



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Aug 7, 2018

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 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 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. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. Note: Lunches continue through the summer, but we are now in our 'summer doldrums' and attendance has dropped off so, if you can make it, come join us and bring a friend (or friends). During hot weather periods we do relax our jacket and tie requirement. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

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

Aug 10-12 Abbotsford Airshow - VAA with FAT and 25pdr

Aug 18 Steveston Train event – VAA with FAT and 25pdr

Aug 26 Gunner Golf on August 26 on Vancouver Island (see poster at end of newsletter).

At Ardmore Golf Course - in Saanich

Play golf and support the 5th (BC) Artillery Regiment Foundation by forming a Foursome ("Gun Detachment") or joining with others as an Individual ("Gunner") or by making a donation ("In Direct Support")

or by making a donation ("In Direct Support").

Sept 8 15 Fd WO & Sgts Mess Annual Dinner

World War 2 – 1943

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

Aug 8th: The perimeter on Sicily shrinks as Acireale, Sant Agata, Bronte and Cesara fall into Allied hands. The Americans are still mopping up on Munda and trying to keep surviving Japanese from slipping over to Kolombangara.

Aug 9th: The Danish PM refuses a German demand that saboteurs be tried in military courts.

Aug 10th: The German retrograde operations in southern Russia are being conducted with all the skill they can muster, but the Soviet onslaught continues to close in on Orel. A flanking amphibious assault on the northern Sicilian coast comes too late to cut off German rearguards on the northern highway. Dedicated Communists have always been sneaky bastards, but some have indeed been very brave. Musa Calil was a Tartar poet and intellectual who volunteered for the Red Army after the Germans invaded. As a party member serving as a political commissar, the Germans normally would have shot him when he was captured wounded and unconscious in August 1942. Instead, he sweet-talked his way into a Legion of Volga Tartars the Germans were forming and started to do what he did best. The Germans smelled a rat when the first battalion they raised arrived in Belarus and shot their officers and deserted to join the Partisans. Today, Musa Calil was arrested and will spend a year in prison being brutally interrogated before his execution. In 1957 he is posthumously recognized as a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Aug 11th: The Germans start evacuating rear-echelon troops from Sicily, bringing off men at night only. The Soviets cut the Kharkov-Poltava railway, some 50km west of Kharkov. Flying Officer Lloyd Allan Trigg of New Zealand is the commander of a Liberator bomber that sinks U468 after sustaining mortal damage from its anti-aircraft guns. None of the airmen survive their final attack. On the strength of the testimony of the seven surviving German sailors, Trigg is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Aug 12th: The Germans bring III Panzer Corps to Kharkov as everything to the south east of the city is in danger of being cut-off, particularly if Poltava falls into Soviet hands.

Aug 13th: US 5th Air force sends almost 400 bombers to hit the Balikpapan oilfields on Borneo from Australia. The start of Quebec Conference; Churchill and Roosevelt show up with their senior staff to discuss next year's offensives. The Soviets are at the edge of Kharkov and start new offensives in the Smolensk and Kirov sectors. When his Stirling bomber was badly shot up in a raid on Turin, Italy, Flight Sergeant Arthur Louis Aaron of the RAF had his jaw broken, part of his face torn away, a lung punctured and his right arm became useless. Despite these terrible wounds, he nursed the aircraft to safety in North Africa; his strength gave out just before landing but he successfully talked another crewman through the landing. He died of his wounds a few hours later and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Aug 14th: The US revises their draft system, using the number of dependents and a range of specific occupations as the chief factors in deferment. US and British troops liberate Randazzo in Sicily.

CSS Hunley – Mystery Solved?

Confederate sub's torpedo may have killed its crew.

Charles Q. Choi, Live Science Contributor August 26, 2017

The crew of the Confederate submarine HL Hunley, the first combat submarine to sink an enemy ship, may have instantly killed themselves with their own weapon, according to a new study. This finding may have solved a mystery that has endured for more than 150 years about the fate of the sub. The first and last combat mission of the Hunley took place during the Civil

War on the night of Feb. 17, 1864. It attacked a steam-powered Union warship, the USS Housatonic, which was blockading the harbor entrance to Charleston, South Carolina. The Hunley was a narrow, cigar-shaped submarine that measured 40 feet (12 meters) long and no more than 4 feet (1.2 m) wide. It was built from the wrought-iron boiler of a previous ship in 1863 and carried a crew of eight men and a powerful torpedo. The Hunley's torpedo delivered a blast from about 135 lbs (61.2 kg) of explosive black powder below the waterline of the Housatonic's stern. The assault sank the Union ship in less than 5 minutes and killed five of its crewmembers. The rest escaped in lifeboats or were rescued by other members of the blockading force. However, after the successful attack on the Housatonic, the Hunley failed to return to its base. The fate of the sub and its crew remained a mystery for more than 150 years.



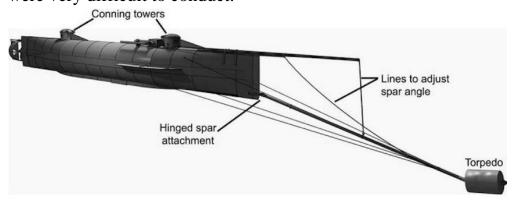
The Confederate submarine HL Hunley sank in 1864 and wasn't seen again until 1995. Since 2000, conservators have worked tirelessly to reveal the doomed sub's secrets. Credit: Bruce

Credit: Bruce Smith/AP/REX/Shutterstock

In 1995, the Hunley was discovered about 985 feet (300 m) away from the watery grave of the Housatonic. The submarine was raised from the depths of Charleston Bay in 2000 and is undergoing study and conservation. The discovery of the Hunley initially only deepened the mystery of its fate. Except for a hole in one conning tower and a small window that might have been broken, the vessel was remarkably intact, raising questions as to what killed everyone within. In addition, the skeletal remains of the Hunley's crew were found seated at their respective stations, with no physical injuries or apparent attempts to escape. Moreover, the sub's bilge pumps, designed to pump water out of the sub, had not been used and its air hatch was closed. All the evidence suggested that the crew took absolutely no response to a flood or loss of air, said study lead author Rachel Lance, a biomechanist at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Now, researchers suggest that a deadly blast wave from the Hunley's own weapon may have killed its crew. "Blast injuries are consistent with the way the remains were found inside the boat, as blast waves would not have left marks on the skeletons and would not have provided the crew with the chance to try to escape," Lance told Live Science. "Blast waves are capable of inflicting lethal injuries on someone without ever physically moving them." The Hunley's

torpedo was not an underwater missile, but a copper keg of black powder held ahead of the submarine on a barbed pole, called a spar, that was about 16 feet (4.9 m) long. The sub rammed this spar into its target's hull and the bomb exploded, with the crew, at most, about 42 feet (12.8 m) from the blast. To figure out how the Hunley's torpedo may have affected its own crew, the scientists conducted a series of experiments over the course of three years. This included repeatedly setting off pressurized-air blasts and black-powder explosions near a 6.5-foot-long (2 m) scale model of the Hunley, nicknamed the Tiny, that was fitted with sensors and floating in water. The experiments often proved exasperating: "I was often frustrated with pressure gauges that wouldn't work, with black powder that got too wet to explode, or with weather that seemed to oscillate between freezing hurricane and blistering heat," Lance said. "These experiments were very difficult to conduct."



A graphic reconstruction of the eight-man submarine H.L. Hunley as it appeared just before its encounter with the Union ship Housatonic, which it sunk. The barrel on the end of the 16-foot spar contains 135 pounds of black powder.

Credit: Michael Crisafulli

The findings from the experiments suggested that the Hunley's crew died instantly when the blast wave from the torpedo traveled through the soft tissue of their bodies, especially their lungs and brains. "You have an instant fatality that leaves no marks on the skeletal remains," Lance said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the soft tissues that would show us what happened have decomposed in the past hundred years." The kind of trauma the Hunley crew may have experienced is linked to a phenomenon that Lance called "the hot chocolate effect." This effect is linked to how vibrations such as shock waves travel at different speeds in water than they do in air — for instance, the shock wave from the Hunley blast would have traveled about 3,355 mph (5,400 km/h) in water but only about 760 mph (1,224 km/h) in the air, the researchers said. "When you mix these speeds together in a frothy combination like the human lungs, or hot chocolate, it combines, and it ends up making the energy go slower than it would in either one," Lance said in the statement. This slowdown amplifies the tissue damage, Lance said. While a normal blast shock wave traveling in the air should last less than 10 milliseconds, Lance calculated that the Hunley crew's lungs were subjected to 60 milliseconds or more of trauma. "That creates kind of a worst-case scenario for the lungs," Lance said in the statement. The force of the Hunley shock wave would have ripped apart the delicate structures of the lungs where the blood supply meets the air supply, filling the lungs with blood. This would have had at least an 85 percent chance of killing each member of the crew immediately, Lance calculated. It's also likely that these individuals suffered traumatic brain injuries from the blast, she added.

According to Lance, the way the torpedo's explosion may have killed the Hunley's crew was different from how traumatic blast injuries from modern-day improvised bombs kill soldiers in

vehicles. "In that case, there are shrapnel effects and effects from the damage to the vehicle that cause broken bones and other injuries," Lance said in the statement. "But the crew of the Hunley were protected by the hull. It was just the blast wave itself that propagated into the vessel, so their injuries would have been purely in the soft tissues, in the lungs and in the brain." Still, it's possible for blast waves to travel through surfaces and still be powerful enough to kill, according to Lance. "The Hunley is the first proven case study of lethal injuries from blast waves propagating through a solid surface," she said. The designers of the Civil War-era torpedo may have recognized the dangers of getting too close to a blast in water. Lance's historical research found that the weapon's developers stayed hundreds of feet away from test blasts of explosives significantly smaller than the bomb the Hunley deployed. "Blast travels really far underwater," Lance said in the statement. "If you're practicing 200 yards [182 m] away, and then you triple the size of your bomb and put it 16 feet [4.9 m] away, you have to be at least aware that there's a possibility of injury."

Torpedoes were new technology at the start of the Civil War, Lance said. "While their utility was immediately obvious, people were constantly concocting new designs and trigger mechanisms to try to improve them as the war progressed," Lance said. "The specific design used against the Housatonic, known as a Singer's torpedo, was one of the designs to emerge as the most successful. The early tests of submarines with torpedoes used smaller charges at a farther distance. The concerns were not that the blast would propagate through the hull; the science at the time was not nearly advanced enough to understand that that was possible. Rather, their concerns were that the torpedoes might damage the submarine itself." The researchers think that after the attack, the Hunley then drifted out with the tides and slowly took on water before sinking. The sub's design was precarious — during development and testing, the Hunley had sunk twice, drowning 13 crewmen, including its namesake, the privateer Horace L Hunley. "I hope that, even though the mystery is now solved, people still visit and appreciate the Hunley for the incredible artifact that it is," Lance said. Lance and her colleagues detailed their findings online Aug. 23 in the journal PLOS ONE. In addition, Lance is working on a book about the Hunley and the experiments that helped solve the mystery of its crew's fate.

The Twilight of the Trump Generals

Tom Ricks July 18, 2018



Secretary of Defense James Mattis and then-Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly pay respects at the funeral of Pvt Harry K Tye at Arlington National Cemetery, Mar. 28, 2017. Pvt Tye was killed on Nov 20, 1943 during the Battle of Tarawa. His remains were recovered by History Flight from Cemetery 27 on Tarawa and interned on US soil.

(US Marine Corps photo by Cpl Dana Beesley)

Flynn blew up on the launch pad.

McMaster lasted a year as national security advisor. Now Kelly seems to be slowly sliding

toward the exit. Can Mattis be far behind? This all makes me wonder: What is the bottom line on Trump and generals? I'd be interested in what you all have to say. But, sure, I'll go first. I think Trump had a cartoon notion of generals out of DC Comics. He must have been taken aback when he found out that many of them, far from resembling Marvel superspy Nick Fury, are fact-based people who believe deeply in the American system and especially its post-World War II role as a key stabilizing force in the world. They think NATO is a good thing. They loathe Putin as a thug surrounded by rich parasites. They swore oaths to uphold the Constitution, not a person holding power.

And so I think that, Flynn excepted, these generals have been extremely frustrating to this president. Instead of just going out and doing what he wants, they tell him why he is wrong. (McMaster did so in public, on Russia, and got a Trump tweet smackdown in return). So, in the long run, I think the generals will be remembered as emblematic of Trump's first screwy year, when as the estimable Maggie Haberman observes, Trump was new and scared. By contrast, Trump nowadays feels he understand the job and is doing magnificently if only people would stop probing his past crimes. So he has turned away from the generals and instead is stocking his staff with people he has watched on Fox News. Unlike the generals, this new crowd has demonstrated through their work at a corrosive organization that they generally do not believe in the rule of law and will do what the boss wants, when he wants it, and how it wants it done.

Van Arty Association at the Abbotsford Agrifair



Over the weekend the Vancouver Artillery Association took the 15 Fd Artillery Museum's 25pdr and Field Artillery Tractor to the Abbotsford Agrifair. There was a very large crowd and we baked in the sun. Bill Rodgers, Don Foster and Bob Mugford manned the display. Many thanks to Doug Loney and John Hawthorne for helping to move the equipment to the fair site, John |Hawthorne for performing some much needed maintenance work while the equipment was parked at the compound in Abbotsford.

Proposed Change in Eligibility for Veteran Automobile Licence Plates

I have sent a letter to the Attorney General of BC (<u>AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca</u>) in respect to action sought by the Royal Canadian Legion to expand eligibility for veterans licence plates and

summarized in this news item: https://globalnews.ca/news/4363853/b-c-liberals-call-on-government-to-leave-the-veterans-licence-plate-alone/ asking that he maintain the present rules.

The story also refers to a survey made available by the province which can be completed by accessing the following link: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/vets-licence-plate-survey. It is not possible to gauge the extent to which the ministry promoted this survey but it is significant that present holders of the licence plates were not solicited for their views despite their presence being readily identified through the government's own records.

I have no wish to presuppose your position on this issue but only to ask for your support in maintaining the present exclusive use by armed forces veterans for this special vehicle licence plate. While a comparatively small gesture, this program constitutes one of the very few official means of recognition made available to living former members of the Canadian Armed Forces. If you think it appropriate, it would also be helpful to draw this situation to the attention of those in your own networks who might be prepared to complete the ministry's survey or even let the attorney general and their local MLA know of their opinions on the matter. There are many points that can be made to maintain the status quo but, perhaps, the most telling one is that diluting the value of a venerated symbol to allow use by an additional group does no credit to either.

I think it is truly important that the presence of veterans in our midst by continued to be signified by a distinctive symbol otherwise the old phase will come to pass again: "God and the soldier we adore, when peril lurks but not before; when dangers passed and all things righted, God is forgotten, and the soldier slighted."

John Appleby, Duncan BC

Blog www.inklasersite.wordpress.com Res: 250 715 1985

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Here's the latest additions to the website. Have you got any photos or stories to share?

End of Mission Captain Eric Tyldesley – Gore http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2018.html

Change of Command 2014 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2014.html

WOs' & Sgts' Aide-Mémoire 2005 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2005.html

Western Artillery Regiment1993 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1993.html

Brigadier-General ST McDonald 1991 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1991.html

Jamaica 1972 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1972.html

Ladner 1970 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1970.html

Major Royce appointed CO 1948 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1948.html

WC Woodward appointed Hon Col http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1947.html

Colonel Cyril Gainsborough Beeston stands down 1938 http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1938.html

Want to join our shoe box club? Put your old photos in a shoe box with/without a sheet of paper with descriptions, drop the shoe box off at Bessborough Armoury c/o Colonel (ret'd) Leon Jensen. I'll scan them and place them on line in the appropriate yearbook.

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: This is a T16 Carrier in the RCA Museum Collection. Colin Stevens heard through

a reliable source that this carrier is one that passed into Swiss service at the end of the war and they

made a number of



modifications to them.



We are still not sure what all the paraphernalia in the back is for, but some carriers were fitted with canvas covers supported by tubular bars.

This Week: When I was a wee laddie, growing up in one of the first planned suburbs of Ottawa (Cardinal Heights, now a verdant shrine to the 1950s), I was surrounded by both the might of our dominion (RCAF Station Rockcliffe was just over the hill, and the Orleans army testing grounds were down the road a bit), and by echoes of the Empire. At one Armistice Day ceremony, my dad pointed out not only veterans of the Boer War, but a very few, in wheelchairs, of the North-West Rebellion, while his G III pointed out several Indian Army veterans he had served with.

My reading consisted of some of GA Henty's rousing imperial tales (eg "The March to Magdala"), and a lot of the MacMillan series on Canadian history (eg "Raiders of the Mohawk"), but also some "Boys Own Annuals", located in the basement of my best mate's house. Those were wonderful reads, detailing not only how to make a Maxim gun from emptied salmon tins, but also how natives (mostly) welcomed the advent of British civilization. A few

didn't, but they seemed all to live in regions beyond the Khyber Pass, only resisting the inevitable because of the influence of Ivan Ivanovich. How much the world has changed!



Harking back to those glorious, if politically incorrect days (gentlemen actually smoked then!), is this week's quiz subject. One can see from his gear that he is a military man, and one important to the history of our great nation. His rank insignia is rather muddled in this copy of a copy of a painting, but we can assure you that he is an officer and a gentleman. Of course, he is no longer with us, having met a sticky end in a far-away corner of the globe that is forever

Canada.

So, do you know who he is? What did he do? Where does he lie? Answers, as always, may be sent to the editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com, who might have served with our subject, or the much younger author, John Redmond (johnd. redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitentary'

Why aren't Doctors not worried about the bird flu? Because it's tweetable.

Murphy's Other Laws

Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.

Quotable Quotes

The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings. - Eric Hoffer

Abbotsford Airshow - Schedule of Events

**PLEASE NOTE: Performance times are approximate and subject to change without notice. Only select performers are listed below. For full lineup, please see our 2018 Performers page. **

Friday Aug 10, 2018

Time	Twilight Show
15:00	Gates Open Static Display, Exhibit Area and Concessions Open
16:30	US Navy Blue Angels
17:40	Opening Ceremonies & Anthems
18:00	Canadian Forces Snowbirds
19:30	Static Display Closes
20:30	CF-18 Hornet Twilight Demo
21:45	Fireworks Finale
22:30	Gates Close

Saturday & Sunday Aug 11 & 12, 2018

Time	Full Day Shows
09:00	Gates Open Static Display, Exhibit Area and Concessions Open
10:45	Opening Ceremonies & Anthems
11:00	Flying Events Begin
14:00	US Navy Blue Angels
15:00	CF-18 Hornet Demo
15:45	Canadian Forces Snowbirds
16:30	Flying Events End
17:00	Static Display Closes
18:00	Gates Close

The Vancouver Artillery Association will be attending with the FAT and 25pdr and we are looking for volunteers to help staff the display. Note that members of our display team are admitted to the Airshow free. If you are available, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com

ALL ABOARD!

AT THE STEVESTON INTERURBAN TRAM

• Dates: August 18, 2018

• Time: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

• Location: Steveston Interurban Tram

Address: 4011 Moncton Street, Richmond, BC V7E 3A8

• Price: Free

• Website

DETAILS

All Aboard! is your ticket to discover Richmond's transportation heritage. Richmond's transportation past and present rolls into the Steveston Interurban Tram. Explore Tram Car 1220 and the surrounding site filled with guest transportation experts, live music, children's crafts and activities and more



The Vancouver Artillery Association will be attending with the FAT and 25pdr and we are looking for volunteers to help staff the display. If you are available, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com

Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment RCA Foundation and the Vancouver Island Artillery Association







4th Annual - Drive for Victory

9-Hole, Texas Scramble at Ardmore Golf Course Supporting the Foundation's programs

Fundraising projects in support of the Regiment and its Cadet Corps

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Meet 3:30 Start 4:00

Ardmore Golf Course 930 Ardmore Drive, Sidney, BC (250) 656-4621

Register at Eventbrite (see below)

Or, for more information please contact:

Stu McDonald (604) 886-6847

ssmcd2@gmail.com

Dress: Golf attire Collared shirt, no jeans

9 holes of golf followed by dinner: choice of steak, chicken, salmon or ribs Secret Score Wins \$200

Come support the Foundation in its support of serving soldiers and the Cadet Corps and An opportunity for fellowship with other Island Gunners and their supporters

Admission: \$300 a foursome

Individuals \$80

(dinner only \$25)

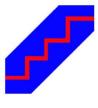
- or make a donation at Eventbrite

Register at Eventbrite at:

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fourth-annual-drive-for-victory-foundation-and-viaa-golf-tournament-tickets-47700940798?ref=estw

Charitable donation receipts will be provided for a portion of each admission fee or donation.

Canadian Charity Number 88894 5664



To Register go to:-

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/fourth-annual-drive-for-victory-foundation-and-viaa-golf-tournament-tickets-47700940798?ref=estw

The Regimental Sergeant-Major Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

Cordially invite you to their

ANNUAL MESS DINNER

Saturday, 8th September 2018

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

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

RSVP required by 29th August 2018 to the Unit Chief Clerk (Sgt Woods), 2025 West 11th Ave, Vancouver BC V6J 2C7

Email: brenda.woods@forces.gc.ca

Telephone: 604-666-4876

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