

# THE / LE BULLETIN



## President's Comments

By Léon Chamois, President OMMC

A new year is upon us, one that I believe will be very good for OMMC. As I mentioned before, Stu and Andrew have left us well positioned to take our rightful place as Canada's leading voice for military museums in Canada and I fully intend on seeing it happen.

I believe that we must embark on a rather aggressive marketing campaign to make sure that people are more aware of us. I hope we can furnish articles to national and provincial museum organizations more often than we have in the past. Since these articles would come from our Bulletin, nothing new would have to be written.

We should also approach organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion, and even national and provincial associations of Chiefs of Police, to make them aware of the benefits that their museums would gain from joining us. Some of their members are already in our ranks but I hope to arrive at formal agreements with these governing bodies where we would be their go-to source for museum and historical guidance. Of course, one of the groups we should be really trying to recruit is Regimental historical collections. Even if these people cannot currently meet DHH accreditation standards, we know full well how important it would be for them to have access to the knowledge and guidance of our members.

Speaking of the knowledge and guidance of our members, I am really happy with the level of participation that we plan to have from our members at the Museum Studies Program in Calgary this year. There is no reason why we have to go outside OMMC for all our training; we have a lot of knowledgeable and experienced people in OMMC and we should be making full use of them.

Enough for now. If you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact me at [Leon.Chamois@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Leon.Chamois@forces.gc.ca).

## Les commentaires du président

Léon Chamois, président de l'OMMC

Voici la nouvelle année; une année que je crois va être très bonne pour l'OMMC. Comme j'ai déjà mentionné, Stu et Andrew nous ont très bien positionnés pour prendre notre place légitime comme les porte-paroles pour les musées militaires du Canada et c'est mon intention que nous y arriveront. Je crois que nous devons nous embarquer sur une campagne agressive de marketing pour que les gens nous connaissent plus. J'espère que nous pourrions fournir des articles écrits pour les organisations nationales et provinciales de musées plus que nous l'avions fait au passé. Parce que ces articles pourront être tirés de notre Bulletin, rien de nouveau ne devrait être écrit. (à suivre...)

Nous devrions aussi approcher des organisations telles que la Légion canadienne et les associations nationales et provinciales des chefs de police pour leur montrer les avantages que leurs musées pourraient réaliser en se joignant à nous. Certains de leurs membres le savent déjà mais j'aimerais avoir des accords formels avec ces groupes pour qu'ils nous considèrent comme leurs sources primaires pour l'information muséologique et historique.

Nos cibles principales pour recrutement sont les collections historiques régimentaires. Même si elles ne peuvent pas, pour l'instant, rencontrer les normes d'accréditation requises par DHP, nous savons comment importants pour eux peuvent être l'aide et les conseils de nos membres.

Je ne peux pas mentionner le sujet d'aide et conseils sans vous laisser savoir comment heureux je suis de la participation de nos membres à Calgary dans la planification de notre cours là cette année. Je crois que nous n'avons plus besoin de regarder hors de l'OMMC pour tous nos formateurs. Nous avons parmi les nôtres des gens très connaissant et chevronnés et c'est à nous de nous en servir.

Assez pour l'instant. Si vous avez des questions ou des commentaires ne vous gênez pas de me contacter à [Leon.Chamois@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Leon.Chamois@forces.gc.ca).

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**Notice to all members:**

As members of OMMC, we sometimes visit community museums and Canadian Legion branches that house significant collections of military artefacts. Two examples are the Woodstock museum (The Oxford Rifles) and the Nutana Legion Artefact Room.

How do we persuade them to join us?

I ask that you send me their names and contact information. I will contact them and explain to them the benefits they would realize by joining us.

I thank you in advance for your help in this matter; you are our boots on the ground.

[Tascona@mts.net](mailto:Tascona@mts.net)

**Avis à tous nos membres:**

En tant que membres de l'OMMC, nous visitons de temps en temps autres musées communautaires ou des postes de la Légion canadienne ayant des collections significatives d'artéfacts militaires. Deux exemples sont le musée à Woodstock (The Oxford Rifles) et la Nutana Legion Artefact Room à Saskatoon.

Comment les persuader à se joindre à nous?

Je vous demande de m'envoyer leurs noms et leurs informations de rapport. Je m'occuperai de me mettre en rapport avec eux et de leur expliquer les avantages de se joindre à nous.

Je vous remercie d'avance pour votre aide dans cette entreprise; vous êtes nos éclaireurs et nos dépisteurs.

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## First World War Cadillac Army Truck

Submitted By Kathleen Christensen, Senior Curator, The RCA Museum

In August of this year, The RCA Museum acquired an exceptional addition to its vehicle fleet from the Manitoba Automobile Museum in Elkhorn, Manitoba. It is a WWI Army truck that was reputedly used at Camp Hughes. Although yet to be confirmed, in addition to attributed information in the records at the Manitoba Automobile Museum, there is some evidence of this history on the truck itself. Army paint is present and noticeable on woodwork, undercarriage and parts of wheel spokes and crank handle. The chassis shows early evidence of being modified from a touring car to its status as a truck. Many vehicles at Camp Hughes were modified in the same way in their mechanical workshops. It was most likely used move troops and supplies around the camp.



Cadillac made many vehicles for the American army during WWI. However, only one other WWI Cadillac listed on the United States Registry of Historic Vehicles and has not been modified from touring car usage although was used as a touring car for the YMCA in WWI in Europe. A website dedicated to this vehicle claims to be the only WWI Cadillac in existence.

After this use it was owned privately by a Chinese Laundry and Osbourne Garage whose name is still in evidence in the final paint layers on the rear box. It was acquired by Manitoba Automobile collector, Isaac Clarkson, the originator of much of the collection at the Manitoba Automobile Association. The Automobile Museum recognized that given its history and deteriorated state that The RCA Museum was in a better position to take on its care and restoration. After a few months of negotiation, the Manitoba Automobile Museum freely transferred ownership of the truck to The RCA Museum at no cost.

Its current condition has the following issues: the upholstery has burst and is missing a seat; one wood hoop on the box is missing; most of the canvas is present, but its roof is gone; cab woodwork has been extensively weather damaged; cab windshield frame is gone; there are missing gauges, wiring and side lamp; the engine has minor missing parts, but the engine is seized; the fuel system is present but requires total restoration; the electrical system has been replaced inappropriately (brakes, radiator, lighting, powertrain, exhaust systems are present but not functional, and some lighting are incorrect replacements); the tires are present but have irreparable damage/aging, however the wheels are relatively solid with original spokes; the body work is stable, but damaged, especially front fenders and battery box areas; and most of the body has been repainted and then weathered when used as a Laundry delivery truck, and prior to that operated by the Winnipeg garage.

Initial restoration is already underway. Reproduction tires have been ordered and installed and work has begun on the wheel restoration; disassembling, repainted and rebuilding. Canvas and upholstery is being measured for reproduction. All originals will be retained. Progress of this project will be posted on The RCA Museum's twitter and Facebook page. After body restoration, it will be on exhibit during the 2016 WWI temporary exhibit "The Somme: Mechanization of War 1916-1917" from 1 July to 16 Dec 2016. The use of vehicles for transport and artillery towing began in WWI and aptly illustrates the mechanization of war.

## An Unusual Single-Medal Group

By Bruce Tascona, Manitoba World War One Museum

Recently, a 1914-15 Star found its way into our Museum - namely a Star with no corresponding medals but it had a mounting bar. Usually when receiving a Star without medals, an experienced curator could quickly dismiss it as a broken medal group, but this one was certainly different and needed some research. It was named to Stoker Emanuel Proctor, HMCS Niobe. Researching this sailor, it turned out he had a very short career.

His service was brief - he was on strength with HMCS Niobe with infant Canadian Regular Navy when war was declared. He did not take to sea on their first patrol owing to ill health; he was sent to HMCS Diana a schooner and training vessel on August 11. He would remain on strength until October 22, 1914, when he was transferred to the shore establishment and invalided out November 6, 1914. On May 3, 1918, he received the War Badge Class "A" and March 31, 1920, he received the 14-15 Bronze Star. Unlike Army medal entitlement where or why did he not receive the British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal, according to the Royal Navy rules - he never put to sea for a minimum of a "two weeks" operational cruise making him ineligible for the War Medal and Victory Medal.



Obverse with ribbon bar



Reverse with naming



## Official Opening of the Military Communications and Electronics Museum Extension

By Maj (Ret.) Mike DeNoble, Director



Opening ceremonies were held on 23rd of October. The newly constructed 15,000-square foot extension includes a new conference room, a staff/volunteer lounge and two new offices. The new gallery space houses mostly heritage vehicles and communication shelters but also includes a recently retired Quad Radar system and the new Canadian Forces Affiliated Radio Station.

Communication and Electronics Branch and local government leaders, senior Kingston business leaders and serving and retired branch members attended the official opening. The guest of honour was HCol David Hart, 98 years old, and his lovely wife Miriam, 97 years old. David is the oldest surviving member of the Branch. He was awarded the Military Medal by King George V in 1945 for his service in the raid on Dieppe.



HCol David Hart received a standing ovation from the audience

The Communications and Electronics Branch and the museum staff are very thrilled to have this new facility which provides space to display equipment to enhance the role of the museum which is to preserve and display equipment, artefacts and documents pertaining to the Military and Electronics Branch and to educate interested persons on its role and influence on Canada. The theme of the Museum is “The Troops, The Times and The Technology”.



As special recognition for his key role in securing the funding for this project, Mike DeNoble had the honour of cutting the ribbon. Left to right during the ribbon cutting ceremony was LCol Lemieux, CFSCE Cmdt, LCol Padvaikas, DBComd, MGen Loos, C&E Branch Leader, Mike DeNoble Museum Director, BGen (Ret'd) Richard, C&E Branch Col Cmdt, BGen (Ret'd) Fraser President of the Museum Foundation.

## CFMAD Launches its Newest Virtual Exhibit

By Bethany Aitchison, Curatorial Assistant



For the Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence, a large part of our community is from the Pinetree, Mid-Canada and DEW Line radar stations, which is nationwide, making it impossible to attract this group to our physical location. In our attempts to engage as many people with connections to Canadian air defence as possible, we have turned to the Internet to help us.

A virtual exhibit, like a physical exhibit, contains historical photos and information, as well as

images of artifacts. Our museum has a huge collection of photographs, archives and artifacts from these radar stations, and we have created a new virtual exhibit about domestic and family life at a radar station, rather than the actual operational aspect of the site.

“Off Scope: Domestic Life at Canadian Radar Stations” showcases family and community life, the importance of sports and recreation, and the unique festivals and events held at these stations located all across the country, and in a wide variety of climates and geographic locations. From mobile homes as PMQs to picturesque beaches and hills, and the personnel voluntarily building their own curling clubs to entertainment in the far north, this virtual exhibit aims to show that life at a radar station was a unique experience that, even with isolated locations and harsh environments, could be a memorable and vibrant experience.

Additionally, at the bottom of each of the themed pages, there is a contact form for visitors to contribute their own stories about their memories, either as a military or civilian staff member, or as a family member, about their experiences at the Canadian radar stations. This means that this virtual exhibit will continue to grow as stories are added.



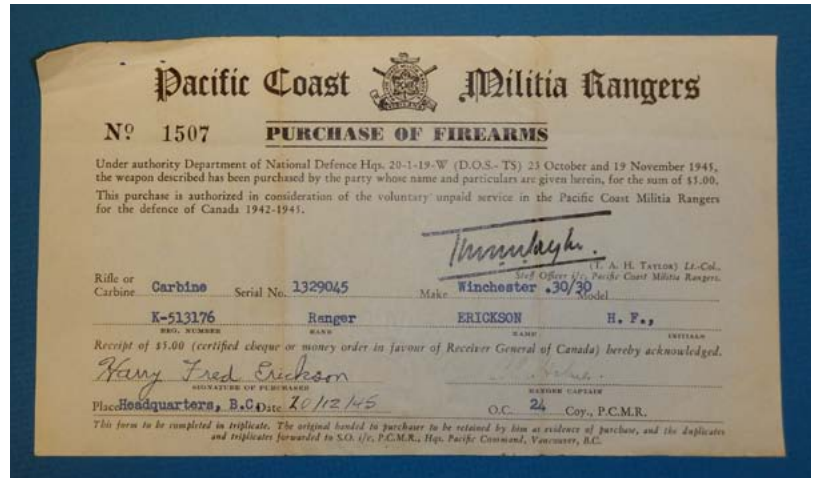
“Off Scope” is online now at [www.OffScope.com](http://www.OffScope.com), and will be available until January 2017.

## Pacific Coast Militia Rangers

By Pat Murphy, Vancouver Island Military Museum

With the war in Europe now in its second year, many residents of remote communities on the B.C. Coast and the interior or Vancouver Island were comfortable in the fact that they were a long way from the hostilities in Europe.

This situation suddenly and dramatically changed in the early morning of December 7, 1941. When the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a massive aerial bombardment on American military facilities at Pearl Harbour, suddenly those individuals that inhabited the West Coast seemed very vulnerable, even though it took several days for some of the remote communities to even hear about the attack.



Many of the isolated communities had no access to a newspaper, or broadcast news. The news that did reach these remote communities was shocking and, to most, very worrisome. Most young men of military age had already enlisted in Canada's rapidly expanding armed forces so locals that had felt relatively safe now for the first time felt very threatened and fully expected an invasion from the Japanese at any moment.

Without reliable and regular information, rumours can create panic. Something had to be done to protect locals, something that would set minds at ease and allow the population that was affected to sleep better at night and still allow them to carry on with their lives.



About four months after Pearl Harbour, in March 1942, the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers were started. It was based on the British Home Guard of 1940 England and consisting of veterans from the First World War, local fishing men, loggers, and those familiar with the trails of the B.C. Coast, and included many First Nations men. Companies were formed and organized; all were volunteers aged from 13 to 85 years, issued with basic uniforms and armed with rifles. No men were turned away who were thought capable of performing duties during this emergency.

In total, 15,000 men enlisted and formed 138 companies spread all along the coast and into the interior of B.C. When the Japanese invaded and occupied some of the Aleutian Islands in June 1942, the concerns of coastal residents was much compounded. One requirement of duty was to have knowledge of the back country and trails and be able to repel an attack by hostile forces. Thankfully, an invasion never materialized.

The Vancouver Island Military Museum is very proud to announce the creation of our latest display honouring the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers.



## Jack Turner's War

By Greg Gallant, PEI Regiment Museum



The Prince Edward Island Regiment Museum in partnership with the PEI Museum and the Confederation Centre Art Gallery opened a new exhibition that captures the experience of the front lines of the First War, by an Islander who took lots of photographs of his Artillery Regiment the 2nd Siege Battery from PEI in action. PEI's Brenton Harold "Jack" Turner was a gunner during the First War. He was also award winning amateur photographer before the war. He decided to smuggle his camera with him to the front when he went overseas in 1915. He made a pocket under his sleeve to hide the camera, and his mother would send him rolls of film in tubes of toothpaste. She would remove some of the toothpaste to help hide the film. The PEI Regiment Museum provided a First War Artillery tunic and lots of Trench Art and other First War souvenirs. The exhibit opened last November at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery, and will remain until May 11.

## The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

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