



## Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News Sept 20, 2011

### Wednesday Lunches

Lunch attendance took a bit of a dip last week.. A number of our regulars were sick or away on trips and attendance dropped below 25 for the first time this year. Hopefully the speaker program will help boost our numbers.

On **Sept 28<sup>th</sup>** **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.

On **Oct 26<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

### Chocks Away - Forgotten Spitfire Flies Again

I did the story last week on this restoration but inadvertently let out the web link to the original story, which features a video of the aircraft in flight. m Go to:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/world-war-2/8771012/Spitfire-back-in-the-air-after-71-years.html>

### Change of Command, HMCS Discovery

#### **Parade: Tuesday, 18 October**

The change of command ceremony for HMCS Discovery, when LCDR Elaine Fisher CD will turn over Command of HMCS Discovery to LCDR Phil Horner CD, with CMDRE David Craig CD officiating. Guests should be seated by 1920. Dress is jacket and tie. Please indicate your intention to attend (with numbers) by return e-mail to [events.noabc@gmail.com](mailto:events.noabc@gmail.com).

#### **Change of Command Mess Dinner Saturday, 22 October**

The Change of Command Mess Dinner will be held in the Wardroom, HMCS Discovery on Saturday, 22 October at 1830 for 1930. Significant others are invited and dress is mess dress or black tie (ladies equivalent). The cost will be \$70 per person. Please RSVP directly to LT(N)

Daniel Rice at HMCS Discovery, [daniel.rice@forces.gc.ca](mailto:daniel.rice@forces.gc.ca), Tel: 604 225 2545 (x 2004) Fax: 604 225 2546. Copies of the invitation and registration form are attached.

## **Irina Sendler - Saviour of Jews in the Holocaust**



A Little Known Hero of the Shoah  
by [Peter Flom](#),

Irena Sendler died on May 23, 2008. She was 98. During the Holocaust, in Poland, she saved Jews. A lot of Jews. Probably more than the better known Oscar Schindler. We need a Thomas Kenneally or a Steven Spielberg to tell her story, too.

Irena Sendler, aka Irena Sendlerova, was born in 1910 in Warsaw, and died on May 23, 2008 also in Warsaw, at the age of 98. This is one good person who did not die young.

From her childhood on, Irina Sendler worked to help anyone who was persecuted or needy, often placing herself at risk of arrest, torture, or death, and from three different totalitarian regimes -- pre-War Poland, Poland under the Nazis, and Poland under Soviet domination. But she is best known (to the extent that she is known at all) for her work under the Nazis, in the Warsaw Ghetto, where she saved 2,500 Jews (mostly children), with help from many others.

Irina Sendler's father was a doctor whose office was open to anyone -- Jew or Gentile, rich or poor. In the town of Otwock (near Warsaw) his was the only office open to all, and, partly as a result, her father died in 1917 from typhus, which he got from one of his patients.

Irena Sendler was a social worker, and, in those days, Polish universities had separate benches for Jews. Irena (a Catholic) sat on the Jewish benches. After the Nazis invaded, things got considerably worse. The Warsaw Ghetto crammed 450,000 people into about 1.5 square miles, and rationed them 4.5 lbs of bread per week. But while the Nazis wanted to kill the Jews, they didn't want typhus to break out and spread outside the ghetto, so they let nurses go in and give out medicine and vaccines. Sendler forged identification as a nurse so she could help. She didn't stop at that, though.

Irina Sendler joined Zegota, a Polish underground organization, and recruited 10 friends. She would obtain and smuggle in forged papers for the children. She stole sedatives, and sedated babies and young children, who she smuggled out, hidden in sacks, coffins and boxes. Then she found places for them in convents, orphanages, or with Polish families. For older children, she found ways to escape through the sewer system.

But she didn't just want the Jewish kids to survive; she wanted them to know who they were. So she kept records of each child, which she hid in jars and buried under a tree. In 1943, she was arrested, tortured (her feet and legs were broken), and sentenced to death... but she didn't give up her secrets. The Polish underground bribed a guard to let her go. While in jail, and working in the prison laundry, she and others made holes in the German's underwear; when the Nazis discovered this, they shot half the workers.

After the war, she gave the children the jars she had hidden -- but nearly all the children had no family left alive. Some moved to Israel, some were adopted by families in Poland.

The Communists tried to bury her story, since she was also anti-Communist, but in 1965, she was recognized by Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust museum, and in 1983, a tree was planted in her honour in the avenue of the righteous. But there still wasn't much publicity. There was a short report in US News and World Report in 1994, and, in 1999, Norm Conrad, a teacher in a high school in Uniontown, Kansas, gave three of his pupils (Liz Cambers, Megan Stewart (now Felt), and Sabrina Coons...a fourth, Jessica Shelton, joined later) a copy of the article for a history day report and, together, they researched her life, found her in Poland, and wrote a play. They used the proceeds from the performance to pay for Sendler's care in a nursing home in Poland.

They call the play, and the project 'life in a jar'. Go, read, and feel better about the human race. Remember Irena.

## **The Dover Guns**

*From story originally written by Jack Thornton.*

Beneath the Admiralty Pier (formerly known as the train ferry dock) at the busy ferry port of Dover, Kent, UK, lies a forgotten but nevertheless fascinating legacy of the Victorian navy. Unbeknownst to the thousands of passengers who daily make their way to the nearby jetfoil and cruise ship terminals, two monster guns lie beneath their feet. How they got there makes a fascinating story. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the Port of Dover was slated to become a naval base and the Admiralty commenced construction of a protected harbour, but the project was abandoned after much of the infrastructure was well under way, including the Admiralty Pier at the western arm of the harbour. Instead of becoming a naval base, Dover became a ferry port and today it is the busiest such port in the world. The harbour, overlooked by Dover Castle and flanked by the white cliffs, comprises two main features: the Eastern Docks where the main passenger terminal and ferry docks are located, and the Western Docks which accommodate the Hovercraft, Jetfoil and Seacat services to the continent, along with the cruise ship terminal (the much modified Admiralty Pier). Both sets of docks also serve as breakwaters to shelter the port from the sometimes rough waters of the English Channel. The Admiralty however, was not prepared to abandon Dover altogether. Concerned about possible invasion from across the Channel, the Board decreed that a coast defence battery be installed at the end of the Admiralty Pier comprising the largest guns available to protect England's southern coast. But where to obtain such guns?



At about the same time, the Royal Navy laid down a battleship (in 1874) that was designed to counter battleships being built abroad (notably the Italian *Duilio*) armed with four enormous Armstrong -built 17.7- inch, muzzle - loading cannon mounted in a central



battery of two twin turrets. Britain's answer was HMS *Inflexible*. She too, was armed with Armstrong-built MLR (Muzzle-Loading, Rifled) guns, the largest of their kind in the Royal Navy and similarly disposed in a central battery (see photo). Each monster weighed 80 tons and was of 16-inch calibre. The mighty ship was commissioned



in 1881. When HMS Inflexible paid off, the enormous guns of her main battery (and their replacements) became superfluous to the fleet, for no other battleship mounted such (already obsolete) ordnance. They did however; provide the solution for the long-awaited battery. Two of them were installed at the end of the Admiralty Pier (now much extended) in 1877 in a modified turret adapted for land use. The guns were conveyed by sea from Woolwich and lowered into position by block and tackle. The installation included an engine room with two steam engines to rotate the turret and ammunition hoists, loading gear and to run the guns in and 'Admiralty Pier Gun Turret,' or more simply, the 'Dover Turret.' The guns were tested in 1883 and again in 1886, but no record exists that they were ever fired again. Not long after the completion of this masterpiece of Victorian ingenuity, the *raison d'être* for its existence vanished with the establishment of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France. No longer was continental invasion perceived as a threat. In 1902 the turret was declared obsolete and the engine room and steam engines removed. The rusting guns and turret however, remained in situ as the fast growing ferry port was constructed all about them.

This however, was not the end of the battery. In 1908-09, in view of the increasing uneasiness of Germany's determination to build a huge navy, two 6- inch Mk.7 guns were mounted on the roof of the, by then, defunct turret. They have long since been removed but the Admiralty Pier Gun Turret still exists as a fascinating link with the Victorian era. Few of today's passers-by know that they are within a few feet of 'living history!'

The pictures of the turret were taken in 1993.

## **A Tribute to our veterans and military personnel**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Cathy McGowan and I am the General Manager of BBCanada.com. BBCanada.com is the largest web directory for Canadian Bed & Breakfasts, online since 1995.

Your contact details have been provided to me through the Ministry of Veteran Affairs Canada in hope that you could assist our organization in getting the message out to Canadian veterans and military personnel about a special tribute we are launching this Fall . To celebrate this years' upcoming Remembrance Day, our Canadian B&B owners have chosen to join an American initiative that started 3 years ago called "B&Bs for Vets". This initiative allows veterans and military personnel to stay at a participating B&B FREE of charge for the night of November 10, 2011.

To assist our B&B owners with this initiative, we have created a web page dedicated to this initiative [B&Bs for Vets](#). On this page, your members will be able to view all participating B&Bs, link to their homepage which offers a full description of the B&B, policies and contact details.

Here's is a sample of an [editorial](#) that will be published later this month in Horizon Travel Magazine. If your organization can assist in anyway in promoting this initiative to veterans and military personnel, we would be deeply appreciative.

For your convenience, I have attached our logo in both English and French and in various formats. If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me by email at

[cmcgowan@bbcanada.com](mailto:cmcgowan@bbcanada.com) or call 1-800-239-1141 ext 6675. Please note that I will be out of the office from at September 19-23, 2011, with limited access to email. If during this time you require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca May at [rmay@bbcanada.com](mailto:rmay@bbcanada.com) or by phone at 1-800-239-1141 ext. 6678.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

**Cathy McGowan**

General Manager / Directrice générale

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*Learn More About  
Canada's Military History*



The Royal United Services Institute Vancouver  
*presents*

**Military History Evenings**

*in association with*

**The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)**

Topic: **The Battle of the Scheldt – 1944**

Presenter: **Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD**

**Wednesday, September 28 5:15 pm to 7:00 pm**

Where: **The Drill Hall, 620 Beatty Street, Vancouver**

RUSI Vancouver Military History Evenings is a series of eight monthly presentations on Canadian military history from the beginning of the Second World War to Afghanistan. Topics will cover army, navy and air actions in which Canadian forces have been engaged.

Col Maxwell's military career spans 30 years first with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and ending with the Air Force. He served in NORAD with a final posting at the Cheyenne Mountain complex then joined Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) as head of Air Command and Control. Col Maxwell retired from the Canadian Forces in 1998 and joined NATO in Brussels where he spent 10 years.

During his time in Europe Col Maxwell explored Canadian battlefields of both World Wars and began conducting battlefield tours for various Canadian groups. Since returning to BC he has written "*Swift & Strong – A Pictorial History of The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own)*" with two co-authors. Col Maxwell has a history degree from the University of Manitoba and currently is a Canadian history instructor for the Capilano University Eldercollege.

**Note: The Drill Hall doors open at 5:15 pm and attendance is free. Presentation begins at 6:00 pm in the BC Regiment Warrant Officer's & Sergeant's Mess. There will be a cash bar. Easy Park pay-parking accessed via West Georgia and Cambie or metered street parking available on Georgia, Beatty and Dunsmuir. Stadium Skytrain Station is nearby.**

## Equitas Fundraiser

**EQUITAS**  
*justice • fairness • equity*

*Proudly Presents a Fund Raising Social  
In Support of Canada's Disabled Soldiers*

**AFTER FIVE ATTIRE - HORS D'OEUVRES - NO HOST BAR**

<b>Where:</b>	Hazelmere Golf & Tennis Club 18150 8th Avenue, S. Surrey, BC
<b>When:</b>	Friday, October 14, 2011
<b>Time:</b>	Meet & Greet: 6:30 - 7:30 PM
<b>Program Commences:</b>	7:30 PM
<b>Event Wrap-Up:</b>	Nine-ish
<b>Price:</b>	\$25.00 per person

### **Mission:**

To raise, administer and distribute funds nationally:

- a) to provide the disbursement costs for a lawsuit by disabled Canadian soldiers seeking to obtain fair and equitable settlements from the Government of Canada;
- b) to promote awareness among Canadians about disabled soldiers and their compensation settlements; and,

c) to assist disabled soldiers to re-integrate into society, awaiting a proper compensation package.

## MFRC Family BBQ



# MFRC Family BBQ

**Come join us for a BBQ dinner on the Jericho Base!**

Bring the whole family! There will be fun games and entertainment for everyone!

*All military family and friends are welcome!*

WHAT? MFRC end of summer Family BBQ  
WHEN? Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>  
WHERE? **The Gazebo at the Park on the Jericho Base**  
\*\*parking is available at the MFRC parking lot\*\*  
TIME: 4:00pm-7:00pm (RAIN OR SHINE!)

**FUN GAMES and good food!**



**MINI GOLF!!**

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**Come meet Premier Christy Clark from 4-5pm!**

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Please call Theresa at 604-225-2520 ex 2518 or email [Theresa@bcmfrc.com](mailto:Theresa@bcmfrc.com) to RSVP.



Mainland BC MFRC

From the 'Punitary'

## Mary Poppins' lipstick, from Juanita Browne

Mary Poppins decides to grow some vegetables. When she picks her crop in the autumn, her carrots, potatoes, onions, and spring beans have all failed, but her cauliflowers have grown a treat. She picks them, cooks some for Sunday lunch in a cheese sauce, and they taste wonderful.

After eating them for a week she notices two things. Firstly, her lips are full and glossy, unchapped, uncracked, and require absolutely no lip gloss to make them look full and pouty. Secondly, she has really awful bad breath, and even her cat won't come near her.

Pleased with her lips, however, and spotting a money-making idea, she contacts a big cosmetics company and explains about the lip-enhancing qualities of her cauliflower crop. After a month of testing, the company buys the entire crop of cauliflowers for a phenomenal amount and requests that Mary grow some more as soon as possible.

The company proceeds to make lipstick out of them but experiences problems in the final product manufacture. The lipstick does not gel correctly into a solid stick and ends up crumbling upon application. Quality controllers also find that, even as a lipstick, the bad breath remains and have to put it down as an unfortunate side effect.

As they are nearing their production deadline and adverts for this new wonder lip enhancer have hit the streets, the cosmetics company has no choice but to produce the packaging with the following caution:

POPPINS' POP-UP LIP ENHANCER

SUPER CAULI, FRAGILE LIPSTICK - EXPECT-HALITOSIS

## **Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.**

Air defense motto: shoot 'em down; sort 'em out on the ground.