



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News March 11, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

Renovations to the kitchen are proceeding slowly. We have received confirmation that the floor in the Officers Mess is being done. The old carpet will be removed and the existing hardwood floor will be reconditioned. The floors are scheduled to be done 20-27 Mar 2014. This means that there will be **no lunch on March 26th**. Lunches will resume on April 2nd.

Guests and visitors are always welcome at lunch. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

New Ombudsman for DND and the CAF

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwired - March 11, 2014) - Department of National Defence

Today the Honourable Rob Nicholson, PC, QC, MP for Niagara Falls, Minister of National Defence, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Gary Walbourne as the new Ombudsman for the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

Mr Walbourne succeeds Mr Pierre Daigle, who has completed his five year tenure as Ombudsman, and who worked on behalf of members and employees of DND and CAF with care and distinction. Mr Walbourne will be serving a five year term.

Quick Facts

- Prior to his appointment, Mr Walbourne held the position of Executive Director, Operations and Deputy Ombudsman in the office of the Veterans Ombudsman. He began that position in 2011.
- This experience will help Mr Walbourne in his new role as he investigates matters related to the defence community and the welfare of its members and employees.
- Before working with the Veterans Ombudsman, Mr Walbourne had a distinguished career in the public service. He served as a Director General at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, as well as a Director at the Department of National Defence.
- The office of the Ombudsman for DND and CAF was created in 1998.
- The office serves as a direct source of information, referral, and education for the men and women of the DND and the CAF.

Canadian Military Still Suffering a Capabilities Gap

Misha Boutilier - Feb 25, 14 Geopoliticalmonitor.com

In March 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper chose Afghanistan for his first official visit in office. In a bold speech to Canadian troops in Kandahar, Harper declared, “You can’t lead from the bleachers. I want Canada to be a leader.” He then launched a thinly-veiled attack on the policies of the Liberal governments of Jean Chretien and Paul Martin, declaring that Canada was “demonstrating an international leadership role, not carping from the sidelines.” Likewise, when visiting Canadian troops participating in the Libyan mission, Harper asserted that “a handful of soldiers is better than a mouthful of arguments.” As these statements show, Harper and his government pride themselves on beefing up Canada’s hard power assets. Indeed, the Canada First Defence Strategy the Tories released in 2008 is full of criticism of the Liberals’ stewardship during the 1990s. The strategy blames Liberal neglect for producing a “hollow force,” suffering from an “overall degradation of equipment” and “eroded...preparedness.”

At the beginning of the document, Harper declares his intent to revitalize the Canadian Forces (CF) in order to make Canada “a credible and influential country.” This conservative approach is self-consciously opposed to the Liberal emphasis on concepts such as soft power, human security, the Responsibility to Protect, and a ban on landmines, as espoused by past ministers such as Lloyd Axworthy and Paul Martin. The Tories appeared to share the beliefs of political scientist Kim Richard Nossal, who famously argued in 1998 that Canada needed “not soft power, but power period.” Instead of practicing “pulpit diplomacy” while failing to commit tangible resources, Canada had to revitalize its hard power assets to protect and advance its interests.

Now it is possible to look back on the Harper government’s rhetoric and determine whether several years of Conservative rule have effectively revitalized Canada’s hard power capabilities. In doing so we will defer to Nossal’s four pillars of statecraft: military, diplomacy, development, and intelligence. Certainly, Harper has not been lacking in his efforts to strengthen intelligence, as the burgeoning budget and capabilities of the Communications Security Establishment Canada attest. Admittedly, foreign affairs and development have both suffered significant budget cuts. Yet these cuts should be placed in the proper context of Harper’s wider foreign policy priorities. The prime minister has emphasized trade promotion and the negotiation of free trade agreements, and has worked to make Foreign Affairs and Development serve these ends, whether rightly or wrongly. These efforts have apparently borne fruit in numerous free-trade agreements, most recently in the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the EU.

But it is on the military that Harper must be judged according to his own rhetoric. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty’s recent budget resulted in the Department of National Defence (DND) losing \$3 billion that had previously been earmarked for procurement. Admittedly, Minister Flaherty pledges it will be restored four years in the future, arguing that it does not make sense to give the military money that it cannot spend right away. However, as Murray Brewster of the Canadian Press explains, the cuts are a sign of how low the DND has fallen in

the Ottawa power hierarchy.

These cuts will negatively impact the military's capabilities, especially in the context of previous Harper defence cuts. The government has already slashed the Canadian Forces' regular budget covering operations, maintenance, and training, and the results are increasingly evident. Funding for CF-18 fighter jet operations and maintenance was cut by 25%, to cite just one example. The new delays in procurement will put further pressure on the military, forcing it to indirectly spend more on operating and maintaining old equipment. Thus, for the foreseeable future the military will be increasingly stuck with out-of-date equipment that is poorly maintained and operated by personnel with inadequate training, which will inevitably have a negative impact on combat readiness.

Furthermore, as numerous analysts point out, even after the long-awaited federal surplus arrives in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the military will likely continue to feel the budgetary pinch. Carleton professor Dave Perry notes that the Harper government's key priorities are to cut taxes and spend money on domestic programs, which will leave little funding for the military. Moreover, Michael Byers has argued that the government's stop-and-start moves on procurement have conveniently pushed back the acquisition costs of major systems till after the 2015 election. As a result, it is highly unlikely that the CF will be able to acquire all the systems outlined in the Defence Strategy without an increase in funding.

Of course, like many of its NATO allies the Harper government has faced significant fiscal constraints that made some reductions necessary. However, it has compounded these problems with poor decision-making on procurement. First, the government failed to effectively reform the procurement process, which has resulted in cost-overruns and delays. Second, the government's emphasis on making procurement serve domestic job creation has significantly boosted costs. As a result, Canada is currently in the unfortunate situation where its military is likely to soon lack the capabilities necessary to fulfill the commitments outlined in the Canada First Defence Strategy - exactly the situation that Harper decried prior to taking office.

World War One Heroine was Inspiration Behind Downton Abbey

By CHRIS HASTINGS PUBLISHED: 25 January 2014



Inspiration: Lady Carnarvon in her nurse's uniform at her own makeshift hospital during the Great War

The socialite who was the inspiration for Downton Abbey's Lady Cora refused an honour recognising her work caring for the wounded during the First World War. Almina, the 5th Countess of Carnarvon, who trained as a nurse and turned Highclere Castle into a military hospital, apparently did not think she merited the CBE offered in the 1920 Honours List. Her decision is recorded in Cabinet Office papers obtained by The Mail on Sunday. They reveal she was one of several female aristocrats who declined to be honoured. Almina, who was known as the 'pocket-sized Venus', transformed herself from a flamboyant socialite into a

tireless campaigner after the outbreak of war in 1914. She dug deep into her own fortune and equipped Highclere – where Downton is filmed – with an operating theatre in one of the bedrooms and a recovery room next door. Officers who were treated there recalled being served beer by footmen and described it as ‘paradise’.

On one occasion the Countess, who tended the men personally, had to fire ‘a pretty auburn-haired nurse’ after discovering her ‘in flagrante delicto’ with a patient – future Brigadier-General Sir George Paynter. These experiences – including the sex scandal – shaped the second series of Downton, which was screened in 2011. It showed the Crawley family transforming their house into a rest home for injured officers. The current Lady Carnarvon, who is Almina’s biographer, said last night she was unaware of the recommendation but was not surprised it had been declined. She said: ‘Almina was not the sort of person who would have wanted a fuss. She was one of a generation of women who just got on with it.’

The Cabinet Office papers show that the women were among about 760 people who turned down honours between 1918 and 1920. The files do not explain their reluctance but it is possible they considered such awards unpalatable after seeing the horrors of the Great War. Millicent, Duchess of Sutherland, was a celebrated beauty who ran an ambulance unit and several field hospitals close to the front line. She turned down a CBE in 1919.



Transformation: Highclere Castle, where Lady Almina lived and where Downton Abbey is filmed, became a military hospital during the First World War, which Lady Almina funded with her own money and worked at as a nurse

Lady Stirling Maxwell, who turned her Scottish home, Pollok House, into a hospital, and one of her London residences

into a home for blinded soldiers, rejected an unspecified honour in 1920. Her grandson, Sir John Maxwell Macdonald, last night recalled family talk of her declining an OBE. He said: ‘She already had a title and didn’t want any more. The Maxwell family tended to be against decorations as a whole. ‘My grandmother was keen to play her part and she wouldn’t have given any thought to honours. That would have been out of the question. She wasn’t that sort of person.’

Julian Fellowes, creator of Downton Abbey, said: ‘I am certain many of these women were genuinely modest about their achievements and did not desire to be what we would call celebrities. ‘It was enough for them to know that their work had been valued by the officers and men.’ He added: ‘For us as a generation, unfaked modesty and finding satisfaction in the work itself – rather than in public adulation – are very difficult to believe in. But for these women, to be recognised in the street would have been torture.’

Rediscovered trenches bring World War I to life in England

Posted: Sunday, March 9, 2014 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



British army Lance Corporal Rob Walters kneels on a WWI practise trench as he poses for the photographers in Gosport, southern England, March 6, 2014. This overgrown and oddly corrugated patch of heathland on England's south coast was once a practice battlefield, complete with trenches, weapons and barbed wire. Thousands of troops trained here to take on the Germany army. After the 1918 victory, which cost 1 million Britons their lives, the site was forgotten, until it was recently rediscovered

GOSPORT, England (AP) - Two lines of trenches face off across No Man's Land. A soldier marches, rifle in hand, along a ditch. These are instantly familiar images of World War I - but this is Britain, a century on and an English Channel away from the battlefields of the Western Front. This overgrown and oddly corrugated patch of heathland on England's south coast was once a practice battlefield, complete with trenches, weapons and barbed wire. Thousands of troops trained here to take on the German army. After the 1918 victory - which cost 1 million Britons their lives - the site was forgotten, until it was recently rediscovered by a local official with an interest in military history. Now the trenches are being used to reveal how the Great War transformed Britain - physically as well as socially. As living memories of the conflict fade, historians hope these physical traces can help preserve the story of the war for future generations. "We've now lost our First World War veterans. You're not going to get a firsthand account," said Richard Osgood, an archaeologist with the Ministry of Defense, which owns the land. "In many ways, the truest witness is the archaeology and the legacy left behind."

The trenches, near the town of Gosport, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of London, were rediscovered a few months ago by Robert Harper, head of conservation at the local council. A military history buff, he noticed some crenellated lines on a 1950s aerial photograph of the area, and was startled to recognize the pattern of "the classic British trench system." He was even more surprised when he had a look at the land - a local picnic spot - and found the contours of the trenches still clearly visible under a thick covering of bracken, gorse and grass. He could make out a front-line trench and several reserve rows, along with communications trenches and forward observation posts. And then there was an opposing set, 300 yards (meters) away. "It was one of those jaw-dropping moments," Harper said. "I've got five relatives buried on the Western Front. I think to myself, 'Did any of them train here?'"

Several other sets of practice trenches have been found in Britain, but this is easily the most extensive. Conservation body English Heritage, which announced the find Friday, said the task of mapping and documenting the site has just begun. There were no immediate plans to turn it into a tourist site or build a museum around it. The discovery is already providing ammunition

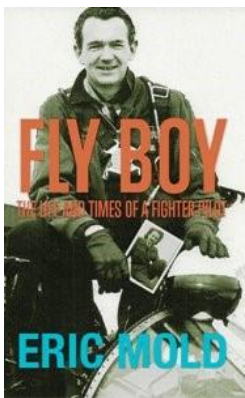
for those who reject the "lions led by donkeys" view of the war, which argues that incompetent officers led ill-prepared troops into needless slaughter. Historian Dan Snow said the elaborate mock battlefield "shows how seriously they took the business of training." "They had to send the guys out to France to do the hardest of tasks, something no one had done before, and that is defeat the German army when they were dug in," Snow said. "How to break that deadlock? Well, the answer is right here in front of us. Massive, massive preparation."

The find is being used to launch a campaign, Home Front Legacy, which aims to record as many physical traces of the war as possible. Even though the four-year conflict was largely fought outside Britain, the war transformed the country's landscape in ways that have often been forgotten. It's hoped amateur historians will comb family archives, local newspapers and other sources for evidence of everything from military bases and prisoner-of-war camps to munitions factories, pillboxes and listening posts. "We're going to crowd-source this project," Snow said. "We're going to build a picture across the U.K. of the physical remnants of the First World War."

The project has the support of the defense ministry, which turns out to be keen on archaeology - perhaps unsurprisingly, since it owns 1 percent of Britain - and enlists volunteer soldiers to help with exploration on its lands. Osgood said the aim at the mock battlefield is "to repopulate the landscape," to tell the stories of some of the troops who trained there. Soldiers from Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the U.S. all passed through this area, close to the major naval base of Portsmouth, on their way to the front. It would only take the tiniest of objects, such as a lost cap badge, to provide a clue. "These were real men in a real-life situation going out and sacrificing their lives," Harper said. "That emotional, human story - I'd love that to be the meat put on the bones of what we have."

Fly Boy

The story of a young boy 'born to fly' and tells of his early days as an Apprentice in the Royal Air Force. By Eric Mold



iTunes: \$6.99

Kobo: \$7.29

235 Pages Illustrated

The story of a young boy fulfilling his dream to fly high speed fighter aircraft. Sprinkled with exciting descriptions of his more memorable flights and vivid descriptions of what some Airforce pilots do when they are not in the air. A must read for anyone aspiring to such a career.

Eric has been a Mess Associate and a great supporter for many years.

He has a few print copies for \$15.00 (plus postage if required), and will bring copies to the Mess on request.

Contact me at bob.mugford@shaw.ca if you want a print copy.

RUSI Vancouver Society AGM

RUSI Vancouver Society AGM will be held on (**TOMORROW!!**) Wednesday March 12, 2014 at 1330hrs at Bessborough Armoury.

Military Ball Renamed

The date for the 2014 Ball has been set for **May 10, 2014 at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel**. 39CBG is getting more involved in the running of the event and has renamed the Military Ball the 'BC Army Gala'. The Gala website is: <http://bcarmygala.ca/> and tickets can already be purchased on the EventBrite site at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bc-army-gala-tickets-8508578387> More information can be found, including an order form for direct purchase of tickets, on the Gala website and Gala's Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/britishcolumbiaarmygala> **For special hotel rates**, go to: <http://bcarmygala.ca/hotel-accommodation/>

BCR 'Irish' Curry Lunch

The BCR announce their March Curry Lunch (see poster at end of newsletter). Will they have Green beer or green curry or both?

Hints from the Museum Staff – Storing Old Photos

By John D Redmond

From time to time people ask me how to treat their own ancient photos, and how I manage to scan the ones that our museum holds. A good answer to the first question was carried in June-July 2013 issue of "Canada's History" magazine, formerly called "The Beaver" (and don't get me started on why they changed!).

The article, in the column "Roots", written by Paul Jones, and entitled, "Dangers lurk in photo albums", contains some good tips on preserving your photos. I can probably sum up the article in three words: dark, dry, cool. In other words, light is the enemy of all photos. Keep them away from light sources, especially sunlight. This is especially true for any and all colour photos. Keep photos away from humidity, which can also degrade the image and lead to mould and fungal growth. Finally, don't expose photos to heat, and this includes projecting slides for any length of time, should you happen to still have such ancient technology.

One more very important item is never, never to use so-called 'magnetic' photo albums. Those are the ones that have plastic covering a sticky page. They are death on photos, leading to discolouration and image degradation and making it very, very difficult to remove and rescue photos. If you do use an album, please invest in one with acid-free paper, and use old-fashioned corner stickers. Slides are best kept in either acid-free boxes or archival plastic sleeves (not PVC ones).

Finally, say NO! to cello tape, glue, staples and paper clips. If a photo is ripped, just keep the parts together until you can get it to a conservator or have it scanned. Places that sell archival storage items are thin on the ground, but a good bet for those living in Vancouver is Beau Photo on 6th and Granville (other stores are available).

Who is it?



Last Edition. This picture was also taken at Albert Head in 1949 and shows a Predictor, AA, No 5 Mk 2/2. It only took two to operate but, like any piece of military hardware, was expected to be in service 24hrs a day in combat so its full crew was 8 men.

This Week's picture



Hello history fans! This week we wrap up our “What’s That Gizmo” series, one that has overwhelmed the servers, which is probably why we have received so few guesses (either that or you are all a lot younger and less geeky than we thought).

The gizmo in question is behind the group of stalwart lads, one of whom (lower left front) is the redoubtable Vic Stevenson. Vic had the photo taken in Esquimalt during a summer course in 1949.

The course was put on by the

Royal Canadian School of Artillery, (Coast and AA). The Bombardier in the back row is obviously an instructor and a veteran of WWII, while the others are all COTC lads. Can anyone identify these people, and, for full points, what is the gizmo in front of which they are so proudly posing? Did you ever operate one?

Answers can be sent to the editor, or to the columnist, John Redmond ([john.d. redmond@telus.net](mailto:john.d.redmond@telus.net)). Thanks for your support of our history.

From the ‘Punitary’

Novice pirates make terrible singers – they can’t hit the high seas.

Murphy’s other Laws

Information flows efficiently through organizations, except that bad news encounters high impedance in flowing upward.

Quotable Quotes

Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others. - *Jonathan Swift*



*The
British Columbia
Army Gala
2014*



Celebrating
A LEGACY OF SERVICE
Dinner and Dance

Come and enjoy a distinctive evening of fun, friendship and tradition. The BC Army Gala is open to anyone who has served, is a friend of the military or who wants to have an enjoyable evening with a unique group of people!

DO NOT DELAY. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!

Venue: Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Date: Saturday 10 May, 2014
Time: 7 p.m. 'till late
Dress: Mess Kit, Black Tie or equivalent



For all ticket information, including Early Bird Specials, please visit the BC Army Gala web site or phone (604) 225-2520 ext 2496.

www.bcarmygala.ca

Ireland Curry Lunch



Hosted by:
*The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess*

Coordinated by:
*The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association*



- Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by March 21, 2014)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after March 21, 2014

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, April 24, 2014
***** A special presentation is planned for April *****