



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News June 18, 2019

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 a 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 - We need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

NOTE: There will not be a lunch on Sept 11. Mrs Lum will be out of town.

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

Jun 26 Bomber Command at the 95th Anniversary of the RCAF - Roddy MacKenzie
July 01 Canada Day Salute – Hallelujah Point in Stanley Park
Sept 11 **NO LUNCH - mark your calendars! Mrs Lum away.**

World War 2 – 1944

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

Jun 19th: The Battle of the Philippines Sea (aka "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot"), the Japanese find TF-58 and launch 372 aircraft of which 240 are shot down in return for 29 US aircraft losses and one bomb hit on the battleship USS South Dakota; the Japanese also lose 50 aircraft to low fuel and crash landings. To add insult to injury, the Japanese air strike from Guam and Truk is also roughly handled by American Hellcats, while the submarines USS Cavalla and Albacore sink the IJN carriers Taiho (which explodes, killing 1,500 of its crew) and Shokaku. In Italy, leading British elements close up to the next German defence line which is called Albert. Severe gales in the English Channel interrupt the flow of men and supplies into the Allied lodgment, and over the next three days the Mulberry Harbours will be severely damaged. US troops start digging the Japanese out of their fortified caves on Biak. The Soviets

activate all their partisan units behind Army Group Centre, which in the next three days will commit something like 40,000 acts of sabotage as a prelude to the coming major offensive. Among the US troops who enter combat on Saipan today is Sergeant Thomas A Baker of the 27th Infantry Division – from now until the 7th of July, he repeatedly distinguishes himself in battle. Today, for instance, he takes a bazooka and runs in the open under Japanese fire to knock out a troublesome pillbox. His death in combat on the night of July 7th is unwitnessed, but he was last seen badly wounded and sitting against a tree with a pistol in his hands as a Japanese Banzai charge approached and is found the next morning dead with eight fallen foes in front of him. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Jun 20th: American troops start fighting their way into the outer defences of Cherbourg. British 6th Armoured liberates Perugia in Italy. The Soviets capture Viipuri and start to prepare the next phase of their offensive against Finland. The second day of the Battle of the Philippine Sea witnesses the long-range American strike on the largely empty Japanese carriers – 20 American aircraft are lost in return for another 65 downed Japanese aircraft and the sinking of the IJN Carrier Hiyo, plus another 72 US aircraft are ditched for lack of fuel or crash when returning to their Carriers after nightfall (though all but 16 pilots and 33 aircrew from two days of battle are successfully rescued). US troops on Biak capture two more airstrips and a brace of villages. On Saipan a 45-year-old battalion commander, Lt Col William J O'Brien, with the 27th Infantry Division, is taking his men into battle. For the next 17 days, he will frequently be seen leading from the front, especially at critical moments in the face of heavy fire. Today, for example, he runs to the lead tank of a buttoned-up trio that has gotten misdirected and are firing on his men. Braving their (and the enemy's) fire, he orients them properly and efficiently directs them in the destruction of a Japanese strongpoint. When the campaign ends with a massive Japanese banzai attack of July 7th, he falls while manning a machinegun. His brave leadership results in a posthumous award of the Medal of Honor.

Jun 21st: The 8th Army in Italy closes up to the Albert Defence Line. Soviet Seventh Army starts a new offensive against the Finns between Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega. The top tank commander in the Waffen SS (or the Wehrmacht, for that matter), Michael Wittman is promoted to Hauptsturmführer. He already holds the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords; and will kill over 168 tanks – usually from his Tiger I. His greatest moment came with his single-handed assault on 7th British Armoured Division at Villers Bocage when his Tiger alone knocked out 26 armoured vehicles. He is killed on August 8th, apparently by a shot from a Canadian Firefly (a Sherman fitted with a 17-pounder gun).

Jun 22nd: The siege of Imphal is raised when the road from Kohima is cleared by 2nd Indian Division and the remaining Japanese are in retreat. The British don't even bother to pursue; they've inflicted over 80% losses on 15th Japanese Army, and most of the survivors (and all of their wounded) are dying of starvation and fever in the Jungle. The 2nd Marines on Saipan take Mount Tipo Pale while the 4th Marines are clearing the Kagman Peninsula. US forces around Biak on New Guinea endure a sudden counterattack while fighting at Aitape flares up again too. The American assault on Cherbourg begins with a two-hour bombing raid that dumps 1,000 tons of explosives on the city. Danish saboteurs wreck a rifle manufacturing plant. President

Roosevelt introduces the GI Bill, an act which will have an enormous benefit to millions of returning men. The Soviets celebrate the third anniversary of the German invasion with an enormous assault – named Bagration -- by 1st, 2nd, 3rd Byelorussian and 1st Baltic Fronts under the command of Zhukov on the German's Army Group Centre. At this time the Germans on the Eastern Front are severely overstretched (in some cases, the front line consists of a rifleman every 100 metres or so) while the Soviet manpower situation is tight, their factories and the Lend Lease programs have resulted in tremendous material advantages. Deportations to the death camps begin from the Lodz Ghetto. Army General Hovhannes Bagramyan, who narrowly escaped death on Jun 22, 1941, is commanding the 1st Baltic Front in the Bagration Offensive. A highly experienced commander who has consistently been noticed for his carefully conceived operations and his concern for the welfare of his troops. He has played key roles in all of the Soviet's major successes so far. His meticulous planning and care for his men brings a highly successful performance with Bagration and the award of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Jun 23rd: In Normandy, American troops start clearing the suburbs of Cherbourg while 5th British Division takes St Honorina near Caen. The Soviets drive in the entire German front between Vitebsk and Mogilev – their material strengths are being used to enormous advantage and they have virtually complete domination of the air. Ferocious fighting occurs on Saipan over the ownership of Mount Tapotchau. Corporal Sefanaia Sukanaivalu of the Fiji Regiment is on Bougainville when his platoon is ambushed by a well-camouflaged Japanese machinegun. Sukanaivalu crawls forward and retrieves two wounded men under fire but is badly hit when he goes forward a third time. After several attempts are made to rescue him, he realizes that his men will not withdraw to safety so long as he is pinned in front of the Japanese weapon. He then deliberately raises himself up and attracts another burst of fire which kills him – sparing his comrades from further severe risk. His gallant sacrifice results in a posthumous award of the Victoria Cross.

Jun 24th: Four American carriers raid Japanese airstrips around Iwo Jima, destroying 66 aircraft. 27th US Army Division on Saipan finishes clearing most of the southern part of the Island and moves north to join the Marines. The leading elements of the Soviet advance against Army Group Centre are now some 40 kilometres past their start lines. Cherbourg continues to hold out, but its defences are rapidly weakening. Canadian Flight Lieutenant David Ernest Hornell takes his Catalina patrol bomber into a successful close attack on a U-Boat near the Faroe Islands. With a superhuman effort, he then lands his burning bomber safely in the sea but dies of injuries and exposure in the 21 hours before his crew are rescued. He is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Jun 25th: Three US divisions, with support from three battleships and four cruisers, continue to fight through Cherbourg's suburbs while UK XXX Corps stages an attack towards Rauray. US 36th Division liberates Piombino and then starts preparing for the Anvil Landings in Southern France, meanwhile the Free French and British troops start hammering on the Albert Line to the west of Lake Trasimeno. Five German divisions are trapped near Vitebsk by elements of 3rd Byelorussian Front as the Bagration offensive continues. On Saipan, American Marines have reached the summit of Mount Taptchau while there is fierce fighting on the Hagman Peninsula.

Lieutenant Carlos C Ogden of the 79th US Infantry Division encounters an emplaced 88mm gun and two machineguns near Fort du Roule on the approaches to Cherbourg. He loads himself down with rifle grenades and grenades and leaves his company to go forth on a solitary attack. He completes the destruction of all three entrenched weapons, despite receiving two painful wounds – clearing the way for his company to resume the advance. He receives the Medal of Honor.

Canadian Soldier of the First World War Laid to Rest in France

Ottawa – National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces - June 12, 2019

A Canadian soldier from the First World War was laid to rest today with military honours at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Loos British Cemetery outside Loos-en-Gohelle, France. The family of the soldier was in attendance, with the support of Veterans Affairs Canada. On May 27, 2019, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces announced the identification of the remains of a Canadian soldier from the First World War discovered near the village of Vendin-le-Vieil, France, as Private George Alfred Newburn, 18 years old.

Private George Alfred Newburn was born on April 7, 1899, in London, England. In his youth, he immigrated with his family to Canada with a final destination of Esquimalt, BC. The family resettled in Victoria. Private Newburn was only 16 years of age when he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on November 6, 1915. He was assigned to the 7th Canadian

Infantry Battalion (British Columbia), Canadian Expeditionary Force, a unit perpetuated by the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) of Vancouver, British Columbia. He died at the age of 18 on August 15, 1917, during the Battle of Hill 70.



The Battle of Hill 70 took place August 15-25, 1917. It was the first major action fought by the Canadian Corps under a Canadian commander in the First World War. Approximately 2,100 Canadians gave their lives in the battle, more than 1,300 of whom have no known grave. The high point of Hill 70 remained in Allied territory until the end of the war.

On June 12, 2019 Captain Sye VanMaanen, Padre, leads the burial party from The British Columbia Regiment during the burial ceremony of a First World War fallen soldier, Private George Alfred Newburn at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Loos British Cemetery outside Loos-en-Gohelle, France.

Photo: MCpl PJ Letourneau, Canadian Forces Combat Camera IS06-2019-0026-003

The Casualty Identification Program's review board, which includes participants from the Canadian Forces Forensic Odontology Response Team and the Canadian Museum of History, confirmed the identity of the soldier through historical, genealogical, anthropological, archaeological, and DNA analysis. The Department of National Defence Casualty Identification Program identifies unknown Canadian service members when their remains are discovered, so that they may be buried with a name, by their unit, and in the presence of their family. The program fosters a sense of continuity and identity within the Canadian Armed Forces, by providing an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect upon the experiences of those women and men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorates the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two world wars. It also holds and updates an extensive records archive. The Commission operates in excess of 23,000 locations in more than 150 countries.

The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces provide a dignified and respectful burial to fallen service members who are recovered and identified. In Europe, in Canada, and around the world, their valiant actions provided us the opportunity to become the nation we are today.

Deadliest Sharpshooters Reveal How They Disappear in Plain Sight

Ryan Pickrell Mar. 9, 2019



US Army Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), fire the M24 Sniper Weapon System during weapons density at Fort Campbell, Ky. Jan. 9, 2019. US Army Photo by Capt Justin Wright

Snipers are masters of disguise who are able to hide in plain sight, providing overwatch, scouting enemy positions, and, when necessary, taking out threats. "No one knows you're there. I'm here. I'm watching you; I see everything that you are doing, and someone is about to come mess up your day," First Sgt Kevin Sipes, a Texas native and experienced US Army sniper, said during a recent interview. "We are capable of hurting you in many ways ... We're not going to tell you how we're coming. But we're coming for you." Business Insider asked a handful of trained Army snipers, elite sharpshooters who have served across multiple combat deployments in multiple countries, how they disappear in any and all environments. Here's what they had to say. "A sniper is not limited to any one method," Sipes, a veteran sniper with more than a decade of service, explained. "We are extremely free. You are limited only by however you limit yourself." Snipers use a mixture of natural and artificial materials to achieve concealment and camouflage to avoid enemy detection, as the sniper must remain unseen by the enemy to collect intelligence or take a shot if needed. The aim is to effectively blend into the negative space, areas the eye naturally overlooks.

Concealing oneself from an adversary's gaze is about putting "anything you can between you and whatever might be observing you," Staff Sgt David Smith, a sniper instructor at Fort Benning, told BI, explaining that this could be natural vegetation, face paints, false screens, a sniper's ghillie suits, or the hides they construct. A ghillie suit is designed with loose strips designed to resemble natural backgrounds like twigs or long grasses and can make snipers nearly undetectable by visual. Ghillie suits typically do not shield the wearer from detection via thermal imaging, a technology that advanced militaries are likely to use; however, the Army is developing an improved ghillie suit which is expected to offer enhanced protection. With the tools they bring with them and materials found in the field, snipers can break up and distort their outline, making them significantly harder to spot. In many ways, it's about knowing your environment. "The best tool snipers can use to disguise and conceal themselves from the enemy is a solid understanding of their surroundings," Capt Greg Elgort, the company commander, told BI. Snipers need to know the lay of the land, they need to plan their route, and they need to take advantage of whatever nature gives. "I want to look at the terrain. What can I put between myself and the target," Sipes, who runs the marksmanship training company alongside Elgort, said. "It's not just about the face paint or what I attach to my body, it's the natural environment around me that I can utilize to keep them from seeing me."

For example, the winners of the International Sniper Competition, two non-commissioned officers from the Army's 3rd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, hid themselves from view with nothing more than a ghillie suit hood and various materials they found in the field. In particular, they focused on hiding their face. "Just by being able to disfigure and break up the outline of their face — you know, a human face stands out very vividly in a woodland area — by concealing the outline of their face, they were able to win," Elgort explained. "It really comes down to an understanding of that and knowing what you're presenting and adjusting accordingly." There are a lot of small things that if overlooked could be fatal. Snipers have to manage their tracks, scent, shadow, glare and countless other things to remain hidden from enemies. "There are a million things that go into being a sniper, and you have to be good at all of them," Sipes explained. Here's just a few of the many things snipers have to think about. "If you are facing east in the morning, the sun is going to be coming at you, so you need to do something with your scope to prevent glare," Elgort told BI. To combat this problem, snipers build cat eyes. "We use natural vegetation, we use wraps, netting, whatever to block the optics from any observation but allow us to see through it," Sipes said, noting that other considerations include whether or not he is silhouetting himself against something else. A shadow could give away his position, exposing him to the enemy. As for scents, he said that snipers avoid scented soaps, smoking, any type of cologne, deodorant, etc.

In colder climates, a sniper can eat snow to hide their breath, but it only works for a short time. "You would have to continuously eat snow, and then you have to pee," Smith said, bringing up another potential consideration. Snipers also have to think about bodily excretions. Sometimes when nature calls, a sniper will use bags with sponges to soak up their business. They can also bury it in the earth. Other times, they just have to hold it. Some environments are easier than others. Staff Sgt Joshua Jones, another sniper instructor, identified two decidedly difficult environments for concealment — fresh snow and the urban environments. "You can disappear

into the snow. It takes a little more thought. It's a little harder to play with the blending in," he told BI. "And, in the urban environment, there's just so many eyes on you from the onset that it makes it pretty tough for you to get into your setup without someone knowing that you're already there." Places like cities and suburbs are also the hardest areas to shoot in. "I can say that the most difficult place to shoot is in an urban environment," Sipes said, calling attention to the some of the angles and structures obstructing visibility, among other problems. "The targets are generally moving. They have civilians around them. They're using the patterns of life on the ground to conceal themselves. And they're never in one location," he added. As for the easiest environments to blend into, that is definitely your standard woodland or jungle, Jones explained. One of the greatest dangers is that new technologies are making it harder for snipers to hide



Pfc William Snyder, 1-173rd Infantry, practices sniper camouflage techniques at Eglin Airforce Base, Florida, April 7, 2018.

Photo by Army Staff Sgt William Frye

The US is once again in a time rivalry with other military powers, and that means they must learn to counter more advanced threats from near-peer adversaries. "Defeating a thermal signature is probably the hardest thing that a sniper has to do,

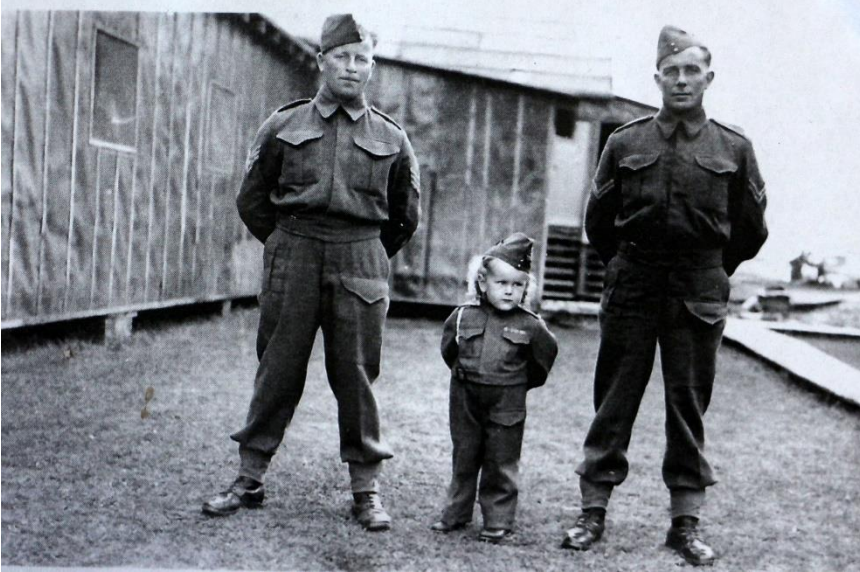
especially with emerging technology by our near-peer enemies," Smith told BI. Snipers can hide in the visible spectrum, but combating high-end sensors is a challenge. US rivals are starting to "creep into the thermal arena, and that in itself is dangerous to a sniper because then you can't hide from that," Smith said. Thermal imagers can easily detect a human body's heat against the ambient temperature of the environment around it. Smith called this a "large challenge" that the Army is "working to defeat that as well." Sometimes that means getting back to the basics. Snipers often use laser range finders to get a more accurate read on a target, but that's not always an option. "When going against a near-peer threat or an adversary that has the capability to identify that, we have to rely solely on the reticle that's in our scope," Staff Sgt Christopher Rance, a sniper instructor team sergeant from Colorado, explained. There are also new camouflage systems, such as the Fibrotex's Ultra-Light Camouflage Netting System capable of providing more persistent infrared, thermal, and counter-radar performance, that are in development to help the Army's snipers, as well as other soldiers, hide from the more advanced threats. Warfare is always evolving, which means that US snipers have to be ready for anything.

Coast Artillery in Richmond

During WW2 a number of major Coast Artillery sites were constructed in the Vancouver area. Along with sites like Point Grey and Ferguson Point a site was set up in Richmond to defend the mouth of the Fraser. It consisted of 2 18pdrs (not even converted to pneumatic tires) set up

on the dyke at the west end of Steveston Highway, right beside the Steves family farmhouse (which is still there and in use by the family). The Steves family adopted the Gunners serving in the area and even set up a little canteen in their basement. Young Harold Steves became a kind of mascot for the Gunners. A family relative even managed to make a set of battledress for young Harold, with Lt Col rank, and he 'inspected' the troops from time to time. He has many

stories of his adventures with the Gunners.



Harold in his battledress with Sgt Dick Clarke and Bdr Paddy Shearer at the Fort Steveston garrison camp, located at the south east corner of Steveston Highway and No 1 Road and housed the Coast Artillery and Lulu Island HAA detachments as well as Infantry local defence sections.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here's the latest activities from the members of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA family.

The D-Day commemoration moved on towards Hill 67. Check out the photos from the Regimental Second in Command. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/d-day.html>

The confirmed attendees for France in 2020 has been updated. There is still time to get your name in! <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/battlefield-tour-2020.html>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: These girls were models in a fashion shoot that took place at the Armoury in 1974.



I think the fashion of the day was supposed to be the 'military' look as lots of young people then were wearing surplus US and Canadian uniforms. The picture was taken at the Armoury in the compound with the vehicle parked against the north fence. The building in the background has been replaced with the current Apartment block. 2 ½ Ton shown was from National Survival stocks. Those vehicles had been in storage in various locations for many years and were finally brought into service to replace the 2 ½ tons that were first issued to units back in the 50s.

This Week: Many of the associate members of the officers' mess of 15th Field Regiment, RCA, are very well-heeled, as one would expect of retired officers of the Canadian Army. This, in part, explains the plethora of exotic vehicles clogging the streets of our Garden City. However, it is not only the latest model Lamborghini that attracts the wallet of our officers and gentlemen and ladies, as their tastes sometimes lie in the charm of vintage cars, such as the powerful Morris Minor, or the famed, sleek Austin Marina.



Nonetheless, antique autos can sometimes require a bit of restoration, as shown by the one in this week's photo. Now, believe it or not, there is a strong military connection to this automobile. Its state, and that of its mates parked nearby, most likely owes much to the attention of the United States Army Air Forces during the Second World War (which, to be honest, is the only one in which they existed).

Your task, dear military enthusiast, is to identify the model shown, and further identify the location of this interesting collection of vintage cars. Should you know more of the actions involved in their

rather sudden customization, you can add that, too. Send your responses to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@outlook.com), or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Happy motoring!

From the 'Punitary'

Why are fish never good tennis players? They don't like getting close to the net.

Murphy's Other Laws

When it is not necessary to make a decision, it is necessary not to make a decision.

Quotable Quotes

The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave. - *Thomas Jefferson*



la voie qu'on aime
love the way

VIA Rail 2019 Discounts for CF Serving Members and Veterans

Chers partenaires et collègues,

Comme vous le savez peut-être, VIA Rail est fière d'avoir souligné de concert avec le ministère des Anciens combattants du Canada une page si importante de notre histoire qu'est celle du 75^e anniversaire du Jour-J et du débarquement de Normandie. À cette occasion, une paire de bottes militaires a traversé le pays, de Vancouver à Churchill jusqu'à Halifax, entre le 29 mars et le 6 juin. Plusieurs arrêts ont été prévus afin que se tiennent dans les gares de VIA Rail des cérémonies de commémoration à l'intention des vétérans, de leurs familles et des Canadiens qui le souhaitent.

Pour de plus amples informations, veuillez consulter le lien

suitant : <https://www.canada.ca/fr/anciens-combattants-canada/nouvelles/2019/06/arrivee-a-destination-les-bottes-de-combat-sont-accueillies-a-loccasion-du-75eanniversaire-du-jourj-et-de-la-bataille-de-normandie-des-veterans-du-.html>

Dans cet esprit, nous sommes heureux de lancer une offre spéciale afin que les militaires , vétérans et leurs familles puissent voyager sur le train *le Canadien* cet été en bénéficiant d'un rabais de 40% sur le meilleur tarif. Les conditions applicables se trouvent sur le lien suivants et l'infolettre en pièce jointe !

<https://www.viarail.ca/fr/forces-canadiennes>

Je vous invite à partager ce message avec vos collègues et collaborateurs.

En vous remerciant et vous souhaitant un bel été,

Dear partners and colleagues,

As you may already know, VIA Rail is proud to have worked in concert with the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to highlight an important event in Canadian history: the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. To celebrate the occasion, a pair of combat boots was sent by train from coast to coast to coast. The journey went from Vancouver to Churchill to Halifax and lasted from March 29th to June 6th. Several stops were made along the way so that commemoration events could be held at local stations for veterans, their families and any Canadians who wished to attend the ceremonies.

For more information about the journey, please consult the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/veterans-affairs-canada/news/2019/06/at-destination-combat-boots-welcomed-to-75th-anniversary-of-d-day-and-the-battle-of-normandy-events-in-halifax-d-day-veterans-welcome-combat-boots-.html>

In the spirit of honouring those who served, VIA Rail is happy to announce a special offer that will allow active service members, veterans and their families to save 40% on ticket prices this summer. Additional information and conditions about this offer can be found at the following link: <https://www.viarail.ca/en/canadian-forces>

Please also kindly find attached the newsletter that summarizes these initiatives.

We invite you to share this message with your colleagues and partners.

We thank you and wish you a good summer,

Eve-Danièle Veilleux

Conseillère, relations gouvernementales, bureau du président et chef de la direction
Advisor, Governmental Relations, Office of the President and CEO

VIA Rail Canada

3 Place Ville Marie, Suite 500, Montréal, Québec, H3B 2C9

T : 514.871.6096



See Canada from a new window

There are lots of reasons to travel across Canada—views you can't help but gaze at, getting to know new people, trying delicious food, and saving 40% on the Canadian. (Okay, that last one was our idea.)

This summer, military members, veterans, and their families get **40% off the best available fare in Sleeper Plus class on the Canadian.*** Travel between Toronto and Vancouver (or get to know any stop in between) and see Canada the way it was made to be seen.

Book by September 23, 2019, for travel by September 30, 2019, with code 12070.

[Book now](#)

See more of the country you love

Don't forget—Military members, veterans, and their families get **25% off the best available fares** year-round with code 12070.*

[Learn more](#)



Boots with a story to tell

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Normandy, we proudly travelled across Canada with a pair of military boots, as a symbol of the long journeys that service members took across our country during the Second World War—many via the rail lines to Halifax—before sailing across the Atlantic to join our Allies bravely fighting for freedom in Europe. Commemorative were held at our stations along the way—thank you to the veterans and their families who attended!



We're hiring

We're looking for skilled individuals to work on board, in stations, at maintenance centres, and on our team of professionals and executives to help us change the way Canadians move.

[See job offers](#)



love the way

* Offered to veterans and active members of the Canadian Forces. Identification is required. Civilian employees must present their DND or CF One card. Up to a maximum of five (5) family members can travel on the same train, on the same date and in the same class of service. Family members may include the qualifying member's spouse/partner (including common-law), minor or dependent children (including children for whom the qualifying member is a legal guardian), parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, grandchildren or great-grandchildren. Code 12070 is required at time of booking. The 40% offer applies to the best available fare in Sleeper Plus class on board the Canadian. Bookings must be made between May 3, 2019, at 00:01 ET, and September 24, 2019, at 02:59 ET, inclusive, for travel between May 10, 2019, and September 30, 2019, inclusive. The 25% year-round offer applies to all VIA Rail trains and between any two VIA Rail stations in Canada, excluding Prestige class and Discover Tuesday Sleeper fares. Other conditions apply. [Click here](#) for full terms and conditions.

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Une nouvelle fenêtre sur le Canada

Il y a de nombreuses raisons de voyager au Canada : découvrir des paysages grandioses, faire de nouvelles rencontres, savourer des mets exquis et économiser 40 % sur les tarifs à bord du Canadien. (La dernière, on l'avoue, c'est notre idée!)

Cet été, les militaires, les anciens combattants ainsi que leurs familles peuvent profiter d'un **rabais de 40 % sur le meilleur tarif en classe Voiture-lits Plus à bord du Canadien***. Voyagez de Toronto à Vancouver (ou faites escale ici et là entre les deux) et découvrez un nouveau coin de pays de la meilleure façon qui soit.

Réservez avec le code 12070 d'ici le 23 septembre et voyagez d'ici le 30 septembre 2019.

Réserver

Voyez (plus) du pays qu'on aime

Comme toujours, en réservant avec le code 12070, les militaires, les vétérans et leurs familles bénéficient d'un **rabais de 25 % sur les meilleurs tarifs à l'année!**

En savoir plus



Des bootes qui ont fait du chemin

Pour souligner le 75^e anniversaire du débarquement de Normandie, nous avons fièrement transporté une paire de bootes de combat d'un bout à l'autre du Canada, afin de symboliser les longs trajets effectués par les militaires en service durant la Deuxième Guerre mondiale – principalement sur les chemins de fer en direction d'Halifax – qui devaient s'embarquer pour l'Europe pour aller se battre courageusement aux côtés des Alliés. Nous avons tenu plusieurs cérémonies dans nos gares le long du parcours et nous remercions tous ceux et celles qui étaient présents.



On recrute!

Nous sommes à la recherche de gens talentueux pour pourvoir des postes à bord, en gare, aux centres de maintenance ainsi qu'au sein de nos équipes de professionnels et de cadres pour nous aider à mener les Canadiens vers un avenir plus durable.

Voir les offres d'emploi



la voie qu'on aime

* Offert aux vétérans et aux membres actifs des Forces armées canadiennes. Place d'identité requise. Les employés VIA doivent présenter leur identité DND ou leur carte (LidC). Un maximum de cinq (5) membres d'une même famille peuvent voyager dans le même train, aux mêmes dates et dans les mêmes classes de service. Les membres d'une famille du voyageur admissible comprennent la conjointe ou le conjoint (y compris les conjoints de fait), les enfants mineurs ou à charge (y compris les enfants dont le membre admissible est le tuteur), parents, grands-parents, arrière-grands-parents, petits-enfants et arrière-petits-enfants. Le code 12070 est en vigueur à la réservation. Le rabais de 40 % s'applique sur le meilleur tarif disponible en classe Voiture-lits Plus à bord du Canadien. Les réservations doivent être effectuées entre le 3 mai 2019 à 3 h 01 HE et le 24 septembre 2019 à 2 h 50 HE, inclusivement, pour un voyage effectué entre le 10 mai 2019 et le 30 septembre 2019 inclusivement. L'offre de 25 % sur les meilleurs tarifs à l'année est valable pour tous les trains de VIA Rail et entre toutes les gares de VIA Rail au Canada (à l'exception des Voitures-lits Privilege et des tarifs établis sur les voitures-lits durant les Mardis à rabais). D'autres conditions d'application. Cliquez ici pour voir les modalités d'application.

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Tout VIA Rail dans une application



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