



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

AUGUST 2020

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2006th Anniversary of the Burning of Washington

President's Comment

The year 2020 is going down in history as the most devastating on humanity. The Covid -19 pandemic has destroyed industries, economies, human decency. Values we upheld for many generations are now being questioned as fallible. National monuments are being destroyed or vandalized. Unemployed and idling youths with tons of energy are agitated and easily influenced to fight for their entitlement, few have any appreciation that privileges come with responsibilities and sacrifices. Our forefathers fought in many wars to earn those privileges for the next generations. Already, history is being re-written. In 1885, many Canadians enlisted to fight for what they believed a rebellion against the constitution of the motherland. Were they being racist? If one should go to some cemeteries in Alberta and Saskatchewan, or the oldest cemetery in Alberta in Beaumont, one could find gravesites of forgotten soldiers or the North West Mounted Police who fought in the 1885 North West Rebellion. None were ever hailed as a hero. They fought for what they believed at the time, a just cause. How far back in history we have to go to judge the moral and value system against the present. I am a Canadian of Chinese ancestry. I do not believe I should be entitled because of the harsh treatment of the Chinese labourers building the Canadian National Railway or the head tax imposed on Chinese immigrants. Those were past history and I am thankful my forefathers were given a chance to make a better life in Canada. My point is that respect and esteem are earned and not entitled or inherited. The problem is few politicians or policy makers have the gall to stand up against organized groups with their own agendas rather than the common good of Canada.



We are almost half way into summer and it has been one very wet season. Many ceremonial events have been cancelled or postponed because of the pandemic and poor weather. Canada Day was just a little fanfare. The Korean Veterans Day celebration in Edmonton was re-assigned last year to South Korean civilians due to few Korean Veterans are alive or well enough to attend the celebration. I tried to keep my ear and eyes open to see if there is a commemoration somewhere but it was not even mentioned in the media. Many believe that Canada ceased being a British colony and became a nation through the many heroic battles fought during WWI. The sacrifices made by our forefathers to make this possible must not be taken for granted and veterans must continue to educate our younger generations the appreciation of Canadian heritage and values.

On another note, on Sunday, July 27, 2020 marks the 67 anniversary of Cease Fire that marked the formal end of major conflict of the Korean War. Often referred to as the Forgotten War, the legacy of the Korean conflict continues to divide the Korean people and remains a source of tension and conflict that has rippled across the world. In fact, North Korea has over the last sixty years built a powerful military with nuclear capabilities. With a leader that is unpredictable and willing to sacrifice it's citizens, the Korean Peninsula remain a volatile part of the world that can upstage world peace. Remembering the service and sacrifice of all members of the international force that served during those difficult years is an important duty for all of us that have benefitted from the security and prosperity that followed throughout the region upon completion of this conflict.

Invitation

Distinguish Speaker Series

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia extends an invitation to members of your association to hear a video-conference presentation by Dr Peter Kikkert, Irving Shipbuilding Chair in Arctic Policy, Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, St Francis Xavier University, titled "The Canadian Rangers: Cornerstone for Community Disaster Resilience in Canada's Remote and Isolated Communities." Dr Kikkert's bio is at <https://bmig.ca/kikkert/>.

The involvement of the Canadian Rangers in the broader response to COVID-19 highlights a role that they have been playing for decades: by virtue of their presence, capabilities, and the relationships they enjoy with(in) their communities, Rangers regularly support other government agencies and are often at the forefront preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a broad spectrum of local emergency and disaster scenarios. This talk will explore how the Rangers strengthen the disaster resilience of their communities, suggest how to enhance their impact, and argue that the organization could serve as a model for how targeted government investment can build resilience in similar jurisdictions.

The talk will start at 1 pm **Halifax time** (1:30 pm St John's, noon Ottawa, 11 am Winnipeg, 10 am Calgary/Edmonton, 9 am Victoria), **Wednesday, 19 August**, then be followed by Q&A and finish by 3 pm Halifax time.

Registration is required. There is no fee to attend this event. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Monday, 17 August. As the subject line for your registration email, put "RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 19 August 2020 Registration". In addition to your name please also provide your organization.

The event will be done by Zoom. Instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Tuesday, 18 August.

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

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

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

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Veterans Affairs
Canada

Veteran Affairs Canada Disability Reassessments. If you are in receipt of Disability benefits and an assessment decision has been completed for your condition, you are able to request a Reassessment if you feel that the condition(s) have worsened over time.

There are conditions to requesting a reassessment including the requirement for new medical evidence.

If you feel that your pensioned conditions have worsened contact Veterans Affairs Canada for more information at 1-866-522-2122 or <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/>.

Alternatively, you can contact the Royal Canadian Legion at 1-877-534-4666 or <http://www.legion.ca>.

41 CANADIAN BRIGADE GROUP (CBG) UPDATE by Col Mike Vernon, CD Commander, 41 CBG



Operations LASER (pandemic response) and LENTUS (domestic operations)

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March and the natural disaster season, 41 CBG established Local Response Forces (LRF) in five Alberta cities, and the brigade stood-up its Territorial Battalion Group (TBG) under the command of LCol Ryan Palmer (Calgary Highlanders) and CWO Troy MacGillivray (King's Own Calgary Regiment). Over 460 army reservists volunteered for full-time Class-C service beginning in early April, ready to deploy where and how they might be needed to assist.

While remaining largely at home in order to stay healthy and avoid spreading the virus, these soldiers completed a variety of relevant online training to prepare for potential tasks. This included radio and voice procedure, COVID-19 Awareness, talking-through tactical drills relating to their potential employment, and a Duty Officer course. Roughly 230 of the soldiers also completed basic wildland firefighter training in Edmonton and Wainwright. This was accomplished within the limitations imposed by the pandemic.

Reserve Summer Training

Ultimately, we were not required to assist in the same manner as in Eastern Canada, with soldiers working in long term care facilities, for example. So now the brigade is transitioning to conduct probably its most complex Reserve Summer Training (RST) period ever 2 July-30 August. The TBG leadership is establishing a Brigade Battle School at CFB Wainwright for nearly 500 instructors and students. The emphasis will be on individual training for junior leaders and recruits.

To overcome the challenges presented by the pandemic, a dozen courses will be individually isolated in course "bubbles" and confined to base for the duration of the training, in order to strictly limit the possibility of contamination.

Changes of Appointment

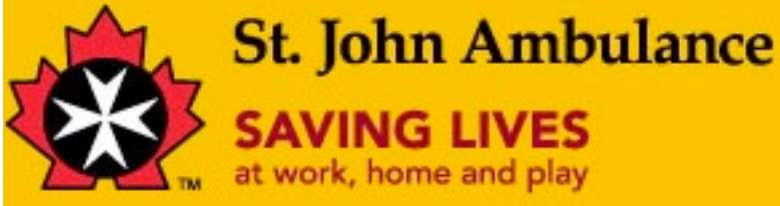
Due to the pandemic, several changes of appointment have been conducted in a low-key manner that limits personal exposure. On 23 May at Debney Armoury in Edmonton LCol Kent Miller assumed command of 41 Combat Engineer Regiment from LCol Scott Long, and LCol Mike Fawcett relinquished command of 41 Signals Regiment to LCol Steve Flavel. That same day, CWO Mike Parchewsky (Regimental Sergeant Major of 41 Signals Regiment) passed the pace stick to his successor, CWO Andrew MacAlister. Earlier in April, the Loyal Edmonton Regiment also conducted a change



The Young Soldier by Wilfred Owen

It is not death
Without hereafter
To one in dearth
Of life and its laughter,
Nor the sweet murder
Dealt slow and even
Unto the martyr
It is the smile
Faint as a (waning) myth,
Faint, and exceeding small
On a boy's murdered mouth.

Valleyview War Memorial



Get trained!

HUMOUR – Submitted by Korea\nm veteran, Sgt AE Bince. One thing I like Al, He does not discriminate and makes friendly fun of ALL races.

How to get to Heaven from Ireland. A true Story from an Irish Sunday School Teacher.

I was testing children in my Dublin Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven.

'I asked them, ' If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?'

'NO!' the children answered.

'If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the garden, and kept everything tidy, would that get me into heaven?'

Again, the answer was 'NO!'

'If I gave sweets to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?'

Again, they all answered 'NO!'

I was just bursting with pride for them. I continued, 'Then how can I get into heaven?'

A little boy shouted out: 'YUV GOTTA BE FOOKN' DEAD.!!!'

It's a curious race, the Irish.

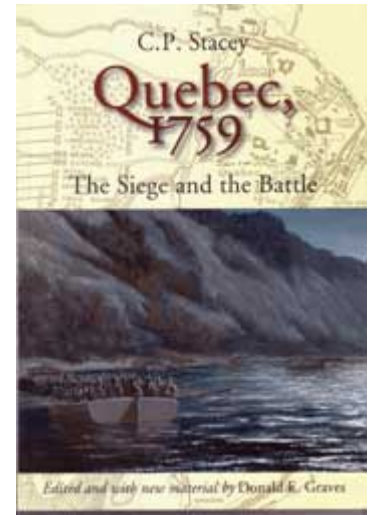


CANADIAN MILITARY READING

Quebec, 1759 The Siege and the Battle

By C.P. Stacey.

A superb account of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham -- a turning point in the history of North America. The capture of the town of Quebec by British forces under James Wolfe in 1759 brought about the ultimate British victory in the contest with France for dominance in North America. It opened the door to the independence of the thirteen English colonies some twenty years later, and the brief dramatic battle outside the walls of Quebec set the course for the future Canada.



The drama and significance of the battle, and the lionization of Wolfe, have diverted attention from the pertinent and intriguing questions that the historian must ask, and which Stacey was one of the first and most astute to answer. Who made the plans? When were the critical decisions taken? Why did they succeed and how nearly did they fail? What sort of man was General Wolfe? Was Montcalm a good or better soldier? Stacey's text offers important new evidence and discussion of these and other questions in an approach that is even-handed, knowledgeable and wonderful reading.



CANADIAN GEAR

CC-177 Globemaster



Canada's four CC-177 Globemaster III strategic airlifters were delivered in 2007-2008. The CC-177 in Canada helps provide everything from the rapid delivery of troops and cargo transport to oversized combat equipment from coast to coast to coast and to anywhere else worldwide. Rapid, reliable and flexible, the strategic and tactical CC-177 is equipped with advanced digital avionics, has a maximum range of approximately 5,500 nautical miles and can carry a payload of up to 160,000 pounds (72,727 kilograms) due to its four engines (Pratt & Whitney 2040 series) that produce 40,440 pounds (18,343 kilograms) of thrust. To illustrate the power of these aircraft, one CC-177 can haul three CH-146 Griffon helicopters with refuelling tanks, or one Leopard 2 tank, or as many as 102 paratroopers. But perhaps most useful of all, the CC-177's ability to fly long distances and land in remote airfields makes it a premier transporter for military, humanitarian and peacekeeping missions.



What's Out There?

Kirov Class Guided Missile Cruiser (Russia)

The Russian Kirov Class Heavy Missile Cruise Ship are the world's largest 'cruisers' and might best be termed "battle cruisers". Originally designed as a large antisubmarine warship to search for and engage enemy ballistic missile submarines, the Kirov's role was expanded to engage large surface targets and provide air and antisubmarine protection to naval forces after the introduction of the Granit antiship missile system.



SECURITAS

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BATTLE OF PANJWAYI MESS

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