



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Sept 23, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

The Mess dress requirements for Wednesday lunches is Business Casual. Business casual can best be described as our 'summer dress'. Minimum requirement is an open neck button up shirt with dress pants or slacks (no blue jeans, pls), Ladies is the equivalent. Of course we never discourage the wearing of jackets and ties. Guests are always welcome.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - Sept 1914

Sept 17 – 20, 1914

We have effectively formed our battle line known as the AISNE RIVER. This long period of fighting all day and almost every night, seems to come to one as a second nature. We fire an average of 250 rounds per day – it is really siege warfare. Night attacks take place almost nightly [and] I have dug a hole at the back of a limber, as my home. All days seem to be alike [except that] some days the fighting is more severe than others. They shell us occasionally and it is never safe to move from one dugout or the shelter of the guns.

Our wagon line are in the great caves, which are a wonderful work of nature, but even there we have had quite a few men wounded, and several horses killed. At times when they shell us severely, we have had to desert the guns and take refuge in an adjacent cave, which undoubtedly has been the means of saving some lives. I slept in this cave one night, and ongoing to the guns before dawn next morning [I] lost my way and wandered towards the enemy's lines. When it became light, I was lost and in a valley between us and the Germans. I was confused, and hardly knew what to do. I could hear rifle bullets whipping uncomfortably near. The ground was full of great holes caused by the German heavy artillery. I knew that when it became light, [I] would be [in] a veritable death trap. I was hopelessly lost and worse, unarmed, so I decided to take refuge in a shell hole and await throughout the day. [I would wait] until nightfall and try to make my way back. After a while, I decided I would chance it and rather get to our own lines or meet whatever came my way. After a deal of wandering and exciting moments, I met an officer who was forward observing, and he directed me to where he thought our guns were. I reached them without further mishap, and my off man and the others thought I had got swallowed, for nobody saw me go. Strangely the path I took from the cave, took me within 10 yds of the guns, by which I could see now daylight had well advanced – well! I laughed.

On the 20th I managed to get a bit drop of water to wash my face, for it had not seen water for 8 days and I had not shaved for over a fortnight. I looked at myself in somebody's little pocket mirror – and thought what a picture I was.

Addendum - Sept 22, 1914: First use of wireless telegraphy from Royal Flying Corps aircraft to ground

Aircraft wireless unit – 1914



World War 2 - September 22-28th 1939

John Thompson Strategic analyst,

September 22nd:

- The Soviets take Lvov from the Poles while Bialystok is also captured.

September 23rd:

- The liberal-thinking Admiral Nomura becomes foreign minister in General Abe's government. As often happens over the next six years, the subtleties of Japanese cabinet politics go entirely unnoticed by the rest of the world.

September 25th:

- The Germans start an intensive indiscriminate terror bombing of Warsaw to conclude the siege by terrorizing the population; it is the largest air raid the world had yet seen.
- Food rationing begins in Germany, although the lessons of the widespread deprivation of 1918 were well-learned and supplies remain ample until the very end of the war.
- Hitler issues Fuhrer Directive No 4 concerning the finishing of the war with Poland.

September 27th:

- Warsaw surrenders after two days of heavy bombardment and aerial attack and 150,000 defenders enter captivity.
- Hitler tells his service chiefs that he intends to attack in the West as soon as possible and they strenuously oppose the idea.
- In London, income taxes are raised to help fund the war.
- Graf Spee and Deutschland have been quietly lurking in the vast Atlantic, away from the major shipping lanes, but are now given clearance to start raiding commerce.

September 28th:

- The Polish fortress of Modlin surrenders and Polish resistance elsewhere is fast fading.

RUSI Co-sponsors WW 1 Series at Vancouver Public Library

RUSI Vancouver, in collaboration with the Vancouver Public Library, will co-sponsor a series of four presentations to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War at the VPL Central Branch on West Georgia and Homer in Vancouver. The involvement of RUSI Vancouver in the VPL series is part of RUSI's community engagement initiative.

The next in the series of presentations takes place on Tuesday, October 7th. Keith Maxwell, Vice President of RUSI and a military historian, will give a presentation on the topic of *Canada and the First World War*.

Army Officer Convicted in Fatal Training Accident Wins Appeal

The Canadian Press and Bill Graveland, Sep 19, 2014



Darryl Watts arrives at a court martial appeal in Calgary on April 4, 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Larry MacDougal

CALGARY – A Calgary soldier convicted for his part in a deadly training accident in Afghanistan has won his appeal and hopes that a “long and difficult process” is finally over. The Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada has entered a finding of not guilty on Lt Darryl Watts’s conviction for

negligent performance of duty. It has also ordered a new trial on a conviction of unlawfully causing bodily harm and a second count of negligent performance of duty.

The Canadian Forces is reviewing the Appeal Court ruling and will determine whether to go ahead with another prosecution. “I don’t know that vindicated in the right way to put it,” Watts said Friday in an interview with The Canadian Press. “This has been a long and difficult process for me and my family. I recognize the duty of the Canadian Forces to fully investigate the injuries and death of any of its members. “That said nothing can lessen the impact that Cpl Josh Baker’s death has on his family or those of us who served with him.” Watts, who held the rank of captain at the time and was later promoted to major, was placed in charge of the training range where the accident happened in February 2010. Baker, 24, was killed when a C-19 Claymore anti-personnel mine loaded with 700 steel balls misfired and peppered his platoon on the practice range. Four other soldiers were seriously hurt when they were hit by the blast. The first two tests of the anti-personnel mine went off without a hitch that day. But during the next one, the ball bearings fired backward, hitting Baker and the others. Video played at trial showed several soldiers, including Watts, standing around, watching the test. They were not inside armoured vehicles or standing behind them for cover, as set out in military safety regulations. Watts was found guilty of the three charges in December 2012, demoted two ranks to lieutenant and given a severe reprimand.

Two other soldiers were also convicted for their roles that day. Watts’s commanding officer, Maj. Christopher Lunney, pleaded guilty Sept. 13, 2012, to negligent performance of duty for failing to ensure Watts was properly qualified on the C-19. He was demoted one rank to captain from major and received a severe reprimand. Warrant Officer Paul Ravensdale, who was running the exercise that day, was found guilty of breach of duty causing death, breach of duty causing bodily harm, unlawfully causing bodily harm and negligent performance of military duty. He was acquitted of manslaughter. The now-retired soldier was given a six-month

suspended sentence. He also received a fine and was demoted one rank to sergeant. The Appeal Court found that the military judge who heard Watts's case erred in his instruction to the jury. Watts's lawyer, Balfour Der, had argued that his client shouldn't be held responsible for what happened because Watts had made it clear to Lunney that he was untrained on the C-19. Lunney had indicated he was satisfied that Ravensdale was qualified to run training on C-19.

The Appeal Court took issue with the judge not instructing the jury to consider that Watts had told Lunney about his inexperience with the weapon. "In my respectful view, this evidence was key to determining if Capt. Watts had the defined military duty imposed on him as required under the National Defence Act," Justice Elizabeth Bennett wrote. "If the panel accepted Maj. Lunney had designated Warrant Officer Ravensdale as the officer in charge, then there would not be evidence to support Capt. Watts had a military duty." Watts appreciated that finding. "At the time, I never felt I was supervising the C-19 range and I believe all the testimony concurred with that, but that's not the way the process went for me," he said. "The Court Martial Appeal Court clearly saw some of that. I'm relieved, but it's all a process."

Prosecutor Maj Anthony Tamburro said the Military Prosecution Service will review the decision. "Should prosecutors decide to appeal the decision, they have thirty days in which to file their application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Otherwise, prosecutors will decide whether or not to proceed with a new trial," he said. Watts said he hopes to see his previous rank of major restored in short order. A long-time firefighter with the Calgary Fire Department, he said he realized there was a risk in appealing his convictions. "Clearly as much as everybody who was there that day saw it a different way and has their own perspective I did not think that this was a battle that should just be let go," Watts said. "Had I been convicted and given a sentence of incarceration I would have lost my position within the Calgary Fire Department. "Those are all things that weigh on you and make it such a long and difficult process, but as far as the appeal I was confident once facts were reconsidered that the appeal would be successful."

NDP Refuses to Support Canadian Special Forces Mission to Iraq

New Democrats are refusing to back Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to send Special Forces commandos into northern Iraq. Joan Bryden - the Canadian Press news service. September 17, 2014

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair says it's the only responsible position to take, given the government's refusal to provide details of the deployment or to allow parliamentarians to vote on the matter. Harper has confirmed that Canada has sent 69 Special Forces commandos to Iraq as part of a counter-terrorism campaign against the extremist al-Qaida splinter group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL. He maintains the deployment, which is to be reviewed within 30 days, is not a combat mission and that the commandos will only advise and assist Iraqi forces and Kurdish fighters who are resisting ISIL forces in northern Iraq. Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau is backing the deployment.

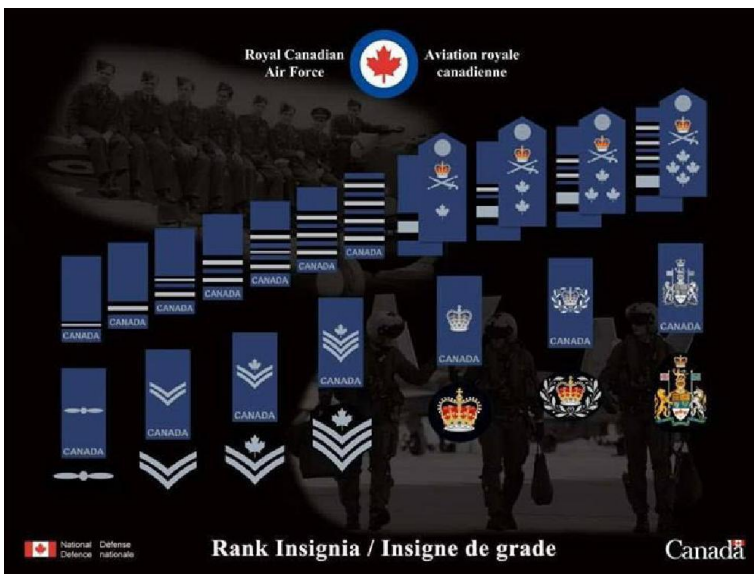
But Mulcair says he can't support the mission when the government refuses even to reveal precisely when the commandos arrived in Iraq or when the 30 days will be up. "We're saying that the only responsible position now with what we have available as information is to say No

to Mr. Harper’s mission in Iraq for one good and simple reason,” Mulcair said Wednesday. “They’re refusing to have a vote, they’re refusing to provide full information, there’s an artistic lack of clarity around what they’re defining as a non-combat mission.” The war in Afghanistan began in the same way, with a small contingent of Special Forces commandos, but wound up being “the longest war we’ve ever been involved in” at the cost of 160 lives, Mulcair argued. “So yes, we’re very, very concerned about the slippery slope that we appear to be on (in Iraq). This is a classic situation where it’s going to expand.”

Trudeau acknowledged the deployment is likely to go beyond 30 days, given the “scale of the devastation and the humanitarian crisis in northern Iraq.” Nevertheless, he threw his support behind the mission. “I support the current mission as designed, with the caveat — the important caveat — that we continue to have parliamentary oversight and that we continue to have debates on this mission to make sure that it continues to be a mission that Canadians understand is important.” Trudeau called the situation in northern Iraq “a humanitarian catastrophe,” with hundreds of thousands of displaced people whom Canada has a “responsibility to protect.” “Canadians want the Canadian government to continue to be a force for peace in the world in a way that is consistent with our values,” he said. “And for me, training (the) local army and providing a support role, non-combat, is perfectly acceptable as something that Canada has expertise in and should be able to share.”

Details on the RCAF’s New Uniforms and Ranks

DAVID PUGLIESE Published on: September 21, 2014



The new RCAF ranks and insignia poster

The Royal Canadian Air Force’s (RCAF) new uniform respects the contributions and sacrifices of airmen and airwomen who served – and continue to serve – with pride and professionalism.

Main aspects of the new uniform are drawn from pre-unification rank insignia maintaining the modern elements and terminology familiar to serving members. The insignia for most ranks will be

recognizable as the symbols that air force personnel have worn for nearly half a century. Rank names, with the exception of “Private,” will remain the same. The RCAF’s shoulder titles and uniform buttons will also be updated to harmonize with the new rank insignia.

RCAF Organizational Structure

There will be no changes to RCAF organizational structures or the names of subordinate headquarters and organizations.

Non-Commissioned Members

The rank names and insignia for non-commissioned members will remain the same, with the exception of “Private.” The Canadian maple leaf, which air force personnel have worn with pride for 46 years, will continue to be displayed on the rank insignia of Master Corporals, Sergeants, and general officers, and Chief Warrant Officers’ insignia will continue to display the Canadian coat of arms. The rank insignia will now be pearl-grey, similar to the historic colour of non-commissioned members’ rank insignia. Only one rank name will change: “Private” will become “Aviator.” This new, gender-neutral rank, which is almost identical in both official languages, reflects the historical French rank of *aviateur* (aviator) which in English was aircraftman or aircraftwoman. The rank insignia for “Aviator” will be a pearl-grey propeller worn on the uniform sleeve, which is a return to the historical insignia for this rank.

Officers and General Officers

All officers will retain current rank names, similar to the ranks used in the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War. Officers rank insignia colour will be pearl-grey – the same historic colour as the non-commissioned members’ rank insignia. In the past, the officers wore blue rank insignia and the non-commissioned members wore pearl-grey; the change reflects the RCAF’s emphasis on one team – one mission. In the pre-unification era, RCAF general officers only wore rank insignia on their tunic sleeves, not on their shoulders. The new design will retain the insignia currently embroidered on tunic shoulder straps/shoulder slip-ons and display the Canadian maple leaf. The design of the general officers’ sleeve insignia, located near the cuff of the tunic, will be modified to echo the design of the historical sleeve insignia for general officers and will be edged in black, similar to the historical sleeve insignia. The gold piping (embroidery) on the general officers’ wedge cap will be replaced with pearl-grey piping.

National Badges

The new insignia will also include colour harmonization of national badges to be worn at the top of the tunic sleeve. These curved badges will comprise the RCAF’s eagle and the word “CANADA” for non-commissioned members and the word “CANADA” for officers and Chief Warrant Officers. The style will be similar to the modern national badges, but will be created in the new pearl-grey colour. The word CANADA which appears on dress shirt slip-ons and on certain garments such as topcoats will also be embroidered in pearl-grey.

Buttons

To match the new pearl-grey rank insignia, the RCAF will also receive new silver-coloured buttons. The design will be unchanged from the current button design and include the Crown, RCAF eagle and the word “CANADA.”

Royal Canadian Air Force Badge

The badge of the RCAF, which recalls the pre-unification RCAF badge showing an eagle with its wings outstretched, was created following the restoration of the historical name “Royal Canadian Air Force” in 2012. This will remain unchanged as the official badge of the RCAF.

The motto will remain “Sic Itur Ad Astra” – Such is the pathway to the stars – which has been the air force’s motto since 1975. This is the motto adopted by the very first Canadian Air Force, which was first established in 1920.

Conclusion

The melding of elements of both historical and modern rank insignia and terminology strengthens the RCAF’s links to its history and heritage while honouring all those who have served throughout the Royal Canadian Air Force’s history.

Soldiers may be Hiding Health Problems to Protect Pensions

More than 6,200 Canadian soldiers were discharged because of medical reasons since 2009.

CBC News Posted: Sep 20, 2014 8:41 PM ET Last Updated: Sep 20, 2014 10:37 PM ET

About one-sixth of Canadian Forces soldiers discharged from the military due to medical reasons are released before qualifying for their pension, CBC News has learned, leading some to fear that soldiers may be hiding health problems to protect their income. Documents obtained through a CBC/Radio-Canada access to information request show that approximately 1,100 of the 6,200 soldiers discharged because of health conditions since 2009 left the military before serving the ten-year minimum required to collect a full pension. Glen Kirkland, a former corporal and designated marksman who served in Afghanistan, said that many soldiers continue to suffer from physical and mental injury in silence for fear of losing their source of income, and that the consequences of the Canadian Forces’ pension policy could be dire. "People are battling with a decision: if they speak up, then they lose their ability to keep food on the table," said Kirkland. Kirkland himself sustained a serious brain injury and lost most of his hearing when a vehicle convoy he was travelling with in Afghanistan was ambushed and struck with a rocket in 2008, shortly before his deployment was due to end. Three of five soldiers travelling with Kirkland were killed.



Glen Kirkland, in wheelchair, suffered a serious brain injury, hearing loss and PTSD after an ambush in Afghanistan in 2008 that left three Canadians dead. (Tobi Cohen/Canadian Press)

He subsequently received notice that he would be discharged from the military. But after speaking out publicly and testifying before MPs to the Standing Committee on National Defence last year, Kirkland received a rare offer to stay in the Canadian Forces until he completed the ten year service term required to collect his pension. "I couldn't accept something that wasn't offered to everybody else," said Kirkland who refused the offer and as a result was medically discharged like thousands of others. But top officials within the Canadian Forces deny the policy could be causing wounded soldiers to suffer in silence.

"So far we've found no indication that such a policy is causing additional problems, mental health problems or causing people not to present for mental health care," said Brig.-Gen. Jean-Robert Bernier

Who is it? Last Week:



Not much luck with this MO. One guess was Bill Sutherland, another was George Ditchburn. Anybody else got a guess?

This Week: This week's 'end of summer' photo is of a jolly lot of chaps cavorting in a motor



boat on a lake somewhere in the Interior of British Columbia. All we can tell you about this fine example of action photography is that it is from a slide found in Vic Stevenson's personal collection and probably dates from the mid-1950s, a time when most of you, dear readers, were in shorts, or not even planned. Or, are we being too kind?

So, can you name any of these fine lads? The one on the right, covering behind the rather

fragile-looking windscreen, is a gunner, but the others are not so fortunate. Anyone recognize his dad here?

Guesses and folding currency can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

A thief stole a calendar – he got twelve months. (*Pretty well run out of puns, except for the real groaners, so I'll have to come out with something else*)

Murphy's other Laws

No matter what result is anticipated, there will always be someone eager to misinterpret it, fake it or believe it happened according to his own pet theory.

Quotable Quotes

It is easier to find a score of men wise enough to discover the truth than to find one intrepid enough, in the face of opposition, to stand up for it. - AA Hodge

India

Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, September 25, 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 September 18, 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 September 18, 2014

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, October 30, 2014



Wait for me Daddy

SOMETHING MONUMENTAL

COMING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 2014
 HYACK SQUARE
 NEW WESTMINSTER | WAITFORMEDADDY.COM



NEW WESTMINSTER

The Province
It starts here.

SOMETHING MONUMENTAL

COMING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 2014

THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER'S MAYOR AND COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO THE UNVEILING OF THE WAIT FOR ME DADDY WAR MEMORIAL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FAMOUS PHOTO TAKEN ON OCTOBER 1, 1940 BY CANADIAN PHOTOGRAPHER CLAUDE P. DETTLOFF OF THE PROVINCE NEWSPAPER. WHITEY BERNARD, THE YOUNG BOY FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH, WILL ALSO BE JOINING US FOR THIS MEMORABLE DAY.

THE WAR MEMORIAL WILL BE PERMANENTLY SITUATED AT NEW WESTMINSTER'S HYACK SQUARE, THE EXACT LOCATION THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT MARCHED THROUGH TO CATCH A WAITING TRAIN TO THEIR SECRET MILITARY TRAINING DESTINATION.

11:00 am: OFFICIAL UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL, CANADIAN MINT COIN AND CANADA POST STAMP

- 12:30-3:00pm:** UNVEILING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY:
- » OPENING OF WAIT FOR ME DADDY MUSEUM EXHIBIT
 - » CANADIAN MINT TWOONIE EXCHANGE
 - » CANADA POST FIRST DAY OF STAMP SALES
 - » WAIT FOR ME DADDY VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT
 - ... AND MUCH MORE.



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NEW WESTMINSTER

The Province
It starts here.