



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Mar 19, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15th Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in. The decision has been made to renovate the upstairs (Mess) kitchen at an estimated cost of \$30-35,000. Fundraising efforts have been started, with a whiskey tasting event scheduled for March. (see below)

Remember to drop your lunch ticket in the bowl when you pick up your soup/salad.

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

Lunch speaker - Wednesday March 27

Bruce Seligman, President ARKTOS Developments Ltd.

Bruce will provide us with an illustrated talk on his company's amphibious vehicles. Developed by his company in British Columbia, ARKTOS Craft are proven to have the highest level of all-round amphibious mobility in the world - particularly while crossing the transition between ice and water.

Due to their unique design ARKTOS Craft have an unsurpassed ability to manoeuvre through ice-rubble fields, significant side slopes, steep grades, muskeg, quicksand and any other water transition zones. The existing 15-meter United States Coast Guard approved ARKTOS Evacuation Craft can carry 52-passengers or 5,000 kilograms of cargo through the most severe terrain and up to 10,000 kilograms of cargo in open water, across relatively level ground and across moderate transitions between water and land.

Larger ARKTOS Craft with greater load carrying capacity and exceptional amphibious towing have been considered for several major projects, while smaller, faster ARKTOS Craft have also been conceived for patrol and rescue missions.

The 2013 Military Ball - 6th of April 2013 – Less than 3 weeks to go

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

Want to book a room at the host hotel for the Military Ball? The Hyatt has again offered a special room rate for our guests and the reservations link is pasted below. The rate is **\$149.00!**

As per last year, this rate is ***only available by booking on-line via this link***. You will **not** be able to find it if you call the Hyatt 1-800 reservation phone number or try to book via the Hyatt website

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

The Website is now up and running. For more information go to: www.militaryball.ca



Vancouver Garrison Officers Society

The Military Ball



We invite everyone to attend our

68th Annual Military Ball

to be held at the

Hyatt Regency Hotel

on

April 6, 2013

Tickets - \$110pp

For information about the event and ticket orders please go to:
www.militaryball.ca or contact us at: bcmilitaryball@gmail.com

Whiskey Tasting Fundraiser

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

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

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

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

DATE: March 23rd, 2013

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

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

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

LCol James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

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

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Some tickets still available for the full whiskey fleet but going fast!!!

Record Number of Army Cadets Expected on April 7 Vimy Day.

The 2013 Vimy Day Commemoration will be held on Sunday, April 7 at Victory Square commencing at 11:00 am. Up to ten wreaths will be placed at the Cenotaph in memory of the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in the service of their country at the Battle of Vimy Ridge which began 96 years ago on April 9 1917.

As Vimy Day is Recognition Day for Canada's Army Cadets no fewer than 12 Cadet Units from across Metro Vancouver are expected to participate at Victory Square. The commemoration date was moved to Sunday to accommodate an expected 300 Cadets for maximum attendance on Vimy Day.

The Cadet Parade Commander on April 7 will be C/CWO Jesse Johnson, RSM of Seaforth 1867 RCACC. In addition Cadets from various Vancouver units have been selected for sentry duty at the Cenotaph. A feature of Vimy Day this year will be the presence of the all-Cadet Vancouver Flag Party.

Wreaths will be placed by regimental associations from Metro Vancouver Regiments that perpetuate the original battalions involved in the Battle including the BC Regiment (DCO), 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and the Royal Westminster Regiment.

Other wreaths will be placed by the Royal United Services Institute – Vancouver, Royal Canadian Legion, the Army, Navy & Air Forces Veterans, Veterans Affairs Canada, the Royal

Canadian Army Cadet League (BC Branch), 39 Canadian Brigade Group and the Consulate of France.

Serving members, Veterans, youth and the general public are welcome at this significant commemoration of a WW 1 battle that became a turning point in Canada's history. The Vimy Day ceremony at Victory Square begins at 11:00 am ending at approximately 11:30 am.

Professor Dominick Graham

11 Mar 2013

Professor Dominick Graham, who has died aged 92, was the co-author of a classic work on artillery in the two world wars.



Dominick ('Toby') Graham served with the British Armed Forces during World War II as a member of the Royal Artillery. He was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Military Cross in 1945, retiring with the rank of Major

Graham's collaborator was Brigadier Shelford Bidwell, whom he first met in the bar at Sandhurst after a lively seminar discussing whether massed artillery had

caused a deadlock on the Western Front. A publisher standing alongside them commissioned them to produce a book. Graham lived in Canada, Bidwell in England, and having to exchange chapters by post was a complication. But they never fell out, and managed to meet when Graham was in England on vacation from the University of New Brunswick, where he was director of military history. Their book *Fire-Power* (1982) described the evolution in military thinking from the early 20th century. Tracing developments in training, machine guns, wireless and air power, they showed how, in the First World War, skilfully directed artillery was not just an extra wheel in the war machine but a vital element when used in conjunction with other arms. The authors followed this highly original work with *Tug of War* (1986), a lively narrative of the Italian campaign from 1943 to 1945 which contained vivid biographical sketches of the commanders and drew on Graham's personal examination of the terrain at Monte Cassino. Their last joint effort was *Coalitions, Politicians and Generals* (1993), in which Graham did the bulk of the writing and Bidwell, as editor, drew on his experience as deputy director of the Royal United Services Institute. They offered a stimulating commentary on the British, French and German staff systems, and compared the political pressure applied by Lloyd George on Haig and by General George Marshall on Eisenhower.

Dominick Stuart Graham was born into a naval and military family on July 24 1920. Always known as "Toby" (because when he was a baby his family thought he looked like the dog in *Punch and Judy*), he went to Bradfield and then the Royal Military Academy Woolwich. In 1940 he was sent to Narvik to command an anti-aircraft battery; he was wounded while

rescuing a gun detachment on an airfield during an air raid. Graham next commanded the same guns during the Battle of Britain at Dover. Eighteen months later he was on patrol outside Tobruk in North Africa when his observation car was hit, and he plodded through the desert for two days in the desert before being captured.

His first attempt to escape — through a sewer, from Chieti camp in Italy — was foiled by a fire. Soon he was transferred to Fontanellato, from which he got out for a day, only to be caught at a railway station. On being freed after the Italian armistice in September 1943, he set out to join up with the Allied armies.

In *Escapes and Evasions of an Obstinate Bastard* (2000), Graham described how he wore peasants' clothes and a scarecrow's hat while walking for six weeks around and over steep mountains, lodging in barns and shepherds' huts while being fed by Italian sympathisers. He was fired at several times by Germans scouring the woods for food and escapers before finally being escorted with a party of 17 by a drunken guide to a village near Ortona, where a Canadian patrol found him being shaved in a barber's chair.

On February 16 1945 Graham was commanding a battery with the Guards Armoured Division in north-west Europe when he went forward to replace a wounded forward observation officer shortly before an enemy counterattack. As the German pounding increased, he received a shell splinter in his arm, but continued to direct defensive fire on his wireless, reporting his injury only after the first attack had been repelled. When a relief officer failed to reach him, he refused to be evacuated for four hours. The citation for his MC declared that his disregard for his safety, and his calmness while giving concise orders under heavy fire, enabled more enemy counterattacks to be repelled and a successful thrust to be made by the 5th Coldstreams. After the war Graham became an instructor at Sandhurst, a staff officer in Germany with 6th Armoured Division and commanded the first British missile battery. He was also a member of the British cross-country skiing team at the Winter Olympics at Cortina in 1956. Then, fed up with peacetime soldiering, he emigrated to New Brunswick, where he started a cross-country ski club, fished for salmon on the Miramichi River and shot partridge in the woods.

His first job was as a maths teacher at St John High School. But his keen military interest led him to take a degree in History at the University of New Brunswick and then earn a PhD at London University before joining the staff at UNB, where his initiative in demonstrating the relevance of history to sceptical Canadian bureaucrats led to the founding of the Centre for Conflict Studies in 1980. He could be withering with anyone who had never looked down the sights of a 77mm artillery piece.

His other books included a small work on Monte Cassino (1970) and *The Price of Command* (1993), a life of Guy Simonds, Canada's most distinguished general.

After the break-up of Graham's first marriage, to Valerie Greig (with whom he had two daughters), he resigned his academic post. He was 17,000ft up K2 in the Himalayas the day he was appointed professor emeritus. Graham then married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Hawson, and settled in Yorkshire to work on her family estate and gardens. When she died he

took a container ship to visit his daughter in New Zealand; the only other passenger was Ursula Behringer, and they married in 2002.

Every year Graham went to London for the annual lunch of the San Martino Trust, which brings 20 young Italians to Britain in thanks for the wartime aid given to Allied escapers. When he was no longer able to make the journey he alarmed friends by vanishing from his Co Durham care home, but was eventually found lunching at the Army and Navy Club in London.

Professor Dominick Graham, born July 24, 1920, died March 8, 2013

Hundreds of UN Syrian Golan UN observers scramble to safety in Israel

DEBKAFfile Special Report March 11, 2013

The flight of hundreds of UN Disengagement and Observers Force (UNDOF) soldiers - Indian, Austrian and Filipino - in trucks and APCs from the Syrian side of Golan into Israel was in full swing early Monday, March 11. *DEBKAFfile* quotes them as telling Israeli officers manning the Israeli side of the enclave that their commanders urged them to get out when they could because “We can no longer vouch for your safety.”

Many more UN troops are expected to make their way during the day to refuge in IDF camps across the border. Their officers, they said, had already placed their belongings aboard waiting vehicles ready to move across as soon as they received permission from their governments in Vienna, New Delhi and Manila or the UN Secretariat in New York. Our military sources report that this mass exit signals the breakup of the 1,000-strong UNDOF which for 39 years manned the 8 sq km separation zone between Syria and Israel. It was set up in 1974 to end the war of attrition fought in the sequel to the Yom Kippur War between the IDF and Cuban armoured brigades flown in from Angola by the Soviet Union to support the Syrian army.

The UN force’s collapse began with the Croatian government’s recall of its 100 troops last week.

As the peacemakers flee, Russia is today hardly likely to interfere with who gets to control the Golan separation zone which was split between Syria and Israel.

DEBKAFfile reports three potential candidates are eyeing the sliver of land for different reasons:

1. The Martyrs of Yarmuk Islamist militia force of the Syrian rebel movement, which staked its claim last week by kidnapping 21 blue-and-white helmeted Filipino observers on the Golan and later releasing them in Jordan.

It is feared in Washington, Jerusalem and Amman that Al Qaeda-associated forces will waste no time in overrunning the highly strategic patch of Golan borderland, armed with chemical weapons and even Scud D missiles captured from Syrian army bases. They may even be plotting an attack during President Barack Obama’s visits to Jerusalem and Amman, starting March 20.

DEBKAffile's military sources report that in sync with the UN observers' escape, Israeli military reinforcements are massing on the Golan Syrian border.

2. US, Jordan and/or Israel may step in to keep the Islamists out, using either large Special Forces units for ground raids or a swarm of armed drones.
3. Hezbollah militia units were spotted Sunday night on the move from south Lebanon toward the Lebanese-Syrian border areas abutting on the Golan separation zone.

DUES 2013

It's time to pay dues again:

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

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

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

RUSI Vancouver – dues are \$25/yr. Make cheques payable to RUSI Vancouver and send to Keith Freer, 524-666 Leg-in-Boot Square, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3. *Note: We will be voting on dues at the upcoming AGM so pay now in case they go up.*

Government of Canada Announces New Social Security Tribunal

Announced in Canada's Economic Action Plan 2012, the Social Security Tribunal (SST) will eliminate duplication in appeal and tribunal services for major federal social security programs. It will be an administrative tribunal with quasi-judicial powers and will provide an independent appeal process for government decisions on Employment Insurance (EI), the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS).

33 Canadians from across Canada have been appointed to the Tribunal, effective March 15, 2013. Appointed from BC are: Andrea Schloegl, *Vancouver*, Virginia Lee Saunders, *Vancouver* and R Grant Smith, *Richmond*.

Col R Grant Smith OStJ, ESM, CD, is the current Hon Colonel of 15th Field Artillery Regiment. Congratulations Grant!

2013 Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference

2013 Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference

Vancouver Community College Downtown Campus
(Dunsmuir St & Hamilton St)



National
Defence

Défense
nationale



Robert Fisk



Nelofer Pazira

Friday April 26, 2013

6:30 PM Doors Open

7:00 PM **Keynote Event** - Round Table Discussion –

“Syria, Security and the Middle East”

Featuring

Robert Fisk, Middle East correspondent for “The Independent” of London, UK
With Colonel (retired) Pat Dennis, former Military Attaché to Israel
Moderator – Dr John Craig, Dean of Arts, Simon Fraser University

Saturday April 27, 2013

8:30 AM Doors Open

8:50 AM Opening Remarks

9:00 AM **Mike Molloy** - Former Canadian Ambassador to Jordan

Jerusalem and Refugees: Challenges to Peace

9:45 AM **Colonel (retired) Pat Dennis, OMM, CD** - Wilfrid Laurier University

Slackers, Shirkers and Malingerers: Canadian Conscripts in the Great War

10:30 AM Coffee break

10:45 AM **Stewart Muir** - Former Deputy Editor, Vancouver Sun

The Soldier and The Journalist: An untold World War II story of the press, public opinion, politics and war planning on the west coast of Canada

11:30 AM Lunch in the BCR Beatty Street Drill Hall, 620 Beatty St

(Featuring static displays and Regimental Museum)

12:45 PM **Canadian Forces Perspective** – from Maritime Forces Pacific HQ

Speaker to be confirmed

The Canadian Navy in the Middle East

1:30 PM **Special Presentation - Robert Fisk** – Middle East Correspondent for “The Independent” of London, UK

The Middle Security Environment

2:15 PM **Capstone Presentation** – Name to be confirmed – senior Military or Naval Officer
Canada and the Middle East

3:00 PM Panel Discussion - *The Middle East, Israel, Palestine, Iran – Is Diplomacy Dead?*

Moderator - Nelofer Pazira, Award-winning Afghan-Canadian director, actor, journalist and author. Co-Producer and Director of the film “Return to Kandahar”

3:50 PM **Featuring** - Robert Fisk and a panel of Middle East experts

Closing remarks by the Conference Organizers

Venue - Presentation Room 420 at Vancouver Community College

Enter VCC through the Dunsmuir St and Hamilton St entrance

Registration - (including coffee and lunch): \$35 regular, \$20 students and junior ranks

Register online visit - <http://2013vancouverstrategicstudiesconference.eventbrite.com/>

The Conference will feature book sellers

Note – Special rates for the Conference at the nearby Victorian Hotel - <http://www.victorianhotel.ca/>

Contact the Organizers -

RUSI-Vancouver -
Col (retd) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD
kdmaxwell@gmail.com
604 865 0612 or 604 740 8124

SNF Centre for Hellenic
Studies/SFU –
Ms Colleen Pescott
cdpescott@sfu.ca
778 782 8466/778 855 0467

Sponsoring Hosts –

Royal United Services Institute –
Vancouver

Simon Fraser University/Stavros
Niarchos Foundation Centre for
Hellenic Studies

Sponsoring Societies/Associations -

British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
Royal Westminster Regiment
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
Department of National Defence
Defence Engagement Program

St Patrick's Day Party



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE

BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION'S

ST. PATRICK'S DAY "WEARING OF THE GREEN"



DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2013

TIME: 1130 to 1800 hrs

PLACE: Drill Hall - Sergeants' Mess

PRICE: \$15.00 per person if RSVP by March 8
\$20.00 per person after March 8
Deadline March 12

ALL RANKS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

RSVP: by Friday, March 8th to Graydon & Sandra Young at
sandymay@shaw.ca or call 604-543-0368

Please send payment to BCR Association
#208 – 1899 Willingdon Ave.
Burnaby, B.C. V5C 5T1

AGENDA

1130 – 1229hrs	Meet and Greet aka the cash bar is open
1230hrs	Lunch
1315hrs	The fun continues

PRIZES

- Best Wearing of the Green St. Patrick's Day Costume
- Door Prizes
- Lucky Draw/Raffle Prizes
- & More

WATCH THE ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE – 1100hrs START
AND THEN
JOIN US AFTER FOR A GOOD TIME AND A CHANCE TO GET LUCKY

Parade route: <http://www.celticfestvancouver.com/parade.php#map>

A Senior's Moment

One of our members attending lunch a couple of weeks ago suffered a couple of senior's moments. When he arrived he realised he didn't have any cash on him (the Mess does not accept Credit or Debit cards, unfortunately) to pay for lunch. Another member present immediately lent him some money. The next week, the first member couldn't remember who it was that loaned him the money, and scanning faces at lunch didn't jog his memory. If the lender hasn't had a senior's moment too, he can contact me and I will remind the borrower who you are.

From the 'Punitary'

I recently attended a very emotional wedding – even the cake was in tiers.

Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

If you think you don't need something for your combat load for an OP PLAN, you'll probably wish you had it after the shit hits the fan in combat.

Great Truths

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. - Winston Churchill

BCR Lunch

Curry Lunch - Ireland



Hosted by:
The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess



Coordinated by:
The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association

- Date:** Thursday, March 28, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(welcome at 12:15pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by March 22, 2013)
- 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 March 22, 2013

NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, April 25, 2013