



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 24, 2017

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 - Lunches start again tomorrow. We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome.

NOABC lunch - Jan 25 - This month's topic is: "Canadian Awards and Decorations" by Surgeon Commander (ret'd) Dr John Blatherwick.

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars Details to follow in future editions

Jan 21 **Burns Supper** See invitation at end of newsletter

Feb 4 **RV2017 - Regimental reunion dinner** - details at the end of the newsletter.

Mar 3 **Scotch Tasting Fundraiser** - details at the end of the newsletter.

Dues

The Vancouver Artillery Association, 15 Fd Officers Mess and RUSI Vancouver are now collecting membership dues for 2017. See end of newsletter for details.

World War 2 - 1942

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

Jan 25th: Luxembourg's government-in-exile declares war on Germany, Italy and Japan; but the tiny country has almost no manpower or physical resources to commit to the war effort. Wavell orders a defence of Rangoon, but the local commander thinks the position is untenable. With the evacuation of the Maur River Line, Percival starts to haul his men back towards Singapore. Rommel's men smash the 2nd British Armoured Brigade.

Jan 26th: They're heeeerrrrr! The first US troops arrive in Northern Ireland. The Board of Inquiry on the Pearl Harbour attack publishes its findings... bombs away on Admiral Kimmel and General Short.

Jan 27th: Only one MP votes against Churchill's government in a vote of confidence. Soviet troops under Timoshenko run into stiffening German resistance around Dnepropetrovsk. Japanese troops land at Pemangkat on Borneo – securing an airfield. USS Gudgeon becomes

the first US submarine to torpedo an enemy submarine, sinking I-73 on the latter's return from a war patrol off California.

Jan 28th: HMS Indomitable drops off a load of 48 Hurricanes on Java for the defences of not so indomitable Singapore.

Jan 29th: General Harmon becomes chief of Staff of the US Army Air Force, while Spaatz is off to command an air force in the field somewhere. Rommel is back in Benghazi. Britain and the USSR sign a treaty of alliance with the Iran (which they occupied last summer).

Jan 30th: The Japanese assault Bataan again, and try to turn the US flank with some amphibious landings. The Japanese attack Moulmein in Burma.

Jan 31st: The last Allied troops are withdrawn from Malaya to Singapore and the British fall back from Moulmein in Burma.

Trudeau Must Put Emphasis on Defence If He Wants Trump Onside

Onside for trade and climate change Matthew Fisher 11 November 2016 Canwest News Service



ARLINGTON, VA - Canada and the United States recalled one of the many ties that bind them Friday at Remembrance Day memorials in Washington and the Canadian Cross of Sacrifice at Arlington National Cemetery. The first ceremony remembered Capt Joseph Benjamin Noil, an African-Canadian from Liverpool, NS,

who was awarded the Medal of Honor for saving an American sailor in 1872, who was drowning at sea. The memorials recalling the sacrifices shared by Canada and the US in two world wars, Korea, Afghanistan and Iraq were particularly poignant coming only three days after the election of the next American president, who has a remarkably different world view than does Canada's prime minister. Everyone knows the dynamic between President-Elect Donald Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is bound to be lesser than that between Trudeau and Barack Obama. Nobody is quite sure yet how awkward it might be. Obama willingly shared centre stage with Trudeau. Trump is a one-man band and one-man brand, his ego such that he has long regarded himself as the only superstar. It is unlikely he will allow anyone to hog his limelight, especially a young leader whose shtick consists mostly of being cool, socially and culturally sensitive and so 21st century. Trump's philosophy is the exact opposite. His ascent is a nightmare for the Trudeau crowd. Despite Trudeau's reticence, the tweets of University of Ottawa professor Roland Paris, who until July was Trudeau's closest

adviser on foreign policy, are one of many clear indicators. One of several such examples: "Uncertainty about Trump's trade & security policies will be source of instability. But clarification of those policies may be even worse."

NAFTA, defence spending and climate change have been widely identified as the three issues where Trump and Trudeau are most likely to disagree. The free trade agreement is unlikely to be a major problem for Canada. When I heard Trump's standard stump piece in North Carolina last month he mentioned NAFTA. He almost always did. But Trump's invective was directed towards Mexico and Mexicans. Canada never came up. This is because most American workers do not regard Canadians as a threat to their jobs. Differences over climate change and defence spending will be stiffer tests. Trump famously opposes the Paris climate accord, which Trudeau has embraced. As Trump's aggressive promotion of the US coal and oil industries was a major factor in his getting elected, he is unlikely to have anything to do with a tax on carbon emissions. If Trudeau proceeds with his scheme to impose a carbon tax, it would badly hobble Canadian competitiveness in the American market. Trudeau is also in an odd jam of his own making over the Keystone XL pipeline. He gave the pipeline only tepid support in order to gain electoral brownie points on the prairies. Obama's objection to the project provided Trudeau with cover. Trump is all for the pipeline, putting Trudeau, the environmental saviour, in a position where he can only meekly agree.

Much has been made of Trump's derisory comments that his country's NATO partners are freeloaders who have let US dollars and US troops protect them for too long. Canada's position on spending is one of the weakest in the alliance. Of the major NATO countries, it invests less in defence as a percentage of GDP and had been hoping to slash another five per cent in the next budget. Nor has Canada contributed many troops to NATO since the end of the Afghan mission, although it will send 450 soldiers to be part of a tripwire NATO is establishing to discourage Russian adventurism in the Baltics - a commitment made only with extreme reluctance after Obama, who is hardly a hawk, shamed Trudeau into doing so. Everybody has been talking about Trump, Canada and NATO. Few mention Ottawa's other key security alliance. Yet NORAD, which is responsible for protecting North America, is arguably more important to Washington. After much dithering, Canada is likely to sign on to a new missile defence arrangement that the US has been developing for years.

The US military is now far more likely to advise Trump to push Canada hard to buy the F-35 fighter jet. Canada's other northern partners - Norway, Denmark and Britain - have already signed on to the project, which depends on integrating and sharing leading-edge data and sensor systems that are unique to the plane. If Canada balks at buying the F-35 because of Trudeau's ill-considered campaign promise that it wouldn't, Trump is just the sort of president who might declare that US warplanes must take over the front-line defence of Canada's Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific approaches. Canada would be in the rear with the gear. Trudeau will have to perform some rhetorical somersaults on continental air defence and spend a lot more on the military if he wants Trump's cooperation on trade, climate change and everything else.

CF Looking to Replace Second World War-Era Pistols

The project could take another 10 years. *David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen* January 11, 2017



The Canadian military wants to replace its 1940s-era Browning handguns, shown in this 2015 photo being used by Canadian troops in the Middle East, but first will conduct a survey on whether there is still a need for pistols. Canadian Forces Photo

The Canadian military is looking to replace its Second World War-era handguns but it could take up to 10 years for all of the new pistols to be distributed to the troops. Replacing the 1940s-era Browning handguns has been on the Department of National Defence's procurement list for years. But now the purchase of new guns appears to be moving ahead. Still the CF figures if the purchase is approved – and there are no delays – it won't have all the new pistols in hand and being used until 2026. The military plans to conduct a survey later this year to determine what the role of handguns might be in the future CF. Last year army procurement officers briefed industry representatives about their quest for a new pistol. Industry officials were told that between 15,000 and 25,000 handguns are needed and the military estimated the project would cost around \$50 million, according to documents recently obtained by the Ottawa Citizen. That price-tag would include extra parts and related equipment.

Canada's general service pistol is currently the 9mm Browning Hi-Power, which came into service in the later part of the Second World War, according to the Canadian Army documents prepared for industry. The guns have been refurbished over the years. A smaller number of SIG P225 pistols were acquired in 1991 and are in the hands of military police and Royal Canadian Navy boarding teams. The wear and tear on the Brownings have whittled numbers down to 13,981; of those 1,243 are in the process of disassembled for spare parts, in order to keep the other guns going until a replacement can be found, army spokeswoman Capt Valérie Lanouette explained to the Ottawa Citizen in an email in November. "The operations in Afghanistan have only accelerated the rate of non-serviceable pistols," she added. Production on the SIG P225 ended in 2009 so some of those existing firearms will have to be cannibalized for parts as well, the army noted.

Later this year or sometime early next year a nation-wide survey will be conducted in the Canadian Forces about the future of pistols and "to define the general concept of employment," the military says. Sometime in 2019 or 2020 the requirements for a new gun will be defined and then by 2022 the military will seek approval from the federal government to proceed with a purchase of a new general service pistol or GSP. "If the project timeline is not delayed, the delivery of the GSP could start in fiscal year 2022-2023 and full operational capability could be reached by 2026," Lanouette pointed out. Industry representatives have privately questioned

why Canada would take so long to buy a new pistol, noting that the process could be completed in about a year or two at most.

The Canadian military wants to replace its 1940s-era Browning handguns, shown in this 2015 photo being used by Canadian troops in the Middle East, but first will conduct a survey on whether there is still a need for pistols.

Canadian Forces Photo



The Browning Hi-Power is one of the most widely used military pistols and is still in service in other countries. Civilian gun stores sell a new version of the gun for a little over \$1,000 each. Some dealers who specialize in military collectibles are charging \$4,200 for a 1940s-era Browning Hi-Power in excellent condition. “The Canadian Army is committed to supporting an efficient, cost effective and transparent procurement process in order to have the right tools in the right hands at the right time,” Lanouette noted in her email. Canadian special forces use another model of the Sig pistol but there are also problems with finding certain spare parts because those components are no longer being manufactured, according to the Canadian Forces.

Pentagon and Lockheed Near Deal On \$9 Billion F-35 Contract

Mike Stone/Lisa Shumaker



Three F-35 Joint Strike Fighters (rear to front) AF-2, AF-3 and AF-4, can be seen flying over Edwards Air Force Base in this Dec 10, 2011 handout photo provided by Lockheed Martin.

REUTERS/Lockheed Martin/Darin Russell/Handout

WASHINGTON. The US DoD and Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) are close to deal for a contract worth almost \$9 billion as negotiations are poised to bring the price per F-35 below \$100 million for the first time, people familiar with the talks said Wednesday. The F-35, the Pentagon's costliest arms program, has drawn fire from US President-elect Donald Trump who has made lowering prices for military equipment a pillar of his transition into office. Talks are still ongoing for the tenth batch of stealthy fighter jets with a deal for 90 planes expected to be

announced by the end of the month, three people said on condition of anonymity. A Lockheed representative declined to comment and a representative for the fighter program said negotiations are ongoing.

The US Defense Department expects to spend \$391 billion in the coming decades to develop and buy 2,443 of the supersonic warplanes. Though the F-35 program has been criticized by Trump as too expensive, the price per jet has already been declining. Lockheed, the prime contractor, and its partners have been working on building a more cost-effective supply chain to fuel the production line in Fort Worth, Texas. The overtures from the incoming administration may have had some effect, but Lockheed's F-35 program manager Jeff Babione said last summer that the price of the F-35A conventional takeoff and landing version of the jet would drop to under \$100 million per plane in this contract for the 10th low-rate production batch. The F-35 comes in three configurations, the A-model for the US Air Force and US allies; a F-35 B-model which can handle short takeoffs and vertical landings for the Marine Corps and the British navy; and carrier-variant F-35C jets for the US Navy. Lockheed and its main partners, including Northrop Grumman Corp (NOC.N), United Technologies Corp's (UTX.N) Pratt & Whitney and BAE Systems Plc (BAES.L), have been developing and building F-35s for the US military and 10 allies. On Oct 25 Lockheed, the world's largest defense contractor, reported a quarterly profit that handily beat analysts' expectations, as sales of its Sikorsky helicopters pushed total revenue up 14.8 percent. Lockheed is set to host its fourth-quarter earnings call on Tuesday.

Centre Block to Disappear Behind Scaffolding

What should Ottawa's 'iconic image' be during renovations.

Brian Platt January 13, 2017



Centre Block is shown through the gates of Parliament Hill 2014. Justin Tang / CP

For decades, Ottawa's tourism agency has highlighted Centre Block, the main building with the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill, as a defining image on the city's marketing material. And understandably so, given that it's by far the most-photographed building in the capital. But Centre Block will soon vanish behind tarps and scaffolding as it starts a badly needed renovation project that will take up to 15 years. (Construction is starting in 2018, though the public works ministry says the facade won't disappear behind scaffolds until 2020.) City officials are urging the federal government to pay for a "trompe l'oeil" covering, a large display that would go in front of the scaffolding and show the image of Centre Block. (This is often seen in Europe during

construction on significant buildings.) Judy Foote, the public works minister, says her staff are still studying the idea.

But even if the government does cough up the cash for a giant image of the building, it obviously doesn't replace the building itself as a sight to behold. So, what's a tourism agency to do? "If you look at our marketing brochures and our website, Centre Block is something you see quite regularly because it's one of the iconic images of Ottawa," says Catherine Frechette, Ottawa Tourism's senior director of destination development. "We are going to have to start to select other iconic images of Ottawa." One possibility, of course, is the Chateau Laurier, but that building is also about to turn into a construction site, given the plans for an expansion. Frechette said the agency is looking at a few other options. "The (Rideau Canal) locks, the waterways, and how we include the river," she said. "And our national museums, our National Gallery. There are a number of other opportunities, for sure. "We have to make sure we're choosing an image that would hold to the same grandeur."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Added a citation for the Military Cross for Lieutenant Donald Graham Robertson MC on our Military Cross page <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/mc.html>

There's a couple of great videos from the 102nd Coast Regiment RCA <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1954---102nd-coast-regt-rca.html>.

And another video from Yakima Firing Centre in 1981 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1981.html>

And there's a big reminder about our upcoming Regimental Birthday Party on 4 February 2017. Check out the details at the end of the newsletter. Send your RSVPs to LeonJ1@hotmail.com Have you got a story that you might wish to share? Some additional photographs? Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: Much to-ing and fro-ing on the identity of the foreign officer shown but we now



believe he is a Capt from the Greek Army. In the early 50s, our government offered our coast artillery guns to members of NATO and this officer may have been observing the gun in action. The gun is a Duplex (or Twin) 6-pounder 10-cwt Coast Defence gun, mounted at Belmont Battery, the middle Battery at Fort Rodd Hill. While Upper and

Lower Batteries' big 6-inch guns were ready to deal with destroyers and cruisers, Belmont was built as a "close defence" battery with small, quick-firing guns designed to stop speedy torpedo boats from entering Esquimalt Harbour. In 1900, two 12-pounder quick firing guns were mounted there. While small, these weapons could fire up to fifteen rounds a minute. By the time of the WW2, these guns were considered obsolete, and in 1944, this gun system was

installed. This twin-barreled gun fired shells weighing 6 pounds, in a stream of up to 72 shots a minute-all hand-loaded! The Sikhs seen in the picture are some of the 5 Sikhs who joined the 102nd Coast Regt RCA in the early 1950s. They were given permission to wear the items prescribed by their faith while in uniform and we believe that they were the first Sikhs enrolled into the Canadian Army.

This Week: This week's photo is from the trove of AFV slides mentioned last week. However, it is one from the collection of the late Bill Loiselle; one of the few that still exists. It, and three others, was found tucked in the back of all the id slides. All seem to date from the early 1970s (the dates stamp is not clearly imprinted on them). What we ask of you this week is to identify those in the photo (our editor, being of an ancient lineage, has done so already for the two adults, but we'd like your thoughts and reminiscences). Do you recognize any of the cadets? Did one of them grow up to become CDS, or, even more impressively, an RSM? And whatever became of all those tin lids? We only have two in the museum of these Mk II models, and one



of the Great War Mk I version. Should you have any spares, please consider a donation, as we are sometimes asked to loan out wartime items for displays at other museums, and would feel better about such were we to have several "duplicates". The same can be said for the US M1 helmet which protected our noggins from the late '50s to the '90s. We have but one, plus one liner. So, as always, your

ideas can be sent to the award-winning editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com, or to the author John Redmond, johnd.redmond@telus.net Thank s in advance.

From the 'Punitary'

Why do mathematicians like beaches? Because of all the natural logs.

Murphy's Other Laws

Opportunity always knocks at the least opportune moment.

Quotable Quotes

Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary. - Reinhold Niebuhr

Dues for 2017

It's that time of year again. In most local organizations, annual dues are payable as of Jan 1st. Last year we went through a change which many found confusing so we are going back to the old way for 2017.

15 Fd Officers Mess Associate Members dues are \$60, payable to - '15 RCA Officers Mess'. By mail, send to the *Associate Members Representative, Officers Mess*, at the address below.

Vancouver Artillery Association dues are \$25, payable to the '*Van Arty Assoc*'. By mail, send to the *Treasurer, Van Arty Assoc* at the address below.

RUSI Vancouver dues are \$40, payable to '*RUSI Van*'. By mail, send to the *Treasurer, RUSI Van* at the address below.

If you are coming to the weekly lunch or other event at the Armoury, in the near future, you can hand deliver payment, cheques preferred, to the appropriate representative of these organizations, as they are all regular attenders.

Mailing Address

(Appropriate Representative)
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

For **Mess Associate and Van Arty Assoc members** there is an option to pay by email transfer, if you can access your account on line. Go to your account and initiate an email transfer, sending the required amount to 15fdtreasurer@gmail.com You can send a bulk payment for both groups but please ensure that you indicate which organization(s) your payment is intended for.

Tickets for RV2017 may also be purchased by email to 15fdtreasurer@gmail.com



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

MONTHLY LUNCH PROGRAM

Wednesday January 25th 2017

Officers Mess
Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC.

1130 am bar open
1200 noon lunch
1 pm speaker
3 course hot lunch
\$20 per person
(new price now in effect
still very good value)

Dress – Blazers, ties etc or Business attire

This month's topic is:

*“Canadian Awards and Decorations”
Surgeon Commander (retd) Dr John Blatherwick*

RSVP for lunch numbers please to events.noabc@gmail.com

David Reece
Social Director

British Pub Style Lunch



Hosted by:
*The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess*

Coordinated by:
*The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association*



Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017

Time: 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)

Location: Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

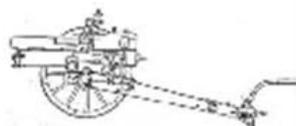
Dress: Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)

Price: \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm
attendance by January 16, 2017)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please e-mail Charlotte
Yen at corporate@hplaw.ca
(Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after January 23, 2017

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, February 23, 2017



RV 2017

**Regimental 97th Birthday
Saturday, February 4th, 2017
1800 Hours – 2400 Hours
Bessborough Armoury
\$30.00 per person**

The evening is open to all members of The 15th Field Artillery Regiment, currently serving or retired, their spouses, all members of other Regiments that may have served alongside of The 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA and currently serving or retired members of the Cadet Instructor Cadre affiliated with the Regiment.

It's time to phone up some of those old time buddies and get together at Bessborough Armoury to share some memories. Dig out your old horn and join in a jam session with the Band.

The Messes will be opened with a planned theme in each. In the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess there'll be a turntable with World War 2 vinyl playing.

Bring down some of your old photos for scanning that night! Too many? Bring them all down in a shoebox and we'll return them in a couple of weeks after scanning.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rv-2017-birthdayreunion-party-4-february-2017>



15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78th Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders invite you, and any like-minded guests of your acquaintance, to attend our annual fund raising and whiskey tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music. Did we say whisky?

Tickets are **\$55.00** per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by our famous whisky elves, Chuck & John, or a meager **\$25.00** if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. kilts, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday – March 3rd, 2017

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

LOCATION: 2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J
2C7

DO NOT MISS OUT!

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR



ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST MALE VOICE CHOIRS

STOUT HEARTED MEN

Saturday, February 25th, 7:30pm

HIGHLANDS UNITED CHURCH

3255 Edgemont Blvd, North Vancouver

\$29 adult • \$27 senior • \$12 student

Tickets Available:

ONLINE from vwmc.ca or call 604-878-1190.

Tickets are also available from Highlands United Church office and choir members.

VWMC Concert is jointly sponsored by:



Highlands United Church
Phone: (604) 980-6071

and



St. Catherine's Anglican Church
Phone: (604) 985-0666