

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Oct 27, 2020

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at [bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get your copy.

**Newsletter on line.** This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca) and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

**Wednesday Lunches - Lunches suspended until further notice. Everyone stay safe!!**

**Upcoming events – Mark your calendars** (see Poster section at end)

The **2021 BC Military Gala is CANCELLED.** The Sheraton Wall Ctr is booked for Apr 23, **2022**

**Aug 09**

to **Virtual Remembrance Run in Support of the Juno Beach Centre**

**Nov 28**

**Oct 28**

'Wednesday Lunch' Zoom meeting  
RUSI Nova Scotia Video Conference Presentation

**Nov 03**

'Wednesday Lunch' Zoom meeting

**Nov 10**

'Wednesday Lunch' Zoom meeting

**Nov 11**

Remembrance Day 2020 at Victory Square Vancouver

## Remembrance Day 2020 at Victory Square Vancouver

**During COVID-19 Pandemic.** *25 October 2020*

The risk and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will dramatically affect how Remembrance Day will be commemorated at Victory Square in Vancouver on this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year that marks the end of World War Two.

Most obvious will be the effect of restrictions ordered by health authorities on large gatherings, maintaining physical distancing, the wearing of masks, and a limit of 50 that can take part at the

Cenotaph ceremony. All these protocols will impact how the traditional November 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony will unfold at Victory Square. There will be no parade of veterans, military units, and cadets. The Cenotaph will be fenced off with no Vigil Guard or Flag Party. The only wreath placement will be Official wreaths and those by one person only. No Recognized wreaths will be placed this year. The Bach Youth Choir will perform at a separate venue, along with the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Band.

The 15 Fd Artillery Regiment will fire the Remembrance Day Salute at Portside Park (AKA CRAB park at Portside) but with only two guns and a minimal Command party. The Regiment will not be on parade nor will the Band, VAA or Cadets. The Armoury will **NOT** be open to visitors after the event.

The ceremony itself will be abbreviated but will retain important components such as solo renditions of the National Anthem, God Save the Queen, and a medley of well-known tunes sung by the Choir. To maintain youth participation, a student poet will be included. The Last Post, the Lament and Rouse will be sounded followed by a fly-by of the Aurora patrol aircraft.

The public, that in normal times gathers on Remembrance Day by the thousands every year, is encouraged to instead watch the commemoration from home on Global TV, or by internet streaming ([www.globalnews.ca/bc](http://www.globalnews.ca/bc)) on November 11 and not attend at Victory Square.

Cam Cathcart  
Director of Ceremonies  
Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee

## **RUSI Nova Scotia Video Conference Presentation**

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia extends an invitation to hear a video-conference presentation Wednesday, 28 October, by Commander Helga Budden, Commanding Officer, Canadian Armed Forces Transition Unit Nova Scotia/Newfoundland and Labrador, about transition from the Forces titled "Transition – A Step We All Take." (See posters at end of newsletter for Cdr Budden's bio)

The talk will start at 1 pm Halifax time (1:30 pm St John's, noon Ottawa, 11 am Winnipeg, 10 am Calgary, 9 am Victoria), Wednesday, 28 October, then be followed by Q&A and finish by 3 pm Halifax time. Registration is required. There is no fee to attend this event. To register, email [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com) by close of business Sunday, 25 October. As the subject line for your registration email, put "RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker 28 October 2020 Registration". In addition to your name please also provide your organization. The event will be done by Zoom. Instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 26 October.

RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question about an event occurring.

## **Free Parking for vehicles with Veterans Plates in Vancouver**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Vancouver City Council rejected the recommendations made by City staff on not giving vehicles with BC veterans license plates free parking within the city and directed City staff to prepare the necessary bylaw amendments by November 3, 2020 to implement it. A one-year pilot project will examine actual usage and revenue details. Retired LCol Archie Steacy, President of BCVCA, has led this effort for the last year, working closely with councillor Melissa De Genova and former RCAF Officer, 15 Fd Officers' Mess Associate member and RUSI Vancouver member, Eric Mold. Eric, while addressing the meeting said that he wouldn't even be using the free parking, but he didn't want it taken away for other veterans. Other veterans and friends of the military spoke in favour of the free parking motion including our former 15<sup>th</sup> Field RCA Honorary Colonel, Judge Bill Rodgers.

It was stated at the meeting that there are currently 14,000 Veterans license plates in BC, with 4,900 across the Lower Mainland and just 350 within the City of Vancouver but city council decided that the staff had overestimated the financial impact of the motion. NPA councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung personally expressed her regret for any hurt or perceived disrespect for the veterans and went on to say "they're not just any group, they are people who were willing to put themselves in harms way and pay the ultimate sacrifice, and if they were lucky, they came back. But they didn't necessarily come back the same, some suffered from physical afflictions and mental issues like PTSD. Some were able to integrate into society, but it doesn't matter. Regardless of that, it's not about the cost of parking, it's the fact that their service was priceless and from my perspective if we stop remembering and honouring them, we lose part of ourselves and our humanity there. A lot of our veterans who were in significant wars are getting older, and we're losing them. We can't lose the memory of what they actually stood for... I'm disappointed we had to have this conversation and spend so much time on it."

A special thanks goes to Councillor Melissa De Genova, daughter of our Hon Col Al DeGenova, who helped to bring the original motion to City Council and who spoke of her connections with veterans and what they shared saying that "it wasn't about city staffs recommendations on taking a few dollars away from their pocket, it was taking away the gesture of thanks and pride they took from the appreciation. That pride that I think of with the veteran who called me made a very big impact on me, when he told me he wouldn't even use the free parking. But he didn't want it taken away for other veterans... I want to thank each and everyone of our veterans. If it weren't for them, we might not be here today."

## **Are the Days of Jet Fighter Pilots Numbered?**

*Craig Bowman War History online Oct 19, 2020*

Recently, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) matched an Artificial Intelligence program against an F-16 pilot with the codename "Banger," in a series of five simulated dogfights. In this battle of artificial intelligence vs. human intelligence, the computer won all five back-to-back fights. This whitewash may lead one to presume that the days of the

pilot in the cockpit of F-16s are numbered, but that would be a fallacy. In a recent article for the online magazine Breaking Defense, John Venable, an Air Force veteran of 25 years, wrote of the inputs that a pilot needs to conduct a successful dogfight and how the five dogfight match was, in a way, rigged toward the computer.



*ATS Loyal Wingman  
Boeing*

In the 1950s, US Air Force Colonel John Boyd devised a means of explaining to young pilots what the art of dogfighting was all about. He created the OODA-loop. In this

loop, four steps are continuously repeated; Observe (look at your opponent and learn his obvious and subtle cues), Orient (align the opponents maneuvering in relation to your own plane), Decide (make a decision on what to do based on your observations and orienteering), Act (take action to defeat the other plane). These four steps in a constant loop would allow the pilot to assimilate the quick responses needed to participate in a dogfight and then defeat an enemy aircraft. The software can handle the last two steps of the OODA loop very efficiently and run through thousands of scenarios quickly, but the first two steps need more than just software. What feeds the computer's artificial intelligence to give it the constantly evolving cues for the observe and orient steps? Currently, only one jet can 'see' its opponent, and that is the F-35. It has sensors that can "see" other aircraft anywhere around it, but its ability to see is not perfect. It cannot work out what aircraft it is fighting, how it is oriented in the air, is it climbing or diving, is it coming or going, or the rate at which it is moving unless the bandit is directly in front of the F-35 where it can bring its formidable radar to bear.

*The Lockheed Martin F-35.  
Kaszynski CC BY 2.0*

As AI cannot observe and orient for itself, it cannot get these inputs for itself, to feed to the Decide and Act components of the software, so that it can take action. How, then, did this AI defeat Banger? The information that should have been visually



gained from the simulator screen was instead gained from the simulator itself. The perfect details pertaining to the exact height, speed, range, and nose position of Banger's aircraft were supplied to the AI software, so it had every piece of data it needed to make its calculations – but this is not how dogfights work. If humans are also fed this perfect information, they are also tough to beat. To illustrate this, John Venable recounted a tale to explain how this perfect information gives the pilot an advantage that is difficult to beat. He recounted how in the early 1990s, he acted as the single bandit in a scenario where two F-16s would attempt to kill him in a dogfight. Even with a chameleon's ability to look in all directions, it is almost impossible for a single plane to outwit two opponents, but on that day, Venable managed to stay alive, no matter what the other two F-16s tried.

The human is still important for certain decisions that a computer-controlled AI simply cannot yet make. It was not superior flying ability that kept him out of harm's way on that training flight, but rather a radio malfunction that allowed him to hear what was being said between his two opponents. With this perfect information, he was able to anticipate their manoeuvres and evade them easily. When they landed, the two pilots were hugely embarrassed at not shooting him down, until he told them of the radio glitch. He explained that he could hear their discussions and knew which aircraft was about to shoot at him so he could take evasive measures in good time. In his example, Venables received far less exact information than the AI program obtained from the simulator, so it is not surprising that the compute could outwit Banger at every turn. The AI software did not need to scan the skies to find Banger and then work out all the visual clues about what he was doing; the simulator fed the software all that information.

*The Boeing X-45 technology demonstrator, an autonomous unmanned aerial vehicle.*



It is apparent that the Observe and Orient steps are the heart-and-soul of any dogfight. Without knowing where the bandit is and what he is doing with his plane, it is impossible to determine where to shoot. Current technology cannot come close to the human ability to see and process those details quickly, to make a plan to attack. Technology will inevitably march on, and sensors that can “see” will be developed. When that day comes, the days of manned jet fighters may well be numbered. Even then, it is unlikely that these sensors will ever provide the perfect information that the simulator fed the AI system to defeat Banger.

# Landmine Clearing with Lasers, Rats and Bees

Craig Bowman War History Online Oct 20, 2020



*Redstone Test Center*

The 80 million landmines and other unexploded ordnance left behind after armed conflicts are the scourge of many countries that have emerged from such strife. They pose an immense threat to both humans and animals and cause horrific injuries to innocents who took no part in the fighting but

pay a heavy price. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines estimates that around 15,000 to 20,000 people are seriously injured or killed by landmines each year. Finding and eliminating these left-over explosives is a time consuming, and dangerous job as many of these items become more unstable as time passes. Apart from a man gently prodding the earth with a probe, there are three new and innovative ways of helping countries clear these deadly traps.

## **Lasers**

*The ZEUS Laser System mounted on top of the vehicle. Image by US Air Force.*



The US Air Force is working with a company based in Virginia, Parsons Corporation, to build a vehicle that will have the capability to detonate landmines from just under 1000 feet

away. Parsons Corporation has won a contract valued at \$40 million to build a RADBO (Recovery of Airbase Denied by Ordnance). The company will equip a mine-resistant Cougar infantry vehicle with a three-kilowatt ZEUS Laser System developed by Parsons, and a manipulating arm to clear obstacles and debris out of the way. Parsons indicates that the laser will have the power to detonate cluster bombs, general-purpose bombs, thick-cased artillery rounds, landmines, and other small submunitions. Parson is building the vehicle in Huntsville, Alabama, and they plan to have the vehicle ready for deployment in 2023.

## African Giant Pouched Rats



*Magawa the mine sniffing rat.*  
*Image courtesy of PDSA.*

A Tanzania-based non-profit organization, APOPO, has been training African giant pouched rats to identify explosives and landmines. The project has been extremely successful. Recently, one of their sniffer-rats, Magawa, was awarded a gold medal by the British Animal Charity, PDSA, for devotion to duty or gallantry. This charity's gold medal is awarded to animals outside of the military for gallantry and has been awarded to dogs, cats, horses, and pigeons. This is the first time in the organization's history that a medal has been awarded to a rodent. This rat has been working in Cambodia and has cleared almost 14 hectares (34,5 acres) of minefields and found 28 pieces of unexploded ordnance and 39 landmines. The CEO of APOPO, Chrisophe Cox, said that identifying landmines for clearance was a time consuming and tedious job, but using rats sped up the process. Rats can scan an area of 200 square meters in thirty minutes compared to the four days that it would take a man using a probe.

## Bees

*An anti-personnel mine in Cambodia.*  
*Image by Reedhawk CC BY-SA 4.0*



Croatia, which has an estimated 264 square kilometers of minefields, containing 90,000 landmines, has taken a different approach and trains bees to associate the smell of explosives with food. To train the bees, scientists set up a test with a beehive at one end. Dotted around the tent are containers with similar containers. Only a few of the boxes hold a sugar-solution in them, and those are situated above ground impregnated with the smell of explosives. Gradually the bees learn to associate the scent of explosives with food. Once released in a minefield, the bees will make straight for a place where they smell explosives, expecting to find a sugar solution. Scientists working on the project claim that the bees are faster and safer than using sniffer dogs.

## The Adrian Oliver Memorial Run



*Members of 15 Fd Regt who took part in the Adrian Oliver Memorial Run. L-R Gnr Justin Leung, Bdr Patrick Luong, Bdr Steven Hoogendoorn, Bdr Safar Alikhani, Bdr Cavin Wong.*

The Adrian Oliver Memorial Run is held in honour of Constable Adrian Oliver, a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who was killed in the line of duty in Surrey, British Columbia in November 2012. In the sombre and difficult days that followed his death, Honour House opened its doors to the Oliver family who travelled

to the Vancouver area from across Canada to be with family and friends.

The run is a 5K race held in support of Honour House, a home away from home and place of recovery for Emergency Services Personnel, Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, and their families. The Adrian Oliver Memorial Run is an annual event and is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the organisers opted to move to a virtual run for this year's event which was held on October 17, 2020 and October 18, 2020. Six runners from the Regiment (shown above) took part in the run. The Adrian Oliver Memorial Run received sponsorship from the Bank of Montreal with the assistance of James Kitamura, Regional President - Personal Banking, BC & Yukon Region. 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Don Foster ran on the Bank of Montreal team along with fourteen other Bank of Montreal employees. Joe Oliver, who helped organise the Run stated "Overall, things went very well. We had 600 registrants and raised nearly \$50K for Honour House. We truly appreciate Team BMO's support."

## Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

**VAA Virtual Lunch every Wednesday at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848> - Drop in for 10 minutes or stay for an hour.**

### **Congratulations to Eric**

Eric Mold is one of regulars for Wednesday lunches and was instrumental into gaining Vancouver City Council approval for Veterans' free parking. During COVID times, Eric has been one of our regulars on the Wednesday Zoom calls. Drop in and say hi!

**Former Members:-** Just recently discovered that Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan (Dunc) Todd, Commanding Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Medium Regiment, RCA in Italy and Northwest Europe started as a subaltern in 15<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade, Canadian Artillery.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/honours-and-awards5290729>



## Yearbook Update 2020

Sad news on the passing of a former member, Major Ron Mathews, CD.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20202848713>

A big shoutout to the Brenco Industries and their support of Honour Ranch.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20202554010>

The Conference Library setup is moving along with another three units installed last week.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/conference-room.html>

Former Commanding Officer, Jim Barrett, received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20206974661>

Former member in the news in 2007 Lieutenant Mark Ardley -

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-20077804606>

Nanaimo Battle School 1989 – Were you there?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-19899948768>

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** This is the prototype Bobcat SP gun undergoing the floatation trials at Long Branch on 6-7 May 1963. It was one part of the project that actually went well, and the firing trials with the gun were promising. The vehicle reliability of the Bobcat was what eventually killed the project. After the trial, the gun was returned to its carriage (CAR 65 aka CFR 34140) and served with distinction for many years. It was upgraded to C3 in the 1990s and the surviving parts are in 7 Fd Regt in Toronto to this day.



**This Week:** In this great Dominion, there are many historic armouries. Some no longer function as originally intended, while others “soldier” on, to use an appropriate phrase. Several years ago, the Organization of Military Museums of Canada (OMMC) held its annual course in the former armoury of London, Ontario, now a hotel. Others have not fared as well, and have been demolished, such as that grand one which once graced Toronto, and housed, amongst others, the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, RCA, the Queen’s Own Rifles, and the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada. Still more reflect the parsimony of modern times, and might be mistaken for warehouses, and will not be named, but we can all think of examples. Naming armouries has also been an interesting exercise, sometimes reflecting the values of the times. We have, in Vancouver, the Beatty Street Drill Hall, home of the British Columbia Regiment. The term “drill hall” reflects a time when there were many volunteer military and para-military organizations in our country. The grand art deco masterpiece “Bessborough Armoury” tells us of a time when our governors-general came from the British aristocracy, being named after Vere Brabazon Ponsonby, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bessborough,

GCMG (God Calls Me God), Gov Gen of Canada when the Armoury opened. Many, due to a possible lack of imagination on the part of the erectors of the edifices, are simply named after the location, such as Petawawa Armoury, which is in, not surprisingly, Petawawa, Ontario. Still more are named after famous military personages, such as the Colonel Welsford MacDonald Armoury in beautiful Pictou, Nova Scotia, home to the Nova Scotia Highlanders.

It is to this last class that our weekly photo relates. The image dates from autumn, 1939, and shows most of our Permanent Force medium artillery in amongst the trees of the above-mentioned noted scenic spot of Petawawa. The plucky gunners are the men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Medium Battery. They are being inspected by a distinguished Major-General, clad in jodhpurs, as one would expect someone of his rank to be so clad. To his left is another senior officer wearing a pith helmet, replete with regimental flash on its pugaree. These helmets were necessary in the summer, lest one go blind due to the intensity of the sun.



The quiz this week is a bit of a toughie for some (getting out of bed these days is a toughie for many). Our general has an armoury named after him. Therefore, we ask, who was he, and where is his armoury? Bonus points for identifying the guns. Send your

answers to the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)) or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). Maybe you can have an armoury named after you, too!

### **From the 'Punitary'**

Why didn't the skeleton dance at the Halloween party? It had no body to dance with!

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

Zeal will do more than knowledge.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change." - Confucius

## Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all** – especially those who attended Wednesday lunches.

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

<https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile,



desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting now](#)

Use the link above on your computer Zoom program or dial in on your phone 778 907 2071 Meeting ID: 710 845 848

Invite 2 friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon. Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.



The  
Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia  
presents

**Distinguished Speaker**

**Commander**

**Helga Budden**

**Commanding Officer**

**Canadian Armed Forces Transition Unit  
Nova Scotia/Newfoundland and Labrador**



**Transition**  
**A Step We All Take**

**1-3 pm Halifax time, Wednesday, 28 October 2020  
via Zoom (register through [RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com](mailto:RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com))**

## Commander Helga Budden



Cdr Budden was born and raised in Donkin (Cape Breton), Nova Scotia. She enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1992 in the Regular Officer Training Program (ROTP) as a Maritime Engineer and attended the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. She graduated with a B Eng (Civil) in 1996 and was commissioned as an Acting Sub-Lieutenant. Over the next four years she completed her Marine Systems sub-occupational and Head of Department training in HMC Ships NIPIGON, PRESERVER, and IROQUOIS as well as ashore at Naval Officer Training Centre Venture, Canadian Forces Naval Engineering School, Canadian Forces Fleet School Quebec, and HMS SULTAN. She participated in Op PERSISTENCE (1998) and STANAVFORLANT (1999). She was promoted to

Lieutenant in 1999.

In 2000, she was posted inland as a staff officer at Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School and then, in 2001, to the Royal Military College as a Squadron Commander. In 2003, she was appointed as the Marine Systems Engineering Officer of HMCS IROQUOIS. After two years which went by far too quickly, she was promoted to Lieutenant-Commander (2005) and posted ashore. As a Lieutenant-Commander, she was a Technical Services Manager at the Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Scott (2005/06), completed her MSc in Naval Architecture (UCL 2006/07) and held the positions of Surface Naval Architect (2008/09) and Submarine Naval Architect (2009/12) within DGMEPM. She then again went into the personnel domain in Director Naval Personnel and Training as the Occupation Manager for the Naval Technical Officers (Nav Eng/MS Eng/NCS Eng) (2012/14). She then was selected for the Advanced Command and Staff College (UK equivalent of JCSP) where she earned the professional qualification as well as an MA Defence Studies (KCL).

She returned to Halifax, Nova Scotia as the Senior Staff Officer Surface within the Formation Technical Authority (2015/17). Cdr Budden was promoted to her current rank in July 2017 and posted to CFC Toronto as Directing Staff/Military Faculty for JCSP Residential. After two very joint years working with the CAF's future leaders and dedicated faculty, she was appointed as the Commanding Officer Canadian Armed Forces Transition Unit Nova Scotia/Newfoundland and Labrador. She enjoys music (both playing and listening), reading, knitting, handicrafts of many sorts, and most of all, baking. She also enjoys fencing, sailing, and a moderate amount of other more traditional physical training pursuits.

# Virtual Remembrance Run in Support of the JBC

August 9 - November 28, 2020



*Members of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps participate in a one-mile race as part of a wider I Canadian Corps sports meet in the United Kingdom, 1943 (Canadian Army Newsreel No. 12).*



The Juno Beach Centre Association is partnering with VR Pro (<https://www.vrpro.ca/events/Home.html>) for our first Remembrance Run fundraiser! This is a virtual running (or walking) event for participants of all ages.

Registration is available on the Running Room website.  
<https://www.events.runningroom.com/site/17167/>

## **DISTANCES**

*Click on a logo to register for that distance.*



<https://www.events.runningroom.com/applications/?raceId=17167&eventId=50553&vrindex=3>



<https://www.events.runningroom.com/applications/?raceId=17167&eventId=50554&vrindex=3>



<https://www.events.runningroom.com/applications/?raceId=17167&eventId=50554&vrindex=3>

*Scroll down to learn about the significance of these distances.*

## RACE DETAILS

Register now for one of three virtual race distances and receive a race kit including this beautiful, oversized, commemorative medal (pictured below) along with a Juno Beach collector coin, race bib, an imprinted neck gaitor, a Remembrance Day Poppy, and a beautifully printed Juno Beach

D-Day souvenir map, and more! Then, run or walk your event distance of choice anytime between September 1 and November 28, 2020. \$10 from each entry will go to support the Juno Beach Centre honouring those brave men and the sacrifices they made. (Click any one of the race event logos above or the registration button below to register.) Applicants can set up a fundraising page through your Running Room account, after you have registered for the Run.



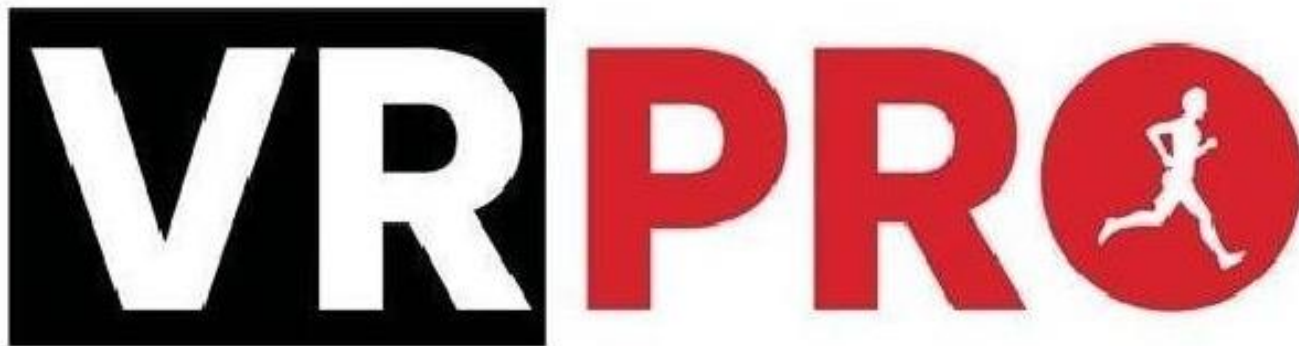
All you need to do is go to the Fundraising tab (at the top of the registration page) and select Raise Funds to set up your fundraising page. Each participant will receive a unique Remembrance Day / Juno Beach commemorative medal. The design features the image of a Landing Craft,

Assault (LCA) manned by Royal Canadian Navy sailors on D-Day approaching Juno Beach with a load of troops. The medal's ribbon is inspired by the France & Germany Star, the campaign medal received by those who landed at Juno Beach and/or served in France, Belgium, Holland, or Germany between D-Day (6 June 1944) and Victory in Europe or V-E Day (8 May 1945).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information please contact Kelly Hendry-Arnott

- Email: [kelly@vrpro.ca](mailto:kelly@vrpro.ca)
- Phone: 905 512-2488



## REMEMBRANCE RUN DISTANCES EXPLAINED

### What is the “Strongpoint 1500m”?

Juno Beach (Normandy, France) was well fortified. Mines, barbed wire, and beach obstacles to Allied tanks and landing craft littered the sands. German machine guns, mortars, and artillery, often positioned in concrete bunkers, overlooked the likely Allied landing areas. Strongpoints in the German-held towns of Courseulles-sur-Mer, Bernières-sur-Mer, and Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer dominated the beaches. Courseulles was the most heavily defended area attacked by British and Canadian forces on D-Day. The strongpoints at Courseulles and nearby Graye-sur-Mer contained a dozen concrete machine-gun posts covering a total of six artillery pieces overlooking the beach. Today, the Juno Beach Centre stands on the same ground as *Stützpunkt (Strongpoint) 31*, located on Mike Red Sector of Juno Beach. This shorter distance event (1500m) is for ideal children, older participants, and anyone else who does not want to run or walk the 8k or 21k distances. It is named for the strongpoint and 1500 metre stretch of beach overcome by the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars (6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment), and the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers on D-Day.

### What is the significance of the “Juno Beach 8K”?

D-Day, June 6, 1944, was among the greatest moments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The landings started the battle to liberate France from Nazi Germany. The Canadians stormed an 8-kilometre stretch of sand featuring coastal villages fortified into German strongholds. Code-named JUNO, some 14,000 Canadian soldiers with hometowns from coast to coast landed here. A further 7,000 British



troops joined them. When you run this fall, you are running in remembrance of every Canadian or Allied soldier who landed at Juno Beach.

### Why is it named the “Remembrance 21.1K”?

The total number of troops landed on Juno Beach on D-Day was approximately 21,000. We offer a half-marathon (which is 21.1 kilometres long), in honour of those troops.



<https://www.events.runningroom.com/site/17167/>

*Local entrants who enter any of these events – please send me your ‘Donation’ links and I will put them in this newsletter. – Ed.*

### Fellow Gunners

I am running/walking a half-marathon to raise money for the Juno Beach Centre. A half-marathon is approximately 21 kilometres and I am running/walking this distance in honour of all 21,000 Allied troops who landed on Juno Beach on June 6, 1944. You can support the Juno Beach Centre by pledging in support of me or by registering for this Remembrance Run fundraiser.

**To donate and help us achieve our fundraising goal, please go to my fundraising home page at this link:**

<https://www.runningroom.com/dashboard/giving/?raceId=17167&eventId=50555&memberId=UDVXZA9pWzoAa1dgUWA%3D>

You will see a box that says “**Make a Donation**” – do so, and follow the instructions

Thanks! UBIQUE!

**HLCol Don Foster P.Ag, CIM, FCSI**  
**Director | Juno Beach Centre Association**

