



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Oct 21, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

Dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. We retain 'Business casual' for summer dress. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Guests are always welcome.

NOABC - Monthly Lunch Speakers - Wednesday, 29 October

Our guest speaker for October will be associate member Roddy MacKenzie, who will provide an illustrated talk about the recent visit he and his wife Ka Hyun made to Fort McMurray and the associated oil sands mining operations.

Wednesday, 26 November

Our guest speaker for November will be Captain John Swann, Master Mariner, on the maritime implications of LNG export.

Medal of Bravery Awarded

On Behalf of Her Majesty, the Queen of Canada, the Governor General has awarded the Medal of Bravery to **John D Redmond** in recognition of an act of Bravery in hazardous circumstances.

"On October 22, 2011, Jeremy Kerr, Lonney Lee, Shawn Nagurny, Francis Nand, Haim Peri and John Redmond evacuated six people from a burning aircraft that has crashed on a highway in Richmond, British Columbia. Ignoring the intense heat and dense smoke enveloping the aircraft, the rescuers entered the plane several times to help pull the injured passengers out."

John Redmond is the Assistant Curator of the 15th Field Artillery Regimental Museum. He is a director of the Museum Society and has worked tirelessly for many years to organise the Museum displays and assets. The Ceremony took place in Ottawa on Oct 21, 2014. Congratulations John, and fellow recipients.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1914

October 17th and 18th Travelled by train through AMEINS, [sic] BOULOGNE and CALAIS, detraining at HAZEBROUCK – 25 miles from the Belgian boarder, where we bivouacked [for the night, before marching to CASSEL. *At the end of October, two divisions of I Corps were separated by Ypres. French ordered the two corps to reform at Langemarck in order to attack to the north in hopes of liberating the town of Bruges.*

October 19th: Marched to CASSEL and had a day's rest, during [the] march my charger had severe choke, [and] came down with me, but I managed to keep him up. We were greatly elated to be in a town, and feasted ourselves on cakes and sweets etc; after the hardships the previous weeks, this was a grand change indeed. *I Corps left their billets on the morning of October 20 at 0:600. The roads were heavily congested, but by evening they reached their position two-and-a-half miles east of Ypres, to the left of IV Corps.*

October 20th: Marched to POPERINGHE once again we were in Belgium. It was awful to see the pitiful sight of refugees streaming into the town from the outlying towns and villages, when the enemy were advancing rapidly. I happened to stop to pat a pretty little child, and gave it some biscuits I had in my pocket, the poor little mite was simply starving. In a minute I was surrounded by children, I emptied my pockets and haversack. With a couple of chums we collected all the biscuits and Bully Beef in the Battery, and gave it to the women and children. It was pitiful to see them struggling to get at us, and we had a job to keep the men away – for we had not any to give them, and the women and kiddies had everything we had in the food line – Bivouacked outside the town. After October 24th the fighting at Ypres moved southward, where the British position on the Menin road was fiercely attacked on October 25-26th. Action then moved to Gheluvelt on October 29-30th.

October 21st: Marched before dawn towards the village of LANGEMARKE, the village was being heavily shelled. We reconnoitered, but for some time could not find a position, [until] finally two sections took up position just in rear of the church – I went with remaining section through the village. As I passed through there were a lot of wounded French in the open by the Churchyard. We dropped in action by the railway – as we could not find an observation station, I stopped by a deserted power-house. Later [I] was ordered to regain the two sections with remaining Battery Staff. As we went towards the railway crossing, a shell burst in the centre of the road, 30 or 40 yards ahead, as we galloped past the Church. The wall saved us, for a shrapnel burst against the wall, which but for the wall would have been right among us. As I galloped past the spot where the wounded Frenchman were 2 hours before, the whole lot were dead and in pieces - it was a horrible sight. We rejoined the guns without mishap, and George and I were ordered to lay our wire to a large deserted convent, which was by our Infantry. We were sniped at pretty hard by Germans in houses to our left; one missed me by inches that evening. I went the next morning and got his bullet for a souvenir. I was on guard with 12 men in front of the guns. The French Infantry had relieved in the afternoon [and] our Infantry went up to hold what they lost. They were greatly outnumbered, but held on grandly. We were firing at very short range, which we knew would be observed by the enemy; neither were we mistaken, as the next two days showed. The night passed quickly, we dug in by side of a stream, which effectively screened us from the continual presence of rifle bullets - had no food all day, and was not at all pleased with events.

October 22nd: George and I laid our wire to the convent – it had been deserted hurriedly, and was well stocked with provisions. We found biscuits, butter, jam, etc and had a good feed, and brought some away with us. [It] was fairly warm getting back to the guns – they sniped [at] us

across a large scarred field – wasting good ammunition. Two signalers dug a shallow trench by the edge of the field and amused themselves, putting their hats on a flag pole, for the Germans to shoot at. ditto We fired hard all the morning. The enemy replying on the village, they did grand shooting on the Church [for] shell, after shell passing through the steeple. Finally it caught fire, and was soon one mass of flames, and the steeple from the clock collapsed with a crash, it was an awe inspiring sight. But it seemed they wanted to get at us, for they shelled the fields in front and behind very hard. Our wagon line, [which was] some distance behind, had a few men wounded and horses killed. Fortunately at the guns we had only one man wounded. Our infantry had been forced to retire, we sent for a infantry escort for our guns of 100 men, but one platoon of 20 men. At dark George had gone along wire to forage for food, bullets were very plentiful and I stuck to our little trench waiting for him to get into communication and return with the spoils. Things seemed to [be] quieting down for about half an hour, when suddenly the Germans played a machine-gun dead on us. We all thought they had us, but the infantry were on our left now, although we did not know, [and they took care of them]. While waiting for George, I heard strange rustling sounds in the trees [on] the other side of the stream. I, for the moment, thought it was some of the German Snipers getting in our rear. I crawled very cautiously on my knees to a small bridge crossing, and along the stream. [I] found after no little time, the sound I had heard was caused by some tame rabbits, which the chaps had released from an adjoining farm. It was amusing to think of it after, but not at the time.

Old George returned loaded with goods, when I mentioned the machine gun and the rabbit stalking, he said 'B – the guns and rabbits too. Have a bit of this strawberry jam, Old China – it's the goods.' I declined the food, for I was too dry to eat, and nothing drinkable was to be got, except the water in the stream, and that was dirty. But I had to drink it next day. The night passed rather quickly.

World War 2 - October 1939

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

October 18th: Hitler is getting fidgety about his plans for the invasion of the West and issues Fuhrer Directive No. 7, just before Halder issues the first cut of the invasion plans.

October 19th: - Fall Gelb is issued – it outlines plans for the invasion of France by running through central Belgium (which the Allies expect Germany will do) and knocking off the Netherlands.

- Western Poland is appropriated for the Greater Reich and the Lublin Ghetto is established.
- The Germans open a site near the Polish town of Piasnica to exterminate several thousand "defectives" including 1,200 mentally and physically handicapped patients from hospitals in Germany.

Oct 21st: Gun control NAZI style. Four Warsaw Jews are executed for having guns and ammunition.

Battleship to be Restored as a Museum

Press Association – Wed, Oct 15, 2014*Press Association - A £12m lottery cash boost will enable HMS Caroline to be turned into a visitor attraction in time for centenary commemorations of the 1916 Battle of Jutland.*

The First World War's last surviving battleship is to be transformed into a floating museum. A £12 million lottery funding boost will enable the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) to turn HMS Caroline into a visitor attraction in time for centenary commemorations of the 1916 Battle of Jutland off the coast of Denmark. The derelict vessel, which is currently docked in the same Belfast shipyards where the Titanic was built, was in danger of rusting away or even being scrapped before moves to restore it started to build up steam two years ago. The Heritage Lottery Fund has now awarded £11.5 million to fund the work ahead of 2016. The HLF had already pledged £845,000 as an initial commitment and a £1 million grant had been secured from the National Heritage Memorial Fund for vital repair work. The ship, which was built on Merseyside in 1914, came dangerously close to sinking during the big freeze that hit Northern Ireland in 2010 when pipes and radiators burst.

The National Museum of the Royal Navy is working in partnership with Stormont's Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) to deliver the project. DETI is offering £2.7 million towards the restoration. Captain John Rees, NMRN's Chief of Staff and chairman of the HMS Caroline Project Board, said time was now of the essence to complete the work. "The support and help we have received from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been simply first rate and I am thrilled that the funding is now in place and that we can now get on and deliver a world- class attraction," he said. The museum will complement a variety of maritime attractions in Belfast's old shipyards, including the £97 million Titanic Belfast visitor attraction. A light cruiser, weighing 3,750 tons and measuring 446ft (136m), HMS Caroline was part of the screening force which sailed out ahead of the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet during the Battle of Jutland to establish the position of the German battleships. Both sides suffered heavy casualties in what was the most significant clash between battleships during the First World War. Britain and Germany both claimed victory.

Six years after the war ended, HMS Caroline was moved from Portsmouth to Belfast to become a training vessel for local Royal Navy Reserves. Most of the rest of the fleet was decommissioned and broken up. HMS Caroline performed its function as a drill ship up until 2011, apart from during the Second World War when it was used as an operations headquarters for the efforts to protect the Atlantic convoys from German U-Boats. Highlights of the new visitor attraction will be the ship's bridge with its original compasses and telegraphs, the engine rooms with four Parson's turbines still in position and many other aspects of the living quarters, which have remained unchanged in 100 years. UK Minister for the First World War Centenary Helen Grant described the development as "wonderful news". "HMS Caroline has had a long and distinguished career, starting of course in the First World War," she said. "It is beyond doubt an important part of our island history, and it's great that the Heritage Lottery Fund have

been able to support its restoration in this centenary year so that it can continue serving, in a different role, for many years to come." Carole Souter, chief executive of HLF, said: "As we mark the centenary of the First World War, people across the UK are learning more about how it changed millions of lives. This Lottery grant will restore and open up HMS Caroline, and enable future generations to explore the incredibly important, yet often lesser known, role played by those who served in the Royal Navy during this momentous conflict."

Professor Dominic Tweddle, director-general of the National Museum, said: "HMS Caroline is quite simply one of the world's most significant historic fighting ships and pre-dates the partition of Ireland. To conserve the ship and open it to the public as a shared space, museum and cultural hub in Belfast is hugely significant to the people of all Ireland." Stormont Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster said: "HMS Caroline has huge potential as a visitor experience and will contribute to the wider physical regeneration of Titanic Quarter, creating jobs during both the restoration phase, with the work being undertaken in Belfast, and when the ship opens to the public in 2016. "Today's funding announcement is great news and the restored ship will be a tremendous asset for Belfast and will complement the existing tourist attractions in Titanic Quarter to give more for visitors to see and do."

Canadian Military May Get Its \$3.1-billion back

Things may be about to change in the Canadian military, with the possibility of billions of dollars in the balance. Michael Den Tandt October 20, 2014

Even as the Harper Conservatives have deployed CF-18 fighter jets to Eastern Europe, and now to Kuwait to join the air war against Islamic State, the Canadian Forces have seen their funding slashed. But that may be about to change, as the government considers adding back part or all of the \$3.1-billion removed from the military's piggy bank in last February's budget. Friday, it was reported here that Prime Minister Stephen Harper personally intervened recently to settle a dispute between Treasury Board, led by Tony Clement, and the Defence Department, led by Rob Nicholson, over a pending \$800-million sole-sourced purchase of next-generation Sea Sparrow naval missiles from US-based Raytheon Co. Concerns that the acquisition under the US government's Foreign Military Sales program would tilt the scales in favour of the Raytheon-Lockheed-Martin group in a burgeoning trans-Atlantic competition for up to \$18-billion in sub-contracts on DND's new Canadian Surface Combatant fleet, were overruled. As were, apparently, any worries about the optics of making another large military purchase, a la F-35, without opening the process up to competing bids.

The move came after a letter to the prime minister in which Nicholson, Public Works Minister Diane Finlay and Industry Minister James Moore argued, contrary to officials at Treasury Board, that this was a policy matter and not a contract within the latter's purview.

The settlement approved by the PM stipulates that the purchase of a missile system for the new naval vessels will indeed be subject to an open competition. Marcel Poulin, a press secretary for

Finlay, Tweeted Friday that "it is inaccurate to suggest that the potential upgrade of the Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile... would have any impact on the procurement of the Canadian Surface Combatant." Poulin wrote. In a subsequent Tweet, he added: "The missile system on the CSC will be subject to full, fair and open competition." The difficulty is that, given the defence department's long history of skewing its requirements to favour a single preferred supplier, and its long relationship with the Lockheed-Martin-Raytheon group, and the latter's centrality in US defence planning for the foreseeable future, few in Ottawa will believe this – especially since the frigate missile upgrade itself could have been put up for competition, and now will not be. Logic would suggest that, following a nearly \$1-billion outlay on a new "smart missile" system from Raytheon for the old frigates, it may make fiscal and operational sense for the Navy to stick with this system in its new warships, to be built by the Irving shipyard in Halifax, rather than switch mid-stream to a different system, for example such as that produced by European-based MBDA.

Next up, defence industry insiders anticipate, will be a purchase of an additional Boeing C-17 Globemaster long-haul transport for the Royal Canadian Air Force, adding to the four already in service, also under the US government's Foreign Military Sales program. That acquisition, expected later this fall, will be justified by the necessity of the new missions in Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Iraq. Meantime, DND officials are in the process of drafting a memorandum to cabinet, which insiders expect will meet a favourable response, for the return of the entire \$3.1-billion tranche that was taken away, or technically deferred to future years, in the late Jim Flaherty's final budget last February. It is expected the Sea Sparrow upgrade, as well as the new C-17, will be paid for out of this fund. The government would appear to have fiscal room for such a move: The federal deficit in the year ended March 31 was just \$5.2-billion, the PM disclosed earlier this month, about a third of what had been projected in the budget.

Simmering in the near distance is a looming clash of interests pitting Ottawa's traditional strategic anchor and biggest trading partner, the United States, against our new free-trading BFF, the European Union. At issue are multiple billions of dollars' worth in defence procurement – primarily related to the replacement of the fighter jets and frigates. Companies such as French ship-builder DCNS, which builds the FREMM multi-role warship, and aircraft makers Dassault, Saab, and the consortium of Alenia, Airbus and BAE, are keen to compete on these contracts. In the case of the ships, the lion's share of the cost is in the sub-contracting of a design, and the ships' systems, including weapons systems. It is understood that the French, Germans and others are quietly lobbying to at least be allowed to bid on some of the work. French president Francois Hollande is to visit Canada in early November. Weighing against that is Canada's long-standing reliance on the United States for continental defence, and the allure of interoperability with a next-generation US defence network — which includes the F-35 and Raytheon's proprietary land, sea and airborne Co-operative Engagement Capability — that is expected to offer participants unprecedented situational awareness around the globe.

Yorke Island: The Past

_by Mr Ross Keller

The Yorke Island Examination/Counter Bombardment Battery, located at the split of Johnstone Straight and Sunderland Channel, is a place of rare beauty and historical importance.

In 1936, when the international situation was rapidly deteriorating, at the request of the Department of National Defence, the War Office made available the .services of an expert in coast defence matters, Major BDC Treatt MC, RA. He visited both coasts, accompanied by qualified Canadian officers, and submitted comprehensive reports on the measures considered necessary in respect of fixed defences, to ensure the security of the principal harbours and other potential enemy targets. In Major Treatt's report, Yorke Island was assessed as 'strategically important' and, from then until the end of the war, it saw continual challenges and expansions.

On August 29, 1939, the soldiers of 85 Battery, 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade(predessessor to todays's 15th Field Artillery Regiment), arrived on the Island to little fanfare and many daunting tasks ahead. In full uniform, pressed and ready for parade, the soldiers of the Battery were greeted by the six men of the maintenance group. These men, dressed in denim coveralls, gum boots, and covered in mud, were sternly reprimanded for their choice of dress. The reality of the place became very clear within a few days . . . and the reprimands were removed from their records. From that moment on: construction, projects for defense, fighting the "jinx" that seemed to plague every mechanical item on the island, and training the men.

The first groups of men enjoyed their time on the island. Many of the Battery Commanders understood the challenge of keeping the men busy. Free time after their duties included swimming, hunting, fishing, trapping (under the nose of the Battery Commander at first, then with his blessing), and the building of social networks with local communities. Dances with the folks in Kelsey Bay/Sayward, dinners with the Heriot Bay Rotary, and movie nights thanks to visits from the Columbia III mission ship helped to alleviate the boredom. The work on Yorke continued at break neck pace. The building of the 50,000 gallon concrete water tank to address the lack of fresh water, the concrete emplacements for the 800million candle power spot lights, the concrete powerhouse, and the over 100,000 cubic feet of concrete poured alone up at the 'fort' for the two guns took up all the time the men had in between their duties. Training in small arms, diversification of skills, and implementing construction thanks to the skills many of the men brought from civilian life helped to keep the men invested in their part of the island. Unfortunately, this also led to the one death on the island. In an industrial accident, Gunner Wallace Brunt was in one of the punts used to bring materials to the island which sank while being towed from Hardwicke Island. His leg was trapped in the tow line and he was pulled to the bottom on August 20, 1941.

Soon after this, there were two big changes to the island that impacted the men's morale on the island. Many of the men were shipped out as part of the preparations for D-Day and events in

the Pacific Theatre. This led to many of the men posted to Yorke Island being volunteers or conscripts who were unsuitable for service overseas. When many of them were unable to return to help with the fall harvest, as promised when they signed up, the morale changed fundamentally for the rest of the war. Suicides, insubordination, incidents of mental instability, and the negative response of cadre on the Island to not being shipped out to "do their part" in Europe lead to the sign that was installed on the island as a joke taking on new meaning. "Abandon hope all ye who enter here". And many did.

After Yorke Island was decommissioned in 1946, many of the buildings and materials were sold off to local individuals. Houses can now be found all up and down the coast. The "Fort", however, has largely remained intact. After 70 years of being forgotten, a lot of new energy has helped to bring the island out of the woods. Local groups who chased down funds have now helped to clear out the trees there were growing in the gun pits. Locals with falling experience have come to the island to clear windfalls from winter storms off of pre-existing roads and trails.

Historians have connected to find and research forgotten photos or documents to better understand the events on the island now 70 years past. Most importantly, Veterans who served on the island have helped researchers to better understand the island with returned visits to the island or digging up photos and personal records from boxes hidden way in the darkest part of their basements. Their continued contribution to the island has been the biggest part of the revival of the Island. Now a Historical Conservancy managed by BC Parks, Yorke Island's future contribution to Canada's identity will continue. Volunteers continue to fight the encroachment by the surrounding forest. Thanks to the digitization of many records in archives across Canada many records and stories are being rediscovered to be shared with all those who love this special place. Yorke Island's continuing contribution to Canada's past will continue into the future . . . And she won't be forgotten by all but a special few again.

Next Week – Yorke Island: the Present. The story of the recent visit by members and Associates to the Island.

Who is it? Last Week There were a few old timers from the band who recognised many



in this picture. The key people id'd were in the centre of the bottom row – Al Sweet, Peter Erwin and Jim Hamilton, as well as Richard Van Slyke, top row, second from right. All key players in bringing the Band to its current state of excellence. It is believed that the picture was taken in Jan 72 after the Change of Command parade from Barry Clemons to Gary Bailey. Anybody wanting the list of people id'd can email the editor at bob.mugford@shaw.ca

This Week:



Dear reader, we are now featuring a photo from the recent (to some of us) past. The picture is a slide, again from Vic's personal collection, and is dated 1973. Indeed, the chap in the centre appears to be Vic, but we aren't sure of the identities of the other two stalwart defenders of our freedom.

Also, all three are wearing parkas, of the type yours truly once wore as a cadet whilst protecting Fort Churchill, MB from Commie paratroopers (and successfully, I should add). Therefore, the location is unlikely to be balmy Vancouver.

Do you, dear readers, have any ideas or suggestions as to why Vic should be in such a cold, unforgiving environment? Educated surmises can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net), although most of you are far too young to remember the distant 1970s.

From the 'Punitentary'

A key ring is a handy little gadget that allows you to lose all your keys at once.

Murphy's other Laws

You never run out of things that can go wrong.

Quotable Quotes

It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness. - *Charles H. Spurgeon*

Building Andy's Range: The History of the Blair Rifle Range in North Vancouver

The unknown story of the Blair Rifle Range and its place in Canadian history.

Presented by Blueridge resident Donna Sacuta

- •Thursday, November 6, 2014, 10:30 am Deep Cove Heritage Society,
 - 4360 Gallant Ave, North Vancouver, BC
 - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7 pm Blueridge Elementary School 2650 Bronte Dr, North Vancouver, BC

Thailand Curry Lunch



Hosted by:
The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess

Coordinated by: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association



Date: Thursday, October 30, 2014

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 October 23, 2014)

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 October 23, 2014

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, November 27, 2014

Month of Remembrance



TUE, NOV 4

7 p.m. Central Library 350 West Georgia St. Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level

TUE, NOV 4

7 p.m. West Point Grey Branch 4480 West 10th Ave.

WED, NOV 5

6:45 p.m. Dunbar Branch 4515 Dunbar St.

B. C. AND THE GREAT WAR

Drawing from the first-hand accounts of B.C. soldiers during the First World War, history professor Dr. James Wood gives a presentation on the fears, bonds of friendship and apprehension of impending battle that became the soldier's experience of the Western Front.

Presented in partnership with The Royal United Services Institute – Vancouver

RUSSIANS AND UKRAINIANS IN THE C.E.F.

Soldiers born in the Russian Empire were strongly represented in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War. This presentation by Western Front Association chair Peter Broznitsky will take a closer look at the challenges and accomplishments faced by these soldiers.

FORESTRY, PIONEER & RAILWAY TROOPS IN THE C.E.F.

Learn more about the Canadian men in overseas camps who fell and processed 75 percent of the timber needed by Allied Armies for the Western Front. This presentation by Western Front Association chair Peter Broznitsky will look at how these pioneers served alongside the infantry in many battles.



Salute to Veterans & Military Valour Half Time Show

LEGION MARCHERS NEEDED



2014 Salute to Veterans & Military Valour

Presented by BC/Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion

How would you like to see the field up close? March with us at the 2014 Salute to Veterans and Military Valour Presented by the BC/Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion.



Half-time Show at the BC Lions Home Game — 7pm, Nov. 7TH (vs Calgary Stampeders)

- Pipe & Drum Bands, Colour Parties, Veterans, Canadian Forces, Cadets,
 First Responders & members of Veterans Organizations will be marching.
- · Marchers must be in uniform.
- Veterans who are unable to march: limited seating in military vehicles will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

All Marchers, Bands and Colour Party Members watch the game for free! Family, friends and co-workers get an exclusive ticket offer of \$34, tax included. \$3.00 from each ticket will go to the Poppy Fund to help Veterans in need. Marchers enter at the East Entrance, no later than 6:30pm.



For more information:

Penny Pansal BC/Yukon Command 604.575.8840 | 1.88.261.2211 pennypansal@legionbcyukon.ca

Ticket Offer for Veteran Family & Friends:

Keith Hawkins BC Lions Football Club 604.930.5451 khawkins@bclions.com





Find out more about legion at legionbcyukon.ca

Free B&B Stay for Veterans



ATTENTION Veterans and Military Personnel

The Bed & Breakfast industry wants to thank you for helping make the world a safer place.

This Remembrance Day, enjoy a *FREE night's stay on either Monday November 10th or Tuesday November 11th.

Click on the B&Bs for Vets banner on www.BBCanada.com to see the participating B & Bs and book your stay today!

*Free nights or discounted nightly rates may apply, see individual property for details.



It's always better the Bed and Breakfast Way



Adrian Oliver Memorial Run



RCAA Battlefield Tour - 2015







Fields of Fire Tours

in association with

The Royal Canadian Artillery Association & The Canadian Battlefields Foundation presents

Battlefields of the Royal Canadian Artillery 17 April - 3 May 2015





- · Visit battlefields of the First and Second World Wars
- Follow the path of the Canadian Gunners Visit monuments and Commonwealth and visit important battlefields in the development of gunnery in both wars
- · Led by experienced military personnel and academic historians
 - War Cemeteries
 - Attend the McCrae Statue unveiling in Ottawa as final event (optional)

For more information contact Fields of Fire Tours at info@foftours.com, or call 613-539-4660

Battlefields of the Royal Canadian Artillery: Tour Itinerary

Day 1 - 17 April ... Depart Canada for Paris.

Day 2 – 18 April ...We arrive in Paris, collect our vans and then drive to Ypres. After settling in we will visit the Cloth Hall Museum and Essex Farm cemetery.. Our hotel in Ypres is the Hotel O.

Day 3 – 19 April ... Today's tour will examine two important gunner battles: 2nd Ypres and the St Julian gun; and Passchendaele. We will participate in the Menin Gate ceremony, laying a wreath on behalf of the RCA.

Day 4 – 20 April ... Departing
Ypres we will head for the Somme
where the artillery technology of the
day was not up to challenge of
trench warfare and mass attacks. We
will stay in Arras at the Holiday Inn
Express.

Day 5 – 21 April.... Our schedule today will allow us to examine the Battle for Vimy Ridge in detail. We will look at the abortive French attempts to seize the ridge from the impressive Notre Dame de Lorette cemetery. We will also take a detailed look at each of the four Canadian division's goals that historic day and the fireplans that supported them.

Day 6 – 22 April ... Today's battlefield will be that of the 1918 battles in front of Arras. The return to mobile warfare will be examined as we look at the battle for the D-Q line and the Canal du Nord

Day 7 – 23 April ... Today we will tour the battlefield of Valenciennes, the acme of gunner skill and professionalism in the Great War. Also we will our First War stage where the war began and ended – Mons in Belgium

Day 8 – 24 April ... We will head for Normandy next. Our day's driving will take us past Dieppe where we will stop to look at the infamous beach and the gunner's role in the battle. Arriving in Caen, our hotel will be the Hotel de France.

Day 9 – 25 April ... Juno beach and fire support provided by the SP guns of the 3rd Division will be today's main event. We will visit the gunner memorials at the Juno beach centre and Beny-sur-Mer cemetery where many brave gunners lie at peace.

Day 10 – 26 April ... The massive two-week struggle for Verrières Ridge will be our subject today as we move south of Caen.

Day 11 - 27 April ... A break from Canadian subjects, but a must-see is the US Omaha beach and the impressive cemetery there.

Day 12 - 28 April ... Another travel day as we make an early drive to Paris to catch the Eurostar train to London, UK. Our hotel will be the Travelodge Woolwich.

Day 13 – 29 April ... Today we will tour the impressive Firepower museum that chronicles the history of our sister regiment the Royal Artillery.

Day 14 – 30 April.... Travelling into London by tube, we will tour the Imperial War Museum and then have an afternoon to explore this amazing city

Day 15 – 1 May... For those not attending the McCrae ceremony in Ottawa, today will be your travel home day. Those staying with the group will travel to Ottawa, where we will stay at the Novotel Hotel

Day 16 – 2 May... In the morning we will visit Canada's National War Museum, and in the evening attend the dinner honouring Lt-Col John McRae

Day 17 – 3 May... We will attend the unveiling of the McCrae statue and then depart for home from Ottawa.



Land Only Tour Price from Toronto

CAD \$4500 – (per person, Double occupancy) (single supplement: \$700 – limited availability)

Not returning via Ottawa: CAD \$4000



Price includes:

- breakfast daily
- · all travel by 9 passenger van
- local sightseeing
- accommodation as shown in the itinerary
- oservices of historian/guides:
- related materials including articles, maps and air photographs

Not Included:

- airfare
- travel in surance
- · lunches and dinners
- items of a personal nature such as beverages
- admissions to museums and other attractions.

Note: limited single room availability - "first come, first served"