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Volume 58 Issue 10



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May 16, 2019

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Here's a close-up of Gen Tom Strange's Indian Mutiny medal which will soon be on display at the RCA Museum. He received four mentions in dispatches for in his initiative and daring. At Lucknow in 1857, he used his own artillery battery as cavalry to charge and capture a rebel battery, a feat said to be unique in the history of the Royal Artillery.

Photo Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

RCA Museum successful at auction

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

It felt a little like Christmas when RCA Museum director Andrew Oakden finally held the FedEx package containing Gen Tom Strange's two medals purchased during an auction last month.

He waited more than 48 hours before he finally lifted the package from the table, and tore at the envelope. Examining the contents, a bubble wrapped package slipped from

amongst package backing and a book written by Gen Strange. Asking for a pair of scissors, he was provided with a Swiss Army knife to cut through the protective bubble wrap.

"Don't cut the medals," someone offered from the group of 1RCHA soldiers who dropped by the museum to see Gen Strange's medals which Oakden spent more than \$50,000 — 24,000 pounds plus the 20 per cent auction premium — to buy from Spink Auction House in the UK.

"They had six hundred lots on the first day [of the auction]," recalled a beaming Oakden

after freeing the medals, both contained in plastic coverings not unlike one would use for prized hockey cards or comic books.

"They started at one and went to lot 600, each completed consecutively. The general's medals were lot 501. I waited until lot 501 to bid live. This lot came up at 10:15 a.m., and ended about a minute later. The auction started 3 a.m. our time ... 9 a.m. in London."

Prior to the auction commencing, Oakden did have an online, pre-auction bid placed of 2,000 pounds.

See **TWO** page 6

Freight keeps on moving, thanks to Base traffic technicians

OCdt JP Reil
Stag Special

Ever wondered why only a few soldiers on Base wear a gold wagon wheel on their left arm?

The wagon wheel is a distinct symbol indicating these soldiers are traffic technicians – members of the Logistics Branch who ship and receive freight to and from Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) locations across the country and around the world.

These soldiers sort out freight destined for other units' supply sections on Base as they load and unload semi-trucks that pull up to Base Supply (building C101), while working out of their office called a Central Material Traffic Terminal (CMTT).

"Our job is to ensure our section functions smoothly for the timely delivery and shipment of goods and materiel for units on Base," said Sgt Gary Keir, the NCO I/C of CMTT, who has been at the helm for more than a year.

The traffic section is almost all Air Force members, and it may seem strange that they are working on an Army base, but that's because the majority of their trade is at Air Force Wings – loading and unloading various types of aircraft.

"The majority of our trade is geared towards Mobile Air Movements Section (MAMS) teams working at Air Force bases," Sgt Keir explained. "We also have Tactical Air Movements Sections (TAMS) that work out of the general service Battalions like in Edmonton or Petawawa doing more field stuff."

How do they keep track of what's coming and going to the Base? Equipment and materiel sent through the supply system is assigned a transportation control number (TCN) which allows the traffic techs to see where the equipment is, when it's coming in and what priority.

"We use the National Material Distribution System (NMDS) to generate shipments that come from the Defence Resource Management Information System (DRMIS) once requests have been processed from the supply side," Sgt Keir said.

There are other circumstances where they create manual shipments — these are mostly unaccompanied baggage shipments for soldiers going on courses or even deployments, customs and the unusual shipment like dangerous goods or ammunition.

If you're going on course and not in a hurry for some of your kit, CMTT may be able to help you lighten the load instead of hauling kit bags around the airport.

To help you with a smooth and timely delivery of your kit, here are a few tips the traffic techs would like to share:



Traffic technicians make use of the forklift to move larger items being shipped off from the Base.

Photo JP Reil/Shilo Stag

Ensure that you get a copy of your unaccompanied baggage (UAB) form signed from your unit OR clerk. This is probably the easiest – and most important – step in the process.

Have a kit list so that you know exactly what is packed in your baggage – this list is required for overseas deployments.

Know your baggage entitlements — 200 pounds for junior NCMs and 500 pounds for sergeants and above. Believe it or not, 200 pounds is a fair amount of kit for junior soldiers.

Finally, be patient with your UAB as it is low priority. In extreme cases – like deployments – UAB can be shipped faster, but it can take a few weeks for your kit to arrive at your destination.

One big advantage of shipping freight through CMTT is that a national freight run delivers goods to every major Base across the country.

"We have a freight run once a week for low priority shipments," Sgt Keir said. "There is a cost to this service, but it is very low."

There are numerous opportunities for travel in the traffic tech trade – especially with the Air Force – as equipment needs to be unloaded to our troops on deployments around the world.

"We want to give some experience and more opportunities to the younger guys in the trade for deployments," Sgt Keir said. "It's great to go around the world and work with the different nationalities."

"The majority of our trade is geared towards Mobile Air Movements Section (MAMS) teams working at Air Force bases."

— Sgt Gary Keir

Pet of the Week

ARIES

Corey Morton says his dog Aries is a playful companion — "always running and tossing snow. She may destroy her toys, but she will be sure to save the squeaker." Do you have a photo of your pet — cat, dog, bird, snake, hamster — you'd like to share with our Stag readers? If so, e-mail it to us via stag@mymts.net



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OCdt J.P. Reil
Stag Special

MFRC unveils new counselling centre

Does your family need a place to turn to or need extra support? Shilo MFRC's new counselling centre could be the answer you're looking for.

The MFRC opened the counselling centre May 8, in front of colleagues and military families, followed by cake and coffee. "The MFRC's mental health section needed a more confidential and quiet space for counselling sessions," said MFRC executive director Willemien van Lankvelt.

The counselling centre replaces the defunct Thrift Shop, where Base residents would donate old gently used items or buy them at a discount.

"The thrift shop was not very well used so the MFRC staff decided how to use the space more effectively," van Lankvelt said. "Aside from the private rooms for counsel-

ling, the front space is going to be used for mental health groups and workshops such as the Road to Mental Resilience (R2MR) for families and educational portions on mental health."

"When [Willemien] came forward and proposed the transition to this new centre, it was certainly for the Base Commander and the Base proper to go and do something that would directly contribute back to the community," said Base COS Maj Howard Nelson.

He added, "When the proposal came we said 'absolutely'. This is something we can give back to the community, so we were more than happy to go ahead and fund the furniture for this. It really does provide members of the area really the comfort and the fact that they can more easily have

confidentiality when accessing the mental health professionals."

"The scope of MFRC mental health services has not changed, but I think that users will appreciate the more confidential services

and confidential look of the space," explained van Lankvelt.

She added, "The centre is available for military members, their families and dependants whether they are deployed or not. You can come in individually or as a family unit. While an appointment is required, users of the centre do not have to go through the reception desk."

"We recognize that it is a place of peace and comfort that will welcome people to open up and be themselves," said Padre Walton during the blessing. "We thank the staff who work here. We know they give of themselves daily as they assist other people."

The counselling centre is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Submitting articles and photos for print:

- Please submit articles as a MS Word Document.
- Include the author's full name, rank, unit and contact information.
- Include photos with your articles whenever possible, however, do not embed photos in word documents.
- Please submit photos as high resolution jpegs (if scanned 300 dpi), digital images or in hard copy format.
- With photos, include a caption that names the individuals in the photo; what is taking place; and the name, rank, and unit of the photographer.

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Ready for your future after CAF career?

Capt Bradley Knoll Stag Special

Are you ready for the future? Are you five years or less from possible retirement or thinking about a second career outside the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)?

Or are you interested in learning about financial, education, and other benefits to prepare a long-term plan for retirement or to develop yourself professionally? The Second Career Assistance Network (SCAN) seminar is your recipe for success.

Many members of the CAF enter the civilian workforce following their military service; others choose to hang up their uniform and live the good life.

Either way, the CAF recognizes that this transition is a major life-event. We address this issue by providing information and guidance to Regular and Reserve CAF members and their spouses on how to effectively manage career changes or retirement.

SCAN offers a variety of services to help you prepare for a successful transition.

This spring's three-day SCAN seminar runs from June 12 to 14 at 1RCHA's theatre. The first two days are general SCAN for all CAF members and the last half day is the medical SCAN for members who may be medically transitioning from the CAF.

This event will comprise a number of presentations by

different agencies over the entire seminar packed full of useful information which you will not want to miss.

The general SCAN for all CAF members will comprise of multiple presenters such as the Director Canadian Forces Pension Services (DCPFS) for vital pension information, SI-SIP Financial Services for financial planning and insurance, release section, medical records, education opportunities through the CAF and civilian academic partners, and many other organizations to help your transition to civilian life.

The medical SCAN focuses on the medical aspects of release featuring transition services, medical release process, and vocational rehabilitation, clarifying of multi-services and benefits.

Presenters include Canadian Armed Forces Vocational Rehabilitation Plan (CAF VRP), Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), Transition Group (TG), Health Services case management, and Operational Stress Injuries Social Support (OSISS).

Register by completing the registration form at the CFB Shilo ACIMS under G1/Base Personnel Selection Officer (BPSO)/June 19 SCAN registration form or call the BPSO office at ext 3086.

Submit the form to BPSOshilo@forces.gc.ca or drop it off no later than June 10.

Seating is limited, so reserve your seats early. Dress is appropriate civilian attire and, we encourage your spouse or partner to attend.

Battle of the Atlantic

Cost of winning ocean battles was high, with RCN losing nearly 2,000 sailors

Stag Special

On May 5, Canadians from all corners of the country — including the Sea Cadets based in Brandon — commemorated the sacrifices of the thousands of Canadians who fought valiantly during the Battle of the Atlantic from 1939 to 1945.

The national commemorative ceremony took place at the National War Memorial with participation by members of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) and the RCAF, as well as members of the Merchant Marines.

Brandon's Sea Cadets and Navy League Cadets were part of a local ceremony and commemorative event at the armories, just like other cadet groups holding similar events in communities from coast to coast.

Each year on the first Sunday in May, Canada and its naval community remember the sailors, aviators, and mariners who perished at sea during the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest campaign of the Second World War.

It is also an opportunity to honour the courage of the veterans who served and the civilians who died during enemy attack.

"Today, we recognize the tremendous service and sacrifice of our veterans, and those shipmates who never returned home. This year we also pause to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the sinking of HMCS Athabaskan, an event that resulted in the loss of 128 sailors, and the capture of 85 more," said RCN Commander Vice-Admiral Ron Lloyd.

"This event reminds us of the fragility of life at sea — but the daring rescue of 48 Athabaskan sailors by Harry DeWolf and HMCS Haida reminds us of our proud naval heritage. Members of the Royal Canadian Navy are proud to follow

in the footsteps of these brave sailors and remain ready to help, ready to lead and ready to fight on behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians."

Quick Facts

- The Battle of the Atlantic began on Sept. 3, 1939, with the sinking of the SS Athenia by German submarine U-30. Allied forces fought for control of the North Atlantic Ocean to supply the war effort from 1939 to 1945, making this the longest campaign of the Second World War.

- In 1943, Rear Admiral Leonard Murray was put in charge of the Allied air and naval forces in the Northwest Atlantic, the only Canadian to command an Allied theatre of conflict in either World War.

- This year marks the 75th anniversary of the sinking of HMCS Athabaskan by enemy action, and the harrowing rescue effort by HMCS Haida which occurred on April 29, 1944.

- The cost of winning the Battle of the Atlantic was high, with the Royal Canadian Navy losing nearly 2,000 sailors and 33 ships, the Royal Canadian Air Force losing more than 900 aircrew members, and the Merchant Navy losing nearly 1600 Canadians and Newfoundlanders, and approximately another 70 ships.

- Fought largely by reservists in small ships built in Canada and operating from Canadian bases, the defence of North Atlantic trade against the submarine menace defined a naval role for Canada within a much larger alliance. After 1945, the Royal Canadian Navy became one of the best anti-submarine warfare navies in the world.

- RCAF squadrons in Coastal Command and in Canada accounted for 19 U-boat 'kills', while RCAF crews serving in Royal Air Force squadrons were involved in many more in the North Atlantic.

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Allan Bacon, 99, lost his right arm while part of Canada's contingent arriving on Juno Beach in June 1944.

D-Day amputee veteran reflects on 75th anniversary

Stag Special

Toronto's Allan Bacon was one of thousands of Canadians to arrive by boat on the shores of Juno Beach in Normandy, France on June 6, 1944.

As this year marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day, 99-year-old Bacon is reflecting on that pivotal event.

He enlisted with the Royal Regiment of Canada in 1940 and was later transferred to the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

When his tour of duty took him to Normandy, his role was in the mortar platoon.

"That was because I had difficulty opening one eye at a time, which was required to operate a rifle," he recalled.

On June 17, 1944, Bacon was based in a barn, anticipating an attack that never came. He went into a nearby shed to disarm the grenades when one exploded, resulting in the loss of his right arm.

When Bacon realized he'd lost his arm, his first thought was, "This will break my mother's heart."

He recovered at a hospital in England, where he learned to use his left arm through exercises like washing windows.

On returning to Canada, he became a

member of the War Amps, an association started by amputee veterans returning from the Great War to help each other adapt to their new reality. Today, Bacon continues to be active with the War Amps Toronto branch.

"In our family, we see my father as a hero," said Bacon's daughter Deborah Sliwinski.

"He talks about how losing his arm was the best thing that ever happened to him because it gave him the courage to try new things."

When asked what he thinks of being called a hero, Bacon said he didn't do anything out of the ordinary, adding that at the time, men and women enlisted with the goal of protecting the country and he wanted to do the same.

Through the years, he along with his fellow War Amps members, have made it a goal to remember and commemorate their fallen comrades, and to educate youth about the horrors of war.

"In Normandy, many Canadians died or suffered wounds that they had to carry for the rest of their lives," said Bacon.

"On anniversaries like D-Day, it's important that we never forget."

Wear your pride on your sleeve

Stag Special

The rules governing RCAF personnel wearing badges or insignia on their operational uniforms are about to change.

For those in the RCAF stationed at CFB Shilo, an amendment to the Canadian Air Division Orders (CADO) on operational dress will allow aviators who wear flight suits and Enhanced Combat Uniforms (ECUs)/CADPAT to add certain optional Velcro-backed badges and insignia on their sleeves.

This change in the CADO is intended to enhance squadron and tactical unit morale and esprit de corps. The spirit of the RCAF unit is centred on the members and how well they work together. Part of this spirit comes from the symbols they wear — the badges and crests of the unit. The CADO amendment will allow badges, especially a unit's heraldic badge, to be embroidered in full colour as well as low visibility green.

All other badges can be embroidered in full colour, which will be up to the unit as part of their design process. Yes, a unit can design their own patch.

So, what other kinds of patches can there be? Units can now create and wear badges to mark a special anniversary or participation in an exercise or operation. Courses could have their own patch as well.

LGen Al Meininger, Commander RCAF, and CWO Denis Gaudreault, RCAF Command CWO, "recognize the fundamental importance of our squadrons and tactical units within the RCAF. As such, this forthcoming direction will serve to enhance esprit de corps and identity."

Some items will be available through the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) supply system, while others will be available through unit kit shops or through CANEX.

This change could mean that some badges currently in use may become obsolete.

DND launches program

Stag Special

To better support military families, the Department of National Defence (DND) launched the Military Spouse Employment Initiative (MSEI) to support employment of military spouses and partners both within and outside of the federal public service.

The first phase is a casual job inventory which is open exclusively to spouses of serving Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members.

Of note, positions are not funded, MSEI aims to provide another option of temporary employment to managers in support of Strong Secure and Engaged (SSE).

Casual employment offers applicants the opportunity to experience Government of Canada (GC) departments as an employer; build your reputation as a high performer; make professional connections with colleagues and leaders; access professional networks that can help build your career; and with your new found GC experience, be more competitive and better prepared when seeking longer-term and permanent employment opportunities in the public service such as term or indeterminate positions.

If you're interested, apply on the GC jobs website by searching for the process number 18-DND-CEO-NATNL-259724 and clicking on Jobs Open to the Public.



It was a hive of activity at the 10th annual antique, flea market and craft sale held at the arena in Wawanesa. With a keen eye and knowing what you want, there were plenty of treasures for flea market hunters.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

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Soldiers from 1RCHA's B Bty and Chuck LaRocque look on as RCA Museum director Andrew Oakden opens the bubble wrap containing Gen Tom Strange's two medals bought from auction for \$50,000.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

Two military medals 'invaluable' to RCA Museum

From the front

How did Oakden learn of a Gen Strange relative putting the medals up for auction?

"One of [Spink's] representatives contacted us in January regarding the potential sale," he said. "They likely saw him listed on our website as a Great Gunner and thought we would be interested. That was true. A sizeable family collection of Strange medals were up for auction, including his son Harry Strange's medals. We were not successful with the bidding on his son's medals."

With the auction held overseas in London, Oakden acknowledged the auction house said there was a lot of interest in the general's medals. There were about 1,200 different lots for sale, mostly military medals.

"There was one Victoria Cross for sale that sold for 19,000 pounds," he said.

With bidding on Gen Strange's medals starting at 2,000 pounds, Oakden was on the phone, but also following the proceedings via Internet. With someone bidding 23,000 pounds, that's when Oakden made his offer of 25,000 and won the bid.

Besides supply and demand acting as a means for driving up the price on military medals, Oakden acknowledged it's very difficult to put a price on

medals.

"His medals themselves are two campaign medals," he said, adding Gen Strange had no VCs, valour medals or high honours to his name.

The two medals now awaiting to be put on display at the RCA Museum include the Indian Mutiny medal and a Northwest Rebellion medal.

"If not a connection to Gen Strange the medals may have been worth a thousand dollars," he said. "However, these were Gen Strange's medals, which make them invaluable to us."

The RCA Senate raised the funds for this purchase, with Colonel Commandant BGen (Ret'd) J.J. Selbie leading the fundraising drive.

"We did try to acquire a moveable cultural properties grant to assist with the purchase, but we had difficulty proving the value of the medals," said Oakden, adding, "they are

unique and difficult to value."

Because the auction features military paraphernalia, and the prestige or historical value to some medals over others, Oakden said there likely were many large collectors involved besides the RCA Museum.

"It's possible we were bidding against other museums or Canadian Gunners who wanted to own them."

To think Oakden's full involvement in obtaining Gen Strange's medals took between 60 and 90 seconds, lot 501 had plenty of interest from bidders because of the "popularity" of the medal set, even if it was just two.

Besides owning the two medals now, the RCA Museum also owns a published biography about Gen Strange titled *Jingo The Buckskin Brigadier Who Opened Up the Canadian West* by author James B. Lamb.

Meanwhile, the RCA Senate passed a motion to make LCol Norman Bruce Buchanan, MC with two Bars, ED a new Great Gunner. His name was recently added to the Great Gunner list, which is a first for a long time.

Happy he had success in purchasing Gen Strange's campaign medals, Oakden conceded the RCA Museum and Royal Regiment are thrilled to have them at the Home Station of the artillery, not lost to a private collector, with the potential for loaning them out in the future to other museums in Canada.



Chuck LaRocque and 1RCHA's Gnr Kyle Timm from B Bty show off Gen Tom Strange's medals purchased by the RCA Museum.



Here's a view of Gen Tom Strange's two military medals, from the front to the back which the RCA Museum purchased during an auction held in London, UK, last month. Both medals feature Queen Victoria on the front. The Indian Mutiny (right) medal was for his actions facing rebels in Lucknow. The 1885 North West Canada campaign medal was received following Gen Strange's leadership in the defence of Alberta, when he formed the Alberta Field Force from "three very green militia battalions with a few mounted policemen and cowboys" when Metis leader Louis Riel led an uprising in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

Colourful Gen Strange considered 'Father of Canadian Artillery'

RCA Museum Stag Special

The second son of a Scots officer, Thomas Bland Strange was born in Meerut, India, on Sept. 15, 1832 and educated at Edinburgh Academy.

Unable, for financial reasons, to follow his brother to Sandhurst, young Tom was accepted at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich. Here, talent and performance were more important than good breeding. He graduated at age 20, was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and posted to Gibraltar.

He devoted a large measure of his life to his physical and intellectual development. A tall, imposing figure with a remarkable physique, a commanding voice and for much of his life, a full-flowing beard, he placed great importance on the hardening and welfare of his troops.

Promoted lieutenant in November 1853, he was posted to Jamaica, where he contracted yellow fever. Later transferred to the hospitable Bahamas, he busied himself at improving Nassau's defences. In 1856, he was ordered to the Crimea, however, before he reached England, the war was ended.

One year later, he was dispatched to India to assist in quelling the mutiny of the Bengal Army. He soon demonstrated his characteristic daring and determination; he was Mentioned-in-Dispatches on four occasions.

He remained in the Punjab where he delighted in finding novel ways to train his soldiers. He disagreed with his superior concerning the pay of his soldiers and, while ultimately upheld morally and legally, found his tenure increasingly difficult.

Prior to returning to England in 1864 and while recovering from a second bout of fever, he made a six-month trek from Tibet to Kashmir, revelling in the physical hardship.

After promotion to captain and a brief service in Ireland, he was appointed to the Instructional staff at Woolwich. Subsequently tasked to train the Volunteer Artillery, he again ran afoul of the system, publicly condemning the substandard equipment. He was disciplined, an occurrence which likely precipitated his move to Canada in 1872.

He was appointed Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores for



MGen Tom Strange's formal portrait, with his two medals on his uniform.



RCA Museum director Andrew Oakden holds the two medals he successfully bought when they became available from a London, UK, auction last month.

Canada and to command of B Bty. His relief of the departing British troops was true to form; his direct and uncompromising manner caused no little discomfiture to the departing officers, it gained much needed equipment for the garrison.

He was accepted immediately by the citizens of Quebec; his fluency in French and his involvement in the social and sporting activities of the community earned their respect and approval.

In his 1873 report, he recommended the establishment of three important Canadian institutions: Royal Military College (RMC), Dominion Artillery Association and Dominion Cartridge Factory. In varying form all three exist today.

He also recommended that the west coast defence be based on a four-battery Brigade of Garrison Artillery; this too was acted upon.

After eight years in his beloved Quebec, then LCol Strange was moved to Kingston, Ont., where he also became a prominent member of the community. Then, at age 51 and promotion to colonel, he was advised he would be forced to retire with the honorary rank of major-general.

His bitterness at forced retirement was eased in small measures when his Gunners, the first Canadian team to compete at Shoeburyness, England, returned home with the Governor General's prize.

Gen Strange moved to Alberta, purchased a large tract of land and established a ranch. In the spring of 1885, and the outbreak of the North West Rebellion, Big Tom Strange, as he was known locally, was asked to organize the defence of the Alberta district.

The Alberta Field Force, composed of cowboys, Mounted Police and three untested Militia battalions acquitted themselves well, particularly in the engagement at Frenchman Butte.

He returned to his ranch and while working, was kicked by a horse; his recovery was never complete. To add insult to injury, he was informed by the British War Office that, as he had returned to service with the Canadian Militia, his pension was cut off.

After a short abortive attempt at politics, he sold the ranch and returned to England. He remained active until his death in Camberly on July 9, 1925.

The contribution made by Gen Strange is epic in proportion. On his retirement, MGen R.G.A. Luard, who commanded the Militia, noted that more than 2,700 officers and men had served with Tom Strange during the time he commanded B Bty, and referred to him as "a father to the Artillery of Canada."



CWO Arthur Blakely converses with BComd LCol David MacIntyre during last summer's yearend Army Cadet parade held at the MPTF. He also received a medal from former 1RCHA CO LCol Stephen Haire. During the recent Ex IRON STAG (below) CWO Blakely checks his C7 during the safety brief on the Base training range.

Photos Jules Xavier & OCdt JP Reil/Shilo Stag



Expedition to South America challenged CWO Arthur Blakely

Jules Xavier
Shilo Stag

Taking aim with his C7, CWO Arthur Blakely was on familiar ground during the Ex IRON STAG, an annual tri-service weekend held on this Base.

While the younger Army, Navy and Air Cadets took aim with a pellet or .22 rifle, the older 16 and 17 year old had an opportunity to fire the Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) C7 as part of a familiarization with equipment used by Regular Force members.

It was a busy three days at CFB Shilo, as more than 300 cadets took part in an array of activities, from knot tying to challenging themselves on the Base's confidence course. Besides touring the MPs' and firefighters' venues, cadets also were exposed to first aid training, geocaching, bush survival, sports, and a dance Saturday night.

A few months back, however, CWO Blakely of 2502 RCACC Shilo was a long ways from his PMQ — he took flight for South America as part of the Chile International Expedition.

"It was great being part of this expedition, having another chance to travel as part of Army Cadets," the 12th Grader told the *Stag*.

"It really challenged you, what with the weather and the terrain we were hiking or kayaking."

Led by a guiding company in the South American coun-



try, CWO Blakely is no stranger to overseas excursions or expeditions while representing Army Cadets away from the confines of CFB Shilo, Manitoba and Canada. He's been to Vimy, France to see where Canadian soldiers fought during the Great War.

Gold star-qualified, and bronze in fitness, CWO Blakely was born in Regina, SK, before finding himself growing up on this Base twice, with his parents' CAF postings. He was also at CFB Meaford, Ont.

"We went on a 20-kilometre hike, plus spent four days kayaking," he recalled about his Chile experiences outdoors. "It was windy, and rainy. Not the most comfortable, but it was challenging both physically, and mentally.

"I just kept going when it came to kayaking in the cold.

We'd wake up the next morning, and head back out. This was a great expedition experience for me because I was exposed to things we don't have a lot of on the prairies — mountains."

Living out of tents, the 18 cadets and three officers on this expedition were fed cuisine that included lamb, and potatoes. He was also able to hone his map reading and compass skills, something he's able to pass on to his younger charges when the Army Cadets meet weekly at the MPTF. He takes this responsibility seriously, a reason why he applies to be part of the Army Cadets' adventures and expeditions.

"I've gone paddling in the Yukon, and done rock climbing in the Rockies," he said. "All of what I do enhances my leadership and instructor skills, and provides me with challenges."

He acknowledges that kayaking might not be army-specific training, yet anything he does outdoors only makes him a better Army Cadet.

"I do like the outdoors, so what I've been doing is great as part of Army Cadets," he offered. "What I'm learning is transferable to Army Cadets."

While a career in the CAF might happen after he's done with university, CWO Blakely ultimately is interested in a career with the RCMP.

"Once I get more life experiences I'll see that happens, but right now the RCMP is a career I'm interested in."

Meanwhile, he recently took his para course, and passed. So, his summer could be busy with further courses and camps dressed in his Army Cadets uniform.

Ex IRON RAM



OCdt JP Reil spent the day focusing on the activities of Air, Navy and Army cadets during the three-day Ex IRON RAM. Older cadets received instruction on firing the C7 (left) while other cadets were challenged on the confidence course (above).

Army corporal first woman to achieve FORCE Evaluation perfection

Steven Fouchard
Stag Special

Just say, "Are you ready for your mandatory annual FORCE Evaluation?" and even some seasoned Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members will get nervous — but not Cpl Marie-Herene Maillet, who is the first woman soldier to score an unheard-of 100 per cent.

In order to demonstrate that they have the high level of physical fitness required for service, CAF members are subject to an annual FORCE Evaluation.

They must complete a series of four tasks: the sandbag lift, the sandbag drag, 20-metre rushes, and the intermittent loaded shuttle, which features five 40-metre shuttles with a weight and five without.

Only 0.2 per cent of CAF personnel manage to get a "platinum" score of between 394 and 400 points on their annual fitness test.

Not only did a Canadian Army (CA) member join that small but distinguished group back on Feb. 19, but she is the first female CAF member to have reached platinum — and with a perfect score of 400.

Cpl Maillet is an Air Defence Technician with 4th Artillery Regiment (General Support), Royal Canadian Artillery, based in Oromocto, New Brunswick.

Describing herself as a "super-hyperactive human," Cpl Maillet explained that her personal fitness regime — a daily morning run of up to five kilometres, daily weight training and three afternoon swims each week — proved to be more than adequate preparation. Career ambitions were also a major motivator.

In the following Q&A interview, Cpl Maillet discusses those ambitions, and why the "upbeat" Army



Cpl Marie Maillet from 4th Artillery Regiment (General Support) participates in Ex TURBULENT WINDS in the training area of 5 Div Support Base Gagetown, New Brunswick in November 2017.



Photo Cpl Geneviève Lapointe/5 Div

lifestyle suits her so well.

Q: When you got your platinum results, how did you feel?

"I was excited because I didn't really think I was going to get it. I'd heard that the standards had come up, but I knew I had to do my best because I'm hoping to become a Search and Rescue Technician. If I didn't get gold or platinum then my application wouldn't even have been considered."

"And I even messed up in the 20-metre rushes — I went way further than I had to, and it added a few extra seconds so I didn't think I was going to get platinum. It was a bit of a surprise."

Q: What is the appeal of search and rescue for you?

"It's my dream job. It's just everything I like in one trade. Everyone doing that job now, I call them the best of the best. You might jump out of a plane, you might dive underwater, you might find yourself on a mountain."

"The medical side was always fascinating to me and I think that's exactly where I fit. Right now I'm doing everything that I'm supposed to do to prepare."

Q: Your personal fitness routine was already pretty intense. In preparing for the test did you push yourself even harder than that?

"No. For me, doing the Force Evaluation is not really hard. It's not even close to what I do in my workouts. Doing it as fast as you can is going to be hard for anybody but all my training is based on high endurance and being fast so it kind of helped."

Q: Was fitness important to you even before you joined the Army?

"I was super-athletic when I was younger. I played rugby, volleyball, soccer. I'm a super-hyperactive human and I need to move. I wasn't always so into fitness in particular, though — that only started when I joined the Army."

Q: What was your motivation for joining the Army in the first place?

"I just knew from when I was pretty young that it was for me. I was looking into becoming a paramedic when I was in high school and I realized that it wasn't enough. I didn't really want to work only in hospitals or ambulances."

"I started looking into the Army and saw it was super-physical and there were always things happening and you could go abroad. So I just knew that was the lifestyle I needed because it was so upbeat and I'm a very upbeat person."

Shilo & Region Service Club

Second Annual Charity Open

SEPTEMBER 7

Proceeds donated to
Brandon Regional Health
Centre Foundation
Pediatrics Unit

Teams of four players only

Cost \$240/team (includes golf, hot breakfast and barbecue supper)

Four-person scramble

Cart rentals available

Mulligans for sale

Register by calling the SCC's Pro Shop
204-765-3623

Check-in & breakfast opens at 9 a.m. held
At Community Centre Annex (L25)

Briefing at SCC golf course at 10:30 a.m.

Tee-off at 11 a.m.

Great Prizes to be won!

At Shilo Golf & Country Club

CANNABIS

by the numbers

Cannabis consumption is prohibited by a CAF member during the following periods:

Period of Prohibition	Duty
8HRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any duty (defined as any duty, training, exercise, parade or service that is military in nature.)
24HRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> operation or handling of a loaded weapon, ammunition, explosive ordnance or explosive; operation or handling of a weapon system; a scheduled base emergency response duty, including firefighting or medical first response by military police, a firefighter or a medical technician assigned to medical first response duty; a scheduled operational exercise or collective training; operation of a wheeled or tracked vehicle, or mobile support equipment; servicing, loading, testing or involvement in maintaining a military aircraft or a component of a military aircraft; training as a candidate for the basic military qualification or basic military officer qualification and not restricted from leave; parachuting, rappelling or fast roping activities; maintenance or packing of parachuting, rappelling or fast roping equipment; operation of a laser of class 3B, 3R or 4, as classified under the American National Standards Institute Z136.1, Safe Use of Lasers; or operation of a fuel farm or handling of bulk petroleum.
28DAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> operating in a hyperbaric environment, i.e. diving, submarine service or use of a hyperbaric chamber; high altitude parachuting from a height of or above 13,000 feet (3,962 metres) above mean sea level; service as a member of a crew of a military aircraft as a pilot, air combat systems officer, flight engineer, airborne electronic sensor operator, observer, loadmaster, jumpmaster, search and rescue technician, air technician, air gunner, air marshal, tactical aircraft security officer, flight test engineer, flight attendant, flight steward, flight surgeon, flight nurse or aeromedical evacuation technician; controlling or directing an aerospace platform or asset; or operation of an unmanned aerial system.
Enduring and total prohibition on cannabis consumption during the entire period of ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an international operation, exercise or collective training, other than any period of authorized leave in Canada; or an OUTCAN posting, other than any period of authorized leave in Canada.

Learn more: DAOD 9004-1, Use of Cannabis by CAF Members



FORE!



Wildlife on Shilo Country Club's 18-hole course observed the first day of intersection golf featuring FS&R's fitness co-ordinator Ginger Lamoureux, Base adjutant Capt Vanessa Durand and G1's Maj Stuart Smoley.

Photos Jules Xavier/OCdt JP/Shilo Stag



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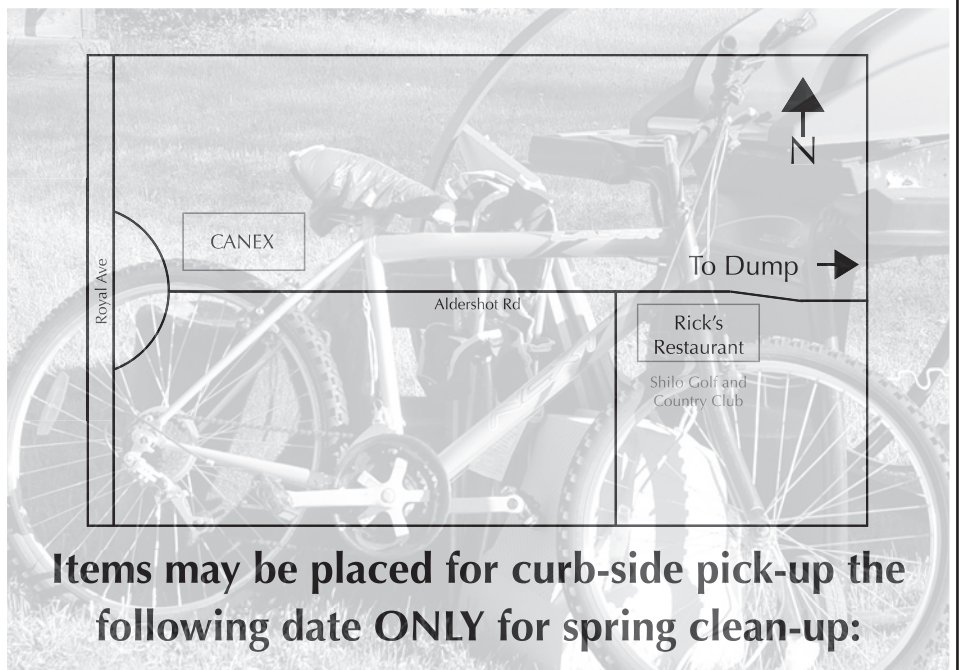
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To book tee-times call 204-765-3623 or online at
SHILOCOUNTRYCLUB.COM   

Got Bulk Garbage?

Bulk items, yard waste, tires, and electronics may be disposed of Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Shilo dump located two kilometres east of Rick's Restaurant on Aldershot Road



Items may be placed for curb-side pick-up the following date ONLY for spring clean-up:

May 21

Items should not be placed earlier than the evening prior to pick-up

Call 204-765-3000 extension 3570
CFB SHILO

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Car care clinic

The annual spring car clinic held over three days at Base Maintenance saw a good turnout of vehicle owners having tires rotated or mounted, plus engines receiving an oil change. On the final day, Capt Thomas Oh served up burgers. Proceeds were donated to the Padre Fund. *Photos OCdt jP Reil*

CLASSIFIED ADS

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**\$10 for first 20 words,
10¢ for each additional word
Deadline for next issue:**

May 23 at noon

*Free ads (non-profit only)
restricted to members of the
CAF, employees of CFB Shilo and the
residents of the surrounding area.*

Services



**St. Barbara's
Protestant Chapel**
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with
Sunday school & nursery
Padre Johnston - ext 3381
Padre Dennis - ext 6836
Padre Walton - ext 3088
Padre Smallwood - ext 3089

**Our Lady of Shilo
Roman Catholic Chapel**
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
Confessions by appointment
Padre Nnanna - ext 3090
Padre Shanahan - ext 3698

Services

**Greg Steele Canadian Fire-
arms safety course instructor/
examiner offering Red Cross
first aid training. Manitoba
hunter safety instructor. CFSC,
CRFFC safety courses offered
at least monthly and on de-
mand. Firearm/hunter safety
courses planned seasonally.
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signated pay band. Under the
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pervisor, a clerk/cashier scans
customer purchases, processes
transactions, and accepts pay-
ment. sHe/she prices, stocks
shelves, counters and display
areas with merchandise and
keeps stock in order. He/she
performs cleaning duties as
required. Apply in person at
CANEX admin office, or NPF
Human Resources office at
base HQ.

Employment


Looking for a job on the Base? Submit resumes to NPF HR office via e-mail quoting competition # to npfhrshilo@cfmws.com OR for more detailed information on the jobs offered at CFB Shilo visit: www.cfmws.com



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