



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News July 10, 2018

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 to let me know you didn't get a copy.

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: 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 - We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies.

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars See attached posters for details.

Aug 26 Gunner Golf on August 26 on Vancouver Island (see poster at end of newsletter). *Play golf and support the 5th (BC) Artillery Regiment Foundation by forming a Foursome ("Gun Detachment") or joining with others as an Individual ("Gunner") or by making a donation ("In Direct Support").*

World War 2 – 1943

John Thompson Strategic analyst - quotes from his book "Spirit Over Steel"

July 11th: In Sicily, the British and Canadians make good progress, taking Palazzolo and halting at dusk outside Priolo – but the Hermann Goering Panzer Division puts a dent in American progress and is only kept away from the landing beaches at Gela by naval gunfire. The Bryansk Front on the northeastern shoulder of the Kursk Salient launches flanking attacks onto Hoth's 9th Army. A fighting dentist? This is no joke to the men of the 6th Panzer Division in Dr Franze Bäke's panzer battalion. Today, their one-time dentist is riding in his command tank (which has a dummy gun) when it surrounded by Soviet tanks in the middle of a night march at Kursk. Acting before any of the Soviet tankers notice they are intertwined with German tanks, Bäke promptly dismounts and knocks out three Soviet tanks by sticking magnetic anti-tank charges on them. By war's end, the dentist is Herr Oberst Dr F Bäke and wears the Knights Cross with Swords and Oak Leaves – and three tank destruction badges.

July 12th: Today, the clash of steel is on steel is no mere metaphor: A wild tank melee occurs as II SS Panzer Corps (with 300 tanks) is counterattacked at Prokhorovka with 5th Guards Tank Army (900 tanks); the Soviets neutralize the German advantage in gunnery and armour by mixing it up at point blank ranges. There will be no more German advances made at Kursk and Soviet offensives are looming up at Taganrog and Stalino, near Orel, and at Kursk itself as the West and Bryansk Fronts stage counterattacks of their own. Hereafter, the initiative in the East lies entirely with the Soviets. On Sicily, the Hermann Goering division is drawn off to the British sector (though 15th Panzer Grenadier appears on the American sector); and the British take Lentini. The night Battle of Kolombangara in the Solomons, two Allied light cruisers are damaged and a destroyer is sunk by IJN torpedoes, but a Japanese heavy cruiser is blown out of the water by radar controlled gunnery. The last of the major attacks on the Ruhr in Harris' offensive is staged; the 43 raids have done much damage, but 1,000 aircraft have been lost.

July 13th: More US reinforcements arrive on Rendova and New Georgia. Australian and US troops overrun the Japanese at Mubo and wipe them out. In Sicily, the Hermann Goering Division slows the British advance at Vizzini, but Augusta is captured by 5th British Division and the Germans airdrop the 1st Fallschirmjager Division right onto the front lines. So far, the Allies have landed 478,000 troops on the Island (a larger volume than they could put through in five days at Normandy in 1944).

July 14th: Allied forces in Sicily take Biscani Airfield, Niscemi and Vizzimi; the British and American sectors are also linked up. Hoth is reluctant to disengage in Kursk and some sparring continues; meanwhile, Soviet columns are advancing on Orel.

July 15th: Patton assembles a Corps while Bradley's II Corps moves north, the Canadians start climbing into the central mountains and the British follow the Germans to the south bank of the Simeto River. In the Solomons, General Griswold replaces General Hester on New Georgia, and US aircraft down 40 raiding Japanese aircraft over Rendova while losing three of their own. Rokossovsky's Central Front joins the offensive towards Orel while Manstein's troops fall back to their start lines.

July 16th: Churchill and Roosevelt call on the Italian people to rid themselves of Mussolini. On Sicily, the British 50th Division crosses the Simeto River, 1st Canadian Division takes Caltagirone and starts earning a reputation on the German intelligence bulletins as a trained mountain unit (which it wasn't) for assaulting up cliffs and over ravines.

July 17th: The Soviet drive on Orel is slowed as Model moves his surviving armor to confront them while Malinovsky's Southwest Front starts a drive towards Voroshilovgrad. The Americans launch a large air raid on Bougainville sinking much shipping and a destroyer. The Australian 3rd Division and 41st US Division start making preparations for an advance on Lae and the Markham Valley in New Guinea. US troops in Sicily take Agrigento and Porto Empedocle. When three jeeps of a reconnaissance unit of the 3rd Infantry Division are sent out to find a group of trapped US Army rangers, they are pinned against a gully by four Italian

tanks near Agrigento Sicily. Lt David C Waybur is seriously wounded as the patrol attempts to fight off the tanks with their machineguns, but they only exhaust their ammunition as the tanks close in. Undaunted, Waybur stands in the open and uses his submachine gun to kill the driver of one tank, which then careens into the gully. After sending one of his men for help, he sends the rest into shelter and the remaining tanks cause no further harm. He is awarded the Medal of Honor and later rejects soft safe duty in the US to return to battle, and gives that ‘last full measure of devotion’ in March, 1945.

Canada sends 1,000 personnel to RIMPAC 2018

Marcello Sukhdeo Jun 25 2018



This year’s Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), the world’s largest international maritime exercise, will take place from June 27 to August 2. More than 1,000 Canadian sailors, soldiers, and aviators are set to join 24,000 personnel from 25 nations for RIMPAC, which will take place in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The largest

part of Canada’s contingent is made up of 675 sailors from the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN). The Canadian Army is sending about 170 soldiers from Camp Pendleton in Southern California, and Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) will provide 75 members. As part of this exercise, the RCN is sending two Frigates, Her Majesty’s Canadian (HMC) Ships Ottawa and Vancouver, Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment ship MV Asterix, and maritime coastal defence vessels, HMC Ships Yellowknife and Whitehorse. The RCAF is providing a CP-140 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a deployable mission support centre. “Canada is an important ally in the Asia-Pacific region. Participating in RIMPAC is just one example of how our Canadian Armed Forces continue to support Canada’s engagement and leadership in the region,” said Harjit S. Sajjan, Defence Minister.

RIMPAC will focus on a wide range of capabilities from disaster relief to maritime security operations and complex warfighting according to a press release. Canada has participated in every RIMPAC exercise since its inception in 1971. At this year’s training, several Canadian officers will hold critical positions:

-Rear Admiral Bob Auchterlonie is the Combined Task Force Deputy Commander, second-in-command of all international forces within the exercise

-Captain (Navy) Matthew Coates is the maritime component Deputy Commander

-Colonel Michael Atkins is the air component Deputy Commander

-Colonel Dennis O'Reilly is the Combined Air Operations Centre Director

-Captain (Navy) Matthew Bowen is the Deputy Exercise Director

“RIMPAC offers a uniquely complex and challenging multinational environment for Canadian Armed Forces personnel to hone their skills,” said Rear-Admiral Bob Auchterlonie, Commander Joint Task Force RIMPAC. “Our service men and women will represent Canada proudly, being leaders amongst allies.” In total, there will be 47 surface ships, five submarines, 18 national land forces, and more than 200 aircraft at RIMPAC 2018.

Can of Red Bull Caused Major Problems for a USAF Spy Plane

Jared Keller July 6, 2018



The first MC-12 Liberty aircraft in-theater lands after its first combat sortie at approximately 6:20 p.m. local time June 10 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

US Air Force/Senior Airman Tiffany Trojca

If you read that recent Military.com story about the Air Force’s efforts to engineer a new coffee mug and thought to yourself “why do these horrible mugs cost some \$1,200 apiece of my hard-earned tax dollars,” we have a relatively simple answer: a spill can be a complete disaster — especially if it’s Red Bull. The eagle-eyed aviation pros at The War Zone spotted an unusual accident in Military Times’ sprawling database of aviation mishaps detailing how a 16oz can of Red Bull and an MC-12W Liberty spy plane that resulted in more than \$100,000 in damage to the aircraft.

Here are the key details, per a mishap summary obtained by The War Zone via Freedom Of Information Act request:

- The June 5, 2017, incident occurred after one of the aircrew, identified as “Mishap Copilot (MCP, Person #1),” retrieved an unopened 16oz can of Red Bull from his bag that promptly ruptured, spewing the energy drink over the center console.
- “While the MCP used his shirt to absorb what he could, the Mishap Pilot (MP) noticed a faint odor,” according to the report. “He subsequently shut down the mission system power, which alleviated the odor. The crew discussed their options and decided to RTB [return to base].”
- The War Zone reports that while the aircrew wasn’t even close to in danger due to the spill, the mishap cost the Air Force a whopping \$113,675, or “more than \$7,000 of damage for each ounce of Red Bull that ‘Person #1’ spilled in the cockpit.” This is officially the most expensive can of Red Bull known to man.
- Though it’s unclear what, if any, systems were damaged by the spill, the report indicates the hefty bill likely resulted from maintenance personnel removing and repairing 13 “line replaceable units.” For context, that console in the civilian version of the MC-12W Liberty (the King Air 350ER) includes a Synthetic Vision System (SVS) graphics and aviation package.

This is *exactly* why the Air Force engineers \$1,200 mugs: to prevent some sort of unanticipated fluid-related incident from catalyzing a potential catastrophic mishap. As my T&P colleague Brad Howard, an Air Force vet who has actually flown on the MC-12W before, told me: *Everything* that enters the cockpit of a \$38 million aircraft needs to be highly engineered to not, y’know, cause fires or generate static electricity that may screw with controls. The most likely cause of the mishap? The copilot probably opened a shaken Red Bull can that was in his helmet bag right over the console. Indeed the War Zone notes that the incident “might have earned them some sort of disciplinary action,” but those proceedings were heavily redacted in the report. OK, OK, we’ll say it: Red Bull does *not* give you wings. But my boy Howard has a solution to prevent these problems in the future: Big Safari, the legendary shadowy wizards behind quick fixes, could modify a Bass Pro Shop 32oz mug to fit into the MC-12W cup holders for a cool \$2 million tops. Either that or the sensor operators should be put in charge of snack duty. Just sayin’

Canada to Buy More Used Australian Fighter Jets

Number Goes From 18 To 25 David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen June 15, 2018

Canada has boosted the number of used Australian fighter jets it is purchasing to 25 but the deal to acquire those aircraft still hinges on approval from the US government. The Liberal government originally announced it would buy 18 used Australian F-18 jets to augment the Royal Canadian Air Force’s CF-18s until new aircraft can be purchased in the coming years. But it has added seven more used Australian F-18 aircraft to the deal, the Department of National Defence has confirmed. Those extra aircraft will be stripped down for parts, Dan Blouin, a spokesman for the DND, said Friday. It is not known yet if the seven aircraft will be flown to Canada or shipped, he added.

The exact cost of purchasing the 25 aircraft, along with weapons and other equipment is not yet known as negotiations are still underway on the deal, Procurement Minister Carla Qualtrough recently told journalists. The Liberal government has set aside up to \$500 million for the project. An Australian Senate hearing was recently told that Canada was presented with a cost proposal from the Australian government last year. “They accepted our offer in December, but they have also put in a further request for some seven aircraft for system testing, training and spares,” Australian Air Vice Marshal Cath Roberts told the hearing. The US government is examining the deal and will have to give its approval to Australia before that country can sell the F-18s to Canada. Approval is needed because the F-18s were built in the US with American technology. Canada is hoping for the US approval sometime in the summer.



A Royal Canadian Air Force CF-188 Hornet departs Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California to conduct a mission as part of Exercise PUMA STRIKE 16-B on November 16, 2016.

Photo: Cpl Manuela Berger, 4 Wing Imaging CK01-2016-1124-014

Although US-Canada relations have hit a slump, with American President Donald Trump vowing to punish Canadians because of ongoing economic disputes, the DND does not expect that situation to affect approval for the fighter jet deal to proceed. Pat Finn, the Department of National Defence’s assistant deputy minister of materiel, has said he expects that a deal will be in place by the end of the year with deliveries of the Australian planes to begin in the summer of 2019. The Liberal government originally planned for the arrival of the first used aircraft in January 2019. The Liberal government had originally planned to buy 18 new Super Hornet fighter jets from US aerospace giant Boeing. But last year Boeing complained to the US Commerce Department that Canadian subsidies for Quebec-based Bombardier allowed it to sell its C-series civilian passenger aircraft in the US at cut-rate prices. As a result, the Trump administration brought in a tariff of almost 300 per cent against the Bombardier aircraft sold in the US. In retaliation, Canada cancelled the deal to buy the 18 Super Hornets. That project would have cost more than US\$5 billion.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here's the latest additions to the website. Have you got any photos or stories to share?

Honours and Awards Update – added Lieutenant Walter Selkirk Newton MC

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/honours-and-awards.html>

16th Brigade Northern Russia Expeditionary Force presentation album added to 1924

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1924.html>

Sergeants' Mess Constitution and Bylaws added in 1924

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1960.html>

Guns firing on Canada Day 2018 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/canada-day-2018.html>

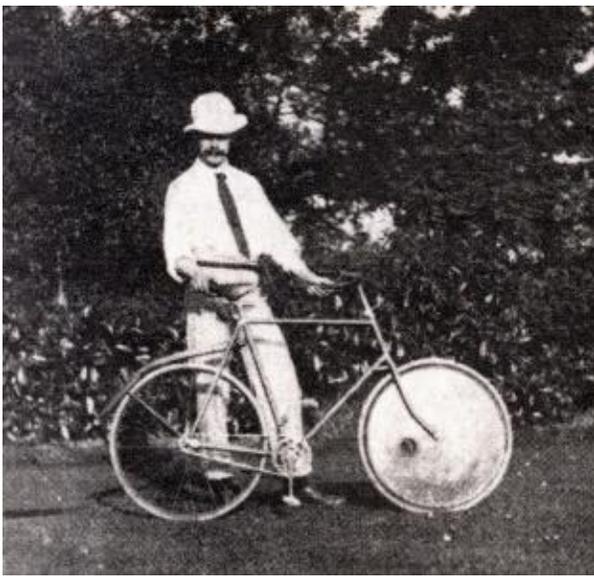
18 Pounder Club page started <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/18-pounder-club.html>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at

president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: The world's first armoured road vehicle was not a lorry, bus, car or even a



motorcycle but a pedal cycle. In the 1880s various armed forces were experimenting with units of armed cyclists, these were not as ridiculous as might at first seem to be the case. These troops fulfilled a similar role to that of mounted infantry, fighting on foot but using their mounts for relatively rapid transit to the scene of action. A bicycle has some advantages over a horse when used in this role for it is unnecessary to reserve men to be horse holders whilst their comrades engage the enemy. A mounted infantry unit could lose up to ten percent of its firepower as men were detailed for this task. Nor do cycles need supplies of fodder (a substantial part of the supply train of an army of the period was devoted to carrying food for

horses). A cyclist unit does not need to be supported by farriers and vets (although it might need some mechanics). In general most bicycles are more docile than a horse and it is usually quicker to teach a man to ride a bike than a quadruped. The bicycle shown was invented by a Mr Lord and it was deemed a success in two army exercises involving the Cycle Corps held in the early part of the first decade of the 20th century. However, for unknown reasons, it never entered service, and Mr. Lord was never heard of again. The hole in the plate on the front tire served the same purpose as the hole in the shovel in a previous quiz.

This Week: From swords to ploughshares was the chant of many in those halcyon days of my youth. Sadly, when Wilkinson's went bust, this was no longer an option. In any case, ploughshare production had moved to China and Poland, so the chants were for naught. Nonetheless, some instruments of war look now as if being a part of a John Deere (or, for you nostalgic nationalists: Massey-Ferguson) might not be a bad thing, rescuing them from the ignominy of their current derelict condition. Such might be said for this week's subject, a rusting gun in an abandoned position, sad and lonely, but once oiled, polished, and ready to defend our liberty.



Our question is rather direct this week: what gun is this? Also, where is it? If you are a really keen enthusiast, you might also tell us what august unit once served this behemoth of an ordnance piece.

You may convey your responses to the now clean-shaven (the RSM was on his case) editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com or the always presentable author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Merci and thank you.

From the 'Punitary'

What do you call a Tree Surgeon? A branch manager.

Murphy's Other Laws

If there's more than one way to do a job and one of those ways will end in disaster, then somebody will do it that way.

Quotable Quotes

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. - *Thomas A Edison*

Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment RCA Foundation and the Vancouver Island Artillery Association



4th Annual - Drive for Victory

9-Hole, Texas Scramble at Glen Meadows Golf Course

Supporting the Foundation's programs

Fundraising projects in support of the Regiment and its Cadet Corps



www.glenmeadows.bc.ca

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Meet 2:00, Start 2:30

Glen Meadows Golf and Country Club

1050 McTavish Road, Sidney, BC

(250) 656-3136

For more information or to register please

contact:

Stu McDonald

(604) 886-6847

ssmcd2@gmail.com

Dress: Golf attire

Collared shirt, no jeans

9 holes of golf, followed by a steak BBQ

Secret Score Wins \$200

Come support the Foundation in its support of serving soldiers
and the Cadet Corps
and

An opportunity for fellowship with other Island Gunners and their supporters

Admission: \$300 a foursome

Individuals \$80

(dinner only \$25)

- or make a donation at Eventbrite

Register at Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fourth-annual-drive-for-victory-foundation-and-viaa-golf-tournament-tickets-47700940798?ref=estw>

Charitable donation receipts will be provided for a portion of each admission fee or donation.

Canadian Charity Number 88894 5664



Op UBIQUE 2019

Gunners Return to Normandy, 75 Gunners to Normandy's 75th and the 75th Anniversary of D-Day 31 May to 10 June 2019

Gunners and Friends of Gunners

Aim

The aim of this program is to unite the Gunner community while studying and commemorating important aspects of the history, heritage and legacy of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

Mission

To conduct an “Artillery” Battlefield Study of Normandy and France in conjunction with celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

Background

- June 6th 2019 will see a major celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the success of Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy, June 6th 1944. The D-Day Landings marked the beginning of the operations that liberated France and Northern Europe. As with other milestone years, the D-Day ceremonies in 2019 will include many major events, attended by large crowds, including Canadian, British, American and other Allied nations, and numerous dignitaries including Royalty and Heads of State.
- Canadian Gunners played a major role in the liberation of Normandy, and the 75th Anniversary of D-Day affords an outstanding opportunity for Canadian Gunners to remember and celebrate their past, and allow the younger generation to learn about our wonderful history.
- The “Pilgrimage to Vimy” program of April 2017 demonstrated the interest and enthusiasm that Gunners have for their history and heritage, in that 100 Gunners (++) trekked through the battlefields of France 100 years after the Battle of Vimy Ridge. We can do it again, in Normandy.

Overview

- **RCA Senate supports this Project and would like all RCA units to participate**
- 75 Serving Members is the target (75th Anniversary of Normandy)
- The trip is open to retired Gunners, partners, friends of Gunners, etc. (as with Vimy 100) – first come, first served
- Leadership by BGen (Retd) Beno and Patterson
- The designated Senior Serving Officer is Major Richard Gratton
- Travel company is Merit Travel, Kingston – Brian Cruikshank
- BGen Dave Patterson is the lead Historian

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					31 May Travel to Paris	1 June Drive to Arras Hotel Arras
2 June Vimy Hill 70 Hotel Arras	3 June Drive to Normandy, Dieppe and Pegasus Bridge Hotel Caen	4 June Juno Beach day Beny Cemetery Hotel Caen	5 June D+1 Day Carpiquet and Abbaye d'Ardenne Hotel Caen	6 June D-Day 75 at Juno Beach Centre Hotel Caen	7 June Verrières Ridge Falaise gap Hotel Caen	8 June Unveil Gunner Monument at Point 67 Hotel Caen
9 June Omaha Beach Hotel Caen	10 June Rtn to Canada					

Itinerary

Day 1 – 31 May ...Depart Canada for Paris.

Day 2 – 1 June ... We arrive in Paris, meet our buses and then drive to Arras where we will settle into our hotels and explore this beautiful city, completely rebuilt after the First World War.

Day 3 – 2 June ... Today we will visit the Vimy memorial and the battlefields surrounding it, as well as Notre-Dame de Lorette, the largest French war cemetery and the Ring of Remembrance.

Day 4 – 3 June ... We depart Arras and head for Normandy. On our way to Caen we will stop at Pegasus Bridge to see the Airborne Museum and tour the battlefields of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion

Day 5 – 4 June... This is our day on the beaches at Juno. We will visit the landing sites and also the impressive Juno Beach Centre, where the memorials to the Gunner support to the landings have been placed. We will end the day with a visit to Beny-sur-Mer Canadian Cemetery.

Day 6 – 5 June ... We head beyond the beach to look at the controversial battles of D+1 as well as the bitter struggle for Carpiquet Airfield. We end the day at the sombre garden of the Abbaye d'Ardenne.

Day 7 – 6 June ... This is the day for the 75th Anniversary ceremonies at the Juno Beach Centre. A sun hat, patience, and lots of water will be required!

Day 8 – 7 June ... We head south of Caen to the two-week battle for Verrières Ridge and then follow the path of the Canadian Army as it closed the Falaise Gap.

Day 9 – 8 June ... This day will be the big event for the Gunners as we dedicate the Artillery Memorial to the Normandy Campaign at Point 67 on Verrières Ridge.

Day 10 – 9 June ... A bonus trip will take us to visit the American beach at Omaha as well as the impressive American cemetery there.

Day 11 – 10 June ... We will depart early to make flights from Paris that will return us to Canada.

Costs

Tour Price (Land Only)

CAD \$4200 – (per person, Double occupancy) (single supplement: \$1572 – limited availability)

CAD \$3800 (per person 2-5 per room) for Serving Military Members (single supplement \$1100 – very limited ability)

Accommodation options at \$4100 and \$4000 are available in limited numbers.

Departure costs from major airports (Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, Saint John, Halifax, etc.) will be determined based on demand

\$750 per person deposit on booking

Key Dates

- Booking and Down payment (\$750) – **Please do so ASAP**
- 14 September, 2018 – Cut-off date for Booking and Down payment (Units, please act ASAP upon return in Fall)
- 07 December 2018 – Non-refundable deposit of \$1,500
- 07 March 2019 – Final Payment
- 07 March – Security Clearance for Access to Juno Beach
- 31 May – Depart Canada

Bookings and Payment

Contact Brian Cruikshank: BCruikshank@MeritTravel.com 1-866-341-1777 #3375

Unit Participation

Honoraries and Commanding Officers are requested to advise BGen Beno of their unit's participation. Please do so at your earliest convenience.

Note that there are modest funds available to support units that cannot raise money locally.

Leadership, Command, Control and Coordination Contact Info

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Good Shooting! UBIQUE!

Ernie



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