

Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News 1 Nov, 2011

France to leave Britain behind with First World War centenary plans

France will next week eclipse Britain's First World War centenary plans by opening a £25 state-of-the-art commemorative museum three years early.

30 Oct 2011

Parisian cabs were used to rush troops to the front line during the so-called 'Miracle of the Marne' Photo: REX

The showpiece project, which will include more than 50,000 artefacts, will be inaugurated by President Nicolas Sarkozy on Remembrance Sunday, November 11.

Mr Sarkozy will also pledge millions more to remembering his country's war dead by revitalising existing monuments in time for the 1914-18 anniversary.

Britain, meanwhile, has so far announced no plans for its own commemorations starting in 2014 – prompting military historians to say it is "vital we catch up."

The vast majority of the one million odd British Empire troops killed, and more than two million wounded during the First War made their sacrifice in France. Yet the prestigious new Museum of the Great War in Meaux, 25 miles north of Paris, will focus on the French and American contribution to the defeat of Imperial Germany. A senior defence ministry source in Paris said: "It is a state-of-the-art, prestige museum which is unlikely to be rivalled, even by 2014.

"No expense has been spared turning it into the best of its kind, with Mr Sarkozy wanting to make it clear to the world that France is absolutely committed to preserving the memory of those who fought."

Mr Sarkozy, who is facing a tough presidential campaign next year, is also likely to enjoy a boost in his waning popularity thanks to the museum. It is a purpose-built structure covering more than 75,000 square feet next to the American War Memorial in Meaux. The main



exhibition will be about the First Battle of the Marne, which saw six French field armies save Paris in September 1914. They were supported by a single British army, led by Sir John French, but the museum will be full of Gallic exhibits including an original 'Marne Taxi' one of the 600 Parisian cabs used to rush troops to the front line during the so-called 'Miracle of the Marne'.

Jean-Pierre Verney, a historian who helped design the museum, said it would include 'virtual trenches', and full-sized reconstructions of period train stations in Paris and Berlin. Also among the exhibits – ranging from armoured vehicles to uniforms – will be a section dedicated to the Americans who fought in the Second Battle of the Marne in 1918. France is notorious for highlighting the arrival of the US "Doughboys" on French soil in 1917, while underplaying the role of the thousands of British "Tommies" who fought throughout the war years. Work on the Meaux museum started in 2005, but has so far received next to no publicity – so ensuring maximum impact for Mr Sarkozy.

Numerous other military sites in France are also getting costly facelifts, with Karine Loison, spokesman for the Great War Museum in Peronne, in the north of the country, saying: "We must all prepare for 2014 because it is so important". British military historian Hew Strachan, a trustee of the Imperial War Museum, said: "Regrettably, other countries involved in the Great War are more advanced in their preparations for what will be a momentous occasion. "It is vital we catch up to ensure Britain's contribution to the historic conflict is properly reflected." A Downing Street spokesman said British plans for the centenary would be "made shortly". He said Andrew Murrison, the Conservative MP and former Royal Navy surgeon, was to become the Prime Minister's representative for the 2014-18 commemorations.

Chief of Reserves visits Honour House

Admirals Donaldson & Bennett at Honour House – Thursday 27th October 2011. In the picture are, in addition to the Admirals and their staff, Al de Genova, HH president; John Appleby, Al Fetherstonhaugh, the house manager; Time Armstrong, a director, the New Westminster Fire Chief; Lee Reynolds, director and; Garth Dinsmore, director.



Soldiers' remains found in World War I tunnel

Published: 19 Oct 11

Twenty-one German soldiers have been discovered in a World War I tunnel in Alsace, France, 93 years after they were buried alive during battle.

Under the rich Alsatian soil lays a labyrinth of passageways buried into the Lerchenberg hills. Built nearly 100 years ago, they were used by soldiers to shelter from shelling during the Great War. The 21 soldiers were found in passageway known as Kilianstollen, inside their almost untouched living quarters. In October 2010, construction of a bypass near the town of Altkirch was disrupted by the 125-metre tunnel, which combat engineers had built seven metres under the surface. After a skeletal foot, a camp bed and fragments of a jaw bone were unearthed during digging, work on the road was quickly stopped and archaeologists called in. When the team of scientists began excavating the tunnel, they made the shocking discovery. Kilianstollen was located 150 metres behind the German front line. At 1.8 metres high and 1.1 metres wide, the tunnel was thought to be bomb proof and could offer up to 500 soldiers a break from the trenches.

For two years it was unscathed, but one March afternoon in 1918, the peace was broken. After a particularly heavy mustard gas attack – a chemical weapon which releases a powerful skin irritant – from the German army, the Allies retaliated with force as they rained explosives down on the area. At around 2 p.m. the weakest area of the tunnel was struck three times in quick succession. The ceiling collapsed and for many, escape was impossible. In total 34 soldiers died in the attack, but 13 of were pulled out of the collapsed tunnel immediately. Scientists have been excavating Kilianstollen since 13 September. "Our work here should have ended by 10 October, but the dig has been extended until the beginning of December," said Michaël Landolt of the Alsatian office for archaeology in Sélestat. "We didn't expect to find corpses."

All of the Kilianstollen victims have been identified. Some of the youngest amongst them were 20-year-old musketeer Martin Heidrich from the town of Schönfeld in Saxony and 22-year-old Lance Corporal Harry Bierkamp from Hamburg. The oldest was Sergeant August Hütten, 37, from Aachen. The men belonged to the 6th Company of the 94th Reserve Infantry Division, and up until now had been recorded as lost.

Landolt explained, "Death was a daily event here, but in comparison with Verdun or the Somme, where 1,000 soldiers were being killed a minute, it was relatively calm."

The discovery in Kilianstollen is helping archaeologists piece together a picture of everyday trench life. Each wine glass, jam jar or coat hook is shedding a little more light onto the darkness of the not so distant past.

"Such discoveries are seldom made in archaeology," said Landolt. "Everything is still in its place, nothing has changed since the explosion. It makes you think of Pompeii."

Since the team of archaeologists have successfully identified the dead men, the search has begun to find their closest living relatives. If they remain unclaimed, they will be laid to rest in the national German war cemetery.

DAPD/The Local/jcw

Air Force Association recognizes excellence in aviation

The Air Force Association of Canada (AFAC), a national not-for-profit aerospace organization, recognized excellence in Canadian military and civilian aviation at its annual awards ceremony, held in Quebec City, Que., on Oct. 15.

The award winners included the following Air Force personnel and organizations:

Capt George Coté (center) of 3 Canadian Forces Flying Training School accepts the Air Marshal C. Roy Slemon Award for 2011 Air Person of the Year from AFAC Pres Brian Darling (left) and MGen Yvan Blondin, ACAS.

Credit: Vic Johnson.



- [Captain George Coté](#), 15 Wing Moose Jaw, Sask.
- [Sergeant Joanne Lewis](#), 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S.
- [Captain Ryan Tyler](#), 1 Wing Kingston, Ont.
- [HMCS Toronto Helicopter Air Detachment](#), 12 Wing Shearwater, N.S.
- [Chief Warrant Officer Brian Woodford](#), 1 Wing Kingston, Ont.
- [424 Search and Rescue Squadron](#), 8 Wing Trenton, Ont.;
- [413 Transport and Rescue Squadron](#), 14 Wing Greenwood, N.S.;
- [439 Combat Support Squadron](#), 3 Wing Bagotville, Que.; and the
- [Joint Rescue Coordination Centre](#), 8 Wing Trenton, Ont.

In recognition of his outstanding dedication and tremendous commitment, **Captain George Coté**, of 3 Canadian Forces Flying Training School, 15 Wing Moose Jaw, Sask., was selected from the entire Air Force to receive the esteemed Air Marshal C. Roy Slemon Award for 2011 Air Person of the Year.

His citation reads:

“Capt Coté is nominated as a result of demonstrating his outstanding initiative throughout the past year.

“While working closely with the contracted operations team at the Canada Wings Aviation Training Centre, Capt Coté has made a direct and significant contribution to optimization of the 3 CFFTS pilot training programs.

“His assistance in the development of software based tracking mechanisms enabled supervisory staff and the operations team to directly see training inefficiencies and resource planning issues for all three phases of the training operation.”

'Rescuer' one of ours



John Redmond, a member of several organizations centred around the Mess and a Kwantlen Polytechnic instructor, was one of the people first on scene at the crash of a light aircraft in Richmond last week. John was just crossing the Dinsmore Bridge in Richmond on his way to his mother's house in Kerrisdale for supper when a twin-engine light aircraft caught his eye. It suddenly swung sharply to the left and he could see the fuselage.

"I knew he wasn't going to make it ... he's going to crash," John recalled thinking to himself as he watched the plane level out, hit the ground and burst into flames on the road in front of him.

He drove straight through an intersection, stopped the car "a little bit too close to the airplane," grabbed his steering-wheel club in case he needed something to smash through windows to free people, and ran as fast as he could toward the airplane.

"I was on autopilot. I just went, I didn't think," he said.

Several of the injured passengers were already outside the aircraft when John arrived, and he checked inside the plane for more. He saw a woman collapsed behind the co-pilot, a large, blond man who was leaning over to the right. There was another man moaning behind the pilot. "He'd obviously been really shaken up." "Somebody behind me said 'Get out of there' and the man said 'Not without my wife.' I think it was the guy who had a broken back."

John tried to move forward but was impeded by collapsed seats, so he dropped the steering-wheel club, picked up one of the seats and moved it aside. He then shouted out the door that there were more people in the plane who needed help and made his way toward the woman.

"You're just so focused. There was smoke coming into the cabin. It was really hot up on top of your head because heat rises. It was like a scene from hell," he said.

"All I could think about was getting this woman out of this aircraft. It was really hard because she couldn't really help. She started regaining consciousness and she said something, I don't know what it was ... I got a lungful of smoke."

Others came to help pull the woman out the door, a process during which John pulled several muscles. The rescuers hauled the woman to safety as John went outside and started coughing. He wanted to go back for the pilot and co-pilot, but the plane was by that time engulfed in flames.

John watched the foam truck put out the flames and gave a fire official his contact information. In his car, he calmed himself down by playing Cape Breton fiddle music on his iPod.

We all hope we will react like this to an emergency situation. I heard today that, when she returns, Premier Clark intends to hold a reception to honour those like John who assisted in this accident. Well done John!

“Salute to Veterans & Welcome Home Troops”

BC Lions versus Montreal Alouettes

BC Place, Vancouver

GENERAL INFORMATION

Event “Salute to Veterans & Welcome Home troops”
Half Time Show BC Lions

Host/Producer **BC/Yukon Command**
The Royal Canadian Legion

Date/Time **Saturday, November 5th, 2011 Kick Off 7:00 PM**

Free Parking **4:00 PM to 11:15 PM**
RCMP Detachment Gravel Parking Lot
4949B Heather Street, Burnaby

Free Bus Shuttle **4:30 PM to 7:00 PM from RCMP to Stadium**
9:00 PM to 11:00 PM from Stadium to RCMP

Free Tickets **For Bands/Marchers/Volunteers**

Ticket Special **\$32.00 plus tax**
Special for Family and Friends of Bands/Marchers
Entrance at BC Place Gates
Keith Hawkins 604.930.5451

Hotel Special **\$72.00 plus tax Reservation Code # 5435**
The Royal Canadian Legion Special Rate
Accent Inns Vancouver Airport Richmond
10551 St. Edwards Drive, Richmond
Reservation 1.800.663.0298

BC Ferries **Awaiting decision on special rates**

Entrances **4:00 PM to 6:30 PM**
East Air Lock ~ Bands/Marchers/Volunteers
West Air Lock ~ Military Jeeps

Waiting Area **Section 39 Left after East Lock Entry**
“Salute to Veterans & Welcome Home Troops”
Saturday, November 5th, 2011
BC Place, Vancouver

Bed & Breakfast for Veterans



We are pleased to present B&Bs for Vets, a Canadian tribute to our veterans and military personnel. First developed in the U.S. by Kathleen Panek, owner of Gillum House B&B - West Virginia B&B Association, this promotion grew from a few inns and B&Bs offering FREE rooms on Veteran's Day in November 2008 to nearly 900 in 2010. Inspired by this promotion, Harry and Carol Gerstheimer from Tucked Inn the Harbour B&B in Ontario asked us to build on the Canadian presence for this initiative.

Therefore in honour of Remembrance Day 2011, many Canadian B&Bs will be offering the night of Thursday, November 10, 2011 FREE to a veteran or a member of the military. Visit our site at www.bbcanada.com/bbforvets for a complete list of participating B&Bs. Please contact the B&B operator directly by email or telephone to book your stay. Veteran/military identification is required.

On behalf of BBCanada.com and all its members thank you to our veterans and military personnel for your commitment to our country. Please enjoy a night in a B&B – It's always better the B&B way!

Last Chance for Band Concert Tickets

With Glowing Hearts ***A Concert of Celebration and Remembrance***

LAST CHANCE. Tickets are **only \$20** and available by phone from the box office or online. Proceeds aid charities that assist military personnel and their families.

Showtimes

Friday November 4, 730pm @ the Gateway Theatre, Richmond

Box Office: (604) 270-1812

www.gatewaytheatre.com

Saturday, November 5, 200pm @ Kay Meek Centre, West Vancouver

Box Office: (604) 913-3634

www.kaymeekcentre.com

Sunday, November 6, 200pm @ ACT Centre for the Performing Arts, Maple Ridge

Box Office: (604) 476-2787

www.theactmapleridge.org



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2025 WEST 11TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, BC**

ON

SATURDAY, THE THIRD OF DECEMBER, 2011

AT

SIX O'CLOCK FOR SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

RSVP BY 18 NOVEMBER 2011 W/ PAYMENT:
CAPTAIN W BOSSENCE
WILLIAM.BOSSENCE@FORCES.GC.CA
OR 604-666-4372

2025 WEST 11TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER, BC
V6J 2C7

TARIFF: \$ 75.00 CAD OR USD
PAYABLE TO "15 RCA OFFICERS' MESS"
DRESS: MESS KIT OR BLACK TIE, WITH
DECORATIONS

CAPTAIN JIM TEMPEST, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
AND THE MUSICIANS OF THE
BAND OF THE FIFTEENTH FIELD ARTILLERY
REGIMENT, RCA
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR
ST. CECILIA'S DAY DINNER



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, 2011
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURIES
2025 W 11TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER

COCKTAILS, DINNER & DANCE
FESTIVITIES TO BEGIN AT 6 PM



PLEASE RVSP WITH PAYMENT BY NOVEMBER 5TH
TARIFF \$65 - CHEQUES TO BCMILITARYMUSIC SOCIETY

Mail: c/o Meg Ludwig
2732 Keremeos Court
Vancouver, BC

V5T 1N6

Email: megiludwig@gmail.com or phone (604) 222 - 8586

From the 'Punitary'

There once was a Chinese cabinet maker who kept his precious woods in a shed behind his shop. One day he noticed that some of his wood was missing and on the floor of the shed there were the prints of small bare feet in the sawdust.

The next night the cabinet maker hid in the shed and waited. Toward morning he heard a noise. Lighting his lantern, he saw a strange sight; a bear on stilts holding some wood. The ends of the stilts were carved into the shape of small feet.

The cabinet maker of course shouted, "STOP, boy foot bear with teaks of Chan!"

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

The most dangerous thing in the world is a Second Lieutenant with a map and a compass.