



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

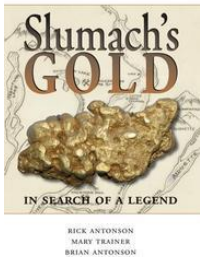
Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News June 10, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

The Mess has downgraded the dress requirements for Wednesday lunches to Business Casual. Business casual can best be described as our 'summer dress'. Minimum requirement is an open neck button up shirt with dress pants or slacks (no blue jeans, pls). Of course we never discourage the wearing of jackets and ties.

Just a reminder to attendees:- remember to deposit your lunch tickets in the receptacle when you pick up your soup/salad. More importantly, if you bring guests please make sure they turn in their tickets. At the moment we are **STILL** missing tickets 10, 13 - please check your pockets and with any lunch guests you brought in the last couple of weeks. Please let us know if you have these tickets.

Lost gold mine of Pitt Lake. June 11th *Looking for something to do this summer?? Pack your camping gear, get out your maps, come to the lunch this Wednesday and take in Brian's talk!*



The book *Slumach's Gold* chronicles what is possibly Canada's greatest lost-mine story. It searches out the truth behind a Salish man's hanging for murder in 1891 and tracks the intriguing legend about him that grew after his death. It was a legend that turned into a drama of international fascination when Slumach—the hanged criminal—was mysteriously linked to gold nuggets "the size of walnuts." The stories claimed that Slumach had placed a curse on a hidden mother lode to protect it from interlopers and trespassers just before he plunged to his death "at the wrong end of a five-strand rope." Although many have attempted to find Slumach's gold over the past 100 years, following tantalizing clues that are part of the legend itself, none have succeeded—or have they? Brian Antonson will tell all at this presentation which will start after lunch (at 1330hrs) on June 11th

Veteran from Vancouver Returns to Normandy

Chinese-Canadian veteran from Vancouver returns to Normandy beaches 70 years later
BY GERRY BELLETT, VANCOUVER SUN JUNE 5, 2014

It's been 70 years since George Chow saw Normandy in flames — the town of Caen being bombed almost out of existence — with the British, Canadian and American armies in a death-grip with the Germans. "That's when we got there — the day they bombed Caen. All you could see were planes coming in, then heading back to England," said Chow, 92, a Bofors gunner with the 16th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

Until this year, he had never been back. “I meant to but I never did,” said Chow, who was interviewed before leaving for France. Today, assisted by his son George Alexander, he is attending the 70th anniversary ceremonies marking the D-Day landings at Juno Beach on June 6, 1944. “My son’ll be my caretaker, push my wheelchair if we have to walk far,” said Chow, whose legs are not what they were. Not that he did much marching in the army. “The infantry walked a lot. We didn’t, being the artillery we always rode in a truck.” Chow is one of a dwindling band of Canadian veterans who fought in Normandy attending today’s ceremony, held outside the Juno Beach Centre — which is a short distance from the landing sites where



the Canadians came ashore a lifetime ago. If their numbers are fewer — he’ll be part of a group of 96 veterans and their families going from B.C. — the number of veterans like him will be fewer yet.

Chinese Canadian veteran George Chow (left), who volunteered at 18, and his son, George Alexander, attended the 70th anniversary ceremonies in Normandy marking the D-Day landings at Juno Beach on June 6, 1944. Photograph by: Arlen Redekop, PNG

Chow, who was raised in Victoria and lives in Vancouver, was a volunteer and one of the few Chinese-Canadians accepted into the army in B.C. due to the province’s lamentable history of racism, which discouraged recruitment of non-whites.

Some Chinese-Canadians travelled outside of the province to find regiments to join, many having success in Alberta, but Chow walked into Victoria’s Bay Street Armoury Aug. 26, 1940, and was sworn in — the only ethnic Chinese in the regiment. He was only 18 and today he’s still not sure why they took him, but he was sent to Vancouver’s Seaforth Armoury for basic training and in 1941 the regiment was shipped to England. Why would he offer to fight for a country that considered him a second-class citizen, unable to vote and subjected to other forms of discrimination? From a sense of adventure, he says. He’d seen some of his old school friends from Colwood in uniform and he wanted to be like them.

In an interview with The Vancouver Sun in 2012, he said racial discrimination played no part in his army experience. “Just brothers, that’s what it amounts to — we drank out of the same cup,” he said. While stationed in England, his unit was assigned to protect coastal towns in the southeast being harassed by low-flying German bombers. “They’d come in over the coast firing their machine guns along a street or dropping bombs and we were the first all-Canadian unit to shoot one of them down. It wasn’t my troop but we were pretty proud of that,” said Chow. Some of the regiment were chosen for the disastrous Dieppe raid in 1942, but Chow was fortunate to miss it.

Lord Lovat: he was a giant among giants on D-Day

The Fraser clan were proud to erect a new memorial to Lord 'Shimi' Lovat, who led the Commandos ashore on Sword Beach

By Virginia Fraser 7:00AM BST 06 Jun 2014



'The handsomest man to cut a throat' was how Winston Churchill described Shimi (pictured in 1942)

There were 200 of us at Ouistreham on Sword Beach – Fraser family and clan, French and British dignitaries, a Scots Guards piper, standard bearers and a few veteran French commandos. We were gathered in Normandy to unveil a bronze statue in memory of my father-

in-law, Brigadier Lord Lovat, Commander 1st Commando Brigade, and all those who served under him, including 200 Free French. The statue is in a small memorial garden, no bigger than the German bunker that stood on the spot 70 years ago. There, at 6.50am on June 6 1944, “Shimi” Lovat led his men into battle on D-Day, all of them buoyed by his personal piper, Bill Millin, playing Highland Laddie and Scotland The Brave.

The unveiling took place last month. In an ideal world, it would have happened on the precise anniversary, but the garden is small and today will play host to the Queen, President Obama, Chancellor Merkel, Prime Minister Cameron and President Putin as they pay tribute not just to Shimi and his men, but to all of those who gave their lives.



*The sculpture of Brigadier
The Lord Lovat DSO, MC*

by Ian Rank-Broadley

It is a magnificent spot – the garden well-tended, the sands golden – and, on the day we gathered there, the sea glimmered. As the veil was gently drawn from the statue, a Fraser cousin read those famous lines from the Commando prayer: “Teach us to give and not to count the cost/ To fight

and not to heed the wounds/ To toil and not to seek for rest ... We will remember them.” There wasn’t a dry eye among us.

I had been very keen that the young be included in this gathering of the clan. And so 35 scampering Fraser children, dressed in tartan trews and kilts, along with the family terrier, a tartan ribbon in his collar, all stood still at that moment. I pictured Shimi, on the eve of D-Day, then 32, addressing his troops after prayers. The service was over, and the men had been kneeling on sodden turf in driving rain in a Hampshire field. “I wish you all the best of luck in what lies ahead,” he had told them. “This will be the greatest military venture of all time; the Commando Brigade has an important role to play and 100 years from now your children’s children will say, ‘They must have been giants in those days’.” Our thoughts also turned to a generation of tough, brave young men, only a little older than our scampering children. They had leaped into those icy seas on D-Day, sometimes out of their depth and unable to swim, bowed down by their mountainous backpacks. They had fought their way up the beaches, seeing friends being blown to smithereens around them. Operation Overlord had begun. These indomitable young men had come to liberate Europe. As 24th Chieftain of Clan Fraser, Shimi – MacShimidh to give him his Gaelic title – was born into leadership. It was in his genes (David Stirling, his cousin, founded the SAS). Resilient, tough, charismatic, he believed in public service and in serving his country, but he also had a literary, almost poetic bent. Commanding and dashing, he exuded confidence that instilled courage in those around him.

“The handsomest man to cut a throat” was how Winston Churchill once described him. He had the best posture of anyone I have met. Ian Rank-Broadley’s sculpture captures it brilliantly. We chose Ian for the commission because he is first and foremost a military sculptor, with real knowledge and understanding of fighting men and women. His work at the Armed Forces

Memorial in Staffordshire is remarkable.



Simon Lovat (Shimi’s grandson) and Arlette Gée and Corporal Oakes from The Scots Guards

Shimi’s leadership qualities were tested to the limit on D-Day. The mission of 1st Commando Brigade – or 1st Special Service Brigade, as it was known in June 1944 – was to break through German defences on the

eastern side of Sword Beach. At lightning speed, they were to fight their way four miles inland to Pegasus Bridge over the Caen Canal, and bring reinforcements to the 6th Airborne Division, relieving the glider-borne troops who had taken the bridge at dead of night. Shimi and his commandos arrived just after the appointed hour of midday, to the swirl of pipes. He famously

apologised for being two minutes late. The bridges were crucial; at the push of a detonator, the Germans could have destroyed them. With the Allied supply lines cut, the invasion could have foundered. Plunging into further battles, Shimi was nearly killed four days later by Allied shrapnel and was given the last rites by Father René de Naurois. His last words as he handed over his brigade were: “Take over the Brigade and not a step back; not a step back!”

Members of the de Naurois family joined us at the unveiling ceremony. Afterwards, Arlette Gondrée, whose family owns the café beside Pegasus Bridge, hosted a lunch for us all. Her parents helped those who resisted the German occupation and, as a young child, she lived with an acrid smell of skin, cordite and blood as the wounded were carried in secret on to the kitchen table. She remembers D-Day vividly; playing in the garden beside the canal, hearing Millin’s bagpipes as they came ever closer. The French had been so traumatised by the Occupation but it dawned on her, even at the tender age of five, that this was an extraordinary moment. Perhaps the end of hunger was in sight. Her father started digging up the champagne that he had hidden from the Germans – 1,000 bottles in all. As Shimi arrived, during a lull in the crossfire, he was offered a glass. He thanked his host profusely but declined, explaining he was at work. Arlette’s café has become her personal shrine to D-Day. She is the keeper of her own archives, photos and memorabilia; her walls are covered with photos of the heroes she admires so much. Hers is a sacred mission: to explain to young visitors what sacrifice a whole generation made for the freedoms we enjoy today, and to keep their memories alive. And it is thanks to her, and the community of Ouistreham, that the statue of Shimi is standing so proudly today in the memorial garden on Sword Beach. But it was one small boy in Los Angeles who ignited the project.

I was in California with my eight-year-old grandson, Roscoe, and we were watching *The Longest Day*, the Hollywood classic that tells the story of D-Day (Peter Lawford plays Shimi). Roscoe expressed a wish to see where his great-grandfather had landed. In May 2013, we trooped off to Normandy and met Arlette Gondrée. She immediately told me that Leon Gautier, president of the 4th Commando Association, a Free French fighter who landed with Shimi, wanted the Fraser family to raise money for a statue of Shimi in time for the 70th anniversary celebrations. So, too, she added, did the people of Ouistreham. Time was very short. We had only eight months before the sculpture had to be in the foundry. With the help of family, friends and clan members, we managed to raise the five-figure sum required for the commission. Over five, or was it six, trips by ferry to France, I first persuaded the local mayor to give his blessing, then chose the spot for the plinth, and made other arrangements, including making sure that Leon Gautier could be there at the unveiling.

Four weeks before the planned date there was a huge lurch to the Right in the local elections and the mayor was ousted. In fear for our carefully laid plans, my sister-in-law and I rushed over once more to meet the new incumbent, Monsieur Bail, just 28. All was well, he reassured us, but he was distracted. Ouistreham was planning something far bigger – the 70th anniversary commemorative visit of so many world leaders. Today, Shimi will be standing guard alongside them, facing three-quarters towards France and a quarter back to Britain. I couldn’t have had

him turning his back on us. Nor us on him, and the many like him who on D-Day dedicated their lives so we could have ours.

Lord Lovat (1911-1995) died at Beaulieu, Inverness-shire.

Finding the Fallen

At the end of the Great War, nearly two million soldiers were missing, presumed dead. Almost a century later, the battlegrounds of France and Belgium are surrendering their secrets. This five-part series follows a team of archaeologists, historians and forensic experts as they work to identify unknown soldiers and finally lay them to rest. Each episode focuses on an archaeological dig at the site of a major battle. Clothing, personal effects, ammunition and army issue equipment all form part of the puzzle. From evidence of the first WWI trenches to the identification of a soldier in Hitler's regiment, the series uncovers hidden details of combat and the heartbreaking personal stories that go with it.

- **Knowledge Network.** Tuesday evening at 2000hrs, starting Jun 3rd.

Show 2 – June 10th Serre 1915 - Brothers in Death

Serre in Northern France was an infamous German stronghold in the Great War. Thousands died, many of them buried where they fell. The remains of three soldiers are discovered here by the team and they determine that one was British and the other two are identified as German.

Seats for Soldiers VI

This year's Seats for Soldiers VI game, hosted by the New Westminster Salmonbellies vs the Coquitlam Adanacs, will be held on Thursday, **July 3rd** at 1945hrs. Military displays will be set up in front of the Queens Park Arena and The Band of The Royal Westminster Regiment will perform both pre-game and during the first intermission. All military personnel, serving and retired, veterans, cadets, regimental and naval association members, legion members etc along with their families will be admitted for FREE! Simply enter through the special military gate. We are encouraging everyone to wear uniforms, regimental blazers or RED and WHITE to show our Canadian Patriotism.

See poster below

Who is it?

Last Week: The Canadian Vickers Vancouver was another twin engine flying boat



designed to a RCAF specification for an aircraft to replace the Varuna and capable of transporting men and equipment to forest fire locations. The resulting equal-span biplane had a metal hull manufactured from a new Alclad material. The remainder of the aircraft was of period conventional wood and fabric construction. In 1929, the initial trials on the aircraft proved the suitability of the design and with some modest

improvements additional aircraft were ordered as Vancouver II. These aircraft then provided long and faithful service. In the mid-1930s, the Vancouvers were modified to a military coastal patrol capability with the installation of flexible machine guns and provision for the carriage of light bombs. The resulted in the aircraft designation being amended to Mk IIS (S for Service). The aircraft also went through a progressive series of engine changes and improvements. The installation of Wright and Several power plants resulted in further designation amendments to Mk IIS/W and Mk IIS/S respectively. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Vancouver aircraft continued to serve on coastal patrol with No 4 Squadron at Jericho Beach Air Station on the west coast. By 1940, however, the aircraft were clearly obsolete and were relegated briefly to training duties before being struck off strength.

Update We have, from an unnamed source, and answer to one of our earlier quizzes. In Quiz



No. 2, we asked who this distinguished couple are. Well, they are none other than the original commanders of 85 Bty on Yorke Island in 1939, Majors J.E. Pierce and F.W. Guernsey. The identical photo is found on page 80 of "Vancouver Defended", an excellent tome by the young

UBC professor Dr. P. Moogk (assisted by Vic Stevenson). It is available from most fine purveyors of used books.

This week, we also saw the article in this newsletter on George Chow, which was also published in the Friday edition of the Sun. Here, in an undated photo is WOII Chow, during his post-war service with the current regiment. Can you help us nail down the date, and identify some of the other personnel? We'd especially like to know where to purchase the suit worn by the chap in the back row. Additionally, who were the three young Asian men with jump wings and ribbons?

Educated guesses and answers can be sent to the editor or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).



From the 'Punitary'

What does a spy do when he gets cold? - He goes undercover!!

Murphy's other Laws

It is impossible to make anything foolproof because some fools are very ingenious and inventive.

Quotable Quotes

By the time you reach my age, you've made plenty of mistakes - if you've lived your life properly. - *Ronald Reagan*

Senate Report: The Transition to Civilian Life of Veterans

This report, issued by the Senate Subcommittee on Veteran's Affairs, is over 100 pages long. To read go to:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/412/veac/rms/01jun14/home-e.htm>

Never before seen pictures of WW1

This article is too long to go into this newsletter. To view, go to:

www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-one/10849528/In-pictures-Never-before-seen-photographs-from-World-War-One-frontline.html

Second Annual Walk for Veterans & Peace

Second Annual Walk for Veterans & Peace Saturday June 21st



**Walk for Veterans, Peace and Remembrance
Port Coquitlam to Coquitlam to Port Moody**

**3 Cenotaph Services to Mark the
100th Anniversary of the First World War**

Everyone is Welcome to Participate

Join us and walk the distance that suites you

or Just Pay Tribute to our Fallen, at the Cenotaph Services

Free Event * No Registration Required

* Port Coquitlam Cenotaph 9:00am * Coquitlam Cenotaph 1:30pm*
* Port Moody Cenotaph 4:20pm * Port Moody Station Museum 5:00pm *
*All times are approximate * Walk starts at the Port Coquitlam Cenotaph

For information contact Guy Black (604) 937-7673 or korea19501953@yahoo.com
Or the Port Moody Station Museum (604) 939-1648

Seats for Soldiers VI



THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT
proudly presents the



6th Annual

SEATS FOR SOLDIERS

W VS A

Thursday, July 3rd
6:00PM >> GAME STARTS AT 7:45

QUEENS PARK

MILITARY DISPLAYS & VEHICLES
MILITARY BAND & BBQ
ALL CANADIAN FORCES, VETERANS,
CADETS & THEIR FAMILIES GET IN FREE

WEAR UNIFORMS, REGIMENTAL BLAZERS OR RED TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT celebrating 151 years of proud service to Canada! 1863 - 2014



5th Annual 3rd CAV RIDE FOR THE FALLEN

Trev Deeley's Motorcyle
1875 Boundry Rd, Vancouver
Registration: 9:30 -10:30
Leave at 11 am

June 21, 2014

Memorial Service :
Afghanistan Memorial Monument
@ 12:30

For more information:
Contact Barry Drews
bdrews@shaw.ca



Vancouver Aviation Show 2014

Show website: www.VancouverAviationShow.com

Saturday October 18, 2014

Hours 10:00am- 5:00pm / Richmond Rod & Gun Club Auditorium

7891 Cambie Rd. (Cambie & River Road, Richmond)

\$4 admission / Tables \$45 + PST/GST

Models, Books, Slides, Postcards & Other Collectibles

[Book your table now!](#)

Richmond Rod & Gun Club auditorium



auditorium.

We have finally confirmed the date and venue for this year's show. Unfortunately the folks at Oakridge Mall were not willing to provide their auditorium. So we had to find a new place. The new location is the Richmond Rod and Gun Club

The Richmond Rod & Gun Club auditorium is located 50 yards west of the Aberdeen Station in Richmond on Cambie Road (at River Road), close to all amenities, food, the airport, and there is plenty of free on site parking and street parking.



To book your table for this year's show visit the [website](#), complete the [table registration form](#) and mail it in along with your check. We also now accept payment in bitcoin as shown on the [website](#).



Please visit the show's [facebook page](#) for news and updates. You can [LIKE](#) the page and indicate if you will be attending the show.

SLIDE SHOW: If there is enough interest, this year we plan to have a Saturday evening slide show and pizza night, after the show end. Tickets will cost \$7 to cover the cost of pizza and drinks, we'll be selling tickets at the show, or you can pre-pay your tickets with your table rental. The slide show will run from 7 pm until 10 pm.

We always enjoy hearing from our show attendees, and look forward to hearing from you!

If you have a question ... please contact me any time.

Henry Tenby, organizer
www.VancouverAviationShow.com



Henry Tenby

