

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News July 1, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

The Mess dress requirements for Wednesday lunches is Business Casual. Business casual can best be described as our 'summer dress'. Minimum requirement is an open neck button up shirt with dress pants or slacks (no blue jeans, pls), Ladies is the equivalent. Of course we never discourage the wearing of jackets and ties. Guests are always welcome.

This time of year I get inquiries about when lunches break for the summer, - well, they don't! Lunches continue through the summer. We always take a short break over the Christmas period, otherwise they keep going except when Mrs Lum decides to take a holiday or if the Mess or Armoury are shut down for military requirements.

Happy Canada Day to All

But it is a somber day for our fellow Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador. Let us pause for a moment of Silence in memory of the many men and women who willingly stood in the Breach this day in 1916.

The Newfoundland Regiment on the 1st of July 1916 was all but completely wiped out, however the Regiment was not disbanded but rather they regrouped and went on to fight throughout the remainder of WW1. On that fateful day, 801 officer and other ranks entered the battle, and on the following morning only 68 were able to muster for roll-call.



The Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial pays tribute to all those Newfoundlanders who served in the First World War and specifically commemorates those who have no known graves. It was here at the opening of the Battle of the Somme, that the 1st Battalion of the

Newfoundland Regiment suffered particularly grievous casualties. The battleground features encompassed by the site were largely preserved, retaining the trenches and other features of the time. This site commemorates the courage, resilience and self-sacrifice of all who fought here, and in particular the tragic yet heroic advance by the Newfoundlanders on July 1, 1916.

The cratered ground indicates something of the intensity of the battles fought here in 1916 and again in 1918, while the topography and the 1916 trench lines enable interpretation of the situation of the Newfoundland Regiment and their outstanding courage.



On a mound there stands a great bronze caribou stag, the emblem of the Newfoundland Regiment nobly facing in the direction of the former foe and overlooking the ground across which the battalion advanced on July 1, 1916. At the base of the statue, three bronze tablets carry the names of 814 members of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve, and the Mercantile Marine who gave their lives in the First

World War and have no known grave.

CF Taking Part in Search for the Ships of the Franklin Expedition

DAVID PUGLIESE Published on: June 20, 2014

OTTAWA, June 20, 2014 /CNW Telbec/ – This summer, the Government of Canada and an unprecedented number of organizations from the public, private and non-profit sectors will partner together, using state-of-the-art technology, to locate the historic ships of the ill-fated 1845 Franklin Expedition.

The 2014 Franklin Expedition will also have the added benefit of furthering our knowledge in a number of priority areas, including through the collection of important scientific information about Canada's most remote region.

The story of the North is the story of Canada. This year's expedition in the Victoria Strait supports the Government's commitment to tell this story and work with renewed determination and an expanded team of partners to discover the fate of Sir John Franklin's lost Arctic expedition.

Government partners for the 2014 Victoria Strait expedition include Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, the Royal Canadian Navy, Defence Research & Development Canada (DRDC) (an agency of the Department of National Defence), Environment Canada, and the Canadian Space Agency, as well as the Governments of Nunavut and Great Britain.

Private and non-profit partners include the Arctic Research Foundation, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society who additionally brings in The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, Shell Canada and One Ocean Expeditions as partners. There will be a record number of ships (4) supporting the 2014 Victoria Strait Expedition: CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier (Canadian Coast Guard), HMCS Kingston (Royal Canadian Navy), research vessel Martin Bergmann (Arctic Research Foundation) and One Ocean Voyager (One Ocean Expeditions), as well as a number of smaller platform vessels. Some of the leading technologies to be employed will include the Canadian Space Agency's RADARSAT-2 satellite imagery, high resolution multi-beam and side-scan sonar, Parks Canada's remotely operated underwater vehicle, and DRDC's state-of-the-art autonomous underwater vehicle, which was developed in collaboration with private-sector partners.

Britain's Armed Forces 'Not Good Enough' to Deal with Jihadists

By Christopher Hope, Senior Political Correspondent 23 Jun 2014

Warning from ex-defence chief, Lord Richards of Hertsmonceux, who also calls for defence spending to increase as the economy starts to grow again and says that if plans to replace regular troops with part-time reserves must work soon or junked altogether.



Lord Richards asked in his maiden speech in the House of Lords: 'Are our armed forces in a fit state to play their role in dealing with these and other risks to our way of life?'

Britain's armed forces are "not good enough" to deal with the global threat of Jihadis, according to a former head of the military. Lord Richards of Hertsmonceux also called for defence spending to increase as the economy starts to grow again and said that if plans to replace regular troops with part-time reserves must work soon or junked altogether. The comments from Lord Richards – who as General Sir David Richards was chief of the defence staff from October 2010 to July last year – will sound alarm bells in Whitehall. In his maiden speech in the House of Lords on Monday evening the peer questioned whether Britain's armed forces would be in a "fit state" to deal with threats from terrorists.

He said: "Are our armed forces in a fit state to play their role in dealing with these and other risks to our way of life? "Well, my Lords, the answer must be that it is not good enough but it is some consolation that it is better than any other allied nation except the United States." Lord Richards said that the "biggest threat confronting the free world today is that posed in my judgement by militant jihadism". He continued: "All states are equally vulnerable, including many great Muslim nations. Rather than bickering, states should cohere to confront this threat through the adoption of a multi-dimensional strategy in which all can play a constructive part. "This struggle will be generational and our leaders must stop seeking short term tactical solutions."

Soldiers Killed During WW1 Named Via DNA from Relatives

Ten soldiers who died in World War One and whose bodies were found in France five years ago have been named after DNA analysis of samples from relatives.



The men are due to be given a funeral with full military honours in October

Since the discovery of the bodies in 2009 the Ministry of Defence has been tracking down potential relatives in the hope of identifying them. The remains were found during construction work near the French village of

Beaucamps-Ligny. They were found alongside five other bodies which are yet to be named. All the soldiers were with 2nd Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment, and are believed to have died in battle on 18 October 1914. The men are due to be given a funeral with full military honours in October, while investigations continue to try and track down relatives for the remaining bodies.

Retired computer programmer Peter Hague, 70, of Chinley, Derbyshire said he was "astonished" to find that his cousin twice-removed Cpl Francis Carr Dyson was among those identified. "It is always strange, and poignant moment when you discover you are related to someone like this, I suppose the sadness of his death is mitigated when you know they died during service for their country," he said. The investigation team is particularly interested in speaking to the families of the following six soldiers who potentially could be among those yet to be named, they are:

- Lance Sergeant George Edwardes 9854 - born in Middlesbrough
- Private Horace Foster 7147 - born in Sheffield
- Private Ross Jeff 10523 - born in Moss, Doncaster
- Private Gavin Lowe 9194 - born in Alyth, Perthshire
- Private William Albert Sunderland 7429 - born in Ripley, Derbyshire
- Private David Wilson Williams 8458 - born in Thornaby, Stockton on Tees

Mr Hague, who is widowed with two children, said some years ago he had researched his own family background and was aware of the existence of Cpl Dyson. And after posting details on a genealogy website, Mr Hague said he was contacted "out of the blue" by a genealogist working on behalf of the MoD. "I gave a DNA mouth swab about six months ago, and it has led to this, it's amazing really," he said.

Defence minister Lord Astor of Hever said: "Our thoughts remain with all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. "Although these soldiers fell almost a century ago, the Ministry of Defence still takes its responsibility extremely seriously to identify any remains found, trace and inform surviving relatives and to provide a fitting and dignified funeral so they rest in peace."

The funeral of the men has been organised by the 4th Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, which traces its history back to The York and Lancaster Regiment. The 10 soldiers who have been identified are:

- Pte Herbert Ernest Allcock, born in Leeds, with family now living in Lancashire
- Pte John Brameld, born in Sheffield with family living in Yorkshire
- Cpl Francis Carr Dyson, born in Wakefield with family now living in Derbyshire
- Pte Walter Ellis, born in Doncaster with family living in Yorkshire
- Pte John Willie Jarvis, born in Rotherham with family living in Yorkshire
- Pte Leonard Arthur Morley, born in Boxhill, Surrey with family now living in Canada
- Pte Ernest Oxer, born in Rotherham with family living in Yorkshire
- Pte John Richmond, born in Nottingham with family living in Nottinghamshire

- Pte William Alfred Singyard, born in Newcastle upon Tyne with family now living in Lincolnshire
- L/Cpl William Henry Warr, born in Dorset with family now living in Somerset

A DNA sample from retired BT manager Barrie Richmond was able to identify his great-uncle Pte Richmond. Mr Richmond of Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire said: "We are surprised and amazed and excited - and humbled. He was a great-uncle we didn't know anything about - perhaps it was the grief that people didn't want to speak about it. "We have found out so much about him. He enlisted in October 1904, signed on for three years, served in India, then worked in the lace making industry before being recalled in 1914. "He was from Radford, Nottinghamshire, and married wife Ellen, but they had no children."

For 69-year-old retired teacher, Marlene Jackson of Garstang, Lancashire, she discovered she had a great-uncle, when her DNA matched that of Pte Allcock. She said: "It was quite a surprise when they initially phoned, I had no idea I had a great-uncle, it was never talked about in the family. "They said would I mind giving my DNA, and I did and now it's confirmed. "He was the brother of my grandmother Ethel, who died aged 102 in 1988. He had enlisted as a soldier and served in India and Ireland before the war, leaving his wife, also Ethel, and two daughters when he died. "I feel quite emotional about this, I never knew I had a great-uncle who had died in France. We're going to the re-burial in October." And for Maureen Simpson, 75, from Stradbroke, Sheffield, who is the grand-daughter of Pte Brameld, the process had allowed her to "close the book" on the mystery of her relative's final resting place. "It will be lovely to see them properly buried. It is what they deserve," she said.

Trashed: US Gear in Afghanistan to be Sold, Scrapped

Billions worth of equipment will be left in a country with a legacy of foreign invasion.

By Paul D. Shinkman June 4, 2014



Much of the US military equipment currently in Afghanistan will be destroyed or disposed of by 2016.

About half of the US military vehicles still in Afghanistan – worth billions of dollars – aren't coming home, and instead will be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by 2016, officials say. An even higher percentage of the rest of the remaining equipment also will be scrapped or left behind. US troops received their marching

orders last week for their final years in Afghanistan: President Barack Obama said 9,800 will remain in the country after the end of 2014. Half of those troops will come out by the end of next year, followed by the remainder by the end of 2016. The only military personnel enduring past then will be the "normal military presence" at the US Embassy in Kabul, working on foreign military sales and assistance.

There is roughly \$36 billion of US military equipment currently in Afghanistan, which in its used state is now worth about \$8 billion. Of that, only \$3 billion to \$4 billion worth will be shipped out of the country, largely by air, and on to foreign ports for the return journey home. The rest will be destroyed, given away or perhaps sold.

The total cost for moving all the equipment is as much as \$6 billion. “A lot of the cargo will come out and be reset to be used by the Department of Defense,” says Army Col. Glenn Baca, operations chief for the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. Some of the equipment will return to military depot yards to be refurbished and redistributed to Army or Marine Corps units. “Then there is some equipment that is in excess to the US Department of Defense’s needs.”



An older MRAP model designed for Iraq.

Those supplies, vehicles or pieces of gear are either worn out or technologically outdated. Some will be given to the Afghan government or put on the market for foreign military sales. For example, about 150 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, or MRAPs, are to be sold to the Croatian government. All foreign militaries are responsible for shipping the equipment they purchase, Baca says. There were about 20,000 vehicles in Afghanistan when the drawdown efforts began. Roughly half are still there: 5,000 to 7,000 will be brought back to the US this year, and roughly 5,000 will be disposed of or left in Afghanistan by 2016. The drawdown remains dangerous work. Military intelligence indicates the number of attacks against outbound shipments has stayed within “historical norms,” Baca says, despite the total number of troops in Afghanistan shrinking from more than 100,000 to its current level of just 32,800. “We haven’t had one security instance which has inhibited our ability to move,” he adds.

Ending the war footing in Afghanistan represents a herculean effort for logistics teams aiming to pull out or otherwise dispose of all the equipment in landlocked Afghanistan, which at its peak in 2011 was home to 101,000 US troops. US News visited a string of closing forward operating bases and airfields last summer. "It's almost like cleaning out a basement," Air Force



Senior Master Sgt. Jason Lamoureux, a terminal manager at Bagram Air Field, said last July. "There's some ugly stuff coming through."

A newer MRAP model designed for Afghanistan.

All US bases in Afghanistan are shrinking, except for the sprawling Bagram in eastern Afghanistan, considered a key linchpin for international air traffic.

It showed no signs of downsizing last summer, and instead was home to new construction projects.

Afghanistan's geographic position means the drawdown effort takes place largely by ground or, if the military is willing to pay the much higher price, by air. The \$6 billion price tag for the remaining drawdown efforts depends on no major kinks related to the outbound land routes. Last summer, roughly 90 percent of US shipments out of Afghanistan were traveling by ground. Political troubles, particularly with countries like neighboring Pakistan, now have forced the US to lean on the more expeditious but significantly more expensive air option. Pakistan has routinely closed off use of its overland routes, citing anger over US policies that include the use of armed drones in the country's tribal northern reaches. Road closures then prompt immediate storage costs, while drivers are forced to wait, Baca says. "The benefit is it can be done much more expeditiously" by air, Baca says. The military has also switched its food distribution contractor to a company that, unlike its predecessor, moves the bulk of its shipments by air. The other ground alternative is the Northern Distribution Network, a particularly complicated route out of northern Afghanistan that entails traveling through Central Asia, Russia and up through to the Baltics. "That route had a lot of value for us when Pakistan was locked up, but it's a route that takes a long time to transit," Baca says. Recent tensions with Russia have not caused any logistical problems with the route, he says, though US military planners are now taking further precautions: Every single piece of equipment that enters or exits Russia is carefully logged to ensure that it completes the journey. "Let's say the Russians were to shut down the roads ... We need to know what we have in Russia," he says, adding the US does not want any cargo stuck there. So far, there have been no problems clearing the shipments through Russian customs. "Materially, the situation hasn't affected the way we move cargo. It has made us monitor more closely the cargo that is transiting in case the situation changes rapidly," he says.

Lower Mainland MFRC Newsletter

The July edition is now available at:

<http://www.familyforce.ca/sites/MainlandBC/EN/Documents/07Jul14News.pdf>

Finding the Fallen

- **Knowledge Network.** Tuesday evening at 2000hrs, starting Jun 3rd.

Episode 5 – July 1st Passchendaele 1917 - Drowning in Mud

In Northern Belgium lies the site of the infamous battle of Passchendaele, fought in 1917, a place where man and beast drowned in a churning sea of mud. As the team unearths the remains of a complex trench system, they discover one of the first modern wristwatches - a technological innovation that was born of war.

Who is it?



Last Week: No feedback on IDs for this picture. There was some discussion on the location with some thinking Sarcee and others Albert Head.

This Week: A soldierly bearing has always been associated with height, Gurkhas being the exception. However, reality shows that being less than basketball player height is actually an advantage, particularly when exiting a burning armoured vehicle, or when evading enemy fire, or even when avoiding one's sergeant-major's gaze when volunteers are called for.



This undated photo shows a bemused brigadier inspecting the prototype for a new model of ecologically efficient, space-saving soldier, suitable for a new generation of smaller vehicles and weaponry. Or does it? Can you shine some light on this moment in time? Date and names would be most welcome. Send your answers to the editor, or to the author (both close to the efficient size shown in the photo) John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

Yesterday I accidentally swallowed some food colouring. The Doctor says I'm OK, but I feel like I've dyed a little inside.

Murphy's other Laws

Undetectable errors are infinite in variety, in contrast to detectable errors, which, by definition, are limited.

Quotable Quotes

Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently. *Henry Ford.*

Seats for Soldiers VI



THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT
proudly presents the



6th Annual

SEATS FOR SOLDIERS



W VS **A**



Thursday, July 3rd
6:00PM >> GAME STARTS AT 7:45

QUEENS PARK MILITARY DISPLAYS & VEHICLES
MILITARY BAND & BBQ

ALL CANADIAN FORCES, VETERANS,
CADETS & THEIR FAMILIES GET IN FREE

WEAR UNIFORMS, REGIMENTAL BLAZERS OR RED TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT celebrating 151 years of proud service to Canada! 1863 - 2014

Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle of Québec.

Come and Explore the Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle of Québec!

OTTAWA—This summer, Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Mrs. Sharon Johnston invite the public to discover the governor general's second official residence at the Citadelle of Québec, which is located in the heart of the historic District of Old Québec. "Sharon and I invite you and your family to discover our residence at the Citadelle of Québec," said the Governor General. "Steeped in history, this site, which overlooks the St. Lawrence River and sits high atop Cape Diamant, is a remarkable heritage attraction. Join the thousands of visitors who come every year and see what it has to offer!"

Visit the Residence of the Governor General

Visitors are invited to discover the history, architecture and art collections of this magnificent residence. They can also explore the State rooms, where the Governor General fulfills his official duties, welcomes dignitaries and honours Canadians. Guided tours are free of charge.

Tour Schedule: From June 24 to September 1: Daily, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Historic and Modern Residence

For nearly 250 years, the City of Québec was the political capital and place of residence of the colony's governors. After Confederation in 1867, Rideau Hall, in Ottawa, became the new official residence of the governor general of Canada. In 1872, Lord Dufferin decided to re-establish a residence for the governor general in the old capital, a tradition dating back to the beginning of New France.

Today, the furnishings and works of art found throughout the residence pay tribute to Canadian artists and enrich the value of the residence's heritage. The marriage of period furniture and contemporary artwork creates a décor that reflects the country's history and its various artistic and cultural traditions.

For more information about our guided tours, please call 418-648-4322 or 1-866-936-4422 (toll-free) or write to citadelle@gg.ca.

You may also visit our website at www.gg.ca/visitus.

The governor general's residence is located within the Citadelle of Québec, atop Cape Diamant. Because the Citadelle is a working residence and an active military base, visitors may enter only when accompanied by a guide and are not permitted to wander freely around the premises. Scheduling for all activities is subject to change without notice due to official events.

Media information:

Marie-Pierre Bélanger
Rideau Hall Press Office
613-998-9166

marie-pierre.belanger@gg.ca