



**Vancouver Artillery  
Association News**



**RUSI News**  
Vancouver

## **Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News July 4, 2017**

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at [bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get a copy.

**Newsletter on line.** This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](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** - We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Attendance has been down recently. Most of our regular attendees, who are retired, are slowly fading away and the next generation seems, by and large, to be too busy to attend. Guests are always welcome and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

**Big Changes Coming** Renovations in the Officers Mess have started and are expected to take all summer (if not longer). During renovations, lunches will be held in the WO & Sgts Mess.

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

**Jul 14-16** - Aldergrove Fair  
**July 19** - Yorke Island project update presentation  
**July 23** - Point Atkinson Tour  
**July 27** - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Korean War Veterans Day Ceremony  
**Sept 09** - WO & Sgts Mess Dinner

## **World War 2 - 1942**

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

**July 5<sup>th</sup>:** Tirpitz and her consorts turn back when it becomes clear the U-Boats and Luftwaffe are having a field-day with PQ-17 by themselves, sinking 13 ships today. PQ-13 blunders into an Allied minefield in the Denmark Straits between Greenland and Iceland and loses four ships. Hoth's Panzer Group reaches the Don near Voronezh.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>:** PQ-17 loses eight more ships while the Germans lose five aircraft. Meanwhile, General Spaatz is appointed to command the USAAF in Europe. RAF bombers hit Messina and Reggio Calabria. The German's 4th Panzer Army captures Voronezh.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>:** The survivors of PQ-17 start to straggle into the Soviet Arctic ports carrying 896 vehicles, 164 tanks, 87 aircraft and 57,000 tons of supplies: Strewn on the bottom of the Arctic Ocean are 24 ships, 3,350 trucks, 430 tanks, 210 aircraft and 96,000 tons of supplies. Army Group South is divided into Army Group A (under General List with 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Panzer Armies) and Army Group B (under General Bock with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Panzer Armies): List is to take Rostov and drive on Baku, Bock is to cover them by advancing beyond the Don.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>:** At El Alamein, Auchinleck starts a series of spoiling attacks by picking on the Italians and forcing the Panzers to use up fuel and parts dashing around shoring up the front. The 9<sup>th</sup> Australian attack on the Tel el Eisa salient on the coast overruns Rommel's primary signals intelligence unit (mortally wounding his top expert in the field) and garners a treasure trove of information on the weaknesses of Allied signals security.

## **US's New Super Weapon Is Basically a Weaponized Meteor Strike**

*Jared Keller June 7, 2017*



In the 1950s, Jerry Pournelle imagined the military equivalent of the extinction of the dinosaurs. Toiling away as a Boeing operations researcher in the afterglow of the Manhattan Project and the Soviet Union's First Lightning nuclear test in 1949, the US Army veteran envisioned a weapons system armed not with munitions and other chemical explosives, but massive rods forged from heavy metals dropped from sub-orbital heights. Those "tungsten thunderbolts," as

the New York Times called them, would impact enemy strongholds below with the devastating velocity of a dino-extminating impact, obliterating highly fortified targets — like, say, Iranian centrifuges or North Korean bunkers — without the mess of nuclear fallout.

Pournelle, whose years of experience in aerospace would fuel a career as a journalist and military science fiction writer, named his superweapon "Project Thor." Others just called it "Rods from God." In reality, weapons researchers refer to it as a "kinetic energy projectile": a super-dense, super-fast projectile that, operating free of complex systems and volatile chemicals, destroys everything in its path.

The idea of kinetic weaponry — raining down inert projectiles on an enemy with deadly velocity — is far from a novel concept. The trebuchet was the backbone of successful sieges for

hundreds of years, from ancient China to Hernan Cortes' subjugation of the Aztecs; during and after World War II, airmen have occasionally deployed clusters of inert "Lazy Dog" bombs — metal cylinders traveling at terminal velocity — on the battlefields of Korea and Vietnam. And gravity hasn't always been necessary. For decades, militaries have used ultra-dense "kinetic energy penetrators," also known as KEPs, specially designed shells often wrapped in an outer shell (a "sabot") and fired at high velocity rather than dropped from the sky, to defeat defense armor. That's the fundamental logic underpinning the US Navy's highly touted electromagnetic railgun, which can blast a 25-pound "hypervelocity projectile" with 32-megajoule muzzle energy through seven steel plates and obliterate whatever that armor is supposed to protect.

Whether dropped from the sky or fired from a cannon, the principle behind these weapons is the same: hitting the enemy with something very hard and very dense, moving very fast. And the kinetic energy projectile may become a staple of modern warfare sooner than you might think. In 2013, the US Air Force 846th Test Squadron and civilian researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory successfully test-fired a kinetic energy projectile, a tungsten-rich shell moving at 3,500 feet-per-second — more than three times faster than the speed of sound — on a specialized track at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. More recently, the Pentagon has tested the Navy electromagnetic rail gun's hypervelocity projectiles with the help of conventional US Army howitzers; the Navy hopes the completed cannon will be able to launch shells at up to 4,500 mph, six times the speed of sound.

Explosives may be dazzling in their destructiveness, but there's an elegant, almost Newtonian lethality to the kinetic energy projectile, explains Matt Weingart, a weapons program development manager at Lawrence Livermore. "The classic way of delivering hurt against a target has been to pack a lot of chemical explosive into a container of some kind, a barrel or a cannonball or steel bomb," Weingart told Task & Purpose in a phone interview. "The violence comes from the chemical explosive inside that bomb sending off a blast wave, followed by the fragments of the bomb case. But the difference with kinetic energy projectiles is that the warhead arrives at the target moving very, very fast — the energy is there to propel those fragments without the use of a chemical explosive to accelerate them. The more mass, the more violence." The concept of the hypersonic impact that defined Project Thor and its devastating potential hasn't been lost on defense officials. Military researchers are continuing to explore battlefield applications that "take advantage of high terminal speeds to deliver much more energy onto a target than the chemical explosives they carry would deliver alone," as Army Maj. Gen. William Hix put it at the Booz Allen Hamilton Direct Energy Summit in March. "Think of it as a big shotgun shell," Hix told the assembled crowd. "Not much can survive it. If you're in a main battle tank, if you're a crew member, you might survive but the vehicle will be non-mission capable, and everything below that level of protection will be dead. That's what I am talking about."

The KEP isn't just appealing because of its elegance and relative cost-effectiveness (a super-dense tungsten warhead is relatively cheaper than conventional explosive munitions), but for its theoretical precision. The hypersonic shell is designed to defeat enemy armor and completely

obliterate structures and equipment with extreme precision, whether it's fired from ground artillery or deployed from an aerial — or orbital — platform. As Weingart explains, Hix's vision is one of "raining down violence across a large area" — without, ostensibly, risking military personnel and hardware. And the KEP's upside isn't just precision in targeting, but precision in the level of violence that the weapon actually deals out. Because the shell's "yield" is essentially a function of velocity and density rather than explosive payload, confining the impact's devastating effects to a specific area is simply a matter of physics. In theory, the KEP is "basic physics," Weingart says, "but the implementation is really, really hard physics." "Using our high computing capabilities, we can exercise a high degree of control over those effects," says Weingart. "We've got the most extraordinary computing power in the world, and we can take exquisite knowledge of physics and put it into very sophisticated computer codes and run vast number problems to predict how things are going to behave in terms of speed and energy."

The KEP could offer a middle ground between the conventional precision GPS-guided munitions deployed by aircraft and high-yield, non-nuclear explosives like the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB), or "mother of all bombs," used against ISIS militants in Afghanistan in April. By adjusting the density of the KEP, military personnel could choose between defeating the armor on a single main battle tank and delivering violence wholesale (and simultaneously) across broad swaths of an operational area, without worrying about fallout. "On the battlefield, you could do a straightforward calculation about whether the speed or amount of explosives are the most effective part of the warhead," says Weingart. "Instead of putting explosives in, you just put in mass and heavy metals, regardless of delivery system or set of terminal conditions." "General Hix referred to it as a shotgun," he added. "You can have a narrow or broad choke and spotlight a very small area with these effects if you're trying to pinpoint a well-localized target without damaging the surrounding area."

But what's the main purpose of these kinetic energy projectiles, other than "raining down violence" with the shock and awe that only weapons like the "Mother of All Bombs" can inspire? For Pentagon planners, it could be to counter Russia's tactical nuclear stockpile, according to Hix, warheads that could appear on future battlefields alongside conventional weapons thanks to ongoing miniaturization efforts, according to the DoD's Russia New Generation Warfare Study. Central to the weapons system's tactical appeal isn't its delivery mechanism, but the KEP warhead itself. While Weingart's focus is on the KEP warhead rather than the firing system or combat context it might deploy in, he agrees with the potential application envisioned by Hix. "He is talking about the return of widespread violence to the battlefield, the fact we've seen the Russians do that in recent years by bombarding areas like Syria and Ukraine, the likes of which we haven't really seen since the Korean War." The applications of the KEP are mainly theoretical for now, and we're certainly decades away from a floating Thor's hammer circling the planet. But if kinetic energy projectiles do find efficient applications in warfare, it's possible they could find new delivery systems for battlefield destruction — with potentially devastating effects that might eclipse the MOAB as the most violent non-nuclear weapon in the Pentagon's arsenal.



## **WW I Hero Francis Pegahmagabow Receives Long-Awaited Recognition**

Courage of legendary indigenous veteran inspires new generation, says CBC's Reg Sherren

*Reg Sherren, CBC News Jun 22, 2015*



*The extended Pegahmagabow family was on hand with the rest of the community to witness their ancestor, Francis Pegahmagabow, finally being recognized. (CBC/Reg Sherren)*

The last time I visited his grave several years ago on the Wasauksing First Nation, I had this sense that someone, or something, was watching me. Then I saw the deer, just beyond the clearing, standing in the trees,

marking my every move. It wasn't panicked, just interested, keeping an eye on me until it moved into the deeper cover and disappeared, blended, into the forest. How fitting in a place where First World War vet Francis Pegahmagabow rests. Francis was a member of the Caribou Clan. Traditionally those of the Caribou, Deer, or Hoof clans were as gentle as the creatures for whom they were named. How ironic that Francis would go on to become Canada's most decorated indigenous soldier. And on Saturday, June 20, along the shores of Georgian Bay, we gathered to honour him. Two years ago, I was here to tell Francis' story to Canadians, part of The National's Remembrance Day coverage.

*Cpl. Francis Pegahmagabow, who was from Shawanaga First Nation reserve, was a soldier of the Second World War. Among other high points, he was renowned for his talents as an effective sniper. (CBC)*



Most people had never heard of Pegahmagabow or his tremendous accomplishments. But someone from the Ontario Heritage Trust was watching that night, and they contacted Theresa McInnes, his granddaughter. Two years later here we were on Wasauksing First Nation again, this time to formally honour him in ceremony, and to unveil two provincial plaques: one in Ojibwe, the other in English. There were political ministers and chiefs in attendance, and members of the Algonquin Regiment. The extended Pegahmagabow family was on hand with the rest of the community to hear their ancestor finally be recognized. The general consensus was that this formal tribute was long overdue for a man that had accomplished so much for his people, and indeed for indigenous people across the country — always in the face of tremendous adversity, whether on the battlefields of Europe, or struggling with the Indian agent sent by Ottawa to keep him oppressed. His warrior spirit fought on, and now, has become an inspiration.

Ontario Heritage Trust board member Harvey McCue had invited 21-year-old Charles "Maajijiwan" Petahtegoose, Francis's Great-Great-Grandson to read the plaque in the Ojibwe language.



*On June 20, 2015, two provincial plaques -- one in Ojibwe, the other in English -- were unveiled on Wasauksing First Nation, to honour Francis Pegahmagabow.*

*(Reg Sherren/CBC)*

After the ceremony Charles told me that he worries his language is being lost, but that the determination of his great-great-grandfather helps him to keep trying, and to encourage other young people to do

the same. Charles said he felt happy and proud to be part of such an important day. So did I, and honoured. By the way, remember that deer I mentioned at the start? Funny thing. Francis Pegahmagabow was a very spiritual man. He believed that for much of his life, certainly in the trenches of the First World War, a greater spiritual force was watching over him. I visited his grave again today to pay my respects, and guess what? Just as I was leaving his grave, I looked up into the shade of the trees, to see a deer watching me, as I walked away.

## The War Diary of C31 L/Sgt CD Phelan, A Battery, RCHA 1939 - 1945

### Chapter 5. The Episode in France, June 1940



*Bdr Phelan in Italy*

**Early Jun 1940** All our trucks and guns left the camp for parts unknown.

**10-11 Jun** In the evening, the Regiment was taken to Fleet by a convoy of buses. Then we boarded a train and travelled all night, reaching Plymouth in the morning. We were marched to the docks and boarded a French ship, the *El Kantara*. This was formerly a freighter, converted into a troop ship. It carried a complement of 27 guns of various types. Shortly before, the crew had been decorated for their work in Norway. We slept all over the ship and tried to make ourselves comfortable. What a job! The ship was filthy and stunk

like a pig pen. We spent most of the time on the deck. Late in the evening we cast off. As we drew away from the dock someone started to sing "Oh Canada". The few people on the dock took it up and the strains of our national anthem swelled over the sea. All through the night we travelled at top speed, convoyed by British and French naval units.

**12 Jun** Early in the morning we sighted land. As we drew into the harbor at Brest we passed several ships crowded with refugees. Waiting for us on the dock were the party that had preceded us, with the guns and vehicles. We disembarked and climbed a long steep hill paved with cobblestones. At the top, we were sorted out into our proper troops. We were then marched to a railroad siding where we were loaded into the well-known French rail cars, marked “40 hommes – 8 chevaux” (40 men – 8 horses). Before the train pulled out some of the boys raided a huge pile of hogsheads of “vin rouge”. Buckets, mess tins, water bottles, and anything that didn’t leak were filled with wine. When the train pulled out there were several empty barrels on the dock, and one full one on the train. Many of the boys were well on the way to being filled themselves. We travelled through some very pretty country. It wasn’t long before many of the cars were chalked with the slogan “Vive la France – Vive les Canadiens” and “Les Canadiens Sont Ici”. For supper, we had bully beef and hardtack. Hardtack came packed in bundles of a dozen biscuits about 2 x 3 inches in size. It looked fairly appetizing but tasted like a cross between a dog biscuit and a piece of wood. The best way to eat it was to soak it in water or vin rouge.

**13 Jun** We started the morning with more bully beef and hardtack. In the afternoon, we drew into a large station whose platform was crowded with old men, women, and young children, all waiting for a train to take them somewhere – anywhere! They were hungry, and we began to pass out our iron rations which was about all the food we had. When we pulled out of the station we saw that we’d given not only our iron rations but also our rations for supper and the next day’s breakfast. Not a man was sorry! Later, we reached the town of Pontivy, where we detrained. After a lunch of tea, bully beef and hardtack, we marched a short way where we were met by the vehicles and guns. We were soon loaded into our own trucks and felt happy to be with our guns again. The convoy started to roll through town after town. We were received with great fuss, and the people would step onto the road holding aloft bottles of wine. At one stop we bought yard-long loaves of bread and persuaded a woman to fry some eggs for us. When we started again we were all on top of the truck with a yard-long fried egg sandwich in one hand and a bottle of wine in the other.

A few kilometers past the town of Sable, C Troop was billeted in a barn. About a dozen of us stripped and went for a swim in a large deep stream. The water was too deep to stand, so we borrowed a boat which we could see on the adjoining farm. About 15 minutes later, as we were diving off the boat, the very irate owner of the boat appeared. He was spouting voluble French and was waving a rusty old shotgun. We had a slight suspicion that he resented the borrowing of his boat. We finally got the old boy cooled down and returned his boat.

**14 Jun** Shortly after dawn a DR’s motorbike roared into the farmyard. We were given orders to get the guns into action and prepare for tanks. We got the guns into action in record time and prayed for a tank to come over the hill in front of us. None of us had much idea of the differences between a British, French, or German tank, so it was probably lucky that no tanks came along. After about an hour and a half we got orders to pack up. We were told that the French were preparing to surrender and that we were to proceed back to Brest. Our orders were to reach Brest as fast as possible and if we happened to get lost we were to get to Brest the best way we could.

It was a badly disappointed group which turned south again. We travelled all day and well into the night.

**15 Jun.** Early in the morning we continued on our way, until we were forced to a halt by a 21-mile long column of BEF vehicles which stretched all the way to the docks of Brest. After a couple of hours, we set out with just the guns and ammo limbers under the personal leadership of our CO, Col Roberts. We drove past the whole lineup, with the CO personally acting as guide and directing traffic at the crossroads. We drove directly onto the docks, despite all orders from some French soldiers stationed there, and parked. We could see the ships anchored just outside the harbor. We stayed on the docks all day and that night slept on top of the quads with a rifle in one hand and a tin hat in the other.

**16 Jun** The ships started to move into the harbor. As soon as one drew into our particular dock, we got the guns aboard. We were then given orders to wreck the vehicles as thoroughly as possible. Did we ever go to work! We went at them with sledge hammers and camouflage poles. We drained the oil and raced the motors till the engines seized, poured sand into the works, punctured the gas tanks, smashed windows, ignition systems, and batteries. And ripped everything out. When we were ordered to head for the ships, six of us were too busy smashing things and didn't reach the rest of the Regiment before they left. Sgt Sid Benstead, How Munro, Merv Hawe, Jim Murphy, Rod Hannah, and I finally scrambled aboard an oil tanker with a bunch of Brits. Here we met Charlie Neddow and another Canadian cook. Our ship was the *Lifland*, a Norwegian ship, and we were crammed all over the deck. We seemed to be the last three or four ships to leave the harbor. Our only rations were a large tin of issue chocolate bars. We ate these until we were sick of them, then traded some to the Brits for bully beef. The Brits had tea, but the rotten Brit NCO wouldn't give any to us eight Canucks. What we told him was a real earful!

**17 Jun** After a long night we reached Falmouth. At the head of the gangway an officer called out the regiments, with their seniors, in the order of disembarkation. Finally he called "First Canadian Field Regiment, under Sgt Benstead." As eight dirty, tired Canadians marched ashore, jaws dropped all over the place - they thought the Regiment had been wiped out. Who were we to disillusion them? On the docks we were given tea and bully beef sandwiches. Then a squad of MPs, real regular guys, led us to the train station, carrying our kits on their motorbikes. We got a great reception at the station. Volunteer ladies handed out smokes and cakes, and poured out huge jugs of tea, lemonade, and beer. Early in the evening the Regiment arrived by train from Plymouth, and we rejoined them. Then we boarded a train and travelled all night.

**18 Jun** We reached Farnborough where we were met by 2 Fd Regt trucks, which took us back to Leipzig Camp. Later it was revealed that of all the BEF evacuated from Brest and Dunkirk, the RCHA was the only Regiment which had saved their guns. To an artillery regiment this was the best that could be said of it.

*(Editorial Note: From **The Gunners of Canada, Vol 2: In France, 1 Fd Regt** had turned over a gun to Ordnance that had been damaged in a road accident. The Regiment preserved a discreet*



*silence about the resourceful limber gunner, who, in the midst of the confusion at Brest, had contrived to hook onto his tractor an unattended gun belonging to some British unit. The “find” was retained until the Regiment’s 18/25 pdrs were replaced by 25 pdrs.)*

## **Chapter 6. Part 1. Schemes, Invasion Scares, The Battle of Britain, and Beckenham**

**19 Jun-20 Jul 1940** As we had little equipment except our precious guns, we were comparatively idle until July. At one stage, there were 150 men on guard every night, on the alert for possible airborne invasions. As a consequence, we hit duty about every second night. Our equipment gradually arrived and eventually we were fully equipped again. Included in our new equipment were Canadian-made quads. During July, the 7<sup>th</sup> Corps was formed under Gen McNaughton. It consisted of 1 Cdn Div and 1 Armoured Div (Br), with some New Zealanders. Maj Gen Pearkes took over command of 1 Cdn Div. Through June and into the summer 1 Cdn Div was the only fully equipped formation in the UK. It was our convoys rolling around the country that gave the impression of a much greater strength than could actually go into action.

**21-28 Jul** We set out in convoy and after five hours reached Fargo Camp. We were kept busy on the ranges all day. I was now the regular gun-layer. We were firing without gun platforms and the old gun did some plain and fancy jumping. Every night a lone German plane passed over the camp, but very considerably dropped no bombs. At this time Col Simonds was CO of the regiment, Col Roberts having been made brigadier. The new colonel was from staff and apparently was a very smart man. From our point of view, he had some pretty queer ideas. We had to wear full web equipment, with haversacks, water bottles, gas capes and tin hats on all maneuvers and even while riding in convoy. It was hell riding in the hot hot box of a quad with all that junk wrapped around us. The food was terrible and complaints poured in every day. At last the Colonel called a regimental parade. He gave us a pep talk and explained the system of drawing rations. Finally, he said: “If anyone can’t take it, come and see me and I’ll have him sent home.” Reports say that several of the fellows tried it but it didn’t work.

**29 Jul-4 Aug** We travelled to Banstead Woods and set up camp. The tents, trucks and guns were scattered throughout a large wood. About all we did there was gun drill and maintenance, with a bit of PT thrown in. While there I had a Lewis Gun course and learned what made that useful gadget work. Like the instructor said: “When the gun is loaded, the safety catch is off, and the trigger is pulled, a loud voice should be heard.”

**5-14 Aug** We packed up and stole away in the night. We travelled a few hours to Charwood, near Horley. We set up camp and built tables and washstands outside our tents. Near each tent we began digging slit trenches, at about a foot a day – no rushing, just a nice leisurely job. We met our first Mobile Bath Unit while at Charwood. They had a shower arrangement through which more or less warm water was pumped. It certainly felt good to get the dirt off.

**15-16 Aug** We were out all night on a brigade turnout. When we returned the guards told of seeing a Hurricane shoot down a Jerry plane which had passed over the camp. We were

disappointed to have missed that, but there was a surprise in store for us. Just after supper a loud humming noise proclaimed the approach of a large number of planes. The air raid sirens started to scream and we dove into our slit trenches. A large number of Jerry planes came into sight. AA guns all around us opened fire and shells burst all through the large formation. In about another minute a flight of Hurricanes arrived on the scene and tackled the Jerries. Both formations broke up and in a few minutes, there were dogfights going on all over the sky. As we watched, one Jerry began to spiral slowly down with a Hurricane on his tail. As he neared the ground the Jerry burst into flames and crashed in a huge cloud of black smoke. The Hurricane zoomed up and came up directly below a second German plane, which he sent hurtling to the ground with one long burst from his guns. In all, four German planes were shot down near the camp, and nine farther away. Six bombs were dropped on the crossroads about a mile and a half away but no other damage was done. We later learned that 180 German planes were shot down on that day. This was an early part of the Battle of Britain.

**22 Aug** A recording unit of the CBC came to the camp and made recordings for broadcast to Canada. A number of the boys were allowed to say a few words to the folks at home. We learned that some character had dreamed up a new Horse Artillery song. Sung to the tune of “Roll Along Covered Wagons” the words to the first verse were:

Roll along, Horse Artillery, roll along,  
To the turn of your wheels, we’ll sing a song,  
We’ll be cashing in our chips, to the boys who wear no pips,  
Roll along, Horse Artillery, roll along

That evening, A Bty went on an all-night scheme. We moved off under darkness, travelled about 500 yards, took up a position, and started to dig. We picked and shovelled while the moon rose and set and finally succeeded in gouging a hole about 20 feet square and varying from one to three feet deep. During the night planes constantly passed overhead. We heard several extra loud explosions, and the next day we learned that we had heard a bombardment by big guns from the French Coast.

**25 Aug** I went to bed early and I could hear a couple of planes. Then - CRUMP! CRUMP! – two bombs fell near the camp. Sirens began to blow and I was in the slit trench in nothing flat. We caught sight of a large German bomber, flying very low. A whistling bomb started down and we flattened in the bottom of the trench. About eight bombs fell about a half mile from the lines. One landed in the RCR camp and 3 or 4 of them were killed. From then until midnight we were in and out of our trenches nearly a dozen times.

**26 Aug 1940** The regiment moved out and joined the Brigade convoy. While on the road we ran into an air raid. We pulled over and dove into the ditches. Nothing happened for a few minutes and as a result a farmer’s tomato field suffered a raid by a foraging party. Continuing on our way, we were proceeding along in convoy when our quad driver missed a turn and soon we were rolling through the dark all by ourselves. A DR from the RCR picked us up and started to guide us.

Searchlights were sweeping the sky and in the distance AA guns were in action. We finally reached the gun position about midnight. We got the gun on line and started to dig our gun pit. We worked until about 0530 hrs, got the gun into the pit, and rolled in for two hours sleep. During all of our digging planes had been passing overhead in a continuous procession. A couple of hours before dawn a Jerry was seen spiraling down a searchlight beam until it hit the ground. It had a load of bombs which exploded with a terrific crash and a flash that lit up the country for miles.

**27 Aug** In the morning we packed up and returned to camp. After supper, most of us turned in early, but we had to get into our trenches when the Alert sounded at 2115 hrs. A couple of uneventful hours later the All Clear sounded.

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

The war diaries updates from 100 years ago continue on our What's New page

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new>

We've found another member of 31 Battery CFA CEF that was awarded the Military Medal – Corporal Edward Savage. <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/mm.html>

The Nominal Roll was updated with new entries from the U's to the Z's. Is your name there?

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---u,v.html>

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---w.html>

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---xyz.html>

A Who, What, Where and When challenge has been launched to find out more on a former Regimental Sergeant Major of the 43rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RCA.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/who-what-where-when.html>

A new video from the Freedom of the City in 1977 has been placed in the yearbook

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1977.html>

A new photo of four Regimental Sergeants Majors has been uploaded to the 1986 yearbook.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1986.html>

[Keep those stories and pictures coming!](#) Contact Leon Jensen at [LeonJ1@hotmail.com](mailto:LeonJ1@hotmail.com)

## **Who Is It**



**Last Week:** This, of course, is a dummy gun position. The picture was taken late in the war possibly in Point Grey, so it was, probably, supposed to be a 25pdr (but it could be an 18pdr too) with troops and truck, meant to fool aerial observers. This was probably an exercise for the local gunners to teach them how to create dummy positions with very basic materials.

**This Week:** Well, we had to revert to banned chemical weapons, but the jihadi-linked silverfish in our vast underground storage vault are now in full retreat, thanks in part to help from a Russian friend who was able to supply the necessary items. Nonetheless, the old Part 2 Orders did suffer a bit of gnawing. However, a happy outcome was the discovery of a strange little vintage cardboard box, labelled as Kodak print paper. Inside we found what looked at first sight to be rolls of 35mm film, but, upon examination turned out to be contact rolls of long-lost negatives. Scanning these proved a bit of a challenge, but the new-fangled Internet gave us some good advice. I do hope the WWW isn't just a passing fad.



Most of the images are of Canadian soldiers enjoying the gardens and ruined castles of wartime England, but a few show troops in the field and in uniform. This is one of those, showing three officers in a jeep (note the 'seat belt' (!) and the Mickey Mouse camouflage). The chap nearest the camera is a Pay Corps wallah, a good fellow to befriend. As the photo is in black and white, the colour of his divisional patch is a mystery. However, we know

he was attached to an artillery unit, and think it might have been in the Second Division. If you look at the windscreen, you will see on its right something that might be the sign of that division, while the tac sign on the left is that of his artillery unit. Our question is: which one used "47"? If you can help, contact the editor, [bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com) or the author, John Redmond ([john.d.redmond@telus.net](mailto:john.d.redmond@telus.net)). By the way, on a conservation note, if you have any really old negatives, check to see if they are "nitrate" ones. If so, they could be a fire hazard and should be kept in your refrigerator, or, if military, given to our museum for scanning and safe keeping!

### **From the 'Punitary'**

What kind of cats like to go bowling? Alley cats.

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

If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.

### **Quotable Quotes**

A mediocre idea that generates enthusiasm will go further than a great idea that inspires no one.  
- Mary Kay Ash



## **Wednesday Lunches**

**Have you been down to Bessborough Armoury lately?**

**When was the last time you were at the**

**15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Officers' Mess?**

**Did you know that the Mess continues to offer a fine lunch  
every Wednesday at 12:00?**

**For \$20.00 you get a 5 course meal and the opportunity to reconnect  
with your Gunner friends and other guests.**

**Business attire expected.**

***The Regimental Museum opens at 10:00 every Wednesday.***



## **Leon Jensen OMM CD**

**President – Vancouver Artillery Association**

**Will be providing an update on the**

## **Yorke Island Conservancy Project**

**A partnership between**

**BC Parks**

**and**

**The Vancouver Artillery Association**

**Bessborough Armoury**

**Wednesday 19 July 2017**

**13:00 hours**

***Join us for lunch at 12:00 - Visit the Regimental Museum at***





# 105<sup>th</sup> Aldergrove FAIR DAYS

July 14-16, 2017

## FLOWER POWER

FEATURING: CANADIAN FAST DRAW CHAMPIONSHIPS • SHOW'N'SHINE • CHILI COOK-OFF • RIDES & GAMES • HEADLINE BAND MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT • KIDZONE ENTERTAINMENT • ANIMAL SHOWS • AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION • GARDEN EQUIPMENT FEATURE • ANTIQUE & GARDEN TRACTOR PULLING • COWBOY CHURCH • GARDEN TOURS • FAIRY MAGICLAND • ZIP LINE JOUSTING • AND SO MUCH MORE!



**Join us Saturday, July 15th at 10 am for the Fair Days Parade!!**



**Rockin Friday**



**Groovin Saturday evening**

(with **TROOPER** as well as Beatles, CCR, Janis Joplin, and other Tribute Bands)



**Sunday Afternoon of Blues**



Parade begins at Community Policing Office  
270th St. Fraser Hwy ending at 273rd St by OAP Hall





## CANADA 150 TOUR of POINT ATKINSON LIGHT STATION

Lighthouse Park Preservation Society and West Vancouver Historical Society invite you to join a free guided tour of the light station grounds. Learn about the link between the lighthouse and Canada's confederation. Climb the steps to the base of the lighthouse (the tower will not be open). Enter the Fog Alarm museum to learn about its inner workings and the role of the lighthouse keeper. Sit inside the Power House to view a short slide show on the presence of the military during WWII.

**For more information about the tour and to register  
please email [pointatkinsonpals@gmail.com](mailto:pointatkinsonpals@gmail.com)**

### TOUR DATES

**Sunday May 14**

**Sunday June 18**

**Sunday July 23**

**Sunday August 13**

**Sunday Sept. 3**

### TOUR TIMES

**1:00 pm & 3:00 pm**

**Registration required  
Limit 20 per tour**



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA  
all for community.

FONDTIONS  
COMMUNAUTAIRES  
DU CANADA  
ensemble pour tous.



CANADA 150

Canada



## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Korean War Veterans Day Ceremony**



### **\*SPECIAL INVITATION\***

The Korean War Commemorative Alliance  
cordially invites you to

### **The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Korean War Veterans Day Ceremony**

To mark the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice

**Thursday, July 27th, 2017**

**10:30am Wreath-laying Ceremony**

**Location: "Ambassador of Peace" Korean War Memorial in  
Burnaby's Central Park  
(Boundary Road and East 46th Avenue)**

Light lunch provided by the Burnaby Firefighters following the ceremony

Kindly RSVP your attendance to [reg-asst-martin@outlook.com](mailto:reg-asst-martin@outlook.com)

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Office of the Honourable Senator Yonah Martin  
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate  
[reg-asst-martin@outlook.com](mailto:reg-asst-martin@outlook.com) / 613-947-4078  
<http://yonahmartin.sencanada.ca>

**WO & Sgts ANNUAL MESS DINER**

**The Regimental Sergeant-Major  
*Warrant Officers and Sergeants*  
*of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment,*  
*The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery***

*Cordially invite you  
to their*

**ANNUAL MESS DINNER**

**Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Cocktails: 18:00 hrs Dinner: 19:00 hrs**

*To be held in the*  
**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess  
Bessborough Armoury  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC**

RSVP required by 30<sup>st</sup> August 2017  
to the Mess Treasurer, (*Sgt Cooley*)  
2025 West 11th Ave,  
Vancouver BC V6J 2C7  
Email: [james.cooley@forces.gc.ca](mailto:james.cooley@forces.gc.ca)  
Telephone: 604-666-4331

Dress Mess Kit/Formal  
Ticket price: \$60.00  
Cheque payable to *15<sup>th</sup> Field  
Warrant Officers' and  
Sergeants' mess*. Pay at the  
door or mail in payment



Okanagan Military Tattoo 2017 - Vernon 29-30 July 2017



*Wrap Up A*  
**TATTOO**  
*This Holiday Season!*

**OKANAGAN**  
**MILITARY**  
**TATTOO**  
**2017**

**July 29<sup>th</sup> 7PM  
& 30<sup>th</sup> 2PM**

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Purchase 3 tickets  
Receive the 4<sup>th</sup> FREE!

**Special Offer Only Through Ticketseller.  
Call 250-549-SHOW(7469) Until Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2016**

**[www.okanagantattoo.ca](http://www.okanagantattoo.ca)**

   