



# DISPATCHES

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

Edition 02/07, August 2007

## RUSI NS Member Awarded France's Highest Honour

by Col (retd) John Boileau

In 1967, as a newly minted Centurion tank-troop leader, I was dispatched along with the rest of my squadron from Camp Gagetown, N.B., to reinforce our armoured regiment stationed in what was then West Germany. We were there for an annual event known as "flyover." At the time, large-scale exercises were conducted across the German countryside every fall - after the harvest - to minimize damage. One day, our tank squadron was hidden away deep inside a forest - a location paradoxically known as a "harbour" - awaiting orders for our next move.

### Diminutive figure

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a three-quarter-ton truck with its canvas removed came screaming down the forest trail, dust clouds billowing out behind it. In the back, behind the cab, stood a diminutive figure wearing goggles and hanging on to a roll bar.

"Who the hell was that?" I asked, turning to my troop sergeant, Leroy (Snowflake) MacAdams. Like all good sergeants everywhere, MacAdams always knew the answer to everything - no matter how stupid the question.

"That's Brigadier Amy," he replied, "and at the speed he's going, I'd say we'll be moving soon." MacAdams was right. And my future encounters with Amy were not quite as fleeting.

Now retired, Brig.-Gen. Ned Amy was recognized last week at a ceremony in Halifax by the country he helped to liberate during the Second World War. France has awarded him with its prestigious *Legion d'honneur* - the nation's highest distinction - which was created by Napoleon in 1802 to reward exceptional service.

Amy, a 1939 graduate of the Royal Military College, arrived in Normandy on July 26, 1944, seven weeks after D-Day. He was fresh from the fighting in Italy,

where he commanded A Squadron of the Calgary Regiment.

In Italy, Amy won an immediate Military Cross for his "determined and gallant leadership in taking and holding a vital bridgehead over the Moro River" with his Sherman tanks in December 1943. One of several officers sent to provide battle-experienced leaders for the invasion of France, Amy commanded No. 1 Squadron of the Canadian Grenadier Guards there.

Three days after arrival, he was in the thick of it, leading his men throughout the next five weeks in some of the major confrontations in Normandy. The tanks of the Grenadier Guards fought in the crucial battles near Falaise - a tough, grinding, confusing slugfest aimed at trapping a retreating German army.

From Aug. 5 to 9, Amy led an attack against Kurt Meyer's 12th Panzer Division - the unit that had earlier executed at least 156 captured Canadian soldiers, including several North Nova Scotia Highlanders - some with their hands tied behind their backs.

Amy's assault resulted in the liberation of the villages of Cintheaux and Bretteville.

Later that month - from Aug. 14 to 17 - he and his tankers fought at Rouves, where his Sherman tank was destroyed. At Falaise - in a new tank - Amy's squadron was the spearhead for 4th Canadian Armoured Division's assault against 3rd SS Panzer Division.

After Falaise, the Grenadier Guards went into action on the Seine and Somme rivers. They liberated numerous towns and villages and captured several German prisoners along the way.

In the closing months of the war, Amy fought in Belgium and Germany, and was wounded. He also received the Distinguished Service Order "in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field."

After the war, Amy remained in the army and went on to an illustrious career. He was the senior operations officer of 1st Commonwealth Division in Korea. For his services there, he was made an Officer

of the Order of the British Empire and received the American Bronze Star.



Brigadier-General (retd) Ned Amy

### Other commands

Amy later commanded the Royal Canadian Armoured Dragoons, the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School, the first Canadian contingent of the UN force in Cyprus, 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade Group in Calgary and 4th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Germany, before retiring in 1972.

In his remarks, Olivier Nicholas, the French Consul-General for Atlantic Canada, praised Canadians for twice fighting alongside his countrymen in the 20th century. Before he pinned the *Legion d'honneur* on Amy, 89, he noted Amy had "demonstrated outstanding bravery in France during the fiercest battles of World War II."

It was a fitting tribute to a true Canadian hero - a hero in the truest sense of the word.

(originally published as "War hero receives high honour" in the *Halifax Daily News*, Wednesday, 18th July 2007. Reprinted by kind permission of the author.)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

# Leaving FMUSIC and Joining CDAI

by Murray Lee, President, RUSI NS

Since Rear-Admiral Jamie Fraser took over as Chair of FMUSIC, he has conducted surveys and interviews to determine and make recommendation as to whether or not the Federation of Military United Services in Canada (FMUSIC) continues to be a viable organization. He interviewed me in my office in March and submitted his final report to the Institutes in early June.

Outside this activity, he asked for and received an extensive study from Kingston United Services Institute and the Vancouver Island USI. In both studies, the recommendation was made that FMUSIC join the Conference of Defence Associations Institute (CDAI) and asked each member board would approve such action. Your Board voted to join CDAI at the June Board of Directors meeting and so informed Admiral Fraser and the Executive Director of CDA, Colonel Alain Pellerin.

## The Background

What has caused this shift in organizations? Because of the current financial situation, reduced activity at the National level and questions raised by several Institutes of the need and value of FMUSIC, the Chair initiated an examination, through the regional Vice Chairs (in our case, our Immediate Past President, Paul Phillips) of how the member institutes of FMUSIC could be better served by the National Office or if there was indeed a need for the National Office. While the conclusions of this consulting with the Institutes were not unanimous, the broad consensus was that there was a need for national representation, but that FMUSIC was not necessarily the answer. Moreover, the study has resulted in several Institutes indicating that they would be or are actually withdrawing unilaterally from FMUSIC. The Chair and the Executive Vice Chair then investigated several options on the future of FMUSIC and concluded that the option that best served the interests of the member Institutes was

to close out FMUSIC as a national organization and offer each Institute the opportunity to join the Conference of Defence Associations as an Associate Member. On behalf of the Board of Directors of RUSI Nova Scotia, I signed the Memorandum of Understanding to do just this on June 12, 2007.

## Financial

Cost of associate membership in CDA has traditionally be \$100 per year. For a majority of the Institutes of FMUSIC, this will be a reduction in their annual dues (\$2 per members) paid by them to FMUSIC. However, there are some institutes with fewer than 50 members; therefore, cost of membership in CDA would be a slight increase over FMUSIC dues. For those Institutes (we are not in this category), with fewer than 50 active members, CDA agrees to accept a lower rate of associate membership of \$2 per Institute member. Secondly, FMUSIC agrees to pay the annual CDA associate membership for its Institutes for two years from its general fund, in order to allow its member Institutes time to reflect on membership in CDA. Finally, after the above actions, the residue of the funds held by FMUSIC will be dispersed back to the member Institutes *pro rata* based on membership in 2006.

## The Way Ahead

We are now awaiting to hear from CDA as to our membership standing. I understand we will be given all the necessary information in September so we will be able to get the information out to you in the next edition. We look forward to establishing this new relationship which will no doubt change the way in which we do business. We may even see the demise of the SAC as these will be national responsibilities with our input into areas of interest concerning Nova Scotians. I look forward to this new challenge and reporting back to you once the dust has settled.

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## DISPATCHES

From the Editor

Peter Dawson, Secretary, RUSI NS

*Dispatches* is the newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia (RUSI NS). It is published six to eight times a year. Its objectives are to communicate news to RUSI NS members, and to further the aims of the Institute by providing a forum for informed debate on a range of defence and security matters.

This is the first edition of *Dispatches* since I took over as Secretary from Tom Pile earlier this year. As Editor, I hope to be able to carry on in Tom's fine tradition, both in terms of the quality and regularity of the publication. I hope to strike a balance between chronicling the Institute's activities, and presenting reports and opinions on events within the Canadian defence and security community. For both of these, I will look to members of the Institute and the broader community to contribute items that are relevant and interesting. Please contact me with ideas or constructive criticism.

*Dispatches* is disseminated primarily in electronic format, as a printable PDF document. In addition to reducing the RUSI's printing and mailing costs, this allows it to be distributed widely and available from off the RUSI NS website. So please forward a copy of *Dispatches* electronically to anyone you think might be interested. Better still, bring them to the next meeting and invite them to join us!

The 2007-2008 calendar of events promises to be an interesting one, with guest speakers on a wide range of subjects and a diverse program of social events. The need for an open and informed debate on defence and security matters has rarely ever been more important. I hope that *Dispatches* will continue to make a relevant contribution to this debate and to a lively Royal United Services Institute.

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*Colonel Murray Lee, CD (Ret'd)*  
*President, Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia*  
 &  
*Assistant Commissioner Ian Atkins, OOM*  
*Commanding Officer, "H" Division, RCMP*  
*Cordially invite you to attend*  
*the Dedication and Unveiling of the*  
***RCMP Patrol Vessel St. Roch Commemorative***  
*Thursday October 11th, 2007 at 11:00 AM*  
*Alderney Landing, Dartmouth, NS.*  
*Reception: Alderney Landing Rotunda - 10:30 AM*

*RSVP:*  
*Tanya Sieliakus-Borne*  
*429-8101 ext 230*

*Dress:*  
*Uniform or*  
*Business Attire*

## RUSI to commemorate historic voyage of RCMP patrol vessel

by LCdr (ret'd) Len Canfield

Years of service in the Arctic and epic voyages through the Northwest Passage have earned the RCMP Patrol Vessel *St. Roch* a unique place in Canada's marine heritage.

On Thursday, 11 October at Alderney Landing, Dartmouth the *St. Roch* Commemorative will be unveiled at a RUSI NS - RCMP organized ceremony. The commemorative recognizes the exploits of *St. Roch* and her crew and in particular the ship's role in maintaining Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic.

The unveiling of the granite commemorative will mark the 65th anniversary of *St. Roch's* arrival in Halifax October 11, 1942 after completing her two-year Vancouver to Halifax voyage through the Northwest Passage. The 104-foot vessel, under command of Sgt (later Supt) Henry

Larsen, was the first ship to transit the Northwest Passage west to east. In 1944, *St. Roch* made the east to west transit of Northwest Passage and in 1950 became the first ship to circumnavigate North America (Vancouver to Halifax via Panama Canal).

The proposal for a *St. Roch* Commemorative was first put forward by Michael Kelly, chair of RUSI's Heritage Committee. In 2006, RUSI's Security Affairs Committee under chair Dan Tanner took on the project and with the support of the RCMP the Ship *St. Roch* Commemorative Stone Society was established to carry out the planning for the commemorative.

The plans for the commemorative, including fundraising were outlined at a general meeting of RUSI at RCMP "H" Division HQ in April. At that time, Col Murray Lee, president of RUSI said "...many of our members are serving or

retired members of the RCMP and we feel it is fitting that we mark the significant contributions of *St. Roch* in the history of the Force. And it is most fitting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the RCMP in Nova Scotia"

Dan Tanner, chair of the *St. Roch* Commemorative planning committee says a number of individuals and organizations have been most supportive in making the *St. Roch* Commemorative a reality. These include HRM Councillor Gloria McCluskey and HRM staff in arranging the site for the commemorative (overlooking Halifax Harbour) and in particular Hon Alan Abraham, vice chair of The Halifax Foundation in arranging a major contribution. Other significant donors include RUSI NS, RCMP, Washington Marine Group, the Curleigh Family, General Dynamics Canada and Lunenburg Foundry & Engineering.

## RUSI NS Program for 2007-2008

Day, Date	Time	Location	Cost	Remarks
Thurs, 20 Sep	0800 – 1700	CFB Halifax (Dockyard)	Nil	Day Sail – details to be confirmed
Wed, 26 Sep	1200 – 1330	RA Park	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Wed, 17 Oct	1200 – 1330	RA Park	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Wed, 24 Oct	1900 – 2130	RA Park	Nil	Guest Speaker - to be confirmed
Wed, 07 Nov	1830 – 2200	RA Park	\$50.00	Remembrance Dinner
Sun, 11 Nov	1030 – 1130	RA Park	Nil	Remembrance Day Parade
Wed, 21 Nov	1200 – 1330	RA Park	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Tues, 04 Dec	1900 – 2230	The "Bridge", Juno Tower	Nil	Reception for members and guests
Fri, 14 Dec	1130 – 1330	RA Park	Nil	Members' Christmas Party
Wed, 16 Jan	1200 – 1330	RA Park	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Wed, 24 Jan	1900 – 2100	Keith's Brewery	Nil	Brewery Tour
Wed, 13 Feb	1900 – 2100	RA Park	Nil	<b>RUSI NS Annual General Meeting</b>
Wed, 20 Feb	1200 – 1330	RA Park	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Wed, 12 Mar	1900 – 2130	RCMP HQ	Nil	Guest Speaker - to be confirmed
Wed, 19 Mar	1200 – 1330	RA Park	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Wed, 16 Apr	1200 – 1330	RA Park	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Wed, 23 Apr	1830 – 2200	RA Park	TBD	Reserve Forces' Dinner Night
Wed, 14 May	1145 – 1330	Shearwater	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Wed, 21 May	1900 – 2100	HMCS Sackville	TBD	Reception for members & guests
Wed, 18 Jun	1200 – 1330	RA Park	\$1.00	Loonie Lunch
Wed, 25 Jun	1800 – 2130	Shearwater	\$35.00	Annual Barbecue

by Tom Birchall, Vice-President, RUSI NS

This year, in response to many member requests, we have tried wherever possible to keep our program to Wednesdays and to keep costs low. Additionally, we have tried to have at least one daytime and one evening event a month.

Although we have tried to book dates well in advance, a number of our evening and lunchtime speakers are still unconfirmed. Suggestions for speakers at evening meetings and "loonie lunches" are particularly welcome.

You will note that we have included a number of events specifically geared to members and guests in informal settings. To avoid any misunderstanding, **all members and their guests are invited to all our events, on a first-come first-served basis**, except for the Remembrance Dinner which is reserved for members only.

As you can see, we are planning another ambitious program which hopefully will have some appeal to everyone. We are still awaiting further details regarding the 20 September **Day Sail**, and as soon as they are available, we will pass them along. For now, anyone interested in attending this event should provide their names to the Vice-President as soon as possible.

Regular program updates will be available on the internet and via subsequent editions of *Dispatches*.

Suggestions, comments, and criticisms are generally welcome! This is your program, and as such can be altered if there is significant comment.

[tom.birchall@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.birchall@ns.sympatico.ca)

*Small is beautiful....*



The new RUSI NS lapel pin is now available – a model of understated elegance, it is pictured here close to its actual size. For only \$3.00, you can support the Institute and perfectly complement the RUSI tie which you already have. No? One can be yours for only \$20.00. Ties and pins are available from the Secretary at meetings or by arrangement (call Peter at 405-7660).