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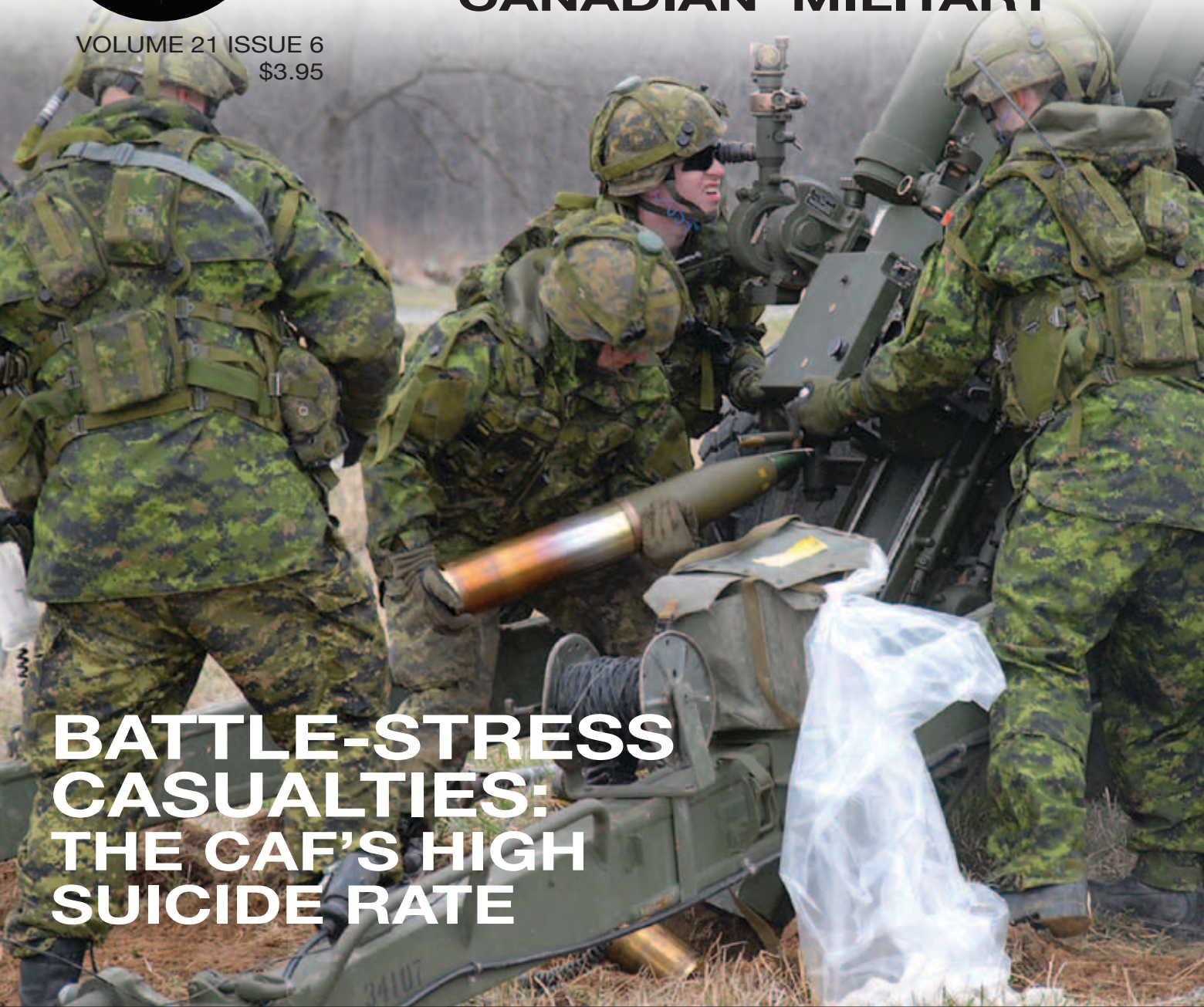
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Scott Taylor
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ON TARGET

Harper's war with words over Ukraine

PRIME MINISTER HARPER has continued to wage his war of words against Russian President Putin, assisted by the usual media stooges who seem intent on beating war drums rather than producing objective reporting. A June 4 headline in *The Globe and Mail* proclaimed, "Harper ramps up Canada's NATO forces to combat Putin's 'menace.'" That seems like pretty heady stuff until you read through the entire article to realize the actual announcement involved Canada sending 75 soldiers to attend the annual United States-led Exercise SABER STRIKE in Poland.

This is in addition to the six CF-18 fighter planes lovingly dubbed "Canada's six-pack" by the tub-thumpers that were sent to Campia Turzii air base in Romania on April 29. Despite the muscular-sounding nickname, this handful of aging aircraft is deployed without munitions and with a mandate to conduct a training exercise with the Romanian air force. While it is true that they are now based closer to Russia than they were in CFB Bagotville, they are still nowhere close to the current crisis in eastern Ukraine.

Likewise, the government's claim that HMCS *Regina* has been deployed in response to Putin's "menace" and "expansionism" also requires a little more media scrutiny. As a Halifax-class patrol frigate, *Regina* is primarily an anti-submarine vessel with a limited surface-to-air self-defence capability. She is presently sailing about in the eastern Mediterranean Sea some 1,500 kilometres from the Crimean Peninsula, which is in the Black Sea. To claim that the 200-member ship's

company is bolstering NATO's hand in the showdown with Putin is absurd.

Also unquestioned by media intent on portraying Harper as some sort of WWE loud-mouthed buffoon were his attacks against Putin. At a press conference in Warsaw last Thursday, Harper decried the Russian president. "The menace, the expansionism he represents — I think it's a long-term menace," stated Harper. While it is a fact that during the internal strike in Ukraine, Putin staged a virtually bloodless annexation of the Crimea, it is also a fact that Crimea houses Russia's Black Sea Fleet, which has its own infrastructure on land leased from Ukraine through to the year 2042.

On the NATO side of the ledger, in signing the Glasnost treaty with then President Mikhail Gorbachev in the 1980s, it was promised that in the wake of the Soviet Union's dissolution there would be no eastern expansion of the military alliance. With Russia powerless to prevent it, NATO immediately broke that promise and began an immediate and continuous eastward expansion. Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, and Slovakia are all former Warsaw Pact countries that are now full-fledged members of the NATO team.

The fact that NATO has been wooing Ukraine and Georgia to join their club has been a key element in heightening the tensions with Russia. This issue is now on Russia's doorstep with strategic military facilities, such as the naval base

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Gunner Keely Holm, MBdr Rob Gibson, MBdr Kyle Thomson and MBdr Brendan Clark load an artillery piece. (MCP/L GAYLE WILSON, 37 CBG, DND)

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THANK YOU READERS!



Thanks to the generous donations from Esprit de Corps readers and others, ICROSS Canada is able to send Izzy Dolls and much-needed supplies to African countries. (ICROSS CANADA)

THANKS FOR PUBLISHING your article “Soldier to Saint” (Volume 21, Issue 4). It has made a huge difference in support for our charity, ICROSS Canada. Small donations are being received with an increased regularity enclosed with Izzy Dolls and boomer caps from veterans who read *Esprit de Corps*. The container, which is on its way to Tanzania, was purchased mainly by donations from *Esprit de Corps* readers all from across this great nation. Thanks again for your assistance and support.

*William Willbond
Saanichton, B.C.*

CAF MUST FIX GRIEVANCE SYSTEM!

After serving over 24 years in the CAF, I retired as a warrant officer in 2013. Immedi-

ately prior to my release, I served abroad on an accompanied posting. During this posting I was assured by the director of Compensation and Benefits Administration (DCBA), who approved my rental agreement, that my monthly rent and compound fees would be paid for in full. However, almost two years afterwards I was informed by Canadian Forces Support Unit Europe (CFSU(E)) that compound fees had been incorrectly accounted for.

As a result, although I followed every step that was required by the CFSU (E) Housing Officer in securing my accommodations, I was now told that I had to repay the Crown a considerable amount of money (\$8,000+) and would be out of pocket additional funds on a monthly basis for another year of my four-year tour.

I am writing you to express my total and utter frustration with DND and more particularly the CAF grievance process which so far has totally failed to address my concerns.

I submitted a grievance in September 2010, which CFSU(E) acknowledged that they had erred in administering my file and accepted full responsibility for their wrongdoing. However, when it finally reached the initial authority (IA) at NDHQ, they not only didn't support my grievance but authorized the staff to recoup an additional \$18,000 from my pay account (3/4 of my severance pay) based on errors DCBA had committed.

How can a grievance system be set up where a response from the IA can be as weak as: “the administering of the compounds fees are unfortunate” and with that have the authority to take additional funds when the lengthy grievance process has not

run its course and no official decision has been rendered yet by the CDS?

The findings and recommendations was released from the former Grievance Board in May 2013, and my grievance was forwarded to the Director General Canadian Forces Grievance Authority (DGCFGA) level where it sat in their basket for almost one full year before anyone in their office took any action. The response from DGCFGA on why it took so long has been a litany of excuses none the more popular than “well, we have other files that are even older than yours.” It's a shame that they would assert such a claim to justify their reasoning for the delay. There is something definitely wrong with the system if my file, which is quickly approaching four-years old, is sitting untouched for close to a year because there are older grievances than mine.

I am currently living outside the country. It has been disappointing, to say the least, the lack of support and assistance that we have received from DND and the very broken CAF Grievance System. I truly wish we had a union to go to. I strongly feel that there are several valid options that DND appears disinterested in pursuing with regard to my case, and on a whole, the grievance process is broken with insufficient analysts to cover the numerous grievances being one of its many failures. Yes my grievance is fast approaching four years and yet I have absolutely no faith that it will be settled any time soon.

I couldn't agree more with the several articles written by Colonel Drapeau and Joshua Juneau about a failed CAF leadership which permits a broken and dysfunctional grievance system which unfairly burdens military



Murray Campbell Edwards (left) and Billy Willbond (right) proudly served with the Queen's Own Regiment. (QOR OF CANADA)

families. The time has indeed come for the creation of a military professional association. If it works in countries such as Germany, Switzerland, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland and Belgium, CAF members could benefit from such a presence to ensure that their basic right to grieve is respected by the CAF brass. At present, it is clearly not.

Glen Cyr

SINGLE VS. DOUBLE ENGINE

It seems we have many intellectual lightweights in high places and we all pay the consequences. It is interesting that these same people have recently discovered Canada is a very large country with a wide range of flight challenges. Maybe a twin-engine aircraft would be safer. They should have noticed this ten years ago. Maybe they read too much promotional material from the single engine guys and they took a flight of fancy.

Gerald Langille

A NEAT STORY IDEA

Major Murray Edwards is an old soldier in his late 90s recovering from a stroke and doing rehab on the 7th floor of Victoria General Hospital as we speak. He recently received the Legion of Honour from France. Major Edwards has led a very interesting life in a dangerous field and holds the presidential citation received from the U.S. president for the Canadian victory at the Battle of Kap'young during the Korean War.

He is also the Victoria director of ICROSS Canada, and is an active humanitarian and a treasure to our community. He is a highly decorated peacekeeper, B.C. province director of Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping (CAVUNP),

and is the vice-president of the Mark Isfeld Memorial Chapter of CAVUNP.

Among many other things, Major Edwards is a WWII vet, a Korean War vet and an advocate for wounded soldiers and clawed-back elderly working behind the Canadian scene. The Legion of Honour holds the same weight on the world stage as the Order of Canada.

It might well behoove a member of your staff to interview this fine officer and gentleman who stands out in the greater Victoria area as a citizen of renown. He was a member of the Queens Own Rifles of Canada in WWII, promoted to corporal and sergeant, and then commissioned from the ranks to teach young officers front line tactics.

In Korea, he was a PPCLI P1 commander and the battalion field quartermaster. He was a jump coy commander and a NATO 4CIBG BAOR company commander with the Patricias during the Cold War. He was the first Canadian officer in Cyprus during 1964; he served in Damascus, Syria, Golan Heights and Jerusalem.

Married to an Artillery bombardier, he and his wife Maury retired to Victoria after a lifetime of service to Canada. Maury is buried at God's Little Acre in Esquimalt. An interview about Murray's life would make a great newspaper article, if not a book.

*William Willbond
Saanichton, B.C.*

CORRECTION: A caption appearing in the Volume 21 Issue 4 feature "CANSEC 2014" stated that Irving Shipyards would be building Canada's Joint Support Ships HMCS *Chateauguay* and *Queenston*. The contract was actually given to Vancouver Shipyards. We apologize for the error. 🍁

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▶ NSPS REPORT CARD

Canada's National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy underway

by David Pugliese



THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ambitious National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS) could be sailing into unpredictable seas but, for the time being, it is largely still on course, says one of the Department of National Defence's top procurement specialists.



Canadian Halifax-class frigate HMCS Regina sails with two American Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigates off the west coast of Vancouver Island during Exercise TRIDENT FURY 2007. The National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy will provide for the future re-equipping of the Royal Canadian Navy, including replacements for the Halifax-class frigates. (MCpl Robert Bottrill, DND)

Ian Mack, director general of Major Project Delivery, provided an update on the strategy to industry representatives in April. It was largely positive, with Mack noting that there has been extensive consultation with the defence and maritime industry, extensive use of third party reviews, and better teamwork between federal departments on the NSPS.

Mack acknowledged that the NSPS was in unpredictable seas, but he pointed out that it is still largely on course.

Other DND and Royal Canadian Navy representatives noted that approval for NSPS projects has been a challenge, and while all the projects are late, none are over budget.

The DND procurement specialists, as well as industry representatives attending the CANSEC 2014 defence trade show in May, point out that the NSPS is working towards its first build contract approval, expected sometime in January 2015, for the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships (AOPS).

NSPS is the largest maritime building program since the Second World War and represents potentially a high volume of work for a number of companies.

Irving Shipbuilding has been selected by the government to construct 21 combat vessels under NSPS, while Seaspan will build the non-combat vessel work package of seven vessels in total. These include ships for both the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Coast Guard.

Irving's capabilities are being expanded in preparation for its major role in NSPS. It is in the midst of its \$300-million modernization of its Halifax yard; contracts for more than half of that \$300-million have already been awarded.

Company officials say they hope to start cutting steel on the Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships sometime in 2015, with delivery of the first vessel in 2018.



Seaspan is continuing with its \$200-million upgrade to its North Vancouver shipyard. On February 20, Seaspan's new 300-tonne Gantry Crane arrived at its Vancouver Shipyards. The crane will be the largest Gantry Crane in Canada — measuring 80 metres in height and spanning 76 metres wide. Company officials said it is a significant milestone in its NSPS-driven shipyard modernization project.

The shipyard's modernization is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2014, providing a new state-of-the-art facility that will allow Seaspan to deliver the non-combat vessels under NSPS, company officials have noted.

"The transformation of Vancouver Shipyards has been incredible as we continue to build a world-class shipbuilding and ship repair centre of excellence on the West Coast," Brian Carter, president of Seaspan Shipyards said as he welcomed the arrival of the crane.

Due to its massive size, company officials said the crane was shipped in three large pieces — the fixed leg, hinged leg and main girder — along with thousands of smaller components from China via a deep-sea ship to Fraser Surrey Docks, before being offloaded and transported to Seaspan's North Vancouver location.

Assembly, hook-up, testing and commissioning of the crane are expected to be soon completed.

Canada has selected the German Navy's Berlin-class design for its Joint Support Ship (JSS) fleet to be built by Seaspan.

ABOVE RIGHT: The RCN's Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship is meant to be a multi-season vessel that is capable of dealing with Arctic summer ice, but will likely spend most of its time in temperate waters. The National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy defines AOPS as a warship, but its armament will be very light. Irving Shipbuilding will build the vessel and expects to begin cutting steel in 2015. Initially, AOPS was said to be a close derivative of the Norwegian Coast Guard's KV Svalbard (pictured).

“Further to our ongoing successful implementation of the Halifax-class frigates IPMS upgrade, we are very pleased to be selected for this new and very important Royal Canadian Navy project ...”

This same company will also be working on the Canadian Coast Guard’s Polar-class icebreaker, but JSS will come first. Construction on the new Joint Support Ships is expected to begin in 2016.

The Canadian government’s decision to proceed with the construction of the JSS first will mean that the arrival of the new icebreaker will be somewhat delayed. That vessel, to be called CCGS *John G. Diefenbaker*, should be ready by 2022.

While construction of the various ships is important to the shipbuilding industry and the Royal Canadian Navy, firms see much of the value-added work from NSPS to be centred on the equipment and systems to be installed on the new fleets.

Irving has teamed with Lockheed Martin Canada for the Arctic/Offshore Patrol Ships while Seaspan is with Thales Canada for all its non-combat vessels.

Contracts for onboard equipment for AOPS are already being awarded.

In March, L-3 MAPPS announced it had been selected by Lockheed Martin Canada to support the design activity of the Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS) for AOPS. Under an initial contract, L-3 MAPPS, with over 250 employees in Montreal, Quebec, will design the IPMS subsystem for the new vessels, the company noted.

“Further to our ongoing successful implementation of the Halifax-class frigates IPMS upgrade, we are very pleased to be selected for this new and very important Royal Canadian Navy project,” Rangesh Kasturi, vice president of marketing & sales for L-3 MAPPS, said in a statement. “Together with the RCN, we pioneered the concept of the IPMS 30 years ago and became a global leader with this Canadian technology. Today, we look forward to designing the next generation of innovative IPMS subsystems for the Royal Canadian Navy’s newest class of ships.”

The L-3 MAPPS IPMS provides comprehensive monitoring and control of the ship’s propulsion, electrical, ancillary, auxiliary and damage control machinery systems.

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ABOVE RIGHT: An aerial view of the new facilities at Vancouver Shipyards, including *Hiyi Skwáyel* (pronounced *hee-yay sk-why-el* — the Squamish language translation of “Big Blue”), the name given to Seaspan’s recently installed 300-tonne permanent Gantry crane. Built as part of Seaspan’s modernization project, the crane measures 80 metres high and 76 metres wide and is positioned over the shipyard’s erection berth. (HEATH MOFFATT PHOTOGRAPHY)

Health Monitoring System and CCTV, as well as integration with the ship’s combat management and navigation systems, the IPMS allows the crew to safely and effectively operate the ship for all mission requirements, according to the firm. L-3 MAPPS’ technology is used by 20 navies worldwide and is installed on most of the RCN’s major warships and submarines.

L-3 Communication Systems-East was also selected by Lockheed Martin Canada to support the design activity of the integrated communications subsystems for AOPS. Under an initial contract, L-3 CS-East will design the interior and exterior communications subsystems for the new vessels.

“The interior and exterior communications subsystem is critical to the operation of AOPS, allowing seamless communications from the rugged environment of Canada’s far northern waters to the busy coastal regions,” Peter Gartenburg, vice president of L-3 Canada Operations, noted in a statement.

AOPS will also mean work for OSI Maritime Systems Ltd. of Burnaby, British Columbia. In February, the company announced it had been selected by Lockheed Martin Canada to support the design activity of the bridge and navigation capabilities for AOPS.

The integrated bridge and navigation system capabilities are equally critical to the operation, allowing enhanced situational awareness and safe navigation in Canada’s Arctic waters, the firm noted.

Other companies have their eye on the eventual in-service support (ISS) contracts that will be needed to support NSPS vessels.

In October, Babcock Canada Inc. signed a five-year teaming agreement with Chantier Davie Canada Inc. (Davie). The agreement will see the two companies working together on future maritime support activities within Canada, exploiting their joint



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“The combined value of those two ISS contracts will potentially be worth \$5 billion, according to Ian Mack. He expects a request for proposals to be released in the spring of 2015, with a contract awarded sometime in 2017.”



skills, with key interest centred on the two ISS contracts, one for the Joint Support Ships, the other for AOPS.

Davie, the largest and highest-capacity shipyard in Canada, will contribute shipbuilding and repair facilities and related expertise, while Babcock will provide its marine engineering expertise and experience in managing federal government contracts as well as its group expertise as one of the world’s leading naval solutions providers, the two firms point out.

“The partnership we put in place with Chantier Davie has been primarily to focus on the Coast Guard work and that’s moving ahead quite nicely,” Gordon Fleming, Babcock Canada’s Chief Operating Officer said. “We’re in the middle of putting in tenders for some of the Coast Guard ships that are coming out for refit now.”

For instance, in April the federal government announced it had awarded a \$6.5 million contract to Babcock Canada Inc. for critical refit work for Canadian Coast Guard ship *Louis S. St-Laurent*. The shipyard portion of the work will be carried out by Chantier Davie Canada Inc., as a sub-contractor to Babcock Canada. The *Louis S. St-Laurent* is Canada’s largest and heaviest icebreaker.

The partners plan to soon turn their attention to the ISS portion of two NSPS projects. “We’re also very interested in the AOPS

ABOVE: HMCS Regina’s executive officer, Lieutenant Commander Gordon Roy, oversees bridge operations as the ship departs Crete, Greece, while on Operation REASSURANCE in the Mediterranean Sea. HMCS Regina, a Halifax-class frigate that has been in service since 1993, underwent an upgrade of its Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), which provides comprehensive monitoring and control of the ship’s propulsion, electrical, ancillary, auxiliary and damage control machinery systems. L-3 MAPPS has been selected to support the design activity of the Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS) for AOPS. (CPL MICHAEL BASTIEN, MARPAC IMAGING SERVICES)

and Joint Support Ship for the in-service support contracts that we expect out in a year to 18 months,” Fleming said.

The combined value of those two ISS contracts will potentially be worth \$5 billion, according to Ian Mack. He expects a request for proposals to be released in the spring of 2015, with a contract awarded sometime in 2017.

Much further down the line will be an ISS contract for the Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) fleet.

While Babcock has expressed its interest in supporting the new CSC, French shipbuilder DCNS says it has the right design for those vessels. It is trying to interest Canada in the French multi-missions frigate (FREMM) as a design for the proposed Canadian Surface Combatant.

The FREMM Aquitaine-class can respond to all kinds of threats, whether from land, sea, or air, company officials note. With 12 frigates already on order, DCNS has the largest naval program underway in Europe and believes the Aquitaine class would offer Canada a proven off-the-shelf design.

In April, DCNS incorporated a wholly owned Canadian subsidiary, which is intended to develop naval engineering and industrial partnerships in the country. DCNS Technologies Canada Inc., with headquarters in Ottawa, represents the first step towards the creation of the Naval Systems Integration Center, according to the firm. That centre was announced by Patrick Boissier, the consortium’s chairman, during his November 2013 initiative to establish long-term partnerships in Canada.

DCNS Technologies Canada Inc. will lead the design of the Canadian version of FREMM frigate.

One of the more interesting issues associated with NSPS surfaced in late May with the bold move by Davie to try to take the building of the new Polar-class icebreaker away from Seaspan.

According to Davie, unlike Seaspan, it can start work on the icebreaker immediately and could deliver the vessel in two years. By starting construction now, instead of after the construction of AOPS, Davie says it would be able to keep to the original \$720 million cost estimate for the icebreaker.

Davie made the offer to the federal government six months ago, but only went public with it just before the CANSEC 2014 defence and security trade show in Ottawa.

Alex Vicefield, chief executive officer of Inoce, the consortium which owns Davie, told the CBC that the Quebec shipyard does not need any upgrades to build the icebreaker.

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▶ RELEASE THE CRAZIES:

In the wake of Afghanistan, many CAF members have been released from service, suffering from unseen wounds. DND's inability to follow up means many are left feeling alone — and angry at the system.

by Jason McNaught

DOZENS OF THE CAF'S most damaged soldiers are released from the military each year, left to their own devices as civilians, trying to make it in a world without structure, routine, or purpose.



*As the sun begins to set, a Canadian Armed Forces combat engineer walks through fields in Afghanistan, fearful that an explosive might go off at any time, taking a part or all of him. The stress of combat and being in dangerous situations can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder and other non-visible wounds.
(Corporal Shilo Adamson, Canadian Forces Combat Camera, DND)*

They call nearly every week. You pick the receiver up and aren't really sure what you are going to get at the other end of the line. One simply said — rather cryptically — “I'm coming to Ottawa, and I'm going to start a war.” And then we never heard from him again.

But mostly, when they get you on the phone, the best you can do is listen. Because you don't really get a chance to say anything after “Hello.” They've been waiting for a human on the other end of the line, and when they finally get one, it all just comes out at once like the bursting of a giant dam of frustration and sadness and anger rushing through the receiver. You grab bits and pieces of information — the flotsam large enough to hold onto — and as the torrent keeps coming, you keep knitting these tiny, disjointed fragments together, trying to make sense of it. But sometimes it's too late for these guys. Sometimes they don't make much sense at all.

Once a soldier has been discharged from the Canadian Armed Forces, they are no longer a member of the Department of National Defence and aren't included in statistical research or databases. Specifically, DND doesn't keep track of the number of soldiers who commit suicide after their release from the military. After all, they're civilians.

What the department will tell us is that 183 active duty soldiers took their own lives between 2002 and 2014 — more than were killed in combat in Afghanistan during Canada's 13-year mission. By its own admission, DND explains that this is “not surprising as CF personnel are a screened employed population and would be expected to have lower rates of suicide as well as lower rates of other medical problems.” That comment highlights the real problem. As much as the CAF would like to appear in the public eye as committed to the well-being of its soldiers, what do you do for a young man or woman in the infantry that's come forward with serious mental health issues? You certainly don't put a gun in their hand.



That's what makes this a very sensitive issue. Once a soldier is broken, his or her mental wounds may never heal. DND will pay for their cocktail of prescription medications, cover expenses for counselling, transportation, medical bills, etc., but out of the 4,500 soldiers that leave the Forces each year, 1,700 of them won't be doing it of their own accord. Some are discharged outright, others make a pit stop at the beleaguered Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU), but eventually, a broken soldier will be freed into a world that, for some, will represent the polar opposite of their time in uniform: an environment with no structure, no support, and no purpose. And it's here where some of them may choose to take their own lives.

That's what makes DND's official suicide rates in the CAF so ... well, misleading. They're mandated to screen out the soldiers that pose the highest mental health risks through the “universality of service” rule, and then make statements designed to convince the general public that they don't have a suicide problem, going so far as to add that they can find “no consistent relationship ... between deployment and the risk of suicide in the CAF.”

The 183 soldiers that took their lives in uniform either didn't show up on DND's radar, or were in JPSU and hadn't been transitioned out before they did it. That means Trooper Stephan Jankowski, who committed suicide shortly after being discharged from the Army by gulping down the medication used to treat his PTSD, won't be included in the CAF suicide rate. Neither will Corporal Leona MacEachern. She retired from the military after suffering from serious mental wounds and ended her life by driving her car into an oncoming transport truck on Christmas Day. Her husband described it as a “desperate final act,” but again, according to DND, it's not their problem. They were civilians.

ABOVE RIGHT: On December 1, 2005, personnel from Task Force Afghanistan attended a memorial service at Kandahar Airfield for Private Braun Scott Woodfield, 24, of Eastern Passage, N.S. Pte Woodfield was killed and four others from the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment were injured on November 24, 2005, when their LAV III rolled over while on a routine patrol between Kandahar and a forward operating base (FOB). He is one of 158 Canadian soldiers who died in the Afghan theatre between 2001 and 2014. (MCPL ROBERT BOTTRILL, CF COMBAT CAMERA, DND)

“DND can strip them of their uniforms and label them civilians, but they will always be soldiers ...”



We read it all the time in the papers. “They’ve fallen through the cracks.” But what we’re failing to understand here is that no one is really falling ... soldiers with serious mental wounds are walking through a gate that’s being opened for them.

There is an aggravating tragedy to all of this. These “former” soldiers were once deemed suitable to fight for their country. They were tested physically and mentally, put through their paces, and earned a spot in a fraternity with supposedly deep and lasting bonds. They weren’t depressed or mentally ill to begin with. They had friends, good memories, kids they loved and who loved them. And then something, or a series of things, began an unravelling. An unravelling that would lead them to isolation, to the loss of their uniform, their job, their livelihood, and sometimes to the gun, the pills, the knife, or the rope that would end their pain and suffering.

And week after week, we hear from these people: the ones who are the next to die. Former soldiers bleeding out in a dark corner of a room somewhere with gaping mental wounds — festering, infected, pustulous, hideous wounds that no one seems to know how to treat. DND can strip them of their uniforms and label them civilians, but they will always be soldiers, and we can’t forget that — no matter how “crazy” they’ve become.

Why? Because dying was easy compared to what these men and women are going through. The ones who find our number, or leave messages sometime through the night, seem inescapably

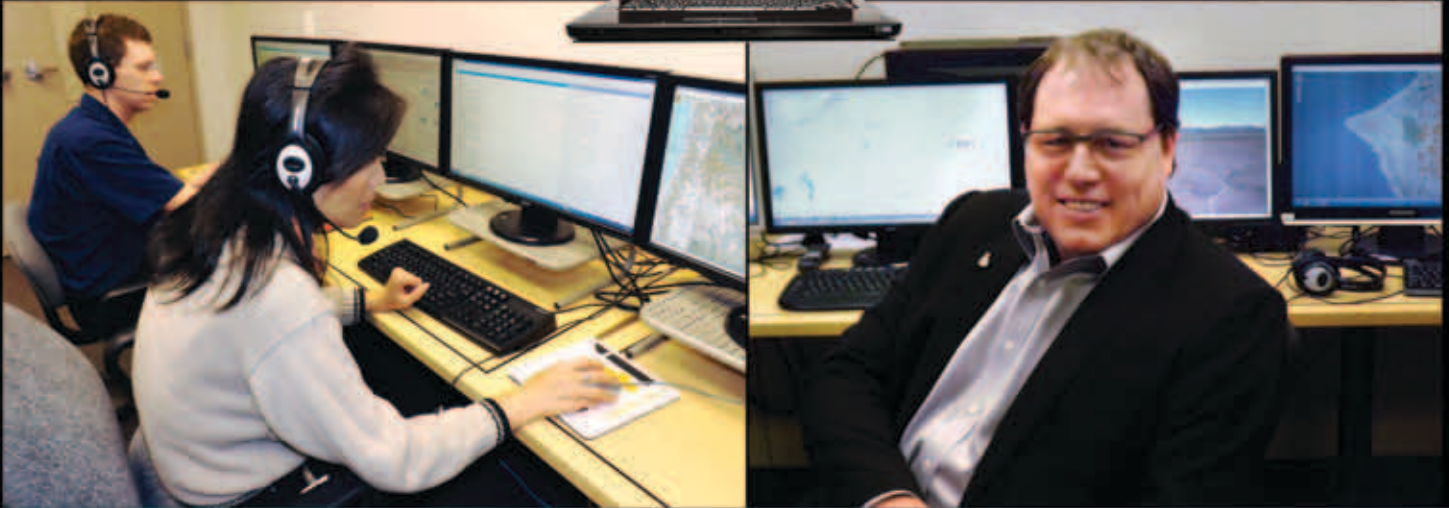
Many soldiers have fallen “through the cracks” of a bureaucratic system that seems unable to cope with members having difficulty dealing with the unseen wounds of post-traumatic stress. Many turn to drugs, alcohol and, if unable to live with the pain and anguish, suicide as a final means of ending the pain. (MASTER SEAMAN STEEVE PICARD, COMBAT CAMERA, DND)

trapped in a horrible nightmare they can’t snap out of. *Esprit de Corps* was once uncovering corruption and holding those responsible to account. Somewhere on the continuum between then and now, this *raison d’être* seems to have changed into an entirely different beast, one that currently has the magazine fielding calls on behalf of ex-soldiers suffering from all manners of mental wounds, where “making things right” isn’t as straightforward as uncovering hidden truths. Sometimes the people that call us just want someone to reach out, and be reached out to — but a lot of them are very, very angry.

DND’s policy of releasing the most damaged soldiers into the world and forgetting them isn’t just irresponsible, it’s extremely dangerous. And they’re either ignoring them, or they have no idea how people outside the military who pose a potential threat should be dealt with. Here’s a recent example:

In early May, *Esprit de Corps* took a call from a veteran who believes that his chain of command at 8 Wing Trenton collectively waged a psychological war against him, ultimately forcing the former captain to retire from the Forces. After a few discussions with the veteran, who now believes he will never be able to work again unless his name is cleared, he told *Esprit de Corps* that he was going to reciprocate the treatment he suffered at the hands of those people by waging his own psychological war against them. When asked to elaborate, he simply said, “An eye for an eye, and blood for blood.”

Not sure what to make of the threat after being emailed a list of names, *Esprit de Corps* decided to contact 8 Wing in the hope they would have a procedure for dealing with situations such as this. At first, the Military Family Resources Centre was contacted. After trying to establish how to proceed, the call was transferred



C4i Consultants is a Canadian software development and engineering services company that specializes in the design and employment of computer simulation, geospatial planning, and command and control (C2) tools and components.

C4i would like to welcome Kres Slattery to the team, formerly of VariSystems Military.

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“But Esprit de Corps’ patience is wearing a little thin. Calls from outraged and disillusioned veterans aren’t slowing down — they’re increasing.”

to the Military Police. The story was relayed again, and again the call was transferred, this time from one MP to another, and then another. When *Esprit de Corps* finally were able to get the ear of an MP who agreed to take the call, even before hearing the full account of the story, he explained that he was transferring the call to Public Affairs. “But we have a list of names.” Perhaps the individual should at least be contacted, we suggested. But that fell on deaf ears.

The call was transferred once again, and the person on the other end of the line did not pick up. *Esprit de Corps* then called every Public Affairs officer listed at 8 Wing. All were either on leave or away from their desks. Finally, the decision was made to contact DND’s Media Liaison Office. At this point, we got someone who was prepared to listen.

Admittedly, the woman on the other end of the line didn’t understand why we would contact the media relations office about the problem. We explained repeatedly that it wasn’t for a story. It was a matter of due diligence. *Esprit de Corps* felt that close to a dozen people at 8 Wing may be in danger. She said she’d run it by her superior. We asked her name. She replied, “Patricia,” declining to give her rank and surname. Several follow up emails were made to the media relations office. No response.

Esprit de Corps contacted the veteran’s former padre at 8 Wing, imploring him to run it through the proper channels. He refused to speak about the topic based on confidentiality rules. Another email was sent to the Media Liaison Office. This time we asked to be contacted when there was movement on the file. A short time later, we were contacted by an individual who introduced himself as a supervisor at Public Affairs. He explained that he was aware of the problem, but didn’t give away any info on how the situation would be dealt with.

By this time, it has been weeks since the initial phone call was made. And to date, more than a month later, no one from DND has reached out to this veteran to try and diffuse the situation, or investigate the threat. Meanwhile, this individual’s anger grows day by day. With no job, and no purpose, the outrage over his alleged treatment has entirely consumed him.

This isn’t an isolated incident. For more than a year, *Esprit de Corps* has been reaching out to DND in order to provide them with the opportunity to reach out to these injured ex-soldiers, because simply writing their story, getting a reaction, and then forgetting them doesn’t sit well with the magazine’s collective conscience. But *Esprit de Corps*’ patience is wearing a little thin. Calls from outraged and disillusioned veterans aren’t slowing down — they’re increasing. It’s time for DND to take responsibility for the products they’ve created, and come to terms with the magnitude of the problem that’s now resting at the department’s feet. Veterans shouldn’t have to call us to get help.

We’re fighting a new war now, and Canada is losing. More than 183 soldiers have already died. Countless others have been lost out of uniform.

Our government just spent somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$22 billion dollars attempting to eradicate the Taliban and rebuild another country, but for some reason, they’re only feigning an assault on our nation’s greatest threat to domestic security, while the bulk of defence dollars are spent on new ships, armoured vehicles and fighter jets. Build one less Arctic Offshore Patrol Ship. Build one less fighter jet. Find the money ... host a bake sale at DND HQ. Do anything, because hiding behind a thin wall of carefully crafted statistics isn’t going to make this enemy go away. ❁

THE FOLLOWING TABLE IS A SUMMARY OF THE CANADIAN FORCES’ NON-BATTLE INJURIES, WOUNDED IN ACTION, DEATHS AND KILLED IN ACTION (KIA) STATISTICS SUSTAINED IN AFGHANISTAN BETWEEN APRIL 2002 AND DECEMBER 2011:

- » **635:** CAF members wounded in combat — includes injuries from IEDs, mines, rocket attacks, and direct combat with an enemy force or insurgent element; personnel injured in friendly fire incidents related to combat action; and acute psychological trauma directly attributable to combat action that required medical intervention.
- » **1,436:** the number of non-battle injuries — includes those injured as a result of traffic accidents, the accidental discharge of a weapon, and any other accidental injuries not related to combat; it also includes those members reported ill, repatriated for compassionate or for medical reasons, or returned to duty after being assessed by a medical officer.
- » **20:** Deaths in theatre from non-combat causes (not KIA).
- » **138:** Killed in action (KIA).

NOTE: According to the Department of National Defence website, these statistics were produced to inform the public on casualties sustained by Canadian Armed Forces personnel in Afghanistan and updated on an annual basis according to the calendar year. This information is current as of March 12, 2014.

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Canada's REACTIONARY policy brings NOTHING to the table

Stewart Webb

CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT IN

NATO's response to the crisis in Ukraine is indicative of the Harper government's commitment to the alliance. Canada provided operational assistance in the 2011 military intervention in Libya, and now to the crisis in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Some commentators have pointed out that the Canadian contribution, and reaction, to the crisis in Ukraine is disproportional to our military power and also to the political reaction of our fellow NATO members.

At the time of writing this, Canada had deployed six CF-18s, plus additional hundreds of Royal Canadian Air Force personnel to Romania for training purposes; diverted HMCS *Regina* to the eastern Mediterranean Sea; and assigned 20 officers to NATO headquarters in Brussels. Diplomatically, it is important for Canada to take part in NATO missions, but Canada's reactionary policy will not bear fruit for the alliance for the long term and possibly not even the short term.

During the operation in Libya, Canada provided a frigate to the region, six CF-18s and additional aircraft support units such as the CC-150 *Polaris* for in-flight refuelling and CC-130 *Hercules* tankers. The CF-18 deployment accounted for 10 per cent of missions in the Libyan campaign. Canada's CF-18s dropped 696 bombs of various types in 946 sorties, according to DND figures.

Unfortunately, the successes of the Royal Canadian Air Force also caused concern for Canadian military officials. Everyone is well aware of how close the CF-18 fleet is to the end of its life cycle, and that the constant wear and

tear caused by numerous daily combat sorties might have a severely negative impact on the remaining longevity of the fighter jets. It was also a concern shared by Ottawa later.

Luckily for the CF-18s, the likelihood

"The CF-18 fleet is [close] to the end of its life cycle ..."



of a NATO intervention in Ukraine is virtually nil. Chief of Defence Staff General Tom Lawson told the Canadian media that the CF-18s would not be armed, unless needed.

However, there are several hundred Royal Canadian Air Force personnel in Romania providing training assistance. In the terms of training assistance, Canada's deployment is probably the most significant allied deployment during this crisis.

It is doubtful that NATO will go to war with Russia in the next 25 years. Counterinsurgency operations such as those in Afghanistan and Mali and the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence will continue in the meantime. Canadian military and political officials speak of interoperability when it comes to strategic defence procurement projects, such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, and furthermore within exclusive NATO exercises, but this seems to be the

only conduit for dialogue and training, leaving Canada to miss out on important events that may happen outside of the NATO bubble.

The training mission to Romania signals a key area that Canada could improve its relations with NATO members. Canada does take part in NATO exercises world-wide, but since 2002 the NATO-accredited Centre of Excellences (COEs) have been established as part of a goal to create a more efficient organization. Surprisingly, with the government's hype over supporting our NATO allies, our involvement in the NATO-accredited COE program is abysmal.

COEs are institutions that consist of military personnel that "train and educate leaders and specialists from NATO member and partner countries, assist in doctrine development, identify lessons learned, improve interoperability, and tests capabilities and validates concepts through experimentation." The COEs are about innovation and improving efficiency and effectiveness. The COE program at present consists of 18 centres, but it continues to expanded, with three being planned currently.

Many of the COEs are located in Eastern European countries such as Romania (Human Intelligence COE),

NATO POLICY ... CONT'D ON P. 55

Stewart Webb is an Ottawa-based defence commentator. His research interests include defence procurement and strategies.





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BOKO HARAM and the MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Vincent J. Curtis

IN THE MOVIE *The Magnificent Seven*, a collection of hired American gunslingers defend a poor Mexican village from the predation of a gang of *banditos*, led by Calvera, who was portrayed by actor Eli Wallach.

The Mexican bandits had no interest in governing the village. They were not interested in providing peace, order, and justice to the village. They only wanted to take food and money, primarily. In other words, they taxed but provided nothing in return.

If he had to justify what he did to the villagers, Calvera vaguely referred to an ongoing Mexican revolution and of the need for his gang to survive for the revolution to continue. Calvera thinks of himself as the father to the gang, who has to provide food and other things for his men. To him, the products of the village are his own crop to reap.

The Nigerian group Boko Haram operates a lot like Calvera's gang of bandits. They take from the peaceable people around them for the benefit of the gang, and the taking is done in the name of some higher purpose. In no instance is Boko Haram offering a government to the people it terrorizes, nor would it be competent to run a civil government with law, order, and justice should it attempt to do so. Its leadership is competent to run a gang but not a government.

Boko Haram is in the news of late because it abducted 276 Nigerian schoolgirls and is in the process of selling them off as wives to Muslim tribesmen, or holding them for ransom. Perhaps some of the girls were married off to gang members.

The strategic end served by the abduction of these girls is the prosperity of the gang.

A lot has been made recently of the connection between Boko Haram and other al-Qaeda-linked terrorist groups. The ostensible political aim of Boko Haram

"The ostensible political aim of Boko Haram is the imposition of an Islamic caliphate ..."



is the imposition of an Islamic caliphate in Nigeria, the imposition of Sharia law, and the elimination of western education from that country. They seem to share a common ideology with al-Qaeda, which is linked further to the terrorist attacks of 9/11 in the United States.

But the other thing Boko Haram has in common with al-Qaeda is the need to survive. Both groups need money, and in addition Boko Haram needs food, weapons, and ammunition. The group's men, who live in the African bush, need women. Consequently, a lot of criminal activity takes place in the name of religion by al-Qaeda and Boko Haram. Without this criminal activity, Boko Haram could not survive. Its men would have to find sustenance elsewhere should gang activity not provide it for them.

Even other Muslims in Nigeria oppose the imposition of the kind of rule advocated by Boko Haram. And given that

Nigeria is fairly evenly divided between Christian and Muslim, the likelihood of a happy and successful political regime in Nigeria of a kind advocated by Boko Haram is remote. The alleged political aims of Boko Haram have no place in a serious discussion of what to do about the gang.

The purpose of Boko Haram is to fulfil the psychopathic needs of its leadership. The men of the gang find gratification of their own personal wants and needs in the gang's activities. Opportunities for killing, raping, adventure, a sense of belonging and purpose, as well as food and pay are positive motivators for gang membership and retention. What political program is advocated serves to quell any pangs of conscience that might arise in the course of violence.

Because of its strength and organization, the methods of normal law enforcement will not prevail against the gang. Stronger measures — the methods of war — are called for. This situation creates a problem for those addicted to positive law because it was developed in and for the framework of civil peace, and positive law devotees are constitutionally unable to admit the boundaries of their doctrine.

Like what happened to Calvera and his men, Boko Haram needs to be hunted down and slain in a military operation. The laws of war do not protect its members. 🍁

Vincent J. Curtis

is a freelance writer who is interested in military and international affairs

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ENJOY the SUMMER

Michael Nickerson

SUMMER IS HERE and the time is right for dancing in the street! Well maybe not if you're a recent veteran of the Canadian military. Depression, suicidal thoughts, the loss of one's limbs, or a red-inked cheque book tends to curb one's enthusiasm for doing the Macarena. But if you're a federal MP, it is time to pack up the fishing gear, water wings, and tanning lotion, and head off to the cottage for the summer; a well-earned break from a productive session of parliament. Or so MPs tell themselves and others; it would be downright unseemly to take a three-month break when there's still crucial work to be done, after all.

Never let it be said that our elected representatives didn't ensure they looked and sounded as busy as possible before summer recess. The Harper Government™, or perhaps more accurately, its cabinet, approved the Northern Gateway pipeline with the clock ticking down, though with 209 caveats and a snowball's chance in hell of ever getting built given opposition from First Nations and others who aren't overly thrilled with the idea of oil slicks in their backyards. And former defence minister, now all things justice, Peter MacKay, tabled his response to Canada's pesky Supreme Court ruling with new prostitution legislation that might get passed sometime this decade, the immediate health and safety issues of prostitutes be damned.

Not to be outdone in the look-at-us-we're-doing-things competition, the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs submitted its 51-page opus on how to im-

prove the New Veteran's Charter. Included amongst its many Einsteinium nuggets of wisdom were recommendations that seriously disabled veterans (the definition of "serious" being anyone's guess) receive benefits for life, reservist veterans receive the same benefits and support as their regular force counterparts, spouses and family of veterans be extended the same

"... while you liaise with the electorate on the summer BBQ circuit, nothing has changed"



vocational and psychological support, care givers be provided with financial support, and the military to stop cutting its personnel loose before there is proper support in place with Veterans Affairs. Such profound insight when great minds get together, no?

There was also an overly creative accounting suggestion, namely switching the earning loss benefit from 75% of gross pay to 85% of net pay (news flash for the financially challenged: that is not an improvement unless you're an Ottawa bean counter), and nary a word about the three elephants sitting quietly in the government's foyer: the lump-sum benefit payout, the question of whether the recommendations will be retroactive, and the whole issue of the universality of service. In short, it was 51 pages of window dressing, offering up the obvious while avoiding the core problems. It did nothing to alleviate veterans' concerns and anxiety, now eight years and counting since the New Veterans Charter was enforced.

Nonetheless, the all-party cadre of committee members seemed rather pleased with themselves. If nothing else it will give the members some feel-good bromides to offer up while flipping burgers over the summer.

Of course, when it comes to notions of 'feel good,' the name Julian Fantino does not readily come to mind. While characterized by some of his Conservative peers as sensitive and caring (even teary eyed if MP Daryl Kramp is to be believed), the current minister for Veterans Affairs has developed a reputation for truculence when it comes to dealing with the people and the issues under his charge. He's had testy confrontations with veterans, recently ignored a veteran's spouse as a rock star might a heckler, and dismissed criticisms of his efforts and that of his ministry as being nothing more than partisan attacks and misinformation, going so far as spending some four million taxpayer dollars on advertising to counter such claims. He has since announced that he will not respond to the standing committee's report until the fall, seemingly more intent on catching a summer sunset than doing his job, if it could be said that he has ever done it in the first place.

So to Julian Fantino, his boss Stephen Harper, and the self-satisfied members of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, consider this: while you fish, swim, relax, or liaise with the electorate on the summer barbeque circuit, nothing has changed. Veterans will kill themselves between now and next fall. Others will fight PTSD and all that comes with it: depression, substance abuse, anxiety, and sleepless nights. Spouses and families will continue to struggle with how to help them. All will worry about an uncertain financial future. Veterans will continue to feel betrayed.

So enjoy the summer. They won't. 🍁

Michael Nickerson

is a freelance writer and satirist based in Toronto.

His website is

www.NickersonOnline.com





▶ **TEXTRON SYSTEMS:** Accelerating innovation for Canadian defence

by Jason McNaught

Textron Systems Canada will deliver 500 Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicles for the Canadian Armed Forces. In August 2013, pre-production vehicles were sent to Canadian Forces Base Valcartier in Quebec and used for operator and gunner operator training, followed by reliability, availability, maintainability and durability testing. The TAPV is scheduled to reach final operating capability, with all deliveries completed in 2016. (TEXTRON SYSTEMS)

IT'S CLEAR FROM the rugged look of the new Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) that it's one tough machine, but what matters most to soldiers is its ability to get the job done when it counts.



“From its TAPV for the Canadian Armed Forces to its versatile and proven Aerosonde SUAS and command and controls systems, like iCommand, Textron Systems is ideally suited for the current and future challenges of Canada’s defence and security needs.”

That’s why the Government of Canada chose Textron Systems Canada to supply the armed forces with its next generation of four-wheeled reconnaissance and general utility armoured vehicles. More than 50 years of experience in the design and production of armoured vehicles, and hard-fought lessons learned on the battlefield, have resulted in a TAPV that will provide the Canadian Armed Forces with an unmatched blend of survivability, protection, power, mobility and versatility.

With the TAPV gearing up to roll into service in 2015 and full deliveries completed by 2016, Textron Systems is positioned to address Canada’s current and future defence needs with a full spectrum of solutions encompassing not just armoured vehicles, but also unmanned systems, advanced marine craft, intelligent battlefield and surveillance systems, geospatial management and analysis systems, intelligence software solutions, precision weapons, and test and training systems, each backed by total lifecycle sustainment services.

PROVEN, RELIABLE UNMANNED SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS

The Canadian Armed Forces learned first-hand the effectiveness of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) during its 12-year mission in Afghanistan. These platforms increased the quality and quantity of actionable ISR data while reducing risk to soldiers. Although UAS trace their roots as far back as World War II, rapidly evolving technology has now made them economical, reliable, and extremely effective when carrying out ISR or combat functions in today’s battlespace.

For example, Textron Systems’ Unmanned Systems business is delivering benchmark-setting reliability levels for its U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) customers overseas using its Aerosonde Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS). The company is maintaining mission readiness rates over 98 per cent for its DoD customers with the Aerosonde SUAS, which is equipped for simultaneous electro-optical, infrared, signals intelligence and communications relay within a single aircraft sortie.



The system is designed for expeditionary land- and sea-based operations under the most austere conditions. The recent addition of the new EL-005 engine — designed and manufactured by manned aviation engine expert Lycoming Engines — has improved both reliability and performance. In addition, the Aerosonde SUAS is ideally suited for non-military applications, including critical infrastructure protection, environmental monitoring and precision agriculture; the system has been deployed successfully internationally for customers in the oil and gas industry.

A LEGACY OF POWERFUL PERFORMANCE

Besides offering multi-mission payload capabilities and benchmark-setting reliability, the Aerosonde SUAS has a long-standing reputation for outstanding endurance and performance in extremely challenging conditions. In the late 1990s, an Aerosonde unmanned aircraft was the first to cross the Atlantic. In 2006, an Aerosonde aircraft set a world flight endurance record — remaining in the air for 36 hours. In 2007, an Aerosonde was the first unmanned aircraft to fly into the eye of a hurricane, racking up more than 17 hours of flying time — 7.5 of them navigating the storm’s eye and boundary layer. Aerosonde aircraft also have flown scientific missions in both the Arctic and Antarctic. Together, this record showcases Textron Systems Unmanned Systems’ expertise as a manufacturer, operator and maintainer of rugged, all-weather, high-endurance UAS.

ABOVE RIGHT: Aerosonde Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS) — with multiple payload options for day and night intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions — is designed for expeditionary land- and sea-based operations under the most austere conditions. (TEXTRON SYSTEMS)

TEXTRON SYSTEMS ... CONTINUED ON PAGE 58



▶ GENERAL DYNAMICS CANADA:

Engineering success as an experienced systems integrator

by Jason McNaught

Flight Lieutenant Daz Williams of the Royal Air Force, who is a tactical navigator and crew commander with 405 Long Range Patrol Squadron, assesses tactical information from his station during SIMEX 2014 – Virtual RIMPAC – at 14 Wing Greenwood, Nova Scotia. General Dynamics Canada's world-leading airborne sensor and mission system integration solutions that are being delivered to the RCAF have attracted interest from the navies of Korea and Peru, and are being used by NATO for its Air Ground System. (MCPL RORY WILSON, DND)

WE'VE COME A long way since WWI pilot Billy Bishop hopped in his Nieuport 17 fighter for lone wolf missions deep in enemy territory. Back then, his aircraft's "systems" consisted of little more than a few levers and a gun to keep him out of harm's way in a dogfight.



“General Dynamics Canada provides complete, world-class systems integration services for rugged land, airborne, and maritime applications.”

The evolution of technology has given the modern warrior a reach and understanding of the battlespace that any WWI soldier would have a hard time believing. But often with added capabilities comes increased sophistication and the requirement for specialized knowledge. In Bishop’s day, they may have been able to fix his Nieuport 17 with a spool of wire and some elbow grease, but no mechanic today would dream of trying to re-engineer the complex systems that now make up an advanced aircraft.

Somewhere between then and now, the term “systems integration” came into standard military vernacular. As more and more systems were installed on various platforms to increase capabilities — whether in the sky, over land or at sea — the need for those systems to work together, as opposed to working in isolation, became a crucial factor towards achieving mission success. Officially, systems integration can be defined as “putting diverse hardware and/or software components to work together to work as a system” and “making independent applications work as one.”

Carrying out this work effectively can be incredibly complex, especially when integrating new systems with existing legacy systems. That’s where the need for companies such as General Dynamics Canada comes in.

General Dynamics Canada provides complete, world-class systems integration services for rugged land, airborne, and maritime applications. With an extensive history of engineering innovation and proven expertise in designing, testing, manufacturing, and supporting C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) platforms, General Dynamics Canada understands the needs of today’s operators and decision makers, allowing the company to position itself at the front line of a rapidly evolving battlespace.

UNDERSTANDING TODAY’S SYSTEMS

In just 20 years, systems integration has taken a giant leap, widening the focus from ensuring that a specific component or product works as intended with other hardware on a platform, to ensuring that software and communications architectures on a platform can interface and integrate with systems on other platforms, as well as being interoperable with larger command and



control infrastructures. Put in layman’s terms, military platforms used to work like standalone computers before the Internet. They were machines made up of systems that operated effectively alongside each other, but they worked in silos. Nowadays, our computers are still designed with their own internal systems, but they are part of a huge interconnected network — the Internet — that greatly enhances their overall capabilities.

In addition to computers, this giant “system of systems” grew to cross the land, sea, air domains and connect virtually every piece of sophisticated equipment in the military — individual soldier systems, tanks, armoured and unmanned vehicles, aircraft and ships. In the hands of commanders, analysts, and tactical units, these systems have collectively and exponentially expanded the understanding and reach of modern forces.

If it sounds simple, it isn’t. Like the old saying goes, the whole is only as good as the sum of its parts. In order for these interconnected systems and subsystems to work together as one coherent, large and efficient machine, you must have a deep technological and operational understanding of how information is collected, processed, shared and presented on every associated platform.

EXPERTISE IN INTEGRATION

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GENERAL DYNAMICS ... CONTINUED ON PAGE 59

ABOVE RIGHT: Working closely with their customer, a member of General Dynamics Canada demonstrates a number of different components and systems integrated onto a vehicle and controlled by the Battle Management System. The company’s ability to integrate complex technological systems brings flexibility and domain awareness to the operators and commanders in the field. (GENERAL DYNAMICS CANADA)

▶ NEW VETERANS CHARTER:

Fourteen recommended changes, not substantive results

by Sean Bruyea

Soldiers who fought for their country in the Great War faced disillusionment when they returned home to Canada. This photograph from 1920 shows Canadian veterans of World War One marching in protest of lack of services available to them. Almost 100 years later, "new" veterans once again take to the streets and march on Parliament Hill to protest the New Veterans Charter.

VETERANS HAVE EVERY reason to be disillusioned with Ottawa once again. But this time, the disappointment could become the nail in Veterans Affairs Canada's coffin.



“Poorly defined words populate 11 of the 14 recommendations: ‘greater flexibility,’ ‘better access,’ ‘as required,’ and that VAC ‘consider.’ These weasel words substantially suck good potential from the recommendations.”

The House Veterans Affairs Committee released its much-anticipated report reviewing the New Veterans Charter. The legislation required a “comprehensive review” to begin last November in spite of Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino’s claim that he called for the review to be comprehensive.

The minister did, however, call the committee to focus on the “most seriously injured, support for families and delivery of program by Veterans Affairs Canada [VAC].”

The report’s 14 limited recommendations received unanimous and glowing accolades from all parties.

Let’s dig a little deeper. The most positive recommendation proposed a detailed procedure for injured leaving the military, transferring to VAC, and receiving care in their communities. Ensuring that veterans in isolated and rural areas receive adequate care, a longstanding problem, was not addressed.

Most of the remaining 13 recommendations range from poorly defined to bizarre. The New Veterans Charter results in serious inequities, providing less to reserve force veterans than those in the regular military. The report recommended that reserve force veterans “be entitled to the same benefits” as regular force veterans.

However, the bureaucracy could easily respond that reservists are already “entitled to the same benefits,” just lesser amounts with greater barriers.

Poorly defined words populate 11 of the 14 recommendations: “greater flexibility,” “better access,” “as required,” and that VAC “consider.” These weasel words substantially suck good potential from the recommendations. They also allow bureaucracy to easily avoid making substantive positive changes.

The Toronto Star, reported committee member and veteran Laurie Hawn, “insisted the report eliminated ‘any wiggle room’” for Fantino.

Instead, there is enough space for a dozen dancing elephants as well as the minister to avoid doing the right thing for disabled veterans and their families.

Perhaps the most galling will be the recommendation on the lump-sum benefit.

Unprecedented unanimity of veteran, legal, and rehabilitation experts agree the maximum lump sum for pain and suffering



associated with disabilities needs to be greater than the current \$300,000. Payouts averaged under \$40,000 last year.

A growing consensus calls for a return to the lifelong monthly payment which the RCMP injured still enjoy as well as almost 94,000 other veterans as of September 2013.

The committee took seven months to study the problem. Veterans, academics, and experts, including me since 2005, have been highlighting the lesser standard provided by the lump sum when compared to lifelong payments. In what sounds more like a self-justifying political treatise, the report speciously claims that “more seriously disabled veterans” would “probably” not want the lifelong recognition the monthly payments provide.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise, but surely a massive disappointment, that the committee completely avoided making a clear recommendation.

The committee lazily suggests the bureaucracy carry out its own “comprehensive review” of the lump sum amount, with no set deadline.

Another delaying tactic is unnecessary to learn that, as of April 2014, Canadian courts pay out a maximum of \$356,695 or that the United Kingdom pays its veterans a maximum of £570,000 (just over a million dollars) for injuries. Veterans Affairs Canada’s internal audits indicate the lifelong payments provide substantially more to most veterans than the lump sum.

Families were also the “focus” of the comprehensive review and yet received just two recommendations. Increasingly, family members, such as Jenny Migneault, have been calling for assistance to care for their permanently disabled veteran spouses.

ABOVE RIGHT: Minister Julian Fantino, seen here speaking with a WWII veteran, had hyped the House Veterans Affairs Committee’s review of the New Veterans Charter, however the committee delivered a largely evasive list of bizarre or underwhelming recommendations. Fantino’s response to the report was to promise a response by fall.

NEW VETERANS CHARTER ... CONTINUED ON PAGE 60

▶ CANSEC 2014: Up close and personal with high-tech defence gadgets

by Megan Brush

FEW EVENTS COME to mind that actually allow people up close contact with some of the defence industry's top gadgets and CANSEC is certainly at the top of that list. Want to fly an F-35 flight simulator, test out a Super Hornet demonstrator, play with a sniper simulator, or try on a multi-million dollar helmet that will make you feel like Iron Man?

CANSEC 2014 proved another resounding success for the show's organizers — Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI). Some 10,000 people attended the two-day trade show, aimed at serving military personnel, government employees, foreign military and diplomatic staff. Over 300 companies exhibited products and services at Ottawa's EY Centre, hoping to make connections with military and government representatives as well as other firms. (CADSI)



“While no sales are necessarily made at the show, it is a great marketing opportunity for the exhibitors.”

CANSEC has it all. Over 300 companies from around the globe gathered on May 28 and 29 to showcase their latest security equipment, systems, and services.

Normally a bland grey dome constructed of concrete situated in the outskirts of Ottawa, the EY Centre transforms every year into a bustling, exciting atmosphere filled to the brim with the latest security technology. This year, military vehicles, air plane models, flight simulators, and the latest security systems filled the giant centre. In one aisle alone, you walked pass a screen that projected you and your surroundings in infrared, witnessed a bloody demonstration that highlighted the latest medical technology, and stared down a barrel of an assault rifle mounted on a drone (not loaded, of course...hopefully).

For any attendee, the two days promised an interesting show filled with too much high-tech jargon and lots – and lots – of hand shaking. CANSEC is essentially a show for Canadian and international companies to woo buyers into purchasing their products and services. It is put on by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries, or CADSI, and is one of the largest trade shows of its kind in Canada. This year alone saw more than 10,000 registrants, 331 exhibiting companies, and 31 delegations from other countries in attendance.

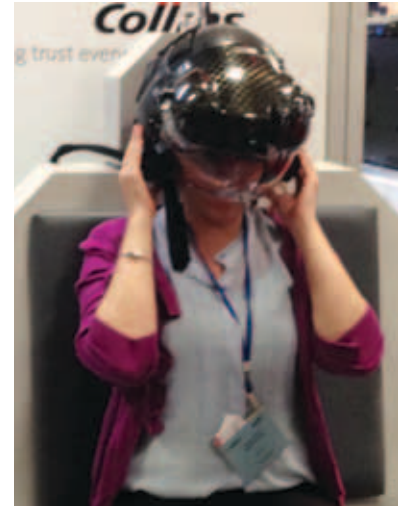
While no sales are necessarily made at the show, it is a great marketing opportunity for the exhibitors. *Esprit de Corps* conducted a post-CANSEC survey to see how some of the companies felt the show ran this year. This year, many attendees felt



ABOVE: Vice-Chief of Defence Staff LGen Guy Thibault, a keynote speaker at the breakfast on May 28, spoke on the Defence Acquisition Guide (DAG). As part of the Canadian government's recently announced three-part Defence Procurement Strategy, the DAG will identify future potential CAF requirements and associated procurement projects. (CADSI)

ABOVE RIGHT: Esprit de Corps' Megan Brush tries on Rockwell Collins' F-35 helmet, making her feel like Iron Man. (KIM DAVIS, ESPRIT DE CORPS)

two days is simply not enough to squeeze in everything. About half of the respondents felt the show needed to run as a three-day event because two days was simply not enough time to complete all they set out to do. The international presence at CANSEC doubled from past years and many attendees felt their meetings were rushed or just simply impossible to make due to time



restraints. Of course, others felt that even with back-to-back meetings they were able to see everyone they wished to see.

The largest complaint from many, however, was directed toward the food. Despite selling almost 3,600 breakfast and luncheon tickets, many felt there was little creative planning put into the food. Those who could not attend the formal breakfasts or luncheons were forced to wait in tiresomely long lines for overpriced, deep-fried and greasy meals, only to have to wait again for the limited seating area to clear up. Many said there was no room to sit with potential clients and chat, or take them out for a meal (as the EY Centre's location is isolated near the Ottawa airport). The luncheon tickets were overpriced in comparison to the quality of the food supplied, many respondents complained. Tickets were close to \$80 a head for the luncheon, and many felt the meals left much to be desired.

The two-day event began as stressful as any could imagine as traffic was congested and many were late to early morning meetings while attempting to park their car. Luckily, the congestion cleared up shortly after 9:30 and was almost non-existent the next day. Overall, there were few complaints about the parking availability and traffic congestion in the survey.

Several keynote speakers were featured in the two-day event, but left the audiences with a “ho-hum” impression. With little insights into future developments, or ground-breaking announcements, many attendees felt the speakers added little to the event, other than an excuse to sit down for a couple of hours. The speakers included Defence Minister Rob Nicholson, Vice-Chief of Defence Staff LGen Guy Thibault, Secretary to the

CANSEC 2014 ... CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

HISTORY



The Roads to *Facing off at Lundy's La*



o Battle

ne, July 24–25, 1814

by Richard Feltoe



*The buildup of forces prior to
the war's bloodiest encounter
was more by happenstance
than by strategic design*

Having determined his course of campaign, LGen Gordon Drummond shipped the 89th Regiment across the lake from York on July 24, 1814, agreeing with MGen Phineas Riall's assessment that the town was in little danger of being attacked and that every man possible should be collected along the Niagara frontier. He then sailed aboard the schooner *Netley*, arriving the following morning at Newark.

The Battle of Lundy's Lane was fought between American troops and British regulars assisted by Canadian fencibles and militia on Canadian soil. After U.S. Major General Jacob Brown's 3,500-strong army invaded Upper Canada across the Niagara River on July 3, 1814, he quickly seized Fort Erie. Augmented by militia and Aboriginal allies, the American army regulars then advanced north along the Niagara River encountering strong rearguard fighting from the British. Setting up camp at Chippawa, British Brigadier General Winfield Scott led his brigade of about 1,000 men along the Portage Road towards the intersection of Lundy's Lane. It was there, on the sultry evening of July 25, 1814, that the bloodiest battle of the War of 1812 took place, within two kilometres of Niagara Falls. (PAINTING BY ALONZO CHAPPEL, LAC, C-12093)





The routes taken by the various combatant units in their march to Lundy's Lane on July 24–25, 1814:

1. The British "Light" brigade (1) leaves the 12 Mile Creek around 10:00 p.m. on July 24 and marches overnight, arriving at St. Davids around dawn (1a). It then marches on to the Lundy's Lane crossroads and encamps on the hilltop at around 7:00 a.m. (1b).
2. General Drummond arrives at Newark (2) by ship from York around dawn of July 25. He orders a two-pronged advance up the Niagara River from Fort George (2a) on the British side and Fort Niagara (2b) on the American side. After overrunning General Brown's baggage supplies at Lewiston, General Drummond's force crosses back to Queenston around noon (2c). After consulting with General Riall (2d), General Drummond orders an advance on Lundy's Lane (2e).
3. After receiving reports of a British advance on the American side of the river over the course of the day, General Brown orders General Scott's brigade to advance from camp (3) toward Lundy's Lane (3a) sometime after 4:00 p.m.
4. Colonel Hercules Scott's column (4) marches up from the Twenty Mile Creek to Shipman's Corners (St. Catharines) and halts early on the morning of July 25 (4a). At around 1:00 p.m., and upon receiving initial orders to rendezvous with Brown at Lundy's Lane, it advances toward the hill. Due to being diverted, as these orders are first countermanded and then revoked, reestablishing the original destination, the exact route of this column is conjectural (4b) up to the Beaver Dams Road. From this point, the column advances toward the Lundy's Lane hilltop (4c), arriving at around 9:00 p.m., as the battle is already well underway. (FROM "A CRUCIBLE OF FIRE: THE BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE, JULY 25, 1814" BY RICHARD FELTOE, PUBLISHED BY DUNDURN PRESS)

Receiving a briefing, he was surprised to learn of the wholesale withdrawal of MGen Jacob Brown's army to Chippawa and fully approved of MGen Riall's countermeasure of dispatching his light troops to shadow Brown's forces, while advancing his remaining forces to Ten Mile Creek. Recognizing that Brown's retreat created an opportunity of the moment, he ordered Lieutenant Colonel Tucker to immediately initiate his sortie from Fort Niagara and eliminate the enemy's batteries at Youngstown. Then, if not otherwise prevented, he was to push on to Lewiston and Fort Schlosser in order to capture Brown's supply boats, cutting off his supply lines.

At the same time, Drummond ordered the 89th Regiment

(Lieutenant Colonel Morrison) and detachments from Fort George and Fort Mississauga to make a similar advance on the Canadian side of the river, while a small fleet of boats would maintain communications between the two forces under Captain Dodds of the Royal Navy.

Advancing from Fort Niagara on the morning of July 25, 1814, Tucker's men quickly overran the Youngstown batteries and continued south to Lewiston, where they captured Brown's entire stockpile of "superfluous" baggage and tents that had been laboriously transported across the river only the day before. Satisfied with this windfall, General Drummond called off the advance on Fort Schlosser and ordered Tucker to use part of his force to haul the captured goods back to Fort Niagara, while the remaining troops and Indians were ferried back across the Niagara River to Queenston.

Seven miles (11 kilometres) south of Queenston, Lieutenant Colonel Pearson's force had completed its overnight march from its base at Twelve Mile Creek, via the ruins of St. Davids, and arrived atop the rising ground that lay at the intersection of Lundy's Lane and Portage Road early on the bright sunny morning of the 25th. Here they joined a party of Norton's Native warriors who had arrived the previous night. Sending out detachments of militia and Natives as scouts, Pearson's troops located the American pickets at the Chippawa, with their main encampment located just beyond the river. Secure in his position astride the two main trackways that controlled the north-south route between Chippawa and Queenston and the east-west route between the Great Falls and the interior road to Burlington, Pearson allowed his men to take

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The hard-fought Battle of Lundy's Lane cost the British and Americans dearly. Although American commander General Jacob Brown claimed victory, he swiftly withdrew his forces to the safety of Fort Erie, discarding baggage along the way. ("BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE, BRITISH DEFENDING COMMONS WITH BAYONETS" BY C.W. JEFFERYS, CITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES)

a well-deserved rest. In response, the troops took up positions across the crest of the hill and for the remainder of the morning and well into the heat of the afternoon, they either dozed, cooked, or attended to the maintenance of their equipment and weapons, all the while keeping a watchful eye to the south with a strong screen of pickets composed of cavalry, militia, and Native allies.

Three miles (five kilometres) farther south, the American troops were also enjoying the fine weather by relaxing or attending to their own daily ritual of duties at their encampment, located on the south side of the Chippawa River, where it flowed into the Niagara River. By noon, however, reports from their advanced pickets told of groups of British troops and Native warriors being seen around the widow Wilson's tavern on the road to Lundy's Lane and Queenston. Although not unduly concerned about this appearance of the enemy, Brown decided that an investigation was required and ordered Lieutenant Riddle to cross the Chippawa with a detachment of about a hundred men from the Nineteenth Regiment in order to make a reconnaissance through the woods to the north and west of the American encampment. What was more alarming were the dispatches arriving from Colonel Swift at Lewiston reporting that a large force of British were rapidly advancing on that position and threatening to capture Brown's "surplus" supplies and baggage. This was followed by news from Captain Denman that the British had indeed captured Lewiston and were reported to be moving on his position at Fort Schlosser. Brown was now deeply concerned that a continuation of this British advance would not only cut his supply lines from Fort Schlosser, but should the enemy advance on Buffalo, it would completely cut off his entire army. Brown was equally certain that if the British were making their main effort on the other side of the river, the troops being reported toward Lundy's Lane must only be a diversionary force, deliberately being exposed to keep him pinned in place while the main body took Fort Schlosser. This, ironically, was exactly what Drummond had originally planned.

By 2:00 p.m., General Brown decided to detach a part of General Porter's Third Brigade to cross back over the Niagara River to reinforce the vulnerable Fort Schlosser. At the same time,



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Canadian-born Sir Gordon Drummond distinguished himself in the War of 1812.

he ordered a strong probe be made on his own (west) side of the river by moving along the Portage Road toward Queenston and Fort George. With this countermeasure, Brown reasoned that since his defeat at Chippawa, General Riall had remained on the defensive (Brown was still unaware of Drummond's arrival) and this probe would

cause Riall to abandon his advance on the east bank and retire on his forts to maintain their safety. Confident that only a part of the army would be required for this countermeasure, Brown chose Scott's Brigade, supported by artillery and mounted troops, to undertake the advance along the Portage/Queenston Road. Their orders were to locate and report on British dispositions, and, if feasible, pressure Riall into withdrawing toward the river mouth — while the remaining American Brigades were to remain at Chippawa.

Back at Queenston, the bulk of Drummond's forces had, by now, completed their re-crossing of the Niagara River and the 41st and 100th Regiments marched north, back to Fort George and Fort Mississauga. In addition, General Riall arrived bearing news that Pearson's force was secure at Lundy's Lane with the Americans to the south at Chippawa. Discussing options with Riall, Drummond decided that the situation was opportune and ordered a concentration of units at the Lundy's Lane hilltop. Riall would rejoin Pearson and his advanced force, while Drummond was to follow with the remaining part of Lieutenant Colonel Morrison's column. Riders were also sent to order up Colonel Hercules Scott's Brigade from the Twelve Mile Creek, thus placing the British in an advantageous position for a probable attack on the Americans the following day. Unfortunately, circumstances were to pre-empt this orderly plan and precipitate a battle of confusion and chaos in the darkness of the approaching night.

ESTIMATE OF AMERICAN FORCES BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE, JULY 25, 1814

- ▶ Strength, on paper according to muster rolls: 5,009 All Ranks. According to Ripley's account (3,588 All Ranks, of which 2,997 were Rank and File).
- ▶ Strength, fit for duty, according to muster rolls: 4,232 All Ranks, Ripley (2,990 All Ranks, 2,458 Rank and File)
- ▶ Author's estimate of strength used in the battle (based on estimated deductions from the above for detached units at Buffalo, Fort Erie, Fort Schlosser, forces remaining in camp, and other units that are recorded as not joining the action): 2,500–2,800 All Ranks, Ripley (2,240 All Ranks, 1,779 Rank and File)

LEFT DIVISION (MAJOR GENERAL BROWN) FIRST BRIGADE (BRIGADIER GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT)

- Ninth Regiment (Major Leavenworth): 200 Rank and File
- Eleventh Regiment (Major McNeil): 200 Rank and File
- Twenty-Second Regiment (Colonel Brady): 300 Rank and File

- Twenty-Fifth Regiment (Major Jesup): 380 Rank and File

SECOND BRIGADE (BRIGADIER GENERAL RIPLEY)

- First Regiment (Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas): 150 Rank and File (detachment)
- Twenty-First Regiment (Lieutenant Colonel Miller): 432 Rank and File [includes attached units, i.e. 1 company, Seventeenth Regiment (Captain Chunn), 1 company, Nineteenth Regiment (Lieutenant Riddle)]
- Twenty-Third Regiment (Major McFarland): 300 Rank and File

THIRD BRIGADE (BRIGADIER GENERAL PORTER)

- New York State Militia (Lieutenant Colonel Dobbin): 250 Rank and File
- Fifth Pennsylvania Militia (Major Wood): 246 Rank and File
- Canadian Volunteers Regiment (Lieutenant Colonel Willcocks): 50 Rank and File

ARTILLERY (MAJOR HINDMAN)

- Captain Biddle's Battery (Three 6-pounder guns)
- Captain Ritchie's Battery (Two 6-pounder guns, One 5-½ inch Howitzer)
- Captain Towson's Battery (Two 6-pounder guns, One 5-½ inch Howitzer)
- Captain William's Battery (Three 18-pounder guns)**
- Lieutenant Douglass's Battery (Two 18-pounder guns)**
- Combined Total: 200 Gunners

[** Not recorded as actively participating in the battle]

CAVALRY (CAPTAIN HARRIS)

- U.S. Light Dragoons (Captain Harris): 1 Troop
- New York State Militia Dragoons (Captain Broughton): volunteers
- Combined Total: 70 All Ranks

ESTIMATE OF BRITISH FORCES BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE, JULY 25, 1814 UNDER LIEUTENANT GENERAL DRUMMOND

RIGHT DIVISION (MAJOR GENERAL RIALL) AT LUNDY'S LANE

2ND (LIGHT) BRIGADE (LIEUTENANT COLONEL PEARSON) Infantry

- Glengarry Light Infantry (Lieutenant Colonel Battersby): 376 Other Ranks
- Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada (Lieutenant Colonel Robinson): 336 Other Ranks

Cavalry

- 19th Light Dragoons (Major Lisle): 95 Other Ranks
- Provincial Light Dragoons (Captain Merritt): 30 Other Ranks

Artillery

- Two 6-pounder guns, One 5-½" Howitzer
- Total: 20 Crew

1st Militia Brigade (Lieutenant Colonel Parry)

- 1st / 2nd / 4th / 5th Lincoln Militias: detachments
- 2nd York Militia (Major Simons): detachment

- Total: 300 Other Ranks

Native Allies (Captain Norton)

- 50 Warriors

MARCHED FROM FORT GEORGE AND FORT MISSISSAUGA

FORT GARRISONS (LIEUTENANT COLONEL MORRISON)

Infantry

- 1st (Royal Scots) Regiment (Captain Brereton): detachment 171 Other Ranks
- 8th (King's) Regiment (Captain Campbell): detachment 65 Other Ranks
- 41st Regiment (Captain Glew): detachment 60 Other Ranks
- 89th Regiment (Lieutenant Colonel Morrison): 425 Other Ranks

Artillery

- Two 24-pounder guns (Lieutenant Thomkyns/Tomkyns)
- Royal Marine Artillery, Congreve Rocket Section (Sergeant Austin)
- Total: 40 Crew

Native Allies

- (Unknown number)

MARCHED FROM TWELVE MILE CREEK

1ST BRIGADE (COLONEL HERCULES SCOTT)

Infantry

- 1st (Royal Scots) Regiment (Lieutenant Colonel Gordon): detachment, 400 Other Ranks
- 8th (King's) Regiment (Major Evans): detachment, 275 Other Ranks
- 103rd Regiment (Major Smelt): detachment, 635 Other Ranks
- 104th Regiment (Captain Leonard): detachment, 120 Other Ranks

Artillery

- Three 6-pounder guns (Captain Mackonochie): 40 Other Ranks

2ND MILITIA BRIGADE (LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAMILTON)

Infantry

- 1st / 2nd Norfolk Militias: detachments
- 1st Essex Militia: detachment
- 1st Middlesex Militia: detachment
- Western (Caldwell's) Rangers: detachment
- Estimated Total: 250 Other Ranks



This is an excerpt from the book A Crucible of Fire: The Battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814, by Richard Feltoe. Published by Dundurn in 2014 and available in stores. www.dundurn.com



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► FIREFIGHT:

Battling fires in Canada, fighting wars overseas, and finding humanity amid the chaos

by Rick Kurelo

AS CANADA'S MISSION in Afghanistan has come to a close, Rick Kurelo's new memoir, *Firefight*, sheds light on his experiences as a Canadian Psychological Warfare Operations specialist in Kandahar in 2008 and 2009.

In 2008, Master Corporal Rick Kurelo, CD, PSYOPS, (third from left) participated in a shura with local district leaders and an interpreter, Maywand District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. (MCPL JAY MCGIBBON)



Like many who served, Kurelo was injured by an IED while on patrol. Following his recovery, he finished his tour before returning home to Canada, where he was awarded the Sacrifice Medal.

After struggling to reintegrate into civilian life, Kurelo was diagnosed with PTSD. Thanks to prescribed medical care, he has been progressing well and is a strong advocate of mental health services for those suffering operational stress injuries.

Here are excerpts from Rick Kurelo's *Firefight*, which also includes stories of his tour to Bosnia with SFOR in 2001; his early career with the Canadian Airborne Regiment; experiences as a reservist with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada; and 23 years service as a professional firefighter with Oshawa Fire Services.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF WARFARE (BOSNIA)

In the army, they say that you should never be first, never be last, and never volunteer. I went against that last piece of advice and volunteered to run an armed services radio program in Bosnia. It changed the direction of my military career in unpredictable ways.

I went to Banja Luka, in the northern part of the country, to attend a radio broadcasting course run by retired British Army Captain David Bailey. Capt. Bailey had previous experience running radio stations in England and combined this with his military expertise to establish Oksigen FM. Oksigen was a multi-cultural, youth-focused station that allowed us to communicate directly with local residents.

Following this training, three of us — including Duska, our Serbo-Croat interpreter, a radio operator and I — ran the station for four months. We played Canadian and Bosnian music as well as other content, and the idea was to establish rapport and a level of trust with the local population. With control over even a small portion of the airwaves, we could begin to influence public perceptions of our role there.

The radio station was housed in an old, bombed-out building in Kupres. We had just enough power and equipment to get on the air. Although headquarters dictated some of the content, we had a lot of autonomy in deciding what to play in both English and Serbo-Croat. I enjoyed it, and felt we were doing interesting and important work.

Little did I know then that this would affect my life six years later when the new Canadian Forces Psychological Warfare

We played Canadian and Bosnian music as well as other content, and the idea was to establish rapport and a level of trust with the local population. With control over even a small portion of the airwaves, we could begin to influence public perceptions of our role there.

Operations (PSYOPS) unit was being formed. Thanks to this previous experience, I was asked to consider applying and was accepted.

....

During the months that we operated our shoestring radio station, Duska, and I had lots of time to get to know one another.

Duska was in her twenties and was trilingual, speaking English, Serbo-Croat and German. She had become a NATO interpreter, was a valuable asset, and was paid very well.

She told me stories of what it was like during the war as a teenager — stories of such brutality and inhumanity that would horrify even the most hardened of us. She had experienced things that no child, or adult, ever should.

Fortunately she had family in Germany and had been able to go there to attend university.

Duska asked me about life in Canada. Based on all the positive things she had heard, from me as well as from others, she said emigrating was something she might consider down the road.

One night we were sitting together in the bombed-out "station," accompanied by a stray dog we had rescued. Sitting in the dark and eating our limited army rations, I asked her, "Duska, what on earth are you doing here? With your skills and education, you could go anywhere to live. Why stay, especially after what you've experienced?"

I expected to hear that she had no other options, or that NATO paid so well for translators that she couldn't refuse.

What she said was, "Rick, it's my duty to stay. I love my country and I want to do what I can to help rebuild it."

She told me that despite the horrors she had endured, she was willing to risk her life to help save her homeland. I could not help but be inspired by such devotion to a cause that was much bigger than her.

THE PEOPLE YOU MEET (AFGHANISTAN)

I was part of a small, unique group of PSYOPS specialists in Afghanistan, which was not attached to a specific unit or base. During my tour I would receive individual orders geared to support specific operational needs in our area of responsibility. I often found myself arriving by helicopter at different forward operating bases (FOB) throughout Kandahar province. Due to this variety of roles and locations, I met a lot of different people, both military and civilian.



Corporal Rick Kurelo with two children in a village near Kupres, 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment Parachute Company, SFOR, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2001.

At one FOB, there was quite a mixed group that included soldiers, medics, nurses, aid workers and journalists. With so many of us living

under one roof, it was inevitable that the stories — whether from the front lines or from back home — would start to fly.

It was the middle of the night and I had long since given up the idea of a solid night's sleep. Due to the frequent attacks, or the threat of them, two hours of sleep was about all I could get.

A bunch of us were gathered at the back of the base. Some American aid workers had just arrived and were going to be with us for a while, so we struck up a conversation. About twelve of us sat around in a circle of plastic chairs and went through the basics: why the area was so dangerous; what to do in case of attack; medical procedures and protocol; and other information vital to survival in the desert war zone.

Even in the dead of night, the heat was oppressive. I spent half of the conversation just trying to stay comfortable, wiping sweat from my face and neck. I didn't turn in when the others began plodding off as the evening wore on.

One young aid worker also remained and we started talking about his life in the United States. He told me about his mom and dad, and how much he missed them. He choked a little on the word "family," and even though I couldn't see his eyes in the dark, I knew he was fighting back tears.

He took a deep breath. "At least I can see them on Skype," he said.

Skype had become important overseas. The technology enabled us to see, and not just hear, our loved ones back home. The signal wasn't always the best and homesickness and heartbreak were common side effects, but being able to communicate with loved ones was an indispensable lifeline.

He nodded as if agreeing with himself. He was trying to put a positive spin on things, but it was obvious that even Skype was a poor substitute for seeing his family in person.

I told him more about life in country and we smoked and talked until the sun came up.

At last, he stood up and stretched. We both walked inside and stood next to each other to shave. He was visibly becoming excited about going out into the field and making a difference in people's lives.

"There have been soldiers in my family," he said, "but I've never been one myself. It's a rush to be heading out to the front."

I wondered if I had ever sounded that enthusiastic to people

who had been in a war zone before me. He told me he was looking forward to doing the work he had come here to do and was anxious to get to his 8:00 security briefing.

"It's a great thing we're doing, isn't it?" he asked as he rinsed his razor in a bucket of water. "I mean for the people here and for the people back home. We have a chance to make a real difference in the world." He smiled. "I'm doing this for my family, you know."

I splashed some water on my face and grabbed a towel from the rack. "Hey, that's probably about the best reason to do anything."

He laughed. We shook hands and I wished him luck.

"Keep your head up," I said.

Three hours later, we were notified that a convoy carrying some of the aid workers had hit an IED and there were multiple casualties. The convoy was speeding back to the base for medical assistance. When they arrived, we set up a triage unit where we stabilized the injured and transported the more seriously wounded by Medevac to the nearest hospital.

By the time we had sorted through the chaos, there were three dead. Sadly, one of the deceased was the young man I had stayed up with the previous night.

Just a few hours earlier he'd been laughing, smoking and opening up about how he wanted to make a difference in Afghanistan. The sad and brutal truth out there was that IEDs struck indiscriminately - no matter who you were or what role you played.

GIRL IN THE DESERT (AFGHANISTAN)

We were patrolling beyond our remote FOB when we rolled into a small village to follow up on reports of Taliban activity.

As I climbed down from our RG-31 mine vehicle, a little girl hobbled over to me and stretched up her hand to offer me a small blue flower. I knelt down, accepted the flower and offered her some candy in return. She took it with both hands, smiled and limped ahead of me into the village where her father scooped her up in his arms.

I approached the man and asked why his daughter was limping. In Pashto, he told me that she had stepped on a buried explosive, which had destroyed her leg. He lifted the bottom of the girl's dress to show me her crude wooden prosthetic limb. It was little more than a short shaft of untreated wood with two leather straps and a small buckle to secure it to the girl's leg.

"I made it myself," he said proudly.

I explained that we might be able to find a prosthesis that would fit her better. After I provided a bit more information, he agreed and so I told him we would do everything in our power to get his daughter a prosthetic leg. I stopped short of making a promise because, in Afghanistan, if you promise and don't follow through, you lose all credibility.

Back at Kandahar Airfield, I went through the necessary chain of command looking for a way to get a prosthesis sent over from Canada. The amount of required paperwork was astounding. Fortunately, I'd hit a window of time where I was needed there for briefings, so I was also able to fill out the requisition forms and make the necessary phone calls.

Four weeks later, a helicopter arrived with medical supplies. Among the boxes were a wheelchair and a child-sized prosthetic leg. We transported the chair and the artificial limb to our FOB by helicopter then drove them to the village. As we presented them to him, the father hugged us, cried, and said we had saved his daughter's life. The little girl peeked out from behind his robes.

I dropped to one knee. "They're for you," I said in Pashto.

With her father's encouragement, she limped toward me and ran her small hand along the smooth curves of the shiny chair and the new leg. I showed them how the leg would fit and then she tried it out. Their smiles said it all.

A few days later, we were back in the village on patrol so I made a point to stop in to see how the little girl was doing. As I approached their home, her father came outside and clapped his hands with delight.

"She is such a happy little girl now," he said. "She can get water in the morning and she moves around without pain."

I told him that we were glad to help. It was our job to make life there better, not worse, like it must seem sometimes.

The grateful man thanked us a dozen times. When I turned to leave, at last, he grabbed my arm and turned me back around. He looked into my eyes for a long time, like he was searching for just the right words. I thought he was going to thank me again and I put up my hands to indicate he had already thanked us enough.

Instead, he took a deep breath, then whispered, "Do not take the left path today, sir."

At first, I thought I had not heard him correctly, but he squeezed my arm, and repeated, "Do not take the left path." I confirmed my understanding with a nod.

There were two paths that we normally travelled to get to and from the village. More often than not, we took the shorter left path to get back to the FOB. When I returned to our convoy, I told the driver what the man had said. We took the right path and it turned out to be the *right* path in more ways than one. We later learned that the Taliban had been in the village days earlier, systematically burying mines along the other route.

As we had experienced many times before, by showing our compassion and helping the little girl, we had likely saved our own lives. There is no question in my mind that the kindness that human beings show one another is by far more powerful, and with longer lasting effects, than all the weapons in the world will ever be. 🍁



Firefight is a compilation of 97 stories and 45 photos that span Rick Kurelo's experiences with the Canadian Forces and Oshawa Fire Services. Published by FriesenPress, Firefight is available online and in store. Contact Rick Kurelo at firefight2014.com or @firefight2014.



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▶ HITS AND MISSES

Veterans Stories, Personal History & Candlelight Vigils



Countless Canadian veterans tell their war stories to children in classrooms during Remembrance Week, including Esprit de Corps' own contributing editors, Les Peate and Norm Shannon. Thanks to Frank Reid, children in the Waterloo area will have a video to watch all year round.

NEW VIDEO TELLS VETS' STORIES TO SCHOOLS

EACH YEAR DURING Remembrance Week, Frank Reid finds his schedule stretched thin as he and members of the RCR Association visit as many schools as possible in the Waterloo, Ontario area. Upwards of 50 requests flood in, and Reid and other members try to meet them all — presenting to each school or class or group of students the importance of remembering the sacrifices of soldiers.

But Reid doesn't just visit schools during Remembrance Week. As author of the book *1972-1979 A Canadian Soldier at Peace*, he also speaks to classes on a regular basis on how to write a book. During this time, he finds kids ask more about his military background than his writing presentation. He was shocked at the general lack of knowledge about Canadian military history. "Whether Grade 6, or Grade 12, the kids know nothing, and that's a horrible thing to say," he explains. "They know a bit about the World Wars and Afghanistan, but little to nothing about in between."

Reid came up with an idea to create a video that tells the stories of a select number of Canadian soldiers and veterans. Reid received a grant from the City of Waterloo to film and took the project to the production company ADVVIDEO, who ultimately filmed and edited it for free. The result is a gripping 25-minute video featuring Canadian soldiers from all walks of life simply telling their stories.

Watching the video, it does not feel educational. There is no teacher lecturing; there is no lecturing at all. Just soldiers, young and elder, telling their stories: why they joined, what they did, what they experienced. One striking example is of a veteran of Afghanistan explaining why he joined the Canadian Armed Forces. Born in Korea, Sang Ik Bang wanted to pay forward the sacrifices made by Canadians and other countries during the Korean War.

"Without their sacrifice, then I would not be here," he says in the video. "So I thought it was important for me, in my own way, maybe for future generations, to hopefully do some good by volunteering on this tour."

Reid set out to cover the timeline from Korea to Afghanistan, with veterans from both wars and various missions in between. It is a positive video — it won't have you reaching for the tissues — but it will leave you with a lasting impression of the sacrifice and courage of members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The video has been viewed in 12 countries and its reach is growing rapidly. The Waterloo District School Board has agreed to use it as a resource for their many schools. It will also be used in all the museums in the Waterloo area as well as be available in the library. Reid emphasized that the video is free, and it

was created "just for the simple purpose of being out there to educate."

To view the video visit <http://vimeo.com/95000592> and click play. It is worth the 25 minutes of your time.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

CANADA'S LARGEST CRANE now has a name. Three issues ago (Volume 21 Issue 3), we announced that Seaspan, a Canadian naval company, was holding a crane-naming contest for its soon-to-be-built crane.

The crane finally has a name thanks to one elementary schooler's creativity. *Hiyí Skwáyel* (pronounced *hee-yay sk-why-el*) is the Squamish language translation of "Big Blue." The winner of the contest is Ella Tinto from Boundary Elementary School in North Vancouver. Over 4,400 students from grades 4 to 7 from 25 schools across North Vancouver participated in the competition.

The 300-tonne crane, which is being built as part of Seaspan's Shipyard Modernization Project, will stand 80 metres high and 76 metres wide. The two-year project, which will be completed this fall, will provide new facilities for the shipyard to deliver non-combatant vessels for the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Coast Guard.

"Once our modernized facilities are operational, Seaspan will begin construction on NSPS [National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy] work that will create 5,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs over the next 20 years, produce almost \$500 million per year in gross domestic product for B.C.'s economy, and mean thousands of young people will get the opportunity for an exciting new career in

shipbuilding,” said Brian Carter, president of Seaspan Shipyards.

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS WITH WWI HISTORY

THE DUFFERIN COUNTY Museum and Archives is offering a new learning tool for students this fall. It will launch an education program titled, *WWI: To Have Served & Sacrificed*, which will provide students from local schools with a hands-on experience in researching the Great War.

The museum has been collecting information on local veterans for many years. Local families have donated personal effects, which the museum proudly preserves and exhibits to the public, explained Julie MacDonald, the museum’s education programmer. Recently, the museum launched “DuffStuff,” an online research database that contains information on 5,400 local veterans.

The education program was inspired by

the creation of the database and will allow students the opportunity to work hands-on with artifacts to help bring history alive. The museum wanted to partake in commemorating the centennial anniversary of the war with this program in a way that would teach the local population about its participation and sacrifices during the war, explained MacDonald. “This means getting up close and working in detail to discover history from close to home. This will hopefully allow students to make personal connections with what they are learning and inspire heritage preservation,” she explained.

It will also bring home the impact of the war. “We want students to understand that the war wasn’t just waged on foreign soil, but that there was a tremendous effort happening on the home front, especially rural areas like Dufferin County,” said MacDonald.

The program begins in September and will involve students from the

three local high schools as well as the public. For more information visit www.dufferinmuseum.com and click on the education section.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL HELD IN ESQUIMALT

OVER 3,500 CANDLES illuminated a military cemetery in British Columbia in late May. During the ceremony, veterans and currently serving members of the military pass candles to young cadets and youth from various local organizations, who then place them on the cemetery’s more than 2,500 graves. The vigil is an annual event that sees the cooperation between past and present military members and honours those who have fallen in service. At least one candle is placed on every single grave in the cemetery during the ceremony.

One of Canada’s oldest military cemeteries, God’s Acre was purchased in 1868 and serves as the final resting place

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A candlelight vigil is held annually at God's Acre Veterans' Cemetery, CFB Esquimalt's military cemetery. In a public tribute co-hosted by Veterans Affairs Canada and the Esquimalt Dockyard Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, local cadets, scouts and girl guides placed a lit candle at each of the more than 2,500 graves to honour those who served their country and are buried in the 144-year-old historic cemetery. (LS HENRY OGLE, MARPAC IMAGING SERVICES, DND)

for those who served and died at sea. It has since opened to anyone who served in the military and their families.

**REGIMENTAL ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATED WITH DAGGER**

A KNIFE HONOURING the regimental history of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry is for sale via the PPCLI's kit shop. It is a close combat dagger that's design honours the vast 100-year history of the regiment, but is designed for modern combat. It is designed by Brent Beshara, an ex-soldier with a distinguished career as a clearance diver, bomb disposal operator and instructor, and a member of JTF 2.

The most striking and important feature of the knife is its second-generation Besh Wedge tip geometry. It consists of two diagonally sharp, chisel-ground edges that divert away from each other on either side of the knife and meet a third cutting edge at the point. This design makes the dagger much stronger than a traditional dagger point.

The knife is available through the PPCLI's kit shop at <http://kitshop.ppcli.com/Kitshoptest1/>

**GLENFIDDICH TO DONATE TO
VETERANS' THERAPY**

FOR EVERY BOTTLE of 15-year-old Glenfiddich scotch sold, two dollars will be donated to Can Praxis, a veteran equine therapy program. Can Praxis is a program for veterans inflicted with PTSD

and their families. Using horses, Can Praxis helps develop communication and other skills to help them conquer difficult and unresolved issues. Wounded Warriors Canada has proudly supported the program, and now all funds from Glenfiddich's 2014 retail sales of its 15-year-old brand will be passed on to the equine program.

The program began in 2012 and is the brainchild of veteran Steve Critchley and registered psychologist Jim Marland. "Can Praxis uses walk-along exercises with horses as a training aid. As a 'flight' animal they react to human body language. Horses react to what they see; it is their body language that speaks volumes about humans in their proximity," explains the website.

The Glenfiddich campaign will allow Critchley to continue to support a high quality of life for veterans. "Glenfiddich's direct support of Wounded Warriors Canada and Can Praxis allows us to provide programs for veterans and their families at no cost to participants. This support is significant and ensures we (Can Praxis) are able to conduct innovative programs and provide proven help for those in need," explained Critchley in a press release announcing the campaign.

The testimonials section of their website is filled with praise for the program, telling of the success of the program. "I truly believe your support with this program will save more than just lives, it will save families," one commenter writes.

Glenfiddich began its partnership with Wounded Warriors Canada in 2012 and since then, has collected over \$180,000 for the organization. A cheque will be presented to Can Praxis in a ceremony just before Remembrance Day this year.

Glenfiddich also participated in the first-ever held Wounded Warriors Battlefield Bike Ride across France. The ride began June 6 at Juno Beach and saw over 130 Canadians — former and serving members of the CAF as well as civilians — biking around the French countryside. Cyclists rode the 750-kilometre journey from Juno Beach to Vimy Ridge in eight days to raise awareness and funds for CAF members injured during their service.

**WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?
AUTHOR AND MOTIVATIONAL**

speaker Tyler Hayden needs help from serving and ex members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Hayden is writing the next book in his Message in a Bottle series which will be an anthology of letters written by service personnel to their sons and daughters. Anyone who has served or is currently serving is welcome to write something and get published in this next book. For more information, please visit www.messageinabottlebook.com

**OSHKOSH DONATES \$25,000 TO
TRUE PATRIOT LOVE FOUNDATION
OSHKOSH DEFENCE LAUNCHED**

a signature campaign to raise \$25,000 for the True Patriot Love foundation in Ottawa. Attendees of the trade show CANSEC were encouraged to sign a piece of paper. Oshkosh accepted signatures, donating two dollars for every signature until reaching its goal of \$25,000.

True Patriot Love is an organization with a mission to ensure military members and their families get the services they need. The organization provides funding to military-oriented Canada charities. Their focus is on three categories: family health and support, physical health and rehabilitation, and mental health and well-being. Oshkosh presented the cheque to True Patriot Love on the last day at the trade show. 🍁

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Keeping his memories alive

PETER CHISHOLM
ROYAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS
KOREAN WAR

***PETER CHISHOLM RECEIVED** his officer's commission from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1953. He was sent to Korea as a lieutenant with the Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE), arriving just prior to the July 27, 1953 armistice. He helped South Korea transition to peace, marking and fencing minefields, establishing the Demilitarized Zone, and removing bodies of war casualties. Below is an edited excerpt of his story, which is also available on the Memory Project website.*

WE ARRIVED IN KOREA as supernumerary junior officers. The general approach was to assign us each to one of the troops, in the 59 Field Squadron, which was the Royal Canadian Engineers field squadron serving the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade at that time. I was assigned to No. 2 Troop of the RCE. The commanding officer was Donald Eadie, I believe.

Shortly after that, the 59 Field Squadron was within the 1st Commonwealth Division, and was assigned tidy-up duties after the truce was signed. As such, we — at least I'll say "I" — didn't serve as a troop commander. Instead, I did work for several of the troops, and the work that I did was coordinated by the 28th Field Engineer Regiment, which was the British field engineer regiment within the Commonwealth Division.

The work we did was to secure minefields, along with the Commonwealth Division, to make sure that people would not stray into

the minefields. The work that we did was to repair the fences and to map them on air photos, and all of that work was coordinated by the intelligence officer at the 28th Field Engineer Regiment. His name was Captain John Elderkin.

Serving with Captain John Elderkin, as I say, our principal duty was to secure the safe passage along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and to help with the mapping of minefields to make sure that they were properly located for the future. During the field reconnaissance episodes, required to secure the Demilitarized Zone and

the demarcation line, as I've mentioned, we were also required, when we encountered unexploded ordnances, to map the location of these pieces of ordnance, and to return later to demolish them. That work was usually undertaken by individuals, rather than groups, because of the danger to larger formations of people.



The service of thanksgiving held at 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade HQ, on August 2, 1953, commemorating the ceasefire in Korea.

“... on the evening of the ceasefire, we were watching a movie in our troop area in the dark and a mortar bomb came and landed within a few metres of the area where we were all sitting ...”

We also had to demolish some of the residue from the war, and also to mark the location of casualties or human remains left in the field, map them, report and take pictures, and send them through the 59 Field Squadron office to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for subsequent securing of the human remains, either to North Korea or to South Korea, depending on the nationality.

On the eve of the day that the armistice was to be signed, I think it was the 27th of July, 1953, we were all confined to our troop locations — we weren't allowed to move out of them. In my troop, No. 2 Troop, on the evening of the ceasefire, we were watching a movie in our troop area in the dark and a mortar bomb came and landed within a few metres of the area where we were all sitting. It didn't explode, but a lot of the mortar bombs and shells and things like that in Korea didn't work very well anyway. That's why there was such a surplus of unexploded ordnance lying around.

MEMORY PROJECT ... CONTINUED ON PAGE 61



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP IMAGE: Captain Donald Eadie (left), commander of No. 1 Troop, 4th Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers, and Lieutenant Peter Chisholm (right), on the occasion of the redesignation of the 59th Independent Field Squadron as the 4th Field Squadron, RCE in October 1953.


LEFT: Staff Sergeant Lou Evans (left, foreground) and Lieutenant Peter Chisholm mapping minefields, August 1953. Lou Evans subsequently wrote the book, *Find the Dragon: The Canadian Army in Korea, 1950-1953*, under the pseudonym Robert Hepenstall.

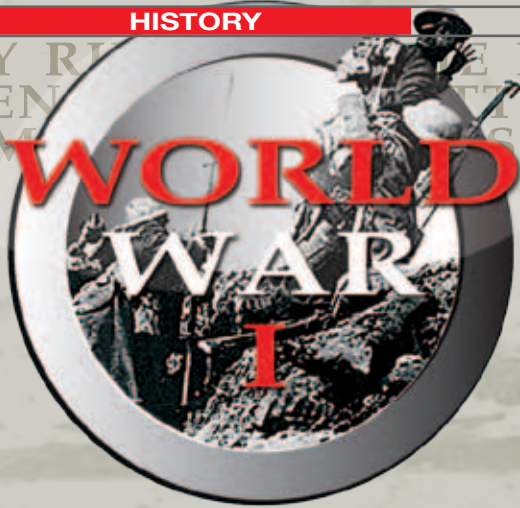


The Memory Project Archive is creating an unprecedented record of Canada's participation in the Second World War and Korean War as seen through the eyes of thousands of men and women who were there. It provides every living veteran with the opportunity to preserve their memories through recorded interviews and digitized memorabilia. Their stories are available, in both official languages, at www.thememoryproject.com and www.leprojetmemoire.com.

Created in 2001, The Memory Project Speakers Bureau is a bilingual educational program designed to connect veterans, serving soldiers, and students online and in classrooms across the country. The Speakers Bureau includes 1,500 volunteers from across Canada who visit classrooms and community groups sharing their stories. Memory Project speakers represent a wide range of conflicts, including the Second World War, Korean War, Peacekeeping Operations, and other Canadian Forces experiences. To date, these veteran and Canadian Forces volunteers have reached more than 1.4 million Canadians. For more information, to register as a volunteer, or to book a speaker for your classroom or community group, please visit www.thememoryproject.com/speakers-bureau/ or www.leprojetmemoire.com/bureau-des-orateurs/.

The Memory Project Archive and The Memory Project Speakers Bureau are initiatives of **Historica Canada**, the largest independent organization dedicated to Canadian history, identity and citizenship.

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▶ THE FINAL GATHERING: The militia forms in Alberta

by Donald E. Graves

IN THIS EXCERPT from his book, *Century of Service: The History of the South Alberta Light Horse*, Donald E. Graves describes the last summer militia camp held in Alberta before the First World War broke out.

When the Alberta militia went to camp in June 1914, it appeared to many in the province that better economic prospects were just around the corner. For the 19th Dragoons, the annual concentration began in the evening of Sunday, June 14, 1914, when A Squadron rode through the streets of Edmonton to the CPR station, hooves clattering and sabres clanking, to board the train for Calgary. The band and two companies of the 101st Regiment were there to send them off and it is likely that the Fusilier bandsmen played *Dolly Gray* which, in the previous decade, had become a popular “loth to depart” tune for military units leaving station. As was standard practice at this time, militia cavalry units attended camp before the infantry — the 101st Fusiliers would be going at the end of the week.

At the station, A Squadron quickly loaded their 80 horses (among which, according to one eyewitness, were some “fiery untamed steeds”) onto the box cars. They took care, no doubt, to heed Griesbach’s sage advice not to hitch stallions in close proximity to mares in season. The unit’s arms and equipment were placed in two baggage cars and, finally, the men took their seats in six green-painted colonist cars, probably grumbling about the hard wooden slat benches which were, with some truth, believed to brand an indelible pattern on one’s posterior. To the cheers and



A scene from a militia summer camp, circa 1914. Almost 2,500 men, 1,700 horses and hundreds of marquee tents took over Sarcee Camp in the summer of 1914 as a training site for military personnel. It was the only area in Alberta set aside to train soldiers for battle during the Great War, and more than 45,000 men would train at the camp during the war. (MUSEUM OF THE 5TH (BC) REGIMENT, ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY)

hurrahs of the crowd, the train pulled out for nearby Strathcona where a brief stop was made to pick up B Squadron and then, as Trooper Lathern pulled out his fiddle to provide a little entertainment, the dragoons settled down for the overnight journey south.

The regiment arrived at Calgary station at 8 a.m. the next morning. Monday, June 15, 1914, was a busy day for the railwaymen in that city as cavalry units from all over Alberta — the outlying squadrons of the 15th Horse, the 21st Hussars, 23rd Rangers and the 35th Central Horse — came in on chartered CPR, Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern Railway trains. Some men had a long ride from their homes just to get to

the railway — Corporal W.H. Widden of the 21st Hussars rode 170 miles in three days to reach Red Deer and board the camp train of the 35th Horse — while others elected to ride the entire distance to Calgary, including a detachment of the Corps of Guides from Banff who spent two nights camping on the way.

One train brought in nothing but horses for the city squadron of the 15th Light Horse. There was no shortage of experienced wranglers to get this collection of barely halter-broke mounts, rented in outlying small towns for the camp, safely through the streets of the city to the Light Horse armoury where they were awaited by nervous urban troopers. It says much for the efficiency and experience of the Alberta cavalry that all units offloaded their horses, men, equipment and arms without confusion and delay before setting out on the three and a half mile march to the camp site at Reservoir Park near the Sarcee Reserve west of the city.

“There was no drinking at Reservoir Park because Sam Hughes, the new Minister of Militia, was a committed teetotaler and had expressly forbidden the presence or sale of alcohol at camps.”

They arrived to find lines of bell and marquee tents awaiting them, the product of hard preliminary work done by No. 14 Company, Canadian Army Service Corps and Nos. 4 and 6 Field Troops, Canadian Engineers. Just as the units entered their lines, the “official camp thunderstorm” broke but it was soon over and did nothing to repress the spirits of mostly young men who were happy and boisterous because, for many, militia camp was their only holiday.

Camp discipline, however, was stricter in 1914 than in previous years. There was no drinking at Reservoir Park because Sam Hughes, the new Minister of Militia, was a committed teetotaler and had expressly forbidden the presence or sale of alcohol at camps.

This led militiamen to sing, to the tune of *John Peel*:

*D’ye ken Sam Hughes, he’s the foe of booze;
He’s the real champeen of the dry canteen;
For the camp is dead, and we’re sent to bed,
So we won’t have a head in the morning.*

Nor was there any gambling — not even semi-innocent (although often profitable) games of “Crown and Anchor” — as this too was prohibited. There is no doubt that these regulations were rigorously enforced at Calgary as the commander of Military District 13, Colonel Ernest A. Cruikshank, was a humourless stickler who followed regulations to the letter. Cruikshank also tried to forbid the traditional camp amusement of blanket tossing — in fact regimental commanders had been trying to get rid of this practice for the past six years — but even Cruikshank did not try to outlaw inter-unit arm wrestling contests, an always popular activity. As



A photograph of senior non-commissioned officers of the Canadian Light Horse’s A Squadron (19th Alberta Dragoons). The 19th Alberta Dragoons were formed from four independent mounted rifle squadrons in 1908 and one of the first units called up for service in WWI. It was the first Canadian cavalry unit to serve in France and the only Canadian cavalry unit to remain mounted throughout the war. The regiment retained its well-known badge and Stetson hat throughout the war.

for drinking and gambling, maybe it didn’t take place at Reservoir Park but the attractions of Calgary were close at hand and men were generally off duty after the evening meal, although they still had to be back in their lines by 10 p.m.

On Tuesday, following reveille at 5:30 a.m., everyone got down to work. The cavalry units carried out individual dismounted drill while the 25th Battery went off to the range to fire live rounds from their 13-pdr guns. The Lethbridge boys had only recently received these modern weapons and were very proud of them, no doubt telling anyone willing (or unwilling) to listen that these were the same guns manned by the Royal Horse

Artillery and the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. The gunners had a good time at the range until time came to fold up shop for the day when a final ammunition check revealed that they could not account for one shrapnel round. This discovery promptly set off a frantic search of the ammunition limbers and gun area but the hunt was to no avail until some bright spark thought to check the guns themselves and the round was discovered in the breach of one of the 13-pdr guns. Its fuse was set to “0” or the minimum range setting possible, which would have detonated it not far out of the muzzle and what made matters worse, was that the weapon in which the missing shell was loaded was known to have a defective safety mechanism. Letting their collective breath out, while at the same time saying a quiet prayer of thanks to Saint Barbara, patron of gunners, the Lethbridge battery packed up and returned to its lines.

Beginning on Wednesday, June 17, each unit in turn spent a day at the rifle ranges. In 1914, the Canadian militia took



marksmanship very seriously, not just because Sam Hughes was a fanatical shooter but also because a militiaman had to score a minimum of 42 out of 70 possible points on the ranges to get the few cents extra “efficiency pay” to add to his 50 cents a day camp pay, and an enlisted man had to get efficiency pay before he could gain promotion. Those cavalry units not firing on the range commenced mounted drill, while the 25th Battery practised deploying for action, gun drill (with probably a little extra time spent on the correct procedure for clearing a gun after firing) and displacing to new positions.

Not all the cavalry were good riders, particularly the men from the city squadrons who, to make matters worse, were usually issued the half broken “rent-a-steeds.” Every cavalry unit, however, had experienced roughriders on hand who were tasked with breaking unruly horses or rescuing hapless troopers “not familiar with either the disposition or the wonderful possibilities of a western cayuse.” When a runaway took place – and it apparently happened quite often – these specialists would rope in an unriden horse or, if the rider was still gamely “in distress, hanging on the back of a rearing, plunging” cayuse, they would come alongside and shout, “a few queer and shout “a few queer phrases of their own to try and instil him in a little self-confidence.”

This routine continued for the remainder of the week although Thursday morning was given over to the District Commander’s inspection which, according to the newspapers, was passed with flying colours. The annual camp was big news in Alberta and its activities were covered by all the hometown papers. It is puzzling

ABOVE: The 5th Cavalry Brigade rides through Calgary on its way to the unveiling of the South African War Memorial at Central Park on June 20, 1914. The lead unit is possibly the 23rd Alberta Rangers. Note the officer on the right, the unit padre. The 1914 summer camp, which took place just a few weeks before the outbreak of war, was regarded as the best event held in the province. (SOUTH ALBERTA LIGHT HORSE ARCHIVES)

that the *Edmonton Journal* assured its readers that B Squadron of the 19th Dragoons was the best squadron at camp in 1914, while the *Medicine Hat News* stated with equal confidence that the honour belonged to C Squadron of the 21st Hussars. The media were frequent visitors and the reporter for the *Calgary Standard* was impressed when he arrived at Reservoir Park to find,

... everything in the best military order and the camp second to none in point of order, industry and cleanliness. No one was idling, even those “off duty” seemed busy, and the prairie near the Sarcee reserve was alive with scarlet and khaki-clad men, undergoing severe tests of their abilities in squadron drill, signalling, marksmanship, foot drill and wagon drill. For infantry drill, the men have been supplied with very picturesque and appropriate sun-hats, and though the drill is carried out in the face of a strong sample of Alberta sunshine, no heat prostrations are recorded.

This same journalist was also intrigued to see the many mascots in the tent lines as each unit had brought its own well-groomed pony, dog or other pet beast. He was pleased, that is, until he encountered a monkey, the pride of one unidentified unit (one suspects the Central Horse, a new regiment eager to impress, or the Lethbridge battery because gunners are known to be a little strange), which promptly ate his notes when he stopped to pet it and then tried to bite the aspiring young Hemingway after he refused to render up his pencil for the simian’s dessert. This was perhaps not the best example of military-media relations but, on the other hand, 1914 was a distant happy time before the invention of Public Affairs officers.

On Thursday night, June 18, most of the officers in camp attended, by invitation, the “Rose Ball” at the Palliser Hotel in downtown Calgary. This was a fundraising event staged by the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire because the good

ladies needed to pay for the impressive new memorial, dedicated to the fallen of the South African War, which they had just erected in Central Park. The social elite of the city and — more important for young cavalry officers — all their unmarried daughters were on the invitation list. The absence of most of the officers probably resulted in a better run camp, as the NCOs took over and no doubt peace and reason reigned in the tent lines (plus a little discreet “Crown and Anchor” and perhaps the odd nip as the district staff were all known to be down at the Palliser). By every account the ball was a great success and enjoyed by all, including a number of junior officers who, it is reported, weaved their way back to their tents shortly before reveille, heads full of both champagne punch and troubling visions of bare, soft shoulders wreathed in silk, organza or tulle. This should come as no surprise, however, because young officers often display a distressing tendency to get to the lee of sobriety and stay up too late while, when it comes to young ladies, they generally live in perpetual hope.

The following day — and it turned out to be a very hot and dry one — it was back to mounted drill and range work. Quite possibly there were some pale-faced subalterns on morning parade and squadron commanders, taking note, would make an effort to assign such unfortunates extra duties involving the loud shouting of orders and considerable riding back and forth in the dust under a mind-baking sun. They did this not only because it was an essential part of a junior officer’s training but because all young gentlemen must learn that war really is hell. It might also be possible that some of these subalterns, suffering from mildly guilty consciences as well as thick heads, dodged hastily behind tents that evening when they spotted the matrons of the IODE, many of whom were protective mothers of attractive young ladies, making serene and majestic progress through camp to solicit funds from the enlisted men for their memorial. The District Commander had given the good ladies permission to do so, while at the same time issuing an order that they, “be welcomed with the utmost civility.”

During the weekend there was some relaxation of activity, at least training activity. Much of Saturday, June 20, 1914, was given over to a full dress parade — with Stetsons instead of straw hats for the cavalry — by all 2,000 men in camp to downtown Calgary to attend the unveiling of the South African War Memorial. That afternoon, the 101st Fusiliers, 325 strong, arrived at the station and marched in — fat Freddy Carstairs, their overweight commanding officer, leading the column — with colours flying behind their

band playing a stirring march. The 103rd Rifles of Calgary, being a local unit, first attended the memorial parade before coming out, with 200 all ranks, to Reservoir Park. On Sunday morning, the Catholics were mustered and marched off to St. Mary’s in Calgary for service while the Protestants (or members of any other faith as in 1914 the army had rather a simple concept of religion) were formed in a hollow square, in the centre of which was an altar created by covering one of the 25th Battery’s 13-pdr guns with a Union Jack.

Services were then conducted by a number of local ministers who took full opportunity of having a captive congregation to increase the length of their sermons. Things got better in the afternoon, however, as it was largely given over to some rest and relaxation, involving arm wrestling contests, baseball games and displays of horsemanship complete with bronco-busting, jumping and short distance races, all of which were watched with great interest by crowds of civilians who took post on nearby ridges.

Now that all the units in Alberta were present, as one dragoon officer fondly recalled some thirty years later, morning reveille was truly impressive:

At five-thirty in the morning the morning gun was fired in the artillery lines, fifteen squadron trumpeters blew reveille, the artillery trumpets and the infantry bugles joined in. The air throbbed with the sweetest music that a soldier can hear.

WWI: FINAL GETHERING ... CONTINUED ON PAGE 61

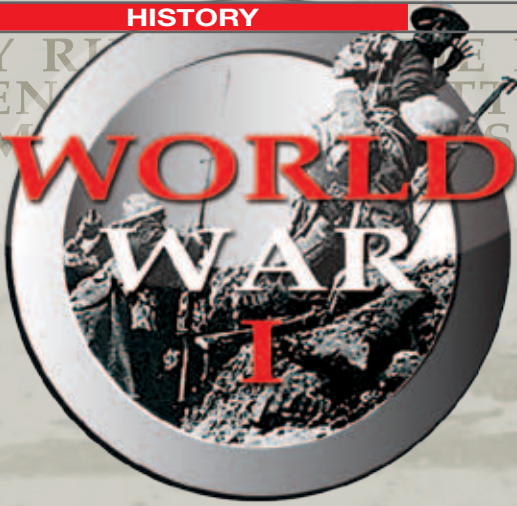
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► DUNSTERFORCE: A Kiplingesque adventure or Stalky's Folly PART I

by Bob Gordon

IN EARLY JANUARY 1918, LCol John Weightman Warden, CO of the 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion (North British Columbians) was contemplating a decision that he confessed to his diary as “the hardest thing I ever had to do in my life.” He was considering leaving the 102nd Battalion, the unit he had recruited, trained and led from Canada’s Pacific coast to the trenches of France and Belgium. The troops who commonly called themselves ‘Warden’s Warriors’ and referred to their CO as ‘Honest John’ were about to lose LCol Warden.

The unit’s war diary and Warden’s personal diary differ slightly in the details. The war diary reports that on January 11, 1918, “Lieut-Colonel J. W. Warden, DSO severed his connection with the 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion and proceeded at 8:00 am by automobile to Boulogne en route to London, England, to take up another appointment in His Majesty’s service.” Contradictorily, Warden’s personal diary records that these events transpired a day earlier, on the January 10. Perhaps, definitively, his final ‘Special Order of the Day’ is dated January 11, 1918.

While the facts remain sketchy, Warden’s affection for his troops was evident in his personal diary. “In France, there never were men tougher/truer?, braver, more loyal, more capable, more loved by CO, the finest fighters ... God, how I loved them.” This warmth also shone through in his final Special Order of the Day: “Feelings of pride and gratitude overwhelm me when I recall the endurance, perseverance and courage which you have exhibited through your



General Lionel Charles Dunsterville was a British general who led the small Allied force toward Baku in the Caucasus at the end of 1917 in a bid to prevent Russia’s Bolshevik revolution from expanding beyond its borders. The secret expedition was known as “Dunsterforce” after its commander and consisted of about 1,100 Allied men — Australian, New Zealand, British, and Canadian troops drawn primarily from the Mesopotamian and Western Fronts. (AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL)

period of service in Belgium and France.”

This mutual respect and affection begs the question why Warden was seeking a transfer at all. The obvious answer is who wouldn’t want to be transferred from the hell of the trenches? Hours of discomfort and boredom, interspersed by random moments of horror, the agony of waiting to go “over the bags,” paired with hours of shelling and arbitrary injury and death at the hands of unseen enemy artillery. Surely, this factor played a major role in the decision of both Warden and the 14 other officers who volunteered for, and were accepted into, the Canadian contingent. They, along with Warden, were to embark on “a very important and difficult mission,” according to the Eastern Committee of the War Office’s request to Canadian Corps CO LGen Arthur Currie. Two days later, General Plummer wrote a personal appeal to Currie noting that the required officers must be of “strong character, and adventurous spirit, especially good stamina, capable of organizing, training and eventually leading, irregular troops.”

While all of these factors surely appealed to Warden, he had a personal and emotional reason for his decision. With a deep and abiding passion he

despised his Brigadier Victor Odlum and Divisional CO, MGen David Watson. He revealed these sentiments in his personal diary:

I should never have left the Canadians, but for the fact, I could not stand my Brigadier Gen Victor Odlum any longer nor Mjr Gen. David Watson Div 1 Comdr. Both very mercenary,

“The Russian Revolution in the fall of 1917 had significant and diverse impacts on the strategic context of the war.”

men & political with Pullens, who used their Comds ...to gain public notice and repute. Odlum was the most clever schemer of the two. He was working for Watson's job & was making balls for Watson to fix an order to make him (Watson) unpopular, & Watson was not smart enough to know it, & fixed the balls, a most incompetent officer, & Odlum is a most avaricious decoration hunter, as are most of the staff.



A group of men from Dunsterforce and John Weightman Warden (tallest man at center) onboard a ship leaving Mesopotamia after their eight-month service with the force. A veteran of the Boer War, Warden led his men through battles at the Somme and Passchendaele, and was seriously wounded in the Second Battle of Ypres. (AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL)

Warden was a successful businessman and had significant

military experience. Both Odlum and Watson were journalists, while Warden, as the above quote indicates, struggled with spelling. Perhaps he regarded them as a tad 'artsy' while they regarded him as ill educated. Also, Odlum was a teetotaler and attempted to ensure that his men (including Warden's 102nd Battalion) received pea soup and lime juice rather than the daily issue of two ounces of overproof service rum. For this he was derisively nicknamed "Old Lime Juice." Regardless, Warden despised them more than he loved his troops, because on January 12, 1918 he joined approximately 150 officers and 300 other ranks drawn from Canadian, South Africans, Anzacs and Imperials under Col Byron at the Tower of London. For 17 days, the men were equipped and introduced to their "important and difficult mission."

When issued, both cold weather and tropical gear speculation was rife and the rumour mill went wild. Posited destinations ranged from Egypt to Ireland, and from Quebec to East Africa. The arrival of 15 Russian officers revealed that their destination would be linked to the recent Russian revolution. However, intervention anywhere between Murmansk near the Arctic Circle and

Baku on the Caspian Sea remained a possibility. Eventually, the latter, the region of the Caucasus and northern Persia was revealed as their objective.

The Russian Revolution in the fall of 1917 had significant and diverse impacts on the strategic context of the war. As is widely understood, it allowed Germany to reduce its commitment of troops to the Eastern Front and transfer the surplus to the Western Front for the spring offensive. The revolution also created something of a vacuum of authority in southern Russia. When the British captured Baghdad in

March 1917, they appeared to have a firm foothold in Persia. However, the revolution and the devolution of the Russian Army left a 600-kilometre gap between Baghdad and anti-Bolshevik Russian troops remaining loyal to the Tsar and the Triple Entente.

Dunsterforce was to fill that gap. Moreover, it was to establish a base of operations in Baku and then advance west to Tiflis to control and protect the Black Belt of oil fields around Baku (that, at the time, produced approximately half of the world's oil production). To facilitate this objective, they were detailed to organize resistance amongst White Russians, Georgians, Kurds, Jangali, Armenians, and Assyrians.

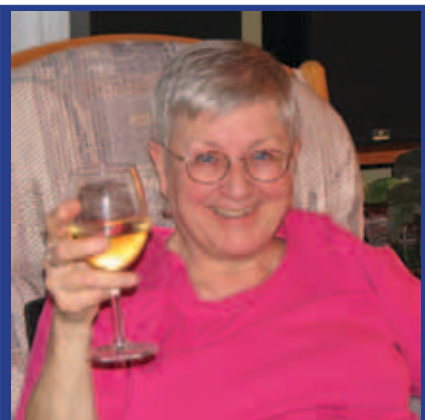
At the time this area was, as it is today, a collection of various ethnicities and religions. The complexity of the situation is captured by Lieutenant Timothy Winegard, a reserve officer with the 1st Hussars in his article, "Dunsterforce: A Case Study of Coalition Warfare in the Middle East, 1918-1919," published in the *Canadian Army Journal* in 2005. The following chart owes much to his article.

WWI: DUNSTERFORCE ... CONTINUED ON PAGE 62



▶ THE OLD GUARD

In Memoriam, Veterans, Korean War, Email Scams & Deals for Veterans



Michèle Simoneau, who served as a Registered Nurse for almost 35 years, was always happy to lend a helping hand at Esprit de Corps whenever her youngest sister asked her too.

SHE WILL BE MISSED

Once a month, our staff experiences a day of hectic activity. The magazine arrives from the printer and all the copies have to be labelled, bundled and sorted in time to meet the pick-up deadline from Canada Post. Much of the work is carried out by volunteers. A “regular” was Michèle Simoneau, sister of our office manager Julie. Michèle’s hard work, encouraging conversation and overall positive personality were a highlight of the sessions. Michèle passed away in May, and we will miss her. A tribute appears on page 60 of this issue, but I’d like add a comment, an expression I heard from an Alberta veteran: She was “good people”!

AND THEN THERE WERE

The last First World War veteran passed away some years ago. The next decade

will see the passing of almost all WWII vets, and many Korean War veterans. “Traditional” veterans will soon be a past generation. Figures from Veterans Affairs indicate that only 91,400 Second World War vets are still alive. Of the almost 30,000 Canadians who served in Korea, only 9,900 are around today.

In contrast, VAC reports that there are 594,300 “modern-day” veterans. Total number of veterans (including RCMP members) and families served by VAC in 2013 was 212,000. “Traditional” (WWII and Korea) veterans served totalled 49,000 (a decrease of 14,000 over two years) while the numbers of “modern” clients increased from 68,000 to 76,000 over the same period. Here are their average ages: WWII vet, 89 years; Korea, 82 years; modern-day vets, 56 years.

Time flies. Before you know it, the “new” vets will be as old as we are. To ensure that YOU are remembered by future generations, take the opportunity to tell your story to the Memory Project (see “Historica Canada” on page 46 of this magazine).

STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

An exhaustive report by this committee has now been released. While it may not address all veterans’ concerns, it has generally been approved by committee members of all political parties. The report runs to almost 50 pages, but I will try to summarize the highlights.

While the New Veterans Charter (NVC) was agreed upon in principle, the need

for improvement was evident. While most veterans were well served, focus on severely injured and disabled should be a priority. Recommendations included:

- Injured veterans should not be released until treatment is complete, their condition is stable, and their case has been handed over to Veterans Affairs.
- The Charter should include provisions of the “Veterans Bill of Rights.”
- Benefits should be for life, and transferable to a spouse.
- Earnings loss benefits should be set at 85 per cent of previous net income (up to a limit of \$70,000) and be tax-free.
- Benefits for service-incurred disability should be the same for regular and reserve members.
- Support, including psychological, counselling and other care, should be extended to families.
- Compensation should be reviewed and compared with civil awards.
- Long-term disability for service-incurred injury should be handled under the NVC and not SISIP.
- VAC should ensure that adequate case managers are assigned and funding is made available for research.

I would stress that the above is a



Les Peate is a Korean War veteran based in Ottawa, and author of *The War That Wasn't: Canadians in Korea*

“Mock the Haggard Face: A Canadian War Story by Edward Mastronardi is a graphic description of the activities of a Korean War Special Force platoon ...”

summary of the recommendations. The full report of the meeting, including presentations by individual veterans and representative groups, is interesting reading. The Commons now have 120 days to respond to the report, and a report on progress made is due on January 30, 2014.

I am advised that a copy of the report may be obtained by contacting www.parl.gc.ca.

MOCK THE HAGGARD FACE

Early in 1952 I was one of a few British Army NCOs attending the Canadian Brigade Battle School in Uijongbu, Korea. My platoon commander (the first Canadian I served under) was an RCR officer who was already something of a legend. Mister Mastronardi (I never knew him as “Ed” until much later) had achieved fame, and a Military Cross for a stubborn defensive action that included his engaging the Chinese with a captured “burp” gun and a Verey pistol. Ed Mastronardi began his service career with the Navy, and later served with the RCAF. He has since written a book, which is classed as a novel, but is so much based on his experiences that many readers have told me, “I remember this incident” or “I knew that guy!”

Mock the Haggard Face: A Canadian War Story by Edward Mastronardi is a graphic description of the activities of a Korean War Special Force platoon, from their various enlistments, through training and initial operations, to an intense platoon defence against a persistent and heavy attack, and the battle’s aftermath in a military hospital. Korea veterans will be familiar with much of the story; others may learn from it. There are “good guys” and “not-so-good” characters in the book; in fact, a typical cross-section of an infantry platoon.

Mock the Haggard Face is available for purchase through the Internet from

Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Xlibris, or as an e-book.

DON’T FALL FOR THE VAC DIRECT DEPOSIT SCAM!

A scam email has been going around targeting veterans masking as a request from Veterans Affairs. The email is asking the member to switch their VAC payments to direct deposit. In the email, members are asked to give out important banking information and return it via email or mail. Veterans Affairs has confirmed that such a request would not come in an email, but by mail, and the format from the email is incorrect for such a change. VAC is encouraging any member who receives this email to contact VAC directly.

HERE & THERE

- I have heard that the Robert Land Academy in Wellandsport, Ontario, plans to commemorate the First Canadian Parachute Battalion with a memorial museum at the school. I



Lt. Ed Mastronardi, MC was recently featured in a video describing his valiant defence in Korea, and for which he was awarded the Military Cross.

recall that the boy’s school is the only equivalent in Canada of U.S. military-oriented schools, and that Cadet Corps activities are a significant part of the school’s curriculum. I feel that this unique and worthy establishment deserves a write-up and have asked for more information.

- The Canadian Coast Guard has launched a new Hero-class patrol craft named for Corporal Mark Robert McLaren. The RCR NCO was awarded the Medal of Military Valour for saving the life an interpreter under fire in Afghanistan on June 9, 2008. He was killed in action on December 5 of that year. Another vessel was earlier named for Captain Nicola Goddard, RCHA, who was also killed in action in Afghanistan.
- An 89-year-old pensioner was missing from a retirement care home in Brighton, England. He was found two days later in Normandy, having sneaked away with his medals and stowed away on a coach taking his fellow D-Day veterans to participate in the Normandy commemorations. Presumably, he penetrated the French “protective barrier” (see last month’s column).
- I have heard that Westjet and Air Canada will permit veterans and military personnel to take along either three or four checked baggage items (under 50 pounds per item) free of charge. Although my source is reliable, it may be as well to check first.
- I heard rumours from two sources that residents of Vaughn Township (near Toronto) have received robocalls sounding them out on the possibility of voting for Julian Fantino as mayor in the October municipal election. Is the heat of being Veterans Affairs minister getting to him? 🍁



▶ AT EASE

So you think you know your military history?

Well, think again!

Each month we publish questions to test your knowledge as part of our At Ease feature, a collection of military trivia and humour. The answers to the quiz are tucked away on another page in this issue.

Good luck! Your input is welcome!

Please send your stumpers to Les Peate c/o this magazine.



1) Which Nazi leader was a doctor of philosophy at Heidelberg University?

2) What was the MacAdam shovel?



3) How many Victoria Crosses (in total) were awarded to Canadians?

4) What is the primary criterion for the award of the Dickin Medal?

5) What have the Shenandoah, Hindenburg and R-101 have in common?

6) What was a "Rittmeister"?

7) What were the original roles of a dragoon and a fusilier?

8) Who (as of May this year) is NATO Allied Supreme Commander?

9) Which of the following poets were killed in action in WWI?

- (a) Rupert Brooke
- (b) John McCrae
- (c) Joyce Kilmer
- (d) Wilfred Owen



10) Who were Marmaduke Pattle and Richard Bong?



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in Sevastopol and the rights of a larger Ethnic Russian minority at stake.

For the D-Day commemorations held in Normandy to mark the 70th anniversary of that epic battle on June 6, France upheld their invitation for Putin to attend. France's decision not to disinvite Putin over the Ukraine crisis irked Harper, who told reporters he planned to ignore the Russian bully-boy. This stance was, of course, hailed by the war hawk pundits as an example of Harper's leading role in confronting Russia.

Those with cooler heads were happy to see that other world leaders, such as French President François Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British



Veterans and politicians gathered at Juno Beach, Courseulles-sur-Mer, France to celebrate the 70th anniversary of D-Day.
(MCPL MARC-ANDRÉ GAUDREULT, COMBAT CAMERA)

Prime Minister David Cameron all used the D-Day occasion to enter into an actual dialogue with Putin. Those three Western European industrial nations all rely heavily upon Russian oil and gas imports and

therefore consider themselves to have some serious skin in the game.

It was interesting to see that even Ukrainian President-elect Petro Poroshenko attended the D-Day ceremony and found the opportunity for a private chat with Putin. It seems that when it comes to defusing conflict, these major players understand the power of dialogue. Unfortunately for Canada's reputation abroad, our prime minister seems to prefer trash talk, rhetoric, name-calling, and brinkmanship statements. Is Harper really showing leadership when (thankfully) no one seems to be following his lead? 🍁



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Slovakia (Explosive Ordnance Disposal COE) and Estonia (Cooperative Cyber Defence COE). Participation would not only provide a unique perspective through further specialist training and knowledge sharing, but also foster better relations with the newer members of NATO.

For example, with the lethality and evolution of IEDs in the Afghan and Iraqi theatres, the EOD COE in Slovakia was providing collaborative seminars and workshops to other EOD technicians; however, Canada did not send a single technician. The EOD COE is designed

to train above the national level of a country's training by providing innovation through collaboration, so NATO personnel can further develop methods and gain insight to improve their own doctrines at home.

The EOD COE has gained much praise from those who have participated and many have returned for additional seminars and workshops. The instructors, themselves, were on a rotation basis from the Afghan theatre to the COE. The EOD COE is only one example of how involvement could save Canadian lives

and also the lives of other NATO personnel through cooperative collaboration.

Canada could continue to refrain from participating in these COEs and continue a reactionary policy to prove to NATO that we are a contributing member. Or the Canadian Armed Forces could take their expertise to these COEs, and enrich operational thinking in NATO militaries as a whole and maybe even take a lesson or two away from our involvement. Of course, what could Canada possibly contribute to the Cold Weather Warfare COE in Norway? 🍁



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“We’ll guarantee the costs,” Vicefield told CBC. “We’re not asking for a cost-plus arrangement. We can guarantee the price.”

He noted to CBC that the cost of the icebreaker would increase because of the delays and inflation. “Each year you wait to build the ship, the more expensive it gets.”

Davie was financially unstable in 2011 when the NSPS requests for proposals were solicited. But under new owners it has rebuilt and is currently constructing large civilian ships.

Vicefield said those ships are of a similar size to the Polar-class icebreaker and the shipyard could easily fit the Coast Guard vessel into its build schedule.

The CBC report caused a stir at CANSEC 2014.

But Public Works Minister Diane Finley rejected the offer. “Davie did not qualify,” she told reporters. “That procurement is done. It’s over. And there’s absolutely no reason to believe that those numbers would be credible. We already have a contract in place and we’re going to move ahead with that.”

No contract is in place, however, and Finley later clarified her answer, acknowledging that fact. But she added, “We have made an award under that procurement based on the credibility, the viability, the reliability of the companies at the time.”

“They (Davie) had a chance to compete. At the time, they weren’t successful.” 🍁

CANSEC 2014 ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

Minister of International Trade Erin O’Toole, and Public Works and Government Services Minister Diane Finley. Although an impressive list, there is no lasting take-away from their addresses. Finley did announce changes to the Controlled Goods Program, which will help Canadian companies compete in international markets by reducing barriers for them. She announced changes to the controlled goods list in the schedule to the Defence Production Act. The schedule included the goods and technologies that require domestic control under the program and these items will be reduced by 50 per cent in early June. This removes obstacles for Canadian companies looking to sell their products internationally.

The show itself displayed some impressive technology any Canadian would be proud to call their own. Insane cost and politics of procurement aside, the technology displayed in the show is unique, fascinating, and altogether futuristic. The F-35 Lightning II Helmet Mounted Display System made its debut at CANSEC this year. Initially, the helmet looks like any other fighter helmet one could imagine, but the second it is on, it provides a 3D view of outside the aircraft. Developed by Rockwell Collins ESA Vision Systems, the helmet gives the pilot full view of his or her surroundings in real time. It is as if there is no aircraft around you. The helmet works day or night, in any weather conditions and is just one example of the amazing technology on display each year at CANSEC.

At the end of the week, the show is a major hit in the industry and successfully done. Every company inevitably leaves with more contacts and opportunities for both Canadian industry and the international market. 🍁

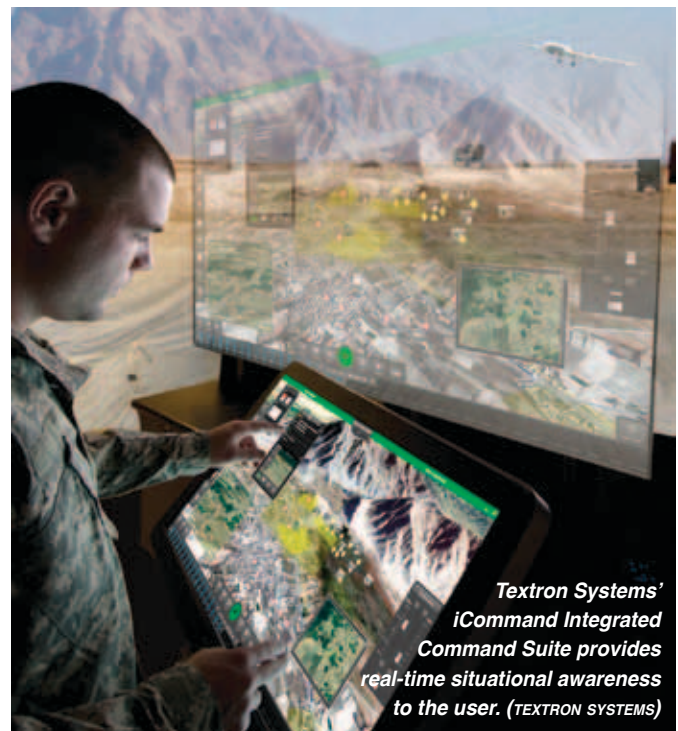
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Just about the only thing that’s changed as much as unmanned aircraft systems over the past few decades is the way critical information is gathered, disseminated, and then presented to commanders. iCommand’s cloud-enabled platform gives users the ability to dynamically manage critical aspects of data — including name, symbology, attribution, layering and attachments — thereby providing a real-time, cross-domain operational picture for decision-makers, analysts and dismounted teams.

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For over 60 years, General Dynamics Canada has been a close partner with the Canadian Armed Forces, increasing the operational effectiveness of the Army, Navy and Air Force through numerous modernization and integration projects applied to airborne, land, and naval ISR platforms, systems and networks.

CP-140 AURORA MODERNIZATION

General Dynamics Canada's participation in the CP-140 Aurora modernization project was focused on ensuring the operational relevance of Canada's long-range intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft through until 2030. By supporting incremental upgrades of existing equipment, General Dynamics Canada integrated new mission sensors and systems, including software and hardware, into the Aurora fleet while eliminating the need for wholesale replacement of legacy infrastructure. The company's contribution to the program has assisted in making the Block 3 CP-140 Aurora one of most versatile and capable manned ISR aircraft in the world.

TACTICAL COMMAND AND CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

General Dynamics Canada's trusted and long-standing relationship with its customers ensures the company can optimize technology in order to meet or exceed operational requirements. Completed in 2002, General Dynamics Canada's contribution to the Canadian Army's Tactical Command and Control Communications System (TCCCS) resulted in the fielding of the most integrated digitized command and control system in the world. General Dynamics Canada was the prime supplier of TCCCS and led the system engineering and integration efforts to evolve the original TCCCS program into the Army's Land Combat Support System (LCSS), a system they continue to provide in-service support to.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

The Internal Communications System (ICS) was a major objective of NORAD's Regional/Sector Air Operations Centre (R/SAOC) modernization project, which was completed in 2005. Designed by General Dynamics Canada, the ICS brought all separate communication systems under a central host using a COTS (commercial off-the-shelf) platform with an open architecture design, reducing development costs while ensuring compatibility with future developments in technology. The new system allows the operator to quickly and efficiently communicate with aircraft, units, military and civilian agencies.

UNDERWATER WARFARE

General Dynamics Canada is uniquely positioned to provide design, development and manufacturing of products and



technology for use both in Canada and abroad. As the prime system integrator for the Swedish Hydra Integrated Underwater Warfare System employed on the new class of Visby "stealth" corvettes, General Dynamics Canada has worked to provide an integrated view of the underwater warfare space by engineering multiple subsystems into a single, streamlined architecture that supports variable depth sonar, hull-mounted sonar, towed array sonar, remotely operated sonar, own noise monitoring, sonobuoy receivers, underwater environment monitoring and three-dimensional underwater terrain monitoring.

INTERNATIONAL REACH

The company's success at providing modern integration and upgrade programs at home has been recognized in the international domain, further validating the unique capability resident in the company. The TCCCS program for the Canadian Army led to significant contracts with the United Kingdom and other foreign markets, translating into Canadian jobs and solidifying Canada's leadership in this key area of capability. Additionally, the world-leading airborne sensor and mission system integration solutions being delivered to the RCAF have attracted interest from the navies of Korea and Peru, and are being used by NATO for its Air Ground Surveillance System.

THE GENIUS OF GDC

The genius of General Dynamics Canada lies in the company's ability to integrate the most complex technological systems in a way that brings extraordinary flexibility and domain awareness to the operators and commanders in the field. Systems in today's military interact in a gigantic, ever-changing network that greatly enhances the capabilities of the modern soldier. The ability to understand and integrate the intricacies of these systems can prevent costly and expensive errors and avert potentially disastrous consequences. Since the 1940s, General Dynamics Canada has not only been a witness to the ever-changing sphere of military systems, it's also played an integral role in engineering that change. The company's success at providing modern integration and upgrade programs here at home has quickly expanded into the international domain, making General Dynamics Canada a vital resource in an increasingly interconnected world. 🍁

Canadian Armed Forces members view a demonstration of new capability generated by General Dynamics Canada, such as next generation in-vehicle networks with improved capacity, bandwidth and performance in support of the Land Command Support System (LCSS) Engineering and Integration Contract (LEISC) program. (GENERAL DYNAMICS CANADA)

I tabled specific recommendations to provide financial assistance (and medical support) to the spouses who often forfeit their careers to do the caregiving work VAC should be doing.

The committee recommended that financial support be limited to spouses of those veterans who are either within one year of being moved to a long-term care facility or within one year of death. This will not help Migneault.

Otherwise, the committee recommended that family members be sloughed off to the Military Family Resource Centres. The centres do good work, but they are not-for-profit organizations. They are not meaningfully accountable to government should they fail to provide services. They also do not have reliable sources of funding, a problem afflicting Veterans Affairs lately.

Perhaps some recommendations could improve the lives for a limited number of veterans and their families, only if bureaucrat policy writers are uncharacteristically generous. However, one particular ill-conceived recommendation will make life worse.

In addition to a limited pain and suffering lump sum, injured veterans, if medically released from the Forces or are unable to work due to military injuries, rely upon income-loss payments. Currently, payments are pegged to 75 per cent of gross military salary. The ombudsman recommended that this be boosted to 90 per cent.

Rehabilitation experts, VAC advisory groups and 11 prominent veterans organizations called for 100 per cent while adding in future lost potential for the most disabled. The Veterans Affairs Committee called for 100 per cent in their more comprehensive report four years ago.

Mysteriously, this same committee recommended that the benefit be made non-taxable and pegged at 85 per cent of net salary, limiting the net salary to \$70,000.

The disability plan serving MPs and bureaucrats does not impose limits. Why would Parliament push for a lesser standard for veterans?

I did further research with WorkSafeBC and an Ottawa-based accounting firm. Let's take two veterans with two typical ranks, corporal and captain. They each have 10 years of service, four annual pay increases, a spouse, two kids and live in Ontario. They are unable to work again due to military injuries. The corporal earned \$60,000 in the Forces. Under the current income loss program, after tax income would be no less than \$42,597. Under the committee proposed program, income loss payments would be no more than \$37,758.

For the captain earning \$85,632, the current program would pay \$54,885 and the proposed program would pay \$51,130.


WorkSafeBC would pay \$41,112 for an equivalent salary to the corporal and \$52,473 for a salary equivalent to the captain.

Not one witness recommended this puzzling 85 per cent, let alone a maximum threshold, although WSIB Ontario uses 85 per cent of net income and a similar threshold.

The report decries the current income loss program for being modelled on the military insurance plan. Instead, committee proposes to replace a military insurance program and imitate civilian workplace insurance programs.

Fantino hyped this review only to have committee deliver a largely evasive list of bizarre or underwhelming recommendations. His response to the report was to promise a response by fall.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper called military service "the highest form of public service." Fantino's inept management falls far short of respecting veterans and their families. Increasing neglect by government and certain organizations will encourage increasing desperation by veterans. The government had better start fighting for veterans soon or Canadians will stop fighting for government. 🍁



Sean Bruyea
is vice-president of **Canadians for Accountability**, is a retired Air Force intelligence officer and a frequent commentator on government, military, and veterans' issues.

IN MEMORIAM



In 1947, three-year-old Michèle Simoneau found herself — along with her parents Simone and George Simoneau, an RCAF radio technician working on the DEW Line — in Summit Lake, BC. A childhood spent living from posting to posting, including a four-year stint in Metz, France, gave Michèle the travelling bug.

MICHÈLE SIMONEAU

May 11, 1944 — May 24, 2014

IT IS WITH deep regret that I convey the news that on May 24, 2014, *Esprit de Corps* lost one of our own. Michèle Simoneau had been a part of the magazine's extended family since her sister Julie became our office manager in 1991.

Throughout these 23 years, Michele volunteered with each monthly mail-out to subscribers and she attended nearly all of our celebrations and social events. One of the gentlest souls I have ever met, Michèle had the ability to create a positive energy by simply being present in the room.

She fought a lengthy and courageous battle against cancer, fearlessly accepting the fact that it was a fight she could not win. In praise of small mercies, she passed away peacefully in her own bed, surrounded by the cats she loved, and the family members who loved her. It is never easy losing one of your team, and Michèle certainly had a special place in all of our hearts. She will be sorely missed, but forever fondly remembered.

*Scott Taylor,
Publisher*

When the trumpets had finally ceased, brass bands of the infantry then marched through the camp and the pipers made their contribution of "Hi! Johnny Cope.

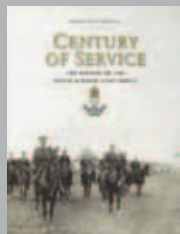
Then began the sounds inseparable from a Cavalry camp. Sergeants went through the lines inviting all concerned to "show a leg" and presently the morning roll-call was underway. The men broke off to "stables" and the horses greeted them with snickering and neighing. Then one heard fearful and ferocious threats of the men addressed to their horse; such as "Get off my foot or I'll brain you." It invariably ended with tickling the offending horses between the hind legs."

The second week was somewhat busier than the first. On Monday, June 22, the infantry spent the day on the ranges firing their Ross rifles while the cavalry units conducted brigade drill under the direction of Colonel Robert Belcher, commander of the 5th Cavalry Brigade. That evening, Belcher held an orders group for all unit commanders during which he issued instructions for the forthcoming tactical scheme. The two infantry regiments were brigaded with the 21st Hussars and 35th Central Horse under Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Sissons of the Hussars as "Blue Force," while Belcher took command of 5th Cavalry Brigade as "Red Force" with the 15th Light, 19th Dragoons, 23rd Rangers and the Lethbridge battery. No details of this scheme have survived but it would seem from the division of the units that Cruikshank, whose regular staff served as umpires, wished to approximate a meeting engagement between a mounted brigade with attached horse artillery, and an infantry force with a light cavalry screen which would make entire sense as Military District 13 (or Alberta) was largely regarded as a cavalry district and training emphasis was usually put on the mounted arm.

On Tuesday, while the infantry finished their range qualification, the cavalry continued brigade drill but, at 8 a.m. sharp on Wednesday, June 24, 1914, the two forces left camp in different directions and marched into the country south of Calgary to carry out the scheme. It lasted two days with the troops going into bivouac on the Wednesday night before returning late on Thursday.

The following day, the infantry carried out company and battalion drill while the cavalry and gunners packed up and prepared to go home. The chartered trains, full of tired but happy men and tired but happy horses, began to pull out of the Calgary on Friday evening. Everyone who had been present was in general agreement that the 1914 Alberta militia summer camp, attended by 2,459 men and 1,673 horses, was the best ever held in the province.

Seven weeks later, Canada went to war. 🍁



This is an excerpt from the book Century of Service: The History of the South Alberta Light Horse, by Donald E. Graves, published by Robin Brass Studio. Reprinted with permission of the author.

The next morning, after the truce had been signed, we were — our troop position was just southwest of Hill 355, and Hill 355, as a feature, sort of extended almost directly west. The Chinese locations, west of Hill 355, were four hills referred to as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — the four Apostles — these were occupied by the Chinese. I don't know which one of the hills it was on, but when we got up at first light, on the 27th of July, the Chinese had erected a banner — it must have been two or three hundred metres long, bright blue — and we could readily read the lettering on it from where we were. What the lettering said — excuse me — was, "Don't fuck up the peace boys."

It was within days that we started to map up the minefield locations, secure the fences, destroy ordnance left lying around, recover bodies ... All those tasks were started quickly after the 27th of July and continued. And not only did we do that, we also — on an individual basis — I accompanied the Military Armistice Commission officers to investigate alleged violations of the truce conditions and that would have been early in August. So, we got on to that very, very quickly and that was necessary because, with the shelling at night time, there was not a lot of repair done to defensive locations and there was an awful lot of work to be done to re-establish minefield fences and to establish minefield locations. And I think under the terms — like I don't know specifically — but my recollection is that we got to work on that very, very quickly, after the 27th of July. 🍁

TORONTO STAR WINS 2013 MICHENER AWARD



On June 11, 2014, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presented the Michener Award for outstanding public service in journalism, as well as the Michener-Deacon Fellowships and the Michener-Baxter Special Award, during a ceremony at Rideau Hall. This photo of Esprit de Corps publisher Scott Taylor and manager Julie Simoneau was taken at the reception following the ceremony. The Toronto Star received the award for its extensive coverage of the activities and behaviour of the Toronto Mayor that resulted in a police investigation and Rob Ford being stripped of all powers. (SGT RONALD DUCHESNE, RIDEAU HALL, OSGG)

**Interest Groups Operating in the Trans-Caucuses
1917-1919**

| | Nationality | Agenda and Objectives | Approximate Military Strength (if known) |
|----|--|--|---|
| 1 | Turks | Control of Trans-Caucasia and its resources, principally the oil fields in the Black Belt around Baku and the Trans-Caucasian Railway. | Six Caucasian Divisions organized in 2 Corps. (<30,000) |
| 2 | Germans | Control of Trans-Caucasia and its resources, principally the oil fields in the Black Belt around Baku and the Trans-Caucasian Railway. | N/A |
| 3 | British (Dunsterforce) | Occupation of Northern Persia to prevent the Germans and/or Turks from advancing southeast towards India | 1,100 |
| 4 | Anti-Bolshevik Russians | Control of the Caspian Sea and Black Belt oil fields. Defeat of the Bolshevik Forces | Colonel, Bicherakhov, 1,200 soldiers (primarily Cossacks) |
| 5 | Bolshevik Russians | Peace with the Central Powers and control of Trans-Caucasia | Unknown |
| 6 | Persia | Peace free from any foreign interference. | Nil |
| 7 | Trans-Caucasian Republic (Armenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis) | Independence from Russia and freedom from any foreign interference. | 10,000 |
| 8 | Turkish Armenians | Escape from Turkish oppression and eventually genocide. | Unknown |
| 9 | Kurds | Independence and freedom from Turkish oppression. | Nil |
| 10 | Jangali | Establishment of an independent Jangali state, south of the Caspian Sea | 3,000 – 8,000 |

The chart above makes clear the turmoil in the region and the diversity of interest groups and their conflicting objectives. It also highlights the number of forces involved and in numerical terms, the relative insignificance of Dunsterforce, particularly when one recalls its area of operations – over 600 miles of front line that had once been held by an entire Russian Army.

Upon departure from England, the Western Front contingent of Dunsterforce left London, crossed the channel by ferry,

John Weightman Warden enlisted on September 23, 1914 and later claimed to be the first man in British Columbia to volunteer. He was beloved by his troops, who called themselves “Warden’s Warriors” in his honour.



continued by train to Italy and then shipped to Alexandria, Egypt, arriving on February 15. They proceeded to Port Said on the Red Sea and boarded the SS Nile bound for Basrah, Persia, arriving on March 2. After a week of delay, they proceeded up the Tigris River to Baghdad on barges crewed by the 1st Overseas Canadian Pioneer Detail, arriving in late March.

Next month, MGen Lionel Dunsterville arrives in Persia and his mission descends into chaos, the Canadian contingent is deployed throughout the area of operations in small detachments and Warden sours on Dunsterville. 🍁

Answers to the trivia questions on page 54:

- 1) Josef Goebbels.
- 2) Patented by Sam Hughes, the MacAdam shovel had a hole in the blade for observation and could be used as protection (however, it was never issued to front-line troops).
- 3) Ninety-six VCs.
- 4) The recipient of the Dickin Medal has to be an animal.
- 5) They were all airships that were lost.
- 6) A German cavalry rank equivalent to captain (von Richthofen was one).
- 7) A dragoon was a soldier who rode into battle and then dismounted to fight, while a fusilier was a soldier armed with a fusil (rifle) whose duty was to protect the artillery train.
- 8) USAF General Philip Breedlove is currently Allied Supreme Commander.
- 9) Wilfred Owen and Joyce Kilmer were killed in action in 1918. The other two died of illness.
- 10) The two are top-scoring Commonwealth (Pattle) and American (Bong) WWII fighter aces (41 and 40 victories respectively).

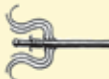
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