



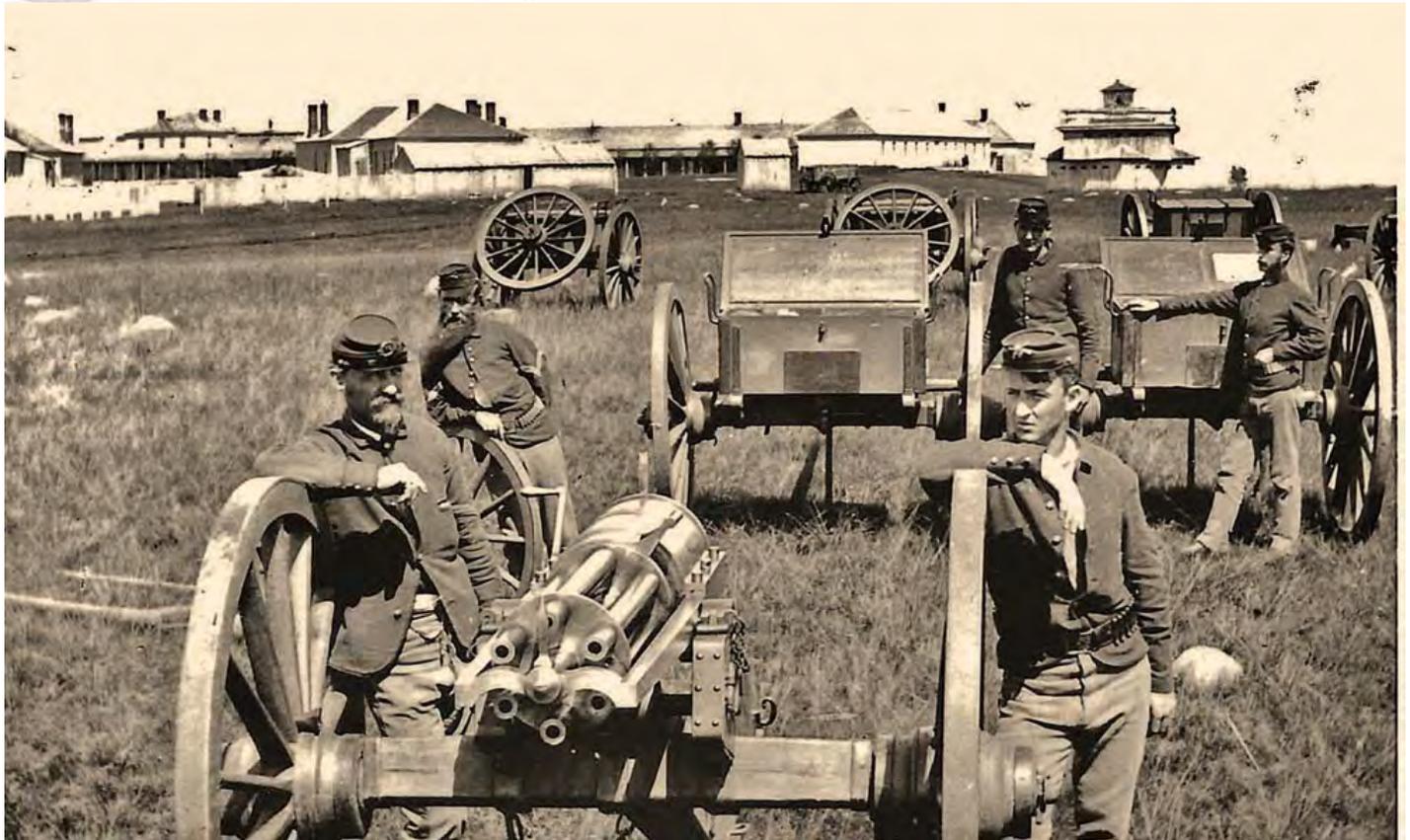
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THE OFFICIAL
JOURNAL OF
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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June 2017

The Big questionWhat if.



The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,
June 20th
2017**

7:00 pm

At the
Petty Officers' Mess
HCMS Tecumseh

This F. Jay Haynes photograph of the Gatling gun and crew has been mislabeled for years...and may date closer to the Battle of the Little Big Horn than previously thought.

– Courtesy Haynes Foundation Collection, Montana Historical Society –

On May 17, 1876, **Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and the 7th U.S. Cavalry** marched from Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dakota Territory, to destiny at Little Big Horn. Not so well-known is the fact that a battery of three .50 caliber Gatling guns accompanied the expedition, mobilized to subjugate the non-reservation, “hostile” Lakota Sioux bands led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse in Montana Territory. **Second Lt. William H. Low** and a detachment of the 20th Infantry had been assigned to the fort to organize this “artillery”

Low’s unit, however, would be denied a role at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, fought that June, when his guns were assigned to Col. John Gibbon’s less mobile “Montana Column” because of a legitimate concern that the Gatlings would impede Custer’s “pursuit of the Indians,” as Custer’s orders of June 22 stated. During a previous cavalry reconnaissance “over very rough ground,” one of Low’s guns had overturned, injuring three men, and was temporarily abandoned, several participants recalled. The four unfit condemned cavalry horses that pulled each gun further justified concerns about the mobility of this precursor to the modern machine gun. Informed that his battery would not march with the 7th Cavalry, Low “wept, almost cried,” remembered Winfield S. Ederly, a second lieutenant with the 7th Cavalry.

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The
CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

is a non-profit registered society
which fosters the study of the
military and the police, and the heritage of
Canada, the British Empire, and the world
as well as the preservation of military
artifacts and records.

The CMHS meets once every calendar month
at: Petty Officers' Mess
HMCS Tecumseh
1820 - 24th Street SW
Calgary AB T2T 0G6

Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

Tuesday, June 20th 2017
19:00 (7:00 pm)

At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.

Members are reminded that an offering of foodstuffs for the Legion Food Bank is considered your unofficial entrance fee to our regular scheduled meetings.

The unofficial agenda of this meeting will be:

Introduction of guests, Minutes of last meeting Correspondence, Membership report Treasurer's report, Old business / New business Break, Show & Tell
The President, **Alan Ross** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.

The Montana Column was organized to position troops north of the 7th Cavalry, in order to prevent Indian forces from escaping. The troops instead found Custer and his dead command (263 men out of the approximately 650 troops who fought) when they arrived at the battle site on June 27. The 7th Cavalry survivors had the somber duty of burying their brothers in arms. approximately 650 troops who fought) when they arrived at the battle site on June 27. The 7th Cavalry survivors had the somber duty of burying their brothers in arms.

After news spread of the disastrous Little Big Horn battle, F. Jay Haynes photographed a Gatling gun and "crew" against the background of the infantry post at Fort Lincoln, near present-day Bismarck, North Dakota. Located on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River to the east and the cavalry barracks to the south, the infantry quarters are readily identified by the blockhouse near the quartermaster's commissary and by the two-story building that served as the post hospital. Post records establish that Low's detachment was stationed there prior to the expedition's departure.

The Gatling gun that Haynes captured for posterity was probably one that accompanied the Dakota Column "for range," as reported by Capt. Otho E. Michaelis, the expedition's ordnance officer. Since it is a one-inch caliber, as opposed to the .50 caliber Gatlings in Low's battery, this is one of two apparently left at the Powder River Supply Depot. The men in the photo, though, probably belonged to Low's unit.

Details in the photograph and other facts reveal that Haynes erred on his original date. The cap of the soldier in the right foreground establishes these enlisted men were members of the 20th Infantry; post and regimental records confirm that no individuals or units of that regiment were stationed at Fort Lincoln in June 1877. Two companies of the 20th Infantry detailed to the fort during the expedition had returned to their normal stations in November 1876.

Moreover, the handmade leather cartridge belt illustrated in this image was typically used during campaigns before the U.S. Army adopted a standard issue, cotton canvas looped belt produced at Watervliet Arsenal in the wake of the Custer disaster. In April 1877, Capt. Michaelis reported that nearly 600 of the new cartridge belts had arrived at Fort Lincoln "in abundant time" for use by the troops in the field that summer.

Finally, some of Low's detachment remained on duty at the post in the fall of 1876, including Sgt. Peter Monaghan and possibly Cpl. Thomas Tully. The sergeant at the rear left, for example, might be Monaghan. The other non-commissioned officer in front of him bears a resemblance to Hugh Hynds, the battery's acting first sergeant.

In effect, photographic and historical evidence indicates that members of the Gatling gun battery posed for Haynes in October 1876, soon after the expedition returned to Fort Lincoln

The image also testifies to the Indian-fighting Army's diverse uniforms. The sergeant in the foreground wears a four-button sack fatigue coat and stripes, documenting the continued use of Civil War clothing into the 1870s. The private to his right is dressed in the five-button 1874 regulation blouse (albeit modified). His cartridge belt, however, has the 1851 "eagle" belt plate, instead of the simple "US" version adopted in 1872. The dress of the Frontier Regulars was far from "uniform."

C. Lee Noyes is the author of "The Guns 'Long Hair' Left Behind," presented at the 1994 Symposium of the Custer Battlefield Historical & Museum Association. He thanks the Montana Historical Society, National Archives & Records Administration and U.S. Military Academy for their assistance with this article.



William Hale Low

– Courtesy Special Collections, United States
Military Academy –

Minutes of the last meeting of The Calgary Military Historical Society

Meeting held on May 16, 2017 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

- 1. Meeting called to order** by President Allan R. at 7:00 PM. 22 members in attendance.
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** No omissions or corrections. Member Bob M. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by David G. Approved.
- 3. Newsletter.**
Late mailing, no issues or concerns.
- 4. Treasures Report.**
Report by Floyd S. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc. Listing of expenditures. Member Bob M moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Barry E. Approved.
- 5. Membership Report.**
Report by Floyd S. Total 46 members (2 Life, 1 Hon., 43 Regular). Member Mike C. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Member John E Approved.
- 6. Correspondence:**
Info request - Grandfather - 2nd Regiment Bengal Lancers - Comment, Indian Army members medals were engraved not impressed.
- 7. Announcements:**
 - The Military Museums event Thursday May 18 at 7:00 pm - "Post Vimy" by Jeff Jackson.
 - Kensington Legion holding non-military items auction clearance in prep for new building.
- 8. Old Business.**
None.
- 9. New Business:**
 - Call for magazines and books for ticket auction

BREAK

10. Ticket book auction, conducted by David G

12. Show and Tell:

- Jack D. - Has just published a book "RCMP 1873 - 1885, discusses with images.
 Floyd S. - Austrian order Iron Crown 3rd class 1908, gilt over silver, WWI issued.
 Alan R. - WWI Bavarian Order of Merit, US DSCC & Legion of Merit.
 David G. - Misc. Medical Corp insignia, Canadian, British and USSR.
 Frank C. - Selection of WWII and post war Fort Garry Horse cap badges.
 Al D. - discusses a RCN White Ensign from the HMCS Ottawa I (H60) given to him.
 Bob M. - Selection of Belgian medals - Leopold III and Albert I.
 Darrell K. - Army Laundry bag 1970's, USMC bonnie cap.
 John E. - Selection of bayonets: 1907 Short Enfield by Vickers; Jungle carbine, Enfield Mark #4 triangular (not round) with 1 handle screw (Rare), Sten gun, US Johnson used by FSSF, Can FAL 1954.

Adjournment:

President Allan R. calls for motion to adjourn. Member Barry E. moves to adjourn. Seconded by Mike C. Approved.

Meeting Adjourned. 20:10

1ST Surface-to-Surface Missile Battery, RCA (4 CIBG/4 CMBG)



The Canadian Army was equipped with the Honest John rocket system in Europe between 1964 and 1970. It was the only nuclear capable weapon system used by the Canadian Army.

Similar to other elements of the NATO forces in central Europe, 4 CIBG (4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group) – assigned to BAOR – operated under the NATO strategy outlined by NATO Document MC 14/2. The Brigade deployed one Honest John battery (official designation: 1 SSM Bty RCA) with four launchers. Its mission was to use its nuclear capabilities to prevent the Canadian Brigade from being overrun if

conventional weapons failed to contain Soviet forces in the event of an attack by the Soviets.

1 SSM Bty RCA was formed on 15 September 1960 in Canada, trained on the Honest John in Canada and at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and then deployed to Germany on 8 December 1961 where it was initially stationed at Fort Prince of Wales in Deilinghofen, Germany, about 4 km from Hemer. In the autumn of 1968, the battery moved to new quarters at Fort Qu'Appelle, Iserlohn, Germany. Operationally 1 SSM Bty RCA was under direct control of HQ 4 CIBG/4 CMBG. The Battery became “nuclear certified” in September 1964.

A team of the 69th Arty Det provided custodial support. In the initial phase, the team consisted of one captain, one sergeant and three EM's. It is believed there were 16 W-31s assigned to the Canadian battery, 4 warheads per launcher. The warheads were stored at the Hemer SAS (special ammo storage?) site about 20 minutes from the kaserne housing 1 SSM Bty. Apparently, the nuclear warheads of two other units (probably British and most likely NATO units also supported by the 69th Arty Det) were stored at the same site, totalling about 48 W-31 warheads. The security force for the SAS consisted of British, Canadian and US troops.

With the reorganization of the Canadian military in 1967-68, 1 SSM Bty RCA was reduced on 30 April 1968 to 2 launchers. On 19 September 1969, the Canadian government announced that the Canadian Brigade would drop the Honest John nuclear role in 1970 as part of a new defense posture introduced by Pierre Trudeau, the new Canadian Prime Minister.

1 SSM Bty RCA had its final Nuclear Surety Inspection on 11-15 May 1970. It was given a “satisfactory” rating with no deficiencies found. The unit participated in its last field exercise, “Exercise Gravy Train,” in May 1970 and had its final parade on 1 June 1970. The unit was disbanded on 1 July 1970.

69th US Army Missile Detachment 1 SSM Bty, RCA was supported by the 69th US Army Missile Detachment. The 69th US Army Missile Warhead Support Detachment, also known as the 69th USA Msl (Whd Spt) (HJ), was stationed at Hemer, Germany. Under the command of the 514th US Army Missile Group, it was responsible for all Honest John warheads assigned to Canada in Germany. The 69th also supported the British Army 50 Missile Regiment, which also used the Honest John, at the same site.

The 69th was organized under the US Army Special Ammunition Support Command (SASCOM) at Heidelberg, and fell under the operational control of the 514th US Army Artillery (Missile) Group commanded by Col Wilson at Mönchengladbach. In this capacity, the 69th operated safe and secure “igloos” for storage of nuclear warheads at or near Hemer, Germany.

Hi Dave. Here is the cleaning solution Frank used on his bugle. Thought it might be a nice little tip to put in the news letter. Credit to go to Frank for contributing it. Brian H.

Hi Brian. I was a little off with the receipt. Here is the one I used.

- 1 teaspoon of salt.
 - dissolve in 1/2 cup of vinegar, add flour until paste.
 - Rub in, leave for 10 –15 mins.
 - Rinse with warm water.
 - Buff
 - There is also one with baking soda but I didn't try that one.
- Hope that works. Bye for now. Best Frank G.