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names? John Henry Foster
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Place of birth, and in Lober Tp., Ont., Can.
Mrs. J. T. Babcock
Mother
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Laborer

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Calgary sailors reflect



The heroism of sailors past strengthens the resolve of today's navy. I think of the service and sacrifice of these fine sailors and I am inspired and humbled. All we have and all we take for granted were paid for by the blood of sailors, soldiers and airmen. I feel a deep debt of gratitude to these brave souls and a responsibility to continue in the brave traditions of our great nation. I stand proud knowing that I, in a small part, served my county the way my kin did, not so long ago. Lest we forget.

AB Christopher Ricard



Remembrance Day is a way to immortalize those who were willing to die for a greater good. Whether the cause is judged by historians as noble or not, it does not take away from the fact there were individuals who thought their right to live was secondary to the better society for all. It is for this reason that we immortalize these individuals by annually remembering them. The biggest impact of Remembrance Day is it makes me reflect on my own mortality. I am grateful that others were willing to enter into oblivion so the living would be better off. It is in remembering those who served and died that we rescue them from this oblivion.

Lt(N) Norm Normand



One of my best Remembrance Days was when I went to a ceremony and then to a legion afterward. I was talking with some older veterans and you could tell it made them light up to have someone listen and show interest in their lives. I go every year to the ceremony in Esquimalt and enjoy it. I do this because of the older generation and what they had to go through. That is why I am doing the job I do today, in order that our children do not have to go through what the veterans had to.

LS Michael Gregg



Up until recently, Remembrance Day was a private time of reflection for me. Then I served in Canadian Forces Leadership Recruit School in St-Jean as both Officer Cadet Leadership Directing Staff and as a Platoon 2 I/C Recruit Instructor. In my last six months of that posting I was a Section Commander/Deputy Platoon Commander in the Recruit Division. In that capacity I met some outstanding young men and women. Since returning to the West Coast I have seen three of those recruits killed while serving in Afghanistan: Pte Blain Watkins, Pte Terry Street, and Pte Colin Wilmot. All three exhibited outstanding character, determination and esprit de corps. All too often I see my comrades of similar rank debate the differences or pros and cons of generations now serving. In the case of these three individuals and their sacrifice I would say their generation has left us in good hands. I hope that should I ever have to meet the challenges they met, I will do so with the same courage.

PO1 Jeff McCartney

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Photo credit: Adam Day, Legion Magazine

Message from BC-Yukon president

Every year as Remembrance Day approaches, our thoughts are drawn to the sacred memories of Fallen comrades, past and present. It is a contemplative time, a time of sorrow, a time of respect and a time of honour.

Our universal reverence must never waiver for those who sacrificed their lives, protecting the oppressed and disadvantaged. It is by virtue of these valiant lives lost, that those who follow have been gifted with freedom and opportunity.

We are also mindful that our time with our Second World War and Korean War veterans is waning, as their age progresses and health fails. The men and women of these generations are grounded by principles of duty, service and sacrifice for those less fortunate.

Their quiet humility and commitment to community service reflect qualities we all wish to instill in future generations.

In present day terms, our thoughts reflect upon the

losses of one hundred twenty-nine members of the Canadian Forces and a diplomat who served in Afghanistan.

Whether serving in Canada or abroad, our military proudly stands with other allied nations to defend shared values, protect democracy, secure troubled areas and offer humanitarian relief with the highest of standards.

As we honour the memory of these men and women, our heartfelt sentiments are with their loved ones. The time will soon come when our youth will take up the torch and continue this proud legacy of Remembrance in their communities.

One can visualize, in the not too distant future, when our young people will surround Cenotaphs on Remembrance Day, expressing solemn gratitude for all that they have been given, through the service of our veterans, past and present.

Let us together, preserve the legacies of our most distinguished predecessors, our

veterans, for it is they who have given us a proud, noble heritage, revered around the world.

Let us seize this time to engage young people with veterans in learning about our place in history.

Let us stand together in our resolve to guide the teachings about the importance of Remembrance. Remembrance, summons each generation to understand the finest of Canadian values ... freedom, democracy, human dignity and caring for the greater good of mankind.

These lessons can only be learned as we stand in the symbolic shadows of our veterans, know the ideals for which they sacrificed and pay homage to their legacies.

We must never fail to comprehend the magnitude of duty, service and sacrifice, as it defines us as a nation and as a people. Remember and Bear Witness. Lest We Forget.

Dave Sinclair,
BC-Yukon Legion President

Remembrance Day cenotaph services

The following lists the times and locations of the ceremonies, as well as the names of the individuals who will lay wreaths on behalf of the Canadian Forces:

9:45 a.m.
Veterans' Cemetery
 1190 Colville Road
 Lieutenant-Colonel Phyllis O'Grady, Commanding Officer, Canadian Forces Health Services Centre (Pacific)

10 a.m.
Cobble Hill
 Cobble Hill Community Hall followed by ceremony at the cenotaph at Liberation Park (behind the community hall)
 Major Joel Anderson, Commanding Officer, 741 Communications Squadron

10:55 a.m.
Oak Bay
 War Memorial, Uplands Park
 Col William Veenhof, Director of Operations, 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters Detachment Esquimalt

Victoria
 Legislature Building
 RAdm Tyrone Pile, Commander, Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force (Pacific)

Esquimalt
 Memorial Park Cenotaph at 1229 Esquimalt Road
 Captain(N) Marcel Hallé, Base Commander

West Shore Communities
 Veterans Memorial Park located at the intersection of Goldstream Avenue and Veterans Memorial Parkway (Millstream) Commodore Maurice Lloyd, Commander, Canadian Fleet Pacific

Sidney
 Town Hall at 2440 Sidney Avenue
 Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Lightbody, Commanding Officer, 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron

Saanich
 Municipal Hall at 770 Vernon Avenue
 Major Barry Walker, Commanding Officer, 11

Field Ambulance (Victoria)

Sooke
 Sooke Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion at 6726 Eustace Road
 Captain(N) Paul Dempsey, Commander, Maritime Operations Group Four

Lantzville
 Lantzville Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion at 7225 Lantzville Road
 Commander Allyn Holborn, Base Information Services Officer, Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt

Veterans volunteer in the Poppy Campaign

Mary Ellen Green
 Staff writer

The poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance in Canada since 1921. The famous lines written by LCol John McCrae, "In Flanders fields the poppies blow" instil a sense of honour and pride in the hearts of all who hear them.

And thanks to the millions of Canadians who wear the little red flower on their lapels for 11 days in November, the poppy has remained a driving force behind remembering veterans, both symbolically and financially.

The Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign uses the proceeds from the sale of poppies for the Service Bureaux, which advocates for veterans, ex-service people and their dependants seeking compensation from the government for service incurred disabilities. There is no charge for this service to those who qualify.

Poppy Fund monies also help veterans and their families with basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, education, bill payments and medical expenses. The Legion helps non-members and members alike, wherever need arises.

In B.C. and the Yukon, approximately \$3.6 million is raised through the sale of poppies each year.

The Victoria Remembrance Day Committee Poppy Fund represents the Royal Canadian Air Force Association 800 Pacific Wing, the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada Unit 12, Korean Veterans Association Unit 27 and Royal Canadian Legion Britannia Branch 7, Ex-Service Women's Branch 182, Public Service Branch 127 and the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch 292. It



Mary Ellen Green, Lookout

Volunteers stuff envelopes with poppies in the conference room at the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in anticipation of the Victoria Remembrance Day Committee Poppy Campaign.

is run by chairperson Pat Patterson and administrator Roger McBride out of the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Royal Canadian Legion Branch 292.

But they don't do it alone.

In late October, over 60 volunteers converged on the Legion's conference room to stuff 65,000 envelopes with poppies seeking donations to the fund. They're sent in a general mail out to businesses and homes in the city.

"Most of volunteers are Legion members, a lot are ex-service people or spouses and children," Patterson said. "These same volunteers will do most of the work we have; standing in malls, delivering and restocking poppies to the 13 routes and stuffing envelopes."

The volunteers will work 264 two-

hour shifts over the campaign, which runs from Oct. 30 to Nov. 11.

Sea, Army and Air Cadets also volunteer to man the poppy trays in mall parking lots on weekends.

Some trays need to be monitored and refilled everyday, while others take much longer.

Last year, the Victoria Remembrance Day Committee Poppy Fund distributed over \$100,000 to the community, including funds for the expansion of the Veterans Health Centre at the Lodge at Broadmead, support to veterans at Legion Manor Victoria, and Post Traumatic Stress support to all veterans.

The generosity of the public makes all this possible.

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Dr. Keith Martin
 Member of Parliament

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The story behind two minutes of silence

BC / Yukon Command
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When the guns fell silent on the First World War battlefields and the Armistice was signed at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, this sacred moment in history was embraced as Armistice Day.

As Britain and its Commonwealth Dominions began planning Armistice Day services for the following year, an Australian journalist proposed in a letter, that a respectful silence to remember the fallen be included in the ceremonies. This letter, scribed by Edward George Honey, was published on May 8, 1919, in the London Evening News and brought to the

attention of His Majesty King George V.

On Nov. 8, 1919, His Majesty King George V proclaimed...

"...all locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead..."

Some historians believe the tradition of the silence was in honour of the last soldier killed before the Armistice: Pte George Price, a Canadian.

Pte Price was killed in action by the last shot of the Great War, two minutes before the guns fell silent. In Mons, France, at the ornate Grand Place, a commemorative plaque honours the memory of Pte Price. He is buried at Saint Symphorien Cemetery in Mons.

This silent observance was incorporated

into the first Armistice Day service held on Nov. 11, 1919, in Britain and the Commonwealth Dominions.

Following the Second World War, Armistice Day was renamed as Remembrance Day to honour the fallen from all wars, past, present and future.

Over time, the silent observance was not consistently observed by all countries. In the year 2000, The Royal Canadian Legion and other Commonwealth nations rallied together to revitalize the significance of the silence observance and called for an international "Two Minute Wave of Silence."

Remembrance summons each generation to understand the finest of Canadian values: freedom, democracy, human dignity and caring for the greater good of mankind.

WHAT SAY YOU

The Call

Whenever the call of battle is sound
and shots ring through the air
A special breed of man is found
to always be standing there
He was there at Queenston Heights Niagra Falls
when General Brock fought a greater foe
With determination upon his face he stayed
and he forced the Yanks to go
He fought the Hun at Vimy
at Frezenburg, Ypres and both battles of the Somme
From his strength, his courage and his blood
the war to end all wars was won
He was there again from 1939 to 45
to stop the Axis powers cold
At Dieppe, Normandy, Sicily and Hong Kong

again their story has been told
When you hear names like Hill 355
Imjin, Kapyong and Annebell
You'll know he was in the Korean War
and again he went through hell
And although there are but a few old soldiers left
from those wars of long ago
Their sons and daughters have now taken
their place
and have bravely answered the call to go
Against the Warsaw Pact they stood strong
throughout the 40 year long Cold War
and helped to bring a measure of peace to the world
when the Berlin Wall finally stood no more
They have worn the helmet of UN blue

with honour, and courage and with pride
And they helped to bury many a comrade
who have fallen by their side
They are fighting now in Afghanistan
against an enemy who knows no fear
They fight to protect their buddies and our way of life
for our brave young soldiers, their mission and duty are clear
So on this November 11th, be proud you are a Canadian
and remember all those who need to be
Wear a poppy, salute your flag, then pray to God
and give thanks that you're still free

MWO Stephen G Hitchcock, CD

The Canadian New Breed

In Europe lie the hero's of old,
In Canada is where we grow cold.
The struggle was never about me,
We fight and die to make other countries free.
We wear the tan, the green and the blue,
But always we knew.
That our lives may be offered for those in need,
Never does another country need to plead.
We are Canadians! The new breed!
Keeping the peace, wearing blue for so long,

Never caring which country was in the wrong.
To stop conflict, is noble enough,
But if tyranny appears we must be tough.
A few of us perished in that quiet time,
Now, dying in numbers our country pays us some mind.
Praying to the keeper, our sisters and friends,
We peacemakers only want wars to end.
We are Canadians! The new breed!
For NATO, NORAD, UN and Canada we have died,

While others have watched, stood by and cried.
Our families and friends, all wish an end,
But, 'tis late and our broken bodies will not mend.
Our job never done, we cannot stay,
We keep the torch John McCrae.
We are not buried in Flanders field,
Here, we lie in the Canadian Shield.
We are Canadians! The new breed!

SLt Tony Gatt
Logistics Officers in MARPAC HQ

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With honour, respect and thanks to all the men and women who served and continue to serve this Remembrance Day.

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Izzy dolls and African aid for AIDS

Shelley Lipke
Staff writer

During a trip to Nairobi, Kenya, to honour fallen peacekeepers, Retired Sgt Bill Willbond saw a sight so disturbing it motivated him to start a charity to help African people.

What he saw was a house full of children dying from AIDS.

He had asked a local Jesuit to say a prayer over the graves of peacekeepers killed on duty during the 1964 Congo conflict. After the ceremony the priest invited Sgt (Ret'd) Willbond to his home.

"I saw children covered with HIV ulcers and they were moaning and groaning," recalls Sgt (Ret'd) Willbond.

He asked the priest what the children needed.

"I learned that half an Aspirin will give a suffering child a night's sleep, and that the children needed antibiotic ointment to heal wounds and dressings to keep the flies off them. If a child is born with AIDS they live only two to six years because they have no immune system."

Sgt (Ret'd) Willbond and his wife Lynn wanted to help, so upon their return to Canada they withdrew \$1,600 from their bank accounts to buy painkillers, Aspirins and aid for the children. This amounted to 400 boxes of medicine, which they sent to the Canadian Embassy in Nairobi.

Feeling this was not enough, Sgt (Ret'd) Willbond applied for a charity license in hopes to administer more aid to the African people.

"I started the Canadian chapter of ICROSS (International Community for the Relief of Starvation and Suffering) 10 years ago because I wanted to do all I could to help," he said. "After seeing what I saw in Africa I had to help."

Although it took two years for his charity license to be approved, he



Shelley Lipke, Lookout
Sgt (Ret'd) Bill Willbond, president of the Canadian chapter of ICROSS International Community for the Relief of Starvation and Suffering, holds up an Izzy doll and a book about how the charity he started is helping African children.

never gave up and once he received approval the real fundraising began.

"We operated by word of mouth," he said. "People who heard about our efforts sent cheques, and one American man left his estate to the charity."

The Canadian chapter of ICROSS gives humanitarian aid in a number of ways. Their "feed the hungry program" aids young mothers in Kibera, Africa's largest slum with over a million people, to leave prostitution and teach them to grow food and feed themselves and their children.

"When they are finished learning how to care for themselves they are free," says Sgt (Ret'd) Willbond.

More than 40 peacekeepers from the Victoria area

are involved in ICROSS, and help pack the crates of medicine that are shipped to Africa.

"We pack the crates with hand-knitted Izzy dolls to cushion the medicine and then the dolls are given to the children when the medicine arrives," he says. "People all across the country are knitting these dolls, which symbolize medicine and comfort. To a child who has nothing, this doll is everything, and the children are even buried with the dolls."

The Izzy doll was inspired by Canadian military engineer MCpl Mark Isfeld. Through his work as a peacekeeper in 1992 and 1993 he passed through a village that had been badly damaged by artillery and noticed a lone doll lying

on a pile of rubble.

He took a photo of the doll, and sent it to his mother Carol, an avid knitter. Along with the photo he sent a message that a little girl had lost her doll. His mother created a pattern and began knitting as many dolls as she could and started sending them to her son so he could distribute them to the children.

When MCpl Isfeld was killed in duty in 1994, Carol met some of the peacekeepers her son had worked with and learned of how happy the dolls had made the children. She wanted to continue making the dolls on a larger scale and began to recruit others to produce thousands of dolls.

ICROSS now has 23 groups of knitters across Canada, making the dolls for shipping worldwide.

"The little old ladies who knit the dolls donate \$20 from their old age pensions and we use this money for a crisis fund to help with tsunamis, earthquakes, or other disasters," says Sgt (Ret'd) Willbond. "It feels really good to help these kids. I'm very thankful for the ladies who knit the dolls and the retired peacekeepers who are involved in ICROSS," he said.

Anyone interested in knitting the dolls can obtain the pattern online at www.icross.ca and more information about this charity can be found on the site.

This Remembrance Day, the peacekeepers involved with ICROSS are hosting a ceremony in front of the Saanichton Municipal hall at 1903 Mt Newton Crossroad. There is a stone there that has been registered as a cenotaph and dedicated to peacekeepers. Last year's ceremony had over 100 people in attendance and Sgt (Ret'd) Willbond is welcoming anyone living in the Central Saanich to attend this year's ceremony.

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INMEMORIAM



Lt Justin Boyes of the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was killed in Afghanistan Oct. 28. He was serving with the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.



Sapper Steven Marshall, from the 1st Combat Engineering Regiment based in Edmonton, Alberta, was killed in action Oct. 30 while serving as a member of the Task Force 3-09 Battle Group.

The day the poppies bloomed

Lesley Craig
Maple Leaf

Over the past five years, he's served four tours in Afghanistan, first as a pilot and then as an intelligence officer. In all those years, he says, the most amazing thing he saw was that first day the poppies bloomed.

"You see this desolate, horrible, miserable country and you think, 'What can live here?'" Major Tim Cooper says. "Then, all of a sudden, the rains come and for miles you have this beautiful living sea of colour, and it's just so incredible."

Despite their beauty, he acknowledges the darker side as he points out that poppies are not grown to be pretty, but to produce opium.

"You sort of get it at that point," he says.

Flying with the CC-130 Hercules detachment on his first mission in 2002 gave Maj Cooper a good overview of the country. It was also good preparation for his second tour, working in

the All Source Intelligence Centre in Kabul. Having that bird's eye view firmly in mind helped him understand the spread of people across the country, as well as Afghanistan's importance in the larger area.

"When you fly in there, you realize why Afghanistan has always had a pivotal role in that part of the world," he says. "Everything comes through that country because there is no other way. You look up into the mountains of Kabul and there's that one little pass going up and you know that for 4,000 years that's been the main trade route, and it still is today."

His third tour, in 2006, provided yet another new experience as he helped smooth over the transition when the Netherlands took command of Regional Command (South). Because the Dutch commander did not have access to the same intelligence as his predecessor, Maj Cooper and a few other intelligence officers settled in to stand up

the Kandahar Intelligence Fusion Centre.

"It was a very, very small office with feeds for all the nations, and we would write to release," he says. "So, when I briefed the general, it was all products that Canada had produced in Kandahar, but written down to a level so that, even with the security classifications, he could actually use them."

Because of his experience in setting up the Kandahar Intelligence Fusion Centre, Maj Cooper was asked to return to Afghanistan last year to help stand up the Air Wing.

"The biggest thing, when people roll out new aircraft and new capabilities and new people, is that they really have to have a good understanding of what the threat is to those aircraft and people," he says. "It was my responsibility to make sure the crews knew when and where they were not safe, where they could fly and the danger on the ground, and also to brief

the commander in his decision-making process."

Over the course of his various tours, Maj Cooper has seen a number of changes in Afghanistan. The greatest, he says, involves the people on the street.

"When we were first there, there were very few people on the street, and hardly any activity," he says. "When you go down to the areas now, there's life, there's activity, there's markets and traffic, an immense increase in the amount of traffic."

Afghanistan, however, is not the only place Maj Cooper has noticed a change.

Throughout recent years, he's noticed an incredible increase in support from Canadians for the CF. "It's just incredible, the number of people who show up at three in the morning when our planes land after a tour," he says. "They're not family and friends; they're just people who live around the airport and know we're coming home."

Royal Canadian Legion Esquimalt 172

REMEMBRANCE DAY



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Canadian Scottish Regiment
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Remembrance Day

11 November 2009



Come and join us at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 54 Sooke BC
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10:15 AM Parade Forms up at Evergreen Plaza

10:35 AM (approx) March off

11:00 AM Service at the Cenotaph

Refreshments and entertainment following in the Lounge for adults and in the auditorium for the youth.

Candlelight Ceremony

10 November 2009

Service at Sooke Legion Branch 54 Cenotaph for the youth in our community

Meet between 6:30 & 6:45 PM

Tribute begins at 7:00 PM

Food and drinks for youth in Auditorium following the Service



Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall, OSGG Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales inspects the 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall arrived in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, to begin their 11-day visit to Canada on Nov. 2.

HMCS Calgary on the hunt for drug boats with U.S.

Shelley Lipke
Staff writer

As *HMCS Calgary* transited north through the waters off South and Central America during Southpoy, it participated in a multinational anti-narcotics mission led by U.S. Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S). During this mission Guatemalan and American Forces captured a drug boat housing 10 metric tonnes of cocaine valued at \$250 million. The Oct. 22 bust left *Calgary's* crew eager to locate other drug vessels known to be in the area.

"This was the largest drug bust in Guatemalan history," said Cdr William Quinn, ship's commanding officer. "The U.S. Coast Guard transported the four crew members and the drug boat to shore to hand over to Guatemalan authorities."

Through JIATF-South assets, *Calgary's* command team learned there were other drug boats in the area and the ship was tasked to track and report any contacts of interest to JIATF-S.

"We do a lot of training for these kinds of events and the crew was excited to be involved in this mission," said Cdr Quinn.

The boats the drug smugglers use to transport the drugs to North America are self propelled semi submers-

ibles (SPSS). With only six inches of freeboard and a snorkel above water, they have an extremely low profile in the water and are difficult to spot.

"These boats are becoming much more common these days as a method of drug smuggling. They have a very small radar cross section and are especially hard to detect in any kind of sea state," said Cdr Quinn. "The most common way of detecting them is visually," he said.

Earlier in the deployment, during Panamax 2009, one of the largest multinational training exercises in the world off Panama, *Calgary* searched for a SPSS that was created for the exercise.

"Out of the ships involved in the search, we used visual aids and radar to look for the boat and ended up being the first to find it from the bridge," said Cdr Quinn. "This was good training for the crew to familiarize them with search techniques. It was very exciting to find one then, and the ship's company were even more excited to be involved in trying to find a real one once we learned several had been detected in the waters we were in."

Calgary sailed under their navigation plan and provided whatever contributions they could to JIATF-S as they transited.

"We were able to expand

our surveillance area by using our helicopter and we investigated numerous contacts in our vicinity, but they were all legitimate fishing vessels or pleasure craft," said Cdr Quinn.

Each day *Calgary's* Sea King helicopter took to the air conducting thorough searches of coordinates where the boats were last reported.

While *Calgary* was unsuccessful in locating any of the boats, Cdr Quinn said it was a valuable experience for the crew. "It was exciting to be involved in this and participate in the search for a vessel that resulted in such a large drug bust."

JIATF-S is an ongoing mission for the U.S. Navy, and it's likely that other Canadian ships will participate in the future, he said.

As *Calgary* sails to Esquimalt for a late November arrival, it will conduct a missile exercise on Nov. 3 to test the Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile in a tactical scenario. Then on Nov. 10 in San Diego several family members will be welcomed aboard for a Tiger Cruise to reunite with loved ones and sail back to Esquimalt together. During the sail home the ship will participate in a Task Force Group Exercise (TGEX) with *HMC Ships Algonquin* and *Protecteur*.

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Honour in rhymes

American honours Canadian Navy with poems for warships



Mary Ellen Green
Staff writer

An American poet from a small island off North Carolina has written a poem for each currently serving Canadian naval ship named after a people or place.

Johnnie Baum, an Able Bodied Seaman with the North Carolina Ferry System, was inspired to research and write about Canadian people and places after meeting Canadian naval officers at the British Cemetery on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands in North Carolina.

"A little over a year ago one

of the officers gave me a coin from the Canadian Naval Attaché, which was very nice. When I heard about the Centennial I decided to return the gift in my own way, by doing something just for the Canadian Navy and Canada. I am happy that my efforts were well received," Baum said.

"My dealings with representatives of the Canadian Navy have led me to appreciate the people I have met, and the history I have studied."

It took Baum three months to research, write and complete the collection of 32 poems; 31 for ships, and one for the Battle of the

Atlantic. No poems were written for *HMC Ships Protecteur* and *Preserver*, as they were not named for a historic Canadian people or place.

"Researching the various ships, places, and indigenous peoples was fairly easy with my computer, and your attaché's were helpful in providing names of vessels involved," he said. "During my research I came upon your celebration of the Battle of the Atlantic and decided that would be a good final poem for this series."

Baum's family has a rich history on Hatteras Island, a small island

in the Outer Banks off North Carolina. "My father retired from the U.S. Navy after 30 years of service, so I know what being a navy brat is. He taught me some navigation tricks as a young man, such as dead reckoning, stars, slide rule work, etcetera," Baum said.

The British Cemetery on nearby Ocracoke Island holds the graves of British and Canadian sailors who went down on British ship HMT Bedfordshire and were washed ashore. The land was deeded by the U.S. government to Britain and is maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Each

year, around May 11, a ceremony is held to honour the fallen British and Canadian sailors.

A second British Cemetery can be found on Hatteras Island, where two bodies from the British merchant ship San Delfino are buried.

Baum has written five books, and has a CD and DVD of poetry. "Since I have a good job, and an adequate income, the proceeds from sales on my books goes to local charities," he said.

"As to what happens with my poems? I just hope they touch hearts, and uplift spirits. If I can do that, then I am truly blessed."

Poems for Pacific Fleet ships

HMCS ALGONQUIN

At the place of spearing fish and eels, by the water great.
First Nations Peoples of the North, did their home create.

Great hunters and fisher folk, traveled 'cross the land.
From Georgian Bay to the Maurice, for years their mark will stand.

In honor and in pride, of all those gone before.
Was christened the Algonquin, mighty ship of war.

Whose battle cry is "with sure stroke", and whose aim is true.
Whose mission to protect the land, and the people too.

Three hundred men and women, here their nation serve.
And the HMCS ALGONQUIN, from danger will not swerve.

In Norway and in Normandy, and on to the Arctic North.
This one's battle honors, prove to all her worth.

HMCS CALGARY

Set near on to the mountains, home of the stampede.
The heart of Alberta, whose call many did heed.

Hard working farmers till the soil, spread seed upon the land.
Then go home at end of day, and place it in God's hand.

Home of the mounted police, rodeo's and the arts.
Just as are the people, a place of many parts.

A warship braving ocean storms, to keep this nation free.
In honor and in pride, bears the name of Calgary.

Onward and forever, she'll challenge wind and wave.
A few hundred men and women, vigilant and brave.

And though they don't know, each person that they serve.
From their most great mission, they will never swerve.

HMCS EDMONTON

This place upon the river, where once fur traders walked.
And in the harvest time, buyers and sellers talked.

This gateway to the North, land of ice and snow.
Where only the strong, and brave would dare to go.

For them is named a warship, to guard them at their rest.
Manned by those who are, among their nation's best.

For those who in years gone by, forged a brand new land.
Whose courage and sacrifice, few can now understand.

These ones who made this country, and to it was true.
This proud ship, the Edmonton, named solely just for you.

HMCS BRANDON

Down on the Assiniboine, where trading posts once stood.
Where the railroad runs, and where the soil is good.

The Wheat City, Brandon, stands upon the banks.
Where hard working farmers, toil and give thanks.

To give honor to this place, a ship given it's name.
HMCS Brandon, threats ready to tame.

Strength does she acquire, through the progress seen.
Whether upon the land, or the ocean green.

This ship ever vigilant, with it's faithful crew.
Will ever guard the shores, of Canada for you.

HMCS CHICOUTIMI

On the shore of the Saguenay, a trading post once stood.
Now home of the railroadmen, and those who harvest wood.

Where once First Nations Peoples, among the hills did walk.
Catch fishes from the waters, and wild game did stalk.

Now farmers till the fertile land, faithful fam'lies pray.
In this place of hopes and dreams, for a better day.

Named for them a warship, stealthily submarine.
Beneath the waters quiet, almost never seen.

There to give security, to all the peoples there.
Crewed by men and women, who for each one does care.

HMCS NANAIMO

On Vancouver Island, this town of Nanaimo.
Place where Chief Coal Tye, and traders did go.

Of coal miners and lumbermen, people brave and strong.
Took their hopes and dreams, and nurtured them along.

These are the ones who suffered, to make this nation great.
Who braved the cold and storm, even that called fate.

To give honor to them, and others such as they.
A ship was named and christened, close to them to stay.

Faith and Labor was her creed, as was their very own.
And it is by these two small words, Canada has grown.



HMCS OTTAWA

Near by the Kichi Sibi, where the waters flow.
The Odawa once came, to prosper and to grow.

Soon others would follow, the French and English too.
And when each arrived, to them this land was new.

The trappers and the timbermen, each one a pioneer.
Who soon became part of the land, the Odawa held dear.

Named after them a frigate, to guard their coast 'gainst all.
Two hundred men and women, standing proud and tall.

There to ensure their land, will prosper and will grow.
That there will always be, a blessed tomorrow.



HMCS SASKATOON

On the South Saskatchewan, in this most lovely land.
The place of seven crossings, where Chief Whitecap did stand.

First Nations Peoples ruled, all that they could see.
Among them the Iroquois, Algonquin and Cree.

Here the earth gave forth her fruits, from the mine and well.
A great future sounded, clear as any bell.

In honor of this place was named, the good ship Saskatoon.
Who in the brightest sunshine, or light of stars and moon.

Brave as a faithful lion, would protect and serve.
And as a raging lion, from battle will not swerve.



HMCS VICTORIA

On Vancouver Island, this great city does lie.
Where one can watch the dragon boats, and tall ships sail by.

Home of the coastal peoples, and of the Songhees.
In it's heart just quiet pride, and deep memories.

To guard this place so special, in the day or night.
Also running quiet and deep, 'most always out of sight.

Named after Victoria, the city and the Queen.
Filled with courage and honor, a hunting submarine.

There to see to the safety, of the people and the land.
Ready, Aye Ready, 'gainst adversity to stand.



HMCS WINNIPEG

The Cree named it "muddy waters", Winnipeg the lake.
Where the Assiniboine and Red, at the forks did break.

Here the earth was good, and their was fish and game.
Fur traders had safe harbor, Fort Rouge was it's name.

Here lies Red River Valley, a most beautiful land.
Where voyageurs and pioneers, years ago did stand.

Named for this place a warship, whose history is long.
One with the strength of many, to right every wrong.

Whose crew will never swerve, from the storms of war.
Who will ever hold in honor, those who've gone before.

HMCS REGINA

This capital of Saskatchewan, City Of The Queen.
Headquarters of the Mounties, plains fertile and green.

Mem'ries of Wascana Creek, where the springs were found.
This place First Nation's Peoples, thought as hallowed ground.

Named the "pile of bones", in a long gone day.
Now railroadmen and farmers, live and work and pray.

To honor them a ship was built, and was for them named.
Who long ago traveled this land, and was for them named.

Let Regina flourish, and her future e'er be bright.
This craft and crew will keep her safe, in the day and night.

HMCS VANCOUVER

Close on to the Pacific sea, lies this busy place.
Where tall ships once landed, to feed the great gold race.

Where lumber mills were plenty, toward where the sun does set.
Where hope was more than just a word, and lest we forget.

Men and women, brave and strong, made this land their own.
And by their sweat and by their blood, this country has grown.

The HMCS VANCOUVER, named for this place so dear.
The women and the men who serve, from both far and near.

They are the ones who keep this hope, always, fore'er alive.
And they are always ready, 'gainst all life's storms to strive.

HMCS WHITEHORSE

Hope is what made this nation, many years gone by.
Even now it is real, and will never die.

The spirit of the Whitehorse, Yukon River's ghost.
The courage of the ones, who here gave their most.

Honored in the name, given this ship of war.
Whose mission is to ever guard, Canada's great shore.

To keep alive that hope, for a better day.
To ever stand against the storm, neither falter nor sway.

To keep the Northern reaches, their great native land.
Always safe for the future, in the Almighty's hand.

HMCS YELLOWKNIFE

In the Northwest Territory, on Yellowknife Bay.
This place known to the natives, as Somba K'e.

Where the peoples are many, yet but one dream share.
And who work together, as for this land they care.

The First Nation People, French and English too.
This most beautiful place, under God's sky of blue.

Honored by the warship, that carries the name.
Of the river Yellowknife, the storms of war to tame.

Whose captain and crew, in honor and in pride.
Are ready, always ready, to take the world in stride.

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Services for veterans

IPSCs provide seamless transition for injured CF members and veterans

Making the transition back to military service or to civilian life can be challenging, but Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is there to help. Together with the Department of National Defence (DND), VAC is working to provide seamless, coordinated service to CF members, veterans and their families through a network of integrated personnel support centres (IPSCs) across the country.

What is an IPSC?

All CF members and their families, particularly the ill and the injured, can use IPSCs to find out about key services provided by VAC and DND. Putting these services in the same location makes things easier for them, and allows the departments to work closely together.

IPSCs are one more step in VAC's quest to ensure that all ill and injured CF members, Veterans and their families have access to care and support where and when they need it. IPSC clientele will now have better, faster, and easier access to information and services, and for those releasing, a more seamless transition to VAC programs and services.

How They Work

VAC's services focus on recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration. This includes:

- identifying your needs as you transition from military to civilian life;
- monitoring your situation to ensure your needs are being met; and
- ensuring you get the services and supports you need from VAC and your community.

We're Here to Help

To learn more about how VAC can help you, please visit www.vac-acc.gc.ca or call 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1-866-522-2022 (French).

Veterans Independence Program supports independent living

Returning from a tour of duty or transitioning to civilian life can be challenging for Canadian Forces (CF) members, especially if you suffer an injury during service.

To help support their independent and healthy living, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) offers the Veterans Independence Program (VIP).

The Program can help pay for the assistance required in the home and community to meet their physical, mental, and social needs.

Who Can Receive Assistance Through VIP?

Still-serving and retired CF members who have a disability entitlement may be eligible for assistance through VIP if their needs relate to that entitlement and services are not available to them through the Department of National Defence. Primary caregivers and certain survivors may also continue to receive certain VIP services if the Veteran passes away, or is admitted to a long-term care facility, if there is a continued need for it.

The Veterans Independence Program offers help in many ways:

- **Home Care**
 - Personal care – Help with daily care needs
 - Health and support services – Help provided

by health professionals

- Access to nutrition – Help with costs related to accessing a healthy diet
- Housekeeping – Help with routine household tasks

– Help with groundskeeping activities

Ambulatory Care

- Help with health and social services such as health assessments and day support programs

• Home Adaptations

- Help to facilitate better access and mobility in the home such as ramps and widening of doorways

Intermediate Care

- Help with costs for long-term care when a recipient can no longer stay at home

How VIP Works

To find out if you are eligible to receive assistance through VIP, VAC will conduct an assessment to determine your health and social needs. A contribution agreement is developed and reviewed yearly, at a minimum, and adjusted to reflect changes in your needs.

All approved services through VIP are based on the agreement.

We're Here to Help

To learn more about the Veterans Independence Program please visit www.vac-acc.gc.ca or call 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1-866-522-2022 (French).

Local museum pays tribute to veterans

Shelley Lipke
Staff writer

To commemorate Remembrance Day, Veterans Affairs Canada and the Royal B.C. Museum have teamed up to host a week-long tribute honouring past and present serving military personnel.

From Nov. 5 to 11 historians, community groups and local veterans will host talks, displays, and activities geared to raise awareness of the sacrifices and achievements that veterans and serving military members make.

"We started this exhibit in 2001, and each year it's

been growing bigger and bigger," said Janet MacDonald, manager of learning and visitor experience at Royal B.C. Museum. "Each year military personnel, veterans, community groups, students and individuals gather at the museum to honour the role Canadians have played in world conflicts and recognize the work done by Canadians in peacekeeping throughout the world," she said.

Through interactive exhibits and listening to the veteran's true-life stories of World War Two, Korea and Afghanistan, visitors can learn about the challenges they faced.

There will be performances by the Victoria Children's Choir and a display of a 1942 military jeep. People can dress up in vintage military uniforms of that era and have their photo taken in the jeep. A collection of trench art made from wood, bone and metal objects by First World War soldiers will also be on display.

All exhibits are located in the conference rooms off the main level and are free of charge. As a special thank you, military personnel and their family members will be granted free admission to all the Royal B.C. Museum galleries on Remembrance Day.

Last year's exhibit saw over 12,000 visitors during the week and more than 200 students crowded into rooms to listen to tales from veterans.

"It is a very positive thing for children to learn about past generations and they also really enjoy searching through their roots to find out who served in their extended family," said MacDonald. "It is important to acknowledge our aging veterans and their past contributions."

The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and a detailed agenda listing the speaker series, displays and workshops is available at www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

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New CD raises funds to support troops

Shelley Lipke
Staff writer

To coincide with Remembrance Day in Canada and the United Kingdom, and Veterans Day in the United States, a new CD for the troops called *Independents for Independence* will be released in stores and online.

Created by more than 30 emerging artists, this CD will be sold internationally to generate funds to support the families of fallen military personnel and those who return from duty with life altering injuries.

"I thought this CD was a great idea to show how we can support our troops and show our appreciation for everything they do," said Vancouver-based production president James Miller. "Sometimes people don't support a particular mission, but they should always support the people who protect and serve our country to keep it safe."

The CD was recorded by Canadian and American artists who volunteered their time and talent. More than 30

artists came together to record the title track *We Will Be There*.

"The main style of the CD is country and rock, but it also has a bit of hip hop, metal and adult contemporary songs on it," said Miller.

The Canadian profits from the sale of the CD will be divided between the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency and the Red Friday Foundation to support the military member's families.



The CD retails for \$17.99 in music stores and online, but through www.cd4thetroops.com, a higher profit is generated and therefore more money is passed onto military related charities.

"We are encouraging people to buy online as the extra profit will go to The Wounded Warriors Canadian Fund for repatriating troops and injured soldiers," said Miller.

United States sales will go to the Military Families Fund and the British Army Benevolent Fund in the United Kingdom. The general public are also encouraged to send messages to the troops through the message board on the website to show their support.

"I'm fortunate to have the ability to work in the music industry and be in a position to create a CD for the troops," said Miller. "My hopes are to sell at least half a million copies in the next year in Canada, but more importantly, I hope that people listening to the music will let the troops know that we are behind them."

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MCpl Jo-Anne Verreault, DND LCol Mario Leblanc, Commanding Officer of 407 Long Range Patrol Squadron, and MWO Stan Bekus, Acting 407 Squadron Chief Warrant Officer, present Jon Ambler, Comox Museum's general manager, a piece of "nose art" by Clarence Simonsen for display in the museum.

History on the tip of our noses

Sgt Eileen Redding
19 Wing PA

Wartime art gave a man something else to think about as he embarked into battle, one from which he might not return.

Images depicting Disney characters, slogans, nicknames, hometowns and sexy girls were painted on wartime aircraft noses or parts of the fuselage.

The artists of the time who painted these graphics had little to no training, were not funded and did most of it on their own time.

The images helped personalize the connection the aircrew felt with their air-

frame and minimized the harshness around them. Attempts to censor and ban the famous scantily clad pin-up girls of the Second World War failed as these images were priceless in terms of morale. They still remain a part of military aviation history.

What began as a general inquiry for Second World War "nose art" during preparations for 407 Squadron's 65th anniversary in 2006, resulted in an impromptu meeting in Nanton, AB, between the Commanding Officer of 407 Squadron, Lieutenant-Colonel Mario Leblanc and well known nose art artist Clarence Simonsen.

Simonsen, a renowned recreation artist, world historian and an author of two books on nose art researched the squadron's history and reproduced two pieces. One piece is a Varga girl reproduction from the Second World War and the other creation is a tribute to 407 Squadron.

These pieces of nose art were recently presented to the squadron.

"I am thrilled that one of the Squadron's Second World War nose art pieces has been reproduced and that the squadron is in possession of it. The squadron members need to see our heritage and be aware of our history," said LCol Leblanc.

To create the replicas, Simonsen acquired a 24 inch square panel from a Bolingbroke airframe, which was rescued from a farmer's field in Airdrie, AB, in 1988. The Bolingbroke was the official Canadian designation of the Blenheim Mk. IV, an aircraft that 407 Squadron used for coastal command duties. On the panel he features the squadron crest, an aviator's profile, a poppy and the words Lieutenant Colonel J. McCrae and "To Hold on High." These words from John McCrae's famous poem In Flanders Fields are the official squadron motto.

The second piece is painted on original skin fabric taken from the Noorduyn Norseman Mk. IV, which Simonsen acquired in 1999. The skin was painted white to resemble a Wellington, a long range bomber which notably had sunk U-boats during the war. A compilation of images are featured on the fabric: the Lady from the 1944 Varga pin-up issue, a photograph of the original artist, the words 407 Squadron, Wellington Mk. XIV and Royal Canadian Air Force.

The panel is displayed at the Comox Air Force Museum www.comoxair-force-museum.com

The original skin will be prominently displayed in the squadron.

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Memories of Remembrance Day

Mary Ellen Green
Staff writer

There's one Remembrance Day that remains crystal clear for Patricia Van't Haaff.

The former WREN recalls Nov. 11, 1955, when winter visited the Island early and with a fury.

The day started off cool and clear with the sun warming those bearing witness to the services at the Legislature cenotaph, including Van't Haaff who was standing sentry on one corner.

All of a sudden, the temperature dropped and the white stuff rained down like feathers exploding from a pillow.

"Everything came to a grinding halt. They cut the program short because there were four or five inches of snow on our shoulders," she recalls.

When it came time to dismiss the ceremony, Van't Haaff couldn't move her legs. Medics from St John's Ambulance began rubbing her calves and thighs to get her moving.

"We went over to the Empress Hotel for a cup of tea and a bowl of soup. It was so hard to walk," she says.

A photo of Van't Haaff covered in snow ended up on a national news cast and many articles were written in local newspapers.

An article by Pete Houden in the Saturday, Nov. 12 edition of the

Victoria Daily Times said: "In spite of chilling winds, snow that capped bared heads with plumes of white and made footing treacherous, the lines held fast. Numb hands resisted the temptation of warm pockets, and backs were held straight in spite of minor avalanches which slid into the crevices between the neck and collar."

The Victoria Daily Colonist on Sunday Nov. 13 said: "Winter's first blast of icy winds stung the faces of more than 4,000 civilians, veterans, and service personnel who gathered at the snow covered war memorials in the area, Friday, to pay tribute to Canada's war dead. Ceremonies in Esquimalt, Oak Bay and Langford were cut short. Although the knees of short-clad Boy Scouts turned blue with cold, the young boys unflinchingly stuck out the long ceremony."

The temperature reached a low of 12 degrees Fahrenheit (-11 Celsius), and winds reached speeds up to 75 miles per hour (120 kilometres per hour).

The Royal Canadian Navy rescued five civilians stranded in a vicious sea state. Coastal Escorts Digby and Brockville aided the 75-foot YML emergency boat to rescue three teenage boys from Discovery Island, while two duck hunters were rescued from Chatham Island.

Taken from the Victoria Daily Colonist Front Page, Second Section- Local News Sunday, Nov. 13, 1955

Breaking Blues
Snowbound Scottish Band Plays Itself Over Malahat

They didn't go "dashing through the snow on a one horse open sleigh," but the brass band of The Canadian Scottish (Princess Mary's) Regiment did play Jingle Bells deep in the snow on the Malahat Highway Friday.

An RCN bus bearing the 16 musicians, bandmaster Sgt Keith Littler, Drum Major WO2 Ron Bland, Escort Officer John Pettit and the driver stalled 30 minutes after leaving Duncan at 1:10 p.m. following Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

In fact, it stalled on three hills, and each time the 20 men had to push a dozen cars over the hills to make room for the bus, then push the bus to safety too.

All this while wearing kilts and full dress uniforms, but no coats or gloves.

Once, to break the monotony, they played some choruses of Jingle Bells.

"The motorists thought we were crazy," Capt Pettit said. "But it sort of kept us going."

The bus reached Victoria at 4:30 p.m., more than two hours late.



Mary Ellen Green, Lookout

Former WRCNS Patricia Van't Haaff is the only WRCNS representative that still marches in the annual Remembrance Day celebrations at the provincial legislature. Here, she holds a portrait of herself when she was serving.

DID YOU KNOW...

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Ortona: Canada's mini Stalingrad

THE BATTLE OF ORTONA (DEC. 20 TO 28, 1943) WAS A SMALL, YET EXTREMELY FIERCE, BATTLE FOUGHT BETWEEN GERMAN FALLSCHIRMJÄGER (PARATROOPS) OF THE GERMAN 1ST PARACHUTE DIVISION UNDER GENERALLEUTNANT RICHARD HEIDRICH, AND ASSAULTING CANADIAN FORCES FROM THE 1ST CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION UNDER MAJOR GENERAL CHRIS VOKES. IT WAS THE CULMINATION OF THE FIGHTING ON THE ADRIATIC FRONT IN ITALY DURING "BLOODY DECEMBER."

James H. Marsh
The Canadian
Encyclopedia

The battle, dubbed "Little Stalingrad" for the deadliness of its close-quarters combat, took place in the small Adriatic Sea town of Ortona, with its peacetime population of 10,000.

Wherever the Canadian infantry tried to advance through the rubble and narrow streets of Ortona, Italy, they were exposed to murderous crossfire from the well-hidden defenders.

Captain Bill Longhurst of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment had an inspiration. Instead of moving through the killing ground, he would go through the houses. He got two pioneers to make a demolition charge with plastic explosives and tie them together in a "beehive."

With the men huddled safely on the first floor, Longhurst sent the pioneer up to the top floor to place the explosive against the wall. After the explosion the men tore up the stairs and scurried through the "mouse hole," wildly firing their guns and tossing grenades. Word of Longhurst's ingenious "mouse-holing" spread and the Canadians used the tactic to bludgeon their way through the streets of Ortona.

Every battle is an affront to humanity and a horror

to those caught in its grip, but the battle of Ortona in December 1943 was particularly savage. The face to face, house to house fighting reminded British journalist Christopher Buckley of "the fury of Stalingrad."

The Italian campaign began when the Allies invaded Sicily in September 1943 and then crossed the Strait of Messina and established a toehold on the boot of Italy. The Germans were determined to put up fierce resistance and they were aided by the mountainous terrain and fast-flowing rivers. Scarcely a bridge or road-cutting escaped the attention of the German demolition engineers as they carefully withdrew to more defensible positions.

The plan of the Allied commander General Bernard Montgomery was to divert German forces from the main Allied thrust against Rome by sending the Canadians across the Moro River and towards the port of Ortona.

On Dec. 6, in cover of darkness, three Canadian regiments crossed the Moro. As the Princess Patricia's scaled the opposite bank and seized the hamlet of Villa Rogatti, the Germans counterattacked with mounting violence. It was an early test of the Canadians' resolve and the Patricia's and the 44th Royal Tank Regiment proved equal to the task.

No sooner did the Germans retire from the Moro River than they fortified a gully some two kilometres further on. It was a prickly objective virtually impossible to take head on. Finally a small group of Seaforth Highlanders managed to slip through, finding a vulnerable spot at Casa Berardi. On Dec. 14 the Royal 22nd Regiment (the Van Doos) advanced at great cost and tried to hold on against great odds.

Captain Paul Triquet, a 33-year-old native of Cabano, Quebec, organized a brilliant defence with only 15 men and four tanks. His heroism and leadership earned him the Victoria Cross.

With the success in the gully and at the Berardi Crossroads, the Loyal Edmontons and Seaforth Highlanders were now free to swing northwards to the main objective, Ortona, supported by the tanks of the Three Rivers Regiment.

Ortona is an ancient seaport on the Adriatic, which dates back some 3,000 years, some say to the time of the Trojans. The old town was a jumble of narrow buildings crowded together on a steep promontory thrusting out into the sea. The Germans blew up many of the old stone buildings and reduced areas of the town into rubble fortresses. By the end of the day of Dec. 20 the forward platoons were fighting in the outskirts.

For the next six days the battle progressed with agonizing caution. Every stone house and every pile of rubble was a viper's nest. Every captured building was a potential death trap as the Germans left charges that could be set off by invisible trip wires. In one instance twenty Edmontons were crushed in an explosion in a building that they had just occupied. (One man was miraculously found alive three days later.)

With the tactics of "mouse-holing" and street fighting the men advanced house by house, tossing grenades through windows, kicking in doors, bursting into rooms with a rampage of fire. Gradually the Eddies moved down the main street towards a huge mound of rubble blocking the Corso Emanuele. A small group clambered over the roofs and came out behind the enemy and captured the Town Hall.

By Dec. 24 the Canadian attack had depleted the elite German paratrooper ranks. On Christmas Day the Seaforths had a table set for dinner at the cathedral, while the Edmontons, still in the city, had their Christmas dinner delivered. The Germans put up a small Christmas tree and some of their comrades braved great danger to bring them some sausage and cake. Their leader Carl Beyerlin



PA163411 and PA 115151 Library and Archives Canada

Top: Platoon Commander Lt I. Macdonald (with binoculars) is ready to give the order to attack to (left to right) Sgt J.T.Cooney, Privates A.R. Downie, O.E. Bernier, G.R. Young, Cpl T. Fereday and Pte S.L. Hart, all of the 48th Highlanders.

Below: Graves of personnel of the Edmonton Regiment killed in the Battle of Ortona.



noted: "There is no place of Christmas sentiments here. We do not know how long we can hold on to Ortona." It was not long. By nightfall of the 27th, the defenders realized that they were beaten and they slipped away like ghosts.

"Everything before Ortona" said the Canadian Divisional

commander "was a nursery tale." The battle was the first protracted campaign of the war for the Canadians and the cost had been heavy. Casualties in December reached 2,265, including 484 dead. Those among the Germans and among the innocent populace were certainly greater still.



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Pte Dan Bard, Formation Imaging Services Halifax

Former crew members of HMCS Kootenay take a minute to place poppies on a wreath at the base of the ship's monument. The veterans took part in a ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the tragedy that claimed the lives of nine sailors off the coast of England on Oct. 23, 1969.

In Remembrance



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Lest we forget.



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,
 Loved, 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
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields

— Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae



Women at War Service in the WRENS

A/SLt Penny Trusty
Contributor

Imagine its 1942. You're an 18-year-old girl leaving home to join the Canadian Navy. Not only is it uncommon for women to leave home before they are married, it is unheard of for women to join the military.

More than 60 years ago four Victoria women did just that.

The Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, (WRCNS), also known as the "WRENS", was established in 1942. Women from across Canada joined to free up male sailors for sea duty.

Thousands of WRENS were enlisted, trained and served in 39 non-combatant occupations at home and on allied naval bases abroad.

It was not unusual for family members to oppose their daughters joining the forces.

"It was like a bomb going off when I first told them I had enrolled," recalls Patricia Van't Haaff.

Despite her parents' disapproval, Van't Haaff joined the WRENS Dental Corps working as a dental assistant from 1945 to 1946 before being released when the WRCNS disbanded.

Barbara Duncan joined with a sense of adventure. In the beginning, Duncan recalls, she was "terrified, but loved it all at the same time."

"It was an adventure. You wanted to look as sharp as you could and do as best as you could. I liked it a lot, and I was sad to leave," she said.



Former WRCNS, Betty Goodman, Barbara Duncan, Agnes Richardson and Patricia Van't Haaff pose for a photo at the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum in front of the WRCNS exhibit.

In fact, when Duncan first attempted to sign up, she was 17 and too young. She had to wait until her 18th birthday. When she did finally turn of age, she enrolled at HMCS York and from there was sent to HMCS Protector in Sydney, Nova Scotia, where she trained as a sick berth attendant.

Duncan's parents were shocked when she told them she had joined. However, the feeling of patriotism soon overtook parental concerns.

"My father had been in the First World War and had been injured," said Duncan. "My father told me we had to get in there and win the war; it was a war of survival. I suppose it's why

they were so supportive of me after I told them I had joined the navy."

Betty Goodman signed up in Vancouver in 1942 and became a leading writer. On completion of her course, she sailed from Halifax on the troop ship New Amsterdam, to her posting in Niobe, Scotland.

The first thing she remembers upon getting off the ship was hearing the Naden Band.

"When I came on deck, there they were, the Naden Band, performing right in front of us and so far away from home. I couldn't believe it. It was a nice feeling," she said.

The significance of the WRENS' accomplishments and the adventures they

experienced during this period is remembered long after their work finished. For Agnes Richardson of Victoria, life after the war was less exciting.

"Well, I continued for a while as a pay writer. It wasn't so easy to just return to normal life. After everything had ended, it was hard to put up your uniform and put back on your apron; we were never the same. It definitely instilled a confidence in us, a confidence that didn't go away, and we wanted to pass this down to our children and grandchildren."

Today women make up 15 per cent of the Canadian Forces - all military occupations are open to both men and women.

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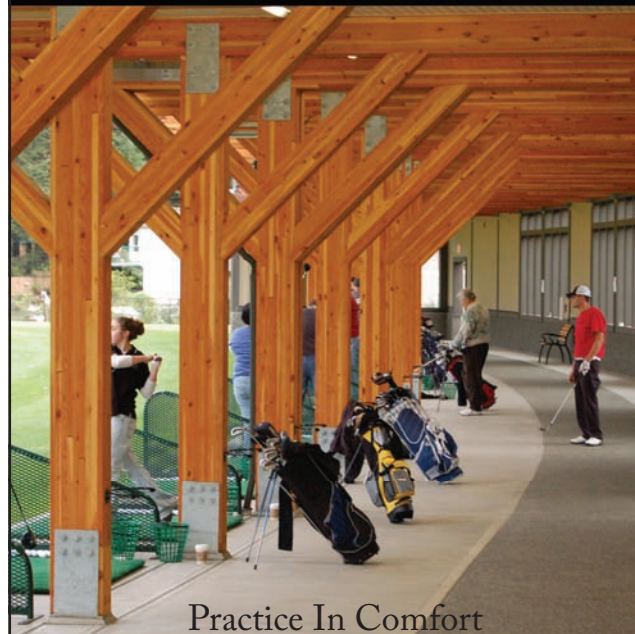


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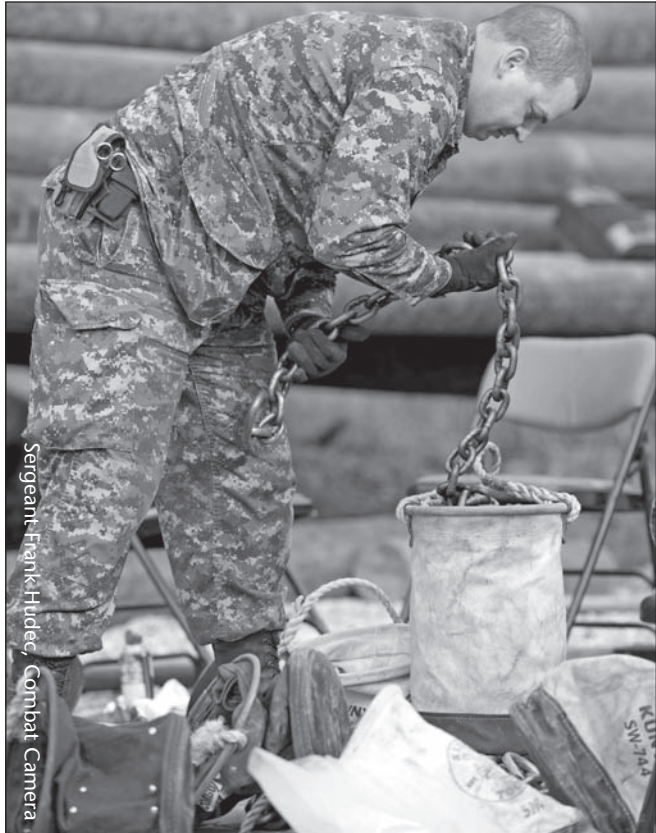


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Above: Cpl Don Kennedy, a member of 1 Line Squadron, Canadian Forces Joint Signal Regiment, sorts equipment at an accommodations camp near Whistler, in support of Exercises Pegasus Guardian 3 and Spartan Ring.

Above right: LS Benjamin Neil, LS Colin Lyons and RCMP Constable Ryan Scrase on patrol in a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat. The sailors are part of a Port Security Team, which practiced Force Protection procedures in areas designated by the RCMP.

Far right: WO Bob Chretien, Flight Engineer with 438 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, takes part in a reconnaissance mission from a CH-146 Griffon helicopter near Whistler.

Right: A simulated casualty is carried from a Search and Rescue helicopter during the exercise.



Sgt Frank Hudec, Combat Camera



Sgt Frank Hudec, Combat Camera

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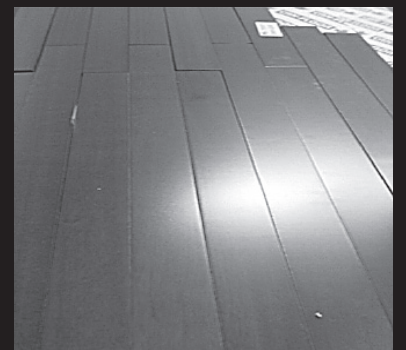
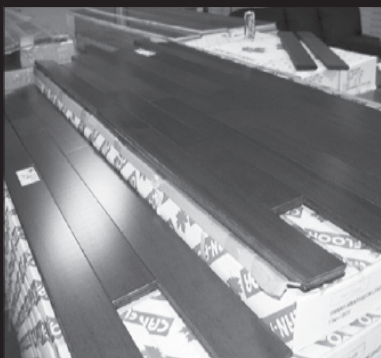
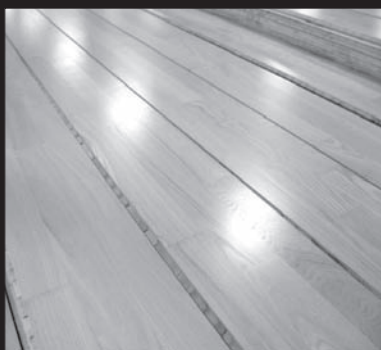
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Hallmark Canada is introducing a line of six Canadian Heroes cards for members of Canada's armed forces. To encourage Canadians to write to the troops, even if they don't know someone stationed overseas, the cards will be free between Nov. 9 and 11 at all Hallmark Gold Crown stores across the country.

"Canadians are concerned about people protecting our freedom and serving in the Canadian Forces," says Patrick Carr, vice-president of marketing for Hallmark Canada. "The war in Afghanistan is in the news and on everyone's minds. Canadians want to let people in the Forces know that their efforts are appreciated, that their sacrifices are noticed and that we're all grateful."

The messages and designs of the new cards reflect thanks, pride, missing you and congratulations. One card depicts two empty rocking chairs on a porch with the words "Saving our country has taken you far away." The inside of the card says "but your place at home is always

filled with pride and love everyday until you come home again." There are six English designs and two French designs.

"Few things mean more to our men and women overseas than hearing from their fellow Canadians. The knowledge that their contribution is appreciated and is making a difference is a primary motivating factor," says Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) James Peverley, Director Deployment Support, Canadian Forces Personnel and Family Support Services.

To write to the troops, Canadian should go to: www.forces.gc.ca/site/commun/message/addresses-2-eng.asp

The web-site includes a list of addresses, depending on where the card is sent. For example, if writing to Afghanistan, the address should be:

Any Canadian Forces Member

Op Athena
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There are also addresses for Sarajevo, Congo, Golan Heights, Haiti and more.

Veterans Transition Program

The Veterans Transition Program (VTP) is a confidential trauma repair and recovery course offered free of charge to retired Canadian Forces members and/or those who have returned from overseas operations.

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The VTP is solely sponsored by BC/Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion and it is not affiliated with any government agencies. It is a profound and life-changing program for the individual, the family and the community.

Take the first step to help someone along the way: Joanne Henderson 604.736.8166 or jhenderson@bcyuk.legion.ca or Terry Mills 250.381.3992 or tmills@bcyuk.legion.ca

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WAR ARTISTS

Capturing conflict on canvass

Maria Tippett

The Canadian Encyclopedia
www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com

Canada's first official war art program, known as the Canadian War Memorials Fund, was established by Lords Beaverbrook and Rothermere under the aegis of the Canadian War Records Office of the Canadian Army during the First World War.

From its inception in 1916 to its conclusion in 1919, the fund hired more than 60 artists of British, Australian, Yugoslavian, Belgian and Canadian nationality to produce canvases, works on paper and sculptures depicting Canada's participation in the Great War. None of the resulting 800 works recording the farm and factory workers on the home front and the war-torn landscape of France and Flanders were exhibited during hostilities. At the war's end, however, a large portion was shown in London, New York, Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal.

These exhibitions not only demonstrated that Canada had been the first country to establish a war art program, but had produced a visual record of the war that was second to none.

F.H. Varley's *For What?* was visual proof that the war artists had seen the dark underside of war. And A.Y. Jackson's *Screened Road "A"* showed that the war-torn, pock-marked landscape had become a valid subject for the war artist.

But the value of the Canadian War Memorials Fund lay not only in the collection of works assembled. Participation in the Fund's exhibitions immediately following the war gave artists an opportunity to have their work evaluated by leading critics and gallery officials of the day. The whole experience of painting the landscape in France and Flanders, of viewing the war scenes produced by British modernists, and of having some involvement with major art critics, patrons, and gallery officials, was a crucial factor in elevating the art of the Ontario Group of Seven and its followers to national status.

The fund not only gave Canadians a memorial of their participation in the war; it gave Canadian art and artists an important place within the cultural frame-



work of inter-war Canada.

When the Second World War broke out in the autumn of 1939, it was largely owing to the precedent of the Canadian War Memorials Fund that Canadian artists once more found themselves being pressed into service. Yet Canada did not have an official war art program until 1943.

Created largely through the efforts of Vincent Massey and the director of the National Gallery of Canada, H.O. McCurry, the Canadian War Art Program came under the jurisdiction of the Department of National Defence. This time only Canadian artists serving in the armed forces were employed. On a smaller scale than the Canadian War Memorials Fund - only 32 artists were given war artist commissions - the record nevertheless included Canadian activities in North Africa, off the Alaskan coast at Kiska, in the North Atlantic and the Pacific, as well as in Canada, Britain and Europe. Unlike First World War, paintings were exhibited during the war - sometimes directly behind fighting operations - in an attempt to inform civilian and military personnel alike of Canada's contribution to the war.

Taken as a whole, the collection, totalling more than 1,000 works, was less concerned with depicting the land than the men and

machines. Lawren P. Harris's *Tank Advance, 1944* is a wonderful evocation of the mood, the tone and the domination of the landscape by the machine. Charles F. Comfort's *Dead German on the Hitler Line* depicts the horrific results of war. Alex Colville's *Tragic Landscape* juxtaposes the terror of war with the peacefulness and tranquility of domesticated nature. The contrast of these opposing realities pervades the canvas with a feeling of angst and a sense of uncertainty that would be the hallmark of Colville's later work.

Canada commissioned no war artists to record military activities in the Korean War. This did not, however, prevent individual soldiers such as Ted Zuber from making a record of their frontline experience when they returned to Canada. Nor did the Canadian government commission artists to record peacemaking operations in the Congo.

In 1967, however, the Canadian Armed Forces Civilian Artists Program was established by the Department of National Defence. This organization sent civilian artists to, among other places, Vietnam, Europe and the Middle East to ensure that the representation of Canada's armed forces begun during First World War was continued. Some two dozen artists have contributed to date.



PA-116540 DND/Library and Archive Canada
Above: Canadian war artists at a war exhibition, August 1945 Horsham, England.

PA-1165592 DND/Library and Archive Canada

Top Right: Captain C.F. Comfort at work March 1944, Ortona, Italy.

KOREAN WAR:

John English

The Canadian Encyclopedia
www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com

how Canada was drawn in

In December 1947, Prime Minister Mackenzie King chastised his external affairs department for agreeing to membership on the UN Temporary Commission for Korea. Nevertheless, on July 27, 1950, after King's funeral, his former colleagues decided in principle to contribute a Canadian Army unit to assist UN forces in Korea. In the government's view, Canada would fight not for Korea but for the UN and the principle of collective security.

The war had begun June 25, 1950. The next day General Douglas MacArthur informed U.S. President Harry Truman that South Korean defences were collapsing and defeat was imminent.

The Americans decided to help the south defend itself against the communist north, but through the UN. The UN General Assembly was dominated by Western countries and, since the Soviets were boycotting the Security Council because of the UN's refusal to seat the new communist Chinese regime in Council, they could not exercise a veto.

The Security Council thus condemned the North Koreans and called on UN members "to render every assistance" to the beleaguered south. The Americans quickly offered air and naval assistance.

On June 28, 1950 Lester Pearson, Canada's secretary of state for external affairs, commended them, believing that Canada must respond as well through the UN and under US military leadership.

In 1950, perhaps the worst period for Cold War fears, Canadians accepted and even encouraged American leadership in resistance to communist expansion. There was, however, some fear that the Americans were too impetuous in defending the "free world." Pearson therefore emphasized that Canada's participation was part of a UN, not an American, operation.

Initially, Canada contributed three destroyers and an air-transport squadron. The Americans, thinking this inadequate, used UN Secretary General Trygve Lie to pressure Canada and other nations to expand their efforts.

The Canadian government needed little external



Above: Two sniperstake aim.

PA-213879 DND/Library and Archive Canada

pressure; domestic interests exerted the necessary influence. Even the socialist CCF urged the government to commit ground forces. Canada's major difficulty was the weak state of the armed forces, but on Aug. 7 Prime Minister St. Laurent announced rearmament measures and plans for a Canadian Army Special Force (CASF) to carry out Canada's UN obligations.

At first it appeared that Canadian soldiers would never fire a shot. Under MacArthur, UN forces drove the North Koreans back to the border at the 38th parallel. Canadians and most others expected MacArthur, having vanquished the aggressor, to halt.

To Pearson's shock and disappointment, he did not. Canada nevertheless publicly supported the U.S. decision to carry the war into the north. Now the Canadians sought to restrain the American-dominated military action lest the Chinese communists be drawn into battle.

By the end of October Chinese "volunteers" crossed

the Yalu River, driving back the UN forces. Pearson's concern was expressed publicly in mid-November when he emphasized that Canada had always sought a "confined and localized" war that did not imperil the security of "Korea's neighbours."

MacArthur did not exaggerate when on Nov. 28, 1950, he called it "an entirely new war." Canadians would not escape the battles.

In December 1950 the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry landed in Korea, and in May the CASF followed.

The Canadians fought on rough terrain and in an unfamiliar environment. The UN forces established a stable front near the 38th parallel, and until the war ended July 27, 1953, the fighting took place along this line. Canadians distinguished themselves in a major engagement at Kap'young April 1951.

There were 21,940 Canadians who served in the army and approximately 3,600 naval person-

nel. Eleven army officers, 298 other ranks and three sailors fell in action. Fifty-nine officers and 1,143 other ranks were wounded or injured. By all accounts, the Canadians performed admirably.

Pearson and his colleagues had thought American leadership essential, but its character became increasingly troubling. First, there were careless remarks by President Truman about General MacArthur's right to decide alone on the use of atomic weapons.

Then, MacArthur clearly indicated that he wanted to expand the war into China, an action that might have caused World War III. Even Truman's firing of MacArthur on April 10, 1951, failed to remove many concerns.

During the war, Canadian diplomats sought to "constrain" the American decision makers from the risky actions they sometimes considered. Certainly the Canadians worked with exceptional zeal and skill in UN corridors and in Washington offices to advance arguments for a negotiated peace. Their influence, however, remains open to question.

Although some Canadians believe Canada's actions did restrain American aggressiveness, it must be admitted that American evidence offers little support. The Korean War has thus become part of a larger historical controversy concerning the nature of Canadian-American relations.

There were 21,940 Canadians who served in the army and approximately 3,600 naval personnel. Eleven army officers, 298 other ranks and three sailors fell in action. Fifty-nine officers and 1,143 other ranks were wounded or injured. By all accounts, the Canadians performed admirably.



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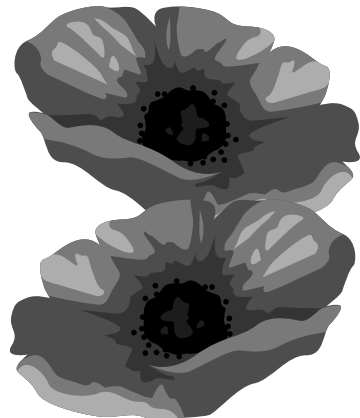

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Peace Warrior wins Gemini

Peace Warrior, a moving documentary about Canadian soldier Trevor Greene, his fiancée Debbie Lepore and their struggle to recover from Trevor's traumatic brain injury has won Canada's top television honour, the Gemini Award for Best Biography Documentary.



Peace Warrior follows Trevor and Debbie for more than a year as Trevor undergoes brain injury rehabilitation at the Halvar Jonson Centre for Brain Injury in Ponoka, Alberta, one of North America's leading rehab programs.

Trevor, a captain with Vancouver's Seaforth Highlanders, was injured while serving in Afghanistan in March 2006. He was sitting at a small village meeting and had taken off his helmet as a sign of respect, when he was hit from behind with an axe to his head. He was not expected to live, and his recovery has been a series of near-miracles, aided in no

small part by the fierce dedication and determination of his fiancée Debbie.

Directed by Sue Ridout and produced by Sue Ridout and Sara Darling for Dreamfilm Productions of North Vancouver, the film was written by Sue Ridout and Helen Slinger.

The film is narrated by Canadian actor Eric McCormack of Will & Grace.

Since the documentary first aired 10 months ago, Trevor has had surgery on his feet and is making impressive progress toward

being able to walk again. An orthopedic surgeon in Victoria, Dr. J. Norgrove Penny, saw the CTV broadcast and offered to do the surgery, which others had recommended against.

Dr. Penny is an Order of Canada winner for his work in Africa, and he believed that with surgery and physiotherapy, Trevor's quality of life could definitely be improved. Trevor works out every day at his home in Nanaimo, B.C. but will be traveling to Toronto and Ottawa for Veterans Week events.

Sacrifice Medal recognizes all service-related deaths

Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, has announced new criteria for the Sacrifice Medal.

First announced in August 2008 by the Governor General as a formal recognition to those who are killed or wounded by hostile action, the eligibility criteria have been expanded to recognize all service-related deaths.

This change will ensure that all service-related deaths after Oct. 7, 2001, are recognized and treated equitably. The criteria remain unchanged for those wounded as a direct result of hostile action requiring recorded treatment by a medical officer.

Members of an allied force working as an integral part of the Canadian Forces (CF), such as exchange personnel, and civilian

employees working under the authority of the CF will continue to receive the medal as per the previous criteria.

This aspect of the medal therefore remains linked with the old Wound Stripe which it replaced. The eligibility date and the design of the medal remain unchanged.

Her Majesty The Queen approved the creation of the Sacrifice Medal to provide formal recognition to those who are killed or wounded by hostile action. Following the original announcement in August 2008, the Minister of National Defence asked the Chief of the Defence Staff to conduct a review of the existing criteria and make recommendations to the appropriate government committee.

Details regarding the new eligibility criteria of the Sacrifice Medal can be found at the following site: www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca



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Son recalls father's moment of heroism

Mary Ellen Green
Staff writer

When 15-year-old Jack Smith found out his father's ship had been torpedoed somewhere in the Atlantic he ran home to tell his mother.

"Someone came into the bike rental shop where I worked and said one of our ships had been sunk and he thought it was HMCS Ottawa," recalled Smith, who is 82.

His mother stared back in shock and fear as he spurted out the news.

"It wasn't until the next day that we got the telegram saying he was okay," said Smith.

A few days later, the teen and his younger brother Larry read about the ordeal their father, 38-year-old Petty Officer John Benjamin Smith, and fellow shipmates went through in the Toronto Daily Star.

The Smith sons have copies of those newspaper pages, saved with great care as a reminder of their childhood and the bravery of their father.

The article recounts the heroic action of PO Smith, who jumped from the life raft into the icy Atlantic in order to cut the line attached to the sinking ship's bow. This single action saved many lives.

Ottawa (H-60), a River Class

Destroyer, was stationed at St John's as part of the Newfoundland Escort Force. During a crossing with Convoy O.N. 127, Ottawa was torpedoed by German submarine U-91, leaving the ship unable to manoeuvre. Thirty minutes later, Ottawa was torpedoed again, breaking the ship in half. It sank in the late hours of Sept. 13, 1942, in the cold oil-covered waters of the Atlantic Ocean, 500 nautical miles off St John's, N.L. Sixty-five men were rescued by British corvette HMS Celandine, and 114 died.

"We had all been at defence stations for four days," said PO J. B. Smith in the newspaper article. "When the first torpedo hit, I had just gone down to the mess and was drinking a cup of coffee. The cup was blown out of my hand and I was blown off the locker on which I was sitting and debris showered all around me.

"That first torpedo killed nearly all the men who were quartered in the lower mess deck, and there was a heavy toll among the communication ratings and watchkeepers too. When the second torpedo hit, I was blown over the side, semi conscious, and swam around automatically until Petty Officer Don Curry of Ottawa pulled me onto a raft.

"When we were shoving off the ship on the raft, we found out that

she was still tied on. I cut that line pretty fast. I can tell you, another minute and we would have been dragged down.

"There were 35 men on our float to begin with but every now and then a big wave would hit us and turn us over, and when we scrambled back to the raft, one or two would be missing. Not more than 20 remained when we reached the side of the corvette."

Smith had a flashlight in his pocket and was amazed that when he turned it on it produced a strong beam of light.

"I played it around until it brought the corvette to us."

Smith said he never parted with his flashlight, nor his standard issue "pusser knife", which he used to cut the raft from the doomed ship just moments before it sank.

When the sailor arrived back to Toronto, he was invited to visit the factory where his knife was made.

Young Jack made the trip to the factory with his father.

"The employees at the factory didn't think they were doing anything to help the war effort, so when they heard about what my father had done with his knife, they invited us to the factory and presented him with a gold plated knife, engraved with his name," recalls Smith. "They also took us to a Toronto Argonauts game, my first football game."



His father had suffered many serious jelly fish stings while in the frigid waters of the Atlantic and was unable to go back to sea. He died in 1988 at 84 years of age.

"I've got all his medals at the Esquimalt Legion," says 78-year-old son, Larry. "I thought that

would be the best place for them. I also had a portrait done of him which hangs in the Legion's smoking room outside."

Jack and Larry both work as bus drivers for Garden City Transportation, where they drive children to Victor Brodeur School.

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Canada

Battle of the Atlantic subject of documentary

“Convoy”, a four-part History Television documentary series, is driven by historic stock footage, dramatic recreations and compelling interviews with Royal Canadian Navy, Merchant Navy and the U-boat fleet personnel who were there.

It will air from Nov. 8 to 11 at 8 p.m.

The series spotlights the critical contributions made by Canadian personnel during the Battle of the Atlantic and examines how the Royal Canadian Navy overcame growing pains to take on a leading role in the successful outcome of the battle.



HMS Griffin bell presented to HMCS Ottawa

Darlene Blakeley
Maple leaf

A “touchstone to history” has been passed from the Naval Reserve Division (NRD) in Thunder Bay, ON, to the crew of *HMCS Ottawa*.

The ship’s bell from HMS Griffin was presented to the commanding officer of *Ottawa*, Commander Frédéric Caron, during a ceremony at the HMCS Bytown Officers’ Mess in Ottawa Sept. 29.

A Royal Navy destroyer commissioned in 1936 and transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy in 1943, Griffin was renamed HMCS Ottawa after just three weeks, the second ship to carry the name. The original bell from Griffin was given to the Naval Reserve Division (NRD) HMCS Griffin and has been in use there ever since.

Despite the different spellings (“griffon” is the French translation of “griffin”), the bell has been a treasured historical keepsake of the NRD, according to commanding officer Lieutenant-Commander John Bell. As the navy centennial approaches, however, Griffin decided it was time to cast a bell of its own.

“I thought it was important to get our own bell in recognition of the navy centennial year,” says LCdr Bell, “as well as to establish the providence of the HMS Griffin bell and to have it kept in the most appropriate place: *HMCS Ottawa*. Now a succession of sailors in *Ottawa* can see the bell and understand something about the past. It’s a touchstone to history.”

LCdr Bell decided that returning the bell to *Ottawa* would mean that it

wouldn’t sit in a museum somewhere, but would be “part of a living ship.”

“The bell is probably the one single artifact on a ship that most represents her spirit and soul,” he says.

In fact, *Ottawa* already has some echoes of Griffin on the deck and in her main flats. On either bridge wing there is a small brass griffin, the original White Ensign from the ship is on display, and the Chiefs’ and Petty Officers’ Mess is called “The Griffin Lounge.”

“It was very important for us to keep the memory of HMS Griffin alive,” says Cdr Caron. He adds that

the Griffin bell will be put in a display case with a description of the ship and her history, and placed in a highly visible location.

Cdr Caron was thrilled that four veterans from the second HMCS Ottawa were able to attend the event (Merk Merkley, Keith Scott, Mike Willis and Jim Fairnie), further connecting the past to the present.

“Having them there made the event extraordinary. We still carry their battle honours today and it was wonderful to meet them and get an appreciation for what the bell meant to them.”



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Touring an enemy vessel, an unusual memory

Mary Ellen Green
Staff writer

Getting the chance to tour a German U-Boat days after it was captured was a career highlight for Petty Officer (retired) Agnes Richardson (nee Robertson).

She was just 21 years old when German submarine U190, notorious for the sinking HMCS Esquimalt, the last Canadian vessel to be sunk in the Second World War, surrendered to the Royal Canadian Navy, on May 11, 1945.

Richardson was working as a pay writer at HMCS Avalon in St. John's, NL, when U190 was escorted into Bay Bulls by Canadian Corvettes.

She and her beau Mac, who would later become her husband of 63 years, took a short tour and snapped some photographs before disembarking. She now keeps the photos in an album at her home.

"This was one of the subs that had devastated our shipping lanes in the Atlantic. We were amazed by its insignificant size," she recalls.

U-boat 190 torpedoed Esquimalt, a minesweeper, in the Halifax approaches on April 16, 1945. The ship was conducting a routine patrol of the area when the submarine, certain it had been discovered by the surface ship, fired off one Gnat torpedo from a stern tube. The torpedo tore into Esquimalt's starboard side. It listed immediately and sank within four minutes. Eight men went down with it. Forty four died of exposure in the Carley floats while waiting to be rescued. It was eight hours before HMCS Sarnia came across the survivors, only 26 remained alive.

After sinking Esquimalt, U-190 left the area but continued to patrol the Canadian coast. On May 8 it received instructions from Germany to surrender. The boat was inter-

cepted by Canadian corvettes 500 miles of Cape Race in Newfoundland three days later. Within hours the U-boat captain signed a document of unconditional surrender. With the white ensign flying from its masthead, the submarine sailed under Canadian escort into Bay Bulls, Newfoundland. The crew were then taken as prisoners to Halifax.

U-190 was later commissioned into the Royal Canadian Navy, where it served as an anti-submarine training vessel until it paid off on July 24, 1947, and was sunk in Operation Scuttled. It now lies on the ocean floor somewhere near the wreckage of HMCS Esquimalt.

Richardson was drafted to the Pay Office at HMCS Naden in Victoria shortly after Victory in Europe Day. She arrived in Vancouver on Victoria in Japan Day, Aug. 15, 1945, and was discharged on her wedding day, Nov. 13, 1945.

"Everything was so scarce post-war," Richardson recalls. "Shoes were almost impossible to find. Our friends and family saved their rations so we could buy a wedding cake."



Above: Richardson shows two Americans around the grounds of Holwood House in Toronto.

Bottom left: Captured German Submarine U-190 in St. John's Harbour in May of 1945.



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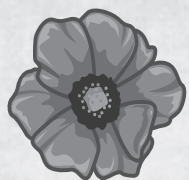
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And the winner is... design selected

The National Capital Commission (NCC) and the Canadian Navy congratulate Team McWilliams/Bakker/Haden (Al McWilliams, Joost Bakker and Bruce Haden) from British Columbia.

The team's design for a new naval monument at Richmond Landing, in the core of Canada's Capital, was selected in a design competition by the internationally renowned jury in October 2009.

The winning design reflects many facets of the Canadian Navy in its use of the naval black, white and gold colours to create a distinctively sculpted open space charged with meaning.

At the heart of the monument site is a white form suggestive of a multitude of naval associations, ranging from sails to classic ship design lines to icebergs to naval attire. The design also makes use of gold spheres, which speak of the sun, moon, stars and the

global reach of the Canadian Navy.

"Our team always felt that the core focus of our design must be to serve the interest of our navy and to ensure their contribution to our country is visibly honoured and respected," said Haden. "We understand that a successful design must speak to all citizens of Canada, but must especially reflect back the importance of their role to those who have served and will serve in the Canadian Navy."

The five finalists, Team Charney, Team Hilton Moore/Brook McIlroy, Team Leinster, Team McWilliams/Bakker/Haden and Team Pearl, showcased their design concepts at the navy monument design concepts vernissage, which took place in Ottawa Oct. 1.

Comments from the public, the technical committee and the NCC's Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty were gathered and reviewed by the Canadian Navy

Monument jury.

The five design concepts were varied, and each displayed strong features. However, the selection of the McWilliams/Bakker/Haden team design concept was a unanimous jury decision.

The NCC and the Canadian Navy are pleased to be working with the British Columbia based team, which will realize an enduring monument and gathering place in the core of Canada's Capital.

Team McWilliams/Bakker/Haden will now spend the next few months finalizing all design components. Construction of the new naval monument will begin in spring 2010. The monument will be unveiled in the spring of 2011, completing a year of naval centennial celebrations.

For information regarding the centennial of the Canadian Navy, please visit www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial.



Artists rendering of the upcoming national monument to honour 100 years of the Canadian Navy.



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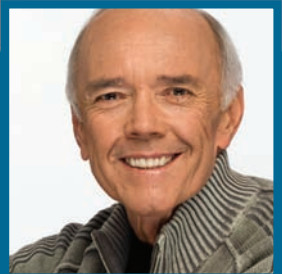
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