

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Aug 6, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15th Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in.

Mrs Lum is leaving on hewr scheduled vacation on Thursday. Last lunch tomorrow-Aug 7th and resume on Sept 4th. NO LUNCHES on Aug 14, 21 or 28th.

Atlantic wall in Denmark

Three Nazi bunkers on a beach have been uncovered by violent storms off the Danish coast, providing a store of material for history buffs and military archaeologists. The bunkers were found in practically the same condition as they were on the day the last Nazi soldiers left them, down to the tobacco in one trooper's pipe and a half-finished bottle of schnapps This bunker was entombed under the sand dunes until a violent storm swept away the sands three months ago.



The bunkers had not been touched since the war. The bunkers were three of 7,000 built by the Germans as part of Hitler's 'Atlantic Wall' from Norway to the south of France. But while the vast majority were almost immediately looted or destroyed, these three have been entombed under the sand dunes of a remote beach near the town of Houvig since

1945. They were uncovered only because recent storms sent giant waves cascading over them, sweeping away the sand and exposing glimpses of the cement and iron structures.



Stamps of the German Eagle of Adolf Hitler and the Swastika were also retrieved.

They were located by two nine-year-old boys on holiday with their parents, who then informed the authorities.

Archaeologists were able to carefully force a way in, and were astounded at what they found. "What's so fantastic is

that we found them completely furnished with beds, chairs, tables, communication systems and the personal effects of the soldiers who lived inside," says Jens Andersen, the curator of the Hanstholm museum.



The discovery of the fully-furnished bunkers was 'unique in Europe,' said Bent Anthonisen, a Danish expert on European bunkers. And a third expert, Tommy Cassoe, enthused: "It was like entering the heart of a pyramid with mummies all around. What I saw blew me away: it was as if the German soldiers had left only yesterday."

The team working with Cassoe emptied the structures - within a few days - of boots, undergarments, socks, military stripes, mustard and aquavit bottles, books, inkpots, stamps featuring Hitler, medicines, soda bottles, keys, hammers and other objects. All of the objects from the shelters have been taken to the conservation centre at Oelgod museum, some 20 miles from the beach to be examined.

The centre's German curator, Gert Nebrich, judged the find "very interesting because it is so rare. We don't expect contemporary objects like these to be so well preserved. Maybe it's because they were kept for 60 years in the cold and dark like in a big vacuum," he said, carefully showing four stamps featuring Hitler's image and the German eagle, found in one bunker. The Germans left the bunkers in May 1945 after the Nazi surrender.

Historical records show that Gerhard Saalfed was a 17-year-old soldier with the German army when he arrived at the bunker in January 1945. Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945, but it wasn't until two days later that he and his fellow soldiers left their remote station.

They shut the steel doors of the bunker behind them on their remote beach and went to the nearest town ten miles away to surrender. "The remote location of the bunkers and the drifting sands that covered them saved them from being ransacked," said Cassoe.

'Wait For Me, Daddy': Iconic Second World War photo being recreated in bronze to stand in BC city

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Claude P. Dettloff / The Vancouver Province

Five-year-old Warren Bernard escapes mother Bernice's grasp on Oct. 1, 1940 to reach for his father Jack as the British Columbia Regiment marches down 8th Street in New Westminster during its deployment. The famous photo Wait for me, Daddy, is to be cast as a bronze memorial that will be erected in the same location.

NEW WESTMINSTER, BC— An iconic photograph of a child breaking from his mother's grasp nearly 73 years ago to reach for his uniformed father marching off to war is to be cast as a bronze memorial.

Artists Veronica and Edwin Dam de Nogales have been selected to create a memorial based on the

photograph Wait For Me, Daddy, taken by Vancouver Province photographer Claude P. Dettloff on Oct. 1, 1940, as the British Columbia Regiment marches down a hill on 8th Street in New Westminster.

Just weeks after the picture was taken, the photo was featured in Life Magazine and has since become the second-most requested picture in Canada's National Archives. The boy in the photograph was five-year-old Warren "Whitey" Bernard, straining to reach his father Jack as the regiment shipped out to a secret destination after months of preparation following Canada's declaration of war against the German Reich on September 10, 1939.

The destination lay three hours away, Nanaimo, where the regiment continued to prepare for its role in World War II until it shipped out to France and the Netherlands. Private Jack Bernard survived the fighting and returned to New Westminster, where Dettloff photographed the reunion. Eventually, Jack and Bernice divorced. Whitey became the mayor of Tofino and is looking forward to seeing the bronze memorial. The cast rendition of the famed shot will be placed in New Westminster's Hyack Square, in almost the exact spot where the picture was taken near the intersection of 8th and Columbia streets.

The artists, whose work includes the Voice of the Land monument honouring poet Al Purdy at the Ontario Legislature, said they were intrigued not only by the powerful image, but with the location. "Hyack Square seems to be a crossroads of sorts," they told the New Westminister News Leader. "It stands with one foot in the past and one foot lunging into the future. This



presents itself as an opportunity to create a powerful work which not only allows people to look back and remember, but also to look forward with hope."

Tyler Anderson / National Post. Husband-and-wife artists Veronica and Edwin Dam de Nogales, who created a statue of poet Al Purdy installed at Queens Park in Toronto, have been selected by the City of New Westminister to render Wait for me, Daddy as a bronze memorial.

The memorial, which the couple is creating at their studio in Barcelona, is to be unveiled in October 2014. The City of New Westminister, which commissioned the memorial, is also seeking a National Historic Site designation and plans a re-enactment of the soldiers' march in 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Canada Post has plans to issue a Wait For Me, Daddy commemorative stamp.

Exercises, Training to Posture NATO for Future Challenges

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5, 2013 - Sharpened by the past decade of combat operations, NATO forces are launching an ambitious effort to build on that foundation and to enhance the capabilities of the NATO Response Force, the top U.S. and NATO commander reported. "After more than 10 years of experience fighting together in Afghanistan, we have achieved an unprecedented level of cohesiveness among allies and partners," Air Force Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander for Europe and commander of U.S. European Command, said in his new blog posting.

"We are operating as a seamless integrated team right now, and we aim to maintain this level of cohesion ... by intensifying our education, training and exercises across the air, land and sea domains," he said. Breedlove, who presided at Aug. 2 ceremonies during which Air Force Gen. Frank Gorenc assumed command of Allied Air Command, U.S. Air Forces Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa, as well as directorship of the Joint Air Power Competence Center, called air power a key pillar of NATO's deterrence. Several upcoming exercises will take the integration demonstrated during Operation Unified Protector in Libya to the next level, with a goal of

ensuring the units and Headquarters Air Command are prepared to assume the NATO Response Force mission in 2014, Breedlove reported.

The first of them, Exercise Brilliant Arrow, will kick off later this month in central Norway. Forty fighter aircraft, two airborne early warning platforms and about 800 participants will face a tough, realistic scenario that includes air defense units on the ground, he said.

Breedlove emphasized the importance of ensuring that air power remains ready and capable despite current economic uncertainties. This will be critical, he said, to prepare for the future security environment that will require NATO's airpower to adapt to the speed and unpredictability of strategic and technological developments. The general also underscored the continued importance of NATO's airborne early warning and surveillance and air policing missions and their peacetime role in preserving the integrity of NATO European airspace and safeguarding NATO nations from air attacks.

"But airpower is just one part of the NATO team. We must also train hard on the land and the sea," Breedlove said.

Exercise Brilliant Mariner, to begin in late September, will focus on training and certifying the readiness of maritime forces for their NATO Response Force rotation, he reported.

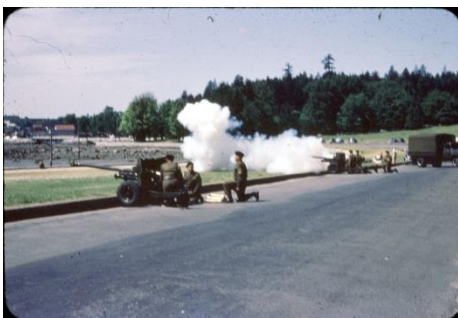
On land, Special Forces are preparing for the Exercise Brilliant Sword in Italy in October. The following month, several alliance nations, including the Baltic states and Poland, will participate in Exercise Steadfast Jazz. That exercise will bring together air, land, maritime and Special Forces components, as well as the headquarters staff from Joint Force Command Brunssum, which will lead NATO joint operations next year.

Breedlove emphasized the importance of exercises to NATO readiness.

"My aim is to make sure that our NRF deployable headquarters and troops are ready to deal with any situation in any environment," he said. "The NRF and associated training is essential in maintaining and enhancing the ability of forces from across the alliance to work together." That, Breedlove emphasized, "will be increasingly important as our mission in Afghanistan winds down and we prepare to meet future challenges."

"Who Is That?"

Last week's photo created a lot of discussion, the location is easy: Stanley Park, just east of HMCS Discovery, where 15 Fd still fires most of the salutes through the year. The big question was, why were 6prs being used? We had no knowledge of any Anti-Tank unit ever being set up in the lower mainland or BC.



It turns out that the 62nd AT Bty was set up on Vancouver Island after WW2 and issued 6pdrs. The Bty was sent to the SOB in 1954, personnel were absorbed by the Cdn Scottish and the 6prs went back to war stocks in the Army Ordinance Depot

in N Vancouver. On the Victoria Day weekend in 1956, 15 Fd went over to Albert Head on a live fire exercise with all serviceable guns and were not available to fire the Victoria Day Salute. The 43MAA was then tasked to do the salute and, as a salute couldn't be fired with AA guns, were issued the 6prs from the AOD.

"Here is your Quiz Photo No 7, and a big thanks to all who are participating in this activity. It helps all of us to remember so that those who served in the past are not forgotten.



This one is again an unaccessioned photo from the collection of Vic Stevenson. The original negative is missing, so the quality of the print is all we have to work with. The three gentlemen are in front of a very well-stocked bar, and are dressed in a manner that is timeless, with the tall chap, who appears anonymously in a

few other photos, in an artillery blazer. The man on the left also has a blazer badge, which might be an RCA one. The fellow on the right could be wearing a lounge suit, if not a blazer.

So, do you recognize these men? Are you or your uncle one of them? Answers, as always, to John Redmond - [johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)

From the 'Punitary'

Sign posted in a toy store:- Please don't feed the animals, they are already stuffed.

Murphy's Laws

The leak in the roof is never in the same place as the drip.

Quotable Quotes

The marvellous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome. The hilltop hour would not be half so wonderful if there were no dark valleys to traverse. - *Helen Keller*