



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 22, 2016

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 Mrs Lum serves an excellent meal. Anybody who has attended will attest to the fact that the quality of the meal is top notch and you get soup, salad, main course, dessert, cheese and crackers and coffee/tea for \$20 – you won't find a better meal or deal anywhere else in town. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies.

Navy lunch – 30 Nov: Guest Speaker Robert Young Director of Western Region, CSIS

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

Dec 3 **St Barbara's Day **Last Call**** *See invitation at end of newsletter*

RSVP required (with payment) by Nov 23 (Tomorrow).

Dec 11 **Christmas Tea** - sign up list is now posted at the bar. If you can't make it in to lunch, email me to put you on the list. We need firm numbers for Mrs Lum so the Mess is looking for replies **before** the end of November.

Jan 1 **New Year's Levée**

Feb 11 **Regimental reunion dinner** - details TBA

Holiday Stand down - The Unit will stand down from Dec 12 - Jan 6. Last lunch will be Dec 7 and the first lunch of 2017 will be Jan 11. We will start collecting soon for Mrs Lum's Christmas purse.

World War 2 - 1941

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

Nov 16th: The Germans reach the outskirts of Sevastopol, and a siege of the heavily fortified naval port begins. An inauspicious start... the first raid of the new British Special Air Service begins with a botched airdrop on their way to raid Axis airfields in Libya.

Nov 17th: 1st Panzer Army is nearing Rostov, despite a counterattack by two Soviet Armies. Rosenberg is made the Reich's governor of Belarus and the Baltic States, and can try out his race theories there. The World War One Ace and Luftwaffe's Director of Equipment, Colonel General Ernst Udet, shoots himself – unhappy with a love affair, his professional relationship with Goering, and – apparently – with the Nazi ideology.

Nov 18th: Operation Crusader kicks off as XXX Corps re-enters Libya to relieve the siege of Tobruk. The British have three advantages, 3:2 superiority in tanks, surprise (thanks to some careful deception plans), and a dispersed Afrika Korps. Rommel has stockpiled supplies forward which lets him concentrate quickly, but will also be an advantage to the British later. The first counterattacks by Siberian divisions are starting to maul German infantry near Moscow. The Japanese fleet starts to deploy scouting assets for the upcoming campaign, and Alan Brooke takes over from Sir John Dill as CIGS. Ivan Vasilyevich Panfilov, commander of the 316th Rifle Division, dies from a German mortar bomb. His badly equipped troops have been fighting desperately to fend off the Germans from Moscow and two days earlier a group of 28 of his soldiers reportedly destroyed 47 German tanks with petrol bombs and hand grenades. Panfilov is posthumously made a Hero of the Soviet Union, and becomes an iconic figure in Soviet wartime propaganda.

Nov 19th: HMAS Sydney draws close to a disguised German commerce raider off Western Australia. The German commerce raider, Kormoran, sucker punches the Australian cruiser with its hidden torpedo tubes, but both vessels manage to sink each other -- only a handful of the Kormoran's crew survives and none of the Aussie Matelots do. In North Africa, 7th Armour advances to Sidi Rezegh, but the armour clashes are badly conducted on both sides.

Nov 20th: The melee at Sidi Rezegh continues; Rommel is pulling his armour together while the armour of the British has been dispersed by dealing with both 21st Panzer Division and the Italian Ariete Armoured Division; and by peeling off some armour to support XIII Corps flanking operations.

Nov 21st: 7th Armoured Brigade is attacked by 21st Panzer Division and the Italian Ariete Armoured Division and has about 28 tanks left by day's end; meanwhile the defenders of Tobruk launch a determined breakout attack of their own. Rostov falls to the Wehrmacht. The Italians surrender their fortress at Kulkaber, Ethiopia. Two Italian cruisers are torpedoed escorting supplies past Malta. 2Lt George Ward Gunn has four 'portee' [improvised self-propelled 2lb 40mm anti-tank guns mounted on trucks] under his command, and 60 tanks are attacking him at Sidi Rezegh. He goes from gun to gun, encouraging his crews, but when only one is left and all of its crew – saving one – is dead or disabled on a burning truck, he takes over the gun. Ignoring the flames, he fires off multiple rounds from his anti-tank gun, knocking out two more German tanks until killed himself. He is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Nov 22nd: The piecemeal British deployment of tanks at Sidi Rezegh continues to result in heavy tank losses: The 8th Army has had some 530 tanks knocked out in exchange for 100 Axis ones and the Italian Pavia Infantry Division has checked the Tobruk breakout while the Savona Division is giving a very good account for itself to XIII Corps. The German commerce raider (& U-boat supplier) Atlantis is sunk in the South Atlantic by HMS Devonshire. Luftwaffe ace Werner Mölders, the first fighter pilot to claim over 100 victories and the first winner of Nazi Germany's highest award – the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds – is killed in an aircraft accident en route to the Udet funeral.

Fort Fraser Garrison Scotland Tour

The tour will spend 2 (two) weeks touring the Scottish Highlands – 03-17 June, 2017. There is room for one more couple. See full notice at the end of the newsletter.

Canada Committed to Three-Year Deployment in Africa

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said Canada has committed to a three-year deployment in Africa that will be reassessed each year to ensure it has an “enduring” impact.

TONDA MACCHARLES Ottawa Bureau reporter Nov 11, 2016



Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said there are risks to Canada of doing nothing to counter insurgent groups in parts of Africa that are terrorizing populations and radicalizing new recruits.

(Geert Vanden Wijngaert / AP File Photo)

OTTAWA—Canadian troops headed to Africa will operate in dangerous territory where peacekeepers have been killed, says Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan. In an exclusive interview with the Star from Vancouver Sajjan said Canada has committed to a three-year deployment that will be reassessed each year to ensure it has an “enduring” impact. It will be spread among a number of unspecified African countries, have a major focus on training and increasing “capacity” of the host nation as well as other countries’ troops, and build on existing social, economic and deradicalization programs on the ground. “These missions, all of them, have the level of risk where peacekeepers have been hurt, they have been killed. And we’ve been looking at the risk factor in a very serious way,” said Sajjan. Asked about his approach to deploying Canadian forces to conduct counter-insurgency operations — something the previous Conservative government was keen to avoid in Africa when it turned down requests to deploy soldiers to Congo and Mali — Sajjan said “some of it is going to be the reduction of radicalization in certain areas, in other parts it will be developing the capacity of the host nation.”

Just back from Mali, which hosts the deadliest United Nations mission in the world right now, Sajjan says it’s clear there are risks there. He said the same risks exist in the other African missions under consideration by the Liberal government. But, he added, there are also risks to Canada of doing nothing to counter insurgent groups that are terrorizing populations and radicalizing new recruits, and suggested he and the Liberal government have made this clear to Canadians from “day one.” “This is not the peacekeeping of the past — we need to look at what the challenges are of today and develop the peace operations for today’s challenges.” After having travelled to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia in late summer, and Senegal and Mali in the past week — Sajjan said he believes the UN mandate for and rules of engagement with hostile forces are “robust” enough to address the risks, particularly in Mali. The UN mission in Mali, known as MINUSMA, has seen 106 casualties since it was established in 2013, including 69 from “malicious acts.” “One thing I did learn, the mandate for the mission is robust so there no concern that our troops would be limited in any way,” said Sajjan. “I had a very direct conversation with the political leadership

of the UN and the force commander about that, and the safety of our troops is always paramount.”

The defence minister, a Canadian Armed Forces veteran of the Afghanistan combat mission, suggested the risk to soldiers’ lives, however, does not justify inaction. “It can’t just be one factor that we look at. That’s one; that’s an important factor that needs to be addressed. We have looked at that and the question always comes: how do you mitigate some of these challenges,” he said. “But at the end of the day just because you see a problem ahead of you, you can’t just ignore it, you have to look at, can we look at addressing it.” He insisted Canada “can play a huge role where we can reduce conflict and get into areas where we can start preventing conflict by addressing certain root causes at an early stage.” Sajjan said there are ways to “mitigate” risk, just as he says the Liberal government did when it overhauled Canada’s combat mission to Iraq, “and making sure that we put the right type of troops, the right equipment with the right mandate for that mission.” The Liberals pulled out Canada’s CF-18 fighter jets and refocused Canada’s military contribution to the fight against Daesh on training Iraqi and Kurdish Peshmerga forces to fight the Islamist rebel forces. Sajjan stressed that a big part of the federal analysis underway — as he, two other federal ministers, and military and civilian fact-finders have travelled to Africa — is examining how Canada’s contribution of some 600 soldiers and up to 150 police can have a maximum impact, whether it’s through military training, building on economic development programs and opportunities like on the “agriculture side” in Mali, or combating sexual violence, including by UN peacekeeping troops. “What we do provide will be enduring. We committed for three years, but the thinking is to have the impact, we always need to assess,” said Sajjan.

Asked how Canada avoids sending troops to be injured or killed in a mission where there is no end in sight, Sajjan stressed Canada’s intention is to effect measurable change. “I wouldn’t want to put troops in any place where there is no end,” he said, suggesting the plan is to provide “innovative” solutions, to help UN or African Union troops be better able to do their jobs, “so we don’t have to look at a very long, protracted deployment that will not have an impact.” Sajjan said Canada is looking at spreading its various contributions — military, police and civilian — among a number of UN missions, not African Union-led missions, in Africa. But it will support African Union efforts at the same time. Right now, he said, much of the public attention is on exactly where soldiers will be sent. But he said Canadians should expect a broader mission that could see troops sent to one end of Africa while other elements of Canada’s contribution will be sent to a different part. He said there are troop and police training centres across Africa, and “a small number of troops or even RCMP can have significant impact in other areas, to make a training centre far more effective.” “We will be assisting in capacity-building in many of the training centres and that will be . . . regardless of where we go.” Much has been made of the fact Canada has French-speaking troops and no colonial baggage, an asset from the perspective of many francophone African nations and the UN. Sajjan said it doesn’t mean soldiers from Quebec or New Brunswick would be the only ones to deploy, rather he said that across the armed forces, the leadership in officer ranks are bilingual, as are many in the non-commissioned ranks.

Sajjan said the government has “narrowed” the ultimate destinations for its Canadian mission, but did not tip his hand on his preference. He said there is nothing to be read into the countries he’s travelled to, nor the fact that he recently went to Mali, saying he couldn’t fit it into the earlier trip to central and East Africa. Although he has not travelled to the Central African Republic, Darfur, or South Sudan, Sajjan said he has addressed the same questions around those missions at meetings in Ethiopia late summer. He said the decision on where to dispatch Canada’s peace support mission is expected to be finalized by the federal cabinet before end of year. “I think when Canadians see the level of work that’s gone into this it’s not just the location that’s going to be the main news, it’s how we’re going to be deployed.” Sajjan’s comments flesh out the “layered approach” that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canadians should expect to its upcoming Africa “peace support” operation. Several ministers and government departments are working up options to make good on the Liberal election pledge to re-engage with the United Nations.

International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau also travelled to Senegal (where many UN offices operating in West Africa are located) and Mali in August. And Global Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion travelled this week to Kenya, Nigeria and Ethiopia. Dion, in a statement issued Thursday from Nairobi where he announced \$21.5 million for development and security projects, said: “Kenya is an important partner for Canada in regional peace and security in Africa, but there is room for further growth.” Dion said the money will “help provide youth with enhanced skills for employment and improve security and stability by countering terrorism, combating radicalization and violent extremism, and ensuring safety and security of borders within the region.”

The Royal Military College of Canada Under Military Review



Growing concerns about reports regarding sexual misconduct, infrastructure problems, stress amongst college staff and Officer Cadets as well as an increase in the number of suicide has led the Vice-Chief of the Defense Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Norman, to deploy a Special Staff Assistance Visit (SSAV) to the Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC).

This multi-disciplinary team of eight persons is responsible to assess all aspects of the learning environment, culture and program-construct of the RMCC and its superior headquarters, the Canadian Defence Academy. As one of the highest echelons’ tools used by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to obtain a full picture of the state of a unit, without prejudice, it can interview any individual and examine any document owned by the unit under review.

“By enrolling in the Royal Military College of Canada, Officer Cadets have chosen to pursue a calling, and have joined a highly respected and valued national institution. They have entrusted us with their futures, and we have a responsibility to provide them with the best possible training environment,” explained Vice-Admiral Mark Norman, to justify the visit of the SSAV. The SSAV is already hard at work, holding town halls with Officer Cadets and the staff of the College. They will pursue such work in the coming weeks and publish a report with its findings

by the end of the year. The RMCC is responsible for preparing the future leaders of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Graduates have pursued successful careers as distinguished officers. The CAF wants to ensure the healthiest environment possible to its future leaders so to give them a solid ground, both academically and militarily.

After Service, Some Canadian Veterans Grapple with Homelessness

Canadian Armed Forces veteran Chris Munro says veterans returning to civilian life can face many stigmatizing effects, such as homelessness. Graham Slaughter, CTVNews.ca Nov 10, 2016

The transition from the military to everyday life can be fraught, isolating and, in serious cases, leads some Canadian military veterans to life in homeless shelters. As Canadians gather Friday to mark Remembrance Day, some advocacy groups are underlining the struggle that many veterans face simply keeping roofs over their heads and food on the table. “Being prepared to enter into civilian life ... they really don’t have any way of adjusting -- there’s no facilities to allow that,” Chris Munro, a Canadian Armed Forces veteran who works with homeless veterans through the Good Neighbours Club, told CTV News Channel on Thursday. It’s difficult to pinpoint exactly how many Canadian veterans are homeless. A federal report from March 2015 estimated that 2,250 former soldiers use shelters on a regular basis. That figure makes up for about 2.7 per cent of Canada’s total homeless population in temporary lodging. The average age of homeless veterans is 52. In the general population, the average age drops to 37. Researchers also found that ex-soldiers are more likely to experience episodic homelessness -- periods of instability that land them in shelters, rooming houses or the street multiple times in a year.

As a military veteran himself, Munro says he’s familiar with the unique struggle. “I remember going through it myself. It was very, very difficult to transition,” he said. The hardest part, Munro says, is “the isolation.” “The military is a family. You have comrades, you speak a common language. And that language is not prevalent on the streets. And not prevalent in even the families. So you end up coming back to a different language, to a different culture, and it’s isolating. Very depressing.” Without a support network, the sudden loneliness can lead some veterans into dark territory. “This leads to marital breakdown, it leads to all manners of stigmatizing effects. And one of those is homelessness or at least couch surfing. They’ll stay with friends, they’ll stay with family. (It’s) very hard to institute a life of their own,” he said. Munro says there’s also a major disparity between how veterans are treated in rural and urban environments, which may worsen the feeling of isolation. “I think it’s different in the rural environment ... because when I go up North, I see a lot of attention paid to vets. Here in the city, we’re so detached. We have armories within Toronto, but for the most part, there is no military presence,” he said.

At the Good Neighbours Club, homeless men over 50 are provided with nourishing meals, clothing, a place to do laundry and -- possibly most importantly -- companionship. “Our members are 50 years of age or older, so by the time they’ve come to Good Neighbours, they’ve been through the cracks for a long period of time,” Munro said

Russia's Third Generation 'Ratnik' Combat Gear To Feature Exoskeleton

Nikolai Litovkin, Russia Beyond the Headlines | Nov 11, 2016

Russian designers are to present the third-generation Ratnik ("Warrior") combat gear to the world in seven years, the TASS news agency has reported (in Russian), citing the press service of the Central Research Institute for Precision Machine Building (TsNIITochMash, a subsidiary of the Rostec state corporation). According to the designers, the armor will feature an active exoskeleton, which will significantly increase the physical power of soldiers wearing it. "An



active exoskeleton is a mechanism whose hinges are equipped with electric and hydraulic drives, to enhance the possibilities of the musculoskeletal system," said the report.

The passive exoskeleton, which also will be one of the components of the new gear, will not contain wire and will not be connected to the body of the serviceman.

Photo courtesy of Mikhail Voskresenskiy/RIA Novosti/Russia Beyond the Headlines

The passive exoskeleton, which also will be one of the components of the new gear, will not contain wire and will not be connected to the body of the serviceman. It, in turn, will serve to reduce the load on joints and will reduce the likelihood of injury. As TsNIITochMash's CEO Dmitry Semizorov previously noted (in Russian), the next, third-generation Ratnik outfit will appear in five to seven years. According to him, all the components of the system (protection, life support, power supply, etc.) will reach a fundamentally new level of technology. In addition to exoskeletal structures, designers will create systems to display information and target designation on the visor or goggles.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The Association organized a successful Yorke Island Historical meeting on 12 November 2016. Ross Keller, our Honorary Battery Commander of 85 Battery/Yorke Island, provided an insight into the history of the Island and the current state of affairs. Peter Moogk shared information on the ways to track former military service while your website manager sorted through hundreds of Yorke Island photos. The photos are now being published daily on the Yorke Island page <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke-island.html> . Have you got any photos of Yorke that you could share with us? Additional information about the Island? See anything in the photos that we've overlooked? Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com

Who is it?

Last Week: We are pretty certain that the picture was taken somewhere in Russia. These



appear to be Canadian Gunners firing French 75s but Canada went to Russia with 18pdr guns. There is much scratching of heads and lots of research going on to solve this mystery. The US had almost 1000 new **75 mm M1897A4** guns in the US at the end of WW1 and, no doubt, shipped some of them to Russia, but did our Gunners use them at anytime, and why?

This Week: Mighty are the guns that defended the Empire, and many are their types and marks. As most of you know, Vancouver was successfully defended from the Imperial Japanese Navy in World War Two by 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade, RCA. So effective was this defence, that not a single Japanese warship entered Vancouver Harbour. The guns defending the port were both 6” ones at Point Grey (UBC), and the same at Ferguson Point (Stanley Park), later exchanged for 4.7” ones from scenic Yorke Island. In addition, there were various other pieces of other calibres in other locations around the Lower Mainland.



This photograph from the archives of the museum is of a coastal artillery piece, but, is it one of those that defended this Gateway to Asian? We wonder, and await your opinions, sendable (is that a word?) to the editor,

bob.mugford@outlook.com , or to the author, John Redmond [johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)

By the way, if you want to see this gun, or one similar to it, in action, the Australian War Memorial has video of such on their website: <http://www.awm.gov.au> Search under “media”, then “film”, and look for your subject.

From the ‘Punitary’

What is a gossip? Someone with a sense of rumor.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Whatever happens, look as if it was intended.

Quotable Quotes

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. - *Ambrose Redmoon*

St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night – 3 Dec 2016



*The Commanding Officer
LCol B.A. Purcell, CD
and the Officers
of
15th Field Artillery Regiment
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery*

*request the pleasure of your company
at their annual*

*ST BARBARA'S DAY
SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT*

*to be held at the
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC*

*on
Saturday, the Third of December, 2016*

*at
six o'clock for seven o'clock in the evening*

Dress: Mess Kit or Formal attire, with decorations

RSVP by 23 November 2016 with payment

Tarif: \$ 105 - Seats will be reserved when payment is received (\$95 if received by 9 November 2016). There will be no tickets available the night of the event.

*Payable to "Officers Mess 15 Fd Regt"
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7*

If paying in person, please see the Adjutant during regular work hours or Wednesday night between 7 and 10pm.

*Questions to VPMC: Capt Isaak Skuce
mess15rca@gmail.com*

**Replies WITH PAYMENT required by Nov 23rd
TOMORROW!!**



The Commanding Officer

LCol Brent Purcell CD

invites you to his

Annual Christmas Tea

to be held on

Sunday December 11th 2016

in the

15th Field Artillery Regiment Officers' Mess

commencing at Two o'clock in the afternoon

Dress: Jacket & Tie

Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door

Please sign up at the Bar !!

Email bob.mugford@outlook.com BY NOV 30

to have your party added to the bar list

NADEN BAND
OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

FIRST
Christmas
IN CANADA

With Special
Guest Artist

Vivace

DECEMBER 12 6:00PM PRESHOW
7:00PM START
VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE
600 HAMILTON STREET, VANCOUVER BC



TICKETS

AVAILABLE ONLINE:
FIRSTCHRISTMAS.EVENTBRITE.CA
CONTACT: INFO@CCMMS.CA

ADMISSION \$10
with an
unwrapped toy
or gift card

All proceeds to support
**IMMIGRANT AND
REFUGEE SERVING
ORGANIZATIONS**



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From Vimy to Juno National Travelling Exhibition

The Juno Beach Centre and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada cordially invite you to a special reception honouring the 73rd anniversary of the Christmas Dinner at Ortona in conjunction with:



**Friday, December 16, 2016
17h to 19h**

**The Seaforth Highlanders Armoury
1650 Burrard St., Vancouver, British Columbia**

*Please confirm your presence by **November 15, 2016**
dbenoit@junobeach.org / 877-828-5866 ext. 123*

*From Vimy to Juno is made possible with
support from the Department of Canadian Heritage.*



Canada



In Celebration of the 75th Birthday of The Royal Canadian Navy



OIL

SIZE 20 x 30

H.M.C.S. Sackville — The Last Corvette

From an original oil painting by Marine Artist, John M. Horton, C.S.M.A., F.C.A. This fine reproduction shows H.M.C.S. Sackville in her 1945 configuration on escort duty in the North Atlantic.

The Canadian Naval Corvette Trust is restoring and preserving the vessel as a permanent museum dedicated to

Canada's glorious contribution to the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic.

This print is offered in a limited edition of 350 printed on museum quality acid free paper signed and numbered by the artist.

ORDER FORM

I wish to order _____ Print(s) of the Limited Edition, "H.M.C.S. Sackville, The Last Corvette" by John M. Horton, C.S.M.A., F.C.A.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____



Fort Fraser Garrison Scotland Tour

The tour will spend 2 (two) weeks touring the Scottish Highlands – 03-17 June, 2017. Independent travel to Glasgow to muster at Holiday Inn Airport hotel on Saturday, 03 June. Tour departs the hotel after breakfast Sunday, 04 June.

We have space for 1 (one) more couple to achieve our 24 person complement.

- Custom designed itinerary means comfortable travel schedule.
- 4 Star hotels (with breakfast) in Stirling, Pitlochry, Inverness, Fort William, Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- Air conditioned 36 seat Luxury Coach complete with bar and WC.
- Short stints on the coach – usually 60 to 90 minutes between overnight stops. Comfortable departure times.
- Castles, battle sites, regimental museums and great pubs enroute!

For details please contact Dave Fleming – flemingd178@gmail.com