



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Oct 14, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

Dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. We retain 'Business casual' for summer dress. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Guests are always welcome.

NOABC - Monthly Lunch Speakers - Wednesday, 29 October

Our guest speaker for October will be associate member Roddy MacKenzie, who will provide an illustrated talk about the recent visit he and his wife Ka Hyun made to Fort McMurray and the associated oil sands mining operations.

Wednesday, 26 November

Our guest speaker for November will be Captain John Swann, Master Mariner, on the maritime implications of LNG export.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - Sept 1914

Oct 8th: On the morning of the 8th October a 'coal-box' dropped by No 5 gun – killing one gunner and wounding four. We were shelled in the afternoon [and] they flung no fewer than 40 'Dud' shell [sic] over us in an hour. It was amusing to feel the thud when they struck the earth, and no explosion ensuing. We lost several horses and a couple wounded in Wagon Line. A party was sent out to prepare a new position, but [they] were shelled out. The Major asked us at night would we prefer to move as the position was warm, but we decided at once to stop, for our place was as good as another.

October 9th: Was [going to] be [a] well remembered day of this period. During the morning things were a little more quiet than usual, we were sitting around the guns. I left my telephone, which was beneath [a] gun limber. We were having a feast of Bully Beef and potatoes - (potatoes did not come our way often), [when] a battery of German artillery found us with shrapnel. The first round burst directly over our No 3 gun, which was just by me, we [all] scattered. Poor old Bramwell, who was by my side, ducked, and got it in the head. I dived under the limber to phone my chum Collins, [while] two more gunners dragged Bramwell to the limber, for what shelter it gave. [Then] the two gunners were hit. Collins and I did what we could to poor Bramwell, but it was useless. The [shell] bullets (shrapnel) simply hailed on the limber, and we expected to be hit every second, but it saved us. After the shower stopped, we removed poor Bramwell, it was an unpleasant sight to see a chums brains by ones [sic] side.

A shell case was stuck in the ground 2 yards from where I lay – lucky it didn't splinter for Collins and I. would have been bowled over. Everything seemed to bear marks of that lively hour excepting we two. We dug a hole that night and many times while there the hole saved us,

for when it was most quiet, inevitably they would switch over on to us. Several were wounded at different times when it was least expected, and about this time, night attacks were very frequent and severe, often 3 attacks during the night. My wire often got broken by shell fire, through a wood of the observation point, in spite of a double line and was unhealthy at times to repair.

October 12th: was the anniversary of my wedding and the thoughts of my dear wife and child, were more to me than the scrap that day. [I] had a long chat that night, with Lieut Marshall on the duration of the war – we thought ‘about Xmas’.

October 13th: I went with two Sections of guns to position on BEAULINE RIDGE. We arrived about midnight, [it was] pitch dark and heavy going. [We] could not use lights or even smoke, owing to close proximity of enemy. We got into position without mishap, at dawn next morning; it was a sight almost indescribable, [for] one could not walk for three yards unless he was in a great shell hole. A small bank about 10 foot high was the only shelter and the guns and wagons were well dug into this. We had trenches dug by the side – the guns we relieved must have had a terrible time – this place was called by us ‘Pepper Hill’ and the infantry called it ‘The Devil’s Own’. Collins and I worked like niggers and dug a small cavity under the bank and felt quite at home, we were in fact like rabbits when not firing. We remained in this position until the night of the 16th, while leaving, a terrific night attack was in progress – we were relieved by the French.[We] marched all night [and] rested for a few hours next morning, and [then] marched to NEUILLY-ST-FRONT. [We] entrained, for unknown destination, what a great relief it seemed, to be away from the ceaseless sound of battle.

While the Battle of The Aisne continued, Germany had assembled an army further north, which was heading towards the lower River Somme, between Amiens and Abbeville.

The BEF was now six divisions strong so Sir John and Joffre agreed that the British II Corps should be rapidly repositioned to Abbeville. While the British repositioned themselves, the French attempted to attack the German’s western-flank. The enemy was trying to accomplish the same, thus producing a leapfrog effect which continued in a westerly direction. Later it became known as the ‘Race to the Sea’. General Haig’s 1st Corps was transferred from Aisne via rail to Hazebrouck, where they started their march north towards Cassel and the cities north of Ypres.

World War 2 - October 1 - 7th, 1939

John Thompson Strategic analyst quotes from his book “Spirit Over Steel”

October 8th: Soviet German cooperation is in full flower, as “Reich Germans” (ethnic Germans) are shipped out of the Baltic States into German occupied territory in Poland.

October 9th: Hitler’s Directive Six outlines his plan for the invasion of the Low Countries and an advance on the Channel Ports (the complete conquest of France is not envisioned). The German General Staff winces as Hitler imposes himself again on operational planning.”

October 10th: - Daladier rejects Hitler's peace offer of October 7th. Admiral Raeder suggests to Hitler that Norway may contain some nice potential bases for U-Boats and the Kriegsmarine should the war with Great Britain continue.

October 12th: Like Daladier, Chamberlain also recognizes the insincerity of Hitler's peace offer of the 7th and rejects it.

October 14th: Günther Prien takes his U-47 into Scapa Flow to sink HMS Royal Oak at its moorings – this is one of the most daring submarine exploits of the war. For his bold feat in sinking the British battleship, Prien receives the Knight's Cross. Prien and U-47 will go on to sink 30 merchant ships of 156,000 tons displacement before they are sunk in March 1941. Prien will have Oak Leaves appended to his Knights Cross before his death."

Denmark Soldiers Advised Not to Wear Uniform in Public

Beheaders "are here in our community" The enemy breached our lines decades ago. Yet another country bows to the 5th column combatants. Nicolai Sennels Oct 10, 2014 Denmark



Danish Crown Prince Frederik, himself a former soldier in Fromandskorpset, the Danish counterpart to the Navy Seals. His mother, Queen Margrethe, was the first member of the royal nobility to speak against Islam.

Several Danish soldiers have decided to not wear their uniforms publicly after Denmark

has become an active part of the war on the terror organization IS. "I will not say I'm worried. But I think about it. I try as much as possible to avoid wearing a uniform when I go home," says Nicholas, a constable in the Danish Defense. "Because of the terror risk, there is no need to advertise that you are a soldier. My family should not feel threatened at any time," says Jimmy, who is leading a section in the Army.

In May of last year, the British soldier Lee Rigby was run over and hacked to death by two Muslim extremists in London near some barracks. Jesper K Hansen, president of the Central Organization of cadres, understands the Danish soldiers concern. "That type of people are here in our community, and therefore there will be the risk that such a thing could occur here, too, and we might as well articulate it. It is important that you relate to it, and the main thing for me is to get the debate going," says Jesper K Hansen for TV2 News. He also encourages its members to be careful. "Next week we have a congress with 200 soldiers in one place, and in connection with this I would recommend the delegates that they do not come in uniform," he says. The former head of operations for Military Intelligence, Frank Jensen, agrees. "One should not be completely naive, and you have to be careful."

BC Home Owner Grant for Veterans Under 65

The home owner grant reduces the amount of property taxes you pay each year on your principal residence. By applying for the grant as a veteran under 65 years of age, your property taxes may be reduced up to \$570 or, if your property is located in a northern and rural area, up to \$770. If you live in a low-income household, you may qualify for up to an additional \$275 low income supplement. The grant is applied to the amount of property taxes over \$350. Having a minimum tax amount ensures all homeowners contribute toward the funding of services such as road maintenance and police protection.

To qualify for the grant you must:

- live in B.C.
- be under 65 years of age in the current year
- be an honourably discharged officer or non-commissioned member of the Canadian Forces
- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- be the registered owner or eligible occupant of the residence
- pay property taxes for the residence to a municipality or the province and the property or manufactured home must:
 - be located in B.C.
 - be your principal residence
 - have an assessed or partitioned value of \$1,100,000 or less

You may qualify for a reduced grant amount if your property value is more than \$1,100,000. The grant amount is reduced by \$5 for every \$1,000 your property value is over \$1,100,000. If your property value is \$1,214,000 (\$1,254,000 in a northern and rural area) or more the grant amount will be reduced to \$0.

To receive the under 65 or low income grant you, or an authorized person, need to apply each year. You need to apply for the low income supplement as well as the home owner grant if you have a low income. Your home owner grant application is included on your property tax notice. If you did not receive or can't find your application, use the [Home Owner Grant Application \(FIN 78\) \(PDF\)](#). You can apply for the grant until December 31 of the tax year, though we suggest you apply before your property taxes are due. You don't need to make a payment to apply for the grant. If you don't pay your property taxes including any unclaimed grant amount in full, you will be charged late payment penalties on your unpaid balance.

On the date you apply, you must meet the qualifications. To complete your application:

1. Check the option for 'Basic Grant'
2. Provide your full name
3. Provide the address of your principal residence
4. Provide your phone number
5. Sign the application
6. Provide the date the application was signed

Your home owner grant application must be sent to the municipal or provincial office that sent your property tax notice. Your options may vary based on the location of your property. In general you can submit your application using one of the following options:

- [Online](#)
- [Mail or courier](#)
- [Fax](#)
- [In person](#)

If your home owner grant application isn't approved, contact the office that sent your property tax notice. They can answer your questions and provide further explanation to address your concerns.

Low Income Supplement: If you have an adjusted net income of \$32,000 or less you can also apply to receive a full or partial supplement. The maximum supplement amount is \$275 plus any amount your grant was reduced.

Adjusted Net Income	Supplement Amount
\$0.00 - \$30,000.00	Up to 100%
\$30,000.01 - \$32,000.00	Up to 50%

You apply for the supplement by completing the [Home Owner Grant Veterans Supplement Application \(FIN 79\)](#) (PDF). With your application, you must provide a copy of your:

- Property tax notice for the current year
- Income tax notice of assessment/reassessment from last year. If you have not received your income tax notice of assessment, you can provide last year's income tax return instead.
- Income tax return schedule, if you claimed a deduction for children, a family member or a disability in your adjusted net income
- Discharge Certificate or other document issued by the Department of National Defence that states you were honourably discharged and the date you were discharged

If you have a shared-income partner, you also need to provide their:

- Income tax notice of assessment/reassessment from last year. If they have not received their income tax notice of assessment, they can provide last year's income tax return instead.

Submit your [low income supplement application \(FIN 79\)](#) (PDF) by mail to:

Home Owner Grant Administration

PO Box 9991 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9R7

RCAA Battlefields tour 2015

Battlefields of the Royal Canadian Artillery 17 April – 3 May 2015

The RCAA has partnered with an experienced Battlefield Tour Company, Fields of Fire Tours to provide RCAA members with a unique opportunity to experience the battlefields of WW1 and WW2 with an artillery perspective.

- Visit battlefields of the First and Second World Wars
- Follow the path of the Canadian Gunners and visit important battlefields in the

- development of gunnery in both wars
- Led by experienced military personnel and academic historians
- Visit monuments and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- small (12-18 members) group ensures personalized service
- Led by experienced military personnel and academic historians
- Visit monuments and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- Attend the McCrae Statue unveiling in Ottawa as final event (optional)

See attached poster

Free B&B Accommodations on Remembrance Day

To Honour Vets And Military Personnel

BBCanada.com is proud to be assisting Canadian Bed and Breakfast owners in launching the 2014 B&Bs for Vets campaign to celebrate Remembrance Day. Canadian B&B owners would like to honour and say THANK YOU to our veterans and active military personnel and for this reason they are joining hundreds of B&Bs across North America in the "B&Bs for Vets" initiative. This unique program allows veterans and military personnel to stay at a participating B&B, FREE OF CHARGE for either the night of Monday November 10th or Tuesday November 11th, 2014.

BBCanada has dedicated a web page to the campaign B&Bs for Vets. You can view all participating B&Bs, and link to their homepage at: <http://www.bbcanada.com/bbforvets> which offers a full description of the B&B, along with their policies and contact details in order to make a reservation. Last year, many B&B owners were disappointed that no one booked their FREE rooms. This year, we would like to make a special effort to get the word out to our "Vets" so they can enjoy being treated ~ they certainly deserve it! *See attached poster*

ADRIAN OLIVER MEMORIAL RUN - *See attached poster*

The Adrian Oliver Memorial Run is shaping up to be a pretty big event. Lots of different departments are signing up as both teams and individuals. Just yesterday both NWPD and NW Fire and Rescue said they'll be running as a team. If you're free on 15th November please think about joining us either as a runner (\$20) or even just to enjoy the BBQ and silent auction (\$10) and support Honour House. Can you get enough runners together to form a team? How cool would it be to beat the RCMP Emergency Response Team? There will be trophies for some of the best times this year.

DoD Official Endorses Army Program to Train All Components

By Terri Moon Cronk DoD News, Defense Media Activity 10/14/2014

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14, 2014 - The 1st US Army's "Bold Shift" initiative to integrate the Army's active-duty, National Guard and Reserve is "the right thing to do" for readiness today and the future, a top Defense Department official said at the Association of the US Army's annual meeting and exposition here yesterday. Paul D Patrick, deputy assistant secretary of defense of reserve affairs for readiness, training and mobilization, talked about the 1st Army's program during a panel discussion on Army total force implementation. The Bold Shift

initiative focuses on premobilization training of all three of the Army's components, so all soldiers are trained and configured in exactly how they will fight. "The advantages of 1st Army's partnering and engagement with the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve in premobilization assessment training, planned development and postmobilization training and preparing [reserve component] units identified through mobilization for combat over the past 12-plus years in Afghanistan and Iraq are well documented," Patrick said. "And it's brought the level of total-force integration to unprecedented heights," he added.

The Army initiative ensures optimal training in an efficient and cost-effective manner, Patrick noted. "It encompasses not only training support personnel, facilities and equipment, [but the initiative] also brings together combat, combat support and combat service support formations from all components to train as you fight," he said. The Army is organized, trained and equipped to fight as a total force, Lt Gen Michael S Tucker, 1st US Army commander, said during the panel discussion. "We never go to war as one component," he said. "We go to war as a multicomponent force, always." If integrating training with all components together is not done, Tucker said, "we'll go back to our stovepipes, and we can't allow that as we go to combat ... as a multicomponent force." The Army's total force implementation, as directed by Army Secretary John M. McHugh, is a partnership, said Gen Mark A Milley, commander of US Army Forces Command. "We are partnering the active component with the National Guard and reserve units on a day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month basis," Milley said.

The need for a total force became clear during 12 years of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Lt Gen Jeffrey W Talley, chief of the Army Reserve and commander of US Army Reserve Command. Developing the total force policy has been an open and collaborative process in the Army National Guard, added Maj Gen Judd H Lyons, acting director of the Army National Guard. He added that it's encouraging to see that all major exercises will now be multicomponent exercises. "It's already paying dividends," he said. Patrick noted that total force applies to more than one service branch. "[DoD's reserve affairs] is doing its part to ensure an optimally ready total force," he said, "not only for the Army, but for all the services."

Colonel Commandant's Commendation Award

Excepted from 'The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Routine Orders, Oct 2014'

The following were awarded the Colonel Commandant's Commendation:

- Col (Ret'd) J.P. Culligan – *"for his commitment to The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and his outstanding leadership and unfailing energy as the Executive Director of the RCA Heritage Campaign"*.
- Maj (Ret'd) R.E. Mugford – *"for his unfailing energy and commitment to The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and the Vancouver Artillery Association"*.
- Maj (Ret'd) H.A. Skaarup – *"for his energy, enthusiasm and commitment in compiling and publishing his excellent book Shelldrake"*.

Who is it?



Last Week This soldier (he's a Jamaican, and we're still working on his name) is armed with a Ross Rifle and distinctive bayonet of WWI vintage. Note the total lack of flashes and badges. He may be modelling the 'new' battledress which was issued later in the war.

This Week: We haven't featured the famous band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA before, so, for you fans of fine military and concert music, here we go.

This photo comes from a series of slides that were in the possession of our late curator, LCol Vic Stevenson. We don't think he was the photographer as the quality isn't up to his standards, nor is the film type one that he used. So, please forgive us for the poor quality of this not-too-ancient photo. As you can see, the photo was taken either during a national barbers' strike, or in the early 1970s. Some of the hair might well represent a serious fire hazard for the NCOs' mess. Fortunately, by that time, electric lights had replaced gas lamps, so no disaster ensued.



mess. Fortunately, by that time, electric lights had replaced gas lamps, so no disaster ensued.

Our quest is both to confirm the date of the photo, and to name some of the musical laddies (no ladies at that time). Were you one of this hirsute group, and, more importantly, did you finally get your hair cut?

Answers, but no fine locks, please, to the editor or the author, John Redmond

(johnd_redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitentary'

A man went to his doctor. Doc, I can't stop singing the 'Green Green Grass of Home'. The doc said: 'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome'. 'Is it common?' I asked. 'It's not unusual' he replied.

Murphy's other Laws

A weapon's degree of reliability is directly proportional to how badly it is needed.

Quotable Quotes

Although prepared for martyrdom, I prefer that it be postponed. - *Winston Churchill*

Thailand Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, October 30, 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 October 23, 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 October 23, 2014

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, November 27, 2014

Free B&B Stay for Veterans



ATTENTION

Veterans and Military Personnel

The Bed & Breakfast industry wants to thank you for helping make the world a safer place.

This Remembrance Day, enjoy a *FREE night's stay on either Monday November 10th or Tuesday November 11th.

Click on the B&Bs for Vets banner on www.BBCanada.com to see the participating B & Bs and book your stay today!

*Free nights or discounted nightly rates may apply,
see individual property for details.



It's always better the Bed and Breakfast Way

The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir &
Band of the 15th Field Regiment present

With Glowing Hearts: Songs of Remembrance

November 7th and 11th, 2014

Nov. 7, 7:30pm @ Gateway Theatre, Richmond
Nov. 11, 2:30pm @ South Delta Baptist Church,
Tsawwassen

Join Canada's largest male choir and
premier military reserve band in a
musical journey reflecting upon the
innocence and optimism of the
wartime era.



Tickets: \$27/\$24/\$10
at www.vwmc.ca or call
604-878-1190 for more info

— THE —
ADRIAN OLIVER



**MEMORIAL
RUN**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

2014

**11.00am DEER LAKE PARK
Burnaby, 5km or 10km
BBQ and Silent Auction**



In November, 2012, Constable Adrian Oliver, a member of the Surrey RCMP, was killed on duty as a result of a police vehicle collision while conducting patrols for a suspected stolen vehicle. In honour of Adrian's service to Canadians, family and friends organized the Annual Adrian Oliver Memorial Run.

All proceeds from this year's run will go to Honour House Society and its mission to support our Canadian Forces, Emergency Services Personnel, Veterans and their families in their times of need.

To register online please visit www.honourhouse.ca or call 778 3974399



Fields of Fire Tours
in association with
**The Royal Canadian Artillery Association &
The Canadian Battlefields Foundation**
presents

**Battlefields of the
Royal Canadian Artillery
17 April – 3 May 2015**



- Visit battlefields of the First and Second World Wars
- Led by experienced military personnel and academic historians
- Follow the path of the Canadian Gunners and visit important battlefields in the development of gunnery in both wars
- Visit monuments and Commonwealth War Cemeteries
- Attend the McCrae Statue unveiling in Ottawa as final event (optional)

For more information contact Fields of Fire Tours
at info@foftours.com, or call 613-539-4660

Battlefields of the Royal Canadian Artillery: Tour Itinerary

Day 1 – 17 April ... Depart Canada for Paris.

Day 2 – 18 April ... We arrive in Paris, collect our vans and then drive to Ypres. After settling in we will visit the Cloth Hall Museum and Essex Farm cemetery.. Our hotel in Ypres is the **Hotel O**.

Day 3 – 19 April ... Today's tour will examine two important gunner battles: 2nd Ypres and the St Julian gun; and Passchendaele. We will participate in the Menin Gate ceremony, laying a wreath on behalf of the RCA.

Day 4 – 20 April ... Departing Ypres we will head for the Somme where the artillery technology of the day was not up to challenge of trench warfare and mass attacks. We will stay in Arras at the **Holiday Inn Express**.

Day 5 – 21 April... Our schedule today will allow us to examine the Battle for Vimy Ridge in detail. We will look at the abortive French attempts to seize the ridge from the impressive Notre Dame de Lorette cemetery. We will also take a detailed look at each of the four Canadian division's goals that historic day and the fireplans that supported them.

Day 6 – 22 April ... Today's battlefield will be that of the 1918 battles in front of Arras. The return to mobile warfare will be examined as we look at the battle for the D-Q line and the Canal du Nord

Day 7 – 23 April ... Today we will tour the battlefield of Valenciennes, the acme of gunner skill and professionalism in the Great War. Also we will our First War stage where the war began and ended – Mons in Belgium

Day 8 – 24 April ... We will head for Normandy next. Our day's driving will take us past Dieppe where we will stop to look at the infamous beach and the gunner's role in the battle. Arriving in Caen, our hotel will be the **Hotel de France**.

Day 9 – 25 April ... Juno beach and fire support provided by the SP guns of the 3rd Division will be today's main event. We will visit the gunner memorials at the Juno beach centre and Beny-sur-Mer cemetery where many brave gunners lie at peace.

Day 10 – 26 April ... The massive two-week struggle for Verrières Ridge will be our subject today as we move south of Caen.

Day 11 - 27 April ... A break from Canadian subjects, but a must-see is the US Omaha beach and the impressive cemetery there.

Day 12 - 28 April ... Another travel day as we make an early drive to Paris to catch the Eurostar train to London, UK. Our hotel will be the **Travelodge Woolwich**.

Day 13 – 29 April ... Today we will tour the impressive Firepower museum that chronicles the history of our sister regiment the Royal Artillery.

Day 14 – 30 April... Travelling into London by tube, we will tour the Imperial War Museum and then have an afternoon to explore this amazing city

Day 15 – 1 May... For those not attending the McCrae ceremony in Ottawa, today will be your travel home day. Those staying with the group will travel to Ottawa, where we will stay at the **Novotel Hotel**

Day 16 – 2 May... In the morning we will visit Canada's National War Museum, and in the evening attend the dinner honouring Lt-Col John McCrae

Day 17 – 3 May... We will attend the unveiling of the McCrae statue and then depart for home from Ottawa.



Land Only Tour Price from Toronto

CAD \$4500 – (per person, Double occupancy)
(single supplement: \$700 – limited availability)

Not returning via Ottawa: CAD \$4000



Price includes:

- breakfast daily
- all travel by 9 passenger van
- local sightseeing
- accommodation as shown in the itinerary
- services of historian/guides:

- related materials including articles, maps and air photographs

Not Included:

- airfare
- travel insurance
- lunches and dinners

- items of a personal nature such as beverages
- admissions to museums and other attractions.

Note: limited single room availability – “first come, first served”