



'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 7, 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 09** Vimy Day Commemoration

**Everyone stay safe!!**

### World War 2 – 1945

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

**Apr 8<sup>th</sup>:** The British reorganize their forces in Burma for a rapid advance down the Irrawaddy towards Rangoon. Schweinfurt is taken by US 7th Army while the French take Pforzheim. The Soviets push on past Vienna and keep hammering their way into Konigsberg.

**Apr 9<sup>th</sup>:** The Kamikaze offensive off Okinawa continues, but they are running out of steam and only hit 5 warships today. Elements of 41<sup>st</sup> US Infantry land on Jolo. Admiral Canaris, until recently chief of the Abwehr (German military intelligence), is shot at Flossenberg concentration camp on suspicion that he was involved in plots against Hitler. The RAF puts Sheer, Hipper and Emden out of commission for the remainder of the war in a raid on Kiel. In Italy, 8<sup>th</sup> Army begins its final offensive with an attack towards Ferrara and Bologna. Krupp Arms has delivered its last guns; US troops enter their Ruhr Factory complex. The sudden German assault in 1940 meant that there were not enough Danes in exile to form any units of their own so a Danish fighting man abroad will have to wear another uniform. A Danish captain in the British SAS, Anders Lassen, is mortally wounded while leading a diversionary raid on Germany positions at Lake Comacchio in Italy. Despite his wounds he continues to fight

on to cover the withdrawal of his men. A posthumous Victoria Cross is added to the three Military Crosses he earned in battle in British uniform.

**Apr 10<sup>th</sup>:** Hanover falls to XIII Corps of 9<sup>th</sup> US Army; 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Army is crossing the Ijssel River (in a hotly contested operation) in Holland; and all other Allied Armies are advancing. 8<sup>th</sup> Army makes good progress in Italy, largely because the main German effort is opposite 5<sup>th</sup> Army. US XIV Corps liberates Mauban on Luzon. British IV Corps liberates Thazi in Burma. Buchenwald Concentration Camp is liberated.

**Apr 11<sup>th</sup>:** USS Missouri and Enterprise are hit in Japanese air attacks as TF-58 and the British carriers engage in airfield suppression raids off southern Japan. Soviet troops reach the Danube Canal in Vienna. Elements of 9<sup>th</sup> US Army reach the Elbe near Magdeburg and Weimar falls to elements of 3<sup>rd</sup> US Army. In Italy, 8<sup>th</sup> British Army starts crossing the Santerno River and US 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division liberates Carrara. The Americal Division lands on Bohol in the Philippines. An Anglo-French battleship division comprising Queen Elizabeth and Richelieu bombard Sabang.

**Apr 12<sup>th</sup>:** The US loses their Commander in Chief; President Roosevelt dies of a cerebral haemorrhage. Baden Baden, Brunswick, Erfurt and Essen are captured by the Western Allies. The Shuri line is holding across southern Okinawa, despite determined (and expensive) American assaults. The leading British elements in Burma engage the Japanese at Pyaubwe and Yamethin. The German POW Camp Stalag VIC Oberlangen is freed by 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division, and finds it is populated with women prisoners of the Polish Home Army taken in the Warsaw uprising in September 1944. Among the freed women is the 18 year old Eva Konopacki, whose conduct in the fighting in Warsaw was distinguished enough for the Home Army to have named her to the Order Virtuti Militari, Poland's highest award for military courage. Among other things, she had crawled under fire from a Tiger Tank to reestablish communications with a cut-off detachment in the Convent of the Sisters of Resurrection

**Apr 13<sup>th</sup>:** Belsen is liberated, just as the full news of Buchenwald reaches the Allied public; Jena and Bamberg are taken by American troops. US troops pour 5,000 gallons of fuel into the interior of Fort Drum in Manila Bay and set it on fire; killing all the remaining members of the Japanese garrison. The Soviets complete the capture of Vienna despite the stiff resistance of the Waffen SS. Hitler is outraged by their "failure" and commands the Waffen SS to be stripped of many honors and for its soldiers to no longer wear their decorations, but the troops ignore this order. On Okinawa, T/Sgt Beauford T Anderson of the 96<sup>th</sup> Division encounters a surprise pre-dawn attack on his position. Ordering his men into cover, he uses a carbine and 60mm mortar bombs as improvised grenades to check the attack. He is wounded in the attack but refuses evacuation until he has reported to his company commander. Some 25 dead Japanese are strewn around his position and he is awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Apr 14<sup>th</sup>:** Fifth Army unleashes its long-prepared assault and begins to attack towards Bologna. US XIV Corps liberates Calaug in southern Luzon. French forces attack the German pocket on the French Atlantic Coast at Royan. Lt Cdr George Levick Street takes his submarine USS

Tirante on a risky surface run into a well defended harbor on Quelpart Island off Korea, torpedoing a Japanese ammunition ship and two anti-submarine vessels; then he speeds out amid a flurry of shells and tracers as the outraged Japanese attempt to destroy his ship. His impudent gamble is rewarded with the Medal of Honor.

## **Vimy Day – 9 April**

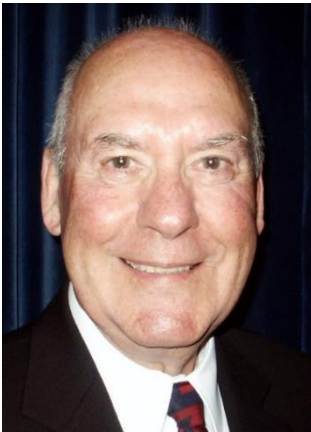
**The public is invited to commemorate Vimy Day in Vancouver.**

Due to the cancellation of the Vimy Day Commemoration and Parade because of the Coronavirus pandemic, those wishing to individually honour the memory of Canadians who gave their lives at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 are invited to place a single flower, poppy, or wreath, between 10 AM and 5 PM on Thursday, April 9 2020, at the Cross of Sacrifice in the Commonwealth War Graves Section, Mountain View Cemetery, 5455 Fraser Street, Vancouver. A reminder to maintain a 2-metre physical distance from others and to keep the visit short. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian flag atop Vancouver City Hall will be lowered to half-mast to commemorate Vimy Day.

*Cam Cathcart, Chair, Vancouver Vimy Day Committee*

## **Tribute to Vic Coroy**

Former President of RUSI Vancouver victim of COVID-19.



It was with shock and great sadness that we learned of the untimely death, on April 2, 2020, of LCol (Ret'd) Victor Coroy CD, who succumbed to the curse of Novel Coronavirus at Queensway-Carleton Hospital in Ottawa at age 83.

Vic Coroy was President of RUSI Vancouver from 2006 to 2007 and initiated the idea of Honour House, in which our veterans could have a “home away from home” while in Vancouver for medical treatment.

The Honour House project began with a fundraising concert early in 2006 at Massey Theatre in New Westminster. He and Pat moved to Ottawa two years later and returned in 2010 to attend the official opening of Honour House in New Westminster which continues as Vic’s legacy of his time in BC and as President of RUSI Vancouver.

Vic Coroy served with distinction for 39 years in the Canadian Army and Canadian Forces as a gunnery officer and air observation pilot. He was a true officer and a gentleman. On behalf of the RUSI membership we offer sincere condolences to his wife Pat and family. Pat tells us that Vic’s last words were “be safe”.

Cameron Cathcart. President  
RUSI Vancouver

## The Story of NHS Nightingale

How Britain's biggest hospital was built from scratch in under two weeks.

Guy Kelly *The Telegraph* 3 April 2020

In just 10 days, military personnel, the NHS and contractors turned a London exhibition centre into the UK's largest hospital. Here's how.

Time moves at curious speeds during a pandemic. Hours disappear in the blink of an eye. Days seem entirely indistinct. And yet, somehow, single weeks can also be so chaotic, so busy, as to feel like months have gone by. You could certainly have been forgiven for thinking you'd misread your calendar when images of NHS Nightingale, the emergency field hospital built within London's ExCel Centre to ease pressure on the health service during the coronavirus crisis, were released earlier this week. The government press conference at which Matt Hancock, the health secretary, announced NHS Nightingale's planned construction was on March 24th. Ten days ago. At that point the ExCel was an empty, a 100,000 square metre convention hall. Today, as Prince Charles cuts its virtual red tape, Nightingale is a fully functioning, fully equipped field hospital capable of holding 500 Covid-19 patients. Soon, that number could expand to 4,000.



*Getty Images*

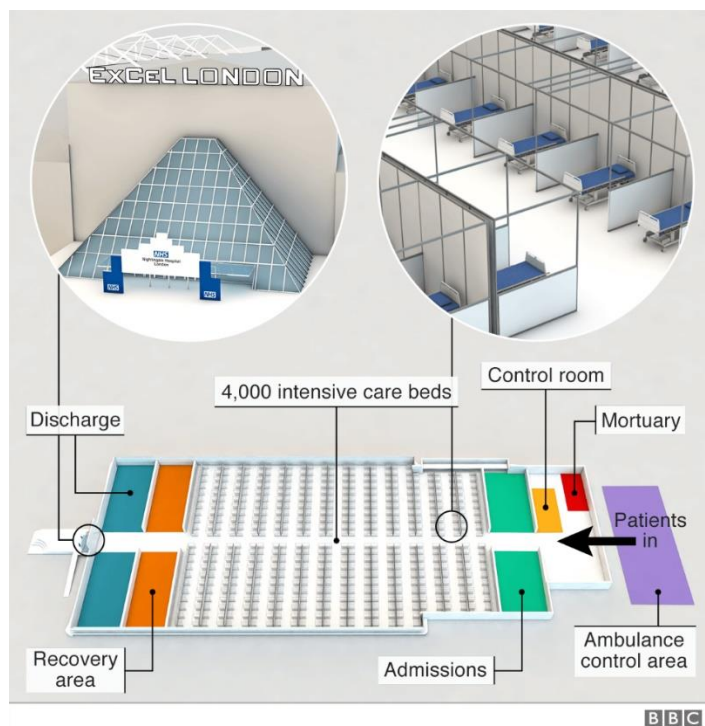
It is a remarkable feat of planning and execution. Modern Britain doesn't enjoy the finest record for delivering vast infrastructure projects on time or without drama (one thinks of Crossrail, or Wembley Stadium, or the ExCel's fellow eastender, the Millennium Dome, among others), but the urgency of the

coronavirus pandemic, combined with the fact the hospital was overseen by the Army's top military planners in conjunction with health officials, has meant NHS Nightingale is a shining example of UK engineering at its resourceful best. The man tasked with creating a 4000-bed hospital from scratch was Colonel Ashleigh Boreham, commanding Officer, 256 City of London Field Hospital. Col Boreham, from the Army Medical Services, has spent 27 years in the Forces, including as a medical commander in Afghanistan, and has helped construct field hospitals all over the world. He was nearing the end of his time in the military when he was asked, a fortnight ago, to look into how possible it might be for the ExCel Centre to become a makeshift hospital. It would be the first of a series of field hospitals hastily built around the UK to help the ever-stretched NHS during the pandemic. The NEC Birmingham, the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, the SEC Centre in Glasgow and Parc y Scarlets in Llanelli will also turn into hospitals. "We literally got a phone call, arrived here, met up with the NHS about nine days ago, sat around a table and basically did what you always do," Col Boreham, 54, who was due to retire and join the NHS in a role presiding over elective care, said on Tuesday. "We draw

up a plan, over a brew, and then from that you start to build up a plan and create the product. It's the biggest job I've ever done.”

The ExCel Centre is used to rapid makeovers. It can turn from a comic convention to an industry trade show to a street food exposition in days, but those events tend to require relatively similar set ups: stages, stalls, seating, all supported by the venue's 27 retailers and restaurants. An NHS hospital built during a pandemic is something else entirely. The twin 600-metre halls of the centre would be filled, eventually, with 2,000 hospital beds each, divided by screens either side. Every single bed would also be surrounded by new equipment, including a state-of-the-art anaesthesia machine, a computer, trolleys, vinyl floors, bins... That's aside from ensuring there are at least a dozen wired plug sockets available behind every bed. But hospitals are more than beds, of course. They are divided into numerous departments: reception desks, triage areas, treatment sections, pharmacies, rest rooms for staff, offices for both medical leadership and building contractors and so on. NHS Nightingale required all of this, as well as a morgue – the building of which, Col Boreham said, made “people focus their minds”.

Those plans, which were leaked by contractors last week, appeared to show that patients will enter the hospital at the eastern end of the hall, then be triaged (assessed), then move to one of



three newly-partitioned areas: ‘invasive ventilation’ (involving intubation), ‘non-invasive ventilation’, or ‘minor signs and symptoms’. They’d then ideally progress to recovery, and out through the centre’s western exit. Coffee shops and restaurants, normally lining the sides of the halls, have been converted into pharmacies and other supply stores. As well as its size, the shape of the ExCel – effectively one gargantuan corridor – will have been a factor in Col Boreham deciding its appropriateness as a field hospital. By being long and thin, patients can enter at one end and leave at the other, minimising cross-contamination and keeping things as simple as possible for under-pressure staff working in a new location.

The task was daunting, but the Army Medical Services – made up of serving personnel and reservists – were brought in for their experience of working at pace. “At every stage the NHS are leading this, we are literally just doing that little bit of assisting and planning,” Col Boreham insisted, modestly. His team was supported by troops from the Royal Anglian Regiment, many of whom had been working in Sierra Leone until recently, in addition to experts and construction units from the Royal Engineers and the Queen’s Gurkha Engineers. In total, around 200 military personnel worked from 7am to 10pm every day to see the job finished. Their engineers and logisticians helped the NHS plan and design the facility, then supported members of the police, firefighters, volunteers and hundreds of civilian contractors with

electrical, plumbing and carpentry tasks, such as building beds and laying vinyl floors. One of those contractors gave us an early look at progress inside the halls, posting a video on social media last week. “I didn’t take this virus very seriously until I saw this,” he said, surveying the vast ExCel floor. “This morning, I come in and this is the size of the hall... If you’re not taking it seriously like I wasn’t, I think we really need to start, because they’re preparing for an absolute high death toll here.”

Col Boreham, who lives in Guildford and is married with two children, said the challenge was in the sheer scale of the task. He has a Masters degrees in Defence Studies and Emergency Planning, as well as experience in war and the Ebola epidemic in West Africa in 2014, yet he’d done nothing like this. Field hospitals in theatres of war are multi-disciplinary, with a focus on trauma surgery. Only needing to cater to Covid-19 patients is simpler, Col Boreham said, but that is moot when the task is to build what could become the world’s largest critical care facility. “I’ve come from a family that served in the past. My grandfather was at the Somme, this is no different. I’m just at a different battle,” he said. “It’s the biggest job I’ve ever done, but you know what, I’ve spent 27 years [in the military] on a journey to this moment.”

NHS Nightingale is named, of course, for Florence Nightingale, in the year of her bicentenary. As the founder of modern nursing, the credentials of ‘The Lady with the Lamp’ as a hero to the health service are beyond question – but she’s particularly apt for this project. In 1854, Nightingale sent a plea to The Times newspaper deploring the conditions of British military field hospitals in Turkey during the Crimean war. Ten times more soldiers were dying from diseases like cholera and dysentery than from battle wounds. In response, the War Office commissioned Isambard Kingdom Brunel to design the world’s first prefabricated hospital in the Dardanelles. Just five months later, the entirely new Renkioi Hospital accepted its first patients (initially 300, then more than 2,000). Infection rates collapsed. Nightingale, then, is not only the mother of nursing, but possibly the mother of prefab. Now, more than 150 years on, the first patients will be arriving this week at an even more swiftly built hospital bearing her name, as the health service faces its greatest crisis in peacetime.

NHS Nightingale will be run by the health service, St John’s Ambulance volunteers and a small number of military medics. First aid-trained staff from easyJet and Virgin Atlantic have already been enlisted to help trained nurses. Each of the hospital’s 80 wards of 42 beds (decorated with artwork by local schoolchildren) requires 200 medical staff. In total, it is expected that more than 16,000 members of NHS staff may be needed to run the facility if it reaches full capacity. Of course, NHS Nightingale isn’t open just yet, and it may be a while before it is at capacity. Problems will surely arise as soon as patients begin filling the wards – that is the nature of working at speed, and something the military and NHS will be all too prepared for. At the moment, though, simply its existence is a staggering achievement. A fortnight ago, London’s ExCel Centre was an empty room. It had been forced to postpone the National Wedding Show, scheduled to fill its halls, along with thousands of enthusiastic engaged couples, this coming weekend. It is now the largest, and newest, hospital in the UK. But there is little time for self-congratulation. Construction staff at NHS Nightingale are moving out; doctors, nurses and other heroic health workers are moving in. There are lives to save, and every second counts.

## **No 'Greater Threat' to Canada Than COVID-19, Military Says**

24,000 troops activated to help fight it. *'During these unprecedented times, those who wear the uniform will be there for Canadians when called upon,' Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said*  
*Adrian Humphreys National Post March 30, 2020*



*“The Canadian Armed Forces are a full-spectrum force with an extremely diverse set of skills, capabilities and equipment.”*

*Jeff McIntosh/The Canadian Press/File*

Canada’s military sees no “greater threat” to Canadians than the coronavirus pandemic and is mobilizing up to 24,000 troops to do whatever is needed. As the toll of COVID-19 climbs unabated across Canada, the forces is rallying under the new mantra of Gen Jonathan Vance, Canada’s Chief of the Defence Staff: “Stay fit to fight.” On Monday, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan outlined some of the Canadian Armed Forces’ plans for the pandemic and the mobilization order for up to 24,000 regular and reserve armed forces members to be ready for domestic needs. This includes 10 “immediate reaction units” within the army to respond to local requests for assistance, such as providing humanitarian support, wellness checks and natural disaster response. The navy is prepared to assist coastal communities. Fifty patrols of the Canadian Rangers, Canada’s largely aboriginal reserve force, has been activated to full-time readiness for assistance primarily in the Arctic and northern regions. “When Canada needs their armed forces, they are always there,” Sajjan said. “During these unprecedented times, those who wear the uniform will be there for Canadians when called upon. “We will provide local commanders the authority to be flexible in our assistance to ensure that local needs are met quickly.”

So far, the military has not received any “formal request for assistance,” Sajjan said Monday. On Friday, the military said there had been “no requests” for assistance, suggesting some discussions of the need for military assistance may be underway. The military says the pandemic’s threat to the nation is real and significant. “The Canadian Armed Forces does not see any greater threat to ourselves or Canadians than what has been described by health authorities,” Department of National Defence spokesman Daniel Le Bouthillier told National Post on Friday. The forces were balancing its current activities while “preserving adequate capacity to surge in a scale when needed the most, and still be able to respond to unforeseen events,” such as natural disasters and national security threats. The military’s response to a global pandemic is codenamed Operation Laser. It is a three-phase fall-back plan. The forces’ 1st Canadian Division, a high-readiness, rapid-response unit based at Kingston, Ont., was designated as Joint Task Force-Laser, responsible for the coordination and command of all domestic operations of the pandemic plan. Phase 1 of the operation — monitoring and planning for a pandemic — was always active. Vance activated Phase 2 — active monitoring of an evolving pandemic threat with some protective measures — on March 2. Phase 3 — when there is widespread and sustained transmission of the virus in the general population and imminent risk or existence of significant absenteeism — was activated on March 13.

It was March 13 when the military moved to protect Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Department of National Defence personnel from catching or spreading the novel coronavirus in order to “preserve the force.” That meant cutting all operations to “essential core activities.” This put the majority of Canada’s soldiers in the unusual position of working from home, like many other Canadians, and its bases and facilities closed to visitors. By March 20, COVID-19 had been confirmed within military ranks. The CAF said three cases had been diagnosed among its troops, including domestic and abroad placements. Since then, the military stopped confirming the number of cases in order to “ensure both operational and personnel security.” Although, Bouthillier said, the numbers are reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada and are included within the public health numbers. On March 24, Vance stopped most individual training and education programs and cadets were sent home. Other personnel were confined to bases and quarters, which had been closed to all but essential personnel. In a letter to all CAF members, Vance said “the health of the CAF will be critical in the days and weeks to come,” and ended with the motto: “Stay fit to fight!”

A staple of apocalyptic movies are scenes of the military protecting stockpiles of supplies or defending military or research installations in the face of a panicking public. There are no doubt plans somewhere within the military leadership for how it would handle such out-of-control situations in such dire times, but Bouthillier declined to discuss such things in detail. “The Canadian Armed Forces are a full-spectrum force with an extremely diverse set of skills, capabilities and equipment,” he said when asked about planning exigencies. “Of course, prudent planning requires us to be ready to support Canada when asked and ensure our personnel remain at the highest level of readiness. Part of this strategic planning includes examining, in more detail, possible missions the CAF may be called on to support. “This planning will help us set the conditions to effectively deploy capabilities to support overall Government of Canada efforts to address COVID-19 while simultaneously protecting the health and safety of our personnel.” Whatever secret military plans are tucked away, it is hoped that Phase 4 of Operation Laser is reached before they are dusted off. Phase 4 is post-pandemic restoration. Then Operation Laser ticks back to Phase 1, watching and planning for the next pandemic.

## **Naming of New RCAF Planes Stalled by Legal Issues**

The first of 16 new Royal Canadian Air Force rescue aircraft has come off the production line in Spain. *Todd Coyne Senior Digital Producer, CTV Vancouver Island March 20, 2020*

VICTORIA -- Four months after the Royal Canadian Air Force was due to announce the official name of Canada's newest search and rescue plane, the Department of National Defence is still dealing with legal and trademark issues around naming the aircraft. In July, the RCAF rolled out a short list of five pre-approved names for the Airbus CC-295 fixed-wing rescue plane. The names, which National Defence said had already been cleared to ensure there were no issues with trademark or intellectual property rights, were then presented to the public to vote on. Nearly 33,000 people voted for their preferred name and the feedback was sent to RCAF Commander Al Meininger for a final decision to be announced in November. Today, those names are still "undergoing legal, contractual, and trademark vetting," according to



National Defence spokesperson Maj Jill Lawrence. "With a finite number of staff, the work to finalize the name of the CC-295 carries on in the background, but at a slower pace than initially anticipated," Lawrence told CTV News.



*On March 8, 2019, the first of 16 new CC-295 fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft rolled off the assembly line in Spain.*

*(Royal Canadian Air Force)*

National Defence says the delay in naming the aircraft has not added to the cost of the multibillion-dollar project and has not stalled the aircraft's

introduction into RCAF operations. The list of potential names for the 16 new planes includes Canso II, Guardian, Iris, Kingfisher and Turnstone. There is no indication when the final name will be announced. The naming issue isn't the first setback for the fixed-wing search and rescue (FWSAR) aircraft replacement program. The first of the new twin-propeller planes was due to be delivered by the European manufacturer before Dec. 1, but an issue with the aircraft operator's manual forced Canadian military officials to refuse delivery until the end of the month. The federal government ordered the Airbus CC-295 in December 2016 to replace the decades-old de Havilland CC-115 Buffalo and Lockheed Martin C-130E Hercules in the search and rescue role. The initial \$2.4-billion deal with Airbus included the construction of a new training facility at 19 Wing Comox, plus an additional \$2.3 billion to support and maintain the aircraft for 15 years. All military and civilian personnel will be trained to operate and maintain the planes in Comox. Once operational, the search and rescue aircraft will be based in Comox, Winnipeg, Trenton and Nova Scotia.

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

**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)

Centennial Events Update - <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/centennial-page.html>

New photos added Canada Day 2016 –

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/canada-day-2016.html>

Small Arms Exercise 2016 Videos added

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/sniping-gunner.html>

Chief Warrant Officer Rob Wishnicki visits Ex Arctic Ram in Yellowknife in 2011

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/cwo-wishnicki.html>

2009 Change of RSM videos added

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/change-of-rsm-2009.html>

2008 Canada Day Video <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/canada-day-2008.html>

2006 Vokes Range Chilliwack photo added <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2006.html>

1997 Artilleryman course photo updated

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-19977658014>

Keep those stories, names, calendar events and pictures coming!

[president.vcrgunners@gmail.com](mailto:president.vcrgunners@gmail.com)

Would you like to be involved with our national organization, The Royal Canadian Artillery Association? We're looking for Gunners to join our executive. Contact me at

[president.rcaa.aarc@gmail.com](mailto:president.rcaa.aarc@gmail.com)

## Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week:



**CAPRONI-MORONI C2 "SCUD" EXPERIMENTAL FIGHTER** When the tide of war turned against it, Fascist Italy turned with the tide. The C2, or "SCUD," was one direct result. The engineers of Aeronotico Piccolino Abagano Elari Quattori in Turin were charged with designing an aircraft of modern fighter type that could, should word come in mid-air of another change in Italian allegiance, instantly reverse course and become part of the now friendly force. Thus the unique two-engine configuration, central cockpit with swivel seat and dual controls facing fore and aft. Time for the SCUD (meaning "Scuderia con corso il travaia," or "turncoat") to switch directions and sides was set at less than two minutes from a top speed of 265 mph by air-force consultants. This performance criterion was never tested, much less met, since pilots refused to attempt it, except on the ground with an ambulance close by. One pilot did take the sole SCUD prototype aloft, but once airborne decided to visit his mother in Salerno and wrecked the craft crash-landing on a nearby beach. The SCUD was painted gold by artisans formerly employed in upkeep of the Sistine Chapel. A remarkable feature of the plane, considering its fighter designation, was its total lack of armament. The designers successfully resisted all attempts to ruin its unbroken lines with ugly guns.

**This Week:** Most of our erudite readers are aware of the mighty armoured train that ran during the Second World War along the Skeena River in northern British Columbia, and kept the Imperial Japanese Navy at bay. Thus was saved that cultural jewel of the coast, the great metropolis of Prince Rupert. However, other nations had armoured trains, as have sometimes been featured in past quizzes. Nevertheless, this one is unique, as it appears to be manned by giants, or so it seems when one compares the size of the carriages with the personnel. We apologize for the quality of the photo, and if you have a better one, please send it to us. In the meanwhile, given that many of us have lots and lots of time on our hands these days, please do a bit of research and let us know the history of this behemoth of the rails, this armadillo of the tracks. Who ran it, and where? What of it today?



Send your research to the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Keep on rolling!

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

Why was the horse so happy? Because he lived in a stable environment.

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

In case of doubt, make it sound convincing.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face. - *Victor Hugo*

## 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

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



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

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. [zoom.us](https://zoom.us)

Use the link above 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.