



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Nov 29, 2016

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 Mrs Lum serves an excellent meal. Anybody who has attended will attest to the fact that the quality of the meal is top notch and you get soup, salad, main course, dessert, cheese and crackers and coffee/tea for \$20 – you won't find a better meal or deal anywhere else in town. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies.

Navy lunch – 30 Nov: Guest Speaker Robert Young Director of Western Region, CSIS

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars Details to follow in future editions

Dec 11 **Christmas Tea** - sign up list is now posted at the bar. If you can't make it in to lunch, email me to put you on the list. We need firm numbers for Mrs Lum so the Mess is looking for replies **before** the end of November.

Jan 1 **New Year's Levée**

Feb 11 **Regimental reunion dinner** - details TBA

Holiday Stand down - The Unit will stand down from Dec 12 - Jan 6. Last lunch will be Dec 7 and the first lunch of 2017 will be Jan 11. We will start collecting soon for Mrs Lum's Christmas purse.

World War 2 - 1941

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

Nov 23rd: Klin falls as German spearheads reach within 50 km of Moscow. At Sidi Rezegh it is the German turn to attack rashly, and the Afrika Korps casualties are high indeed – they refer to this day as "Totensonntag", and Rommel's HQ is captured by New Zealand infantry. Two Italian freighters are sunk near Malta. Captain Philip John Gardner of the Royal Tank Regiment takes two tanks out to rescue two armoured cars which have become knocked and are under heavy fire near Tobruk. He dismounts and fastens a tow cable to one of the cars, which is then severed by the enemy's fire (even before any strain is put on it). Already wounded, he inspects the car and pulls out the lone survivor, a crew member with two shattered legs, and receives another wound as he carries this survivor to safety inside his tank. He receives the Victoria Cross.

Nov 24th: The Germans evacuate Rostov as they are overextended and a Soviet counterattack is looming. Rommel's troops become over-extended too as he assembles his remaining Panzers

and the Italian mechanized Corps (Ariete and Trieste motorized infantry) and drives for the Egyptian frontier, while the British are regrouping for a new thrust. U124 sinks the light cruiser HMS Dunedin in the South Atlantic.

Nov 25th: British troops close to 10 km from Gondar. Rommel is down to 53 working tanks after a day's rough handling by the Desert Air Force and the artillery of 4th Indian Division. The US Navy starts mandatory convoys in the Pacific. The Moscow satellite community of Istria is captured. HMS Barham, a battleship, is sunk in the Med by U331. Captain James Jackman commands a machinegun company of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, and leads them into action against the anti-tank guns on El Duda Ridge, near Tobruk, in support of a tank attack. He treats combat as an exercise, coolly ignoring enemy fire, and inspiring both his own men and the tank crews. He was killed the next day, and his Victoria Cross is a posthumous award.

Nov 26th: While Rommel's remaining Panzers are off to the south, XIII Corps makes a number of gains and the 70th Division in Tobruk resumes its breakout attacks. General Cunningham is relieved by Auchinleck and Ritchie gets command of 8th Army. Roosevelt and Hull present a 10 point list of final demands to Japan as the Imperial Japanese fleet slips out to sea, and disappears in an easterly direction.

Nov 27th: Rostov is reoccupied by the Soviets, Guderian stalls outside Moscow. Tobruk is relieved but the situation is still highly fluid as both Armies scrape together what tanks they can muster and direct attacks into each other's rears. Istra, some 30 km from Moscow, falls to 3rd Panzer Army while other elements of the same Panzer Army cross the Moscow-Volga Canal some 35 km north of the city.

Nov 28th: With the surrender of 22,000 troops in Gondar, Mussolini's East African imperial dream has vanished. Despite the surrender, some 7,000 Italians continue a guerilla campaign until 1943. German counterattacks attempt to isolate Tobruk again, with heavy losses for both sides – the New Zealanders are bearing the brunt of the German and Italian counterattacks. An 18 year old Soviet woman, Zoya Anatolyevna Kosmodemyanskay has been brutally interrogated all night and is hung by German soldiers in the village of Petrischevo, to the southwest of Moscow. She volunteered for partisan duty at the time of the Soviet Union's greatest crisis and was sent to burn down buildings being used by German troops in the village. From all accounts, she died bravely. When the village was liberated in January, a Soviet journalist learned the story and the propaganda mills turned her into an icon of resistance. Whatever exaggeration might attend the details of her life and death, it remains that she is indeed a Hero of the Soviet Union and the first of 92 women to receive the USSR's greatest award for their wartime deeds in battle, 50 of whom did so posthumously.

Nov 29th: German panzers cross the Moscow-Volga canal near Dmitrov. More Siberian troops appear in the lines opposite the Germans. A Government liaison conference in Japan makes the decision to go to war with the US – the decision will be presented to the Emperor on Dec 1st.

Canadian Army Restricts Use Of Artillery Rounds

Cracks found in high-tech shells costing \$150K each

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen | November 21, 2016



A Canadian artillery unit fires a 155-millimetre Howitzer shell against an insurgent position in Helmand Province, Afghanistan in July 2006 Ethan Baron/Postmedia News Service

the US is warning that the cracks could cause premature detonation of the rounds. The shells were originally purchased during the Afghan war but the Canadian Army has since bought newer versions of the projectiles. The US Army first discovered the problem in some of its Excalibur artillery shells late last year during routine testing. Additional testing determined that other Excalibur shells were also affected, US military officials said last week.

Canadian Army spokeswoman Krysthle Poitras said that since the discovery in the US, Canada has restricted the use of the ammunition. “The Canadian Army has taken the necessary steps to ensure that any Excalibur rounds in the inventory will be inspected before any potential use in future,” she noted in an email to the Ottawa Citizen. The Canadian Army declined to outline what steps it is taking or how many Excalibur shells are affected. It did not provide details on how long the restrictions on the artillery rounds will last. However, the US military says it is X-raying each of its shells to determine the extent of the cracking. It is believed to be minor but large cracks could potentially lead to the warhead prematurely detonating, according to the US Army. There have been no reports of the shells malfunctioning. The US discovered the cracks in both older ammunition, manufactured in 2007, as well as newer production projectiles. In early 2008 the Canadian Army received approval to use the shells in Afghanistan. Critics complained about the high cost of the warheads, saying it was akin to firing a Ferrari each time they were used. Regular artillery shells are estimated to cost around \$2,000 each.

The Canadian military has said it hopes the cost of the Excalibur shells would eventually drop to \$87,000 each. The Excalibur round can hit targets up to 40 kilometres away. Using data from Global Positioning Satellites, it can strike within 10 metres of its target. Both US and Canadian military officers have praised the Excalibur technology, noting that the shells can

reduce civilian casualties while more effectively targeting enemy forces. In 2015 it was revealed that the Canadian Army somehow lost three Excalibur shells in Afghanistan. The ammunition couldn't be accounted for when Canadian troops left Kandahar in 2011. Military police investigated but couldn't determine what happened to the rounds. But theft of the 48-kilogram shells was deemed to be highly unlikely. The cost for the three rounds was estimated to be \$513,000, according to federal government records.

Ranch to Serve as Refuge for PTSD Victims in Kamloops, BC



Golden age couple Rick and Donna Wanless have offered to use their 25-acre hobby farm on the edge of the Thompson River as a refuge for PTSD affected military members, veterans, and first responders. The refuge will offer free of charge treatment programs with psychologists and clinical resources brought in directly and offered in the large gazebo, on the waterfront. The guest house, stable and clubhouse will also be put to good use with the intent to give PTSD victims an escape from the everyday life. A concept already well known in Metro Vancouver where Honour House has been offering free stays to some 5,000 members and their families in the past five years of operation. Allan De Genova, president of the Honour House, and Hon LCol of 15 Field Artillery Regiment, noted, "Our goal is to have the Honour Ranch up and running by March of next year. The need is very present, and all parties involved are excited to see the Ranch operational so we are doing as much as we can to have it readily available for our men and women to use those services." The Wanless reached out to Honour House's President only 14 months ago.

The idea is to use non-public funds to operate the Ranch, just like it is done at Honour House. "We will use the same self-sustaining funding we have successfully been using for the Honour House," Al explains. Fundraising events will be a good part of the funding, just like it is done at the House that raised an estimated \$50,000 with The Adrian Oliver Memorial Run. The Wanless couple has no children who would inherit their property and would rather gift it to a public group than sell it. To them, "there's no one better than the veterans and first responders" to appreciate this gift and ensure it is put to good use. The couple will also contribute to the project through their stable and the use of their eight horses. Honour House's President De Genova hopes that this new project will help convince more people to open their own Honour House and programs to give back to men and women who served, free of all charges. He invites people interested in learning more about the specifics of such operations to contact him through Honour House's website: <https://honourhouse.ca/>

Govt Commits Money to Creating a Web Employment Platform

The Government of Canada has pledged \$1.1 million to Canada Company's new initiative to enhance their online programs to better assist veterans and spouses in finding meaningful careers. The announcement was made at the 2016 Canada Company National Transition exChange by Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence Kent

Hehr on behalf of MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour. “I am pleased that our Government is providing veterans with the tools and the training they need to transition to good, well-paying jobs. Hundreds of veterans will have the opportunity to build meaningful new careers and contribute the unique skills they acquired as Canadian Armed Forces Members, to Canada’s labour market,” stated MaryAnn Mihychuk, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour in a statement.

The funds will be used to create a searchable online database and forecasting tool to help former military personnel transition into meaningful careers. Through partnerships and the development of tools and resources, veterans will be able to connect with jobs that will benefit from skills and knowledge gained during their time in the military. “Helping Canada's Veterans find good jobs in the private sector is truly a win-win for everyone involved. The Veterans get to put their training and hard-earned skills to good use following their release from the military, while Canadian businesses benefit from the unique skills that Veterans offer. The Government of Canada is proud to partner with organizations like Canada Company to make it easier for Veterans to train for and find good jobs. This is a tremendous example of government and the private sector working together towards better outcomes for Veterans,” said Hehr. Since its inception in May 2006, Canada Company has grown into a network of more than 600 employer members. The organization operates on a mandate of facilitating the hiring of 10,000 veterans by 2023.

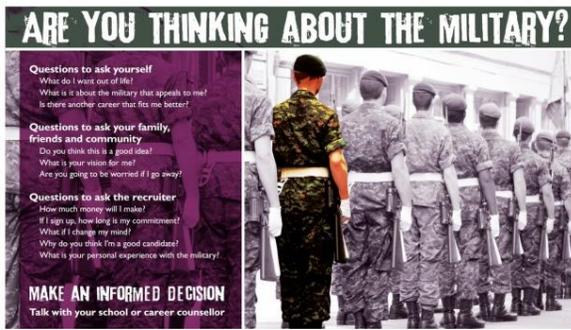
“Canada Company is proud to be the national Veteran transition leader—educating and enabling Canadian business to support the employment of our remarkable military members and most recently, their spouses. As our membership grows and we earn the support of more Canadian businesses across the country, this unprecedented \$1.1 million contribution from our Government of Canada partners will help drive digital applications and searchable database technology for our web-based platform. The Canada Company Military Employment Transition will become a truly innovative and digital space for Canadian Veterans and their families,” said Angela Mondou, President, Canada Company.

BCTF Controversial Poster Withdrawn

Teacher and military spouse, creates petition

The posters, said to be created in 2010, went viral just before Remembrance Day this year. The BCTF posters called military recruitment a social justice issue and asked, “As teachers, which actions could be an effective component of a counter-recruitment campaign in your school or community?” The material goes on to list steps teachers can take including: “let teachers know to inform the union and/or your social justice committee when they see recruiters in the school.” The controversial language and stance of the posters caught the attention of military spouse and teacher Zoe Baker who started an online petition calling for BCTF to retract the posters. “I am a teacher and a military spouse. I found the language used to be extremely insulting to our armed forces and the intelligence of teachers in this province. Although the publication is directed at teachers and about the military, I hope that B.C. residents will sign it whether or not

they belong to either of those groups. Let’s not have publications like these that pit two different contributions to our country against each other as we are working together to make the world a better place,” stated Baker on the petition homepage.



A controversial poster taking a stand against military recruitment methods was pulled from the B.C. Teacher’s Federation (BCTF) website after an online petition against the posters attracted hundreds of community members.

Baker notes that the posters imply that the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) are waiting on school grounds “to collar unsuspecting students,” rather than follow the appropriate methods. She also noted that eliminating the CAF will not automatically create peace in the world. “We need people who want to change the world for the better to get into the places where they can do the most good. For some people that will be the military,” stated Baker. In just a few short days the petition has been signed by more than 700 supporters. The posters have since been taken down off the BCTF website. In a statement to CBC, the organization explained that B.C. teachers appreciated the CAF. “The posters were created several years ago in response to teachers’ worries about recruitment strategies in schools as well as a nation-wide TV ad campaign from the former Harper government which seemed to glamourize combat and target youth,” reported the CBC. However, the explanation and response have not been satisfactory to Baker and petition supporters. “Apologies are made without excuse, and we are role models. The poster has been making the rounds, and many people will be looking for the BCTF to fully retract it,” stated the petition website. Baker is still requesting Canadians to share and sign the petition. To view, the petition click here: <https://www.change.org/p/bc-teachers-federation-bctf-retract-your-insulting-social-justice-publication/u/18444323>

MPP Proposes Identification of Veterans on Ontario ID Cards

Jack MacLaren, the Conservative Carleton-Mississippi Mills MPP says he will introduce a private members bill to add identification of veterans to Ontario ID cards.

Jessica Cunha Metroland Media Nov 22 2016



MPP Jack MacLaren, with cadet Scott Coulombe, lays a wreath at the Constance Bay Remembrance Service this year.

Jessica Cunha/Metroland

Conservative Carleton-Mississippi Mills MPP Jack MacLaren announced recently he will introduce a private members bill to add identification of veterans to Ontario ID cards. The proposal calls for a small yellow bar with the word veteran to be located

below the photograph on driver's licences and Ontario identification cards to indicate the bearer is a veteran, said MacLaren. "I think it's appropriate that we show respect for our veterans and I think we could show more – that's what we're trying to do here," he said. If passed, the provincial identification would be optional for veterans, which include all former members of the Canadian Forces who have been honourably released, as well as those who served in the reserve force, as well as special and domestic duties. The bill will be presented on March 17. "We thought it would be appropriate to speak about it now since we just had the Remembrance Day services last week," said MacLaren. MacLaren said he expects the Liberals and NDP will back the bill. "We're all Canadians and we all enjoy freedoms," he said. "And it's the veterans who fought for and obtained those freedoms."

The federal veterans ombudsman has been calling for a national identification card for veterans since 2013, said MacLaren. And although veterans have access to a CFOne card issued by the Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services, it has no photo identification and "is not widely used." MacLaren's office added the Ontario identification card (often used in place of a drivers licence by non-drivers) would not replace any Forces ID. The benefits of adding identification for veterans to provincial ID cards include public recognition of service, potential discounts, and emergency first responders could more easily triage veterans for service-related conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, said MacLaren. "Going into an event or an accident, a situation, it would just give them some information on the individual; that this person is a veteran," he said. Identification could potentially provide financial benefits as well. "We see in the US where they do have identification for veterans; there have been private sector businesses (that) have chosen to offer discounts," said MacLaren. "Perhaps in Canada too, certain businesses might choose or be willing to offer a slight discount to veterans out of respect for their service." The cost to modify existing ID cards would likely be low, said MacLaren. However, no cost analysis has been completed. MacLaren said he is open to any changes that might be suggested for the bill. "If there are adjustments and changes that have to be made as we move along we'll be accepting of that," he said. "I just want to get identification on cards."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The Yorke Island updates have continued during the last week. Let me know if you have additional material that could be included - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke-island.html>. Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com
Have you heard about RV 2017? It's the Regimental Reunion party scheduled for 4 February 2017. Further details will be published on the website as they become available.

Who is it?



Last Week: This picture was donated to the Museum in 1995 by Mr D Dashwood-Jones and is a 6-inch Mk XII/N gun on a Mark VII* mounting. We believe it is one of 3 at Barrett Battery near Prince Rupert. It could be one of the 6" gun off of HMS/HMCS Aurora, a veteran of the Battle of the Dogger Bank, whose guns went to Barrett Battery.

This Week: As a follow-up on last week's theme, we present to you this time another large piece of ordnance. Aimed rather menacingly at some chaps leaning on a parapet, it presents us with a picture of Victorian engineering, for such is its vintage. The neighbourhood does not seem to be conducive to artillery fire, so perhaps urban sprawl has reached an area once verdant and peaceful.



Now, some of you, such as our editor, are old enough to remember that era, but others, such as your youthful author, are not. So, for the aficionados of artillery, we ask you several questions this week. Firstly, what gun is this? Secondly, where is it? And, thirdly, where in Canada were there such impressive icons of the gunner's art?

As always, your answers may be sent to either the editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com, or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

How do you drive a baby buggy? Tickle its feet.

Murphy's Other Laws

Once a battle plan gets screwed up, anything done to try to fix it only makes it worse.

Quotable Quotes

Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere.
Carl Sagan



The Commanding Officer

LCol Brent Purcell CD

invites you to his

Annual Christmas Tea

to be held on

Sunday December 11th 2016

in the

15th Field Artillery Regiment Officers' Mess

commencing at Two o'clock in the afternoon

Dress: Jacket & Tie

Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door

Please sign up at the Bar !!

Email bob.mugford@outlook.com BY NOV 30

to have your party added to the bar list

NADEN BAND
OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

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IN CANADA

With Special
Guest Artist

Vivace

DECEMBER 12 6:00PM PRESHOW
7:00PM START
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From Vimy to Juno National Travelling Exhibition

Note: RSVP Deadline changed to Dec 1st

The Juno Beach Centre and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada cordially invite you to a special reception honouring the 73rd anniversary of the Christmas Dinner at Ortona in conjunction with:



**Friday, December 16, 2016
17h to 19h**

**The Seaforth Highlanders Armoury
1650 Burrard St., Vancouver, British Columbia**

*Please confirm your presence by **November 15, 2016**
dbenoit@junobeach.org / 877-828-5866 ext. 123*

*From Vimy to Juno is made possible with
support from the Department of Canadian Heritage.*



Canada





THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the

2016 Annual Christmas Fundraiser

- When:** Thursday, December 08, 2016
- Time:** 11:30 AM – Doors Open
- Lunch:** Served from 12:15 to 12:45 PM,
followed by Silent Auction and Raffle
- Where:** The Drill Hall
Home of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
620 Beatty Street,
Vancouver, BC
- Tickets:** \$35.00 if confirmed by Dec. 2, 2016
\$40.00 if confirmed Dec. 3 to Dec 8, 2016
Please note, cancellations after December 7th will be invoiced.
- Menu:** Turkey - With all the trimmings!

- Silent Auction!
- The usual valuable lucky prize draws!
- If you can't attend, a donation will be welcomed.*
- Funds raised help us to fund Association Bursaries, Commemorative events, support of five cadet corps and numerous other projects of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust.
- Enjoy great company, good food & have fun while helping a worthy cause.

RSVP by Friday, December 2nd, 2016 to:

Charlotte Yen at 604 630-4585 or e-mail to: corporate@hplaw.ca.

*Please send any cheques to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust,
c/o #208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B. C. V5C 5T1

In Celebration of the 75th Birthday of The Royal Canadian Navy



OIL

SIZE 20 x 30

H.M.C.S. Sackville — The Last Corvette

From an original oil painting by Marine Artist, John M. Horton, C.S.M.A., F.C.A. This fine reproduction shows H.M.C.S. Sackville in her 1945 configuration on escort duty in the North Atlantic.

The Canadian Naval Corvette Trust is restoring and preserving the vessel as a permanent museum dedicated to

Canada's glorious contribution to the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic.

This print is offered in a limited edition of 350 printed on museum quality acid free paper signed and numbered by the artist.

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