

MAPLE LEAF UP

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MARCH 2012 (Revised)



**WESTERN COMMAND
MILITARY VEHICLE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



WWII German Wirbelwind

Flakvierling (Quad 20 mm anti-aircraft guns) mounted on a tank chassis. A late friend who served on Flakvierling in the Luftwaffe. told me they could fire two guns (diagonally opposite) at a time, or all four. - This is one of perhaps two surviving specimens in the World. It is located at CFB Borden, Ontario.

QUESTION - What was the Canadian version of this anti-aircraft vehicle? Answer on last page.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE FOR 2012!

EDITORIAL

The last newsletter on the WCMVHS' web site was September 2009 and Harry Moon pointed out that there was one issue (Vol. 33 No. 3) on the WCMVHS Forum. No issues were published in 2011. Your earlier Editor has returned. After a long absence from the role of Newsletter Editor, having stepped down in November 2004, Colin Stevens has resumed the Editorship.

Contributions for the newsletter are wanted - photos and stories of your vehicle collections; events; discoveries; interesting MVs seen in other collections, museums and monuments or even in service! Want ads, for sale ads. "Help!" questions.

NEWS

On February 10, the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby had a fund-raising event for a movie about Finnish WWII veterans in Canada. A local collector brought out a fabulous exhibit of Finnish uniforms, medals, badges and deactivated weapons. The veterans in BC own a

functional field kitchen and they cooked up a soup for the guests. Colin Stevens and another member attended.

The Super Bowl Party at Ian Newby's place attracted 65 people including a half-dozen Western Command members.

One of our founding members Alf Alfeld is ill.

Don Gordon's Prototype Ford 15 Cwt 4x2 (ex-Gary Moonie) has had the cab restored but the cargo box is not yet done. He has an original early CMP wooden cargo box as a pattern which Colin Stevens brought out from Saskatchewan.

MEMBER PROFILE

Your Newsletter Editor, **Colin MacGregor Stevens**, was a founding member of Western Command in 1977. His MVPA member number is 954.

Colin presently owns a 1944 Willys MB jeep that came back from Norwegian Army service and is believed to have served with the British 1st Airborne Division in 1945. He also has two complete British Airborne 1943 Welbikes Mk. II with original War Department numbers still legible on both (VERY rare!), two early model BSA airborne bicycles, three late model BSA airborne bicycles and a 1953 M100CDN jeep trailer.

Colin is a researcher, having just retired after working for 40 years in museums. He was also a Captain in the reserve army.

He has a huge reference library and files on WWII Canadian vehicles (especially jeeps) and markings. He collects items relating to WWII Canadian special forces such as 1 Canadian Parachute Battalion and the First Special Service Force, as well as for Canadians who served in such units of the UK e.g. SOE and MI-9.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Vehicles and Aircraft at CFB Borden Museums, Ontario by Colin Stevens

Camp Borden was built in 1915 as an army camp and also housed a Royal Flying Corps (Canada) airfield in WWI. The base became the home of the Canadian Armoured Corps and houses a great collection of ex-military vehicles.

In the outside tank park and scattered around the base you will see the Wirbelwind Flak Panzer (shown on the cover). Some of the other tanks outside include a Hetzer, Canadian built Grizzly M4; Sherman Flail Tank; Centurion ARV; Centurion Gun Tank; Sherman M4 variant; Soviet T34/85, Canadian Ram (2 Pr and 6 Pr). Scattered around the base are tanks, field guns, anti-tank guns and a few soft-skin vehicles.

Inside the main museum they have some of the rarer vehicles including a cut-away Soviet T-55 tank, WWI tank, M38A1CDN jeep; Universal Carrier and a Triumph motorcycle still in the crate! (everyone else unpacks them including 12 Service Battalion in Richmond and the Sidecar Cafe (now defunct) that was between Victoria and Schwartz Bay.

In the Borden Air Museum they have an original Avro 504k; Link Trainer; Tiger Moth; T33 (two); Tutor; CF-100 "Clunk"



Sherman "Crab" Flail Tank



Ram SN 167 6 Pounder



Soviet T34/85



British Churchill



Stuart Tank



WWII German Hetzer SP AT Gun



WWII German AT Gun G.47 Model 1937



Iltis and Recovery Vehicle



Soviet T-55 (?)



Prototype Canadian Dodge - Not adopted.



Avro CF-100 "Clunk"



Of special interest to this group a restored yellow 1954 RCAF contract Dodge US made C-1-PW-26 1-ton 4x4 Arc Welding 300 AMP truck! RCAF number 54-69310.

CLUB MEETINGS

BC Lower Mainland - 2nd Wednesday each month, 8 pm ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 263, 1025 Ridgeway Ave., COQUITLAM

Vancouver Island - 2nd Wednesday each month, 7 pm BRITANNIA LEGION 780 Summit Ave., Victoria.

FOUND

- M135 Deuce and a half - On a farm in Richmond, North end of No. 8 Road? Sitting apparently derelict in row of farm vehicles. Found by Colin Stevens.

ACQUIRED



- **Welbike Mark II** airborne motorcycle - Out of Australia. Complete and with original War Department number on the

tanks. Welbike had been repainted but he painted around the old markings. A WWII paratrooper is shown sitting on it. P.S. He was on the German side! Colin Stevens.

SOLD



- **Ferret Mark I CAR 54-82598** by Colin Stevens to a collector in Edmonton.



- **CCW GMC 2-1/2 Ton WWII, US 6x4 truck**, Sold by Jeff Davis, Maple Ridge. to a collector in New Jersey
- **CMP Cab 12 15-Cwt.** sold by Jeff Davis about 4-5 years ago to a collector in Smithers, BC.. He is keeping his Universal Carrier and jeep.
- **Dodge M152 Signals Van "Gin Palace"** of Bruce MacMillan has been sold to a fellow in Calgary, but it has not

yet been transported from Chilliwack where it is on display.

FOR SALE

- **BSA Airborne Bicycle, folding, Second Model** (circa 1943-1944) as used by British and Canadian airborne forces, by Commando, by Canadian 9th Infantry Brigade on D-Day and by various other units in Sicily, Italy, North West Europe etc. \$1,500 Colin Stevens, Richmond, BC seaforth72@gmail.com 604-341-1917



- **M100CDN 1/4 ton jeep trailer CFR 53-70216** with scarce air portable tie-down rings on chassis. Correct for 24-Volt M38, M38CDN, M38A1 family. All original, as sold surplus by Crown Assets to me. Licenced. Has full history researched including in-service photos, copy of service record card and Crown Assets sale form. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and Royal Westminster Regiment. Includes original army made ridge pole to help tarp drain. New replica tarp included. NOT for sale to anyone who wants to modify it to look like WWII etc. \$1,300 Colin Stevens, Richmond, BC seaforth72@gmail.com 604-341-1917



- **Dodge D8A Canadian made 1/2 Ton Weapons Carrier, Right Hand Drive.** Incredibly rare and none are left in Canada. One or two turned up in the UK. Type used in North African battles, including by Afrika Korps! Offers around Australian \$30,000. Warren Kerle Australia 0449 667 271 [From newsletter of Military Jeep Club of Queensland Inc. Jan 2012] **HISTORIC PHOTO OF ONE OF THESE TRUCKS THAT APPEARS TO HAVE HIT A LANDMINE IN NORTH AFRICA.**



- **1942 Dodge WC-12 1/2 Ton Pick-up ex-US Army.** Good driver. Parade ready. Ex-Ian MacArthur and possibly from

Spokane, WA area. \$10,000. Would consider a trade involving a Harley-Davidson WLC or WLA. **HISTORIC WWII PHOTO OF VEHICLE TYPE SHOWN (via Editor)** Jeff Davis, Maple Ridge 604-465-2373

- **1950s Dodge M-37CDN parts; three engines for M35A2 multi-fueler,** turbo diesel, 6 cyl. Clutch to fan belt. Rebuilt by Tooele Army Depot (TEAD). Low hours. Rick Rice, Mission, BC 604-820-7026 milspec@telus.net
- **BOOK - "Camp Vernon" A Century of Canadian Military History** by Hugh Rayment & Patrick Sherlock 2003. Hard cover large book with 524 pages. Lots of photos. Unsigned \$35; Signed \$50 Thomas Houghton 604-522-0128
- **1942 White WWII Halftrack M16** with Quad .50 turret and deactivated .50 cal (4). Built as an M15A1 and converted by the US Army. Turret rotates by hand but no power traverse. Restored, good parade vehicle. \$45,000 Don Gordon, Victoria 1-250-592-2622 ww2mv@shaw.ca

FOR SALE – MISC.





- **Original manuals for the Ford Lynx Scout Car.** Operator's Manual and Maintenance Manual. Very rare \$400 each. Colin Stevens 604-341-1917 seaforth72@gmail.com



- **Replica headlight blackout guards for WWII MB and GPW jeeps.** Steel replicas made for the late Roy Van Wicklin. \$80/pair. Colin Stevens 604-341-1917 seaforth72@gmail.com
- **Jeep evolution poster US MILITARY JEEPS - A concise history.** Produced for the late Roy Van Wicklin. Only a few left. \$15 each Colin Stevens 604-341-1917 seaforth72@gmail.com
- **Book "The Ferret Scout Car in Canadian Service"** by Colin MacGregor Stevens \$15 signed. Postage extra. 604-341-1917 seaforth72@gmail.com

WANTED

- **WLC or WLA 42 Harley Davidson motorcycle.** Would consider a trade deal involving his Dodge WC-12. Jeff Davis 604-465-2373
- **1941-1943 jeep starter motor, axle, front & rear seats and military style tires.** NON-MEMBER Gerard 604-741-5747 (ad on Kijiji 2012-03-05)

CALENDAR

Basics only. Please also see the club's website.

www.westerncommand.com

MEETINGS: We meet the second Wednesday of every month. Meeting location is the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 263 at 1025 Ridgeway Ave., Coquitlam. Meeting time is 2000 hours (although the pre-meeting crowd gathers at the bar first).

2012

- **MARCH 18 Sunday - Celtic Fest's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Vancouver.** Start point To Be Announced (TBA) as we are trying to get a position near front of parade

with the veterans. Doolan's Bar on Granville St. is reserving some parking and seats for our club. See Ian Newby for details.

- **MAY 19 - 20 - Heritage Acres, Saanich, Vancouver Island, BC** (NOT at Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site this year due to problems) on the Long weekend.
- **MAY 21 - Victoria Day Parade in Victoria, Vancouver Island.**
- **MAY 26 Sunday - HYACK PARADE, New Westminster.**
- **DATE TBA - Fort Worden, WA.** Vancouver Island Branch participates in this. <http://www.parks.wa.gov/fortworden/events.aspx> No events are listed yet.
- **AUG. 4 Port Alberni, Vancouver Island -** Their Centennial Committee recognizing the military presence in their town, wants historic MVs. They will pay fuel. There will be a camp site available. On the August long-weekend.
- **JUNE - Mid-June? Date To Be Announced - Father's Day? Sunday - "Vancouver Defended Tour"** End up at Point Atkinson for picnic and tour. Special access from Parks.
- **JULY 1st Canada Day - Event? TBA**
- **JULY 13 - 15 - Camp Adams, Washington** (i.e. Arlington)
- **JULY 28 - AUG. 17 Canadian Alaska Convoy.** See John Hawthorne for details. NOTE: The American convoy is separate, about a week later and is now closed off for registrations. Stops will include Quesnel, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John. VSO (1940s dance - free for convoy participants) Show and museum visit being arranged for Fort St. John by locals. Civilian vehicles also

welcome.

- **DATE TBA - Galiano Island Shoot.** Contact Don Robson. 604-266-5131
- **AUG. 10-12 - Abbotsford International Air Show.** Golden Anniversary Celebration - 50 Years 1962 - 2012. www.abbotsfordairshow.com
- **SEPT. Yorke Island.** WWII Coastal Defence fort. Sept. 6 (Advance Party) Sept 7 Main Party) return Main Sep 9 and Rear Party Sep 13. (Dates to be confirmed) After Labour Day) - 2-dozen people limit. See Ian Newby for details. Priority given to those who attended last year. For information contact Ian Newby 604-618-2537
- **OCT. Date TBA - Hope, B.C. "Rambo First Blood" movie 30th anniversary** event. Vehicles used in the movie or of same type (e.g. M135 and M38) are especially welcome.
- **OCT. 29 - 30: Vancouver Island Arms Collectors 2-day show, Victoria, BC.** For information contact Jim Whyte 1-250-478-5787.

2013

- **JULY 24 - 27 - MVPA Convention in Portland, Oregon.** Red Lion Hotel is the host hotel.

Club Officials

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Answer to Question:

Canada's version of the Wirbelwind was the "Skink", a Ram tank with 4 Polsten 20mm guns in a special turret. Bob Sutherland found a couple of the super-rare turrets at Vernon and they are now in Edmonton I believe. Another one is in Shilo at the RCA Museum courtesy of Dr. Bill Gregg.