



VIMM Newsletter

Fall 2017

Vancouver Island Military Museum

We Remember - The Korean War -

With tension in Korea again in the news, on Remembrance Day 2017, we remember Canada's contribution to the United Nations operations in Korea from 1950 to 1957. About 30 000 Canadians served in that seven-year period – 516 were killed and 1255 wounded. Our Korean war dead are commemorated in several places across the country, with the largest memorials being in Ottawa and Brampton, Ontario.



Gunner Takashi Takeuchi, born in Vancouver in 1922, died in the Korean war in 1951, serving with 2RCHA.

The Kapyong Memorial on Radar Hill in Tofino is more accessible for people on Vancouver Island. On line, Global News has a site that maps the home towns of our Korean War dead - <https://globalnews.ca/news/938142/korea-mapping-dead-canadas-forgotten-war/> . VIMM has a large display on Canada's contribution to the Korean War.

It has been said that history does not repeat itself - but it does rhyme well. In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea and the United Nations called on its members to come to the defence of the South. After much fighting, UN forces pushed the North Koreans back and then moved into the North. Then China joined the North Koreans and the Chinese army pushed the UN back to the 38th parallel. There the war became a stalemate.

The RCN

The Canadian government was ready to support the UN, but the armed forces had been seriously reduced after 1945. What had been the third largest navy in the world was immediately able to send three destroyers from Esquimalt – HMC ships Sioux, Cayuga, and Athabaskan, under the command of Captain (D) Jeffrey Brock. Brock's experience from WW2 and his energy were recognized by UN commander in chief General Douglas MacArthur.

Brock commanded Task Force 91.2 with ships from France, the Netherlands, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. The first RCN ships were rotated home and replaced by ships from Halifax - HMCS Crusader, Huron, Iroquois, Nootka, and Haida. HMCS Crusader gained fame as a train buster – firing on and destroying three enemy trains.

Over 3600 Canadians served with the RCN in Korea. Nine died. The last RCN ship left Korea in 1955.



Captain (D) Jeffrey Brock, an expert on anti-submarine warfare, daringly criticized General Douglas MacArthur's anti-submarine plans

Message from the Vice-President

These past few months have been extremely busy for both the administrative and front office volunteer staff. Our visitor numbers during the summer have exceeded all expectations and we have particularly noticed a significant change in the demographics of those visiting the museum. We've had many more families travelling in our area this year who informed us that they had discovered the Vancouver Island Military Museum through social media and local tourism web sites. One trip advisory gave the military museum a five-star rating with several glowing reviews complimenting our volunteer staff for their knowledge, courtesy, and professionalism.

This past month we hosted a large group of New Zealand Rotarians, the grade 10 class from West Calgary College, and the Secretary of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada (OMMC), David Stinson from Sidney B. C. How's that for a diversified group!

In August we completed the Dieppe Exhibit, one of our most ambitious projects to date and one which we felt was long overdue. The story of Operation Jubilee, the ill-fated raid at Dieppe, has been described as one of Canada's greatest military tragedies, made worse by the veil of secrecy surrounding the reason why the raid was thought necessary. When wartime military documents relating to the raid were declassified, Canadian historian Dr. David O'Keefe uncovered compelling and overwhelming evidence that there was indeed a reason for the raid which resulted in so many Canadian casualties. The families of those whose lives were changed forever in that ill-fated raid deserve to know why thousands of Canadian and Allied soldiers, sailors, and airmen paid such a heavy price in a battle that lasted just 8 hours. Families like the Duggans! Nanaimo resident Tracy Duggan's father, Walter landed on Blue Beach at Puys where Canada's soldiers suffered their highest casualties. Private Walter Duggan serving with the Royal Regiment of Canada was awarded the Military Medal for his actions that day and was one of the lucky few evacuated. Earlier this year on a visit to the museum Tracy brought her father's medals for remounting and also commissioned a plaque on the Veterans' Wall of Honour in memory of her Dad. It was an emotional day indeed when Tracy and her husband, Dan visited the museum to collect her father's medals and viewed, for the first time, the Dieppe Exhibit which is dedicated to, *"all those who never knew."*

In 2010, when the declassified information was published revealing the reason for the raid, one Canadian Veteran from the Royal Regiment of Canada taken prisoner at Dieppe was moved to say, *Now I can die in peace. I know now what my friends died for.* After more than seventy years perhaps it's time to move past the sorrow, anger, and recriminations to achieve a genuine understanding of the reasons for the raid and honour all those who sacrificed so much on that tragic day, August 19th 1942.



Tracy Duggan and Brian McFadden in front of the new Dieppe Raid display.

The interest from many visitors to the museum in expanding the Veterans Wall of Honour project to include a fourth phase has continued unabated for some time. To satisfy the many requests we will shortly begin work on what will have to be the final phase as we have no more wall space to accommodate additional plaques.

Brian McFadden

Medal Mounting

The VIMM will gladly mount your medals in court mounting or in a frame. Contact us for further information and prices.

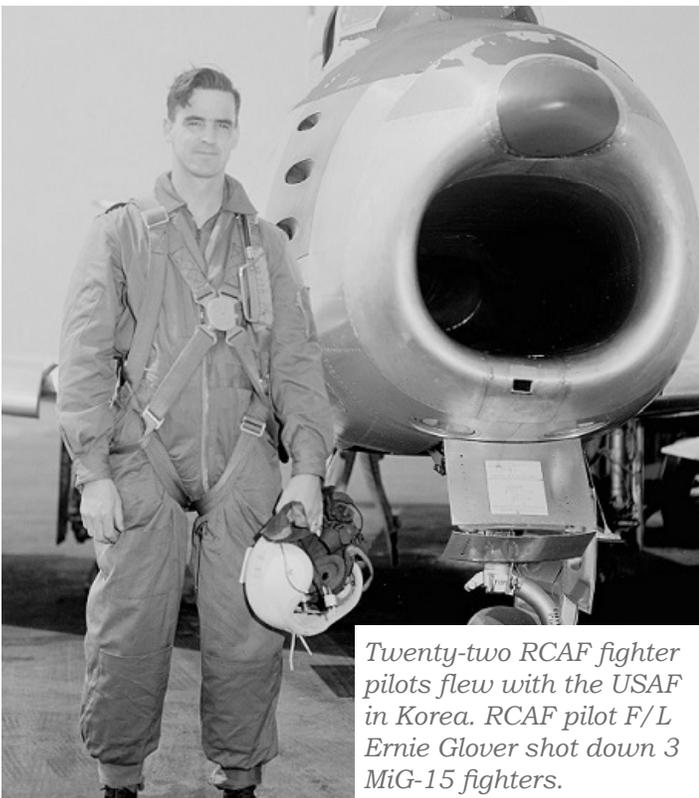


We Remember - The Korean War -

Continued...

The RCAF in Korea

RCAF 426 Squadron served in the Korean war carrying supplies and personnel to Korea in Canadian built North Star aircraft. The North Star was a Canadian adaptation of the DC 4. From 1950 to 1952, RCAF 426 Sqdn North Star aircraft made 599 round trips to Korea, and delivered seven million pounds of cargo and 13,000 personnel. They flew 1.9 million miles without a fatal crash.



Twenty-two RCAF fighter pilots flew with the USAF in Korea. RCAF pilot F/L Ernie Glover shot down 3 MiG-15 fighters.

The Army in Korea

When the UN called for its members to take military action in Korea, Lieutenant General Charles Foulkes, then Chief of the General Staff, was in favour of Canada providing an infantry brigade for the 1st Commonwealth Division but not from the regular army. Instead, Foulkes recommended recruiting a separate Special Force for the Korean War. This required some time for training and delayed Canada's ground participation.

Recruits for the Special Force were enlisted for a period of eighteen months with recruits coming from the Active Force, World War II veterans, and adventure seeking young men.

- Order of battle 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade
- Brigade HQ
- 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment
- 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
- 2nd Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment
- C Squadron, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) (2nd Armoured Regiment)
- 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery
- 57th Independent Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers
- 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade Signal Troop
- No. 25 Canadian Infantry Brigade Ordnance Company
- No. 25 Canadian Field Ambulance
- No. 54 Canadian Transport Company
- No. 38 Canadian Mobile Ambulance Company

John Rockingham, a decorated and successful brigadier in WW2, had returned to civilian life in Victoria at the end of the war. In 1950, he was asked to leave civilian life and take command of the Korean force. After the Korean War he remained in the Army, becoming Director-General of Training, Commander of the First Division, and GOC Quebec. After leaving the army a second time Rockingham returned to BC eventually retiring to Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island.



John Rockingham

On Display at the VIMM

The Korean War Section

General Rockingham's uniform

A Chinese Red Army bugle found on the battlefield

Museum volunteer Pat Patterson's uniform from the Korean War - Lord Strathcona's and Commonwealth Division patches

Visitors Count for 2017 Our Best Year Ever!

By Pat Murphy

Without visitors, the Vancouver Island Military Museum would be nothing more than a storage vault for military memorabilia. For the entire 28 years we were in Rutherford Mall, accurate daily numbers were never kept of the many people that dropped into the museum. Without accurate visitor numbers we had no way of knowing, for certain if the museum we had created was in fact what the public wanted. Ask any accountant - if you can't measure it, you can't manage it.

This all changed when we moved downtown into our new location. Suddenly we required better data for planning, marketing and advertising. As we were now a self standing entity that had to rely on what we had created and had to be able to be certain that as a destination we were on the right track, we had to succeed on our own merits and not rely on what the mall did to create customers. After just one year at the new location we introduced a daily visitor count that would be completed by our docents. The tool we used was the simple hand-held clicker. The daily total was recorded and entered into a chart so that daily, weekly and monthly totals could be compared. After 12 months of collecting data in our first year (Jan-December 2013) we had attracted 3,658 visitors to our museum. Although we had no numbers to compare it to we had a start.

A simple device makes managing easier.



The daily visitor count continued through 2014 and finally we could compare one year's total to another. Visitor count for the year 2014 was 3,575 - a slight drop of 83. But we had a realistic overview of what our marketing and advertising efforts had produced. Now, fully aware of our position, we realized we had to make some changes.

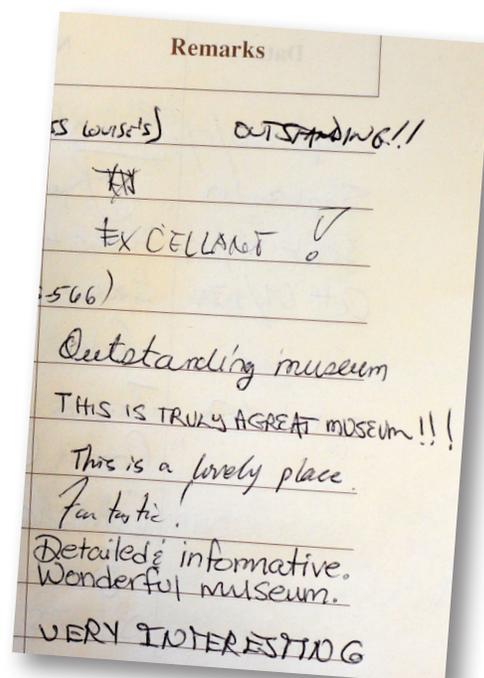
Brian McFadden consulted with board members and spoke to local publications - The Daily News, The Nanaimo News Bulletin, Nanaimo Magazine and some tourist publications. He was able to formulate a new and improved publicity plan. The result was an increase in visitor numbers for 2015 to 3,985, an increase of 410 over the previous year. Had we not introduced change it is very possible we would have suffered another loss in visitor count.

In 2016, we had 4,260 visitors, an increase of 275 over the previous year. Now, with two consecutive years of growth, Brian McFadden, along with the board members, was certain we were on the right path. We had created a museum that had become a destination, not just a place where people hid out as the rest of the family went shopping.

Numbers have been increasing in 2017. As of the end of September we are 890 visitors over last year at the same time. Also, we have experienced a demographic shift. We are now attracting young families with children, along with our traditional 55+ group. During the summer months of June, July, August, and September over 80% of our visitors are from out of town.

Totals for 2017 should finish ahead of 2016. We predict over 5,000 visitors and to say we are pleased would be an understatement. We will have attracted over 21,000 people to the museum since we opened downtown. Without the docents making the effort to keep the count accurate, we would not be able to plan the marketing and advertising that is attracting new visitors. One only has to scan the comments in our guest book to see that we have created what people want in a military museum. We have yet to see or hear a single negative comment.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for keeping an accurate visitor count. Without this information we could not plan our marketing or advertising. With these numbers, we will continue to improve and remain in the minds of our guests - the best little military museum they have ever visited.



Positive reviews from visitors from around the world.

tripadvisor CANADA Vancouver Island

Vancouver Island Military Museum Is this your business?

31 Reviews #13 of 80 things to do in Nanaimo History Museums, Military Museums, Museums

100 Cameron Rd, Nanaimo, British Columbia V9R 0C8, Canada +1 250-753-3814 Website Save

Review Highlights

"A wealth of Canadian military history"
The museum displays cover past history of the Canadian military as well as up to the date... [read more](#)

Reviewed 4 days ago
Pataec, West Palm Beach, Florida

"Covered all the bases!"
A gem on the hill, this little museum does a wonderful job giving voice to the importance of our... [read more](#)

Reviewed 4 weeks ago
complus, Harrison Hot Springs, Canada

[Read all 31 reviews](#)

[All photos \(11\)](#)

Social Media and the Internet Boost Numbers

By Pat Murphy

We are doing very well on the Internet. One travel website gave us a rating of 5 out of 5 stars for things to see and do in Nanaimo. Of all the things to do in Nanaimo, we had the highest rating of any entity. We take pride in that rating. This gives us the motivation and incentive to strive for even better displays in the future. 2017 will be our best year ever! So, what made this possible?

The Province of British Columbia has enjoyed record numbers of visitors this year and our museum has also benefited from the increase. However, by early summer we noticed a slowdown in visitors from the USA. We paid a visit to the marina where visiting pleasure boaters tie up and they also were down 60%, so where did the total increase come from? Personal contact with museum visitors, as well as information in our guest

book tells us very clearly that the increase came from visitors from Europe and across Canada.

We have had a significant number of visitors from Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and even South America, as well as many points in Canada. When asked how these visitors found out about the museum most said, "got it off my phone when I Googled what to do in Nanaimo". We were amazed to see the reviews people were writing about the quality and variety of our displays, and the people that greeted them at the door. Many have said that this is the best little military museum they've seen anywhere.

Social media and the internet have been our strongest marketing tools and it just happened, we did not plan it. Had the visitors' experience not been good, social media could have killed us, so we're go-

ing to continue doing what we do and hope for continued growth and appreciation.

See our TripAdvisor Canada reviews by entering Vancouver Island Military Museum at

<https://www.tripadvisor.ca/>

Also, enter Vancouver Island Military Museum in Google and look for reviews on the right side of the results page.

Vancouver Island Military Museum
100 Cameron Rd, Nanaimo, BC

5.0 ★★★★★ 11 reviews

R Russell Whitford
2 reviews
★★★★★ a year ago
Very well researched and presented collection. On par with the National museum in Ottawa, with artifacts and displays connected to pre and post confederation Canadian military history.....and the Friday Staff are outstanding!!
Helpful?

C Chih Tsai
4 reviews - 10 photos
★★★★★ 3 years ago
An in-depth history of the Canadian Arm Forces from the colonial times to the current peace keeping missions. Staff on site (Canadian military veterans) are very courteous and informative. Highly recommended for those who are interested in the military history of Canada.

Helpful?

The Veterans Wall of Honour

Final Phase Now Available

By Pat Murphy, museum volunteer.

Three years ago, when the Vancouver Island Military Museum launched the first phase of the wall of honour, we had no idea how many local families would step forward to honour a family member or friend with a granite plaque.

Almost as soon as we made the announcement that plaques were available for purchase, hundreds of families from all over central Vancouver Island attended the museum to obtain an application to purchase a memory plaque. Several families purchased a pair of plaques to honour a husband and wife, some for a son or a daughter. One family purchased 5 memory plaques and several families from the interior of B.C. purchased a memory plaque to honour a family member that had lived on Vancouver Island at one time.

With 3 phases of the Wall of Honour now complete, we are anticipating the same reaction for the fourth and final phase; we now have 341 granite memory plaques mounted on the front of our downtown location. With the addition of phase four we will have a total of 416 memory plaques.



Brian McFadden and Roger Bird introduce the final phase of the Wall of Honour.

Some families who have moved to the central Vancouver Island area from other countries have honoured family members that served in the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the British Army. As well, we have several individuals that have served in the forces of the United States of America.

If you have a family member that is serving in any branch of the Canadian Military or RCMP or has served, honour their service; share your pride, with a quality granite plaque that will last for decades. Application forms are available at the military museum and payment can be made with a credit card. Each plaque is priced at \$195. Honour a family member and support the Vancouver Island Military Museum.



Dieppe Raid – New Display at the VIMM

Continued...

later gained renown as CO of the regiment in the Netherlands and Germany. He described the effect of the postponement.

*Problems immediately arose. Owing to normal attrition, some five to ten percent of the men were new to the battalion. They had not trained with us on the Isle of Wight. They had never practiced assault landings, never learned street fighting, never scaled cliffs. Further, the special weapons, like the recalcitrant Sten that we had spent weeks honing and coaxing into maximum performance on the Isle of Wight, had all been withdrawn. We glared hopelessly at their replacement: they were still in crates, packed in heavy grease – the guns had never even been fired. Tomorrow at dawn we would be fighting for our lives with them. (Brigadier General Denis Whitaker and Shelagh Whitaker. *Dieppe: Tragedy to Triumph*. 1992.)*

Tim Cook, historian at the Canadian War Museum, tried to summarize the battle in his 2014 book *The Necessary War*.

The Dieppe Raid, conceived with unwarranted optimism and plagued by shoddy planning, saw 5000 Canadians led to the slaughter. The 2nd Canadian Infantry Division fought with courage and skill, but it never stood a chance. The raid revealed

debilitating service rivalries, the inherent challenges of an amphibious landing, the many ways that co-ordinating operations on multiple landing sites could go wrong, and the effectiveness of German defenders in a fortified port. If Dieppe served any purpose, it was to highlight how difficult it would be for the Allies to carry out a full-scale invasion of France.

Whatever the lessons, the immediate impact of the Battle of Dieppe in August 1942 was deep. The published casualty list was over 130 pages. Families across Canada received telegrams like the one below. I keep it as a reminder of the effect on my family. My Uncle Norman was wounded and taken prisoner.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Full-Rate Message	
Day Letter	D L
Night Message	N M
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a full-rate message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAM

FORM 6122

Exclusive Connection with WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO. Cable Service to all the World Money Transferred by Telegraph

D. E. GALLOWAY, ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT, TORONTO, ONT.

STANDARD TIME

3G BM 25/22 2 EX DL GB OTTAWA ONT 23 508P

MRS ANNIE SCULLY 73 MCGEE 2624 21-55-11-21 ST TOR

4915 SINCERELY REGRET INFORM YOU B29112 SAPPER NORMAN SCULLY OFFICIALLY REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION STOP FURTHER INFORMATION FOLLOWS WHEN RECEIVED

OFFICER I/C RECORDS

Norman Scully Dieppe Telegram

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Brian McFadden, Vice President
Phil Harris, Secretary Treasurer
Pat Murphy, Armoury
Pat Patterson

Jack Ziebart, Computer
Bruce Davidson, Volunteer Coordinator
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