

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 24, 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. Everyone stay safe!!

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars (see Poster section at end)

The 2021 BC Military Gala is CANCELLED. The Sheraton Wall Ctr is booked for Apr 23, 2022

Aug 09

to

Virtual Remembrance Run in Support of the Juno Beach Centre

Nov 28

Nov 25 'Wednesday Lunch' Zoom meeting

Dec 02 'Wednesday Lunch' Zoom meeting

Dec 04 St Barbara's Day Virtual Dinner

Honour House and Honour Ranch Challenge Coin



Support Honour House Society and our men and women in uniform and their families by purchasing this beautifully crafted collector's item today. The coin is double-sided, displaying the Honour House crest on one side and the Honour Ranch crest on the other. The coin is in full colour and is one and three-quarter inches in diameter. These coins and other items can be bought on the Honour House website. <https://www.honourhouse.ca/shop/>

Delays Through Rogers Pass – Gunners in Action

Nicholas Johansen - Nov 21, 2020



This round was fired at a low charge. You can see the projectile just ahead of the smoke.

Photo: Canadian Armed Forces

Those travelling the Trans-Canada Highway through Rogers Pass Saturday should expect delays, as crews work to control the avalanche danger. With 16 centimetres of snow falling on the area overnight, the highway between Revelstoke and Golden will be closed intermittently throughout the day, until about 3 pm Each closure is expected to last about one hour. Since 1961, Canadian Armed Forces spend the winter months triggering avalanches along the high-elevation mountain pass using 105-mm Howitzer guns. The unique operation helps control the avalanche danger along the highway, allowing the vital transportation route to remain open through winter. Last week, provincial health officer Dr Bonnie Henry urged British Columbians to only travel for essential purposes. A travel ban order has not been issued at this time though.

CAF Pioneering New ‘Pioneer’ Training with Reservists in Nova Scotia

Elizabeth McSheffrey Global News November 22, 2020



Soldiers of the Princess Louise Fusiliers in Halifax are some of the first in Canada to undergo new "pioneer" training that's being developed in Nova Scotia for use across the country.

A group of Halifax-area reservists are “pioneering” a new training course for the Canadian Armed Forces. Soldiers in the Princess Louise Fusiliers are taking part in a new Basic Assault Pioneer Course, which is being developed in Nova Scotia for members of a relatively new military trade. Assault pioneers were added to the Canadian Armed Forces less than three years ago, with the mission of clearing the way for the infantry. Their tasks include disabling booby traps and mines, clearing roadways and keeping transportation smooth over complex terrain. “We have been given the mission of building a course from the ground up, a very basic course on pioneer training,” said LCol Barry Pitcher, commanding officer of the Princess Louise Fusiliers. “What

the pioneer training is, is an organic engineer capability which enables the infantry to have mobility and counter mobility skills.”

The assault pioneers are a modern take on ancient soldiers in the Roman Empire, who cleared forests and built roads for their armies. On Sunday, they built a gin and shear in the decommissioned airfield in Shearwater, NS. The structure of wooden towers, poles and pulleys is designed to transport heavy materials over obstacles such as a river, or unstable ground. “It was exciting watching the shear go up,” said Pte. Max Gallant, who participated in the exercise. “I wasn’t sure if it was going to fall at one point, then we managed to pull through, so (it was) satisfying.”

The Marine Corps Fields First New ACV Since the Vietnam War

Jared Keller NOV 9, 2020



Marine Corps Systems Command awarded a contract to BAE Systems to produce and deliver the Amphibious Combat Vehicle. Following a successful Milestone C decision by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, the contract options worth \$198 million will allow BAE Systems to build 30 low rate production vehicles, which will start delivering in the fall of next year. (Courtesy photo)

The Marine Corps has finally fielded its first Amphibious Combat Vehicles (ACV) to grunts, according to photos released by the service last week. The Corps’ first new amphibious vehicle since Vietnam, the ACV is expected to replace the service's arsenal of Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) that have been in service since the 1970s. The new vehicles were introduced during a redesignation ceremony for Co D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms in California on Wednesday. Photos published by the Marine Corps appear to show a half-dozen ACV hulls parked for inspection at the service's largest base. “The ceremony was held to officially introduce the Marine Corps’ Amphibious Combat Vehicle, which is meant to supplement and eventually replace the current Amphibious Assault Vehicles,” the service said in a statement.



*Amphibious
Combat
Vehicle,
June 2018*



Its fielding years in the making, the Corps first awarded \$198 million in contract options to BAE Systems to produce 30 low-rate production ACV vehicles back in June 2018. As Marine Corps

Times noted in January 2019, the service is angling to initiate full production of some 704 ACVs by 2022 at the earliest in a deal that would total upwards of \$1.2 billion. In April 2019, Navy and Marine Corps leaders told lawmakers that a full rate production decision was scheduled for the third quarter of fiscal year 2020, with the ACV on schedule to achieve initial operational capability in the fourth quarter of that year. News of the fielding of the ACV comes less than a month after nine crew members were killed after a legacy AAV sank during training off San Clemente Island, Military officials have launched two separate investigations into the incident, which marked the Corps' deadliest training accident in the history of the AAV.

British Officer Disabled a German Armoured Car with an Umbrella

in the Heat of Battle. *By Matt Fratus / August 28, 2020*



*Major Allison Digby Tatham-Warter, DSO
British Army - www.specialforcesroh.com*

Major Allison Digby Tatham-Warter wasn't your average British military officer. He was perceived by the men who followed him as a "Mad Jack" Churchill figure — the stuff made of legends. He stood just over 6-feet tall, wore a bowler hat in place of an army helmet, and carried a personal umbrella on the battlefield, much to the surprise of everyone he encountered. His reputation made such an impression on Hollywood that Richard Attenborough was inspired to create the character Maj Harry Carlyle in Tatham-Warter's image for 1977 cult classic "A Bridge Too Far."

Born in 1917 during the height of the Great War, Tatham-Warter was only 11 years old when his father died after suffering complications during a gas attack in the trenches. His father's service made a considerable impact on his career choices, and he graduated from the Royal Military College in Sandhurst in 1937. His first post as a British military officer was in India, where he worked as a safari guide, shooting tigers and hunting wild boar with a spear. He longed to experience war like his father had and took command of A Company, 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment in WW2.

*Maj Digby Tatham-Warter's umbrella
protected soldiers from bullets — and rain!
Photo courtesy of history.co.uk.*



On Sept 17, 1944, during Operation Market-Garden, the largest airborne operation in history, the 27-year-old used his eccentric tactics at the German-held Arnhem Bridge in the Netherlands. As he led his company through residential gardens in Holland, he avoided the streets frequented by German patrols and surprised an SS unit, killing and capturing several soldiers. Tatham-Warter had trained his men to carry bugles and use Napoleonic-era bugle calls as a means of communicating in case of an emergency. Similar to how Mad Jack employed a sword, bagpipes, and a longbow to rally and inspire his men, he used a bugle and umbrella. The company's radios failed during the operation, just as Tatham-Warter had predicted. His men took the loss of critical communications equipment in stride, using the

bugles to indicate their locations to maneuver reinforcements. Since Tatham-Warter also had great difficulty remembering passwords used to identify troops on the battlefield, his multi-purpose umbrella acted as a signal. "It would be quite obvious to anyone that the bloody fool carrying the umbrella could only be an Englishman," he said.



German self-propelled guns of the 9th SS Panzer Division during the battle. The presence of the II SS Panzer Corps would have a significant effect on the battle. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

When Bernard Egan, the Battalion's chaplain, was pinned down by enemy rifle and mortar fire, Tatham-Warter ran to his aid. "Don't worry about bullets, I've got an umbrella," he said humourously after arriving at Egan's position. Tatham-Warter escorted the battalion's padre to safety while under the canopy of his shade. In the lull of combat, fellow British officer Lt Pat Barnett watched Tatham-Warter open his collapsible parasol. "That thing won't do you much good," he commented. "Oh my goodness Pat, what if it rains?" Tatham-Warter quipped. His most preposterous action, however, came against a German Panzer Division that rolled down the bridge toward his men. The bold officer grabbed his umbrella in one hand and a pistol in the other and charged the row of Panzers and armoured cars. He thrust the point of his umbrella through the observation slit of an armoured car and poked the driver in the eye, incapacitating him. Tatham-Warter's unconventional battlefield heroism didn't sway the odds in his teams' favour. His battalion was surrounded and captured. The Germans sent the wounded to a nearby hospital. Despite needing medical attention, he jumped out of a window with another prisoner of war, commandeered a bicycle and rode through German territory in broad daylight to make contact with the Dutch Resistance in the area. A woman took him in, gave him clothes to impersonate a Dutch painter, and provided false documents to keep his identity a secret. On the night of Oct 22, 1944, Tatham-Warter personally led the evacuation of 138 prisoners of war and allied soldiers across the Lower Rhine to safety. The successful mission was codenamed Operation Pegasus. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. His post-war days were spent on safaris in Kenya, where he encouraged tourists to photograph the animals instead of hunting them.

Finally, A Fancy (and Compact) MRE

For the grunt who prefers only the finest vacuum-sealed rations

Kiss your beloved pizza Meal, Ready to Eat goodbye, service members: the US Defense Department is working on a brand-new lightweight combat ration designed to keep troops fueled up while inevitably ruining your bowels. Dubbed the "close combat assault ration" by researchers at the Army's Combat Feeding Directorate in Natick, Massachusetts, the new rations are designed to reduce a soldier's combat load by swapping out hefty MREs in favor of "nutrient-dense energy bars." Now, the Army already offers meal supplements like the First Strike energy bar in some

MREs, but according to Military.com, the new close combat rations could eventually replace MREs entirely. "This is a ration that's designed to be extremely lightweight and compact," Lauren Oleksyk, the CFD's team leader for Food Engineering, told Military.com. "The bars that we're looking at for that ration are not necessarily full meal-replacement bars, but [we're] using a technology for drying and compression that would enable us to make a full meal-replacement bar if needed."



Nothing says you're a sophisticated warrior like a pack full of vacuum-sealed microwave-dried spinach quiches.
US Army photo by Gary Sheftick

A sample menu for the ration includes the following, according to an Army press release:

- Tart cherry nut bar.
- Cheddar cheese bar.
- Mocha dessert bar.
- Vacuum-dried strawberries.
- Trail mix.
- Korean barbecue stir fry packet.
- Four teeny tiny spinach quiches.
- Six little pieces of French toast.
- And a banana that was “vacuum microwave dried” so it’s now about a third of its original size.

Each individual item is perfect for those deliberately-posed food shots that rule Instagram, so just throw down a poncho liner, carefully arrange some of those mini quiches, toss in a few 5.56 mm rounds down, and voilà: you're a frontline foodie.

Where the US military's pursuit of lighter loads for close combat troops covers everything from weapons to body armor, Military.com reports that Natick scientists have managed to reduce the weight of meals from anywhere from 40 to 70 percent. To accomplish this, military researchers applied an aggressive "moisture-reduction technology" to reduce the weight of individual rations, dehydrating food as it's never been before. "You can dial in how much [moisture] you want to remove for palatability purposes," Oleksyk told Military.com. "We know that warfighters don't necessarily want to consume all dry bars, so we want to be able to offer a variety of moistures in these products so that it's something they want to consume." The ration weighs about 1.5 pounds and takes up three quarters less space in a service member's pack.

This is great for soldiers in terms of lighter loads on a ruck march, but this is also terrible for soldiers in terms of lighter loads at the latrine; after all, dehydration is a leading cause of constipation — which, as we all know, is a scientifically proven consequence of consuming conventional MREs. It follows, then, that these aggressively dehydrated combat rations might result in even more blockage for combat troops, which is not always ideal. Then again, less frequent bowel movements might be a preferable option for troops in future combat situations. "Soldiers in small units might be in environments where they have to go longer without resupply," Oleksyk told Military.com. "So right now, we're very focused on reducing the logistics burden by reducing the weight and size of ration so that soldiers in small units can carry more." Will Canada go the same way??

Memorial Run for George Chow



L-R RSM CWO Rob Garrett, CO LCol Nick Watts and Hon LCol Don Foster participated in a JBC run dedicated to George Chow.

Several members, of the Regiment, including the above officers as well as the RSM's wife, Barb, ran in support of the Juno Beach Centre and dedicated their runs to George Chow. George, a WW2 Veteran and former member of the Regiment, passed away on Nov 6.

The other Regimental runners were Bdr Steven Hoogendoorn, Bdr Guillaume La

Haye, Bdr Rob Chan and Gnr Lee Empey. The Juno Beach Centre Run program has been very successful, with more than 1000 entries and raising approximately \$73,000 to date. The run program ends on November 28.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

St Barbara's Day Dinner – Covid-19 has made it impossible to hold our annual dinner together at Bessborough Armoury. However, it's still a great reason to get together virtually, have a great meal and super conversations. 1800 for 1900 hrs, Friday 4 December. Dress – Formal. You bring your own meal, wine and port. RSVP president.vcrgunners@gmail.com and I'll provide you with a Zoom login. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/virtual-st-barbaras-day-guest-night>

Sergeant Arne Knudsen Videos. Three more chapters have now been posted online. Arne recounts stories from his time in Italy. Getting captured by the Germans, escaping from the POW camp and making his way back to 7th Anti-Tank Regiment, RCA. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/arne-knudsen.html>

The Conference Room library shelving project is now complete except for taking a complete inventory of the collection. The Museum was kind enough to fund the construction of the shelving and Doug Loney did a great job in his home woodworking shop. Would you like to donate some funds to the Museum to assist in the project? You can e-transfer your funds to me at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com and I'll deposit them in the Museum account. I'll also make sure we get you a charitable donation receipt for 2020!
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/conference-room.html>

Lest we forget. Found another Gunner that passed away due to drowning during the Second World War. Gunner Joseph Zenon Leon Aime Alain
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1942---15th-vcr-coast-bde-rca-af.html>

Yorke Island. Check out a couple of stories from soldiers serving on the island.
<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/stories-of-yorke-island>

VAA Virtual Lunch every Wednesday at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848> - Drop in for 10 minutes or stay for an hour.

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The Free Arabian Legion - Organized in 1941 by the Palestinian revolutionary Amin al-Husseini, the 20,000-man Free Arabian Legion was founded to help Berlin establish Nazi-friendly regimes in the Middle East, namely in Iraq. Comprised of Arab nationalists and Muslims recruited from POW camps throughout Germany, the legion waited in Greece for the chance to drive the English from Mesopotamia. Such an opportunity would never arise; Britain's swift suppression of an Axis-backed Baghdad uprising in May of 1941 made sure of that. Instead, the Free Arabian Legion would spend the war in Greece as part of the Nazi occupation force. It was disbanded in 1945.



Haj Mohammed Amin al-Husseini, giving a Nazi salute, alongside SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen SS Karl-Gustav Sauberzweig, reviewing Bosnian Waffen SS volunteers during their training in November 1943.

The French connection is that the training division that became the notorious Hadschar Div mutinied while in France in 1943. Most of the mutineers were shot (but had a street named after them, so not all bad), but some escaped to join the Maquis, and some of those were decorated by the Republic after the war. Those that didn't mutiny, and weren't sent to concentration camps, and didn't get bumped off by Tito, ended up fighting for various Arab governments against Israel, although some joined the French Foreign Legion and fought the Viet Minh.

This Week: When I was a young master (as my grandfather addressed me in his letters), I was, as many children of the 1950s, keenly aware of the superiority of our armed forces. Given the size of such relative to the population of Canada, I was not far off the mark. Other than the amazing aircraft that flew in the blue skies over our Ottawa suburb (the skies were quite blue, quite often, then), such as Mitchells, Sabre jets, Harvards, CF-100s, and, just once, and fleetingly, the Avro Arrow, we kids were also fascinated with armoured vehicles, especially the ones we good chaps used, as their colour, khaki, was similar to the colour still worn by many of our fathers (a neighbourhood of many army brats).

Top of the food chain was the mighty Centurion main battle tank, a smaller Dinky Toys version of which we all had. We sometimes saw one or two at Army Day, or on the rare occasion when my father would take some of us to the proving ground near the tiny town of Orleans, just down from us on Montreal Road. Once, on a summer trip back to civilization (the Maritimes), I saw a whole column of these behemoths, on transporters, as part of an immense (to me) convoy. Needless to say, we all knew that if push came to shove and the Cold War hotted up, our tanks would make scrap metal of Ivan Ivanovich's crude monsters.



So, it came as a bit of a surprise to learn where, when, and what was the first ever kill for these British beasts. And that, fellow tankies, is our question for the week. What was the first tank ever knocked out by a Centurion? As an aside, and maybe a

bonus question, you can tell us if anyone still uses this metal chariot. Send your responses to the editor, Bob "Leopard" Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John "Firefly" Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Cheers.

From the 'Punitentary'

What do you call a pig that does karate? Pork chop

Murphy's Other Laws

The degree of technical competence is inversely proportional to the level of management.

Quotable Quotes

One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present.
Golda Meir

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 our Wednesday lunches.

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

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

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.

Virtual Remembrance Run in Support of the JBC

August 9 - November 28, 2020



Members of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps participate in a one-mile race as part of a wider I Canadian Corps sports meet in the United Kingdom, 1943 (Canadian Army Newsreel No. 12).



The Juno Beach Centre Association is partnering with VR Pro (<https://www.vrpro.ca/events/Home.html>) for our first Remembrance Run fundraiser! This is a virtual running (or walking) event for participants of all ages.

Registration is available on the Running Room website.
<https://www.events.runningroom.com/site/17167/>

DISTANCES

Click on a logo to register for that distance.



<https://www.events.runningroom.com/applications/?raceId=17167&eventId=50553&vrindex=3>



<https://www.events.runningroom.com/applications/?raceId=17167&eventId=50554&vrindex=3>



<https://www.events.runningroom.com/applications/?raceId=17167&eventId=50554&vrindex=3>

Scroll down to learn about the significance of these distances.

RACE DETAILS

Register now for one of three virtual race distances and receive a race kit including this beautiful, oversized, commemorative medal (pictured below) along with a Juno Beach collector coin, race bib, an imprinted neck gaitor, a Remembrance Day Poppy, and a beautifully printed Juno Beach

D-Day souvenir map, and more! Then, run or walk your event distance of choice anytime between September 1 and November 28, 2020. \$10 from each entry will go to support the Juno Beach Centre honouring those brave men and the sacrifices they made. (Click any one of the race event logos above or the registration button below to register.) Applicants can set up a fundraising page through your Running Room account, after you have registered for the Run.



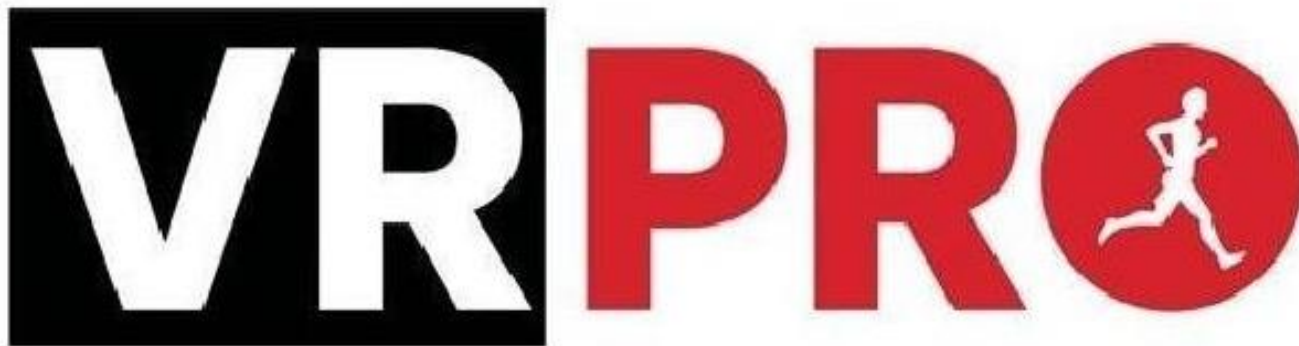
All you need to do is go to the Fundraising tab (at the top of the registration page) and select Raise Funds to set up your fundraising page. Each participant will receive a unique Remembrance Day / Juno Beach commemorative medal. The design features the image of a Landing Craft,

Assault (LCA) manned by Royal Canadian Navy sailors on D-Day approaching Juno Beach with a load of troops. The medal's ribbon is inspired by the France & Germany Star, the campaign medal received by those who landed at Juno Beach and/or served in France, Belgium, Holland, or Germany between D-Day (6 June 1944) and Victory in Europe or V-E Day (8 May 1945).

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information please contact Kelly Hendry-Arnott

- Email: kelly@vrpro.ca
- Phone: 905 512-2488



REMEMBRANCE RUN DISTANCES EXPLAINED

What is the “Strongpoint 1500m”?

Juno Beach (Normandy, France) was well fortified. Mines, barbed wire, and beach obstacles to Allied tanks and landing craft littered the sands. German machine guns, mortars, and artillery, often positioned in concrete bunkers, overlooked the likely Allied landing areas. Strongpoints in the German-held towns of Courseulles-sur-Mer, Bernières-sur-Mer, and Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer dominated the beaches. Courseulles was the most heavily defended area attacked by British and Canadian forces on D-Day. The strongpoints at Courseulles and nearby Graye-sur-Mer contained a dozen concrete machine-gun posts covering a total of six artillery pieces overlooking the beach. Today, the Juno Beach Centre stands on the same ground as *Stützpunkt (Strongpoint) 31*, located on Mike Red Sector of Juno Beach. This shorter distance event (1500m) is for ideal children, older participants, and anyone else who does not want to run or walk the 8k or 21k distances. It is named for the strongpoint and 1500 metre stretch of beach overcome by the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the 1st Hussars (6th Canadian Armoured Regiment), and the 6th Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers on D-Day.

What is the significance of the “Juno Beach 8K”?

D-Day, June 6, 1944, was among the greatest moments of the 20th century. The landings started the battle to liberate France from Nazi Germany. The Canadians stormed an 8-kilometre stretch of sand featuring coastal villages fortified into German strongholds. Code-named JUNO, some 14,000 Canadian soldiers with hometowns from coast to coast landed here. A further 7,000 British

troops joined them. When you run this fall, you are running in remembrance of every Canadian or Allied soldier who landed at Juno Beach.

Why is it named the “Remembrance 21.1K”?

The total number of troops landed on Juno Beach on D-Day was approximately 21,000. We offer a half-marathon (which is 21.1 kilometres long), in honour of those troops.



<https://www.events.runningroom.com/site/17167/>

Local entrants who enter any of these events – please send me your ‘Donation’ links and I will put them in this newsletter. – Ed.

Fellow Gunners

I am running/walking a half-marathon to raise money for the Juno Beach Centre. A half-marathon is approximately 21 kilometres and I am running/walking this distance in honour of all 21,000 Allied troops who landed on Juno Beach on June 6, 1944. You can support the Juno Beach Centre by pledging in support of me or by registering for this Remembrance Run fundraiser.

To donate and help us achieve our fundraising goal, please go to my fundraising home page at this link:

<https://www.runningroom.com/dashboard/giving/?raceId=17167&eventId=50555&memberId=UDVXZA9pWzoAa1dgUWA%3D>

You will see a box that says “**Make a Donation**” – do so, and follow the instructions

Thanks! UBIQUE!

HLCol Don Foster P.Ag, CIM, FCSI
Director | Juno Beach Centre Association

