



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 15, 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> . 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 Mrs Lum serves an excellent meal. Anybody who has attended will attest to the fact that the quality of the meal is top notch and you get soup, salad, main course, dessert, cheese and crackers and coffee/tea for \$20 – you won't find a better meal or deal anywhere else in town. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies.

Navy lunch – 30 Nov: Guest Speaker Robert Young Director of Western Region, CSIS

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

Dec 3 **St Barbara's Day** Special Guest night. *See invitation at end of newsletter*
RSVP required (with payment) by Nov 23 (Next Wednesday).

Dec 11 **Christmas Tea** - sign up list is now posted at the bar. If you can't make it in to lunch, email me to put you on the list. The Mess is looking for replies **before** the end of November.

Jan 1 **New Year's Levée**

Feb 11 **Regimental reunion dinner** - details TBA

Holiday Stand down - The Unit will stand down from Dec 12 - Jan 6. Last lunch will be Dec 7 and the first lunch of 2017 will be Jan 11. We will start collecting soon for Mrs Lum's Christmas purse.

World War 2 - 1941

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

Nov 8th: The nadir of the RAF's early night bombing campaign. Weather, crew error and German defences claim 37 of 400 bombers this night. The RAF is losing bomber crews faster than they are killing German civilians (or chickens and cows – night bombing is still extremely inaccurate).

Nov 9th: Force K from Malta attacks an Italian convoy, sinking all seven transports and one escort. The Germans finally capture Tikhvin, east of Leningrad and also take Yalta in the Crimea.

Nov 10th: Churchill makes a speech warning Japan that a war against the US will also mean one against the UK.

Nov 11th: The last Anglo-Ethiopian offensive to liberate Ethiopia begins.

Nov 12th: General Halder presents his plans for the final offensive on Moscow to his dubious Ostfront Army commanders. 34 Hurricanes are flown off Ark Royal and Argus to reinforce Malta.

Nov 13th: U81 and U205 intercept HMS Ark Royal and inflict lethal damage on the British aircraft carrier.

Nov 15th: The drive on Moscow resumes, but the Wehrmacht's spear points have been blunted by hard wear and heavy casualties while the Soviets are husbanding their reserves.

BC Memorial Cross License Plates for Families of Fallen Soldiers

BC has unveiled a commemorative license plate for family members of fallen soldiers as people around the country prepare to mark Remembrance Day. *Nov 10, 2016 CTV Vancouver Island*



The province has unveiled a commemorative license plate for family members of fallen soldiers just as Canadians around the country prepare to mark Remembrance Day. The new plate is available to recipients of the Memorial Cross, also known as the Silver Cross, a memento granted to family of Canadian Armed Forces personnel who died in service. Officials

presented the first license plate to the father of a fallen soldier at The Beatty Street drill hall in Vancouver Thursday. “This new licence plate is meaningful for my family, as this pays tribute to my son, Cpl Matthew McCully,” said Ron McCully. Memorial Cross recipients can request one of the special plates at no charge by contacting ICBC.

Recipients who don't drive or have a vehicle can still request a keepsake license plate if they'd like, the province said. CAF said it was “delighted and humbled” that there was another way for families to honour their loved ones' sacrifice. “This Memorial Cross licence plate will be a daily reminder of the sacrifices members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families make for their country and I welcome this thoughtful initiative as we enter Remembrance week,” said Rear Admiral Art McDonald. The plate features purple letters on a white background with a Canadian flag on the right and Memorial Cross on the left. BC joins Saskatchewan as the only other province in Canada that offers a Memorial Cross plate.

Another First for the CH148 Cyclone Helicopter

Captain Peter Ryan Navy News / Nov 1, 2016

A CH148 Cyclone helicopter from 12 Wing Shearwater, NS, recently conducted its first anti-submarine warfare (ASW) events with *HMCS Windsor* off the coast of Nova Scotia. The

exercise was linked to an ongoing Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) being conducted by the Helicopter Test and Evaluation Facility (HOTEF) at 12 Wing Shearwater. ASW is a component of underwater warfare that employs surface warships, aircraft and other submarines to find, track and deter, damage or destroy enemy submarines. This was the first time a Cyclone has engaged in such activity, representing an important milestone in the evolution of this new aircraft which provides wings for the fleet and state-of-the-art air power for the RCAF.



According to Major Erik Weigelin, a pilot with HOTEF, the Cyclone's sonobuoy processing system was tested to detect and track HMCS *Windsor* using passive sonobuoys. “This system allows us to track submarines without making any active noise, thereby denying the submarine knowledge of the helicopter's location or potentially even the fact that they are being tracked at all. ASW by use of sonobuoys can be very challenging, but

having *Windsor* as a target allowed the crews to hone our equipment and develop a solid baseline of performance for the tracking of real submarine targets,” stated Maj Weigelin. When *Windsor* was otherwise tasked, CH148 crews employed Expendable Mobile ASW Training Targets (EMATTs) to simulate submarine movements and noise patterns, which allowed HOTEF crews to further develop those tactical procedures that will be used by operational crews following CH148 Release to Service.

According to Maj Weigelin, “Accurate and effective initial equipment settings, in combination with clear, concise and easily repeatable procedures, is key to maximizing the crews' effectiveness in challenging tactical situations. These procedures need to be trained and practised to ensure peak operational capability of front-line crews once they are deployed with the Cyclone.”

During their week at sea, CH148 crews conducted 16 hours of embarked OT&E with *HMCS Montréal*, the first ship to support a HOTEF Detachment. The purpose of ongoing OT&E is to continue to assess the aircraft's combat effectiveness, develop tactical procedures, and validate doctrine before the new maritime helicopter can be turned over to front-line squadrons. A CH148 will progress planned OT&E by participating in combined warfare exercises in the Atlantic Ocean from late October to mid-November.

Army Transforms Artillery Rounds Into GPS-Guided Munitions

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen November 13, 2016

The 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery has started integrating a new piece of equipment, known as the Precision Guidance Kit, at Canadian Forces Base Shilo, Manitoba, says the Canadian Army. “The integration of the Precision Guidance Kit, which can be used in place of the existing fuse on a conventional shell, transforms artillery rounds into Global Positioning System-guided munitions, allowing trajectory adjustments to be made in-flight, thereby enabling targets to be hit with greater precision,” the Canadian Army noted in a news

release. “A guided projectile system will reduce the risk of collateral damage, neutralize a small target with fewer rounds, engage targets closer to friendly troops, and increase safety, all while being more cost efficient,” Colonel Nicolas Pilon, Director Land Requirements, Canadian Army, said in a statement.



Gunners fire two M-777 155 mm guns from an artillery position including Battery X, troop 3 during Exercise MAPLE GUARDIAN in Wainwright, Alberta on May 13, 2007. Photo: Cpl Simon Duchesne

The Precision Guidance Kit uses conventional rounds and the in-service M777C1 howitzer with its advanced digital Fire Control System. The kit will make the stockpile of existing artillery ammunition significantly more effective

by adding GPS guidance and navigation capability in a package that fits into the fuze well of an existing 155 mm projectile. Orbital ATK's PGK solution, featuring a highly effective fixed-canard guidance approach, gun-hardened electronics, self-generated power, and a minimum number of moving parts, not only meets but exceeds program requirements for accuracy, effectiveness, range and cost. PGK provides maneuver forces with an organic, precision capability that is highly responsive and available around the clock and in all weather conditions. With a CEP of around 10 meters, PGK fills an effectiveness gap between conventional artillery and smart munitions. This highly reliable kit installs in the projectile fuze well and also provides traditional fuze functions for height-of-burst and point detonation.

The approximate cost of the acquisition project is forecast to be \$28 million. That figure covers the amount to integrate the Precision Guidance Kit technology with the Canadian M777C1 and also covers the cost of purchasing M795 projectiles and Precision Guidance Kit fuses, the Army noted.

Ottawa Defends Rule That Deters Ill Soldiers from Seeking Help

Renata D'Aliesio The Globe and Mail Nov 03, 2016

The federal government is defending the Canadian Forces' fit-to-serve rule, which has led to the expulsion of nearly 7,000 ill and wounded members over the past five years – many of them Afghanistan war veterans who wanted to remain in the military. The policy known as universality of service has long been criticized as too stringent, forcing out members as they cope with job-related injuries and mental illness, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Veterans' advocates argue the rule – which requires soldiers, sailors and air force personnel be capable of deploying at all times – deters some ill soldiers from seeking help, because they worry they'll be discharged from the military. A Canadian Forces working group has been

studying the issue for more than two years, but change does not appear on the horizon. In a statement of defence submitted in response to legal action from injured veteran Louise Groulx, the Liberal government maintains the military's employment standard is not discriminatory and is supported by the Canadian Human Rights Act. Lawyers for the government also argue that the rule doesn't demand military members be capable of serving in combat. Rather, they need to be "fit, employable without significant limitations and deployable for operational duties."

Ottawa's legal position buttresses comments made by General Jonathan Vance, the Chief of the Defence Staff, earlier this year. In May, Gen Vance told *The Globe and Mail* there are many reasons the standard cannot be dropped, even for those who have been permanently injured in the line of duty, such as on the Afghanistan mission, but are still able to perform a job in Canada. "We are a small armed forces; everybody's got to be able to pitch in all the way." Ms Groulx's lawyer, Corey Shefman, called the requirement that all 60,000-plus regular force members be ready to deploy any time "ridiculous." He noted that there are many military jobs that don't involve serving overseas. "The Canadian Forces, like every other employer, needs to make reasonable accommodation for these soldiers and veterans," Mr Shefman said. "The Canadian people and the Canadian government owe a duty to our soldiers and our veterans for the risks that they put themselves in every day and for the service that they are giving to the country."

Before becoming an air force instructor and aeromedical technician, Ms Groulx was a medic and served in Haiti in 1995, part of Canada's contribution to a United Nations mission. Her last job, which was based in Winnipeg, involved teaching pilots how to deal with medical emergencies and was unlikely to ever require her to work overseas, Mr Shefman said. The air-force instructor suffered a serious spinal injury in 1999, while participating in a military baseball game. She underwent six surgeries over 14 years, but was left with mobility problems, according to her statement of claim. She also experienced depression and PTSD, the claim adds. While she returned to work and wanted to remain in the Forces, she was medically released in June, 2009. The retired Master Corporal's lawsuit alleges the Forces' universality-of-service rule violated her Charter rights. "The fact is this is the 21st century. The American air force managed to put a double-amputee pilot back in his fighter jet and flying missions. If they can do that, I don't see any good reasons why the Canadian Forces can't put a person like Louise ... in her non-deployable position," Mr Shefman contended.

The Forces' universality-of-service working group was created in response to concerns that the rule was forcing too many ill and wounded members out of the military. The group last met in September to review findings from focus groups, and is scheduled to meet again in November, said military spokeswoman Jessica Lamirande. The focus groups helped identify "common and essential minimum operational standards" for Forces members, she said. It's unclear when the review will wrap up. Medical discharges hit a 17-year high in the 2014 fiscal year, with 1,908 personnel deemed unfit for duty – a 52-per cent increase from the year before, according to figures provided by the Forces. Last fiscal year, 1,533 members were dismissed from the military for medical reasons, which is far higher than before the Afghanistan war. Between 1999 and 2002, no more than 722 personnel were expelled in a single year.

Nearly Half of Our Soldiers Overweight Because They Sit Too Much

Alan Freeman, Washington Post | October 29, 2016



Commanders salute during National Day of Honour ceremonies at CFB Edmonton in Edmonton, Alta, on Friday, May 9, 2014. Ian Kucerak/Edmonton Sun/QMI Agency

OTTAWA – Canada has often been criticized for failing to pull its weight as a military partner in organizations like NATO because of its relatively low level of defence spending. But it's a weight problem of another kind that's currently dogging the Canadian Armed Forces. Many members of the Canadian military are fat, and authorities aren't sure what to do about it. According to a recently published survey on health and lifestyle conducted by the Canadian military, 49 per cent of all Regular Force personnel were considered overweight and 25 per cent were considered obese, based on body mass index. This included 6.1 per cent of personnel considered morbidly obese. The survey, based on self-reporting done by a sample of military personnel in 2013-14, showed a continued increase in obesity levels from earlier surveys. The report's authors blamed part of the problem on too much sitting around and poor eating habits. Regular Force personnel reported spending an average of 30.5 hours a week in sedentary activities, an increase of 6.35 hours from 2004, the report said. "The increase in sedentary activities was almost entirely driven by an increase in time spent using computers and surfing the internet," the report said. Video games were also a major factor, with participation in sedentary activities even higher than average among soldiers ages 18 to 29.

According to the survey, 17.4 per cent of Canadian Armed Forces personnel reported being unable to deploy overseas because of health problems, including 25 per cent of those considered obese. More than half of the respondents said they intended to lose weight over the next year. Scott Malcolm, director of Force Health Protection for the Canadian Forces, insisted in an interview that BMI should not be used as a proxy for fitness and that the index is used primarily to determine members' risk of heart attack, stroke and diabetes. "Our risks are about at par with Canadian or North American society," he added. In the United States, the Pentagon is also reportedly concerned about excess weight among its personnel, but not at the same level. According to a recent report in the *Military Times*, 7.8 per cent of the U.S. military is considered overweight, based on a similar BMI test, although it was not immediately known if the two surveys were comparable. Malcolm said that he hadn't seen the U.S. study but that at first glance it seemed the two surveys would be "apples and oranges." Among other things, the U.S. military is considerably younger than Canada's, he said. "There is a problem," said Scott Taylor, editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps*, an independent Canadian military magazine. Taylor, a former infantryman, says that Canadian combat troops are extremely fit but that there are relatively few of them in the Canadian military. "We've got one of the worst ratios of

headquarters to combat units anywhere,” he said. And it’s at headquarters in Ottawa, he said, that “you’re going to get guys taking the bus and eating pizza.” Taylor says the Canadian military is so top-heavy that there are now more personnel in Ottawa headquarters than there are in all of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Because it’s an all-volunteer force, the Canadian military is worried about retention, so it has trouble enforcing fitness standards for aging members and has even given up on fitness standards for recruits. Instead, Taylor says, it will send recruits who aren’t fit enough to what he calls “the fat farm,” a special program to get newcomers up to standard before they start basic training. Arya Sharma, an obesity expert at the University of Alberta who has worked with the Canadian Armed Forces, says that what’s happening with Canadian soldiers is indicative of the weight problems affecting the population at large, noting that many soldiers have desk jobs or other sedentary positions. He also says that BMI can be a poor indicator of excess weight because some people have a high BMI because of muscle mass. “You can be big and healthy,” he said. And he noted that members can be in stressful jobs, have a lot of shift work and, in some cases, suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, all of which can contribute to weight gain. Malcolm said the Canadian Armed Forces are improving on healthy food options in military cafeterias and aboard ships and trying to make physical fitness part of the daily routine. But, he adds, “behavioral change is a challenge.”

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The updates were rather sparse over the last week as Remembrance Day activities and the Yorke Island Historical meeting took up a lot of time. Let me know if you have any additional information on these latest additions! Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com

Vancouver Defences 1992 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1992.html>

Recruit Course 1971 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1971.html>

Who is it?

Correction - in the Nov 8th edition the picture was of the NE corner of the Mall at 41st and Cambie, not Oak.



Last Week We threw in a bit of a ringer here, just for change of pace. This is a KRUPP SCHUMAN 57 mm armoured gun model 1894 on its portée. Basically, these are portable emplacements. They were moved to a position and dug in. They could be buried up to the bottom of the revolving turret, with provision made by trench or tunnel for crew access or put into a protective shelter and run out to a firing position on rails using the attached wheels. It had a range of 6000 meters and was used by Central Powers in WWI. Some of these were captured by the Greek Army from the Bulgarians in 1918 and currently are displayed in Athens War Museum.

This Week: Our quiz this week shows a scene that our lads and lasses in British Columbia might be unfamiliar with, save for those who ski in the mountains. It is not an over-exposed beach scene. Rather, it is a snow scene (rain in a sub-zero form for Vancouverites). The chaps in the photo, dressed fairly warmly, but not overly-so, appear to be a group of stalwart gunners (is there any other kind?). But, are they Canadian, or are they others who wish they were sons of the Maple Leaf? I ask because of the mixed message conveyed by this photograph. Note the uniforms, the gun, and the background.

Can you tell us who these frozen warriors are, and where they are? No. It's not in Singapore. As a bonus (a free CAMT pamphlet of your choice), maybe you can tell us where in the



Dominion this type of gun was used (hint: buy the book “Guns of the Regiment”). Your informed opinions may be sent to either the editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com or to the author, John Redmond [johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)

From the ‘Punitary’

What do hockey players and magicians have in common? Both do hat tricks!

Murphy’s Other Laws

If you have a difficult task, give it to a lazy man — he will find an easier way to do it.

Quotable Quotes

My pessimism extends to the point of even suspecting the sincerity of the pessimists.

- *Jean Rostand*

St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night – 3 Dec 2016



*The Commanding Officer
LCol B.A. Purcell, CD
and the Officers
of
15th Field Artillery Regiment
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery*

*request the pleasure of your company
at their annual*

*ST BARBARA'S DAY
SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT*

*to be held at the
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC*

*on
Saturday, the Third of December, 2016*

*at
six o'clock for seven o'clock in the evening*

Dress: Mess Kit or Formal attire, with decorations

RSVP by 23 November 2016 with payment

Tarif: \$ 105 - Seats will be reserved when payment is received (\$95 if received by 9 November 2016). There will be no tickets available the night of the event.

*Payable to "Officers Mess 15 Fd Regt"
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7*

If paying in person, please see the Adjutant during regular work hours or Wednesday night between 7 and 10pm.

*Questions to VPMC: Capt Isaak Skuce
mess15rca@gmail.com*

Replies WITH PAYMENT required by Nov 23rd

NADEN BAND
OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

FIRST
Christmas
IN CANADA

With Special
Guest Artist

Vivace

DECEMBER 12 6:00PM PRESHOW
7:00PM START
VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE
600 HAMILTON STREET, VANCOUVER BC



TICKETS

AVAILABLE ONLINE:
FIRSTCHRISTMAS.EVENTBRITE.CA
CONTACT: INFO@CCMMS.CA

ADMISSION \$10
with an
unwrapped toy
or gift card

All proceeds to support
**IMMIGRANT AND
REFUGEE SERVING
ORGANIZATIONS**



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From Vimy to Juno National Travelling Exhibition

The Juno Beach Centre and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada cordially invite you to a special reception honouring the 73rd anniversary of the Christmas Dinner at Ortona in conjunction with:



**Friday, December 16, 2016
17h to 19h**

**The Seaforth Highlanders Armoury
1650 Burrard St., Vancouver, British Columbia**

*Please confirm your presence by **November 15, 2016**
dbenoit@junobeach.org / 877-828-5866 ext. 123*

From Vimy to Juno is made possible with support from the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Canada



In Celebration of the 75th Birthday of The Royal Canadian Navy



OIL

SIZE 20 x 30

H.M.C.S. Sackville — The Last Corvette

From an original oil painting by Marine Artist, John M. Horton, C.S.M.A., F.C.A. This fine reproduction shows H.M.C.S. Sackville in her 1945 configuration on escort duty in the North Atlantic.

The Canadian Naval Corvette Trust is restoring and preserving the vessel as a permanent museum dedicated to

Canada's glorious contribution to the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic.

This print is offered in a limited edition of 350 printed on museum quality acid free paper signed and numbered by the artist.

ORDER FORM

I wish to order _____ Print(s) of the Limited Edition, "H.M.C.S. Sackville, The Last Corvette" by John M. Horton, C.S.M.A., F.C.A.

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