



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News June 18, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15th Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in. The decision has been made to renovate the upstairs (Mess) kitchen at an estimated cost of \$30-35,000. A good start has been made on fundraising and efforts are continuing; watch this newsletter for events and campaigns.

Your guests are always welcome – just don't forget to tell them that jacket and tie are required for men, equivalent for women.

Lunches will continue through the summer.

Remember to drop your lunch ticket in the bowl when you pick up your soup & salad.

And finally, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VEHICLE COMPOUND!!

Remembering the Alamo: My Year in Afghanistan - Chapter 3

By Colonel Peter Williams Publication date: 13 Feb 2013

Col Williams is currently deployed on Operation ATTENTION as commander of the KMTC Training Advisory Group. He is the senior serving Canadian gunner officer in the Afghan training program at this time.

Since I last wrote, we celebrated the first annual Camp ALAMO Winter Carnival, modeled on Québec City's Carnaval. We were even graced by a visit from Bonhomme Carnaval himself, in what we understand was his first visit ever to Afghanistan. Over two days we were able to organize a series of competitive events including, the "CN Tower" in which teams had to race against a clock to build the tallest free-standing structure possible with a variety of materials, quite entertaining. This, as well as a concert by our own ALAMO Phyve Band were my favourite.

As part of our series of international nights, we kicked off the Carnaval with a briefing to all camp members on Canada, which was well received, as were the homemade "Beaver Tails" provided by our friendly dining facility staff. Credit goes to France, however, for presenting the first international briefing of 2013. I always learn something at these and in this presentation, we all learned that the colours of the French flag are based on the colours of the city of Paris (red and blue), and that of the former French monarchy (white), the arrangement of the colours demonstrating the power of the French people. As expected, and following the lead of our Turkish colleagues, who supplemented their earlier presentation with baklava, the French contingent provided samples of various wonderful cheeses. They also brought along some bottles of wine, but these remained unopened, being just for show on this occasion. Perhaps our most distinguished visitor during this period, apart from Bonhomme of course, was the Deputy Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Lieutenant-General Nick

Carter of the United Kingdom. Brigadier-General Patyani, Commander of the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC) and General Carter were old friends, having served together in Kandahar some years previously. Not to be outdone by either Canada or France, General Patyani was able to organize delivery pizza for the post-visit lunch.

Because of its role in the training of officers, non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and soldiers for the Afghan National Army (ANA), KMTC always attracts much media attention. Our most recent representatives of the fourth estate were a team from Hong Kong, who are in Afghanistan to put together a documentary about all aspects of life in this country. On a sadder note, we bid farewell to some members of the ALAMO family recently as our Romanian contingent lowered their flag for the last time before heading home. As part of the farewell ceremony, the Romanian contingent also received NATO medals for their service in Afghanistan. Our efforts to advise and assist the ANA at KMTC remain our main effort and a recent positive development has been the graduation of KMTC's first female course for ANA recruit soldiers. This is significant as KMTC has to date focused on the training of female officers. I had the opportunity to visit these women on the rifle range and was highly impressed at the results some of them achieved. We currently also have a female NCO course in house and await another serial of a female officer candidate course in the future. From a purely Canadian perspective, we continue to enjoy great support from folks at home. Recently we received a letter from the students of the Clayburn Middle School in Abbotsford, BC, which included a poster signed by students of the school and other members of the local community. They were also kind enough to send along some Tim Horton's coffee which was much appreciated by the troops.

Gun Salutes for Coronation Anniversary

Thursday, June 06, 2013 Source: gov.uk



On Monday 3 June the Honourable Artillery Company, the City of London's Territorial Army Regiment and the oldest Regiment in the British Army, fired a 62-round Royal Salute from Gun Wharf at the Tower of London.

While a Royal Salute normally comprises 21 rounds, the number is increased by 20 rounds when fired from a royal palace (in this case the Tower of London) and by an additional

21 rounds signifying loyalty to the monarch and Royal Family by the citizens of the City of London, hence 62 rounds in total. The guns they used, 3 ceremonial 105mm light guns, are also the Regiment's 'Colours'. Two of the guns being fired were used during the Falklands Campaign when 5 batteries (30 guns) were deployed which fired up to 400 rounds per gun per day. The guns were last fired in anger at Goose Green and during the final assault on Port

Stanley.

The guns were also fired at 1-minute intervals during the funeral of Baroness Thatcher on 17 April 2013 as the coffin, pulled on a gun carriage, was taken from St Clement Danes to St Paul's Cathedral. Meanwhile, to the west of London, the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, the ceremonial saluting battery of the Household Division, fired a 41-gun Royal Salute from a gloriously sunny Green Park.

A total of 71 immaculately-turned-out horses, pulling 6 First World War 13-pounder field guns, which glistened in the sun, trotted dramatically into action from the north of the park to the place where the guns would be fired for the Royal Salute. On the word of command each of the 6 guns fired blank artillery rounds at exactly 10-second intervals until 41 shots had been fired and, once the smoke and booming echoes which reverberated around had died down, the horses and riders, with expert drill movements and a great deal of panache, collected the guns and, at a trot via Canada Gate, took them back to Wellington Barracks in Birdcage Walk.

At Edinburgh Castle a similar spectacle took place when gunners from 7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery Royal Artillery, based at Royal Marines Condor near Arbroath, fired a 21-gun Royal Salute. Commenting on the salute the battery commander, Major Alan Johnson, said:

"It is an honour for the battery to fire a Royal Salute, and to do so at Edinburgh Castle is particularly special to us since we are the only regular artillery sub-unit in Scotland." "As Army commandos, this is a far cry from our normal activities, but, after 10 years of high tempo operations, we are looking forward to strengthening our ties with the Scottish community whose support we have been especially grateful for."

The anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation actually fell on Sunday, 2 June, but, in accordance with tradition, Royal Salutes are fired on the day after.

Why the Canadian Army says commemorative toast is OK, but booze isn't

Murray Brewster, The Canadian Press, June 16, 2013



One hundred and fifty armoured members of the Royal 22nd Regiment from Valcartier, Quebec, took part in the Trident Fury 13 military exercises at Albert Head Beach in Metchosin, BC, Friday May 17, 2013. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Chad Hipolito)

OTTAWA -- The Canadian Army is all for its soldiers raising a glass to toast upcoming milestones, as long as nobody thinks there's a product endorsement going on. And anyone in the general public who would like a sip, or wee dram, of the special spirits will remain thirsty unless someone in uniform is willing to share. National Defence recently issued new guidelines to military units, including the army's most storied regiments, to govern the production and sale commemorative beer, wine and spirits for the splash of celebrations expected next year. In 2014, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the Royal 22e Regiment, Royal Montreal Regiment and Regiment du Hull will all mark the 100 years since their formation. Other even older units are currently in the midst of the 150th anniversary this year, including the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, and the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

"In the recent past, various alcoholic beverages were produced to commemorate regimental anniversaries," Lt.-Gen. Peter Devlin, the army's commander was told in a recent briefing. "Many units and regiments are contemplating fund raising efforts featuring the debatable use of (intellectual property)," such as cap badges, regimental colours, and the Crown. The angst was driven by the production and online sale of Black Watch Whisky, which featured the famous unit's badge, armoury and a member in highland dress. As many as "600 of these bottles of whisky could be an unauthorized use of Crown (intellectual property)."

Brewing a special batch of beer, wine -- or distilling whisky -- "is very complex, which makes it extremely difficult for regiments and their foundations to remain within the appropriate legal, ethical and historical/heritage boundaries," said a Nov 3, 2011 briefing note. A spokeswoman for the army, Colleen McGrann, said on Friday the department issued clear guidelines. Those new rules include limiting the sale of commemorative alcohol to within the military, requiring associations to ask for permission to use regimental logos, and using established brewers. The military spent many years trying to reclaim a squeaky clean image following the dark days of the 1990s Somalia scandal, and the briefing displayed how hyper-vigilant it has become. Officials within National Defence stressed about possible copyright infringement and civil and criminal liability if something happened to someone using "branded beverages." They worried about the optics, the possibility of regimental reputations being tarnished, and of the publicity nightmare that would follow potential incidents. Defence communications staff foresaw having to conduct broad-based "damage control," should something go wrong.

Paul Hale, president of the Southwest Ontario branch of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Association, said he's been working with a Niagara-on-the-Lake winery for the last few years and supports the army being cautious, and recognizes images can quickly be appropriated in today's e-commerce world. "I understand and support the fact that they are trying to ensure that Regimental badges and logos are used with respect and not used by offshore agencies for personal profit," he said Saturday. Since he started the fundraising initiative, his branch has sold 1,600 bottles of wine, but added that some battalions with the regiment are more interested than others in the special spirits.

The Royal Launching New Mobile App for Veterans

Ottawa – The Honourable Steven Blaney today joined Dr. Raj Bhatla, Psychiatrist-in-Chief and Chief of Staff of the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group (The Royal), to launch a new mobile application that will assist Veterans, personnel of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with operational stress injuries (OSIs). The app, called OSI Connect, provides information and assistance for people living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, substance abuse and other types of OSIs, as well as their family members.

OSI Connect is free and available in English and French (Connexion TSO) from iTunes, BlackBerry and Android app stores.

To view the full release, go to:

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/department/press/viewrelease/1790>

Red Tails and Dragon Tales Summit

A three-day summit – entitled Red Tails and Dragon Tales – will bring together, for the first time ever, two groups of WWII veterans that faced discrimination: the Tuskegee Airmen and Chinese-Canadian veterans. Both groups’ military contributions were instrumental to helping the Allies win the war and also to changing societal attitudes in their home countries. While most of their ranks have passed away, a few remaining veterans, now mostly in their late 80s and 90s, will meet to share their stories.

During WWII, the Tuskegee airmen were the first group of African-American aviators to fly in combat for the US armed forces. At the time, the American military was still racially segregated. Many felt African-Americans lacked the intelligence and skill to perform anything beyond basic, menial tasks in military duty. Despite this segregation and prejudice, the Tuskegee Airmen went on to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups in the war. They were dubbed “the Red Tails” after one fighter group painted the tails of their P47s, and later P51s, red.

Meanwhile here in Canada, men and women of Chinese descent, who were born in Canada, were not deemed citizens. As well, the 1923 Exclusion Act was still in effect. That Act essentially banned Chinese Immigration to Canada. Despite this discrimination, when the WWII broke out, Chinese men and women volunteered in the hundreds to fight for Canada.

They enlisted in every branch of the armed forces and participated in every theatre of war. The result: on May 14, 1947 Chinese-Canadians were finally granted the right to vote.

This event will take place from June 28-30 at various venues. For more information go to:

WWII Dornier bomber raised from English Channel

A German World War II bomber has been raised from the bottom of the English Channel.



The Dornier Do-17 aircraft was shot down off the Kent coast more than 70 years ago during the Battle of Britain. Believed to be the only intact example of its kind in the world, it has lain in 50ft (15m) of water on the Goodwin Sands. Attempts by the RAF Museum to salvage the relic had been hit by strong winds over the last few weeks. The BBC's Nick Higham on board the salvage barge said the

weather conditions for the hour-long operation were "near perfect" on Monday evening.

The salvage almost had to be postponed again when the rope from one of the salvage barge's four anchors got wrapped around its propeller, but the crew were able to free it in time to take advantage of the tidal conditions, our correspondent said. The aircraft was badly corroded, the fuselage twisted and held in place only by a strut inserted by the salvage team. The engines had come adrift and will not be raised until Tuesday, he added. The Dornier will be restored at a site in Shropshire before eventually going on display at the RAF Museum in Hendon, north London. Museum spokesman Ajay Srivastava said: "It has been lifted and is now safely on the barge and in one piece. "The operation has been an absolute success, the aircraft looks great and I believe it will be towed into port tomorrow morning."

Originally designed as a fast reconnaissance aircraft, the Dornier had been converted by the Luftwaffe in the mid-1930s into a medium bomber. The aircraft was a mainstay of the German bomber fleets during the Battle of Britain in 1940. The wreck is believed to be aircraft call-sign 5K-AR, shot down on 26 August that year at the height of the battle. Two of the four crew members died and were buried elsewhere, and two - including the pilot - survived to become prisoners of war. The existence of the aircraft at Goodwin Sands became known when it was spotted by divers in 2008 lying on a chalk bed with a small debris field around it. Sonar scans by the RAF Museum, Wessex Archaeology and the Port of London Authority then confirmed the identity of the aircraft. A grant of more than £345,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund allowed the salvage project to start.

The plan was three years in the making and involved divers attaching lifting equipment to what are believed to be the strongest parts of the Dornier's frame and raising it whole, in a single lift. The original plan to build an aluminum frame or cradle around the fragile wreck was abandoned after it became clear it would take too long and send the £600,000 project way over budget. A two-year restoration will now take place at the RAF Museum's site in Cosford, Shropshire. Experts plan to spray the wings and fuselage with water and a combination of citric acid and sodium hydroxide in an attempt to halt corrosion. It emerged just as the sun was sinking in the west, flying briefly for the first time in over 70 years. Though covered in barnacles it's clearly a plane. Half the distinctive double tail plane has survived. So has the undercarriage, tyres still fully-inflated. In places you can see the camouflage paintwork. And both propellers emerged, dangling from the main carcass of the aircraft, twisted but immediately recognisable. The salvage operation has been dogged by bad weather and some bad luck. But this afternoon the sea was an almost flat calm and there was no wind.

Joe Prill, of Seatech, the specialist diving contractors working for the RAF Museum, decided to risk a lift attempt. Diver Dave Bridger went down to attach the cables to the airframe. The fuselage broke the surface just before 1830 BST. There are considerable challenges ahead, not least getting the fragile wreck off its new home on a flat barge for transport by road to the RAF Museum's conservation centre. But there is delight and relief on board the salvage barge GPS Apollo, even if Darren Priddy, of the museum, may have succumbed to understandable euphoria when he joked: "We'll have her flying in a week."

Canadian Tire rectifies vertical flag flap



Royal Canadian Air Force veteran Jake Fulton in the Canadian Tire parking lot on Upper James St. in Hamilton where the Canadian flag is being flown north and south instead of east and west.

TORONTO - Canadian Tire has sided with a Hamilton resident concerned over the altered Canadian flags display and has asked for the location to conform to national standards.

And the corporation has ordered the vertical Canadian flags displayed on light poles to be removed. "All of our 489 Canadian Tire stores are operated by local, passionate entrepreneurs that follow national brand standards with local flexibility to do what's right for our customers," said a statement from Canadian Tire issued by media spokesperson Lena Wan. Canadian Tire has taken immediate reaction to rectify the situation.

The flag flap came about after Hamilton resident Jake Fulton took offence to the "cut up version" of the flag displayed throughout the parking lot at the Canadian Tire at the corner of Upper James St. and Mohawk Rd. up on the mountain. They have a unique, altered Canadian flag, going north and south in its presentation instead of east and west, gracing the light poles through the parking lot. The vertical Canadian flag — which looks more like a decoration — does not square with Canadian protocol. "My father was a WWII veteran and this would have pissed him off," Fulton said. "It's disrespectful." The flags also violated Canadian flag protocols.

It is technically violating the national guidelines and technically wrong, said Canadian protocol officer Manon Champagne in Ottawa. "There is only one way the flag should be presented," she said. "But a lot of people do things like this — mostly because they don't realize." Fulton feels it does not get any more Canadian than Canadian Tire and he figured they would do the right thing and fix this.

"Clearly there is only one Canadian flag and despite the good intentions of the local entrepreneur, we have asked that all our stores proudly fly the Canadian flag as we all know it," Canadian Tire's statement read.

From the 'Punitary'

There was a major fight at breakfast over the pork products. I never sausage a thing.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

It is a bad thing for a pilot to run out of airspeed, altitude and ideas all at the same time.

Quotable Quotes

The greatest lesson we can learn from the past is that freedom is at the core of every successful nation in the world. - *Frederick Chiluba*