



**JUNO POSTCARD
CAMPAIGN**
He Lived Where You Live

VJ DAY NEW EXHIBIT
RCNVR Naval Air Pilots
and the War in the Pacific

THE **Bulletin**

SPRING 2025 • VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 2

ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA



**VICTORY
EUROPE
JAPAN**

VE DAY • VJ DAY • 80 YEARS

**Royal Regina Rifles
Visit the Netherlands**

WOMEN OF WAR
Symposium and Memorial Unveiling

**IN CYPRUS: Landscapes of
Peacekeeping. Original Art
Inspired by UNFICYP**

www.ommcinc.ca

THE Bulletin

ORGANIZATION OF
MILITARY MUSEUMS
OF CANADA

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Mission, Vision, Objectives, Accountability

OMMC is an association of people and organizations with an abiding interest in the military history of Canada, the preservation, display and interpretation of military artifacts and memorabilia, and the effective operation of military museums.

Mission

The mission of the OMMC is to preserve the military heritage of Canada by encouraging the establishment and operation of military museums, to educate museum staff through lectures, discussions, workshops, visits, small education grants, publications and exhibits, and to cooperate with other public and private bodies devoted to the same or similar purposes.

Vision

The OMMC vision is to foster and be part of a national co-operation in a common agenda to preserve and interpret the military history of Canada, set in the wider context of Canadian and international society and human affairs.

Objectives

To accomplish the mission, the OMMC will pursue these objectives:

- conduct the annual training course;
- award the small education grants annually;
- broaden the membership across the spectrum of military museums in Canada;
- develop the collaboration with agencies and associations having similar interests;
- generate greater capability for self-sufficiency; and
- maintain qualification as a registered Canadian charity.

Accountability

OMMC will be clearly accountable to its members, to its supporters in and outside government and to the applicable regulatory agencies of the Government of Canada.

Message from the President



VICTORY AT 80 / THANK YOU!

As I come to the close of my 9 year term on the Board of Directors of the OMMC, I want to say thank you to all those board members I had the pleasure of serving alongside.

It's been an eventful 9 years, and it was an outstanding learning experience. I also want to thank the membership in general for electing me, but also for the long-standing friendships I developed as a result of my involvement with the organization (not to mention meeting my better half in Winnipeg). I will continue to be a member, because really, who could resist being part of such a great family?

The Board of Directors and how it works has changed a great deal over the course of the last few years. We now have a leaner board, and with a greater number of women serving (yay!!). We have a strategic plan, built strong relationships with DHH and CFMWS, and are in the final stages of introducing a brand website. Our board continues to be focused on ethics and due diligence, and we've introduced a working committee structure. It

continues to be a volunteer board, and I want to thank everyone past and present, for their work and donation of valuable time. This organization could not exist with you.

As we reflect on the 80th anniversary of the end of the war, we are reminded of the enduring power of our shared purpose. Across the country, we are all doing such great work – honoring the past not only with remembrance but with action. Let this milestone inspire us to continue making a meaningful impact in every community we serve.

I will continue to serve for at least another 3 years as Past President and hopefully, Course Director. I look forward to seeing you all at the OMMC conference in Hamilton!

Anne Lindsay Macleod
President

OMMC ANNUAL MUSEUMS STUDIES COURSE 2025

I know many of you are looking forward to the annual museum studies course 9-14 June in Hamilton, Ontario.

By now you have received the registration package. The course program looks solid, with a good variety of course subjects, including archives and library management, and sessions from DHH and CFMWS. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Egan (Associate Professor, Department of History, McMaster University) who will be speaking on *Canadians in the Spanish Civil War*. Site visits will include the HMCS Haida, 31 Service Battalion Museum, Dundurn Castle and the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

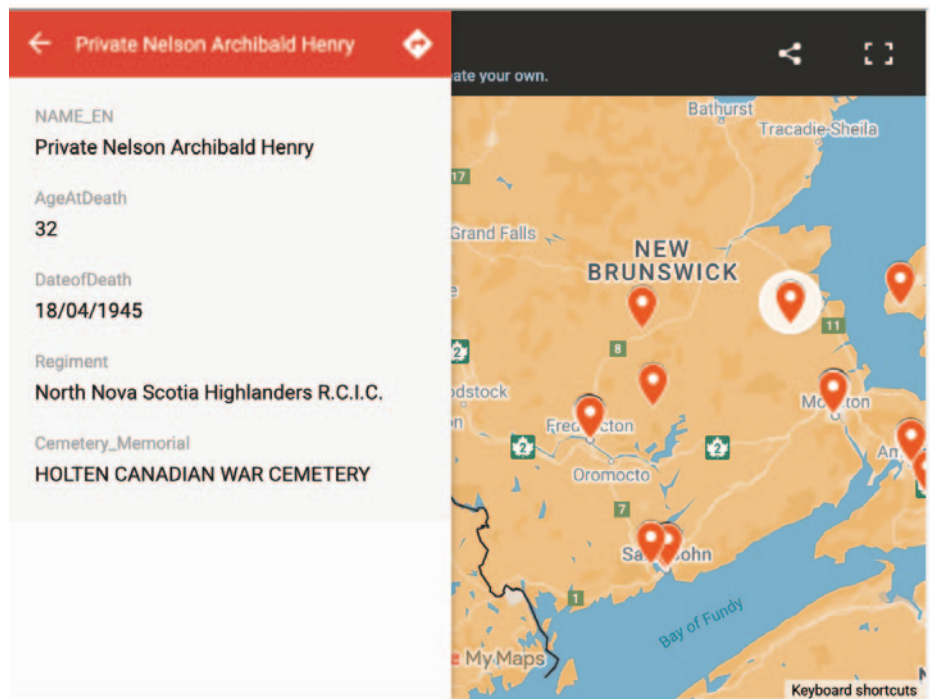
We will be staying at Mohawk College in Hamilton, and thanks to Laura, we know the event rooms and accommodation are top-notch (aka no high beds!). Meals will be catered by the college. The formal dinner and awards ceremony will be held in the Scottish Rite Building, which dates from 1923 and is known locally as "The Towers".

I know I am looking forward to another week of learning, networking and renewing friendships. I hope to see you all there! 🍁

Anne Lindsay Macleod

HE LIVED WHERE YOU LIVE

POSTCARD CAMPAIGN



The Juno Beach Centre Association is marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day by sending 1,945 postcards to addresses across Canada. Each postcard was sent to the last known address of a brave young man who lost his life in the final year of the war. It is our tribute to bring this important history back into the home of everyday Canadians.



Learn more about the campaign, and see where we sent postcards here:
<https://www.junobeach.org/he-lived-where-you-live-postcard-campaign/>

Over the course of the war, nearly 45,000 Canadians gave their lives in the fight for a better world. After the success of D-Day, the Canadian Army joined in the pursuit and fought through Belgium and liberated the Netherlands before striking into Germany; their victory was achieved with the support of the Royal Canadian Air Force and enabled by the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Merchant Navy. May 8, 2025 marks 80 years since the end of the war in Europe.

To mark this important anniversary of VE Day, the Juno Beach Centre embarked on a research project to keep the names and memory of these individuals alive. By cross referencing the home addresses of those Canadians who perished between July 1944 and May 1945 with contemporary addresses, we found nearly 2,000 that still exist today.

In April 2025, 1,945 individual addresses in Canada were mailed a unique postcard that shares the name and story of someone who joined the Canadian military who lived there at the time of his enlistment. 🍁

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY AT HAMM

*South Alberta Armoured
Reece Regiment*



South Alberta Regimental Badge

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the HMCS ALBERNI Museum & Memorial will be focusing on the Canadian Forces liberation of the Netherlands from German occupation.

The exhibit, which will run from May to November is called VRIJHEID/FREEDOM. It is being shown in our Education Centre and is included in the price of admission to the museum.

After landing on D-Day, the Canadian forces advanced from the coast of France, through Belgium and into the Netherlands. As we hold artefacts from the 29th Canadian Armoured Regiment (South Alberta Regiment), we are able to present its contribution to the Battle of the Scheldt with allied forces.

Of particular significance is the Four Seasons of the Liberation: The Hunger Winter, The Sweetest Spring, The Peaceful Summer, and the Beautiful Autumn, when Canadians soldiers were demobilized and finally sent home.

Local residents of Dutch descent are offered the opportunity to share some of their family stories and artefacts from the period of occupation and liberation. 🍁

HMCS ALBERNI Museum & Memorial • May to November 2025
• <https://www.alberniproject.org/>



4th Canadian Armoured Division in Netherlands.



Issues with Unhoused Forcing Courtenay War Museum to Move

By James Derry

Since 2017, the HMCS ALBERNI Museum and Memorial (HAMM) has been a downtown Courtenay attraction and one of the top museums in the Comox Valley since 2005.

The umbrella organization, The Alberni Project, has been in the Comox Valley since 2002 and began in Seattle in 1999. In the past 25-plus years, TAP has given the public a glimpse of Canadian military history through stories of people living in war and crisis. Schools, public tour groups, and military veterans have all been part of the HAMM experience for years.

That may be a thing of the past. Mainly due to the homelessness situation the museum has faced for the past 5 years since the opening of Connect, the Board of

Directors has been forced to make some serious decisions.

HAMM has faced several challenges over the years. From 2013 until this year, HAMM has been moved more than 14 times. This has been due to its rental units being rented out from under it, from flash floods, arson attacks, and two years of Covid closure. However, this time, HAMM has a challenge that is not of its own making: the loss of support, local visitors, and the extreme drop in donations and business sponsorships.

The effect of the homeless problem surrounding HAMM's location has resulted in cancelled tours and tourists writing and changing their plans due to concerns about the neighbourhood in which the museum is located. At the

recent AGM of The Alberni Project Society (TAPS), it was discussed that the museum faces a complete closure if it can not find its own building in the Comox Valley. Possible sites have been looked at in Port Alberni and Campbell River, but these were impractical since HAMM has been an integral part of the Comox Valley for many years.

HAMM has found a property in the Village of Cumberland which would be ideal for a permanent home of the HMCS ALBERNI Museum and Memorial, with plenty of room to expand on its Remembrance programming, ongoing exhibits, and service to Canadian veterans and their families. TAPS's greatest challenge is finding funding through private, corporate, and philanthropic donations to purchase the large two-story building. Having its own building would also reduce the yearly operating costs of the Courtenay location's yearly budget.

In the years since COVID-19, the organization has been struggling with the donations and grants available to continue the museum's presence. This has required the volunteers, including the founder, Lewis Bartholomew, to use their personal funds to keep the museum publicly available. Early into the two years of COVID-19 uncertainty, HAMM lost a significant grant from the City of Courtenay and was told the grant



would no longer be available to the organization. In 2023, an operations grant applied for from the Comox Valley Community Foundation was rejected due to “feedback from our reviewers indicated that they did not have familiarity with the museum”.

Bartholomew states that the TAPS organization recognizes the need for the local community to assist in the needs of those who are unfortunately homeless or have mental or addiction problems. However, the city's solutions to the problem have forced many businesses to move or close down permanently, which is the total opposite of preserving the community's resiliency through this second global problem.

To help with the general funding of the museum in its current location or to offer a gift donation to acquire the Cumberland property, please contact james.derry@alberniproject.org 🍁

The HMCS ALBERNI Museum and Memorial is dedicated to preserving the memory of those who served onboard the corvette HMCS ALBERNI during WWII. This Esquimalt, British Columbia built Canadian warship was sunk on 21 August 1944, by the German submarine U480 off the Isle of Wight, with the loss of 59 brave men.



HMCS Robert Hampton Gray

The Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship, named after Lt Gray, was launched in the Bedford Basin on December 9, 2025. We honour him as a Canadian naval hero, and celebrate his outstanding leadership and heroism.

The Royal Canadian Navy's (RCN) sixth Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) is named in honour of Lieutenant (Lt) Robert Hampton Gray, a Canadian naval hero of the Second World War.

Lt Gray joined the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1940 and served as a pilot in the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm. He embarked in His Majesty's Ship (HMS) *Formidable* with 1841 Squadron, joining the war in the Pacific as part of Operation Iceberg, the invasion of Okinawa, Japan, in April 1945.

Lt Gray was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for courage and determination in carrying out daring air strikes on the Japanese destroyer His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Ship (IJMS) *Amakusa*.

On August 9, 1945, he led two flights of Corsair aircraft to attack naval vessels in Onagawa Bay, Japan. He opened the attack run flying straight into concentrated anti-aircraft fire and was hit almost immediately.

With his aircraft on fire and one bomb lost, he continued the attack and released his remaining bomb on the escort vessel IJMS *Amakusa*, causing the ship to capsize and sink. His aircraft then crashed into the sea and his body was never recovered.

Lt Gray was known to his fellow military members as a courageous leader with a brilliant flying spirit, who continued to inspire and motivate his crew after his unfortunate passing. Lt Gray was the only member of the RCN to be awarded the Victoria Cross during the Second World War.

Over the years, Lt Gray's courage, service and sacrifice continue to be recognized in many ways. In 1946, the Geographic Board of Canada named Gray's Peak, a mountain in British Columbia's Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, in honour of Lt Gray and his brother John, also killed during the war.

In 1989, a memorial was erected to him at Onagawa Bay, the only memorial dedicated to a foreign service member on Japanese soil.

The names of the six Harry DeWolf-class AOPVs honour prominent Canadian naval figures who served Canada with the highest distinction. For the first time in its over-100-year history, the RCN has named a class of ships after prominent Canadian naval figures, proudly honouring their leadership, achievements and heroism while serving Canadian interests at sea.

“ *With his aircraft on fire and one bomb lost, he continued the attack and released his remaining bomb on the escort vessel IJMS Amakusa, causing the ship to capsize and sink. His aircraft then crashed into the sea and his body was never recovered.*

The other five AOPVs are named *Harry DeWolf*, *Margaret Brooke*, *Max Bernays*, *William Hall* and *Frédéric Rolette*.

The AOPVs will provide armed, sea-borne surveillance of Canadian waters, including the Arctic. These ships will enforce sovereignty, cooperation with partners, at home and abroad, and will provide the Government of Canada with awareness of activities in Canada's waters. The multi-purpose nature and versatility of the fleet, both when deployed independently or as part of an allied or coalition task force, allows Canada to rapidly deploy credible naval forces worldwide on short notice. 🍁



VJ DAY

New Exhibit Commemorating RCNVR Naval Air Pilots and the War in the Pacific

By Bradley S. Froggatt
CD. MA, Curator

Although VE Day marked the war's end in Europe on 8 May 1945, the war in the Pacific continued until VJ Day on 15 August. 2025 marks the 80th Anniversary of Victory over Japan. Much has been written on Canada and the Canadian Navy's contribution during the Second World War and to the Battle of the Atlantic and actions leading up to and after D-day. Less is known about Canadian involvement in the Pacific theatre in the war against Japan. Canada's war in the Pacific Theatre began at Hong Kong on the 8th of December 1941 and continued until its conclusion in the summer of 1945. Generally overshadowed by the war in Europe, the role of Canada in the Pacific theatre cannot be understated.

During World War II, over 10,000 Canadians served in the Pacific Theatre. The Royal Canadian Navy

Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) played a crucial role in the Pacific, operating in various capacities across numerous regions. RCNVR sailors flew combat missions and transported supplies to different areas of the Pacific. Pilots from the RCNVR played a significant role in the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm

(FAA). These pilots were trained to serve on British aircraft carriers, where they distinguished themselves as effective combat pilots in the fight against Japanese forces. Their integration into the FAA demonstrated the versatility and skill of Canadian naval aviators.



*Top: Ready room from the back of the exhibit.
Inset: Looking into the room from the hatchway.
Credit: NMA Photo*



*Naval Air Pilots in the ready room of HMS Formidable.
Credit: Vintage Wings of Canada.*



Seating, flight board, and other items from the NMA collection.

Credit: NMA Photo

The Exhibit

To recognize the RCNVR contribution to the Pacific war, and as part of the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, the Naval Museum of Alberta has redeveloped its theatre into an exhibit representing a Second World War Aircraft Carrier Ready Room. A ready room is a compartment on an aircraft carrier where naval aircrew conduct pre-flight and post-flight briefs. Squadron leaders brief pilots before their missions and review the results afterward. Between flights, pilots socialized and relaxed. This ready room was created to represent such a room in the 1940s.

The ready room was completed in February 2025 and features an entry hatchway. The ready room has 12 original ready room chairs from various RCN ships. The port wall has a mission flight board with the names of Canadian RCNVR pilots, a telephone for inter-ship communication, emergency lights, and electrical cable racks overhead. The Starboard wall features portraits of prominent RCNVR naval airmen. The forward wall features a monitor that runs two videos of Canada's participation at D-Day and the story of a Canadian aircraft carrier. The ready, located adjacent to the Naval Air Exhibit, can also serve as a lecture theatre. 🍁

The Naval Museum of Alberta • www.navalmuseumab.ca

Remembering VJ Day

VJ Day commemorates those who fought against Japanese aggression. In Canada, we honour the contributions of Canadian forces in the war against Japan, ensuring that their sacrifices are remembered in an oft-ignored aspect of the Second World War. This is one of the duties of the Naval Museum of Alberta; to recognize that the valour of Canadian Naval pilots in the Pacific Theatre is a proud chapter in Canada's military history, deserving of recognition.

Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment RCA Foundation

Now providing on-line access to their museum and archival collections.

Museum displays can now be accessed at <https://5rcamuseum.ca>.

Visit the museum website to take a 360 degree online tour of the physical displays and access other information relating to the long history of the 5 (BC) Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, based in Victoria, British Columbia Canada.



Our collection of objects (artefacts), library reference materials, and archives can be accessed through the museum website (see online collections) or directly through our archive website at <https://5rcaarchives.rediscoverysoftware.com>.

Pictures and information on individual objects (artefacts) can be found within the Objects directory. The Library consists of historical and technical references pertaining to the history of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment and the wars and operations that members of the 5th have served in, artillery equipment and training, and the history of Victoria, British Columbia and British Columbia in general. The Archives directory contains digital collections covering the period 1848 to date.

Highlights Include:

- History of the Defence of Victoria and Esquimalt from 1848 to 1956.
- Photos illustrating the service of Chief Warrant Officer Lisa Kachanoski, CD, OMM, Regimental Sergeant Major, 5 (BC) Field Regiment, RCA.
- The Pacific Coast Militia Rangers, Canada's largest World War II unit.
- Ordnance – Guns of the Regiment.

While it will take several more years to make all of the collections available online, current materials provide serving soldiers, their families, students, scholars and descendants with a rich source of materials on the history of the 5th and those who have served their country through the 5 (BC) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. 🍁

5 (BC) Artillery Regiment Foundation Museum and Archives

• www.5rcamuseum.ca



WOMEN OF WAR

SYMPOSIUM AND MEMORIAL UNVEILING: A POWERFUL TRIBUTE TO RESILIENCE

By Renee Charbonneau

The city of Grande Prairie paid a powerful tribute to the strength and sacrifice of women in war with the unveiling of a new memorial and a moving two-day symposium. The events, held on March 7th for the unveiling and March 8th and 9th for the symposium, offered a poignant reflection on the diverse roles women have played in times of conflict and the unique challenges they face.

The weekend commenced on Friday with the unveiling of the Women of War Memorial at the Veterans Memorial Gardens & Interpretive Centre. The impressive 2,500-pound black granite monument stands as a testament to the unwavering courage of women who have served their country. One side of the memorial depicts a female soldier, surrounded by images showcasing women's contributions in various military roles, from nursing and communications to mechanics and administration. The opposite side honors the invaluable contributions of civilian women, featuring images of engineers, shipbuilders, lumberjills, and volunteers.

The inscription, "To the brave women who served as soldiers and volunteers, your courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten," serves as a powerful reminder of their enduring legacy. Adding a special touch, the soldier depicted on the memorial wears copper buttons, a tribute to the strength and resilience of Indigenous female warriors.

The unveiling ceremony itself was a poignant affair punctuated by a particularly moving moment: Randi Su Gage, Indigenous Veteran and founder of Indigenous Veterans Day, bestowed a special blessing upon Brigadier General Vanessa Hanrahan, Canada's newly minted Provost Marshal. The Grande Prairie Women's Community Drum Group filled the air with moving music as a diverse group of attendees, representing five generations of "warrior



Doris Guerette

women," gathered in solidarity. Brigadier General Hanrahan joined Sergeant Shirley Jew, and Vietnam War veteran Randi Su Gage, alongside other veterans including Doris Guerette, and members of the 2850 Army Cadets, symbolizing the unbroken chain of women in service.

The following two-day symposium, "Women of War - Building Resilience in Uncertain Times," provided a platform for sharing stories, exploring challenges, and celebrating the resilience of women who have navigated the complexities of war. A common thread woven throughout each presentation was the importance of utilizing personal tools and strategies to overcome fear and adversity. Each speaker candidly shared her own experiences, highlighting the diverse range of approaches women utilize to navigate the challenges they face.

The symposium featured a diverse range of speakers, each offering valuable insights into the experiences of women in times of conflict:

Duff Crerar illuminated the historical context of women in war, challenging the notion that women's roles as warriors were a modern development. He highlighted how women have always been active participants in conflict until "civilization" pushed them into domesticated and gentrified roles.

Kate Goodhelpsen of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum shared the poignant stories of nursing sisters, drawing upon their diaries to reveal their struggles with fear, uncertainty and physical challenges.

Brigadier General Hanrahan captivated the audience with her personal insights into building resilience, offering an unvarnished look at the realities of service.

Indigenous veteran Randi Su Gage provided a unique perspective on resilience, sharing her experiences as a female Indigenous soldier navigating the rigid structures of the military.

Holly Sorgen shifted the focus to the civilian experience, exploring how women in business and volunteer roles cope with the anxieties of war and how these experiences shape their leadership styles.

Michaela Koch DStG, a civilian who works with veterans, discussed the unique challenges of supporting those impacted by military service, particularly those living with operational stress injuries. Sharing her own experience with a brain injury, she highlighted the multifaceted nature of resilience.

Anna-Lisa Rovak bravely addressed the sensitive topic of sexual trauma, highlighting the importance of support systems and coping mechanisms.

Sergeant Jew shared her personal experiences as a lesbian woman of Chinese descent in the military, shedding light on the prejudice she faced and the tools she used to overcome adversity, including the invaluable role of service dogs.

The symposium also incorporated practical elements, with practitioners Carla Jones, Cassie Woods and Danielle Douchet leading sessions on meditation, yoga, breathing techniques, and mindfulness to equip attendees with coping skills. Recognizing the emotional weight of the topics discussed, the Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention (<https://www.sp-rc.ca/>) provided on-site counseling services, ensuring attendees felt supported.

The Women of War Memorial and Symposium served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by women in times of conflict and the strength they demonstrate in overcoming adversity. The event fostered connection and understanding, creating a space for healing, reflection, and empowerment. 🍁

For more information on the Women of War Memorial and the Veterans Memorial Gardens & Interpretive

“ *Each speaker candidly shared her own experiences, highlighting the diverse range of approaches women utilize to navigate the challenges they face.* ”



1. Women of War Memorial.
2. Attendees, representing five generations of "warrior women."
3. Members of the 2850 Army Cadets.
4. Brigadier General Hanrahan and Doris Guerette.
5. Veterans and members of the public gather to witness the unveiling ceremony.

Centre, please visit veteransmemorialgardens.com Visit the Special Projects Playlist on Ride Like a Local to see the videos of the blessing and Sayde Squires reciting her poem.

• Special thanks to Veterans Affairs Canada, The Royal Canadian Legion 60 Sexsmith, Royal Canadian Legion 54 Grande Prairie, Gregg Distributors, In memory of Corporal Dorothy Chaytor RCAF WD, Miss Bliss Bath, South Peace Archives, 2Day FM, Windspeaker Media and all of the volunteers that made this possible.

ROYAL REGINA RIFLES VISIT

THE NETHERLANDS

By Kelsey Lonie
MA, RRR Historian



1. Members of the Royal Regina Rifles drive a Universal Carrier through the streets of Eede.
2. Eede's memorial square.

A little over 80 years ago, Canadian Soldiers of the Regina Rifles Regiment, reinforced by B Company of the Royal Montreal Regiment, were part of the 3rd Canadian Division tasked with crossing the border into the Netherlands at the Leopold Canal during the Battle of the Sheldt.

The fighting was fierce, marked by close combat, heavy artillery fire, and continuous counterattacks. The Regina Rifles reported approximately 300 casualties in six days. The RMR was almost completely decimated. Dozens of Dutch citizens were also killed during the battle. The eventual victory at the Leopold Canal was one of the most bitter and costly engagements for the First Canadian Army.

But crossing into the Netherlands at Eede, these young Canadian men were met by the Dutch people who welcomed them with open hearts and shared in joyous moments of liberation. Only five months later, on 13 March 1945, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands entered Eede, stepping over the ground recently liberated by the Canadians, serving as a powerful symbol of the country's future.

In recognition of our shared history and enduring friendship with the people of Eede, the Royal Regina Rifles Regiment travelled to the village to participate in a four-day commemorative weekend. In attendance was MWO David Slywka, WO Jason Head, and RRR Historian Kelsey Lonie.

On 13 March 2025, we were piped down the village streets to Eede's memorial square, where a formal ceremony was held. There, the mayor spoke, children read poetry, and witnesses of the liberation laid flowers for Dutch citizens killed during the war. RRR WO Head laid flowers at the memorial commemorating the five Canadian regiments who had participated in liberation of that area. Kelsey Lonie gave a short speech about the enduring



3. Flowers laid at the memorial commemorating the five Canadian regiments who had participated in liberation of that area.

4. On 13 March 2025, we were piped down the village streets to Eede's memorial square, where a formal ceremony was held.

5. Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands entered Eede, stepping over the ground recently liberated by the Canadians.



friendship between the regiment and the people of Eede and announced the presentation of two memorial regimental plaques; one on behalf of the Royal Regina Rifles Regiment presented by RRR's MWO Slywka, and the other on behalf of the Royal Montreal Regiment presented by RMR's Major Dexter Ruiz-Lang. These two plaques will be attached to a Bren gun carrier located in the memorial square at a later date.

Over the next four days, we participated in a commemorative walking tour, enjoyed a reenactment of the Queen's return to the Netherlands, joined a convoy of Second World War vehicles to various towns liberated by the Canadians, and spent an afternoon spent with elderly villagers who shared their memories of the Battle of the Sheldt and the Queen's return.

On our final afternoon, we visited Adegem Canadian War Cemetery and paid our

respects to the hundreds of soldiers who died during the Battle of the Scheldt.

80 years has passed, but it remains more important than ever to renew our commitment of peace. We were honoured to receive an invitation to this special Victory event in the Netherlands and represent the brave volunteers from Saskatchewan who paid the price of liberation. 🍁

Feature

*Area behind the Canadian Contingent Officers' Mess
Peter Roman Spuzak*



IN CYPRUS: LANDSCAPES OF PEACEKEEPING

ORIGINAL ART INSPIRED BY UNFICYP

In 2024, UN marked 60 years since resolution 186 established UNFICYP or the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.



The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum at Wolseley Barracks proposed “In Cyprus: Landscapes of Peacekeeping,” a temporary exhibition featuring original art produced during deployments of the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) in Cyprus. The exhibition has been converted in a virtual format and can be viewed by scanning the QR code.

Before smartphones and social media, human imaginary was equally fascinated by routine. Yet, routine was captured with different mediums and, arguably, superior skills. With an analog photographic camera, a pen or a brush, artists surprised viewers with their precision, spontaneous brush strokes, ultimately, unexpected details which help identifying a specific narrative beyond the images on paper or canvas. In Cyprus, professional artists or serving members with artistic inclinations generated a sizeable production beginning with the first deployment in

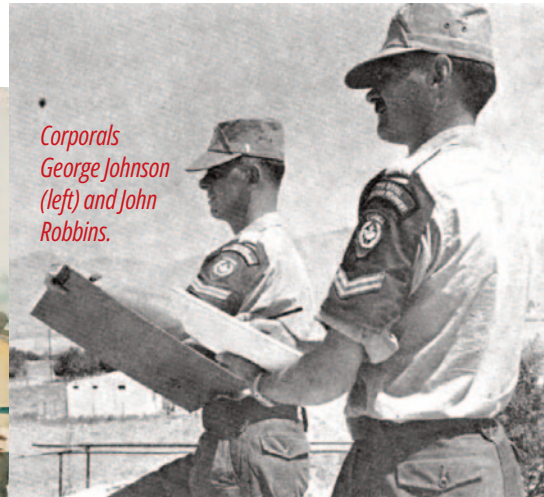
1966, and ending in 1985.

The Curators have selected 44 watercolours, drawings, cartoons, prints and black and white photographs among the museum’s holdings, but also the Beaverbrook Art Collection at the Canadian War

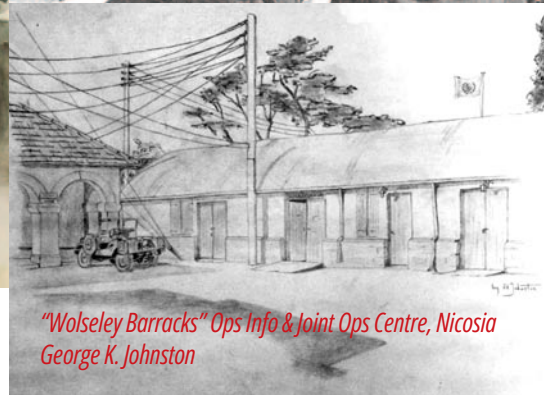


*UN Troops Quarters Ledra
Palace Hotel Cyprus
Robert Shipley*

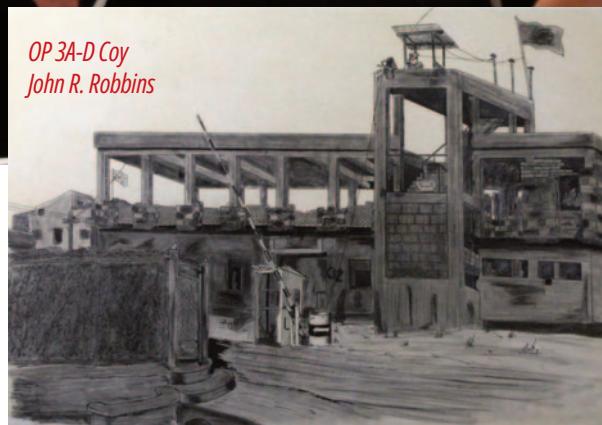
*Corporals
George Johnson
(left) and John
Robbins.*



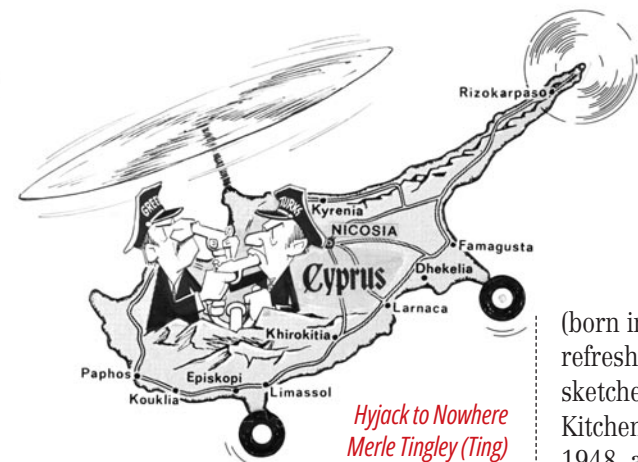
*“Wolseley Barracks” Ops Info & Joint Ops Centre, Nicosia
George K. Johnston*



Museum and the Archives and Special Collections at the University of Western Ontario; several private loans have facilitated the unveiling of unknown pieces before. To find out more, the visitor is invited to peruse the exhibition catalogue, available in digital format by



OP 3A-D Coy
John R. Robbins



Hyjack to Nowhere
Merle Tingley (Ting)

scanning a QR code easy to find at the museum.

Eight Canadian artists are represented, all with direct connections to London community, including former serving members of The RCR who served on the Mediterranean Island George Johnston (unknown dates) and John Robbins (1929-1993). Merle Tingley or Ting (1921 – 2017), perhaps the most famous cartoonist London Free Press ever had. Two artists who travelled to Mediterranean Island under the Canadian Armed Forces Civilian Artists Program, Peter Roman Spuzak (born in 1948) and William James Johnson (1927 – 2012). Photographs by award-winning photojournalist William (Bill) Sandford

(born in 1947) are also included in this refreshing art show. Finally, numerous sketches were created by an artist from Kitchener, Robert Shipley (born in 1948, and from whom the Curators have borrowed the exhibition title). Shipley has the advantage of offering the double perspective of “now and then” because he travelled to Cyprus in 1978 and in 2022.

While the physical layout of the exhibition followed the individual artists and their work, four recurring themes emerged from these works of art, otherwise so specifically related to the artistic sensibility of each author: Kyrenia-Nicosia, the Green Line, the Observations Posts, and the People. These themes are colour-coded on the legends attached to each artwork on display; to be noted that the legends include individual QR codes to the individual piece in the exhibition catalogue-app.

An auxiliary display of assorted

artefacts, archives and reproduced images added to the understanding of the creative circumstances of each art piece.

Well designed and very pleasantly presented, this exhibition brings some novelty for visitors from here and elsewhere by providing a visual narrative of London's involvement in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), a crucial chapter in our nation's military history. With names such as Merle Tingley and Robert Shipley, the works highlight an intersection between art and military service while offering a unique glimpse into the landscapes and people of Cyprus during one of the longest missions in international peacekeeping efforts. 🍁

The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum
• <https://thercmmuseum.ca/en-ca/Exhibitions/Virtual-Exhibitions/In-Cyprus-Landscapes-of-Peacekeeping>
17 July - 22 September



Preparing the original service dress uniform of LCol Cecil Alexander "Hammy" Hamilton.

FACES OF VICTORY AT THE Lorne Scots Regimental Museum

By Ryan Goldsworthy

The 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day is a significant milestone. The public tends to be more interested in anniversaries that are divisible by 10, but there is much more to this.

The 80th is likely the final major VE Day anniversary where any of our few remaining Second World War veterans will still be present. The 75th, in May 2020, was severely diminished by the consequences wrought by the pandemic, which only further underscores the importance of commemorating the 80th.

As the Director of Collections & Research for the Lorne Scots Regimental Museum, I am honored to announce that on May 8, 2025, the museum will inaugurate a new exhibition and commemorative event titled "VE Day 80: Faces of Victory." Our commemorative project highlights several Canadian servicepeople who contributed to the ultimate victory over Nazi tyranny and oppression. This is a human story brought to life by incredible material history. Indeed, our exhibition will feature original research and exciting artifacts that have never before been publicly displayed.

Part of our exhibition will be exhibited at the Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA), which will include the original service dress

uniform of LCol Cecil Alexander "Hammy" Hamilton. Hammy, a veteran of both world wars, served with distinction at the Canadian Military HQ for much of the war.

At the commemoration on May 8, the museum will present and incorporate into its permanent collection a framed "Surrender Unconditional" frontpage from the Toronto Daily Star dated May 1945.

We acknowledge the ongoing importance of the Allied victory over Nazi tyranny and the liberation of Europe in 1945, events in which Canada played a crucial role. The Lorne Scots Regimental Museum serves as a central location for interpreting this history and commemorating the sacrifices made by Canadians in uniform, which contributed to the relative peace of the modern world.

Faces of Victory runs until September 30, 2025. 🍁

Ryan Goldsworthy is a published military historian and material history expert from Toronto. He was the Museum Director & Curator at the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI) for over 8 years and he is currently serving as the Director of Collections & Research for the Lorne Scots. He was formerly an Educator and a First World War historian at The Military Museums of Calgary (TMM).

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