



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Jan 20, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches and these lunches can only survive if sufficient numbers attend regularly. Attendance numbers went down the last few weeks of the year and we need your support to keep the lunches going so, if you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. We serve a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal, or a better deal, anywhere.

The Mess is back to 'winter' dress so dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Your guests are always welcome.

Valentine's Dinner in the Officers Mess

We are in the planning stage for a Valentines Dinner in the Officers Mess for Friday, February 13th.

The dinner will be catered by well-known local chef Dan Marcenko. Dan is currently Executive Chef for two fine dining establishments on Vancouver's West side. **La Buca**, featuring handmade regional Italian specialties and **Pied-à-Terre**, which serves classic French bistro-style cuisine.

Dinner Menu

Roasted Butternut Squash Soup
Fried sage, hazelnut crumble, green oil,

Salmon "Pastrami" & Beet Trio
Pickled beets, cream cheese, rye bread, horseradish

Three Cheese & Potato Raviolo
Parmesan tea, chive, brown butter

Slow Roasted Beef Brisket
Country style beans, sweet onions, honey mustard

"Nemesis" Chocolate Cake
Orange curd, fresh oranges, cocoa meringue

Allowance can be made for vegetarian requirements or allergies - prior notice is requested.

Details are still being worked out, including having the band supply a combo to entertain us during the meal. Cost \$50pp. Dress: Formal. Maximum of 40 diners.

If you are interested in attending, please email me at bob.mugford@shaw.ca

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1914

Jan. 2nd to 23rd: During this period it was the usual give and take. We fired every day at any targets that presented themselves, and were occasionally shelled, very often at night. The REDOUBT was retaken and lost many times, each attack meaning a fierce couple of hours work, till at length it was [undecipherable] ‘no man’s land’ for neither side could hold it.

World War 2 - November 1939

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

Jan 15th: As a consequence of the acquisition of German invasion plans, the British and French offer to position troops in Belgium, but “Brussels prefers strict neutrality for the moment. Hitler uses the British decision to arm all merchant vessels to issue orders to all U-Boat commanders to attack any vessel in British waters... which they’ve been doing anyway for weeks. The Soviets begin a massive weeks-long bombardment of sections of the Mannerheim Line.

Jan 16th: Thanks to the loss of their plans and the bad weather, Hitler decides to wait until spring before attacking into France.

Jan 19th: A Finnish attack bounces off the encircled 122nd Soviet Division.

Jan 20th: The Canadian parliament is dissolved pending a March election over national readiness for the war.

Czechs Find Antenna from Plot to Kill Nazi Boss Heydrich

By Ladka Bauerova Jan 13, 2015



Reinhard Heydrich, right, and President Hacha of Bohemia and Moravia on Sept 1941

A British-made radio antenna used in the World War II plot to kill Nazi leader Reinhard Heydrich has surfaced in a Czech village. In April 1942, Jiri Potucek, a resistance fighter parachuted into Czech territory by the Royal Air Force, hooked his radio up to the antenna

to plan details of the attack, said Adolf Vondrka, who discovered the wires in the attic of a building on his fish farm in Lazne Bohdanec, 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Prague.

Potucek was among members of the Czechoslovak army-in-exile dropped into the country near the end of 1941. His broadcasts helped organize Operation Anthropoid, the attack on Heydrich.

On May 27, 1942, paratroopers Jozef Gabcik and Jan Kubis attacked Heydrich's car with a hand grenade. The Nazi official died from his wounds a week later. "It was one of the most successful resistance operations in our country," Vondrka said, "a moment we can be proud of." The antenna -- two separate wires several meters long -- ran along the walls of an unused attic without windows or electricity, high enough to assure reception from the British Isles, Vondrka said. It was one of several locations used by Potucek to transmit information about resistance activity in the Nazi-occupied Czech territory.

"The antenna is professional, clearly made in England," said Vondrka, who discovered it last August but waited for technical appraisal before making it public last week. "There was no way it could have been fabricated by the resistance." While the assassination of Heydrich, widely considered Adolf Hitler's right hand, dealt a severe blow to the Nazi leadership, the reprisals were severe. Two villages in central Bohemia, falsely linked to the attack, were razed. Almost all the men were murdered and most of the women and children were sent to concentration camps; a few were given to families of Nazi loyalists in Germany for "Aryanization." Across the country, more than 13,000 people were arrested and tortured in retaliation for the attack. The Gestapo hunted radio operator Potucek through the forests of eastern Bohemia in the week after the attack. Starving and exhausted, he was discovered and shot by a Czech policeman two days before Heydrich's death. Gabcik, Kubis and other paratroopers managed to stay ahead of the Nazis until June 18, 1942, when they were cornered in the catacombs of a Prague church. Vastly outnumbered by German troops trying to flush them out, they all either committed suicide or were killed.

Mystery of Irishman who was WWII hero solved after 62 years

Sam Griffin *Published 08/07/2014|02:30*



The 62-year mystery of an Irishman whose investigations during World War II helped return millions in stolen art and diamonds has finally been solved.

Eugene Smith, who was born in Lavey, Co Cavan, in 1913 but emigrated to the US as a child, disappeared after his military plane crashed into a glacier in Alaska in 1952. For decades his family, both in America and in Cavan, suspected he had died in the crash, but were never able to recover his body or give Eugene a proper burial. Searches of the area in the intervening years have been restricted due to the harsh landscape and it seemed the C-124 military aircraft, carrying 52 passengers, had been lost forever. But now, because the glacier has receded, the US military has been able to search the site and confirm that

Eugene died in the crash. "They knew the general area where it had gone but because it was a glacier that the plane had crashed into, it wasn't possible to carry out any kind of proper search,"

explained Amy Kiernan, whose grandfather was Eugene's first cousin. Despite not knowing him, Amy says Eugene's legacy had lived on through her grandfather's stories who remembered him before he left Ireland and had waited for years for his cousin's remains to be found. "Granddad was always so proud of his cousin in America and he remembered when he first heard the plane had crashed.

"He had kept in touch with the family in the US the following years but passed away without ever finding out what happened to his cousin," said Ms Kiernan, who lives in Lavey. Eugene settled with his family in Wilmington, Delaware and got US citizenship. He joined the National Guard before he went on active duty with the army. In 1942 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the military police, investigating crimes committed during World War II. He quickly moved up the ranks becoming a lead investigator within the force. His crowning glory came in 1946 when he brought court martial proceedings against three US officers who had stolen more than \$30m worth of jewels and gold belonging to one of the royal families of Germany, the Hesse family. The robbery was known as the Hesse jewel heist and a Hollywood film based on it was made in 2009 starring Billy Zane. The air disaster struck soon after he was named the director of the office of special investigation, based in Alaska. The crash site remained untouched until 2012, when the US military was finally able to access the site due to the receding glacier.

DNA extracted from existing family members matched positively with a skull discovered in the plane. Eugene had been found. "The family always thought the plane had crashed and that he was there," says Brian Gorman, nephew of Eugene, who lives in Wilmington today. A burial ceremony will take place at the end of the month in Wilmington and Amy, and her sister Louise will attend as representatives of Eugene's Irish ancestry. "It's great that he dedicated his career to solving mysteries and now finally this last mystery is solved," Amy added.

Myth Busting - Why the New Veterans Charter Came Into Effect

Ottawa, ON - January 19, 2015

“The New Veterans Charter was implemented without consultation and only for cost-cutting reasons.”

Q: True or False? A: False

Support for Canada's injured and ill Veterans has struck a chord with many Canadians. Hardly a day goes by without someone commenting in the media about problems with how Veterans are supported under the New Veterans Charter (NVC). Critics of the NVC criticize its deficiencies, while supporters point out the lack of understanding about the benefits and services available to injured and ill Veterans and their families. Sometimes the facts fall victim to emotion, misunderstanding and misinformation. Such is often the case in the discussion of why the NVC replaced the *Pension Act* in 2006 as the system for Veterans' benefits and services. Some have claimed that the NVC came into effect because the Government wanted to cut the cost of supporting Veterans. Those who agree believe that because the payment of a disability pension for life under the *Pension Act* was too expensive, bureaucrats devised a new way of compensating Veterans for an injury or illness related to service – the one-time lump

sum disability award. While cost containment was a consideration, it was not the only reason the NVC came into effect.

What is not always understood or acknowledged is that the *Pension Act* did not meet the needs of many injured and ill Veterans. For many Veterans eligible for a disability pension, the amount of the pension was not sufficient to provide the basic necessities of living. Veterans who were unable to work and were not eligible for other benefits such as the Canada Pension Plan disability pension, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) pension or the Canadian Forces SISIP Long-Term Disability plan income replacement benefit faced significant financial challenges. For Veterans who were able to work, the *Pension Act* could not help them with retraining or the transition to a civilian job.

The March 2004 Veterans Affairs Canada – Canadian Forces Advisory Committee discussion paper [*Honouring Canada's Commitment: Opportunity with Security for Canadian Forces Veterans and Their Families in the 21st Century*](#) provides insight into why the NVC was implemented. The Advisory Committee conducted extensive fact-finding research with regard to the support of injured and ill CAF members and Veterans. It also visited a number of CAF bases and heard from senior commanders, officers and non-commissioned members, Veterans and their families. The conclusion from this extensive research and outreach was that VAC did not have the tools to provide the type of assistance required by a growing number of injured and ill Veterans and families. A new approach was needed. The 1998 joint federal, provincial and territorial report, [*In Unison: A Canadian Approach to Disability Issues*](#), appears to have influenced some of the Advisory Committee's thinking on how to better support injured and ill Veterans. It advocated for better access to educational and training opportunities to improve the participation of persons with disabilities in the economic and social mainstream. As well, the report proposed new approaches for dealing with persons with disabilities, such as independence versus dependence, active measures to promote employment versus passive income support, among others. With these ideas in mind, it became clear to the Advisory Committee that bringing the existing benefits under the *Pension Act* in line with these new approaches would require a major reform of the Veterans' benefit system. This was apparent to VAC also. In September 2003, it stood up a departmental Services and Program Modernization Task Force to develop a suite of programs and services to facilitate the successful transition of CAF members and families to civilian life.

In March 2004, the Advisory Committee published its "...*Opportunity with Security...*" paper, the culmination of almost four years of research and consultation on the support of CAF members, Veterans and their families. The paper proposed a comprehensive overhaul of Veterans benefits and services, including improved transition and retraining support, enhanced civilian employment opportunities for disabled members, and the thorough overhaul of the way CAF members and Veterans were compensated for injury. The NVC was the result. It came into effect in 2006 and adopted many of the principles and recommendations proposed by the Advisory Committee.

To state that implementing the NVC was only about cutting costs fails to recognize the significant amount of research and thought that went into its development. While some criticize

the NVC, in many ways it offers better support to Veterans and their families than does the *Pension Act*. That said, better support does not necessarily mean sufficient support. Many reports have been published since 2006 that make it clear that the NVC has major deficiencies that need to be addressed. I have written often about the changes required to the NVC – here are the top five priorities:

- Improved financial security after age 65
- Better access to allowances for those with the greatest need
- Income support equity for Veterans who served as reservists
- Better support to families
- Improved income support during rehabilitation and transition

The bottom line is that neither the NVC nor the *Pension Act* is perfect. Our focus going forward must be on addressing the deficiencies within the Charter so that injured and ill Veterans and their families receive the help they need to successfully transition to a new life.

In its response to the 2014 Report by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, the Government indicated that it is well aware of these deficiencies. Action is needed now!

Guy Parent

Veterans Ombudsman <http://www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/eng/blog/post/287>

Fanta's German Connection

Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, Coca-Cola's only unqualified success on the international scene was its bottling operations in Germany. Sales records were being set year after year in that venue, and by 1939 Coca-Cola had 43 bottling plants and more than 600 local distributors in that country. However, the war was about to change that. As the inevitable clash loomed ever closer, obtaining the key ingredients necessary for the production of Coca-Cola syrup became increasingly difficult in Germany, grinding production towards a standstill.

In 1938, the man in charge of Coca-Cola's operations in Germany, American-born Ray Powers, died of injuries received in an automobile accident. His right-hand man, German-born Max Keith, took over. After the war started, the German government placed Max Keith in charge of Coca-Cola's properties in the occupied countries, and he sent word through Coca-Cola's bottler in neutral Switzerland that he would try to keep the enterprises alive. But with no means of getting ingredients, Keith stopped making Coca-Cola and began marketing an entirely new soft drink he called Fanta, a light-coloured beverage that resembled ginger ale. Fanta came by its name thanks to Keith's instructions to employees during the contest to christen the beverage — he told them to let their *Fantasie* [German for *fantasy*] run wild. Upon hearing that, veteran salesman Joe Knipp immediately blurted out *Fanta*.

This new soda was often made from the leavings of other food industries. (Remember, Germany did have a bit of an import problem at that time.) Whey (a cheese by-product) and apple fiber from cider presses found their way into the drink. As for which fruits were used in

the formulation, it all depended on what was available at the time. In its earliest incarnations, the drink was sweetened with saccharin, but by 1941 its concoctors were permitted to use 3.5 percent beet sugar. Fanta sold well enough to keep the plants operating and Coca-Cola people employed. In 1943, 3 million cases of Fanta were vended, but not all were imbibed — some were used to flavor soups and stews. (Sugar rationing inspired many a housewife to look to unusual sources for that which could no longer be bought outright in large enough quantities to satisfy.)

Until the end of the war, Coca-Cola executives in Atlanta did not know if Keith was working for the company or for the Germans, because communication with him was impossible. Their misgivings aside, Keith was safeguarding Coca-Cola interests and people during that period of no contact. It was thanks largely to his efforts that Coca-Cola was able to re-establish production in Germany virtually immediately after World War II.

According to a report prepared by an investigator commissioned by Coca-Cola to examine Max Keith's actions during that unsupervised period, Keith had never been a Nazi, even though he'd been repeatedly pressured to become one and indeed had endured hardships because of his refusal. He also could have made a fortune for himself by bottling and selling Fanta under his own name. Instead, in the face of having to work for the German government, he kept the Coca-Cola plants in Germany running and various Coca-Cola men alive throughout the war. At the end of the conflict, he welcomed the Coca-Cola Company back to its German operations and handed over both the profits from the war years and the new soft drink.

So where does all this leave the question of who or what invented Fanta and why? The truth is simple, even if it doesn't run trippingly off the tongue: Fanta was the creation of a German-born Coca-Cola man who was acting without direction from Atlanta. This man wasn't a Nazi, nor did he invent the drink at the direction of the Third Reich. Rather, in an effort to preserve Coca-Cola company assets and protect its people by way of keeping local plants operating, he formulated a new soft drink when it became impossible to produce the company's flagship product.

Fanta is still a Coca-Cola product, and today it comes in seventy different flavors (though only some are available within each of the 188 countries it is sold in).

Who is it? **Last Week:** This picture was taken somewhere between 1962-65. Probably on a Remembrance Day. ID's we have to date:



Front L-R: Lloyd Hunter,???, Windy Wadden, ???, Garry Angell, Ernie Freeborne, Jack Isbister?, Gordon Wright,???, Gus Clarke, Norm Moore, Sgt Ho, Dave Upton.

2nd Row: WO1 Jim Bathurst, ???, Jim Griffiths, Steve Stephan, Gordon Platt, Doug Elsdon, Barrie Clemons, Ted Eckford, Dave Ames, WO1 Dave Penman, RSM.

3rd Row: ???, ???, ???, George Chow, ???, Peter Erwin, George Mapson, ???, Preston?, ???, Pat Smith, ???, Bill Wickett, ???, ???, Al Langmuir, Bill Matterson, ???, ???, ???.

4th row: ???, Pete Dwillies, ???, ???, ???, Jim Hamilton, ???, ???, ???, Bill Cooper, 'Mack' McKenzie, Ron Abbott, Kennedy?, Barry Hamilton, Gary Bailey, Ian Seymour.

5th Row: Jim Mancor, Hepworth?, ???, ???, ???, Doug Renny, ???, ???, Bruce Longon, ???, Vic Stevenson.

This Week: This seemingly non-military photo is one of several with the same characters and theme, donated to the museum in 1991. While the people all look like very nice chaps and



ladies, the question arises, "Why do we have this photo?" The answer might be lost to history, but it might be right out there, in your mind. Was this the 15th Coast Brigade follies, or some similar event to raise morale? Was it even during the war? There seems enough material in some of the men's

suits to clothe an entire regiment, so it is possibly post-war.

In any event, can you help us identify the people and the event? Your suspicions can be sent to either the learned editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Break a leg!

For a picture you can enlarge, email bob.mugford@shaw.ca

From the 'Punitary'

Why didn't the skeleton cross the road? Because it had no guts!

Murphy's other Laws

When you are right, be logical. When you are wrong, be-fuddle.

Quotable Quotes

Nothing so obstinately stands in the way of all sorts of progress as pride of opinion. While nothing is so foolish and baseless. - *Josiah Gilbert Holland*

2015 BC Army Gala



Steve Darling reprises his role as event MC for the 2015 BC Army Gala!

Join us in remembering the Second World War, 70 years later.

The 2015 BC Army Gala will remember the sacrifices and celebrate the victories of The Second World War. Come with us as we travel through the war, and through Europe with an evening of entertainment and remembrance.

The evening will see Steve Darling return as the evening MC; in addition, the entertainment will be unparalleled with live music, dancers and more.

Tickets are available for purchase at \$140 each, and are selling quickly. The BC Army Gala team looks forward to seeing you at the Hyatt Regency on March 28th.

Event Count-Down: **67 Days** until the 2015 BC Army Gala!

Visit the link below to purchase your tickets today:

<http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2015-bc-army-gala-tickets-13545802861?aff=efbevent>

Thank you for your continued interest and we look forward to seeing you at The BC Army Gala 2015!

South Korea Curry Lunch



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

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



Date: Thursday, January 29, 2015

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 23, 2015)

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 January 23, 2015

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, February 26, 2015