



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News June 4, 2019

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at [bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get a copy.

**Newsletter on line.** This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca) and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

**Wednesday Lunches -** We need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

**Upcoming events – Mark your calendars** See attached posters for details.

**Jun 08** 2472 (15 Fd RCA) Cadet Corps Annual Ceremonial Review  
39 CER D-Day Mess Dinner

**Jun 14** Langley Rotary Clubs annual Tip 'n Taste Craft Beer Event

### World War 2 – 1944

*John Thompson Strategic analyst - quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"*

**Jun 5<sup>th</sup>:** Eisenhower consults with his meteorologists and staff, decides to commit his troops to battle and quietly pens a note apportioning all blame for any failure to himself alone. At this time, the Allies have 52 divisions in the UK, and 37 are earmarked for the invasion and its aftermath, while their deception efforts have convinced the Germans that 80 divisions are ready – the Germans have 60 divisions ready to receive an invasion in the West (11 of them panzer or Panzergrenadier formations). As the Airborne forces take off and the assault formations put back out to sea, the second line of the Verlaine verse cues the Resistance (and the Germans) that the day is nigh... but a night of 'divers alarums' is about to cause considerable confusion. Elsewhere in the war, the US counterattack at Biak is doing very well while continued Japanese counterattacks take extremely heavy casualties. The British clear the last road to Kohima and can now address the ragged starvelings that are keeping Imphail isolated. US troops parade through Rome in pursuit of the retreating Germans.

**Jun 6<sup>th</sup>:** D-Day in the Normandy Invasion. First to fight are the men of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> British Airborne Divisions. The British and Canadian paras do much to secure the eastern flank of the landing zone, while the badly dispersed US paratroopers have a harder time accomplishing their tasks but cause considerable disruption. The US 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division takes Utah Beach (with 200 dead) and finds the marshy ground beyond the beach is a considerable barrier. The Rangers, 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions find Omaha Beach is a severe ordeal, but training, initiative and guts eventually create a secure lodgment at a cost of 1,000 dead and many more wounded and missing. At the British Gold Beach, the 50<sup>th</sup> Division and the 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade land well and start muscling into several heavily fortified towns. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade have a short, sharp and vicious fight to secure Juno Beach, and then make the deepest penetration of any landing force. At Sword Beach, the British 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 27<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade, and British, French and Norwegian commandos run into stout resistance from 21<sup>st</sup> Panzer Division, but their beachhead is likewise fully secure at day's end. All in all, 150,000 Allied troops (5% of the forces allocated to Eisenhower for the Great Crusade) are ashore by dusk. There are many valiant men in battle this day; but perhaps only one is an arthritic Brigadier General with a heart condition, injuries from WW-1 and a cane. Son of President Teddy Roosevelt, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr was 57 and not somebody who should have landed in the first wave on Utah Beach but he has proven himself a capable commander in combat before. When the US troops pour ashore, far out of place from their assigned objectives, this limping general immediately improvises and calmly redirects troops to new assignments, ignoring enemy fire. The success of US arms at Utah Beach owes much to his precise and steady leadership. He dies of a heart-attack a month later before receiving word of his promotion to Major General or of the award of his Medal of Honor.

Elsewhere in the War, the French Corps in Italy captures Tivoli while Allied airpower inflicts a severe toll on the withdrawing Germans. The 168<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Regiment is poised to take the Mokmer Airfield at Biak. The Germans on Crete put 260 of the Island's Jews, 400 Greek Hostages and 300 Italian POWs into the holds of small boats, take them out to sea and sink the boats, there are no survivors.

**Jun 7<sup>th</sup>:** Lawton Collin's US VII Corps advances west out of Utah towards the Carentan Peninsula and Montebourg. Leonard Gerow's US V Corps out of Omaha reaches the edge of Formigny, the British XXX Corps from Gold take Bayeux, while the British I Corps and Canadians from Sword and Juno reach towards Caen as 21<sup>st</sup> Panzer and 12<sup>th</sup> SS Hitlerjugend rush towards them. For the next two months, the bulk of Germany's Panzer and SS Units will be opposite the British and Canadians in Normandy, giving the American troops to the West a better chance to consolidate and then muscle their way inland. This is the Allied plan.

The Americans on Biak capture Mokmer Airfield. In Italy, Allied troops liberate Bracciano and Civitavecchia (With intact port facilities! Usually the Germans demolish shipping facilities before they evacuate port cities), Civita Castellana and Subiaco. Sgt Hanson Victor Turner doesn't take defeat well. A Japanese attack on his platoon of West Yorkshires near Ningthoukong Burma has knocked out all their Bren guns and made them fall back, but Sgt Turner rallies them, and they hold their position while he repeatedly goes out into the darkness

to stalk approaching Japanese with grenades. After he had returned the sixth time for more grenades, he goes out again but is killed while grenading still more Japanese. His sacrifice saves his platoon and wins him a posthumous Victoria Cross.

**Jun 8<sup>th</sup>:** Omaha and Gold are linked up as British Marines take Port-en-Bessin, 4<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Division begins the advance towards Cherbourg; and US V Corps liberates Isigny. In the Caen sector, the fighting between fanatical SS Hitlerjugend and the Canadians is particularly intense. Technical Sergeant Frank D Peregory of the 29<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Division encounters the German defences outside Grandcamp-Maisy in Normandy. When tank and artillery fire fail to neutralize the German machineguns, he goes forward alone and works his way into the enemy defences. He emerges with over 35 prisoners and has left a few bodies in his wake when he returns from neutralizing the machineguns. He is killed in action on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, and so his award of the Medal of Honor is posthumous. Another Japanese attempt to reinforce Biak is deterred by the US Navy, and the Americans start moving forward again at Aitape.

**Jun 9<sup>th</sup>:** In Normandy the first Allied airfields are open for business, elements of US VII Corps take Azeville, US V Corps liberates Trevieres, and British troops find the bodies of Canadian POWs murdered by Hitlerjugend – thereafter the 12<sup>th</sup> SS is marked division. 2<sup>nd</sup> SS Panzer is repeatedly ambushed by French Resistance members on their march to Normandy, and their commander orders 500 hostages hung in the town of Tulle after fighting their way through the barricaded streets. The officer in charge of the executions only hangs 99. Among those who fell in battle today is the British poet Captain Keith Douglas, arguably the finest English-language poet of the war. German reserves, particularly SS and Panzer troops, continue to congregate in the British-Canadian sector. The Italian government of Marshal Badoglio resigns and Ivanoe Bonami forms a new one. In Italy, US troops liberate Tarquinia, Viterbo and Vetrella while a number of US VI Corps units are withdrawn to prepare for the coming invasion of France and the British shuffle formations between X and XIII Corps. Post-War research often has effects on the records of submarines and fighter aircraft, and one US submarine commander wasn't quite as successful as he thought he was. Commander Samuel David Dealey, however, does have a well-deserved reputation for aggression and has sunk three Japanese destroyers (no mean feat for any submariner) in his patrols in the USS Harder. Tonight, as he lurks around the Japanese naval base at Tawi Tawi in the Philippines, he sinks another IJN destroyer and at dawn on the 10<sup>th</sup> he launches another aggressive attack on a trio of battleships and their plentiful escort. He returns to base, convinced he has actually sunk four warships (alas, only the one), but is recommended for the Medal of Honor. Unfortunately, the award is posthumous as his submarine does not return from its sixth combat patrol.

**Jun 10<sup>th</sup>:** The Allies now have one continuous beachhead as 2<sup>nd</sup> US Armor links up Omaha and Utah as the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne moves to seal off the Carentan and 7<sup>th</sup> British Armoured goes head to head with Panzerlehr at Tilly-sur-Seulles; and Montgomery sets up his HQ in Normandy. Troops from 2<sup>nd</sup> SS massacre 642 villagers at Oradour sur Glane in response to their frustration with non-stop sabotage and ambushes on the march north, and the disappearance of one of their officers. In Italy, British troops liberate the Adriatic cities of Pescara and Chieti. HMS Illustrious and the escort carrier HMS Atheling raid Japanese sites on Sumatra. Soviet 23<sup>rd</sup> Army opens up an offensive on the Finns in the Karelian Isthmus.

**Jun 11<sup>th</sup>:** Task Force 58 visits the Marianas and shoots down 36 Japanese aircraft, sinks three minor warships and 30,000 tons of shipping. Carentan and Lison are taken by US troops as the British and Canadians encounter an increasing weight of German armour in their path. The first shuttle bombing raid goes from Italy to Russia, pounding the Romanian airfield of Focsani. Over the next 12 days, Captain Michael Allmand of the 6<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles will frequently set a personal example of outstanding courage and devotion – today he reacts to an ambush by entrenched Japanese near the Pin Hmi Road Bridge in Burma by charging them with grenade and his kukri, slashing three of the enemy to death alone. Repeatedly demonstrating this sort of courage in the face of the enemy has consequences for infantry officers and he is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

## **BCIT Legion Program Introduces New Component**

*Mishall Rehman*

Building on the astounding success of the BCIT Legion program, the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) is launching a career component to its program that currently fast tracks education for military members. Launched in 2008, because of the large reservist population in the area, BCIT realized there was a need to assist military members to jumpstart their civilian careers. “We were kind of a land and launch pad for people going to Afghanistan. So, we had an influx of members coming back that switched from full time back to part-time contracts. There was a big demand,” said Amber Butterworth, Project Lead for the National Advanced Placement and Prior Learning Program. And, so, in partnership with the Legion, BCIT developed the Legion Military Skills Conversion Program that is designed to accelerate the civilian career of former and current military members. The Institute has worked over the years to perfect various pathways to assist military members in obtaining careers in fields such as HR, business, international business management, accounting, ecological restoration and much more.

Path One of BCIT’s program takes a holistic approach in the advanced placement of military members into one of the polytechnics programs. Based on the member’s rank and experiences, credentials can be fast-tracked and years can be reduced for a particular program. For example, says Butterworth, a member could potentially receive a bachelor’s in business two years rather than three to five. “We take everything into consideration, which is fantastic. Any civilian work counts, any dabbling in any part-time studies counts. So, bring in your transcripts,” added Butterworth. Since 2008, 700 military members have accessed BCIT Legion services. The growing success of the program led BCIT to work with other educational institutions to launch a nationwide Advanced Placement and Prior Learning program in 2016. The program is offered in both official languages and offered in numerous institutions across the country. BCIT’s in-house program also consists of career planning services for members of the Canadian Armed Forces, regardless of whether they are students at BCIT or not. Members can receive help with preference testing, assessments, skills translation, and writing resume and cover letters. The program also offers assistance for veterans looking to become entrepreneurs, which is Path Two of the program. Therefore, Butterworth says adding a career component was just a natural next step to grow and diversify the BCIT Legion program.

As part of this new phase of the program, or “Path Three: Get a Career” an Education and Employment Fair was held on Thursday, May 2 to connect members with various work opportunities. Employers that were part of the fair were specifically interested in hiring former CAF members and understand the value of hiring veterans. Employers part of the BCIT network come from diverse fields and offer military members a number of different career pathways. The employers have also gone through specific training to understand the value of working with former military members. The career component to the BCIT Legion program is fairly new, and plans are in place to perfect it over the coming months. The goal is to make the Education and Employment Fair an annual event. “Our vision is to have it [career component] as a job board one day. So, we’re working towards that,” said Butterworth. The job board could come together as early as next year, says Butterworth. To learn more about the Legion Military Skills Conversion Program visit BCIT’s [website here](#). To see if an institute near you offers advanced placement visit the [National Advance Placement and Prior Learning website](#).

## **Remains of Second World War Fallen Veteran During Identified**

*Paige LeClair*

The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces have identified the partial skeletal remains of Sergeant John Albert Collis, a Canadian soldier of the Second World War, discovered near the village of Verrières, in the commune of Saint-Martin-de-Fontenay, France. Sergeant Collis enlisted in September 1939, in Brampton, Ontario, with the Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment). He died on July 25, 1944, during Operation SPRING, as a member of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Canadian Active Service Force), near the village of Verrières. Veterans Affairs Canada has notified members of the family and is providing them with ongoing support as final arrangements are made. “The dignified laying to rest of Sergeant John Albert Collis reminds us of the tremendous price that many Canadian soldiers paid during the battles of the Second World War. The legacy of our brave members who helped win the War still resonates in the proud traditions of today’s Army. We honour Sergeant Collis for his service and will forever remember his sacrifice,” says LGen Jean-Marc Lanthier, Commander, Canadian Army.

Sergeant Collis’ personnel file indicated he was first interred in a temporary grave on July 26, 1944. He was later moved to the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery. His remains will be reunited with his grave by his Regiment, in the presence of family and Government of Canada representatives, at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery in France, on June 7 at 10 a.m. (Central European Time). This will take place during a ceremony organized by the Government of Canada to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. “It is our duty to provide a dignified and respectful interment to fallen service members who are recovered and identified. The Canadian troops’ success on the battlefields came at a high cost during the Second World War. Sergeant Collis’ interment is an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect upon those who served during the war, and to never forget their courage. We will remember them,” said the Hon Harjit S Sajjan, MND, in a statement.

The Department of National Defence Casualty Identification Program identifies unknown Canadian service members when their remains are discovered, so that they may be buried with a

name, by their unit and in the presence of their family. The program fosters a sense of continuity and identity within the Canadian Armed Forces and provides an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect upon the experiences of those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. “The Second World War left a legacy of death and destruction. The tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Sergeant John Albert Collis’ during the Battle of Normandy reminds us of the conditions experienced by our soldiers during the fighting. More than one million Canadians and Newfoundlanders served during the Second World War; over 45,000 gave their lives, and many more were wounded. Sergeant Collis will be honoured for his commitment and service to Canada. Lest we forget,” says Lawrence MacAulay, minister of veterans affairs and associate minister of national defence.

## **Veterans Channel Captures “Real Stories”**

The stories that deserve to be heard. *Paige LeClair*

Veterans Media Corporation (VMC) has launched a new digital broadcasting channel for Veterans. The Veterans Channel is a one of a kind, 24/7, private, cloud broadcasting channel that offers real-time education and edification of men and women that serve in the CAF, First Responders, Veterans, and their families. “We are very excited to deliver ‘The Veterans Channel’ and its member privileges to the global veteran community and all members of the Armed Forces and First Responders. I encourage this network and all the organizations that support, to join the Veterans Channel to help us raise awareness and tell the stories of the men and women who have served,” said Marc Wicks MBE, director of global initiatives.

This channel is free and offers OnDemand and live movies and shows. It merely requires a profile to begin enjoying the features of the Veterans Channel. The channel also produces its own programming and includes docuseries’, show series, and discussions. The TVC also films special events, stream live, and air veteran-centric movie releases. Co-founder and CEO of the Veterans Retreats Foundation (VRF) realized there was a need to unite veterans globally, and offer the level of support that the veteran community needed, and founded the Veterans Media Corporation (VMC), and the Veterans Channel in 2018 to act as a bridge to close the gaps. One of the VMC’s shows called Riding with Heroes is a program that showcases intimate veteran-to-veteran interviews that highlight their experiences. The show aims to showcase everyday heroes found in extraordinary circumstances that share their heroism and sacrifice to viewers. “We want to capture real stories, the stories that deserve to be heard,” said PM Trapper Crane, former Sergeant of the Canadian Armed Forces and host of Riding with Heroes. “There are so many individuals who are part of the armed forces, active members or veterans, who are everyday heroes and deserve to be recognized.”

To see their full programming [visit their website here](#).

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

It looks like all the action on the website over the last week had to do with recent events placed on the 2019 yearbook. Check them out here:

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

The events included:

The Honoraries flying off to Wainwright for Ex Maple Resolve.

The Vancouver Artillery Association at the Ride to Live event.

Regimental members helping out at Honour Ranch over the long weekend.

Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Don Foster attending the Vancouver Military Dinner.

The Honoraries attending the 3rd Division Change of Command in Edmonton.

Former 15 Fd CO Jim Barrett voted in as Vice-President of the BCR Regimental Association.

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

### **Langley Rotary Clubs annual Tip 'n Taste Craft Beer Event**

The President of the Vancouver Artillery Association is the Chairman of the Langley Rotary Clubs annual Tip 'n Taste Craft Beer Event that will be held at the Cascades Casino Resort in Langley City on 14 Jun 2019 from 6:00 to 9:30 .Your \$35.00 entrance fee gets you 5 drink samples and free food samples with all proceeds going to local charities. Great opportunity to hang out with some former members of 15th Field Artillery Regiment. Leon Jensen and Gary Palmatary will be there! Will you?

### **Who (or What) Is It?**

**Last Week:** This is from the Canadian War Museum. Bruno the Brown Bear, HMCS *Thiepval*



(George Metcalf Archival Collection - CWM 19710050-001\_70) While in Hakodate, HMCS *Thiepval's* crew adopted the small brown bear seen here and named him Bruno. Also known as "Haca-Daddy" (a play on "Hakodate"), Bruno shows up in a number of other photographs taken during *Thiepval's* trip. Bruno was brought back to Canada and spent years living at HMCS *Naden*, the Royal Canadian Navy's base at Esquimalt. Bruno subsequently developed a dependency on alcohol and came to a tragic end when he died of poisoning after ingesting some dockyard supplies. We still don't know who the sailor is. For more information on Bruno see:-

[https://web.archive.org/web/20100730213647/http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org/resource\\_pages/chars/naden\\_bear.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20100730213647/http://www.navalandmilitarymuseum.org/resource_pages/chars/naden_bear.html)

**This Week:** Memorials come and go, as civilizations rise and fall. There once was a great triumphal arch in Richborough, UK, commemorating Roman victories over my ancestors at Mons Graupius. Fortunately, for my people, nothing remains now, save for some foundation stones. In any case, what did the Romans ever do for us?

Other monuments commemorate mythical and historic figures. Readers might have read of recent events involving famous figures of our past: Sir John A MacDonal, and Sir Matthew Begbie, and how those incidents reflect the changing views, or myths, of society. Some of these memorial structures can be found in places that might raise an eyebrow, or make one wonder about the history of conflict. This week's photo is of one such memorial, overlooking a

now peaceful bay that has seen both man-made and natural disaster within the last one hundred years. There is much this memorial can teach us.



So, do you recognize it? Where is it and who does it commemorate? What can you tell us of its history? Send your musings to the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). We shall remember them.

### **From the ‘Punitary’**

What do you call a Russian procrastinator? Putinoff.

### **Murphy’s Other Laws**

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, an officer will tell you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

### **Quotable Quotes**

We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny. But what we put into it is ours.  
- Dag Hammarskjold.



## **39 CE Regiment D-Day Mess Dinner**



*The Commanding Officer of 39 Combat Engineer Regiment  
&  
Regimental Sergeant Major*

*- and -*

*Officer Commanding of 6 Engineer Squadron  
&  
Squadron Sergeant Major*

*Cordially invite you to our*

### *2019 D-Day Mess Dinner*

*To be held at the Lt Col J.P. Fell Armoury  
1513 Forbes Avenue, North Vancouver*

*On Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2019*

*Reception at 1800 hrs followed by dinner at 1900 hrs*

*Dress: Mess Dress or Black Tie*

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**Tickets available by advance reservation and payment only – no walk-ins**

Please RSVP by May 29, 2019 to Capt Chris Beneteau via email to: [DDayDinner2019@gmail.com](mailto:DDayDinner2019@gmail.com)  
and we ask that serving and retired members include their Regimental affiliation

If applicable, please indicate dietary restrictions with RSVP

Tariff \$85 per guest

Payment due by May 29, 2019 via e-transfer to [DDayDinner2019@gmail.com](mailto:DDayDinner2019@gmail.com) or via cheque payable to  
“6ES Combined Mess” delivered to 1513 Forbes Ave, North Vancouver, BC V7M 2Y4

Langley Rotary Clubs annual Tip 'n Taste Craft Beer Event

ROTARY CLUBS OF LANGLEY PRESENT

2019  
**Tip'n  
Taste**



**FRIDAY JUNE 14**  
**6:00 – 9:30<sup>PM</sup>**

**CASCADES CASINO RESORT**  
COAST HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE  
20393 FRASER HWY · LANGLEY

Prepare your palate to enjoy a medley of  
gastronomic treats and great beers  
from breweries large and small!  
(Wine & Cooler Samples Also)

Net Proceeds Go To  
**LANGLEY CHARITIES**

**TICKETS  
AVAILABLE  
NOW!**

ADMISSION INCLUDES  
**SOUVENIR  
TASTING GLASS**

**5 DRINK  
SAMPLES**

**PLUS FOOD  
SAMPLES!**

Additional drink tickets can be purchased for \$2.50 ea  
**MUST BE 19+ TO ATTEND**

**TICKETS  
\$35**



**CASCADES  
CASINO**

THE LANGLEY  
**Times**



**TIPNTASTE.COM**

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE LANGLEY TIMES  
View our sponsor and supporters at TIPNTASTE.COM

OFFICE (CASH ONLY), OR FROM A ROTARIAN 778-867-5366

An event of the Langley Rotary Clubs Charitable Foundation #842567133RR0001