



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 17, 2017

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 - Lunches start again tomorrow. We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome.

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

Jan 21 **Burns Supper** See invitation at end of newsletter

Feb 4 **RV2017 - Regimental reunion dinner** - details at the end of the newsletter.

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

Dues

The Vancouver Artillery Association, 15 Fd Officers Mess and RUSI Vancouver are now collecting membership dues for 2017. See end of newsletter for details.

World War 2 - 1942

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

Jan 18th: South and Southwest Fronts open up a new offensive north of the Sea of Asov against 6th and 17th German Armies. The Soviet offensive west of Moscow is now within 110 km of Smolensk and Velikiye Luki – they've done splendidly. The Germans in the Crimea have done well too, and resume their offensive on Feodosia.

Jan 19th: Von Bock is given command of Army Group South as the Soviets use paratroopers and cavalry to attempt a deep penetration towards Smolensk and Mozhayske is recaptured by the Soviets in ferocious fighting.

Jan 20th: A quiet little conference, chaired by Reinhard Heydrich, meets in Berlin at Lake Wannsee to make some big plans for the systemic murder of Europe's 11 million Jews; this is the 'final solution' to the 'Jewish problem' as the Reich bureaucrats phrase it. Rabaul receives another raid from four Japanese carriers.

Jan 21st: Overstretched and over-confident, the Guards Brigade and elements of 1st Armoured Division are surprised as Rommel starts a drive at El Agehila. The RAF in Singapore is just

about out of Hurricanes, and the 15th and 45th Brigades on the River Maur are just about out of men. The acerbic American General “Vinegar” Joe Stilwell gets a job he’s just going to love – Chief of Staff to Chang Gai Shek.

Jan 22nd: The Afrika Korps no more, Rommel’s troops are now designated Panzer Armee Afrika. As the Japanese advance in Malaysia, they are finding Allied prisoners (particularly wounded ones) to be an inconvenience, so 161 wounded Australian prisoners are stuffed into a shed which is then set on fire at Parit Sulong.

Jan 23rd: The Japanese land on Borneo, at Rabaul on New Britain, on New Ireland and Bougainville. Hungarian troops in Novi Sad begin a week of mass murder by marching 550 Jews and nearly 300 Serbs out onto the frozen Danube, then shelling the ice till it breaks and all are drowned. Several weeks later, when charged by his government with the deaths of 6,000 Serbs and 4,000 Jews, the officer in charge flees to German protection.

Jan 24th: American and Dutch destroyers sink five Japanese transports off Balikpapan. Soviet troops cross the Donets below Kharkov. US troops on Bataan withdraw to secondary positions further down the Peninsula.

CF Cyclone Helicopters Grounded



The Canadian Forces has grounded its Cyclone helicopters after aerospace firm Sikorsky issued a worldwide notice for safety checks to be conducted on the aircraft’s civilian variant. The Sikorsky notice to ground all S-92 helicopters followed an incident last month on a North Sea oil platform. Operators of the aircraft are being told to carry out immediate checks on the tail rotor section of the helicopters. The

Royal Canadian Air Force’s Cyclone helicopters are a variant of the S-92. There are eight Cyclones currently being tested by the Canadian Forces. During the oil platform incident Dec 28 in the North Sea, a S-92 experienced technical issues as it was coming in for a landing. The helicopter left “significant gouge marks” on the deck of the platform, a BBC report noted. The aerospace firm has issued a statement noting that, “Safety is our top priority, and Sikorsky is working closely with our customer and investigative authorities.” “We are committed to keeping our customers informed,” it added. We will further communicate findings if the investigation reveals any safety or airworthiness issues that affect the S-92 helicopter fleet.”

In 2009 a S-92 crashed off the coast of Newfoundland, killing 17 people. The helicopter was transporting personnel to the White Rose oil fields and the Hibernia platform. In October, the Canadian military announced that a CH-148 Cyclone helicopter was involved in its first Royal Canadian Navy exercise as the helicopter continued to undergo testing and evaluation. Canada has ordered 28 Cyclones but the program has been hit with continual delays. The aircraft are not expected to be fully operational until 2021. Sikorsky was supposed to deliver the Cyclones to the Canadian military starting in November 2008. Deliveries of all 28 aircraft, to replace the air force's Sea Kings, were to be completed by early 2011.

The Conservative government looked at cancelling the program but decided to instead re-negotiate the contract with Sikorsky. It laid blame on the Liberals for the problem procurement because the Cyclone contract was awarded by Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin's government in 2004. The Conservatives also pointed out that the Liberal Chretien government had also cancelled the EH-101 helicopter program, kicking off a new procurement that led to the eventual purchase of the Cyclones. The Liberals, however, have countered that the mismanagement occurred under Conservative watch, adding that there were substantial penalties in the original contract the Conservative government did not enforce. Government documents obtained by the Ottawa Citizen show that the Conservative government could have hit Sikorsky with up to \$89 million in fines for missing its deadlines but it decided to waive those penalties. Instead the government renegotiated with Sikorsky and under a new deal, Canada is paying the US aerospace firm \$117 million extra for improvements to be made to the Cyclone, as well as changes to the long-term in-service support package for the aircraft.

VCDS Relieved of Duties

Former head of the navy was appointed 2 i/c of the military last summer

Jan 16, 2017



Vice-Admiral Mark Norman speaks CBC News in December 2015. (CBC)

The second-highest ranking officer in the Canadian military has been temporarily relieved of his duties over alleged leaks of highly classified information. Senior defence sources say Vice Admiral Mark Norman, who was appointed to the post of VCDS last summer, was informed of the decision Monday morning. A letter

circulating among senior commanders of the military, dated Friday, says Norman was relieved "effective immediately" and will be replaced on an interim basis by the head of the navy, Vice Admiral Ron Lloyd. The country's top military commander, Gen. Jonathan Vance, ordered Norman to relinquish his responsibilities and offered no explanation. Officials in his office refused to provide further comment.

A statement from Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan backed Vance, but also did not provide further explanation. "I fully support the decision taken by the (chief of defence staff) to relieve the (vice chief of defence staff) from the performance of military duty," Sajjan said. While relieved of responsibilities, Norman has not been stripped of his command. There was also no indication that he was under investigation of any kind. Prior to being appointed to the position, Norman made his mark as a plain-talking commander of the navy. Under military law, an officer can be relieved of duties for administration or internal reasons related to discipline. The exceptional act can also occur in advance of the military trial. National Defence refused to say Monday whether Norman was under investigation for a disciplinary infraction, or some other matter. Retired colonel Michel Drapeau, a legal expert, says he can't remember when someone so close to the top of the military was removed from their responsibilities under such a cloud. "It is extremely unusual," he said. Norman, while commander of the navy, was known for his outspoken nature. In handing over command last summer, he lamented the deterioration of the navy's size and combat power during his three-year tenure. His comments were seen as a warning to the Trudeau government, which is in the midst of deciding how it will replace the navy's frigates.

US Military Making Biodegradable Ammo That Turns into Flowers

shutterstock

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report states that military munitions have contaminated around 60,700 km² (15 million acres) of land. To combat this, the DoD is looking to create training ammunition out of biodegradable material that can also hold bioengineered seeds. A new initiative from the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program could change the environmental impact of training ammunition. According to a notice placed on the SBIR site, "the US Army manufactures and consumes hundreds of thousands of training rounds." Those rounds end up in the environment, posing an ecological risk as they can take hundreds of years to degrade naturally.



LINSLEY/AP

The solicitation is meant to help facilitate the design of new training ammunition that is not only environmentally safer, but also beneficial. The DoD is looking to create training ammunition out of biodegradable material that can also hold bioengineered seeds. The seeds would be engineered not to germinate for several months. After they did eventually sprout, the plants would help to remove contaminants from the soil and consume the biodegradable components of the ammo. The DoD is looking to replace ammunition ranging from 40 mm grenades to 155

mm artillery rounds. It is important to note that this will only replace training rounds – none of the rounds used in combat will be replaced. Any ammunition developed under this proposal will only be used in the United States or friendly countries on designated training ranges. The environmental factor of spent ammunition is a much larger issue on training grounds given the sheer number of potential contaminants that are regularly launched over decades.

While the amount of contaminants each expended round puts into the environment is not large, the volume of pollution of continuous firing builds them up over time. Also, that kind of volume, and the nature of the rounds, makes conventional cleanup tough. Some of the heavier rounds can even end up implanted inches, or even feet, deep into the ground. Should these contaminants be left behind, there is an enormous potential of the components corroding and the harmful materials polluting soil and groundwater supplies. A GAO report states that military munitions have contaminated around 60,700 km² (15 million acres) of land. Cleanup of these areas could cost upwards of \$35 billion. This proposal could offer a more cost-effective means of cleanup, as the new ammo would not only cease to be adding further contaminants, but also work to clean up after itself. The solicitation also realizes the potential that these materials could have outside of the military. “The biodegradable materials identified can be utilized by private industry to manufacture biodegradable water bottles, plastic containers, or any other composite or plastic product(s) on the market today.” And given the threat of plastics to the global environment, this would be a welcome development.

The Terrifying Truth About North Korea's Nuclear Weapons

Alex Lockie Jan. 13, 2017



A South Korean man watches a TV news program showing an image published in North Korea's Rodong Sinmun newspaper of North Korea's ballistic missile believed to have been launched from underwater.

Ahn Young-oon/AP

"North Korea just stated that it is in the final stages of developing a nuclear weapon capable of reaching parts of the US," President-elect Donald Trump tweeted on January 2. "It won't happen!" However, the terrifying truth is that North Korea, the only country to have tested

nuclear weapons in the 21st century, has just as much of a say in whether its potential nuclear arms can or will reach the US as Trump and the US do. "It can be difficult to make assessments about North Korea's nuclear capabilities given that we have very little access to North Korea's missile facilities," Kelsey Davenport, the director of non-proliferation policy and a North Korea expert at the Arms Control Association, told Business Insider. "But it's clear that North Korea has made significant advances both with nuclear warheads and with ballistic missiles," Davenport said.

North Korea's nuclear arsenal is still in its early phases, but Kim Jong Un, the country's leader, commands about 100 missile launchers with several missiles for each, according to Jeffrey Lewis, the founding publisher of Arms Control Wonk. While there's some debate about North Korea's stockpile of nuclear materials, "you're looking at a few tens of warheads, but that number's going to keep going up every year," Lewis told Business Insider. In comparison, the US has 1,796 nuclear missiles deployed, another 4,500 stockpiled, and 2,800 retired and waiting to be dismantled, according to the Arms Control Association. Furthermore, North Korea presently has no way of reaching any part of the US with a missile of any sort, but Pyongyang is "likely at the point now where it could mount a nuclear warhead on a medium-range missile, and that would put South Korea, Japan, and US military installations in range of the North Korean nuclear threat," Davenport said. North Korea is a tiny, poor, backward nation with limited missile capabilities and a small nuclear stockpile, but it poses a very serious threat to the US and its allies. Ultimately, there's extremely little the US could do to stop the rogue nation should it chose to strike.

Could the US stop a North Korean nuclear attack? It's complicated. The US and its allies have three major forms of missile defense against North Korea. "Missiles come in a variety of ranges," Lewis said. "Every missile defense system is set to deal with a small subset of missiles in a particular range and at one stage in flight." For the short- and medium-range missiles with which North Korea could look to strike a nearby foe — or the 25,000 US troops stationed in South Korea — the US has Aegis radar-equipped Navy destroyers. "That's good for medium-range missiles," Lewis said. Next, Patriot Advanced Capability-3 interceptors defend against missiles at their final, or terminal, stage. These are "mostly good at short- and medium-range ballistic missiles," said Lewis. The PAC-3 "would cover a city or an airfield," he added. Finally, the biggest and perhaps best system is the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system. "THAAD could cover all of South Korea, including everything up to a Nodong missile," North Korea's medium-range system, Lewis said.



A THAAD battery fires an interceptor.

Missile Defense Agency

On maps and graphics, you can see the overlapping areas of protection provided by these three systems, but looks can deceive; with missile defense, all systems deal in probabilities, not certainties. "You actually have to see the thing get launched, understand where it's heading, and pass the information along to battlefield management software, the brain that makes all of this work," said Lewis. Of all the steps in the process, not one is immune to distortion. "Radars can be defeated by chaff or clutter," Lewis said. "North Korea could launch a radar blackout attack, where a nuke detonates in the atmosphere and can black out a radar for a few seconds. Those could be the few seconds you need."

Davenport said, "It's important to note that this THAAD system will only cover North Korea, but North Korea could evade that by launching a nuke from a submarine from outside of THAAD radar." And North Korea may "try to confuse the THAAD system by launching multiple missiles at once or launching decoys," she said. But could North Korean missiles overwhelm the US's defenses in its homeland? Experts say we have every reason to believe Kim when he says he's working toward an intercontinental ballistic missile, and the US's defenses suffer from the same uncertainties as systems abroad. The US protects its western coast from a fixed site in Alaska, where interceptor missiles would theoretically strike an incoming ICBM "mid-trajectory, while it's traveling through space," Lewis said. However, as a recent Bloomberg article noted, the office that tests this system concluded it had "limited capability to defend the US homeland from small numbers of simple" ICBMs, according to its last report.

Lewis echoed this, saying it has "a spotty test record" and that there are multiple questions about how well it would perform. Unlike THAAD, the Alaska site fires salvos, a series of interceptor missiles for each incoming threat, which serves as an admission that the system falls short of perfection, according to Lewis. "The system in Alaska needs to be redesigned," Lewis said. "They plan to salvo-fire it, so every interceptor has a 50-50 chance of hitting. ... If they fire five, they're gonna be up in the high-confidence territory" for intercepts. But this high ratio of interceptors to threats means that a North Korean salvo could possibly exhaust the US's supply of interceptors with decoys, leaving the US defenseless. So for now, the only guarantee the US has against North Korean ICBMs is that such a threat doesn't exist.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The Band Tour continues.... <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1991.html>

There's an update on our 25 Pounder fundraising activities.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/25-pounder-uniforms> Would you like to help us reach our target?.... <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/quartermaster-stores.html>

And there's a big reminder about our upcoming RV2017-Regimental Birthday Party on 4 February 2017. Check out the details at the end of the newsletter.

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: We really didn't know what this was but our readers came across again. This is a 9F689 "Beaver" Anti Aircraft target launcher used by the Russians on their AA ranges. It launches different types of target drones to test various AA weapons and their crews. It is bigger than it looks here. The track is 3m long, the firing angle is 10-45° and the unit weighs 245kg.

This Week: This week's photo is one of many found on reels of 35mm stock hidden in amongst a great quantity of DND-issued training slides (e.g. "Identify this Soviet APC"). To be honest, it is one of my few remaining pleasures: the finding of forgotten images (the other pleasures are forgotten in the fog of age). This particular image, which dates from the early 1950s (identified from others on the reel), shows an officer chatting with some gunners. As to the regiment in which the gunners served, that is clear, also from other sources; they were with the short-lived 102nd Coast Regiment, RCA. However, none of us at Photo Quiz HQ (occupying the top five floors of the new Trump Tower) can identify the army in which the officer served. Can you help us?

Also, even though most of the 200+ staff of the Photo Quiz Section can identify the ordnance piece in the background, we will let you do that for our dear readers. Bonus points will be awarded to those who



can tell us the location. As always, your answers can be sent to our esteemed editor bob.mugford@outlook.com , or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Thank you.

From the 'Punitary'

What is a diplomat? A person who thinks twice before saying nothing.

Murphy's Other Laws

A crisis is when you can't say "let's forget the whole thing."

Quotable Quotes

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.
Abraham Lincoln

Dues for 2017

It's that time of year again. In most local organizations, annual dues are payable as of Jan 1st. Last year we went through a change which many found confusing so we are going back to the old way for 2017.

15 Fd Officers Mess Associate Members dues are \$60, payable to - '15 RCA Officers Mess'. By mail, send to the *Associate Members Representative, Officers Mess*, at the address below.

Vancouver Artillery Association dues are \$25, payable to the 'Van Arty Assoc'. By mail, send to the *Treasurer, Van Arty Assoc* at the address below.

RUSI Vancouver dues are \$40, payable to 'RUSI Van'. By mail, send to the *Treasurer, RUSI Van* at the address below.

If you are coming to the weekly lunch or other event at the Armoury, in the near future, you can hand deliver payment, cheques preferred, to the appropriate representative of these organizations, as they are all regular attenders.

Mailing Address

(Appropriate Representative)
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

For **Mess Associate and Van Arty Assoc members** there is an option to pay by email transfer, if you can access your account on line. Go to your account and initiate an email transfer, sending the required amount to 15fdtreasurer@gmail.com You can send a bulk payment for both groups but please ensure that you indicate which organization(s) your payment is intended for.

Tickets for RV2017 may also be purchased by email to 15fdtreasurer@gmail.com

British Pub Style Lunch



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

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



Date: Thursday, January 26, 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

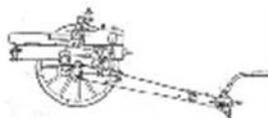
Dress: Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)

Price: \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm
attendance by January 16, 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 January 23, 2017

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, February 23, 2017



RV 2017

**Regimental 97th Birthday
Saturday, February 4th, 2017
1800 Hours – 2400 Hours
Bessborough Armoury
\$30.00 per person**

The evening is open to all members of The 15th Field Artillery Regiment, currently serving or retired, their spouses, all members of other Regiments that may have served alongside of The 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA and currently serving or retired members of the Cadet Instructor Cadre affiliated with the Regiment.

It's time to phone up some of those old time buddies and get together at Bessborough Armoury to share some memories. Dig out your old horn and join in a jam session with the Band.

The Messes will be opened with a planned theme in each. In the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess there'll be a turntable with World War 2 vinyl playing.

Bring down some of your old photos for scanning that night! Too many? Bring them all down in a shoebox and we'll return them in a couple of weeks after scanning.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rv-2017-birthdayreunion-party-4-february-2017>



McNally Robinson Community Classroom

presents

Hollywood Takes to the Skies

Three Sessions

Early Years, Golden Age, Modern Era

2-4 PM, February 8, 15, 22, 2017

For Anyone interested in Aviation and Film

Featuring:

- *Wings* (First Academy Award for Best Picture)
- *Captains of the Clouds*
- *Jet Pilot*
- *Top Gun*
- *Amelia* and many more ...

Book at 204-475-0483, or by email:
classroom@grant.mcnallyrobinson.ca

Host: Filmmaker Bill Zuk

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

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

LOCATION: 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.