

Volume 56 Number 45 | November 7, 2011

LOOKOUT

MARPAC NEWS CFB Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C.



**Remember: they serve
for peace and security**



What's Inside

TOUR REMEMBERED 7

Afghanistan Veteran remembers perilous journey



FEATURE 16-17

Second World War Corvette tackles German Sub



VET REMEMBERS 23

Writer touched by 98-year-old military postal clerk's story told



Highway of Heroes mint coin unveiling

The Royal Canadian Mint unveiled a silver coin in Trenton, ON, to commemorate the Highway of Heroes. During the ceremony, the Mint also announced that \$20 from the sale of each Highway of Heroes commemorative coin will be shared between the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial and the Military Families Fund.

"This silver coin commemorates the spontaneous outpouring of emotion by thousands of Canadians who have gathered along the roadway and overpasses of the Highway of Heroes to pay tribute to the brave Canadian men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice," said Ian Bennett, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint. "The Highway of Heroes commemorative coin also continues the proud Mint tradition of issuing coins that honour Canada's veterans and the theme of Remembrance."

The Highway of Heroes commemorative silver coin, which has a limited mintage of 25,000, can be ordered directly through the Royal Canadian Mint at 1-800-267-1871 in Canada, 1-800-268-6468 in the U.S., or on the Internet at www.mint.ca/heroes.

This coin will also be sold at the Mint's boutiques in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver, as well as through the Mint's global network of dealers and distributors, including participating Canada Post outlets.

About the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial – Trenton, Ontario

The Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial will be a beautiful, permanent memorial honouring Canadian soldiers - the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the conflict in Afghanistan. Construction is planned to begin in 2012. Canadians' help is needed to build this great memorial and donations can be made online at www.afghanistanmemorial.ca.

About the Military Families Fund

The Military Families Fund was created in April 2007 by General Rick Hillier, the former Chief of Defence Staff, to assist military families faced with unforeseen and often

immediate needs that have resulted due to conditions of service. The fund continues to grow through the contributions of Canadians, corporations and other organizations, adding a new vehicle to support Canadian Forces members and their families. For more information, please visit www.militaryfamiliesfund.ca



Photo courtesy of the Royal Canadian Mint

MARPAC out in full force for Veterans' Week

Mike Hillian
Contributor

CFB Esquimalt personnel are going back to school this week. As part of the Veterans' Week (VW) Speakers Program, volunteers will give Remembrance Day presentations at more than 100 schools from the South Island to the Lower Mainland.

The National VW Speakers Program helps honour those who served Canada while encouraging the Canadian public to participate in remembrance. Maritime Forces Pacific (MARFAC)

supports the program to help Veterans Affairs Canada in their efforts to keep alive the achievements and sacrifices made by Canadian veterans.

"The speakers program allows us to ensure the next generation better appreciates the sacrifices made to protect the Canadian way of life," said LCdr Nathalie Garcia of Navy Public Affairs, which is organizing the MARFAC campaign.

Volunteers from a number of military units will visit schools and civic organizations throughout the region as far north as Powell River. Officers from

HMCS Algonquin will visit 24 schools in Surrey and Richmond while they host a Russian port visit in Vancouver.

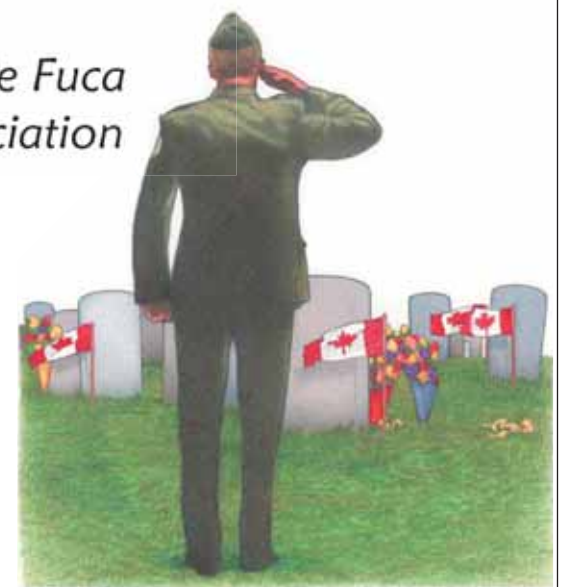
Last year, CF members made more than 1,700 VW presentations across Canada, reaching an estimated 500,000 Canadians face-to-face. This year MARFAC's involvement is expected to be at an all-time high.

"Really it's a small effort and all the speakers tell me how much they get from it," said LCdr Garcia. "Children are naturally curious and this allows us to make the link between the community and our heritage."



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Lest We Forget

More than 1,000 sailors, soldiers, air force personnel and cadets will participate in 10 Remembrance Day ceremonies throughout Greater Victoria and Southern Vancouver Island Friday, Nov. 11.

Most of our ships are near home this Remembrance Day with the exception of HMCS Vancouver currently at sea. HMCS Nanaimo will participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies in their namesake city

of Nanaimo and HMCS Algonquin's crew will participate in the City of Vancouver ceremony.

Orca class training tender crews will take a break from their navigation training to participate in Remembrance Day parades and ceremonies in Ladysmith and Saltspring Island.

Crews from Training Tenders Wolf and Gruizly will be in Ganges Harbour and Raven

and Caribou crews will be in Ladysmith.

The Government of Canada has established the week of November 5th to the 11th as Veteran's Week to recognize and honour those who have served Canada in times of conflict and peace and to keep the memory of their achievements and sacrifices alive for all Canadians. For more information and ideas please go to their website at www.vac-acc.gc.ca

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND

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 Christopher Linford, Commanding Officer, Canadian Forces Health Services Centre (Pacific)

10:00 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**
Colonel Carl Wohlgemuth, Director of Operations, 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters Detachment Esquimalt
- **VICTORIA – Legislature Building**
Commodore Peter Ellis, Commander, Canadian Fleet Pacific
- **ESQUIMALT – Memorial Park Cenotaph at 1229 Esquimalt Road**
Captain(N) Craig Baines, Base Commander, Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt
- **WEST SHORE COMMUNITIES –Veterans Memorial Park located at the intersection of Goldstream Avenue and Veterans Memorial Parkway (Millstream)**
Captain(N) Brian Costello, Chief of Staff Personnel and Training Maritime Forces Pacific

- **SIDNEY – Town Hall at 2440 Sidney Avenue**
Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Allan, 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) Luc Cassivi, Deputy Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific
- **LANTZVILLE – Lantzville Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion at 7225 Lantzville Road**
Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Woolley, Base Information Services Officer, Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt



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In Flanders Fields: a personal reflection

Mike Hillian
Contributor

*"In Flanders Fields the poppies
blow between the crosses, row on
row, that mark our place."*

These are familiar lines from a poem so often recited at this time of year. When John McCrae wrote these words in 1915 they were nothing more than scribbles on a page. *In Flanders Fields* has become synonymous with Remembrance Day, and now serves as an abiding symbol of remembrance worldwide.

Ninety-six years after the poem was composed, it's interesting to reflect on the man who wrote it and the legacy he left behind.

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was a soldier, physician and author from Guelph, Ontario. He served as a field surgeon in the Canadian artillery during World War One, and managed a field hospital during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915.

It's said McCrae wrote the poem sitting on the back of an ambulance the day after burying a close friend. McCrae was no slouch as a writer. He authored several medical texts and sometimes dabbled in poetry. But the horrors of war sparked something inside of him that day. As he looked out on the wild poppies growing in a nearby cemetery, he put his pen to the page and captured what he saw in a way no

history book ever could.

The poem was published anonymously in a British magazine in December of that year. Over time its popularity grew, and eventually it became common to hear *In Flanders Fields* recited or performed as a song at Remembrance Day ceremonies worldwide.

I first came across McCrae's poem in Grade three when my class recited it at our Remembrance Day assembly. I didn't really understand the complexities of war at that tender age, but the poem helped foster a spirit of remembrance that remains within me today.

Every year when I attended ceremonies at my home-town

cenotaph, I would smile and mouth the words as podium speakers recited the poem. As I got older and better understood the sacrifices Canadian soldiers made to keep our country safe, my appreciation for McCrae's words only increased.

As Remembrance Day approaches and cities plan their local ceremonies, I look forward to once again hearing the pensive beauty of McCrae's lines. At ceremonies around the world, some will hear *In Flanders Fields* for the first time and others for the hundredth time; but either way, the poem will no doubt play a key role in their remembrance on this important day.

Letter to the Editor

Last Thursday my car stalled at of the intersection of Royal Oak and Cordova Bay. A very kind young man dressed in uniform (I think army) named "A.J." stopped to assist. He and his female friend stopped traffic and helped to push my car to a cul de sac near by. I don't know what I would have done without their assistance. Not sure if you could put this as a letter in your paper - but I would like to say thank you to A.J.

Thank you
Sarah Schwab

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- Crazy Stupid Love
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- Thor
- Water for Elephants
- X-Men: First Class

Books

- Double Dexter by Jeff Lindsay
- Impossible Dead by Ian Rankin
- Lady of the Rivers by Philippa Gregory
- Conqueror by Conn Iggulden
- Shock Wave by John Sandford
- The 9/11 Wars by Jason Burke
- Cold Hard Truth: on Business, ... by Kevin O'Leary
- Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World by Michael Lewis
- Willpower: Rediscovering the Greatest Human Strength
- Should I Stay or Should I Go?: a Guide to Knowing if ...
- Thrifty Chic: Interior Style on a Shoestring



Vic Atkinson

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What say you

Who remembers the civilians?

Vic Atkinson
Contributor

November 11th is a time of remembrance, a time to honour the memory of those members of the Armed Forces who fought and died so that we might be able to live our lives free from tyranny. And yet as the ceremonies take place, as bugles sound and guards of honour remind us of military involvement, something always seems to be missing for me.

Maybe it's because I wasn't of military age when the war began.

I was only nine and living in London, England, when the war broke out. From that day onward, I experienced my war in that great city.

As a civilian, along with hundreds of other civilians, we quickly came to the realization the battlefield could well be where we lived. As it turned out that was a correct assumption.

Our cities eventually came under vicious attack from the air, and the civilian population suffered grievous losses. Hundreds of thousands of houses, shops and businesses became piles of rubble. The "little people" of Britain's towns and cities bore the brunt of the worst that Nazi Germany could throw. But we kept up our morale during the darkest hours, and we wouldn't say die.

None of us were safe, and in my family the only way we could function day-to-day was to come to the realization that any one of us could be killed at any time, day or night. Once that idea was planted in our heads, then we could function. As bombs rained down upon us, we civilians had no weapons with which to fight back, yet we were resolute that we must never buckle under the pressure.

During the Blitz, 43,000 of us were killed and 247,000 injured. As the war progressed, the Nazis turned new deadlier weapons against us: the V1 pilotless bombs and the horrific V2 rockets, from which there was no protection.

My own personal experience, which today still brings tears to my eyes, was in 1942 when a high explosive bomb hit my street killing 26 of my friends and neighbors, including my best friend, his mother, aunt

and grandmother. Dozens were maimed and seriously injured.

As I mentioned, for me something is missing on November 11th.

There is no tribute or remembrance paid to the civilians who suffered and endured so much. It is estimated that 65,000 British civilians were killed and several hundred thousand seriously injured.

Sixty-six years after, who remembers our sacrifice?



VIC ATKINSON AGED 9.

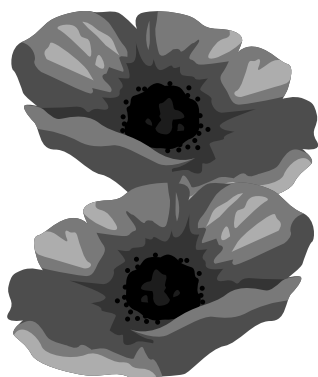


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Photo by Cpl Levarre McDonald

Pallbearers from the Royal Canadian Regiment carry fallen soldier MCpl Byron Greff from the C177 to the waiting hearse during the repatriation ceremony at Canadian Forces Base Trenton on Nov. 1.

In Memoriam

Sgt Janick Gilbert, 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron

On Oct. 27, Sgt Gilbert was killed while participating in a rescue mission near Igloodik (Hall Bay), Nunavut. The SAR technician from 8 Wing Trenton was part of a collaborated effort that included SAR aircraft and crew from 17 Wing Winnipeg, 8 Wing Trenton, 9 Wing Gander, and 14 Wing Greenwood. The mission resulted in the rescue of two local citizens.

MCpl Byron Greff, 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

On Oct. 29, MCpl Greff was killed by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while transiting through Kabul, Afghanistan, as a passenger on an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) vehicle. MCpl Greff was serving as a mentor and trainer on Operation Attention, the CF contribution to the NATO Training Mission in

Afghanistan. His role was to advise Afghan National Army trainers who provide recruit training to Afghan soldiers.

MWO Colin Grant, 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron

On Oct. 29, MWO Grant, an aviation technician, was killed when a driver veered across the road and collided with his motorcycle on the Malahat. His wife, MWO Sylvia Grant, was serving overseas when the accident occurred.

Applebee's salutes veterans and Canadian Forces with free meal on Remembrance Day

In what has become a neighbourhood tradition, the Saanich Applebee's restaurant will thank our nation's veterans and active duty Canadian Forces by inviting them to their neighbourhood Applebee's located at 1654 McKenzie Avenue for a free meal on Remembrance Day - Friday, Nov. 11.

Veterans and active duty military will need to provide proof of service, which includes: permanent ID card for active personnel, temporary ID card for reservists, veteran's card, photograph in uniform or join us in uniform.

Since Applebee's first began thanking

the Canadian military three years ago with a free meal, restaurants have served thousands of Canadian Forces members, from coast to coast, on their day of remembrance and respect.

Applebee's Canada is also launching an online and in-restaurant Neighbours Thanking Neighbours campaign for 2011. Online thank you messages can be shared through the Applebee's B.C. Facebook page and Applebee's guests are invited to write messages of thanks to their neighbourhood heroes, on in-restaurant "Thank You Wall Posters", starting Nov. 1.



Image: Department of National Defence

A tour not easily forgotten

- Surviving an explosive situation

Ben Green
Staff Writer

A plume of dust, sand, and black smoke engulfed the cab of MCpl Daniel Marcil's Armoured Heavy Support Vehicle System (AHSVS) as it lurched to a violent halt. Fragments of rock and earth fell gently on to the truck's mangled front end, and for a split second an eerie calm fell over the desert in Panjwayi District, Afghanistan.

It didn't last long.

Before the debris settled, the radio erupted with commands as the convoy of light and heavy armoured transport vehicles came to a stop. MCpl Marcil had hit an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

It was five days before Christmas 2009. The convoy, coming from a Forward Operating Base (FOB) manned by the U.S. 82nd Airborne, had been detoured three hours into the desert off the main road. After dropping supplies off to the troops, the convoy had to sit tight as the base repelled attacks throughout the morning.

Finally, when the vehicles were allowed to leave, information came through that the only road in or out had been littered with IEDs. The only choice was to go around and painstakingly crawl off-road at 20 kilometres an hour, single-file.

"It's not a beautiful desert like you see on TV," says MCpl Marcil, a mobile support equipment operator with 39 Service Battalion. "It's full of rocks, very hard packed, like cement. It's very hard terrain."

Coming to a dried creek bed in-between two small, rural villages, the convoy carefully followed a small path worn down by local Afghan police and army vehicles patrolling the area. MCpl Marcil's AHSVS, the fifth vehicle in the convoy, triggered the device.

The 40-pound, pressure-plated, home-made explosive was buried underneath a layer of mud in the creek bed. Pieces of his 23 tonne truck were found 400 metres away in the desert.

"It lifted the truck four feet in the air, four feet to the side, and just created a big hole," he says.

Force Protection that was accompanying the convoy immediately set a security perimeter as medics checked for casualties. The device, not meant for the convoy, was placed on the path most likely the night before. Heavy rains buried the IED with a sinister cover of mud and soil, becoming practically invisible to the naked eye.

Miraculously, no one was seriously injured.

MCpl Marcil was escorted to the nearest FOB to be further analyzed by medics. Following protocol, he was transported to Kandahar Air Field where he underwent

more evaluations.

"They make sure you're totally fit and ready to go," he says. "They take you out [of the field], conduct a 24-hour observation, a bunch of tests, and if you're cleared you go out and do your mission."

By the time he was cleared to return to duty, the convoy had already continued on from the creek bed.

For seven months between September 2009 and April 2010, MCpl Marcil drove transport vehicles through the barren, and often treacherous, deserts of Afghanistan. Spending 95 per cent of his time "outside the wire", up to 15 hours a day behind the wheel, he transported a plethora of goods – ammunition, food, clothing, water, vehicles – to coalition troops stationed at the most remote FOBs.

"We brought goods to the FOBs, from there they were redistributed to the platoon house or front lines," he says.

Being immersed in a theatre of war was nothing new for the master corporal. Having spent seven months in Cyprus in 1983 as part of a United Nations mission, Afghanistan was just another opportunity to do what he'd spent his whole career training to do.

"I was just happy to do my job, do what we were trained to do," he says. "It's good experience when you're deployed; it puts your training into action."

Now back in Victoria with 11 Service Company MCpl Marcil says he's uneasy about being classified as a veteran, something he reserves for the generations of soldiers that came before him.

"I don't feel like a veteran, I was just doing a job," he says. "Going to World War Two for two or three years, that's what I'd call a veteran. It still feels strange [when someone refers to me as that]."

During his deployment, MCpl Marcil watched 19 ramp ceremonies – fallen soldiers draped under their nation's flag, carried onto aircrafts escorting them to their final resting places. It's then when he thought about his brush with death the most, and why he walked away unscathed while others were not as fortunate.

On Nov. 11, he tries his best not to forget.

"I maybe crossed their paths [the 19 fallen soldiers] one day prior to it happening without knowing them," he says. "I'd like to put a wreath down just to say thank you for what they've done, from one veteran to another."



Above: A makeshift memorial serves in remembrance of fellow soldiers that passed in the line of service.

Left: MCpl Daniel Marcil in full combat gear while on duty.

Below: MCpl Marcil frequently drove one of these AHSVS during his tour in Afghanistan. In December 2009, he drove over an improvised explosive device as his convoy was travelling away from a U.S. Forward Operating Base.



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It's flu season again!

Yes, it's that time of year when those dang medical people are out there, digging up business for their flu shot clinics.

Why are we doing this again, and what are we up to?

I hope to offer you all some important information in this short article to help you understand why we want you to get this vaccination.

What is the flu shot?

The flu shot is a small (.5 cc) quantity of fluid that is injected, using a very small needle, into the muscle of your shoulder; it contains components of three different influenza viruses that will stimulate your immune system to make antibodies and help protect you from infection with the natural versions of these viruses.

These three different influenza viruses are the same as what was in the flu shot last year, and include a new strain of the pandemic H1N1 Influenza A virus, a strain of the old H3N2 Influenza A virus (the one that was predominant before it was replaced by the H1N1 virus), and an Influenza B virus.

If you get this vaccine, you are protected against most forms of influenza virus that are expected to be present for this 2011/12 flu season.

Why do you have to get a new flu shot each year?

Well the influenza virus is a very unique virus that continuously changes. It's what is called a "sloppy replicator", which means that often when it reproduces itself, it makes errors in duplicating its DNA.

These errors are significant enough that, by the time the virus has gone from the northern hemisphere (flu season from October to March) to the southern hemisphere (flu season from April to September) and back again, it has changed significantly enough that the antibodies we made by being vaccinated in the previous flu season are no longer effective against it. So we must create a new vaccine containing components of the new strain(s) of virus that we expect to see in the new flu season.

Anyone who has a chronic health condition, such as heart or lung disease, diabetes, or compromised immunity needs to get a flu shot.

For those of you who are otherwise healthy, it is still a good idea to get the flu shot. And here are three good reasons:

- Late-breaking research has shown that getting the flu shot actually decreases your risk of suffering a first-time heart attack (in those

40 and older) by 19%.

- Immunizing workers against flu decreases overall absence due to illness during flu season.

- If we immunize 70% or more of a population of individuals, we can achieve "herd immunity" where the flu virus simply cannot transmit between non-immunized individuals because there is not enough exposure to ill people to support transmission.

So what's the bad news? Well, you might get some pain at the injection site.

Also there is a possibility of allergic reaction (we screen out people with any risk of this). And there is a very rare risk of a neurologic disorder called Guillaine Barre Syndrome, but the risk of this disorder is actually higher in those who are infected with the natural influenza virus, so in reality the vaccine is protective against this.

Okay, so the upshot is that the flu shot is good for you. So what's stopping you?

Our marvellous Marjie Hanks is already in the throes of her travelling road show, see below. And for those of you in the fleet who have not yet been immunized, your friendly neighbourhood PA and Med Tech are only too pleased to arrange for your little dose of health.

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Get the shot!

Now is the time to get immunized in order to protect your health, the health of your family, and your unit's mission during this flu season. CF personnel can get the flu shot at their supporting CF Health Services Unit or at the Military Flu Vaccine Road Shows

Nov. 8: MARPAC HQ - 9-11 a.m.

Nov. 14: BOR 9-10:30 a.m.

Nov. 15: CFFSE 9-11 a.m.

Nov. 16: NOTC Nixon Bld 8-10:30 a.m.

Nov. 17: 443 Squadron 10-11:30 a.m.

The Immunization Clinic will be available for all military personnel starting Nov. 7 during the Flu Season. Office hours: 8 - 11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

Civilian members of the Defence Team can go to www.fightflu.ca for information about flu shot clinics in their province.

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Sacrifices On The Island Of Crete

A strategic island in the Mediterranean

MCpl Terrance Chenard
HMCS Vancouver

It all began May 20, 1941. At approximately 8 a.m., German paratroopers speckled the sky, having jumped out of dozens of Junker JU 52 aircraft, and drifted to the ground around Maleme airfield near the town of Chania, Crete.

This signaled the launch of Nazi Germany's airborne invasion of the picturesque island of Crete under the codename Operation Merkur. Crete was defended by Greek and Allied forces (including Canadians) along with Cretan civilians. The battle was to go on for 10 days, and the lives of many would be changed forever.

On Sept. 27, just over 70 years later, the Air Department from HMCS Vancouver's embarked 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron paid their respects to the casualties of war interned in the Suda Bay War Cemetery.

When the Air Department arrived at the Suda Bay war cemetery, they were in awe of the great care taken to keep the graves pristine. The cemetery was donated by the people of Crete out of respect to the Commonwealth for the burial of the 1,527 allied personnel who lost their lives fighting for the island.

The Suda Bay war cemetery contains five Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) airmen that were embedded in various Royal Air Force Squadrons (RAF) serving overseas. It was quite an honour

and privilege that, with the "Royal" designation being returned to the Air Force and Navy, the Air Department were the first currently serving RCAF crew to visit this war memorial site

since the amalgamation of the services in the late 1960s.

The Canadians that call the Suda Bay war cemetery their final resting place were aircrew aboard the Bristol Blenheim bomber, which was a British light bomber used extensively in the early days of the Second World War. The Blenheim had a three-person crew consisting of one pilot, a navigator / bombardier, and one wireless air gunner.

Of special note upon reading the inscriptions on the grave markers, it was realized that one member was Warrant Officer 2nd Class L.E. Mathews, a 24-year pilot hailing from Trail, B.C. A 443 Squadron patch was placed at this group of markers to signify the visit.

After being reminded of how young these fathers, sons and brothers were that lost their lives, the Air Department had a moment of silence for the fallen. The poem "High Flight" by John Gillespie Macgee was read to honour the fallen.

Vancouver is currently deployed on Operation Mobile, Canada's contribution to Operation Unified Protector; the United Nations authorized NATO led mission enforcing an arms embargo and no-fly zone in Libya.



Lest we forget.



Randall Garrison, MP
ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA

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First World War Canadian soldier laid to rest in France

Capt Dennis Noel
Public Affairs Officer

Able Seaman Sonja Allison-Ryan from *HMCS Ottawa* and Able Seaman Richard Boire from CFB Esquimalt had the privilege to participate in a burial ceremony of a First World War soldier on Oct. 25 at Sailly-Lez-Cambrai, France.

The sailors worked as members of the guard during Private Alexander Johnston's burial. He died at age 33

in France six weeks before the end of the First World War. Ninety-three years after his sacrifice, he was laid to rest with honours in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery.

In July 2008, human remains were discovered in Raillencourt Saint-OLle, France. Found with the remains were two collar badges of the 78th Battalion (Winnipeg Grenadiers). The Directorate of History and Heritage was notified of the discovery in February 2009, and the remains were identified through mito-

chondrial DNA testing as those of Private Johnston on March 31, 2011.

Private Alexander Johnston was born in Coatbridge, Scotland, on Aug. 20, 1885, and moved to Hamilton, ON, in his late twenties. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force on Jan. 5, 1918, and was taken on strength of the 78th Battalion in the field on Sept. 4, 1918. Private Johnston died during the Battle of the Canal du Nord on Sept. 29, 1918.



Left:
Able Seaman
Sonja Allison-
Ryan from
HMCS Ottawa



Lower left:
Able Seaman
Richard Boire
from
CFB Esquimalt

Right:
Canadian Forces mem-
bers from across
Canada provided the
Bearer Party and Guard
of Honour.
The tombstone of
Private Alexander
Johnston now stands
at Cantimpré Canadian
Cemetery, Sailly-lez-
Cambrai, France on 25
October 2011.

Photos by Corporal Dianne
Neuman, CFSU(O)





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BOOK review

Stories of valour from those on the Front Line

Written by bestselling author Art Montague, *Canadian Forces – An Historical Salute to those on the Front Line* chronicles the humble heroism and often-unacknowledged bravery that are part of every Canadian soldier's story. With a foreword by Scott Taylor and 60 photos, some never released and from private collections, no Canadian will be left unmoved. This is a human story as much about Canada as a people as it is about its military.

This is not a book about the great battles, but rather individual stories about the men and women who were there on the Front Line. From Victoria Cross winners, to John McCrae to a Newfoundland regiment decimated in battle from 801 men to just 68 at roll call the following day, this is a uniquely Canadian salute.

Montague also pays tribute to organizations such as The War Amps and the Royal Canadian Legion. These organizations ensure that veterans not only receive financial benefits, but also the respect and admiration of the Canadian public. This is a book that should make every Canadian proud.

Excerpts:

Sgt. Thomas Ricketts, VC: a teenage hero

Thomas Ricketts, from White Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador, was not yet 16 when he joined the Royal Newfoundland Regiment to fight for the Commonwealth.

On Oct. 14, 1918, his platoon was being severely battered by machine-guns during an advance near Ledgehem. Armed with a Lewis gun, Pte Ricketts and his section commander attempted to outflank the Germans' position but ran out of ammunition.

Ricketts backtracked under fire for more ammunition, then laid down such accurate cover-fire that his platoon was able to advance unharmed and capture four field guns, four machine-guns and eight prisoners.

Though he served long before Newfoundland joined Canada, Ricketts is considered the youngest "Canadian" to be awarded the Victoria Cross. Ricketts also received the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Croix du Guerre.

Frederick Fisher: the hero from St. Catharines

Due to his actions on April 22, 1915, St. Catharines, Ontario, native Lance-Cpl. Frederick Fisher became the first Canadian to be awarded the Victoria Cross during the First World War.

In 1915, Fisher was a machine-gunner with the 13th Battalion, Royal Canadian Highlanders Regiment, fighting near St. Julien in Belgium in the 2nd Battle of Ypres. To protect regimental artillery from being overrun, Fisher crawled to a forward position and broke up a German advance. Of the six men accompanying him, four were killed.

The next day, while trying to set up a machine-gun to defend against German positions decimating his regiment ranks, Fisher was shot dead.

His Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously.

The Pal from Gander

Before Newfoundlanders joined Canada, they had made great sacrifices to the Allied efforts in both world wars. During the second, one sacrifice was made by a beautiful Newfoundland dog named Pal.

Pal spent his puppyhood in Gander. He grew, as Newfoundland dogs do, becoming larger than a St. Bernard and much stronger. When Pal grew too big for his family, the Quebec-based Royal Rifles — on garrison duty in Gander — agreed to adopt him.

Pal was renamed Regimental Mascot Sgt. Gander and he shipped out with his regiment when they were deployed to Hong Kong. Here Gander became much more than a mascot. In the tragic debacle of Hong Kong, he was one of the regiment's most heroic defenders.

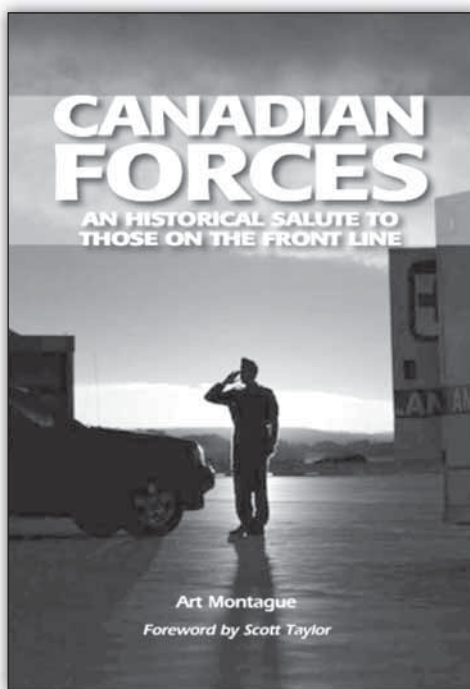
On a Hong Kong beach, Gander threw Japanese invaders into disarray when he assaulted them, barking and biting. Another time, he thwarted an advancing Japanese patrol close to a small encampment of wounded soldiers.

The battle for Hong Kong was brief, one-sided and deadly. While Canadian contingents were overwhelmed, Gander seemed unable

to accept defeat. During one assault, when Canadian forces could not raise their heads in the hail of fire, Gander watched a Japanese grenade soar into their position, grabbed it and ran off. Although Gander died, the soldiers of the Royal Regiment and Winnipeg Grenadiers lived to bear witness to his remarkable feat of valour.

In 2000, Gander was awarded the Dickens Medal, the most prestigious medal the Commonwealth could bestow on an animal for combat heroism. This medal was the first to be awarded in 59 years and the first awarded to a Canadian animal.

Sgt Maj. John Osborn: To the Last



John Osborn came to Canada shortly after the First World War and was, in many ways, a typical British immigrant.

Osborn had served in the war with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, seeing action at the Battle of Jutland. Originally a seaman, once in Canada, he took up farming on the Prairies, then later worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway in Manitoba.

In 1933, he joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers, one of the two regiments fatefully shipped to Hong Kong in 1941. Soon after their landing, the Japanese struck with overwhelming force.

Within a few hours, Osborn's unit was fighting on its own, retreating and desperate. Osborn, sometimes alone, provided covering fire for his unit. As he moved back to a new position, he organized disoriented stragglers.

As he and his comrades continued to fall back, the remainder of his unit became surrounded, so closely that a hail of grenades fell upon them. Osborn grabbed and threw back all but one. This he smothered with his body, saving several lives as he did so.

Valour in the face of certain defeat is an intense commitment to one's brothers in arms, brothers in one's charge. Osborn's actions were a powerful example of such courage and commitment.

Reverend John Weir Foote: Duty Bound

If ever a Canadian wartime action could benefit from a chaplain, it was on the stony blood-soaked beaches of Dieppe on Aug. 19, 1942.

Rev. John Weir Foote, from Madoc, Ontario, was an honorary captain in the Canadian Chaplain Services attached to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

Just after landing at Dieppe, Foote began working on the beach with the regimental aid station staff. For eight hours, he imperturbably walked through withering fire to reach wounded soldiers and help them to the aid station. Later, he would carry wounded to landing craft for evacuation, under fire the whole time.

Finally, the battle lost, Foote refused a final opportunity to evacuate. He chose to stay with the remnants of the Royal Hamilton and was captured. Until May 1945, Foote remained a POW, continuing to minister to Dieppe survivors in the camp throughout those years.

Foote was an immovable rock in a whirlwind of fire and blood. The Victoria Cross was awarded not only for his actions at Dieppe but also for his unwavering commitment and example.

Sam Steele: The First Peacekeeper
"Winning the heart and minds" of civilian populations in conflict areas seething with guerrilla

and insurgent violence was not a strategy conceived by Americans during the Vietnam War.

Although he didn't use the phrase, this was exactly the strategy implemented during the last months of the Boer War by Sam Steele, a North West Mounted Police veteran and commander of Lord Strathcona's Horse. When the Horse returned to Canada, Steele stayed on, having been appointed a division commander in the South African Constabulary and charged with cleaning out the last hard-core Boer resisters.

Steele knew from his policing experiences in western Canada and the Klondike that civilian co-operation and support were essential. To that end, he instructed his men in South Africa to provide non-military aid to Boer farmers.

The constabulary took over a variety of civil responsibilities, including licence issuing and census-taking, seemingly minor tasks but nevertheless critical to establishing order. They also acted as game wardens and veterinarians.

More important, Steele recruited Afrikaners into his ranks and encouraged the force to learn to speak Afrikaans. He lobbied hard and successfully to have Boer farmers given permission to once again possess firearms and arranged that some senior officers in the constabulary be appointed local magistrates. In short, he strove to instill confidence in the constabulary among local people. They were not an "occupation force"; rather, they were partners in civil restoration. Steele's efforts were successful.

Steele's approach was again attempted by British Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templar during the 1948-1960 Malayan Emergency, though here its results were mixed. Templar recognized that "the shooting side of the business is only 25 per cent of the trouble, and the other 75 per cent lies in getting the people of the country behind us."

Steele and Templar's strategy paved the way as part of Canada's now traditional approach to peacekeeping and is still evident in Afghanistan. This is known as the 3-D approach — diplomacy, defence and development.

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What say you

A look back on military and families

Robby McRobb
MFRC Volunteer

Although I joined as a soldier apprentice, I also served at sea on board HMCS Yukon and did a tour of duty as cabin crew on 437(T) Squadron. In total, I did 22 years of military service.

In the 1960s, 70s and 80s, when a ship sailed for a six month NATO tour, or a soldier went off to the Congo, Egypt or another UN duty, no one was really concerned about the "silent army" at home. Yes, the spouses, parents, and children of our serving troops were the "silent army" because of the lack of communication when their loved one was away. No email, Skype or cell phones were available.

In 1973, I went to Egypt on 24 hours notice on an emergency deployment as part of the Ace Mobile Force (AMF). As the HQ Cook from the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA), I was the sole member of the regiment sent to Cairo. My children were six and four and suddenly their dad was gone for Christmas and two birthdays.

I arrived in Cairo on Nov. 12, my wife's birthday, and did not return to Petawawa until May 1974. I missed Christmas and New Years with my family, as well the birthday of both my son and daughter. My wife had to give up work in Pembroke as no one was available to look after the children. This cut our wages by 50 per cent. Nevertheless, they survived the long days and nights when I was away.

Thankfully, families are

not silent anymore.

Your Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) is there for you. Call them. Drop in. Use them. They treat family and personal matters with the highest confidence. They provide an ear for anyone with a family crisis. From the newest of young sailors to the base and ship's commanders, the MFRC is there for everyone.

I returned to Victoria in 2011 to retire. Driving from Prince Edward Island with my faithful companion, my Jack Russell "Sasha" across our vast country, I took my time and visited many friends and family. This included checking in on former postings such as Borden, Winnipeg, Shilo, Calgary and Chilliwack. No matter where I went, I ran into someone from the military family. This alone made the trip more enjoyable.

While I lived on Prince Edward Island, I was very familiar with a small scale Military Family Resource Centre. On my trip across the country, I was able to visit many other MFRCs. A Military Family Resource Centre is an important part of each base's operation, small or large. Bases such as CFB Gagetown and CFB Shilo have well organized, well used MFRCs due to the large numbers of troops we had in Afghanistan the past decade.

In my day, there was no MFRC for my family. My military family life has now come full circle. I've decided to offer myself as a volunteer with the Esquimalt MFRC. To continue to give to the military community that has given me so much.



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Movie: War in the Mind

Mike Hillian
Contributor

War in the Mind, the latest film from Salt Spring Island director Judy Jackson, will be broadcast on the Knowledge Network Nov. 8 and 9. The film examines the stigma surrounding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and gives a voice to the many Canadian soldiers it affects.

Jackson began working on the project in 2007. The acclaimed director has made films about social justice around the world, and her experience with PTSD in war-torn countries was a major inspiration for this project.

"I've seen PTSD so clearly in many places," said Jackson. "Most countries I've seen it in don't have means to deal with it. In Afghanistan you see it with

a lot of civilians, but they have no way to treat it, so I was interested to see what it was like in a country like Canada where we can treat it."

As Jackson's film explores the psychological effects of war on Canadian soldiers, she takes her cameras inside the walls of a University of British Columbia/Canadian Legion program called "Drop the Baggage." The therapeutic program helps soldiers deal with their pain and realize they're not alone in their struggles.

Jackson also interviews a number of soldiers and parents who have felt the impact of PTSD. Among Jackson's interview subjects are Senator and LGen (retired) Romeo Dallaire, who has long spoken out about PTSD, plus a handful of Canadian soldiers returning from Afghanistan.

Jackson was born in England, but has lived in Canada for some time, and worked with the CBC early in her career. *War in the Mind* is another notch in her impressive résumé of films that have won more than 60 international awards, and so far the reception to her newest film has been good.

"It's managed to raise quite a bit of money for the therapy program at UBC," said Jackson. "They wanted to do this to let everyone know there are ways of getting help. That was their interest and it truly was my interest as well."

War in the Mind will be broadcast on the Knowledge Network at 9 p.m. on Nov. 8 and 12 a.m. on Nov. 9. For more information, check out <http://www.judyfilms.com/>



Still shot of Cpl Stuart Longbridge's grave, lovingly cleaned by a family member.

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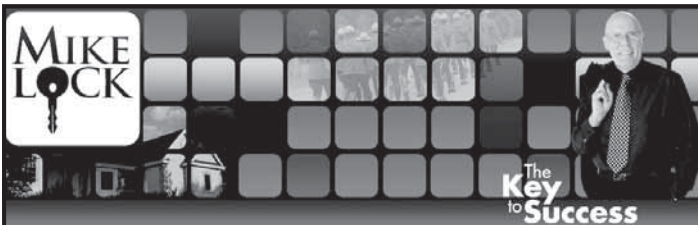
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Remembering: brick by brick

Melissa Atkinson
Dawn Bennett
 Editor and Staff Writer

Captured forever in bronze at Ship Point is a statue of a sailor, arms outstretched awaiting the warm embrace of his daughter. The statue pays homage to those deployed on long journeys in service to Canada and the world.

Surrounding the Homecoming Statue are loving testimonials to military service, old and new: bricks adorned with plaques engraved with tributes.

To date, 900 bricks have been purchased with the funds going to the Military Family Resource Centre in support of their programs and services to the military community.

But who bought them, and what are the stories behind the inscriptions?

CPO2 Will Slater

CPO2 Will Slater bought a brick for CPO1 Rick Bertrand who he met in 1988 when they both worked at the Ration Depot in Esquimalt, now called Return and Stores. The message on CPO1 Bertrand's brick reads: *People Always First, Served With Heart, Missed By All.*

The Chief died young and unexpectedly in 2006.

"I've always thought of Chief Bertrand as a mentor and I credit him for where I am today," says CPO2 Slater. "It was his mentorship that got me into positions where I could shine. But he wasn't just influential in my career, he always provided an excellent example to follow and it's my sincere wish that I can do the same for young people today."

After consulting with CPO1 Bertrand's widow and daughter, CPO2 Slater bought a brick in his honour.

"I remember when I called her and left the message on her answering machine," says CPO2 Slater. "I'm not sure she could understand it by the end because I was in tears. It's a huge loss to society; he was such a great guy. I respected him as a person, as a supply tech and as a chief."

When the statue was unveiled the Chief searched out the brick.

"It was, and still is, very emotional, and I think the Homecoming Statue is a wonderful tribute to Victoria's military. It brings some focus back to the navy and is a great reminder to people who live in Victoria, as well as visitors, that we have a strong naval history here. And I really appre-

ciate what it does for the MFRC in order for them to continue supporting our families."

Teresa Krause

Teresa Krause's story is bitter sweet. She bought a brick to honour her father Richard.

"My dad is buried in the military section of Queen's Park cemetery in Calgary," she explains. "We don't get to visit him there very often, so we decided to buy a brick with the same inscription as his headstone, so we would have something in Victoria to visit."

After making the arrangements, Teresa and her mother Shirley waited for the unveiling, but then, very unexpectedly, her mom died in May of this year.

"It broke my heart," she says. "She never did get to see it, but then I thought, well, right now she has the best seat in the house. This past summer, we took Mom to Calgary to be with my Dad."

Her father was a Corporal in the Air Force. He retired from the military in 1977 and the family moved to Calgary. He was in remission from cancer for about 10 years, but it came back and took his life in 1979.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of him, miss him and love him," says Krause.

CWO Mike McBride

CWO Mike McBride, now retired, was a Chief Warrant Officer for 10 years, named a Member of the Order of Military Merit (MMM), and awarded the Canadian Decoration (CD). His final appointment was a senior non-commissioned soldier in the Canadian Forces Medical Service (CFMS), and the highlight of his career.

"The message on my brick is Hakuna Matata, which is Swahili for 'no worries', in honour of my relationship with my daughter, Laura," says McBride. "That phrase was our secret code that ended every letter and phone call when I was away from home. It let each of us know that the other was doing okay despite the distance that separated us."



Prior to deploying to Bosnia in 1994, one of the last things the McBride family did as a family was go see *The Lion King*.

"From the first time she heard the song, it became Laura's, then our favourite," says McBride. "Over the years it's evolved to mean I'm okay, I miss you, I'll see you soon and I love you."

The sentiment expressed in the Hakuna Matata carried McBride and his daughter through his return to the Fleet, a tour as a Sea Trainer, unaccompanied postings to Ottawa and Edmonton, as well as many operational deployments and exercises.

"Long after I'm gone, I hope that Laura can visit the Homecoming Statue, find my brick and fondly remember the meaning of our secret code," says McBride.

Purchasing a brick

The bricks are laid twice a year, in time for Remembrance Day in November and before the Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic in May.

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Parents and students enjoy Take Your Kids to Work Day

Mike Hillian
Contributor

The demographic of CFB Esquimalt got a little younger on Nov. 2 when more than 40 Grade nine students participated in Take Your Kids to Work day.

As part of an annual nation-wide initiative, the students job shadowed their parents to explore career options and learn more about today's workplace. For many students, CFB Esquimalt proved an interesting location to spend the day.

"It would be fun working here," said Kira Gill-Maher of Reynolds Secondary School. "I've been here before a lot because of my sea cadets. It's huge. There's a lot of stuff and it's really interesting."

Students spent time learning the trade

in their parents' various units. They also enjoyed a harbour tour on the Firebrand in the morning and a Dockyard walking tour in the afternoon. Before the walking tour, RAdm Greenwood greeted students to thank them for coming and to answer questions about the Base.

Although students only got a small glimpse of working life, the experience seemed validating for parents as well as students.

"It's been interesting," said Marcelo Lazaro of Base Construction Engineering, whose daughter Ashley joined him at work. "She's enjoying herself and seeing things that she's never seen before. It's important for kids to see the workplace so they know their parents do it too."



Tristan Janosik of Claremont Secondary tests a hose on Firebrand.



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HMCS OAKVILLE

A very special flower

When the future was darkest for the Allied cause in the Second World War, when German U-boats ruled the oceans, one of the forces that turned the tide of the war was an ungainly little ship called a corvette.

Canadian shipyards built 64 of these uncomfortable little craft, designed for a single purpose – to sink submarines. Winston Churchill called them ‘cheap but nasties’ because they were effective and inexpensive.

What follows is the story of one such encounter between the HMCS Oakville and the submarine U-94 in the waters between Trinidad and the British West Indies in August 1942.



1

MEN of VALOR They fight for you



Two-man boarding party from the Canadian corvette 'Oakville' subdues crew of German sub in Caribbean

2

Joseph P. Kearney
Lookout contributor

This story first appeared in the May 8, 1993, edition of the Spectator. It is re-printed with permission from the author

The scent of the tropical islands was carried softly on the breeze as the prows of the ships sliced silently through the dark green seas. The only sound was the gentle hissing of the bow waves as they swept aft along the sides of the ships to mingle with the trail of phosphorescence churned up by the thrashing of the propellers.

There was a hint of salt in the heavy sultry air of this August night in 1942. It left a damp sheen where it touched against the warm steel of the ships. Sailors clustered in groups about the darkened upper decks enjoying the breeze. They were careful not to wander too far from their action stations; also cautious to keep the forbidden cigarette cupped carefully in curved palms. For many, it was their first time at sea.

Some of the ship's company on the three Canadian corvettes, HMCS Oakville, Snowberry and Halifax, would sleep on the

upper deck. They had done the same in previous nights to escape the heat and stifling humidity of the crowded mess deck.

The three Canadian corvettes were accompanied by the Dutch ship HNMS Jan Braekal and the American destroyer USS Lea, which was the Escort Commander. For the Canadians, gone for a while were the rigors of operating in the freezing North Atlantic.

Commander C.B. Platt, U.S.N. was the Convoy Commodore. His flag was in the SS Esso Aruba, the lead ship in the third column. To port and starboard of the ship were six more columns of ships totalling 29 in number. Commander Platt may not have appreciated the favourable weather as did the younger sailors on the warships that made up the convoy escort. He may have felt a tremor course through his being when his gaze took in the full moon. He knew full well that each and every ship in the convoy offered an excellent silhouette to any U-boat in the area.

The convoy was en route from Trinidad in the British West Indies to Key West in Florida. Its main cargo was the precious oil that the Allies needed to sustain the war effort against a very determined enemy.

The entry of the United States into the war eight months previously had caused a shift in tactics by the U-boats. The Allies had eagerly awaited the United States' participation so they could tap into the industrial might of that great nation.

It was imperative that passage of oil receive the highest of priorities. Thus Canadian escort vessels were put under the command of the U.S. navy for escort duties.

The slender bow of the submarine parted the waters quietly as it moved slowly through the warm Caribbean waters. Moonlight fell softly on the sleek black cylindrical form of the U-boat emphasizing the deadly power housed within the curved hull. The seas running softly over the rounded bow and the muffled coughing of the diesel engines were the only sounds to disturb the otherwise tranquil night.

Lieutenant Ites, the commanding officer of U-94 was typical of the young U-boat commanders at this period of the war. He was arrogant, confident, and contemptuous of his enemy. The successes of the U-boat operations at this stage of the war were already legendary. It was not his first command; he had previously been commander of U-146. At present, his submarine was three miles abaft of the main body of Convoy TAW-15 on the port side.

Lieutenant Gordon R. Fiss, USN, was piloting a PBY-5A on an anti-submarine patrol in support of the convoy. At 2230 he spotted a U-94 running on the surface about a quarter mile off his port beam. The submarine was completely visible in the bright moonlight. Lt Fiss brought his aircraft in from down moon at 125 knots and at an altitude of 50-73 feet above the surface

of the waters. He ordered the starboard depth bombs released at about 460 feet from the target; a second later the port bomb load was released. The bombs engulfed the submarine and exploded 50 feet under the water. The explosions rocked U-94 lifting her stern clear of the water and throwing her crew about violently.

Fortunately for the submariners, the pressure hull did not rupture. U-94 sustained enough damage to keep her from submerging.

Lieutenant Fiss continued to circle, dropping flares, and signaling with Aldis lamp the letter 'S' for submarine. The signal and light from the flares was picked up by the bridge watch keepers on Oakville.

Lieutenant Commander C.A. King, RCNR, Oakville's captain issued orders to the engine room for increased r.p.m.s and immediately sounded the action alarm. Orders were also issued to the wheelhouse setting a course to where the circling aircraft had dropped flares about one mile fine on the port bow.

On the bridge of Oakville, full speed ahead was ordered. The submarine action alarm sounded as Oakville raced towards the spot where the flares had been dropped by the aircraft. The engine room was informed that depth charges were about to be fired.

A pattern of five depth charges set at 100 feet was dropped on the approximate position of the flare. As yet there had not been any Asdic contact with the

U-boat. Course was altered to 30 degrees starboard, and speed reduced to 160 revolutions, and another depth charge pattern was fired.

From the bridge of Oakville, U-94 was sighted about half a cable distance off the starboard bow. Oakville fired two flares, and course was altered to ram the U-boat. The U-boat passed under the bow of Oakville, immediately the order: 'hard a port' was issued; and the submarine bumped down the port side of Oakville.

The port .5s Lewis guns opened fire on the bow of the submarine; the only part visible at such close range. On the bridge of Oakville the order; 'hard a starboard' was given to open up the range so that the heavy four-inch gun on the forecastle could be brought to bear and Oakville would be in a position to ram the U-boat. When the range was sufficiently open one round from the four-inch was fired, which fell short of the target. Course was altered to a collision bearing and two more rounds of the four-inch were fired. One round impacted on the conning tower of the stricken submarine blowing some of the crew overboard. The 40 millimetre Oerlikon, its tracer curving through the darkness, raked back and forth along the deck of the submarine. So devastating was the accuracy from Oakville's gunners it was impossible for the submarine to man any weapon.

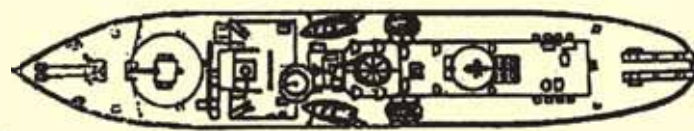
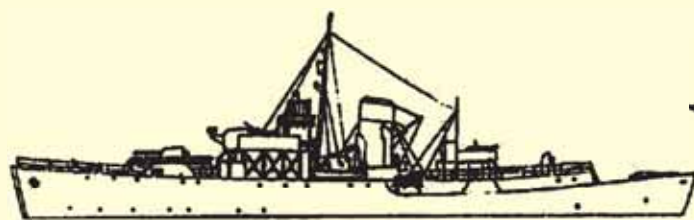
U-94 was still making good speed and tried evasive actions to escape. She passed ahead to starboard, the four-inch gun fired at this moment and struck the large 88 millimetre deck gun carrying it away over the side. Oakville manoeuvred to ram and struck the starboard side of the submarine. Orders were given to fire depth charges at a shallow setting, which detonated directly under the stricken submarine. Oakville opened the range and once more came in and rammed the now totally helpless U-boat abaft the shell-pocked conning tower.

Oakville received considerable damage in this last attempt, her Asdic dome and Oscillator were smashed; as well the Asdic compartment was flooded. No. 2 boiler room was taking in considerable water. Damage control parties worked feverishly to shore up the smashed and twisted bulkheads to save the ship.

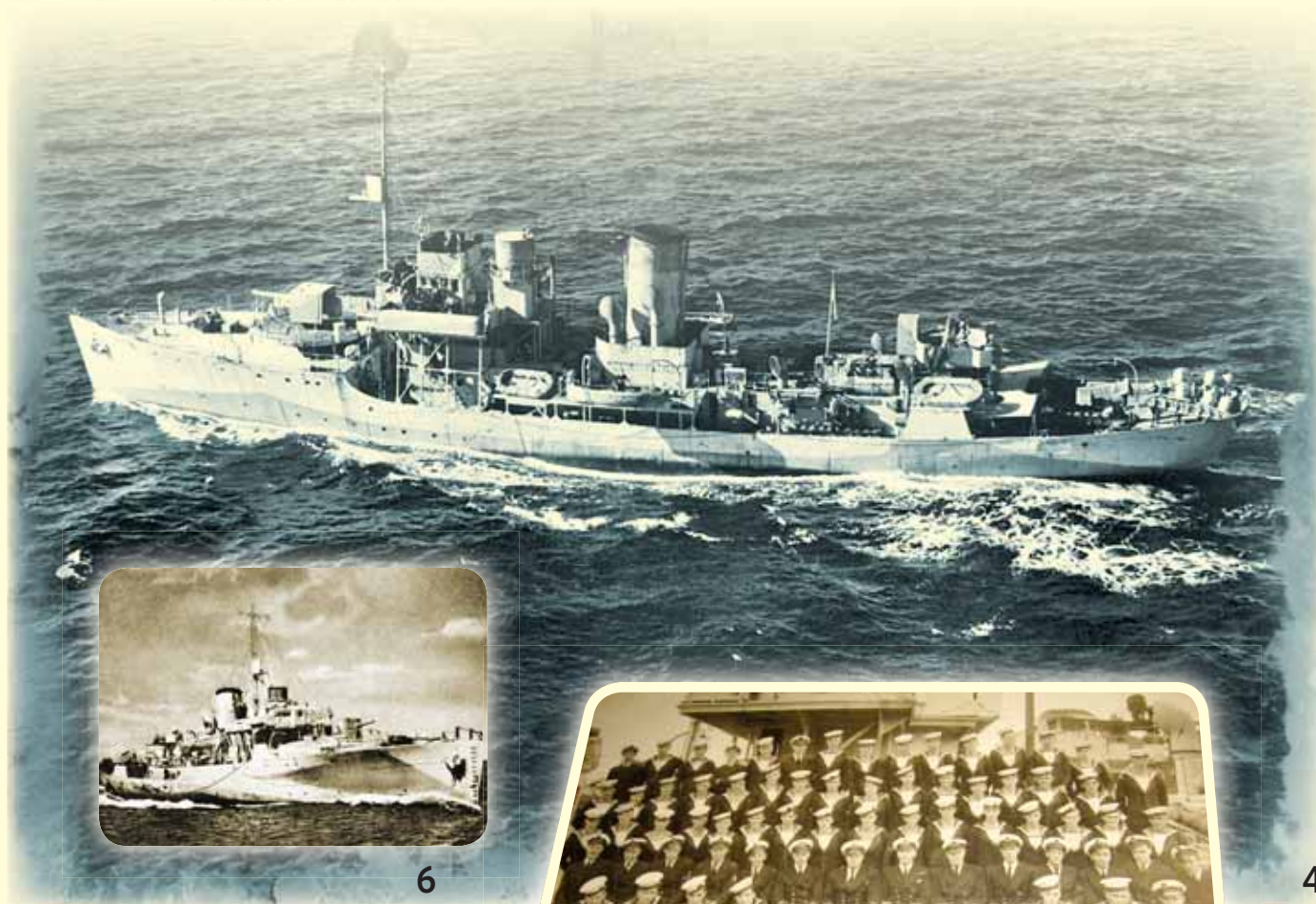
Sub-Lieutenant H.E. Lawrence and stoker Petty Officer A.J. Powell were the only two of the boarding party who managed to get aboard U-94. After a brief but deadly gun battle on the deck of the submarine they were able to subdue the remainder of the crew. Petty Officer Powell kept the remaining crew members covered with his weapon on the deck of the submarine. Sub-lieutenant Lawrence was unable to locate the confidential books in the chaos that existed below. There was approximately four feet of water inboard on the submarine and he could smell gas. The submarine was starting to settle from the stern. A shouted warning from Petty Officer Powell up top that the submarine was settling prompted Sub-Lieutenant Lawrence to return to the deck.

The prisoners were ordered over the side into the water, which they were glad to do as it was obvious the submarine was ready to go under. The two Canadians then went over the side and swam toward the sea-boats the Oakville had launched.

USS Lea had closed up and stood by the submarine to assist the boarding party and prisoners, while Oakville lay off attending to her damages. U-94 remained afloat for



3



6



5

15 minutes after the final ramming, and then quickly sank by the stern.

Oakville effected as much repair as possible and made her way under reduced speed to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo, Cuba. After temporary repairs at Guantanamo, she arrived in Halifax on Sept. 16. After repairs she joined the U.S. Eastern Sea Frontier Command and escorted convoys between New York and Guantanamo until 1943.

Oakville returned to Halifax and joined West Atlantic Escort Force. In 1944 she went to Galveston in Texas for refit, which included fore-castle extension. She returned to duties in Halifax with EG W-6. She was paid off at Sorel, Quebec in July 1945. In 1946 Oakville was sold to the Venezuelan navy and renamed Patria, serving until 1962.

Oakville and her ship's company upheld the highest traditions of the Royal Canadian Navy.

1. The aft of the HMCS Oakville courtesy of the Battle of Atlantic Museum.
2. 1939-45 "Men of Valor" by Rogers, Hubert courtesy of McGill University Library, Ref. WP2.V3.F1.
3. A line drawing of the Corvette Class ship courtesy of the blueprints.com.
4. HMCS Oakville on passage from Saint John, New Brunswick, to Halifax, Nova Scotia, as an escort to convoy FH-70 on Aug. 7, 1943 (near Yarmouth, N.S.), photo courtesy of Department of National Defence.
5. Crew of HMCS Oakville circa 1942, photo courtesy of the Battle of Atlantic Museum.
6. HMCS Oakville, photo courtesy of the Oakville Museum.

About the author Joseph P. Kearney



A photo of Joseph Kearney as sailor around 1953

Joseph Kearney joined the Navy in July 1952 in Toronto. In Halifax he served in HMCS Micmac, HMCS Restigouche, and HMCS Yukon. In January 1969, he was posted to CANCOMFLT staff. In this position he was the personal chef to Rear Admiral H Porter, Commodore N Cogden, and Commodore R Hayes, serving in HMCS Bonaventure and HMCS Protecteur.

In 1971 he served with 1 Field Squadron Royal Canadian

Engineers at CFB Petawawa. In October 1972 he was posted to HMCS Chaudiere in Esquimalt. In 1974 he served in HMCS Saskatchewan.

Upon retiring in 1977, Kearney studied Occupational Health and Safety at George Brown College in Toronto. He used this knowledge instructing staff and other employees at The Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital in Toronto where he was employed as the Food Production Manager.

Kearney started writing in

retirement and published 20 short stories ranging from children's stories to naval history. In the spring of 2009 he published a book of short stories titled Corned Beef and Cabbagetown. In the spring of 2011 he published a work of fiction titled, Cedars of The Necropolis.

He is currently writing a trilogy on Irish immigration to Canada starting in 1849.

Kearney resides in Victoria. www.ofknotsandquills.com

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All tickets and money must be submitted to the Campaign Office by Dec. 7. The draw will take place Dec. 9.

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MARPAC Imaging Services is bringing back the very popular Portraits in time for Christmas! From Nov. 21 to Dec. 3 Monday to Friday, 2:30 - 3:50 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Imaging Services office located in Dockyard Building 25. Dress: DEU 1A or 3. Minimum donation is \$20 per person and you will receive your digital copy no later than Dec. 13. Book your Studio Time by calling 363-2093 or emailing michael.bastien@forces.gc.ca

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3 on 3 Hockey Tournament

Register now for the PSP 3 on 3 hockey tournament. The games will take place on Nov. 21-23 from 12-4 p.m. at Wurtele Arena. Each team is guaranteed three games, with 10 players max (including goalies) per team. Cost is \$100 per team and teams can register at the Naden Athletic Center Sports Office no later than Nov. 10. Call 250-363-4069/4540/4068 for more information.

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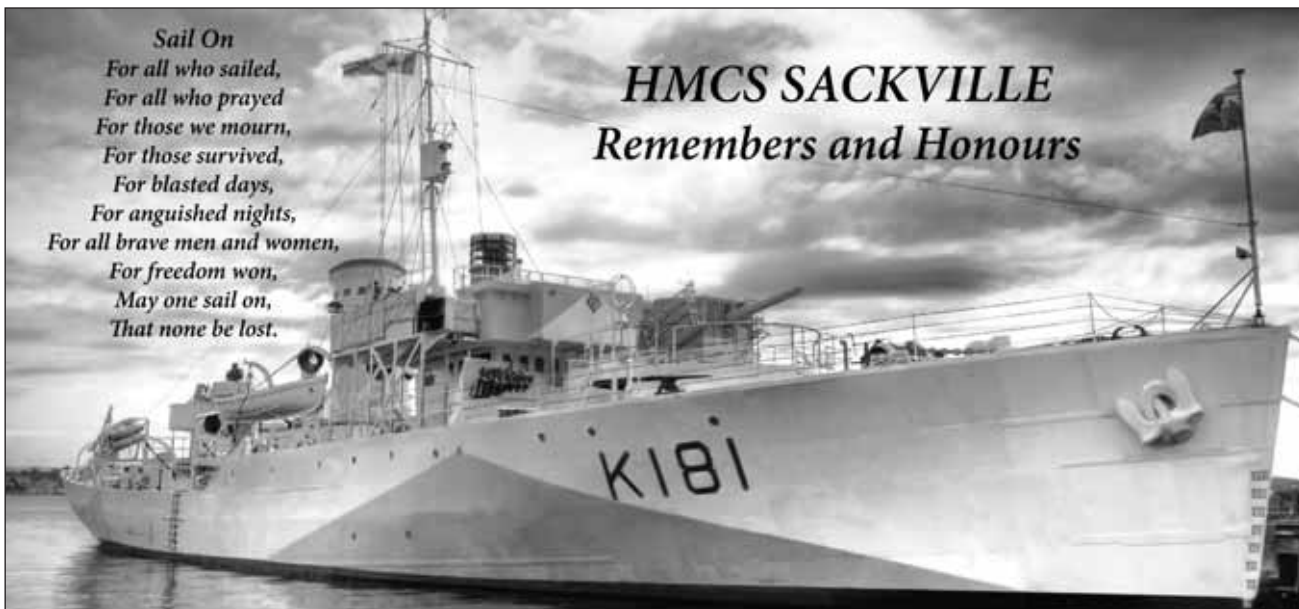
The GCWCC Annual Hockey Challenge is back as the Victoria Royals face the MARPAC/Media team Nov. 15 at Wurtele Arena. Doors will open at 11 a.m. with the game starting at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are by advanced minimum donation of \$5 per person. Call Vicki at 250-363-2595 for more information.

Wooden Toy Raffle

As part of the GCWCC campaign, tickets can be bought for the Wooden Toy Raffle. The tickets, \$2 for one or \$5 for three are for a dump truck, a bull dozer, and a tow truck that all have movable parts and will be raffled off as a set. The trio will be displayed in the POESB headquarters, building D262, outside of room 103 until draw date on Nov. 25. Contact Lorna Leggett at 250-363-2538 for more information.

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1942 hero CPO Max Leopold Bernays is honoured

Robert Fisher, National Archives of Canada.

Born in 1910 in Vancouver to a seafaring family, Max Bernays went to sea at an early age with the merchant marine and joined the Royal Canadian Navy's Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) in 1929. During the 1930s, he served with Canadian National Steamships.

Recalled by the RCN at the outbreak of the Second World War, he had achieved the rank of Acting Chief Petty Officer by March 1942 when he was elevated to coxswain of Assiniboine, a position usually held by an older sailor.

During the summer of 1942, German U-boats preyed on Allied shipping in the North Atlantic. Fierce battles were fought around the convoys, and Canadian warships sank five U-boats during that summer, none in more dramatic fashion than the destruction of U-210 by Assiniboine.

Under the command of Lieutenant-Commander John H. Stubbs, the River-class destroyer, plus three Canadian corvettes and three British corvettes formed the close escort of the slow convoy SC-94, which comprised 33 merchant ships laden with cargo for war-torn Britain. The convoy

steamed east in fog and calm seas, just beyond the range of Allied aircraft based in Newfoundland.

Six or seven U-boats shadowed the convoy on the afternoon of Aug. 6, waiting for nightfall to close and attack. Late in the afternoon, Assiniboine's radar picked up U-210 in the fog at 1,200 yards and went in pursuit at full speed. Visibility fell dramatically as the destroyer closed in.

Stubbs manoeuvred to ram, but U-210 evaded him by the narrowest of margins. For almost 40 minutes the two combatants played a deadly game of hide-and-seek in the fog. U-210 attempted to get within Assiniboine's turning circle while Stubbs tried to gain position to ram the submarine. Guns on both ships opened fire at close range in a murderous storm of bullets and high explosive shells.

The U-boat's guns pounded Assiniboine's superstructure, causing a fire that swept across the deck and engulfed the bridge and parts of the forecabin. Surrounded by smoke and flames, CPO Bernays ordered the two junior sailors working as telegraphmen to get clear, leaving him alone at the helm and trapped by the blaze.

Besieged by flames, CPO Bernays executed all the helm orders as LCdr Stubbs manoeuvred for position against the

U-boat. He also did the work of the two telegraphmen, dispatching over 130 telegraph orders to the engine room. Several bullets and shells penetrated the wheelhouse as the Germans concentrated their machine-gun and cannon fire on the bridge.

While damage-control crew subdued the blaze, the duel continued unabated. The U-boat's 20 mm cannon hammered Assiniboine's forward 4.7 inch gun, killing one Canadian, Ordinary Seaman Kenneth Watson, and wounding several others. The destroyer's machine guns slowly made

inroads against U-210. Bullets finally silenced the deadly flak gun and the range opened sufficiently for the 4.7 inch gun aft to register a direct hit on the conning tower, killing much of the bridge crew.

As U-210 prepared to dive, Stubbs rammed it just abaft the conning tower. The U-boat submerged to 18 metres but water surged in through the shattered hull. The engineer officer, now in command, had no choice but to give the order to blow tanks and abandon ship. Stubbs rammed the submarine a second time and fired a shallow pattern of depth

charges. One last hit on the bow and the Germans abandoned ship. Assiniboine and HMS Dianthus rescued 38 of the 48 German crew.

The hard-fought action cost the Canadian crew dearly: 13 wounded and one killed. CPO Bernays miraculously survived the bombardment of wheelhouse and bridge, but shell fragments had struck him in the face, leaving a permanent memento of the action embedded in his temple. Assiniboine herself sustained extensive damage and had to return to St. John's, Newfoundland for urgent repairs.



Canadian sculptor Christian Cardell Corbet

Corbet sculpts bust of Bernays

In a ceremony on Oct. 21 at HMCS Bytown, Rear Admiral M.A.G. Norman C.D. unveiled a portrait bust of Chief Petty Officer Max Bernays.

Created by renowned Canadian sculptor Christian Cardell Corbet, the bust honors Bernays' heroic contributions during the Battle of the Atlantic in 1942.

The portrait, mounted on a finely carpentered oak plinth, was sculpted above life-size.

The evening before the unveiling, Corbet was the guest of honour at black-tie annual Autumn

HMCS Bytown Mess Dinner. Corbet was requested to address the audience and he spoke on his career and his artistic process.

"It was an honour to create a portrait of a Canadian war hero and to document the countenance of a man who so bravely defended his country during the Battle of the Atlantic. Although Bernays was passed over for the Victoria Cross for his efforts, his heroic actions did win him the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal; an honour reserved for only a few," said the artist.

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By Sculptor Nathan Scott

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INTERSTATE BATTERIES



Theatres of war shape engineer

Ben Green
 Staff Writer

The night LCol (ret'd) Jon Burbee arrived at Kandahar Air Field (KAF) an indirect fire round rocketed over the airfield and struck a dining facility filled with 800 personnel. More of a lucky shot than a targeted attack, the round injured 19 people, and eventually killed two.

It was quite the welcome for his final tour in uniform.

From January to July of this year, the former Base Construction Engineering Officer and Joint Task Force Pacific Joint Engineer deployed to Afghanistan as part of NATO operations in the region (Canada contributes various positions to NATO). With a civilian position awaiting him at CFB Esquimalt upon his return, it was to be the conclusion to a 23-year career in the Canadian Forces.

"We were the organization in charge of the installation of 25 square kilometres of real estate," he says. "It's all heavily fenced; there's a perimeter of about 17 kilometres spotted with guard towers and one 10,000 foot airstrip with about 400 aircraft."

With 30,000 soldiers, civilian employees, and civilian contractors stationed at KAF during any given time, LCol (ret'd) Burbee and his team operated all the facility's common services such as power, water, roadways, and fencing – all the responsibilities that would fall under the jurisdiction of a city municipality back home.

"It was more of a municipal situational rather than a base context," he says, "Each nation or organization looked after their own

facilities inside their land allocation."

His role in Afghanistan saw him work with international and local companies and civilians on various engineering projects. Despite spending the vast majority of his time within the confines of the base, the requirement to constantly carry a weapon and be vigilant for threats typical of the area meant complete relaxation was a luxury never quite acquired.

"You're kind of off balance all the time; you have in the back of your mind that the guy you're dealing with on a daily basis may be trying to bring harm to you or the base," he says. "You try to minimize the risk but you also have a get the job done."

His approach in such an environment stems from his previous experience with the hardships of conflict and the dangers that accompany it. In 1999, he was sent into ravaged Kosovo as an engineering squadron deputy commander. Following the exodus of Serbian forces from the region, his job was to build operating bases for the Canadian Forces.

"It wasn't the same threat hazard [compared to Afghanistan], but it was still somewhat chaotic," he says. "It was unsettling because all the structures in place to run a country had simply disappeared with those fleeing for their safety."

He says while the threat level was less severe in Europe, the exposure to the direct aftermath of the conflict was unavoidable. His unit shared their camp with a forensic medical team brought in to collect evidence for future war-crime trials. On occasion,



Top: LCol (ret'd) Jon Burbee poses for a photo during Remembrance Day 1999 while deployed in Kosovo.

Above: LCol (ret'd) Burbee (left) in full combat gear during his tour in Afghanistan this year.

engineers from his unit would be asked to assist in investigating mass burial sites as bodies were sometimes booby-trapped with grenades or explosives. To him, this underscored the potential brutality that is war as well as the obligation of nations to apply legitimate armed force to aid those who have no other protection.

Nowadays LCol (ret'd) Burbee is referred to as Jon, manager of real estate services for Base Construction Engineering at CFB Esquimalt. He says the communication he maintains with colleagues still serving helps keep his new civilian life in perspective.

"There are people I worked with who are still there [Afghanistan] now," he says. "You're working through your daily challenges here and then every now and then you think of people you know well who are still at KAF or off the coast of Libya right now."

Throughout his time in the military, he has lost friends he knew on a first name basis and colleagues

he may have only known by their last. His deployments in theatres of war have earned him the distinction of being a veteran, something he begrudgingly accepts coming only from the lips of others.

"I wouldn't say I'm a veteran, although I accept the label I guess," he says shrugging. "Compared to people who lived it [war] for years at a time, at a higher intensity, I didn't really suffer the same hardships."

With Remembrance Day less than a week away, LCol (ret'd) Burbee says he tries to use the day to honour the memory of those who've fallen, and to ensure the families left behind know they will not be forgotten. Along with those who fought in uniform, he says it's vital we use the day to think of those who lived through or are currently living through conflict.

"You don't want to forget what they've struggled through and endured in hopes of a better future that we now enjoy."



Almost a century of memories for Ted Dodge

Ben Green
Staff Writer

The solarium at Chalmers Lodge, the Vancouver-based assisted living facility Edward "Ted" Dodge calls home, is comfortable and cozy this crisp October morning as endless beams of light come pouring through the uncovered windows.

The warmth of the early morning sun is only matched by the expression on Ted's face as he rises from a sun-soaked couch with the vigour of a man half his age.

Today is a special day for the 98-year-old retired postal clerk, and the fall weather has done little to slow him down. Three representatives from the Canadian Forces Postal Unit at CFB Esquimalt - Capt Thesa Wheaton, MWO Debra Keegan, and Cpl Joel Livingstone - are presenting the Second World War veteran with a few gifts for his service to their unit. As the oldest surviving veteran from the Canadian Postal Corp, Ted is being honoured as part of the CF Postal Service centennial celebrations this year.

I just want a few minutes to pick his brain.

I've never met someone as old as Ted before, and to be honest I'm not sure if our conversation will even have enough substance to be worth the ferry ride over. My concerns about his lucidity disappear in the first 10 seconds.

Suffering from a slight hunch, Ted straightens up and clasps my extended hand with unexpected strength. Almost a century of life might have taken its toll on his body, but his eyes reflect the inner zest of someone still very much alive.

Sitting in on our rendezvous

this morning is Ted's nephew Rod. Rod, the son of Ted's older brother Alfred, has acted as Ted's personal historian and biographer for the past few years. Keeping all documents, records, and photos about Ted's military service neatly tucked away in various scrap books, Rod is there to nudge Ted's memory on dates and details that could potentially evade him.

As the five of us pull up chairs in a semi-circle facing Ted on the couch, all eyes turn on me; I suppose as a journalist the responsibility of being the catalyst for the conversation has fallen onto my shoulders. As I begin to question Ted about his early military years, he paints astonishingly detailed pictures of events from 70-plus years prior. While the others follow my lead, engaging him in questions about his postal career, Rod fills me in on the Dodge's beginnings in Canada.

In the late 1870s, Ted's uncle, Charles Gidding, deserted M.V. Shah as it was docked in Port Angeles, WA. A young naval cadet on board, Charles felt there was no life to be had back in England and decided to trek east in search of work (In contrast, Charles's brother Harry was a career seaman in the Royal Navy in the late 1800s and early 1900s.) Eventually finding a job in a life-saving station in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, he sent money back home for his sister, Annie (Ted's mother), to join him. It was in Sault Ste. Marie that Annie met Thomas, Ted's father, who also left England as a young man. They were married in 1891 and moved to the Pacific Northwest.

Born June 2, 1913, Ted was the youngest of 13 children. He wasn't even four when one of his oldest brothers, Clifford, was

killed in Canada's most storied battle - Vimy Ridge. Part of the first contingent shipped overseas in early October 1914, Clifford participated in some of the First World War's bloodiest engagements. In 1915 he suffered a gunshot wound to the pelvis at the Battle of St. Julien, and a year later he suffered a gunshot wound to his face and shrapnel wounds to his leg at the Battle of Mount Sorrel. After recovering in England on both occasions, Clifford rejoined his unit in November 1916, and was promoted to corporal "in the field" on March 31, 1917.

He was killed less than 10 days later, having just celebrated his 23rd birthday.

I'm the exact age Clifford was when he died. Cradling the faded black and white photos of him in my hands, I look at the handsome man smiling in uniform and can't help contrasting it with the violent last moments he endured.

"I went to see his grave in Roclincourt about two miles away from Vimy," says Ted, suddenly drawing my attention away from the pictures and back to the conversation. "It was very well kept, wonderful little cemetery."

Ted says the family received a telegram of Clifford's passing, an obituary in the local paper, and a Memorial Cross given to every mother who lost a son in the war. Annie was eventually buried with Clifford's medal.

It seems Clifford's service to his country paved the way for the rest of the Dodge boys. Alfred joined in 1918 right at the war's end, and again in 1942 as a militiaman with the Irish Fusiliers. George Dodge was a cadet with the Seaforth Highlanders in the early 1920s, and Ted joined the Vancouver Regiment in 1936

after seeing an ad in the morning paper - it was the thing to do he says.

Three months after he joined the Vancouver Regiment, it merged with the Irish Fusiliers and became known as the Irish Fusiliers of Canada (VR), a militia unit. Three years later, after a range of postings across the province, Ted and his unit were called into active service. On Aug. 17, 1942, he was transferred to the Postal Corps, and on his birthday in 1944 Ted stared across the dark Atlantic waters as he boarded HMCS Andes bound for England.

With Liverpool as their destination, Ted joined 39 other postal clerks on board the ship and hundreds of other troops. The trip took just under a week.

"We had beautiful June weather, no trouble at all," recalls Ted. "The place was just bulging with troops."

Usually quite reserved, Ted said the war had a funny way of changing people like him.

"I was always a quiet guy, but when you're thrown in with a lot of people that didn't last long!" he says laughing.

In England, Ted billeted with a local family just outside London and was tasked with sorting mail arriving into the city. Decades before computers, barcodes, or email, Ted says they had to record the name, unit, and destination of every incoming letter and package by hand. It was a tedious job at times, but he was an intricate part of keeping the morale up for troops waging on the front lines.

"Really I was a civilian, I never fired a shot in anger," he jests.

In January 1946, Ted was discharged from the military and less than a week later he received a position with Canada Post where he worked until his retirement in

1974.

"I was only unemployed for a week," he says. "I've been in luck all the way through my life."

For a decade after the war, Ted was a member of various militia units while working fulltime for Canada Post. Occasionally he would attend training camps for units such as the 65th Light Ack Ack, Royal Canadian Army (RCA), the 102nd Coast Regiment RCA Artillery (with whom he received the Queen's Coronation Medal in 1952 as an NCO), No.4 Training Company Canadian Intelligence Corp, and Duke of Connaughts Own, or simply "The Dukes".

"The Dukes stuck to the old style, I really liked them," he says smiling again, not really expanding on what that exactly meant.

It's been 55 years since Ted was in uniform, 37 years since he delivered a parcel, and 25 years since his wife died. These days he keeps himself busy studying local history and reading the multitude of history books and maritime magazines he subscribes to.

As our conversation dwindles down, I can tell Ted has appreciated us being there; not because he was presented with gifts, but because he had the opportunity to share his story with people who were genuinely interested in hearing it.

Following another firm handshake and a pat on my shoulder from Ted, I thank him for his time and follow my three companions back to our vehicle. Staring out the car's window at Delta's stretching farmland, I feel slightly ashamed I questioned Ted's mental state beforehand. Going to see him was probably the best \$30 I ever spent.

Above: On June 2 of this year, Ted Dodge turned 98 years old. The retired postal clerk spent some of the Second World War in England, and was a member of various military and militia units during his time in the Forces. Here a young Ted in uniform is contrasted with a much more worldly Ted at his home in Vancouver this fall.

Below: Ted's older brother, Clifford, was a machine-gunner during the First World War with the 7th Battalion Canadian Infantry. He was killed in April, 1917, at the Battle of Vimy Ridge.



Fifty ways to learn and remember

Courtesy Veterans Affairs Canada

Attending Remembrance Day ceremonies on Nov. 11 is the best-known way that we can publicly honour the men and women who served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace. In addition, there are many other ways that we can show throughout the year that we care about the sacrifices and achievements of these one and a half million brave Canadians who served, and continue to serve, our country at home and abroad.

Remembering can take many forms: music, ceremonies, poetry, private reflection, discussion, art and shared memories from those who took part in protecting peace and freedom worldwide. In the following two pages, you'll find 50 different ways that individuals and groups can share the importance of Remembrance.

More than 110,000 men and women died so that we may live in peace and freedom today. Taking an active role to remember these people, along with the Veterans who experienced the hardships of war, military conflict and peace efforts, is one way of saying "thank you."

Research

1. Research how Canadians at home supported the war effort overseas. Discuss what you have learned as a topic for your online blog.
2. Interview a Veteran, relative, family friend, neighbour, war bride, nursing sister, factory worker or another person who was impacted by the war.
3. Find evidence that citizens in your community participated in the war - things such as memorials, Veterans' graves or honour rolls in churches. Visit the local cenotaph or war memorial to study its inscription. Make a map of the community and mark where war memorials/statues/monuments are located. Research what they commemorate, when they were erected, who erected them and why.
4. Using the Internet, research Canadian memorial sites located around the world. Show them on a map and describe their significance. Have your group design and construct its own monument. For information on Canadian memorials, visit the "Memorials" section of the Veterans Affairs Canada Web site.
5. Research memorials located around the world that commemorate animals in war. Show the memorials on a map and describe their significance.
6. Make a list of animals that helped in war and peace support efforts - either overseas or in Canada. Explain what each animal did and why it was important.
7. Do a novel study, individually or as a group. Choose a fictional or historic book with a storyline based

on Canada's war or peacekeeping involvement.

Symbols of Thanks

8. Write to a Canadian Forces member posted in Canada or overseas. Visit the Department of National Defence Web site External link, Opens in a new window (Opens a new window).
9. Participate in the "Valentines for Vets" or "Christmas Cards for Troops" projects. Send special greetings to Veterans in local nursing homes or Canadian Forces members posted overseas.
10. Plant tulips, a tree or an entire memorial garden in memory of local citizens who died during their military service and/or Veterans from your community who have passed on.

Creative Writing

11. Write a letter to a Veteran (it could be a relative, family friend or someone from your community) thanking them for their sacrifice and celebrating their achievements.
12. Play the role of a war correspondent from the First or Second World War. Write headlines, news stories, local interest features, or advertisements as if you went back in time.
13. Compile a list of scientific and technological innovations developed in times of war. Write an essay on their impact on today's world.

General Interest

14. Wear a poppy to honour those in uniform who have served Canada and also those who have died in service to our country.
15. Attend Remembrance Day ceremonies or if you can't go watch them on television.
16. Lay a wreath at the cenotaph with family and friends.
17. Pause for one minute of silence at 11:00 a.m. on November 11 to honour those who served and died in times of war, military conflict and peace.
18. Help plan and participate in a commemorative ceremony at school or with a community group.
19. Thank a Veteran or Canadian Forces member for supporting peace and freedom efforts around the world.
20. Organize, participate in, or attend a candlelight tribute ceremony at a cemetery to remember citizens in your community who died during military service to Canada.
21. Spread the word about Veterans' Week, Remembrance Day and other commemorative events using your school's newspaper, Web site or daily announcements.
22. Organize an essay or poster contest on the topic of Canada's role in the First or Second World War, the Korean War or Peace Support missions.
23. Plan, organize or participate in a debate or discussion looking at how Canada's military history still influences our lives today.

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24. Plan, organize or participate in a 1920s, 1940s, or 1950s dance or "Victory Ball." Research the clothing, hairstyles, music, food and decorations of the time and include those themes in the event.
25. Bring examples of wartime art (such as paintings or posters), books and stories, poetry and music to school to show and talk about with your peers. Discuss what their purpose was during the war, why they were important, and what makes them unique.
26. Organize a concert featuring music from the war-era. Take the concert to a nursing home and perform for the residents.
27. Hold a series of community readings where citizens share their favourite passages from military-related books, novels, poems, letters and diaries.
28. Read a selection of books on the topic of remembrance. Visit Veterans Affairs Canada's Web site
29. Show a video or film on Canada's role in the wars and peace missions of the 20th and 21st centuries.
30. Adopt a Veteran's grave in your community. With the permission of the person's family or the cemetery, visit and take care of the grave. You could dig weeds, plant flowers or clean the headstone.
31. Research the story of a family member, friend or neighbour who served Canada in wartime or peacetime. Tell that person's story to your group. Describe how his or her life was affected by their service and talk about the challenges they faced after the war.
32. Invite a Veteran or a Canadian Forces member to speak to your group. You can find a list of speakers by visiting the Dominion Institute's "Memory Project" Web site External link, Opens in a new window (Opens a new window). The Royal Canadian Legion's Web site External link, Opens in a new window (Opens a new window) also lists Veterans who may wish to speak in your community.
33. Listen to Veterans and Canadian Forces members talk about their wartime and peacetime experiences on the "Heroes Remember" feature of the Veterans Affairs Canada Web site.
34. Invite a Dutch immigrant to your school to speak about the special connection between the people of the Netherlands and Canadian troops during the Second World War - a connection still felt today! Your local chapter of the Dutch Canadian Association can help you find a speaker.
35. Contact your local or provincial War Brides Association and invite a war bride to visit your school. Ask her to describe what it was like to marry a Canadian soldier and move to a new country. Discuss what challenges war brides faced in Canada at the time.
36. Visit local nursing homes to spend time with those from the wartime generation. Prepare a question list and share your findings in a blog or online media site.
37. Invite someone to speak to your group about their work with a community support or volunteer organization during the war years. These may include the Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Salvation Army, St. John's Ambulance and the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE). Research their wartime activities prior to their visit.

Activities

38. Research the contribution of Aboriginal, African or Asian-Canadian soldiers during the First or Second World War or the Korean War. Present your findings using online media.
39. Create a flag, crest or symbol commemorating the contribution of certain groups during the First or Second World War or the Korean War. These groups could include women, or Aboriginal, African or Asian-Canadians.
40. Prepare a graph showing various statistics on Canada's involvement in the First or Second World War or the Korean War. Compare the numbers of those who died, were injured or taken prisoner of war to the population of your school, town, city or province. How do these statistics compare to other countries involved in the war?
41. Research and prepare a report on the various war service medals awarded to Canadians. Look at the reasons why specific medals are awarded, their "order of precedence," and at the stories of people who have earned certain ones. Present your findings using online media.
42. Research and write an essay on a Canadian who earned the Victoria Cross and post it on your blog. For information on Canadian recipients of the Victoria Cross, visit the Veterans Affairs Canada Web site.
43. Create a war memorabilia exhibit or a "Wall of Honour" in your school. Display photographs, newspaper articles, artifacts and pictures of community members who served in the military. Invite family members and the public to visit. To see an example of a "Wall of Honour," visit the Canadian Forces section of the Veterans Affairs Canada Web site.
44. Prepare a menu, a cookbook or a meal-plan based on wartime rations. What was substituted for rationed items such as sugar? Sell the cookbook to raise funds for another school project.
45. Plan and organize a play that tells the stories of Veterans from your community who have served in wars and peace support missions.
46. Make "Izzy" dolls and send them to Canada's service men and women to give to children who live in troubled areas of the world.
47. Encourage your local public library or local businesses to create a display of wartime memorabilia. Ask them to include photographs, uniforms, badges, military medals and decorations or diaries in the displays.
48. Volunteer at an elementary school library to read wartime stories to young children. You could also share the personal stories of local Veterans and members of the Canadian Forces.
49. Visit the Veterans Affairs Canada Web site regularly for news, information and ideas on how to mark Veterans' Week and other important times of remembrance.
50. Last but certainly not least: never forget the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who have served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace - especially those who did not return.

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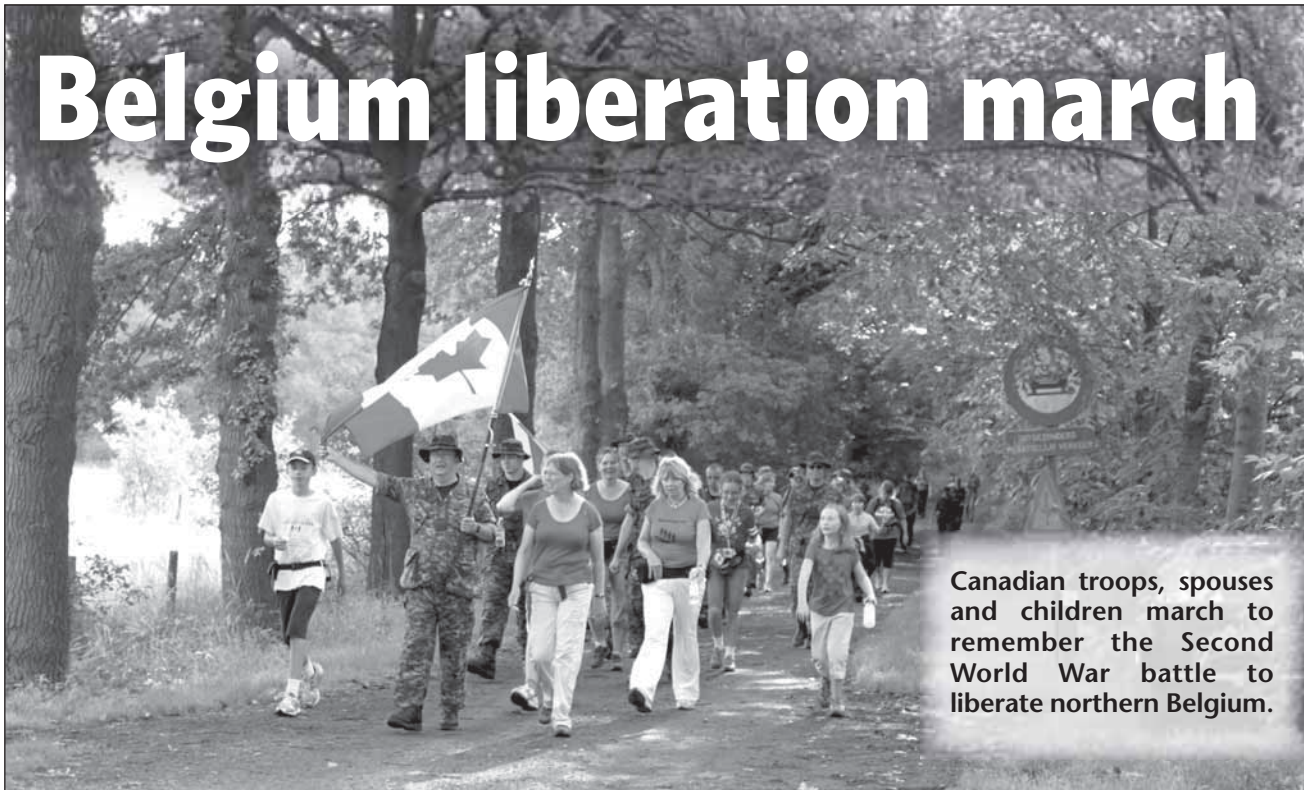


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Belgium liberation march



Canadian troops, spouses and children march to remember the Second World War battle to liberate northern Belgium.

Maj JM Mercier Formation Europe

A mixed delegation of 40 military, spouses and children from Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) took a 32-kilometre march. It was organized by the Belgium-Canada Association on Saturday Sept. 10 to remember Operation Switchback, which liberated Northern Belgium from Nazi occupation in 1944.

The week-end series of commemorative events started with a visit to a private museum in honour of Canadian and Polish soldiers.

The owner, Gilbert Van Landschoot explained, "My father, freed by Canadians of 1 Cdn Army and Polish sol-

diers, devoted his life to be thankful and to recognize their sacrifice. On his last breath, he made me promise to perpetuate our family recognition to our liberators. I opened a museum in 1995 and my family and I steadily kept improving it ever since."

"The dedication and the passion by M. Landschoot and his family for the Canadian and Polish legacy during the Second World War is truly commendable and deserves our recognition and our support. We'll be here again next year," said Col Stewart Moore, the Formation Europe Commander and National Military Representative (NMR) at Allied Command Operations, SHAPE.

The ninth edition of this march around the communities of Maldegem in Northern Belgium started with a cloudy morning that steadily warmed up during the six-hour long walk.

"This year, we made an effort to bring the children into a family-oriented event in the spirit of ensuring that history is exposed and understood by the following generations," said Major Nicolas Bertrand, the Canadian leader of the march.

A special mention goes to Hannah Berghuis, 9, who marched 28 of the 32 km.

The next day, an extended Canadian contingent along with the Canadian Section of the SHAPE international School participated in a

Remembrance Ceremony at the Adegem Military Ceremony where more than 800 Second World War Canadian soldiers lie.

The national ceremony was celebrated in the presence of His Majesty King Albert II's representative, various ambassadors to Belgium, and students from Belgium and Canadian schools.

The two-hour long ceremony was brought to an end with a flypast of Second World War planes in the "missing man" formation.

To find more and offer support to Canadian-Polish museum: www.canadamuseum.be

For the Belgium-Canada Association Memorial March: www.belgiumcanada.net

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After July 2011, Canada's engagement in Afghanistan centres on Kabul and focuses on four key areas:

- investing in the future of Afghan children and youth through development programming in education and health;
- advancing security, the rule of law and human rights, including through the provision of up to 950 trainers for Afghan national security forces;
- promoting regional diplomacy; and
- helping deliver humanitarian assistance.



Photos by MCpl. Rory Wilson, DND

Above: Afghan National Army soldiers at a training exercise at the Regional Training Military Centre (North) in Camp Shaheen near Mazar-e-Sharif.



Sgt Tom Millar (right foreground), of the CCTM-A, speaks to soldiers during urban operations training at Camp Phoenix in Kabul as Pte Curtis Perren (left) demonstrates urban operations fire position.

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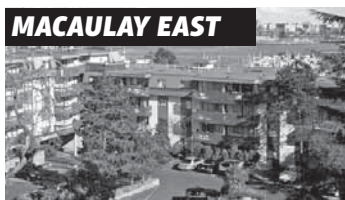
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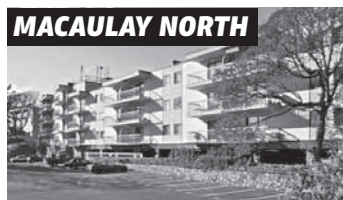
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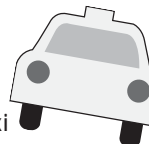
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Of special mention is the bottom of the decanter's base, on which most every RCN ship that was

commissioned over the past 100 years is listed in alphabetical order, more than 300 ships in all. If you served, your ship or ships should be on there.

All of the decanter's decorative elements are of historical significance. Encircling the neck are the 13 Provincial and Territorial Flags.

One of the main cameos on the shoulder depicts HMCS SACKVILLE (K181). Commissioned in 1941, she was one of more than 120 Corvettes built for the RCN during WW II. She saw heavy action from 1941 to 1944, and is the last surviving Corvette.

The adjacent cameo, to the right of SACKVILLE, salutes the Merchant Navy with a painting of the FORT WALLACE. She was one of the Fort Ships that carried vital supplies on perilous voyages to the Allies throughout the Second World War.

The third cameo, "READY, AYE READY" - the RCN's motto - is backed up by the White Ensign of World War II on the one side, and Canada's

national flag on the other.

The final cameo, composed of maple leaves and Leviathans, quotes Churchill on the importance of winning the Battle of the Atlantic. Here the RCN played a vital and major role in its victory at a very high cost of ships and men. If that battle had been lost, so might the war in Europe.

The blue ribbon surrounding the base lists the Seven Seas in Latin.



Stopper Detail

The top of the stopper (shown above), commemorates the RCN's 100th Anniversary, in gold leaf.

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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

