



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News April 25, 2017

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a 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. Attendance has been down recently. Most of our regular attendees, who are retired, are slowly fading away and the next generation seems, by and large, to be too busy to attend. Guests are always welcome and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

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

- Apr 27** - BCR 'Taste of Ukraine' lunch
- May 06** - BC Army Gala
 - NOABC Battle of the Atlantic Dinner
 - SHC Afghan LAV Unveiling and Dedication
- May 13** - 15 Field Artillery Regiment Change of Command Parade

World War 2 - 1942

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

Apr 26th: More Japanese land on Mindanao to deal with stubborn Filipino troops. Hitler forecasts a major victory for Germany in a well-choreographed Reichstag speech.

Apr 27th: A plebiscite on conscription is held in Canada; unsurprisingly, Quebec votes no.

Apr 28th: The Chinese 28th Division is ordered to defend Lashio as the Chinese defence of Mandalay is no longer sustainable.

Apr 29th: The Japanese set resources for the invasion of Port Moresby. The Japanese enter Lashio – cutting off the Chinese troops in Burma from their scanty resupply chain, and Alexander decides to pull his surviving forces back to the Chindwin. Corregidor comes under extremely heavy bombardment.

Apr 30th: The IJN carriers Shokaku, Zuikaku and Shoho depart Truk for the invasion of Port Moresby. The surviving British in Burma are all north and west of the Irrawaddy.

May 1942: Japan Flushed with Victory Fever- “Against this pale, duck-egg blue and greyish mauve were silhouetted a number of small black shapes: all of them bombers, and all of them moving the same way. One hundred and thirty-four miles ahead, and directly in their path, stretched a crimson-red glow; Cologne was on fire. Already, only twenty-three minutes after the attack had started, Cologne was ablaze from end to end, and the main force of the attack was still to come.” - *Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, DSO, on the first ‘Thousand Bomber’ raid.*

General: On all fronts, the Allies lose 705,000 tons of shipping, but convoys and British/Canadian reinforcements ease the situation on the American coast. The RAF includes a few daylight raids in its attacks on Germany and France. Malta continues to endure severe bombing, but its defences are strengthened enough to raid Axis airfields in Sicily.

May 1st: Mandalay falls to the Japanese as the Chinese collapse in northern Burma.

May 2nd: The Australians pull their tiny garrison out of Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. The British lose the cruiser HMS Edinburgh off Norway to a combination of submarines and destroyers. The American fleet (reading Japanese code as they do) assembles to meet the Japanese threat to Port Moresby.

Canadian Army Introduces Expedited Process for Enrolment

To strengthen the Canadian Army Reserve and ensure its sustainability, the Reserves are in the process of putting in place an expedited process to streamline enrolments. Additionally, starting in April, the Canadian Army is assuming full responsibility from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) for recruitment and enrolment of its Army Reserve units. “Reservists play an essential role in support of Canada’s ability to achieve success on domestic and international operations. Simplifying and streamlining recruitment for reservists is an important step forward as we improve our processes and standards, and enhancements like this will go a long way in improving reservists’ experience in the CAF from day one,” said Minister of National Defence, Harjit Sajjan. It is expected that applications to the Reserves will be able to enroll within weeks, rather than months. To ensure this faster enrolment process, the Army will be conducting the recruiting steps: medical, security, fitness and aptitude requirements, within a two-visit concept.

This concept will give authority to the Reserve Brigade Groups, which decentralizes resources and will better ensure the success of the program. “Reservists are a key component of the Canadian Army. They are integral to both domestic and international expeditionary operations. Bringing recruitment ‘home’ to the unit level will accelerate enrolment, bolster the strength of units, and create a more effective Army Reserve. I am very pleased with the direction we are taking,” stated LGen Paul Wynnyk, Commander Canadian Army. A pilot run of the new process was conducted in the fall of 2016 in the 5th Canadian Division in Atlantic Canada.

Progress was closely monitored, and adjustments were made accordingly. The Canadian Army is taking additional steps over the next three years to strengthen the Army Reserve further. According to a DND/ CAF press release, the Canadian Army's new role in assuming responsibility for Army Reserve recruitment is critical in addressing a deficiency that has caused major delays. This delay has caused applicants to look for employment elsewhere. "A reservist can now have his or her career managed locally by their own unit from 'day one' until release, which is critical to maintaining morale and facilitating longer-term retention. This is a high-priority initiative for the Canadian Army and the Army Reserve," said BGen Rob Roy MacKenzie, Chief of Staff, Canadian Army Reserve.

Picatinny Engineers Double Range with Modified M777A2

M777A2 Extended Range Howitzer Lauren Poindexter, Picatinny Arsenal PA February 23, 2017



*Personnel checking and securing instrumentation on the Extended Range M777A2 in-between firing occasions.
Courtesy photo (Photo Credit: U.S. Army)*

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. -- Picatinny Arsenal engineers have fired the newly modified M777A2 howitzer at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, completing the next step towards expanding the system's current firing range. "We put together an integration test bed for the M777A2 Extended Range (M777ER) howitzer program, incorporating a 55 caliber cannon tube on the M777A2 towed howitzer," said Andy McFadzean a Special Project Officer at the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center or ARDEC. "We shot a total of 70 rounds using the Modular Artillery Charge System (MACS), zone two to zone six, propelling charge. This test marked the first time a MACS zone 6 was fired from the M777 howitzer. Previously, the top charge fired was a MACS zone 5." The modification added six feet to the cannon while limiting the increase in overall system weight to less than 1,000 pounds. The total length of the tube increased the chamber volume as well as the rifling length. That, in combination with the additional increment of legacy propellant (MACS zone 6), resulted in an increase in range of several kilometers. "We were able to push the round harder for longer, so it goes faster and further," said David Bound, M777ER Team Lead. "Think of it like a guy with a really long arm. He can hold a ball longer and throw it faster than a guy with a really short arm. So we just integrated that longer 'arm' onto the howitzer so that the same bullet could get acted on longer and quicker. That in turn means more range," said Bound. "The main point of the test was to build confidence," said Bound "that's not even the best range increase we can get, but there were some doubts that we could even go that far on the system."

Project Manager Towed Artillery Systems and ARDEC are using an incremental approach to increasing the range of the M777A2 howitzer. The ultimate goal of the program is to demonstrate a maximum range of 70KM while minimizing the cost and modifications to the

weapon platform. The Army's Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) program is investigating and developing technology to extend the range of the Army's 155mm self-propelled howitzer. The M777ER program is integrating the ERCA technology onto the towed howitzer platform. Initially, a non-firing, mobility platform was developed with an extended range cannon tube. The mobility trials successfully demonstrated that an M777ER howitzer could be towed behind its current prime mover with little modifications. Upon successful completion of mobility trials, a firing demonstrator was created using the current 39 calibre cannon without a muzzle brake. The 39 calibre demonstrator put similar stress on the systems structures as a 55 caliber cannon with a muzzle brake. The test results of the 39 calibre demonstrator were used to validate engineering design models for the objective extended range weapon. The latest configuration of the M777ER weapon integrated a 55 calibre cannon tube onto the weapon platform. The cannon tube was manufactured at the Army's Watervliet Arsenal. The firings at Yuma in November 2016 marked the latest success in the M777ER program.

The engineers have planned additional incremental improvements with several demonstrations over the next few years. "We're not going to do all of our design work in a vacuum and show up in five years with a system the user hasn't seen before," said Bound. "The latest test at Yuma was one of those steps. Several marines and soldiers were at Yuma in November to witness the firings," said Bound. "I think they are all very happy and impressed with the fact that the M777ER did what it did so quickly and they are definitely excited to see the next step, which should be around July 2017. "We are taking a crawl, walk, run approach to keep the user involved through the whole process," said McFadzean. "Too many times we do a project like this and we think we know what they [the user] want. If we have them involved throughout the process it allows us to make the system more suitable to fit their needs," said Bound. The engineers thought weight would be a limiting factor, but it was not. "It actually looks like the strength of the gun will be our limiting factor, which means we can design the M777ER to its engineering limit. Knowing the engineering limits of the system coupled with input from the user will allow designers to optimize the objective system," said Bound. "The latest test is certainly an intermediate step. We saw a few different outcomes then we expected to see. For example, the gun is very light so it moves when it shoots especially at low angles but we did not expect to see it move as much as it did. That wasn't even on our radar as an outcome of the test. One thing we expected to see and didn't was an increase in tube whip, the bouncing of the cannon tube after firing, but it appears the elevation system can lift all that additional weight and still hold the tube steady," said Bound.

"Another concern we are dealing with is the blast over pressure," said McFadzean. "When the weapon is fired, it's like setting off a very large firecracker. There is a blast wave that comes out of the muzzle. The muzzle brake, which is located at the end of the cannon tube, takes that energy of the extra propellant gases and redirects them backward so that it helps slow down the tube during recoil," said Bound. "Think of it like a sail on the end of the cannon tube that's catching all of that blast to slow the gun down." "Unfortunately, this redirects all that energy back at the crew and, if we redirect it too much, we hit the crew with a large blast wave that can hurt them. To reduce the impact on the crew, the engineers at Benet Laboratories are designing

a muzzle brake that gets us the efficiency we require while keeping the crew safe and out of the way of all the redirected energy," said Bound. "Testing to date has been done with legacy ammunition which is what the soldiers and marines currently use every day. ERCA is also designing a new rocket assistant projectile and a new super charge," Bound added. "The next step is to see if the M777ER platform can take the force from the new ammunition since we would be going from a 7 kilometer increase in range to a 40 km increase in range. Once we prove that we can actually do this, a user evaluation will be conducted and feedback on any other modifications will be solicited. This can be expected around July of fiscal year 18," said Bound. The M777ER program is a collaborative effort between PEO Ammunition, PM TAS and ARDEC. ARDEC's role is to provide the engineering to push the system to its limit to maximize range. The job of Program Manager Towed Artillery Systems is to work with the Soldiers, Marines and ARDEC to refine the systems requirement to make sure user expectations are met.

Russian Navy Visits Philippines

As Duterte tightens ties with US foes.

Manual Mogato, Reuters, April 20, 2017 (Photo Credit: Romeo Ranoco/Reuters)

MANILA — Russian navy vessels arrived in the Philippines on Thursday for joint exercises as part of a drive for new security ties under President Rodrigo Duterte's revamped foreign policy of courting the traditional foes of Manila's top ally, Washington. The guided-missile cruiser Varyag, accompanied by the fuel tanker ship, Pechenge, are on a four-day goodwill visit to the Philippines, the second port call by Russian warships in three months.



Russian Navy Commanding Officer Captain Alexsei Ulyanenko, of the guided missile cruiser Varyag, answers questions during a news briefing upon their arrival at Pier 15, South Harbor, Manila, April 20, 2017 for a goodwill visit to the Philippines. Photo Credit: Romeo Ranoco/Reuters

The move is part of what Duterte describes as a pursuit of a constitutionally mandated "independent foreign policy." He has made no secret of his grudge against the United States and has made befriending Russia and China the priority of his diversification drive. Captain Lued Lincuna, director of the Philippine navy's public affairs, said the Philippines hoped to learn from the Russians during training activities and a demonstration of advanced equipment and weapons systems. The schedule includes training and sports activities with the flagship vessel of the Russian Pacific fleet, plus a Russian concert in a park. Russian commander Captain Alexsei Ulyanenko said the port call would make a "significant contribution" to strengthening relations and maintaining stability in the region.

Moscow wants to help Manila combat extremism and piracy, stepping up cooperation and training in areas where the Philippines has traditionally worked closely with its former colonial master the United States. The relationship is expected to develop further next month

when Duterte and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin witness the signing of defense agreements in Moscow. When Duterte met Putin for the first-time last year, the Philippine leader spoke at length about what he called US "hypocrisy". Duterte has instructed his defense minister to look into how the Philippines could acquire modern military equipment from Russia, like drones, night-vision gear, sniper rifles, and even helicopters.

New Hunter, Killer Platform Undergoes Testing at MFIX 2017

By Monica K. Guthrie April 13, 2017



The Hunter (right) and Killer vehicles drive up a road toward the experimentation area of the Maneuver Fires Integrated Experiment (MFIX), April 3, at Fort Sill. (Photo Credit: Monica K. Guthrie)

FORT SILL, Okla. -- As technology advances, so too does the need for Soldiers to be able to multitask without forfeiting their primary duty. With new multi-domain platforms, the Army hopes to give Soldiers the equipment to handle the added responsibility. One such new platform, called "Hunter" and "Killer," is undergoing testing during the 2017 Maneuver Fires Integrated Experiment (MFIX) from April 3 to 13, here at Fort Sill. The vehicles resemble a dune buggy -- a large-wheeled vehicle designed for various types of terrain. But the Hunter and Killer are also designed to track aircraft, perform three-dimensional fires targeting and provide other capabilities. The vehicles are modular by design, meaning developers can take pieces from other systems and combine them on a single platform. The intent is to make parts interchangeable, according to Scott Patton, science and technology strategist for the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) battlefield operating systems suites team.

However, this system, like many others experimented on at MFIX, is only in its infancy. The Hunter and Killer vehicles were just a concept on a PowerPoint slide back in August and September of 2016, according to Patton, who helped design the Hunter and Killer. "We came from the last MFIX and a lot of the feedback we got was, 'Hey we love [counter-UAV mobile integrated capabilities], and we like the dismounted kit, but how do you move it?'" Patton said. "How do you airdrop it? Can we move it somewhere rapidly for the light fighters?" So we took that challenge, went back to the lab and came up with a design, and we got the vehicles to them in October." Patton said the vehicles are designed with units like the 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne in mind. He hopes the design will prove to be air mobile on helicopters with the ability to be airdropped. For forward observers, Soldiers who advance to the enemy's edge and sometimes beyond, technological advances mean new risks and new responsibilities. In addition to their primary duties of gathering intelligence and relaying it back, they may now be called upon to perform precision fires. With the increasing use of unmanned aerial vehicles, they may be asked to intercept UAVs on the battlefield. With all these challenges in mind, the designers of the Hunter and Killer are experimenting during MFIX 2017 with the platform's ability to operate with minimal human instruction. "We want to see how we can automate the software to reduce the task-saturation of the Soldier," Patton said. "We want to reduce their workload. We

want [Soldiers] just to be forward observers. If they have to get into these other domains, they can do it for a minute or two, let the software do the thinking for them, and then they go back to their domain."

The platform is meant to fight in multiple domains. For land, the Hunter platform could call precision fires in an automated fashion, and for air Soldiers could use the platform to communicate with an aircraft for support. When performing for maritime, a forward observer could call for an attack from a ship to a target. The Killer platform adds the ability to fight in the cyber and space domains. A Soldier could request a cyber call to disrupt communications between a UAV and its operator. Soldiers would also be able to call on space-based capabilities. During MFI 2017, Patton said, the users and testers of the platform are contractors, but there are plans to put a product in Soldiers' hands by 2018. "This is just the first stage of the experiment and it's also the first stage of the counter-UAV," Patton said. "We also want to give the Soldier options based on [rules of engagement]. "What happens in one theater will be different in another theater, and the rules of engagement may be different. We want to be able to plug those ROEs in -- what they can do, what they can automate -- and then put the human in the loop when necessary. That's the objective. We're not there yet."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Follow the war diary entries of 100 years ago on our What's New page - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new>

The Museum has created a new YouTube page and we've linked videos over to the yearbook on the following pages:

1962 Visit of the Master Gunner, St James Park, General Sir Robert Mansergh GCB KBE MC. <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1940.html>

1970 Mary Hill Exercise <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1970.html> (actually at Albert Head)

1981 Yakima MILCON Exercise <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1981.html>

2004 Remembrance Day parade <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2004.html>

2010 Freedom of the City Parade <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2010.html>

2015 Remembrance Day Salute <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2015.html>

2017 Steveston site of the World War II examination Battery <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2017.html>

We're also adding names to the nominal roll and uploading them to the website Check out the A's <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---a.html> and

B's <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---b.html>

Don't forget the Beer Call 28 April at 1800 Hours at Jimmy Mac Pub, 19935 96 Avenue, Langley. RSVP on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1882945338629576/>

I'm always looking for more stories and pictures!_Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com



Who Is It

Last Week: HMS Fife, with HMS Glamorgan, paid a courtesy visit to Vancouver in May, 1968, firing the customary 21-gun salute. The 15th Field Regiment standing by at Brockton Point to return the salute.

This Week: Technology has certainly come a long way since our brave army first took to the

field to thrash our enemies. The plucky Canadiens of the Ancien Regime probably had two technological items in their kit: their muskets, and their pipes. Along came the Industrial Revolution, and more and more complicated items came and went. As a point of interest, our little museum has a collection of slide rules from the 1970s and earlier. Most young soldiers look at them in complete puzzlement, and must have their use laboriously explained by patient museum staff, some of whom weren't very good at maths to begin with.



Well, maybe you can laboriously explain what this device is? Found amongst the vast collection of photos taken by our late founder, Vic Stevenson, this shot shows a thing, large, khaki or green, with dials and stuff, like, totally (as my students were wont to say). Its ultimate use is obviously to keep us free from evil dictators and despots, but how exactly was it used? Your erudite answers may be sent to the long-suffering editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com, or to the author, John Redmond

(johnd.redmond@telus.net). Thanks for playing the game.

From the 'Punitary'

What is a computer's favorite food? Microchips.

Murphy's Other Laws

You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.

Quotable Quotes

A gentleman is one who never hurts anyone's feelings unintentionally. *Oscar Wilde*

April Lunch

Taste of Ukraine



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, April 27, 2017
- 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 April 17, 2017)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail Charlotte Yen at corporate@hplaw.ca
(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 Monday, April 17, 2017

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: May 25, 2017

We're Going...

Are YOU?



VIMY
1917 - 2017

Event: The 2017 British Columbia Army Gala
Date: Saturday, May 6th, 2017
Location: The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Armoury
Dress: Mess Kit or Black Tie, Evening Gown
Tickets: Website/Facebook details here

For more information, go to the Gala website: -
<http://bcarmygala.ca/#about-marquee>

15th Field Artillery Regiment Change of Command



The Commanding Officer
and
all ranks of

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment,
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

request the pleasure of your company at the

Change of Command ceremony

between

Lieutenant-Colonel Brent Purcell, CD

and

Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Lajoie, CD

To be held on

13 May 2017, at 13:00 hours

At

Gun #1 Museum of Anthropology UBC 4th Avenue, Vancouver BC.

Guests are asked to be seated by 12:30 hours

(In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be held at Bessborough Armoury,
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C .V6J 2C7).

Reception to follow in the 15th Fd Regt, RCA Officers' Mess
in Bessborough Armoury.

Dress:

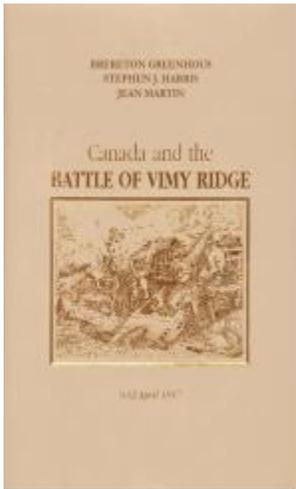
CF Mbrs- DEU No.1A (Medals)

Civilian- Business attire

RSVP

Richard.Jones6@forces.gc.ca

FREE Vimy Ridge Book



Canada and the BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE by Brereton Greenhous, Stephen J. Harris and Jean Martin first printed in 2007 is now available online FREE, courtesy of DND and DHH. To get a copy go to:- www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/pub/boo-bro/vimy/doc/vimy-eng.pdf

Afghan LAV Memorial



AFGHAN LAV MEMORIAL

All, please pass onto your Afghan Vets, that there will be a LAV unveiling and dedication at the Vancouver Garrison, Seaforth Armoury

First & Burrard St., Vancouver

Saturday May 6th

1:15pm

Reception to follow in the Seaforth Officers Mess