



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 3, 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 Holiday Stand down - The Unit is stood down from Dec 12 - Jan 6. Last lunch was Dec 7 and the first lunch of 2017 will be Jan 11.

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

Jan 1 **New Year's Levée** Mess opens at 1100hrs

Jan 27 **Burns Supper** See poster at end of newsletter

Feb 4 **Regimental reunion dinner** - details TBA Note change of date

World War 2 - 1942

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

Jan 3rd: A pair of Allied command appointments: Chang Gai Shek is appointed CinC of all Allied forces in China, and General Wavell is to head the ABDA (American/British/Dutch/Australian) defences of Malaya-Java-Sumatra and Borneo. When the Japanese overran Lt Col Arthur Edward Cumming's battalion – 2/12th Frontier Force Regiment of the Indian Army -- near Kuantan Malaysia; he personally led the counterattack that stabilized the situation long enough to let the battalion withdraw. He supervised the withdrawal, despite two bayonet wounds in his stomach, and was wounded again while driving a Bren gun carrier to retrieve some of his men who had not managed to extricate themselves. He is awarded the Victoria Cross.

Jan 4th: Rabaul receives its first air raid of the War – the Japanese bomb the town on New Britain that will eventually be their main base in the Solomons. Now that their airfields in Thailand are open for business, Japanese tactical air support plays a major role in dislodging the 11th Indian Division from its positions on the River Slim in Malaya.

Jan 5th: Excited by the damage done to the Germans around Moscow, Stalin orders a general advance by all Fronts (very much against the advice of Zhukov). The defenders in the Philippines make their final withdrawals into the Bataan positions.

Jan 6th: The British move their green new 1st Armoured Division into eastern Libya. The British have reached El Aghila deep inside Libya, beyond which the Germans have paused to refit and reinforce themselves. The British badly need to do the same.

Jan 7th: The 11th Indian Division on the River Slim on Malaya is down to about 40% of its original strength – following several days of assaults and envelopments by the Japanese. Roosevelt presents the 1943 budget to Congress, with a whopping \$59 Billion in appropriations; on the order book for are 8,000,000 tons of shipping, 60,000 aircraft and 40,000 armoured vehicles. The Volkhov Front opens a counter-offensive to the south of besieged Leningrad; their orientation is an ambitious drive towards Novgorod. The Kalinin and West Fronts resume their attacks on Army Group Centre. USS Pollock sinks a Japanese freighter off Tokyo; the first of the 1,113 merchant ships and 201 warships American submariners will sink in the Pacific War.

Jan 8th: Wavell visits Singapore and orders a withdrawal in Malaya to the Muar River: Meanwhile, more Japanese troops are landing on the peninsula.

Jan 9th: The Soviets begin their new counter-offensive in the Valdai Hills NNW of Moscow and make good progress. The Japanese who start to engage the main defences of Bataan and find the American defences are a tough proposition.

Smoother Military Exit System for Soldiers Still Years Away

Minister blames backlog on previous 'more teeth, less tail' cuts at National Defence
By Murray Brewster, [CBC News](#) Posted: Dec 16, 2016



Retired corporal Pamela McArthur left the Canadian Forces in mid-October and has been waiting more than two months for her severance, military pension and veteran's benefits. (Provided by Pamela McArthur)

Building a smoother, less confusing exit path for soldiers departing the Canadian military will take another two or three years to implement and will likely not include significant recommendations from the Canadian Forces ombudsman, CBC News has learned. A draft copy of the strategy shows that many key elements of the Liberal government's overhaul of the system — namely the harmonization of financial benefits — will not take place until the 2018-19 budget year. That is likely to be frustrating for ex-military members who have been routinely caught up in a system that makes them wait weeks, sometimes months, for Canadian Forces pensions or separate veterans' benefits and entitlements. A copy of the May 2016 draft plan was obtained by CBC News. It was prepared

by a joint working group of National Defence and Veterans Affairs, and says building a bridge between the two departments is a priority. The 12-page document lays out a complex, multi-year program with the stated intent of making it easier for members of the military to transition from uniform to civilian life through more employment, financial certainty and, in some cases, medical certainty.

Both Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan and Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr have been tasked with — and often talk about — "closing the seam" between their organizations. The government and outside experts have come to the realization that ex-soldiers, whose transition out of uniform has been messed up, face higher probability of being in crisis. In some cases, a bad release from the Forces is believed to contribute to higher incidence of homelessness and perhaps even suicide. The plan does not include some of the most important recommendations recently made by military ombudsman Gary Walbourne, who has said there should be concierge services to guide soldiers through the complex system and to check up on them afterward. Walbourne also said Veterans Affairs should automatically accept the military medical diagnosis that ends a soldier's career, rather than insisting on doing its own assessment — a system that sometimes sees veterans denied benefits for conditions that ended their military careers. He also insisted that soldiers not be released until their benefits are set up, including pension and severance payments.

Pamela McArthur, a retired corporal and former military police officer, was released on medical grounds in mid-October and has yet to see her severance pay, military pension or disability benefits. "I'm a single mother. What do I do?" McArthur said in an interview with CBC News. "I'm a young person. I don't have the money and I lived paycheque to paycheque in the military." McArthur, who has no income, applied for veterans disability benefits in June, prior to her departure. She was only recently assigned a case manager. McArthur has been told she'll have to cover the cost of her medication until the government decides on her eligibility, which could take up to a year. "I don't know if I'm going to be covered. You just don't know," said McArthur, who spent just over nine years in uniform.

Separately, she has called the Canadian Forces pension line, where a recorded message tells callers not to clog up the answering machine with repeat phone calls. "So I left a message and I haven't heard anything," McArthur said. Frustrated and angry for both herself and others, she said the ombudsman's recommendations should be heeded. "It's horrible, it's really horrible," said McArthur, adding she cannot understand why a systemic overhaul takes so long and why the military and Veterans Affairs cannot have everything arranged for a departing soldier within a six-month window prior to their last day. "How can people wait this long? It just doesn't make any sense."

Sajjan said he is also upset with the current state of the system. His department has put more resources into fixing the problem, he said, but concedes it's not enough. According to Sajjan, the previous Conservative government's focus on cutting overhead at National Defence is to blame. "We have had this backlog because there were very little resources put to pensions,"

said Sajjan, referring to former prime minister Stephen Harper's demand that the military have "more teeth and less tail" in terms of bureaucracy. "The military had to make some difficult decisions when the deficit-reduction plan was brought in by the previous government to balance the budget. Now we're dealing with the impact of those decisions." Officials at the Defence Department insist they are working on solutions and hope to have a system in place to guide soldiers through transition. Canadian Forces spokesman Lt Kelly Boyden said they will run a pilot program called "Guided Support," which "would serve as a media-of-choice gateway to benefits and services." But Boyden's email response did not define precisely what that means.

A clue, however, can be found in internal documents obtained by CBC News. According to a one-page briefing note, dated last week, senior officials at National Defence are expected to debate on Friday three proposed "courses of action" to help close the seam. The centrepiece of the proposal that will go before MGen. Wayne Eyre, the deputy commander of military personnel, involves the establishment of a single "web-based portal" for soldiers that allows them to set up transitions accounts where all of the details of their departure can be accessed. In addition, the military would build transition centres that have a better ability to "triage" soldiers coming through the door, many of whom might have complex health concerns and pension issues. McArthur said she feels there is no sense of urgency or understanding that people's lives are at stake. "Basically, we're just a number, a piece of paper, and hopefully they'll get to you."

2017 Demo Hornet Will Honour Canada's 150th Anniversary

From RCAF Public Affairs December 14, 2016



Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) representatives gave attendees at the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) conference in Las Vegas a sneak peek at the planned design for the 2017 CF-18 Demonstration Hornet on December 7, 2016. Next year's Demonstration Hornet will be painted to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the confederation of Canada, and will honour the history of

the RCAF and Canadian Armed Forces as a part of Canada's proud history. The main colours are red and white, Canada's traditional colours.

The official logo for Canada 150 is placed throughout the design. The logo is composed of a series of diamonds, or "celebratory gems", arranged in the shape of the iconic maple leaf. The

four diamonds at the base represent the four original provinces that formed Confederation in 1867: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Additional diamonds extend out from the base to create nine more points. In total they symbolize Canada's 13 provinces and territories. On the left wing, the timespan of confederation is shown with the year of confederation, 1867, and the 150th anniversary year – 2017. The right wing bears the official name of the celebration – “Canada 150”. The RCAF is proud of the part it has played in Canadian history and the members the CF-18 Demo Team are honoured to represent the RCAF and our nation during Canada's 150th anniversary year.

Airbus C295W Search and Rescue Aircraft

Airbus wins Canadian search-and-rescue plane contract. *Josh Wingrove Bloomberg News Dec 08, 2016*



Airbus Group SE won a \$2.4-billion contract with the federal government to replace its search-and-rescue planes, beating out Leonardo-Finmeccanica SpA and Embraer SA for the deal. Ottawa awarded Airbus an 11-year contract, with a possible 15-year extension of the deal that could push its total value to \$4.7-billion, Public Services and Procurement Minister Judy Foote said Thursday. The previous government had estimated a cost of \$3.4-billion for the program.

The government is buying 16 Airbus C295W planes and will phase out its existing fleet, acquired as early as 1960. The planes are scheduled to be delivered between 2019 and 2022. “This aircraft is a game-changer for search and rescue in Canada,” Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said at a news conference held at a military base in Trenton, Ont. Airbus teamed up with Newfoundland-based Provincial Aerospace Ltd., Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. – the engine-making unit of United Technologies Corp. – and Quebec flight simulator maker CAE Inc. Once the Canadian deal is finalized, a total of 185 C295s will have been ordered by 25 countries, Airbus said. “We are acutely conscious of the importance of search and rescue in Canada's vast and challenging territory and we are honored to have been selected to provide the aircraft and service to ensure that the role is carried out effectively,” Simon Jacques, president of Airbus Defence and Space Canada, said in a written statement Thursday.

Ms Foote recently said Canada is placing a larger emphasis on spinoff benefits in procurement decisions. On Thursday, she said the Airbus bid was “specifically structured to take full advantage of this country's strength in commercial and defence aerospace manufacturing.” In its statement, Airbus said Canadian manufacturing components make the C295s about 20-per-cent Canadian. The purchase shows the growing importance of industrial benefits in Canadian procurement decisions, according to Richard Shimooka, a research fellow at the Ottawa-based

Conference of Defence Associations Institute. The criteria allowed the C295 to win despite concerns over its performance, Mr. Shimooka said. “This aircraft likely won certainly on cost, but also certainly the value proposition,” he said, referring to the spinoffs. “I think it’s revealing.” CAE’s share of the contract may exceed \$300-million, “with meaningful equipment components in the initial one or two years followed by several years of revenues from recurring services,” Fadi Chamoun, a BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. analyst in Toronto, said Thursday in a note to clients. He expects “sustained moderate growth” in CAE’s defence unit, following several years of “muted” demand. Pilots and technicians for this program will be trained at a CAE facility in Comox, BC.

Fighter Jets Canada’s search-and-rescue procurement process began over a decade ago. The race was said to have narrowed to a contest between Airbus and the Leonardo-led consortium’s C-27J Spartan. Embraer also submitted a bid. “In the original procurement, the C-27J was a clearly more effective aircraft,” for the Canadian Forces, Mr. Shimooka said. With the C295, “there’s higher risk involved.” In a statement, the Leonardo consortium confirmed it had been told its bid was not chosen, and declined further comment. Embraer responded by saying flight testing of its KC-390 plane is progressing toward certification next year and that it’s convinced its plane is the best for Canada. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government is also replacing its fighter jet fleet, announcing last month it planned to buy 18 Boeing Co. Super Hornets as a stopgap measure while beginning an open bidding process for a permanent replacement for its aging CF-18s.

Lockheed's Hybrid Airships Gets Launch Customer in Canada

Aerospace & Defense Nov 16, 2016 Allison Lampert | Ottawa Reuters



The operator of Lockheed Martin Corp's (LMT.N) blimp-like hybrid airships on Wednesday announced its first customer, a Canadian mining company that expects to lease

seven of the heavy-lift cargo aircraft for a decade starting in 2019. Quest Rare Minerals Ltd (QRM.TO) will lease the airships from operator Straightline Aviation in the first commercial use deal for the airships, which are filled mostly with helium, said Hybrid Enterprises LLC, which sells the aircraft for Lockheed. Quest signed a memorandum of understanding with Straightline on the sidelines of a Canadian aerospace conference. The deal between Straightline and Quest is valued at US\$850 million, including fuel costs, over the 10-year period.

Lockheed, the US Defense Department's No 1 supplier, has said the airships will revolutionize the way oil and mining companies haul equipment to the Arctic and other remote areas without roads. They can move 20 tons of cargo and set down on nearly any flat surface, including sand, snow and water, the company said. Quest is in the early stages of developing a rare-earth metal

project in northern Quebec and does not yet have an operating mine. The airship is still awaiting certification from Transport Canada. Lockheed has long been trying to secure a customer for the airships. Lockheed is working with Hybrid to target a commercial market for the slow-moving airships. The airships would be used by Quest to provide dedicated air services between the company's Strange Lake complex mine site in Northern Quebec and Schefferville, which has a rail link to the Port of Sept-Iles. Straightline, the only announced operator of the airships, expects to convert a letter of intent into a firm order for 12 of the aircraft in early 2017, said CEO Mark Dorey.

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Who Is It

Last Week: The lady is Lorraine McAllister. Popular singer, actress, b Saskatoon 12 Apr 1924, d Vancouver 27 Apr 1984. Lorraine McAllister sang with the dance bands of Ken Peaker (Saskatoon), Johnny Holmes (Montreal), and Art Hallman (Toronto), before joining the Dal Richards Orchestra in the late 1940s; she sang with the band until 1965. She married Richards in 1951. In 1952, she entertained Canadian troops in South Korea. McAllister starred on many CBC Vancouver radio and TV shows, on CBC TV's *Holiday Ranch* from Toronto and CTV's *West Coast* from Vancouver, had her own TV show (*Meet Lorraine*, 1958-9), and sang with Theatre Under the Stars. She was later honoured by the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame. Just after this picture was taken, she fired the 25pdr, dropping a round onto a position held by the enemy. The band's guitarist fired the next round.



This Week: I thought we'd stick with an army theme this week, and another photo from my late father's collection. The date is April, 1953, and 1RCHA is departing the front lines for a long train journey down to Pusan (now Busan), then a ship to Kure in Japan, where another ship, an US Army one at that, will take them home (well, almost, as they ended up in Seattle).



Strolling along, as officers are wont to do, are two men who both had very interesting histories, which intersected in Korea. But, who are they? As for hints, well, the shorter of the two is Canadian, and the other a Brit. Keen-eyed chaps will instantly know his regiment.

From that, can you tell us not only their names, but why they are together? Also, as a bonus, what did the Canadian do in Korea that so confused our American cousins? Whatever happened to his son?

Your musings can be sent either to the editor (bob.mugford@outlook.com) or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

What is the difference between a conductor and a teacher?
A conductor minds the train - a teacher trains the mind.

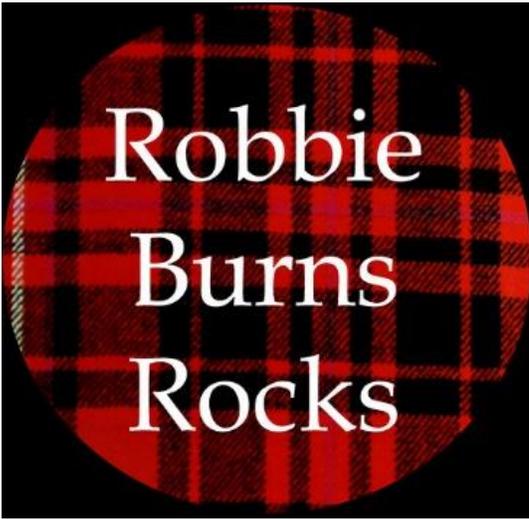
Murphy's Other Laws

Any order that can be misunderstood has been misunderstood.

Quotable Quotes

I offered my opponents a deal: "if they stop telling lies about me, I will stop telling the truth about them." ~Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952.

“The” Burns Supper: Saturday, 21 January, 2017



Fort Fraser has hosted a Burns Supper since the 1980's; and your editor has attended most, if not all, of these wondrous events over the past 20 years. Based upon that experience I feel qualified and safe to say ***'tis a poor deil who's missed one – he/she hasnae lived well!***

The evening is all about good fellowship, friendly banter and fine fare.

Add to that the Kilt, the Tartan sash, the Pipes and The Haggis – not to mention a wee dram o' the *uisgùe batha* – and you complete the formula for what my parents called a “swell affair” and what many have lately called

“the best party of the season”.

Bigger & Better:

Lately our Burns Supper has been straining the limits of the capacity of the mess and the “classroom” with over 85 seated for dinner. There is, however, plenty of room “below decks” (as the matelots say), on the 15FD parade deck.

There we find plenty of elbow room for diners, Pipers can manoeuvre more elegantly, and speakers can be more easily seen and heard by all.

For the 2017 Burns Supper the Garrison would like to encourage all members to attend and ***bring 2 or 3 guests or at least 1 guest couple.***

The intent is:

- a) to optimize the number to make use of the parade deck and
- b) to introduce the 78th to prospective members and participants, in other words to show-off!

Burns Night on the Parade, we are certain, will include a most entertaining line-up of musical and poetical talent, some interesting whisky choices, and opportunities to win worthwhile draw and auction prizes.

Please be sure to advise the PMC (scand@shaw.ca) of your intent to attend and the number of guests accompanying you. RSVP/ASAP as the saying goes.

Tickets are \$78pp

Regimental Whiskey Tasting



Hosted by:
*The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess and
Sgts' & WOs' Mess*



Proceeds to:
*The BCR(DCO)
Unit Fund*

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2017

Time: Bars Open from 6:30pm - Midnight.
Whiskies presented 7:30-10pm.

Location: Upstairs Messes of The British Columbia Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

Dress: Casual Dress/Kilt Encouraged (No Jeans Please)

Price: \$50/person (Includes 5x Full Measures of Whiskey)

****For those not partaking in the Whiskey Tasting, the option of a \$20/person donation to the Unit Fund is available. This includes unlimited soft drinks for the evening.**

RSVP: RSVP **MANDATORY**, as tickets are limited!
For information or to register, please email the PMC of the Officers' Mess, Maj Adam McLeod, at: adamcleod@gmail.com

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: "BCR Officers' Mess"
No cancellations after January 14, 2017

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