



DISPATCHES

THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

May Edition 2013

RUSI (NS) PROGRAM

Day, Date	Time	Location	Remarks
Wed May 15	1200 - 1400	RA Park Officers' Mess Air Force Room	Distinguished Speaker Series – <i>Mr. Angus McDonald</i> on the Merchant Navy and WWII North Atlantic operations.
Wed Jun 19	1800 for 1830	Annual Mixed Dining-In at the Ashburn Golf and Country Club.	Annual buffet dinner. Guests welcome. Our annual tribute will be to one of our long time RCAF veterans – Squadron Leader James Purvis.
July/August			No meetings scheduled until September

THE ANNUAL ASHBURN MIXED DINNER EVENING – A REMINDER Please reserve now!

A reminder to all that our dining-in on the evening of **Wednesday, June 19th** is fast approaching. *Reservations are necessary* and payment made in advance by sending your cheques to our RUSI address: **RUSI Nova Scotia, Suite #151, PO Box 99000 Stn Forces, Halifax NS B3K 5X5**. The cost for this buffet dinner will be \$50.00 per person. Call Murray Lee for reservations at 462-7169 or email to: murray.lee@ns.sympatico.ca.

RCMP DISABILITY BENEFITS

This article is the viewpoint of the National President of the National Association of Federal Retirees, Helian Lizotte (FSNA).

In 2012, the Federal Court ruled that the Government of Canada has been unlawfully reducing disabled Canadian Forces veterans' Service Income Security Insurance Plan Long term Disability (SISIP LTD) benefits by the amount of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) disability benefits payable. Some of the most severely injured or disabled veterans were termed "zero sum" members, because their LTD payments were effectively wiped out due to the deduction of their disability pension payments.

The courts have ruled that this is illegal and disabled Canadian Forces (CF) veterans who were impacted by this improper practice will receive retroactive payments. Why then, does the Government of Canada insist on forcing what may be a protracted and costly battle in the courts over the same issue with disabled members of the RCMP?

Disabled RCMP members' long-term disability benefits are reduced by the amount of the monthly disability pension they receive from VAC under the Pension Act. This is essentially the same practice that was ruled illegal in the case of CF veterans. But the government and RCMP have refused to settle the matter on the logic and basis of the CF case, allegedly because the RCMP's case involved a different insurer for LTD benefits.

The federal government spent over \$500 million on legal services in 2011-2012, in addition to the legal services provided by internal government lawyers. The CF SISIP LTD case alone cost the government over \$750,000 in legal fees. Forging the RCMP LTD case through the courts and fighting what we already know to be right and fair – that the



deduction of veterans' disability pension amounts from LTD payments is illegal and patently unfair – is a waste of taxpayers' money and a contradiction of the government's own focus on fiscal restraint.

The Government of Canada's Veterans Bill of Rights applies to all clients of VAC – including members and former members of the RCMP. The Bill of Rights notes that veterans have the right to “be treated with respect, dignity, fairness and courtesy.” Instead, people who have served and sacrificed for Canada must now endure the indignity of fighting their former employer and government for what is lawfully theirs.

Law firm McInnes Cooper successfully battled alongside disabled CF veterans to end the unfair deduction of disability pension amounts from SISIP LTD payments. McInnes Cooper is pressing forward and started the process to certify the lawsuit of one injured RCMP officer as a class-action suit that could eventually involve at least 500 affected RCMP veterans.

On behalf of our members, I offer FSNA's unequivocal support to affected veterans and their families as they embark on this fight. The National Association of Federal Retirees urges the federal government to take ownership of this unfair practice and ensure that veterans and their families get the support they have earned, need and so deserve.

Note: This article was sent to major Canadian dailies early this year. I thought it would be of interest to our RCMP members.

50 Year Members

Under the new Articles of Association (our Constitution), members of RUSI who have been members for 50 years no longer have to pay annual dues. Congratulations to the following “half century” club:

LCol John W. Alward
LCol Gregory A. Corbett
LCol J. Philip Dumaresq
Maj. A.D. Fetterly
Maj. RH “Buck” Giffin
BGen Peter Lloyd
Capt Jack Oland
Capt Peter Power
Squadron Leader James K. Purves

New Memberships

The Board of Directors would like to welcome the following three new members to the Institute:

Colonel (Ret'd) Marie LeLoup – Logistics (Army)
Mr. Bill Piercey
Colonel Bradley M. Chinner, OC 1 Air Component Coordination Element (Atlantic)

Government Unveils New Bomber Command Honour

Ottawa – The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister for La Francophonie, and the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, today unveiled the new Bomber Command honour, in the form of a bar to be worn on the ribbon of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM), and announced that applications are now officially being accepted for this honour.

"Our Government announced its intention to create a Bomber Command honour, and we are now pleased to unveil this honour today," said Minister Blaney. "With this bar, our Government is honouring those Canadians who fought for peace, freedom and democracy through their service in Bomber Command, and in particular the approximately 10,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice."

"Fifty-thousand Canadians defended our commonwealth and our country's freedoms and values by serving and sacrificing for the greater good through Bomber Command operations," said Minister MacKay. "Our Government, and Canadians across the country, are proud to extend our heartfelt gratitude by acknowledging their selfless efforts with the Bomber Command honour. Lest we forget."

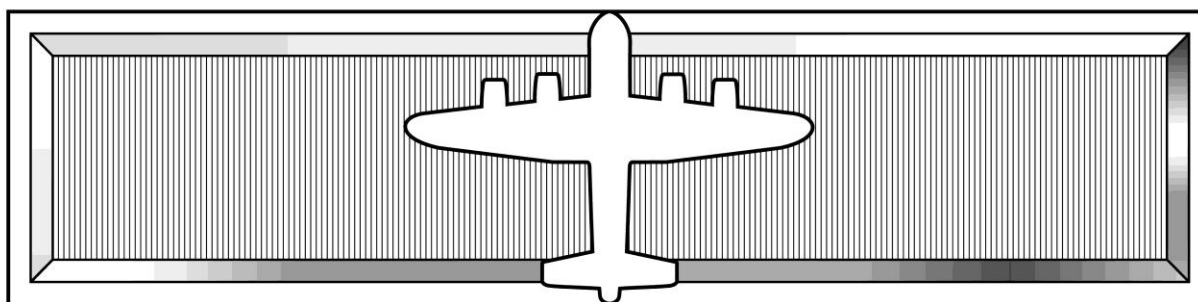
The existing Order-in-Council governing the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal has been amended to include the eligibility criteria and the description of the new Bomber Command honour. All Canadian Veterans who were awarded the CVSM and served a minimum of one day with Bomber Command, regardless of rank or role, are eligible for this new bar. Loved ones of a deceased Canadian Bomber Command Veteran who hold the Veteran's CVSM may also apply to receive this bar. Processing priority will be given to applications received from living Canadian Bomber Command Veterans or their surviving spouses.

"The Air Force Association thanks Minister Blaney and the Harper Government for their continued efforts to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of Bomber Command," noted National President of the Air Force Association of Canada, Colonel (Ret) Terry Chester. "We see this as a significant and memorable step in the recognition of these unsung heroes."

The effort of the approximately 50,000 Canadians who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) in Bomber Command operations over occupied Europe was one of Canada's most significant contributions during the Second World War. Some 55,000 Allied airmen would lose their lives in flying accidents, by enemy action in the skies over Europe, or in prisoner of war camps.

For more information on Canada's role in Bomber Command, to apply online for the honour, or to download a hardcopy of the application form, please visit veterans.gc.ca.

Pictured below is the bar which is attached to the CVSM.





Restoring the historical designations of Canadian Army organizations

The Government of Canada has restored the historical names of five Canadian Army corps, and changed the title of another organization. The restoration of these historical names is part of the phased-in approach for restoring the use of the historic designations of the three former services that was announced by the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Peter MacKay, in August 2011.

The historical designations of the following corps have been restored in order to honour their illustrious history of service to Canada, including in the two World Wars and Korea:

- Royal Canadian Armoured Corps
Originally the Canadian Cavalry Corps, formed in 1910. They were designated the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps in 1945 by King George VI.
- The Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers
Created in 1903 as the Canadian Engineer Corps. Designated Royal Canadian Engineers in 1904 and Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers in 1936.
- Royal Canadian Corps of Signals;
Canadian Signals Corps (Militia), originally formed in 1903. Designated Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in 1921 by King George V.
- Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
Canadian infantry corps were formed in 1942 and designated Royal Canadian Infantry Corps in 1947 by King George VI.
- The Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.
The Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers stood up in 1944 from amalgamating the related electrical and mechanical engineering elements of Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps.

The new title of the Canadian Army Military Police Group has also been adopted by the previous Land Force Military Police Group.

By restoring these historical designations, the Government is restoring an important and recognizable part of Army heritage.

The decision to restore these historical names was carefully considered and included an examination of the rationale for the change, the history of the name being changed, and the legal implications of making a name change.

These historical designations link Canadian Army soldiers to the successes of their military past and the promise of their future. The restoration of the former names of units and corps will have a long-term positive impact on the pride associated with soldiers' membership in those organizations and, in turn, on their operational effectiveness.

In Memoriam

We have been notified that LCol Susan Roberts, longtime RUSI life member, passed away in April. May she rest in peace.



