

# REMEMBRANCE

LEST WE FORGET



## NORMANDY WARRIOR

This painting by Elaine Goble is entitled *Normandy Warrior*. It is of Indigenous D-Day veteran Philip Favel, a Cree from Sweetgrass First Nation in Saskatchewan. He was painted at age 98 and died in January 2021, a few months after the piece was unveiled as a permanent part of the Canadian War Museum's Beaverbrook Collection of War Art.

Image courtesy Canadian War Museum 20200359-001





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## Message from the Admiral

*Rear-Admiral Angus Topshee, as part of the veteran's speaker program,  
spoke to students at Shoreline Middle School about Remembrance Day.  
The following is his message to them:*

On this Remembrance Day, Canadians stand united. On the one hundred year anniversary of adopting the poppy as the symbol of remembrance, we honour generations of brave Canadians who have put themselves in harm's way for peace and freedom.

Canadians have always been there when the world needed us and the Royal Canadian Navy has a proud history of being Canada's first responder in times of conflict.

In both the First and Second World Wars, it was Royal Canadian Navy ships based in Esquimalt that were the first to put to sea upon the outbreak of war. In 1939, HMC Ships St Laurent and Fraser were among the escorts for the first convoy across the North Atlantic – beginning a campaign that would last until the final day of the war and would cost Canada over 4000 lives and 22 warships, including HMCS Esquimalt, the last RCN ship to be sunk in the war in April 1945 within sight of Halifax.

When the Korean War broke out in the summer of 1950, it was three Esquimalt-based destroyers, HMC Ships Cayuga, Sioux and Athabaskan who sailed within days to show Canada's commitment to the first attempt at collective security by the new United Nations.

Throughout the Cold War, Canada stood ready with our allies to defend Europe and democracy. For the Royal Canadian Navy, this meant being continuously forward deployed, and tragically included the death of nine sailors in an explosion aboard HMCS Kootenay in October of 1969.

In Afghanistan, Canadians fought and died to bring stability and security to a desperate place – fighting that included navy clearance divers who worked to identify and render safe a wide assortment of improvised explosive devices.

War is horrible and it should never be the first choice for countries to solve their problems. When it happens, time and again, Canadians have fought with honour and compassion.

This year, as has been the case throughout the pandemic, the courage and commitment of our soldiers, sailors, aviators, and operators remains beyond question as we've helped Canadians at home through fires, floods, and COVID-19, while continuing to support Canadian interests in missions around the world.

It can be challenging to understand what Remembrance Day represents for us in uniform and to relate to an occasion that mostly features wars that happened before we were born.

Those veterans were people like you. Young adults whose lives took a different and often unexpected turn when their country asked them to serve.

Remembrance Day is a day to thank and honour our veterans. It's also a time to think about and appreciate what we have because of them. Please try to do that in your own time and your own way.

**Rear-Admiral Angus Topshee**  
**Commander Maritime Forces Pacific**



Elizabeth  
M.P.  
**May**

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Let us not take for granted the things  
that most deserve our gratitude.*

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## Base Commander's Message

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we pause to reflect upon the sacrifices made by the thousands of sailors, soldiers, and aviators who never returned home, as well as by those who did return but were never the same.

We must also recognize the contributions of those currently deployed around the world, such as the crew of our own *HMCS Winnipeg* sailing in support of Operation Projection and Operation Neon, as well as those of our resilient military families who show up for us every day, enabling the work that we do.

This Remembrance Day, as I lay a wreath at the Esquimalt Cenotaph, I will reflect on the valour and dedication of all past and current military members, on battles fought over fields, skies, and oceans from South Africa to Afghanistan, from the frigid depths of the North Atlantic to a critical hill at Kapyong. Wherever they have been called, the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces have served valiantly. We will remember them.

For those marking the day from home this year, there are many ways to remain connected virtually, with ceremonies across the country being broadcast by major news networks and live streamed – including CHEK News' coverage of commemorations here on Vancouver Island.

For those attending local ceremonies, please follow Provincial Health Orders, maintain physical distancing where possible and wear a mask.

However you choose to mark this day, I encourage you to seek out the stories of our veterans, our country, and to share your own.

Lest we forget.

Capt(N) Jeff Hutchinson



Sylvia Vink, Poppy Chairman of The Royal Canadian Legion Esquimalt Dockyard Branch 172, pins a poppy on the uniform of Private Alison Tso during a Poppy Pinning ceremony held at the Chiefs' and Petty Officers' Mess, Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt on Oct. 29.

Photo by S1 Victoria Loganov, MARPAC Imaging Services

## Remembrance Day Reception

NOVEMBER 11TH 2021 | 1115-1600 | OPEN TO ALL TO ATTEND

Location: CPO Mess, 1575 Lyall Street



Service: Cash Bar

Sandwiches, Cookies and Coffee will be Provided.

Due to COVID 19 there will be not rum ration served this year.

Please contact Rita Hunt if you require more information at [hunt.rita@cfmws.com](mailto:hunt.rita@cfmws.com) 250-363-3167

Please ensure you follow the below regulations:

- Attendees must complete a self health check before attending the event and must not enter if feeling unwell.
- Sanitize hands before entering.
- Proof of double vaccination is required 12 years and up to enter facility and only fully vaccinated persons may attend.
- Attendees must wear mask when not seated.
- Mingling is permitted (mask must be worn).
- Access to the event is controlled by reservations only and no in and out will be permitted.
- No dancing.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Maximum reservation per person is 8 persons and names are required. <https://www.cafconnection.ca/Esquimalt/Remembrance2021.aspx>

## CANADA'S ULTIMATE STORY

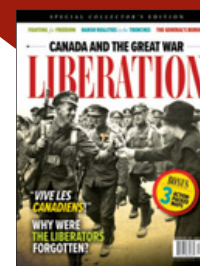
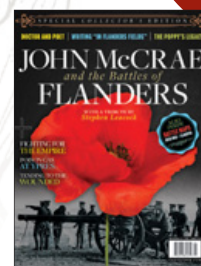
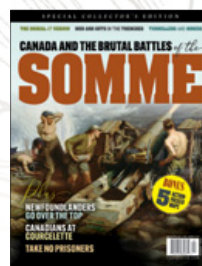
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### FEATURED REMEMBRANCE DAY ISSUE

#### CANADA AND THE VICTORIA CROSS

No one ever set out to earn a Victoria Cross, which is awarded for "valour in the face of the enemy." They were mostly spontaneous acts in the heat of battle. Of 98 Canadian recipients, 36 received their award posthumously.

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# matters of OPINION

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES 2021

Wreaths on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces will be placed at the following locations:

Personnel from Maritime Forces Pacific will participate in several ceremonies in the Southern Vancouver Island region on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, 2021.



- 9:00** Goldstream Provincial Park  
- Finlayson Arm Road off Highway 1
- 9:30** Esquimalt Veteran's Cemetery Service  
- 1200 Colville Road
- 10:30** Nanaimo - 85 Front Street  
Duncan - 130 Canada Avenue  
West Shore Cenotaph - 2815 Aldwynd Road
- 10:40** Royal Roads - 2005 Sooke Road
- 10:45** Saanich Cenotaph - 770 Vernon Avenue  
Sidney Cenotaph - 2440 Sidney Avenue  
- A CH-148 Cyclone will fly past the Sidney Cenotaph at 11:01  
Parksville - 100 Jensen Avenue East  
Metchosin - 4354 Metchosin Road
- 10:50** Victoria Cenotaph - 501 Belleville Street  
Central Saanich - 1209 Clarke Road
- 10:55** Oak Bay Cenotaph - 2800 Beach Drive
- 11:00** Cobble Hill Cenotaph - 1475 Fisher Road  
Ross Bay Cemetery - 1495 Fairfield Road  
Lantzville Cenotaph - 7227 Lantzville Road  
Esquimalt Cenotaph - 1200 Esquimalt Road  
Sooke Cenotaph - 6726 Eustace Road

## 2021 National Silver Cross Mother - Mrs. Josée Simard



### Courtesy the Royal Canadian Legion

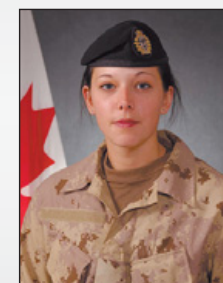
2021 National Silver Cross Mother Josée Simard describes her daughter Karine Blais, a fallen Trooper in the Canadian Army, as someone who had a great zest for life, saying she was well-known and well-liked in her community, growing up with good friends, and taking part in many community sports and activities.

Her daughter died April 13, 2009, alongside four soldiers who were seriously wounded when their armoured vehicle struck a roadside bomb near Kandahar, Afghanistan. She was just two weeks into her first tour of duty. She was a member of the 12th Armoured Regiment of Canada, based at CFB Valcartier in Quebec, and was serving with the 2nd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment Battle Group.

Josée Simard looks upon her role as National Silver Cross Mother as a way to honour her daughter. She wants other Silver Cross Mothers and families to stay hopeful and remain strong.



As the National Silver Cross Mother, she will place a wreath at the National War Memorial on Nov. 11 on behalf of all Canadian mothers who have lost a son or a daughter in the military service of Canada. Throughout the year until October 2022, she will also be called upon to perform other duties honouring the Fallen from all conflicts.



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Trooper,  
Canadian Army

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# Artist-diarist

## TELLS VETERANS' STORIES IN PAINT AND PENCIL



**Stephen J. Thorne**  
Legion Magazine/legionmagazine.com

**E**laine Goble doesn't consider herself an artist so much as a diarist, telling the stories of the people she depicts in hyper-realistic renderings in egg tempera and graphite pencil.

Veterans are the focus of her life's work.

"Everybody has a story to tell," said Goble, whose paintings and drawings are currently on exhibition at the Canadian War Museum. "What story is more compelling than one that is looking at a person alive in my own community who has been informed by a legacy of conflict?"

Working from interviews—usually several per subject—and her own photographs (she was once an assistant to well-known Canadian photographer Malak Karsh), Goble delves into the experiences of her veteran muses, infusing each laborious work with detail and symbolism.

A painting can take months. From the mixing to the application, just working with egg tempera—an ancient process using egg yolks hand-mixed with pigments and water—is painstaking.

"No person in their right mind would sit with a small sable paintbrush and do a large painting in egg tempera," she said.

The results are extraordinary. Her most recent painting is of Indigenous D-Day veteran Philip Favel. Entitled "*Normandy Warrior*," it is vivid yet subtle in its light and expression, his eyes gazing straight at the viewer as if he were right there with them.

The lines on Favel's face are like a roadmap of his life, the beret on his head and medals on his chest testaments to his past service with

the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps delivering vital supplies to front-line units in Normandy and across Europe.

"There is such a connection while I paint between the medals and their faces, their bodies," said Goble. "Their features accommodate and meld in with their history in the medals. It's almost like they're linked in the painting itself."

"If I just painted a portrait, I wouldn't feel a connection between what they were wearing, what they were carrying, what symbols. It wouldn't mean anything. But as soon as it is a veteran, or a keeper of history, every detail becomes interlinked with who they are."

Favel, a Cree from Sweetgrass First Nation in Saskatchewan, fought for equal compensation for Indigenous veterans after the war and served as Grand Chief of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association. He was painted at age 98 and died in January 2021, a few months after the piece was unveiled as a permanent part of the museum's Beaverbrook Collection of War Art.

Goble's graphite works include "*After the Holocaust – A Family Album*," actually a graphite-and-egg tempera montage on paper, featuring illustrations of Holocaust survivors Valerie and Mendel Good surrounded by period images of long-lost family.

Goble has no favourite piece.

"It's not what I think of them," she said. "It's what they think of them when they look at the finished product."

"The second an artist is finished, a painting takes on a life of its own, and it belongs to the person who looks at it—whether it's for five seconds or five hours. If it's possible, I want the painting to just be on its own. Like, 50 years from now, it doesn't need an artist to hold its hand; it just needs the history behind it."

Other pieces include a fighter pilot who lost his voice but not his big personality, a wireless telegraphist who intercepted signals from U-boats and later advocated for equal rights for women in the military, and a female impersonator who performed for the troops as a member of the Canadian Army's "Tin Hats" entertainment group.

The museum describes her work as "direct, realistic and unsentimental." Goble's details, it says - whether a satchel, a medal, or a missing limb - bring attention to the memories and trauma of war.



"Elaine Goble's portraits testify to the physical, psychological, and emotional impacts of conflict in deeply personal ways," said Caroline Dromaguet, interim president and CEO of the Canadian Museum of History and the war museum's director general. "Though most of the subjects are from the Ottawa area, their personal experiences are reflective of the experiences of many Canadians from other parts of the country."

Born in 1956 in St. Thomas, Ont., Goble studied fine arts at York University, then completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Western University before moving to Ottawa in 1979.

Her works have been exhibited in dozens of museums and other venues and are in numerous permanent collections.

In 2005, Goble was commissioned by the Royal Canadian Mint to design the 25-cent commemorative coin for the Year of the Veteran. It depicts a male and female veteran from different generations.

Goble is therefore used to success and high-profile exposure for her work, but she is nevertheless grateful and humbled that she was able to "marry those two things that I hold precious together: a portrait of someone who lives in Canada with a legacy of war—to marry that with our hallowed museum, our war museum, that's all I want. The artist can just step out of the way."

She is equally "relieved that I did for the people in the portraits what I promised I would do...I would do their portraits and I would put them forth where I thought they had a permanent home."

"There were no guarantees and I was never asked for guarantees," she added. "I'm so happy for those families who [attended the opening]. There were extended families looking at their loved ones on walls and that made me feel relieved."

The 14 portraits comprising "*Homage – The Art of Elaine Goble*" are on display through Dec. 12 in the museum's North Corridor. Visitors are encouraged to book their tickets in advance. For more information, visit [warmuseum.ca](http://warmuseum.ca).

### ART CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

1. *She Wears the Bletchley Medal*, Doris Hope, Painted by Elaine Goble in 2019, Egg tempera on panel, Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum 20190297-002
2. *Portrait of Gwen*, Gwen Paget, Painted by Elaine Goble in 2018, Egg tempera on panel, Beaverbrook Collection of War Art Canadian War Museum 20190297-003
3. *Noble Hat*, William Noble, Drawn by Elaine Goble in 2001, Graphite on paper, Beaverbrook Collection of War Art Canadian War Museum 20010243-005





# Retired Naval Reservist honoured for saving HMCS Haida

## DND

Former Naval Reservist and friend to the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), Retired Lieutenant (Naval) Peter Ward was honoured for his efforts saving part of RCN history.

Lt(N) Ward is the final surviving, founding member of Haida Inc., a group of five who saved the "fightingest ship", the Second World War Tribal-class destroyer HMCS Haida, from disposal.

On Oct. 4, he was virtually presented with the Naval Association of Canada's Admirals' Medal in recognition of his contribution to the advancement of maritime affairs.

Vice-Admiral Craig Baines, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, congratulated Ward, telling him, "Hearing your moving story has made me a prouder sailor and a prouder Canadian."

Ward says he shares the Medal with departed Neil Bruce, Norm Simpson, David Kidd, and Allan Howard, who co-founded Haida Inc. with him.

"We established a not-for profit

corporation together to save this wonderful ship and to honour Canadian sailors, underlining our proud history of the Battle of the Atlantic."

Ward has spent a lifetime connected to the military and the RCN. He is an acclaimed retired journalist, military editor, war correspondent, broadcaster, and author. He served as a public information officer with Toronto's Naval Reserve Division HMCS York from 1962-1978.

In 1963, Ward sailed in HMCS Haida during its Great Lakes deployment, which served as the inspiration to save the ship from the breakers.

### About HMCS Haida

HMCS Haida, which saw action in both the Second World War and Korea, has been credited with sinking more surface tonnage than any other RCN warship. For Ward, however, his connection with Haida is personal.

Ward's father, Lt(N) Leslie Ward, was one of the 128 sailors killed on board HMCS Athabaskan when it was sunk by the enemy off the

French coast in April 1944. It was Haida that ventured back into the thick of things to rescue nearly four dozen survivors, with others later becoming prisoners of war.

For Ward, ships have personalities, and Haida's was like that of a plumb – straight, absolute, and true.

"Meeting Haida was like meeting the love of your life," he said, acknowledging how interwoven his life has been with that of the famous ship.

### Creating the Association

Ward and his four fellow founding members of Haida Inc. put up their houses as collateral to save the famous ship, with Ward negotiating directly with the then-Minister of National Defence, Paul Hellyer.

When Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited Canada to mark the centennial of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference, Ward managed to get an invite to the Royal Yacht Britannia, using the opportunity to ask Prince Philip to become Patron of Haida.

"Most people went straight for

the Queen," he recalled. "But not me, I went straight for Philip."

When Ward asked Philip to become Haida's patron, he reared back a little, stating that there were protocols that needed to be followed before such a thing could happen. Then the Prince leaned in almost conspiratorially, advising Ward on the steps he needed to take to make it happen. Two months later it was official.

"Having Philip as patron made raising corporate donations so much easier. He would be so very happy to see the fuss they've made over that ship now."

Haida, moored in Hamilton, Ont., is now a National Historic Site, and ceremonial flagship of the RCN.

Ward's relationship with both Haida and Athabaskan continued. In 2003, he was on board the surface vessel when his son Mark became the first Canadian to dive on the wreck of HMCS Athabaskan, at a depth of 86 metres, to lay a wreath and install a commemorative plaque supplied by the RCN on the keel.



Royal Canadian Navy,  
Retired Lieutenant  
(Naval) Peter Ward

In speaking about how important it is to maintain Canada's military history, Ward noted that "we have to have these symbols. They are a rallying call for our national identity and unity."

Ward is a member of the Naval Association of Canada (Ottawa) and is a supporter of the NAC Endowment Fund. He remains dedicated to Haida to this day.

"Here's to the departed, plus all the others who have had a part in saving this wonderful ship for Canadian posterity," he said. "Here's to Haida!"

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# HORTON PAINTING links two historic voyages

## THROUGH NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Story courtesy  
Elizabeth Murray

Delta marine artist John Horton could not have imagined his painting of the Franklin Expedition's HMS Erebus would one day hang aboard *HMCS Harry DeWolf*.

In 2014, inspired by discovery of the wrecked Franklin ship, Horton painted a rendition of HMS Erebus.

*Harry DeWolf* sailed into Vancouver Harbour Oct. 1 having completed the first Northwest Passage transit by a Canadian naval vessel since 1954.

Horton presented his painting to *Harry DeWolf's* Commanding Officer, Cdr Corey Gleason, and his crew at the end of a three-day Royal Canadian Navy Canadian Leaders at Sea (CLaS) outreach program in which he participated.

John Horton's special interest in the Arctic prompted a conversation with Cdr Gleason where they discussed at length the ill-fated Franklin Expedition and how *Harry DeWolf* had followed Franklin's tragic path.

"Hearing how the ship anchored near the wreck sites enabling visits to graves of the crew, was an unparalleled privilege," Horton said. "It was gratifying to learn that the ship's company of approximately 87 sailors had become fully engaged with the history of the 1848 Expedition and gained a huge respect for those who had gone before."

### Canadian Leaders at Sea aboard *Harry DeWolf*

Horton was invited to join a group of 15 Canadian community leaders, who boarded Canada's newest warship at Lower Lonsdale's Burrard Dry Dock Pier in North Vancouver and sailed to Victoria's Ogden Point.

This Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship is the lead ship of its Class and one of six built, or under construction, to ensure Canada's Arctic interests are secure. These patrol vessels are designed to operate anywhere in the world, but especially in first-year ice of up to 1.5 metres thick. Unlike icebreaking vessels that normally operate only in icy waters, this new ship can operate in a wider range of conditions.

During the voyage to Victoria, the CLaS group learned to appreciate the ship's capabilities. While transiting the Gulf of Georgia and Haro Strait, the crew carried out in-depth demonstrations of search and rescue, firefighting, damage control, and weapons firing.

At the conclusion of the Canadian Leaders at Sea event, participants were asked to involve their communities in furthering awareness of the part played by the RCN in ensuring Canada secures its position and respect internationally.

To record this historic voyage, Horton is now working on a painting of *Harry DeWolf* in an Arctic setting.

John Horton resides in Tsawwassen and is captain of the 52-foot Delta Lifeboat stationed in Ladner. He is a current recipient of The Order of British Columbia.



Artist John Horton presents his painting of HMS Erebus to the Commander of HMCS DeWolf, Cdr Cory Gleason.

Photo by Corporal Simon Arcand, Canadian Armed Forces Imagery Technician

**"I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."**

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## SUMMER SEASON ENDS

**Ryan Melanson**  
Trident Newspaper

The Committal of Ashes Ceremony aboard HMCS Sackville has long been an annual event for the historic ship, taking place once a year, on Battle of the Atlantic Sunday, off of Point Pleasant Park in Halifax.

Because of Sackville's deteriorating condition, it was forced to pause the services starting in 2014, and recent years have seen present-day Royal Canadian Navy ships step in to assist family members in having their loved one's ashes brought to sea as their final resting place.

With major repair and maintenance work completed on the Second World War-era Corvette earlier this year, Sackville's volunteer crew are now continuing this service. The ship recently held two, one on Sept. 24, and again on Oct. 8.

"The service is a mainstay for us and it's one of the most important activities the ship carries out," says Cdr (Retired) Gary Reddy, Sackville's Commanding Officer with the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust (CNMT), the non-profit that owns and cares for the ship. "Honouring those who served, in all elements of the Canadian Forces, and even in foreign militaries, is what the ship is all about."

The ceremony itself is short and respectful, with words from CNMT Padre Andrew Cooke and a brief biography of each individual whose ashes have come aboard. Family members are invited to observe and release flowers overboard as the ashes are let go.

It's the wish of many former sailors to have their ashes brought to sea, and there is often a waitlist as only so many can be accommodated on each occasion. Because of this, Sackville is planning for the committal ceremonies to take place twice a year, once on Battle of the Atlantic Sunday in May, and again in the fall prior to the ship making its annual move from Sackville Landing at the Halifax boardwalk to its winter berth inside HMC Dockyard.

That winter move took place this year on Oct. 8, after a busy season for Sackville's trustees and tour guides at the waterfront, even if ongoing restrictions meant tours were restricted to the outdoor upper deck areas.

"We had a great summer with 30,000 people visiting the ship. Considering that we're only now starting to move to hopefully a post-COVID environment, we're glad people were still able to take in that upper deck piece of the tour, and I think you can still get an understanding of the significance of HMCS Sackville. People enjoyed it," Cdr (Ret'd) Reddy added.

He also noted that the CNMT is always looking for new trustees, and that being a current or former military member is not a requirement for getting involved. Those with a strong interest in Second World War history, or family ties to naval service, are encouraged to reach out. Visit <http://hmcssackville.ca/join-and-support> for more information.

**Padre Andrew Cooke, Chaplain of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, leads a Committal of Ashes ceremony on board HMCS Sackville on Oct. 8.** Photo by Ryan Melanson, Trident Staff



## Canada's Naval Memorial ~ HMCS Sackville



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Photo Credit: Top Left - John M. Horton, CSMA, FCA.  
Top Right - CNMT





## No. 2 Construction Battalion members to receive apology from Federal Government

**Ashley Evans**  
Contributor

Members of No. 2 Construction Battalion, Canada's first and only all-black, segregated military unit, will receive a long-overdue apology from the Federal Government.

The Canadian Government made an announcement in March of this year that they plan to formally apologize to members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion for the treatment they endured during and following their service in the First World War.

"Our country is still struggling with the insidious effects of racism," said Harjit Sajjan, when he was Defence Minister, in his virtual address at the time. "More than 100 years later, we can combat it by recognizing the failures of our past and working to correct them."

One of the most cited contributions to Canadian Black History in the military realm was the No. 2 Construction Battalion, also known as the Black Battalion. A non-combatant unit during the First World War made up of the thousands of black Canadians who tried to sign up to fight in the war but were turned away because of their skin colour.

During the enlistment period, every able Canadian man had the right to enlist, but every officer held the right to accept or deny them. The theme seen across the nation was men of colour turned away for no reason other than their skin colour, citing they did not want a "checkboard army". They being the Canadian Government.

This led to hundreds of individuals starting a letter-writing campaign requesting for an all-Black battalion. This campaign made it to Sir Sam Hughes, who was the head of Canada's forces in the war.

On May 11, 1916, the British War Office in London said it would be willing to accept a segregated unit, and less than two months later the No. 2 Construction Battalion was formally formed on July 5.

In December of that year, Ottawa had motioned for the battalion to sail to Europe where their presence was needed. On March 28, 1917, 605 Black recruits and their 19 officers – mostly White men – set sail for Liverpool on the S.S. Southland, a ship operating under the White Star-Dominion Line.

While there they dug

trenches, built roads, railroads, and carried injured and deceased men from the battlefield. These brave soldiers put their lives at risk every day to support Canada and remained in Europe for the next 18 months until the war ended in 1919.

When they returned home they did not come back as war heroes. They returned to their lives where they were treated as second-class citizens, continuing to deal with the segregation they had dealt with overseas. Nothing had changed for them despite the fact they had left their homes and families to risk their lives for Canadians, a service not formerly recognized.

The No. 2 Construction Battalion did not last very long, and nearly fell out of the history books altogether. It was when Calvin Ruck wrote the book *Canada's Black Battalion 1916*



– 1920: *Canada's Best Kept Military Secret*, recognition began to grow. This book also brought together an emotional reunion of the Black Battalion in November 1982, which saw 300 family and friends of the soldiers hold a celebra-

tion in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where many of the soldiers had originated.

Lindsay Ruck, Granddaughter of Calvin Ruck, felt it was because of pioneers like those in the Black Battalion that systemic change can be attributed to; those who did what they wanted to do despite what others were saying about it.

Douglas Ruck credits his father, Calvin Ruck's, book for keeping alive the memory of

the brave soldiers that made up the Black Battalion.

"Unfortunately, that title still applies in many ways today... If it hadn't been for that book my father wrote back in 1987, I say to you now, with pride, they would have been forgotten," he said.

An apology to the Black Battalion members has been requested over the years, and unfortunately will come at a time when none of its members will be alive to receive it. However, the importance remains the same, and their family members and friends will be witness. While this apology is important to those who had relatives who served in the battalion, the awareness of this history is important for all Canadians, and Canadian history, not only to hold space for members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion but to ensure nothing like this happens again.



**With notes from:** *The No. 2 Construction Battalion and the Fight to Fight*, *The Canadian Encyclopedia*; *Federal government to apologize for treatment of No. 2 Construction Battalion members*, CBC News; CMJ163Ep51.pdf ([forces.gc.ca](https://forces.gc.ca)), *Military History Journal*.



## UNTOLD LGBTQ+ STORIES

# Mess Manager Pens Novel

Adam Arbiter, 22 Wing CFB North Bay Mess Manager, has always had a passion for writing. For years he struggled to finish a story until he discovered one he really wanted to tell.

**Emily Nakeff**  
Borden Citizen

His debut novel "I'm Here" tells the story of Garret and Simon, two soldiers that fall in love while fighting on the front lines in the Second World War.

Arbiter pulled inspiration from war poetry, but the heart of the story fell into place when he came across an old photo. The black and white image depicted two male soldiers dancing together, a joyful moment in time. With no source, the mystery image became the foundation for the story.

"That idea was just beautiful to me," Arbiter says. "That the war somehow brought these boys, who felt different and alone and wrong, to a place where suddenly they were just like other men, and

they found each other, and they found love, and a sense of peace."

This first novel is the product of two and a half years work. Finding the time between his job and spending time with his husband and young son wasn't always easy. He jokes that keeping a notebook in every room of the house helped.

But he was eager to tell a story that was missing from other historical fiction work.

"I really enjoy uncovering the stories we aren't told in history class," he says. "A lot of those stories are LGBTQ+ that got washed away because it wasn't the thing people wanted to talk about. It was shameful, or it was a misconduct of some kind, especially for soldiers in the Armed Forces."

He is very connected to the LGBTQ+ community, volunteering as a positive space ambassador on the Pride Committee at CFB North Bay, which he says played into his desire to tell this story.

"Part of it is this idea of shedding

light, not only on the people of the past, but the people who are here now. I just hope readers fall in love with the characters like I did. I hope it opens their eyes to a part of history that they may not have been aware of. I just hope they feel, and they understand, the struggles these young men went through. Not even my characters, but all the young men who went to war. As much as it's a work of fiction, it tells a very real story."

The novel officially releases in paperback and Kindle formats on Amazon just in time for Remembrance Day.

"Remembrance Day is a very important date for me – growing up, now, always. I did think it was a poignant story to release around that time of loss in the war and of remembering those people and those friendships and those relationships."

Arbiter has discovered a love for historical fiction and has plans for future projects including an LGBTQ+ retelling of Frankenstein.

Author Adam Arbiter, Mess Manager at 22 Wing CFB North Bay, shows off a copy of his debut self-published novel, "I'm Here".

(Photo submitted).

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A chunk of 200-year-old Oak that Allan Harrison transformed into the sculpture below.



Sculptor and military member Allan Harrison.

## SCULPTOR'S WORK CELEBRATES Ancient Virtues of Soldiering

**Peter Mallett**  
Staff Writer

For artist Allan Harrison, the three-dimensional art of sculpting strengthens the connection between the natural world and humankind.

By using wood or clay, elements found in nature, he creates effigies to that relationship, one that goes back to ancient times often revealed through devotional icons.

"For me, sculpture is the most effective way I can communicate the concept of getting back to the fundamental relationship of mankind with the natural world."

Harrison, 54, was a former army medic for 17 years, before remustered as an Officer Cadet to become a Physician Assistant. He is currently training at CFB Borden. When a work crew chopped down a 200-year-old Oak tree near the base to make way for hydro lines, Harrison managed to haul away a large piece of the tree trunk and began paring it down in his backyard.

"To gain something, you must first sacrifice something," he says of the Oak tree that would

become *Wounded Warrior 1: Sacrifice*.

With hand chisels and sandpaper, he created a slender sculpture inspired by the ancient Standing Stones of Stenness located near Orkney, Scotland.

The stones were created in the Neolithic age and believed to be one of the oldest henges in the British Isles.

One of its most famous giant standing forms has a hole in it, which Harrison says was named by Scandinavian settlers as a tribute to Norse god Odin who sacrificed one of his eyes in exchange for gaining wisdom.

That hole is replicated in his wooden sculpture and the theme is a warrior's sacrifice.

Like many artists, he excelled in art and sculpture in high school, but left it for other career aspirations. Creativity was never far away, and he developed his passion at the University of Guelph Fine Arts department when he met and studied under John Fillion, award-winning Canadian sculptor, and Fine Arts professor.

"He built the foundations of my artistic process - working with tools and techniques for modelling, carving, and casting clay and

stone, and developing the vision, technical execution, and integrity to make art that is meaningful to me."

The two remained friends after graduation until Fillion's death in 2019. Harrison was also mentored by Bhutanese sculptor Tshewang Dorje, known for his use of clay and fibres to create stable, hollow sculptures with intricate detail.

*Wounded Warrior 2*, a figurative clay sculpture, was a representation of Norse god Tyr. He sacrificed his hand to bind the monstrous wolf Fenrir, who threatened to destroy the world as he grew in size and power.

Following its exhibition at the Steel Spirit Gallery in Borden, Ont., the sculpture was stored in Harrison's backyard and later ravaged by his Australian Shepherd dog, Anwenn.

"I didn't attempt to salvage it. My sculpture prof and mentor, John Fillion, always taught me that artwork could be of value without needing to be treated as precious; that clay sculpture ultimately was only mud after all."

A fitting end to a sculpture that connects nature to the living and the past.





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# Lest We Forget



# EYES OF WAR

Stephen J. Thorne, Legion Magazine

Canadian Paul J. Tomelin’s photograph of a young private waiting for medical aid after battle stands among the Korean War’s most compelling photographs.

A sergeant in the Canadian Army Film and Photo Unit, Tomelin was deployed to the Korean Peninsula for one year in 1951-52. He managed to wrangle another six months in-country, during which he said he got some of his best images.

None was better than his June 22, 1952, photograph of a bloodied and battered Private Heath Matthews of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, wounded by shrapnel and looking old beyond his 19 years.

Matthews, a signaller, was standing outside a medical tent awaiting attention after a company-strength raid the night before on an enemy position near Hill 166, the dominant feature on the Chinese side of the Naba-ri Valley. Canadian units suffered some 131 casualties in the area that May and June, including two killed and several wounded during the Charlie Company raid.

“I noticed a soldier leaning up against the [sandbags outside the] hilltop regimental aid post,” Tomelin recalled in an interview for a unit history three years before he died in 2016. “I wanted to get a photograph of him earlier, but I would have had to do it with a flash, and I felt that wouldn’t reproduce the images as well as natural light, so I kept an eye on this soldier as he moved in the lineup.”

“He was less injured than many of the others and he was getting close to the entrance. It was getting to be around four o’clock in the morning and daylight and he happened to be at the back entrance to the regimental aid post and I realized that if I didn’t get it now, I wouldn’t get it.”

“So, I raised my camera to take his photograph and he pushed himself away with disgust that he didn’t want his photograph taken. He was going to leave so I raised both my hands and I said, ‘Please just go back the way you were.’ It took no persuasion, he dropped right back against the sandbags and asked ‘Where do you want me to look?’ I just raised my arms and more or less pointed

over my left shoulder the direction in which he was looking generally and got him looking over my shoulder and I raised the camera again, focused and took the photograph.”

Known as “The Face of War,” it became Tomelin’s signature picture and an icon in the annals of Canadian photography.

Matthews died in December 2013 at Leawood, Kansas. He was 81.

### David Douglas Duncan

Some of the most compelling war photographs inevitably depict the young in times of great stress and suffering. War, after all, “is young men dying and old men talking,” according to former U.S. president Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The pre-eminent lensman of the Korean War was David Douglas Duncan, a Second World War U.S. Marine photographer who went on to become one of the great conflict photojournalists. He recorded two of Korea’s most compelling images, both in 1950.

The first was of Marine Corporal Leonard Hayworth, out of ammunition and in tears after losing all but two of his squad mates. Hayworth was killed in action on Sept. 24, 1950, three months after the war began. He was just 22.

The second Duncan photograph of note (there were many) stands with Tomelin’s among the war’s most compelling photographs—a dirty, miserable U.S. Marine huddled with his meagre rations against the cold of a winter near Chosin.

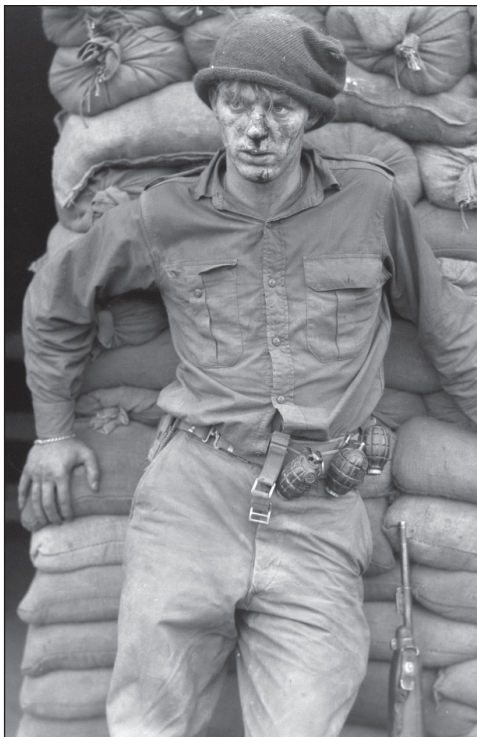
The hooded grunt is holding a can of frozen beans, his 1,000-yard gaze emblematic of his unit’s December 1950 retreat after they had been cut off by Chinese forces at the Chosin Reservoir northeast of Pyongyang.

The face of the unidentified soldier is flecked with dirt, appearing almost like freckles. They seem to punctuate his youth. “I asked him, ‘If I were God, what would you want for Christmas?’” Duncan recalled before his death in 2018 at age 102. “He just looked up into the sky and said, ‘Give me tomorrow.’”

Duncan’s Korean War photographs made

up his 1951 book, This Is War!, the proceeds of which went to widows and children of Marines killed in the conflict.

Duncan went on to photograph the Vietnam War, where his work continued to make an impact. His Oct. 27, 1967, picture of a young soldier looking up into the camera during the Battle of Con Thien is among Life Magazine’s most famous covers.



Private Heath Matthews of the Royal Canadian Regiment awaits medical attention outside a forward aid station after two of his mates were killed during a night time raid on a Chinese position on June 22, 1952.

Photo: Paul J. Tomelin/DND/LAC/PA-128850

### Don McCullin

The Don McCullin archive is packed with stunning photographs from dozens of conflicts, big and small.

The Briton’s image of a young, shell-shocked soldier from the 5th Marine Battalion staring into the void during ferocious fighting at Hue, South Vietnam, in 1968 has become one of his most recognized.

In a 2014 interview with the Tate Britain art museum, McCullin said, “I just found him sitting on a wall. He’d got to a point in the battle, or in his life, that he couldn’t take any more of it. And I asked somebody ‘What’s the matter with him?’ And he said, ‘He’s shell shocked.’”

“And so I kind of dropped down on my knees and took five frames with my 35mm camera of this soldier and he never blinked an eye; his eyes were completely fixed on one place,” said McCullin. “He was staring off into the horizon and every negative I took of this man is identical; I checked them all out thoroughly.”

Minutes after he took the pictures, there was an “almighty explosion.”

“I don’t know whether that explosion, which was an incoming mortar shell, killed this soldier. I knew it wounded some people in there. I feel slightly ashamed I didn’t go to check to see whether he was injured or still alive.”

A 2018 investigation by The Australian’s Anthony Lloyd suggests that he survived.



Russian Evgeny Stepanovich Kobytsev before and after serving four years in the Red Army during the Second World War.

Though Lloyd was never able to identify the young Marine, a comrade, Myron Harrington, said the shell-shocked soldier was taken away and never returned to his mates in Delta Company.

Marine Staff Sergeant Robert (Cajun Bob) Thoms said he heard the soldier had been sent to a psychiatric ward in a catatonic state.

“The personal medical records are not accessible,” Lloyd wrote. “The trail went cold. I had walked through the valley of the shadow of Marines’ memories in search of him all the way from D.C. to Tennessee, from the Arizona sun to the snows of Michigan—and I lost him.”

McCullin told the gallery he had seen the photo so many times since that he’d become somewhat tired of it, that it even got on his nerves. He characterized the image as “a kind of silent protest in a way...about the futility of war. You can see this man’s life has possibly been damaged forever.”

A print of the photograph sold at auction for £20,000 (about C\$35,000) in 2019. After years on war fronts and in disaster zones, McCullin—now 85—shoots pastoral English landscapes near his home.

There was no shortage of impactful photographs during the Second World War, some of them from parts of the six-year conflict largely unfamiliar to Canadians.

### John Florea

John Florea’s picture of a weeping German boy in Wehrmacht uniform appeared to show the desperation and hopelessness of Hitler’s last stand through the tear-filled eyes of a child soldier.

The boy was Hans-Georg Henke, a 16-year-old German anti-aircraft gunner and member of the Hitler Youth. He was taken prisoner in 1945, Florea said, in the village of Hüttenberg-Rechtenbach, just north of Frankfurt.

Henke maintained throughout his life that he was based in Stettin with an 88mm gun battery. He said advancing Soviet forces pushed the Germans back toward Rostock, where he claimed his unit was overrun and he was taken prisoner.

Florea said the boy was not sobbing because his world had crumbled. He said Henke was overcome by combat shock after his unit was overrun by American, not Soviet, forces. After the war, Henke joined the Communist Party and chose to live in East Germany. He died in October 1997 at Brandenburg, age 69.

### Evgeny Stepanovich Kobytsev

In a museum in the Russian city of Krasnoyarsk hang two photographs side-by-side.

They are of a Russian artist, Evgeny Stepanovich Kobytsev, though you might never know they were the same man.

“This is the human face after four years of war.”

### Right: Duncan McCullin’s Oct. 27, 1967, Life cover came to symbolize the youth of the Vietnam War.

Photo by David Douglas Duncan/Life Magazine



Far left: Hans-Georg Henke, a 16-year-old anti-aircraft gun crewman, weeps after he was captured by American troops in 1945. Above: Henke joined the Communist Party and went to live in East Germany after the war. He died in 1997.

On the left hangs a picture taken the day in June 1941 that Kobytsev left for the Eastern Front after German forces launched Operation Barbarossa, Hitler’s ill-considered invasion of the Soviet Union. On the right hangs a portrait taken the day he returned in 1945.

Talk about a thousand-yard state.

As one historical website put it: “This is the human face after four years of war. The first picture looks at you; the second one looks through you.”

The not-so-young artist (Kobytsev is believed to have been 30) had just graduated with honours from the Kyiv Art Institute when he “volunteered” to defend the Motherland. He painted portraits and panoramas of daily life.

His Red Army regiment was soon engaged in a fierce battle to protect the small town of Pripyat, which lies between Kyiv and Kharkov.

Kobytsev was wounded in the leg and captured in September 1941. He was taken to the notorious Khorol concentration camp, known as the Khorol Pit, where 90,000 civilians and prisoners of war died.

Kobytsev escaped in 1943, rejoined the Red Army, and fought the rest of the war through Ukraine, Moldova, Poland, and Germany. He was declared a Hero of the Soviet Union. Some 26 million Soviets are estimated to have died during the Second World War. Some say that without their sacrifices, the war may well have been lost.

After history’s bloodiest war, Kobytsev was elected to his city council and took charge of cultural activities in the region. He died in 1973.

It is one of the primary motivations of many war photographers that their images will make a difference. Some images, such as Joe Rosenthal’s “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima,” have helped end wars through bond drives or, like Eddie Adams’ “Saigon Street Execution,” inspired anti-war demonstrations.

Photographs document the brutality, suffering, waste, and ultimate futility of war. But wars continue to be fought, and the young grow old before their time.







# STAMP MARKS 100 YEARS OF THE POPPY

## AS SYMBOL OF REMEMBRANCE

**C**ANADA POST has released a poignant stamp to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the official adoption of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance in Canada.

The release coincides with the launch of The Royal Canadian Legion's 2021 National Poppy Campaign, which began the last Friday of October.

Canada Post has a long history of commemorating Remembrance Day and Canada's military history through its stamp program. The Legion's annual campaign is a highly visible way for Canadians to honour veterans and those who have fallen in Canada's military.

The concept behind this special stamp was not only to immortalize the crimson flower, but also offer another way to remember the more than 117,000 Canadians who died for their country.

While the poppy is distributed freely, the Legion accepts donations to the Poppy Fund. Money raised helps to provide veterans and their families with financial assistance and other support. Millions of poppies are distributed in Canada every year, raising close to \$20 million annually.

### About the remembrance poppy

During the First World War, the appearance of the bright red flowers on the battlefields in France and Belgium inspired Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of Guelph, Ontario, to pen the poem "In Flanders Fields" in May 1915, after he lost a friend in the Second Battle of Ypres. Moved by his words, several women and charities began to create poppies made of fabric as a memorial and to raise funds for veterans and families of the fallen. The Great War Veterans' Association of Canada (the Legion's predecessor)

officially adopted the poppy as a symbol of remembrance on July 6, 1921. Canada's first National Poppy Campaign launched later that year.

### About the stamp issue

Blair Thomson of the Believe in studio designed the stamp, which was printed by Colour Innovations. The poppy's red ink was created specially to match the crimson of the poppy, while metallic ink was used for the pinhead. A stark white background provided the contrast that makes the image pop. On the Official First Day Cover, the cancel features a stylized "100" to mark the poppy's centennial as a symbol.

The Remembrance Poppy issue includes a booklet of 10 Permanent™ domestic rate stamps and an Official First Day Cover. Both products are available at canadapost.ca and post offices across the country.



# WE REMEMBER



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# War Amputee Veterans Started 100-Year Legacy

## War Amps

Of the thousands of Canadian soldiers who were wounded while serving in the First and Second World Wars, many returned home missing limbs. United by a common bond of amputation, these veterans not only served their country during wartime, but they made a difference in the lives of generations of amputees that continues today.

Sidney Lambert (1887 – 1971), a Lieutenant Colonel and Army Padre, joined the Calgary Regiment at the outbreak of the First World War and served in England and France. In 1916, on the battlefields at Ypres in Northern Belgium, he lost his left leg above the knee.

While recovering at a hospital in Toronto, Lambert conceived of the idea of a national association to bring together, support, and fight the battles for amputee veterans, today known as The War Amps. In 1920, he became the first Dominion President of the Association and worked tirelessly to bring veterans issues before the government.

It was these First World War amputee veterans, like Lambert, who welcomed the new contingent of amputee veterans following the Second World War, helping them adapt to their new reality and sharing all that they had learned.

One of these was Neil Conner (1918 – 2012) who



Sidney Lambert, Neil Conner, and Bert Coulson.

served as a navigator with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was injured when his plane was shot down near Bremen, Germany, resulting in the loss of his right leg below the knee.

Conner remembered, "I slid out [of the plane] feet-first, and the propeller clipped my leg off."

Another was Bert Coulson (1921 – 1979) who served with the Canadian Army and lost both of his legs below the knee due to injuries sustained while serving in Emmerich, Germany.

Along with their fellow War Amps members, these veterans went on to provide support to civilian amputees by showing them that an amputation would not



The War Amps

stop them from living a full and active life.

Coulson said the best way to help was to "roll up my pant leg and show them we can dance, bowl, hold down a normal job. It's what you have left that counts."

Rob Larman, a Director at The War Amps and a leg amputee himself, said, "At a time in society when disability was often seen as taboo, Mr. Lambert, Conner, and Coulson proved that they would not let their amputation hold them back in all aspects of life."

The War Amps veteran members established the Key Tag Service, which is still going strong today, to fund the Association's many vital programs for amputees. This includes The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program that provides financial assistance for the cost of artificial limbs, and emotional support to young amputees.

"Though they considered themselves to be 'ordinary guys,' our founding veteran members have left a legacy for generations of amputees that has gone on for 100 years and counting," says Larman. "On Remembrance Day especially, but also throughout the year, we pay tribute to their sacrifice and service."

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# Surrender at CALAIS

Sharon Adams

Legion Magazine/legionmagazine.com

After D-Day, the First Canadian Army began the job of clearing the French coast along the English Channel.

It was a hard slog. The beaches were crowded with obstacles and mines. The shore bristled with barbed wire and the whole coastline was studded with concrete bunkers and machine-gun nests. Towns and cities were fortified and equipped with heavy guns. It was known as the Atlantic Wall.

The Germans had installed 42 heavy guns around Calais that constantly threatened Allied ships and five batteries capable of firing across the Channel to the Port of Dover.

The Germans had flooded the land, and "prepared for a siege in order to deny the Allies the use of these valuable prizes as long as possible," wrote Major W.H.V. Matthews, commanding officer of the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

It fell to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division to drive out the 7,500 Germans defending the port city and surrounding areas.

The plan was to bombard the city from land, sea, and air, followed by infantry, accompanied by tanks and flamethrowers. It had worked at Boulogne-sur-Mer, which was liberated on Sept. 22. But things did not go according to plan.

"The German garrison that held Calais, although surrounded by our troops, refused to simply surrender," recalled machine-gunner George Heron, of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, in a Memory Project interview.

As the fighting began, civilians fled the city by the thousands.

"All roads leading out of Calais were clogged by these refugees and whatever belongings they could carry on their backs or roll along in carts, wagons, and baby carriages. It was obviously not a time to be sending shells or engaging in machine-gun fire back and forth."

A truce was called to allow citizens to move out.

"Much to our surprise, some German soldiers came out mingling with the refugees," said Heron. Eventually about 200 surrendered. "For being the enemy, they were remarkably friendly [and] showed elation at being so-called 'captured.' For them the war was over, they said."

It didn't last. German officers came out to fetch them back, it being contrary to terms of the truce to take prisoners.

The battle resumed on Sept. 25, following air and artillery bombardment. The Canadians had to fight through defences surrounding the city, frequently under shellfire from gun emplacements on high ground.

"After a bitter close-quarter fight the resolute attackers finally drove the enemy from his bomb-proof concrete shelters," reported C.P. Stacey in *The Victory Campaign*, part of the official history of the Canadian Army.

"It was a slow, methodical task," wrote R.H. Roy in *Ready for the Fray: The History of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's)*, 1920-2002.

Following a creeping barrage, the infantry overcame first defences, supported by flamethrowers. On Sept. 27, heavy bombers hit German strongpoints.



MGen Rod Keller addresses personnel of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division in Normandy on June 6, 1944. Photo credit: legionmagazine.com

Another truce allowed for evacuation of a further 20,000 civilians on Sept. 29, after which the Canadians resumed their attack, but the truce "had completed the demoralization of the garrison," reported Stacey. "When fighting began again at noon on the 30th the German opposition crumbled rapidly."

Germans began pouring out of the east side of the city at 1 p.m., and a formal surrender followed six hours later. "The total number of prisoners was about 7,500," reported Stacey, at a cost of "surprisingly light casualties" of under 300.



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# Prisoners of Hong Kong

**Sharon Adams**

Legion Magazine/ legionmagazine.com

George MacDonell, of Stratford, Ont., was following in his parents' footsteps when he enlisted in the Second World War. He was the only son of an army major and nursing sister who met while serving overseas and married after the First World War.

He joined the doomed Royal Rifles of Canada that fought alongside the Winnipeg Grenadiers when the Japanese invaded Hong Kong in December 1941. Two hundred and ninety Canadians were killed and 493 wounded in three weeks of fierce fighting.

MacDonell was among the nearly 1,200 captured. He spent close to four years in brutal Japanese prisoner of war camps, first in Hong Kong, then in Japan, where prisoners were forced to work in atrocious conditions.

Hong Kong prisoners were sent to Japan's largest shipyard in Yokohama. They were slave labourers, but soldiers first, and bent on foiling the enemy where they could.

Two Canadians set fire to a blueprint factory. No blueprints, no shipbuilding.

"The most vital war effort of the Japanese, destroyed by young Canadians. And they did it in utter secrecy [and] even saved their own lives by doing so undetected," said MacDonell in a Memory Project interview.

The prisoners were moved in April 1945 to a remote camp in the mountains of northern Japan, where they worked as slave labour in a mine until the end of the war in August.

"We were left in a very dangerous position, surrounded by hostile Japanese troops and without any arms and... in the last extremes of starvation," MacDonell said in an interview with Veterans Affairs Canada. "I was down to something like 138 pounds."

They knew the camp commander had orders to kill the prisoners if rescue seemed imminent. And "we also knew that we could all easily be deposited in a local

mine shaft," he wrote in a 2020 article in *Quillette*.

But the commander was open to negotiations, and "to our delight, local Japanese farmers were friendly" and exchanged food for items looted from the camp's inventory.

Learning from a radio broadcast that the Americans were conducting searches for prison camps, the men painted "P.O.W." in huge white letters on top of the largest hut in camp.

**“We were left in a very dangerous position, surrounded by hostile Japanese troops and without any arms and...in the last extremes of starvation”**

– George MacDonell

Two days later, they heard an aircraft.

"Then suddenly he was above us—a little blue fighter with the white stars of the U.S. Navy."

The pilot threw a silver box out of the aircraft. "Inside we found strips of fluorescent cloth and a hand-written note: Lieutenant Claude Newton (Junior Grade), USS Carrier *John Hancock*. Reported location."

Using the strips of cloth, the men fashioned letters let-

ting the pilot know they needed medicine and food; he waggled his wings and flew away.

"Seven hours later, two dozen airplanes approached from the sea," recalled MacDonell. They dropped food and medicine, including penicillin, but "our camp doctor had understandably never heard of it."

Several days later bombers parachuted down 60-gallon drums packed with rations, supplies, and clothing.

"Some of the parachute lines snapped in high winds," he recalled, "and the oil drums fell like giant rocks. One packed with canned peaches went through a hut roof and exploded on the concrete floor. 'I don't have to describe what the hut looked like.' 'Once I looked up to see that I was right under a cloud of falling 60-gallon oil drums. It was a terrifying moment.

And I imagined the bizarre idea of surviving the enemy, surviving imprisonment, and then dying, thanks to the kindness of well-meaning American pilots."

Before he left, MacDonell visited the mine where he'd worked.

"I wanted to say goodbye to the foreman of the machine shop, a grandfatherly man who had been as kind to me as the brutal rules of the country's military dictatorship permitted. It was both joyous and sad. We were happy that the war was over, yet sad at the knowledge that this would be our last meeting."

It took a month for rescuers to arrive. On Sept 15, 1945, they were led out of the camp by U.S. Marines.



A group of Royal Rifles of Canada confined at the Sham Shui Po Prison Camp following the fall of Hong Kong in 1941.





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Tom enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy at age 17, and served as a signalman during the Korean War. Read more of his story on our website: [www.broadmeadcare.com](http://www.broadmeadcare.com).

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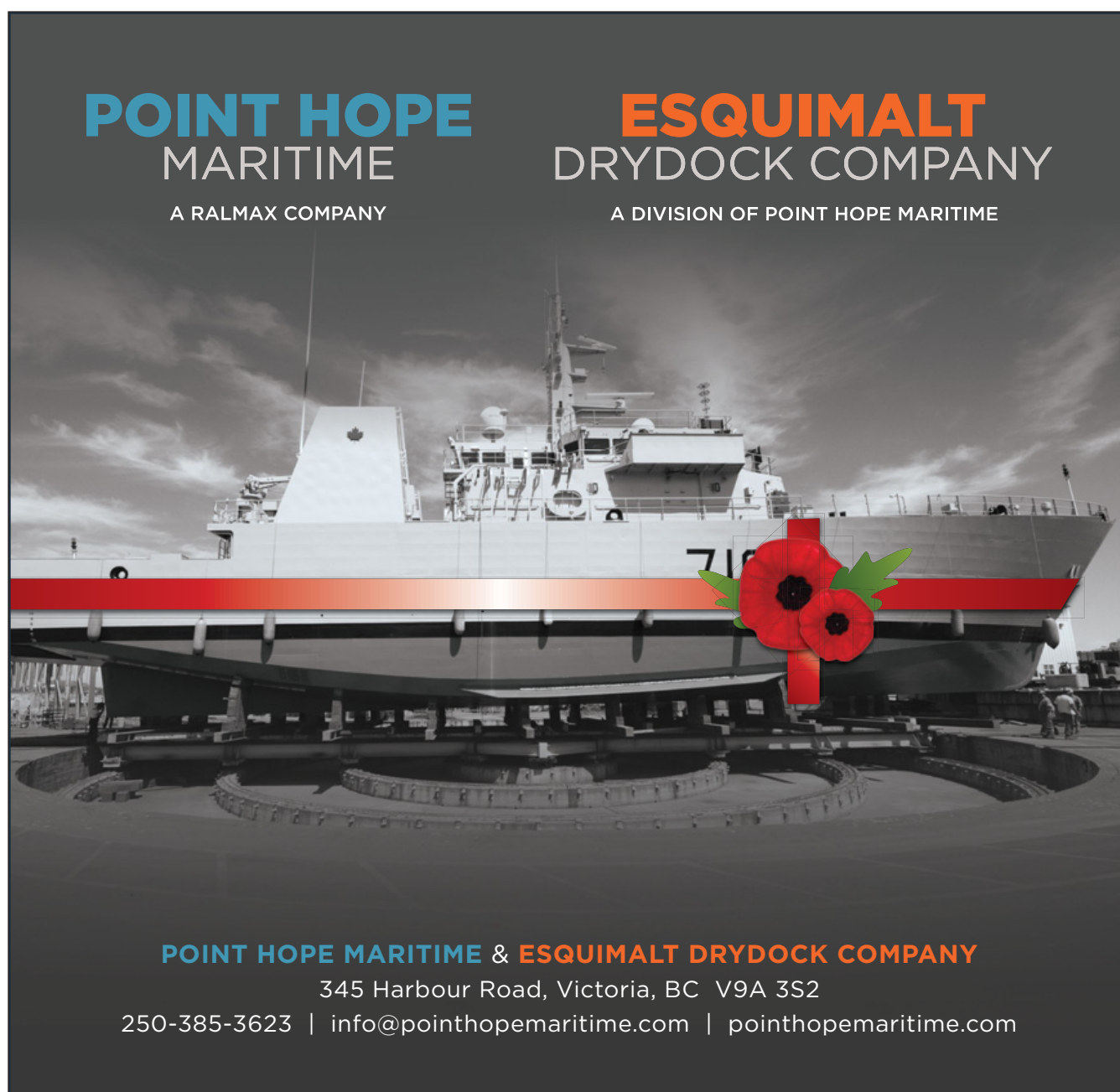
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# A TRIBUTE TO A FLYING ACE: 100 YEARS OF GOOD SERVICE

**Emily Lindahl**

Director Air Public Affairs

Wing Commander James Francis "Stocky" Edwards, 100, is a Canadian hero on several fronts.

Books have been written about him, military aviation web sites list his accomplishments, and numerous news articles include his name. He is an artist and conservationist in his own right.

## FLYING ACE

Edwards is one of the Royal Canadian Air Force's (RCAF) top Second World War Flying Aces. His wartime accomplishments are included in the book about the RCAF's history, *On Windswept Heights*:

"Wing Commander James Francis 'Stocky' Edwards was one of the RCAF flyers who squared off against Axis pilots and helped knock the enemy out of the air. He was only 19 when he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in October 1940. By the end of the war he had 20 confirmed kills (with Probable kills, his score passed 30) and had risen to the rank of wing commander.

He shot down most of these planes in the North Africa campaign. Edwards flew a P-40 Kittyhawk against the Messerschmitt (Me) 109; the Me-109 was faster and better armed than the P-40, but that never got the better of Edwards."

He flew 373 operational sorties during the war and was never shot down.

Vintage Wings of Canada has a Curtiss P 40-N on display, which is a tribute to Stocky. The fully functional aircraft has a paint job that is an exact replica of the Kittyhawk flown by the Flying Ace in the North Africa campaign when he was with 260 Squadron.

In 2013, Stocky was joined by his family on a visit to Vintage Wings of Canada. He was there to check out a banner that had been previously raised in his honour, as well as see the replica Kittyhawk. When presented with the opportunity to join pilot Mike Potter for a flight in the Harvard 4, Stocky enthusiastically accepted.

In 2004, he received the Order of Canada. The Governor General's web site notes that "he has served our country with distinction both in wartime and in peace. One of Canada's greatest fighter pilots, Stocky Edwards displayed enormous bravery, skill and leadership during the Second World War, flying in over 370 combat missions. Serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force for decades, he lent his vast expertise to generations of pilots. In retirement, he has written several books based on his wartime experiences and has become an accomplished artist whose paintings illustrate Canadian aviation history."

In 2012, Stocky received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

In 2009, Stocky was honoured as one of the 100 most influential Canadians in aviation. His name joined those of the other ninety-nine on the 2009 CF-18 Centennial of Flight demonstration Hornet. His contributions were once more recognized in 2013 when he was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame.

Stocky's aviation accomplishments were recognized by his community in 2015, when he joined world-renowned scientists, actors, athletes, politicians, authors, and musicians as a recipient of the Comox Valley's Walk of Achievement Award. Begun in 2006, the annual award honours residents of Comox Valley who've "achieved distinction in their field of endeavour".

Canada's youth can also gain from Stocky's commitment to military aviation. Managed by the Royal Canadian Air Force Association Trust, the Stocky Edwards Legacy Trust exists to "support, assist, promote and further the education of young Canadians in careers related to aviation, especially those enrolled in Air Cadet programs.



"Stocky" Edwards

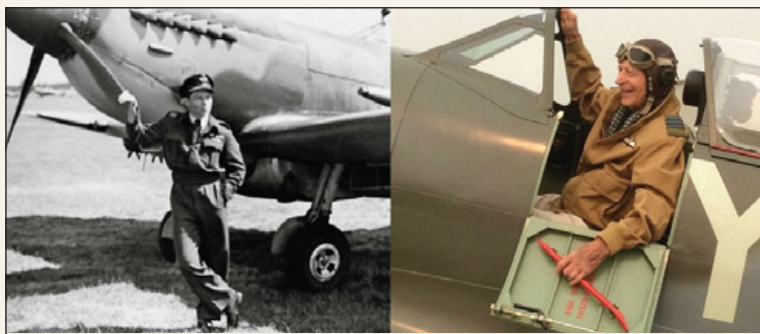
## DEFENDING CANADIAN WILDLIFE

Stocky Edwards and his wife Toni are passionate about ensuring Canadian wildlife and wetlands are protected and managed with care. In 2015, he donated some of his personal decoys, used in his youth hunting on the Prairies, as well as artwork he painted, to the Comox Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) for auction at their fundraiser.

To continue his conservation efforts, DUC teamed up with Stocky to launch the Stocky Edwards Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Fund. The goal was to raise \$100,000 which was then raised to \$125,000. This new goal has been met and then some.

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The legendary flying ace continues to be a part of the Royal Canadian Air Force community. Earlier this month Stocky Edwards celebrated his 100th birthday, an occasion that was recognized by family, friends, and community, including members of the RCAF, an organization which he will remain forever connected to.



## HONOURED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Stocky Edwards has been recognized and honoured in Canada for his actions during the Second World War and beyond, and received decorations from the UK and France:

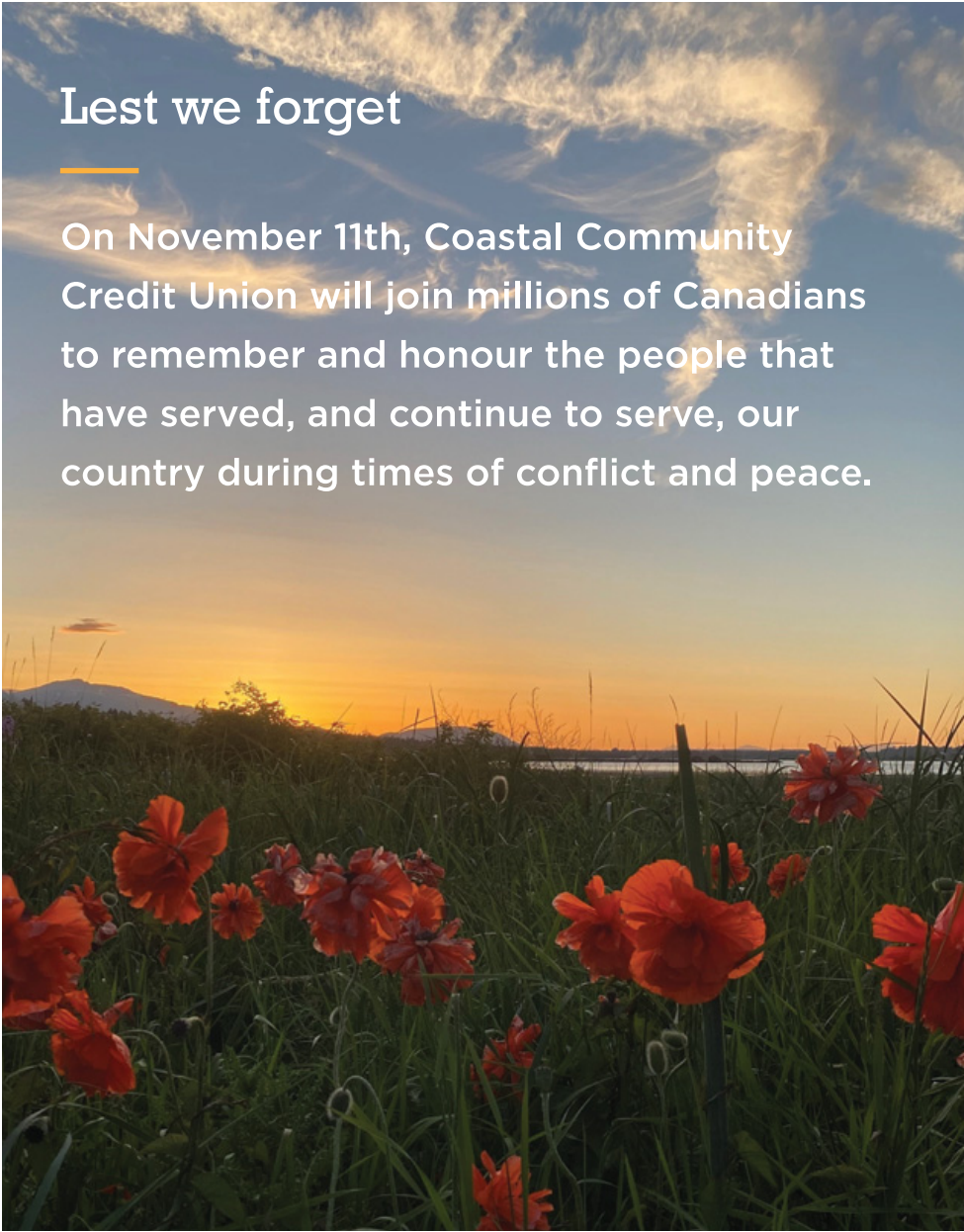
- Distinguished Flying Medal
- Distinguished Flying Cross (UK) and Bar
- Canadian Forces Decoration and Two Clasps
- Legion of Honour, France. Chevalier (Knight) – 2014

Under glowering skies, pilot Mike Potter brings the Harvard down the Vintage Wings taxi road, while Stocky slides his canopy forward and gives waiting folks a big Nomex-gauntleted wave.



Photo: Richard Mallory Allnutt, Vintage Wings of Canada





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# The liberation of Campobasso

## MAPLE LEAF CITY

**Sharon Adams**  
Legion Magazine/

**F**irmly established on the Italian mainland in the fall of 1943, the 1st Canadian Infantry Division turned its sights on Campobasso in southern Italy, rumoured to be the headquarters of German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring.

"With it in our hands, the Allied Force in Italy would no longer have to use the roads of the Foggia plains, some 50 miles (80 kilometres) to the south...and we would have the mobility required for the forthcoming fight for the German winter line," recalled Captain G.K. Wright of the Royal Canadian Regiment on The Regimental Rogue website.

Code-breakers at Bletchley Park decrypted German Enigma machine messages, revealing Hitler's intent for a fierce defence in Italy. Eighteen supply trains a day moved in from Germany and France, carrying enough ammunition, fuel, and food to hold the German position north of the Sangro River through the winter. They had established a series of defensive lines far enough apart that the second could not be shelled until the first had fallen.

It was going to be a long, hard fight.

The Canadians tackled the first line at the village of Motta Montecorvino, where German paratroopers used machine-gun fire to separate Canadian tanks and infantry. When the attack was renewed after dark, the Canadians discovered the Germans had fled to the next line of resistance.

The Canadians drove the enemy ahead of them "by the snail-like method of patrol and occupy."

"We knew we had done a good job, and

that, with a little rest, we could do even better," recalled Wright.

At Volturara Appura, the commander of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade realized there was higher ground behind German paratroopers' positions overlooking the main road; he managed a surprise attack. Then it was on to a night attack on the village of San Marco, where an artillery barrage forced the Germans to the next line.

Despite a steady stream of casualties, the Canadians slogged on along highways and hill tracks, constantly pushing the Germans ahead of them.

On Oct. 13, the Canadians spotted their goal across a large plain resembling "an elongated bowl."

"It was through this bowl that our attack was to be launched," recalled Wright. "We had a panorama view of Campobasso sitting on its hill, for all the world like a wedding cake."

German shellfire focused their attention and "by this time very few were concerned with the beauty of the Italian countryside."

They took up a defensive position outside the town, intending to attack before dawn. But when the time came, they found the Germans had decamped.

"Their vehicles could still be seen in the distance...but they were out of range of our artillery," wrote Wright.

The Canadians were then warmly greeted by the now-liberated townsfolk.

"The Italians streamed out to welcome us, smiling, throwing flowers, asking questions, volunteering information about the Germans.

"We dug ourselves in securely against that ever-present threat of counter-attack, and then, thankfully, took off our boots.... [In] two weeks, we had trav-



**Private D.B. MacDonald of the Royal Canadian Regiment carries a Bren gun near Campobasso in October 1943.**

elled some 27 miles (43 kilometres)... [but our] route had been up and down, right to left, down and up, left to right, in the heat, in the rain, sometimes without food for longish periods, always without a warm bed by night. At last, we had arrived."

Canadian troops had earned a well-deserved 10-day rest, enjoyed even with sporadic German shelling.

"The ancient Roman camp, now a modern city, had fallen into the hands of the Canadians.... In their turn, everyone was granted a leave in Maple Leaf City," as Campobasso came to be known.

"Shows, hostels, baths, and other things to make a leave interesting began to make their appearance," wrote Wright. The local fascist youth headquarters was converted into a Beaver Club for entertainment of the troops.

For the next two years, Campobasso served as a leave centre for exhausted British and Canadian troops, where they could enjoy services provided by Canadian organizations such as The Royal Canadian Legion, Knights of Columbus, YMCA, and Salvation Army, and enjoy amenities like baths and beds before returning to the front.



**The Royal Canadian Regiment advances towards Campobasso, Italy, on Oct. 13, 1943.**

Photo credit: legionmagazine.com





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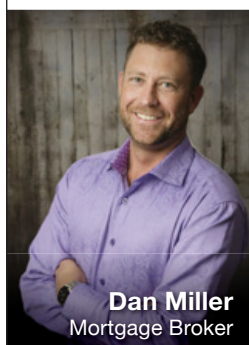
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From left: MS Mike Oliver, MS Lindsay Hansen, and MS Gus McIsaac are instructors at the D-BMQ course currently taking place at 12 Wing Shearwater.

Photo by Joanie Veitch

## LEADING D-BMQ IS HARD WORK, BUT REWARDING, INSTRUCTORS SAY

**Joanie Veitch**  
Trident Newspaper

When Master Sailor Gus McIsaac heard about an opportunity to take the General Military Training Instructor (GMTI) course last summer, he jumped at the chance.

"I've always wanted to instruct at Basic Training. I remember when I went through it myself and the influence my instructors had on me; it really stayed with me," he says.

Now the lead instructor at the Atlantic De-centralized Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course at 12 Wing Shearwater, MS McIsaac said it's a tough job, but one of the best experiences he's had in the military since he joined in 2007.

"Excluding deployments, this is probably the hardest I've worked while I've been in the Canadian Armed Forces. You're up at 5 a.m. and the days are long; but to deliver a lesson on something, and then see them applying the knowledge and skills you taught them, it's incredibly rewarding."

While BMQ normally happens at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu in Québec, training was decentralized last fall to continue to recruit and train new personnel in a "persistent" COVID-19 environment.

This September the fourth D-BMQ course started at 12 Wing Shearwater, with naval recruits arriving from all across Canada and going through two weeks of isolation before beginning the 10-week course that includes classroom instruction, parade drill, field training, weapons training and range practice, along with first aid, basic fire fighting skills and physical fitness training and testing.

It can be challenging to adapt the program through various COVID posture changes at Maritime Forces Atlantic Formation (MARLANT) but overall the East Coast D-BMQs have been successful as everyone works to accommodate and adapt with each

new course, says Lt(N) Kieran Higgins, Company Commander BMQ at Naval Fleet School (Atlantic).

"The first D-BMQ was definitely a steep learning curve but we've learned a lot and continue to make improvements as we go. We're exceeding our target goals for the number of recruits trained and that's a testament to the excellence of our instructors," says Lt(N) Higgins.

There are 52 recruits going through Basic Training at 12 Wing Shearwater this fall, which works out to a one to six ratio of instructor to students. The target number for each d-BMQ is 55 recruits.

Like MS McIsaac, Master Sailor Lindsay Hansen was eager to sign up for the GMTI course last fall. Now having taught three of the four BMQ courses held over the past year at Shearwater, she said she loves seeing how the recruits' mindset begins to shift as they get to the mid-point of the course.

"Around about week five or week six you see them really start getting it. You watch them go from not understanding the military lifestyle at all to start functioning as a team. It's seeing that transformation from being an ordinary civilian to being a military member. I love when I see that cohesiveness happen and know I had something to do with it."

As the only female instructor at present, MS Hansen says she enjoys watching how the female recruits — there are nine in the current session — bond as they go through the course.

"There are so few of them, they come together and really work as a team. I like to see that."

De-centralized BMQs are taking place on both the east and west coasts for naval recruits. Having Royal Canadian Navy recruits being taught by navy staff has been a definite bonus to the new model, says Lt(N) Higgins.

"It's great exposure for them, right from the start they get to meet senior sailors, some of whom they will be working for down the road. It gives them a picture of what life will be like in the navy," he said.

Graduation of the current BMQ serial is scheduled for Nov. 12.



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"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

— ALBERT EINSTEIN

### IN MEMORIAM

#### POWELL, LEENDERT ANTHONY (TONY)

OCT. 5, 1956 – OCT. 25, 2021

Peacefully, at Hospice Prince Edward, following a courageous battle with cancer. Cherished husband of Ann Marie (née Bacon). Proud and loving father of Jamie (Stephen) and TJ (Michelle), and devoted grandpa to Landon, Brooklyn, Preston, Aiden and Isabella. Dearly missed by his sisters Donna Graham and Jackie Powell-Loree. Predeceased by his parents Gordon and Petronella (née Lekx), and his brother, Daniel.

Tony was born in Guelph, Ontario, and served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 27 1/2 years as Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class, and continued to serve as a civilian for the following 13 years as an expert in submarine assessment and repair.

He enjoyed traveling the world extensively, and was a wonderful storyteller and friend to all who crossed his path. He was an avid runner, cyclist, and kayaker, and would often go for walks out in the country for hours at a time. His heart was always full and generous to others, and he enjoyed his volunteer work with Community Care for Seniors and the Loyalist Humane Society.

He had an uncanny ability to nurture animals of all kinds, and he enjoyed many hours tending to his beehives in the field behind his home. Tony was also a wonderful gardener, and grew the best organic vegetables and the most beautiful flowers his wife had ever seen. Most of all, Tony enjoyed time with his family. His most beloved memories were of his children and grandchildren, who all brought tremendous joy to his life. He was so very proud of them, and loved them deeply.

Tony, we will all miss you and love you for the rest of our days. At Tony's request, there will be no service. In lieu of flowers, donations to Community Care for Seniors, Loyalist Humane Society, or Hospice Prince Edward would be greatly appreciated.

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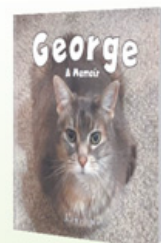
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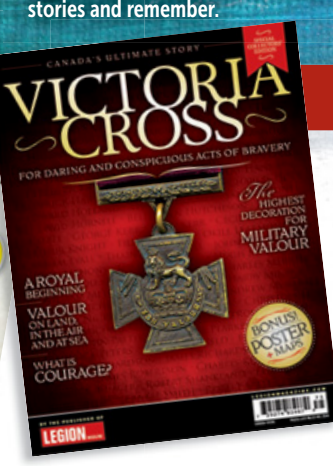
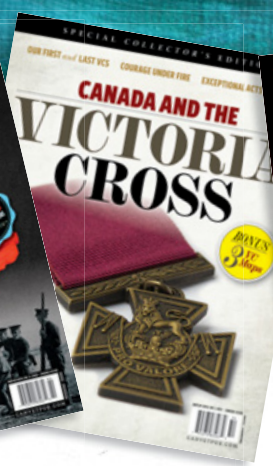
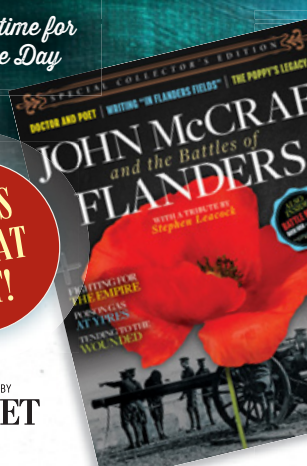
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