



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News April 12, 2016

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>

Wednesday Lunches The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3rd Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project. **We are missing lunch tickets #10, 20 & 21. Check your pockets. Please return if you find them.**

Concerts – Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment

Heroic Episodes: A Concert with the Capilano University Wind Ensemble

Date: Tuesday, **April 12th, 2016, North Vancouver**

Winds of Spring: A Concert with the Cascadia Wind Ensemble

Date: Sunday, April 17th, 2016, **Mission**

See details at the end of the newsletter

World War 2 - 1940

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

Apr 13th: The Japanese-Soviet Neutrality Pact signed in Moscow. A series of formal assaults begins at Tobruk.

Apr 14th: King Peter, followed by many of his ministers, flees Yugoslavia to Greece. The Icelanders secretly agree to let the Americans replace the British as the occupying force. The German advance guards engage the British and Greeks at Mount Olympus.

Apr 15th: Harry Hopkins is tasked by Roosevelt to be his personal representative in Lend-Lease matters.

Apr 16th: About 700 Luftwaffe Bombers hit London. Wavell cancels the orders for 7th Australian Division and the Polish Brigade to leave Egypt for Greece. The Croat Ustace Government is formed and immediately begins its program of "ethnic cleansing (over the next year, they will kill about 500,000 Serbs and Jews). Four British destroyers jump an Axis convoy

off Libya and sink all five transports and three escorting Destroyers – about 1,750 German troops drown along with 800 Italian sailors for the loss of an RN destroyer.

Apr 17th: The Italians enter Dubrovnik, the Germans find a former Prime Minister to sign an Armistice and so now Yugoslavia is (technically) in their hands for less than 200 dead.

Apr 18th: British troops retreat from Olympus to Thermopylae as the Greek Prime Minister commits suicide in Athens.

Apr 19th: Another 700 Luftwaffe bombers blitz London again. An Indian Brigade lands at Basra over the objections of the increasingly pro-Axis Iraqi government. British women will have to register for war-work. The South African Brigade starts to hit the Italian positions at Dessie, to the north of Addis Ababa.

RCAF to Commemorate British Commonwealth Air Training Plan

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen April 1, 2016

The Royal Canadian Air Force 2016 commemorative efforts will focus on what the service is calling “one of the world’s greatest air training programs.” The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP), which ran from December 17, 1939, to March 31, 1945, was a massive Canadian program that trained aircrew from the air forces of Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as personnel from other nations, the RCAF noted. By the time the program came to an end on March 31, 1945, RCAF and civilian instructors had graduated more than 131,000 pilots, navigators, wireless operators, air bombers, air gunners, and flight engineers.

“The RCAF has selected 2016 as the year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the BCATP because the RCAF’s 400-series squadrons, which came into being as a direct result of Article XV of the BCATP agreement, were first established overseas in 1941 – 75 years ago,” the air force noted in a news release. “However, as important as these squadrons are to the RCAF and its sense of identity as a national institution, the anniversary celebrations are also commemorating the entirety of the five-and-a-half-year-long program.”

RCN Fires 1st Sea-To-Shore Precision Harpoon Missile

New weapon would have been valuable in 2011 Libya conflict, military expert says.

By Chris Rands, Peter Zimonjic, CBC News Apr 08, 2016

For the first time in its history the Royal Canadian Navy has successfully fired a ship-based precision missile at a target on land. The frigate HMCS Vancouver fired the missile last week off the coast of California during a joint training exercise with the US Navy. The Harpoon Block II missile is an improved version of the anti-ship missile carried by Canadian frigates for decades. Before the upgraded weapons system was installed, the only way for a frigate to attack a target on land was to use its 57-mm main gun, which has a range of only 17 kilometres, compared with 124 kilometres for the Harpoon Block II. "This would give the Canadian

military the ability to sail in the Mediterranean Sea and strike targets in Libya," says Elinor Slone, a professor of international relations at Carleton University and a former defence analyst with the Department of National Defence. "If we were to send special forces into Libya, they could call in strikes against ISIS, which has now infiltrated Libya, so there's going to be a necessity for some sort of action there," she said. Canada's allies such as the U.S. navy and Britain's Royal Navy have been able to fire missiles at land targets from the sea for decades, primarily with the larger Tomahawk cruise missile. Sloan said Canada's navy has been asking for this weapon for the past 20 years.

During the NATO led mission in Libya, HMCS Charlottetown patrolled the Mediterranean coast. On May 30, 2011, it came under rocket attack, although the ship wasn't damaged and none of the crew was injured. Sloan suggested that if the NATO coalition had more precision-guided weapons such as the Harpoon Block II at its disposal during the Libya campaign, the conflict might have been resolved in the summer of 2011 rather than October of that year. The new missile system gives the navy the ability to defend itself when attacked, in what naval planners call littoral warfare — conflicts in the coastal regions of the world.



A Harpoon Block II surface-to-surface missile is launched from HMCS Vancouver toward shore targets during a Joint Littoral Training Exercise between the Royal Canadian Navy and U.S. navy at a missile firing range off the coast of California. (Leading Seaman Sergej Krivenko/Royal Canadian Navy)

The 12 Halifax class frigates in the Royal Canadian Navy can carry up to 8 Harpoon missiles each. The frigates,

commissioned between 1992 and 1997, are now receiving their so-called midlife updates. The \$4.3-billion program involves replacing much of the ships' systems, including weapons, sensors and damage control. All 12 frigates are expected to be back in active service by 2018. "Years of work and innovation have led us to this point, and our sailors now have one more reason to hold their heads high," said Commodore Jeff Zwick, Commander Maritime Fleet Pacific in a release. "The success ... demonstrates the navy's commitment to providing a modern, flexible, and combat-capable maritime force — not only above, on, and below the seas — but one that is now also capable of striking from sea to shore."

MND Launches Public Consultations on Defence Policy Review

April 6, 2016 – Ottawa – National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces

Defence Minister Harjit S. Sajjan today announced the launch of public consultations as part of an open and transparent dialogue with Canadians and key stakeholders to inform the development of a new defence policy for Canada. This marks the first public consultation of

this magnitude on Canadian defence policy in over 20 years. The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has the tools it needs to defend Canada and North America, and to contribute to a wide spectrum of operations globally. The review will help set future direction and priorities so that our military is equipped, trained, and prepared to confront new threats and challenges in the years ahead.

Over the coming months, Canadians, academic experts, industry leaders, non-governmental organizations, international Allies and partners, and Parliamentarians will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion in a number of ways:

- Feedback can be submitted online at www.canada.ca/defence-consultations until July 31, 2016, and will inform a new policy to be released in early 2017.
- Six cross-country roundtable meetings will be held with a range of stakeholders in Toronto, Vancouver, Yellowknife, Edmonton, Montreal, and Halifax, ending in July 2016. Minister Sajjan will host the first roundtable meeting in Vancouver, on April 27, 2016. We will also be soliciting papers from a number of experts to inform this important discussion.
- We have invited the Senate and House Committees on National Defence to study issues of relevance to the policy review, and we will ask Parliamentarians to encourage their constituents to submit feedback.
- International Allies and partners, including the United States, will be engaged during bilateral and multilateral meetings.

Discussions will be centered on three fundamental areas of inquiry: the main challenges to Canada's security, the role of the CAF in addressing current threats and challenges, and resource and capability requirements to carry out the CAF mandate. A [public consultation paper](#) has been developed to help guide this discussion.

A Ministerial advisory panel has also been created. Over the next year, four eminent Canadians with expertise in defence, security, foreign affairs, and legal matters will support and advise the Minister of National Defence during the policy review process. The members of the Advisory Panel are:

- **The Honourable Louise Arbour**, former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and a member of the Advisory Board of The Coalition for the International Criminal Court
- **The Honourable Bill Graham**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and former Minister of National Defence
- **General (Ret'd) Raymond R. Henault**, former Chief of the Defence Staff, and past Chairman of the NATO Military Committee (CMC)
- **Margaret Purdy**, former Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Security and Intelligence) in the Privy Council Office, and former Associate Deputy Minister of National Defence.

Canada's Defence Budget Heads Back to The Future

New Liberal budget puts off billions in defence spending to make numbers look better

By Terry Milewski, CBC News Posted: Mar 27, 2016



RCN personnel watches over the HMCS Protecteur, a supply ship that was decommissioned last year. The Liberal budget tabled last week once again pushes funding for defence projects, such as new ships for the navy, down the road to when - hopefully - new ships are ready to require payment. (Chad Hipolito/The Canadian Press)

"Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss," sang The Who in their 1971 classic, *Won't Get Fooled Again*. Sadly, though, for geezers who recall that brave song from 45 years ago, The Who were wrong. We always get fooled again. So meet the new defence budget. Same as the old defence budget. In opposition, the Liberals were severely critical of the Conservatives' much-ballyhooed strategy to re-equip the Canadian military — just as the Conservatives condemned the preceding "decade of darkness" under the Liberals. But neither government ever produced the ships and planes that both said were needed. Now, the cycle is repeating like the chorus of the old song. Goodbye to the Conservatives' regular chest-thumping announcements that a new day was dawning for a threadbare military — and hello to the Liberals as their finance minister, Bill Morneau, does exactly what the late Jim Flaherty did for the Tories when he had the job. Like Flaherty in 2012 and again in 2014, Morneau has now punted the budget for defence procurement down the road. Fear not! We're still planning to buy lots of ships and fighter planes. You just won't find the billions to pay for them in the budget.

Dave Perry, senior analyst at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, calls this a "recurring theme" in Canada's defence budgeting, which he calls "depressing." But Perry does not blame either of the two ministers. Rather, he blames a dysfunctional procurement system, which, he says, "simply cannot deliver on schedule." "In essence, no matter how badly needed, the government just isn't able to get this money out the door on schedule," Perry complains. And the official budget documents confirm it, saying that the earmarked funds "cannot be spent due to unforeseen delays in planned projects."

Unforeseen? That's a stretch. Many defence analysts, including Perry, saw these delays coming long ago. And the budget games are hardly new. In his time, Flaherty explained the procedure very simply. "We're not reducing spending on the armed forces," Flaherty told reporters of his

February, 2014 budget. Even so, he added memorably, "There is no point in having money there to spend if they can't spend it, which they can't." See? It was easy. The government had not decided what jet fighters to buy and it hadn't built any ships. So no procurement was actually happening and — poof! — the vast piles of cash required were deftly shifted off the right-hand side of the page and beyond the five-year budget horizon. Thus exiled from the spending column, the missing money became invisible — as weightless as it was immense, leaving no stain upon the cheery numbers that remained.

The time-shifting process worked well for Flaherty, whose balance sheet was thereby spared the inconvenient facts of the future. Now the new boss, Morneau, is doing the same, although his explanation is not quite so pithy. 'If this situation doesn't change, the 2018 budget will be telling the exact same story of a defence procurement system unable to deliver what Canada needs'- Defence analyst Dave Perry. "In order to make sure that we have the funds available at the time when they need those funds," the finance minister told reporters about the defence numbers, "we've re-profiled some money in the fiscal framework, which is currently in the 2015-16 to 2021 period. And we've re-profiled it to future years so that when we need the money, the money will be in the fiscal framework." "Re-profiled" is a word only a finance official could love. Here, it really means the money is parked in the beyond. But however numinous, the amount is still impressive. In his two tries, Flaherty moved a total of \$6.7 billion in procurement funds off the page in this way. Morneau has now added another \$3.7 billion. So the Liberals are all for spending and job creation and investments — but the federal government has now reached well over \$10 billion in defence money that is theoretically earmarked but not even close to being spent. Call it stimulus, call it infrastructure — but it's not being spent. And that's because, as Flaherty said, there's no point in having money there if we can't spend it, and we can't.

So where has that cash gone? Those determined to find it must take a microscope and dive deeply into page 204 of the new budget. There, the future is squeezed onto one page in tiny font, extending to the year 2045. A graph shows procurement spending rocketing upwards under the old plan, but rising much more gently under Morneau's plan. Oddly enough, that new plan doesn't match the old level of projected spending on procurement until after the next election. Purely a coincidence, no doubt. Notice, too, the footnote, in even smaller font. "The annual profile of this funding," it warns, "may be subject to change depending on project schedules." No kidding. Still, it must be admitted that the repeated delays in funding do match the repeated delays in buying ships and planes. The minister for procurement, Judy Foote, is reviewing the creaky system and the minister of defence, Harjit Sajjan, is reviewing defence strategy in general. And for now, there seems to be no danger of a new ship suddenly hitting the water and demanding to be paid for. But the navy, the coast guard, the Defence Department, the shipbuilding industry and anxious experts like Dave Perry are all hoping that Canada's sclerotic purchasing system can be shocked into life. Otherwise, forget The Who. We just might get fooled again. "If this situation doesn't change," says Perry, "the 2018 budget will be telling the exact same story of a defence procurement system unable to deliver what Canada needs."

RCAA Volunteer helpers

Gents, I have been forwarded this email from a member of the RCAA Board of Directors:

There is an urgent need to recruit from across the nation to the RCAA as we depend on non-serving members to shoulder the bulk of our good deeds. We are on the search for members in this case from the west coast. It is important not to engage too early but again with little new blood in the organization, we are in need of members who haven't already made a contribution, to step up, become a member and help with the projects and work that we the RCAA do.

Just a note that the RCA Senate and the RCAA are working on a rationalization plan at present to determine where we can cut back on duplication and determine which organization is best suited to take on which role.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help the RCAA can get in contact with me at bob.mugford@outlook.com and I will pass names to the RCAA.

Ubique
Craig Cotter
Past President RCAA

Party in the Park - HM's 90th Birthday Party

In Celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday, The Royal Commonwealth Society, Mainland of British Columbia Branch, in the presence of The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, will hold a "Party in The Park" in Queen Elizabeth Park's Jubilee Square, over the bridge and next to the Bloedel Conservatory.

The event will commence at 9:30AM on April 22, 2016. Those wishing to attend are asked to arrive no later than 9:20AM. Happy Birthday to HM The Queen will be sung and cake will be served. Please plan to attend this once in a lifetime event, staged by the Royal Commonwealth Society, Mainland of British Columbia Branch and the local community.

Contact Shawn M Wade (Home Office) 604 522-5134 shawnmwade@hotmail.com

Who is it?



Last Week: The location of this picture is Ladner (strong hint in the sign behind the guns), the guns are 4.5-inch Howitzers that have been modified with pneumatic tires. In Canada this conversion, from rubber rimmed wheels to tires, was made in 1940. We are still not sure which unit this is but, after 15 Coast was activated at the start of the war, a new Reserve Artillery Regiment (39 Fd) was formed with 3 Batteries.

This Week: Do you remember the 1970s, the decade that style forgot? I'm sure some of you do, including yours truly, although much of it is fuzzy. Fuzzy is the word with this group of happy warrant officers. I can count at least ten moustaches, and that doesn't count the gingers whose upper lip beards might not be visible. I will not comment on the females' hirsute qualities, although I did know a CWAC WOII, our neighbour in the 1950s, who was said to have one that she kept in her desk drawer. This must be true because my friend George, age 7, told me so. The again, I've always been a bit gullible.



Well, thanks to the efforts of LCol (ret'd) Leon Jensen, I can now easily find information on many of our photos that have been accessioned. Leon has put that information on an Excel file. However, this one isn't on the list, nor in the book, but it is in our files with other shots of activities in the various messes of the unit.

So, esteemed reader, can you help us fill in the missing story and

identify some or all of these soldiers of the Queen? Also, what was the occasion? Your answers can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net) As always, you can email the editor for a picture you can zoom in on Bob.mugford@outlook.com

From the 'Punitentary'

A gossip is someone with a sense of rumor.

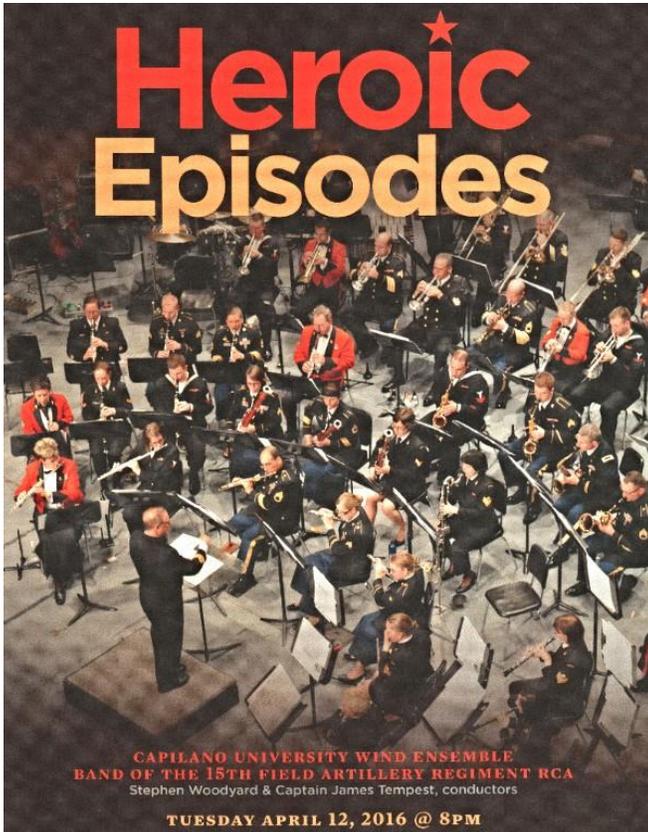
Murphy's other Laws

The best laid plans of mice and men are usually about equal.

Quotable Quotes

I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it in the right way, did not become still more complicated. - *Poul Anderson*

Upcoming Events - Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment



Heroic Episodes: A Concert with the Capilano University Wind Ensemble

Date: Tuesday, **April 12th, 2016**

Time: 8pm

Location: BlueShore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts, Capilano University, 2055 Purcell Way, North Vancouver

The Capilano University Wind Ensemble hosts the Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA, at the BlueShore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts for an exciting program of music for winds surrounding *heroes*. From Shostakovich's thrilling "Festive Overture" to a suite of music from the Star Wars Trilogy, this program will take the audience to new heights!

Tickets: Adults \$15, Students and Seniors \$10, Children 12 and under \$5 and available on line at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/blueshorefinancialcentre/15-Heroic-Episodes/> or by phone at 604-990-7810.

Winds of Spring: A Concert with the Cascadia Wind Ensemble

Date: Sunday, April 17th, 2016

Time: 2pm

Location: Clarke Theatre, [33700 Prentis Avenue](#), Mission

Tickets: Adults \$15, Students and Seniors \$10. Available at the door and at **King's Music** Abbotsford and Chilliwack.

The Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA, joins the Cascadia Wind Ensemble in Mission for a matinee performance in the Clark Theatre. Vancouver composer Robert Buckley's "Cascadia Suite", performed together by both bands, will be the highlight of a delightful concert of music for band that marks the start of a new season.



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

*The President and Directors of
The Naval Officers' Association of
British Columbia,*

*request the pleasure of your company and guest(s)
at dinner.*

We shall commemorate the 71th anniversary of

The Battle of the Atlantic

on

Saturday, 30 April 2016

1830 for 1930

Wardroom, HMCS DISCOVERY

Guest of Honor

Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier, OMM, CD.

Commander Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force Pacific

*Cost: \$85.00 per person
Mess Dress or Black Tie
(Ladies Equivalent)
Miniatures*

RSVP before April 20th 2016

by using the attached reservation form.

Taste of the Caribbean Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, April 28, 2016
- 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 April 18, 2016)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail Charlotte Yen at corporate@hplaw.ca
(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 April 18, 2016

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, May 28, 2016