



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

JUNE 2022

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### President's Comment

6<sup>th</sup> of June is D-Day Anniversary - A historical review to refresh your memory.

The **Normandy landings**, codenamed Operation *Neptune*, were the landing operations of the Allied invasion of

Normandy in Operation Overlord, during World War II. The landings commenced on Tuesday, 6 June 1944 (**D-Day**), beginning at 6:30 am British Double Summer Time (GMT+2). In planning, as for most Allied operations, the term *D-Day* was used for the day of the actual landing, which was dependent on final approval.

The landings were conducted in two phases: an airborne assault landing of 24,000 British, US and Canadian airborne troops shortly after midnight, and an amphibious landing of Allied infantry and armoured divisions on the coast of France starting at 6:30 am. Surprise was achieved thanks to inclement weather and a comprehensive deception plan implemented in the months before the landings, codenamed Operation Bodyguard, to distract German attention from the possibility of landings in Normandy. A key success was to convince Adolf Hitler that the landings would actually occur to the north at the Pas-de-Calais. There were also decoy operations taking place simultaneously with the landings under the codenames Operation Glimmer and Operation Taxable to distract German forces from the real landing areas.

Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces was General Dwight D. Eisenhower while overall command of ground forces (21st Army Group) was given to General Bernard Montgomery. The operation, planned by a team under Lieutenant-General Frederick Morgan, was the largest amphibious invasion in world history and was executed by land, sea and air elements under direct Anglo-American command with over 160,000 soldiers landing on 6 June 1944: 73,000 Americans, 61,715 British and 21,400 Canadians, 195,700 Allied naval and merchant navy personnel in over



5,000 ships were also involved. The invasion required the transport of soldiers and materiel from England by troop-laden aircraft and ships, the assault landings, air support, naval interdiction of the English Channel and naval gunfire support. The landings took place along a 50-mile (80 km) stretch of the Normandy coast divided into five sectors: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. The combined ally countries included United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Free France, Poland, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Greece, Netherland, and Czechoslovakia, against Germany. The Normandy landing paved the way for the recovery of Europe and the rest is history.



Lieutenant Colonel Scott Long, Deputy Commander of 41 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) gave a presentation at the Edmonton salutes Committee on May 27, 2022. After two years of Covid restrictions, 41 CBG is eager to pick up the pace. There will be intense unit training, cumulating to Brigade training for readiness for overseas deployment when required. Honorary Colonels will have a big role to engage public for CAF visibility and recruitment in the coming year.

Canadian Armed Forces panel review on CAF sexual misconducts is currently in progress. Three main points emerged from this panel discussion. 1. Action must be taken immediately to implement Madam Justice Arbour's recommendations. 2. All sexual misconduct allegations or charges be dealt with in civilian courts, and 3. To consider if Military Colleges, (RMC) is needed.

The implication for these points are commanders will no longer have the power to investigate any allegations of sexual misconducts. Legitimate work place supervision could be misconstrued, undermining command authority at all levels. Taking away investigative power from military police is to imply that military do not differ from any other professions and not required to consider the unique circumstances that the military must operate under at times. Two days ago, NDQ announced that the Military Provost Marshall, BGeneral Simon Trudeau will have his appointment for two years after harsh criticism that he did not apologize for a "bungled" military police investigation of an allegation of sexual assault against a RMC cadet occurred in 2019. Who is the authority who suggested a "bungled investigation" was not mentioned. I suspected that came from interest groups. Together with suggestion to abolish the RMC, military police as an integral part of CAF may also be on the verge of eliminated. To consider ending military college is to take away the esprit de corps that is so important in development of comradeship and leadership for future military leaders. The question must be asked if we want a military that can fight or an organization that is inclusive, diversified, and easily offended. The ills of the present military have been identified for some time but no effective solution found. The way of cutting off one's legs to avoid stepping on thorns ( a Confucious adage) is not the right approach. The USSR and Israel are properly the first nations to have female soldiers and have not experienced the kind of gender difficulties Canada is experiencing. May be we need to look further. I know many will not agree with my comments but many will, for fear of being criticized. I for one can say that as a racial minority in the military, stupid comments from disgruntled colleagues happens but 99% of the time, they are not malice but rather just to blow off steam. One just have to be able to retort as required. Don't forget, if one do nothing, say nothing, he/she will do no wrong.





Groesbeek Memorial

### Unseen Fire

This is a damned unnatural sort of war;  
The pilot sits among the clouds, quite sure  
About the values he is fighting for;  
He cannot hear beyond his veil of sound,  
He cannot see the people on the ground;  
he only knows that on the sloping map  
Of sea-fringed town and country people creep  
Like ants — and who cares if ants laugh or weep?



### HUMOUR

Two factory workers are talking. The woman says, "I can make the boss give me the day off."

The man asks, "And how would you do that?" The woman says, "Just wait and see."

She then hangs upside down from the ceiling. The boss comes in and asks, "What are you doing?"

The woman replies, "I am a light bulb." The boss then says, "You have been working so much that you have gone crazy. I think you need to take the day off."

The man starts to follow her and the boss says, "Where are you going?"

The man says, "I am going home, too. How am I supposed to work in the dark?"

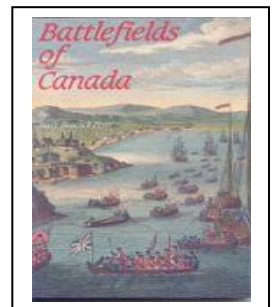


### CANADIAN MILITARY READING

#### Battlefields of Canada

M. Beacock Fryer.

This volume covers nearly three hundred years of history and features the most significant as well as some of the most comic and bizarre Canadian battles.



## Canadian Gear

Canadian-donated howitzers prove deadly to Russian forces in Ukraine <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadian-donated-howitzers-prove-deadly-to-russian-forces-in-ukraine>"Canada also reportedly sent Ukraine an undisclosed number of 'Excalibur' rounds; computer-controlled artillery shells that can guide themselves to a pre-determined target. After being fired, tiny wings spring out of the Excalibur, which then steer it to its destination using GPS data."It's not just a simple matter of donating a number of guns. Towing vehicles, ammunition carrying vehicles, fire control systems, training and ammunition all are part of the gun system, and part of an effective donation. The Excalibur rounds multiply tremendously the effect of providing just four howitzers. This will add 10km to the reach of Ukrainian M777 155mm guns (to 40km), plus three meter accuracy.



Soldiers from the Royal Canadian Artillery School fire an M777 howitzer during training in 2018. Four Canadian M777s are now on the frontlines in Ukraine. Photo by Cpl Genevieve Lapointe, Tactics School, Combat Training Centre (CTC) Gagetown Canada can claim partial credit for a state-of-the-art weapon that is proving to be extraordinarily effective at destroying Russian formations in eastern Ukraine.



## Whats Out There - Iran

A colonel of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corp was killed by two gunmen on a motorcycle as he arrived home on Sunday, 22 May 2022. Colonel Hassan Sayad Khodayari is believed to have been the planner for several attacks on Israeli targets in Thailand, Cyprus and also from Syria and Iraq. The colonel was allegedly working on the Iranian drone program and was considered a 'keeper of the sanctuary.' He apparently was instrumental in setting up the new drone factory in Tajikistan. Iran needless to say has vowed revenge on anti-

revolution (groups) and agents of global arrogance,' a name for Israel and the US and allies. Iran's drones have been used in the Middle East including two flown from Gaza. US forces have also destroyed several in Iraq. There has been a silver lining in the Russia Ukraine war, Russia has been undercutting Iran's oil sales around the world with many of Iran's customers choosing to purchase Russian oil rather than Iranian

14Both countries are under sanctions and both countries are extremely dependent on oil sales for their economies. This has caused considerable unrest as Iranian prices for basics have once again soared over 300% after government subsidies were cut for the general public. There have been major demonstration in over 40 cities and towns in Iran which called for the over throw of the regime. Iranian leadership has called out the IRGC and Basij Militia to deal with ongoing demonstrations which seem to be growing in size. There have been widespread arrests and injuries reported. The unofficial death toll stands at six. Despite the threats to the public, it is clear the regime is not widely supported by the public and it has increasingly has had to rely on brute force to keep power. As Mao stated 'all power comes from the barrel of a gun' still applies today unfortunately and it is the Iranian people who continue to suffer. It is expected that these current demonstrations will be put down again by irregular forces of the regime. One can also expect the regime to downplay casualties and the level of demonstrations. It may conduct some other operation outside the country to distract its citizens.



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