



## **Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 24, 2016**

**Newsletter on line.** This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca) and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>

**Wednesday Lunches** The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project.

**NOABC Speaker Lunch** – 25 May 2015(**tomorrow**): CPO1 Harry Fong, Logistics Chief, HMCS Discovery, The Topic is “**The History of HMCS Discovery**”

## **RUSI Vancouver Hosting a Defence Policy Review Session**

On **Saturday the 11th of June 2016**, the **Royal United Services Institute Vancouver** is hosting a Defence Policy Review session at the Langley Events Centre from 0900 until 1600. We're hoping to attract the citizens of Langley, Maple Ridge, Chilliwack and other parts of the Lower Mainland to come, learn some more about the Canadian Armed Forces and give their input into the future of the Canadian Armed Forces.

### **RUSI Vancouver Defence Policy Review Questions**

There are ten specific questions that the Minister of National Defence is looking for input on:

#### **The Security Environment**

1. Are there any threats to Canada's security that are not being addressed adequately?
2. Are there particular regions or issues that you are most concerned with?

#### **Canadian Approach to Defence – Canada, North America and International**

1. What roles should the Canadian Armed Forces play domestically, including in support of civilian authorities?
2. How should Canada-United States cooperation on defence of North America evolve in the coming years?
3. What form should the Canadian Armed Forces contribution to peace support operations take? Is there a role for the Canadian Armed Forces in helping to prevent conflict before it occurs?

## **Defence Capabilities and the Future Force**

1. Should the size, structure, and composition for the Canadian Armed Forces change from what they are today?
2. How can the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces improve the way they support the health and wellness of military members? In what areas should more be done?
3. Should Canada strive to maintain military capability across the full spectrum of operations? Are there specific niche areas of capability in which Canada should specialize?
4. What type of investments should Canada make in space, cyber, and unmanned systems? To what extent should Canada strive to keep pace and be interoperable with key allies in these domains?
5. What resources will the Canadian Armed Forces require to meet Canada's defence needs?

Tables are available at no charge for defence related organizations such as the Juno Beach Centre to utilize the event to increase the awareness of Canadians. A schedule of speakers will be provided in the near future.

Care to get involved? You can spend the day listening to guest speakers. You can take an hour out of a busy Saturday to assist in answering the questions that have been posed. You can even offer to assist by being a guest speaker, a question facilitator or a volunteer (email Leon at [LeonInLangley@gmail.com](mailto:LeonInLangley@gmail.com))

## **World War 2 - 1941**

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

**May 25<sup>th</sup>:** A night carrier strike by Swordfish puts a torpedo into Bismarck and Prinz Eugen is ordered to seek safety on her own. The Germans advance to the Cretan town of Galatas, which becomes the scene of some very ferocious fighting.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>:** Bismarck is spotted by a Catalina, and thus receives two torpedoes from a Swordfish strike which damage her steering gear and some RN destroyers harass her that night. Freyburg decides to evacuate Crete and his troops slip away from Galatas; HMS Formidable launches a night strike on the Stuka bases in the Italian Dodecanese.

**May 27<sup>th</sup>:** Roosevelt declares an "unlimited national emergency". Rodney and King George V catch up with the Bismarck, pound her for two hours and then torpedoes from Dorsetshire and Norfolk send her to the bottom; 115 survivors are picked up. The Allies on Crete withdraw in a disorganized manner towards Sfakia to be evacuated. Rommel sends two Panzer Regiments to retake Halfaya Pass, then has 88mm guns dug in to defend it. British forces in Iraq start to

advance on Baghdad. The first production model of Hawker's Typhoon comes off the line; it is difficult to fly and in need of a lot of fine tuning but will come into its own as a deadly panzer killer in 1944.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>:** The Paris Protocols are signed as Vichy agrees to make bases available in Lebanon, Syria and West Africa to the Germans in reduced for reduced occupation costs and the repatriation of thousands of French POWs; however, Allied action in the Middle East will soon scrub the deal. 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade occupies Ur but is having problems advancing due to the shoddy state of Iraqi roads. Evacuations continue under heavy air attack from Crete. In the past eight days Sergeant Alfred Hulme of the 23<sup>rd</sup> New Zealand Battalion has repeatedly displayed outstanding courage, field craft, leadership and marksmanship – killing at least eight German snipers, and 25 more German soldiers in a nine-day period. He is awarded the Victoria Cross.

**May 30<sup>th</sup>:** Oops, the Luftwaffe is not supposed to attack Dublin, capital of the decidedly neutral Ireland, but they bombed it this night. Rashid Ali flees Iraq for Iran.

**May 31<sup>st</sup>:** Iraq signs a ceasefire with the British, allowing troops to be garrisoned in the country and swearing to behave themselves.

## **Cuts Have Left Canadian Military in 'Fragile' Shape: Rick Hillier**

Lee Berthiaume, Ottawa Citizen April 13, 2016



*“If the funding doesn’t materialize, the Canadian Armed Forces are going to have very tough time,” retired general Rick Hillier told Postmedia. Errol McGihon/Postmedia News*

OTTAWA — Rick Hillier says the Canadian military is “fragile” after years of budget cuts and delayed equipment purchases. And while he stopped short of saying the force is on the verge of another “decade of darkness,” he didn’t rule it out completely. “If the funding doesn’t materialize, the Canadian Armed Forces are going to have very tough time,” the retired general said. “It’s going to be really challenging. So I won’t give a label to it yet. I’ll wait and see.” Hillier, who famously coined the term to describe the years of deep cuts in military spending and personnel under the Chrétien Liberals, starting in the mid-1990s, recently spent an hour talking to the Ottawa Citizen about the state of the military and the Trudeau government’s new defence review.

Military officials, industry representatives and defence experts have largely welcomed the review, saying a medium- to long-term assessment of Canada’s defence requirements is overdue. But the Liberals also promised a “leaner, more agile” military, prompting fears of a stripped-down force. Hillier, who is still widely respected in military circles for having led the Forces out of that decade of darkness as chief of defence staff in 2005-08, agrees a review is overdue and could help address some of the major issues that have plagued the Canadian Forces in recent years. But it could also make things worse. “Every time we run operations now we’re

strained and we're stretched and we're scraping from other places," he said. "I use fragility in that way. The funding issue makes everything fragile. You can't hire enough people; you can't get the equipment. "What comes out of the defence review will either increase that fragility or perhaps crack it, or else it can make the confidence grow much, much stronger." Hillier said he has a great deal of respect for Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, a former lieutenant-colonel in the reserves. But he was "disturbed" by the Liberal government's decision last month to withhold nearly \$4 billion that had been earmarked for new military equipment. That measure was announced in the federal budget, and continued a trend started under the Conservatives. "(The government) said it'll come back later," Hillier said. "I never believed that as chief of defence staff. If it's not in the fiscal framework, it's not there. So that's a \$4-billion cut that occurred. That came mostly out of the acquisition capital funding, where we desperately need to spend even more."

Hillier was also extremely critical of Canada's slide to the bottom-third of NATO allies in terms of defence spending. All NATO allies committed in 2014 to spend two per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) on defence, but Canada is spending less than one per cent. Sajjan recently defended Canada's record, noting it was contributing to many operations abroad. But Hillier, who would like to see the military grow to 75,000 men and women in uniform, said such operations will become harder to sustain as long as the government refuses to increase spending. "Right now we're trying to do too much with too few people," he said. "Because of our unwillingness as a nation to fund the Canadian Armed Forces with more resources, we are asking the people in uniform to carry more than their fair share of the burden." Hillier also noted that no one could have predicted in the 1990s Canada would be involved in a sustained war in Afghanistan. Building up the capacity for such missions takes years — and he believes the military will only be called upon to deal with more and more threats around the "very violent, aggressive" world in coming years. While the government could decide to maintain current funding levels, Hillier said the result would be a much smaller Canadian military. "So you can have a capable military that's smaller, but you're limited to one small mission somewhere and therefore the effect of this Group of Seven nation, which is a founding member of NATO and a founding member of the UN, is going to be marginalized," he said. "At some point in time, if you want to do what this nation wants to do, you've got to have more dollars and you've got to have more people."

## **Polish "Soldier Bear" Weapons Carrier of WW2**

Apr 13, 2016

Wojtek (1942–1963) usually spelled *Voytek* in English, was a Syrian brown bear found in Iran and adopted by soldiers of the 22nd Artillery Supply Company of the Polish II Corps. He was later officially enlisted as a soldier of the company with the rank of Private and subsequently became a Corporal. During the Battle of Monte Cassino, Wojtek helped move crates of ammunition. The name "Wojtek" is a diminutive (Hypocorism) form of "Wojciech", an old

Slavic name that is still common in Poland today and means “*he who enjoys war*” or “*joyful warrior*”.



*He was the largest and undoubtedly most intimidating fighting force of the Polish Army.*

In the spring of 1942, the newly formed Anders Army left the Soviet Union for Iran, accompanied by thousands of Polish civilians who had been deported to the gulags following the Soviet invasion of Poland in 1939. During a rest stop near the town of Hamadan while en route to Tehran on 8 April 1942, a group of Polish soldiers encountered a young Iranian boy who had found a bear cub after its mother had been shot by hunters. One of the civilian refugees in their midst, eighteen-year-old Irena Bokiewicz, was very taken with the cub, which prompted lieutenant Anatol Tarnowiecki to purchase the young

bear, who spent the next three months in the Polish refugee camp that was established near Tehran, principally under the care of Irena. In August the bear was donated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Transport Company, which later became the 22<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Supply Company, and he was given the name Wojtek by the soldiers.

*Wojtek sits in front of a soldier, 1942*

Wojtek initially had problems swallowing and was fed with condensed milk from an old vodka bottle. He was subsequently given fruit, marmalade, honey and syrup, and was often rewarded with beer, which became his favourite drink. He later also enjoyed smoking (or eating) cigarettes. He loved wrestling with the soldiers and was taught to salute when greeted. Wojtek became quite an attraction for soldiers and civilians alike, and soon became an unofficial mascot of all units stationed nearby. With the 22<sup>nd</sup> Company, he moved to Iraq and then through Syria, Palestine and Egypt. By 1943, the Polish company had reached Egypt and was preparing to re-enter the war zone in Italy. The army had strict rules denying pets passage to war zones, so



the company did the only thing they could — they made Wojtek an official soldier. Henryk Zacharewicz and Dymitr Szawlugo were assigned as his caretakers. As an enlisted soldier of the company, with his own pay book, rank, and serial number, he lived with the other men in tents or in a special wooden crate, which was transported by truck. According to numerous accounts, during the Battle of Monte Cassino, Wojtek helped by carrying ammunition – never dropping a single crate. In recognition of the bear’s popularity, the HQ approved a depiction of a bear carrying an artillery shell as the official emblem of the 22nd Company.

Following the end of World War II in 1945, Wojtek was transported to Berwickshire in Scotland with the rest of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Company. They were stationed at Winfield Airfield on Sunwick Farm, near the village of Hutton, Scottish Borders. Wojtek soon became popular among local civilians and the press, and the Polish-Scottish Association made him one of its honorary members. Following the demobilisation on 15 November 1947, Wojtek was given to Edinburgh Zoo, where he spent the rest of his life, often visited by journalists and former Polish soldiers, some of whom would toss him cigarettes, which he proceeded to eat because there was no one there to light them for him. Media attention contributed to Wojtek’s popularity. He was a frequent guest on BBC television’s *Blue Peter* programme for children. Wojtek died in December 1963, at the age of 21. At the time of his death, he weighed nearly 500 pounds (230 kg) and was over 6 feet (1.8 meters) tall. Among the many memorials commemorating the soldier-bear are plaques in the Imperial War Museum in London and Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, as well as a sculpture by artist David Harding in the Sikorski Museum (also in London) and a carved wooden sculpture in Weelsby Woods, Grimsby.

## **Meet James Hurley- the ‘Mad Photographer’ of the World Wars.**

May 17, 2016



When James Francis Hurley ran away from his home after punching his father at the age of 13, he had no idea what the new century was about to give him. Born in Glebe, Sydney in 1885 Hurley was interested in images and photography from a very early age. In 1905 when he was still in his late teens, Hurley joined

Sydney Postcard Company, where he spent most of his time dreaming about his passion of photography and image manipulation. Hurley did not like the photography norms of his time; he believed that an image has much more potential than just a depiction of a certain moment in time. He started experimenting with the negatives he could get his hands on, and developed a very sophisticated technique of creating a composite of more than one image. A proponent of color photography, Hurley absolutely loved to travel and explore the world and events around

the world. Highly regarded by the historians, Hurley developed a peculiar reputation and was present to capture most of the twentieth century highlights in his unique way.

*An episode after the Battle of  
Zonnebeke  
(a composite image)*



Just before the First World War broke out, Hurley was on his Antarctic pilgrimage with Australia's legendary traveller and explorer Shackleton. Narrowly escaping a shipwreck and almost freezing to death in Antarctica, Hurley returned home and without wasting

a moment started covering the First World War. In 1917, Hurley joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) as an honorary captain and captured many stunning battlefield scenes during the Third Battle of Ypres. In keeping with his adventurous spirit, he took considerable risks to photograph his subjects, (troops frequently referred to him as the 'mad photographer) also producing many rare panoramic and colour photographs of the conflict. Hurley kept a diary in 1917-1918 describing his time as a war photographer. In it he describes his commitment "to illustrate to the public the things our fellows do and how war is conducted" and his short-lived resignation in October 1917 when he was ordered not to produce composite images. His period with the AIF ended in March 1918.

For the 1918 London exhibition *Australian War Pictures and Photographs* he employed composites for photomurals to convey drama of the war on a scale otherwise not possible using the technology available. This brought Hurley into conflict with the AIF on the grounds that montage diminished documentary value. Charles Bean, official war historian, labelled Hurley's composite images "fake". Due to his unique and unorthodox approach towards the art of photography, Hurley made more foes than friends. He was unpredictable to his contemporaries and a challenge for his superiors. Hurley would never compromise on the quality and nature of his images. The story he had in mind while taking the images, had to be told the way he imagined, or else he would fight for it. The legendary war photographer created some of the most stunning war images of all time, setting the standards for the thousands of aspiring photographers who came after him. After producing a treasure of unforgettable war images and footages from both the First and Second World War, Hurley lived his remaining years taking even more images and inspiring the generations to come. Captain Hurley died in 1962 in Sydney, Australia.

## Who is it?



**Last Week:** The FAT is a Cab 12 design like the 15Fd Museum FAT. The trailer is an 18pdr limber with pneumatic tires. The seat on top, left over from horse drawn days, is ideal for carrying a newly married couple.

**This Week:** For this week's quiz, we include something for the flyboys and girls of our esteemed readership. Naturally, as the photo comes from an artillery museum, the flying device pictured is no longer capable of doing its original job. This termination was possibly due to the eagle-eyed attentions of our plucky Canadian ack-ack gunners (or, less-likely, that of carrot-eating, Biggles-type chaps in other flying machines).



In the photo, the cuddly chap is Brigadier (then LCol) Percival ("Peter") Tees. He is pointing to some unauthorized customization on the airframe of the former aeroplane. This customization was not related to ventilation, as far as we have been informed, and might even have been contrary to several health and safety regulations.

So, this week's question is, what make and mark of aeroplane is depicted in the photograph? A hint for the geeks in the crowd: the old Airfix kit depicts a later mark than this one (the one I made ended up being destroyed by firecrackers in our backyard in Arlington, VA). Your educated assumptions may be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Thanks to all who participate, or even read this. As always, you can email the editor for a picture you can zoom in on: [Bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:Bob.mugford@outlook.com)

## From the 'Punitary'

What do you use to fix a broken tomato? Tomato paste.

## Murphy's other Laws

The man who can smile when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on.

## Quotable Quotes

A leading authority is anyone who has guessed right more than once. *Frank A. Clark*



**The Royal United Services Institute – Vancouver  
invites you to attend a community meeting to discuss the  
Defence Policy Review**

**When: Saturday, 11 June, 2016**

**From 0900 to 1600**

**Where: Langley Events Centre  
7888 200 St, Langley, BC V2Y 3J4**

Stay for the whole day or watch for our soon to be released speaker list and just attend those that may be of interest to you.

Volunteers will be on hand to assist in collecting your input on the future of your Canadian Armed Forces.

For further information:  
Check out our Facebook page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/DPR.Langley/>  
or contact  
Leon Jensen  
[LeonInLangley@gmail.com](mailto:LeonInLangley@gmail.com)





The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders  
&  
The Vancouver Garrison Officers  
Association



A Commemorative Dinner



In the summer of 1916 the British launched a major offensive against German lines.  
The battle lasted five months, killed or wounded approximately 1.2 million men.

Saturday, 11 June, 2016  
1830hrs for 1930hrs  
the Officers' Mess, Bessborough Armoury  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dress: Short sleeve summer dress

Tariff: \$45 pp

**LEST WE FORGET**



Note: This is a mixed dinner so feel free to bring a guest or your significant other. **RSVP to [scand@shaw.ca](mailto:scand@shaw.ca) by 06 June**

# Taste of Malaysia Curry Lunch



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



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

**Date:** Thursday, May 26, 2016

**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 May 16, 2016)

**RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail  
Charlotte Yen at [corporate@hplaw.ca](mailto: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 May 16, 2016

***NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, September 29, 2016***