



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 10, 2017

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 - Lunches start again tomorrow. We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome.

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

Jan 27 **Burns Supper** See invitation at end of newsletter

Feb 4 **Regimental reunion dinner** - details at the end of the newsletter.

Mar 3 **Scotch Tasting Fundraiser** - details at the end of the newsletter.

World War 2 - 1942

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

Jan 11th: The Japanese make their opening moves for the invasion of the Dutch East Indies, and USS Saratoga is torpedoed by I-6 off Hawaii and will be in the shipyards for several months.

Jan 12th: Rommel decides on a counter-stroke but has suspicions about his communications security and will not inform Rome or Berlin about his plans. Meanwhile, the 8th Army must give up two Australian Brigades and an armoured brigade to fight the Japanese. Also, new troops in transit around Africa to the Middle East are being re-directed to Southeast Asia. The Japanese open new airbases on the Celebes and enter Kuala Lumpur in Malaya. The Yugoslav government in exile dumps General Simovic for Professor Yovanovic as Premier. The last 19,580 members of Odessa's Jewish community are railed off to concentration camps near Poland.

Jan 13th: The Allied governments agree on trials and punishments for Axis war criminals after the war. Doenitz orders the start of Operation Drum Roll (Paukensschlag), and ten U-Boats move to take up patrols off the Eastern seaboard off the US. Although warned that the U-Boats are coming, the absence of blackouts and convoys will kill a lot of sailors in the coming months. The Japanese make a dent on the east end of the Bataan defences.

Jan 14th: Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador all receive declarations of war from Italy. Australia declares war on Bulgaria.

Representatives from the Allied nations gather in London to draft a joint resolution on German War Crimes after the war.

Jan 15th: Tirpitz moves into a new home in a Norwegian Fjord. In Malaysia, the Japanese are spearheaded by the Imperial Guards Division and move south of Malacca. The Japanese 55th Division moves into Burma. The Rio de Janeiro conference begins and will eventually result in the end of Axis support from Latin America.

Jan 16th: Donald Nelson is appointed as head of the US War Production Board. Field Marshal Leeb is sacked as head of Army Group North; since December, Hitler has fired 33 generals in Russia – and now dominates planning and decision making, while encouraging Himmler plans to expand the Waffen SS. On the Bataan Peninsula, Sergeant Jose Colugos of the Philippine Scouts is a mess sergeant in an artillery battery. When intensive Japanese counter-battery fire knocks out a gun in another battery during a critical action, Sgt Colugos races towards it and assembles a volunteer crew which restores the gun while still under fire and brings it back into action. He is nominated for the Medal of Honor, but will spend a year as a Japanese POW and two more as a guerrilla before his medal is placed around his neck.

Jan 17th: Jan Smuts wins a vote of Non-Confidence in South Africa, a vote which is linked to a refusal to sever ties to Britain. PQ-8 encounters the first submarine opposition to an Arctic convoy, and U-454 sinks a destroyer and a merchant ship. Field Marshal von Reichenau dies of a heart-attack in Germany. The defence of Halfaya Pass on the Egyptian-Libyan border staged by Hauptman the Reverend Bach is finally yielded after five weeks and 5,500 German and Italians are taken prisoner.

Government Doesn't Understand Our Special Forces, Report Says

More from David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen December 30, 2016



This file photo shows a helicopter from 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron working with Jamaican special forces during exercises in Jamaica.

Photo courtesy CANSOFCOM

Canada's special forces aren't being used enough because federal government officials don't understand such units or have the structure to make the best use of them, according to a recently released report. The eight-page report written by Queen's University defence researcher Christian Leuprecht and H Christian Breede, a professor at the Royal Military College of Canada, looked at the capabilities and future of Canada's special forces. "Canada currently lacks the policies, national security culture, mechanisms, processes, and methods to optimize the use of SOF," Leuprecht said in a statement. "As a result, Canada's SOF is undersubscribed and under-utilized." The authors recommend that defence decision-

makers develop a more thorough understanding of the capabilities of Canadian special forces. They suggest, in particular, that more knowledge is needed by decision-makers in how special forces differ in training and skills from conventional forces.

To maintain the capabilities of Canadian special forces, the authors also argue against the rapid or large-scale expansion of these units. That could water down capabilities, they add. "Given the CAF's authorized troop strength and the qualities of an operator being as unique as they are, a rapid expansion would necessitate recasting the combination of desirable characteristics," the report added. In addition, the authors recommend only select and targeted collaboration with conventional force units. The government also needs to decrease the amount of time it takes to make decisions on the use of special forces, which, in turn, would allow for the greatest number of options for the use of such units, the report suggests. The publication of the document comes as the Liberal government conducts a defence review, expected to be completed in early 2017. "With large-scale deployments of conventional combat forces improbable in the foreseeable future, SOF has emerged as the force of choice," the report noted. The Department of National Defence did not comment on the report.

Russian Troops Conduct Live Fire Exercise Using Tactical Robots

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen December 28, 2016

Russian troops are starting to integrate robotic weapon systems into some of their training regimes. The Soratnik and Nerekhta robotic systems were unveiled during a firing demonstration to senior Russian Army officers as part of a special operational assembly, Army Commander-in-Chief Colonel General Oleg Salyukov told the Russian news agency TASS. "For the first time, there has been a live fire exercise in the course of a tactical vignette done by an infantry platoon using combat robotized hardware in the form of Soratnik and Nerekhta modular robotic systems," he said.



Soratnik is intended to provide direct support to infantry. Source: Nikolai Novichkov

The BAS-01G BM Soratnik (Companion-in-Arms) has been designated an unmanned combat ground vehicle (UCGV). "It is an innovative platform

developed by the military division of the Kalashnikov Group in accordance with the terms of reference issued by the Russian Ministry of Defense," a company spokesperson told *IHS Jane's*. "Soratnik is intended for combat reconnaissance, fire support for soldiers on the battlefield,

mine clearance, logistics operations, and patrolling." Soratnik is a tracked platform with a combat weight of about 7,000 kg, an operational range of 400 km, a maximum road speed of 40 km/h, and can be remote-controlled out to a distance of 10 km. In addition to direct control, the system can operate with varying levels of autonomy. The system features an electro-optic suite that enables targets to be detected out to a maximum distance of 2,500 m. Soratnik can be armed with a 7.62 mm Kalashnikov PKT/PKTM or 12.7 mm 6P49 Kord heavy machine gun, or a 30 mm AG-17A Plamya (Flame) automatic grenade launcher (AGL). The vehicle has also been fitted with the latest 40 mm 6G27 Balkan AGL. When configured for the anti-tank role, the UCGV is armed with eight ready-to-launch 9M133M Kornet-EM (AT-14 Spriggan) anti-tank guided missiles.



Russian universal combat robot "Nerehta" will start testing at the site in 2016. The robot is designed on a modular scheme, which gives unlimited flight of fancy in its subsequent use. In

fact, this will be fully universal machine, used with equal success both for reconnaissance and patrol, as well as for a possible fight. As the weapons used by the machine guns of 7.62 mm and 12.7 mm. In the future, a more powerful machine gun will be created especially for "Nerekhta".

Salyukov said the special operational assembly of the Army's command element was an annual event designed to discuss examine new technology and techniques. "Some characteristics of the advanced materiel suit us, others do not," he explained. "The main yardstick for the advanced systems is their relevance to combat units. After the demonstration, we had a detailed conference with representatives of industry. All of the advanced hardware should keep on being refined." Meanwhile, Russia's Defence Ministry says the UAV squadron assigned to its Pacific fleet has received a longer-range smaller aerial vehicle, the Orlan-10. The unmanned aircraft has been tested in severe climatic conditions and is ready for deployment in the Arctic, the ministry says.



US Army to Test New Armored Vehicles as It Updates Older Platforms

By David Vergun December 9, 2016



The first Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle, or AMPV, is scheduled to be handed over to the Army Dec. 15, 2016, for testing.

(Photo Credit: Courtesy photo)

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- The first armored multipurpose Vehicle, or AMPV, is scheduled to be handed over to the Army Thursday for testing. The AMPV demonstrator will roll out of the BAE Systems plant in York,

Pennsylvania, to begin a 52-month engineering and manufacturing development phase for the vehicle. At least 29 of the vehicles will be manufactured for this phase of the procurement process, officials said. If the low-rate production option for the AMPV is approved, procurement officials said several hundred of the vehicles will be manufactured for testing over the next four years.

The AMPV will replace the armored brigade combat team's M113 family of vehicles. The AMPV addresses the M113's shortcomings in survivability and force protection, and size, weight, power, and cooling, known as SWAP-C, officials said. It is also designed to incorporate future technologies and the Army's network. The AMPV has a brand new hull, but it maintains some of the Bradley legacy design, allowing for some compatibility efficiencies, according to Maj Gen David G Bassett, program executive officer for Ground Combat Systems. In fact, about 60 to 70 percent of the parts are common with existing ground combat vehicles, Bassett said during a press conference in October. The AMPV also has the additional space inside to allow for the addition of new systems in the future, and it comes with an improved power train. The hull is stronger from a force protection perspective, too, he said. Meanwhile, many Bradleys are still in service, "so we're building new capabilities in an incremental way over time," he added.

"I'd love to have replacement programs today for Abrams and Bradleys," Bassett said. "We could get those plans [for replacements], but it just doesn't fit into this portfolio and budget requirement. Instead we're looking at, do you want to do an ECP-3 [engineering change proposal] on a Bradley or do you want to bridge to a new platform? We're making informed decisions." The M-109 Paladin, the M1 Abrams tank and the M-2 Bradley have been around for decades, but their capabilities today are nothing like they were when they originally rolled out of the factory. The vehicles are updated periodically with various upgrades as new

technologies evolve, making them far more capable than their original design, noted Bassett, who is the program executive officer for Ground Combat Systems. "At the end of the day, a combat vehicle is about a box," he said. "[Inside, are the latest] mobility system, lethality system, communications system and some other things. If you can take all those and put them on an existing vehicle, then maybe you don't have to build a whole new vehicle from scratch, along with the risks associated with that kind of development." The box concept does have its limitations, though, he added. For instance, the size of the power train on a Bradley is constrained by the size of the engine cavity, which means that simply plopping in a larger one isn't possible. But still, even if the hull has to be replaced, some elements of the existing vehicle could be retained. With its brand new hull and many Bradley legacy designs, the AMPV, is "a great example of that [versatility]," he pointed out.

Canadian Rangers to Get New Rifles in 2017

But Civilians Get the Same Gun First *David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen January 2, 2017*



The new Canadian Ranger Rifle underneath the Lee Enfield, the weapon it will replace.

(c) 2016 DND-MDN Canada

The Canadian Forces says the new Canadian Ranger rifle will be delivered to Canadian Ranger units starting by mid-2017. Final deliveries are expected in late 2018/early 2019, Department of National Defence spokeswoman Ashley Lemire said. (125 prototype weapons were acquired and utilized during field trials in 2015. They did not

remain in circulation.)

But some civilian shooters already have pretty much the same rifle, which is now starting to appear on the shelves of gun stores in some parts of Canada. A small number of Tikka Arctic .308 Win, modeled directly after the Tikka Ranger rifle (the Canadian Ranger rifle), were shipped out to customers of Wolverine Supplies. Island Outfitters in Victoria, BC, also received one of the new rifles and a gun store in Montreal expects a shipment sometime in January. The civilian version of the Ranger rifle is selling for around \$2,700. How is it different from the military version? The guns in the hands of civilians were not assembled by Colt Canada, which is handling the Ranger rifle procurement for the Canadian military. In addition, the Canadian Ranger rifle stock will be a slightly redder colour and they will have a Ranger emblem. The trigger guard area is said to be a little larger as well.

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Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

There was a lot of focus on the Band tour to Palm Springs and Los Angeles in 1991. Lots of photos with some very young looking faces.... <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1991.html>
There was also a Fort Lewis Gun Exercise in 1998 from the days of the C1 howitzer. Could use some help identifying some of the soldiers.... <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1998.html>
Of course, the Regimental Band didn't just go South in the winter. There's some great photos from their 1999 trip to Hawaii. They brought some Gunners along on this tour...
<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1999.html>

And there's a big reminder about our upcoming Regimental Birthday Party on 4 February 2017. Check out the details at the end of the newsletter.

Have you got a story that you might wish to share? Some additional photographs? Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com

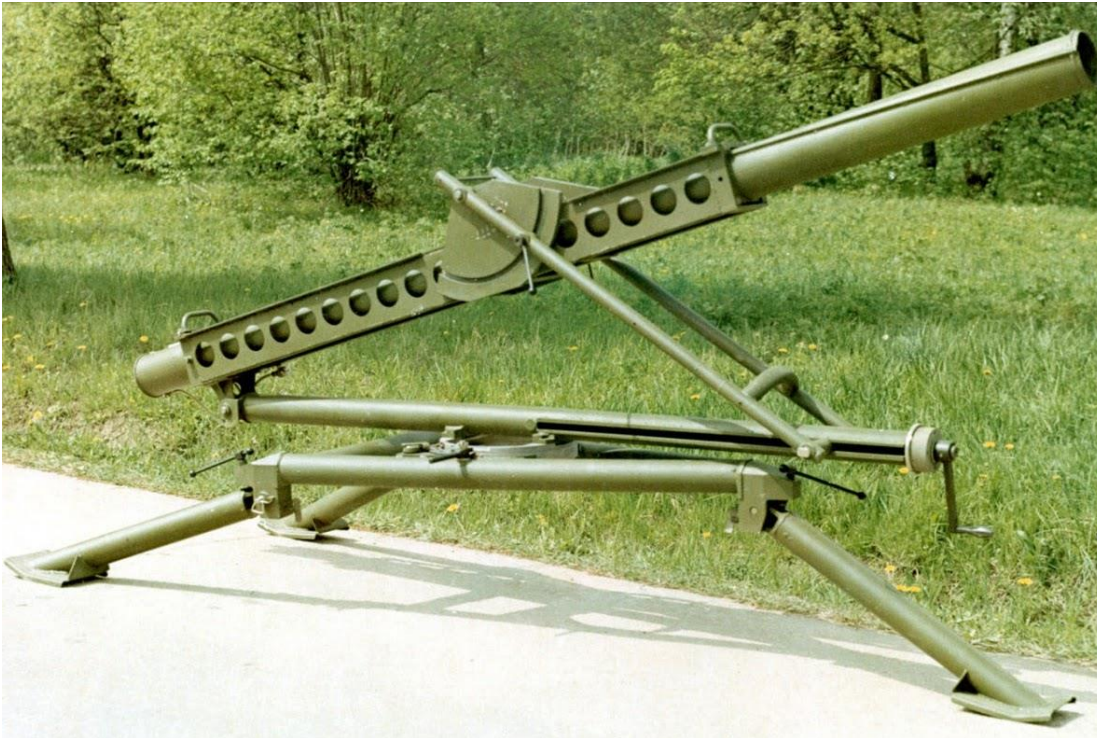
Who Is It



Last Week: The chap on the left is Lt Col Leslie, 1 RCHA, and the other chap is Lt Col Rose, RHR. Both are at Ujuibong railhead in Korea, April, 1953. As for the reason they are together - 1 RCHA gave vital fire support to the RHR in the Battle of the Hook. Without that support, the Black Watch would most likely have been overrun. LCol Rose sent his pipers and drummers into battle at the end, as he was so low on rifles. Dad spent the whole battle with Col Rose's

HQ. When 1 RCHA left the line, to return to Canada, Rose arranged a send off, bringing the pipe band to play the Regiment off at the railhead. That's also when Peter Tees "bombed" the unit from his Auster with rolls of toilet paper (unused).

This Week: The Government of Canada has always had the interests of taxpayers at heart, and has often eschewed luxury items for the Canadian Armed Forces (viz. unnecessarily modern aircraft, seaworthy ships, robust trucks, etc.). To some this is “penny-pinching”, but to others it is necessary economizing. Such brings us to this week’s quiz: a photo of the new gun proposed to replace those currently in service with the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery reserve units. As you know, many reserve units are equipped with the C3 howitzer (Atlantic units have their own gun, the LG1 C1 MkII). These guns can actually trace their lineage back almost 100 years (if you doubt this, read up in “Guns of the Regiment”). So, something new is needed.



At the same time, the C3 is a quite complex piece of artillery, too much so for a generation raised on apps and simple swipes. So, it is thought that the accompanying photo represents one of the guns being considered as a replacement for the two models currently in service. However, the caption is missing,

so we rely on you, keen arty enthusiasts, to identify this mighty weapon. Your answers may be sent to the editor, (bob.mugford@outlook.com) or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Thanks for keeping Canada fairly debt-free.

From the ‘Punitary’

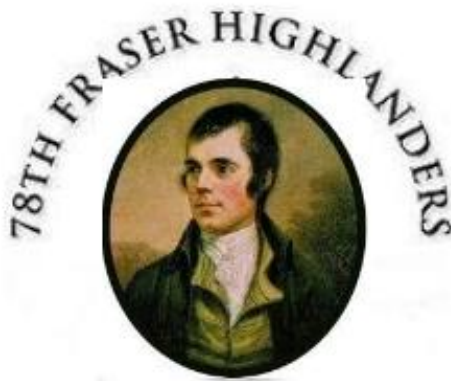
Why are frogs so happy? They eat whatever bugs them.

Murphy’s Other Laws

Always be prepared for the worst. If it happens, you are ready for it. If it doesn’t, you will be pleasantly surprised

Quotable Quotes

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become PM; I’m beginning to believe it.
~Quoted in *‘Clarence Darrow for the Defense’* by Irving Stone.



Fort Fraser Garrison
invites you to attend our

Garrison Burns Supper
Saturday, 21 January, 2017
in the Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC
1800hrs for 1900hrs
(RSVP requested)

A authentic traditional Burns Supper;
the Pipes, the Haggis, the Poetry
and,
as befits the Bard's 258th birthday party,
fine fare in a most convivial atmosphere

Dress: Scottish Evening Wear, Business Attire

Tariff: \$78 per person

RSVP by 14 January to jobarb@shaw.ca

please include:

- a) member's name, and that of his or her lady or gentleman,
- b) full names of your guests,
- c) any special dietary needs.

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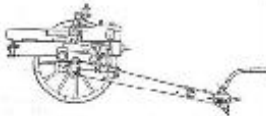
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Host: Filmmaker Bill Zuk



RV 2017

**Regimental 97th Birthday
Saturday, February 4th, 2017
1800 Hours – 2400 Hours
Bessborough Armoury
\$30.00 per person**

The evening is open to all members of The 15th Field Artillery Regiment, currently serving or retired, their spouses, all members of other Regiments that may have served alongside of The 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA and currently serving or retired members of the Cadet Instructor Cadre affiliated with the Regiment.

It's time to phone up some of those old time buddies and get together at Bessborough Armoury to share some memories. Dig out your old horn and join in a jam session with the Band.

The Messes will be opened with a planned theme in each. In the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess there'll be a turntable with World War 2 vinyl playing.

Bring down some of your old photos for scanning that night! Too many? Bring them all down in a shoebox and we'll return them in a couple of weeks after scanning.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rv-2017-birthdayreunion-party-4-february-2017>



15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78th Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders invite you, and any like-minded guests of your acquaintance, to attend our annual fund raising and whiskey tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music. Did we say whisky?

Tickets are **\$55.00** per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by our famous whisky elves, Chuck & John, or a meager **\$25.00** if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. kilts, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday – March 3rd, 2017

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

LOCATION: 2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J
2C7

**DO NOT MISS OUT!
TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:**

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.