



Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News 28 Sept, 2011

Wednesday Lunches

Tomorrow, **Sept 28th RAdm(r) Ken Summers CD** will be the guest speaker. He will talk about the new direction the Naval Officers' Association of Canada is proposing to take to increase its membership and influence in the maritime affairs of the country.

Also, tomorrow evening is the first of our RUSI evening presentations with **Col Keith Maxwell** talking about the **Battle of the Scheldt in 1944**. Starts at 1715hrs at the Beatty St Drill Hall.

On **Oct 26th**, the guest speaker will be **RAdm Jennifer Bennett OMM, CD**, the current Chief of Reserves and Cadets. Both presentations will take place in the lecture rooms adjacent to the Officers Mess at 1315hrs and are open to all.

Servicemen's' names chosen for Pershore streets

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission looks after 74 graves in Pershore cemetery

A Worcestershire council has chosen the 10 servicemen who will have streets named after them on a new estate. Wychavon District Council chose 10 of the 74 servicemen buried in a cemetery next to the estate in Pershore. Six are members of the Royal Canadian Air Force who lost their lives in or near Pershore during the World War II.

Another is an Australian airman and the remainder will commemorate British servicemen buried in the cemetery. Councillor Judy Pearce, from Wychavon District Council, said: "I am delighted that these new roads are to be named in honour of some of the men who gave their lives to preserve our freedom.

"These new roads will be a memorial to all of them and a constant reminder of their sacrifice."

Training base

RAF Throckmorton, near Pershore, was used as a WWII aerodrome and many Canadian air crews were trained there. Of the 74 war graves in Pershore cemetery, 64 are for airmen, 41 of whom were Canadian. One of those chosen to have a street named after him is Flying Officer Graham Hynam from the RCAF, who died when his Wellington bomber crashed while taking part in a fly-past over Pershore.

The aircraft crashed into the Brandy Cask Hotel in Bridge Street.

This is a significant story for me as my Uncle (Flt Sgt Wilfrid Duplin, my mother's youngest brother) died, along with his crew, while doing 'touch and goes' at Throckmorton in 1943 and is buried at Pershore. Perhaps one day he will get a street too.

The Last Post Fund, a History of Service and Dedication



Arthur Hair

This national organization established in Montreal originates from an act of compassion, respect and patriotism. December 1908, an unconscious homeless is taken by two police officers at the Montreal General Hospital. Allegedly drunk, he is left in a room to sleep it off. Later on, the Head Orderly Arthur Hair – a Veteran of the South African War – notices an envelope sticking out of the poor man’s coat pocket. It contained a certificate of honourable discharge and good conduct issued to Trooper James Daly by the Great Britain War Office. Daly had served for 21 years under the British flag and this document was his sole possession.

However, soldier Daly was not drunk but suffering from malnutrition and hypothermia. He died two days later at age 53 without having regained consciousness. His unclaimed body would be turned over to science before disposal in a paupers’ field, as was then customary. Deeply shocked by the Empire’s disregard for its Veteran, Hair raised money from friends and colleagues to give the soldier a dignified burial worthy of his many years of service. This was the catalyst for the creation of the Last Post Fund (LPF) in 1909.

The early work of the LPF was exclusively supported by private donations. Then in 1921, it was federally incorporated and began receiving regular financial support from the Canadian Government.

Since its humble beginnings, the LPF has ensured that no eligible Veteran is deprived of a dignified funeral, burial and headstone for lack of financial resources. Its primary mandate is to deliver the Funeral and Burial Program on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada. To date, close to 150,000 Veterans have received financial assistance under this Program.

In addition, the LPF owns and operates the National Field of Honour located in Pointe-Claire. Established in 1930, this beautiful military cemetery, the first of its kind in Canada, has become the final resting place for more than 20,000 Veterans and their close ones. It is now a National Historic Site as designated by the Government of Canada.

In 1996, the LPF created a program aimed at placing a military headstone on all Veterans unmarked graves, attesting to their service to the country. It is estimated that nearly 40,000 Canadian and Allied Veterans have been buried anonymously. Consequently, the LPF is now appealing to all in order to report any unidentified grave that may be found. Mandated by the Department of National Defence, the LPF also provides headstones for eligible members of the Canadian Forces.

‘To honour and protect in death seems but a small return to those who have protected their country in life’, wrote Arthur Hair, founder of the LPF. In other words, our Veterans deserve our respect and gratitude long after they have departed.

Memorial for animals killed in war

By DOUG HEMPSTEAD, QMI Agency

OTTAWA - Lloyd Swick is 19 in dog years, and even younger in spirit. The 89-year-old, 33-year vet of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry used his youthful spirit to convince the NCC to grant its complicated blessing on a new interpretive memorial to Canada's war dead.

From the twinkle in Swick's eye you can tell there's more to the story. The spry, kayaking, golfing, piano-playing and McDonald's-loving senior is raising the \$100,000 needed to create a memorial to war animals. The piece will be complete by the fall of 2012 in Confederation Park, a "prime bit of real estate," in Swick's opinion. Indeed, according to the NCC, the park has no more room for new memorials.

The one for animals in war will be connected to the existing Boer War monument, which commemorates the 1899-1902 South African battle where Canada sent some 50,000 horses to haul cannons, soldiers and ammunition.

Canada still uses animals in war -- specifically in Afghanistan where dogs are used to search for mine clusters as well as search and rescue operations. Historically war animals have included glow worms for navigation and as reading lights, pack camels in India and Africa, elephants in the jungles of Burma, mine clearance dolphins in the Gulf War and an estimated eight million horses or mules which have been killed providing mobility to soldiers and equipment in the past century alone. The military has used messenger pigeons, gas-detecting canaries, protection dogs, companion animals and mascots.

Swick looks up the street to the National War Memorial. "See those 22 men underneath," he asks. "Every one of them would tell you we might not have won the war without animals." His vision began in the fall of 2009 when he read of the elaborate and expensive monument the Brits had erected near Marble Arch. Swick decided to "whip up a quick submission" for the NCC. After numerous meetings and a file now 10-inches thick, the final designs and wording are approaching completion. They're already planning an unveiling event.

"We need the monument because our casualty list of close to 60,000 in the First World War and some 48,000 in the Second World War would have been much higher had it not been for the support of our animals," he said. "The animals managed to bring the guns forward, the animals that managed to bring the provisions forward, the animals that evacuated our wounded. We owe a great debt to them."

If you'd like to contribute to Swick's fundraising campaign, donations can be made to the Animals in War Dedication Fund at any TD Canada Trust via account #268-5218857.



Veteran Lloyd Swick recently found out the NCC approved his proposal to build an interpretive monument in Confederation Park commemorating Canadian war animals.

CDFAI Report - Canadian Reserve Force Intentionally Kept Low

OTTAWA -- Canada's military establishment has routinely defied ministerial orders to boost the reserve force since the 1990s, according to a new report. Written by senior military scholar Jack English for the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, *The Role of the Militia in Today's Canadian Forces* paints a disturbing picture. In it, English outlines a "wretched saga" of "sandbagging, obstruction, futile wheel-spinning, and endlessly wasted staff effort" to keep reserve numbers low because the part-time force is viewed as a lesser priority than full-time personnel.

"Nothing of substance has really been done over the past decade to grow militia numbers as promised," English writes.

Today, there are about 16,000 reservists, or citizen-soldiers, which is similar to the figures a decade ago despite the fact that successive defence ministers from both the previous Liberal and current Conservative governments have issued orders to the Canadian Forces to increase its size. The full-time force is 65,000. When asked what the current defence minister thought of English's report, a spokesman for Peter MacKay said the Conservatives have been working to restore the government's relationship with the country's military brass.

"After a decade of darkness under a Liberal government, this government has developed a strong relationship of trust with the military that has helped us achieve common goals," wrote Jay Paxton in an email Wednesday. "Our government is committed to implementing the best policies to ensure that the Canadian Forces are able to do the difficult jobs we ask of them." Paxton would not say what MacKay thought of the report, which indicates he, too, has been ignored. In December 2009, reserve pay budgets were cut dramatically and the funds relocated to other priorities. Many reservists, English writes, were told they would receive no work or pay for months. While MacKay ordered the department to put in place policies to avoid similar turmoil from happening in the future, "as late as 23 February 2011, the vice chief reported that he was still 'working' on the problem, possibly in anticipation of the May 2011 federal election producing another minister.

"The matter of compliance still remains open," English adds.

The NDP's defence critic Jack Harris said it's no secret reservists have been complaining for years that they don't have adequate resources to increase the militia's size. If the report's allegations are true, that successive defence ministers have been ignored by the military establishment when it comes to orders to increase the size of the reserves, "then we've got a problem.

"One of the themes of our critique of this government is that there ought to be strong civilian control over the military and we don't have that here. There are pieces missing in the puzzle, and if this is going on, then it's obviously evidence that there's something clearly wrong. If the minister's policies and the policies of the government aren't being followed through in the military then we've got a problem."

With Glowing Hearts Concert – 2011 – Tickets Now Available

A Concert of Celebration and Remembrance

Join the [Band of the Fifteenth Field Artillery Regiment](#) for its third annual **With Glowing Hearts, A Concert of Celebration and Remembrance** presentation over the first weekend of November. This year's concert will be a musical review featuring the music of George Gershwin, Eric Coates, Stephen Foster and more. The band will take you on a musical journey that begins in the movie theatre in the 1920s before the arrival of talkies when the orchestra painted a musical commentary for the action on the screen, to the disco to dance to a hot funk band followed by a stop at the ballet theatre as Bacchus, the god of wine, enters with his entourage. Pianist **Gary Tse** will dazzle with his rendition of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and local crooner **Phil Moriarity** will join our own **Cary McCaffery** for our musical tribute to the troops. Don't miss a thoroughly entertaining evening or afternoon with these talented Canadian Forces musicians! You're guaranteed to leave the concert hall smiling ear to ear!

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

Special group rates for ten or more

Contact Bill @ (604) 618-3607 or emailing tickets@militarymusic.ca

Legion Foundation dinner - Oct 15th



You are cordially invited to attend our Fall fundraising dinner.

Saturday October 15th, 2011
Cocktails: 6pm
Dinner: 7pm

This dinner is raising funds in support of important Legion Foundation programs.

Tickets: \$20 per person, \$35 per couple
Silent Auction items will be available for bidding

Location: Aldergrove Legion Branch #265, 26607 Fraser Hwy, Aldergrove

To reserve your tickets, please email bcyukoncommand@legionbcyukon.ca
Please RSVP by October 10th



REMEMBER • JOIN • GIVE

From the 'Punitary'

A couple went to a pet shop and ended up buying a lion (as you do). The shop owner had told them that unfortunately the lion had an odd allergy to wet weather and that raindrops would actually hurt it. One day the lion was outside when the couple heard cries from the garden. "What's that noise?" asked the man. "It's the lion", his wife replied, "it's roaring with pain."

Have you ever notice how groups of lions tend to move on just before autumn?
Of course; pride goeth before the fall.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Mines are equal opportunity weapons.