



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Aug 21, 2018

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get a copy.

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 - We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. **Note: Lunches continue through the summer, but we are now in our 'summer doldrums' and attendance has dropped off so, if you can make it, come join us and bring a friend (or friends). During hot weather periods we do relax our jacket and tie requirement. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.**

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars See attached posters for details.

Aug 26	Gunner Golf on August 26 on Vancouver Island Postponed. Date TBA
Sept 08	15 th Fd WO & Sgts Mess Annual Dinner
Sept 12	RUSI Presentation – 'NATO in the Age of Twitter' with Keith Maxwell
Sept 22	78 th Fraser Highlanders -Battles of the Plains of Abraham Dinner
Sept 25	Churchill Society presents Eric Mold – Canada's Nuclear Strike Force

World War 2 – 1943

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

Aug 22nd: The Germans start pulling out of Kharkov in contradiction of Hitler's direct orders. US forces start a series of unopposed landings in the Ellice Group in the central Pacific.

Aug 23rd: The Soviets finally enter Kharkov and continue to push towards Voroshilovgrad. On New Guinea, US warships bombard Finschafen to distract the Japanese from air operations directed against Wewak.

Aug 24th: Himmler is appointed as the Reich Interior Minister. Danish bombs and strikes paralyze industry in Copenhagen. The Quebec Conference wraps up, outlining the Allied grand plans for the coming year. After being shot down in 1942, Soviet fighter pilot Alexey Maresyev had both of his lower legs amputated after spending 18 days exfiltrating from behind German lines (often crawling through the snow). He then had to spend months learning how to fly again using his artificial limbs before returning to combat in July 1943 and becoming an ace. Today he becomes a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Aug 25th: The Germans new radio-controlled Glider bomb makes an unsuccessful debut in Bay of Biscay in a failed attack on HMS Bideford, a sloop hunting U-Boats. The Battle for New Georgia ends with the end of Japanese resistance at Bairoko. The Soviets push off to the west of Kharkov.

Aug 26th: The US, the UK and Canada recognize French Committee for National Liberation as the French government in exile, the USSR and China prepare to do the same.

Aug 27th: Americans land on Arundel in the Solomons. Vatutin's Front captures Kotleva while Sevsk is freed by Rokossovsky's Central Front.

Aug 28th: The Danish government refuses a German demand that they resign. Boris III, King of the Bulgars and a very hesitant German ally, dies – perhaps from a heart attack – at age 50 shortly after an interview with Hitler.

The 2018 RUSI Speaker Series Begins in September – Mark Your Calendars

Be sure to join us for a series of informative and stimulating talks on Wednesdays from September through November 2018 in the Officers Mess at the Bessborough Armoury. Topics will include the future of NATO, Arctic vulnerability, and Canadian unity during WW1.

Kicking off the series on **Wednesday, September 12** will be Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, who will provide an overview of past successes and current challenges at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization entitled “*NATO in the Age of Twitter*”.

The **Wednesday, October 10** presentation deals with “*Canada's Arctic: Opportunities and Emerging Threats*” in a warming Arctic Ocean. Our speaker will be Joe Spears, a marine consultant with 30 years experience developing Arctic strategy.

On **Wednesday, November 14** the topic will be ***“Canada & the Great War: Unity and Discord”***, a review by Cam Cathcart, President of RUSI Vancouver, on how the WW1 conscription crisis of 1917 nearly led to the breakup of Confederation.

You're invited to gather at 5:00 pm on the above dates in the Officers Mess at the Bessborough Armoury, 2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver. Presentations begin at 5:30 pm followed by a question and answer session. The event will conclude by 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be available. RUSI Vancouver appreciates the cooperation of LCol Pierre Lajoie, Commanding Officer of the 15th Field (RCA) Regiment, for the scheduling of the RUSI Presentation Series, together with the generous support of the PMC and members of the Officers Mess.

Dieppe, France, 19 August 1942

Every August I think of my father, a World War Two veteran.

Jim Stanton Past President RUSI Van 15 Aug 2018.



My father, Austin G Stanton as a Lieutenant in the KOCR as he prepared to leave for England.

Seventy-six years ago this August 19th the 2nd Canadian Division landed on the shores of Nazi occupied France at the small French town of Dieppe. 14 Canadian Army Tanks, King's Own Calgary Regiment, (KOCR) were part of the attacking troops. It was intended as a “raid in force” to show the Nazis that the Allies were capable of launching such an assault, to capture Germans as prisoners and to seize one of the Nazi Enigma encoding machines.

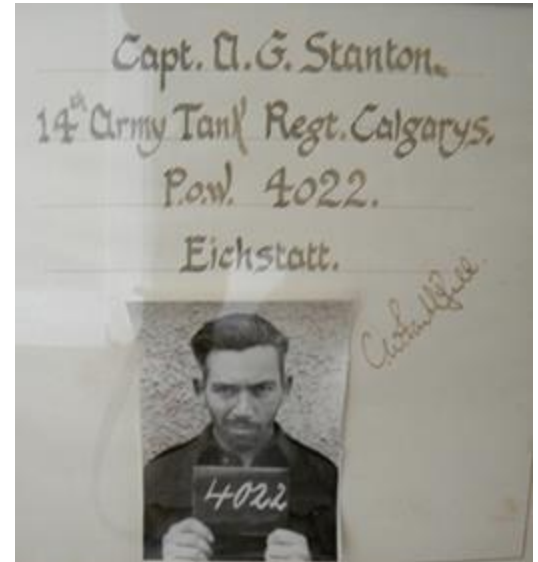
Dad's tank, "Ringer" disabled on shore after beach rocks threw off the tracks and immobilised his tank. Dad and his crew stayed in their tank providing supporting for to the withdrawing infantry until they ran out of ammunition



Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. The original July raid date was cancelled because of bad weather and the troops were sent on leave in southern England, which was full of Nazi sympathizers and spies. It was called back on for 19 August. There can be no doubt the Nazis knew the raid was coming. It was called Operation Jubilee. However, air support was reduced, the heavy naval bombardment was called off because of concern about French casualties and the drop of paratroops on the flank was cancelled. This meant the troops would wind up doing a frontal assault on a heavily defended part of Hitler's “Festung Europa” – Fortress Europe, with disastrous consequences.



Dad can be seen, third from left, in a German propaganda leaflet, assisting in the triage of Canadian wounded



Capt Stanton's official POW photo.

More than 900 Canadians died that August day, the largest single day loss for Canada in WW II, thousands were wounded and taken prisoner. My father, Captain Austin G Stanton, Battle Adjutant of the Calgary Tank Regiment, landed the first Allied tank on occupied Europe. He remained a POW until 8 May 1945. German propaganda leaflets were dropped over England after the Dieppe raid to show the "invincibility" of Nazi fortifications. My father is described as "a colonial officer, used by the British to fight their battles."



39 Canadian Brigade Group Command Team Farewell Mess Dinner

Seaforth Armoury. *From the BCR Bulletin 28 July 2018*



The Command Team Farewell Mess Dinner marking the Change of Command

(Colonel David Awalt to Colonel Paul Ursich) and Change of Appointment of Brigade Sergeant Major (CWO Sean Parker to CWO B.H.J. Gardner) was held in the Anderson Room of the Seaforth Armoury on Saturday evening, 28 July 2018. Special Guests for the affair were BGen Nic Stanton, DCO of 3 Canadian Division, and BGen Rob Roy MacKenzie, COS Army Reserve. The dinner was very well attended, including the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and Major Adam McLeod as well as many Honoraries of 39 CBG.





The very enjoyable evening featured speeches by the Commander and the Brigade Sergeant Major, entertaining presentations and Commander Commendation presentations to Honorary Colonel of 39 CER, Bill Diamond, Honorary Colonel Al De Genova, 15th Field RCA, and Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Don Foster, 15th Field RCA, in recognition of their service to 39 CBG. Congratulations gentlemen and thank you for service to your units and 39 CBG!



At the conclusion of the evening, Colonel Hawthorne presented his Honorary Colonel Regimental Coin to Colonel Dave Awalt and thanked him for the great support during his command.

Photos courtesy of HLCol John Ducker.

Putting Their Best Foot Forward

CAF Expanding Options with an Individual Combat Boot Purchase Program

Antonia Lafkas, Army Public Affairs August 2, 2018

Ottawa, Ontario — Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members will soon be able to step up their choices when it comes to their combat boots. The CAF has a new program to equip eligible members with temperate boots that better meet individual fit, form and functional requirements. Eligibility for the program is limited to personnel entitled to wear combat boots as part of their regular duties. Central to this decision is the CAF's fundamental commitment to ensuring that personnel are properly equipped and ready to serve. Offering entitled members greater flexibility and choice when it comes to operational footwear will help match the right footwear with each individual, enhancing ability to perform. As of late summer 2018, the first stage of the new boot program will give eligible personnel a personalized fit and a choice of boot styles that will not only fit well, but perform well in the field. Within guidelines, they will be able to purchase boots of their choice that meet specific criteria and submit claims for reimbursement through their units.



Soldiers of the 128th Battery from 4 General Support Regiment participate in Exercise TURBULENT WINDS to support an Air Defense Troop Sergeant-Major course in the training area of 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, Oromocto, New Brunswick, in October 2016. The CAF has a new program to equip eligible members with temperate boots that better meet individual fit, form and functional requirements. Offering entitled members greater flexibility and choice when it comes to operational footwear will help match the right footwear with

each individual, enhancing ability to perform.

Photo: Corporal Peter Ford, Tactics School, 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown. ©2016 DND/MDN Canada.

The second stage of this program will include a pre-qualified product list, followed by the transition to an online ordering model similar to the way Distinctive Environmental Uniforms are currently managed. Temperate boots are intended for cool and warm weather conditions, such as those experienced in most parts of Canada during the spring, summer and fall. Specialized footwear such as steel-toed boots or boots designed specifically for hot, wet or cold weather are not included in this program. Boots purchased under this program must conform to the following guidelines:

- The preferred boot colour is brown, however black and tan are acceptable.
- The boot must be designed to perform well in temperate conditions between +4oC and +35oC.
- Boot height from the side of the combat boot measured from the inside of the boot must be a minimum of 15 cm to a maximum of 23 cm.
- The boot must have a non-marking nitrile rubber outsole that is resistant to fuel, oil and acid.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Chénard leads the combat boot working group. “Equipping a diverse team of military members comes with a number of complexities. We are finding that a one-size-fits-all approach is not practical when it comes to operational footwear,” he said. “The intention of this program is to provide personnel with boots that will meet their individual needs, as well as the needs of service. We hope that this expanded choice will add value and help our members always remain strong, proud and ready to serve.” Some details of the program are still under development. Combat boots for recruits will still be drawn from the existing national inventory and supplied through training facilities. Once entitled personnel have successfully completed their Basic Military Qualification, they will be permitted to buy boots under the plan and be reimbursed for this expense. The CAF is working to develop this arrangement and to have it take effect as soon as possible. Further information will become available once the program is in place. A CANFORGEN (Canadian Forces General message) and a series of frequently asked questions will be provided to provide necessary details and guidance.

Canadian Army Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Durnford, the Regimental Sergeant Major for 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, has been involved in the development of the new program and emphasizes the importance of this new approach. “Making sure our members have the combat boots that are best suited to their operating environment must include boots that best suit their personal needs,” he said. “It is critical to make sure they are equipped for success.”

General Paul Tells Junior Canadian Rangers to be Proud

Sgt Peter Moon in Anishinaabe 25 July 2018

CAMP LOON – The highest-ranking Indigenous officer in the Canadian Armed Forces says the Junior Canadian Rangers of the Far North of Ontario should be proud of their identity and work to preserve their culture. “I’m a status Indian like you,” Brigadier-General Jocelyn Paul told 140 Junior Rangers during a visit to Camp Loon, an annual camp that provides Junior Rangers with a week of advanced training in the bush north of Geraldton. “I’m proud to be an Indian like you. And you should be proud to be Indian.” The camp’s training emphasizes the importance of safety on the land and water and in personal lifestyles. The Junior Rangers at the camp live in isolated and remote First Nation communities across the Far North of Ontario. General Paul was recently appointed commander of the army’s 4th Canadian Division, which commands the army in Ontario and is the largest military formation in Canada.



General Jocelyn Paul talks to Junior Canadian Rangers about being proud of being Indigenous

By Peter Moon

He told the assembled Junior Rangers that he grew up on the Huron Wendat First Nation, near Quebec City, where he owns a house and goes back regularly to hunt and fish. When his military career is over, he said, he plans to retire to it with

his First Nation wife and live in the community. He told the Junior Rangers their culture is important to them and to their communities. He encouraged them to complete their educations and even if that and their future employment should take them away from their home reserves they should maintain connections to them. He told them his own small reserve has recently seen one of its members graduate as its first medical doctor and the pride his achievement has brought to its members. “You can do that, too,” he told the Junior Rangers. Afterward, he said the camp left a powerful impression on him. “For most of the time I’ve been here they have been super interested in what they are doing here,” he said. “They have big smiles on their faces. I’m going back home with a big smile on my own face.” The training at the camp, he said, is giving the Junior Rangers “skills that are extremely valuable when you’re living in a remote community. But it’s also giving them a sense of pride. It’s reinforcing their identity.”

General Jocelyn Paul helps Junior Canadian Rangers win a tug of war contest against a team of soldiers.

He encouraged the Junior Rangers to become Canadian Rangers when they are old enough. “What the Rangers are doing up North is fantastic,” he said. “They’re saving lives (in search and rescue operations and emergency evacuations) but they’re also protecting a lifestyle, the knowledge of how to survive on the land. They are preserving an important part of the Northern identity. And they are passing that knowledge on to the Junior Rangers.”



Abbotsford Airshow 2018



Another weekend, another show. The Abbotsford Airshow was a great event. Lots of aircraft and there was always something up putting on a show. Friday night there were about a dozen military vehicles of various vintages in place when Hon LCol Don Foster, me and Doug Loney lined up for this picture in front of the 25pdr (and beside the M109). The next day that

was a very popular exhibit.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The updates for the website are a little thin this week as your webmaster is travelling through Denmark with his family. Have you got any photos or stories to share?

Celebration of life for former RSM CWO Eric Tyldesley – Gore

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/obit---eric-tyldesley-gore.html>

Annual training results 1933 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1933.html>

Military Medal update Sergeant Eric Royal Skaife, MM

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/mm.html>

Military Cross - Lieutenant Joseph Badenoch Clearihue MC

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/mm.html>

Want to join our shoe box club? Put your old photos in a shoe box with/without a sheet of paper with descriptions, drop the shoe box off at Bessborough Armoury c/o Colonel (ret'd) Leon Jensen. I'll scan them and place them on line in the appropriate yearbook.

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: When I saw the picture, I thought this was just a little mortar, instead I find that it is one of the largest built. Those aren't very large balls, they are gigantic. Calibre 914mm/36in. I put in a picture of the mortar with a man standing beside it to give you an idea of the true size. Of course, the ball size is a now bit exaggerated because they are in the foreground. Mallet's Mortar was a British shell-firing mortar built for the Crimean War, but never used in combat. The mortar was designed by Robert Mallet and was constructed in separate sections so that it could be transported. Robert Mallet first made his design public in 1854. There was little response from the authorities until Mallet wrote to the then Prime Minister Lord Palmerston in



March 1855. Palmerston was taken with the idea and instructed the Board of Ordnance to arrange for the construction of two mortars of Mallet's design.

Testing began on 19 October 1857 with further testing on 18 December 1857, 21 July 1858 and 28 of July 1858. Each test was brought to an end by damage to the mortar. A total of 19 rounds were fired with a rate of about 4 shells an hour being achieved. Shell weight was between 2,352 and 2,940 pounds (1,067 and 1,334 kg). In testing with an 80-pound (36 kg) charge it fired the lighter shell a distance of 2,759 yards (2,523 m) with a flight time of 23 seconds. Both mortars are in the collection of the Royal Armouries, the UK's national museum of arms and armour. The gun used for testing is on loan to the Royal Artillery and is located at Repository Road, opposite the army base in Woolwich, while the unfired gun is on display at the Royal Armouries Fort Nelson near Portsmouth. For more details go to:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallet%27s_Mortar

Mallet also developed an interest in earthquakes and in 1846 presented a paper to the Royal Irish Academy "On the Dynamics of Earthquakes". This is now considered to be one of the foundations of modern seismology – indeed Mallet is credited with coining the word "seismology" as well as "epicentre". Mallet was particularly interested in assessing the energy unleashed by earthquakes and with his son John undertook a series of experiments on how sound or energy moves through sand and rock. The most important of these laid the foundation of modern seismic techniques used in exploration of oil and gas reserves.

This Week: Every so often, we discover something that we didn't know before. This happens less and less, because, at our age, we almost know everything, just as we once did when we

were teenagers. However, surprises still lurk in hidden pages of dusty history tomes, and here is one.



This officer (albeit an NCO in the photograph) performed a most remarkable deed, one that is still celebrated to this day, and he did it in the Great War. Were we to use the photo normally associated with him, you'd know in an instant who he is, so that is why we are using one from earlier in his military career. We have two questions for you this week: who is he, and what is his (very, very tenuous) connection to the 15th Field Regiment, RCA? The former is fairly easy, given his line of "work", and the hint that he probably got into a few fist fights in the school yard over one or another of his names. However, you'll have to do a bit of research to answer the last question.

When you've accomplished that, send your answer in to the editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net), who had to defend against his name being anglicized to "Redman" many times in the school yards of yore.

From the 'Punitary'

Why don't you ever see hippopotamae hiding in trees? Because they're really good at it.

Murphy's Other Laws

Priorities are made by officers, not God. There's a difference.

Quotable Quotes

Metaphors have a way of holding the most truth in the least space. *Orson Scott Card*

**The Regimental Sergeant-Major
Warrant Officers and Sergeants
of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment,
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**

*Cordially invite you
to their*

ANNUAL MESS DINNER

Saturday, 8th September 2018

Cocktails: 18:00 hrs Dinner: 19:00 hrs

To be held in the
**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess
Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC**

RSVP required by 29th August 2018
to the Unit Chief Clerk (Sgt Woods),
2025 West 11th Ave,
Vancouver BC V6J 2C7
Email: brenda.woods@forces.gc.ca
Telephone: 604-666-4876

Dress Mess Kit/Formal
Ticket price: \$60.00
Cheque payable to 15th Field
Warrant Officers' and
Sergeants' mess. Pay at the
door or mail in payment



The Officer Commanding the Garrison requests the company
of all Members Officers, Milady's and Guests

at the

Battles of the Plains of Abraham Commemorative Mess Dinner

22 September 2018, - 1800 for 1900

The Sergeants' Mess, Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Ave., Vancouver

Dress: Regimental Scarlets, Highland Evening Dress, Business Attire

Tariff: \$ 65 per person

RSVP to Adjutant Lt John Hooker jobarb@shaw.ca or at 604-522-5766



Churchill Society of British Columbia
PATRON: RANDOLPH CHURCHILL

PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH CHURCHILL:

Canada's Nuclear Strike Force

With guest speaker, Eric Mold CD, NSM.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 to welcome our guest speaker Eric Mold. He will address our Society on Canada's Nuclear Strike Squadrons and their contribution to NATO.



Eric Mold spent ten years of service as a pilot in the Royal Air Force and twenty years of service as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force. His career spanned the period from immediately after the war to the mid-seventies experiencing significant development of jet fighter aircraft. His stories are entertaining and informative and this one gives a fascinating picture of the time when, during the Cold War, Canada deployed six squadrons of nuclear armed aircraft to Europe as a part of our commitment to NATO. We are blessed to be able to hear first-hand this facet of Canadian military history that has largely been forgotten.

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 25; Wine & Cheese starts at 5:00 pm, Program from 5:50 – 7:00 pm

Location: The Vancouver Club, 915 Hastings Street West, Vancouver, B.C.

Cost: \$30 each for a Member of the Society, \$40 each for a non-Member
\$50 for a Member accompanied by either a spouse, partner or an immediate family member

(The ticket cost includes one beverage ticket per attendee for 1 glass of wine or beer, or for 2 soft drinks. Additional drinks can be purchased from the bar)

Please inform our Administrator, April Accola, of your attendance by email at aprilaccola@hotmail.com or by mailing the attached form.

I look forward to seeing you on September 25. Please feel free to send this notice to any interested parties.

Ian E. Marshall, Secretary
Churchill Society of British Columbia