



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

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President's Comment

6th 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.

While the D-Day landing or Operation Overlord was precisely executed, not all battles were fought without confusions. On 7 December 1941 a Canadian corvette was in the North Atlantic leading the escort of a large UK bound convoy. The convoy had already been attacked by German submarines and several ships sunk. The ships of the convoy had become somewhat scattered and communications with them in the prevailing gale and heavy seas were very difficult. The corvette itself had been damaged and was unable to use its weapons. The Captain had broken his leg and was turned in down below.

On the bridge the second-in-command faced a bleak prospect. He knew that another submarine pack was between him and the convoy's UK destination. The weather was improving but a further severe gale with low visibility was forecast.

In the radio office a Secret, Most Immediate, signal was received. It was laboriously decoded and passed urgently to the bridge. The second-in-command read: "Commence hostilities against Japan." Yes, Japan, which just wiped out the US Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor. The Canadian Marine time Command failed to appreciate the grave situation of the escorting Corvette and the ships under escort and sidetracked by the development in the Pacific.



While air travelling has been disappointing for the last few years, with Covid restriction easing around the world, we are doing more travels. I like to bring a brighter side of things, in that please be reminded of the following:

Air Canada Checked Baggage Policy for Veterans and serving soldiers

Canadian and US military personnel and veterans get up to three bags free - May 29, 2014. Members of the Canadian and US military enjoy an enhanced baggage allowance whenever they travel on a flight operated by Air Canada, Air Canada Rouge or Air Canada Express. Eligible active and retired members of the Canadian and US military are entitled to up to three pieces of checked baggage, each weighing up to 32 kg (70 lb) each. Flights operated by other airlines on behalf of Air Canada are not eligible for this discount. After completing their check-in, eligible customers are invited to see an airport agent to have their baggage fee waived, upon presentation of military identification. This process will make advanced or electronic check ins difficult as fees are required. Hence, to enjoy this benefit, which could save \$100,00 or more, you must check in personally at the counter.

Special Service Medal/Bar

The EXPEDITION bar to the Special Service Medal (SSM). The SSM and the new bar is to be awarded to Canadian Armed Forces members for honourable service performed outside Canada, while participating in or providing direct support on a full-time basis to approved operations. "Canadian Armed Forces members who proudly serve our country merit our recognition and gratitude". The new EXPEDITION bar will provide formal recognition of the valued contributions of the women and men who offer critical support while deployed overseas, and who participate in the success of a number of missions.

The SSM was created in 1984, and has always been issued with a bar that specifies the service being recognized; each bar has its own eligibility criteria. The EXPEDITION bar is being introduced to ensure an inclusive and consistent recognition for a broader spectrum of overseas service and was especially designed to fill a gap where certain missions were not eligible for recognition.

King Charles III Coronation Medal

The creation of The King Charles III Coronation Medal has been announced. While the terms of reference in United Kingdom have been announced. In Canada, terms of reference or nomination procedures have not been published. However, it is known that 5000. Medals will be bestowed. Unlike the Queen's Jubilee Medal, I believe there will be no partnership with organizations for awarding the medals. I expected once the terms of reference is announced, there will be a short window to submitted nominations, and politicians will be assigned a number of medals to be awarded. If you are hoping to nominate a deserving individual, volunteer services would be a factor.



War in Ukraine

Russia-Ukraine WarThe war continues with small Russian attacks in the Bakhmut area within the city. Ukraine has initiated larger attacks on the flanks with some success in the past week with significant gains occurring on the north and south flanks. It should also be noted that a significant part of the Russian army is in fact deployed to Bakhmut leaving much of the front with limited capability to defend their areas despite massive attempts to build fortifications along most of the front. Russia has also used most of its most effective forces in the Bakhmut effort. Ukraine has apparently built up a significant force of approximately two corps in a NATO sense of that terminology and as high as 80k troops in preparation for the long awaited counterattack. Unlike Russia, Ukraine has purposely left capable troops out of battle, choosing instead to ensure training and delivery of proper equipment and ammunition. Russia no longer has such a force available to counter any Ukraine attack of this magnitude. Ukraine has also received and is able to deploy long range attack capabilities which they have used to prevent buildups of Russian forces before they are even able to move forward to the front. Ukrainehas consistently used these munitions to hit logistics centres, ammunition depots, transportation hubs, troop assembly areas and headquarters. The real story is how Ukraine has managed to establish its own drone capabilities in the air and on the sea including surface and sub-surface drones. The West has asked Ukraine to refrain from using their technology specifically to attack Russian soil. This is a weird request as all countries should be able to attack their enemies by whatever means possible to disrupt especially after Ukraine was so brutally assaulted in February 2022. Ukraine has therefore developed its own capabilities. On the night of 30 May 23, after several days of Russian missile and drone attacks by Russian forces, Ukraine apparently countered with a drone attack of its own of up to 32 drones. Ukraine has denied this so there three possible options: first is the idea that it is a Russian false flag operation, something seen many times before during this conflict. Second, Russian anti-Putin resistance fighters, also something seen before. And lastly, an actual Ukrainian attack. The latter is actually more likely in this case or a combination of options two and three.

Russian authorities claimed all the drones were destroyed but suggested there were only eight. Three were shot down and five were diverted using GPS spoofing technology. Unfortunately for the Russians, the spoofing led to some of the homes of well-to-do Russians near a targeted engineer base. The reaction of the general populous was to cheer the "attack" because the well-to-do rather than common Russians were affected. This action by the general public was generally deplored by Russia's talking heads. It is clear, that Russians are increasingly divided over the war and Putin's "popularity" is suffering increasingly as well. One other point that has been made is that key Russian leadership including Sergei Lavrov and Kremlin spokespeople has been increasingly quiet and also mainly reactive rather than pushing a narrative. Cracks such as that between the regular military and Yevgeny Prigozhin now have them openly "attacking" one another on social media. Some points have struck home as there is now a restriction on Wagner and Prigozhin even being mentioned. The mudslinging has truly begun. One last point is that the intelligence ship the Ivan Khurs, allegedly hit by a Ukrainian surface drone, was videoed entering Sevastopol harbour without damage. It is possible it has suffered some damage that was minor in nature but repair facilities are being watched. It is certain that the crockery was rattled in view of the videos that have surfaced since the event.

Canadian Support to the Ukrainian War

National/defence-watch/aerospace-executives-call-on-trudeau-to-consider-canadian-plane-for-multi-billion-dollar-military-program via @ottawacitizen: Better a proven aircraft, flying now, with large spare part support system, than an unproven design that could take years, with unknown costs, to get to full operational capability. Especially considering current global geo-political situation Oryx @oryxspioenkop 28 May: Enabling Victory: Canadian Military Support To #Ukraine Updated with: -12 AIM-120 AMRAAMs (For NASAMS II) [Delivered]-43 AIM-9 AAMs [TBD]-40 Sniper Rifles [TBD]-21.000 Assault Rifles [TBD]-2.4 Million Rounds Of Ammunition [TBD] Full list: (<https://www.oryxspioenkop.com/2022/09/enabling-victory-canadian-military.html>)

The Browning 9 MM being replace

Canadian Armed Forces @CanadianForces 29 May: The new CAF-issued C22 full frame modular pistols are here. A variant of the Sig Sauer P320, the C22 is modified for the CAF's needs and will be replacing the Browning 9mm pistol. Training at the Infantry School has already started in Gagetown, NB.





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?

Groesbeek Memorial



HUMOUR

Putin and the fortune teller

Putin visits a fortune teller and asks her what will happen in the near future.

She says; "I see you riding in a limousine through a large crowd, the people are happy, laughing and cheering, jumping for joy, hugging each other and all have big smiles on their faces!"

Putin asks her; "Am I waving at them?"

"No" she says, "the coffin is closed".

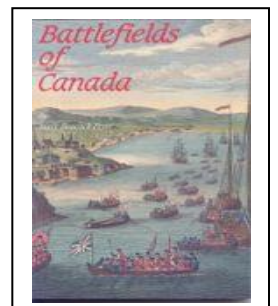


CANADIAN MILITARY READING

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.





Get trained!



CANADIAN GEAR

Use reservists to operate new fleet of drones, RCAF leaders told *The RCAF is dealing with significant challenges bringing in new recruits and retaining its existing staff, raising concerns it won't have enough personnel to operate and maintain a host of new aircraft the Canadian government is acquiring.*



Author of the article:

[David Pugliese](#) • Ottawa Citizen

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Canada's air force, faced with shortages of full-time personnel, needs to rely more heavily on its reservists to operate the new fleet of drones it will soon receive, senior military leaders have been told.

A multi-billion dollar contract for drones is expected to be signed next year with first deliveries to the Royal Canadian Air Force by 2026.

But the RCAF is dealing with significant challenges bringing in new recruits and retaining its existing staff, raising concerns it won't have enough personnel to operate and maintain a host of new aircraft the Canadian government is acquiring. That includes the fleet of drones that could cost up to \$5 billion. One solution that senior RCAF leaders need to examine is to rely more heavily on reserve personnel for the drone fleet, according to a Nov. 15, 2022, briefing package for senior air force leaders.

In an email to this newspaper, the RCAF noted that bids for the new drones were still being examined. "While discussions are ongoing in terms of the organizational composition of personnel for the future fleet, no decisions have yet been made," the statement added.

The drones will be used for intelligence gathering and surveillance and will be equipped with the capability of attacking ground targets.

The drones are expected to be initially operating in 2026, with the fleet fully operational by 2030, according to an April 5, 2023, RCAF briefing on equipment. Both the November and April briefings were obtained by this newspaper.

But the RCAF confirmed it had rejected two other recommendations from the November meeting of senior leaders: the proposed reduction of personnel involved in weather observation duties and the phasing out of the C-130 Hercules capable of air-to-air refuelling.

In addition, no decision has been taken on another proposal presented to the RCAF leadership that would have seen changes at Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot Dundurn, located near the town of Dundurn, Sask. "Command and Control of CFAD Dundurn remains a RCAF responsibility," the RCAF noted. "No decision has been taken in any other regard."

No further details were provided by the RCAF.

The RCAF is dealing with a high number of inexperienced personnel, as well as shortages of staff in key jobs, while at the same time trying to bring in new-generation stealth fighter jets and drones, senior air force officers were told at the November meeting.

The introduction of the F-35 jet, the purchase of a drone fleet and the modernization of fleets of other existing aircraft will transform the RCAF, the generals were told.

But those initiatives will also create an unprecedented challenge and a "significant internal demand for talented and experienced people."

The result is going to be "significant disruption to the RCAF" and an unsustainable situation for the future, according to the briefing package.

"The RCAF is under-resourced with a high inexperience burden resulting in an unsustainable model to deliver expected outcomes and capabilities for current and future demands," leaders were told.

The ongoing sexual misconduct crisis, concerns about toxic leadership and a lack of interest in the military among young people has hindered recruitment, according to various Canadian Forces reports. At the same time, skilled personnel are leaving, fed up by a lack of affordable housing near their military posts as well as with inadequate pay and benefits. In addition, there is a lack of work for spouses of military personnel in some locations.

The ongoing issues are compounded by the fact the RCAF is competing with the commercial aviation sector, which also needs skilled personnel, according to the Nov. 15 briefings.

RCAF commander Lt.-Gen. Eric Kenny talked about challenges the service faces with the introduction of new aircraft during an interview published Feb. 13, 2023, by The Canadian Press.

But the November 2022 briefing package was more blunt in its assessment: There is “insufficient intake (of personnel) to address traditional attrition and growth,” the briefing package noted.



Securitas

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