



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Sept 3, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches start again tomorrow!! Roast Beef day! Look forward to seeing you all again. As I mentioned last week, the first Wednesday of Sept is always a low attendance day so, if you can, please come and help support our lunches.

Summer Dress will be in effect for a couple of more weeks. 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.

Battle of Britain commemorated on Sunday September 15th at Stanley Park

Veterans and their families and friends are cordially invited to the 65th annual Battle of Britain commemoration at the beautiful Air Forces Garden of Remembrance in Stanley Park on Sunday, September 15, starting at 1:00 pm. The commemoration marks the 73rd anniversary of the exact date – September 15, 1940, when the crucial Battle of Britain was won over the Luftwaffe. The victory prevented the German seaborne invasion of the United Kingdom and which led ultimately to victory by the Allies in World War Two. From July through October 1940, airmen from the Great Britain, Canada, other Commonwealth members, the US, and countries of occupied Europe battled the Luftwaffe for dominance in the air.

Participating on September 15th will be the 111 Pegasus Squadron Air Cadet Band; the BC Regiment Pipes & Drums, the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Party; the Anavets Colour Guard; the combined 525 and 836 Air Cadet Squadrons, and air force veterans. A highlight will be the lighting of The “Lamp of Brotherhood”, which symbolizes peaceful brotherhood. It is cast from the bronze doors of the destroyed abbey at Italy’s Monte Cassino during WW Two. George Plawski, a former pilot with the Royal Canadian Navy will be guest speaker. Born in Poland he will highlight the largely unknown, yet important contribution by the Polish Air Force in the Battle of Britain and to the allied victory. A musical concert, beginning at 1:00 pm, will precede the ceremony and the Royal Canadian Air Force “Aurora” based at CFB Comox will conduct a flyby at 1:30 pm. This year the Battle of Britain commemoration is honoured to salute the Vancouver Park Board and the City of Vancouver on the 125th Anniversary of Stanley Park. The Air Forces Garden of Remembrance is located next to the bus loop and Stanley Park Pavilion. For more information on the Battle of Britain Memorial Fund go to www.battleofbritain.ca

(see poster at the end of this newsletter)

Loss of ASU Jobs Sad for City: Mayor

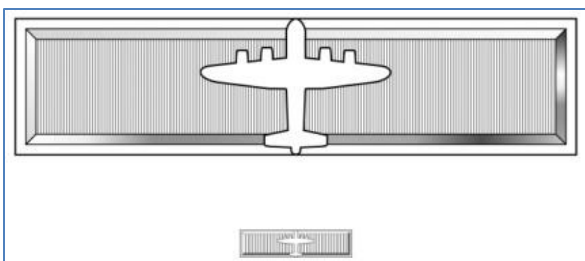
Tyler Olsen / Chilliwack Times April 10, 2012

Some Canadian Forces soldiers will continue to be stationed at Area Support Unit Chilliwack, but the loss of more than a dozen well-paying jobs is bad news for the city, according to Mayor Sharon Gaetz. "It affects every neighbourhood," she told the Times. "These are civilians, they volunteer in our community . . . they're part of our community so of course we really care deeply and feel sad these cuts have to be made." Last week, the Union of National Defence Employees was told that 18 positions at ASU Chilliwack would be eliminated as part of nationwide cuts to the Department of National Defence. While the union was told that ASU Chilliwack could close-and although the closures of army support units was presented as an option in an internal army plan obtained by the Ottawa Citizen in March-Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon MP Mark Strahl said in a press release Thursday that he has "been assured that the Canadian Forces will continue to maintain a permanent presence in Chilliwack as some personnel transition elsewhere to meet emerging needs." In the press release, Strahl said no changes will occur until next year. He said the changes are meant to "streamline the procurement of support equipment and spare parts and enhance human resources management." The Times requested an interview, but Strahl was not available.

Gaetz heard the news of the cuts from an ASU Chilliwack employee Wednesday afternoon. "We know that right now we have engineers that are on the base and apparently they will remain. It will be used as a garrison so people coming home from Afghanistan will be in Chilliwack for a period of time," she said. "But I still think this is really sad for the city of Chilliwack. You think of 30 people out of work, that's a huge hit to any community. . . We're very disappointed." Gaetz spoke Wednesday to Strahl, who reiterated that the cuts would take place in 2013 and that the army would retain a presence in Chilliwack. "We're a little bit touchy about touching the military because we live in an area that is prone to earthquakes and flooding and so we want to make sure that there is a continued military presence," said Gaetz. But she wished more information was forthcoming. "I just really hope that we soon hear more news from the federal government. It's a little disconcerting to hear it from the employees before the government." UNDE vice-president for British Columbia T Mark Miller said the Department of National Defence is looking to "divest" some of its infrastructure and land to the Canada Lands Corporation, the federal Crown corporation that helped develop the adjacent Canada Education Park. He said that it was possible that a small number of civilian jobs, in the single digits, may be maintained at the site.

Government of Canada Presents First Bomber Command Bars

Published: August 26, 2013 by Veterans Affairs Canada



TORONTO, AUG. 26, 2013 — /CNW/ - The Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today made the inaugural presentation of the new Bomber Command Bar to Veterans at a special ceremony held at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. Veterans of Bomber Command and their

families, including those representing deceased Veterans, were in attendance for the ceremony on the grounds of the former Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College. "Today, our Government is proud to honour Canadians who served in Bomber Command operations during the Second World War by presenting them with the first Bomber Command Bar," said Minister Fantino. "The brave men who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) in Bomber Command operations did so at a very heavy cost; approximately 10,000 of them paid the ultimate price, losing their lives in the skies of Europe, in training accidents or in prisoners of war camps. There is no question that their courage and dedication played an important part in bringing victory to the Allies in the Second World War."

"The Bomber Command Bar recognizes Canadian Bomber Command Veterans for their commitment and bravery in facing some of the most difficult odds of the Second World War," said Minister Nicholson. "Despite great risk—almost half of all aircrew never made it to the end of their tour—thousands volunteered. The nation stands forever grateful for their service, and we will always remember and honour their bravery and sacrifice. Lest we forget." "The Royal Canadian Air Force Association is pleased and delighted that the realization of this significant decoration and recognition is finally at hand," said Colonel (Retired) Terry Chester, National President of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association. "Our loyal and brave airmen have waited patiently for this moment; many, sadly, are not now here for this auspicious moment, but we will remember them as we honour those who continue to carry the torch.

Per Ardua ad Astra!"

Canada played a vital role in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP), a wide-reaching plan that was jointly undertaken by Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, whose graduates formed the backbone of Bomber Command. Many of the Canadians who trained under this program served with RCAF squadrons in the No. 6 Bomber Group—the only non-British group to serve in Bomber Command. By the end of the Second World War, No. 6 Bomber Group had carried out more than 40,000 sorties and approximately 8,000 decorations for bravery were awarded to its members. The Government of Canada created this official honour to formally recognize these brave Canadians. In addition to the creation of the Bomber Command Bar, the Government of Canada also helped in creating the new Bomber Command Memorial in London, United Kingdom. This memorial honours all members of the Bomber Command from Allied countries and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. For more information on Canada's role in Bomber Command and the Bomber Command Bar, to apply online for the honour or to download a hardcopy of the application form, please visit veterans.gc.ca

Unique Piece of Canadian Aviation History

By Caley Ramsay Global News

EDMONTON- A unique and important part of Canada's aviation history has been unveiled at the Alberta Aviation Museum. The F-104 Starfighter- known as the fastest fighter the Royal Canadian Air Force ever had- was unveiled to an adoring crowd at the museum on Saturday. "It was very nostalgic, brought a tear to my eye actually. It brought back a lot of memories, most of them pleasant, some unfortunate," said Rick Wall, a retired Air Force pilot. It's been

nearly 30 years since Wall last flew the aircraft. He once crashed one during a simulation attack on a missile site in northern Alberta. “We were going about 540 knots,” he said. “And hit a bunch of birds... and at 540 knots you don’t have time to do anything.” After trying several times to right the aircraft, Wall and a fellow soldier were forced to abandon the Starfighter. “It became pretty apparent that nothing was going to work so I told Harold to get out and he did, he was happy to. And I went out after him.” Capable of reaching speeds of Mach 2.35, which is the equivalent of travelling over 800 metres per second, the aircraft was the jet of choice for NATO members during the 60s and 70s. Wall says flying the F-104 Starfighter was one of the most thrilling times of his life.



“Everybody that flew it fell in love with it... When the 104s flew overhead everybody would stop and look at it. It’s just that kind of airplane. It’s not the appearance of the airplane, it’s the sound that it makes. It was just tremendously exciting. Best time of my life,” he said

with a smile. It’s a feeling shared by many at the unveiling ceremony. “It had a je ne sais quoi. It was one of those airplanes that just had a mystique about it because it was so blindingly fast, it was so sleek. It was just, there was nothing that looked like it, nothing that sounded like it, nothing that went as fast. It just was one of those airplanes that... ‘I’ve got to fly that airplane,’” said MP Laurie Hawn, a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

But the process of getting the F-104 to Edmonton certainly wasn’t easy. “It’s been a huge task. Seven years of searching, 18 months of working through three different governments, across two continents and an ocean,” said Tim Hinderks, executive director of the Alberta Aviation Museum. “The effort was huge.” From there, experts spent four and half months restoring the aircraft- a job Hinderks says usually takes up to five years. But, he says the effort has been absolutely worth it, as it will help tell the story of Alberta and Canada’s history to generations to to come. “Bringing history back to life isn’t just about remembering the past. It’s about

inspiring the future.” The aircraft was unveiled as part of the Alberta Aviation Museum’s grand re-opening ceremony. The museum has gone through a major overhaul and has a number of new features and exhibits.

Vigilant Eagle Continues Closer US-Russian Cooperation

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26, 2013 - Beginning tomorrow, fighter jets from the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the Russian air force will scramble to track and intercept "hijacked" aircraft during an air defense exercise viewed as a steppingstone toward closer military-to-military cooperation in additional areas. Vigilant Eagle 13 kicked off today, with scenarios that present the United States, Canada and Russia with a common enemy: terrorist hijackers, Joseph Bonnet, director of joint training and exercises for NORAD and US Northern Command, said during a telephone interview with American Forces Press Service. The exercise is the fifth in a series, based on a 2003 agreement between the sitting US and Russian presidents to strengthen the two militaries' relationship and their ability to work together. The threat of international hijackers served as a foundation to help advance that effort, resulting in an exercise program that addresses a recognized threat, Bonnet explained. Vigilant Eagle began in 2008 as a command post exercise. At Russia's request, it now alternates between CPXs that test out principles and procedures in a computer-based setting and "live-fly" exercises that apply those principles and procedures the following year. This year's exercise is the third in the series to incorporate actual aircraft, Bonnet reported. A Russian Tupolev and a commercial aircraft contracted by the United States will simulate commercial airliners seized by terrorists. The US Air Force's Airborne Warning and Control System and Russia's A-50 Beriev will serve as command-and-control platforms.

Live fighter jets -- Canadian CF-18 Hornets and Russian Sukhois -- will track, identify, intercept and follow the hijacked aircraft, and both Canada and Russia will conduct air-to-air refuelling operations. The Canadian air force has been integral to past Vigilant Eagle exercises, but is contributing aircraft for the first time this year, Bonnet said. In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration and its Russian equivalent are participating. The scenario involves two "hijacked" commercial aircraft that challenge participants on the ground and in the sky to provide a coordinated response, Bonnet explained. The first flight, to originate tomorrow from Anchorage, Alaska, will travel into Russian airspace. The following day, a Russian aircraft will take off from Anadyr, Russia, toward US airspace. When the aircraft fail to respond to communications, NORAD, the US-Canada command that safeguards US skies under Operation Noble Eagle, and the Russian air force will move into action. Both will launch or divert fighter jets to investigate and follow the suspect aircraft headed toward each other's airspace. At that point, they will hand off the missions to each other to complete.

Working together in Anchorage and Anadyr and at the NORAD headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo., participants will cooperate in escort and handoff procedures using two distinct communications, command-and-control and air traffic control systems, Bonnet said. Vigilant Eagle has become more ambitious and valuable with each iteration, Bonnet said, noting that this year's exercise will be no different. "This is the culmination of everything that has gone on in

previous exercises, and we expect it to continue to mature," he said. "Like us, the Russian Federation air force is eager to expand the scope and complexity of the exercise, and to look into other areas," such as related search-and-rescue and airfield operations. Bonnet called continuation of Vigilant Eagle, particularly at a time when budget costs have caused the cancellation of many other exercises, a success in itself. With fewer than 100 people directly involved from the United States, Vigilant Eagle offers tremendous "bang for the buck," he said. "This is a small, relatively inexpensive exercise with a huge payoff," he said. "It doesn't cost any of the countries a lot of money, but it is building things that have immediate value for all of them. When you have procedures and a means of communicating information between both sides, that has a lot of value."

Another big success, Bonnet said, is that the exercise has transcended leadership changes both in the United States and in Russia, as well as recent political tensions between them. Both countries recognize the importance of continued cooperation to keep their international borders safe, he said. "It is one of the biggest single areas where the Russian Federation, US and Canada can truly cooperate," he said. "All three countries share a common objective in thwarting, combating and cooperating against terrorism." As their militaries work together to confront terrorist hijackers, Bonnet said, they are laying the foundation for future cooperation in other areas. "What we are trying to do is continually build and expand the exercise and use this as a basis for moving the relationship forward," he said. "That, to me, is the biggest value of Vigilant Eagle."

Who is it?



Last Week – We moved closer to the ‘modern’ day and we got lots of replies. We managed to id almost all of the people in the picture however, I want to send out a couple of additional pictures from the same sequence and that would make this newsletter file too large. I will send the pictures and the id out to local addressees in a separate email.

This week's quiz takes us back to the mid-1960s, according to the processing date on the original slide, yet again from the extensive collection of Vic Stevenson. It features three

fellows: an NCO or OR (forgive the ancient term, no disrespect meant) in bush cap and those dreadful overalls we sometimes wore, a major in a rather colourful camouflaged jacket or smock, and a youthful captain (?) in bush. Both officers are wearing Mk II tin lids and posing with very pukka-like field glasses, often required when one's photo is being taken. Alternatively, officers at that time were required to point to some distant object, using their swagger sticks. This was all done in the spirit of fair play to aid the opposition, who sometimes had difficulty identifying officers once the carrying of swords ended rather suddenly during the retreat from Mons in 1914.

Any help in identifying these three soldiers is much appreciated. Send your answers either to the editor, or to John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net).

Smart Women

Barbara Walters, of 20/20, did a story on gender roles in Kabul, Afghanistan, several years before the Afghan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked five paces behind their husbands.

She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands. Despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem happy to maintain the old custom.

Ms. Walters approached one of the Afghani women and asked, "Why do you now seem happy with an old custom that you once tried so desperately to change?"

'The woman looked Ms Walters straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, "Land mines."

From the 'Punitary'

I couldn't believe the statue was not made of stone. Next time, I won't take a work of art for granite.

Murphy's Laws

Whenever one word or one letter can change the meaning of a sentence, the probability of an error being made will be in direct proportion to the embarrassment it will cause.

Quotable Quotes

I'm a great believer that any tool that enhances communication has profound effects in terms of how people can learn from each other, and how they can achieve the kind of freedoms that they're interested in. - *Bill Gates*

Come join us at the
BATTLE of BRITAIN
Parade & Flyby



Sunday, Sept. 15 ~ 1pm

Air Forces Garden of Remembrance

STANLEY PARK Bus Loop

www.BattleofBritain.ca

Posted with the support of:



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada





YOU AND YOUR GUEST
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

TO A

"NATIONAL SECURITY PRESENTATION AND
NO HOST LUNCHEON"

TO BE HELD ON

SATURDAY, 7TH OF SEPTEMBER 2013

10:00 A.M. UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

AT

THE CANTON GARDEN RESTAURANT,

BANQUET ROOM,

45595 YALE ROAD, CHILLIWACK, B.C.

GUEST OF HONOR: COLONEL STEPHEN P. HUBBLE USMC (RET)

FEATURING "AMERICA AT RISK" THE WAR WITH NO NAME

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'REMEMBERING 9-11'