



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News June 25, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15th Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in.

Your guests are always welcome – just don't forget to tell them that jacket and tie are required for men, equivalent for women.

Lunches will continue through the summer.

Remembering the Alamo: My Year in Afghanistan - Chapter 5

By Colonel Peter Williams Publication date: 15 Mar 2013

Col Williams is currently deployed on Operation ATTENTION as commander of the KMTC Training Advisory Group. He is the senior serving Canadian gunner officer in the Afghan training program at this time.

Since I last wrote, we actually did it, and for real this time. "Remember the Alamo" I mean. On the 6th of March we gathered in Camp ALAMO's 9-11 Square to commemorate our home's namesake battle which ended on this day in 1836. After a description of the battle, the names of the 189 fallen defenders, including Davy Crockett ("King of the Wild Frontier") and Jim Bowie (he of the famous knife) were read out. I didn't know it but men from as far afield as England, Spain, Germany and Ireland fought alongside Americans (from several states) in this battle. We also commemorated another milestone event, this time with our Afghan National Army colleagues, as the Kabul Military Training Centre graduated its 200th Basic Warrior Training kandak, or battalion, some 1400 soldiers. This is a great achievement for the ANA and we all wanted to commemorate it in a special way. I've always been very impressed at the ANA's ability to rise to the occasion when the situation warrants it, particularly at short notice, and on this occasion they didn't disappoint: the parade was accompanied by a demonstration of martial skills by ANA soldiers, such as lying on a bed of nails and having concrete bricks broken over one's stomach, and jumping through a ring of fire.

The coalition at ALAMO also did some jumping of our own, as we recently challenged our ANA colleagues to a volleyball match. Readers of past articles will recall we also took them on in soccer, but, unfortunately, we did not prevail on that occasion. We hoped for a better result on the volleyball court, but sadly we lost the best 3 of five to the ANA, though in fairness it must be said that each game was close. It's too bad that spring has come early here (the only snow is on the mountains in the distance), else we could lace up the skates and take the ANA on in hockey!

Our series of International Nights continues and while I was away on leave, Norway hosted its special night and treated members of the Alamo family to waffles hot off the grill. Not to be

outdone, the United Kingdom laid on a traditional English tea, with scones and clotted cream. In my absence, some new Turkish advisors have arrived and so I hope we can look forward to some baklava! Being the cradle of the ANA, KMTC always receives its fair share of visitors, and these past few months were no exception. Among the guests we hosted were Brigadier-General Katz (Germany), the spokesperson for our International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission. The Commander of the Canadian Army, Lieutenant-General Devlin also took time to visit KMTC, meet the coalition leadership here at ALAMO and to speak to the Canadian troops.

The Afghans will celebrate their new year, known as Nowruz, in a few weeks. I wonder what resolutions they'll make?

Landmark Ruling for Military Families in UK Paves Way for Damages Claims

By Tom Whitehead, Telegraph Security Editor 19 Jun 2013

The families of British soldiers killed overseas can sue the Ministry of Defence if their loved ones died because of poor equipment or negligence, the country's most senior judges have ruled.



Sue Smith, 51, whose son Private Phillip Hewett, 21, died in 2005 when his Snatch Land Rover was blown up. Photo: RII SCHROER

In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court said the Government had a legal duty of care to protect its soldiers and their human rights, even when fighting on the battlefield. The ruling paves the way for relatives to pursue damages claims in cases such as where soldiers died or were injured after not being given appropriate equipment or vehicles. Philip Hammond, the Defence Secretary, warned the decision would hamper military operations with commanders worrying about whether they may get sued as they send troops in to battle. But the parents of two dead soldiers involved in the test case said the judgment meant troops would no longer be treated as “subhuman” and lives will be saved. Sue Smith, 51, whose son Private Phillip Hewett, 21, died in 2005 when his Snatch Land Rover was blown up, said: “We have won. It is absolutely brilliant. “Philip is dead. Nothing is going to bring him back but this might help save lives in the future. “They can no longer treat soldiers as subhuman with no rights.”

The test cases centred on whether the MoD has a duty of care in negligence claims if a soldier dies or is injured in combat and whether troops fighting overseas are still protected by the right to life under the European Convention of Human Rights. They involved soldiers killed or injured during the second Iraq war. Corporal Stephen Allbutt, 35, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, died in a "friendly fire" incident in March 2003, when his Challenger 2 tank was hit by another. Trooper David Clarke, 19, of Littleworth, Staffordshire, also died during the incident. Soldiers Dan Twiddy, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Andy Julien, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, were badly hurt in the incident.

The other deaths involved the use of the much – criticised Snatch Land Rovers, which has been dubbed a “mobile coffin” and which the MoD announced it was replacing in 2009. Pte Hewett, 21, of Tamworth, died in July 2005 while similar explosions claimed the lives of Private Lee Ellis, 23, of Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, in February 2006, and Lance Corporal Kirk Redpath, 22, of Romford, Essex, in August 2007. Relatives say the MoD failed to provide armoured vehicles or equipment which could have saved lives, and should pay compensation. But the ministry said decisions about battlefield equipment are for politicians and military commanders. The Supreme Court ruling only paves the way for cases to be pursued and does not mean damages will definitely be awarded. Each incident will be considered on its merits as to whether the Government was liable. Many deaths and incidents in the past are also likely to be considered “out of time” for bringing claims. L/Cpl Redpath's father, Colin Redpath, 57, of Hornchurch, Essex, said: "Hopefully this will help our armed forces' safety in future combat zones. “We keep hearing politicians say our armed forces are the best in the world so let’s give them the best equipment.” Cpl Allbutt’s widow, Debi, said there had been “very dark times” during her ten year battle but added: "If they properly equip the Armed Forces and look after the people in uniform better then they won't have to fight these legal battles, that's all we've wanted.” Her son, Connor, 18, said: “It means a lot for my Dad. We've done everything we can for him now."

Mr Hammond said: “I am very concerned at the wider implications of this judgment, which could ultimately make it more difficult for our troops to carry out operations and potentially throws open a wide range of military decisions to the uncertainty of litigation. "We will continue to make this point in future legal proceedings as it can't be right that troops on operations have to put the European Convention on Human Rights ahead of what is operationally vital to protect our national security." However, the Supreme Court justices said they did not expect the ruling to hamper operations and there should be a “wide margin of appreciation” in future cases. Lord Hope, the deputy president of the court, said the “sad fact” was protection for soldiers on active service could never be complete and they deserve the country’s respect. “But it is of paramount importance that the work that the armed forces do in the national interest should not be impeded by having to prepare for or conduct active operations against the enemy under threat of litigation if things should go wrong.”

Lawyer Jocelyn Cockburn, who represented relatives, said: “Safety will not be the only consideration or even perhaps the primary consideration but it is right that our soldiers should expect to be properly equipped."

Military scraps discharge notice for injured Afghan veteran

The Canadian Forces has reversed its decision to discharge a Canadian soldier who testified about his struggle for health benefits and his long recovery from injuries suffered in the Afghanistan war. Vancouver-native Cpl. Glen Kirkland, who almost died while serving in Afghanistan five years ago when he was attacked by the Taliban, was informed by the military he could stay in the army until he qualifies for a 10-year indexed pension.

According to the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces, if a CF member is released from duty because of a disability, they are entitled to an unreduced pension if they have accumulated 10 year of pensionable service.



Cpl. Glen Kirkland testifies at a Senate committee on Wednesday, June 6, 2013.

The military's decision comes a day after Kirkland was notified he was going to be discharged in six months -- despite assurances from Defence Minister Peter MacKay in the House of Commons that he would not suffer “ramifications” for speaking out. "I never asked to be discharged," the 29-year-old told CTV News earlier this week. "My intention was to get a 10-year indexed pension. Not just for myself, but for other soldiers, so they can have that consistent income." Last week, Kirkland said he feared retribution from senior officers if he spoke out. The 29-year-old, who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, said he was ordered by the military not to testify.

Kirkland said he was compelled to disobey. MacKay called the 29-year-old a hero and said the soldier would not face any consequences. Kirkland, a fourth-generation soldier, was involved in a rocket attack that killed three of the five people travelling in his vehicle in the Zhari district of Afghanistan. The 29-year-old suffered serious injuries, including the loss of 75 per cent of his hearing, the loss of some sight and a brain injury.

Tuesday’s decision comes after Mackay called Vice-Chief of Defence Staff Bruce Donaldson late Monday night and ordered him to reverse the military's decision to discharge Kirkland. The outcome of that call was revealed on Tuesday when NDP MP Peter Stoffer asked MacKay in the House of Commons if he was going to follow through on his promise that Kirkland would not suffer any ramifications for testifying about his experience as an injured veteran. "On behalf of Cpl. Glen Kirkland, will the minister honour his commitment and allow him to stay in the military until 2015? Yes or no?" Stoffer asked.

Mackay answered: "Yes."

New Frontiers for Raytheon’s Excalibur GPS Guided Shells

Jun 23, 2013 18:47 UTC by Defense Industry Daily staff



Sometimes, a basic improvement opens up entirely new opportunities. Raytheon’s one-piece M982 Excalibur rocket-boosted, GPS-guided shells are costly, but they offer the kind of accuracy that has made artillery relevant again on

Small Wars battlefields. Overall accuracy is currently touted as being within 4 meters 90% of the time (3m or less CEP), and the US military recently began buying Block Ib shells. At the same time, the firm is starting to face competition from less accurate but cheaper drop-in solutions like ATK's PGK, and the wars that propelled Excalibur sales are winding down. What to do? Part of Raytheon's response involves a self-funded program to create a new dual-mode GPS/ Semi-Active Laser guidance and navigation unit (GNU) for the Block Ib. Adding the ability to attack moved or moving land targets adds a lot of flexibility on the battlefield, and retains Excalibur's unique positioning. It also creates entirely new opportunities for Raytheon at sea.

At sea, almost all targets are moving, and speed can be its own weapon for disposable attackers. 20th century engagements from Tsushima onward have demonstrated that fast boat swarms armed with torpedoes can do serious damage, especially in confined littoral waters. Modern navies have been searching for ready solutions, but to date, all have been more expensive than Excalibur shells, while offering shorter engagement ranges. Cost was the death of Raytheon's own naval NLOS-LS 'NETFIRES' missiles, for instance, while the firm's cheap AGM-176 Griffin replacement has a laughable range of just 3 nautical miles. Missile-armed helicopters are the best tactical counters against fast boats, but they can't always be in the air.

GPS-guided shells are useless in these situations, but laser targeting changes the equation. Raytheon says that Excalibur can fit standard naval 127mm (5-inch) projectile bodies, as well as the unique 155mm AGS guns on board the DDG 1000 Zumwalt Class. If testing bears that out, American cruisers and destroyers would all gain the equivalent of fully-integrated precision strike missiles with a range of over 13 nautical miles, creating a wide snap-reaction kill zone against fast attackers or surfaced submarines.

The US Navy isn't the only fleet facing this issue, and they aren't the only fleet who could be interested in this solution. 127mm guns are in widespread use among American allies, some of whom are already using Excalibur on land. Once Raytheon finishes testing, and gets export clearance from the American government, Excalibur could be looking at a large potential export market.

MLB Tribute for Heroes

This year, Major League Baseball is honouring military heroes at the annual All-Star Game. Thousands of incredible nominees have been narrowed down to three for each team. Vote now to choose the military heroes who will be recognized at the 2013 All-Star Game! There are three finalists for each MLB® team. The candidate with the most votes for his or her respective team will have a chance to attend and be recognized at the 2013 MLB® All-Star Game® in New York, and one will be featured in PEOPLE magazine.

Our Canadian Team, the Toronto Blue Jays, have picked three Canadians to be their representatives. One is a West Coaster from the Canadian Army:



Nicholas Kerr of Victoria, British Columbia, is a Medal of Bravery nominee for saving a civilian's life after a car accident. As a member of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, he won several Canadian Forces National Sports awards. After Afghanistan, the artillery chose the decorated infantryman -- a first -- to join Avalanche Control Operation Palaci (AVCON). His howitzer training was put to use supporting Parks Canada's Rogers Pass, BC, program. Currently, he is a member of the Canadian Forces Reserves and volunteers with community and veterans groups, such as Victoria Urban Search and Rescue and a wilderness

rescue team, the Patricia Veterans Program, Thank A Soldier, and Cat Daddy Fishing Guide Services, a wounded veterans program. He has also patrolled for polar bears at the northernmost settlement in the world.

To review the other Blue Jay's nominee and cast your vote, go to:

<http://www.mlb.com/tribute/2013/index.jsp>

Royal Canadian Navy vets can't wear uniforms without permission

By: [Marco Chown Oved](#) Staff Reporter, Published on Thu Jun 20 2013

Navy veterans will not be able to wear their uniforms at memorials and special events after the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa issued a new nation-wide standing order last week.



Royal Canadian Navy Vice-Admiral Paul Maddison addresses a gala dinner in May in Ottawa, where some senior officers later complained that retired officers had worn their formal uniforms, or mess kits.

PHOTO: ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Navy veterans will not be able to wear their uniforms at memorials and special events after the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa issued a new

nationwide standing order last week.

According to the order, all former service people in the Royal Canadian Navy must request permission in writing before wearing their uniforms at any event, including parades, war memorial celebrations and other formal functions. "Permission for former service members to wear uniforms is limited and revocable," according to the five-page order dated June 13 obtained by the Star. "Requests by former RCN service members to wear uniforms, including mess dress, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such approval shall be limited to

exceptional circumstances where the wearing of the uniform is necessary and will favourably contribute to the RCN.”

The order has caused an out roar among military veterans on social media. “F--- that,” wrote one Royal Canadian Air Force veteran on Facebook. “Wore mine getting married, even told the Navy while stuck with them ‘C’mon get me for wearing it.’ ” New Democrat defence critic Jack Harris (St. John’s East) called the order “outrageous and insulting.” “Canada’s veterans have bravely served this country and wear their uniforms with pride at ceremonies commemorating their service,” said Harris. “It shows an absolute lack of respect for this service to tell veterans that they now need to ask permission to wear their uniforms and show their pride for having served this country.”

The order seems to reinforce one already on the books, which requires veterans to get permission before wearing their uniforms. According to an FAQ on the Directorate of History and Heritage section of the National Defence and Canadian Forces website, vets are required to get permission before wearing their uniforms and are encouraged to wear only their medals and cap with civilian dress. That rule was routinely ignored during special occasions, such as Remembrance Day ceremonies and parades, said Michael Blais, the founder and president of Canadian Veterans Advocacy. But the new order may cast the net too wide and result in thousands of individual requests to wear uniforms during memorials, said the retired sergeant from the Royal Canadian Regiment. “It’s just ludicrous,” he said. “All the veterans of the Canadian navy in theory have to ask permission now from (Vice)-Admiral (Paul) Maddison in order to wear their beret on Remembrance Day.” The order was issued after senior naval officers complained that retired officers wore their formal uniforms, or mess kits, at a gala dinner held to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic at the Canadian War Museum in early May.

“The mess kit is a formal uniform of active service members and is not to be worn after retirement,” wrote a senior naval officer in an email to a gala organizer. “This is clearly against Queen’s Regulations and Orders and cannot be condoned,” he wrote in the email obtained by the Star. Distinguishing between active and retired members is essential, the order states, because active members “remain sworn to unlimited liability if ordered into harm’s way, and therefore must be clearly recognizable as such.”

While most people who serve in the Canadian Forces return their uniforms when they leave active service, officers who purchase their own mess kits are allowed to keep them, said Deanna Simrite, secretary treasurer at Anavets Dominion Command. The rule prohibiting retired officers from wearing their uniform is intended to distinguish between those who retain contemporary mess kits and their active-duty counterparts with identical uniforms, she said. “When you’re wearing a World War II navy uniform, no one is confusing you with a currently serving officer,” she said. “We don’t have a problem with that and I don’t think the (navy) has a problem with that.” Her organization has written to the Department of Defence suggesting that it issue a clarification.

“Maybe you should put out a very clear directive on where and what is appropriate for veterans to wear. And that would be a lot easier. I’m sure the navy doesn’t want to deal with a whole bunch of requests to wear old naval caps to Remembrance Day.”

The RCN held its change of command ceremony Thursday without notifying the media and did not return calls for comment on the order.

You have to wonder if they even have the authority to order this. I can see it applying to retirees wearing a current order of dress but if one is wearing a uniform that has been declared obsolete and removed from the ‘official’ orders of dress they shouldn’t have any control of it.

Ruins of Normandy: Unpublished Color Photos From France, 1944

Frank Scherschel—Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images



Ruins, north-western France, summer 1944, after D-Day.

The ruins left behind after warfare speak a language of their own. And, even more strikingly, no matter where the conflict has taken place — whether it’s in northern Europe or the South Pacific, the Middle East or Central Africa —

the vernacular of destruction is very often the same. Buildings reduced to rubble and dust. A scarred, tortured landscape seemingly devoid of any life at all, aside from small human forms trying to piece it back together. Twisted, rusting, abandoned vehicles. And always, above it all, the silent, indifferent sky.

Here, on the anniversary of D-Day, LIFE.com presents a series of previously unpublished color photographs made in northwest France by LIFE photographer Frank Scherschel. The impulse behind posting the gallery, meanwhile, is really no more complicated than this: to commemorate those Allied troops who fought and died; to honour those who fought and lived; and to mark the occasion by also remembering what happened to countless towns — and townspeople — in northwest France and around the globe when the Second World War unleashed hell in the very midst of their lives.

To view the photos, go to: - <http://life.time.com/world-war-ii/>

"Who Is That?"

A bi-weekly challenge from the Museum and Archives of 15 Field Regiment, RCA.

Military museums across Canada possess hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of photos of our martial past. When the photos were taken, most who saw them knew who had taken them and who was being photographed. However, time and tide take their toll, and, after a few years, the photographs are often labelled "anonymous", for both the taker and the subject. Our museum is no different to others, and, in spite of our fairly short regimental history (at least compared to that of units such as the Coldstream Guards), we have many photos that can be so labelled. However, the collective memory of our members is greater than the sum, so every second week our museum will present a photo to you to challenge your knowledge and memory, the answer to which could add important detail to our history.

So, without further ado, here is the first one. It is a Great War artillery officer, a lieutenant.



The negative is in a little booklet entitled "Kodak Album Classeur". It is unattributed, but is probably taken in France, possibly towards the end of the war (the others in the series show peaceful scenes behind the lines). The caption reads, "Self on Cycle". Do you recognize the man? Is he your grand uncle or great grandfather? Did he help found our Regiment after the Great War? Send your suggestions to: John Donald Redmond ([john.d. redmond@telus.net](mailto:john.d.redmond@telus.net)) or drop by the Museum.

From the 'Punitary'

When the cannibal showed up late for dinner, he got the cold shoulder.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

If it makes sense, it is not the "Army Way"

Quotable Quotes

The leader has to be practical and a realist, yet must talk the language of the visionary and the idealist. - *Eric Hoffer*

CCMMS 'Red Tails and Dragon Tales' Event

RED TAILS AND DRAGON TALES



A historic summit of two groups of WWII veterans that faced discrimination: the Tuskegee Airmen and Chinese-Canadian soldiers. Meeting for the first time ever, these aging veterans will share their stories with the public on how they overcame prejudice to serve their countries with courage and distinction.

UBC OPENING SYMPOSIUM

Friday, June 28
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
1961 East Mall Vancouver
Room: Victoria Learning Theatre
Vancouver

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, June 28
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Chinatown Railway Workers & Veterans Memorial
Columbia and Keefer St, Vancouver

ONE WAR: TWO VICTORIES PHOTO EXHIBIT

Friday, June 28
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Chinese Cultural Centre, 2nd Floor
555 Columbia Street, Vancouver

SFU DOWNTOWN SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, June 29
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
SFU Harbour Centre
Room: 7000 (Earl and Jennine Lohn Policy Room)
515 West Hastings Street
Vancouver

RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENT

Sunday, June 30
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Brighthouse Branch
Room: 2nd Floor, Community Place Room
100 - 7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond



www.ccmms.ca



"Double V"

"One War – Two Victories"

A CELEBRATORY BANQUET

to commemorate the historic visit of the Tuskegee Airmen

to the City of Vancouver

Date: Sunday, the 30th day of June, 2013

Time:: Reception: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm

*Place: The Floata Chinese Seafood Restaurant
#400 – 180 Keefer Street, Vancouver, BC*

Cost: \$ 45.00 per person

Ticket Order Form

I request _____ tickets, at \$45.00 each, for the above banquet and enclose my cheque in the amount of \$_____ payable to the "Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society". I understand that my tickets will be reserved for me on A "will call" basis and be available for my pickup at the reception table on the day Of the banquet.


Please reserve under my name of _____

Please mail this ticket order form along with your cheque to :
Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society, c/o Chinese Cultural
Centre, 50 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 3V6.

Please mail by June 26th, 2013 to assure timely postal delivery, thank you very much.

Royal Westminster Regiment 'Seats for Soldiers'

SEATS FOR SOLDIERS V




1863 150 2013

£04
£7:45


Wear Uniforms,
Regimental Blazers
or Red to support
our troops!

TELUS
REPLEX
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SCHANKS Sports Grill
NEW WESTMINSTER
THE RIVER'S REACH
KEY WEST
Boston Pizza


PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES START AT 6PM BEVERAGE GARDEN, HISTORIC & MILITARY DISPLAYS,
C 150 SOUVENIR GIVE-AWAYS, THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT BAND



Westminster Regt. Lacrosse Team - 1941



47th Battalion Lacrosse Team - 1915



VS

TICKETS

\$10 / \$7 / \$5

All Canadian Armed Forces,
Legion Members, Veterans, Cadets,
& their Families GET IN FREE!

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