



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Established 1928
P.O. Box 33100 Quinpool RPO, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

Dispatches

December, 2006 5/06

Web site: <http://www.rusi.ca/ns>

Message from the President

As we reach the end of another successful year in RUSI Nova Scotia, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and healthy 2007. I will not dwell on all of our accomplishments in 2006 as you will be hearing my report at the Annual General Meeting in February. We have had many successes and some small road bumps along the way, but I am happy to say the Institute is in good hands.

During the year we saw a change of Vice Presidents with Alex Morrison moving on and Tom Birchall coming in. I wish to thank both of them for the tremendous support they have given me and I look forward to an even more successful and challenging 2007. I am also pleased that our Past President, Paul Phillips volunteered to fill the position of Vice Chair Atlantic for the Federation. We will have more on the future and fate of FMUSIC in the New Year.

With the Government of Nova Scotia being the first in Canada to name a Minister of Military Relations, we have a new friend in Minister Murray Scott. Those of you who attended the Remembrance Day mess dinner had a chance to meet him. Hopefully the RUSI will fully engage him in our endeavours and that our voice will be heard to a greater extent than has been the case in the past. Additionally, with the arrival of Dr. Heather McKinnon on our Strategic Affairs

Committee (SAC), we now have a true advocate for the welfare of our returning veterans.

With the deployment of many Nova Scotians to Afghanistan in December and again in February, RUSI Nova Scotia plans to do something significant to provide support to our returning veterans, especially those in the reserve forces who may not have a Regular Force location to call home for their support. We plan to present you, our membership, an outline of what the SAC is doing in this area in the near future.

Speaking of the SAC, we will also come up with a sound Communications Plan for 2007 under the able stewardship of Tim Dunne, our PR Chair.

Additionally, we plan to produce a paper on Arctic Sovereignty which we will present to the federal government as a basis of a blueprint for Canada's role in the high arctic.

All in all, we have one of the most active institutes in Canada and I applaud the work many of our committee members do on your behalf. I urge you to join a committee if you feel you can contribute to the aims and goals we are trying to achieve.

In closing, have a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to seeing you in 2007.

Murray Lee
Colonel (Ret'd)
President RUSI NS

2006-2007 RUSI (NS) Board of Directors

Col (ret'd) Murray Lee - President
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Service representatives on the Board

Cdr Colin Darlington, MARLANT;
Col Roch Lacroix, LFAA
Col Alan Blair, Commander 12 Wing Shearwater
Insp Tom Jones, 'H' Division RCMP

Committee Chairs

Security Affairs: Dan Tanner, tel: 426-5783

Membership: Tom Pile, tel: 889-9216

Program: Tom Birchall, tel: 435-4545

Public Affairs: Tim Dunne, tel: 461-1842

Webmaster: Richard McNair, tel: 443-3971

Medical/Veterans Affairs: Dr Heather MacKinnon, tel: (902) 275-2358

Constitution: Tom Birchall, tel: 435-4545

Heritage & Special Events: Mike Kelly, tel: 902-826-7112

RUSI (NS) 2007 Schedule

The following program schedule is an updated version of the schedule found in the September issue of Dispatches. Please ensure you use the following schedule for planning purposes:

10 Jan – 1200 – 1330hrs **Loonie Luncheon**, RA Park (Air Force Room) Col Al Blair, Comd 12 Wing Shearwater

17 Jan - 1900- 2130hrs **Monthly Meeting** RA Park (Air Force Room) LCol (Ret'd) Alex Morrison

8 Feb – 1200 – 1330hrs **Loonie Luncheon** RA Park (Air Force Room) Speaker TBC

20 Feb - 1900 – 2130hrs Annual General Meeting, Stadacona Wardroom (Oberon Room)

9 Mar – 1200-1330hrs **Loonie Luncheon** RA Park (Air Force Room) Speaker TBC

21 Mar - 1800 – 2200hrs Dining-In Night – RA Park (MDR), Reserve Forces Night, Max Seating 70, Cost TBD.

11 Apr - 1200-1330hrs **Loonie Luncheon** RA Park (Air Force Room) Speaker TBC

25 Apr - 1900 – 2130hrs Monthly Meeting – RCMP Mess. St Roche Presentation

14 May - 1200-1330hrs **Loonie Luncheon** RA Park (Air Force Room) Speaker TBA

30 May - 1900 – 2130hrs Monthly Meeting – Wardroom (Oberon Room) Speaker TBA

13 Jun - 1200-1330hrs **Loonie Luncheon** RA Park (Air Force Room) Speaker TBA

19 Jun - Annual Bar-B-Que for Members and Spouses, Old Ashburn Golf & Country Club, Max seating 90, Cost TBD. Speaker Hon Murray Scott, Minister Responsible for Military Relations

There will also be day outings that occur from time to time with details of these to be provided as they occur. Generally these outings will be at a nominal cost and restricted in number of attendees.

Please advise Tom Birchall (tom.birchall@ns.sympatico.ca) with any suggestions you might have for outings or guest speakers.

The secretary will send out reminders of the above noted activities approximately 15 days in advance.

Remembering the Halifax Explosion - 6 December 1917

The Halifax Herald Limited
January 10, 2005

By [PATRICIA BROOKS](#) / Staff Reporter

A Berwick man is preparing to visit the wreck of a vessel from the Halifax Explosion. Retired Major Ken Crook, 83, said he's planning a February trip to the Falkland Islands, where the Imo lies. "The wreckage is laying there and her four spires are sticking up in the air just like flagpoles," Mr. Crook said. "Most of the wreck is from the waterline up, she's laying on her starboard side."

Mr. Crook, formerly of Dartmouth, first saw the Imo three years ago while on another cruise. The cruise ship was too large to enter the harbour at Port Stanley, so Mr. Crook and other passengers were ferried in. "I said to a friend of mine, 'That wreck laying over there in the rocks, what is it?' 'It was the wreck of the Imo.'"

On Dec. 6, 1917, the Imo, a Belgian relief vessel, and the Mont Blanc, a French munitions ship, collided in Halifax Harbour. The Mont Blanc was blown to bits in an explosion that devastated the city, killing about 2,000 people and injuring 8,000. But the Imo survived.

"One of the things that people don't know about the Halifax Explosion is, as terrible a blast as it was, there's only two vessels (the Mont Blanc and a wooden schooner from Parrsboro) that were destroyed utterly," said Dan Conlin, curator of marine history at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax. "Everything else was refitted and put back into service."

The Imo was repaired, renamed *Gouvernoren* and returned to cargo service for the rest of the First World War, Mr. Conlin said. After the war, it was used as a supply ship for whaling vessels.

The Imo ran aground off Port Stanley harbour on Dec. 3, 1921, and was "kind of abandoned in place," Mr. Conlin said. "Over the years, I've heard there's still hunks of her down there." The people that Mr. Crook met in the Falklands "didn't know much about the Halifax Explosion

and wanted to know more about it," he said. He eagerly told them what he knew and tales he had heard from his mother and father.

His father, Mr. Crook said, was a navy man and was at the gun wharf when the explosion occurred. "He had just seen the fire boat leaving the jetty when he was blown from the gun wharf and landed some ways away without his boots on." A sailor at heart, Mr. Crook said he wasn't surprised the wreck of the Imo was still in plain view.

"There's a lot of other wrecks there, and why try to dismantle it, because they wouldn't know what to do with it, so it's just there and it's not in the way of commerce." In fact, Mr. Conlin said, attempts to remove some of the Falkland wrecks have met with opposition.

"A few of them were taken back to England and then the people in the Falklands got annoyed because they're kind of a cultural symbol down there," Mr. Conlin said.

The Falklands, off the tip of Argentina, are a refuge for vessels that run into trouble trying to round Cape Horn. Nova Scotia sailing ships from the 1870s are among its many victims, Mr. Conlin said.

Canada's War Efforts Over Time –

Funny How it Took Someone in the UK to Put it into Words...

Sunday Telegraph Article: Salute to a Brave and Modest Nation
Kevin Myers, The Sunday Telegraph

LONDON - Until the deaths last week of four Canadian soldiers accidentally killed by a U.S. warplane in Afghanistan, probably almost no one outside their home country had been aware that Canadian troops were deployed in the region. And as always, Canada will now bury its dead, just as the rest of the world as always will forget its sacrifice, just as it always forgets nearly everything Canada ever does.

It seems that Canada's historic mission is to come to the selfless aid both of its friends and of complete strangers, and then, once the crisis is over, to be well and truly ignored. Canada is the perpetual wallflower that stands on the edge of the hall, waiting for someone to come and ask her for a dance. A fire breaks out, she risks life and limb to rescue her fellow dance-goers, and suffers serious injuries. But when the hall is repaired and the dancing resumes, there is Canada, the wallflower still, while those she once helped glamorously cavort across the floor, blithely neglecting her yet again.

That is the price Canada pays for sharing the North American continent with the United States, and for being a selfless friend of Britain in two global conflicts. For much of the 20th century, Canada was torn in two different directions: It seemed to be a part of the old world, yet had an address in the new one, and that divided identity ensured that it never fully got the gratitude it deserved.

Yet its purely voluntary contribution to the cause of freedom in two world wars was perhaps the greatest of any democracy. Almost 10% of Canada's entire population of seven million people served in the armed forces during the First World War, and nearly 60,000 died. The great Allied victories of 1918 were spearheaded by Canadian troops, perhaps the most capable soldiers in the entire British order of battle.

Canada was repaid for its enormous sacrifice by downright neglect, its unique contribution to victory being absorbed into the popular Memory as somehow or other the work of the "British." The Second World War provided a re-run. The Canadian navy began the war with a half dozen vessels, and ended up policing nearly half of the Atlantic against U-boat attack. More than 120 Canadian warships participated in the Normandy landings, during which 15,000 Canadian soldiers went ashore on D-Day alone. Canada finished the war with the third-largest navy and the fourth-largest air force in the world.

The world thanked Canada with the same sublime indifference as it had the previous time. Canadian participation in the war was acknowledged in film only if it was necessary to give an American actor a part in a campaign in which the United States had clearly not participated - a

touching scrupulousness which, of course, Hollywood has since abandoned, as it has any notion of a separate Canadian identity.

So it is a general rule that actors and filmmakers arriving in Hollywood keep their nationality - unless, that is, they are Canadian. Thus Mary Pickford, Walter Huston, Donald Sutherland, Michael J. Fox, William Shatner, Norman Jewison, David Cronenberg, Alex Trebek, Art Linkletter and Dan Aykroyd have in the popular perception become American, and Christopher Plummer, British. It is as if, in the very act of becoming famous, a Canadian ceases to be Canadian, unless she is Margaret Atwood, who is as unshakably Canadian as a moose, or Celine Dion, for whom Canada has proved quite unable to find any takers.

Moreover, Canada is every bit as querulously alert to the achievements of its sons and daughters as the rest of the world is completely unaware of them. The Canadians proudly say of themselves - and are unheard by anyone else - that 1% of the world's population has provided 10% of the world's peacekeeping forces. Canadian soldiers in the past half century have been the greatest peacekeepers on Earth - in 39 missions on UN mandates, and six on non-UN peacekeeping duties, from Vietnam to East Timor, from Sinai to Bosnia.

Yet the only foreign engagement that has entered the popular on-Canadian imagination was the sorry affair in Somalia, in which out-of-control paratroopers murdered two Somali infiltrators. Their regiment was then disbanded in disgrace - a uniquely Canadian act of self-abasement for which, naturally, the Canadians received no international credit.

So who today in the United States knows about the stoic and selfless friendship its northern neighbour has given it in Afghanistan? Rather like Cyrano de Bergerac, Canada repeatedly does honourable things for honourable motives, but instead of being thanked for it, it remains something of a figure of fun.

It is the Canadian way, for which Canadians should be proud, yet such honour comes at a high cost. This week, four more grieving Canadian families knew that cost all too tragically well.

RUSI NS Presents Dieppe Lithographs

Framed reproductions of a painting depicting a scene from the Canadian Army 1942 Raid on Dieppe were presented to several organizations in the Halifax area on 28 & 29 November by Murray Lee, President RUSI NS & Mike Kelly, Chairman RUSI Heritage & Honours.

Two lithographs were presented to Veterans Affairs Canada at the Atlantic Regional Office, Dartmouth and at the Camp Hill Veterans Hospital in appreciation of their dedication and service to Veterans. Another copy was presented to the province of Nova Scotia to hang in a place of honour in the Veterans Room of Province House. The fourth reproduction was fittingly made to the Dieppe Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion as the namesake branch of Dieppe.

The original artwork was commissioned by RUSI and created by local Nova Scotian painter Geoff Bennett in 2005 in recognition of the Year of the Veteran. It hangs in the RA Park Officers' Mess.

Murray Lee, President RUSI NS & Mike Kelly, Chairman Heritage & Honours present a lithograph of the Dieppe Painting to Mr. Andrew Ritchey, Veterans Affairs Canada, Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax, NS.



Murray Lee, President RUSI NS & Mike Kelly, Chairman Heritage & Honours present a lithograph of the Dieppe Painting to The Honourable Murray Scott, Minister of Military Relations in the Veterans' Room of Province House, Halifax, NS.



Murray Lee, President RUSI NS presents a lithograph of the Dieppe Painting to Mr. Ron Banks, Dieppe Legion, Waverly, NS.



Murray Lee, President RUSI NS & Mike Kelly, Chairman Heritage & Honours present a Dieppe lithograph to Regional Director Human Resources - Atlantic Region Beverly Cameron, and Acting Director Canada Remembers - Atlantic Region Barbara Childs of Veterans Affairs Canada, Dartmouth NS



**Annual RUSI NS Remembrance
Day Mess Dinner at RA Park
Officers' Mess – 9 November 2006**



Col Murray Lee, president of RUSI/NS welcomes Lieutenant Governor Mayann Francis and LCdr Sherry Richardson, president of NS Naval Officers Association and RUSI member to Remembrance Day dinner at Royal Artillery Park.



Lieutenant Governor Mayann Francis presents the RUSI/NS Security Affairs Award to Col Alex Morrison during the Remembrance Day dinner while Col Murray Lee, Inspector Dan Tanner and other head table guests applaud.

**Librarian's Report, by Capt Ted
Cooke**

COBRA II

The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq

Michael B. Gordon and Lt. Gen. Bernard E. Trainor

550 pages, plus maps and appendices
ISBN 0-375-42262-5 Pantheon Books 2006

"Having failed to prepare for post-combat burdens, undertaken the war with the minimal acceptable forces and cancelled the deployment of badly needed reinforcements, the Bush administration compounded the error by disbanding the Iraqi army, putting more than 300,000 armed men in the streets..." COBRA II.

George Bush came to office fixated on Iraq. Shortly after 9/11, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had the Pentagon prepare plans for the invasion of Iraq. The development of these plans, personalities involved, political and military objectives, are all carefully sourced and documented. The lack of effort put into occupation and post war planning was emphasized. There was no way this war could be lost, but there could be a failure to win decisively.

The authors document that the brutal aftermath of the American rush to Baghdad was not inevitable, and in fact was a surprise to generals on both sides. The arms caches the Fedayeen used against the invaders were put in place by Saddam to put down the Shiite uprising he felt would follow the invasion.

With access to U.S. government intelligence, we are given an account of how Saddam and his high command reacted and developed their strategy.

The principal battles are reconstructed with interviews from the participants, both conventional and Special Operations forces. The near total failure of intelligence, both CIA and military, is documented.

In a well-written epilogue the authors state that President Bush and his team made five grievous errors:

- They underestimated their opponent.
- They did not bring the right tools to the fight and put too much reliance on technology.
- They failed to adapt to developments on the ground, remaining with their pre-war analysis even after the Iraqis showed their abilities in guerrilla tactics.
- Differing military and political perspectives and approaches were discouraged.
- Their post-war nation building plans were unrealistic or wrong or both.

This book is a long read, lots of footnotes and references, but a great look inside the planning processes on both sides.

Secretary's Note - Librarian's Report, by Capt Ted Cooke is a reprint from the Royal Alberta United Services Institute "RAUSI News" – their newsletter of Nov 2006 with the kind permission of the Editor, Major (Ret'd) R.B. Henwood.

There are many of our RUSI NS members who read extensively books that relate, directly or indirectly, to Canadian defence and security issues. If you have recently read such a book it would be appreciated if you would write a brief report such as Ted Cooke's report on Cobra II and forward it to the Secretary tompile@eastlink.ca for inclusion in subsequent editions of "Dispatches".

Welcome New Member(s)

In the last two months, RUSI/NS has welcomed new member:

Jim Calvesbert, Dartmouth

Activities of Interest

Raffle Winner

A draw was recently held for the one remaining Dieppe lithograph. The winner was none other than our president Murray Lee. Murray immediately presented the framed art work back to RUSI to be displayed in the RUSI office in Wellington Block, Stadacona. A sum of \$240 was raised from the raffle.

Are We Communicating?

The RUSI membership of 200 + is comprised of approximately 150 members with email and the remaining 50 without. Although the secretary mails out copies of "Dispatches" to those without email, it is financially and practically impossible to mail out last minute reminders and pop-up notices to non-emailers. It is requested that those members with email, who receive "last minute reminders and pop-up notices", pass them on by phone or other means to a member they know who does not have email. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

*****Membership Dues 2007*****

The time for the annual annoying call for membership dues is upon us once again. Dues were raised by your Board of Directors (BOD) by a modest sum of two dollars to \$37 for 2007. RUSI NS has had a very active, interesting and productive year in 2006 as noted in our president's comments in this issue. Our program for 2007 commits your BOD and we the membership to yet another busy year.

By far the bulk of the financial support to RUSI NS comes from membership dues.

membership cards each year, the BOD has decided to issue this year a RUSI membership card to every member. The card will not have an expiry date and will thus negate the requirement to re-issue membership cards every year.

As a personal plea from the secretary I would ask that each member, when reading this edition of "Dispatches", make a commitment to send their dues to the Treasurer in a timely manner. Your consideration in doing so would be greatly appreciated and save your executive considerable work.

Please note that there is a form on the last page of this edition of Dispatches which has the address of the treasurer. If you wish to change any personal information such as your address etc or request a receipt please print out the form and send it in with your dues.

Lastly on the question of membership cards; while it has been past practice to renew

1 ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

2007 DUES - RENEWAL

The Board of Directors has set the 2007 dues at \$37.00. You are requested to make your cheque for **\$37.00** payable to: **RUSI Nova Scotia** and post it to the Treasurer **NLT 31 January 2007**. It is not required to fill out this form unless you have address information changes or wish to receive a receipt, but do send your cheque please.

NAME _____

RANK (IF USED) _____

ADDRESS (if Changed) _____

POSTAL CODE (if Changed) _____

TELEPHONE (if Changed) _____

E-MAIL(if Changed) _____

RECEIPT REQUIRED YES _____ **NO** _____

COMMENTS

MAIL CHEQUES TO:

**Treasurer
RUSI NS
P. O. Box 33100
Quinpool RPO
Halifax, NS
B3L 4T6**