



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News July 9, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

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

Mrs Lum has just announced that she will be taking a vacation in August. Last lunch Aug 7th and resume on Sept 4th. NO LUNCHES on Aug 14, 21 or 28th.

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. It is probably too much to hope that the work would be carried out while Mrs Lum is on holiday.

Remembering the Alamo: My Year in Afghanistan - Chapter 7

By Colonel Peter Williams Publication date: 6 July 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, much, as they say, has changed. We have moved from our beloved home at Camp ALAMO and now occupy quarters on nearby Camp BLACKHORSE, a much larger base with an already large contingent of fellow Canadians and other coalition partners. In accordance with higher-level decisions, Camp ALAMO has been handed over to an agency of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). In a brief ceremony in the Camp ALAMO Dining Facility, where our military family enjoyed many a good meal and good company, the necessary transfer documents were duly co-signed by U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Hall, Commander, Task Force CENTURION, and a GIROA representative, with yours truly, Commander, Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC). Before this, we also held a short ceremony at Camp ALAMO to mark the end of our advisor presence at what many of us felt, and still believe, was the best camp in the mission.

Though this was a somewhat sad occasion, we can take heart in the fact that our new “digs” offer much better facilities in terms of the gym and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation offerings. We also moved here as the multinational team which we remain – a team now composed of colleagues from Turkey (whose flag we have since raised at BLACKHORSE), the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. We are, however, fewer in number as our

advisors from Jordan have since departed for their homeland, at the end of their tour with us, and having been awarded their NATO medals for their service in Afghanistan.

So our work at KMTC continues unabated, which is why we're here in the first place. KMTC is running at a very high student load right now for not only soldiers (and at the time of writing we have some 7,000 under training), but also for officers and non-commissioned officers. The kitchens at KMTC recently received new stoves, and the bakery, which makes some 30,000 portions daily, is under new management and producing a great product, according to the Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and staffs here. The ANA School of Artillery, based at KMTC, recently achieved what is known as Capability Milestone 1A, meaning it is able to operate independently, without regular coalition oversight, and so the Australian members of our team at ALAMO have also headed home.

Japanese defence force visits Canadian Forces base in Nanoose

By Chris Bush - Nanaimo News Bulletin Published: June 30, 2013

Naval aviators from Japan's Maritime Self Defence Force paid a visit to **Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental and Test Ranges** Wednesday for a first-hand look at where and how Canadian and U.S. military forces train to seek and destroy potential underwater threats. The skies and waters of the torpedo test range off Nanoose known as Military Exercise Area Whisky Gulf was a busy patch of the Georgia Strait as five aircraft operating from CFB Comox and at least as many surface vessels from CFMETR worked together to launch training torpedo attacks against a Mk-30 remotely controlled underwater target.

Japanese observers from VP-2, a P-3C Orion antisubmarine squadron, watched, were given a tour of the facilities and oriented with the Mk-30 target and Mk-46 training torpedo before they were taken to the Range Operations Control Centre on Winchelsea Island to watch a Canadian Armed Forces Aurora aircraft track and drop a MK-46 torpedo on the target. That exercise was followed up with a second torpedo "attack" by a Canadian Forces Sea King helicopter. VP-2 Squadron's P-3C Orion didn't drop any training torpedoes, but its aircrew flew the range by following the Aurora's flight pattern, but at a higher altitude, as its crew also watched the performance of the training torpedoes from the aircraft's onboard monitoring system.

The P-3 Orion originated as the Lockheed L-188 Electra, a four engine turboprop commercial airliner dating from 1955. The P-3 Orion – the Royal Canadian Air Force's variant is the CP-140 Aurora – was first developed into an antisubmarine warfare and surveillance aircraft in the 1960s and remains in service with Canadian, U.S. and other military forces around the world. VP-2 Squadron is on a month-long tour of Canadian and U.S. military installations throughout the Pacific. At CFMETR they learned more about how the range operates. The visit was also intended to enhance the working relationship between Japanese and Canadian forces. "They're on a larger Pacific Rim visit," said Capt. Jeff Manney, CFMETR's project officer of critical infrastructure. "They're going to Hawaii and (Naval Air Station) Whidbey Island and they're looking at other Allied facilities. They fly the same aircraft we do and the Americans do right now. They do a very similar job and it's basically a chance to see how your allies are working and to get a little familiar with your operations."

Interviews with squadron members – who were also keen to see how spent torpedoes and targets were recovered – were unfortunately not possible since the only English-fluent members were aboard their aircraft. Several members on the ground had a working understanding of English, but were not comfortable enough speaking it to conduct interviews. An English to Japanese interpreter with the group was able to relay information from Manney and other CFMETR personnel hosting the visit to his squadron mates. CFMETR was created in 1965 and is jointly paid for and operated by Canada and the U.S., but U.K, Australian and Japanese naval forces have also conducted tests and training at the facility. The area was chosen for its depth, about 400 metres, and flat seafloor, which allows for easy tracking and data collection through the use of hydrophone array on the seabed and presents few obstacles for training torpedoes and targets. No live munitions are ever deployed on the range.

"It was up here in the Strait of Georgia that both sides had arguably the best conditions and waters, for the kind of testing and evaluation that was needed, that was present on the whole west coast of North America," said Cmdr. Gerry Powell, CFMETR base commander.

Operation Husky 2013 begins next week

Last week I ran the plan for the Gunner participation in Op Husky. This week is the Seaforth's plan.

I will have the honour to represent the Regiment on the 20 day 300km march through Sicily following the path of the Seaforths of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division from the beach of Pachino through Leonforte to Agira. I will be remembering the 61 Seaforths who gave their lives for Canada in Sicily and the several hundred that were wounded. The marchers & I will be placing a white marker for each of these 61 young men. If you so wish, you can contribute to these markers at www.operationhusky2013.ca.

I plan to be sending a daily blog (internet willing) that can be viewed on our website www.seaforthhighlanders.ca if you want to follow the progress of the march. In the next few days, the museum staff will be launching a virtual exhibition on Operation Husky on the above site. On July 30, seventy years to the date, 15 members of the Seaforth Pipes & Drums will recreate the Beating of Retreat in the town of Agira. The original performance was broadcast on the BBC and the CBC and can be heard on our website.

Thank you to DND and the generosity of the Seaforth Patrons Corps for enabling the band to return to Agira. We are hopeful that one of the Canadian networks will pick up the 2013 version of the concert and broadcast it nationally.

I am sure I will have lots of stories to tell when we next meet.

Cabar Feidh Gu Brath

Rod Hoffmeister,
Honorary Lieutenant Colonel,
President, Seaforth Regimental Association

Gunner Plaque - Op HUSKY 2013

I am pleased to advise that thanks to the efforts of Bill Cloutier (Former Commanding Officer and Honorary of 2 Field Regiment, RCA) and the **tremendous response from the Gunner Family** all 36 Gunner Markers for Sicily now have sponsors. Bill continues his efforts with the other Corps, Branches, Regiments, Honoraries and Associations. Bill has also been thanking individual sponsors as donations have come forward.



To all Gunners, thanks for stepping forward to remember and pay homage to fallen Gunners of Operation HUSKY. Tomorrow, July 10th, is the 70th Anniversary of Operation HUSKY, 1943, and over the next three weeks or so there will be numerous ceremonies in remembrance of the gallant

service of 1st Canadian Division in Sicily. This major undertaking, Operation HUSKY 2013, has been spearheaded by Mr. Steve Gregory of Montreal, well known to the Gunner community through 2nd Field Regiment, his work with 3e Batterie d'artillerie de Montréal (3BAM) and his efforts with Canada Company. The generosity of the Gunner Family shows that we care, we are engaged, and we remember.

On July 27th a Royal Canadian Artillery plaque (1m X 1.5m) will be unveiled in a ceremony in the small city park overlooking the town of Assoro. The town holds particular significance for Gunners, as it was the location of the Division Commander (Maj Gen Guy Simonds) and the principal observation post party for the division fire plan in the push on Leonforte and Agira. This was actually the first time that the 1st Div Arty fired in a coordinated division fire plan. Several Gunners will be on hand for this ceremony.

Well done Gunners. Good Shooting!

UBIQUE

Ernie B

Please consider (and ask other Canadians as well) donating \$150 to sponsor a Soldier Marker by clicking on this link – many fallen soldiers (of other Corps/Regiments) may not yet have sponsors:

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

Also see: www.operationhusky2013.ca

Ottawa spends \$700,000 to acquire trove of War of 1812 artefacts

OTTAWA The Canadian Press Published Thursday, Jun. 20 2013

A massive trove of books, maps and manuscripts from the War of 1812 now belong to Canada.

The federal government has paid nearly \$700,000 at an auction in England to acquire what's known as the Sherbrooke Collection.

Sir John Coape Sherbrooke served as the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia from 1811 to 1816 and then as Governor General of British North America until 1818. His records from the time have been in his family's hands almost ever since, though Canadian researchers have had access in the past. The government says the collection is a remarkable record of political, economic, and military geography and operations in wartime. The money to buy it came from Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Canadian Heritage department and a private group known as the Friends of Library and Archives Canada.

The government spent millions promoting and celebrating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 last year, saying it was a cornerstone moment of Canadian history that's fallen by the wayside in people's minds. Heritage Minister James Moore called the acquisition of the collection an example of how the government is investing in making history more accessible to Canadians. The lot, which includes 80 manuscript and printed maps, 37 letterbooks, original correspondence, one portrait and other unique artefacts, had been for sale via British auction house Bonhams.

Toronto to honour war veterans with Boys of Major Lane

The lane will honour six boys of Major St. who left for the Second World War in 1940. Only two returned.

By: Liam Casey GTA, Published on Fri Jul 05 2013

Joe Greenberg was one of the boys. The others were Chucky and Porky, Solly and Harold and his cousin Red. They were the boys of Major St, six teenage friends who went off to the Second World War in 1940. Only two returned. On Sunday, the city will unveil Boys of Major Lane in their honour.

"I love it, but all I can think of are these kids," said Greenberg, 90, before breaking down in tears. "We're talking about 17- and 18-year-old kids that never came home."

Six other Major Streeters also died in the war. Running from College to Bloor Sts, Major symbolizes the ravages of Canada's contribution to the war and its subsequent flourishing. Greenberg lived through the horrific war to become a family doctor, known in the community as Dr. Joe. He now lives just a few streets over on Bathurst St., where he's been since the 1960s. Naming the lane after the boys is a way to remember the past, said Rory "Gus" Sinclair, past chair of the Harbord Village Residents Association who spearheaded the movement to name 23 lanes in the area.

"This is a way to honour our past because so many kids have no idea about the rich history of

the people who lived here,” Sinclair said.

He said there was an attack several years ago where police and firefighters had trouble finding the victim on one of the many unnamed lanes. So they decided to name them, focusing on the history of the area. They settled on Boys of Major Lane after a 2009 article by the Star’s Leslie Scrivener, who wrote about the boys’ wartime death and survival, which ran with the headline “The Boys of Major Street.” Greenberg is a storyteller and his tales tell the history of Toronto, from the anti-Semitic Christie Pits riot in 1933, where someone told him to “get outta here” because he was Jewish to accidentally getting into medicine because his buddy applied to the University of Toronto. He dropped out of school in Grade 9 during the Great Depression to help his family out. So he got a job at Acme Paper Box, where he worked 50 hours a week for 10 cents an hour.

“I gave my mom \$4.80 and squandered the other 20 cents,” he said. “So I’d buy my friend a milkshake. They were 10 cents each. But I always wanted a malted milkshake, but they were 15 cents each and that was beyond my capacities! That’s the truth. Ah, Jesus.”

Then Greenberg signed up for the war. He remembers getting aboard the ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. He had a terrible night. The ship rocked and swayed, motion sickness overcoming him. So he ate some corn flakes in the morning, happy he didn’t vomit, before looking at someone else’s greasy sausages. At that point he ran up to the deck to get sick.

“That’s when I realized we were still tied to the dock,” he said, tears coming to his eyes with laughter. “We hadn’t moved anywhere. And that’s the truth.”

In between laughs, Greenberg talks about his friend Porky — Flying Officer Irving Lindzon — who was shot down in 1945, just weeks before the war ended. And Chucky — Charles Males — who was shot and killed as he manned the rear machine-gun in an aircraft, the only man to die in the plane. Flight Sgts. Harold Sobel and Solomon (Solly) Kay, who were next-door neighbours on Major St., were in planes that were shot down. Only Greenberg and his cousin, Red, returned.

“One thing about Major St., practically all the people that lived there came from harsh circumstances and often deadly circumstances. It was mostly Jewish immigrants, from Russia and Poland, and they became like your brothers and sisters. “I miss my friends, both the boys of Major St. and the many other friends I knew over the years that have since died,” he said. “You get lonely when you get old. And that’s the truth.”

Wars of the future will be short, sharp and bloody, says Army chief

Britain must risk taking higher casualties to win shorter conflicts in future, the head of the Army has said.

By Ben Farmer, Defence Correspondent 27 Jun 2013



Gen Sir Peter Wall predicted that cyber warfare would be key to the Armed Forces

Photo: Heathcliff O'Malley for the Telegraph

Gen Sir Peter Wall said “aversion to risk” had increased during the lengthy Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns. Future operations were likely to be short, sharp interventions, where commanders would need to take risks. Winning such conflicts would need the public and the Armed Forces to “recalibrate our tolerances”, he said. The Chief of the General Staff also predicted that cyber warfare would be key to the Armed Forces, as he outlined how the Army must change after a decade in Afghanistan and Iraq. Sir Peter said that despite the end of those campaigns, the international landscape was now more challenging.

Britain had to be prepared “politically, mentally, emotionally, and militarily to intervene in the nation’s interest if needs must”. During the Afghan and Iraq wars “public aversion to risk has increased as the campaigns have worn on,” he said. Future operations were likely to be far shorter, such as the French mission to repel Islamist fighters in Mali this year. In such cases, a commander’s ability to “take operational risk to seize and maintain the initiative” would be decisive.

“As a nation we will need to recalibrate our tolerances if decisive outcomes are to be achieved in the future,” he said.

His comments come a week after a landmark Supreme Court ruling that the Government had a duty of care to protect its soldiers and their human rights, even on the battlefield. The ruling paves the way for damages claims in cases where soldiers died or were injured after not being given appropriate equipment or vehicles. Current and former commanders have already warned that the ruling could shackle officers on the battlefield. They would be worried that they could be held liable if their orders led to the deaths of troops. Lord West, a former First Sea Lord, said this week it was “totally bonkers” to apply human rights legislation in such a way. Sir Peter told the Royal United Services Institute it would be some time before the impact of the ruling became clear. “I can reassure the audience that the ruling will not affect decisions made in the heat of battle,” he said. Sir Peter also said that the threats of cyber warfare called for the Armed Forces to “think and act differently”. He said: “The ability to defend and attack in order to seize and maintain the initiative will be a prerequisite for successful operations.”

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Sir David Richards, has already said the Armed Forces “must be as comfortable manoeuvring in cyberspace as they are on land, at sea, or in the air”. Sir Peter said: “Cyber capabilities have to be fully integrated into our planning and command and control arrangements.”

Recruiting such “cyber warriors” would be a challenge, he said. “The education and personal qualities of our cyber warriors are likely to be a challenge to more linear military behaviour and we therefore need to consider how we recruit.”

"Who Is That?"

This week’s museum mystery photo comes again from the unaccessioned bin. It was found with a newspaper clipping headlined "March Past of the Bulgarian Women's Brigade of Death". We assume the clipping is unrelated, as the uniforms are Canadian and the battledress blouse buttons in the male manner. So, can you help us identify which artillery regiment this is, and when? A good guess would be either 15 FD or 43 H/MAA, possibly in the late 1950s or early to mid-1960s. Are you one of the brave warriors shown in this photo or do you recognize some of them? Can you provide background information for the museum?



As always, send your answers to John Redmond, (johnd.redmond@telus.net), or drop by the museum. Donations are always welcome if they relate to the history of our regiment and its antecedents. Also, if you or your mother served in the Brigade of Death, we'd like to hear about that, too.

It is definitely 15 Fd(31 Bty) led by Maj (at the time) Pellant and BSM McKenzie. Marching up Hastings St in the early 60s. I have ID'd a couple of others – anyone else recognize anyone?

From the 'Punitary'

I'm not a big fan of archery. It has too many drawbacks.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

In foreign lands the enemy always has the advantage of blending in with the crowd. You do not.

Quotable Quotes

For many people, one of the most frustrating aspects of life is not being able to understand other people's behavior.” — *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*