



Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News 9 Aug, 2011

I didn't publish a newsletter last week as there wasn't much to print and I got caught up in a flurry of activity on another project. I did publish the week before, however, but I had an unprecedented number of bounce backs because the file was so big, especially from Govt servers. If you didn't get that edition you can go to the RUSI Van website to check it out using this link: **Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News Jul 26, 2011**

Canada's Post Kandahar Military: Now What?

By John Thompson

Canadians tend to think of themselves as an unmilitary people – forgetting the long British-French struggle for global domination, the American Revolution, two armed revolts, Fenian terrorism and the American Civil War which all made significant contributions to Canada's creation. Canada's unmilitary self-image also conflicts directly with the sterling performance of our Armed Forces in both World Wars and Korea.

In November 1918, the hard-fighting Canadian Corps was undoubtedly the most elite formation on the Western Front – the next year we couldn't disband it fast enough. In 1945, we dismantled the tough veteran 1st Canadian Army with equal speed, also shedding highly experienced Air Force Squadrons and naval ships as we did so. One might think we find excellence embarrassing.

Canadian troops have been in Afghanistan since 2001, but stepped up to the plate to accept assignment in Kandahar in 2006, knowing it was one of the strongest centres of the Taliban in the country.

Now that the combat mission is over, will Canada go back to neglecting its Armed Forces?

The Jul 26th newsletter had a document attached. The leader above was printed in the newsletter. You can access this document on our website at:

<http://www.rusivancouver.ca/Downloads/Newsletters/cm1108%20canadas%20post%20kandahar%20military.pdf>

There are probably many of you that don't keep back copies of newsletters. If you need to check back, we keep all the past issues on the website. Go to www.rusivancouver.ca and click on the 'newsletter' button. You can also find other articles that were attached to newsletters by clicking on the 'Journal' button.

We post many interesting items on the site so members are encouraged to check it frequently.

Wednesday Lunches

Well, we finally had a day where summer dress was really appreciated by our lunch attendees and it looks like this week will be even hotter. If you are thinking about going to the beach, don't pass up lunch, go to the beach on Thursday instead, or go after lunch where you can soak up some rays and have a nice after lunch nap.

If you have never attended a lunch before, try to get in one Wednesday to meet some old friends, make some new ones and sample Mrs Lum's delicious meals. She serves a 5 course buffet lunch. The first Wednesday of each month is always roast beef, after that Mrs Lum uses her cookbook to come up with something just as good. If you have any dietary problems she is usually prepared to supply an alternate main course.

You can't get a better lunch anywhere else in town and it only costs \$13pp.

Hope you can make it.

RUSI President Steps Down

Maj Jim Stanton submitted his resignation to the executive committee last week. Jim's fiancé, Paula Walsh, recently promoted to Inspector, has now been appointed OIC of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary in Labrador City and he is moving there to join her.

Jim will be at lunch this Wednesday (Aug 10) and we will present him with his 'retirement' plaque at that time.

At a special executive meeting last week, Jim's resignation was accepted and 2nd Vice John Nosotti took over as President to complete Jim's term. Cam Cathcart was appointed to fill the 2nd Vice position.

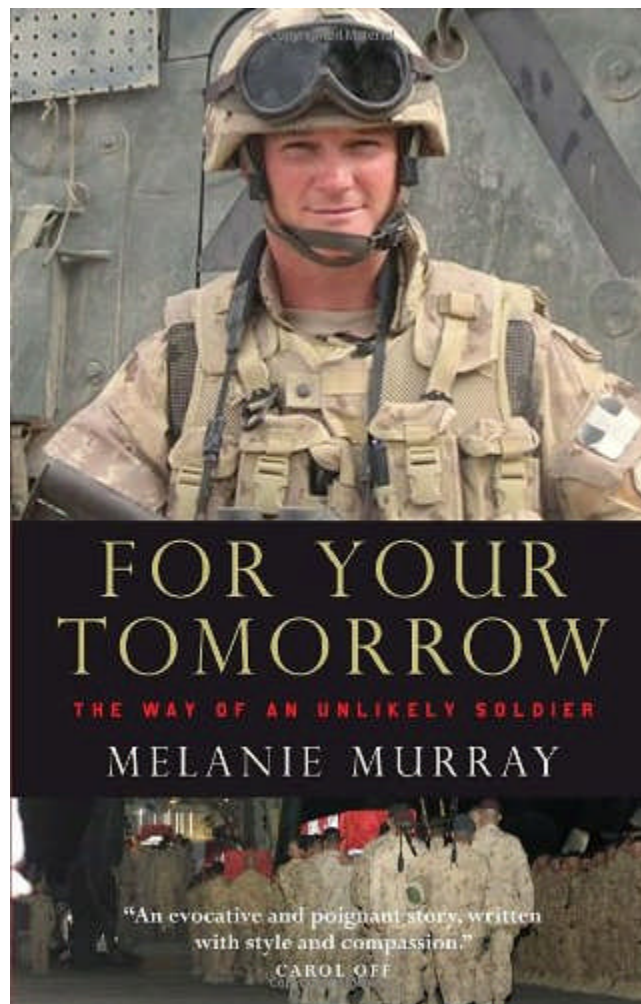
For Your Tomorrow - The story of Capt Jeff Francis, RCHA

Captain Jeff Francis, was a forward observation with 1 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based in Shilo, Manitoba. Aged 36, he was born in Oromocto, NB to a military family and also lived in the Halifax, NS area.

He was one of six Canadian soldiers, along with an Afghan interpreter, killed when their RG-31 Nyala armoured vehicle struck a massive roadside bomb approximately 20 km southwest of Kandahar City. The incident occurred while the soldiers were returning in a convoy to a forward-operating base in the Panjwahi-Zhari district after completing joint operations with the Afghan National Army.

Sixty-six Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have died since Canada first sent troops to Afghanistan in 2002.

Capt. Francis earned a master's degree in social sciences at Carleton University and then enlisted in the military in 2001 at age 30. He was on his first overseas deployment and about a month away from returning home to his wife Sylvie Secours and their eight-month old son Ry. He is also survived by his mother Marion Murray, father Russ Francis, sister Mica Francis and other family members. He is remembered for his love of sports and martial arts, and as a serious student of world and military history, pop culture, philosophy and art history.



For Your Tomorrow by Melanie Murray (Random House Canada, 2011)
A review by Hubert O'Hearn

'I hope people will see beneath the stereotype of the soldier', Melanie Murray said when I spoke with her on the phone halfway between finishing reading **For Your Tomorrow** and writing this review.

Captain Jeff Francis was the nephew of Melanie Murray. He was killed, along with five of his Canadian military colleagues and an Afghan interpreter by an IED, on July 4th 2007. Our American friends know July 4 as Independence Day. He was born on November 11 1970. November 11th is known in Canada as Armistice Day, the day World War One ended. Jeff Francis was born on a day that celebrates peace after war and died on a day that celebrates the victory in war of those who sought a peaceful democracy.

If Melanie Murray's desire in writing **For Your Tomorrow** was for us to see past the stereotype of the Soldier Who Dies for the Cause, then she got her book exactly right. Jeff Francis was not your average grunt - a guy who enlists and is killed and there's a picture in the paper and a sincere mention by Don Cherry on Coach's Corner and that's the end of it. End of life - end of story.

Of course, there is no 'average grunt'. They all have - or had - individual lives you know. Jeff was working towards a PhD. at the time of enlistment. He studied philosophy, had a developing interest in Buddhism, had fallen in love with a French-Canadian girl named Sylvie and was

going to be the father of a young boy named Ry at the time he enlisted in the Canadian Army and went to fight for what he believed were all the right reasons in Afghanistan.

The Afghan interpreter who died in the IED explosion still has not had his name released by the Canadian Department of National Defence (DND). This is no bureaucratic slip-up. Should this fallen man's name be released, the Taliban may well rape, be-head, torture or summarily kill the deceased's surviving family and friends. I despise war with every breath in my lungs - war is the failure grade given to human intelligence's sloppy efforts - yet to give one's life in the cause of an innocent's opportunity to live their own life in peace ... there is honour in that.

It was ironic really. Simultaneous to reading **For Your Tomorrow**, which covers the life of Jeff Francis with inspired research and some excellent poetic and scholarly quotations by his aunt, I was also reading **Hero**, the new biography of T.E. Lawrence by Michael Korda. Both these young men, Jeff Francis and Lawrence of Arabia, were well-educated, fit and devoted to the cause of a people not of their own culture. And it occurred to me that the only true difference between the grand historic figure of Lawrence and the 'noted in passing' Jeff Francis is that with Lawrence the wounds were non-fatal.

Throughout this warm, yet objective recall of his life, one can't help but read **For Your Tomorrow** without thinking, I hope Jeff Francis did not die in vain.

Jericho wharf to be demolished to make way for \$2m waterfront restoration

By Kelly Sinoski, Vancouver Sun



According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the old creosote pilings of the Jericho wharf are leeching toxins into the water.

Photographed by: Dan Toulgoet, Vancouver Courier

The historic Jericho Beach Marginal Wharf will face the wrecking ball Tuesday as Vancouver park board officials prepare to spend \$2 million to restore the waterfront to its natural state. Vancouver Pile Driving Ltd. is on site to start demolishing the wharf, once part of a military seaplane base which opened as Vancouver's first airport in the 1920s.

The project will proceed in two phases. The first phase will include removing wood that has been treated with preservative creosote, installing fencing and ocean floats for the safety of boaters, paddlers and swimmers, protecting trees and removing the Lion's Gate Bridge railing for storage and future reuse. It also includes starting the beach restoration and foreshore protection, which is expected to be completed by the fall.

The second phase will see further beach restoration and historical interpretation, which will be presented to the public later this year. Heritage considerations include a First Nations' settlement, a logging operation in the late 1800s at "Jerry's Cove" from which the name Jericho originated, and Vancouver's first airport on the natural beach that operated from 1920 through

1939. The site, located east of the Jericho Sailing Centre, will be closed until work is completed by the fall of 2012.

Park Board officials said the wharf is nearing the end of its life and had to be repaired or replaced to maintain public safety. The Jericho Sailing Centre also complained the wharf poses a hazard to sailors, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans warned of continuing environmental damage from the 70-year-old pilings.

General Leslie to Retire

General Andrew Leslie issued the following statement:

As the titular heads of my two owning clans, namely the Army and the Artillery, please accept my deepest thanks and appreciation for your support, wisdom and friendship over the years.

Attached as a Pdf file is my retirement letter, so I will not repeat the contents. **(not attached)**

Suffice to say I have had a great run, worked with superb soldiers, been to interesting places, been shot at and shot back, feel good about what I have been able to contribute, and am leaving happy. I will not be far away, and as a close friend told me some time ago "there are many ways to serve." The Army and the Artillery are in great hands.

Best wishes

Andy

From the Col Comdt

General Leslie will retire on 5 September, 2011. He has been our Senior Serving Gunner for half a decade, and has been a great inspiration to us all for over thirty years in uniform. His service in leadership and command positions, in peace, peacekeeping, peace support operations and war, has been exemplary. He can and should be proud of this devotion to duty and absolutely incredible service - and we can be so proud that he is one of us. Think of the generations of Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs and Gunners that he has trained, mentored, influenced and led - he has left an incredibly positive imprint on the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, and his influence will be lasting.

General Leslie has served Canada as one of our great Gunners and an outstanding soldier. We wish him and Karen a wonderful retirement and great success in future endeavours. We know from his family lineage that he is and will be "Once a Gunner, Always a Gunner."

The Royal Regiment thanks General Leslie so much for all that he has done for Canada and we especially thank him for his outstanding service to the Guns. A truly great Gunner!

Good Shooting, General Andy.

Ubique

Ernest Beno

Colonel Commandant

CIA veteran predicts that Israel to attack Iran in fall

A long-time CIA officer who spent 21 years in the Middle East is predicting that Israel will bomb Iran in the fall, dragging the United States into another major war and endangering US military and civilian personnel (and other interests) throughout the Middle East and beyond. Earlier this week, Robert Baer appeared on the provocative KPFK Los Angeles show Background Briefing, hosted by Ian Masters. It was there that he predicted that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is likely to ignite a war with Iran in the very near future. Robert Baer has had a storied career, including a stint in Iraq in the 1990s where he organised opposition to Saddam Hussein. (He was recalled after being accused of trying to organise Saddam's assassination.) Upon his retirement, he received a top decoration for meritorious service.

Baer is no ordinary CIA operative. George Clooney won an Oscar for playing a character based on Baer in the film *Syriana* (Baer also wrote the book). He obviously won't name many of his sources in Israel, the United States, and elsewhere, but the few he has named are all Israeli security figures who have publically warned that Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak are hell-bent on war.

To read the full article go to the RUSI Van web site at:

[CIA veteran predicts that Israel to attack Iran in fall](#)

From the 'Punitary'

There was a politician in California, a rabid right-winger, who was also famous as a snappy dresser... always wore a waistcoat with a small Derringer pistol in the pocket ... he became known as the Fascist Gun In The Vest.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will get more than your fair share of objectives to take.



**MAINLAND BC
MILITARY FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTRE**



Ice Cream Social

Mainland BC MFRC is hosting an Ice
Cream Social with 50's theme:

**Enjoy delicious ice cream,
music & good company.**

WHEN: August 18th, from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**COST: \$1.00 per scoop of ice cream and
FREE additional toppings**



WHERE:

**The Vancouver Centre
4050 West 4th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC**

**@ the Gazebo at the
playground on
Ortona Cresc**

604.225.2520 ext 2518



WHERE:

**The Chilliwack Centre
5535 Korea Road,
Chilliwack, BC**

604.858.1011 ext 1195