



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News July 2, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

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

Summer Dress is in effect. Just to clarify, this does not mean shorts, sandals and tee shirts. Summer dress for civilian clothing means you take off your jacket and tie so you can be more comfortable on hot days. On cool days, many of us keep jackets and ties on to keep standards up.

We have just found out that the basic renovation plan submitted for the kitchen has been approved. DND will pay for changes to the building envelope and that leaves us with a cost of around \$20,000.

Lunches continue through the summer.

Remembering the Alamo: My Year in Afghanistan - Chapter 6

By Colonel Peter Williams Publication date: 16 May 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.

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - Since I last wrote, we hosted “The Mother of all Visits”. That’s when the new US Secretary of Defence, the Honourable Chuck Hagel (and Sergeant (Retired), US Army, as he signed himself in the guest book), visited the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC). As a former soldier, he was particularly interested in Afghan National Army (ANA) Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) training and was briefed, by the Afghan instructors themselves, on KMTCs Battle Staff NCO course (which trains NCOs to work in deployed Tactical Operations Centres, or TOCs), and the ANA Sergeant-Major Academy (SMA), home to the ANAs premiere NCO training course.

Secretary Hagel came away with a good understanding of ANA NCO training...as well as a Royal Canadian Artillery coin, courtesy of yours truly. Security, as you’d imagine, was tight, but working with the ANA – we had very good plan in place. Our work here to transition training planning and delivery to the ANA continues and most recently KMTC’s Soldier Training Brigade (STB, which can have as many as 7,000 soldiers in-house at once) and the Special Skills Brigade (SSB, which trains senior instructors, drivers, computer skills and literacy) were transitioned to full ANA-lead.

With our significantly reduced number of advisors with these organizations are now largely monitoring the units for legal and policy compliance. Similarly, the ANA School of Artillery, advised by our Australian contingent, has made the same transition and I was pleased to fire one of their 122mm D-30 howitzers on their first exercise after having achieved this capability milestone. We expect other KMTC units to make similar transitions over the coming months. We've had comings and goings in other areas: the Canadian-led Signals School Training Advisory Team departed Camp ALAMO (and with them our Belgian, Norwegian and Swedish contingents) for quarters elsewhere. We also had a very colourful ceremony to bid adieu to our French Contingent as they departed our family and received medals for their service with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

One positive outcome of all this was our ability to raise the NATO flag over Camp ALAMO, the departure of other nations having created space for what I called the nearest thing to a "family flag" that we can all rally around as a multinational team. Internationalism continues to be one of our watchwords and in the last month we continued our series of international nights, with our advisors from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan entertaining us all with a presentation on their beautiful homeland which shares, along with Canada, the US, Britain and Australia, a love for that international musical instrument - that's right, the bagpipe!

Our Afghan comrades recently celebrated the arrival of their New Year (Solar Year 1392, to be exact), known as "Nowruz", and in accordance with their traditions, they planted many new trees on KMTC grounds. I was given the honour of planting one and if memory serves, I think it's the first tree I've ever planted in my life. I wonder what it'll look like in a few years.

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 northern-most 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>

Operation Husky 2013

Earlier this year in Sheldrake's Log we featured Operation Husky 2013, a programme to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Sicily in 1943. The Quadrant, in the most recent issue, also featured Operation Husky 2013.

A key action of Operation Husky 2013 each day of the commemorative march will be to place markers to indicate the Canadians that fell that day. 562 Canadians fell in the Liberation of Sicily in 1943.

The programme organizers have asked Canadians to sponsor a Soldier Marker to help offset the cost of this activity. We have received an overwhelming response. However, the markers for a number of fallen Gunners have not yet been sponsored. By means of this message we are calling on Gunners across Canada to help us recognise the sacrifice made by these fallen Gunners. Donors will receive a Charitable Receipt for the full amount of their donation. Afterwards they will receive a photo of their sponsored marker being placed and the location where it was placed.

Below is a list of the units that participated in Operation Husky in 1943 and a list of the fallen Gunners for whom we are asking for a donation for a marker. Please consider donating \$150 to sponsor a Soldier Marker by clicking on this link:

<http://www.operationhusky2013.ca/operation-husky-in-sicily/sponsor-a-soldiers-marker/>

UBIQUE

Sheldrake

The Gunner units that participated Operation Husky in 1943

- o 1st Fd Regt, RCHA (Regular Force) CFB Wainwright, AB

- o 2nd Fd Regt, RCA, (Primary Reserve), Montreal, QC
 - 7th Fd Bty, RCA (Primary Reserve) Montréal, QC
 - 8th Fd Bty, RCA (Inactive), Moncton, NB
 - 10th Fd Bty, RCA (Primary Reserve), St Catharines, ON

- o 3rd Fd Regt, RCA (Inactive)
 - The present-day 3rd Fd Regt, RCA (Primary Reserve) of St-John, NB served in other roles in WWII. The WWII 3rd Fd Regt was formed from batteries from Western Canada.**
 - 19th Fd Bty, RCA (Inactive)
 - 77th Fd Bty, RCA (Inactive)
 - 92nd Fd Bty, RCA (Inactive)

- o 1st AT Regt, RCA (Inactive)
 - 51st AT Bty, RCA (inactive – commemorated by the Bytown Gunners)

- o 2nd Light Anti-Aircraft Regt, RCA (inactive)

List of the fallen Gunners

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>GIVEN NAME</u>
1 Fd Regt. RCHA	LBdr	MILLARD	LEO ERNEST
1 Fd Regt. RCHA	Gnr	SCHULTZ	HAROLD
2 Fd Regt.	Gnr	AMIRAUT	RESTHER JOSEPH
2 Fd Regt.	Bdr	ATTIS	JOSEPH WILFRED
2 Fd Regt.	Gnr	COBURN	STANLEY RUSSELL
2 Fd Regt.	Gnr	DOWNING	FRANK FIDELLE
2 Fd Regt.	LBdr	GILCHRIST	WALTER WILDE
2 Fd Regt.	Gnr	LEMONT	VICTOR
2 Fd Regt.	Gnr	ROBERTS	FREDERICK STEWART
2 Fd Regt.	Gnr	STEEVES	CLIFFORD FRED
2 Fd Regt.	Sgt	TRITES	LEONARD CHESLIE DENYS FRANCIS
2 Fd Regt.	Capt	WARD	HAROLD
3 Fd Regt.	Gnr	COOKE	THOMAS AUSTIN
3 Fd Regt.	Gnr	GLIDDEN	ERNEST PATRICK
3 Fd Regt.	LSgt	JACK	GEORGE JOHN
3 Fd Regt.	Gnr	NICOLL	ROBERT GUNN
3 Fd Regt.	Gnr	SCOTT	WILLIAM ARTHUR
3 Fd Regt.	Gnr	SMITH	LEONARD ADAM
1 AT Regt.	Gnr	BEDARD	LEO
1 AT Regt.	Bdr	GOSSE	LLOYD
1 AT Regt.	Gnr	HIGGINS	ARNOLD JOHN
1 AT Regt.	Gnr	STROME	FRANK GORDON
1 AT Regt.	Gnr	TERRY	DAVID DOUGLAS
1 AT Regt.	Lt	WATEROUS	CHARLES HORATIO
2 LAA Regt.	Gnr	GRIFF	NICHOLAS

2 LAA Regt.	Gnr	HUGHES	JOHN
2 LAA Regt.	Gnr	JANSEN	KENNETH ROLAND
11 Army Fd Regt.	Gnr	BIDGOOD	STANLEY KIRKLAND
11 Army Fd Regt.	Gnr	MACKAY	LEIGH
5 Med Regt.	Gnr	CHIASSON	URBAN JOSEPH
Unit U/K	Sgt	UPTON	WILLIAM JAMES

Canada Day vs. Dominion Day - What do you call the July 1 holiday?

by Kady O'Malley CBC News/Politics Posted: June 30, 2012

As we head into the long weekend, consider, if you will, the quintessentially Canadian conundrum that is the July 1st national holiday.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, it shares a date with Memorial Day, which was established long before the province joined Confederation, and honours those lost on what Rick Mercer sums up as "the bloodiest day in Newfoundland history": July 1, 1916, when the Newfoundland Regiment "was wiped out on the battlefield of Beaumont-Hamel France during the Battle of the Somme."

In Quebec, it's Moving Day for the tens of thousands of renters whose leases expire on July 1.

Meanwhile, the rest of the country celebrates Canada Day ... unless, that is, one happens to be among the small but feisty minority that insists on calling it Dominion Day, in open and wilful defiance of C-201, the private members' bill that officially changed the name from the latter to the former, which was passed by the House of Commons under decidedly murky procedural circumstances thirty years ago this month.

From the Ottawa Citizen:

At 4 o'clock on Friday, July 9, 1982, the House of Commons was almost empty. The 13 parliamentarians taking up space in the 282-seat chamber were, by most accounts, half asleep as they began Private Members' Hour. But then one of the more wakeful Liberals noticed the Tory MPs were slow to arrive in the chamber. Someone -- exactly who has never been firmly identified -- remembered Bill C-201, a private member's bill from Hal Herbert, the Liberal MP from Vaudreuil, that had been gathering dust ever since it had received first reading in May of 1980. "An Act to Amend the Holidays Act" proposed to change the name of the July 1 national holiday from "Dominion Day" to "Canada Day."

The whole process took five minutes. The MPs celebrated by declaring an early end to session at 4:05 p.m. "It is only appropriate that, in celebrating our new holiday called Canada Day, we should at least take a holiday of 55 minutes this afternoon," said New Democrat Mark Rose.

The controversy continued as the bill made its way through the Upper House.

Collecting Government Pensions

June 23, 2013

Dear Veterans and Friends,

The Government of Canada depleted our Military/RCMP Veterans pension account by almost **\$20 billion dollars** to pay down the National debt and the Supreme Court of Canada called it a Government entitlement. CFSA Military pension account posted a surplus of over **\$57 billion dollars** and the Government of Canada will not terminate the claw back to our pension at age 65.

Prior to being elected Prime Minister, In the 2005 Federal election campaign Mr. Harper, MP stated: “When a motion passes the democratic elected majority of the House of Commons, the Government **shall honour** that motion”! (Hansard 2005) **Once elected he quickly changed his mind!** On May 5, 2010, for the fourth time, Conservative MP’s were directed to vote against Bill C-201. The bill count was successful and the final vote recorded was 149 yeas and 134 nays. The speaker of the House of Commons declared that Bill C-201 was carried, but then discharged it from the agenda because Prime Minister Harper refused to request a Royal recommendation. Bill C-201 died on the order table.

The Government of Canada spent almost **40 Million dollars** in legal fees and lost the court case of Dennis Manuge SISIP disability claw back and yet, it continues to claw back Military/RCMP Veterans pension from their CPP disability benefits. The CPP plan has recorded a surplus of over **\$161 billion dollars** and the Government of Canada wants to increase the age limit to age 67.

The dictatorship of the Conservative Harper Government continues. The NDP party Leader has promise to correct the gross, unfairness policy affecting Military/RCMP Veterans and their Families. Will the Liberal leader promise to correct the gross, unfairness affecting Military/RCMP Veterans? We are awaiting Mr Trudeau’s answer?

Sincerely,

John Labelle florencejohn@ns.sympatico.ca

Veterans Annuity Campaign-Coordinator

“Veterans work continues”

UK Army Receives New Terrier Vehicle

gov.uk June 05, 2013

The armoured digger gives the Royal Engineers a state-of-the-art capability that can be used to carry out a variety of tasks both in the UK and on future operations. Despite weighing 30 tonnes, Terrier is an agile and versatile piece of equipment that can reach speeds of almost 50 miles per hour. It is fitted with 5 on-board cameras and thermal imaging technology, providing soldiers with a 360-degree surveillance capability that can be used day and night. The technology used in Terrier is so advanced that the vehicle can be operated by remote control,

enabling soldiers to clear routes from a safe distance. Terrier is able to transport up to 5,000 kilograms of material and has a range of interchangeable attachments such as a forklift and rock hammer that makes it highly adaptable. The vehicle can also be equipped with a 7.62 millimetre general purpose machine gun and smoke grenade launchers for use in combat. The Army will receive 60 Terriers as part of a £360 million project with BAE Systems, who have designed and



built the vehicle in the UK. Warrant Officer Steve Cahill, Royal Engineers, who has trialled Terrier, said:

The British Army has taken delivery of Terrier, its newest and most advanced engineering vehicle.

"The Terrier is a world-leading engineer support and combat vehicle which can dig holes, lift objects and drill into the

ground or shatter concrete. All whilst being controlled remotely and providing armoured protection, top cover and smoke shields for our troops." "Very much in line with the ethos of the Corps of Royal Engineers, Terrier is a versatile vehicle capable of taking on a variety of tasks."

Head of the British Army, General Sir Peter Wall, Chief of the General Staff, said:

"The Terrier armoured digger is excellent news for the Army. Its versatility will pay huge dividends on the battlefields of the future. We could not be happier with this new armoured engineer capability."

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne said:

"The Terrier vehicle is a great example of the contribution that the British defence industry makes to our Armed Forces. Designed and built in the UK by BAE Systems, it will provide technological advances for our troops with a more robust and versatile engineering capability."

"Who Is That?"

"Thank you to all who responded to last week's photo. The winners are now enjoying their week in the Bahamas. Any information given to the Museum regarding the photos will be kept for future historical reference.



This week's photo is slightly more recent. It is one taken more recently than the last one, probably in the 1950s or 60s, in the WO & Sgts Mess. They both have name tags, but they are not readable on the original print. Can you help us identify these worthy gentlemen?

The photo, by the way, is from the possessions of the late LCol Vic Stevenson, the man without whom the Museum would be merely a pile of boxes in a storage room, if that! If you have photos that you think would help to preserve the history of the Regiment, please consider donating. Slides and negatives are the preferred historical media, but modern electronically-stored media are also accepted.

Answers can be sent to johnd._redmond@telus.net

From the 'Punitary'

Those who throw dirt are sure to lose ground.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

The enemy always knows the area better than you, no matter how many dismounts or convoys you have been on.

Quotable Quotes

When friendships are real, they are not glass threads, or frostwork, but the solidest things we know. A friend is the first person who comes in when the whole world has gone out.

Based on a quote from RW Emerson.

Royal Westminster Regiment 'Seats for Soldiers'

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