

Peter Mallett Staff Writer

Dressed in their black ceremonial uniforms, the last crew of HMCS Algonquin lined the rails of the ship for a final salute as it was paid off after 41 years of distinguished service.

During the ceremony in HMC Dockyard last Thursday were stirring tributes and even a few tears.

"Algonquin was such an important part of the fleet and after more than four decades the ship has served its country well," said Lieutenant-Commander Jonathan Lafontaine, Algonquin's final Commanding Officer. "Today is a day of mixed emotions because this ship served as a second home for so many sailors."

More than 300 current and former crew attended Thursday's ceremony. Among them were two surviving members of the original HMCS Algonquin, a V-Class Destroyer that was paid off in 1970 and was part of the historic 1944 D-Day invasion at Normandy.

Jack Buller and Andrew Irwin have remained good friends since their role in the historic Second World War mission.

"It's a very meaningful experience for me to be

here. I've never felt like a hero before until today," said Buller, 89, who was raised in Victoria but now resides in Sacramento, California, Buller was just 17 and Irwin 19 when they first served together in Algonquin.

"I can still remember the evening of June 5, (1944) like it was yesterday. Our commanding officer called 'clear all decks' for a full gathering around the torpedo tubes and gave us our orders for the next 48 hours. We all knew something big was about to happen; there were so many ships in the harbour that day."

Watching the current Algonquin leave the RCN

forever was tough for the two veterans.

"There will never be another Algonquin. It's a little bit like a funeral or the passing of a good friend for so many sailors past and present," said Irwin.

MS Elisabeth Morin-Fortin served in the present-day Algonquin and echoed the sentiments of Irwin and Buller about the significance of the vessel.

"It's not just a ship, it's a family," said MS Morin-Fortin, a naval communicator from Jonquiere, Quebec. "This was the second ship I served on during my (military) career and I learned so

much aboard Algonquin. I just remember the crew being so fantastic; we all had such a strong bond."

The Prime Minister announced the paying off of four warships on Sept.19, 2014 – HMC Ships Algonquin, Protecteur, Preserver, and Iroquois, because they had reached the end of their operational lives.

After being commissioned on Nov. 3, 1973, the destroyer spent the first half of its life assisting NATO forces in the Atlantic and was then permanently transferred to the West Coast in August 1994.

It had originally been scheduled for retire-

ment in 2019, but sustained extensive damage in a collision at sea with Protecteur on Aug. 30, 2013, as the two conducted exercise manoeuvres en route to Hawaii. The cost to reinstate the ship was deemed not "a responsible use of public funds" and the decision was made to decommission Algonquin.

As the ensign, naval jack and commissioning pennant of the Iroquoisclass destroyer were hauled down one final time, the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy played a stirring rendition of *Sunset*. A Sea King helicopter did a farewell flyby.



Admiral presents Commendation to U.S. Navy

RAdm Bill Truelove, Commander, Maritime Forces Pacific (MARPAC), presented RAdm Rick Williams, Commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Cdr Todd Hutchison, Commanding Officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy, with the Canadian Forces Unit Commendation aboard Michael Murphy at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam May 26.

The Admiral presented the Commendation to the two senior American navy officers for the U.S Navy's rescue efforts of HMCS Protecteur in February 2014 after the ship suffered a fire several hundred miles off the coast of Hawaii during its transit back to Esquimalt, British Columbia.

During the ceremony, RAdm Truelove expressed his thanks and appreciation to those in attendance, and the crew of Michael Murphy, for their resiliency and hard work during the recovery operations of Protecteur.

Michael Murphy was first to arrive on scene immediately after the fire occurred in the early morning of Feb. 28. Shortly after, USS Chosin arrived on scene and commenced towing operations, while food and water was transported to Protecteur via embarked helicopter from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron.

A week later, while onboard HMCS Calgary during the Portland Rose Festival, the Admiral presented the Canadian Forces Unit Commendation on behalf of General Tom Lawson, Chief of the Defence Staff, to USS Chosin.

Created by the Chief of the Defence Staff in 1980, the commendation is awarded to any formation, unit or sub-unit of the Canadian Armed Forces, or to any similar organization of a foreign armed force working with or in conjunction with the Canadian Armed Forces, that has performed a deed or activity considered beyond the demand of normal duty.

Photos: U.S. Navy photo by Mass

Bill

Communication Specialist 2nd Class Johans Chavarro

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WHO WE ARE

MANAGING EDITOR

Melissa Atkinson 250-363-3372 melissa.atkinson@forces.gc.ca

STAFF WRITERS

250-363-3672 Rachel Lallouz rachel.lallouz@forces.gc.ca

Peter Mallett 250-363-3130

PRODUCTION

Carmel Ecker 250-363-8033 production@lookoutnewspaper.com Shelley Fox 250-363-8033 projects@lookoutnewspaper.com

RECEPTION 250-363-3127

ACCOUNTS/CLASSIFIEDS

Heather Catte 250-363-3127 heather.catte@forces.gc.ca

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Ivan Groth 250-363-3133 ivan.groth@forces.gc.ca Joshua Buck 250-363-8602 joshua.buck@forces.gc.ca

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Commandant de la Base

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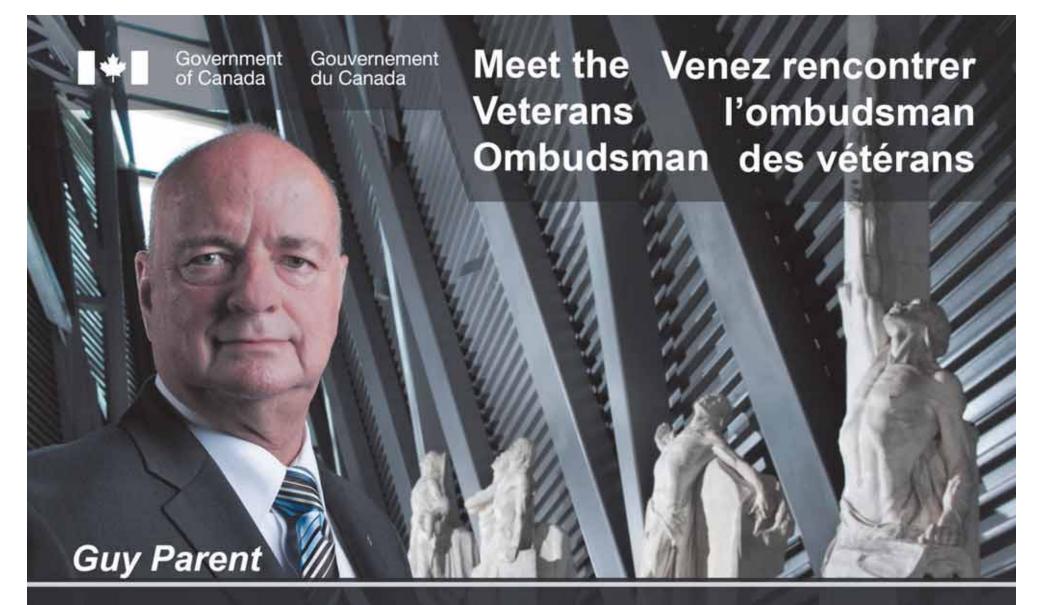
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All Veterans, military and RCMP members, and interested parties are invited to a Veterans Ombudsman Town Hall.

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Tuesday June 23 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. ^{463 Belleville Street} Victoria, BC

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A Town Hall session will also take place at CFB Esquimalt on Tuesday, June 23rd at 10:30 am at the Chiefs' and Petty Officer's Mess. Le mardi 23 juin 18h30 à 20h30 463, rue Belleville Victoria, C.-B. V8V 1X3

Une assemblée générale aura lieu à la BFC Esquimalt le mardi 23 juin à 10 h 30 au mess des maîtres et premiers maîtres.

www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca





Belgium school honours Canadian soldier

DND

A special ceremony took place in the town of Ville-sur-Haine, Belgium, recently when the town renamed their elementary school in memory of a First World War Canadian soldier, Private George Lawrence Price.

Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members from Formation Europe serving at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers

Europe (SHAPE), Belgium, along with the Canadian Ambassador to Belgium, Denis Robert attended the official ceremony to unveil the new name, "École George Price", above the entrance to the school.

"I am certain that George Price would be very proud to know that a school will bear his name," said Capt(N) Dave Scanlon, CAF member from SHAPE. "What better legacy for a soldier's memory than the education of young people in the enduring spirit of freedom and equality."

Pte Price was the last Canadian and final Commonwealth soldier to die during the First World War. He was killed by a sniper just two minutes before the armistice came into effect at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918, in Ville-sur-Haine. The town decided that renaming their school was a fitting tribute to a soldier and a country that came to their aid in time of war.





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Military Police centre of museum's new exhibit

Rachel Lallouz Staff Writer

Private Jeffrey Baker brushes away a piece of lint from an immaculate Military Police (MP) uniform, one of many adorning the mannequins at the CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum as part of a display celebrating the MP unit's 75th anniversary.

"As a MP reservist, I feel proud that we are being represented at the museum with both reservist and regular force displays," says Pte Baker, who helped curate the exhibit with museum exhibit designer Clare Sharpe and fellow Military Police member Master Corporal Ian Beswick.

When Pte Baker brought his seven-year-old son, Joshua, into the museum one day, a query to Sharpe about including more army representation turned into challenge. Sharpe invited Pte Baker to turn his personal knowledge of the military police into a display. As a self-professed military history buff, he says curating is not out of character for him.

For the past eight months, MCpl Beswick and Pte Baker have been collecting Military Police antiques, memorabilia, and artefacts for the display, which now takes up almost half of one display room.

"We have head gear, helmets, Second World War uniforms and battle dresses on loan from my own unit, (1 MP Regt/12 Platoon), and courtesy of LCol Leaker at Ashton Museum," he says.

A large glass display case holds a mix of modern and historical artefacts, including a fingerprinting kit from the 1990s, air force MP arm bands, evidence bags, and antique cap badges.

Many of the artefacts were borrowed from MCpl Beswick's private collection and the Ashton Armoury Museum, some of which originally



Rachel Lallouz, Lookout

Private Jeffrey Baker, a reserve military police member, stands in front of the display he helped curate with museum exhibit designer Clare Sharpe, and Master Corporal Ian Beswick. *Left:* The glass showcase displays a fingerprinting kit, evidence bags, a current military police cap (far left), and a historic military police cap

belonged to Provost Marshal George Wilkinson.

(far right).

The Provost Corps was the military branch that evolved into the modern day Military Police in 1999. Provost Wilkinson, a Second World War veteran, is one of the last surviving Provost Marshals in Canada.

"A cornerstone of the display is dedicated to George. Much of his collection has, over the years, been donated to the Ashton Museum," says Pte Baker.

Final touches on the display were completed in the last two weeks, and the display is now open for viewing.

"It's been an interesting challenge, but a very enjoyable and rewarding experience," says Pte Baker.







Crew members of HMCS Whitehorse used their Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat to rig a tow line to the Motor Vessel Amora Mia after the vessel suffered an engine room fire and a loss of propulsion near Robson Bight, north of Vancouver Island. Inset: LCdr Chris Rochon, Commanding Officer of HMCS Whitehorse, welcomes the crew of Amora Mia. Whitehorse towed the stricken vessel to Port McNeill after they requested assistance.

Whitehorse aids stricken

DND

HMCS Whitehorse responded to a request for assistance from Amora Mai, a 75-foot pleasure vessel, which had reported an engine room fire at approximately 1 p.m. on June 10 six nautical miles east of Robson Bight.

When Whitehorse arrived, the fire had been extinguished but the vessel was adrift with no propulsion.

The four crew members of Amora Mia were brought on board Whitehorse

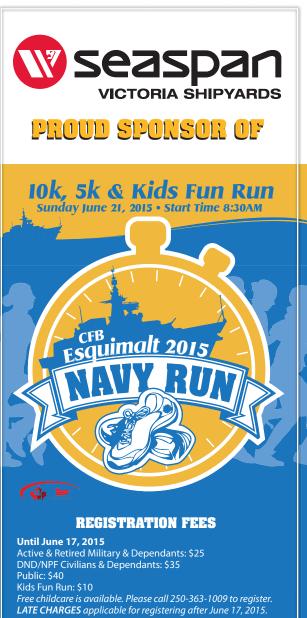
The Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel was conducting coastal operations, including costal surveillance, along the coast of British Columbia when they responded to the stricken vessel.

Âmora Mia was brought under tow by Whitehorse and handed over to an Inshore Rescue Boat near Port McNeill. The rescue boat is jointly crewed by Canadian Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Navy.

Crewed by both Regular and Reserve Force members, Whitehorse is a multirole minor war vessel with a primary mission of coastal surveillance and patrol, including general naval operations and exercises, search and rescue, law enforcement, resource protection, and fisheries patrols.







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Marching in Hollland - a highlight of sailor's career

Rachel Lallouz

Staff Writer

The memory of marching through the crowded, cobblestone streets of Weinhagen, Holland, with the Canadian Flag gripped firmly in his hands is still very vivid for PO2 Derrick Siska.

It was just over a month ago that he joined 150 Operation Distinction members in the 70th Anniversary Liberation March.

PO2 Siska, an Electrical Maintenance Supervisor in HMCS Vancouver, says the march is the highlight of his military career.

Along the six and a half kilometre parade route were 150,000 cheering Dutch people, ready to show their gratitude for Canada's liberation of the Netherlands at the close of the Second

World War.

"Once we hit the street. our emotions took over. All I could see were 20 rows deep of parents and little kids waving flags."

Present at the parade's mid-way point was Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who declined to make a speech, but showed his appreciation to the marchers with a broad grin

When the hour and a half long parade ended the sailor says a little melancholy set in.

"I just wanted it to start all over so I could experience it again and again," he says.

With the march over, Dutch children wanting photographs swarmed

In mid April, he was approached with a nomination for the meritbased Operation Distinction. He was the only West Coast navy representative selected.

"I think the work I do on board was noticed," he says. "I take every day for what it's worth, and I try to walk around with an outgoing, positive attitude and hope that other people can pick it up."

He made it into the top three contenders at CFB Esquimalt, but savs an interview with the Fleet Chief secured his spot.

"When I finally found out that I would be going, I was just extremely grateful, proud, and of course, honoured," he says. "I never could have anticipated that I'd be going to Holland someday."

Alongside 140 army members,

five air force members, and four other navy members, PO2 Siska travelled to Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ontario, for two full days of drill practice. He checked and doubled checked the fit of his uniforms, and watched YouTube videos on flag drills to further familiarize himself with the complicated movements.

"The air at Trenton was charged with excitement, apart from nerves," he says. "Everyone was ready to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.'

The group was shuttled to Holland via military airbus on April 29, where the 11 hour ride gave PO2 Siska plenty of time to mentally ready himself.

"Everything had happened so fast, and up until the plane ride, I hadn't had any time for it all to sink in. I didn't know what to expect, and really was facing the unknown.

After landing at the Dutch air force base in Holland, the Operation Distinction members spent the next few days polishing their drills for the parade, and squeezed in a visit to the Holten Canadian War Cemetery for Holland's Remembrance Day on May 4.

It was at that cemetery that PO2 Siska chatted with the elderly caretaker. Edwin van der Wolf, who recalled being four years old when his village was liberated by the Scottish regiment of Victoria during the Second World War.

Later, at the Remembrance Day ceremony in the cemetery, van der Wolf found his "Canadian son" PO2 Siska. As the anthem began to play, van der Wolf pulled a handwritten piece of paper from his pocket - the lvrics to 'Oh Canada." He read along as best he could while hundreds of Canadian veterans, Holland natives, and Operation Distinction members sang.

PO2 Siska says the experience has deeply affected him as a navy member.

'You can get so caught up in the political and business side of the military, that you might forget why you are in the military to start with. But when you forget the good reasons vou're in - the history you are making – you can't share that with your juniors. That means the whole tradition of the military could get lost. An opportunity like this reminds you of the importance of what it is you do every day."









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Maritime nations meet to improve crisis response standard operating procedures

Katelyn Moores MARPAC PA Office

International representatives from the Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT) met in Victoria last week for the 18th Multinational Force Standing Operating Procedures Development Workshop.

The five-day workshop is sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command and aims to revise and update six sections of the MNF SOP

as many MPAT nations as possible.

The Multinational Force Standing Operating Procedures is a set of guidelines that detail the procedures for the activation of an operational level multinational command in response to large-scale crisis situations, such as natural disasters. They are the SOP of choice for operations and exercises for most Pacific nations and aim to standardize basic concepts to

through contributions from promote cooperation and dialogue between partner nations.

> The Multinational Force Standing Operating Procedures is part of the MPAT, a multinational program established by the Chiefs of Defence within the Asia-Pacific region in 2000. The program works to facilitate a cooperative effort in the rapid and effective establishment of a multinational task force headquarters from which to plan and execute coali

tion operations in response to small-scale contingencies, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and peace operations. It aims to improve interoperability, mission effectiveness, the speed of a multinational response to a crisis and unity of effort.

Sections of the document were used to respond to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and, most recently, the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Nepal.

The 31 nations who belong to the MPAT Program are listed below

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MCpl Michael Bastien, MARPAC Imaging Services. Military officers from across the globe collaborate on standard operating procedures that would be used to activate a multinational command in a large scale crisis situation.

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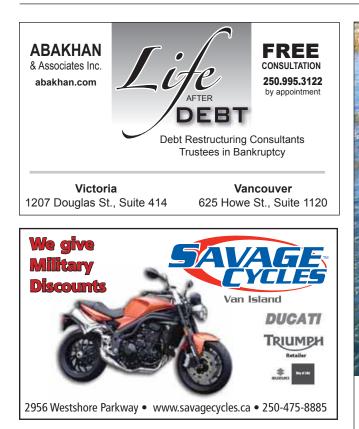


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MCpl Iza Fontaine Contributor

Once again, members of CFB Esquimalt's Aquarius Dive Club took part in the May long weekend dive extravaganza held in picturesque Telegraph Cove, B.C.

Hosted by the Top Island Econauts, divers from all over the province descended on this quaint tourist destination to dive, dive, and dive again. Along with the divers, friends, fam-

ily and pets travelled north to enjoy the natural beauty of the area that is devoid of city lights and sidewalks. The club arranged accommodations

The club arranged accommodations

Aquarius divers journey to Telegraph Cove

in vaulted ceiling cabins with rock wall fireplaces and covered decks located on the docks of the resort.

Diving was conducted from two boats chartered through Tide Rip Grizzly Bear Tours to ensure the divers were able to relax and explore the extraordinary dive sites available at this remote location.

While the sea life at the northern end of the island is similar to what is found around Victoria, there is generally much more of it and on a greater scale.

After two, three or even four dives during the day, divers were able to relax and enjoy camaraderie over the delicious offerings of the club's personal chef Jennifer Brooks and her assistant Deborah Taylor. While feasting on these culinary delights, the club's own portable compressor could be heard in the background as Shawn Falconer and Will Slater filled tanks for everyone, a luxury that set Aquarius apart from all other clubs in attendance.

Cabins and boats have already been booked for 2016 and divers are encouraged to reserve soon before all the spots are taken.

For more information go to www. aquariusdiveclub.com or follow us on Facebook.





Major Donald Senft is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as the Royal Canadian Navy Maritime Forces Pacific liaison to the United States Coast Guard from August 2011 to April 2015.





Image by LS Ogle Henry, MARPAC Imaging Services Capt(N) Patrick Montgomery, of Naval Reserves Western Region, is promoted to his current rank by RAdm Bill Truelove, Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific/ Joint Task Force (Pacific), at MARPAC Headquarters on May 29 with CPO1 Thomas Curley, Naval Reserves Pacific Region Chief, presiding.



Image By: Corporal Malcolm Byers, MARPAC Imaging Services Cdr Sylvain Belair, Commander of Communication and Information System at Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters (MARPAC HQ), presents Joel Anderson with his certificate for 35 years of service to the Government of Canada during a ceremony at MARPAC HQ on June 8.

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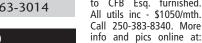
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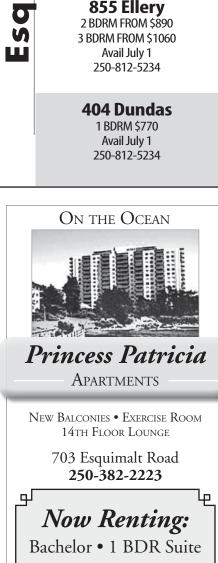




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