



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Aug 9, 2016

**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** The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project.

### World War 2 - 1941

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

**Aug 11<sup>th</sup>:** The Finns reach the southern end of Lake Ladoga at Vuosalmi.

**Aug 12<sup>th</sup>:** Roosevelt and Churchill part company off Newfoundland after drafting the Atlantic Charter – the document that essentially defines the post-War World. Hitler's Directive 34 sends Army Group North to concentrate on Leningrad and Army Group South to the Crimea, Army Group Centre is halted. Petain's broadcast declares Germany is fighting for civilization and firms up Vichy's totalitarian measures. Relief operations begin to rotate men through besieged Tobruk by sea.

**Aug 13<sup>th</sup>:** The rotation of the Tobruk garrison is complete -- 6,000 Free Poles enter the town and 5,000 Australians leave it by sea.

**Aug 14<sup>th</sup>:** The Soviets start to evacuate their main Black Sea Fleet anchorage at Nikolayev, but must destroy 11 warships that they can't take with them. Maximillian Kolbe sometimes talked about a vision he had as a youth where the Virgin Mary offered him purity or martyrdom and he took both. Years later as a priest, he was sent to Auschwitz for hiding Jews. German policy was to execute ten hostages whenever there had been a successful escape attempt, and after one such incident, Father Kolbe volunteered himself to take the place of a Polish man with a family who had been selected. The ten victims were sentenced to die from starvation and thirst, but Father Maximilian Kolbe has refused to die after four days and so was injected with carbolic acid by

the SS. This is a very painful death, but it is reported that Kolbe died praying that his murderers be forgiven. In 1982, he was canonized as a martyr and is now a saint to the Catholic Faith.

**Aug 17<sup>th</sup>:** FDR warns Japan of further action if their expansion in Asia continues. Army Group North captures the ancient city of Novgorod and Army Group South reaches the Dniepr at Dnepropetrovsk.

## **US, Canadian Soldiers Train in Interior Alaska**

*Mark Thiessen, The Associated Press August 4, 2016*



*(Photo: US Army Alaska)*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Soldiers from US and Canada have spent much of the last few weeks engaging in war games in expansive interior Alaska, with Iowa National Guard personnel playing the role of the enemy. Arctic Anvil, which ended this week for about 5,000 soldiers and support personnel, was the largest training held in Alaska in the last 15 or so years, said BGen Martin Frank, a member of the Canadian Army and the Deputy

Commanding General for US Army Alaska. He is the first foreign officer to serve on the US Army Alaska staff. Among those training were 140 soldiers from the Third Canadian Division, a light armored vehicle company, Gen Frank said. "We've also got about 800 folks from the Iowa National Guard that are participating in the exercise who are playing the role of opposing forces," he said. Also on hand were observers from partner nations Japan and Singapore.

*Soldiers walk in the rain in the Yukon Training Area near Fort Wainwright, Alaska, on July 23, 2016, during the Arctic Anvil 2016 exercise.*

*(Photo: Justin Connaher/Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson)*



The exercise tested the soldiers against two kinds of opponents, insurgents similar to what the forces faced in Iraq and Afghanistan and more traditional foes. Gen Frank said the troops have to maintain their skills with fighting insurgent forces. "But we also have to be capable of defeating a near-peer enemy who might be equipped with tanks, with unmanned aerial vehicles, with aircraft, with all the things that we

have so that we are ready to fight and ready to win regardless of what kind of opposing force or kind of adversary we come against," Gen Frank said.

The exercise was intended to prepare the 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright, near Fairbanks, for an upcoming rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. The training also included soldiers from the 52<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment. Gen Frank called the exercise a success. "I've seen an exponential increase in the capability and the readiness of the 1<sup>st</sup> Stryker Brigade, and in large part this is due to the command climate, the perspective of the commanders on the ground, and the soldiers on the ground, wanting to learn, wanting to become better," he said. The training scenario, equipment and technical expertise were provided by the 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade's Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Capability, and this was the first time they have provided the training outside its home base in Hawaii.

## **Russia's Plausible Deniability Practice May Spread**

August 2, 2016 *By George I. Seffers*

The former communist country's electronic warfare and cyber capabilities pose challenges.

US officials within the intelligence community and elsewhere fear that other potential adversaries might learn a few lessons from Russia's recent provocative actions, according to Maj Gen Bruce Crawford, USA, who commands the Army's Communications-Electronics Command. Gen Crawford made the comments while serving as the luncheon keynote speaker on the first day of AFCEA's TechNet Augusta conference taking place in Augusta, Georgia. He reminded the audience that Russia initially claimed its forces were not involved in the invasion of Crimea, blaming the violence instead on insurgents. "One of the things causing concern as you look across the intelligence community and other places is whether there will be others who are going to adopt that plausible deniability," Gen Crawford said. Indeed, Russia's presence loomed large over the first day of the conference. Lt Gen Ben Hodges, USA, commander, US Army Europe, said the Russians have used jamming and other means to effectively counter unmanned aerial vehicles flown by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which monitors the situation between Russia and the Ukraine.

The United States is learning a lot about Russian capabilities from the conflict in Ukraine, he indicated. Gen Hodges, who addressed the audience via video teleconference, reported that he recently visited Ukraine and before leaving asked a senior American official what Ukraine needed most. Without hesitation, the unnamed official replied: Secure communications. "They are getting hammered because they do not have the ability to talk securely and everything they say... is intercepted or jammed," Gen Hodges said. "Russian unmanned aerial vehicles are able to fly overhead and spy on formations—things we haven't had to worry about for the past 15 years." The OSCE reports that 90 percent of the violations of the cease fire violations are committed by Russian-led separatist forces, Gen Hodges offered, adding that those forces have "made it very difficult" for the unarmed OSCE monitors to do their jobs. Maj Gen Stephen Fogarty, USA, commander, Army Cyber Center of Excellence, said Russian Federation forces

are using a wide array of cyber and electronic warfare capabilities. Russia detects, locates and eliminates enemy forces with those sophisticated capabilities. “What we’ve observed them do is employ the full-range of information warfare capabilities to effectively find and fix their opponents. And then they finish them with long-range fires and combined arms maneuvers,” Gen Fogarty reported.

The former communist country’s capabilities include communications intelligence, electronic intelligence, human intelligence, geospatial intelligence, media streaming and social media exploitation. “They detect, they identify, they geolocate their adversaries, and then they fix them with very sophisticated electronic warfare and cyber attacks,” he said. To explain how military forces can be physically fixed in place with electronic attacks, Gen Fogarty explained that when communications are jammed, troops can receive neither direction nor support. “You can’t call for supporting fires. You can’t call for medevac. You can’t get resupplied. You don’t know where your leaders are at. You get fixed. And you become a very easy target for precision fires. They maneuver right over you with combined arms maneuvers,” Gen Fogarty declared. “And they don’t have a multi-billion program of record to present this capability.” The “traditional yardsticks” of power include attack helicopters, artillery and armored vehicles, he added, but the Department of Defense Information Network (DODIN) may be the most critical weapon in the arsenal, he indicated. “[W]ithout effective DODIN operations, we don’t have effective mission command, we don’t have precision fires, we don’t have joint ISR [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance], we don’t have joint logistics, we don’t have telemedicine,” he pointed out. He compared the electronic warfare and cyber threat to the threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which proved so deadly in Iraq and Afghanistan. “We didn’t disrupt the IED threat by walking around and trying digging up a bunch of IEDs in the ground,” Gen Fogarty offered. “We looked at finance. We looked at the networks that reached around the globe, supply chains. We looked at it very holistically, and it took a whole of government approach to deal with that threat.”

He recommended that as the United States moves from a congested spectrum environment to one that is both congested and contested by an adversary, the military stop thinking of the network as a service and start thinking of it as a weapon system essential to military operations. “What we have observed over the last 18 months in particular is that if we continue to operate under that mindset that providing communications, providing access to the network is a service and it’s not an operation, then I think we’re going to set ourselves up for failure,” Gen Fogarty declared. Gen Hodges, meanwhile, stressed the continuing need for interoperability with US allies. Gone are the days, he said, when some people thought US soldiers would never take orders from an allied commander. It is now commonplace for one nation’s forces to be attached to another. He recalled that a British commander in Afghanistan had thousands of US soldiers under his command and yet still couldn’t be provided access to the Defense Department’s classified network. Gen Hodges indicated that network security still sometimes takes precedence over interoperability. During the question-and-answer session, Gen Hodges also complained that much of the information that gets classified does not necessarily need to be classified, making it that much harder to share information with allies and other partners.

# **Canada Stops Providing Ukraine’s Military with Satellite Imagery**

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen August 1, 2016



*The Conservative government announced in February 2015 Canada would give Ukraine imagery from the high-tech Radarsat-2 satellite to boost security in its showdown with Russia and separatist forces.*

The Canadian government has pulled the plug on providing Ukraine with satellite imagery to track Russian and rebel forces after the process of transferring the data became tangled up in red tape. The Conservative government announced in February 2015 Canada would give Ukraine imagery from the high-tech Radarsat-2

satellite to boost security in its showdown with Russia and separatist forces. But documents obtained by Postmedia show the process of providing imagery was plagued by numerous approval processes in Ottawa and restrictions on the type of information that could be provided. For such data to be of strategic value to Ukraine, it would have to be quickly transmitted to military personnel there, defence analysts have said. But the documents obtained through the Access to Information law noted “robust licensing restrictions outlining limitations and eligible parameters for the imagery” were put in place.

There were concerns the Ukrainians would use the data to attack specific targets. The Canadian military and Privy Council Office were to get involved in deciding how to deal with that issue, says the February 2015 DND briefing. Canadian officials also suggested warning the Ukrainians about the limitations being put on the satellite imagery. “We recommend that in order to manage expectations, the (government of Canada) advise the Ukrainian government of our review process and the circumstances under which imagery would not be provided,” said the briefing for senior officials. Under the process, images were downloaded from the satellite to MDA Corp., the British Columbia firm that operates the spacecraft, before being sent to the Canadian military. In addition, the images had to be approved by diplomats to ensure they complied with the restrictions, the document added. Next, the material was passed to the Canadian embassy in Kyiv and only then to the Ukrainian government. The U.S. also had the right to censor the images, but it had signaled its general approval of the deal, the briefing added. Canada cut off the flow of Radarsat 2 data to Ukraine on May 6. “The decision was made after carefully considering the utility of this contribution – compared to Canada’s many other forms of assistance to Ukraine,” Diana Khaddaj, spokeswoman for Global Affairs Canada, said in an email.

Ukraine says the flow of images was halted because of budgetary issues in Canada. Global Affairs Canada would not say how much the project cost, following the example of the former

Conservative government. But the DND briefing said the contract was “capped at 8 million for a 42-week period.” The satellite is ideal for observing objects such as large vehicles or ships, the briefing added. In addition, the Radarsat-2 satellite is unique in that it can provide surveillance data day or night and through heavy clouds. At the time, then-defence minister Jason Kenney said Kyiv could use the data to better track Russian and separatist troop movements. Canada has been highly supportive of the Ukraine government, which has been battling Russian aligned separatist forces. Russia also seized Crimea from Ukraine two years ago. Ottawa has pledged hundreds of millions of dollars in loans to help Ukraine’s near-bankrupt government. It has also provided non-lethal equipment, such as night vision goggles and bullet-proof vests. The Canadian military is helping train Ukrainian troops in combat skills, battlefield medical treatment and how to defuse and dispose of roadside bombs. Canadian military police are also working with their counterparts in the country to provide advice and training. But in a recent interview Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said the Liberal government was not going to provide lethal aid to Ukraine.

## **Blue Puttees**

August 1, 2016 by Sharon Adams



*TRUE BLUE: Newfoundland Regiment soldiers and a despatch rider sport blue puttees in a 1914 postcard. The Stars and Stripes, 1918*

Newfoundland’s governor answered Britain’s call to arms in August 1914 with a promise: the dominion would raise a regiment, enlisting the first 500 soldiers within a month. But with Newfoundland’s situation—a population of only 241,000, a depressed economy, and the last military unit stationed on the island disbanded since 1870—how could the citizens’ committee so charged recruit, train and equip the Newfoundland Regiment?

*Puttees were kept in tight rolls when not worn. The Rooms 81.524/A 8-90/*



“Your King and Country Need You! Will you answer your country’s call?” asked an Aug 22 advertisement encouraging men 19 to 35 to enlist “for the duration of the war, but not exceeding one year.” Pay was a dollar a day, plus rations. By Sept 2, 743 men had answered the call, and the First Five Hundred (537 actually) were accepted and began training. The mad scramble to equip them followed. With the lack of khaki material for regulation puttees, blue ones used by the Church Lads Brigade were substituted. Why this was done is debated to this day, said Kerri Button, curator of First World War Projects at The Rooms in St. John’s. Was it strictly a khaki shortage, or was it in honour of an elite brigade who wore them in the Boer War?



*Come Along, Boys! Enlist Today. 1914-1918 Poster*

*The Rooms*

Why puttees at all? Blame the British Empire. Himalayan tribes wore leggings called ‘patti’, the Hindi word for bandages. Puttees were slowly adopted in the 19th century as, some say, mounted British troops in tense situations in India found khaki (Hindi for dirt or dust) better camouflage than colourful uniforms and shiny boots. Puttees also provided ankle support and stopped muck, debris and critters from working their way down into the boots or up the trousers. Wool puttees kept in body warmth even when wet—a useful feature in the muddy battlefields, drenched trenches and pond-like craters of the First World War. And they looked neater than flapping trouser legs.

Puttees became part of the British uniform by the Boer War, and the fashion slowly spread to other armies. Cheaper than tall boots or gaiters, they were a budgetary boon in outfitting millions of soldiers with footwear. Even the high-booted Germans turned to puttees when leather supplies ran short. To wear them, troops folded trouser bottoms against their legs, and, starting below the top of their ankle boots, wrapped the nine-foot strips in an overlapping spiral from ankle to two finger widths below the knee, clockwise on one leg, counter-clockwise on the other. They were tied off with attached half-metre tapes.

*Uniforms of the bronze figures on the National War Memorial include puttees.*



Although the Regiment retained the nickname Blue Puttees, or the Blues, throughout the war, said Button, the Newfoundlanders were issued with standard British khaki puttees shortly after their October arrival in England. In the Second World War, the 48th Highlanders of Canada also donned blue puttees when web anklets were unavailable, earning them the nickname The Glamour Boys. During an inspection, King George VI admired the blue puttees and said the regiment should keep them. The long Puttees were phased out gradually, beginning with the Second World War, as the Canadian Army replaced them with canvas web anklets(gaiters), short Puttees, then taller combat boots.

## Who is it?



**Last Week:** Not sure which beach this is but it is somewhere between Kits Beach and Spanish Banks. Some of the participants identified:  
R-L -

1 Yoshimaru, 4 Jacobson, 8 John McClelland, 9 DaAssuncao 10 (facing north) Mike Meehan, 12 Colin Parkinson

**This Week:** This week's photo comes to us from young Pete Moogk, who is keen to collect any photos of a military nature. This shot was found by him whilst rooting about at a collectors' show. These shows, incidentally, are great places to meet fashionable types intent upon making their mark on life, or so I am told. I tend to prefer "cosplay" conventions.

In any case, young Peter's photo shows a gunner sergeant being presented a trophy by a kindly brigadier, whilst another pukka officer type looks on in a stern military manner. We can guess that the photo was taken during the mid-war years (2<sup>nd</sup> World War, not Boer) as the blushing sergeant has some colour in his insignia, but is still wearing, at a gravity-defying angle, a field service cap. However, it could be late in the war if the photo was taken in Canada.



And that, dear history sleuth, is for you to determine: mid or late WW II? Also, one wonders who the people in the photo are, and what was the great deed that resulted in such a handsome cup being awarded? Any and all guesses can be sent to the editor, or to the author,

John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net) ).

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

Where do you find a birthday present for a cat? In a cat-alogue

### **Murphy's other Laws**

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

### **Quotable Quotes**

The key to leadership is having people willing to follow you if only out curiosity to see what's going to happen. - Marc Anderson

## **VAC Surveys**

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) has sent out links for two surveys. One (first link) is for Veterans and CAF members; and the other (second link), for military family members:

### **Survey for Veterans and CAF members:**

<http://veterans.sondages-surveys.ca/surveys/melanie-WHR/veterans-and-still-serving-2/>

### **Survey for family members of Veterans, and CAF members**

<http://veterans.sondages-surveys.ca/surveys/melanie-WHR/survey-for-family-members/>

Please take the specific survey applicable to you.