



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 22, 2015

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>

Wednesday Lunches The Armoury will shut down completely for the winter break so our lunches are now finished for 2015. The first lunch of 2016 will be on **Jan 6**.

New Year's Levée – 1 Jan 2016

15 Fd Artillery Regiment is holding their annual Levée. The Messes will open for visitors at 1100hrs. A light lunch will be served starting around noon. The Seaforths will hold their Levée at the Jericho Mess. The HMCS Discovery Wardroom will also be open on Jan 1st. The BCRs have announced that all their Messes will be shut down.

World War 2 - 1940

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

Dec 25th: Admiral Hipper's commerce raid runs into a well-protected troop convoy and withdraws with heavy damage. On its way home to Brest, it will sink one merchant ship, its sole success in a month at sea.

Dec 27th: The German Commerce raider Komet attacks Nauru. "Dec 28th: The Greeks pause to consolidate their gains in their counter-offensive against the Italians in Albania.

Dec 29th: Heavy Luftwaffe raids on London with incendiary bombs have caused much damage in a series of attacks since the night of the 27th. The iconic photo of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral amid the smoke of burning buildings is taken this night. Roosevelt states his intention to turn America into an arsenal of democracy.

1941: The World Engulfed

The year begins with the war still as a European war, with Africa as the most active arena although it is already technically a global conflict. Britain cannot come to direct grips with Germany while it can engage Hitler's partner Mussolini in the Western Desert between the Nile and the Italian colonies in Libya; and in Somalia, Ethiopia and Eretria. Mussolini has also gotten greedy and attacked Greece, leaving Churchill with little choice but to come to their aid. Meanwhile, there are Vichy French territories to secure both for Free France and to keep out of Hitler's hands.

However, Hitler still needs his transformative war to work the Volksgemeinschaft and he needs to eliminate his most dangerous rival for European supremacy. The squabbles on "the shores of the Mediterranean are a diversion which does not require his full attention. This is instead

reserved for the USSR and the grand alliance Hitler is lashing together with Italy, Finland, and in the Balkans where Fascist movements have been at work in Hungary and Romania. On June 22nd, the great clash begins between Communism and Fascism. For the hapless individuals caught in the collision, there is little to choose from and little safety to be found. Both Stalin and Hitler are merciless dictators with ideologies that allow mass murder and each can express his 'will' by pouring out the blood of his soldiers. Stalin is the more ruthless and the more experienced but his reign has crippled the initiative of his people, while the German military has a tradition of individual flexibility and resourcefulness that long predates the Nazis. "However, it is also interesting to note that as the bloody seasons of the Eastern Front roll on, Stalin eventually comes to learn from his generals while Hitler increasingly expects Germany's generals to learn from him.

In some respects, Japan's slide into war seems almost like an inevitable afterthought. The Japanese people are also caught in the coils of an ideology which is a fanatic militarism that has learned to suborn every aspect of Japanese society to its own purposes, although always at the purported behest of their shy and reclusive emperor. When they launch their war in the Pacific, the real question is not 'Why?', but 'What kept them?'

At the close of the year, the war has become a truly global one. It spans every minute of longitude around the entire planet and every "degree of latitude from off the southern tip of Africa to the edge of the Arctic ice. Millions of people are already dead; tens of millions will soon follow.

Christmas Greetings from Van Arty Assoc President Leon Jensen

Merry Christmas to all Association members as well as current and former serving members of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA and their friends and families. Wishing you all the best for the New Year!

In 2016 we will continue to work on building our membership, getting the 25pdr ready for 'action' and organizing, training and equipping a gun detachment so we can deploy the gun for future events. We will also continue work on the Yearbook project, which is off to a good start. We are now formalizing our association with the RCAA and all Ordinary members will become members of that organization starting in 2016.

Bring a former member to lunch on 20 January and we'll see if we can track down some more memories for our Regimental Yearbooks!

Leon Jensen
President
Vancouver Artillery Association
'The Vancouver Gunners'

Christmas Greetings from RUSI Vancouver President Cam Cathcart

As we approach the end of the year I extend seasonal greetings to members of the Royal United Services Institute Vancouver and wish you all a healthy and prosperous new year. During the past year we collaborated on a major pre-election panel on Foreign and Defence Policy and approved a new RUSI badge, to be unveiled early in the new year.

The coming year promises to be an exciting one as RUSI Vancouver hosts the prestigious Strategic Studies Conference at the Main Branch of the Vancouver Public Library on April 8 and 9.

The conference, together with the restoration of the Burrard Bridge Memorial Braziers, will be the primary initiatives to be undertaken by RUSI Vancouver in 2016.

Please keep checking the RUSI Vancouver website at: www.rusivancouver.ca

A Merry Christmas to all and a very Happy New Year!



Who is it?



Last Week: This photo was taken at Goose Creek training area, south of Fort Churchill, MB in February 1964. It depicts a RCASC Robin Nodwell model 110 with trailer. They were introduced into service in late 1962, and served at Fort Churchill, Alert, Shilo, and other northern posts. They replaced the Penguin and Bombardier snowmobiles. The former continued to be use as an ambulance at Churchill for another year, while the latter continued in use with the RCN and the RCMP.

This Week: John has taken a Christmas break so there is no quiz picture from the Museum this week. For those of you that have some spare time over the holidays, I attach a picture to keep you entertained.



This picture was taken at a tri-service Cadet parade held in the Seaforth Armoury parking lot circa 1970. I know the names of several of the people on the dais. How many can you name? Answers in the Jan 5th newsletter.