



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News July 23, 2019

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

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Wednesday Lunches - We need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

NOTE: There will not be a lunch on Sept 11. Mrs Lum will be out of town.

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

Sept 11 **NO LUNCH** - mark your calendars! Mrs Lum away.

Sept 28 RUSI Vancouver Inaugural Annual Dinner

World War 2 – 1944

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

Jul 24th: Tinian is invaded by Marines from 2nd and 4th Division and the 6,200 Japanese there receive the dubious honor of being the first men to receive America's new weapon: Napalm. Lublin falls and the Majdanek Concentration Camp site is overrun by Soviets -- Hitler is furious when he learns about all the evidence left behind by the guards in their hasty evacuation. The US Cobra offensive east of St Lo is delayed to bad weather.

Jul 25th: Operation Cobra begins with a blunder as some of the 3,000 aircraft drop their bomb loads on American start lines, but good progress made by VII and VIII corps; while the II Canadian Corps starts pushing towards Falaise. HMS Victorious and Illustrious launch attacks on the Japanese oil production facilities at Sabang. Goebbels is appointed Reich Plenipotentiary for Total War; he cancels vacations and drafts more women for war-work. The Me-262 makes an unpromising combat debut when one fails to bag a Mosquito despite making five attacks on it. Soviet troops break into Lvov. There is heavy fighting and slow progress on both Guam

(where the beachheads still are not linked) and Tinian; while two US carrier groups begin raids on various Caroline Islands. Talks begin between Britain and the US on post-war oil policies.

Jul 26th: Narva is liberated by the Leningrad Front while 1st Ukrainian Front reaches the Vistula near Deblin. MacArthur and Nimitz debate strategy in front of Roosevelt in Honolulu, the key issue concerns the liberation of the Philippines and MacArthur insists on it while Nimitz feels that securing Taiwan would be a better goal. The second day of the Cobra Breakout – VII Corps takes Marigny and St Gilles, VIII Corps is making good progress too. The Polish government-in-exile tells the British of their intentions to see Warsaw liberate itself and ask for help though there is little the Western allies can do. Japanese troops are famed for their stubbornness, but so are US Marines. In the last 24 hours, Captain Louis H Wilson has led his reinforced company of men from the 9th Marine Regiment against the defenders of Fonte Hill on Guam. He leads his assault, organizes his defences against the inevitable counterattack, and fights all night; ignoring three wounds; beating back numerous Japanese assaults and securing his position. For his leadership, tactical acumen and prolonged valor, he is awarded the Medal of Honor.

Jul 27th: Hitler finally recognizes that maybe Normandy really is the Allies only landing from England and releases some 15th Army Divisions to Kluge as US VIII Corps makes important breakthrough and captures Lessay and Periers. The Soviets have a red-letter day as Konev's 1st Ukrainian Front completes the capture of Lvov and takes Stanislav; Zakharov's 2nd Belorussian Front takes Bialystok; while Yeremenko's 2nd Baltic Front takes Daugavpils and Rezekne.

Jul 28th: 4th US Armored Division takes Coutances, one of the objectives of the Cobra Breakthrough. The Soviets take Brest Litovsk and Przemyśl. On Guam, the bulk of the Orote Peninsula is clear of Japanese and the summits of Mounts Chachao and Alutom are taken. There are plenty of deeds of valour and enterprise in battle, but for a sustained display of guts and resourcefulness few fighting men can eclipse two young Polish sisters. As Soviet troops enter the Polish town of Przemyśl, an 18-year-old girl and her eight year old sister can say goodbye to the guests they have concealed in their attic since 1942 – 13 Jewish survivors of the town's ghetto. In 1979, the Podgórski sisters Stefania and Helena are named Righteous Among the Nations.

Jul 29th: Japanese resistance ends at Biak off New Guinea (although a few are off starving in the jungle), but they are still holding strong at Aitape. The northern half of Tinian is secured by US Marines. 3rd Belorussian Front crosses the Niemen in a new offensive. The US advance in Normandy continues with XIX Corps aimed at Torgny and Tessy, VII Corps taking Percy and VIII Corps crosses the Seine and moves on Granville. US XII Corps is also formed in Normandy under Gilbert T Cook.

Jul 30th: US VIII Corps takes Granville and seize Avranches while II Fallschirmjager Korps stages counterattacks around Tessy and Percy; meanwhile the British mount a new attack at Caumont. 6th US Division lands on and around Cape Sansapor on New Guinea. The town of Tinian (on the island of Tinian) is liberated.

Swedish Seabed Finally Gives Up Halifax Bomber Wreck

George Winston War History Online Jul 19, 2019



Credit: Halifax 57 Rescue Group

Halifax Bomber: Canadians and Swedes have a lot in common: a cold climate, a reputation for niceness, and an infinitely patient approach to getting things done, while maintaining a steadfast politeness no matter the obstacles in their path. That approach, and that shared temperament, has served both nations well as they've teamed up to recover a prized World War II plane that has rested on the bottom of the Baltic Sea

for more than seven decades. Canada flew 70 percent of their combat in the Halifax, Canada has sent a team to work with their Swedish counterparts to retrieve the Halifax 57, or at least what's left of it, and return them to the Nanton Bomber Command Museum, in Nanton, Alberta, a town about 100 miles south of Calgary.

Work got underway earlier this month, but the project took two years to prepare before any actual excavation at the site could begin. Halifax bombers heading to Germany. The Halifax 57 team, as the team of aviation experts are known on this occasion, has begun retrieving the plane pieces off the southern coast of Sweden. The excavation is time consuming and tricky, as any retrieval efforts at sea usually are.

These planes parts are mired in sand, according to Karl Kjarsgaard, director of the museum, who described the undertaking during an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Canada's national TV and radio broadcaster. He said, "It's settled into the sand, so we've got a giant vacuum cleaner that uses water and it sucks up the sand and deposits it somewhere else, and we'll dig out the airplane." The museum is home to many Halifax 57 parts retrieved from digs just like this one, all around the globe.





The project was conceived of and launched more than two years ago, but it took time to plan and raise the money. In total, it is expected to cost more than \$121,000 (CDN) to complete. So far, the team has raised about half that amount. All seven bailed out safely before the bomber crashed in the water, where it's laid untouched until now. It's all part of a larger vision, Kjarsgaard explained, the Halifax Recovery Project, which brings

pieces of other planes back to the museum from digs around the world. One day, they hope to reconstruct and display an entire Halifax 57 on museum grounds. It took some persuading of Swedish authorities to grant the team the salvage rights to the plane, Kjarsgaard said. It also took time to put the right team of professional together, including divers, recovery experts, and a sonar-equipped boat that could make clear maps of the ocean floor and the wreck itself. Ultimately, more than 3,000 photographs were taken before the men even began the actual excavation.

Kjarsgaard told the CBC that a wholly rebuilt Halifax 57 is crucial to the museum, perhaps even more so than a Lancaster bomber, another plane used by Canada during WWII. He explained that more Halifax 57 aircraft were flown than any other plane, even more than the Lancaster. The museum already has a rebuilt Lancaster bomber on display, but he noted that this particular Halifax is a "priceless" part of Canada's wartime aviation history. The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) was on a mission to raid Hamburg in early August 1943. Seven airmen were aboard the plane now resting on the seabed off Sweden's coast. An enemy plane attacked, and all seven men bailed out and survived, but the plane crashed headlong into the Baltic Sea. Its flight controls and two engines were badly damaged, but all the airmen survived. They were luckier than many of Canada's airmen, Kjarsgaard said. "Canada flew 70 percent of their combat in the Halifax," he stated. "Most of the lads were killed in the Halifax, fighting for Canada's freedom." It is a subject about which Kjarsgaard is obviously very passionate. "You need a Lancaster in your museum," he asserted. "But you know what you need sitting beside it? It's almost more important (to have) a Halifax 57." Clearly, Kjarsgaard is determined his museum will find and retrieve every shard of the plane resting off the coast of Sweden, take it back to Nanton, and one day see an entire plane gracing his museum's collection. *As parts are being recovered, they are being "desalinated" and stored at the port of Trelleborg in southern Sweden. Eventually they will be transported by the RCAF back to Canada and the museum.*



This New Marine Corps Weapon Just Destroyed an Iranian Drone

Gina Harkins Military.Com July 19, 2019



A new Marine Corps anti-drone system that attaches to all-terrain vehicles and can scan the skies for enemy aircraft from aboard Navy ships was responsible for destroying an Iranian drone, Military.com has learned. The Marine Corps' Light Marine Air Defense Integrated System, known as LMADIS, jammed an Iranian drone that President Donald Trump said flew within 1,000 yards of a Navy warship in the Strait of Hormuz, a defense official said. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the mission. The California-based 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed to the Middle East

with the LMADIS, the defense official said. That unit, which includes about 2,200 Marines, is currently on a six-month sea deployment with the Navy's Boxer Amphibious Ready Group. Trump said the amphibious assault ship Boxer took defensive action after giving multiple calls to stand down. "This is the latest of many provocative and hostile actions by Iran against vessels operating in international waters," the president said. "The United States reserves the right to defend our personnel, our facilities and interests and calls upon all nations to condemn Iran's attempts to disrupt freedom of navigation and global commerce."

An image of a new US anti-drone vehicle called LMADIS on the USS boxer's deck that allegedly hit Iranian drone

The LMADIS is a maneuverable system installed on MRZR all-terrain vehicles. One of the MRZR is a command vehicle and the other an electronic-warfare platform, according to a Marine Corps video that describes the system.



It's typically used on the ground, but has recently been put to the test on several Navy ships. The system uses a radar and cameras to scan the sky to detect drones and distinguish between friendly and hostile systems. Once it locates a threat, it uses radio frequencies to jam the drone, C4ISR reported in May. Low-altitude defense officers and gunners with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 163 (VMM-163) (Reinforced), which is currently deployed aboard the Boxer with the 11th MEU, trained with the system before the unit deployed, Defense Department photos show. The 11th MEU is not the first Marine unit to use LMADIS aboard a Navy ship. Earlier this year, Marine Corps images showed the North Carolina-based 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit used it on the amphibious assault ship Kearsarge during a transit through the Suez Canal. Members of the 13th MEU also used it during a training exercise in Djibouti.

Russian Military Replacing AK-74M With 2 New Kalashnikov Rifles

Daniel Brown Business Insider May 04, 2018



*A right-side view of the AK-12
5.45×39mm assault rifle*

Vitaly V. Kuzmin -

*<http://www.vitalykuzmin.net/Military/ARMY-2016-Static-part4>,
CC BY-SA 4.0*

The Russian military plans on replacing its standard issue AK-74M rifle with the AK-12 and AK-15 developed by legendary

Kalashnikov Concern, according to Military Times, citing Russian state-owned media. The "5.45mm AK-12 and 7.62mm AK-15 are officially approved and recommended by Russian Ministry of Defense for issue to Infantry, Airborne and Naval infantry troops of Russian Armed Forces," the Russian defense manufacturer, which also made the AK-47 and AK-74M, said in a press statement in January.

*The final production model of the AK-15
with a suppressor*

Vitaly V. Kuzmin -

*<http://www.vitalykuzmin.net/Military/ARMY-2016-Static-part4>,
CC BY-SA 4.0*



The AK-12 and AK-15 have 30-round magazines and can shoot 700 rounds per minute, the Kalashnikov statement said. They're also equipped with "red dot, night and IR sights to underbarrel grenade launchers, forward grips, lasers and flashlights, sound suppressors and more." The two new weapons will be part of Russia's "Ratnik" program, a futuristic combat system that includes modernized body armor, a helmet with night vision and thermal imaging, and more. The first-generation Ratnik suit was reportedly given to a few Russian units in 2013, and some pieces of the suit were spotted on Russian troops in Crimea. Russia claims the second-generation suit will be operational in 2020, and the third-generation suit will be operational in 2022.

Vancouver Artillery Association Summer Events

Aldergrove Fair 2019.

Vancouver Artillery Association members, Doug Loney, Andrew MacRae and Bob Mugford moved the 15th Field Artillery Regimental Museum's FAT and 25pdr to Aldergrove Fair last Friday. A grueling 2+ hour trip along some of the secondary highways. Max speed of the FAT is around 60kph. We attracted much attention from the public. Friday evening was spent with the equipment on display at a 'Show and Shine' antique car show which featured around 50 antique vehicles and attracted a huge crowd. After that show we moved the equipment into the upper end of the fairgrounds and set up with military vehicles from Ian Newby's Museum of the Armed Forces. Our FAT was the oldest vehicle in the display.



Here, Andrew MacRae, our newest member, explains the operation of the 25pdr to some interested children.

Photo by Doug Loney

*Here Andrew answers questions about the FAT
Photo by Doug Loney*

The three of us spent both Saturday and Sunday answering questions from visitors of all ages. Biggest problem was keeping hydrated and covered in sunscreen. I still managed to get a sunburned face. After the show closed on Sunday we moved the equipment to Jim McKay and John Hawthorne's compound near the Abbotsford Airport. From there it will go to the Abbotsford Agrifair on Aug 2-5 then to the Abbotsford Airshow Aug 9-11.



Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here's the latest activities from the website of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA family.

It was a quiet week except for our intrepid VAA threesome at the Aldergrove Fair with the 25 Pounder. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

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

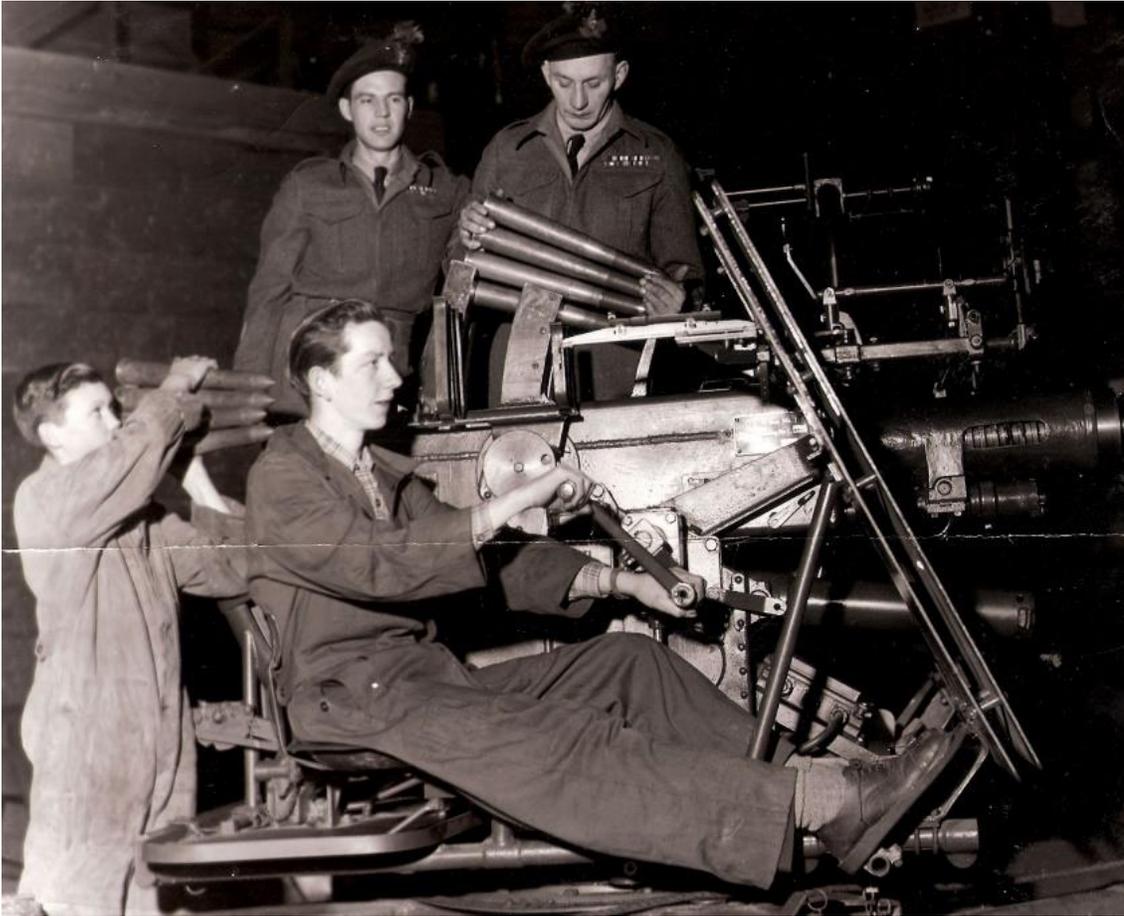
Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: HMCS Yukon escorting HM The Queen on HMY Britannia into Vancouver Harbour on May 11, 1971. The Royal party (The Queen, Prince Philip and Princess Anne) made a whirlwind tour of several BC locations on Vancouver Island, the Interior and Northern BC, visiting Victoria, Duncan, Ladysmith, Tofino, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Cranbrook, Fort Steele, Castlegar, Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Sandspit, Fort Langley, Abbotsford, New Westminster and Vancouver.



This Week: Coming back to dry land this week, we present this photo sent to us by a young supporter, Master Peter Moogk. We are sure his interest in history will serve him well in the future. It's well known that a career as an historian can lead to a life of exotic cars, mansions, super yachts, and companions of great beauty.

Young Master Moogk's photo shows some stalwart lads at work on a large, noisy device, similar to one in the world-famous regimental museum of the 15th Field Regiment (RCA). Two of the lads are dressed as a certain kind of soldier, one not seen much on the West Coast these days. Both have obviously had some service, in spite of their youthful visages. Below them seem to be some children playing with the piece. Surely soldiers were never this young, except maybe in some recent conflicts in developing countries! On the other hand, your author remembers that, as a young cadet in Fort Churchill, Manitoba, we were allowed to fire anything



that was on the base, provided a responsible adult, or, failing that, an NCO was present. Come to think of it, just behind the elementary school, there was a dump of shells the same as those in the photo. Shells and kids: what could go wrong?

So, dear reader, our questions this week are simple. What famous ordnance piece is this? What unit

are the two uniformed fellows from? Send your answers to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@outlook.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Begorrah!

From the 'Punitary'

Why did the picture end up in jail? It was framed!

Murphy's Other Laws

Mines are equal opportunity weapons.

Quotable Quotes

Happiness is good health and a bad memory. - *Ingrid Bergman*



*The President
and the Directors
of*

Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Society

request the pleasure of the company of you and your guests

at our

Inaugural Annual Dinner

*Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day
and the 30th anniversary of our 'Royal' Designation*

to be held at

*BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC*

on

Saturday, the Twenty-Eighth of September 2019

at

six thirty for seven o'clock in the evening

RSVP by 18 September 2019
to RSVP@rusivancouver.ca

Send payment to:
Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 3C7

Dress: Business Formal (Mess Dress Optional)

Tariff: \$50 per person
Make cheques payable to: RUSI Vancouver

Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Vegetarian – please indicate choice on RSVP