



'The Vancouver Gunners'  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC  
V6J 2C7 [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://www.vancouvergunners.ca)



2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7  
[www.rusivancouver.ca](http://www.rusivancouver.ca)

## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News April 28, 2020

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](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get your copy.

**Newsletter on line.** This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://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 - Lunches suspended until further notice.**

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

**Apr 29** RUSI Vancouver virtual presentation - Canada and the Cold War

**May 06** RUSI Vancouver virtual presentation - Canada and the Cold War

**May 13** RUSI Vancouver virtual presentation - Canada and the Cold War

**Everyone stay safe!!**

## World War 2 – 1945

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

**Apr 29<sup>th</sup>:** Hitler marries Eva Braun; names Admiral Doenitz as his successor and blames Germany for letting him down. In the general tenor of things, Walter Wagner, the Berlin official that married Hitler, is killed as a member of the Volksturm 30 minutes after the ceremony. The last convoy battle of the war occurs (and will last to May 2) as RA-66 passes northern Norway for Murmansk; but 14 U-Boats are no match for 25 escorts and two are sunk. Venice is liberated by 8<sup>th</sup> Army, but Britain's legendary Army has fought its last battle in four years of warfare – the Germans forces in the south surrender in negotiations conducted by Allan Dulles of the OSS and SS General Wolff. Dachau, with 30,000 surviving inmates, is liberated by 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, which also enters Munich today. One stunned GI in Dachau takes a machine gun and fires on some 50 surrendered German soldiers, killing about 30 of them. The mad race to Rangoon continues as 17<sup>th</sup> Indian division closes in on Pegu in the Sittang Valley. A different mission for Allied heavy bomber pilots and one they are happy to have: Air drops of food to German occupied Holland begin and the Germans – under orders from Reichskommissar Seyss-Inquart – are not firing flak at all.

**Apr 30<sup>th</sup>:** Adolph Hitler commits suicide with Eva Braun. The Soviets reach the Reichstag. Japanese attempts to stabilize the Shuri Line fail as US Marines and soldiers make inroads at Maeda and Kochi Ridge. The Allies announce that the strategic bombing offensive is over. Too late, but the first Type XXI fast U-Boat, U.2511 heads out on patrol.

### **May 1945: Victory in Europe**

*“My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole. We were the first, in this ancient island, to draw the sword against tyranny.”* Winston Churchill addressing a celebrating crowd in London on VE Day.

**General:** 24,000 tons of bombs are dumped on Japan this month.

**May 1<sup>st</sup>:** Martin Bormann disappears as Doenitz announces Hitler's death and Goebbels and his wife commit suicide – after poisoning six of their children. The Soviets close in on the last main pockets of resistance in Berlin. US 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Armies halt along the Elbe. Tito's ruffians grab Trieste (which they shall not keep after the war). As Paratroops land at the mouth of the Irrawaddy, the Monsoon begins (two weeks early) in Burma – bringing the mad rush from the north to a soggy halt. Australian troops land on Borneo at Tarakan. Infantry are supposed to screen anti-tank guns, not the other way around but nobody ever seems to have been able to make Sergeant Vasily Kharinaevich Khantaev of the 70<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Brigade accept this. A veteran of frontline combat since August 1942, he insists on wheeling his gun forward and particularly outdoes himself in the Battle for Berlin. Today he knocks out four light armoured vehicles and nine trucks in a one-gun ambush and takes 49 prisoners – and becomes a Hero of the Soviet Union.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** The RAF makes its last raid of the European war as they hit targets in Kiel. Berlin falls to the Soviets, as does Rostock. The only large German formations in contact with the Soviets are trapped in Latvia or are moving west in Austria and Czechoslovakia. Queen Wilhelmina is back on Dutch soil. The British take Lubeck and Wismar and the Canadians take Oldenburg. German troops in Italy start surrendering as their armed MPs guide Allied Units into Trieste, Milan and Turin. While 17<sup>th</sup> Division sloshes into Pegu in the heavy monsoon rains, Operation Dracula – the capture of Rangoon – is soggly carried out although the Japanese have already decamped: Burma is liberated. The Bicol Peninsula on Luzon is secured. The Russians have a weakness for symbolism, and competition is high to plant the Red Banner atop the Reichstag building – which is stuffed full of defenders who comprise some of the most fanatic troops the Germans have. It takes 30 hours of close-quarters combat before the last defenders yield and the fluttering banner atop the building is secure. Marshal Zhukov receives 20 contradictory nominations for the award of Hero of the Soviet Union and resolves not to issue the award to anyone until the fight is reconstructed. The process takes years, but many veterans insist that Lieutenant Alexi Berest surely deserved one for his part in convincing the last defenders to surrender on this day. Lt Berest posthumously becomes a Hero of the Soviet Union in 2002 – 32 years after the middle-aged veteran died while saving a young girl from being killed by a train.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Soviet troops close up to 1<sup>st</sup> US, 2<sup>nd</sup> British, and 9<sup>th</sup> US Armies along the Elbe. In the North, British XII Corps has taken Hamburg while 7<sup>th</sup> US Army takes Innsbruck in Austria. US troops liberate Davao City in the Philippines. The Japanese attempt a major counter-offensive to stabilize the Shuri Line on Okinawa, combining an in-shore amphibious attack of their own with a major assault following an extensive bombardment; off the Island, the escort carrier USS Sangamon is irretrievably damaged in the latest mass kamikaze attack.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>:** Doenitz sends envoys to Montgomery to negotiate the unconditional surrender of German troops in Holland, Scandinavia and northern Germany. Salzburg is liberated by elements of 7<sup>th</sup> Army while Patton's men develop a sudden thirst for Pilsner beer and lunge towards that most blessed of Czech cities. The Japanese counteroffensive on Okinawa fails and the survivors of the attacking forces melt back into the Shuri Line, leaving 6,000 of their own dead behind them.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>:** The Resistance in Prague rises against the SS; Soviet troops take Swinemunde and Peenemunde on the Baltic Coast; Army Group G (mostly in Bavaria and Austria) surrenders to US forces while Admiral Donitz also orders his U-Boats to surrender. British troops arrive in Copenhagen shortly after the Resistance stages a rising. A Japanese fire balloon kills a woman and five children in Oregon – the only known fatalities attributed to these weapons. The US War Department announces that two million men will be demobilized in Europe after Germany surrenders and 400,000 will remain as a garrison – the rest are earmarked for Japan.

## **Reservists Sequestered at Vernon Army Camp**

Army seeking to build force of reliably COVID-free soldiers ready to help vulnerable populations. *Morning Star Staff 22 April 2020*



*LCol Haverstock, Commander of Land Task Force Vancouver Coastal, addresses soldiers from the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, British Columbia Regiment, and 12 Field Ambulance before they deploy to the Vernon Army Camp. Thirty Lower Mainland Reservists will be sequestering themselves at the Vernon Military Camp as of Tuesday, April 21, as the army seeks to build a force of reliably COVID-free soldiers ready to help vulnerable populations.*

*(Bdr Albert Law/39 CBG)*

Vernon's army camp is now home to 30 Reservists from the Lower Mainland. The group is sequestered at the army camp as the Canadian Armed Forces seek to build a force of reliably COVID-free soldiers ready to help vulnerable populations. 39 Canadian Brigade Group made the announcement on its Facebook page Tuesday, April 21. Joint Task Force (Pacific), which leads the military in British Columbia against the COVID-19 pandemic, has already sequestered

sailors on the West Coast aboard ship, meaning crews have operated for at least 14 days without interacting with others. Fourteen days is the maximum observed incubation period for the virus that causes COVID-19. Fourteen days from now, the soldiers sequestered in Vernon will remain in place for two more weeks, as 30 new soldiers rotate behind them into sequestration. If the province or federal government asks, these COVID-free personnel can then be sent into vulnerable populations where they'll be able to render assistance without fear of themselves being vectors for the disease. "Sequestration is an extreme form of isolation," said Col Paul Ursich, commander of the Land Component Command for JTF(P). "Soldiers will have no interaction with family, friends or even colleagues. Their meals will be delivered, and they'll be expected to stay isolated. It will be challenging, but COVID-free soldiers are of immense tactical value."

Neither the provincial nor federal government has made a substantive request for military assistance in BC thus far. But Col Ursich said that could change in a minute. "We don't plan for the best-case scenario, we plan for the worst," he said. "A remote First Nations community or a town with a large elderly population, these are places where we want to be especially sure our help doesn't inadvertently make things worse. Sequestration provides that extra layer of comfort." Today there are almost 830 reservists in BC on full-time service ready to respond to government requests for help in the COVID-19 crisis. These same soldiers, sailors and Rangers are also poised to provide support should natural disasters such as fires or floods threaten their fellow Canadians. It was also announced last week that all summer operations at the Vernon Army Camp would be cancelled in wake of the pandemic.

### **Fake British Money Made by Nazis Sold at Ludlow Auction in 2011**

A group of counterfeit British banknotes made in Nazi Germany during World War II sold for just over £1,000 at a Shropshire auction. *BBC News & Daily Mail 19 August 2011*



*Perfect crime: Karl Markovics as Jewish career criminal Saloman Sorowitsch, seated, and August Diehl as Burger in the Oscar-winning The Counterfeiters*

Adolf Hitler in 1944, was still plotting to win the war. A rare set of fake bank notes Hitler had printed in a bid to ruin the British economy during World War Two sold for just over £1,000 at auction. Hitler hoped the £134 million of counterfeit notes he produced in 'Operation Bernhard' would force a huge hike in inflation and spark a cash crisis if introduced to wartime Britain. He ordered millions of the notes, in £5, £10, £20 and £50 denominations to be printed in 1942. Nazi spies had been ordered to smuggle the cash into



Britain and to flood the economy with the fake money. But Hitler's plan was foiled when British spies got wind of the idea and intercepted the shipment of the notes. The Bank of England first learned of a plot from a spy as early as 1939. It first came across the actual notes in 1943 and declared them 'the most dangerous ever seen.' The initial plan was to destabilize the British economy by dropping the notes from aircraft, but Hermann Goering's Luftwaffe declared it did not have enough planes to deliver the forgeries, and the assets were put in the hands of SS foreign intelligence, which were transferred from SS headquarters to a former hotel near Meran in South Tyrol, Northern Italy. From there they were laundered and used to pay for strategic imports and German secret agents operating in the Allied countries.



*Bullseye: Perfect forgery of a £50 note produced by expert counterfeiters in Germany recovered from a lake in Austria*

As late as the 1940s every banknote issued by the Bank of England was recorded in large leather-bound ledgers, still in the Bank's archives, and clerks first recorded the counterfeits from a British bank in Tangiers. At the war's end the mint notes

still in Germany were dumped in Lake Toplitz together with the printing plates made to produce them after 'Operation Bernhard' was abandoned with just a handful of notes having made it into British circulation. But they were enough for the Bank of England to withdraw all banknotes of £5 and over from circulation after it had designed and printed a new set of paper money. Auctioneer Richard Westwood-Brookes said: 'These notes are extremely rare. 'They never made it into circulation and were part of the batch that were dumped in the lake in 1945. 'They were taken out of the lake by divers but have amazingly stayed in great condition. 'Due to the quality they have been kept in and the fact they are so rare I think they are likely to garner a fair bit of interest. 'They rarely come up for sale and are very rare because most were destroyed.'

The Nazis forced Jewish prisoners, experts in engraving and printing, held at the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp to produce the notes. By the time Sachsenhausen was evacuated in April 1945 the printing press had produced 8,965,080 banknotes with a total value of £134,610,810. The notes are considered among the most perfect counterfeits ever produced, being almost impossible to distinguish from the real currency. Mr Westwood Brookes added: 'It was a completely audacious plot by Hitler and if it had worked it would have been a serious blow to our economy. 'Luckily it did not and luckily for us we managed to capture their agents. 'It is a great story and these notes represent a major triumph for the British intelligence services over the Nazis.' Treasure hunters have been drawn to Lake Toplitz ever since a group of diehard Nazis retreated to the Austrian Alps in the final months of the Second World War. With US troops closing in and Germany on the brink of collapse, they transported a set of wooden boxes

to the lake by horse-drawn wagon and sank them. Nobody knows exactly what was inside. Some believe they contained gold looted by German troops throughout Europe and carried back to Germany. Others that they contain documents showing where assets confiscated from Jewish victims were hidden in Swiss bank accounts. In 1959 a diving team financed by the German magazine Stern retrieved the forged sterling currency of Operation Bernhard hidden in boxes, and a printing press. No gold was found, although it does pop up in the James Bond movie Goldfinger, where Bond hands over an ingot from Lake Toplitz to tempt villain Auric Goldfinger.

## **US Advanced Fire Control System for Its Next-Gen Squad Weapon**

*Matthew Cox, Military.com 21 April 2020*

US Army modernization officials have selected a Wisconsin-based optics firm to make advanced fire-control prototypes capable of equipping the service's Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) with a 1,000-meter laser range finder and a ballistic computer to calculate the bullet's path to the target, according to an April 20 news release from Vortex Optics. The Army's Product Manager Soldier Lethality awarded Vortex an agreement to deliver production-ready prototypes of the NGSW-Fire Control for future Soldier Touch Point evaluations, the release states. The 1-8x30 Active Reticle Fire Control is a variable power, direct-view, first focal plane riflescope -- meaning that the reticle is located in front of the magnification lens to allow the reticle to increase in size as the shooter increases the magnification level. The Vortex system is built around "a revolutionary technology based on many years of internal research and development, along with multiple cooperative development efforts with the Army's [Project Manager] Soldier Weapons," according to the release. "The end result is Active Reticle, which has been proven to increase hit percentage and decrease time to engage during US Army Soldier touchpoints over the last two years," it adds.



*The 1-8x30 Active Reticle Fire Control from Vortex Optics (Vortex Optics)*

The Army released a Prototype Opportunity Notice last spring inviting companies to develop a NGSW Fire Control that "increases the soldier's ability to rapidly engage man-sized targets out to 600 [meters] or greater while

maintaining the ability to conduct Close Quarters Battle," according to the solicitation, posted May 30, 2019, on FedBizOpps.gov. Weapons officials are currently testing NGSW prototypes from General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc., Textron Systems and Sig Sauer Inc. for the final phase of the NGSW effort, which is designed to replace the 5.56mm M4A1 carbine and the M249 squad automatic weapon in close-combat units with automatic rifle and rifle versions chambered for a more powerful 6.8mm round. The Army plans to select a final design for both weapons from a single company in the first quarter of 2022 and begin fielding them to an infantry brigade combat team in the first quarter of 2023. It's unclear whether the

Army has awarded agreements to other optics companies for fire-control prototypes. Vortex officials maintain the prototype's "1km-capable laser rangefinder, state of the art on-board ballistic engine, atmospheric sensor suite, and programmable active matrix micro-display ... delivers a true multi-mission fire control enabling everything from [close-quarter battle] to designated marksmanship at the extents of the NGSW's effective range," according to the release. "For the soldier in the field, that means the freedom to devote their entire focus downrange," Sam Hamilton, chief technical officer at Vortex Optics, said in the release. "End-users will no longer need to leave their field of view to consult separate rangefinders or ballistic calculators, slowing them down and compromising their situational awareness."

## **Century-Old Army Helmet Still Offers the Best Blast Protection**

*Stephen J Thorne February 26, 2020*



*The modern-day US Advanced Combat Helmet is standard issue for American army troops.*

*McGuire Army & Navy*

Scientists have found that the current United States Army helmet provides no better blast protection than its First World War predecessors and, indeed, the vintage French helmet was actually better than the modern American design. The biomedical engineers from Duke University in Durham, NC, hope the results of their study will inform future helmet designs, making them more protective, particularly against shockwaves, known as primary blasts.

“Major improvements made in helmet technology to increase ballistic protection do not provide the same

increase in blast protection,” the study concludes. The four-member research team tested authentic First World War variants from Britain and the United States (whose headwear was known as the Brodie, also worn by Canadian troops), France (Adrian), Germany (*Stahlhelm*), and the current American Advanced Combat Helmet.

*French troops were issued the fabric Kepi at the outset of the war. It was replaced by the Adrian helmet in 1915.*

*IWM-12455*



*The French Adrian helmet performed better than any of the headgear in some measures.*

*Wikimedia*



In what is believed to be the first study of its kind, the helmets were mounted on sensor-equipped dummy heads and aligned with a cylindrical shock tube to simulate an overhead blast. A bare-headed test was also conducted. The team then generated primary blast waves of different magnitudes based on estimated blasts from historical shells. Peak reflected overpressure at the open end of the blast tube was compared to measurements at several head locations. “All helmets provided significant pressure attenuation compared to the no-helmet case,” said their paper, published Feb 13 in the online journal *Plos One*. “The modern variant did not provide more pressure attenuation than the historical helmets, and some historical helmets performed better at certain measurement locations. “The study demonstrates that both historical and current helmets have some primary blast protective capabilities, and that simple design features may improve these capabilities for future helmet systems.”



*The German 1916 Stahlhelm helmet was designed after existing Allied versions were assessed.*

*War Relics*

From the Great War on, military helmets have been designed primarily to protect against shrapnel. More recently, the scientists point out, helmets have included ballistic and blunt trauma protection, but neurotrauma from primary blasts has never been a key concern in helmet design. “Only in recent years has the threat of

direct blast wave impingement on the head—separate from penetrating trauma—been appreciated,” they wrote. Helmets were not standard military equipment when the First World War erupted in 1914. Most headwear at the time consisted of cloth, such as the French Kepi, or leather, like the German *Pickelhaube*. They didn’t protect from blasts, shrapnel or ballistic impacts.

*The British-designed Brodie helmet was designed for effectiveness and mass production and worn by British, American and Canadian troops.*

*RUBYLANE*



Multiple reports of the period estimated that more than half of early-war deaths were the result of shrapnel or artillery shell fragments, often to the head. Steel helmets were deemed to be the solution. France first equipped soldiers with steel helmets in 1915.

They were named for their creator, General August-Louis Adrian. Inventor John L Brodie followed later the same year with a British version that was specifically designed to protect against shrapnel while maintaining a simplicity that was mass-production-friendly. The Germans tested the Allied helmets extensively, then distributed their own *Stahlhelm* (steel helmet) in early 1916.

The new headwear proved reasonably effective at protecting against shrapnel, but not so much against shockwaves, the levels of which were unprecedented and the effects—traumatic brain injury and psychological trauma—little understood. The phenomenon has not subsided. To the contrary, the trend in blast-related casualties in wartime has been upward ever since the 1914-18



conflict. The researchers reference one study that reported 78 per cent of all casualties in Iraq between 2001 and 2005 were caused by explosions. A 2008 study found more than 15 per cent of US infantry returning from Iraq suffered some form of mild traumatic brain injury, known as mTBI, an insidious form of brain trauma that can cause functional brain changes over time. “No current fielded helmet system has been specifically designed for blast protection,” wrote the Duke team, “though careful studies suggest that modern helmets have a degree of blast protective effects.” The issue was thrust into the headlines recently when it was revealed that more than 100 American troops were withdrawn from the Iraq theatre with varying degrees of brain injury caused by an Iranian missile attack on their base in January. Twenty-one of the troops were sent home. The scientists’ contention that TBI and mTBI have been understudied and under-appreciated in the military context for more than a century was brought home when US President Donald Trump dismissed the wounds caused by the Iranian attack as “headaches.” The Duke researchers could find no record of helmet shockwave testing in the scientific literature. They believe their study is “the first to assess the protective capabilities of these historical combat helmets against blast.” “Brain injury due to primary blast was first recognized around the same time these helmets were being developed and primary blast is now a generally recognized mechanism of injury to the brain,” they wrote. “This study is an investigation into whether improvements have been made in combat helmet primary blast protection or if there is a lesson to be learned from these 100-year-old designs.”

The results suggest there is. The blast tests found that, bareheaded, the risk for mild, moderate and severe bleeding of the tissue surrounding the brain was in the 50 per cent range. All helmets subjected to the same blast conditions showed less than 10 per cent risk of moderate bleeding at the crown, with the Adrian helmet coming in at close to one per cent. “Helmets provided more shock wave attenuation at lower pressure levels than at higher pressure levels,” the scientists observed, “suggesting that helmets might play an especially important role in protection against mild primary blast induced brain trauma. “The effect of wearing a helmet, especially for short positive phase durations (0.5–5 milliseconds), is a significant reduction in risk of blast brain injury at the crown of the head for overhead blast scenarios.” The results varied for other parts of the head and ears, depending on the shape of the helmets.



*The German pickelhaube was generally made of leather.*  
*International Military Antiques*

The scientists noted that the French Adrian helmet was more blast-protective than the other helmets, despite the fact it had a lower crown pressure than others and was made with similar but thinner materials as the *Stahlhelm* and Brodie. “This result might stem from the deflector crest along the midline of the helmet,” they said. “Specifically added with overhead shrapnel in mind, this feature...could deflect the shock wave off to the side of the head, rather than allow shockwave impingement onto a more planar surface seen in the other helmets. “The crest also provides an added first layer for shock wave reflection before reflecting a second time off the helmet itself.” Further studies are needed, they said, to see if alterations of the helmets’ shapes or attachments may improve their protective capabilities against blast exposure. “While

ballistic protection provided by helmets has increased significantly since WW I and saved many lives, the results found here suggest that the [Advanced Combat Helmet] did not perform quantitatively or qualitatively better than the historical helmets, and performed worse than the Adrian helmet for overhead primary blast at the crown of the head,” the study found. “In the future, helmet protection against primary blast might be improved by material choice, multiple material layers with different acoustic impedance, or the geometry of the helmet.”

The researchers note that their study focused on an overhead blast scenario. “While this would be an accurate approximation of blasts in trench warfare as in WW I or air bombings of soldiers in the field during major unit action, it would not be as applicable to other cases such as improvised explosive devices used as roadside bombs, a significant cause of injury and death in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.” Nor did the study consider the influences reflective surfaces could have on a blast’s impact. Also, the vintage helmets were more than a century old and, said the team, “their material properties might not be the same as they were originally. “While properties of steel are relatively stable, the helmet linings may have degraded,” they wrote. “However, there is no guarantee that replicas would be identical copies of the original either, so this study stays as true to the original helmets as possible.” The study draws one conclusion with certainty, however: a helmet is better than no helmet in a war zone.

## 15 Fd Society Directors Visit Bernie

On Sunday the members of the Board of Directors of the 15 Field Artillery Regimental Society dropped in on Bernie Rowe, the Society’s Treasurer. They presented him with a Bonsai tree to give him something to worry over and a bottle of good Irish whiskey to see him through watching the tree grow and self isolation for the virus.



*L – R: Don Foster, HLCol 15 Fd and Vice President of the Society; Al DeGenova, HCol 15 Fd and President; Bernie: Bill Rodgers, fmr HCol of 15 Fd and Chair; LCol Brent Purcell fmr CO 15 Fd and Director (Bob Mugford, Secretary, couldn't make it as he was stuck in Port Alberni).*

founder and first treasurer of both the Van Arty Association and the Regimental Society, a member of the CO’s Advisory Board and of the Regimental Museum Society.

## Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

You may have noticed a substantial lack of postings on the website. It's not that I've run off on holidays to some exotic destination. It's actually been a case of being overwhelmed with a substantial quantity of other work that needed to be done. The quarterly Artillery Senate was chaired by the Colonel Commandant on Zoom for the first time. I believe we had 24 participants and it worked very well. We continue to be online for Wednesday and Sunday with rather smaller gatherings, but I've found them very helpful to stay connected. Join us this coming Wednesday!

**VAA Virtual Lunch every Wednesday at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848>**

No computer? No smartphone? Dial in to 778 907 2071 Canada Meeting ID: 710 845 848

**RCAA Virtual Coffee every Sunday at 1600 PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710752062>**

No computer? No smartphone? Dial in to 778 907 2071 Canada Meeting ID: 710 752 062

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday. If you have any problems connecting, email me at [president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

I did manage to update Flying Officer John Dartnell De Pencier's nominal roll. The stories of the individuals, and the families, that have served in our unit is nothing short of amazing. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nom-roll-daa---dic.html> It makes me proud to be a member.

Care to join our fundraising efforts to purchase a couple of 68 Battery Military Medals? Bombardier Randolph Amos Mann, MM and Signaller Harold Cordyn Brown, MM.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/military-medal-update1180560>

## Who (or What) Is It?

**Last Week:** The Welgun was an experimental 9-mm SMG, designed during 1942 by the British Special Operations Executive, who sought to create an SMG more suitable for their purposes than the standard issue Sten Gun.

*A Welgun on display at the IWM*

Its name derives from the place where it was designed - SOE's Station IX, situated at The Frythe, a large house near Welwyn in

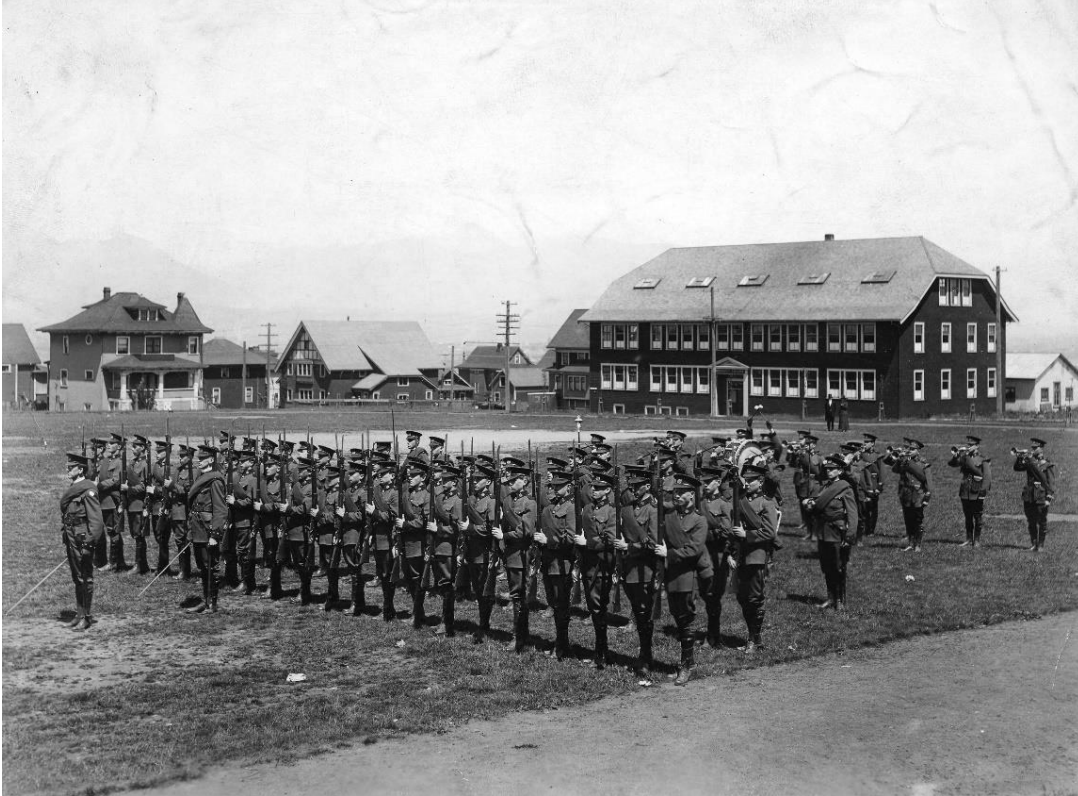
Hertfordshire. The Welgun possessed some novel

features, in that the mainspring was positioned forward of the bolt, around the barrel, and that no cocking handle was provided: instead the user grasped the ribbed rear-section of the bolt itself. Its short overall length and folding butt made it more compact than the Sten, but it was not adopted for service. The photo shown last week was taken by Colin Stevens at the CWM.





**This Week:** Stuck as we have been in the nuclear shelter underneath our museum for the past few weeks, we find that time is no longer of the essence. In fact, there seems just a bit too much of it for our liking. Nonetheless, it does give us time to surf the 'net, as those young hipsters might say. In days gone by, when we were allowed outside, those keen on researching history might make a trip to their local library or civic archives. In those establishments, you actually had to come face-to-face with unmasked people, and touch documents and photos that



hadn't been sanitized. Well, those times are happily gone, and we can now remotely peruse the archives without talking to or seeing another human, or even a librarian; and such is what has given us this excellent photo.

This fine body of young men presents arms on a sunny field, whilst the buglers to the rear sound something or other (*I would think the 'General*

*Salute'.* Ed). From the dress and architecture, we can assume the scene was captured early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and, to give you a very big hint, the location is now occupied by Vancouver General Hospital. Their uniforms and equipment are a bit peculiar, but we can assure you that this is a Canadian unit. But, dear reader, who are they? To give you another hint, they aren't part of the militia, per se, but are military. Do you want to hazard a guess? Well, you have the time now, don't you? Send your answers to the editor, ([bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com)), or to the very bored author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Let me out of here!!!!

### **From the 'Punitentary'**

Why did the customer have a hard time understanding his Korean mechanic? - He spoke with a Hyundai Accent

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

The only time suppressive fire works is when the position it is used on is abandoned.

### **Quotable Quotes**

The mystery of government is not how Washington works but how to make it stop. *P J O'Rourke*



## Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all** – especially those who attended Wednesday lunches.

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

<https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

For details on downloading and setting up a Zoom account, see the **RUSI Vancouver** notice below



Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting now](#)

Use the link above on your computer Zoom program  
or dial in on your phone 778 907 2071 Meeting ID: 710 845 848

Invite 2 friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon.

Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.



# Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Society

2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7  
[www.rusivancouver.ca](http://www.rusivancouver.ca)

## Engaging RUSI Vancouver Members and Friends with Virtual Presentations!

**Every Wednesday – Next Session on 29 April 2020**

### **Topic: Canada and the Cold War**

By now everyone has had enough of living in the bunker and maintaining “social distancing.” RUSI had planned to present a lecture series this Spring, but that was not possible for obvious reasons.

As an alternate, and in the spirit of our RUSI mandate on education - and by using **Zoom** - we are presenting a series of online lectures every Wednesday by military historian Col. (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD. The 6-part topic is ‘Canada and the Cold War’. The first two sessions took place on 15 and 22 April.

The presentations continue on **Wednesday, 29 April** from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. Subsequent sessions will be held on **May 6, 13 and 20**. To participate, you need to register an account with **Zoom** – it is easy to do and it’s free. Here is the link to establish an account: <https://zoom.us/freesignup/>

Once you are registered, it is recommended that you download the application on your computer and sign on to the application. Here is the link to do that: <https://zoom.us/download>

We recommend that you download ahead of the scheduled date and time and play with the application a bit to become familiar with it. Keith Maxwell will host the sessions. He is familiar with the application and has implemented all the necessary precautions to keep the presentations safe and secure. If you wish to participate, register for the sessions by sending an email to both Cam Cathcart ([lhccathcart@gmail.com](mailto:lhccathcart@gmail.com)) and Keith Maxwell ([kdmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:kdmaxwell@gmail.com)).

Once you are registered, you will receive an invitation to join the sessions by email. That email will be sent out about two hours before the sessions start. Many of you participated in the Cold War in one way or another – come learn more about what happened in the biggest war we never fought! We look forward to you joining us on Zoom on Wednesday, 29 April.

Cam Cathcart, President