



## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Feb 12, 2013

### Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in. The decision has been made to renovate the upstairs (Mess) kitchen at an estimated cost of \$30-35,000. The Officers Mess members, about a dozen serving Officers, have to bear the costs of the renovations as DND won't support a kitchen in the Armoury. They don't have that much money in their account so fundraising plans are being made. (see below)

We are still missing 3 lunch tickets. If you have one of these tickets (check your jacket pockets) please return them to us. If you bring guests, make sure they drop their tickets when they pick up their lunches.

And finally, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VEHICLE COMPOUND!!

### Whiskey Tasting Fundraiser

The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders welcome you to attend a Fund Raising and Whisky Tasting event at our Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music from the BC Regiment (DCO) Irish Pipes and Drums.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or \$25.00 if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. Kilts, of course, are welcome.

**DATE:** March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

**TIME:** 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

**LOCATION:** 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA 2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Van BC

### **TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:**

LCol James Barrett  
Cell: (604) 916-1766  
E-Mail: [barrettjd007@gmail.com](mailto:barrettjd007@gmail.com)

**All profits will go to the 15th Field Regimental Society to be directed towards the kitchen renovation fund.**

**Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.**

## **My Donation. What does it cost ?**

*Written by Bernie Rowe, Treasurer of the 15 Fd Regimental Society*

The mess lunches give our members a great opportunity for sociability, reminiscing, and contact with the 15<sup>th</sup> Field regiment, Mrs. Lum consistently produces great meals at an amazing price. But great lunches need a workable kitchen and for several months Mrs Lum has been working under the huge disadvantage of preparing the meals off site. The kitchen is also used to prepare meals for various functions put on by all the messes and several other user groups and these groups are supporting the renovations to the best of their ability as well.

The Armoury needs a new kitchen. It will cost about \$35,000. Several members have already donated, but the fund is still a long way from the needed amount. So, please consider the satisfaction and value the mess lunches and other functions give you. If you have not already donated, please follow the example of those who have already given.

When deciding the amount of your donation it will be instructive look at the actual benefit to the fund, and its cost to you. Taxes effect that dimension.

A well known tax specialist wrote that Canada's tax treatment was among the most generous of western nations. Here are some examples of donations, the tax credits they attract and the related "out of pocket" cost. The tax credits apply to the total amount of donations to all charities in the calendar year.

Donation	Tax Credit	Actual Cost
\$ 100	\$20.06	\$ 79.94
\$ 500	\$171.22	\$ 328.78
\$1,000	\$389.72	\$ 610.28
\$5,000	\$2137.72	\$2,862.28

*Above figures were derived from information on the Canada Revenue Agency website [www.cra.gov.ca](http://www.cra.gov.ca) They are not intended as tax advice. If you have questions you should check the website and consult your accountant or financial advisor.*

## **Appointment of Director of Artillery Reserves**

LGen Beare announces: As the Senior Serving Gunner, I am very pleased to announce the establishment of the Deputy Director Artillery Reserves (DD Arty Res) position and to formally welcome and congratulate the designate, LCoI Finley Mullaly. The establishment of this important appointment recognizes the total force nature of the Royal Regiment and the continued importance of strong Regular and Reserve Force integration, and as members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. The establishment of a DD Arty (Res) will enhance our ability to speak with one voice and better enable our capability development efforts across the

Army. Again, I would like to congratulate LCoI Mullally on his appointment and thank him for his continued commitment to The Royal Regiment.

## **Depleted Uranium and Canadian Veterans**

**Ottawa** - The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, today released a report by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Veterans' Health on the issue of depleted uranium titled: *Depleted Uranium and Canadian Veterans: A Review of Potential Exposure and Health Effects*. The report addresses the subject of the potential exposure of Canadian soldiers to levels of depleted uranium that could be harmful to their health and the overall potential health effects of depleted uranium exposure.

"As some Canadian Veterans continue to be concerned about this issue, I asked the Scientific Advisory Committee on Veterans' Health to look at the scientific literature and assess the information available on the effects of exposure to depleted uranium," said Minister Blaney. "I wish to thank the Committee for this sound and in-depth report, and the members for their continued commitment to examining issues of concern to Canadian Veterans."

Over the past year, the Committee completed a thorough review of the international scientific literature, and listened to expert witnesses and Veterans on this topic. The report was independently reviewed and validated by international experts. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Veterans' Health is an independent committee that comprises five experts with collective expertise in scientific, medical and military matters. Two of the members are Veterans, including the Committee Chairman, Major-General (ret'd) Pierre Morisset, MD.

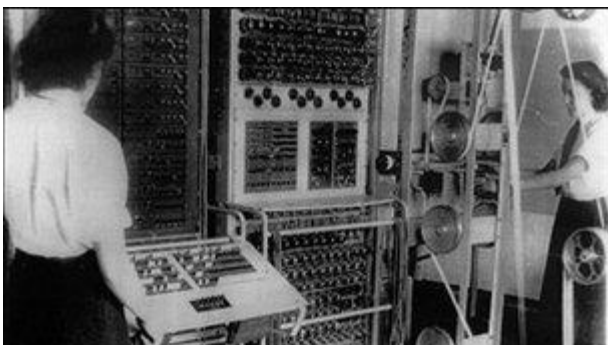
"We are not suggesting that these concerned Veterans do not have health problems," said Dr. Morisset. "However, we firmly believe that whatever health problems they do have are unlikely related to depleted uranium."

"It is imperative that our approach to Veterans' concerns be based on science to ensure our Veterans are receiving the best and most appropriate support and treatment," said Minister Blaney. "The work of these experts will add another layer of assurance that the Government of Canada is using the most up-to-date research and analysis in considering Veterans' health issues."

To read the report [\*Depleted Uranium and Canadian Veterans\*](#) or for information on research activities, benefits, services and programs at Veterans Affairs Canada, visit [veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca).

## **The road to uncovering a wartime Colossus**

*By Mark Ward Technology correspondent, BBC News*



*The first official information released about Colossus was a single page of information and a few pictures*

The story of how the Colossus computer at Bletchley Park aided the allied code-cracking effort

during World War II is becoming well known. Its claim to be a forerunner of modern-day computers is also well established. What is much less well known is the tale of how Colossus' story came to be told in the first place. It is a tale of how one man's dogged efforts overcame official secrets and official indifference to rewrite computer history. Computer scientist Brian Randell was the man who started uncovering the history of Colossus. That history had to be pried out of the archives because official efforts to cover up its success worked so well. Thousands of people worked in the huts at Bletchley Park during WWII on code-cracking but only a handful were involved with Colossus and fewer still knew everything about it. All those codebreakers signed the Official Secrets Act which demanded that they kept quiet about their wartime career. Almost all the machines were broken up once they ceased to be useful and design documents were burnt or destroyed at the same time.

"I got to know more about it than they did," Prof Randell told the BBC. "They were so compartmentalised that those who worked in one hut would not dream of talking to people in another hut." Prof Randell detailed his experiences of uncovering Colossus' history during a talk at The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. Prof Randell tripped over the story of Colossus in 1970 while preparing an academic paper on a little-known Irish computer pioneer Percy Ludgate who, in 1908, completed the design for a nascent computer. Because he had a lot of material left over after writing about Ludgate, Mr Randell decided to use it as the basis of a series of papers dealing with early computers. While putting those papers together, he was asked why he had written so little about Alan Turing. Prof Randell started to look into Turing's war work and got tantalising glimpses of the electronic code-cracking machines that had been in use at Bletchley.

One paper written by Jack Good, one of the engineers who helped create Colossus, and published in 1970 mentioned a "classified, electronic" machine that used 1,000 valves to calculate "complicated Boolean functions involving up to about 100 symbols" to crack codes. The link with Turing, said Prof Randell, was that Colossus drew on Turing's seminal 1936 paper that laid down the basic specifications for a machine that can could carry out complicated calculations step by step. Finding a little out about this machine prompted Prof Randell to seek out and correspond with those named as being involved with Colossus even though he now knew that their work was covered by the Official Secrets Act.

"A number of the people I wrote to wrote back in very guarded terms," said Prof Randell. "We were very much more conscious about those things at that time."



The result of Prof Randell's work was a paper in 1972 exploring Turing's influence on early computers and making mention of the wartime machines.

*Prof Randell's work aided the reconstruction of the Colossus computer*

In a bid to pierce the official veil of secrecy, Prof Randell wrote to the prime minister of the day, Ted Heath, asking for more information to be released. He was turned down flat. Information could not be released, said Mr Heath, because that "sensitive wartime operation... still has important current implications". Prof Randell continued to badger civil servants and his efforts were helped by the appearance of several books about Bletchley and code-cracking that mentioned the machines used to read messages sent by the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe and Hitler's generals. Then, in 1975, a change of government brought a change in policy and Prof Randell was invited to the Cabinet Office to discuss the first official release of information about the Allies' main codebreaking machine. The official release was a handful of pictures and a short statement which mentioned Colossus' key designers: Max Newman and Tommy Flowers. More importantly, Prof Randell was asked by the government to interview the Colossus creators and publish what they said.

Prof Randell gathered the information into a paper that he presented in 1976 at a conference on the history of computing. Attending was John Mauchly who, before Prof Randell took to the stage, thought that the machine he built, Eniac, was one of the first electronic computers. Jaws literally dropped as Prof Randell delivered his lecture, he told the BBC. They dropped again in the evening as Prof Randell had arranged for one of Colossus's creators, Allen "Doc" Coombs, to attend and answer questions about the machine and what it did. Prof Randell's lecture and Coombs's comments meant the computer history books would have to be rewritten.

"Eniac was not the first computer, it was the 11th," he said. The door that Prof Randell first pushed at is now wide open, he said. "I'm sure that all of the technical details of Colossus are now well known," said Prof Randell. "With the publication of the official history of the intelligence services we have a very full account of what was discovered by codebreaking and the significance it had." It has also put the spotlight on the people who built Colossus and their achievements. "They were so modest and so bloody brilliant," he said. "It was one of the best experiences of my life."

## **DUES 2013**

It's time to pay dues again:

**Vancouver Artillery Association** – Dues are \$75/yr. Make cheques payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association and send to the Vancouver Artillery Association at the address below.

**15 Field Regt Officers Mess** – Dues are \$60/yr. Make cheques payable to 15RCA Officers Mess and send to the Associate Members Representative at the address below.

Association and Mess dues to: 2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

**RUSI Vancouver** – dues are \$25/yr. Make cheques payable to RUSI Vancouver and send to Keith Freer, 524-666 Leg-in-Boot Square, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3

## 2013 Military Ball



*Vancouver Garrison Officers Society*

# **The Military Ball**



*We invite everyone to attend our*

## **68<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Ball**

*to be held at the*

# ***Hyatt Regency Hotel***

*on*

## **April 6, 2013**

**For information about the event and ticket orders please contact us at:**

**[bcmilitaryball@gmail.com](mailto:bcmilitaryball@gmail.com)**

**Tickets - \$110/pp**

Mark your calendars now for the **6th of April 2013** to attend the Annual Vancouver Garrison's Military Ball, scheduled once again to be held at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel. The tariff to attend the Vancouver Military Ball remains unchanged for 2013 at \$110 per person - Tickets must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets send an email to the address on the poster above to have an order form emailed back to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Want to book a room at the host hotel for the Military Ball? The Hyatt has again offered a special room rate for our guests and the reservations link is pasted below. The rate is **\$149.00!** As per last year, this rate is ***only available by booking on-line via this link***. You will not be able to find it if you call the Hyatt 1-800 reservation phone number or try to book via Hyatt.com.

On line reservation: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/mball2013>

# Curry Lunch - China



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



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

**Date:** Thursday, February 28, 2013

**Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
(bar opens at 11:45am)  
(welcome at 12:15pm)  
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)

**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 February 22, 2013)

**RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact  
Bill Diamond at [Bill@DukeaBear.com](mailto: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 February 22, 2013

***NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, February 28, 2013***

## From the 'Punitary'

Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.

## Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Always make sure someone has a can opener.

## Great Truths

Nobody cares what you did yesterday or what you are going to do tomorrow. What is important is what you are doing -- NOW -- to solve the problem.

*I don't usually put cartoons in this newsletter but, especially with the changes in the US military, this is just too funny not to pass on.*

