



'The Vancouver Gunners'
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC
V6J 2C7 www.vancouvergunners.ca



2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7
www.rusivancouver.ca

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News April 21, 2020

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get your copy.

Newsletter on line. This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html> . Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Wednesday Lunches - Lunches suspended until further notice.

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars See attached posters for details.

Apr 22 RUSI Vancouver virtual presentation - Canada and the Cold War

Apr 29 RUSI Vancouver virtual presentation - Canada and the Cold War

May 06 RUSI Vancouver virtual presentation - Canada and the Cold War

Everyone stay safe!!

World War 2 – 1945

John Thompson Strategic analyst - quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"

Apr 22nd: Himmler passes a message to the Red Cross offering a German surrender to the Western Allies only. Organized Japanese resistance ends on Jolo and 31st US Division lands in the Moro Gulf to help out. Modena is liberated by elements of 5th Army. Elements of 7th Army cross the Danube near Dillingen and Baldingen. In Burma, Toungoo falls to 5th Indian Division. Hunting Japanese holdouts in the Zambales Mountains on Luzon, Private William H Thomas of the 38th Infantry Division is among the first to fall in an ambush when an explosive charge blows off both his legs. He refuses treatment and fires his BAR until a Japanese bullet destroys his weapon, so he resorts to using his grenades. His actions lead to success for his platoon, but his wounds soon claim his life. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Apr 23rd: Hitler hits the roof as a message comes from Goering offering to take over the leadership of the Reich while the siege of Berlin goes on. Frankfurt on Oder and Cottbus are captured by Soviet troops. Some 250 US Army POWs of Jewish origin or 'appearance' are liberated at Berga an der Elster; over 100 more died in captivity. Both the 5th and 8th Armies reach the south bank of the Po in Italy. Some progress is finally made in the breaching the main

Japanese defensive Shuri Line on Okinawa, but this success merely brings the US soldiers and marines nearer to the next defence line which is just as cunningly constructed.

Apr 24th: Berlin is encircled as Konev's troops join Zhukov's in the suburbs. The Western Allies take Dessau on the Elbe and Ulm. In Italy, Ferrara and La Spezia fall into Allied hands. The Japanese begin falling back to the second Shuri Line. The free-spoken Adolph Galland pulled together a squadron of highly decorated aces in Jagdverband 44 to fly Me-262 Jetfighters and try to match the very best of what the Luftwaffe had left against the overwhelming airpower of the Allies. One of the aces he pulled in the last weeks of the war was Oberst Günther Lutzow, who had flown over 300 sorties and made 108 kills. Lutzow, like Galland, personified much of the best in the German military character and was unafraid to tell his superiors exactly what he thought of their decisions and the Nazi leadership... which is probably why he only had Oak Leaves appended to his Knights Cross and was often sidelined during the war. Lutzow could have done well after the war, but he went missing in action on this day.

Apr 25th: American and Soviet troops meet at Torgau on the Elbe; the Soviets also take besieged Pillau in East Prussia (but not before 180,000 wounded men and civilians had been evacuated by sea). It is liberation day for the Northern Italian cities of Mantua, Parma and Verona. British and Indian troops liberate Salin and Perwegen in Burma as the Japanese begin evacuating Rangoon. The San Francisco Conference to map out the United Nations begins. On Luzon, PFC David M Gonzales is a rifleman with the 32nd Division. When a 500 lb bomb lands on the perimeter of his company's position, five men are buried alive. PFC Gonzales and his company commander are among those who rush to dig them out. A Japanese machinegun opens fire on the rescuers, killing the company commander. Gonzales continues, but eschews digging from a prone position, so that he can stand and dig faster despite the greater risk. So exposed, he has rescued three men before being mortally wounded by the machinegun. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Apr 26th: Soviet troops take Stettin on the Baltic Coast and the Czechoslovakian city of Brno; while the British take Bremen, the Americans take Regensburg and the French reach Lake Constance. Allied troops swarm north of the Po in Italy. More Americal Division troops land at a new beach on Los Negros in the Philippines. Marshal Petain is arrested as he crosses back into France from Switzerland.

Apr 27th: The Allies respond to Himmler's peace offer by reminding him of the unconditional surrender demanded by all of the Allies, not just the Western powers alone. Soviet troops take Prenzlau and Angermunde, while capturing Templehof Airfield in Berlin. US troops enter Genoa, which is already mostly liberated by Partisans. Baguio on Luzon is liberated. Allied warships start bombarding targets in Borneo. Some 125 Kamikazes attack the US fleet off Okinawa – aiming at the picket force first and nine destroyers are damaged over the next five days.

Apr 28th: The jig is up for Mussolini, he and his mistress are captured, shot and strung up in Milan; while 5th Army Units liberate Brescia, Bergamo and Alessandria. The Soviets are within

two kilometres of Hitler’s Bunker. The US assault on the Second Shuri Line on Okinawa continues. US 7th Army takes Augsburg as it rumbles towards Austria. On Okinawa, PFC Alejandro R Ruiz of the 27th Division vaults into action when a large Japanese pillbox opens up on his platoon. He rushes forward with a BAR, attracting the enemy’s fire to himself and beats a Japanese soldier down with the butt of his rifle; runs back to his platoon for more ammunition then rushes the pillbox again. Once there he has become the magnet for much Japanese fire and yet stays in plain view as he leaps from opening to opening, eventually killing all 12 occupants. He is awarded the Medal of Honor.

CPO1 and CWO Corps

Chief Petty Officer 1st Class / Chief Warrant Officer Corps
The Heartbeat of the CAF. Defence Stories - February 24, 2020



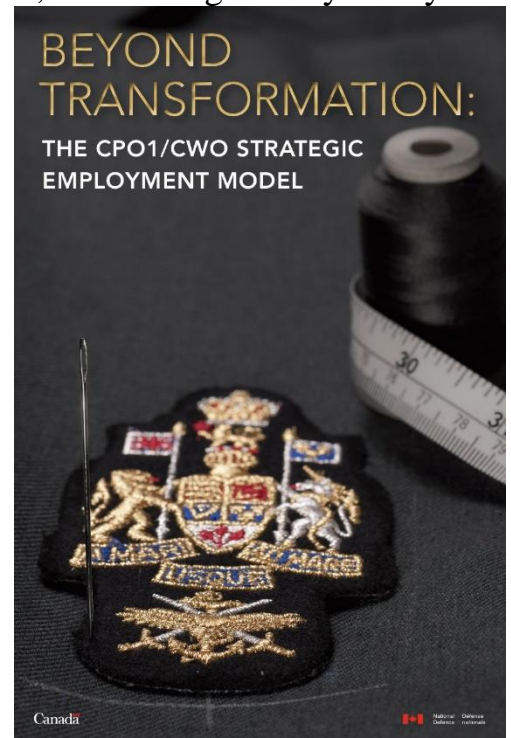
The coat of arms worn by the most senior non-commissioned ranks as a badge of rank.

January 17, 2020 marked a historic occasion regarding the evolution and modernization of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), specifically for the Chief Petty Officer 1st Class and Chief Warrant Officer (CPO1/CWO) rank. CPO1/CWOs are the most senior leaders of the Non-Commissioned Members (NCM) Corps; they navigate from tactical to strategic levels across the Department National Defence (DND)/CAF, acting as change agents, influencing the day to day life of CAF personnel and the organization within which they operate. Their

limited numbers (671 CPO1/CWOs - 449 Regular Force [Reg F] & 222 Reserve Force [Res F]) across a force of 86,517 NCMs make them a very small select group of senior leaders that only 0.7% of the NCM population will attain (MCS, 16 Dec 2019).

Beyond Transformation: The CPO1/CWO Strategic Employment Model (2011)

In August 2014, Canadian Armed Forces Chief Warrant Officer (CAF CWO) Kevin West articulated to senior leadership the vision of one occupation for CPO1/CWOs, and the need to formalize the concepts and recommendations discussed in the 2011 document *Beyond Transformation: The CPO1/CWO Strategic*



Employment Model (SEM). CWO West’s proposal was accepted by senior CAF leadership, and thus began the journey of the SEM Project in August 2014. The project came to fruition for the CPO1/CWO occupation on June 15, 2018, and was finalized January 17, 2020. All Reg F/Res F CPO1/CWOs are now under one strategic occupation called the “CPO1/CWO CORPS (Military Occupation Structure Identification 00381).”

The culmination of the CPO1/CWO occupation that was led, driven, and supported by senior NCM leaders, such as former CAF CWOs Dan Gilbert, Robert Cléroux (CPO1), Kevin West, and current CAF CWO Alain Guimond, enabled the Chiefs Corps to become a reality. Those senior leaders believed it was extremely important to the CAF and future NCMs, that members at the rank of CPO1/CWO must have the right *competencies, experience, knowledge, education and training* required to further enhance the skillsets and roles of Chiefs in key tactical to strategic leadership positions. This innovative project was embraced by the entire senior leadership, and the SEM Project became a top priority for both the CDS as the Project Sponsor (Champion) and the CAF CWO as the Project Director. What followed was truly amazing. The CPO1/CWOs Corp was tasked and given a project which was also completed by CPO1/CWOs encapsulating an in-depth analysis of all Reg F/Res F CPO1/CWOs in the CAF. This analysis encompassed items such as:

- Systems of succession planning and management,
- The formalization of roles and positional requirements,
- Preferred paths of education and modernized training,
- In depth scientific analysis of the numerous roles, scope of responsibility, and sphere of influence of a CPO1/CWO throughout the DND and Whole of Government,
- Development of Leader Profiles by Director General Military Personnel Research and Analysis for all CPO1/CWO positions, allowing NCMs at all levels to see exactly what competencies are required, relative to specific positions,
- Positions identified as not meeting the CPO1/CWO model were re-assigned within the organization to the Officer Corps and as Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class/Master Warrant Officer NCM levels accordingly,
- CAF policies and doctrines,
- Military Employment Structure Implementation Plan (MESIP); and
- The alignment of Reg F/Res F CPO1/CWOs.

Subsequently, direction was given to the SEM Team to define and validate the roles and responsibilities of all CPO1/CWOs. The future CPO1/CWOs now assume positions along a critical path which sees them as part of Senior Leadership Teams, or in some cases as Senior Level Advisors. The ripple effect of a project of this nature has meant that several CAF policies were affected and in need of review/amendment, such as the Special Requirements Commissioning Plan, which remains a vital program in utilizing and retaining CPO1/CWOs in the organization as Officers because of their vast experiences and competencies. Furthermore, with the CPO1/CWO Corps becoming a formally defined occupation, two of the critical action items are:

- The addition of a sub function to the occupation identifying six tier levels of progression within the CPO1/CWO Corps; and
- An in-depth review of compensation, benefits, and recognition for CPO1/CWOs.

The SEM Project, along with countless other affiliated agencies and key stakeholders have shaped how the present and future CPO1/CWOs are developed, managed, and employed in order to generate effective strategic leaders who meet the full spectrum of CAF operational and institutional requirements. The work has been arduous and the rewards for the institution critical. The time has now come for implementation of the recommendations and action items of the MESIP, and the alignment of the concepts and principles that define CPO1/CWOs across the CAF. Integrity, credibility and professionalism are attributes at the very core to which the CPO1/CWO Corps needs to be held accountable. While the composition of Leadership Teams are flexible, the relationship between a CPO1/CWO and an Officer holding Command is unique. Part of the primary role of CPO1/CWOs is that of *“trusted advisors who provide knowledgeable advice, grounded in critical thinking, supported by ethical reasoning and cultured in practical experience”* (SEM Final Report, Jul 2017). The culmination of this project has established concrete guiding principles and a bright future for the institution. The CAF must continue to emphasize the support and requirement of these strategic influencers, managers, and institutional leaders who represent Canada’s interest as co-stewards of the *Profession of Arms*. It can be said that CPO1/CWOs are the pulse of the people and the heartbeat of the CAF. Written by SEM Team Project Manager CPO1 André Aubry in collaboration with former Project Analyst CWO (ret) Mr Miles Barham & former Project Manager CWO (ret) Graham James.

COVID-19 Poses New Challenge for Canadian Rangers

Canadian Rangers are part of 7,025 Canadian Armed Forces Class C reservists assigned to Operation Laser. *Olivia Stefanovich · CBC News · Apr 16, 2020*



The Canadian Rangers usually perform search and rescue operations and respond to natural disasters. (Supplied/Sgt Peter Moon)

Within 24 hours, Master Cpl Christopher Keesic expects to receive orders to begin house-to-house checks on the more than 2,400 people living in Moose Factory in far northern Ontario. It's an escalation of the work he's already doing with the Canadian Rangers to help Moose Cree First Nation prepare for the pandemic. "People are definitely concerned, especially with COVID-19 being on our doorstep," Keesic said. "There is a little fear involved ... but it's essentially my job. This is what I signed up to do." The pandemic poses a new challenge for the Rangers — military reservists whose work usually involves search and rescue operations and responding to forest fires and floods. Now they're faced with an invisible enemy that could surface at any moment. "It is definitely a little nerve-racking," Keesic said. "Obviously, it's something that nobody was every really prepared for, especially in terms of this large of a scale ... It's nothing like I've ever done before." Keesic is one of 117 Canadian Rangers out of

approximately 700 who have been deployed across 30 northern Ontario communities as part of the Canadian Armed Forces' initial COVID-19 response, said LCol Shane McArthur of CFB Borden. The Rangers are among 7,025 Canadian Armed Forces Class C reservists assigned to support Operation Laser.



Master Corporal Christopher Keesic of Moose Factory says his experience responding to the pandemic with the Canadian Rangers has been rewarding. (Supplied/Sgt Peter Moon)

The Rangers, who will be wearing personal protective gear, could be tasked with anything from community wellness checks, identifying at-risk individuals and families and monitoring critical infrastructure to transporting supplies, helping to set up remote clinics and supporting COVID-19 awareness programs. The Rangers won't be involved in any law enforcement activities involving the isolation or transport of ill or infected people, McArthur said. "We are not the answer to every single problem up there. We are part of a bigger system and a bigger team. We are the initial response," he said. "We would rotate ourselves and manage our readiness and manage our availability as best we could. There are challenges with that because it is a finite amount of resources." The number of deployed Rangers is expected to increase over the course of the operation, which McArthur said is scheduled to run until August 30. McArthur is putting together so-called "go teams" of six to eight Rangers to react and deploy immediately to communities that don't currently have a Rangers presence. For example, McArthur said, a team of Rangers was sent to North Spirit Lake, ON, for 15 days last fall when the community was struggling with a spike in addictions and the failure of the community's water system.

Canadian Rangers will be going house-to-house conducting wellness checks to make sure people have what they need during the pandemic. (Supplied/Joseph Hunter)



Canadian Rangers are well-suited to pandemic response because most are from the communities they serve, said LCol Shane McArthur. (Supplied/Sgt Peter Moon)

He said he has two teams prepared and is putting together two more. "I know that some of the community members, they're very concerned.

They want to make sure that they're being supported just like in the south," McArthur said. "I believe that with our Rangers on the ground, we can help mitigate that level of anxiety or reassure them that there is a level of support that we can bring to them while they go through this and we work our way through this crisis." McArthur said the Rangers are well-suited to the task because most are from the communities they serve. The Rangers are deployed also in northern Quebec's Nunavik region, where there are 11 cases of COVID-19.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed Wednesday that the Rangers also will be deployed to the Basse-Côte-Nord region in the Gulf of St Lawrence at the request of the Quebec government. "I want to thank our women and men in uniform, and the families who serve alongside them, for all that they do, Trudeau said Wednesday during a press conference outside Rideau Cottage. "Whenever we need you most, you're always there for us." In northern Ontario, COVID-19 already has struck Eabametoong First Nation, more than 300 kilometres north of Thunder Bay. Although there aren't any cases of COVID-19 in Moose Factory, an island community on the Moose River off the western shores of James Bay, it's preparing for the worst. "I believe that they do have the capabilities to handle a single case," Keesic said. "But things may become dire if it becomes a full-blown outbreak." Keesic said he thinks Moose Factory is doing a good job of prevention. Since rail service has stopped, the only way to get to the community now is by air. Returning community members are subjected to 14 days of self-isolation, he said. But Keesic added more personal protective equipment is needed, along with volunteers to conduct wellness checks and deliver food and water. About 525 km northwest of Moose Factory in Peawanuck, Master Cpl Pamela Chookomoolin is on standby. Her isolated Cree community of about 200 is on lockdown.



Master Cpl Pamela Chookomoolin is on standby, ready to help the community of Peawanuck. (Supplied/Sgt Peter Moon)



So-called "go teams" of six to eight Canadian Rangers are ready to react and deploy immediately to communities without their presence. (Supplied/Sgt Peter Moon)

At first, Chookomoolin said she wasn't worried about the virus since her community is so remote, but she said she changed her mind once the Little NHL hockey tournament for First Nations youth — which her son expected to attend — was cancelled in Mississauga, Ont.

"Imagine how many people would've brought that back, COVID-19, if they caught it," Chookomoolin said. "Now I think about it and, holy cow — we could've gotten sick and brought it back." Chookomoolin is home taking care of her kids, aged 9 and 15. "I think I'll be more useful here, I think, if anything should come up," she said. "Hopefully, it will never come here." Back in Moose Factory, Keesic is on call 24/7. He's working with the chief and council, emergency and health services to identify needs. Keesic said he's doing this for his six children, who range in age from 13 to nine months. "It's definitely a lot more rewarding in a sense that I feel like I'm really starting to help the community," he said. "I feel like what I'm doing right now is extremely important, especially being a father as well as a community member myself. I just want to do my best to help everybody out and make sure that everybody is safe through this whole thing."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

VAA Virtual Lunch every Wednesday at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

No computer? No smartphone? Dial in to 778 907 2071 Canada Meeting ID: 710 845 848

RCAA Virtual Coffee every Sunday at 1600 PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710752062>

No computer? No smartphone? Dial in to 778 907 2071 Canada Meeting ID: 710 752 062

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday. If you have any problems connecting, email me at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

The Nominal Roll project has hit the 5,000 mark of people that have served in the Regiment or its predecessor units. Care to join the project?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/new-nominal-roll>

Looking for some summer reading?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/new-reference-material3939338>

Check out these former members!

Acting Lance Bombardier Humphrey David Williams MC

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/military-cross.html>

Major James Hector Sutherland information updated

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/obituary-update-1944>

Captain Alan Ronald Townsley added to our Fallen

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/they-shall-not-be-forgotten7040720>

Yearbook Update 1956/57

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-195657>

Care to join our fundraising efforts to purchase a couple of 68 Battery Military Medals? Bombardier Randolph Amos Mann, MM and Signaller Harold Cordyn Brown, MM.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/military-medal-update1180560>

Who (or What) Is It?



Last Week: It is a Penguin Mk I, which was a cabin evolution of the Canadian Armoured Snowmobile, in downtown Churchill. It was replaced by the more spacious Mk II, featured in an earlier quiz. The last CO was Strome Galloway.

This Week: From our good friend, Colin M Stevens, CD, we received the suggestion that we use this device for our weekly quiz. Many of you are of a military background, so recognize the general purpose of this object, but for our air force friends, we can tell you that it is similar to those noisy tubes carried by aircraft for the purpose of eliminating other flying machines, but, hopefully, only those sporting markings of a nefarious nature. Those of my generation will fondly remember the C1, also known as the Sterling sub-machine gun, useful if the enemy is standing rather nearby, and not wearing cardboard for protection against the 9mm bullets. Our parents' generation was familiar with the similar (in shape) Sten gun, beloved of shapely female (and some male) SOE agents in various British war movies, and the more complex (and expensive) Thompson sub-machine gun, favoured by Chicago gangsters in pin-striped suits, as well as early commandos. This, however, is none of the above.



It is, however, a friendly firearm; not one belonging to the dastardly Nazi, nor evil Commie. But, dear reader, what is it? Can Americans purchase it for use during the COVID-19 pandemic? Will it cure ailments, and keep your home safe, or is it older, for use against authoritarian menaces? We will let

our firearms experts give us the answer. Send them to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Happy shooting!

From the 'Punitary'

Why did the woman marry an Archeologist? Because the older she got, the more interested he would become!

Murphy's Other Laws

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

Quotable Quotes

Everyone is a genius at least once a year. The real geniuses simply have their bright ideas closer together. - *Georg C Lichtenberg*

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all** – especially those who attended Wednesday lunches.

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

<https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

For details on downloading and setting up a Zoom account, see the **RUSI Vancouver** notice below



Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a

publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting now](#)

Use the link above on your computer Zoom program
or dial in on your phone 778 907 2071 Meeting ID: 710 845 848

Invite 2 friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon.

Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.



Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Society

2025 West 11th Avenue
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Engaging RUSI Vancouver Members and Friends with Virtual Presentations!

Every Wednesday – Next session 22 April 2020

Topic: Canada and the Cold War

By now everyone has had enough of living in the bunker and maintaining “social distancing.” RUSI had planned to present a lecture series this Spring, but that wasn’t possible for obvious reasons. As an alternate, and in the spirit of our RUSI mandate on education - and by using **Zoom**, we will present a series of online lectures about Canada and the Cold War by military historian Col (Ret’d) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD. The material is taken from a course he presented recently to both the North Shore Elder College and the Sunshine Coast Elder College. We will run the sessions on **Wednesday** afternoons from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. The first session will be on **Wednesday, 15 April 2020** and will continue for six sessions. To participate, you need to register an account with Zoom – it is easy to do so and it’s free. Here is the link to establish an account: <https://zoom.us/freesignup/>

Once you’re registered, it’s recommended that you download the application on your computer and sign on to the application. Here is the link to do that: <https://zoom.us/download>

We recommend that you download ahead of the scheduled date and time and play with the application a bit to become familiar with it. Keith Maxwell will host the sessions. He is familiar with the application and has implemented all the necessary precautions to keep the presentations safe and secure. We’ll see how it goes – it may take additional sessions to get through the material. If you wish to participate, register for the sessions by sending an email to both Cam Cathcart (lhccathcart@gmail.com) and Keith Maxwell (kdm Maxwell@gmail.com). Once you are registered, you will receive an invitation to join the sessions by email. That email will be sent out about two hours before the sessions start. Many of you participated in the Cold War in one way or another – come learn more about what happened in the biggest war we never fought!

We look forward to you joining us on Zoom on Wednesday, 22 April.

Cam Cathcart, President