

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 3, 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 03 'Wednesday Lunch' Zoom meeting

Nov 10 'Wednesday Lunch' Zoom meeting

Nov 11 Remembrance Day 2020 at Victory Square Vancouver

Nov 18 **RUSI(NS) - Arctic Continental Defense: Canada and US Perspective**

'Wednesday Lunch' Zoom meeting

Arctic Continental Defense: Canada and US Perspective

RUSI(NS) - Distinguished Speakers 18 November 2020

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia and the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and NORTHCOM) extend an invitation to hear video-conference presentations Wednesday, 18 November 2020 by Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Burke, Director of Operations, Joint Task Force North, and Mr Todd 'Charley' Davis, Chief, NORAD Campaign & Arctic Branch, J5 Strategy, Policy & Plans, NORAD and USNORTHCOM. LCol Burke's talk is titled "Op Nanook: Meeting northern challenges with

regional collaboration,” and Mr Davis' talk is titled "NORAD and USNORTHCOM perspectives on Arctic Defense and Security." The speakers will address the importance of collaboration and relationships for protecting northern and Arctic North America. Their bios are attached.

The talk will start at 1 pm Halifax time, Wednesday, 18 November, then be followed by Q&A and finish by 3 pm Halifax time. **Registration is required.** There is no fee to attend this event. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Sunday, 15 November. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS)/N-NC Distinguished Speakers 18 November 2020 Registration. In addition to your name please also provide your organization.

The event will be done by Zoom. Instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 16 November.

RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question about an event occurring.

Please forward this invitation to any whom you think may be interested in attending.

CAH Darlington
Commander, Royal Canadian Navy (retired)
Vice-President, RUSI(NS)

Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia
Web: <https://rusi-ns.ca> Twitter: @RUSI_NS
Facebook: Royal United Services Institute - NS

on behalf of
Dr Benjamin P Gochman, DAFC
Chief, Engagements and Mexico Desk Officer
Directorate of Operations (N&NC/J39) HQ NORAD - USNORTHCOM/J3

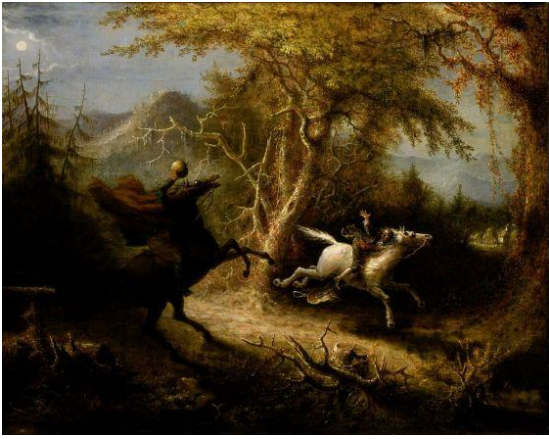
Of Hessians & Sleepy Hollow

How Americans Came to Demonize King George's German Auxiliaries

Dr George Yagi Jr MilitaryHistoryNow.com 25 October, 2018

The dominant spirit... that haunts this enchanted region, and seems to be commander in chief of all the powers of the air, is the apparition of a figure on horseback without a head. It is said by some to be the ghost of a Hessian trooper, whose head had been carried away by a cannon-ball, in some nameless battle during the Revolutionary War; and who is ever and anon seen by the country folk, hurrying along in the gloom of night, as if on the wings of the wind. Such is the general purport of his legendary superstition, which has furnished materials for many a wild story in that region of shadows; and the spectre is known, at all the country firesides by the name of the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, 1820.



Washington Irving's headless horseman of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow was a Hessian. "Wrongly maligned, the only Hessian monster may be the fictional headless one of Sleepy Hollow."

Since their arrival in the colonies during the American Revolution, the Hessians have endured a sinister reputation, so much so that the writer Washington Irving was able to immortalize them in his timeless classic *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. To the Americans in 1776, Hessians were among the most hated of all the King's forces. Even the Declaration of Independence condemned them and their "mercenary" ilk as instruments of "death, desolation and tyranny."

Hessian troops in the New World.



Upon their appearance in New York, even British general Sir William Howe's secretary, Ambrose Serle, called them "a dirty, cowardly set of contemptible miscreants." The Hessians understood how they were being perceived. One of their own, a lieutenant named Andreas Wiederhold, seemed dismayed. "[The] Americans had funny ideas about us Hessians, believing that we were not made like other men, that we had a strange language and generally were a raw, wild, and barbaric people," he wrote.



Hessian grenadiers as they would have appeared in the American Revolutionary War.

With such a poor general opinion of them, it is easy to see how Irving would later conceive his story about a vengeful ghost partaking in nightly wanderings in search of his head. In reality, the Hessians were not the monsters which they have been portrayed. They weren't soldiers of fortune lured by the promise of gold and plunder, and they did not delight in cruel and barbarous treatment. The myth surrounding them is far from the reality. Upon their arrival in the colonies, Hessians were erroneously labeled as mercenaries. In truth, the troops were auxiliaries hired out by their own prince for service in North America. Even the name "Hessian" is misleading. While some of the nearly 30,000 German troops sent by Britain to the New World were from the Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel, soldiers also came from Anhalt-Zerbst, Anspach-Bayreuth, Brunswick-Lüneburg, Hesse-Hanau, and Waldeck. History, however, remembers them collectively as Hessians. The soldiers received no extra payment apart from their regular wages, while their rulers received all the profit, which included for some a 'blood money' clause

that paid a bonus for each dead soldier. On the value of these transactions, Landgrave William VIII of Hesse-Kassel summarized, “These troops are our Peru.” – a reference to Spain’s treasure-rich South American colony.



A resident of Hesse-Kassel is forcibly conscripted.

(Image source: US History Images)

Hessian, Johann Gottfried Seume, was a student who ran afoul of his superiors at the University of Leipzig. After leaving the college following a disagreement with the faculty he was arrested under false pretences and taken to the Fortress of Ziegenhain as an inductee. “No one was safe from the minions of this seller of human souls. Persuasion, cunning, deception, force, everything was justifiable,” he wrote. “No one asked about the means by which this cursed business was carried on. Strangers of all sorts were stopped, imprisoned, then sent off.” Clearly, many of the Hessians were not soldiers by choice.

German auxiliaries are remembered for being ruthless opponents in the War of Independence.

(Image source: WikiCommons)

Arguments were also made that the Hessians enjoyed plunder. While looting did occur during the Revolution, the Hessians were no more guilty of it than other combatants. In fact, soon after arriving in New York in 1776, Lieutenant General Leopold Philip von Heister promptly issued orders instructing his men to respect the private property of the colonials.

Upon learning of cases of his instructions being violated, von Heister had the guilty parties arrested and forced to ‘run the gauntlet,’ a form of punishment in which the condemned were lashed by all of the soldiers of their own company. Concerning the treatment of American soldiers, the Hessians were far less brutal than they have been portrayed. It’s true that during the early stages of the war, some German auxiliaries showed no mercy to the rebels, yet much of the violence was the result of the troops being told by British officers that they’d receive no quarter from the colonials. However, as the war progressed, the Hessians discovered that such warnings were not the case and soon great care was taken of any surrendering Americans. Even George Washington noted the humanity of the captors. “One thing I must remark in favour of the Hessians, and that is, that our people who have been prisoners



generally agree that they received much kinder treatment from them, than from British officers and soldiers,” he wrote. Major Carl Leopold von Baurmeister further added on the situation of the Americans. “They have no complaints about their treatment and even less about lack of food,” he reported. The Continentals returned the favour; captured Hessians generally enjoyed better accommodations than their British counterparts.



Hessians lay down their arms before the Continental Army at Trenton, NJ.
(Image source: HistoryPlace.com)

The Hessians were not villains, as they have been popularly portrayed. Many were unwilling soldiers who profited little from their services on the battlefield. They were not merciless plunderers obsessed with gold, and they were not a cruel and inhumane enemy. In fact, before the war was over many German auxiliaries saw a future for themselves in the New World — hundreds deserted their colours to become some of the first immigrants of the United States. Wrongly maligned, the only Hessian monster may be the fictional headless one of *Sleepy Hollow*.

Wartime Witchcraft?

The Strange Case of Helen Duncan and the Sinking of HMS Barham. “*How was Duncan picking up on military secrets? Was she in contact with the enemy? Was she receiving leaked information from inside the War Office? Or was she really a witch?*”

MilitaryHistoryNow.com 22 August, 2014



HMS Barham capsized and exploded after being torpedoed in the Mediterranean on Nov 25, 1941. More than 800 sailors were killed in the disaster. The entire incident was classified. So how did a Scottish clairvoyant know of the sinking before it was revealed by the military? Some believed she learned of it through the spirits of those who perished on board. Helen Duncan, 44, was

hosting a séance in Portsmouth, England in November 1941 when she stunned her audience with a disturbing announcement, one that she claimed had come to her via the spirit world. According to the Scottish-born clairvoyant and mother of six, the British battleship *HMS Barham* had just been sunk. Her listeners were astounded by the news. After all, there had been no official reports of such a disaster and certainly nothing had been in the papers about an attack on the vessel. Yet amazingly the warship *had* in fact been destroyed on Nov. 25 in the Mediterranean following an encounter with the German submarine *U-331*. Moments after being torpedoed, the *Barham*'s powder magazine exploded, sending the stricken ship to the bottom along with more than 800 of its 1,100-man crew. The Royal Navy had kept the loss a closely guarded secret. The Admiralty feared that the information would damage civilian morale. Duncan told her

spellbound guests that the news was revealed to her by the spirit of one of the sailors who had gone down with the doomed ship.



Helen Duncan was one of the last people to be convicted under Britain's 1735 Witchcraft Act.

Her revelation quickly spread, causing a stir throughout Portsmouth. It also grabbed the attention of British authorities. Not surprisingly, the government had questions. How was Duncan picking up on military secrets? Was she in contact with the enemy? Was she receiving leaked information from inside the War Office? Or was she *really* a witch? Police arrested Duncan and charged her first with vagrancy (a catch-all misdemeanour in the U.K. at the time). After a more in-depth investigation, the Crown prosecuted Duncan using an obscure 200-year-old law known as the Witchcraft Act. In fact, Duncan was one of the last people in the British Isles ever to be convicted under the 1735 law. And while the wartime news media and the spiritualist community made much of Duncan's case, the facts of the case were far less bizarre. The evidence overwhelming suggests that Duncan was little more than a run-of-the-mill huckster. In fact, at the time of her arrest she was already well known to the police as a scam artist.

She and her husband Henry had been exposed numerous times in the 1930s for conjuring up bogus spirits before a vast array of high-paying customers. Duncan's detractors claimed that the couple had used a variety of time-honoured (and rather pedestrian) techniques to glean fragments of information about their clients prior to her sittings, which would then later be fantastically 'revealed' to the dupes during the sessions. Duncan was also known for her eerie ability to produce a goey and malleable supernatural substance from her mouth while entranced. The material, known as ectoplasm, was believed by some to be a conduit through which spirits could appear and even communicate with the living. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a number of famous mediums claimed to be able to produce the goop through bodily orifices. Once secreted, the wet mucus-like element would reportedly transform into the shape of spirits and, according to some, even animate. Probing skeptics invariably revealed that the miraculous matter was little more than a mixture of everyday items like paper-mâché, egg white or cheesecloth. The Duncan's' critics maintained as much. They believed Helen would swallow yards of moistened fabric prior to a séance and then regurgitate it while supposedly in a spellbound state.

An example of one of Helen Duncan's less-than-convincing spiritual conjuring acts.

(Image source: WikiCommons)

Prosecutors also alleged that her husband would take advantage of the darkness in the room to drape the wet fabric over dolls or other shapes in order to create the impression that the ectoplasm had magically taken human form. In 1933, Duncan was exposed as a hoax and was jailed for a month following a conviction for

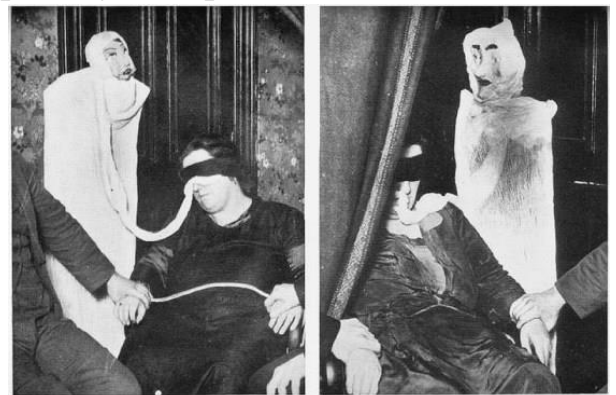


PLATE XV

"Phantoms" photographed during a séance with Mrs. Duncan at her home. Note mask-like faces, "coat-hanger" shoulders, and warp and weft of material.

larceny. By 1941, the couple had relocated to Portsmouth where Helen began providing spiritual readings to locals, many of whom were desperate for any news of their loved ones serving in uniform. Although her pronouncement of the sinking of the *Barham* astounded her audience, it wasn't an entirely unknown development in military circles. Although the government hoped to prevent word of the loss from reaching the wider public, the Royal Navy had in fact informed the next of kin of all deceased crewmembers. There were literally hundreds of civilians in Portsmouth alone who were aware of the sinking. It's likely that Duncan obtained news of the disaster through other clients or some back channel, after which she eagerly disclosed it. Even the Crown's prosecution of Duncan on charges of witchcraft are dramatic than it first appeared. The 18th Century law under which she was charged and later tried was not drafted to bring witches to justice (as one might imagine), but rather to make it an offence to claim magical powers. By 1944, prosecutors were keen to prevent Duncan from causing any more mischief and used the forgotten ordinance to do so. Despite the ultimately underwhelming aspects of the case, the British media and public made much of the Duncan witchcraft trial. However, Prime Minister Churchill considered the fuss over the entire affair little more than "tomfoolery".

The public commotion caused by the case eventually compelled the British government to revise and rename the Witchcraft Act to the Fraudulent Mediums Act in 1951. Duncan was imprisoned for nine months following her conviction. She vowed upon release to cease and desist conducting séances. It was a commitment she would break. In 1956 she was again arrested for dabbling in the 'supernatural'. She died several days later. Her supporters still claim that a police raid on her home that took place while she was entranced created a fatal physical and emotional strain on the spiritualist. Skeptics point out that Duncan was obese and in failing health at the time and more likely died of natural causes. Despite this, the Duncan story endures. In 2010, the BBC broadcast a radio play about her entitled *The Last Witch Trial* and in recent years a public movement has sprung up to see her officially pardoned. The web is replete with sites that maintain Duncan was in fact a bona fide medium that was unfairly targeted by authorities who feared her powers.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

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

Yorke Island

The Vancouver Artillery Association has submitted a request for funding under the [Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program](#) to conserve the historic nature of the island and to support B.C.'s post-pandemic economic recovery in the region. Check out some of the past work we've done on Yorke here. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke-island-project.html>

We're looking for an Ottawa volunteer willing to assist us in scouring the Yorke Island files at Library and Archives. Any volunteers out there?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/library-and-archives-canada>

Yearbook Update 2017 – We added information on our former Padre, Captain Steve Filyk. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20179625792>

Yearbook Update 2019 – We added information about another one of our Padres, Lieutenant(N) Haupi Tombing. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20199494175>

Honours and Awards Update – We've found the citation card for the Military Cross awarded to Lieutenant George Victor Atkins, MC. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/military-cross.html>
We had difficulty reading the card and one of our former members, Lieutenant Terence McMahon, now living in South Australia came up with the answer. Cuvillers.

Yearbook Update 1929 – The page has been updated with news clippings featuring the start of training and reunions of both the 15th Brigade from World War I and the BC Garrison of Artillery that pre-dated the war. Cadet Dumoulin graduates from RMC.

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week:



Lieutenant General EC Ashton, CB, CMG, VD, MD.

Lt Gen Ashton was born October 28, 1873 in Brantford, Ontario. He attended Trinity University and Medical College and qualified as a physician in 1898. An experienced physician, he also served as a Lieutenant Colonel and commanding officer of the Dufferin Rifles. After enlisting in January 1915, he was appointed commanding officer of the 36th Battalion with his brother becoming his second-in-command. The battalion departed Canada for England on 19 June 1915. On promotion to brigadier general he commanded the 3rd Training Brigade at Shorncliffe and later the 15th Infantry Brigade. In late 1918, he was promoted to Adjutant General of the Canadian Army. His career continued to flourish, and he was appointed to reorganize the medical services and act as Inspector General of Canadian Military Forces. Finally, Ashton was appointed as Chief of the General Staff from 1935-1938. Lt Gen Ashton died in Victoria BC August 17, 1956 at the age of 82. The Lt Gen E C Ashton Armoury, located at 724 Vanalman Ave, Victoria, is named for him. The guns are 60pdrs, which went out of service quickly once the war started, in Camp Petawawa in 1939.

This Week: In the history of artillery, a few guns really stand out: Mons Meg, the 9 pdr that features on the RCA and other Commonwealth cap badges, the French 75, and, of course, our dear 25 pdr. Technically it was a gun/howitzer, combining the roles of the previous 18 pdr gun, and 4.5" howitzer. It first saw service with the Royal Artillery as the interim 18/25 pdr, seeing action in the Battle of France and the early part of the Desert Campaign. Canada also briefly used the early version, and 1st Field Regiment, RCHA landed in France with them in the late spring of

1940, not the best time to do so. Fortunately, the regiment quickly returned to the UK, with their guns, the only Empire unit to do so.

The actual 25 pdr that we recognize came in a few versions, which are identifiable by features such as muzzle brake, or lack of, and resulting addition/deletion of a breech counter weight. There were also carriage differences, with the Australians being the most daring by reducing that to the bare minimum, a strategy forced upon them by the muddy jungles of New Guinea, not the bathing styles of Bondi Beach. And, as all true Canucks know, the most successful self-propelled version, the Sexton, was a Canadian innovation. The gun soldiered on long after the Second World War, lasting in Canadian (Militia) service until 1959, and in Royal Artillery service until 1972, seeing furious action that year in Oman. It served the Indians well until the late 1970s, and even later in other nations, such as Nigeria and Eire. Interestingly, the last known use of the gun in action was by the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga against ISIS in 2015! This brings us to our photo and our question.



Here is a fine example of the gun, surrounded by evidence of restoration. It is in a museum in a place where one might not expect such, as that place doesn't really have room for artillery. Nonetheless, not only were 25 pdrs stationed in this distant land, but so were Sextons, all of them ex-Canadian Army. So, where is it and what version is it? Send your answers to the editor, Bob

Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

How do you repair a broken jack o'lantern? You use a pumpkin patch!

Murphy's Other Laws

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Quotable Quotes

We make up horrors to help us cope with the real ones. Stephen King

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

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

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

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

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.



The
Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia
presents

Distinguished Speakers
Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Burke
Joint Task Force North
&
Mr Charley Davis
NORAD and NORTHCOM



Arctic Continental Defense
Canada and US Perspectives

1-3 pm Halifax time, Wednesday, 18 November 2020
via Zoom (register through RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com)



NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND and UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND Biography

TODD C “Charley” DAVIS

United States Air Force Civilian



Mr Davis is the Chief, NORAD Campaign and Arctic Branch in the Campaign Planning and Initiatives Division of the J5 Strategy, Policy and Plans Directorate, Headquarters, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM).

Charley and his wife Julie reside in Monument, Colorado. They are very proud of their four children and four grandchildren. Specializing as the lead for NORAD Campaigns and analyst for the Arctic region, he assists in the development of NORAD strategy, policy, plans and requirements for the safeguarding of the United States and Canada

through aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning. For USNORTHCOM, he develops strategy and plans for homeland defense, support to civil authorities, and security cooperation with Canada, Mexico and The Bahamas. Prior to this position, Mr Davis retired from the United States Navy in September of 2012 as a CAPTAIN, completing 32 years of naval service. His last assignment was the United States Fleet Forces Command Senior Naval Liaison Officer to Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States

Northern Command from 2008 to 2012.

During this tour he also served as a NORAD/USNORTHCOM Deputy Command Center Director and Emergency Attack Assessor. He began his military career in the United States Navy as a Naval ROTC Midshipman at the University of Washington in 1979, was commissioned an Ensign and entered active duty in June, 1983, and was designated a Naval Aviator upon completion of flight training in May, 1985. Captain Davis has numerous operational tours to include: service in the Western Pacific and SEVENTH Fleet as an SH-3 “Sea King” helicopter pilot aboard the USS Midway (CV-41); a tour in Pensacola, Florida as a fixed-wing flight instructor in the T-34C aircraft; assignment to VQ1 in Agana, Guam as an EP-3 “ARIES” Electronic Warfare Aircraft and Mission Commander, flying reconnaissance missions throughout the Western Pacific and Middle East; a tour as Operations Officer and EP-3 pilot in VQ2 in Rota, Spain, flying missions in the Mediterranean Sea and the Balkans; a joint assignment as a strike planner and Chief, Reconnaissance Plans at United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; a tour and full deployment with Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group THREE aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) as Force Protection Officer and Assistant Chief of Staff for

Information Operations (N6), and service as the Deputy Director and Director, Manpower and Personnel Directorate (J1), North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Captain Davis also served as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Navy Recruiting District New York, the largest and most diverse recruiting district in the nation, covering New York City, Long Island and northern New Jersey. During his career, Captain Davis has flown over 3,500 hours, with over 1,800 hours as an aircraft and mission commander. He holds a Master of Science degree in Organizational Administration from Central Michigan University, is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, the Canadian Securities Studies Programme at the Canadian Forces College, and is currently an Adjunct Professor in Homeland Security at Colorado State University. In addition, he is a proven subspecialist in Intelligence, and holds the Army's skill identifier for Space Operations, and is an FAA certified civilian flight instructor.

Lieutenant-Colonel S.C. Burke, CD



Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Burke was born in Halifax, NS, and attended Dalhousie University, receiving a degree in mathematics. In 2002 he joined the Canadian Armed Forces as an artillery officer. Lieutenant-Colonel Burke has served in both 1 and 2 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Shilo, MB, and Petawawa, ON. His time included a deployment to Afghanistan as an artillery Forward Observation Officer. Lieutenant-Colonel Burke's service highlights have also included three years in the Associate Deputy Minister (Material) group, involved in the procurement of a new combat vehicle, and significant time at Canadian Joint Operations Command working in the continental plans division.

Lieutenant-Colonel Burke was posted to Joint Task Force North headquarters in Yellowknife, NT, as Director of Operations in 2020. Lieutenant-Colonel Burke's military training and education include completion of the Army Technical Staff Program in 2009 and graduation from the Joint Command and Staff Program in 2016.

Lieutenant-Colonel Burke is married and has a teenage daughter. He enjoys reading military history and outdoor activities with his family.

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

