

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News April 16, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15th Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in. The decision has been made to renovate the upstairs (Mess) kitchen at an estimated cost of \$30-35,000. Fundraising efforts have begun; watch this newsletter for events and campaigns.

Remember to drop your lunch ticket in the bowl when you pick up your soup/salad.

And finally, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VEHICLE COMPOUND!!

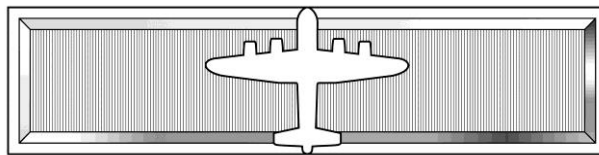
New Bomber Command Honour

April 15, 2013

There was an article in this newsletter a couple of issues back, about the UK Government approving a Bomber Command Bar for the 1939-45 Star, which all WW2 Commonwealth Bomber Crews are eligible to apply for. Now, the Canadian Government has issued their own version, to be worn on the CVSM.

Ottawa – The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister for La Francophonie, and the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, today unveiled the new Bomber Command honour, in the form of a bar to be worn on the ribbon of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM), and announced that applications are now officially being accepted for this honour.

"Our Government create a Bomber are now pleased to said Minister Blaney.



Government is honouring those Canadians who fought for peace, freedom and democracy through their service in Bomber Command, and in particular the approximately 10,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice."

announced its intention to Command honour, and we unveil this honour today," "With this bar, our

"Fifty-thousand Canadians defended our commonwealth and our country's freedoms and values by serving and sacrificing for the greater good through Bomber Command operations," said Minister MacKay. "Our Government, and Canadians across the country, are proud to extend our heartfelt gratitude by acknowledging their selfless efforts with the Bomber Command honour. Lest we forget."

The existing Order-in-Council governing the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal has been amended to include the eligibility criteria and the description of the new Bomber Command

honour. All Canadian Veterans who were awarded the CVSM and served a minimum of one day with Bomber Command, regardless of rank or role, are eligible for this new bar. Loved ones of a deceased Canadian Bomber Command Veteran who hold the Veteran's CVSM may also apply to receive this bar. Processing priority will be given to applications received from living Canadian Bomber Command Veterans or their surviving spouses.

"The Air Force Association thanks Minister Blaney and the Harper Government for their continued efforts to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of Bomber Command," noted National President of the Air Force Association of Canada, Colonel (Ret) Terry Chester. "We see this as a significant and memorable step in the recognition of these unsung heroes."

The effort of the approximately 50,000 Canadians who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) in Bomber Command operations over occupied Europe was one of Canada's most significant contributions during the Second World War. Some 55,000 Allied airmen would lose their lives in flying accidents, by enemy action in the skies over Europe, or in prisoner of war camps.

For more information on Canada's role in Bomber Command, to apply online for the honour, or to download a hardcopy of the application form, please visit veterans.gc.ca.

Government Honours Canada's Veterans of Korean War

2013 is the Year of the Korean War Veteran—Canada proudly remembers the heroes of the Korean War and their brave fight to uphold freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

OTTAWA, April 16, 2013 /CNW/ - The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister for La Francophonie, along with the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, paid tribute to an extraordinary group of individuals this morning on Parliament Hill. Ten Veterans of the Korean War were presented with special certificates of recognition. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean War and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and South Korea. In January, Minister Blaney declared 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran. Various events and activities are planned throughout the year. "Our response to the Korean War far exceeded what the world could have expected from us. The number of Canadians who served, in proportion to our population, was greater than that of almost every other country in the United Nations force," said Minister Blaney. "These exceptional Canadians should be revered for their bravery, their valour and their belief that all citizens deserve to live in a free and democratic society. That's why I will make every effort to ensure each and every Veteran who served during the Korean War—or in Korea in the years afterwards to keep the peace—is awarded this special certificate."

Approximately 10,000 Canadian Veterans are eligible for the certificate.

"Today we recognize the extraordinary achievements of the more than 26,000 members of the Canadian Armed Forces who were at the forefront of the international effort to bring peace and stability to the Korean Peninsula," said Minister MacKay. "It is our duty not to forget the incredible service of those who gave their lives or were wounded during this war."

Minister Blaney will accompany 36 Canadian Veterans of the Korean War next week as they travel to the Republic of Korea. Through a partnership between the Republic of Korea and Veterans Affairs Canada, the trip recognizes the contributions of all Veterans who came to the aid of the people of South Korea more than 60 years ago. While in the Republic of Korea, from April 22 to April 27, the delegation will participate in ceremonies of remembrance at the Republic of Korea National Cemetery in Seoul, the Korean War Memorial to the Armed Forces of the British Commonwealth in Gapyeong, the Canadian Korean War Memorial Garden in Naechon and the United Nations Memorial Cemetery of Korea in Busan.



Veterans from Ottawa Unit of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada receive their Certificates of Recognition in a special ceremony in the foyer of the House of Commons today (April 16, 2013). Making the presentations were Minister of Veterans Affairs Steven Blaney, Senator Yonah Martin and Minister of National Defence Peter McKay. (If this is a ceremony to honour Veterans, why are only the ministers named?) (CNW Group/VAC Canada)

"In this, the year of the 60th anniversary of the Armistice, the Korea Veterans Association commends Minister Blaney and the Harper Government for their extensive work in recognizing Korean Veterans. We are very grateful for their efforts," said John Bishop, National President of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada.

More than 26,000 Canadian men and women served in the Korean War, with 516 of them making the ultimate sacrifice. They joined 15 other United Nations countries that also sent combat forces there to restore peace. The active fighting ended with the signing of the Armistice at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953. Following the Armistice, approximately 7,000 Canadians continued to serve in Korea until the end of 1955, with some troops remaining until 1957.

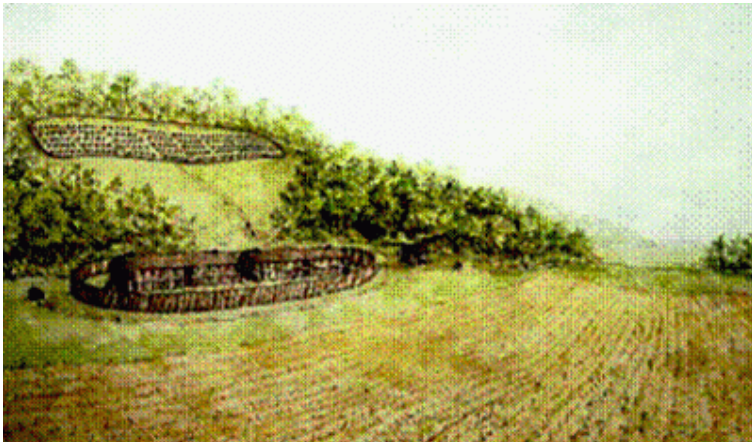
The method of distribution of the certificates has not been announced. In all likelihood it will require application by the veterans.

Of the estimated 10,000 Korean War Veterans in Canada, less than 1,500 of them belong to the Korea Veterans Association of Canada. There is no national roster of names of all of the veterans.

Pennsylvania field holds secrets of 1780s British POW camp

Author: Mar Scofuro | Source: Associated Press [April 06, 2013]

The mud of a south-central Pennsylvania cornfield may soon produce answers about the fate of British prisoners of war - and the newly independent Americans who guarded them - during the waning years of the American Revolution.



*Artist's rendering of Camp Security,
York County, PA [Credit: Ancestry.com]*

A few miles east of York, the city that briefly served as the fledgling nation's capital after the Continental Congress fled Philadelphia, more than a thousand English, Scottish and Canadian soldiers were imprisoned at what was then known as Camp Security.

The fight to preserve the plot where those soldiers and their captors worked and lived has lasted almost twice as long as the Revolutionary War itself. And the end is in sight - if its backers can raise the last few hundred thousand dollars needed to pay for it.

"This is an extraordinarily important site, because so few of these camp sites survived," said Steve Warfel, a retired curator of archaeology at the Pennsylvania State Museum who is involved in the project. "It's a very important piece for understanding the revolutionary period, and how people were treated when they were incarcerated."

A 1979 archaeological study found numerous artefacts that confirmed local lore about the prison camp's location. Two years ago, the local government, Springettsbury Township, took possession of an adjacent, 115-acre property and last year The Conservation Fund paid a developer nearly \$1 million for the 47-acre parcel. Now the Friends of Camp Security faces an August deadline to pay off the fund so it can turn the smaller plot over to the township as well. Nothing about the property today suggests it was once teeming with prisoners. The first group arrived in 1781, four years after their 1777 surrender at Saratoga, N.Y. More arrived the next year after the battle in Yorktown, Va. By April 1782, there were 1,265 men at the camp, along with 182 women and 189 children - family members and others who accompanied the prisoners. The first group was kept under less strict conditions and could be hired out to nearby farms, where among other things they were put to use chopping firewood and hunting wolves. The Yorktown veterans were much more strictly confined, kept inside a circular stockade that had been constructed from 15-foot-high log posts.

The 1979 dig, which focused on a small area, produced metal items such as buckles and buttons that are associated with British soldiers of the period, suggesting that could have either been the Camp Security stockade or the adjacent Camp Indulgence village where low-risk prisoners stayed. That survey also turned up 20 coins and 605 straight pins that may have been used by prisoners to make lace. Ken Miller, an associate professor of history at Washington College in Chestertown, Md., said Camp Security's historical significance comes from its role in a network

of camps in Pennsylvania and elsewhere that held more than 10,000 prisoners during the war.

"Nobody's really appreciated the extent to which the war reached the American interior in places like York and Lancaster and Reading and Winchester, Va., and Frederick, Md.," Miller said. "These prisoners put the war on America's doorstep, even when the battles were far away."

Researchers recently found lists of Camp Security prisoners in the British National Archives. And an 18th century account of camp life by a British surgeon's mate described a "camp fever" that may have killed some of the prisoners, who were buried on-site. If there was a cemetery - there may be two or more - it has not been found. Some believe graves may be under what is today one of the neighbourhoods that encircle the property. Les Jones, the English-born former chairman of Dentsply International Inc, a York manufacturer of dental equipment, and a member of Friends of Camp Security, said interest in his home country has not been great, possibly because the British military had been so active around the globe during that period.

"There was hardly a year when they weren't fighting somewhere," Jones said. "I think the problem is they're just swamped with wars. This is a little niche kind of thing."

But in York, the fate of Camp Security raised alarms about 14 years ago, after a developer announced plans to put about 100 homes on part of the property. That began a long court fight and a seemingly endless series of contentious local meetings. At one point, the developer floated a price of \$4.5 million, a figure that included projected profits from the development. But by the time the housing bubble had burst and The Conservation Fund stepped in, he sold it for \$938,000. The Conservation Fund wants to turn the property over to Springettsbury Township, as occurred with the adjacent farmland. But for that to happen, the Friends of Camp Security needs to raise more money. The group plans a major fundraising event in York in a few weeks.

"The fact that at least this much of it has remained intact is just mind-boggling," said Carol Tanzola, president of the Friends of Camp Security. "Come hell or high water, we're going to get this piece of property."

Assuming that occurs, they'll need to figure out what to do next. The Friends of Camp Security leaders seem to agree the first step should be an archaeological survey to pinpoint the location of major features and any human remains, and recover whatever artefacts they can. In December, the property was scanned with a powerful magnet that gave them an idea of where to start looking, but for a 162-acre site, it will be an ambitious undertaking. Even with volunteer labour, Warfel said, the cost could easily run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The township plans to allow such research and convert the properties to some sort of parkland.

Blake Stough, a printer and history buff from nearby Spring Grove who has donated to and volunteered with Friends of Camp Security, became interested in the site when he discovered

his fifth great-grandfather, Andrew Stough, had served as a prison guard. Like others, he's wondering what happens next.

"I think a lot of what the future holds for it is going to be how we're going to interpret the relics that we find," Stough said. "I don't think there's any easy answer with what to do with it."

2013 Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference
 Vancouver Community College
 Downtown Campus
 (Dunsmuir St & Hamilton St)



Friday April 26, 2013

6:30 PM Doors Open
 7:00 PM **Keynote Event** - Round Table Discussion –
 "Syria, Security and the Middle East"
Featuring
 Robert Fisk, Middle East correspondent for "The Independent" of London, UK
 With Major-General (retired) Ed Fitch, former Commander, Canadian Land Forces Western Area
Moderator – Dr John Craig, Dean of Arts, Simon Fraser University



Robert Fisk

Saturday April 27, 2013


8:30 AM Doors Open with Opening Remarks at 8:50 AM
 9:00 AM **Mike Molloy** - Former Canadian Ambassador to Jordan
Jerusalem and Refugees: Challenges to Peace
 9:45 AM **Colonel (retired) Pat Dennis** - Wilfrid Laurier University
Slackers, Shirkers & Malingerers and other great myths about Canadian Conscripts in the First World War
 10:30 AM Coffee break
 10:45 AM **Stewart Muir** - Former Deputy Editor, Vancouver Sun
The Soldier and The Journalist: An untold World War II story of the press, public opinion, politics and war planning on the west coast of Canada
 11:30 AM Lunch in the BCR Beatty Street Drill Hall, 620 Beatty St (Displays and Museum open)
 12:40 PM **Canadian Forces Perspective** – Commodore Scott Bishop – Commander, Canadian Fleet, Pacific
The Royal Canadian Navy in the Middle East
 1:25 PM **Special Presentation** - Robert Fisk – Middle East Correspondent for "The Independent" of London, UK
The Middle East Security Environment
 2:10 PM **Capstone Presentation** – Major-General (ret'd) Edward Fitch – former Commander, Canadian Land Forces Western Area
Canada's role in the Middle East
 2:55 PM **Panel Discussion** - *The Middle East, Israel, Palestine, Iran – Is Diplomacy Dead?*
Moderator - Nelofer Pazira, Award-winning Afghan-Canadian director, actor, journalist and author. Co-Producer and Director of the film "Return to Kandahar"
Featuring - Robert Fisk and a panel of our Conference Presenters
 Closing remarks by the Conference Organizers
 3:50 PM **Venue** - Presentation Room 420 at Vancouver Community College
 Enter VCC through the Dunsmuir St and Hamilton St entrance

Contact the Organizers -
 RUSI-Vancouver -
 Col (ret'd) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD
 kdmaxwell@gmail.com
 604 865 0612 or 604 740 8124
 SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies/SFU -
 Ms Colleen Pescott
 cdpscott@sfu.ca
 778 782 8466/778 855 0467

Sponsoring Hosts -
 Royal United Services Institute - Vancouver
 Simon Fraser University/Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies
 Sponsoring Societies/Associations -
 British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
 Royal Westminster Regiment
 Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
 Department of National Defence - Defence Engagement Program

Registration - (including coffee and lunch): \$35 regular, \$20 students and junior ranks
 Register online visit - <http://2013vancouverstrategicstudiesconference.eventbrite.com/>
 Note - Special rates for the Conference at the nearby Victorian Hotel - <http://www.victorianhotel.ca/>

Curry Lunch – Singapore



Hosted by:
 The British Columbia Regiment Officers' Mess



Coordinated by:
 The BC Regiment (DCO) Association

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2013

Time: 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
 (bar opens at 11:45am)
 (welcome at 12:15pm)
 (lunch starts at 12:20pm)

Location: Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
 620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

Dress: Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)

Price: \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by April 19, 2013)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
 Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
 No cancellations after April 19, 2013

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, May 30, 2013

From the 'Punitary'

What would you get if you crossed an electric eel with a sponge? – A shock absorber!

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Soldiers' mantra:

1. Never be first.
2. Never be last.
3. Never volunteer for anything

Quotable Quotes

What I see in Nature is a magnificent structure that we can comprehend only very imperfectly, and that must fill a thinking person with a feeling of humility. This is a genuinely religious feeling that has nothing to do with mysticism. - *Albert Einstein*