

WOII (Ret'd) George Chow Nov 5, 1921 – Nov 6, 2020



George in 1941

George Chow was born in Victoria, British Columbia in 1921. In August 1940, two months before his 19th birthday, George went to the recruiting centre at the Bay Street Armoury in Victoria to sign up without his parents' knowledge. George was then sent to the Seaforth Armoury in Vancouver, BC, for basic training. After basic training he was transferred to 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery in Windsor, ON, for advanced training. 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery headed off to Halifax where they were to finally board a ship for Scotland. No sooner had the 2000 troops been loaded, an outbreak of measles forced everyone off and the men were placed in quarantine. The Halifax winter would be endured at

Camp Debert. It wasn't until April 1941 when George boarded the Polish liner, "Batory" and finally left camp life, and Canada behind. On board, George's troop did gun watch and at the end of the 10 day journey, settled at their assigned base in Colchester England. From the nearby coast, George's detachment would have the honour of being the first all-Canadian gun crew to shoot down a German plane.

During the Normandy Campaign, the 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RCA was part of 2nd Army Group Royal Artillery (AGRA). They were lucky when they came off the Landing Craft Tank (LCT) as the water was only 9" deep during their landing and they continued to move inland to



Caen and other regions of France before heading into Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands. After the victory in Europe, George volunteered to prepare for the Pacific theatre, but his new assignment ended soon after the atomic bomb had been dropped in Japan.

George in the 1950s

After the Second World War, George joined the 43rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RCA at Bessborough Armoury in Vancouver, BC, in 1953,

as a Gunnery instructor. He attained the rank of Warrant Officer 2nd Class (today equivalent to MWO) and was appointed Battery Sergeant Major (BSM) of 210 Battery in 1958. In 1958 43rd MAA was absorbed into 15 Field and George continued as BSM. He was honourably discharged in 1963.

George was awarded numerous war medals and the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD). In 2012, George was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. In October 2014, George was awarded the rank of **Chevalier (Knight) of the Légion d'Honneur** by the French Government and was subsequently presented the Medal by Consul General Jean-Christophe Fleury of the Consulate General of France in Vancouver, British Columbia in April 2015.



George on Sept 17, 2020, receiving Regimental coin from LCol Nick Watts, CO 15 Fd flanked by CWO Rob Garrett (left) and HLCol Don Foster(right).

Picture taken by Edmund Wu.

In 2014, George attended the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy at the Juno Beach Centre. On this occasion, he also visited the grounds of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. George has participated in the Vimy Day Commemoration in Vancouver, British Columbia for many years. In addition, he attended the 'From Vimy to Juno Reception and Ceremony' and exhibition organized by the Juno Beach Centre and held at the Seaforth Armoury in Vancouver, British Columbia in December 2016.