



## **Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 21, 2017**

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a 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](mailto: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](http://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. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

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

Feb 22 **NOABC Speaker** - See poster at end of newsletter.

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

## **World War 2 - 1942**

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

**Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>:** MacArthur is ordered by President Roosevelt to leave the Philippines and set up shop in Australia. Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris is appointed as the Chief of Bomber Command. 17<sup>th</sup> Indian Division is hard put to defend the Mokpalin bridge over the Sittang. I-17 of the Imperial Japanese Navy surfaces off Santa Barbara, California and fires a few shells at an oil refinery, without causing major harm.

**Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The bridge over the Sittang River in Burma is blown to prevent its capture by the Japanese, but many members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Division are on the wrong side and have to abandon their equipment and swim across the river. The Struma, a near-derelect vessel chartered to carry some 790 Romanian Jews to Palestine, has been unable to pass through the Bosphorus because the Turks refuse to allow passage. Today, the Turks tow the ship and its passengers out into the Black Sea and abandon them.

**Feb 24<sup>th</sup>:** USS Enterprise launches a carrier strike on Wake Island. II Corps of the German 16<sup>th</sup> Army is surrounded at Demyansk, south of Lake Illmen – but the Luftwaffe will soon prove able to keep the surrounded troops fully supplied. The Japanese have been tending to massacre prisoners taken in lots of less than a couple of hundred at once, as 78 Dutch soldiers find out at

Balikpapan; none survived. The Struma is torpedoed by a Soviet submarine off Istanbul and sinks with one survivor.

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup>:** The ABDA Command structure is not working out, so Wavell goes back to India and the Dutch General Ter Poorten goes to defend Java.

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup>:** Soviet diplomat Litinov opens up the “Second Front Now” argument – which is soon parroted by Communist Party members throughout the Western Allied nations. The Japanese are getting close to severing the Rangoon-Mandalay railway. Other elements of German 16<sup>th</sup> Army take a pounding from the Soviets at Staraya Russa.

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup>:** Admiral Doorman takes 5 cruisers and 11 destroyers from 4 navies into a series of running fights with Admiral Tagaki’s 4 cruisers and 14 destroyers in the Java Sea.

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup>:** The German radar station at Bruneval in Normandy is visited by British commandos, who strip away many key technical features and then abscond back to the UK.

## **Which Weapons Are Illegal to Use in Warfare?**

This is a subject that has an incredible amount of mythology and misinformation surrounding it. Most people believe that the Geneva Conventions spell out the rules on illegal weapons in war but that is not true. There are four Geneva conventions, and three Protocols. None of them ban any weapons.

Geneva conventions are specifically concerned with the treatment of people.

1. The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
2. The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea
3. The Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War
4. The Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War

The amendment Protocols aren’t about weapons either:

1. Protocol relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts
2. Protocol relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts
3. Protocol relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem.

What does deal with weapons is Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 and Saint Petersburg Declaration of 1868. The part of them that covers specific weapons is small. There is a lot more in them about international courts and conflict resolution.

Hague conventions ban:

- Expanding and deforming bullets
- Poison gas
- Firing of artillery from balloons (yes, this was a major concern at the time it was written)
- Poisoned weapons

St Petersburg Declaration bans explosive bullets for small arms.

These conventions have mostly been superseded by other treaties with similar provisions, such as the Ottawa Treaty, which bans land mines. All such treaties apply only to the countries who entered into them, which is far from every country in the world. Also, even the signatories sometimes ignore them. Many of the provisions of the Hague Conventions were violated just a few years later in WWI, particularly the poison gas ban. No treaties ban any kind of blade or bayonet. Rumors of such bans, however, have circulated since WWI. This is somewhat based on the provisions against unnecessary cruelty. The rumors have been repeated in various literary sources, and have entered the public consciousness.

## **Canadian Flag Forged at Military College**

15 Feb 2017



On this day 52 years ago the country unified behind one flag, a flag that is recognized internationally as the symbol of our country. That is why every year since 1996, Canadians celebrate National Flag of Canada Day on February 15.

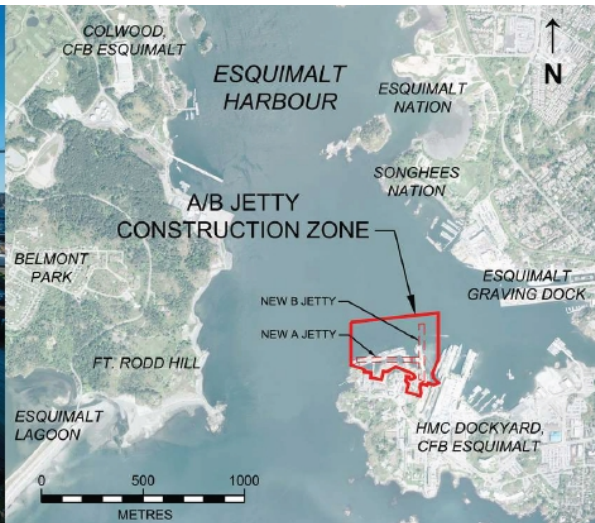
However, the road to the nation's Maple Leaf flag was a turbulent one and was preceded by decades of divide along British and French colonial roots, termed by historians as "The Great Flag Debate." The Maple Leaf flag was aimed at unifying all Canadians under a common banner and not one that just represented its British ties.

It was in March 1964 when Col John R Matheson, then a Member of Parliament for Leeds, was visiting the campus of the Royal Military College of Canada that concept of Canada's future flag began to take shape. The college's dean of arts, Col George Stanley, suggested to Matheson that the RMCC flag should form the basis of the national flag. The RMCC flag featured one-third red on each side of the flag with the centre two-thirds being white, where a mailed fist holding a sprig of three green maple leaves is featured. Stanley proposed the new flag should be red and white and feature a single red maple leaf in the centre, rather than the college emblem. Matheson, alumni of the RMC, was also a Second World War veteran. It is reported by the Toronto Star that the flag was then carefully crafted after a considerable debate between parliamentarians and careful analysis of different types of maple leaves and which image was more appropriate for a maple leaf flapping in the wind. Despite its origins, the flag is now a symbol of pride for Canadians to showcase around the world.

This year's National Flag of Canada Day is also especially significant due to Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. "This year, as we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation, let us reflect on the achievements the maple leaf flag represents: the hard work that has built this country, the sacrifices made by so many to keep it free, and the hard-won

victories to ensure that compassion and diversity remain the cornerstones of our democracy. “Few national symbols are as iconic as the maple leaf. Beavers and canoes may be just as enduring, but only the maple leaf has come to represent unity, hope, generosity, openness, and respect – and the nation and its people who live up to those values every day. It is fitting that this cherished symbol is at the heart of Canada’s flag. “Today, I invite all Canadians to reflect on what the maple leaf flag means to them, what it stands for around the world, and how it has helped shape our national identity. I also invite you to take part in Canadian Heritage’s Share your moment with the flag challenge and celebrate one of our greatest national symbols,” said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a statement.

## **“B” Jetty at HMC Dockyard Esquimalt to be Demolished**



A \$55.45 million contract has been awarded to Pomerleau Inc of Surrey, BC, by DND for the demolition of the existing “B” Jetty at Her Majesty’s

Canadian Dockyard Esquimalt. The contract also accounts for the preparation of the site for future rebuilding work. The existing jetties “A” and “B” are no longer long enough or deep enough to accommodate modern ships as the docks were designed for ships that were much smaller and lighter. “This major infrastructure project has reached another important milestone with the awarding of the “B” Jetty Site Preparation contract to Pomerleau Inc. The outdated jetties have served the RCN well for over 70 years, but they are now well past their intended service life. The two new state-of-the-art jetties will greatly improve the ship-docking infrastructure for Canada’s naval vessels at CFB Esquimalt,” said Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence.

The project is aimed at providing structurally sound docking facilities to accommodate the country’s modern frigates and newly designed vessels joining the fleet between 2018 and the mid-2040s. This will be accomplished by designing the jetty to be longer and more versatile with new cranes to provide efficient loading and unloading of the ships. Overall, the A/B Jetty Recapitulation Project comes at a price tag of \$781 million. The project will be divided into three phase, in order to have one operational jetty at all times. Once a new “B” jetty is built, the demolition and rebuilding of jetty “A” will begin. It is expected by DND that the project will create a total of 1400 jobs and sustain the economy in the region for many years.



## **\$400M Deal to Upgrade Armoured Vehicles**

Deal comes just as work was slowing at the giant General Dynamics plant.

Norman De Bono, The London Free Press     February 13, 2017



*\$404-million federal deal to upgrade LAVIII armoured vehicles like these, above, will secure 250 jobs at London's General Dynamics plant and reassure workers nervous about slowing production, company and union officials say. (Free Press file photo)*

A \$404-million order to upgrade Canadian armoured military vehicles came just in time to avert possible job cuts at London's General Dynamics Land Systems Canada plant. Production has slowed at the sprawling Oxford Street factory and workers were growing nervous, said Jim Wilkes, secretary with Unifor Local 27, the union representing employees. "They have been slow. You can feel it there. This will make sure there are no layoffs," said Wilkes. Last Friday, the federal government announced the investment to upgrade 141 LAV III light armoured vehicles. Ottawa has invested \$1.5 billion since 2011 to improve its London-made fleet of 550 LAV IIIs, extending their life to 2035. "People have been worried there, I know. This will help them in a lot of ways. It is some security," said Wilkes.

The deal will secure about 250 jobs at GDLS Canada, more than 10 per cent of the plant's workforce of more than 2,000, the company said. The factory also has begun work on a \$15-billion Saudi armoured vehicle order, but that has not sped up production, Wilkes said. David Perry, senior analyst at the Global Affairs Institute, said he isn't surprised the plant has been slow. While Ottawa has pledged \$11 billion during 10 years to the military, that is largely for operations, maintenance and soldiers, with little left over for ground equipment, making Friday's announcement very welcome, he said. "There has not been much new in land equipment, they have been focused on ships and fighter planes. There is not a lot of new money in procurement," said Perry. Ottawa plans to spend \$26 billion on new shipbuilding and as much as \$7 billion for an interim fighter jet replacement, he said. "A lot of defence manufacturers have noticed things slowing down, available money for new equipment is spoken for."

London's business community has embraced the latest investment, saying it offers critical support for area defence industries. "It is always good news when jobs at London's anchor defence company are being secured," said Kapil Lakhota, chief executive of London Economic Development Corp. The London region is a defence industry hub, employing more than 12,000

at more than 45 companies. The armoured vehicle upgrades will offer soldiers greater protection, mobility and enhanced electronics. “This is leading the world when it comes to this type of armoured fighting vehicle. It provides the protection and firepower and mobility to our army to meet missions assigned,” said BGen. Derek Macaulay, Canada’s chief of staff for army strategy. The announcement was made at the plant by Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, a veteran who served in the LAV III when in Afghanistan in 2006, 2009 and in 2010 and 2011 with American forces as a Canadian military officer, with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. “It’s a huge show of confidence on the part of the federal government for this city and all that it represents. We have all the potential to thrive economically here and we have to make sure we encourage our defence sector. This city and region have become a defence cluster and we need to encourage that,” said London North Centre Liberal MP Peter Fragiskatos.

## **New CAF Policy Removes Promotion Barriers for Ill and Injured Members**

By Lookout Feb 10, 2017



*Photo by Joint Task Force Ukraine*

Members of the Canadian Armed Forces who have medical challenges and are up for potential promotion no longer have to feel they need to choose between the two. Effective Jan. 18, 2017, ill and injured members can be promoted while undergoing medical care. If they have a condition that is preventing them from achieving fitness or

training promotion prerequisites, they can be promoted in an acting capacity with no time pressure for meeting these conditions. Once their medical treatment has been completed, a member can be fully promoted to their new position. CAF leadership is committed to caring for our members and encourages those in need of medical care to take advantage of the resources available to them, without stigma or worry of impacts on their career advancement. “When you’ve earned your promotion, it shouldn’t be denied to you just because you’re treating a medical condition,” said General Jonathan Vance, Chief of the Defence Staff. “For too long, people have avoided seeking help for fear of professional implications. We need people who can reach their full potential now and in the future. Get the help you need: your promotion will not suffer.”

The CAF recognizes the talents and dedication of our ill and injured members, and their expected future contributions. A member’s posting and appointment at the next rank will take into account his or her employment and deployment limitations. “This is a significant change for the CAF. Our hope is that it will encourage members to get the support they need right away, allowing them to focus on both their health and career,” said Colonel Rakesh Jetly, Mental Health Advisor, Canadian Forces Health Services. Removing medical health from

promotion criteria is just one of the ways the CAF is working to improve how administration and support is provided to our members and their families. For more information on these changes to promotion criteria, consult CANFORGEN 012/17 CMP 009/17 De-linking of Medical Condition from Promotion Criteria. Learn more about health programs and services available to CAF members, including physical and mental health care, support for families, and comprehensive reintegration and return-to-work programs, on the CAF health services website.

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

Check out the latest updates!

Change of Regimental Sergeant Major Parade in 1988

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1988.html>.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in 1990 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1990.html>

Lieutenant-Colonel John Carter firing his last round as Commanding Officer in 1991

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1991.html>

New pictures from the Freedom of the City Parade in 1995

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1995.html>

Gathering of former Regimental Sergeants Major in 2011

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2011.html>

The Regimental Museum in 2015 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2015.html>

Great photos from Canada Day 2016 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2016.html>

More photos from our Regimental Birthday party earlier this month

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2017.html>

Wow, that was a busy week! Have you got a story that you might wish to share? Some additional photographs? Contact Leon Jensen at [LeonJ1@hotmail.com](mailto:LeonJ1@hotmail.com)

## **Who Is It**



**Last Week:** QF 12-pr 12-cwt Coast Defense gun. The gun was set up on the Armoury for the Gunners to practise gun drill. This picture was taken at an Armoury open house sometime in late 1938 or the first half of 1939. Once the local Coast Defence forts were manned in Aug 1939 the gun probably went to the Narrows North fort. No one has any idea who the lady is.

**This Week:** We get a bit more serious this week, following last week's fun. The unit pictured here, flanked by the entire armoured might of the Canadian Army of the time, is



one that had its roots in the dream of an eccentric American inventor, but ceased to exist in 1936, when it was amalgamated with another unit that disappeared in 1939. Such is the short, but colourful life of many Canadian militia units (who remembers the Michigan Fencible Regiment?).



The photo, taken during the summer of 1935, probably at Camp Hughes in Manitoba (a province to the east of British Columbia) provides us with lots of interesting questions for the quiz. So, let's list them here and see who wins this week's prize (a box of MREs found behind a radiator in the basement of the armoury).

1. What is this unit?
2. What is the unit's connection with 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA?
3. What are those mighty vehicles on either side of our plucky lads?
4. Who was the eccentric American inventor referred to above?

Bonus! When did the Michigan Fencible Regiment exist?

Your answers may be sent either to the editor, [bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com) or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)).

### **From the 'Punitary'**

What's the worst thing about ancient orators? They tend to Babylon

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

### **Quotable Quotes**

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



## **Golden Mews - Richmond Legion Seniors Housing Society**

Golden Mews, Richmond Legion Seniors Housing Society is 35 year old, 64 unit townhouse complex at 7251 Langton Road in Richmond, just southwest of Granville Avenue and #2 Road. It was built with a BC Housing partnership, thus an annual income ceiling of ~\$55,000 applies. It is for 55+ years old, independent living. It has 32 walk-up studio units for single tenants, above 32 ground floor one bedroom units for couples. Rents are currently ~\$400 and ~\$450 monthly for these 2 unit types. Cable TV included. There is also a central recreation centre and coin operated laundry room. The units are large and the property is well maintained, well lit and safe. Parking when available on site is extra, and there is also free on street parking. Richmond also brings a shuttle in weekly for local shopping and other trips, at modest cost.

The nearest BC Transit bus stops are within 300m, with frequent service between downtown Richmond and Steveston and crosstown bus service to New Westminster Skytrain. A good neighbourhood mall including Safeway, Shoppers Drug Mart, Canada Post, banks, doctors, and dozens of stores is within 400m. A community centre is within 400m. Richmond Centre Mall, Skytrain Canada Line in Richmond, the main Richmond library, the main seniors centre, Richmond General Hospital, Gateway Theatre, Richmond's Minoru Park, the local swimming pool, the curling rink, the arena, and the Olympic Oval and waterfront, are all downtown within 1 to 2 Km. They are walking distance for many healthy seniors and a 5 minute bus ride for all.



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia  
Founded 1919

## MONTHLY LUNCH PROGRAM

Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017

Officers Mess  
Bessborough Armoury  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC.

1130 am bar open

1200 noon lunch

1 pm speaker

3 course hot lunch

\$20 per person

(new price now in effect  
still very good value)

Dress – Blazers, ties etc or Business attire

*This month's topic is:*

*“Burkas 2 Bullets”*

*Alison Maclean*

*Tomboy Productions*

RSVP for lunch numbers please to **[bob.mackay@hotmail.com](mailto:bob.mackay@hotmail.com)**

David Reece  
Social Director





# February Lunch Taste of Italy



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2017
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
(bar opens at 11:45am)  
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment  
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by February 13, 2017)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail Charlotte Yen at [corporate@hplaw.ca](mailto:corporate@hplaw.ca)  
(Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door  
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association  
No cancellations after Monday, February 20, 2017

**NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: March 30, 2017**

# **15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders invite you, and any like-minded guests of your acquaintance, to attend our annual fund raising and whiskey tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music. Did we say whisky?

Tickets are **\$55.00** per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by our famous whisky elves, Chuck & John, or a meager **\$25.00** if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

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

Dress is business casual. kilts, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

**DATE:** Friday – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**TIME:** 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

**LOCATION:** 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Van, BC V6J  
2C7

**DO NOT MISS OUT!  
TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:**

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: [barrettjd007@gmail.com](mailto:barrettjd007@gmail.com)

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.







# VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR



ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST MALE VOICE CHOIRS

## STOUT HEARTED MEN

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**

**HIGHLANDS UNITED CHURCH**

**3255 Edgemont Blvd, North Vancouver**

**\$29 adult • \$27 senior • \$12 student**

**Tickets Available:**

**ONLINE from [vwmc.ca](http://vwmc.ca) or call 604-878-1190.**

Tickets are also available from Highlands United Church office and choir members.

**VWMC Concert is jointly sponsored by:**



**Highlands United Church**  
Phone: (604) 980-6071

**and**



**St. Catherine's Anglican Church**  
Phone: (604) 985-0666

