Greenwood. As usual Shirley had made all the arrangements, chosen the various menu main courses allowing lots of choices to satisfy everyone's taste. We have been to the Quamichan Inn before and the food has always been good, and this was no exception. Shirley confirmed that she was retiring from her longtime role as Events Organizer and this was the last dinner she would be organizing. She planned to continue to be a member of the Executive and contribute to the work of the branch in other ways.

The head table was piped in by branch member David Hjalmarson, formerly a Piper Major in the Canadian army for many years. It is always a pleasure to hear David piping.

Our guest speaker was Superintendent Paul Richards, RCMP who delivered a very interesting talk on heraldry from his early interest in our favourite subject, to his discoveries in various places where his professional career has taken him. It was clear from the questions asked and the comments made that his talk was much enjoyed.

There were a number of members who had not attended an annual dinner before, and one of these was Gerald MacKinnon from Prince George. He had completed the Licentiate program in three consecutive years, the fastest possible time, and, when he and his wife Mary came to the dinner, it gave us the opportunity to present him with his Licentiate certificate. He is now entitled to use the post nominal, LRHSC after his name. We were treated to some interesting insights afterwards as Gerald told us something of his background and the projects he is currently working on.

It was an excellent dinner, with lots of socializing before, during and after the meal. We can certainly say "a good time was had by all". ▼



Gerald McKinnon of Prince George met fellow members for the first time ever when he attended the dinner and received his Licentiate certificate.

Royal Bank Donates \$500 to BC/Yukon Branch

As a retiree of the Royal Bank of Canada, Don Mayers was able to take advantage of the RBC Employee Volunteer Grant Program to obtain a \$500 donation to our branch. The RBC began this program in 1999 to recognize the good work employees and retirees do in their personal time by volunteering in their communities.

One of the requirements in applying for the grant is that a description must be included as to how the funds will be used. It was decided that the \$500 will be spent to cover the cost of a second table top heraldry display which is needed as part of the branch's commitment to share heraldry in the community.

Kudos to the RBC for their community focus and thanks to Don Mayers for obtaining the grant. ▼



Photo: A. Ailo

◀ Our guest speaker, RCMP Superintendent Paul Richards.



▶ Branch Treasurer Don Mayers presents RBC donation to BC/Yukon Branch president John Neill



◀ Second table top heraldry display to be created thanks to RBC grant.

From the Desk of The Editors

1983-2013



It has been six years since we took over the role of writing and publishing The Blazon and, although we have enjoyed producing it, the time has come to turn it over to new people.

During our term we have successfully published 15 issues and, although we had our challenges, as all editors do, it gave us a great sense of satisfaction to complete each one and send it off to you. We would like to thank all those who took the time to send us emails with comments on particular articles they especially enjoyed. It made the researching, writing, editing, illustrating, designing and graphics work, all seem worthwhile.

We took over the responsibility for The Blazon at a time of change. The colour version of the Gonfanon had just been introduced with the intention of it including reports from the branches of their events and activities reducing the need for branch publications. At that point, our branch was facing problems covering the ever increasing printing and mailing costs of The Blazon without significant branch fee increases which the Executive did not want to introduce and it seemed to make sense to try that and discontinue The Blazon on a trial basis. Many members urged us to reintroduce and on one of our many trips on

BC Ferries, back and forth to Nanaimo for meetings and events, we decided to do just that. We agreed between us that if Allan would become Editor and Art Director with Carl as Associate Editor and Chief Writer, and we converted the publication to a digital version to solve the financial issue, we could bring it back and that has worked out very well. We continued to print a few copies to mail to those who did not have Internet access.

We said we had taken over at a time of change and we are turning The Blazon over to a new editor, also at a time of change. A new branch of the RHSC has been formed, which has been named the Vancouver Branch and those of us who live on the mainland are the founding members. We will be responsible for writing and publishing the Vancouver Branch's publication and must therefore turn The Blazon over to its new editor, whose name will shortly be announced. To those who will be involved with The Blazon in the future we offer our very best wishes for its continued success.

Allan Ailo & Carl Larsen

New Vancouver Branch Receives Charter

by *Allan Ailo*

The RHSC Board of Directors has approved the formation of a new branch centred in Vancouver with members drawn not only from Metro Vancouver, but also from the Interior regions of the province. I received the following e-mail from National President, David Rumball after their Board meeting in Ottawa on February 1st.

"On behalf of the RHSC Board of Directors, I am pleased to inform you that your request for a charter has been approved unanimously. Congratulations!

The name of your branch is as requested, the "Vancouver Branch." We look forward to your design proposal for a branch badge.

This information will be circulated to the membership at large via the next periodical in the spring, but please feel free to let anyone you might wish to know is made aware of these exciting Developments."

David Rumball

The Vancouver Branch has held several meetings, elected a board of directors, with Allan Ailo as president, and is busy planning events and activities for 2014. A new branch publication has been created with the first issue to be published soon. ♥

The Lawrence J. Patten Heraldry Exhibit Video

Don Mayer has created a video giving a look at the *Lawrence J Patten Heraldry Exhibit* located in the Cary Castle Mews Interpretive Centre, Government House, Victoria, BC and the Heraldic Shields inside Government House.

To watch this short video on YouTube, go to:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6w-5z9t6pY>

Editor & Art Director: Allan Ailo ▾ **Associate Editor: Carl Larsen** ▾ **President: John Neill 778-420-4040**

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Branch Website: <http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca>

