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May Extra # 1 2021



In Memory of Stu Egglestone

1924- 2021

Stewart passed away after 10 years of painless prostate affliction.

His passing was 8 years 1 month after his devoted wife Edith (married 67 years) to whom he attributes his longevity and happy life on terra firme.

During World War 2, Stu served in the RCAF; one year in each of Canada, England and Italy.

He is survived by his son Gary and his wife Mary Ann and their daughters Jillian and Hilary; his daughter Leslye Robertson and her son Jay and his wife Leslie and their daughters, Eily, Keltie, and Cailyn; and, his brother Roger Egglestone and his wife Donna.

We, his family, will forevermore be grateful for his strong genetics and the medical fraternity for granting him a joyful, extended and most appreciated long life. Stu would also like to extend his gratitude and many thanks to all the staff involved with his care at AgeCare Midnapore. Stu was interred in the Queens Park Cemetery with family members .

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In 1943 Vesta Stoudt, a mother with two sons serving in the Navy, went to work in the Green River Ordnance Plant in Amboy, Illinois. Vesta's job at Green River was inspecting and packing cartridges used to launch rifle grenades that were used by soldiers in the Army and Navy.

One day she had a good idea and showed it to the Government inspectors at the plant. They liked it but did not do anything with it. So she wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He did.



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From Al Ross, Past President of the Calgary Military Historical Society

On behalf of all of Stu's friends at the Calgary Military Historical Society (CMHS), we would like to offer our heartfelt condolences on his passing. Stu was a CMHS member for nearly 20 years and during that time he hardly missed a single meeting or club event. During the show and tell part of our meetings, Stu always told an interesting story that captivated the club members in its originality, his sense of humor, and keen wit. Stu was greatly admired by all of the club members. Being a military historical society, Stu lived it, having served during the Second World War. Stu joined the Canadian Air Force in July 1942, eager to take to the skies to battle the Axis powers. "I was 18 years old and I was going to go win the war and become a pilot" he said. Poor night vision led to him becoming an aircraft technician instead, and he spent 11 months in Italy keeping a Squadron of RCAF Spitfires in the air. After the war, Stu made four return trips to Italy. One of which when he was chosen as the representative of Italian Campaign veterans in 2014 and was a member of the Canadian Government Veteran Affairs delegation to travel to Italy to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Italian Campaign. He travelled with his daughter Leslyie. In 2019 Stu was invited as a guest speaker at the Calgary Military Museums for the Second World War exhibit about the Italian Campaign and he shared some of his wartime experiences. He will be dearly missed at our club meetings not only as a fellow club member but as a true friend. Stu, rest in peace



From David Soltess: Fellow Member

"My sincerest condolences to Stu's family. I knew Stu through our membership in the Calgary Military Historical Society and always thought of Stu as an interesting, kind and modest soul."

From Gary Milne; Fellow Member

"This is very sad news. I sat beside Stu in meetings and we always had a good conversation. We were both Crescent Heights High School grads. He pointed out his name on a wall plaque of Second World War veterans, which I thought was special. We will miss his humour and participation. "

From Martin Urquhart : Military Collectors' Club of Canada

Our sincerest condolences to Stuart's family from the Membership of the Military Collectors' Club of Canada and the Club's Calgary Chapter. Stu, a chapter member from its inception in September 2017, was well known, liked and respected by the membership and all who had the pleasure to know him. Very few people get the privilege and opportunity to spend time with a World War II veteran like Stu. Stu's knowledge and passion for history and learning and his willingness to share his wartime experiences with Club members was greatly appreciated. It was a blessing to have such a friend, and mentor, spend precious time with us. Whenever our in-person monthly musters resume they will not be the same without Stu. He will be missed, honoured and remembered. Trust me, Stu will never be forgotten.



From James Baldwin, Long time friend and fellow member of the Calgary Military Historical Society

Photo Caption: Service in World War II - This photo shows Stu in Italy where he was a Leading Aircraftsman (Specialty Electrical) in RCAF 417 Squadron where he worked on Spitfire fighters from September 1944 to July 1945. Prior to this he had serviced Halifax and Lancaster bombers in England with RCAF 432 Squadron. In England, he met his future wife Edith and his "war bride" came to Calgary after the war.



Photo Caption: Stu and Remembrance Day - In the past five years, Stu had developed a routine where he would attend a local Royal Canadian Legion service in the morning. In the afternoon, he would go to the Military Museums and set up at the Seafire fighter aircraft in the Navy Gallery. He would then talk to the public about his knowledge and experience with Spitfires in Italy. He loved talking to families and would sometimes give John McCrae stamps to the children. This photo shows Stu, as a representative of WWII Veterans, officially accepting a school's Veterans Food Bank donations being dropped off at the Military Museums. (November 11, 2016).

Photo Caption: Stu And Famous "Troop Transport" Luxury Liners Stu was always interested in the two luxury liners that he travelled on in WWII. He left New York on the "Queen Mary" on October 8, 1943 and disembarked at Gourock, Scotland on October 16, 1943. On December 22, 1945 he left Gourock Scotland on the "Queen Elizabeth" and disembarked in New York on December 28, 1945. The photo is from a mural of the Queen Mary now located in Long Beach, CA

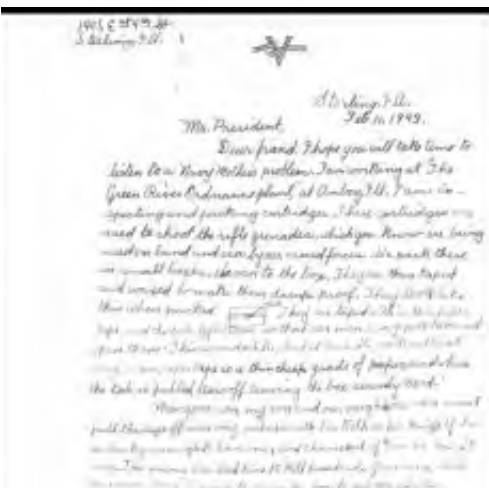




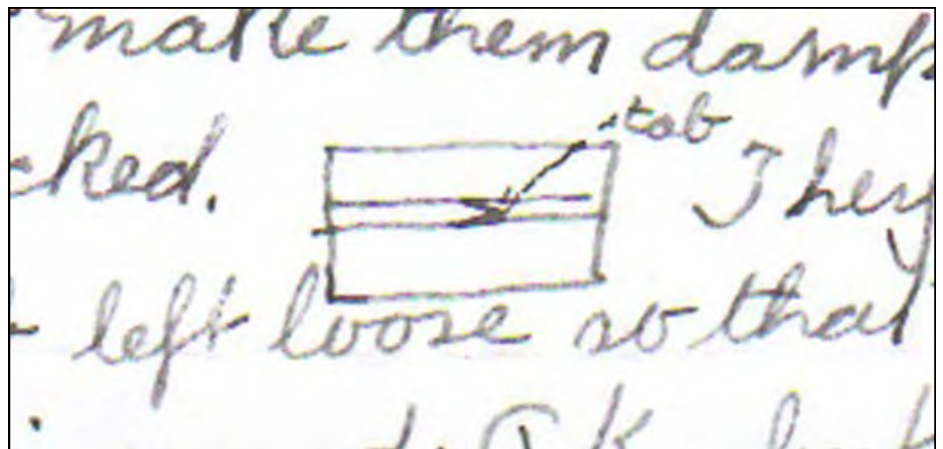
In the 1940s, Vesta Stoudt, a mother with two sons serving in the Navy, went to work in the Green River Ordnance Plant between Dixon and Amboy, Illinois to do her part to help her sons and their fellow servicemen. So Vesta got a job at Green River inspecting and packing cartridges used to launch rifle grenades that were used by soldiers in the Army and Navy. The cartridges were packed eleven to a box, and the boxes were taped and waxed to make them waterproof and damp-proof. The box flaps were sealed with thin paper tape, and a tab of tape was left loose so that it could be pulled to release the waterproof wax coating and open the box. The problem was that the thin paper tape wasn't strong enough, and the tabs frequently tore off when soldiers pulled on them to open the ammo boxes, leaving them frantically scrambling to claw the boxes open while under enemy fire. Lives were at risk—including the lives of her sons. So Vesta Stoudt came up with a solution: seal the

boxes with a strong, cloth-based waterproof tape instead of the thin paper tape. Vesta raised the issue with her supervisors but, although they thought it was a good idea, she wasn't getting anywhere with having it implemented. Here's what Vesta Stoudt said

"I suggested we use a strong cloth tape to close seams, and make tab of same. It worked fine, I showed it to different government inspectors they said it was all right, but I could never get them to change tape." [Copy of original letter from Vesta Stoudt to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, February 10, 1943, courtesy of Kari Santo]



So Vesta Stoudt did what any other mom with two sons in the Navy



Here's the diagram of the problem that Vesta sketched out in her letter

would do: she wrote a letter to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt outlining the issue and telling him her idea about how to fix it.

"Now your son, my son and our neighbor's son must pull this tape off some way, perhaps with his teeth or his knife if he is lucky enough to have one, nine chance out of ten he hasn't any."

"I suggested we use a strong cloth tape to close seams, and make tab of same. It worked fine, I showed it to different government inspectors they said it was all right, but I could never get them to change tape. I have two sons out there some where, one in the Pacific Island the other one with the Atlantic Fleet. You have sons in the service also. We can't let them down by giving them a box of cartridges that takes a minute or more to open, the enemy taking their lives, that could have been saved. Had the box been taped with a strong cloth tape that can be opened in a split second. I didn't know who to write to Mr. President, so have written you hoping for your boys, my boys, and every man that uses the rifle grenade, that this package of rifle cartridges may be taped with the correct tape." [Copy of original letter from Vesta Stoudt to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Feb. 10, 1943,



Roosevelt sent Vesta's letter to the War Production Board in Washington, D.C., and just a few weeks later in March, she received a series of replies from higher-ups in the organization saying that her idea would be considered; that it was being forwarded to the appropriate division and they hoped she would send them any other ideas she had

in the future; and finally that her recommendation for the new tape had been approved and was "of exceptional merit."



Letter to Vesta Stoult, March 26, 1943, from The War Production Board in Washington D.C., letting her know that her idea for duct tape had been approved. Letter courtesy of Kari Santo.

The War Production Board, put out a request for a cloth-based waterproof tape. That challenge was met by Permacel, a division of Johnson & Johnson, a company that already had some expertise in developing medical tapes. To seal the ammunition boxes, scientists came up with a layer of tightly woven fabric sandwiched between a rubber-based adhesive and a coating of polyethylene.

The fabric used was “cotton duck,” the name having nothing to do with waterfowl. It was derived from the Dutch word “doek” for a type of canvas that was used to make sailors’ garb. Polyethylene, a plastic introduced by Imperial Chemical Industries in the 1930s was the key to making the tape waterproof. It wasn’t the only role this polymer played during the war. Polyethylene was a critical insulating material used in the construction of radar equipment, its light weight allow-

ing airplanes to be equipped with radar.

Soldiers found that the new tape had uses beyond sealing ammunition boxes. It came in handy when repairs were needed for all sorts of equipment and even was pressed into use for wounds when nothing else was available. Some historians have floated the idea that soldiers, either because they were aware of the “cotton duck” connection, or because they thought the tape shed water like a duck began to use the term “duck tape.” It is difficult to find evidence for this, but it is clear that in 1975 the Manco company obtained a trademark for “Duck Tape” together with a yellow cartoon duck logo and explained this was a “play on the fact that people often refer to duct tape as ‘duck tape.’” The term “duct tape” had come into common use after the war when manufacturers of heating and air conditioning ducts discovered that the tape was useful for connecting components. The colour was changed from the original military olive green to silver by using aluminum powder so as to blend in with the tin ducts.



Whether it was called “duck,” or “duct,” numerous clever uses were soon found for the tape. During the Vietnam war, holes in helicopter blades caused by enemy fire were temporarily repaired with it and in 1970 the tape saved the lives of the three Apollo astronauts who had to use the lunar module as a “lifeboat” after the explosion of an oxygen tank. Duct tape was critical in modifying the command module’s square carbon dioxide filters to fit the lunar module’s round receptacles. In 1972, Apollo 17 astronauts Harrison Schmitt and Eugene Cernan managed to repair a fender on their lunar rover with duct tape.

-Vesta Stoult didn’t singlehandedly win the war. She was one of many heroes

-In the immortal words of S.R. Stribling from the Ordnance Department to Mrs. Stoult, ““It is cooperation of this type that will win the war.””

-There are multiple takeaways from this story. Necessity is the Mother of Invention. Persistence Pays. One person can make a difference.



Artillery In Alberta



Stavely

German First World War 17-cm mittlerer Minenwerfer (17-cm mMW), (Serial Nr. 1972). This trench mortar was captured by the 46th Battalion (South Saskatchewan), 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) at Vimy Ridge on 9 April 1917.

Frank

German First World War 10.5-cm leichtes Feldhaubitze 98/09 (10.5-cm leFH 98/09) Light Field Howitzer, (Serial Nr. 3392), no data, 1916. This gun is part of a War Memorial located on the Crowsnest Highway, Route 3, Alberta, a few miles east of the divide in the small community of Frank. The gun is flanked by two German First World War 7.92-mm Maxim Spandau MG08 Machineguns



German First World War 7.92-mm Maxim Spandau MG 08 Machineguns, the mounts are original, but the real machineguns were stolen in the 1970s, these are replicas. The missing MGs were (Serial Nr. 5203) captured by the 2nd Canadian Division and (Serial Nr. 5307) captured by the 27th Battalion at Passchendaele, or (Serial Nr. 44996) (no data).

Artillery In Alberta comes from the website belonging to **Harold Skaarup**
www.silverhawkauthor.com

The aim of this website is to locate, identify and document every historical piece of artillery preserved in Canada. Many contributors have assisted in the hunt for these guns to provide and update the data found on these web pages. Photos are by the author unless otherwise credited. Any errors found here are by the author, and any additions, corrections or amendments to this list of Guns and Artillery in Canada would be most welcome and may be e-mailed to the author at hskaarup@rogers.com.

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 The 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

Contact Editor: David Gale david@sunnyspotservice.ca