



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News June 19, 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](mailto: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](http://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 - Note: NO lunch on June 27. Mrs Lum is on vacation.** Lunches resume on July 4<sup>th</sup>

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

June 27     **No lunch tomorrow**  
                  NOABC Luncheon speaker  
July 01     1200hrs, Canada Day Salute, Hallelujah Point, Stanley Park  
July 04     Lunches resume

### World War 2 – 1943

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

**July 1943:** A Mighty Clash of Arms at Kursk. "Soldiers of the Reich! This day you are to take part in an offensive of such importance that the whole future of the war may depend on its outcome." - *Adolf Hitler - 5th July 1943*

**General:** 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force hits southern Chinese ports. RAF Bomber Command drops 16,000 tons and the 8<sup>th</sup> USAAF adds another 3,600 tons to targets in France, Germany and Norway; with Hamburg being a favoured target "Allied shipping losses include 61 ships of 365,400 tons, but the Kriegsmarine loses 37 U-boats, with much of the credit going to Coastal Command in the Bay of Biscay and good work by the escort carriers USS Bogue, Santee and Cove off Africa and South America.

**July 1<sup>st</sup>:** Marshal Antonescu visits Mussolini with a proposal that Romania, Italy and Hungary all exit the war simultaneously, but Benito is too nervous to follow this course. Viru on New Guinea is taken by US Marines.

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Japanese warships try to interfere with the American buildup on Rendova in the Solomons to little effect. The Germans capture the commander of the Polish Home Army resistance forces, Grot-Rowicki, in Warsaw; he will be replaced by Bor-Komorowski.

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Australian and American forces in New Guinea link up from Wau and Nassau Bay at the Bitoi River. More US forces land on New Georgia, opening up a new beachhead at Zanana which is undefended by the Japanese.

## **The RCN Increases Its Presence in Africa**

*Lieutenant (Navy) Linda Coleman      June 22, 2018*



*LCdr Paul Smith meets with LCdr Faissal Erraji of the Royal Moroccan Navy during PHOENIX EXPRESS 2018 in Souda Bay, Greece.*

It was an exciting day on May 11, 2018 as members of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) shook hands with partner navies from North Africa during the closing ceremony of Exercise PHOENIX

EXPRESS 2018 (PE18) in Souda Bay, Greece. It not only marked the conclusion of the RCN's first time participating in PE18, but also in three US Africa Command EXPRESS exercises around Africa this year. "It was a privilege to participate in PE18 with the RCN, continuing the great work and capacity building we've been doing around Africa this year as part of the EXPRESS series, including CUTLASS EXPRESS in East Africa and OBANGAME EXPRESS in West Africa," said Lieutenant-Commander Paul Smith, senior RCN official for PE18. Led by US Africa Command and conducted by US Naval Forces Africa, the EXPRESS exercises are an ongoing series of maritime security engagements designed to train and assess standard procedures for maritime domain awareness and information sharing for combined/joint maritime interdiction operations. In January, the RCN sent advisors to East Africa to participate in CUTLASS EXPRESS. Its contribution included strategic engagements in Mozambique and Tanzania to promote maritime security capacity building at the Tanzania and Mozambique Maritime Operations Centres (MOC). RCN advisors provided support and mentorship on maritime security awareness, passing on Canadian expertise in this field.

In March, Her Majesty's Canadian Ships *Kingston* and *Summerside*, a detachment of personnel from the Maritime Tactical Operations Group, and an MOC mentorship team were in West Africa participating in OBANGAME EXPRESS 2018 (OE18). This exercise is focused on improving cooperation among participating West African nations and strengthening maritime interdiction operations to increase maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea – an area that is seeing increased illegal maritime activity lately, garnering international attention. It was the RCN's first visit to Nigeria in half a century. This was the second consecutive year that the RCN participated in OE18, and the RCN has committed another three to five years of deploying to the area to continue building relationships in the West Africa region, while promoting maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. By April, RCN observers and assessors were at MOCs in Bizerte, Tunisia, and Souda Bay, Greece, where they observed, assessed and acted as mentors in the area of maritime security awareness, and provided expertise in maritime interdiction operations for PE18. "These global leadership opportunities help strengthen relationships and partnerships with like-minded navies, and in the case of PE18, also help overcome current challenges that threaten maritime security in the Mediterranean Sea," added LCdr Smith.

Maritime security in the Mediterranean is vitally important because of the shipping routes that link Europe and North Africa. Illegal migrants have also been crossing the Mediterranean from Africa in record numbers since 2015, causing a maritime security issue in the region. PE18 North African partners included Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. These countries led the planning and execution of training scenarios that included interdicting illicit activity and providing vessels, teams and leadership to enable the operations of a combined MOC and Surface Action Group. Other countries involved included Canada, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain, United States, Libya, Netherlands and Denmark. "It's rewarding to be able to help a like-minded nation build their own maritime security capacity while increasing interoperability," said Lieutenant (Navy) Andrew Brumwell about his experience in the MOC at the Bizerte Naval Base in Tunisia. "The initial challenge in short exercises like PE18 is being able to quickly gain an understanding of capabilities and requirements of the team you are there to advise and assess, and figuring out how you can best use your own skills to assist them. The rewarding side to that is when that team is able to effectively execute the mission presented, you feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in what you were able to achieve in such a short period." The RCN's participation in the EXPRESS series embodies Canada's New Defence Policy Strong, Secure, Engaged, which values the Canadian Armed Forces ability to anticipate new challenges, adapt to changing circumstances, and act with exemplary capability and professionalism while supporting peace and security around the world.

## **RUSI Plans Military History Presentations**

RUSI Vancouver is exploring staging a series of presentations at Bessborough Armoury commencing this coming September. Similar RUSI presentations were held at the BC Regiment Drill Hall several years ago, all of which met with great success.

As this year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end First World War, Canada's role in that war will be a primary topic. A second will focus on BC's home front during WW1, while another would look at how Vancouver has remembered it's fallen for the past 100 years.

Current affairs subjects may also be included such as Canadian defence policy in the Arctic, military deployments to Africa, and how changing world trade relations and may affect Canada's foreign policy in the future.

RUSI Vancouver is currently discussing the proposed early evening presentations with the 15 Field Artillery Regiment RCA regarding use of Armoury facilities, preferably on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 pm.

Watch this newsletter and the RUSI Vancouver website ([www.rusivancouver.ca](http://www.rusivancouver.ca)) for confirmation of dates and time, and details on subjects to be presented.

Cam Cathcart, President  
RUSI Vancouver Society

## **Costs of Hearing Related Health Claims on the Rise in CF**

Safety and situational awareness cited among reasons to not use hearing protection

*CBC News Jun 19, 2018*



*A member of the Canadian special forces unit participates in a demonstration in Manitoba.*

*Hearing loss is common among retiring or retired members of the Canadian military.*

*(Adrian Wyld/Canadian Press)*

The cost of health claims related to hearing loss among members of Canada's military is rising, due in part to the reluctance of members to wear protective equipment and because the most suitable devices aren't always provided. Explosions, gunfire, engine noise and alarms all contribute to hearing loss among military members. Almost a third of them have chronic hearing problems by the time they retire, according to surveys by Veterans Affairs. A 2016 study obtained by Radio-Canada looked at how to better protect the hearing of members with pre-existing hearing loss and found that military personnel were reluctant to wear hearing protection.

Some of the reasons were:

- Discomfort.

- Incompatibility with other head gear.
- The feeling of isolation that comes with sound dampening.

But the biggest reason was that earplugs or whatever other protection device used would impair situational awareness, safety and "interfere with successful completion of the mission," wrote Dr. Sharon Abel, a senior scientist at Defence Research and Development Canada. That has led to increased health costs for the military. The Canadian Forces Health Services Group spent about \$890,000 in 2013-14 on health costs related to hearing loss, followed by \$937,000 in 2014-2015. In 2015-16, the last year for which data is available, it was close to \$1.1 million.



*Richard Blanchette, a retired major-general, says military members need to take responsibility for their own health. (Radio-Canada)*

Richard Blanchette, a retired major-general who suffered hearing loss during

his years of service, said the Department of National Defence does everything in its power to protect members and it's the responsibility of the members to do their part. Nobody else can do it for them, he told Radio-Canada. Different military members, however, have different issues. Abel's study found while earplugs may reduce the risk of hearing loss for people with normal hearing, they would increase impairment for people with pre-existing hearing loss. Those people would be better served by more specialized protection, she wrote. "Insufficient consideration is given to the selection of devices that will support the auditory tasks being carried out or suit the hearing status of the user." The military has set up an awareness program for its members about hearing loss, said Pierre Lamontagne with Canadian Forces Health Services. But soldiers remain reluctant to use some of the equipment they may need because it adds to the considerable weight they may already be carrying in the field, he said.

Lamontagne said he makes recommendations to commanders of the units, but it's the commanders who make the purchases. While about one in five soldiers needs specialized protection for hearing loss, the devices may be purchased based on general rather than individual needs, he said. The consequences of hearing problems are not always recognized because they are invisible, according to Chantal Laroche, a professor of audiology at the University of Ottawa. However, the side-effects — persistent ringing in the ear, for example, or an inability to communicate with others — can cause other serious health problems, including mental health issues, she said. Laroche said that in general, specialized hearing protections can be expensive, but the military should weigh those costs against the amount they are spending on health costs and disability claims.

# **Embarrassing Shortfall Nothing New for Canadian Military**

*Scott Taylor June 18, 2018*

In the past few weeks, one of the media stories buzzing about in Canadian defence circles is the official plea put out for soldiers to turn in their spare gear. It turns out that the Canadian Army has a chronic shortage of rucksacks and sleeping bags. Any soldier who has more than one of these items is being asked to voluntarily hand it back to the supply depot in order that it can be reissued to new recruits. Similarly, personnel who possesses this gear, but who are not currently in a job wherein field deployments are imminent, are also being asked to return these items. Naturally enough, the opposition Conservative party used this equipment shortfall to bash the Trudeau Liberals for failing to provide the essentials to Canada's "brave men and women" in uniform. What makes the sleeping bag shortage even more embarrassing and the Conservative Party's comments totally ironic, is that just four years ago the Harper government gave 795 sleeping bags to the Ukrainian armed forces. At the time, the nearly \$5 million in non-lethal military aid we gave to Ukraine – including the sleeping bags – was declared to be 'surplus' material. This was news to any close followers of the Canadian Military who were of course surprised to learn that our troops had a 'surplus' supply of anything.



*The Canadian Army is chronically short of rucksacks and sleeping bags*

Turns out that we didn't, and in the subsequent four years the supply systems failed to adjust for the current shortfall of sleeping bags. As embarrassing as this may seem, for those of us who keep close tabs on military affairs, shortages of essential equipment are really nothing new. Back in 2002, Canada's first battle group deployed into Afghanistan in dark green forest camouflage uniforms. The rest of the NATO alliance all had desert camouflage, as it better suits Afghanistan's dust bowl environment. The fact that the Canadian military did not have desert camouflage uniforms in stock made no sense as in the previous decade our troops had been deployed on three separate missions to desert theatres; Persian Gulf, Somalia and Eritrea. Rather than simply admit the forest green uniforms were an embarrassing lapse in our supply system, the official apologists claimed that it was Canada's intention to have our soldiers 'stand out' from the NATO crowd. Obviously, the political spin-doctors were not clear on the concept behind military camouflage. Things were even worse back in the mid 1990's when the Canadian Army had about 4,500 troops committed to operational peacekeeping missions in all corners of the world. We had three separate forces in the Balkans, one in Cyprus, and in Cambodia and briefly a battle group in Somalia. The tempo put a tremendous strain on the supply system and there was an acute shortage of combat

uniforms. In order to equip the battle groups training to deploy overseas, at one point the military had to take out ads in the base newspapers asking soldiers to turn in any spare uniforms they had in their closets. The uniforms already issued were worn until they were completely threadbare.

On a more dangerous note, in 1992, when Canada first deployed troops into the war-torn republics of the former Yugoslavia, there was often no peace to keep. With bullets and shells still flying, body armour and helmets were an essential piece of equipment for our soldiers. The problem was that at that juncture, Canada simply did not have enough helmets or flak jackets to equip all soldiers. When there was a rotation among the battle groups, on occasion incoming soldiers would literally take these items from the soldier they were replacing as they stepped off the plane. The frontline shortages of vital equipment was explained away by Ottawa bureaucrats as being a result of the rapid downsizing of the Canadian Armed Forces – from 90,000 personnel to 65,000 – at the end of the Cold War. We were to believe that a military theoretically equipped to wage World War Three in 1990, was too short of helmets, uniforms and flak vests to outfit a few hundred peacekeepers just two years later. Now, it is rucksacks and sleeping bags. Embarrassing, yes. But nothing new.

## **Exercise Maple Flag Significantly Cut Back**

Exact reasons why remain murky. David Pugliese Ottawa Citizen

Summary & Analysis: This year's exercise lasts 12 days, versus the 26 of previous years. The RCAF offers little explanation as to why.



*French Air Force M2000 Mirage fighters and Royal Canadian Air Force CC-130J Hercules transports prepare for take off as a CC-177 Globemaster takes off from the runway behind them during Exercise MAPLE FLAG at 4 Wing Cold Lake, Alberta on June 1, 2016.*

*Photo: Cpl Ian Thompson, 4 Wing Imaging.*

This year's Maple Flag exercise will run for only 12 days, less than half of time usually earmarked for the RCAF's annual premier training event. Exercise Maple Flag will take place at Cold Lake, from June 11 to June 22, with more than 1,500 Canadian military personnel and hundreds of military staff from other nations, according to the RCAF. But previous Maple Flag exercises have run more than twice as long. Last year Maple Flag ran from

May 29 to June 23 (26 days). It involved nearly 1,600 Canadian personnel and 500 personnel from various nations. Maple Flag 2016 ran from May 30 to June 24 (26 days). “Exercise Maple Flag has always been tailored to the needs of the RCAF and our participants,” stated an email from Tammy Bright Burden, the acting public affairs officer for 4 Wing Cold Lake. “This year it was determined that the needs could be fulfilled in a shorter exercise, therefore Maple Flag 51 is a two-week exercise.”

There was no further explanation why this year the RCAF and international forces coming to the exercise needed only half of their usual training. It is unclear whether future Maple Flags will also be reduced in scope. In the past the RCAF has billed Exercise Maple Flag as being critical to its training. The exercise is billed as an opportunity for participants to operate in a large scale operational environment and in the past the RCAF has pointed out that training at Maple Flag is on par with “real-world” operations. The exercise this year will include operations in areas such as command and control, air-to-air and air-to-surface tactics and weapons employment and air-to-air refuelling on a large scale. Aircraft from the US Navy, US Air Force, French Air Force, Royal Saudi Air Force, Belgian forces, Brazilian Air Force and Qatar Air Force will be involved in Maple Flag 2018. International ground forces will come from the Belgian Land Component Pathfinders, Royal Norwegian Air Force Ground Control Intercept Controllers, and United States Marine Corp Ground Control Intercept Controllers.

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

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

Enlistment brochure 1948 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1948.html>

Recruiting in 1977 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1977.html>

The 18 pounder journey <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2018.html>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

## **Who Is It**



**Last Week:** This appears to be another picture from the ‘practise water landing against a prepared position’ at Kitsilano Beach, possibly in 1942. 2 Naval ratings are shown operating an RCN ship to shore ‘portable’ radio on a wheeled cart. The soldiers are from the Canadian Fusiliers – City of London Regiment. (<http://thercr.ca/the-serving-component/-4-rcr> and [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific\\_Command\\_\(Canadian\\_Army\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Command_(Canadian_Army))) The party probably came ashore in one of the landing craft and set up a station on the beach.

**This Week:** Contrary to popular belief, those of us who volunteer at the extensive museum of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA, do have more than a grade 8 education. Some of us have even graduated from high school, and, as such, are entitled to join the annual course put on by the Organization of Military Museums of Canada. This year's course was held in Manitoba, a large, flat place between here and Ontario. Topics included pest control, conservation, history, and the exciting world of Non-Public Property.



Alongside such breath-taking lectures were visits to some very good museums. This week's photo is from one such place. In the shot are three questions for you. What is that aircraft on the left? What is the one on the right (the big one, not the tiny one)? What museum is this?

Here is a hint regarding the last question. My Uncle Bill was an instructor at this very site during the war. He spent several years there, hoping eventually to be allowed overseas. Finally, he was given his wish and posted to an operational squadron. However, the day he left Halifax for Europe, Hitler, having heard that Uncle Bill was coming for him, committed suicide.

On that note, be safe and send your answers to the editor [bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com) or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

### **From the 'Punitary'**

What does a mathematician say when something goes wrong? ....Figures!

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

An expert will always state the obvious.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get. - *Dale Carnegie*