



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Oct 29, 2014



"Ordinary" men going about their duties, struck down by cowards. Stand up Canada.

Words of Wisdom and Remembrance

By Fredrick K LaForge OMM, CD, RCA

Our tears have been shed, flowers have been placed at memorials across Canada, tens of thousands of us have stood along the route taken by Nathan Cirillo's funeral escort as it made its way to Hamilton; Parliament returned and for while embraced their good luck and new found shared fears. PM Harper spoke about the Canadian strength of character and made light of the fact that in spite of adversary we are still here. Yes we are all still here. Yes, many of us, myself included, were quick to demand change and new ways and purpose in dealing with home grown and foreign terrorism as we move forward but we are still here.

Just being here is not enough is it? We have lost something along those hallways that are now being repaired to hide the bullet holes fired by and at a Canadian born terrorist. A lady that I spoke to this morning admonished me for making more of the incident than "it deserves" unquote. Really? Is that what we should do? Should we say, as she is saying, "It was only one home grown man with a history of mental, drugs and lack communal acceptance". Should we, as she said this morning, "Realize and acknowledge that over the years we have lost lots of other soldiers and in the future we will lose even more". Really? No I am being serious, should we turn our eyes away from the newsreels that went on and on throughout Wednesdays and just say that we overestimated the threat, overreacted to the actual level of the assault and ask ourselves why the whole of Ottawa and for that matter most of Canada was transfixed in fear and awe as one man violated the innocence that was called security at the Hill?

Well here is where I stand on this issue. Yes, Barbara in the Park, it was only one man that did the shooting and it was only one soldier that lost his precious life. But it is so much more than that Barbara. On Wednesday a Canadian madman with a seriously different religious viewpoint attacked and attempted to kill a Canadian Symbol. Yes, that is exactly what happened. We Canadians proudly man a military guard at our War Memorial. It is not a guard that stands guard in the sense of protecting or preventing damage. No far from it! We veterans and serving military are there to honour, remember and hold close to our hearts our own service traditions all those that have given their lives in the service of our nation. This guard, this memorial, this place in Ottawa, is one of the strongest and most recognized symbols that we all, as a nation, cherish and honour and we are proud of what and where it is.

All nations cherish their symbols, Canada is no different. We take the Beaver everywhere; the maple leaf flies over, around and with everything from suitcases to the most formal of national events. The Peace Tower and our National War Memorial are Ottawa's web page, front and center in every official foreign visit and of course both stand especially proud on our Remembrance Day celebrations. So, yes Barbara, it was only one 24 year old reserve Corporal from Hamilton but: that Corporal was one of our own, this was a father, a son, a dog lover, a Canadian and above all he died, shot in the back, whilst standing proudly and determined on the very heart of a symbol that cannot be killed. You can kill a soldier Barbara, one or ten or more. But you cannot nor will we let anyone kill what Canada is, and is not, what and who we are and why. No one, not even the hatred felt by those who hold vastly different views about the value of life can ever kill a symbol that is as strong and closely guarded as is our National War Memorial.

NOABC - Monthly Lunch Speakers - Wednesday, 29 October

Our guest speaker for October will be associate member Roddy MacKenzie, who will provide an illustrated talk about the recent visit he and his wife Ka Hyun made to Fort McMurray and the associated oil sands mining operations.

Wednesday, 26 November

Our guest speaker for November will be Captain John Swann, Master Mariner, on the maritime implications of LNG export.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1914

October 23rd – 24th: At dawn George and I went along our line, which had got broken during the night, [and] some small houses by the road, which the previous day had been occupied by our chaps, were utterly destroyed. [There was] one great hole in the centre of the road; [it] was the largest I had seen. [It] must have been caused by a very large shell. By the terrific burst in the village, they were putting the same like there, for with every shell a complete house seemed to go in the air. We reached the convent and connected the telephone in the attic. We had to get in a ditch on our way back for the shelling was rather hot. [When] we reached the guns, we fired a few rounds, [and] the wire was broken again by a 'coal-box'. We kept up communication by flag. Our wire was broken no less to five times during the morning, and it was very unhealthy work repairing it. A little on our right was a small farm, and chickens, rabbits, and all provisions had been left by the inhabitants, when they left so hurriedly. There were also a couple of goats, which we collared for milk. [Later] I prevailed upon George to nip over to the farm, while I attended to the firing, and make a can of tea. No sooner had he left, than a German Horse Artillery Battery [opened dead on us]. It was horrible, and nothing could have lived above the ground. By the guns, we were absolutely tied to our little trenches, and it was impossible to fire. This went on for two hours, I thought old George must have been caught by the farm. [I] was greatly surprised to see him come crouching along by the trees with the can in his hand. About 5 yards by my trench, our two officers were, one of them, Lt Marshall, stood up to shout to George to get under cover. I was talking to George as Marshall shouted, [then a] whining bang [and] Marshall collapsed with seven shrapnel bullets in him. [This] all happened in a flash. Old George must have had a charmed life then, for how he lived through it, back from the farm, is to me marvellous. We had the tea anyway, [for] it cost near one life, and a dozen very narrow escapes. We enjoyed it, for tea with real milk was good.

We were shelled very heavily all day [and] several were wounded. The Wagon Line and hospital in our rear caught it also. The position was untenable, and we received orders to retire at nightfall. At dusk George and I resolved to wind in our wire, we would need it, as no other was obtainable. I had just started, when a 'Johnson' 14 burst immediately in front, rather more close than where they had been bursting in salvos of four all day. I laid down, and splinters and lumps of earth passed over my head. I heard the other three coming, and dodged behind a large tree by the stream, in my haste [I] fell into the stream; perhaps it was well for me I did, for the splinters took some pieces out of the tree. That seemed to be the German's final salvos, for after waiting awhile, we started again. An occasional bullet was all that passed to the convent. [It] was dark when we got there, and we hurried down to the crossroads where our horses would be awaiting us. We were held up by French Cavalry but eventually got to our horses, only to find that another fellow, named Hodge, who was to meet us from the convent, was not there. We decided to go and look for him, and on the way we heard him coming along the road. We hastily arranged to give him a scare [by] turning our hats with peaks to the rear. We waited, it was very dark, when he got near us we both jumped to the head of his horse; old Hodge thought Germans had him, and it was not until we burst out laughing, he tumbled to who we were. We marched back and joined the

Brigade. [We] then marched, through various villages and finally bivouacked about 12 miles from our recent hard scrap. It was great relief to sleep on straw and above damp ground.

October 25th: A day of rest – The farm was inhabited [and we] had a feast of bacon and tomatoes, also some boiled milk, the first since I left home. Busy in morning overhauling phones, and in afternoon writing letters. It rained hard at night [with] no shelter [we were] wet through. George and I made our bed on some dry straw, but was near washed away before morning.

October 26th: In position of readiness at HOUGE, [which is] 3 miles from YPRES, [it] was very quiet but for an occasional shell. [We] were in the grounds of a beautiful chateau, [but] the ornamental lakes and gardens [were] being used for horses, [and] everything is wrecked.

October 28th On the night of 28th, shrapnel burst over us, the flash of shell bursting woke me up. Some of the chaps ran into the woods for shelter, but George and I decided to remain where we were, and we soon [fell] asleep again. At daylight we found two chaps were wounded, one after died, and five horses killed and several wounded; all within 20 yds of where we laid.

RUSI Co-sponsors WW1 Series at Vancouver Public Library

RUSI Vancouver, in collaboration with the Vancouver Public Library, is co-sponsor of a series of four presentations commemorating the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. The involvement of RUSI Vancouver in the VPL series is part of RUSI's community engagement initiative.

• The final RUSI sponsored presentation, originally scheduled for Nov 3rd, has been postponed to 7pm Monday, November 17th. It will feature Dr. James Wood, from the University of BC Okanagan. His subject is "*British Columbia and the Great War*". It will take place in the Alice Mackay room at the VPL Central Branch on West Georgia and Homer in Vancouver.

In addition RUSI, in cooperation with various Regimental museums in Vancouver, will organize and install First World War memorabilia displays at three separate Vancouver Public Library branches. These are Kensington, Terry Salman (Hillcrest) and Kerrisdale. The exhibits will be installed at these branches from October 15 to November 15, 2014 as part of the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War One.

The poster, see at end of newsletter, also includes the two talks by Peter Broznitsky at the West Point Grey branch library and the Dunbar branch library.

'Victory Square' with Cameron Cathcart

Presented by the Churchill Society of British Columbia - Thursday, November 6, 2014

The story of Victory Square is as exciting and dynamic as Vancouver itself and a recognized heritage asset in the City of Vancouver. Its story is that of our city's growth from 1885 onward. The iconic location was the focal point of the city's early business community and site of Vancouver's first Court House. Renamed Victory Square after the First War, it has since become a place of remembrance for the past 90 years.



Cam Cathcart has an abiding interest in Victory Square both as Chair of the Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee and for the past 11 years, as the Master of Ceremonies each November 11th. He was a founding member of Friends of Victory Square, which led the campaign for the revitalization of the park 10 years ago.

In 30 years with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Cam served as CBC correspondent in Washington and Ottawa. He is a Director of the Churchill Society of BC and President of the Royal United Services Institute -Vancouver. (See poster)

Walk for Peace and Remembrance

Port Moody to Victoria British Columbia November 5 to 6th, 2014

On Wednesday November 5th a small group of local Port Moody residents, including Marcus Fahrner, Jim Millar and Guy Black, will mark the Centennial of the First World War in a unique and very important way. The group will walk from their city to British Columbia's capital, to be officially welcomed by the legislative assembly, followed by laying of Port Moody's poppy wreath at the Victoria Cenotaph. They will walk for 100 kilometers, almost non-stop, carrying the flag of their city and a single wreath. Their journey in period uniform will represent the sacrifices and contributions made by the citizens of Port Moody in the First World War.

The walk has been granted the highest honour by being made an official delegation and its purpose is to remember the service personnel from Port Moody who lost their life in the Great War. It is a way to encourage others to remember, and for the marchers to pass along the message of Peace and Remembrance.

The marchers are looking for additional marchers as well as a driver for the baggage vehicle, at least to the ferry. Contact me at bob.mugford@shaw.ca if you would like to join the party.

Yorke Island: The Present

by LCol James Barrett CD

The return of 15 Field Artillery Regiment RCA to Yorke Island Fort commenced in the late summer of 2013, when Capt (Ret) Doug Gayton, MMM, CD and LCol Jim Barrett, CD headed over to Yorke Island from Vancouver, to look into the possibility of the Regiment and Association Members conducting a full visit to Yorke Island as part of the plans to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the 'Manning of the Guns' in 2014. With the assistance of Hardwicke Transportation, as their 'Water Taxi,' and the assistance of a local guide, Ross Keller, from Campbell River, they arrived on Yorke on the morning of 14 September 2013, enjoying calm seas and fine weather. They found the fortification site in clean and amazingly good condition considering its remoteness. This can be credited to both BC Parks, and specifically, retired 15 FD RCA member, Major Ian Newby, CD, and his crew, including Ross Keller, who for many years have made an annual expedition to the island each September to clearing drains, brush, falling trees, and generally maintain the site.

On their return, and report to the Regiment's CO's Advisory Board, it was determined that conducting an expedition to Yorke was a viable activity for celebration as part of the 75th Anniversary of the Manning of the Guns at both Yorke Island and Ferguson Point in Stanley Park by the 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade RCA in August 1939. With the date set for 13 September, 2014, members of the Regiment and Regimental Association headed for Yorke Island. On that day distinguished members from BC Parks as well as the nephew of Gunner Brunt (the only casualty during the war) were also in attendance.

On Yorke Island, all participants were treated to an excellent tour by Ross Keller, Major (Ret'd) Newby, and his volunteers. A BBQ was held in the gun position for all, as well as, an unveiling Ceremony of the new two foot by three foot plaque by Ross and LCol Barrett telling the story of Yorke Island. In appreciation, Ross was made the Honorary Battery Commander of 85 Bty, the Yorke Island Bty, and Terry Burnett, a former-serving member of the Regiment and currently the owner of The Fisher Boy Resort in Sayward, was presented a Regimental Coin for his support to 15 Field Regiment RCA and our Association by LCol Purcell, Commanding Officer.

The weather on Yorke was amazing, the hospitality shown by the Mayor of Sayward and the local community could not have been better, and all Soldiers and Association Members felt that this was a very worthwhile activity. The Regiment and the Association members redeployed to Vancouver the next morning and were back at the Armoury before a 1400 dismissal. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to all who made this activity both worthwhile and possible.

Then:



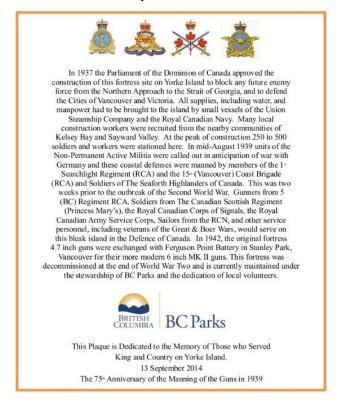
Soldiers of 85Battery, 15th (Vancouver) Coast Brigade arriving at Yorke Island camp and dock in October 1940.

Now:

Serving soldiers of 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA standing on 6 pdr Hotchkiss gun position



Commemorative Plaque Mounted at Gun Position



Gunners On Duty at the National War Memorial

Hundreds of people have been coming and going around the tomb of the Unknown Soldier this morning (Oct 26^{th}) as Gunners from Atlantic Canada take up their duty.



This well turned - out Gunner is from 4 AD Regt RCA in Gagetown.

The two Bombardiers on the march are from 3rd Fd Regt RCA (the Loyal Company) in St John.



All are extremely proud to be here. From the flowers, tributes, cameras and smiles in attendance, people are happy to see them.

Who is it?



Last Week Everybody recognised Vic, of course, and we had several people who correctly identified the officer to Vic's right as Major Bob Foulis, who was a well-known Padre for several units in the lower mainland in the 70s. He passed away several years back. The chap to Vic's left is our MO of the period, Capt Lee Kornder, who still attends the Wednesday lunches regularly.

This Week: This photo was donated to the museum in 1990, but we know nothing of it. As you can see, the brass in the picture are extremely well-decorated. The distinguished gentleman on the left is a general of some sort, whilst the equally-honourable chap on the right seems to be a colonel. Both are in 'proper' uniforms, so are probably pre-Hellyerization. This is possibly confirmed by the shape of the head gear of the people in the background, which, whilst fairly



indistinct, seems to be of the bush variety, save for the lady with the basket on her head.

The location seems not to be in Bessborough Armoury, as there are windows of a type we don't have, plus supporting columns that are not necessary in our better-constructed bastion of military might. So, have you a clue, or a glimmer of an idea as to who these warriors are, and were the location is? If not, can you at least give the identity of the finely-crafted ordnance piece the brass are admiring?

Glimmers can be sent to the editor or the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitentary'

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs, because they always take things literally.

Murphy's other Laws

Combat is not a good place for a democracy

Quotable Quotes

Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the strategy. - *Norman Schwarzkopf*

Building Andy's Range: The History of the Blair Rifle Range in North Vancouver

The unknown story of the Blair Rifle Range and its place in Canadian history.

Presented by Blueridge resident Donna Sacuta

- Thursday, November 6, 2014, 10:30 am
 Deep Cove Heritage Society,
 4360 Gallant Ave, North Vancouver, BC
 - Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7 pm
 Blueridge Elementary School
 2650 Bronte Dr, North Vancouver, BC

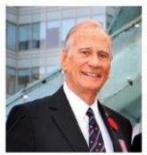
Month of Remembrance



Churchill Society of British Columbia PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH CHURCHILL:

"Victory Square" with guest speaker Cameron Cathcart on Thursday, November 6, 2014

Please join us on Thursday, November 6 to welcome our guest speaker Cameron Cathcart.



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In 30 years with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Cam served as CBC correspondent in Washington and Ottawa. He is a Director of the Churchill Society of B.C and President of the Royal United Services Institute Vancouver. In 2013 he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

An advocate of heritage, Cam is a long time member of Heritage Vancouver and for five years a member of the Vancouver Heritage Commission. In his presentation he will trace the history of Victory Square from its naming after World War One through to the present day. The park has also been a place of protest, from the turbulence of the 30's, the Doukhobour occupation in the 60's, to protests against the Olympics in 2010.

After a period of indifference and neglect, Victory Square is today a more inviting place: for visitors, local residents, students and workers. It also remains a place of remembrance and respect where memories are shared and rekindled.

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2014

Location: JJ's Restaurant, Vancouver Community College Downtown Campus, 3rd Floor

Enter Building corner of Dunsmuir & Hamilton (parking available at Easy Park on Cambie Street)

Time: Reception 5:30 pm, Program from 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Cost: \$25 each for a Member of the Society, \$35 each for a non-Member

\$40 for a Member accompanied by either a spouse, partner or an immediate family member (The ticket cost includes a variety of hors d'oeuvres. Wine can be purchased for \$6 per glass and soft drinks/coffee for \$2)

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

I look forward to seeing you on November 6. Please feel free to send this notice to any interested parties.

Ian E. Marshall, Secretary

Churchill Society of British Columbia

Iam & Markery



TUE, NOV 4

7 p.m.
Central Library
350 West Georgia St.
Alice Mackan Com
Lower Leve

B. C. AND THE GREAT WAR

Drawing from the first hand accounts of B.C. soldiers during the First World War history professor Dr. James Wood a lega ple centation on the fears, bonds of the became the soldier's experience of the Western Front.

Presented in partnership with The Royal United Services Institute - Vancouver

TUE, NOV 4

7 p.m. West Point Grey Branch 4480 West 10th Ave.

RUSSIANS AND UKRAINIANS IN THE C.E.F.

Soldiers born in the Russian Empire were strongly represented in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War. This presentation by Western Front Association chair Peter Broznitsky will take a closer look at the challenges and accomplishments faced by these soldiers.

WED, NOV 5

6:45 p.m. Dunbar Branch 4515 Dunbar St.

FORESTRY, PIONEER & RAILWAY TROOPS IN THE C.E.F.

Learn more about the Canadian men in overseas camps who fell and processed 75 percent of the timber needed by Allied Armies for the Western Front. This presentation by Western Front Association chair Peter Broznitsky will look at how these pioneers served alongside the infantry in many battles.



DUTY CALLS

COMMEMORATING THE TOOTH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR I







NOVEMBER 10, 2014 AT 7:00PM AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL (690 BURRARD)

Three soldiers step down from their century-old memorials to tell their stories of life, war and death in a special Remembrance Day observance honouring all members of Canada's armed forces, past and present. Admission by donation.



Salute to Veterans & Military Valour Half Time Show

LEGION MARCHERS NEEDED



2014 Salute to Veterans & Military Valour

Presented by BC/Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion

How would you like to see the field up close? March with us at the 2014 Salute to Veterans and Military Valour Presented by the BC/Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion.



Half-time Show at the BC Lions Home Game — 7pm, Nov. 7TH (vs Calgary Stampeders)

- Pipe & Drum Bands, Colour Parties, Veterans, Canadian Forces, Cadets, First Responders & members of Veterans Organizations will be marching.
- · Marchers must be in uniform.
- Veterans who are unable to march: limited seating in military vehicles will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

All Marchers, Bands and Colour Party Members watch the game for freef Family, friends and co-workers get an exclusive ticket offer of \$34, tax included. \$3,00 from each ticket will go to the Poppy Fund to help Veterans in need. Marchers enter at the East Entrance, no later than 6:30pm.



For more information:

Penny Pansal BC/Yukon Command 60£575 B8p0 | 188.2612219 pennypansal@legionbcyukon.ca

Ticket Offer for Veteran Family & Friends:

Keith Hawkins BC Lions Football Club 60a-930-5451 khawkins@bclions.com





Find out more about legion at legionbcyukon.ca

Free B&B Stay for Veterans



'With Glowing Hearts' Band Concert



Adrian Oliver Memorial Run

