



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Nov 5, 2013

Complimentary City parking for veterans with plates

Vehicles displaying BC veteran licence plates will be exempt from parking fees at Vancouver City parking meters, in EasyPark parkades and surface lots as well as in Park Board operated parking facilities for Veterans Week, **November 5 to 11, 2012.**

The free parking also extends to popular destinations like Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park and the Aquatic Centre as well as a number of downtown community centres including Coal Harbour, Creekside and Roundhouse. The City offers the complimentary parking to recognize the military service and dedication Canadian men and women provided to our country and to facilitate their work distributing poppies. Poppy donations support veterans with affordable housing, education, trauma treatment, relief and recovery.

Last year, in cooperation with the **Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver**, the City also upgraded a number of traditional street name signs in honour of Remembrance Day. The signs, which have been installed on 15 streets within an area bounded by Grandview Highway, Rupert Street, Boundary Road and E. 22nd Avenue, each contains a red poppy to identify the street named after a person or a place that has had a role in a Canadian war.

Remembrance Day services will take place around the city on November 11. The main service will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Victory Square Cenotaph.

In addition, at 8 a.m. on Remembrance Day, Regimental units of the 39 Canadian Brigade Group, HMCS Discovery, RCMP "E" Division and the Vancouver Flag Party will participate in the lighting of the cauldron at Jack Poole Plaza in a special ceremony with the theme **Generation to Generation.**

Field of Crosses

There is a park reserved along Calgary's Memorial Drive for 3,000 white crosses which are displayed each year on November 1st and removed November 11th, after Remembrance Day services. The date coincides with the Calgary Poppy Fund's annual fundraising campaign. Each cross is inscribed with the name, rank, regiment, date of death and age at death of a Southern Alberta soldier killed in action. It is estimated that more than 3,000 Southern Alberta soldiers have been killed in action. Veterans Affairs Canada keeps records of those who died, but not the hometown of the casualty; we welcome volunteers and input from friends and relatives who have lost a loved one from Southern Alberta who was killed in action and is not included in our Field of Crosses. Their wish is that no Southern Alberta soldier who paid the ultimate price for

our freedom is ever forgotten.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them

At sunrise each morning from November 1 to November 11 there is a flag raising ceremony at the Field of Crosses including a bugler and a piper. At sunset the flags are lowered. Members of the public are welcome at these ceremonies or to visit the site at any time, to walk among the crosses, to lay flowers at a loved one's memorial or to be reminded that the price of the freedom we enjoy was not free. Public parking is available at the west end of the park.

The memorial project is an initiative of the McCann Family Foundation in association with the Calgary Poppy Fund and numerous volunteers.

To see more go to: <http://www.fieldofcrosses.com/>

Memorial Ribbon complements the Memorial Cross



No one suffers more from the death of a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) member than the member's close friends and family.

Now a memento is being offered to close family and friends of deceased CAF members for their personal loss and sacrifice. The Memorial Ribbon, which was announced in November 2012, has been given to over 70 family members or close friends of fallen CAF members with more

applications being processed daily.

The Ribbons

These Ribbons are assembled by hand at the Directorate of Honours and Recognition with the care and attention befitting the sacrifice of the families of our fallen. They are now part of the Memorial Package, which also includes the Memorial Cross, the Memorial Scroll, the Memorial Bar, the Sacrifice Medal, and inscription in the Seventh Book of Remembrance. This Ribbon complements the Memorial Cross by expanding eligibility to a greater number of family members and close friends, as well as to those who were previously ineligible to receive the Memorial Cross. This also presents the opportunity for children to receive a special token to remember and honour their loved one.

Ribbon Recipient

"I know everyone in my family will cherish the Memorial Ribbons," said Mark Marin, whose father, Flying Officer Boris Jaroslav Pasichniak, served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. "I am thankful to the [Memorial Ribbon] program for their efforts in facilitating the receipt of these ribbons for our family." Mr. Marin's family received five Ribbons in Flying Officer Pasichniak's honour in February 2013. The ribbons were distributed between Flying Officer Pasichniak's closest relatives: his widow, his son (Mr. Marin), his two daughters and a nephew with whom he shared a mutual appreciation of the Air Force.

Issuing Ribbons

Memorial Ribbons may be issued in commemoration of every CAF member whose death is attributed to duty-related injury or illness sustained on or after October 1, 1947. This date coincides with the first date inscribed in Veterans Affairs Canada's Seventh Book of Remembrance. "When I visited the Directorate of Honours and Recognition, it was evident that everyone there understands the importance of their efforts and what this token of recognition means to our families," said Major-General David Millar, Chief of Military Personnel. The Ribbons will be issued automatically for deaths which occurred on or after November 6, 2012, and when the death is clearly attributable to service such as in the case of direct hostile action, accidents while on training, and other similar circumstances. For deaths which occurred between October 1, 1947 and November 5, 2012, application forms must be sent to the Directorate of Honours and Recognition (DH&R). Ribbons will not be issued until the Directorate has validated the information.

For more information on the Memorial Ribbon or to access the online application form visit the Directorate of Honours and Recognition's Website or contact the Memorial Ribbon project directly at Ribbon.Ruban@forces.gc.ca or at 1-855-433-2976.

Rick's Rant

By Rick Mercer - Nov 2012

Lest We Forget.

As all Canadians know there's nothing more moving than watching veterans of WWII or Korea attend a Remembrance Day ceremony. Those people have been there my entire life. But the truth is, as time marches on, Canada loses 500 veterans of World War II every single week. But they're not gone yet. There are over one hundred thousand of them still living in Canada – a fact that is lost on the Federal Government.

In a recent budget, the Finance Minister said cuts wouldn't affect people because they were back room cuts. Well that's a bit of a stretch, especially if you consider veterans people. This year alone Veteran's Affairs are going to close nine offices across Canada. So if you're a World War II vet and you have a problem, what do you do? Well you don't go into an office and talk to a real person, those days are over. There's a 1-800 number they can call. Or, this is my favourite, bearing in mind the average age is 88, there's an app they can download to their smart phones which will allow them to navigate the Veteran Affairs website. A website that will send them to the nearest Service Canada office where if they need to make burial arrangements they have to take a number and stand in line behind some guy like me who's waiting to get his passport renewed.

I'm sorry, if you fought on the beach in Dieppe and survived you should not have to spend any portion of your final days on this earth in a Service Canada office. And the fact that a majority of our MPs voted to send those who served on the front lines to the back of the line means "lest we forget" is meaningless. Clearly we've forgotten.

British WWI Captain POW Released by Kaiser to Visit Mother

Revealed: Extraordinary story of British WWI captain released by Kaiser from German prison camp so he could see his dying mother in Kent - on condition that he returned to his cell... and he DID

By [DAILY MAIL REPORTER](#), 4 September 2013

When British prisoner of war Robert Campbell asked the Kaiser if he could visit his dying mother, he was astonished to be given permission – on condition that he promised to return.

The Army captain kept his word and returned to the German camp after the two-week trip in



November 1916, remaining in captivity until the end of the First

World War. Historian Richard van Emden, who discovered the

incredible incident, said such an act of chivalry was rare even a

century ago. ‘Capt Campbell was an officer and he made a

promise on his honour to go back,’ he said. ‘Had he not turned up

there would not have been any retribution on any other prisoners.

‘What I think is more amazing is that the British Army let him go

back to Germany. The British could have said to him, “You’re not

going back, you’re going to stay here”.’

Remarkable: Captain Robert Campbell returned to a German PoW camp after being given permission to leave to visit his dying mother in Britain by the Kaiser

Capt Campbell, who joined the Army in 1903, was leading the 1st

Bn East Surrey Regiment when his battalion took up a position on

the Mons-Condé canal in north-west France just weeks after war

broke out in July 1914. A week later, his troops were attacked by

the German forces and Capt Campbell was seriously injured and

captured. The 29-year-old was treated in a military hospital in

Cologne before being sent to the prisoner-of-war camp in Magdeburg.

In 1916, he received word from home that his mother Louise was dying of cancer. He wrote to

Kaiser Wilhelm II, begging to be

allowed to see her one last time. The

Kaiser gave him two weeks’

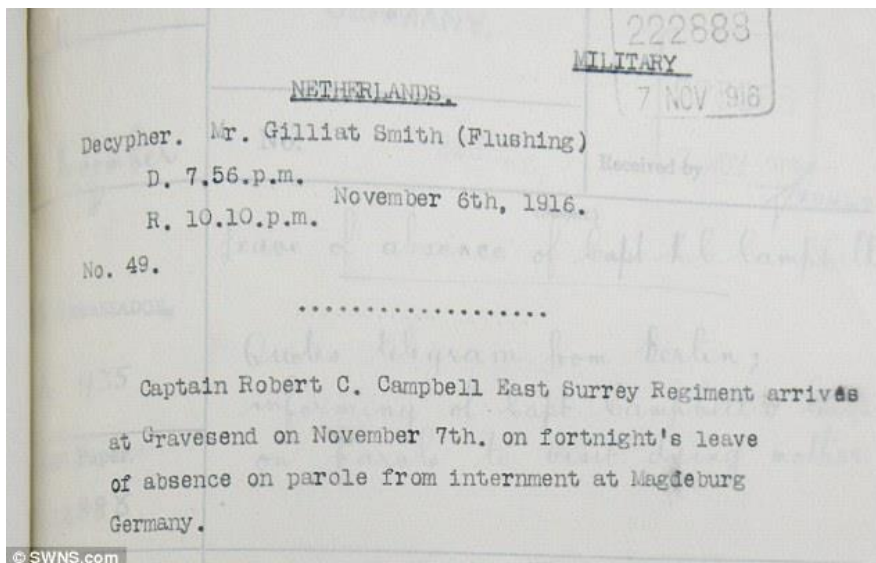
compassionate leave, including two

days travelling in each direction by

boat and train, on the proviso Capt

Campbell gave his word as a British

Army officer that he would return.



Progress: This memo from 1916 shows how Captain Campbell came via Holland on his journey home to see his mum on 'parole'

Capt Campbell reached his mother’s

bedside in Gravesend, Kent, on November 7 and spent a week with her before keeping his promise and returning to Germany. His mother died three months later in February 1917. Mr van Emden, 48, discovered the amazing story after reading correspondence between the Foreign Office and their German counterparts and it is told in his new book, *Meeting the Enemy: The Human Face of the Great War*. He said of Capt Campbell's amazing story: 'I think it is such a unique example that I don't think you can draw any parallels. In my experience, this is a one-off and is one of those things that just tickles your fancy.' After the war, Capt Campbell was released and returned to Britain where he served in the military until retiring in 1925. However, he re-joined his regiment in 1939 on the outbreak of the Second World War, serving as the Chief Observer of the Royal Observer Corps on the Isle of Wight. He survived that war unscathed and died in Britain in July 1966 aged 81.

Mr van Emden's book charts the personal contacts between Britons and Germans and their feelings towards each other as the First World War progressed.

The highest display of respect he discovered was between pilots fighting above the lines. The pilots did not carry parachutes because they were too bulky for the narrow cockpits of the day. If their aircraft caught fire, they faced the choice of burning alive or jumping out.

German pilots made it a habit to find their victims, dead or alive. If dead, they sent details of their names and burial sites across British lines. If they were found alive, they would invite them to a slap-up meal in their mess. Both sides were ruthless when fighting each other in the air but observed the rules of chivalry on the ground.

A RULER AT WAR WITH HIMSELF

Kaiser Wilhelm II, the last emperor of Germany, had a schizophrenic relationship with Britain until he was forced to abdicate in 1918. He was Queen Victoria's grandson and his mother was Victoria, Princess Royal, who married Prince Frederick of Prussia in 1858. Wilhelm developed a passion for Britain, but was furious that he was never accepted by its high society. The expansion of the German navy before the war was inspired by his love, and his mother's, for the Royal Navy. He once told his uncle Edward VII that his dream was to have a 'fleet of my own someday'. Historian David Fromkin said: 'The half-German side of him was at war with the half-English side. He was wildly jealous of the British, wanting to be British, wanting to be better at being British than the British were, while at the same time resenting them.' As the First World War dragged on, Wilhelm's influence with the military faded and he was reduced to handing out awards.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2410059/WW1-soldier-Captain-Robert-Campbell-freed-prison-camp-dying-mother-kept-promise-return.html#ixzz2dxw52tF5>

Cold War Memento Returned to Family of Fallen RCAF Navigator

Nov 04, 2013 | David Pugliese

A long lost family heirloom created in memory of Cold War navigator Flight Lieutenant Leon Rodrique "Denny" Fillion has been returned to his children – 46 years after his death. The heirloom's return to Canada marked the final leg of a journey that has brought a sense of closure to a family that never got to say goodbye. Lise and André Fillion were just eight and

two years old the day they learned their father had been killed in an aircraft training accident at Royal Air Force Station Kinloss in Scotland, where they lived. Flight Lieutenant Fillion and eight others perished when their Shackleton Mk 3.3v crashed into the North Atlantic on November 19, 1967. There were two survivors.

“I remember it as though it was yesterday,” says Lise, who now lives in Vancouver. “A knock came at the door to tell us that Daddy wasn’t coming home. It was horrible. We were whisked off to Glasgow and then to Canada and that was it. “Mom was left with four young kids under nine and no husband. Because his body was never found we had no funeral, no celebration of life, no grave, no way to say goodbye, nothing. It was a very difficult time.” Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Peter Giles, who served with Flight Lieutenant Fillion at Kinloss, remembers that day very well. “I was the one who had to tell Laura she was a widow,” recalls Lieutenant-Colonel Giles. “I brought my wife with me, which was sort of standard procedure back then and it kind of softened the blow. Still, for Laura to be so far away from home, herself an orphan from Newfoundland, with four children – she had married her Prince Charming and it all blew up. Except for having four children with Denny, her life ended there really.”

A year later, still mourning the loss of her husband, Laura Fillion, who settled in Ottawa, commissioned a painting of Canadian maple leaves in memory of Denny, which she presented to the officers’ mess at Royal Air Force Station Kinloss where it hung for many years. Sadly, when the station closed in 2011, the mess closed too. There was no record of the painting or its whereabouts; it was as though it had never existed. The Fillion children were devastated. The mystery set in motion a chain of events that would see military and civilian volunteers on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean work together with André and Lise to find the painting and bring it back to Canada. Initially, everyone thought the painting was lost forever until a member of the Royal Air Force heritage close-out team, Frank Antley, found it among some artefacts. Upon hearing the news, Lieutenant-Colonel Giles and retired Royal Air Force Wing Commander Derek Straw suggested the painting be returned as soon as possible to the Fillion family. The Royal Air Force agreed and the long journey back to Canada began.

Squadron Leader John Foster of the Royal Air Force drove the painting from Scotland to Wiltshire, England; from there, Lieutenant-Colonel Art Agnew, a Royal Canadian Air Force officer, and the Canadian Defence Liaison team at the High Commission of Canada in London began overseeing the project. Mr. David Malleson, from the United Kingdom Department of Trade and Industry, arranged for the Royal Air Force Museum to restore the painting while Patrick Shepherd from DHL International Logistics volunteered to ship the painting to Ottawa free of charge. Everyone knew they were participating in something special.

“So many things we do in our careers, and in our lives are important, but lack human impact,” says Lieutenant-Colonel Agnew. “The return of this painting was like being a part of history. It linked the United Kingdom with Canada and spanned decades. It linked families, friends and strangers over so many years. “When Mrs. Fillion commissioned this painting it was with the idea of remembering her husband – it has done so much more! It has been a privilege to be a small part of this story, and terribly satisfying to reunite it with the Fillion family.”

On Tuesday, October 15, almost 46 years to the day their father passed away, Lise and André Fillion finally received the precious painting from British High Commissioner Howard Drake during an intimate ceremony at the British High Commission in Ottawa. Commissioner Drake said the ceremony was more than just handing over a piece of “beautiful Canadian artwork to Flight Lieutenant Denny Fillion’s family but also an opportunity to reflect on the courageous sacrifice a young Canadian made in defence of his country whilst on exchange with the Royal Air Force over 40 years ago.

“Your Prime Minister Stephen Harper has stated that the Canadian economy floats on salt water and this was no different 40 years ago. To ensure that Canadian and British Merchant Fleets enjoyed freedom of navigation on the high seas and to deter the possible first strike capability of the Soviet Union, Denny [Fillion] and the brave aviators of the Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force undertook perilous sorties in all weathers to track and contain any submarine threat. “To allow them to be effective in this highly important task they also had to hone their skills in training missions against submarines of the Royal and Royal Canadian Navies. These training missions tested the very edge of what aviators call ‘the envelope’ and were highly dangerous, undertaken in the harshest of weather conditions over some of the roughest seas in the world. “It was on one such mission over the dark cold waters of the North Atlantic that the aircraft Denny was navigating, Whiskey Romeo 976, from 121 Squadron [from Royal Air Force Station] Kinloss, crashed with the tragic loss of nine lives. “Between 1951 and 1991 over 140 young men lost their lives protecting the sea lanes of the North Atlantic a sacrifice which we are all duly grateful.”

After accepting the painting, and wiping tears from his eyes, André explained what the day truly meant to him and his sister, who said the ceremony was almost like the funeral they never had. “I know my Dad is here with us today and I hope he’s smiling,” said André. “And I just want to say...’Daddy, I got your painting back. I did this so you’d always be remembered and I hope I’ve made you proud. I don’t know if having made the ultimate sacrifice in service of your Queen and country makes you a hero but you’ve always been a hero to me. Je t’aime Papa.” The painting now hangs in André’s home in Ottawa. He hopes to retire in Comox, British Columbia, home of his father’s last Canadian posting, and donate the painting to the officers’ mess there.

Lieutenant-Colonel Giles, known as “Uncle Pete” to André and Lise, his wife, Joy, and their four children became very close family friends with the Fillions, even inviting André to live with them in Germany during one of Lieutenant-Colonel Giles’ European tours. Lieutenant-Colonel Giles flew in for the ceremony from his home in Comox.

The Shackleton crew

In addition to Flight Lieutenant Fillion, the others who died in the crash were Squadron Leader Brian Campbell Letchford, Flight Lieutenant Frank Raymond Hollins, Flight Lieutenant Edward Thomas Spicer, Flight Lieutenant Peter John Stowell, Flying Officer Keith Robert Gordon, Flight Sergeant John Francis Gent and Sergeant Arthur Brown. The normal crew number was on a Shackleton was 10, but there was also a naval

officer onboard, Lieutenant-Commander Christopher Brian Schofield. Sergeant E. Bradshaw and Sergeant R.M. Collins survived the crash and were picked up by Her Majesty's Ship Brighton.



An Avro Shackleton at the South African Air Force Museum - note the contra-rotating propellers, tricycle undercarriage and nose armament

15 Fd Band - With Glowing Hearts Concert Series

The 2013 Remembrance Week Concert '*With Glowing Hearts*' is set. With a program built on Celtic and Latin melodies and some unexpected pop tunes, it is sure to be a hit. This year, the band will only present one concert in November. The change of command for 39 CBG falls on November 8th, so a planned concert at the Richmond Gateway Theatre has been postponed to the new year. A new date has yet to be set, but as soon as we have decided we'll let you know when to buy your tickets.

On November 9th, the band will debut at the Franz Wilhelmssen Hall in the Millennium Place in Whistler, BC. We are excited to extend our concert series to this community and hope our new partnership with the Whistler Arts Council will flourish.

Tickets will be available from band members, online and at the venues. **(see poster)**

WW1 Graves

I'm a World War 1 buff and researcher living in the Ypres Salient in Belgium. Very often I roam the Military Cemeteries to take pictures of headstones requested by relatives of soldiers of Great Britain and the Commonwealth Forces who were killed or died in Flanders Fields. For the moment I'm doing a lot of research for Australians, New Zealanders, Irish, Canadians, South Africans and British to locate their family members who were killed during the Great War in Belgium or France.

For some examples , please , look at my website www.ypres-salient.com

If you have any relative who fought in my country or France during the WW1, I would be glad the locate him and send you a picture of his headstone , cemetery and an account of his "Footsteps" . **This is free of charge.**

Kind regards
Johan Moors

Who is it?

Last Week.



This is a group of Regimental Officers at the 1952 New Year's Party in the Mess. They are sitting on one of the white leather couches the Mess had back in those days and the picture was taken in front of the folding doors that divided the main lecture room, which was being used as an anti-room and for taking pictures.

Right rear, in No 1 Dress, is Les Strike, beside him is Mike Ellis, on the couch is (l-r) Mrs Ellis, Mrs Keen, Bob Keen (who was a Seaforth but was on strength of the Regiment), Mrs Whittles and

Padre Whittles. Les, who gave us the picture, says his wife had just delivered their first son, Nigel, and was still in VGH,

This Week's picture



"We are departing from our usual format this week by including a photo of a monochrome painting by the artist Orville Fisher (1911-1999). Cameras were forbidden for soldiers during both world wars, but the government engaged artists and official photographers to record events. As a result, most photos of this regiment and its antecedents from the war are officially

posed shots. This painting, however, captures a moment in time as well, or better, than a photograph.

One can see from the guns, 3.7inch anti-aircraft guns that the painting is not of 15 Coast Brigade. It is, however, relevant to the current regiment. The questions are: what unit is depicted and where was it located at the time of this painting. Also, if anyone knows why the helmets appear to be US M1s rather than our own Mk IIs, do let us know. Answers and educated guesses to the editor or the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net))"

John Donald Redmond, LC, BA, MED.

Assistant Curator 15 Field Regiment, RCA, Museum and Archives

From the 'Punitary'

The museum of executions seemed to favour the crucifixion method – but then, I only viewed a small cross section of the exhibits.

Murphy's Laws

The probability of a young man meeting a desirable and receptive young female increases by pyramidal progression when he is already in the company of (1) a date, (2) his wife (3) a better looking and richer male friend.

Quotable Quotes

The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph! What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress and grow brave by reflection. "Tis the business of little minds to shrink; but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death." - *Thomas Paine*



**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

The "Ode of Remembrance" is an ode taken from [Laurence Binyon's](#) poem "[For the Fallen](#)", which was first published in The Times in September 1914.