



## **Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News June 11, 2019**

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 -** We need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

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

**Jun 14** Langley Rotary Clubs annual Tip 'n Taste Craft Beer Event

**Jun 26** Bomber Command at the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCAF - Roddy MacKenzie

### **World War 2 – 1944**

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

**Jun 12<sup>th</sup>:** In Normandy, US VII Corps is muscling its way across the Cotentin Peninsula; behind them the Invasion beaches have now received some 326,000 men, 54,000 vehicles and 104,000 tons of supplies. US XIX Corps under Charles H Corlett is also activated. The Marianas campaign intensifies as US carrier groups hit Guam, Tinian and Saipan while US submarines spot the Japanese fleet (five fleet carriers, two light carriers, two seaplane carriers, five battleships and numbers of cruisers and destroyers – and totally out massed and outclassed by the US) lurking at Tawitawi and Batjan. The Marianas will allow American B-29s to be based within range of Japan's major cities, but the Islands are also home to thousands of Japanese civilians and the Japanese navy is hoping to make decisive use of its remaining airpower. The ungainly British PIAT anti-tank projector is a contraption with many hazards for a man of lesser frame and muscle mass than a mountain gorilla. When the 7<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles are fending off a Japanese attack near Ningthoukhong in Burma, Rifleman Ganju Lama of Sikkim crawls forward under heavy machine-gun fire with a PIAT to destroy two tanks. Then, despite a

broken wrist and other injuries inflicted by his weapon he attacks the crews of the tanks as they bail out. He is awarded the Victoria Cross.

**Jun 13<sup>th</sup>:** The first four V-1s land on UK (and six splash into the Channel) but the cruise missile has made its debut, with the very first killing eight civilians in London. The Japanese on Biak fall back into cave complexes. The latest captures in Italy include Montefiascone (the French), Bagnoregio (the South Africans) and Narni (the British). A US cruiser group bombards Matsuwa in the Kuriles. 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division makes it to Villers Bocage before a fierce counterattack flings them back. Another determined counterattack imperils the Americans at Carentan while other US troops take Pont'l'Abbe and start approaching St Lo. After a German nightfighter shoots up their Lancaster near Cambrai in France, Canadian Pilot Officer Andrew Mynarski stays aboard the burning plane in a vain attempt to free a trapped gunner in the jammed tail turret while the rest of the crew bails out. By the time his solo rescue attempt is abandoned – at the insistence of the gunner -- Mynarski has been standing in flame and his own parachute is half burned. He lands but dies the next day of his injuries and burns in a German military hospital. Ironically, the tail gunner survives the crash and bears the testimony that gains Mynarski a posthumous Victoria Cross.

**Jun 14<sup>th</sup>:** The US XIX Corps is activated between V and VII Corps and DeGaulle lands in Normandy to start preparations for the resumption of civil government. In Italy, 8<sup>th</sup> Army units liberate Orvieto, Terni and Todi. Seven US Battleships and 11 Cruisers begin working over Saipan and Tinian while minesweepers start working inshore. Elsewhere, the US Carrier fleet girds itself for battle as sightings of the Japanese fleet multiply on the western edge of the Philippine Sea. The Germans had 35 E-boats and minesweepers in Le Havre's harbor this morning, but 325 Lancasters showed up, and then there were none. The 36<sup>th</sup> US Division has seen tough service in Italy, but it has tough men within it. One of the toughest is 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Homer Lee Wise who has already accumulated numerous decorations, but during his battalion's assault near Magliano Italy today he wins the Medal of Honor. Wise starts by retrieving a wounded man when his platoon is stalled by heavy fire, then he kills three German soldiers who try to interfere with him. Afterwards, using a combination of rifle grenades and a BAR, he levers open the defences in front of his platoon. Finally, while under enemy fire, he climbs aboard a tank and uses its .50 calibre machinegun to such effect that the whole battalion is able to complete their assault.

**Jun 15<sup>th</sup>:** Today marks the formation of the Balkan Air Force: Allied air assets will give Tito's guerillas assured aerial supply and close air support upon timely request. The strategic air offensive begins against Japan as B-29s from 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force in China attack Yawata on Kyushu, in the first air raid on Japan since April 1942. Elements of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Divisions come ashore to a fierce reception on Saipan, where the Japanese are defending the water's edge; there are 30,000 Japanese on the island and 67,500 Marines and Soldiers are coming to get them. The Finn's IV Corps withdraws to Viipuri under pressure from the Soviet's 21<sup>st</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Armies. US VIII Corps becomes operational under Maj Gen Troy H Middleton as J Lawton Collins's US VII Corps takes Quineville on the Cotentin, while 300 Lancasters destroy the German shipping and minor warships in Boulogne this night.

**Jun 16<sup>th</sup>:** The Japanese fleets link up for the battle of the Philippine Sea as the invasion of Guam is delayed because of their looming threat (while the two beaches on Saipan are linked up). US forces on the Cotentin Peninsula take St Saveur in a vicious fight; King George VI arrives on the beachhead in Normandy for a visit with his troops. In Italy, Spoleto, Spoligno and Grosseto are liberated. Marc Bloch, the famous French historian, is executed for being in the French Resistance. US Marine Gunnery Sergeant Robert Howard McCard stays in his tank when it is immobilized by a Japanese artillery on Saipan; he treats his tank as a pillbox and then orders his crew to withdraw while he covered their escape with hand grenades and machineguns from the turret – killing at least 16 Japanese soldiers and losing his own life. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Jun 17<sup>th</sup>:** Hitler comes as far forward as Soissons to meet with Rommel and Rundstedt. They fail to persuade him to allow a withdrawal, while Hitler goes into a fit and declares that his V weapons will win the war. In Normandy, the 9<sup>th</sup> US Division reaches the western shore of the Cotentin peninsula, sealing off the German garrison in Cherbourg. The 9<sup>th</sup> Colonial (Senegalese) French Division lands on Elba to nudge out the Panzergrenadiers there. US 27<sup>th</sup> Division wades ashore on Saipan. In the last few weeks, 340,142 Hungarian Jews have (by German figures) been sent to Death and Labor Camps in Poland and Germany.

**Jun 18<sup>th</sup>:** Two massive carrier fleets have assembled near the Marianas and a battle-royal is in the offing. US troops on Saipan have crossed the island, severing the main Japanese defensive belt in two while Japanese air strikes sink a US destroyer, two merchant ships and damage the Escort Carrier USS Fanshaw Bay. Assisi in Italy is liberated by the 8<sup>th</sup> Army. The Soviets bash through the Mannerheim Line (much more easily than they did in 1940) and start to advance on Viipuri.

## **Juno Beach – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day**



*LGen Stephen Bowes Commander, Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC), D-Day veteran Robert Spenser and 15 Fd Hon LCol Don Foster (also a director of the Juno Beach Centre)*



*Maj (Ret'd) Ian Newby at Batterie Maisy*



*WOII (Ret'd) George Chow meets the Governor General  
Photo by Sgt. Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall*

## **Charlie Chaplin: To Fight or to Film?**

*War History Online Mar 17, 2019*

Charlie Chaplin was ridiculed and denigrated when he didn't volunteer to fight in the First World War. It was only after his death that the world realized how great a service he did by choosing the film studio over the battlefield. The Tramp, Chaplin's most memorable character which later went on to become an icon of world cinema, hit the screen for the first time in 1914. And it didn't take long for the character to attract worldwide popularity during the era of silent film. Be it cinema screen or billboards, songs or comic strips, toys or adverts, the Tramp was everywhere. Crowds would clamor to go to the cinema to watch the character's antics. Owing to the widespread popularity of his slapstick, Chaplin became a famed, universally-loved figure of his time at the age of just 25. His films, treated no less than a miraculous medication, were regularly shown to the injured soldiers of the First World War. The projectors were fitted in such a way as to project their images onto the ceilings of the hospitals, allowing bedridden soldiers to enjoy Chaplin's films without having to sit up. The soldiers used to forget their emotional and physical trauma once they started watching the Tramp and his gags. Laughing helped reduce the sufferings of the war-wounded soldiers. As Chaplin puts it, "Laughter is the tonic, the relief, the surcease for pain." Chaplin's universal medicine of laughter entertained and cured a worldwide audience since it transcended the barriers of language.

It was just a matter of time before the issue of Chaplin not enlisting was dramatically inflated by almost all media outlets. The little Tramp became the favorite target for cartoonists and journalists mainly because Chaplin's rise to fame coincided with the outbreak of war. Chaplin, a British citizen working in the US, was ridiculed for not enlisting in either the US or the UK military. The leading media outlets of the time used to call him a "slacker." The pressure increased significantly after the US joined the war on April 6, 1917. That was when thousands of people sent angry letters and white feathers to Chaplin to shame him into fighting. The smear campaign directed at shaming Chaplin for his failure to enlist was spearheaded by British press mogul Lord Northcliffe, the founder of the *Daily Mail*. Northcliffe reprimanded the actor numerous times in his publications, often demanding his immediate return to Britain. For instance, Northcliffe's *Daily Mail* severely attacked Chaplin in March 1916 for a war-related clause in his contract with a production house, Mutual Film Corporation. The war risks clause noted that Chaplin must not return to his native land for the duration of the war. Another time, Northcliffe castigated Chaplin in a *Weekly Dispatch* editorial in June 1917, writing: "Charles

Chaplin, although slightly built, is very firm on his feet, as is evidenced by his screen acrobatics. The way he is able to mount stairs suggests the alacrity with which he would go over the top when the whistle blew... “In any case, it is Charlie’s duty to offer himself as a recruit and thus show himself proud of his British origin. It is his example which will count so very much, rather than the difference to the war that his joining up will make. We shall win without Charlie, but (his millions of admirers will say) we would rather win with him.” Northcliffe’s aggressive bullying tactics kept intensifying over time. At last, Chaplin had to register himself with the US armed forces to save his reputation. He also gave a whopping \$250,000 to the US and Britain for war activities.

Like other British nationals living abroad, Chaplin waited for permission from the British embassy, which supported his explanation, saying: “We would not consider Chaplin a slacker unless we received instructions to put the compulsory services law into effect.” Similarly, the soldiers also didn’t consider the actor a slacker. According to David Robinson, Chaplin’s biographer, the attacks “certainly did not come from servicemen.” Though Chaplin had enlisted himself for the US military draft, he was rejected for being underweight and undersized. Unfortunately, the slacker attacks still continued, and people kept sending him white feathers. Chaplin, a confirmed pacifist, later directed his efforts to end the war sooner, especially when he realized how he could utilize his stardom for political purposes. By that time, the Hollywood icon had enough money and a studio to do whatever he wished. And that’s when his anti-war comedy, *Shoulder Arms*, hit the cinema. Released in May 1918, the film presented a sarcastic but funny overview of the war. It featured the Tramp in an army camp as an awkward rookie who has to face several challenges in order to survive the deadly trenches. He is seen battling the dirty mud, the flooding, the persistent fear, and the grossly bad food. The Tramp eventually captures the Kaiser after he disguises himself as a tree trunk and crosses no man’s land in his hilarious camouflage.

Chaplin’s anti-war sentiments only increased with time as his political clout strengthened later in his career. “Though he might make comedy from it,” Robinson writes, “the folly and tragedy and waste of war were always to bewilder and torment Chaplin.” Besides war, Chaplin also spoke against militarism and nationalism, most famously in *The Great Dictator*. The 1940 film was seen as pro-Communist propaganda by the critics because it mocked Mussolini and Hitler but didn’t target Stalin. Chaplin was branded Communist and hence began a new struggle – one that wouldn’t leave him until his death. “I am not a Communist. I am a human being, and I think I know the reactions of human beings,” Chaplin said while addressing the American Committee for Russian War Relief in San Francisco in 1942. “The Communists are no different from anyone else; whether they lose an arm or a leg, they suffer as all of us do, and die as all of us die. “And the Communist mother is the same as any other mother. When she receives the tragic news that her sons will not return, she weeps as other mothers weep. I do not have to be a Communist to know that. And at this moment Russian mothers are doing a lot of weeping and their sons a lot of dying.”

Chaplin continued suffering denigration and political harassment after the Second World War. His subsequent works criticizing the class inequalities, such as 1947’s *Monsieur Verdoux*,

revived the accusations of Communism against him. Even though he was never arrested during the Red Scare, he remained under strict surveillance from the FBI for almost 40 years. This reached its peak in 1952 when his entry permit was revoked by the US government, and the actor decided to spend his remaining years in Switzerland. It wasn't until after Chaplin's death when the true value of his service was actually realized. Chaplin was much more useful in the film studio than he would've been on the battlefield. The laughter which his films produced was the much-needed cure for the sufferings of the war wounded soldiers – a cure which helped hundreds of thousands, if not millions, to stay alive and overcome the anxieties of their lives.



*Chaplin in Shoulder Arms*

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*Chaplin and Edna Purviance,  
his regular leading lady, in Work (1915).*

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## **Destroyer will be First to Mount US Navy's Laser Weapon**

*William Cole, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser May 28, 2019*



*An artist's depiction of the High Energy Laser and Integrated Optical dazzler with Surveillance (HELIOS) in action.*

*(Courtesy of Lockheed Martin)*

The Pearl Harbor-based USS Preble will be the first destroyer to be equipped with a high-energy laser to counter surface craft and unmanned aerial systems, according to a published report, with the Navy planning to one day use the powerful light beams to defend against Chinese or Russian cruise missiles. Rear Adm Ronald Boxall, the Navy's director of surface warfare, told Defense News that the Preble will be outfitted in 2021 with the High Energy Laser and Integrated Optical- dazzler With Surveillance system, or HELIOS. "We are making the decision to put the laser on our (destroyers)," Boxall said. "It's going to start with Preble in 2021, and when we do that, that will now be her close-in weapon that we now continue to upgrade," according to Defense News. The Phalanx close-in weapon system is used now to defend against airborne threats by spitting out a stream of projectiles from its automated 20 mm Gatling gun. The Navy awarded Lockheed Martin a \$150 million contract in 2018, with options worth up to \$943 million, for the development of two high-power laser systems for testing on a destroyer and on land. With the HELIOS system, Lockheed Martin said it will "help the Navy take a major step forward in its goal to field a laser weapon system aboard surface ships."

The Congressional Research Service said in a May report that the Navy is developing three new ship-based weapons: solid-state lasers, an electromagnetic railgun and a gun-launched guided projectile that "could substantially improve" the ability of Navy surface ships to defend against surface craft, unmanned aerial vehicles and, eventually, anti-ship cruise missiles. "Any one of these new weapons, if successfully developed and deployed, might be regarded as a 'game changer' for defending Navy surface ships" against enemy missiles, the report states. Hawaii already has been a test site for the gun-launched guided projectile, also known as the hypervelocity projectile, as well as flight- testing of a hypersonic vehicle. The Navy has made "substantial progress" toward deploying lasers on ships, which would be used initially for jamming or confusing (i.e. "dazzling") enemy surveillance sensors and for countering small boats and unmanned aerial vehicles, the research service said. The Modern War Institute at West Point wrote in late 2018 that drone swarm technology is a growing threat. The report said China is interested in swarm technology as a method of attacking aircraft carriers. Iran's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, announced in March that it had conducted an exercise in the Persian Gulf involving 50 combat drones.

The HELIOS effort is focused on rapidly fielding a 60-kilowatt high-energy laser with "growth potential" to 150 kilowatts. Lockheed Martin said it demonstrated that a 10-kilowatt system can defeat small airborne targets with the "speed of light" capability and that a 30-kilowatt system had disabled a stationary truck target. The Navy previously tested a 30-kilowatt laser in 2017 aboard the afloat forward staging base USS Ponce, shooting a small Scan Eagle unmanned aerial vehicle out of the sky. With further development, lasers can be used to save costly defensive missiles for the most sophisticated threats. Challenges include packing enough power on a ship, with advances needed to scale power into the hundreds of kilowatts, the Navy said.

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

Here's the latest activities from the members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA family.

Some of our members were at the D-Day Commemorations in France.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/d-day.html>

The first newsletter for our Battlefield Tour 2020 has been published

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/battlefield-tour-2020.html>

2472 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Annual Ceremonial Review

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at

[president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

## **Langley Rotary Club's Annual Tip 'n Taste Craft Beer Event**

The President of the Vancouver Artillery Association is the Chairman of the Langley Rotary Clubs annual Tip 'n Taste Craft Beer Event that will be held at the Cascades Casino Resort in

Langley City on 14 Jun 2019 from 6:00 to 9:30. Your \$35.00 entrance fee gets you 5 drink samples and free food samples with all proceeds going to local charities. Great opportunity to hang out with some former members of 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment. Leon Jensen and Gary Palmatary will be there! Will you?

## **Who (or What) Is It?**

**Last Week:** Robert Hampton "Hammy" Gray VC DSC was a Canadian naval officer, pilot, and



recipient of the Victoria Cross during World War II, one of only two members of the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm to have been thus decorated in that war. Gray is the last Canadian to win the Victoria Cross. On August 9, 1945, at Onagawa Bay, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, Lieutenant Gray (flying a Vought F4U Corsair) led an attack on a group of Japanese naval vessels, sinking the *Etorofu*-class escort ship *Amakusa* before his plane crashed into the bay. The War Memorial Gym at University of British

Columbia, Royal Canadian Legion hall in Nelson, numerous other sites in Nelson, and the wardroom of HMCS *Tecumseh* (his RCNVR home unit) also bear plaques in his honour.

A memorial for Gray was erected at Onagawa Bay in 1989 in Sakiyama Park. This is the only memorial dedicated to a foreign soldier on Japanese soil. Following the devastation of the March 11, 2011 earthquake, the monument (with new plaque) was moved from its original location in Sakiyama Park to one beside the hospital (Onagawacho Community Medicine Center) in Onagawa Town. A rededication ceremony was held 24 August 2012.

**This Week:** Although the photo archives of the museum of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA, are vast, and occupy most of the formerly secret tunnels, vaults, punishment chambers, and command posts built beneath Bessborough Armoury in the Cold War, they are only so vast due to you, dear reader. Without your contributions, we would not be the award-winning institution we are today. Indeed, the vast bus and auto parking lot that now accommodates the crowds of visitors would be empty, were it not for your donations.

With that in mind, we have recently received, from a well-known and well-liked former RSM of the unit, a trove of photos to be added to the collection. One of them is presented to you below. Now, we know that uniforms constantly change. Only recently was the blue beret re-issued to our stalwart Gunners, hopefully to be followed by stable belts, forage caps, the colour khaki (pronounced properly), and a decent non-combat order of dress (but, we are not holding our breath). However, nowhere in our copies of various and sundry orders regarding dress can we find a description of the two types worn by these stout warriors. The short-lived Garrison Dress does spring to mind, as does the natty uniform of our much-loved Kerensky-era Women's Brigade (or was it a battalion?) of Death. However, so does the spring and summer edition of any Eaton's catalogue of the past.



So, we ask for your assistance. What order of dress was this, and what happened to it? Can you identify these charming warriors, and the place where they were photographed? What are they doing now, and in what senior's home do they reside?

Send your answers to our resident senior, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)), or the youthful writer, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)).

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

Why did the lion break up with his girlfriend? Because she was a cheetah!

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

Surprise is achieved by combining speed with secrecy.

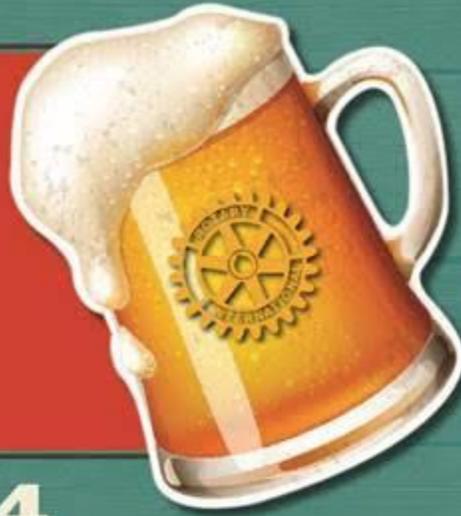
### **Quotable Quotes**

It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference. - *Tom Brokaw*

Langley Rotary Clubs annual Tip 'n Taste Craft Beer Event

ROTARY CLUBS OF LANGLEY PRESENT

2019  
**Tip'n  
Taste**



**FRIDAY JUNE 14**  
**6:00 – 9:30<sup>PM</sup>**

**CASCADES CASINO RESORT**  
COAST HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE  
20393 FRASER HWY · LANGLEY

Prepare your palate to enjoy a medley of  
gastronomic treats and great beers  
from breweries large and small!  
(Wine & Cooler Samples Also)

Net Proceeds Go To  
**LANGLEY CHARITIES**

**TICKETS  
AVAILABLE  
NOW!**

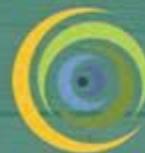
ADMISSION INCLUDES  
**SOUVENIR  
TASTING GLASS**

**5 DRINK  
SAMPLES**

**PLUS FOOD  
SAMPLES!**

Additional drink tickets can be purchased for \$2.50 ea  
**MUST BE 19+ TO ATTEND**

**TICKETS  
\$35**



**CASCADES  
CASINO**

THE LANGLEY  
**Times**



**TIPNTASTE.COM**

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE LANGLEY TIMES  
View our sponsor and supporters at TIPNTASTE.COM

OFFICE (CASH ONLY), OR FROM A ROTARIAN 778-867-5366  
An event of the Langley Rotary Clubs Charitable Foundation #842567133RR0001