

THE/LE BULLETIN



President's Message

By Marilyn Gurney, OMMC President

A couple of weeks ago, a brown furry rodent stuck his head out of the ground and declared six more weeks of winter. Fortunately, the end will bring about the annual rights of spring, including the re-opening of seasonal museums and the finishing touches to the year round museums' new exhibitions and displays. And of course, we have our yearly museum studies programme, from 21 May to 28 May 2013.

Members will be staying at the Delta Armouries - a late 19th century armoury that has been incorporated into the main floors, which house meeting rooms, restaurants, bars, and administration. The guest rooms rise upwards through the roof. Our lectures and most meals will be held within the complex. Tours will include the RCR Museum, Haida, the RHLI Museum, the Warplane Heritage Museum and many smaller museums in and around London. Mark your calendar now!

On another good note, OMMC was advised in early December, that it had been allocated more Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals. These have now been sent to various Commands for presentation to worthy and deserving members. Congratulations to everyone who received one.

Wishing you all a happy Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday).

Quick Facts!

In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Princess
Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
Contributed by Karen Storwick



The Battle of Frezenberg was the culmination of the German offensive to destroy the Ypres salient. On May 8, 1915, when the line was at breaking point, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry bore the brunt of the repeated assaults. Behind billowing clouds of poison gas, the enemy struck at the Salient; the front barely held.

By the day's end, the position had been saved but the "Originals", as the Regiment that had left Canada together were known, were no more. Over 175 men had died, 197 wounded and 77 missing, all in a matter of hours. In total 1,272 officers and enlisted Patricia's were killed during the First World War.

The Adventurous Life of Joseph Whiteside Boyle

By Don Manley

Every war produces mysterious characters - some good, some bad, and some swashbuckling adventurers.

One such man was Joseph Whiteside Boyle, born in 1867 in Toronto. At the age of 17, he went to sea for three years. Later on he was among the first to travel the White Pass route to the Klondike where he laid claim to a huge stretch of the Klondike River and, as a result of his gold mining activities, he became quite rich. He organized a hockey team, the Dawson City Nuggets, who travelled by sled, train, and boat to Ottawa to play the Ottawa Senators in the Stanley Cup. At the outbreak of WWI at his own expense he equipped a machine gun company, even making their insignia in gold. In today's market these insignia would be priceless.



Boyle, called "one of Canada's unheralded adventurers" (Photo courtesy of Woodstock Museum)

Being too old for active service, he was made an Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel. He made his way to Britain where he eventually went to Russia and was appointed by the leader of the Provisional Government, Alexander Kerensky, to help re-organize their railways which were in total chaos. He arrived to find that there were 10,000 rail cars of supplies waiting to go to the Front and in order to get things moving, he had whole trains, which were blocking the movement of the rail cars, pitched over an embankment to get them out of the way. This enabled the other supply trains to be on their way to the Front allowing Russia to keep 300,000 men in the front line. In cooperation with a British agent, Boyle was involved in operations against both the the Germans and the Bolshevik forces.

During this time, he ran a network of 450 British agents in Russia. In the spring of 1918 he rescued several high ranking Romanians being held by the revolutionaries. The Romanian government was anxious to retrieve from Moscow their paper money, gold, archives and possibly the Crown Jewels which had been placed there for safe keeping. He arranged for a train to move these items to Romania. A stationmaster en route would not allow the train to proceed, so Boyle arranged a concert to get people out of the way, served the stationmaster tea spiked with rum and then forced the driver of the locomotive at gun point to carry on. This, in the eyes of the Romanians, made him a national hero. As a result, he met the Queen of Romania, who was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

During the peace conference in Paris in 1919, Boyle helped the Romanians get a \$25 million credit from Canada. As a result of his many actions on behalf of Romania he was given the title of "Saviour of Romania". He became a close friend of the Queen of Romania who was born in Britain and was Marie of Edinburgh. His relationship with the Queen was a mystery and there was long lasting speculation as to how close they were. Boyle died in England in 1923 and every year on the date of his death a woman in black put flowers on his grave. The Queen died in 1938, after which no woman appeared and the flowers no longer came.

In 1983, Boyle's daughter arranged to have his body returned to Woodstock, Ontario, for burial. If you would like more information about this man, I recommend exploring the wealth of information online.

Karen Storwick's search for the truth about a photograph of a Christmas dinner at Ortona continues below. This is the second in a four part series and picks up the story as the location of the dinner in the original photograph is questioned.

The Mystery of the Christmas Dinner Photo Revealed

By Karen Storwick, Director of Communications, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Unaware of the controversy over the Christmas dinner photograph, Ernie Bagstad, a Seaforth veteran who lived in Calgary, proudly showed where he was sitting in the classic photo each year to school children. Ernie is in the upper right hand corner.

He talked about his own experiences during the war and became especially emotional when recalling how he was pulled from the midst of brutal fighting into a church where he was served a real Christmas dinner along with a few other lucky men. He talked about how luck ran out for some of those men when they were killed right after dinner, reentering the line. One of those men sat beside Ernie. The two of them are smiling, seemingly carefree, as they pose for the camera. He remembered the bagpipes playing in the background; a moving rendition of the Seaforth Regimental March, "The Piobaireachd of Donald Dhu".



Facade of the Church of Santa Maria di Constantinopoli during the battle.

When he returned home at the end of the war, his father announced excitedly that he had been listening to Matthew Halton's broadcast on the radio from Ortona on Christmas Day that year. When he heard the Seaforth's March Past, his heart leapt and he said, "Ernie's having Christmas dinner!"

You can imagine Ernie's shock when told the photo was not at the Church of Santa Maria di Constantinopoli, as had been the longstanding fact, and had nothing to do with the Ortona Christmas dinner.

As a Military Historian with a proud Seaforth lineage, I was fascinated by the clarity of Ernie Bagstad's recollection of the event. I took every opportunity I could to get to know this wonderful veteran better and was compelled to sort out the controversy. If this was not the Seaforth's Regimental dinner, why was Ernie's account of dinner that day so consistent with the iconic photograph? When the photograph is enlarged, Ernie's face is clearly smiling at the camera.

Why was the photo not in sync with the documented report and collective memory of the Seaforth Highlanders' dinner? If the so-called "Christmas Dinner" photograph was not actually taken at the Seaforth Christmas dinner, where and when was it taken?

Next issue: Karen's research takes her to Ortona, where she visits the Church, speaks with local residents and attempts to piece together the story of the photograph.

Plumbing the Depths of Low-Cost Conservation Strategies

By Anthony Worman and Sean Moir, Royal Alberta Museum

The Bulletin Volume 20 No.1 contains an article called "Preservation for Pennies: Small Budget Storage Solutions" which proposes the use of cardboard tubes from fabric or carpet stores in rolled storage systems for flags or banners.



Rolled storage with ABS pipe and barrier material visible

An alternative to the cardboard tubes is ABS plumbing pipe. Conservation and curatorial staff at the Royal Alberta Museum have used ABS pipe, covered in 100% cotton medical stocking-net material, for rolled storage purposes for about 20 years. ABS pipe can be purchased at any hardware or plumbing supply store at relatively low cost (\$30-\$50 for a 12-foot pipe) and stocking material can be ordered from any medical supplier and has many other uses in object storage (\$8-\$12 depending on the width for 25 feet of stocking). Your flag, banner, quilt, rug, etc is rolled directly onto the stocking-net material, interleaved with tissue or citrix.

Three to four inch diameter ABS pipe will provide sufficiently robust dimension for most items (so as not to roll them too tight or cause damage to embroidered crests, etc.). Additionally, the pipe is rigid, strong, will not sag or break, and is not susceptible to moisture damage. The rolled textile can then be covered and kept dust free with muslin and tied with twill tape as was mentioned in the original article. Additionally, the smaller tube size takes up less space on a hanging rack system than the much larger cardboard tubes from carpets.

A couple of things to consider should you opt for this system: the Royal Alberta Museum uses ABS, not PVC pipe. While all plastics will off gas to varying degrees, the latter is considered more problematical depending on its material composition especially in extreme environmental conditions. Also your ABS pipe needs to be thoroughly washed with soap and water to remove any oily residue and dirt/dust that has accumulated while in storage at the retailers.

Further considerations: cardboard tubes are constructed from acidic materials that will continue to off gas, even when covered with tissue or plastic; depending on each museum's environmental controls, the materials (tissue or mylar) covering the tubes will have to be changed regularly; cardboard tubes are susceptible to moisture damage; and, they may sag or break over time if used to support heavier textiles. The potential need to change the barrier and interleaving materials will increase costs, and any corresponding increase in handling of the textile increases the potential risk of damage to the object.

Do not think that you have to change all your cardboard tubes at once. The Royal Alberta Museum has slowly changed over to using ABS tubes as budgets permit. The Museum continues to use large diameter cardboard (sonic) tubes for those objects that should not be rolled too tightly. Alternatively, one can pad out ABS tubes to accommodate larger textiles.

As with any project, it is best to shop and compare prices, and when looking at these sorts of projects over the long term, don't forget to factor in less obvious or hidden costs such as additional materials and labour.

Additional resources on rolled storage are available through the Canadian Conservation Institute's "CCI Notes", the National Parks Service's "Conserve-O-Grams" and other online sources.

The Postcard

By Donna Ross

The postcard always sat on my Dad's dresser. As children, we got used to seeing the sketched card, leaning up against a pewter cup. Who would think to ask about it?

Dad died in 1992 and when clearing out the family home, we found other postcards stuck into a red leather-bound 1943 Dominion Diary. In the inside cover, he had written: "Return to: Donald A. Ross, 22nd Can. Arm'd Reg't (C.G.G.)". The 13 postcards all depicted the same theme: changing of the guard on Parliament Hill, Ottawa.



But the 14th one, the one we got used to seeing as kids, was different, yet all 14 were dated August 10 of different years and from the same sender: Bob Osborne.



My Dad, Lieutenant Donald Armitage Ross, a World War II veteran, was with the Canadian Grenadier Guards of Montreal. Through my research, I know that his Regiment left the port of Halifax and sailed on the SS Athlone Castle September 29, 1942, arriving in Liverpool October 7, 1942.

It was not until the summer of 1944 that he was engaged in battle. In the evening of July 24 a convoy of ships left for France, and anchored at Juno Beach on July 25. Dad was part of the TOTALIZE operation beginning on August 8. And herein lies the story of the 14th postcard.

One of the objectives of TOTALIZE was to secure Point 195, on the Caen-Falaise highway. On the morning of August 10, the Regiment started out and by mid-morning was established on Point 195, yet under heavy German anti-tank gunfire for the rest of the day and throughout the night.

Who knows when Dad's tank, Giraffe, was hit, except the 14th postcard tells the story in vivid colour: Dad's Sherman tank, clearly marked, Giraffe, appears to be on fire; in the distance a German Panzer tank is firing; in the forefront is a stick figure man carrying another man over his shoulders; the inscription on the card reads: Falaise, Hill 195, 10 Aug. '44. On the reverse side of the postcard, is a note with a Toronto return address: "Dear Don, Here's a little reminder of what you were doing 19 years ago today. As ever, Bob Osborne."

Dad never really spoke about this. I never asked him about the postcard that had a prominent place on his dresser. Like my Dad, Bob Osborne has passed away. Only the postcard can tell the story now.

Epilogue to the story: Dad was the stick man with the man over his shoulders. His tank, Giraffe, had been hit and on fire. Dad was catapulted out of the tank but went back to get the unconscious Bob Osborne from the inferno. In doing so, he was hit by shrapnel. As Dad writes in a letter to his parents, dated 13 Aug. '44: "I was wounded in the left leg and am in a Cdn hospital in France waiting evacuation to England when I can travel. This closes the war off for me as it will be 4-6 mos. before I get out of hospital."

La carte postale

Par Donna Ross

La carte postale était toujours sur la commode de mon père. Quand nous étions des enfants, nous nous sommes habitués à voir la carte esquissée debout contre un gobelet d'étain. Qui aurait pensé à poser des questions?

Papa est mort en 1992 et lors du ménage de la maison familiale, nous avons trouvé d'autres cartes postales coincées dans un journal de cuir rouge (1943 Dominion Diary). Écrit à l'intérieur: "Return to: Donald A. Ross, 22nd Can. Arm'd Reg't (C.G.G.)" Les 13 cartes postales représentaient tous la même chose: relève de la garde sur la Colline du Parlement, Ottawa.



Mais, la 14ième - celle que nous avons pris l'habitude de voir comme des enfants - était différente. Toutes ont été datées le 10 août; elles provenaient de différentes années mais ont été envoyées par la même personne: Bob Osborne.

Mon père, le lieutenant Donald Ross Armitage, un ancien combattant de la 2ième Guerre Mondiale, était à la CGG de Montréal. Grâce à mes recherches, je sais que son Régiment a quitté le port d'Halifax et a navigué sur le SS Athlone Castle le 29 septembre 1942, arrivant à Liverpool le 7 octobre, 1942.

Il a fallu attendre l'été 1944 avant qu'il soit engagé dans la bataille. La soirée du 24 juillet, un convoi de navires est parti pour la France et est ancré à Juno Beach le 25 juillet. Papa faisait partie de l'opération TOTALIZE qu'a débuté le 8 août. Et c'est là qu'on trouve l'histoire de la quatorzième carte postale.

Un des objectifs de TOTALIZE était d'assurer Point 195, sur la route Caen-Falaise. Par mi-matin le 10 août, le Régiment était établi sur la Point 195, mais se trouvait sous attaque pour les prochaines heures.

Nous ne savons pas à quelle heure exacte « Giraffe » a été atteint, mais la 14ième carte postale raconte l'histoire en couleurs vives. Dans le dessin, le Sherman de papa, le nom « Giraffe » clairement marqué, semble être sous le feu; au loin, on voit un Panzer allemand qui lance une attaque; au premier plan, on voit un homme portant un autre sur ses épaules; l'inscription sur la carte lit: Falaise, Colline 195, le 10 août 1944. Sur le verso de la carte postale, il y a une adresse de retour de Toronto et un message écrit en anglais: « Cher Don, Voici un petit rappel de ce que vous faisiez il y a 19 ans aujourd'hui. Comme toujours, Bob Osborne. »

Papa n'a jamais parlé de ce sujet. Et moi, je ne l'ai jamais interrogé sur la carte postale qui a eu une place de choix sur sa commode. Comme mon père, Bob Osborne est décédé. Maintenant, seule la carte postale peut raconter l'histoire.

Epilogue: Papa était l'homme avec le soldat sur ses épaules. Son char, « Giraffe », était en flamme. Lors de l'attaque, Papa a été lancé hors du véhicule, mais il est retourné pour enlever Bob Osborne, qui était évanoui. Pendant qu'il faisait ça, il a été touché par des éclats d'obus. Comme papa écrit dans une lettre à ses parents (datée du 13 août 1944): « J'ai été blessé à la jambe gauche et je suis dans un hôpital canadien en France en attente d'évacuation vers l'Angleterre quand je serai capable de voyager. Cela marque la fin de la guerre pour moi, car il sera 4 à 6 mois avant que je sortirai de l'hôpital. »

Papa est retourné à Montréal, le 22 décembre, 1944 - à Noël - sa jambe gauche amputée sous le genou.

Custom Watches a Fundraising Idea

"Time is Ticking worked with us throughout our 150th Anniversary year. The project was a great success from a fundraising point of view and our members were also able to take away a wonderful souvenir. Great fundraising opportunity for small and large organizations alike and their team is truly wonderful to work with."

Cal Kuffa - Black Watch (RHR) of Canada Kit Shop

THE BLACK WATCH Commemorative Watch Celebrating 150 Years

The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, the country's senior Highland Regiment, traces its lineage to the 1600s. As American Civil War legend, British North America's oldest and most famous regiment, in 1862, the 94th (Black Watch) Highlanders, Canada, the forerunner of The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada, was granted the right to wear the Royal Highland Dress. The Regiment has served Canada, not only in the field, but also internationally with NATO and the United Nations.

Many of the style and traditions of the Black Watch of Canada are based on the 1st Regiment - The Black Watch (RHR) formed in 1739 in the Scottish Highlands. Official affiliation between the two units occurred in 1985. Both Canadian and Scottish Black Watch share a common heritage, gifts and distinctive Highland dress.

The Canadian Regiment served in the battle of the Marston during the First World War. This, approximately 12,000 officers and other ranks fought in the Canadian Expeditionary Force's formation by the 5th Regiment, Royal Highlanders of Canada. More than two thousand soldiers were killed, in the battle, wounded, and many were captured. Remains of a battle site are still visible in the Royal Highlanders' Memorial, Scotland. No members were awarded the Victoria Cross.

During World War Two, the Black Watch (RHR) first saw action in the Pacific theatre in the islands. Landing in New Guinea after 14 days, the Canadian Black Watch participated in three battle actions in New Guinea, Western Europe, as the Regiment's crest was the 100th anniversary of the battle of the Marston.

In 1953, the 1st and 2nd Canadian Highland Battalions (Crests) were merged to form the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion. The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada, with the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion, formed the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion. The Battalion's crest is the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion's crest. The Battalion's crest is the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion's crest.

In 1985, the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion was merged with the 2nd Canadian Highland Battalion. The Battalion's crest is the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion's crest. The Battalion's crest is the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion's crest.

Today, the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada is a volunteer unit, and its members are active in the community. The Regiment's crest is the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion's crest. The Battalion's crest is the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion's crest.

As the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Black Watch's formation is approaching, the Regiment is proud to announce the launch of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada's 150th Anniversary Commemorative Watch. The watch is a tribute to the Regiment's long and distinguished history.

Each watch is limited to only 100,000 units, and is available in three designs: the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion, the 2nd Canadian Highland Battalion, and the 3rd Canadian Highland Battalion. The watch is a tribute to the Regiment's long and distinguished history.

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Limited Edition The Black Watch Commemorative Watch featuring:

- Watch made with Seiko movements
- Polished Stainless Steel engraved regimental crest caseback
- 24 karat gold plating
- Exquisite alligator-style leather strap in black, blue or red
- Also available in Black Watch tartan Nylon Strap
- Custom embossed velveteen collector's box



Not appropriate suitable for men and ladies

Time is Ticking is a Canadian company that has been making commemorative watches for Canadian Military and other organizations for the past fifteen years. We recently made the 150th Anniversary Black Watch of Canada wristwatch which was a great success. The Royal Canadian Navy watch, The Canadian Afghan Mission watch and the world famous Victory in Europe watch are other noteworthy projects that were successfully completed. The watches, which feature your organization's logo in the case and engraved on the case-back, are made from Seiko movements and can feature a variety of Speidel bands and are of the very best quality.

We make the watches as fundraising initiative for regiments, museums, kit shops and other government and non government organizations. Time is Ticking can take care of all of the order fulfillment (i.e. shipping, point of sale etc) so your organization is not burdened with retail efforts. Of course, we are happy to provide watches on a wholesale scale as well for those organizations that have the resources to handle the retail and marketing. The watches are sold at a price far below their retail value

in order to make them affordable creating volume sales. A financial contribution per watch sold is returned to each sponsoring organization as a donation. In addition to this fundraising return, the footprint of your organization is increased by this product.

The company website is www.timeisticking.ca where you can see photos and descriptions of some of our projects. Time is Ticking will make a poster for free and design the watch for free. The watches are typically sold in advance as a presale which eliminated the risk for inventory and the obligation of the sponsoring organization is simply to promote the watch via their website, publication and emails and to guarantee a very reasonable limited watch order.

The company has had thousands of watches donated to veterans in hospitals over the years and their reputation is of the very highest. This is a wonderful opportunity for your organization to have a limited edition commemorative watch and to raise substantial funds for your organisation.

For more information, please contact us at: 416-925-5520, by fax at 416-994-5105 or by email at timeisticking@sympatico.ca.

Vancouver Island Military Museum Re-Opens at New Home

By Pat Murphy, Vancouver Island Military Museum

The Vancouver Island Military Museum (VIMM) has recently moved from its home of 25 years. With humble beginnings at Rutherford Mall in Nanaimo, the museum closed its doors in December 2011, packed up its collection of military artifacts and moved to a new spacious facility on Nanaimo's magnificent waterfront in the downtown area.



The VIMM's new home at the Nanaimo waterfront.

It took almost nine months of renovation work to get our new location ready for the public and thousands of volunteer man-hours went into the rebuilding process. The work, all done by volunteers (with the exception of some specialized electrical and roofing work), has proven to be very successful. We re-opened on September 28 and our new facility is truly beautiful.

The Vancouver Island Military Museum features displays that honour the service of veterans that served in the Navy, Army, Air Force, RCMP and the Merchant Navy; we also have displays for the Red Cross, Saint John Ambulance, War on the Home Front, the War of 1812 and other displays associated to the Canadian military including Peacekeeping operations and Victoria Cross winners.

We have a large reference library that is available to the public, a media room and the largest display in Canada of Spitfire scale models depicting Spitfires flown by Canadians in all theatres of operation during the Second World War.

Just recently were very pleased to have a Parliamentary Secretary to the Defence Department, Member of Parliament Chris Alexander visit our museum. He said that the Vancouver Island Military Museum was the finest Military museum outside of the Ottawa area he had ever seen. That comment made the nine months of hard work all worth while.

Our museum is open six days each week from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Because of our waterfront location, we open on Sundays when Nanaimo is visited by a cruise ship; we are expecting seven visits this year from cruise ships and look forward to sharing Canadian military history with the thousands of visitors that visit Nanaimo in this fashion. Our motto is "Come see, Come Learn, Come Experience History" and we invite all members of this organization to plan a trip to Canada's West Coast, take the Ferry to Nanaimo enjoy our hospitality and climate and do pay us a visit.



Vice-President Brian McFadden (left) and President Roger Bird (right) take a look at our

An Update on Historical Collections Donated to OMMC Museums as Evaluated by Dr. Richard Mallott

Miriam Schurman, Assistant Collections Archivist, Musée Royal 22nd Régiment, La Citadelle de Québec, Québec, P.Q., requested that I evaluate the group of medals of four distinguished members of the Royal 22nd Régiment. The military personnel are: (a) ZE 10423 BGen Jean B. Riffou, MC, CD, (a group of 9 decorations and medals) (b) ZE 2539 Major Joseph Yves Gosselin, CD (a group of 13 medals); (c) SD 148397 CWO Jean Couture, OMM, CD, (a group of 12 decorations and medals); and (d) ZE 101379 CWO Alexandre Doucette, CD, (a group of 11 medals). These four groups of decorations and medals are a significant addition to the imposing collection of decorations and medals of military personnel of the Royal 22nd Régiment. All four soldiers are deceased. CWO Jean Couture was an esteemed instructor for 17 years at the RMC Saint-Jean, P.Q. On 16 May 2012 Building C-16 at the college was renamed "Chief Warrant Officer Couture Building" in his honour. The ceremony was presided over by the then Chief of the Defence Staff, General Walter Natynczyk, CMM, CD.

Dr. Richard H. Gimblett, CD, RCN, Retd., Acting Director, Navy History and Heritage, RCN Navy Heritage Team requested that I evaluate a large accumulation (stored in his office) of the naval memorabilia of three RCN Admirals and two Captains (N). There were no groups of medals involved, but a large collection of photographs, framed pictures, flags, uniforms, swords, naval navigational equipment, well documented photograph albums and fabulous naval book collections.

All but one officer, Vice Admiral Ralph Hennessy, DSC, CD, residing at the Perley and Rideau Veterans Health Centre, Ottawa are deceased. The five naval officers whose naval memorabilia I was honoured to study and evaluate are:

(a) Vice Admiral Ralph Lucien Hennessy, DSC, CD**, age 93. He was second-in-command on HMCS Assiniboine when they destroyed German U-210 in a prolonged surface battle. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery. His father, Colonel Patrick Hennessy, DSO, MC, was killed during the battle of Hong Kong on 8 December 1941. Admiral Hennessy is the only Canadian military officer to be promoted two senior ranks, Commodore to Vice Admiral, 16 July 1966;

(b) Rear Admiral George L. Stephens, CB, CBE, CD, RCN, Senior Engineering Officer, RCN. His father was Vice Admiral RSG Stephens, CD, RCN;

(c) Rear Admiral Desmond William "Debby" Piers, CM, DSC, CD; RCN was a Canadian naval legend and a celebrated wartime hero. He received L'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur, France's highest recognition for bravery in military action and service;

(d) Captain (N) Hal Davies, CD, RCN. He was a remarkable leader and a strong supporter of the Navy and all of its sailors. He was such an accomplished sailor that he never needed tug boats to move his naval ship to dockside. A naval flag with the signatures of the crews of the destroyers HMCS Fraser and HMCS Athabaskan, 1956 are on the flag;

(e) Captain (N) Charles Patrick Nixon, DSC, CD. A WW II naval hero, his collection was comprised of uniforms, swords, log books, identified photograph albums, metal naval trunks, a very large collection of naval books, framed photographs and paintings by Lieut. Anthony Law, RCN war time artist. The most valuable item in the 100-plus artifact collection was his 1961 two-piece doeskin naval frock coat and trousers. This was a truly remarkable collection.

The various donors and the RCN Heritage Team were unanimous in agreeing to send four of the five naval donations to the Naval Museum in Calgary and the flag of Captain Hal Davies to the Maritime Command Museum collection. I urge all museum personnel of the OMMC Inc to seek out similar historic military dormant collections for their museums.

Canadian Discharge Depot No 5, Buxton, Derbyshire, UK

By Marilyn Gurney, OMMC President

Buxton, Derbyshire, England is the highest elevation of any market town in England, and is traditionally famous for the medicinal and healing properties of its water. A popular spot frequented by the wealthy, and occasionally by royalty, large and luxurious hotels dotted the town, the most luxurious and expensive being the Empire.

During the First World War, the Canadian Army built camps and requisitioned existing establishments in support of its troops. Buxton was one such town. The army moved into the Empire Hotel and the town provided the support services. It became known as the Canadian Discharge Depot No 5.

Canadian officers and soldiers were permitted to attend cultural events, museums and galleries, restaurants, cafes and tearooms in their off duty time.

Mrs. Adelaide Cowburn owned a local tearoom and theatrical boarding house, frequented by a small group of soldiers – ten of whom left her a small historically significant souvenir. Resources were limited, but they wanted her to remember them. What better way to leave a permanent remembrance than to write your name on a plain white wall tile? Where it was installed is unknown, but the 4 x 8 inch tile is now displayed in a wooden frame.

They referred to themselves as the Chain Gang, and decorated the tile with the Canadian Infantry motto and hymn 202. A quick check of Library and Archives Canada indicates that the majority were from Nova Scotia, with their units being 112th Overseas Battalion and 219th Overseas Highland Battalion. Exceptions were William Nelson Laparde who joined in Brandon, Manitoba, and George Gilbert Hunt from St John's, Newfoundland.

The majority were born in the late 1890s, with two exceptions: Laparde, who was born in Paris, France, in 1884, and Charles Seymour Ring, who was born in Halifax in 1901. The latter lied about his age stating he was born in 1897. All joined up between 1915 and 1916.

Mrs. Cowburn treasured the tile and passed it to her son Bertie, who in turn left it to his son William. When Bill decided to downsize, there was little room for the tile, but it meant so much to the family, he passed it to his brother John who contacted me. I readily accepted the tile, especially as it had such a strong connection to Nova Scotia. I will be passing the tile to the Army Museum in Halifax for safe-keeping. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Cowburn family for preserving and safe keeping this little bit of Canadian history, and sending it home in time for the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

Two Generations of Underground Technology on Display

By Bethany Aitchison, Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence

Deep below the surface of the Earth sits a structure that once housed some of the most important military operations in the country or, arguably, the continent. This complex was responsible for protecting the sovereignty of Canadian airspace for 43 years without a break in its service. This is the famous Underground Complex (UGC), located at 22 Wing/CFB North Bay and this year it celebrates its 50th anniversary, having opened for business on 1 October 1963.

The Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence in North Bay is proud to have an extensive collection of items from the UGC including some of the original computer equipment, detailed floor plans of the building and power cavern, certificates and plaques and numerous signs that were in the complex throughout the years.

The most iconic of artifacts from the UGC are the consoles used to track, identify and monitor aircraft in Canadian airspace. In the UGC's 43 year career, it had only 2 computer systems. The original system was the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) system, which consisted of two identical computers (one in use and one on hot backup) totaling almost 12,000 square feet. The Regional Operations Control Centre/Sector Operations Control Centre (ROCC/SOCC) system took over in 1983 and was physically much smaller, faster and more versatile. The system remained in place until the UGC's closure in 2006.



CFMAD has consoles from both of these systems on display. The SAGE console, on loan from the Canada Science and Technology Museum, also has a light gun, similar to a computer mouse, and a circuit board from the computer itself on display. The ROCC console still has some of the original handwriting from the operators on it, never removed as they moved to their new operations centre on the surface. Our museum is the only institution in Canada where both generations of UGC technology can be found side by side. This exhibit will be enhanced with more artifacts and upgraded exhibits during this 50th anniversary year.

The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

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