



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 7, 2016

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html> . Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

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

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

Jan 1 **New Year's Levée**

Feb 4 **Regimental reunion dinner** - details TBA **Note change of date**

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

World War 2 - 1941

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

Nov 30th: Intense fighting continues around Sidi Rezegh as the Afrika Korps are still trying to push the New Zealanders back. Rundstedt is relieved of command for falling back from Rostov and Richenau is appointed as his replacement as Commander of Army Group South. Zhukov's plans for a counteroffensive near Moscow are approved by Stalin as 2nd Panzer Division takes Krasnaya Polyana and comes within 15km of the outskirts of the city. The Japanese emperor gives the nod to his minister's decision to go to war. The British notice Japanese naval movements in the South China Sea. U206 becomes the first U-boat to be sunk by a bomber equipped with an air to surface vessel radar – it won't be the last.

December 1941: Enter Japan and the US

General: With Japan's entry into the war, Allied shipping losses soar – 430,000 tons are lost (or captured) in the Pacific and 153,700 in the Atlantic, for the loss of 10 U-Boats. The RAF raids Aachen, Cologne, Bremen and Brest.

Dec 1st: The New Zealanders withdraw from Sidi Rezegh, but the Afrika Korps has taken heavy losses – especially in its senior ranks. In Germany, the infamous Nacht and Nebel Decree is issued – those whom the Reich wants dead will disappear as if into 'night and fog'.

Dec 2nd: The high tide of the Wehrmacht, leading elements are within 30 km of Moscow's centre and reconnaissance elements spot the distant towers of the Kremlin and capture a street-car whose route runs to Red Square...but blizzards are now being added to the sub-zero weather. A particular message is received by a group of Japanese warships in the North Pacific – “Climb Mount Niitaka”. HMS Repulse and Prince of Wales arrive in Singapore. 4th Indian Division starts pounding on Axis blocking forces at Sollum and Halfaya. He was a hero of the Polish Legion in the First World War and of the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-21; but he was foremost among the politicized officers who dominated Poland's politics in the 1930s and was the head of Poland's military in 1939. Edward Rydz-Smigly is no longer the Marshal of Poland, but he went underground and escaped from his detention in Romania to return home; not to lead the Polish Home Army in underground resistance, but to join it as a mere private and seeks expiation for his errors. Today, the old warrior dies of a heart attack in Warsaw. A complex man, Rydz-Smigly rightfully retains his high honors – a member of the Order of the White Eagle and Virtuti Militari.

Dec 3rd: The coming of winter and fatigue is blunting the German tactical edge while the Soviet Army is finally gaining competence among its junior leaders: Junior Lieutenant Israfil Maharram oglu Mamedov is commanding about 20 men defending a command post near Pustynka near Novgorod, when attacked by something like 300 Germans. He fends off three assaults then counterattacks with a bayonet charge, routing his opponents. He is made a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Dec 4th: The UK passes measures for compulsory labour and conscription for women. A Japanese expedition embarks at Hainan for Malaysia. For the last two days, Rommel has been operating under the impression that Operation Crusader and the relief of Tobruk is over but his attempts to re-open his links to Bardia, Capuzzo and Sollum are failing. Guderian has been unable to capture Tula despite a month of attempts; the city is deep inside a sack but – try as they might – the Germans just can't pinch it off.

Dec 5th: Hitler agrees to halt the advance on Moscow due to the extreme cold and snow, and orders Fliegerkorps II to transfer from Russia to Sicily to help pound on Malta. General Sikorski arrives in Moscow to sign deals of cooperation with the Soviets, and the treatment of the surviving Poles in the Gulags improves overnight.

Dec 6th: Extreme cold and snow? Perfect! Zhukov's counter-offensive is unleashed with 19 Armies from the Kalinin, West and Southwest Fronts against Army Group Centre. The attack features commanders and formations that will be among the Soviet's best in the coming years, and makes good progress right from the start in its attempt to cut through the Panzer Armies on the flanks of Army Group Centre, then cut off its lead elements and isolate them. In the Pacific, Roosevelt makes a direct appeal to the Emperor (which the Japanese government ignores). The Japanese transmit 13 parts of a 14-part message to their embassy – which the Americans decode. The US is also aware that a Japanese agent in Honolulu has been told to provide a special situation report on the Pacific Fleet, but this is only the latest of several such requests. Japanese forces on Palau embark for an attack on the Philippines. The Afrika Korps is still locked in a desperate struggle with 8th Army over the approaches to Tobruk; but the British

have got three times as many tanks back in service as Rommel does, and his key units have been badly weakened.

1915-2016 A Lost Relic from The First World War Turns Up

By John Mackie November 18, 2016



British Columbia Regiment unofficial historian Colonel (r) Keith Maxwell with a M1895 Colt-Browning .303-calibre machine gun at the Beatty Street Drill Hall in Vancouver. (Jason Payne / PNG)

When the First World War broke out in 1914, the Canadian army didn't have enough machine guns to outfit the troops heading overseas. So Canadians started raising funds to buy some. "From one end of the empire to the other the call has gone out for ordinance and ammunition," the Vancouver World reported on July 7, 1915. "In the last 48 hours in Vancouver, private liberality has provided for 26 machine guns to supplement the equipment of local regiments." The 26 machine guns had been purchased for \$1,000 each by organizations like the Vancouver Club and wealthy individuals like BT Rogers of BC Sugar.

Still, the World noted that "hundreds who are unable to give \$1,000 for the purchase of a gun would be glad to give from \$1 to \$100 to a common fund." So it launched one, in the name of poet Pauline Johnson. Johnson was one of Canada's most famous literary figures in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The daughter of a Mohawk chief and his English wife, she was born on the Six Nations reserve near Brantford, ON, and had moved to Vancouver in 1909. She died of breast cancer on March 7, 1913. Two years later, her sister Evelyn wrote the World offering \$217.17 from Johnson's estate for some civic use. The World decided to use the money on a machine gun. "It would have appealed with great force, we know, to the patriotic and Imperial soul of Pauline Johnson, and nothing would have pleased her more than she had done something for her country's defence," said the World. World readers rallied to raise money. "Little children walked many blocks to school for days and saved their car fare to swell the fund," the World reported in 1920. "Concerts were held in backyards by the little tots and there were dozens of miniature flower marts where the pennies were gathered by the kiddies." The paper quickly raised \$1,042.80 and sent a bank draft overseas to Col CS Tobin of the 29th Battalion, a Vancouver unit known as "Tobin's Tigers."

Tobin wrote World publisher John Nelson that he had purchased a gun in New York for \$1,750 ("the price asked for quick shipment"), and would have Johnson's Mohawk name, Tekahionwake, engraved on it. The machine gun saw its first action in Kimmel, Belgium in Jan, 1916, and was also used at Ypres. On July 6, 1920, it came back to Vancouver, where it was put on display in the window of the World offices at 445 West Hastings. In 1924, The Vancouver Sun purchased the World, taking its subscribers and folding the paper. And the machine gun disappeared. Pauline Johnson fans have searched for it for over nine decades. This week, it turned up at the Beatty Street Drill Hall, where it had been hiding in plain sight in the

regimental museum. Local historian Jolene Cumming discovered it when she arranged a tour of the Drill Hall. “I wanted to see a plaque to my great-great uncle George McSpadden, which is downstairs,” said Cumming. “I contacted Keith Maxwell, and he said sure, come down on Wednesday. I said, ‘I’m also looking for a machine gun’ and gave him the information, but he didn’t respond back, so I figured it wasn’t there. So I came to look at the plaque and he said, ‘(The machine gun) is here.’”

The Beatty Street Drill Hall was the home of the 29th Battalion, which is probably why the machine gun wound up there. But nobody seemed to realize the significance of the machine gun, because it was tucked away in a display case, with the identifying “Tekahionwake” inscription on the inside. A group of local Johnson “enthusiasts/historians” went to see the gun this week. The M1895 Colt-Browning .303-calibre machine gun is in remarkable shape, probably because it became obsolete soon after it arrived in Europe. “I suspect this gun didn’t see very much action at all,” said Maxwell. “I’m sure the last time it was shot would have been 1916. They replaced (the Colt-Browning) with the British Maxim machine gun, but somebody held onto it and brought it back.” The First World War was rough on equipment, and very few M1895 Colt-Browning machine guns returned from overseas. “They didn’t take many of these over: it’s a limited number,” said Maxwell. “A lot of those ended up broken and busted, dropped in trenches and lost. To have a surviving one is pretty significant.” Especially when it’s a machine gun named after one of Canada’s most famous poets.

Russia Launches Most Powerful Nuclear Icebreaker ‘Arktika’

Press service of the company "Baltic Shipyard" 16.06.2016



Russia's new Project 22220 nuclear-powered icebreaker dubbed "Arktika" was launched from the Baltic Shipyard in Russia's second-largest city of St. Petersburg on Thursday.

MOSCOW (Sputnik) — In May, the director general of Russia's nuclear icebreaker fleet operator Rosatomflot said that Arktika would be launched from the Baltic Shipyard in the coming summer, ahead of its initial late-2017 planned launch. Built at the Baltic Shipyard, which belongs to Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation, project 22220 is the world’s largest and most powerful vessel of its kind.

Russia Needs at least 5 Nuclear-Powered Icebreakers for Arctic Exploration The launch was expected to be attended by Russian upper house speaker Valentina Matvienko, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, St. Petersburg Governor Georgi Poltavchenko, Russian nuclear energy corporation Rosatom CEO Sergei Kirienko, United Shipbuilding Corporation President Alexei Rakhmanov and prominent Russian polar explorer Artur Chilingarov, according to the Baltic Shipyard. The Project 22220 vessel is 189.5 yards long and 37.1 yards wide. The ship

displaces 33,540 metric tons. Fitted with two specifically designed RITM-200 nuclear-power reactors, new vessels of this kind will be able to escort convoys in the Arctic, breaking ice up to 10 feet thick and 13 feet deep. Nuclear fuel for the vessel's RITM-200 nuclear-power reactors is to be produced by the TVEL fuel company by the end of the year. In 2014, the Baltic Shipyard signed a contract worth 84.4 billion rubles (\$1.2 billion) with Rosatom to build two Project 22220 icebreakers by 2020. The ships will be commissioned in December 2019 and December 2020 respectively.

Military to Reassess Use of Controversial Anti-Malaria Drug

Gloria Galloway Ottawa — The Globe and Mail Nov. 15, 2016

The head of the Canadian Armed Forces says the military is reassessing the use of an anti-malarial drug that can cause serious psychiatric side-effects now that Health Canada agrees the brain damage associated with mefloquine can be permanent. Whether to continue prescribing the preventive medication to Canadian troops sent to tropical countries has become an urgent matter as Canada prepares for a three-year peacekeeping commitment in Africa. Some veterans say mefloquine ruined their lives and blame it for violence on the 1992 mission to Somalia, where Canadian troops killed a 16-year-old Somali. Countries including the United States recognized years ago, that mefloquine can cause permanent brain damage. In August, Health Canada quietly adopted an advisory for doctors, pharmacists and patients that the drug can cause adverse neuropsychiatric reactions “that have been reported to continue many years after mefloquine has been stopped.”

“It is certainly an emerging issue,” General Jonathan Vance, the Chief of Defence Staff, told *The Globe and Mail* on Tuesday. The controversy over mefloquine is not new, he said, but “it goes without saying that, if Health Canada is coming out with a statement like that, then we ought to be concerned. So it certainly has my full attention.” Gen Vance said BGen Hugh MacKay, the Surgeon General of the Canadian Armed Forces, is looking into the situation “even as we speak,” and the military will use a scientific approach as it decides what to do next. Later on Tuesday, when asked by *The Globe and Mail* for comment, BGen MacKay would say only that “we’re going to look at all the evidence about mefloquine and make a decision based on that.” He said his study has no timeline. Although other anti-malarial drugs are now the more common choice of Canadian soldiers, mefloquine is still prescribed five times as often to Canadian military personnel as it is to their US counterparts. Symptoms reported by users include anxiety, paranoia, depression, hallucinations, psychotic behaviour and, in rare cases, thoughts of suicide. Studies suggest only a few mefloquine users have long-term problems, but the rate of significant, permanent damage is unknown. Gen. Vance said that “if anybody’s harmed or injured as a result of their military services, we have procedures for [dealing with] that.”

But some of the soldiers who were forced to take mefloquine in Somalia, Rwanda and Afghanistan say it has been impossible to get proper a diagnosis because their symptoms closely resemble post-traumatic stress disorder. Doctors say treatments for PTSD can be detrimental to those with mefloquine toxicity. Some veterans are calling for an inquiry to

determine what role the drug might have played in Somalia, where 900 military members were required to take it in a poorly monitored clinical trial. They also want the government to contact anyone who was prescribed mefloquine to determine if they have suffered long-term consequences. And they want more research to develop better diagnosis and treatment. On Monday, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said troops now make their own informed choice about whether to take mefloquine or an alternative when they are deployed to a country where malaria is prevalent. But that was not always the case. Francis Harrison, who was a military police corporal on the Canadian mission to Rwanda in 1994, says he was ordered to take mefloquine. "I have lived a life of psychological roller coaster since," he said, "and this needs to be investigated deeper." Mr Harrison said his superiors told him that, while most of the troops would take their pills on Tuesdays and Thursdays, he would take his on Saturdays so he would be capable of keeping the peace when the others were experiencing the side-effects. "We used to call them Wacko Tuesday and Psycho Thursday," Mr Harrison said. "The dreams and the nightmares, just the way people reacted, it made me really question what the hell was going on. But no one ever said anything." The US military considers mefloquine the drug of last choice, and the US special forces have banned it.

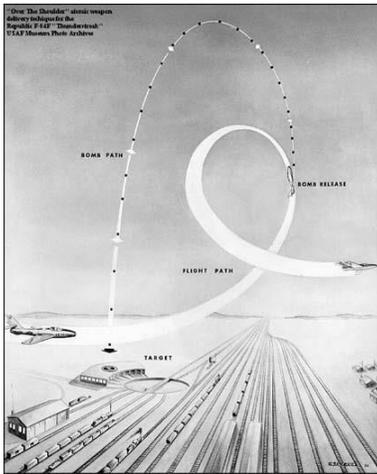
Robert Menendez, a Democratic senator from New Jersey, wrote to his government's Defence and Veterans Affairs departments two weeks ago to say that "given the widespread use of mefloquine and the potentially long-lasting symptoms among those administered the drug, it is important for both the Department of Defence and the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a plan to deal with what could become a significant health crisis among the veterans population." In Australia, concern is intense from media and the public over the damage that may have been done to soldiers who took mefloquine in a clinical trial. And in Britain, after a lengthy public inquiry, more than 500 former British military staff who were prescribed mefloquine are considering whether to launch a lawsuit alleging the Ministry of Defence failed to consider the dangers of the drug. Drug regulators in Canada, Europe and the United States agree that mefloquine causes mental health symptoms that last decades after use, said Remington Nevin, a doctor at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Maryland who has studied the drug's effects for nearly a decade. "The experience of Canadian veterans," Dr Nevin said, "makes this painfully obvious to all but those few officials who continue to manufacture doubt, seemingly in a misguided attempt to avoid liability and responsibility for a preventable problem that they mostly created for themselves."

Dropping A Nuke Upside Down Was a Real US Airforce Tactic

Called the Idiot's Loop *Joris Nieuwint Nov 1, 2016*

The US Air Force tactic known as 'toss bombing' or the 'over-the-shoulder maneuver,' is accomplished by flying towards the target at a lower altitude, pulling up to a sharp vertical plane and releasing the bomb just past vertical while executing a loop, essentially 'throwing' the bomb back toward the target compensating for the gravity effect on the bomb(s). This frightening tactic allowed the pilot time to put sufficient distance between his bomber and the target before the bombs exploded. The first public demonstration of this maneuver was accomplished by a B-47 bomber at Eglin Air Force Base on May 7, 1957. The pilot released his

payload into the air at a pre-determined point as the bomber executed a sharp half-loop. As the bomb was released it continued on an upward path for some time before falling and hitting its target, which was a substantial distance from the bomb's established release point.



Richard Bach, who is a retired USAF pilot, describes performing this feat vividly in his book, *Stranger to the Ground*: *"A village that has red-roofed houses streaks by below me, and the target, white barrels shaped as a pyramid, is just visible at the end of my approach run. Five hundred knots per hour. Flipped the switch down, depressed the button. Timers have started, circuits are warning the drop zone is near. Reduce altitude to treetop level. I don't regularly fly at 500 knots on the flight deck, and it is quite obvious that I am progressing very fast. The white barrels are inflated. I can actually see the flaking white paint on the barrels. The pyramid flashes beneath me. Center the needles of the indicator*

that is only used in a nuclear weapons drop. Pull back on the stick smoothly, firmly to read the g-force at four on the accelerometer and hold it. I'll bet those little computer hearts are really pounding and all I can see is the sky in the windshield. Hold the Gs, center the needles; there's the sun, only it's going under me and 'WHAM'. The bomber turns hard to the right, tucks tighter into the loop, and plods ahead even though we are upside down. The Shape has released me more than I have released it. The little white barrels, even smaller now, are six thousand feet directly beneath my canopy. I have no way to tell if the drop was a good hit or not. That was decided by the diagrams and graphs, the math professionals, and the angles. I did my job, centering the needles, the computers completed their programming task automatically, and the nuke flew on its own the rest of the way."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Project X – The Bear Project has taken up a lot of time over the past two weeks. The two bears were completed in time for the St Barbara's Special Guest night and the bears had a great time!

There's more to the bears than just good looks and good times! They were greeted with such enthusiasm that a decision was made to auction off the pair of them. The bidding was successfully concluded at \$3,000.00. That money will go toward the Vancouver Artillery Association for design work for the next phase of project X.



Who is it?



Last Week: This is a 6-inch Mk IV gun on a disappearing mounting, (actually a fibreglass replica) and is located at Lei Yue Mun Fort, Hong Kong. We had six, very similar, Mk VI guns at Esquimalt - three each at Macaulay and Rodd Hill, on disappearing mounts. One remains today at Fort Rodd Hill.

This Week: From the land, back to the sea for this week's photo quiz. This is a scan from an excellent book I picked up in Halifax during a recent trip to recharge my Maritimer batteries. I can't give the title of the book right now, as it would give you the answer to the quiz, so please be patient, nautical readers.



The photo is of a group of young naval chaps. From their kit one can see that said photo was taken at least 100 years ago. Old salts will know from their days with the “Senior Service” what the various insignia mean. So, can you tell us what

rank(s) these young men are? Can you also tell us why some are circled, and where this photo might have been taken? The story is a sad one. Your answers may be sent to the editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com or to the author, John Redmond johnd._redmond@telus.net

From the ‘Punitary’

What do sea monsters eat for lunch? Fish and ships.

Murphy’s Other Laws

A proliferation of new rules creates a proliferation of new loopholes.

Quotable Quotes

America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked. – *David Letterman*



The Commanding Officer

LCol Brent Purcell CD

invites you to his

Annual Christmas Tea

to be held on

Sunday December 11th 2016

in the

15th Field Artillery Regiment Officers' Mess

commencing at Two o'clock in the afternoon

Dress: Jacket & Tie

Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door

Please sign up at the Bar !!

Email bob.mugford@outlook.com BY NOV 30

to have your party added to the bar list

NADEN BAND
OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

FIRST
Christmas
IN CANADA

With Special
Guest Artist

Vivace

DECEMBER 12 6:00PM PRESHOW
7:00PM START

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE
600 HAMILTON STREET, VANCOUVER BC



TICKETS

AVAILABLE ONLINE:
FIRSTCHRISTMAS.EVENTBRITE.CA
CONTACT: INFO@CCMMS.CA

ADMISSION \$10
with an
unwrapped toy
or gift card

All proceeds to support
**IMMIGRANT AND
REFUGEE SERVING
ORGANIZATIONS**



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From Vimy to Juno National Travelling Exhibition

Note: RSVP Deadline changed to Dec 1st

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



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

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

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

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



Canada





THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the

2016 Annual Christmas Fundraiser

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

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

RSVP by Friday, December 2nd, 2016 to:

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

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

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



OIL

SIZE 20 x 30

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

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

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

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

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

ORDER FORM

I wish to order _____ Print(s) of the Limited Edition, "H.M.C.S. Sackville, The Last Corvette" by John M. Horton, C.S.M.A., F.C.A.

Name _____

Address _____

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Cost of each print is \$350 - plus framing