



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 14, 2017

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a 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 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 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 serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars Details to follow in future editions

Feb 22 **NOABC Speaker** - See poster at end of newsletter.

Mar 3 **Scotch Tasting Fundraiser** - details at the end of the newsletter.

World War 2 - 1942

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

Feb 15th: Singapore surrenders and the Malaya campaign is over; the Japanese have gained a brilliant victory, losing 10,000 men in exchange for 138,000 British dead and captured – the worst defeat the British have ever suffered. The Japanese also have won the gateway from the Pacific into the Indian Ocean and done so 30 days ahead of schedule. The Japanese secure Palembang before Allied troops can destroy the oil refinery there. In Burma, the Japanese are over the Salween and are advancing on the Bilin River. The first transport of Jews arrives in Auschwitz and is gassed.

Feb 16th: The Indian troops defending the Bilin river in Burma are attacked by Japanese forces. In Tokyo, Tojo outlines his plans for "A new order of coexistence and co prosperity on ethical principles in Greater East Asia." In the Caribbean, German U-boats shell the refinery at Aruba and sink 7 tankers. The submarine HMS Thrasher is subjected to three hours of depth and aerial bombing after sinking a supply ship north of Crete. When it surfaces, two unexploded bombs are found lodged in the gun casing. Lt Peter Scawen Watkinson Roberts and Petty Officer Thomas William Gould volunteer to remove the bombs, but part of this involves crawling under the gun casing in the certain knowledge they would be drowned if the submarine was forced to submerge again should any more enemy ships or aircraft appear. After 40 minutes, they are

successful and both receive the Victoria Cross.

Feb 19th: Eisenhower is appointed Chief of War Plans for the US Army General Staff. Gamelin, Blum and Reynard are put on trial by Vichy for losing the war in 1940 – the trial is never concluded thanks to their tenacious defence in this matter. Four Japanese carriers launch sorties on Darwin, Australia. The Japanese land on Bali.

Feb 20th: USS Lexington launches a fairly harmless attack on Rabaul. The Japanese invade Timor. As a flight of Japanese bombers goes for the USS Lexington, Lt Edward O'Hare launches a solo attack on their tight formation – shooting down three of them and damaging two more, despite their concentrated defensive fire. For this action, he receives the Medal of Honor and Chicago's airport is named in his honor.

Feb 21st: The 17th Indian Division falls back to the Sittang River in Burma. Admiral Scheer and Prinz Eugen (undamaged in the Channel Run) are sent to bases in Norway.

Vancouver Canucks 'Support the Troops' Game



The Vancouver Canucks held their annual 'Support the Troops' game on Feb 2, 2017. Representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces, including the CDS, Gen Jonathan Vance, dropped the ceremonial puck prior to the Sharks-Canucks game in Vancouver. The game was well attended by local members and after the game they all got to meet the CDS. Two Private Recruits, Pte Jeon and Pte Pearen, from 31 Battery, 15th Field

Regt RCA had the privilege of getting their picture taken with Gen Vance.

Operation PALACI

Op PALACI is the Canadian Armed Forces' contribution to Parks Canada's avalanche-control program in Rogers Pass, where the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway cross the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia. Its objective is to prevent uncontrolled, naturally occurring avalanches, and thus prevent blockage of the essential road and rail links between coastal British Columbia and the rest of Canada. Operation PALACI is conducted under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of National Defence and Parks Canada, which has jurisdiction over Rogers Pass because it lies within the boundaries of



The task force deployed on Operation PALACI is provided by the Regular and Reserve Force regiments of the Royal Canadian Artillery, a combat arms branch of the Canadian Army. Operational command, control and coordination are provided by Joint Task Force Pacific HQ in Esquimalt, BC. Every year, from November to April, the artillery task force is deployed in Rogers Pass with 105-mm howitzers modified for precision firing from roadside gun platforms. The Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway use Rogers Pass as a shortcut across the "Big Bend" of the Columbia River between Revelstoke and Donald, BC. With an elevation of 1,330 metres and an average annual snow accumulation of 12 metres, Rogers Pass is the site of frequent avalanches. Between 1885 and 1916, avalanches in the area took the lives of more than 250 railway workers. Today, Rogers Pass contains more than 130 avalanche paths intersecting the Trans-Canada Highway, which therefore holds the highest avalanche rating of arterial roads in North America.

For more than 50 years, the Royal Canadian Artillery has provided the key component of the world's largest mobile avalanche-control program. Parks Canada scientists monitor and evaluate the snow conditions in Rogers Pass to predict when and where avalanches are most likely to occur. When a potential avalanche is identified, the co-ordinates are communicated to the artillery task force. Gun detachments fire from 17 positions along the Trans-Canada Highway. Directing their fire on registered targets at distances ranging from three to five kilometres, the gunners use explosive shells to trigger safe, controlled avalanches, thus preventing snow build-up that would eventually produce dangerous, uncontrolled avalanches. The highway and the rail line are closed to traffic before each shoot, and care is taken to prevent damage to humans, wildlife and the environment. When each shoot is completed, the fallen snow is cleared from the route, which is then opened to traffic once more. During the winter, the traffic burden in Rogers Pass can reach 4,000 motor vehicles and 40 trains per day. The value of maintaining four-season commercial-grade road and rail links between coastal British Columbia and the rest of Canada is estimated at billions of dollars

Now is Your Chance to Recognize Someone's Devotion to Veterans!

Ottawa, ON - February 6, 2017

One of the advantages of being the Veterans Ombudsman is the opportunity to meet dedicated and compassionate Canadians in communities across Canada devoted to helping Veterans of the

Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and their families. Each year, I have the privilege of recognizing some of these amazing individuals and groups, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for Veterans. Now is the time to send in nominations!

My Office will be accepting nominations for the 2017 Veterans Ombudsman Commendation for eight weeks, from February 6th to March 31st, 2017. I encourage you to take the time to nominate anyone—an individual, group or organization—who you believe deserves to be recognized for their selflessness, hard work, and dedication to Veterans and their families. Commendations may be awarded in the following categories:

- National organization or group – to recognize the exceptional work and significant contribution of an organization or group with a national scope that have resulted in a long-lasting and positive impact on the well-being of Veterans and their families;
- Local organization or group – to recognize the exceptional work and significant contribution of an organization or group that have resulted in a long-lasting and positive impact, at the local or regional level, on the well-being of Veterans and their families;
- Individual – to recognize the exceptional work and significant contribution of an individual that have resulted in a long-lasting and positive impact on the well-being of Veterans and their families at the national or local level; and
- Lifetime Contribution – to recognize the life-long dedication, exceptional work, and significant contribution an individual has made in supporting or advocating for Veterans and their families.

Please complete the [nomination form](#) and include a summary of why you believe the nominee is deserving of the Veterans Ombudsman's Commendation. In the form, remember to also include two letters of support for your nomination. Consult the [nomination guidelines](#) for more details. The deadline to submit a nominations is **March 31st, 2017**. Completed forms can be sent by mail, fax or electronically:

Office of the Veterans Ombudsman

360 Albert Street, Suite 1560 Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7X7

By Fax: 613-944-2939 **By email:** communication@ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca

I will announce my selection of award recipients after consultation with members of my [Advisory Council](#). Read about some of the outstanding contribution of [prior recipients](#). I look forward to receiving your nominations.

Guy Parent

Millions Worth of National Defence Equipment Stolen in Past Decade

Canadian Armed Forces began reviewing inventory management system in 2012

CBC News Feb 12, 2017

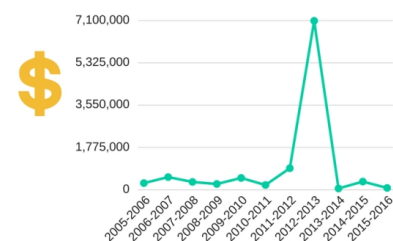


A container is loaded on a military plane. (Fred Thornhill/Reuters)

More than \$10 million worth of equipment — including combat gear, computers and even weapons — has been stolen from National Defence over the past decade, according to data compiled by Radio-Canada. The majority of nearly 77,000 items declared stolen from the inventory of the Canadian Armed Forces since 2005 falls under the category of military equipment, accounting for \$5.5 million of the losses. That equipment includes bulletproof vests, helmets and boots. Meanwhile, items declared missing include transportation equipment valued at \$1,456,000, telecommunications equipment valued at \$253,000, tools valued at \$939,000 and weapons and accessories valued at \$239,000. The Department of National Defence refused to detail how many firearms disappeared. The department said the losses account for a tiny portion of its massive 600-million item inventory. The numbers show the losses peaked between 2012 and 2013, as Canada was wrapping up its mission in Afghanistan, with more than \$7 million worth of equipment stolen or going missing. That includes equipment en route to Canada, such as periscopes and cases, stolen from a port in Pakistan. But former RCMP deputy commissioner Pierre-Yves Bourduas said even a small number of losses, such as 150 computers reported stolen in the past decade, can cause significant damage to intelligence and tactical operations.

The Canadian Armed Forces has been reviewing the management of its inventory since 2012. Jean Rioux, the parliamentary secretary for national defence, said the department is developing a more efficient management system, which includes more supervision as well as integrated technology that will track inventory in real time. National Defence spokesperson Dan Le Bouthillier told Radio-Canada in an email that reports of stolen firearms are investigated thoroughly. "All complaints and allegations of about lost or stolen weapons are taken very seriously and are investigated by competent authorities," he wrote in French. "Furthermore, every effort is made to account for weapons used during Canadian Armed Forces missions."

Value of stolen goods



Pierre Paul-Hus, Conservative MP and defence critic, said he is pleased to see improvements to inventory management since the end of the mission in Afghanistan. "It's important that the Canadian Armed Forces have security measures in place and that convoys make it to their final destinations, because we can't allow for the loss of millions of dollars in equipment," he said. Paul-Hus said this new system is especially important as the military is preparing a deployment to Latvia as part of a NATO mission to counter the threat of Russian aggression in eastern Europe. There are also Canadian troops in Iraq.

US Looking to Reduce Costs of F35

US Secretary of Defense James Mattis has ordered a review of the F-35 program to find savings. In addition, the review will examine into whether the advanced Super Hornet can fill

the role as an alternative to the F-35C, the aircraft carrier variant of the Lockheed Martin plane. The memo from Mattis noted that the review will “determine opportunities to significantly reduce the cost,” of the F-35. Mattis announced that the deputy secretary of defense would “oversee a review that compares the F-35C and F/A-18E/F operational capabilities and assess the extent that F/A-18E/F improvements can be made in order to provide competitive, cost effective, fighter aircraft alternative.”



The new design of the Advanced Super Hornet “is a mix of new capabilities and upgrades like the centreline fuel tank-mounted infrared search and track (IRST21) sensor, integrated defensive electronic countermeasures (IDECM) Block IV, active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar and next-generation jammer,” according to Flight Global magazine. “Upgrades that have not yet been adopted by the Pentagon include an enhanced

engine, conformal fuel tanks and an open architecture cockpit with a 48cm (19in) wide-area display,” the publication pointed out. President Donald Trump has complained that the cost of the F-35 is out of control. Trump tweeted in December that “based on the tremendous cost and cost overruns of the Lockheed Martin F-35, I have asked Boeing to price-out a comparable F-18 Super Hornet!” Mattis has also called for a review of the Air Force One replacement aircraft program. Boeing has been selected to build two new Air Force One aircraft.

Personal Travel Fare for the CAF, Veterans and DND Employees

Thank you to the Canadian military! To show our support and gratitude for the men and women that serve our country with dedication, VIA Rail is offering our military and DND personnel across-the-board savings on train travel in Canada. 25% discount on adult, senior, student, youth and child fares in all classes and on all trains for qualifying CAF and DND members and their immediate families!

VIA Rail is offering a 25% discount on all classes (excluding Prestige class, Discount Tuesday and Sleeper class fare) for one-way or roundtrip travel on board any VIA Rail train in Canada for qualifying DND members. And the good news is, immediate family members travelling in the same class with you will also enjoy a 25% discount!

For further information go to: <http://www.viarail.ca/en/canadian-forces>

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

It’s been a busy week working on our partnership with BC Parks for the advancement of the Yorke Island conservancy. Details to follow in the near future.

Commissioning Scroll presentation by the Commanding Officer just last week.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2017.html>.

The Regimental Tough Mudder team in 2016. <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2016.html>

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Dinner in 1997. Wasn't that a party?
<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1997.html>

A Regimental wedding Sword Party in 1986. At least, we think it was 1986. Let me know if we've got it wrong. <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1986.html> We've added some pictures from 1964 when young Ian Newby was at the Blair Range in North Vancouver.
<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1964.html>

Colin Parkinson sent me to a link with some history on the old Blair Range where we found an excellent research paper that's been placed in the 2014 yearbook
<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2014.html>

Private Ian Newby's adventure on the blue side. He has a story that I need to get him to write it down. In the meantime we have the photographic evidence.
<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1961.html> We also have some photos when he originally joined the Regiment back in 1959. <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1959.html>

Found some additional biographical information on one of our former Sergeants, Lionel Edmond Charles Gagnon. Check it out in the nominal roll.
<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---g.html>

Wow, that was a busy week! Have you got a story that you might wish to share? Some additional photographs? Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: This is another in a series taken in June, 1953 at Fort Rodd Hill (when it was still an active CD fort), which included the picture in the Quiz three weeks ago. That picture showed the Duplex (or Twin) 6-pounder 10-cwt Coast Defence gun, mounted at Belmont Battery, the middle Battery at Fort Rodd Hill, with a Greek officer talking to some Sikh gunners of the 102nd Coast Regt. The Regt was at Fort Rodd Hill for a live firing exercise on the Duplex 6pdr in June 1953. Another picture in the series shows the officers (and guests) of the 102nd having a Mess dinner and these same officers are seen in this picture watching the band march down the path. The path and rock face shown have been identified as being at Fort Rodd Hill.



This Week: Some would say that the role of women in the Canadian Army (and the other two services) goes back only to the Second World War. However, that is to neglect the role of nursing sisters, which, for Canada, goes back to the Third South African (Boer) War. There is, also, rumour of a lesser-known initiative in the dark years of the Great Depression. Led by the chatelaine of the time, Lady Bessborough, a movement to help women through that penniless period was formed. A faded document in our archives has led some historians, after discussion next to the bar in the mess, to surmise that this photo from the Vancouver Archives shows the

result of that initiative.



The document, now lost due to an accident with a full tankard of ale, outlined the dress for what were termed “lady gunners”. This included donated items from Woodward’s and Spence’s department stores, as well as privately-purchased items for officers, as was standard at the time. Attired in the regulation muskrat coat (mink for officers), and having stowed her Bag, Hand, Mk1*, is a “lady gunner”, photographed whilst laying a gun at the armoury named after the governor-general, being observed by eager recruits. This initiative did not survive further ravages of the Great Depression, and seems to have been over by 1936, with the gunners employed as extras in Busby Berkeley musicals (due to their proficiency at drill).

Our question, dear fellow historians, is this: what gun is being adjusted by the lady?

Answers can be sent to the attractive editor,

bob.mugford@outlook.com or to his nattily-dressed author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Thank you for your assistance.

From the ‘Punitenary’

What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day? Forget-me-nuts.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Money can't buy love, but it sure puts you in a great bargaining position.

Quotable Quotes

All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt. *Charles M. Schulz*



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

MONTHLY LUNCH PROGRAM

Wednesday February 22nd 2017

Officers Mess
Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC.

1130 am bar open

1200 noon lunch

1 pm speaker

3 course hot lunch

\$20 per person

(new price now in effect
still very good value)

Dress – Blazers, ties etc or Business attire

This month's topic is:

“Burkas 2 Bullets”

Alison Maclean

Tomboy Productions

RSVP for lunch numbers please to **bob.mackay@hotmail.com**

David Reece
Social Director

February Lunch Taste of Italy



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2017
- 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 February 13, 2017)
- 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 Monday, February 20, 2017

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: March 30, 2017

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78th Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders invite you, and any like-minded guests of your acquaintance, to attend our annual fund raising and whiskey tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music. Did we say whisky?

Tickets are **\$55.00** per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by our famous whisky elves, Chuck & John, or a meager **\$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, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday – March 3rd, 2017

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J
2C7

**DO NOT MISS OUT!
TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:**

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.

