



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 26, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess holds weekly lunches, serving a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch.

The dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Your guests are always welcome but don't forget to tell them about dress requirements BEFORE they come.

World War 2 - November 1940

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

May 19th: The Panzers start pushing forward again in France, as the British first discuss the possibility of evacuating the BEF.

May 20th: The Panzers lunge forward again and Guderian's XIX Corps drives a 30 km wide corridor to the Channel by way of Amiens, Abbeville and Noyelles. Churchill alerts the Royal Navy and instructs them to rapidly prepare for an evacuation. Their government may have withdrawn into "exile and many of its soldiers melted away to their homes rather than surrender, but many Dutchmen are far too stubborn to easily accept defeat. Colonel Jonkheer Pieter Jacob "Piet" Six is one of them. Slowly and carefully he starts to knit together the Ordedienst ("Order Service") among former officers and officer cadets. German intelligence will snap up many Dutch Resistance networks during the five year occupation, but will never get to core of the Ordedienst. After the Liberation, Colonel Jonkheer Six receives the Military Order of William, the oldest and highest award the Dutch can bestow.

May 21st: Rommel's 7th Panzer Division and the "accompanying SS-Regiment are badly rattled by a British counterattack until the Divisional 88mm Anti-Aircraft guns start potting the Matilda tanks; meanwhile French command relationships are in mid-shakeup and their chance for a better counterattack is fumbled. Admiral Raeder "first mentions the possibility of invading Britain to Hitler. Just north of Tournai in Belgium Lance Corporal Harry Nicholls of the Grenadier Guards ignores his wounds, and leads his section in a counter-attack; knocking out three machineguns and fighting against German infantry until out of ammunition. "with the ribbon of his Victoria Cross by the German commandant of his POW camp.

May 22nd: The Belgian Army withdraws to Lys, while the German panzer force re-orients itself towards Calais and Boulogne. Churchill is in Paris, urging a counterattack, but the French seem incapable of mounting one. Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of Britain's own Blackshirt movement, is arrested in the UK. British code-breakers at Bletchley Park break the Luftwaffe's 'Red' Cipher in their first major breakthrough in cracking the German's Enigma code system.

May 23rd: Rundstedt orders his tank forces to halt even as 2nd Panzer attacks Boulogne and the British evacuate Arras.

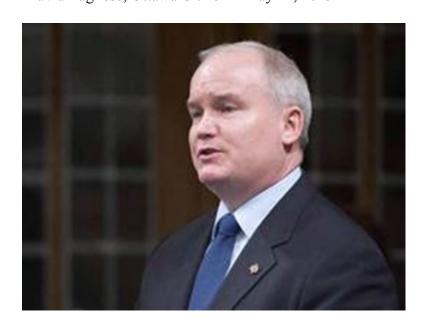
May 24th: Hitler confirms Rundstedt's halt order, even as the British evacuate 5000 men from beleaguered Boulogne and the trapped northern Army Group starts to reorient its defences. The British and French decide to leave Norway after they achieve the capture of Narvik – although they finally have stabilized the front here and fighter aircraft have been flown in to Bardufoss.

May 25th: Belgian troops are driven out of Menin and Lord Gort – fed up with vague French promises of a counter-attack – gives up any thought of concerted action with them. Boulogne falls to the Germans.

May 26th: The Belgians are collapsing, the French are dithering, and the British fall back on Dunkirk where an evacuation will begin this evening. Over 850 vessels will participate in the evacuation from large ocean-going ships to tiny open-cockpit sailboats. German aircraft sink the cruiser HMS Curlew off Norway. General Ironside becomes Chief of Home Defence Forces, while Sir John Dill replaces him as Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

May 27th: It is a close run thing, but British troops in Lille slip out of encirclement and head north; only 8,000 men are lifted out of Dunkirk today. The Allied assault on Narvik begins.

Afghan War Hero Faces Uphill Battle With VAC to Receive Benefits David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen May 21, 2015



Minister of Veterans Affairs Erin O'Toole responds to a question during Question Period in the House of Commons Monday March 9, 2015 in Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyld

Master Corporal Collin Ryan Fitzgerald was awarded the Medal of Military Valour in 2006. Here is what the government said at the time: *Master Corporal Fitzgerald deployed with 5 Platoon, B Company, 1 PPCLI Battle Group in Afghanistan. He is recognized for outstanding selfless and valiant actions carried out on May 24, 2006, during an ongoing enemy ambush*

involving intense, accurate enemy fire. Master Corporal Fitzgerald repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire by entering and re-entering a burning platoon vehicle and successfully driving it off the roadway, permitting the remaining vehicles trapped in the enemy zone to break free. Master Corporal Fitzgerald's courageous and completely selfless actions were instrumental to his platoon's successful egress and undoubtedly contributed to saving the lives of his fellow platoon members.

Such courageous and completely selfless actions as the government pointed out. But hey, that was then...and this is now..... Murray Brewster of the Canadian Press writes the latest about what the government is saying about the retired master corporal: A decorated Canadian soldier who was released from the military for severe post-traumatic stress disorder has since been assessed by Veterans Affairs as having simple anxiety, making access to benefits and services more difficult. Former Master Corporal Collin Fitzgerald, who was awarded the Military Medal of Valour in the killing fields of Kandahar, said he was floored by the determination, which came as he sought benefits following his career in the infantry. Fitzgerald's plight underscores a frequent disconnect between National Defence and Veterans Affairs as they transition soldiers into civilian life — a quandary military ombudsman Gary Walbourne highlighted last spring. Walbourne said it should be National Defence doctors who establish why a soldier is being medically released. Many ex-soldiers, including Fitzgerald, have faced a struggle for benefits once Veterans Affairs either reviews their medical files or obtains a conflicting medical opinion on whether the injuries are service-related.

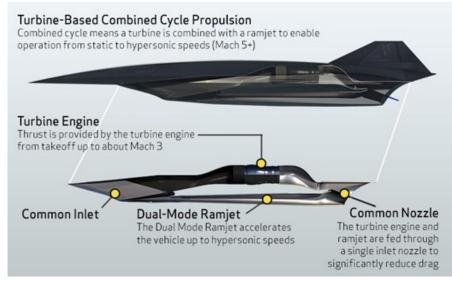
Fitzgerald, whose bravery in rescuing fellow soldiers in 2006 made him an important symbol within the army, said retired General Walt Natynczyk took a personal interest in him while he was still CDS. He said Natynczyk has also stayed in touch and has been helpful since becoming deputy minister at Veterans Affairs. "I worry about all the guys out there who don't have a Gen. Natynczyk watching out for them," Fitzgerald told The Canadian Press in a recent interview. Martin Magnan, a spokesman for Veterans Affairs Minister Erin O'Toole, said he's unable to comment on individual cases. Fitzgerald said he faced delays in processing all four of his claims before Veterans Affairs, but noted that since being appointed a new case manager last year, his files now seem to be moving along. "I know guys that just get fed up dealing with them that it just isn't worth the time," Fitzgerald said. "It ends up eating up so much of your time fighting with these guys. It's like an insurance company, and it's wrong." While not commenting on the Fitzgerald case, department spokeswoman Janice Summerby said the department does accept the diagnosis of military doctors, but was not specific about the caveats. But the legislation governing Veterans Affairs obligates the department to do its own assessment. The department has been under fire for having too few case managers and overworking the ones they have — something Veterans Affairs Minister Erin O'Toole has attempted to remedy with additional hiring. Fitzgerald didn't offer an opinion on how the transition issue could be fixed, saying he was concentrating on his own health and carrying on with his life, which has included a couple of recent brushes with the law. He said he's been able to return to school with the help of Veterans Affairs programs, but it was a long and frustrating process. The return to classes has also led to volunteering with at-risk youth. O'Toole said the disconnect between Veterans Affairs and what military doctors are saying can be dealt with by having departmental staff more involved in the decision-making earlier in the process at operational stress injury clinics.

Meet the SR-72

In 1976, U.S. Air Force SR-71 Blackbird crews flew from New York to London in less than two hours, reaching speeds exceeding Mach 3 and setting world records that have held up for nearly four decades. But those world records may not stay unbroken for long. That's because today, at the birthplace of the Blackbird – Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works® – engineers are developing a hypersonic aircraft that will go twice the speed of the SR-71. It's called



the SR-72. The SR-71 was developed using 20th century technology. It was envisioned with slide rules and paper. It wasn't managed by millions of lines of software code. And it wasn't powered by computer chips. All that changes with the SR-72. Envisioned as an unmanned aircraft, the SR-72 would fly at speeds up to Mach 6, or six times the speed of sound. At this speed, the aircraft would be so fast, an adversary would have no time to react or hide. "Hypersonic aircraft, coupled with hypersonic missiles, could penetrate denied airspace and strike at nearly any location across a continent in less than an hour," said Brad Leland, Lockheed Martin program manager, Hypersonics. "Speed is the next aviation advancement to counter emerging threats in the next several decades. The technology would be a game-changer in theater, similar to how stealth is changing the battlespace today."



A hypersonic plane does not have to be an expensive, distant possibility. In fact, an SR-72 could be operational by 2030. For the past several years, Lockheed Martin Skunk Works® has been working with Aerojet Rocketdyne to develop a method to integrate an off-the-shelf turbine with a supersonic combustion ramjet air breathing jet engine to power the aircraft from standstill to Mach 6. The result is the SR-72 that *Aviation Week* has dubbed "son of Blackbird," and integrated engine and

airframe that is optimized at the system level for high performance and affordability.

SR-72 is not the first hypersonic Skunk Works® aircraft. In partnership with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, engineers developed the rocket-launched Falcon Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2 (HTV-2). The HTV-2 research and development project was designed to collect data on three technical challenges of hypersonic flight: aerodynamics; aerothermal effects; and guidance, navigation and control. The SR-72's design incorporates lessons learned from the HTV-2, which flew to a top speed of Mach 20, or 13,000 mph, with a surface temperature of 3500°F. A hypersonic aircraft will be a game changer.

National Advanced Placement Prior Learning Program

BURNABY, BC, May 22, 2015 /CNW/

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Minister of Employment and Social Development, along with Dan Albas, Member of Parliament for Okanagan–Coquihalla, announced an investment to help evaluate and recognize the skills and expertise of former and current members of the Canadian military, so they can get the right training for a civilian job. This successful program from the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) will also be expanded to other locations across Canada, including the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (Edmonton), Fanshawe College (London), triOS College (locations across Southern Ontario) and Memorial University (St. John's). Former and current members of the Canadian military, such as Veterans and reservists, often face many barriers to finding a civilian job, including getting the reguired credential recognition of the skills and experience they achieved in the military. To recognize the education and work experience that they have acquired during their military career, BCIT has developed an education placement and prior-learning approach to help assess their skills and experience in order to establish credits for BCIT programs. As a result of this project, more former and current members of the Canadian military will get credential recognition for their valued military experience in the skilled trades, health sciences and engineering, so they can get a job in their field.

Minister Poilievre also took the opportunity to speak about Economic Action Plan 2015, which includes other measures to support credential recognition, students and apprentices, including federal support for apprenticeship harmonization, expansion of the Canada Student Grant for short duration programs like skilled trades, and promotion of Blue Seal certification across Canada to encourage more skilled tradespeople to start or expand their own businesses and thereby, increase apprenticeship opportunities. Additionally, he highlighted how strong families and good jobs go hand in hand, sharing important information about the Government's Family Tax Cuts and Benefits. To help hard-working families, the Government is enhancing the Universal Child Care Benefit, introducing the Family Tax Cut and increasing the Child Care Expenses Deduction and the Children's Fitness Tax Credit.

Ouick Facts

- The British Columbia Institute of Technology will receive \$830,000 to launch the National Advanced Placement and Prior Learning Program (N-APPL) for military Veterans project.
- Former and current members of the Canadian military will be able to receive advanced placement into programs across Canada, so that they can enter the labour market more quickly using the skills they have acquired in the military.
- BCIT proposes their project will help support all military members in Canada, including Veterans and non-commissioned members:
 - o There are approximately 70,500 regular and reserve members in the military in Canada, of which 59,000 are non-commissioned members.
 - o Canada has a large Veteran population, representing approximately 600,000 individuals, with an average of 9,000 additional Veterans released each year. Two-thirds of the population is of working age (average age 56), with a significant number having completed post-secondary education.
 - o According to research completed by BCIT, this population group is well adapted to the civilian labour market. Seventy-three percent are employed, with the majority satisfied or

very satisfied with their civilian employment and their financial situation, while at least six percent are unemployed and looking for work. Since 2009, the BCIT Legion Military Skills Conversion Program has assisted 400 former and current members of the Canadian military. In the past three years, over 40 former Canadian military members have graduated from BCIT with a diploma or a degree. Currently, over 80 former and current members of the Canadian military are actively pursuing education or training at BCIT through the Legion Program.

Unionize the Military (?)

If we trust our police and firefighters to do their duty while belonging to a collective association, why not our soldiers, sailors and air personnel?

It's an idea that deserves serious consideration, especially in light of the failure of Canada's military brass to properly deal with issues such as care of its sick and wounded, harassment of personnel, and sexual assault: Should our military be allowed to form a professional association that will advocate for its members, assist and advise soldiers with any grievances that they may have, and bargain collectively with government to improve the conditions of service for all men and women in uniform? Military associations with collective bargaining rights have, for decades, been a staple among many of our European NATO allies such as Germany, Belgium, Norway and the Netherlands. Most recently, French military personnel won the right to form an association, though the French government fell short of granting their soldiers full collective privileges. No doubt, the thought of an association of uniformed and serving Canadian military personnel bargaining for better service conditions will raise a few worried eyebrows—much like women in combat roles did 25 years ago. Yet the idea is not as foreign to the Canadian security establishment as one might initially think.

From the Canadian Border Services Agency to the Canadian Coast Guard to our municipal police and fire services, to various employees of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Communication Security Establishment, our security personnel carry out their duties in the defence of Canada and Canadians as members of a unionized workplace. Soon to be added to the extensive list of union shops in Canada's security and defence network is the RCMP which, in a recent Supreme Court ruling, won the right to organize. And though, for obvious reasons, many of these services may not have the right to strike, they still maintain the right to form an association, bargain collectively, and advocate on behalf of their fellow members. If we trust our police, firefighters, coast guard personnel and border guards to organize and bargain for better working conditions and benefits, why then do we still find it necessary to deny our army, navy and air force personnel the same right?

It is a question that will inevitably be asked by an increasingly better educated and informed military. "In the decades ahead, Canada, like most advanced democracies, will find it increasingly difficult to compete on the open market to recruit and retain personnel to serve in the military," says retired colonel and lawyer Michel Drapeau. "Given that the rank and file (and their spouses) are increasingly more sophisticated and educated, they will want to have a say in their conditions of service. At present, the individual has no voice whatsoever; it is all totally one-sided." For retired air force captain and disabled veteran advocate Sean Bruyea, an organized military association protecting its members would help protect the military's "most valuable operational resource" — its serving members. "Past and present military thinkers have all told us that the individual soldier is the greatest resource. Yet the interests of this greatest re-

source are placed last behind all other political and bureaucratic concerns. A military association or union would place these interests on an equal footing." Probably the largest criticism of a Canadian military association is that it would devalue leadership and compromise discipline, thus preventing the military from carrying out combat operations. Drapeau insists that this is not what a military association is about. "An association of military personnel would not be involved in these operational areas. They would respect the need for discipline as well as the need for the unity of command which provides a military force with the required command and control mechanisms to successfully conduct military operations."

Instead, according to Drapeau, the focus of an association would be on personnel matters such as annuities and pensions, health and dental care, compensation and benefits, harassment, grievances where "military personnel should enjoy a level of support and benefits at least equal to that provided to a member of civil society or other sectors of the general public service." I don't think anyone in the military and veteran community would oppose our men and women in uniform having the right to comparable pay and benefits to those of other members of the public service. Yet, when the u-word comes up as a possible long-term solution, it is invariably met with the argument that it would compromise the high standards of leadership that all officers and non-commissioned officers are rigorously required to uphold. "That is not the case in Europe, that is not the case in industry and that is not the case in the public service," says Drapeau. "Good leaders are sought everywhere, and if you happen to be a good leader, then the association won't come and play in your neck of the woods; they will only represent such matters as pay and benefits and pension issues."

In fact, according to Bruyea, a military union would reinforce effective leadership. "Leadership would have to become more caring through awareness and education from this new equal partner. Leadership would necessarily become stronger due to the need to more justly balance personal concerns with political interests, bureaucratic demands and operational needs." In fact, as I have personally observed as a union steward in my current employment, only weak, self-serving and destructively career-obsessed leaders feel threatened by a unionized workplace. The military would be no different. But maybe a unionized military need never be considered if we still honestly believe those who serve our military as infantry soldiers, naval combat information operators, airborne electronic sensor operators and communicator research operators, to name only a few, are simple mindless automatons who cannot be trusted with a legal collective stake in their own welfare and career progression. Our men and women in uniform, however, may perceive their self-worth quite differently.

Happy Artillery Day



The Senior Serving Gunner and the Colonel Commandant wish All Ranks, the Regimental Family and Friends of the Regiment, a Happy Artillery Day.

Who is it?

Last Week: The 43rd worked on the dykes in the Haney- Pitt Meadows area so this picture was probably taken in that area, near the river. The first vehicle is a bus, the next two appear to be International Harvester 3 ton Stake trucks and the last one is a 30cwt CMP Chev or Ford cargo truck.



This Week: While having my hair cut recently, my Kurdish female barber regaled me with blood-curdling tales of what she would do to any ISIS fighter she could get her hands on, providing they paid for the haircut first, I assume. One thing the ISIS terrorists hate the most is meeting with Peshmerga (Kurdish) women fighters, such as my barber wishes she were. The reason is that, should the women be better shots than the evil "Daesh" (their acronym in Arabic), the latter won't get to Paradise. Well, women have had a long and distinguished history in the armed forces of the Commonwealth and the former Empire, with Canadian women prominent. In the very early days, regiments were allowed a certain number of women, usually the wives of sergeants, to accompany them on active service. Some women, frustrated at that restriction, joined the ranks, disguised as the other gender. How many is unknown, but several were found out after having been wounded.



Upon the formation of the Canadian Women's Army Corps, it was no longer necessary for females to hide their gender, although I remember one CWAC sergeant who did a very good job of doing so. That certainly can't be said of these four lasses leaning against what appears to be an RCCS jeep. The photo was donated to our museum in 1985, but obviously, given that the CWAC no longer existed then, is from much earlier. So, the questions are, dear sleuths: who are these women warriors, what year was the photo taken, and where? Are you one of them? For a picture you can enlarge email: bob.mugford@shaw.ca Assumptions, guesses and knowledgeable

answers can be sent to the editor, or the author, John Redmond (johnd. redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitentary'

Why did the bee get married? Because he found his honey.

Murphy's other Laws

The objective (or target) is always just off the edge of the map you have.

Quotable Quotes

The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm. - *Aldous Huxley*

WEST VANCOUVER UNITED CHURCH presents

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

35th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

CELEBRATING CANADIAN SPRING with SONGS of CANADA

Saturday, May 30, 7:30pm at WEST VANCOUVER UNITED CHURCH with the W.V. School District Women's Choir



TICKETS \$27 Adult | \$25 Senior | \$10 Student with I.D.

W.V. United Church Office, 2062 Esquimalt, 604-922-9171

or Call 604-878-1190 or from any VWMC Member



Churchill Society of British Columbia PATRON: RANDOLPH CHURCHILL

PRESENTS A SEMINAR:

"China: The Paradox of the Western Pacific and the Rise of the Military"

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Please join us on Thursday, June 25, 2015 to welcome our guest speakers Lew House and James Boutilier. This event will be in a different format from our Evenings With Churchill. The Seminar will commence at 5:00 p.m., include a light dinner and conclude by 8:00 p.m. The Seminar will focus on China's activities and capabilities including its aggression in the South China Sea, its ballistic missile program and the reaction of the ASEAN countries. The initial presentation will be made by Lew House of Louisville, Colorado.



Lew House holds a Master of Physics (Nuclear) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, a Ph.D. in Astro-Geophysics from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado and an M.A. in Military Studies from American University in Manassas, Virginia. Lew worked as a physicist at the Hanford Atomic Product Operations in Richland, Washington. His research, based on Admiral Rickover's project for the first nuclear submarine reactor, served as a Master's thesis for Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute. Mr. House, as Senior Scientist, served as NASA Principal Investigator in developing and managing the telescope on the NASA Solar Maximum Mission Satellite studying solar mass ejections. He served as NASA Principal Investigator on the Solar Maximum Repair Mission that performed the first in-space repair mission.

Mr. House has taught graduate courses in astrophysics and quantum physics. He has conducted joint research modeling the "Behavioral Power' of nation states. Mr. House is the President of the Rocky Mountain Churchillians and lectures on a variety of topics on Winston Churchill. He is a member of the Society for Military History and the U.S. Naval Institute. Lew maintains his interest in geopolitics, military affairs, history, climate change, wargaming, flight simulation and builds his own high performance PC's.

Commentary, particularly from the Canadian point of view, will be given by James Boutilier, Asia-Pacific Policy Advisor, Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters.



Dr. James Boutilier is the Special Advisor (Policy) at Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt, British Columbia. He is responsible for advising the Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific on matters of defence and foreign policy and maritime security in the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to his appointment at MARPAC, Dr. Boutilier spent twenty-four years on staff at the Royal Roads Military College in Victoria as Head of the History Department and then as Dean of Arts. During his time at RRMC, he was instrumental in establishing the military and strategic studies degree program at the college and taught courses on naval history, contemporary Asia, the history of the Pacific, and strategic issues. He is also an adjunct professor of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria and the President of the Maritime Awards Society of Canada.



Dr. Boutilier was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and attended Dalhousie University (BA History: 1960), McMaster University (MA History: 1962), and the University of London (PhD History: 1969). Dr. Boutilier served in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve from 1956 to 1964 as a navigating officer and in the same capacity in the Royal Navy Reserve from 1964 to 1969. After completing his time with the RN, Dr. Boutilier taught at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, from 1969 to 1971. Dr. Boutilier's field of expertise is Asia-Pacific defence and security, particularly with regard to maritime issues. He has published widely on international defence and security issues, including RCN in Retrospect (1982), and articles in professional monographs as well as the Asia-Pacific Defence Reporter and Canadian Institute of International Affairs journals. Some of his recent lectures have focused on the Canadian Navy's role in the Asia-Pacific, the new Asian security architecture, Northeast Asian security issues, and the new naval order in Asia.

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2015

Location: UBC Room, The Vancouver Club, 915 Hastings Street West, Vancouver, B.C.

Time: Wine and Cheese starts at 4:30 p.m., Program from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Light Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$50 each for a Member of the Society, spouse, partner or an immediate family member;

\$65 each for a non-Member

The ticket cost includes a light dinner and one beverage ticket per attendee for 1 glass of wine or beer, or for 2 soft drinks. Additional drinks can be purchased from the bar.

Please inform our Administrator, April Accola, of your attendance by email at aprilaccola@hotmail.com, by mailing the attached form, by registering by phone at 778-321-3550 or online at www.winstonchurchillbc.org.

I look forward to seeing you on June 25. Please feel free to send this notice to any interested parties.

Ian E. Marshall, Secretary

Churchill Society of British Columbia

San E. Marslay

Taste of Singapore Curry Lunch



Hosted by:
The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess

Coordinated by: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association



Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015

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 May 20, 2015)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please e-mail

Events@DukeaBear.com

(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 May 20, 2015

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, September 24, 2015