

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Apr 24, 2018

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 serve 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. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. **Note: NO lunches on June 20 and 27. Mrs Lum is on vacation.**

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

Apr 25	NOABC Lunch – Robert MacKay <i>The Battle of Moreuil Wood- 100 Years On</i>
May 07	LGen Whitecross – Women in International Security
May 09	RUSI Vancouver AGM
May 12	BC Military Gala
May 26	VAA Artillery Day Artillery Demonstration
June 20	No lunch
June 27	No lunch

World War 2 – 1943

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

Apr 26th: American planners lay out their future operations in the Solomons Island chain and New Guinea. Longstop Hill is taken by British V Corps. The Soviets sever links with the London Polish government-in-exile over the latter's complaints about the Katyn Woods massacre of Polish officers by the Soviets. Attu is bombarded by American cruisers.

Apr 27th: In Tunisia, Djebel Bou Aoukaz falls into British hands. During this battle Captain 2nd Baron Charles Anthony Lyell leads five Scots Guardsmen into an assault on a dug-in 88mm Gun and a machinegun post. He wipes out the machinegun post, then leaps into the 88mm Gun

pit by himself and kills several of its crew, knocking the gun out before being killed. The peer of the realm is given another honour; a posthumous award of the Victoria Cross.

Apr 28th: A series of running battles erupts around Convoy ONS-5 (which lasts until May 6th); 51 U-boats attack a convoy of 46 ships – sinking 13 while losing seven of their own and getting 17 damaged.

Apr 30th: The Germans retake Djebel Bou Aoukaz, but the price in armour is higher than they can afford, and the Americans are now atop hill 609 too. The corpse of a “Major William Martin” is found floating off the coast of Spain with details of the pending Allied invasion of Greece; the Germans receive the intelligence gleaned from a Royal Marine courier who never was and shift resources to the Balkans. Two thousand Jewish arrivals at Sobibor stage a revolt on de-training and are completely massacred. When threatened with a counter attack, sometimes it pays to launch a counter-counterattack first. Lance-Corporal John Patrick Kenneally of the Irish Guards twice displays his new tactic at Djebel Arada in Tunisia, taking a Bren gun and single-handedly attacking Germans forming up for an assault on his position. He is awarded the Victoria Cross.

May 1943: Victory in Africa

The battalion still had some 90 men in action, but no scout cars and only a little fuel when, on 9 May, we had to surrender. The British officer, who took us prisoner, went up to [Captain] Bernhardt and said: “It’s an honour for us to capture you and Reconnaissance Battalion 3. Please keep your pistol. Is there anything we can do for you?” -Oberst Hans von Luck, recounting what he was later told by one of his officers the surrender of his old Afrika Korps Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion

General: Shipping losses shrink to less than 300,000 tons while the Germans lose 41 U-Boats. About 4,800 tons of bombs from the USAAF and RAF land on Germany. Allied deception operations draw two Panzer Divisions to Greece, where they are stranded for months after Greek partisans destroy a vital railway bridge.

May 1st: The Americans complete the capture of Hill 609 in Tunisia. The Germans have been murdering Europe’s Jews since invading Poland, but many German Jews have protected status of one kind or another under the Nazis’ racial laws; today these are stripped away by Adolph Eichmann.

Medium Range Radar

A Portable, Powerful Addition Canadian Army Toolbox.

Steven Fouchard, Army Public Affairs April 20, 2018

Ottawa, Ontario — Recent military operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that smaller – even improvised – weapons are both difficult to detect and deadly. The Canadian Army (CA) is adopting a high-tech solution to those low-tech problems: Medium Range Radar

(MRR). MRR is a transportable but powerful system built by Israeli manufacturer Elta and purchased from Rheinmetall Canada, which is the prime contractor. It can quickly detect and locate sources of indirect fire, which include rocket propelled grenades, mortars, rockets and other munitions fired without a direct sightline to the target. Recent lessons learned in Latvia reminded NATO that there is still a significant threat from artillery, mortars and rockets whether from Russia or rogue forces. MRR may not be as simple in its construction as those weapons systems it is built to counter, but it can still be set up and torn down in just 20 minutes. “You always want to set up and tear down as quickly as possible so that if there’s a threat we can move out of that location and move on to another one,” said Major Raymond Dupuis, part of the MRR project team. “That’s why we’ll use these in pairs so that as one’s transmitting, the other’s ready to move.” And the human operators can control the MRR system remotely, from up to 100 metres away. “Obviously radar is always a high-value target to the enemy,” Maj Dupuis explained. “Therefore, you want standoff distance between the radar and where your personnel are operating. There is an operator work station and a command post, whether that’s a vehicle or a static location.”



The Medium Range Radar (MRR) system, recently acquired by the Canadian Army, undergoes testing at 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown in the fall of 2017.

Photo: Canadian Army Assistant Deputy Minister (Materiel). ©2017 DND/MDN Canada.

The system also tracks airborne threats and creates a tactical display which can be shared with other Canadian units and Allied forces. Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) radar is also part of the package. IFF, which was developed during the Second World War to prevent friendly fire incidents, detects radio signals from aircraft to distinguish between hostile and friendly ones. “We’re going to have the ability to give early warning to our troops of air threats,” Maj Dupuis added. “We don’t have the ability to fire on aircraft right now but we do have a project and will eventually purchase an air defence weapon.” A total of 10 MRR systems are being purchased. Most will be housed in New Brunswick with 4th Artillery Regiment (General Support), Royal Canadian Artillery where a successful round of field tests was held earlier this year. Initial cadre training has started, and the unit is excited and ready to field this new capability which will not only be a key asset for the Canadian Armed Forces but a sought after asset for Coalition Operations. The MRR project is an offshoot of a larger one: Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR). First announced in 2003, ISTAR is an ongoing effort to deliver sensors and intelligence tools that can be used to gather information on the battlefield. The MRR project is in support of *Strong, Secure, Engaged*: Canada’s Defence Policy’s commitment to protect our soldiers from various threats on the battlefield.

Rangers Restore Hidden Monument to Fallen WWII Soldier

Only Soldier Who Died in Prince Rupert During World War II Remembered

Shannon Lough Nov. 7, 2017



Canadian Ranger Mark Taylor is working to restore a fallen World War II soldier's monument in Prince Rupert. (Shannon Lough / The Northern View)

Few remember the fifth of November when 75 years ago a soldier lost his life while on patrol in Prince Rupert. A concrete relic from the past remains deep in the coastal rainforest, 30 metres from Highway 16 across from the Industrial Park. Approximately two months ago,

members of the Port Simpson Canadian Rangers caught wind of the long-forgotten cairn for a World War II soldier. “To us it seemed like a treasure hunt. We set out one day to locate the memorial to our fallen soldier and once we found it we knew we had a responsibility to fix it up ... and make sure he was never forgotten,” said Mark Taylor, who served in the Canadian Armed Forces for eight years, and who is a member of the Canadian Rangers, a reserve force for the military.

Ian Olsen's cairn before the Canadian Rangers cleared the moss. (Submitted photo)

When the Rangers found the cement pyramid-shaped memorial it was covered in moss, blending in with the surrounding forest. In the following weeks, they cleared a trail, built stairs in some sections and polished the cairn, including the circular brass plate that faces the direction of the highway with the soldier's name inscribed on the face. Private Allan Olsen was a member of the Midland Regiment of Ontario that was stationed in Prince Rupert to serve as home defence during World War II. On the evening of Nov. 5, 1942, Olsen was on patrol driving a Bren gun carrier along the newly constructed road. When he turned onto a bridge the light armoured tracked vehicle hit a patch of ice and rolled over. Olsen was pinned to the muddy earth under the vehicle. The corporal who was with him, managed to escape and hurried back to Frederick Street camp to find help, but Olsen was dead by the time they returned. He



was 22 years old. His body was returned to Ontario and buried in Coboconk Cemetery. A year later in Prince Rupert, members of the Midland Regiment, a padre and a firing party unveiled the six-foot cement memorial for Olsen — marking the place where he died. But as the decades passed, nature slowly reclaimed the monument, and the Midland badge above Olsen's name disappeared. The cairn was seemingly forgotten, but in 1993 the *Daily News* reported on efforts to restore it. "A former Midland officer has sent another badge from Ontario to be mounted on it when it is fixed up, but it will not be put on now as it would possibly just be stolen again," read one article. There were also reports that the War Relics Committee planned to move the cairn to the Sunken Gardens behind the Courthouse, but that plan also fell through.

The Port Simpson Canadian Rangers don't have any intention of moving the monument. Instead, they will reinforce the six-foot cement cairn and leave it where it stands. "Eventually, when we have a more dedicated, solid prominent trail then we'll start working on the monument itself bringing it back up to par, polishing up the brass, maybe get another cap badge," Taylor said. The BC Veterans Commemorative Association is also interested in installing a memorial within the city, said northern representative, Kathleen Larkin. "Even with the Rangers working on it one day it might become overgrown and lost to memory, so I wanted to have something in town that was permanent," she said. In the meantime, the Rangers, including Taylor, Ed McCarter and Dallas Allison, will continue working on the trail to make it more accessible for people to visit the cairn so it never gets lost again. "Even if he was an out of townner, he wasn't a Rupertite, he was still a Rupertite while he was here, and he died in Rupert, so we're going to keep on honouring his legacy," Taylor said.

Canadians at RIMPAC Could See Artillery Fired from USN decks

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen April 8, 2018



There could be some interesting sights during this summer's Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise for those Canadian military personnel taking part in the event. Canadian naval and air units will be involved in this large-scale US-led exercise, scheduled to start sometime in June. My former colleague at Defense News, Kris Osborn, who is now managing editor at Warrior Maven, reports that the US Army will be for the first time setting up their

artillery on the decks of USN ships and firing from those vessels during RIMPAC. That should be something to see. “The Army is looking at shooting artillery off of Navy ships. Innovation is taking existing things and modifying them to do something new,” Maj Gen John Ferrari told Warrior Maven. Army Times journalist Todd South has noted that the US Marines are a little ahead in that department. He noted that first time last year, the US Marines successfully fired High Mobility Rocket Systems from a USN deck. On Oct. 22, 2017, the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) was fired from the flight deck of the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD 23) during Dawn Blitz 2017. The US DoD photo from that firing is show above.

Why Do Modern Military Rifles Have Pistol-Grips?

The answer is ergonomics.



Rifles, especially military rifles, used to have “straight-grip stocks”. While these weapons had stocks and so could be shouldered to line the

sights on a target, the ergonomics of the weapon were largely focused on carrying it while in formation. In at least a few cases the weapon was too powerful to shoulder (Spanish infantry muskets were infamous for dislocating shoulders), and in fact these weapons were designed to be as much a polearm as a firearm, carried and fired more or less from the hip:



resembled the curved grip of a muzzle-loading pistol. This grip was further developed into what we recognize as a “pommel grip”, very common on your daddy’s or granddaddy’s bolt-action. This more slanted grip profile gives a more comfortable feel to the rifle when shouldered and sighted. Straighter wrist, less carpal tunnel at the range.

In between the World Wars, what was originally called a “pistol grip” started to be commonly built into rifle stocks. The grip was so called because it





The modern “pistol grip” is simply a further evolution of this idea, with the grip adopted from more modern pistols and largely separated from the stock. Nice straight wrists, you’re able to get a good grip on the weapon while also getting closer in to it, giving you advantages in sighting and controlling muzzle climb.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here’s the latest updates:

Barrett Battery 2018 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2018.html>

Remembrance Day, Group photo 1996 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1996.html>

Group Photo 1995 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1995.html>

Group Photo 1996 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1996.html>

Ft Lewis 1979 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1979.html>

Recruiting presentation 1972 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1972.html>

Remembrance Day 1971 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1971.html>

Arne Knudson 1941 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1941.html>

Field Exercise 1928 <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1928.html>

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

Who Is It

Last Week: Here is another picture in the series which is held in the Vancouver Archives.



These are fairly high-resolution pictures and one of our readers was able to zoom in on the big white building in the far background. The sign on the building reads "*Armstrong Morrison & Co General Contractors*". The 1925 Vancouver directory entry for that company includes "warehouse and wharf Bute and Beach Ave". That location fits what we see in the photo and indicates that the beach that we see in

the three photos of the set was located at what is now Vanier Park. The photos are captioned '*Vancouver Volunteer Regiment Artillery [rowing boat towing gun] taken between 1914 and*

1918'. The Gunners were practising moving a gun across a water obstacle and probably put the gun in the water at Sunset Beach.

This Week: This one is a little closer to home. Everyone will recognize this as a Coast Artillery gun but what type and where is it located? What has happened to the platform it occupied.



Our author is away at the moment so send your answers to the editor,
bob.mugford@outlook.com

From the 'Punitary'

What kind of shoes do ninjas wear? Sneakers.

Murphy's Other Laws

When you are fully soaped up in the shower, your cell phone will ring.

Quotable Quotes

Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes. - *Oscar Wilde*

Artillery Day 2018



Artillery Day 2018



The
Vancouver Artillery Association
is hosting an
Artillery Demonstration
on
Saturday, 26 May 2018

The intent of the Artillery Demonstration is to deploy artillery detachments in public areas throughout the Lower Mainland of British Columbia where artillery units have had a presence today and in the past.

Do you own artillery ordnance that could be part of this display?

Contact Leon Jensen OMM CD for additional details – president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

2018 British Columbia Military Gala – 12 May



The 39 Canadian Brigade Group and 39 Combat Engineer Regiment request the pleasure of your company at the annual BC Military Gala.

This year we will be acknowledging the diversity of the Canadian Armed Forces and celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Stand Up of the 39 Combat Engineer Regiment.

Location	Sheraton Wall Centre - 1088 Burrard St, Vancouver BC
Dress:	Mess Kit / Black Tie
Timing:	1800 for 1900 Hours
Date:	Saturday, May 12th, 2018
For more information:	http://militarygala.ca
For tickets:	http://militarygala.ca/get-tickets/

Fort Macaulay Historic Interpretation Event

Where: Macaulay Point Park

When: May 26, 2018 -

10:00AM to 2:00PM



The Fifth Annual Fort Macaulay Historic Interpretation Event will take place on Saturday May 26 at Macaulay Point Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guided tours will take place at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and will be led by local historian Jack Bates, from the Organization for Preservation of Canadian Military Heritage. New interpretive signage was installed at the site during 2017 Canada 150 celebrations, and pamphlets featuring a map of the area and historical background were also printed.

The buildings and gun emplacements at the historic site will all be numbered and indexed to a handout. The event will also feature members of the Victoria-Esquimalt Military Re-enactors Association with their encampment, the Esquimalt Archives, and Toad Hollow Photography. The Esquimalt Lions will provide a cash only BBQ, serving up their famous hamburgers and hot dogs with proceeds going back into the community.

47 RCSCC Captain Vancouver 100th Anniversary Dinner

Captain Vancouver Sea Cadet Corps is looking for people who were cadets with the Corps to come to the dinner. Link to ticket sales page: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/47-captain-vancouver-100th-anniversary-alumni-dine-in-tickets-43300539078>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/47CaptVanAlumni/>

47 RCSCC Captain Vancouver Staff
& the Navy League Branch - Greater Vancouver Area
Request the pleasure of your company and guest(s) to the
100th Anniversary Alumni Dine In



Saturday May 26th 2018

1845 for 1930hrs

HMCS DISCOVERY

1200 Stanley Park Drive, Vancouver BC

No-host bar

Tariff Early Bird: \$75.58 per person / \$86.29 per person after 30 Apr

Mess Dress or Formal/Black Tie Optional (Ladies Equivalent)

RSVP by 21 May:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/47-captain-vancouver-100th-anniversary-alumni-dine-in-tickets-43300539078>



WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

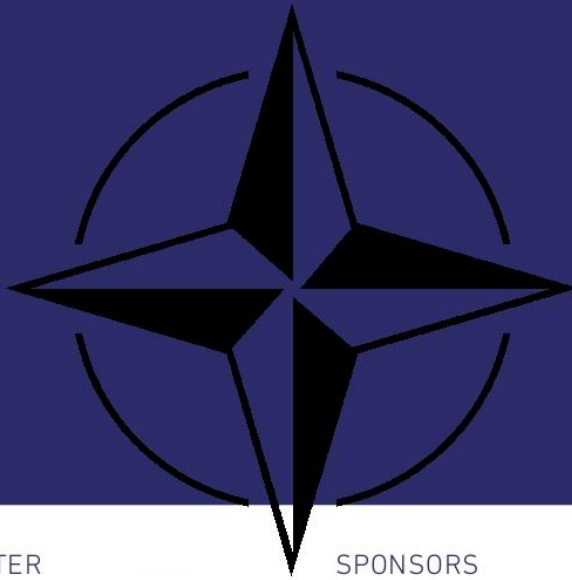
WITH LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHRIS WHITECROSS,
COMMANDANT OF THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE.

MONDAY, MAY 7
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Doors at 4:30pm

Segal Graduate School
of Business, Room 1200
500 Granville St
Vancouver, BC.

Don't miss a keynote speech on leadership and women in international security with Lt.-Gen. Chris Whitecross, Canada's highest ranking female officer and first female Commandant of the NATO Defense College. Join the SFU NATO Field School for a post-event reception with refreshments and a cash bar.

Lt.-Gen. Whitecross has been designated as a member of the G7 Advisory Council on Gender Equality and led the Canadian Armed Forces Strategic Response Team on Sexual Misconduct. She has been recognized twice as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women and deployed with NATO and the UN.



REGISTER
womeninintlsecurity.eventbrite.ca

FACEBOOK
Lt.-Gen Whitecross: Women
in International Security

QUESTIONS
nato@sfu.ca

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