



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News June 6, 2017

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get a copy.

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Wednesday Lunches - We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Attendance has been down recently. Most of our regular attendees, who are retired, are slowly fading away and the next generation seems, by and large, to be too busy to attend. Guests are always welcome and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

Big Changes Coming Renovations in the Officers Mess started this week and are expected to take all summer (if not longer). During renovations, lunches will be held in the WO & Sgts Mess.

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

June 18 - Point Atkinson Tour

World War 2 - 1942

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

June 7th: The Germans start the final assault on Sevastopol, they have nine divisions (including two Romanian ones), while the Soviets have seven battered infantry divisions and three naval infantry brigades: Days of intense combat in the ruined city will ensue. The wounded USS Yorktown is fatally torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. I-26 sinks a merchant ship in the Straits of Juan de Fuca between Vancouver Island and Washington; the only time a ship is torpedoed within sight of the North American mainland's Pacific Coast.

June 9th: The Czech village of Lidice is entirely liquidated as a result of the death of Heydrich. So far, the infuriated Nazis have murdered about 1,000 Czechs (the Nazi leadership can pour the blood of its soldiers out like water, but touch one of the elite and all hell breaks loose). The ferocious fighting over Malta results in the arrival of another reinforcement draft of 32 Spitfires. The British and Americans create combined boards for production and food.

June 10th: The 2,700 Free French troops who defended Bir Hacheim for two weeks so far put up yet another stubborn fight, and then slip out this evening. USS Wasp and USS North Carolina pass through the Panama Canal to join the Pacific fleet.

June 11th: Rommel's forces break out from the Cauldron and hit the British tanks between Knightsbridge and El Adem. Hull and Litvinov sign a new lend-lease deal in Moscow. Operation Harpoon and Vigorous begin, the two convoys run towards Malta from Gibraltar and Egypt respectively; Harpoon has the battleship HMS Malaya, the carriers HMS Eagle and HMS Argus, plus four cruisers and 17 destroyers to escort six merchant ships, while the other convoy has 11 merchant ships with an escort of eight cruisers and 26 destroyers. The Romanian Mountain Corps joins in the assault on Sevastopol.

June 12th: US B-24 Liberators based in Egypt make a long-range raid on Polesti in Romania. The British Guards Brigade at Knightsbridge comes in for a severe mauling and badly run British counterattacks lose another 100 tanks – leaving Rommel with a rare superiority in numbers and ownership of the battlefield so his salvage teams can get to work on his damaged vehicles. Unaware that their raids have been tipped off, the SAS and LRDG go in after Axis airfields to find most of them are on alert – the British begin to suspect their communications security has been seriously compromised.

June 13th: South African and British infantry on the Gazala Line and the Guards at Knightsbridge start to retreat; Rommel has them flanked and it is time to go. At the instructions of his friend President Roosevelt, “Wild Bill” Donovan becomes the founding director of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), forerunner to the CIA.

The US Air Force is Developing a Baby Version of the ‘Mother of All Bombs’

Oriana Pawlyk, military.com May 22, 2017

The next “Mother of All Bombs” will probably be smaller, leaner and lighter but will still pack a punch. It's what scientists and engineers at the US Air Force Research Lab are working on as part of their next-generation munition concept. Part of the Advanced Ordnance Technologies program, the bomb could be structured to be lighter by using 3D-printed reconstructed loads within the bomb instead of in the casing — plus distributed blast yields, said Dr John Corley, the core technical competency lead for ordnance sciences at AFRL. “We've been working on printing [munitions] for the past five to 10 years,” Corley said Thursday during a Defense Department Lab day in the Pentagon courtyard. Corley and colleagues were showcasing a prototype one-seventh the scale of a bomb the lab is working on, along with various fuse technologies. One of the key enablers to prototyping the bomb is through 3D printing. “Right now, most of your penetrator munitions have two-inch case walls,” Corley said, which prohibits a larger blast and creates more debris.

Instead, the lab has begun printing casing prototypes — with steel — that moves the load from the case to within the bomb itself (the vertical loads look very similar to a DNA double helix within the bomb). Furthermore, the lab is using distributed embedded fusing in the bomb “so

not only do we have all these other features we're relocating the fireset for the bomb into the explosive, so you can distribute that around different places [with]in the bomb to improve survivability," Corley said. In current penetrating munitions, the ways in which the fuse is hardwired to the case is limiting, Corley said. By separating the fuse from the case could make the bomb more flexible of when it hits and how it hits. The fuse prototypes are also being 3D printed at this time. The next step for the advanced future bomb will be to incorporate these various "selectable effects," as Corley called them. "In a selectable effects, on any given day you might want it to be the same weapon to give you a small blast footprint, or a large blast footprint, and right now we can control this ...height of burst," he said. The burst height controls the range of damage. The succeeding shockwave — just like the 21,600-pound, GPS-guided GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast, or MOAB, uses to penetrate its target — could very well be controlled to be smaller or larger depending on which selectable effect is used.



The guided bomb unit-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb prototype is shown moments before impact. The detonation created a mushroom cloud that could be seen 20 miles away.

Photo via DoD/Wikimedia Commons

Thus, how much or how little yield the bomb exerts could be determined for whatever the mission may be — so for once, size (of the actual bomb) doesn't matter. Looking past MOAB-style bombs, Corley also noted the military aircraft of today are becoming smaller, so weapons too need to adapt — and, of course, fit. "Workhorse munitions for us are 500 pound and "Workhorse munitions for us are 500 pound and 2,000 pound munitions, but we'd like to get to a 100 pound munition for instance that has the same output as a 500 pound bomb," he said. Corley said whether the Air Force will make the bombs in-house — much like the MOAB — is still to be determined. Tail kits on bombs, for example, are more likely to be constructed by defense industry companies than the bombs themselves, which "the government owns," he said. Physical bombs being worked on through the AOT program are still a "few years off" because most are still in the concept stage, Corley said.

Military UAV Insights From US, Canada and German Armed Forces

SMi reports: Military leaders from US, Canada and German Armed Forces to discuss UAV's roles from an operational perspective and explore current and future challenges. 05/23/17

In order to resolve common security concerns and enhance situation awareness, Central and Eastern European nations are actively acquiring and upgrading their UAV capabilities. The Czech Armed Forces, Slovenian MoD and Macedonian Armed Forces are looking to learn from players who are already experts in the fields. Speaking at SMi's UAV Technology Central & Eastern Europe 2017, military leaders from the US, Canada and German Armed Forces will discuss UAV's roles from an operational perspective and explore current and future challenges. Major General Scottie D Carpenter, Incoming Deputy Commanding General Operations, US Army Reserve will lead a presentation to discuss how UAV can be used for disaster response

and for providing important reconnaissance information to support national and border defence. Lieutenant Colonel Krista Bouckaert, Commander 4th Artillery Regiment, Canadian Army will provide an overview on the 4th Artillery Regiment activities and structure and discuss how "big" and "small" UAV are being deployed. Collaborating with partner nations to foster relationships and improve overall know-how will also be an important discussion topic. Lieutenant Colonel Roland Runge, Head ISR & UAS Division, German Air Force will provide information on the role of Germany in the development of the Heron TP and discuss the importance of achieving a highly developed European UAV systems.

The 2-day conference will provide progress updates on procurement and development of UAV capability in Central and Eastern Europe as well as enable attendees to explore the current needs and challenges facing the region and gain an understanding of UAV's role in optimising command and control. Meet senior representatives from leading CEE nations that are actively acquiring and upgrading their UAV capability and hear the very latest technological developments from research and industry that are enhancing operational deployment of UAV. Other notable presenters include: Bundeswehr, Canadian Army, Croatian



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Ministry of Defence, Czech Armed Forces, Czech University of Defence, Estonian MoD, Formion SA, Hellenic Army General Staff, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, Latvian MoD, Lockheed Martin Canada CDL Systems, Macedonian Army, Ministry of Transport Czech Republic, NSPA, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, PA Consulting, Slovenian MoD, Swedish Defence University, US Army Europe and much more. In addition, the conference also features an exclusive pre-conference workshop on "Proposal of UAS Training Programs for Territorial Defence Forces" hosted by Justyna Zdanowska, President, GEO-UAV taking place on 26 September 2017.

The Canary Girls: The Workers the War Turned Yellow

Lauren Potts & Monica Rimmer BBC News 20 May 2017

The sacrifice of soldiers killed during World Wars One and Two is well-documented. But the efforts of munitions workers stained yellow by toxic chemicals is a story much less told. A campaign now hopes to honour the so-called Canary Girls, who risked life and limb to supply ammunition to the frontline. In 1915, while men were fighting on the battlefields, thousands of women were answering the government's cry for help by joining the war effort. In their droves, they signed up to fill the gaps left by those called into service, taking jobs in transport, engineering, mills and factories to keep the country moving. But while those who swapped domestic life for the assembly line were spared the trauma of the trenches, their jobs were nonetheless fraught with danger. Munitions workers battling the "shell crisis" of 1915 were prime targets for enemy fire, with sites routinely flattened by enemy bombs. Those who were spared such a fate were no less safe, facing daily peril by handling explosive chemicals that carried the risk of them contracting potentially fatal diseases. And for some, the effects of their work were immediately visible; a lurid shade of yellow that stained their skin and hair and earned them a nickname - the Canary Girls.



Women in munitions factories were tasked with filling shells with explosives.

Photo: IWM

"We were like a canary," said Nancy Evans, recalling her time at the Rotherwas factory in Herefordshire during World War Two. "We were yellow, it penetrated your skin. Your hair turned blonde and on the top of the crown was the proper colour of your hair." Though temporary, the affects of packing shells with trinitrotoluene - more commonly known as TNT - ran more than skin-deep. According to Dr Helen McCartney, from King's College London, some workers gave birth to "bright yellow" babies. Gladys Sangster, whose mother worked at National Filling Factory Number 9 near Banbury, Oxford, was one of them. "I was born [during the war] and my skin was yellow," she told the BBC. "That's why we were called Canary Babies. "Nearly every baby was born yellow. It gradually faded away. My mum told me you took it for granted, it happened and that was it." As well as suffering the cosmetic consequences of working with TNT, workers risked amputation with every shell that passed through their hands. Amy Dale, who is researching munitions factories for her PhD, said those at Royal Ordnance Filling factories (ROFs) risked losing fingers and hands, burns and blindness. "In these factories, they would take the casing, fill it with powder, then put a detonator in the top and that had to be tapped down. If they tapped too hard, it would detonate," she said. "It happened to one lady, who was pregnant at the time, and it blinded her and she lost both her hands. "She saw the pregnancy through, but the only way she could identify the baby was with her lips, which still had feeling."

Such were fears that a rogue spark caused by static might lead to an explosion that women were banned from wearing nylon and silk. Nellie Bagley, whose first shift at Rotherwas in 1940 was on her 18th birthday, remembers having to strip down to her underwear to be inspected. "You took everything off and you had just your bra and if it had a metal clip on the back you couldn't wear it... and no hair grips of course, because they would cause friction... explosions." The women operated in a tense atmosphere, heavy with the weight of government fears that information could fall into the wrong hands. Posters papered the walls bearing slogans such as "Keep Mum She's Not So Dumb" to deter talk among workers. "They were everywhere, [the word] 'war' with a big ear on it and 'Gossip Costs Lives'," remembered Mrs Bagley. "You were aware all the time of being watched." But even in the darkest of moments, there remained a sense of workforce camaraderie. "When we were on nights they used to say 'Come on Lou, get us started singing'," said Louisa Jacobs, 94. "We would sing from night to the early hours of the morning. It kept us going because we didn't realise the danger we were working in." Fellow Rotherwas worker, Amy Hicks, added: "We would be singing, even when the bombs fell." And fall they did. In 1942, the Rotherwas factory was attacked by the Luftwaffe, which dropped a pair of 250kg bombs on the 300-acre site. Nancy Billings, who was coming to the end of a night shift, survived the blast.

"It was about 6am and the girl next to me had said, 'I'm so tired I could sleep forever'. Then all of a sudden, the siren went off. "This plane came down so low you could see the big black cross on it and then the bomb dropped. It had a direct hit. "There was [numerous] girls killed in there. It always comes to me about the girl working next to me, because she was one that didn't get out." Of those who survived life in the factories, many were beset with health problems in later life. Some reported bone disintegration, while others developed throat problems and dermatitis from TNT staining. "The women suffered all sorts of illnesses and ailments from turning yellow, but turning yellow was probably the least of their problems," said Dr McCartney. "They accepted all sort of terrible working conditions, they knew they were putting themselves in danger - TNT was yellow, they saw what was happening. "But there's evidence that it was seen as a patriotic act... as them doing their bit for the war effort." Others suffered more sinister illnesses - one of the most serious being a liver disease called toxic jaundice. There were 400 cases of the disease during World War One - a quarter of which were fatal, said historian Anne Spurgeon. "There was the yellow that was the staining of the skin, which while unpleasant, wasn't fatal or a serious disease. "But there was this liver disease that was a different yellow. "When they had repeated exposure to TNT, it attacked the liver. It was a poison and caused anaemia and jaundice."

In 1914, it was discovered TNT was poisonous and the following year, toxic jaundice became a notifiable disease. Health and safety measures in factories were stepped up to limit exposure, such as providing protective clothing, but only so much could be done to eradicate the risks. "[The government] wasn't ignoring it, they were trying to do something about it within the limits of their knowledge at the time," said Dr Spurgeon. "But [TNT] was what had to go into the shells, so they had to use it." About a million women worked at thousands of Ministry of Munitions sites during both world wars. But the number of those killed or seriously injured in the line of duty is a mystery - something Ms Dale is trying to find out as part of her research. "It was a really dangerous job, which I think is why so little is known about it," she said. Women weren't allowed anywhere near a gun, yet they were filling shells in factories. "They were actively engaged in an act of war which I think made people uncomfortable." A campaign led by BBC Hereford and Worcester hopes to see records of how many workers died released, as well as cement the place of munitions workers in war history. The project has already been discussed at Prime Minister's Questions and there are plans to unveil a statue at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

But Ms Billings said she had always felt the sacrifices made by the so-called munitionettes should have been recognised. "I do think [we] should've got a medal for what [we] did, I've always thought that. And we should've got a letter from the Queen. "It was a very dangerous job and it affected [our] health." For the relatives of those who worked at Rotherwas, which had 4,000 women at its peak, recognition has been a long time coming. "It was such a dangerous job," said Mrs Hicks's daughter, Jenny Swiffield. "It was as dangerous as going up and flying and dropping bombs. "I'm [proud] and I think anyone would be if their parents had done something like that."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The war diaries updates from 100 years ago continue on our What's New page – I've included the war diaries from the higher artillery formations as well.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new>

More picture from the Change of Command have been added.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2017.html>

Pictures from the Regimental participation in the Ride to Live event have been placed on pages from 2010 to 2017. Let me know if you recognize yourself in any of the pictures so that I can include your name.

Sergeant Edward Arlett Dickie, MM has been added to the list of Military Medal holders.

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

New Yorke Island pages have been added. These include:

Some of the equipment used on the island -

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke---equipment.html>

Some of the Maps we have digitized of the island -

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke---maps.html>

Some of the airplanes that visited the island -

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke---airplanes.html>

Do you have any Yorke Island information hiding at home that you would like to share?

Keep those stories and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: I attach another photo of the same scene taken on another occasion. The gunners in the dungeon are laying a 9.2-inch Coast Defense gun early in the war, before the new mountings were installed. If west coast, then this is at Albert Head. The laying "room" received its information from the CP on mag slip dials and they then lined up the pointers. Note that the layer has large hand wheel, while the elevation gunner has a crowbar like attachment on the wheel so he could put his back into it, or get assistance. We think the curved rail overhead is part of the ammunition handling system. The ammo came up from the deep magazine, and then had to be transferred from the top of the elevator to the loading tray under the breech that then took it up through a trap door behind the breech where it was rammed home. Obviously, the magazine shaft and the breech lifter rarely lined up as the gun traversed. The Gunner on the left is pushing the shell from the magazine lift over to the loading lift.

This Week: Not all that happened in the past is written down, nor is everything of import written down in popular histories. One if the shady areas of the history of the Royal Regiment

in the Second World War is that of anti-aircraft units in the greater Vancouver region. That they were successful is not in doubt; no Japanese aircraft managed to get through our wall of steel and bomb our cherished Frappuccino establishments (Vancouver was known then as the “Barista of Democracy”). We also know, more or less, what units were stationed around the area (the “less” being the AA units that were variously attached to commands that came and went, and passed through the area, either on exercise or on temporary duties). What is in doubt is where they had their positions. The folk memory of such is rapidly fading, and the photographic evidence sparse, due to wartime regulations.



However, our ace archivist, Susan Moogk, came across the attached photo in the fonds of the late Vic Stevenson. There is no label on the photo itself, but the accompanying envelope (itself of 1980s vintage) states “Point Grey Golf Club ack-ack position”. Well, we don’t think so, given that the said club is on a slope by the Fraser River,

and even now there are no such grid-line streets about. So, veteran geographers and surveyors, can you tell us where you think this ack-ack position is? Do you know of any other locations in the Lower Mainland? Answers and assumptions may be sent to the hard-working editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com (email me for the photo so you can zoom in) or to the less-hard working author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). By the way, if you have any other photos of interest that would test our readers, please let me know.

From the ‘Punitary’

What did the sea say to the sand? Nothing, it simply waved.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Fools rush in where fools have been before.

Quotable Quotes

The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it.
Arnold H. Glasow



CANADA 150 TOUR of POINT ATKINSON LIGHT STATION

Lighthouse Park Preservation Society and West Vancouver Historical Society invite you to join a free guided tour of the light station grounds. Learn about the link between the lighthouse and Canada's confederation. Climb the steps to the base of the lighthouse (the tower will not be open). Enter the Fog Alarm museum to learn about its inner workings and the role of the lighthouse keeper. Sit inside the Power House to view a short slide show on the presence of the military during WWII.

For more information about the tour and to register please email pointatkinsonpals@gmail.com

TOUR DATES

Sunday May 14

Sunday June 18

Sunday July 23

Sunday August 13

Sunday Sept. 3

TOUR TIMES

1:00 pm & 3:00 pm

Registration required
Limit 20 per tour



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