



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 10, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches and these lunches can only survive if sufficient numbers attend regularly. Attendance numbers went down the last few weeks of the year and we need your support to keep the lunches going so, if you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. We serve a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere.

The Mess is back to 'winter' dress so dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Your guests are always welcome.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1915

Mar 10th: The bombardment of NEUVE CHAPELLE commenced at 7:30 am. It was horrific to hear the tons of metal going through the air; in all we had 476 guns on about a four mile front. The 18 pounders were cutting the enemy's wire embankment. The heavy artillery were all concentrated on the enemy's line of trenches and the fierce fire was kept up for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. We then lifted to the BOIS-DU-BEIZ to enable our infantry to attack. Our trenches were lined with Garhwals, Purchase, and several other Regts of native troops. The Leicester's made the first charge, taking the German trenches in grand style but were held on the edge of an orchard outside NEUVE CHAPELLE. A Regiment of Territorials came to their assistance. A terrific hand-to-hand fight ensued, especially at a spot we called, 'The Street of Hell'. Eventually, after fighting that can hardly be described, we gained the village about midday. Many prisoners were captured. They were brought in batches and they all seemed terrified and glad to be captured. The natives advanced on the right and captured the trenches in front, but were held up by machine guns in a redoubt by the left edge of the BOIS-DU-BIEZ. The Gurkhas did grand work, especially with their wicked little knives, which accounting for many German heads. As the Germans ran from the trenches, the little Gurkhas were after them, and many of the little chaps clambered on the backs of the big Germans [with] the knack [of] Sweeney Todd for throat cutting. The Seaforths were brought to assist the natives at this point, and in a splendid charge, (which according to our officers and many old campaigners who were observing with us), was the finest sight they had ever witnessed. They went into the murderous fire as if they were going on a picnic. In spite of the enormous losses they incurred, the[y] captured the redoubt and its contents of Germans and machine guns. Meanwhile our Infantry on [the] left dug themselves in, in front of the BOISDU-BEIZ beyond the village of NEUVE CHAPELLE. We kept up continual fire until dark, from when we slowed down and searched for enemy reinforcements. During the afternoon the enemy launched several giant counter-attacks, and

our losses were great, but we did not budge an inch on any of the ground we had won. My observing line had stood all day, but the two officers and telephonists who followed up the infantry charge could do no good. The Major observed all our fire and we were credited with doing good work during the day. Not counting shrapnel, we fired 1201 rounds of Lyddite; it was a fierce day and we were glad when darkness came to give us a little respite. The enemy made another attack after dark but it was repulsed. Both sides kept up artillery fire all night. Our infantry had suffered terribly for ceaseless streams of wounded were coming down. The ground from our old front line trenches, to where they were now, were literally covered with corpses, both of our chaps and of Germans, especially in NEUVE CHAPELLE itself. Strangely enough we were a happy crowd that night; especially we, the Battery Staff, for the day's horrors were forgotten in the thought that we had given them a little taste of the gruel they so often gave to us, and that we had easily beat them at their own game. During the night firing I managed to write my usual letter to my little girl.

Mar 11th: We opened at dawn on the BOIS-DU-BEIZ, which was still held by enemy. We learned that the 7th Division had advanced as far as possible on our left, but had failed to take the AUBERS RIDGE. So to cooperate, our Division (Lahore) was ordered to consolidate the position we had won, and to hold it, which we did in spite of numerous counter attacks. It was awful to see the Germans mowed down by our guns, for they made attack after attack in close formation, and were literally blown to pieces. Every attack, leaving the ground in front of our trenches more thickly covered with bodies. A column of their reinforcements were caught plumb by our 15" Howitzer. One round made a gap in the column of about 60 yards – men, horses and vehicles going in the air. In a confused mass, this our most mighty gun, did some terrific work. My line, marvel of marvels, still held, only being broken once by shell fire. The day was much the same as yesterday – continual firing. A stream of wounded and prisoners, as one batch, was coming through the RUE-DE-BOIS. Three of their own shell[s] came long into them, [which] killed or wounded about 20 of the prisoners. Strangely enough [they] never touched any of the natives who were escorting them. Our artillery observers in the vicinity [said that] it was funny to see the niggers laughing at the Germans, the thought of them being outed by their own chaps seem to amuse them greatly. They made the Germans walk slowly and keep to the road, for it was evident the scared prisoners would have liked to have run across country.

World War 2 - November 1939

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

Mar 8th : The Soviets capture part of Viipuri and look likely to take the remainder of the city soon.

Mar 11th : The terms of the Finno-Russian Armistice are concluded in Moscow; the Finns are to cede the Karelian Isthmus and other territories to Russia and give them a lease on the port of Hanko.

Mar 13th: The Finnish-Russian war comes to an end as a Soviet victory although the Red Army's competence is much questioned: the Finns have 25,000 dead as are – probably -- some 300,000 Soviets.

Mar 14th: The Prime Minister of Australia forms a wartime coalition cabinet.

Mar 16th: The Luftwaffe calls on the Royal Navy anchorage of Scapa Flow, damaging a cruiser and causing their first British civilian fatalities.

Col Rodgers scores a Bull's-eye.

A few of you picked up on the error in this item. Col Bill Rodgers actually was presented with an 84mm Carl Gustav medium Anti-Tank (MAW) Recoilless Rifle shell casing from LCol Purcell. I was tempted to claim I did it on purpose to see who was paying attention but, in fact, when I typed that line in I wasn't paying close attention and my fingers apparently had a mind of their own. Probably a lot more readers spotted the error but realized it was just another of my editorial slips.

Want to visit Yorke Island?

Ross Keller, UE, was appointed Hon Bty Comd of Yorke by LCol Purcell last summer in recognition for all his hard work restoring and promoting the Yorke Island site. He spoke to a couple fellows who had been on the island over the summer who he could have taken to Yorke if they had connected.

He has requested that we put a small piece in the newsletter about how to connect with him. He can take a max of 5 people in his boat for day trips or camp outs (best on the weekend) so, if anyone is on Vancouver Island this summer who would like to visit Yorke Island, contact Ross at: treetraveler@hotmail.com Best to make arrangement about 2 weeks in advance.

5th (BC) Arty Regt Foundation - Vancouver Island Brewery Tour

If you plan to be on Vancouver Island on Friday, March 20th check out this tour.

This event is a fundraiser for the Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment Foundation. \$25 will provide each participant with a tour of the Vancouver Island Brewery, beer tastings, finger food and the gratitude of our not-for-profit Foundation. *(See poster at end of newsletter for details)*

Around and Around in the Fixed Wing SAR Aircraft Maze

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen March 2, 2015

Officials with aerospace firms have their fingers crossed that a request for proposals (ie request for bids) for a new fleet of Fixed Wing Search and Rescue aircraft will be released in the coming months. April or May is a month that keeps being mentioned. Once that happens then the actual race to replace the RCAF's aging Buffalo SAR aircraft (and older Hercs) is on.

As **Defence Watch** readers know the Canadian military's quest to purchase a new fleet of search and rescue aircraft has been a lengthy one – 11 years and counting. At this point the RCAF and Department of National Defence have not acknowledged any new developments on the FWSAR front. They won't even release an updated time-table.



Getting information on the Fixed Wing Search and Rescue (FWSAR) project has also been difficult to say the least. Take for example, the simple request submitted in November 2014 to the Department of National Defence as well as to Public Works. The request was for the latest FWSAR dates/milestones (i.e. when was the release of the request for proposals

expected, the year a contract was expected to be signed and the year the first aircraft were expected to be delivered). The RCAF/ADM Mat and Public Works have these milestones already worked out but they change as the delays continue to pile up on the project. For instance, the Defence Acquisition Guide claims that the request for proposals would be released in 2014 but that, of course, never happened. After a number of days getting the approvals from the Prime Minister's Office and the Minister's office, Department of National Defence spokesman Zoltan Csepregi responded Nov. 19, 2014 with a brief email: "The Department of National Defence continues to work with the Department of Public Works on this file." Not to be outdone, Public Works, slaved over its response and decided to be a little daring...it changed the wording somewhat. "Public Works and Government Services Canada's officials continue to work with officials from the Department of National Defence on this file," stated the email sent at the same time by Public Works spokeswoman Annie Joannette.

So it was time to hit the sources network and find out what was happening on the FWSAR file. Last month the Citizen published the article based on interviews with sources – it outlined the government's plan to release the FWSAR sometime in the spring. In interviews for that article, opposition critics were claiming the FWSAR project was an epic example of the failure of the Conservative government's defence procurement policies. So for that article, Defence Minister Rob Nicholson's office was asked for comment (at the time Nicholson was still MND). Nicholson's spokeswoman Johanna Quinney emailed to say a response would be forthcoming from Public Works.

And what was that? - You guessed it. - "Public Works and Government Services Canada's officials continue to work with officials from the Department of National Defence on this file," stated the email. Same answer from November to a different set of questions. Just with a new date put on the email. The question now? With a federal election scheduled for the fall, how much will that further delay the FWSAR project?

Important Information about Security Clearances

By Bruce Beswick who is actively seeking new employment and whose present contract will expire shortly.

For those of you who are wearing the uniform right now and carrying a security clearance there is something you need to seriously think about.

What happens to that clearance when you retire? Well, if you do nothing, it literally disappears when you sign out of the military on your last day. You now do not have a security clearance. If you are looking for work in a position that requires a clearance, it takes time to get that clearance. Meaning you might not get hired - or even worse - as a close friend just found out: "You might get hired and then the company gets tired of waiting for your clearance to come through. So they FIRE you to hire someone with an already active clearance!" As my buddy found out the hard way. It is not a good deal when that happens! However, there is a way to keep your security clearance when you get out of the military but you must do it **BEFORE** you retire. Today would be the best time. Yeah, right now.

Here is how you can do this. Simply call Calian or Valcom and inform the person you are speaking with that you are requesting to speak with someone about holding your clearance. If memory serves me the term is a "mirror security clearance". They will send you a one page form to fill out and sign. You do this and send it back to whichever company you called. They do all the work for free and you now can carry that clearance with you when you finally release from the military. It provides them with a growing list of potential candidates so it is a win-win. They know who you are and you get to keep that clearance when you are retired. As a civilian, you now can apply for opportunities requiring a security clearance. Because you have one!

Be sure to pass this on to all your friends - it is truly valuable information - especially for those coming close to retirement. Full disclosure: I am sure there are other companies out there that do this - however I have dealt directly with Calian and Valcom - which is why I used them as the examples. And no I did not tell them I was about to do this!

Canada's Military Gets New Bosses, Same Old Problems

A new minister and a new chief of defence staff face familiar procurement quicksand

By Terry Milewski, CBC News Posted: Mar 04, 2015

Canada's military, though modest in size, is of great political value to the Harper government. Ever since taking power in 2006, Stephen Harper's Conservatives have bemoaned a "decade of darkness" under the Liberals. They've missed few opportunities to drive home the message: those other guys just can't be trusted to protect Canada. Now, in the coming election, they will try to extend their own reign to a decade and more — but is the darkness dispelled yet? It's a tricky question as the team at the top undergoes another round of changes. Harper's fourth defence minister in nine years, Jason Kenney, brings legendary drive to the Defence Department. He'll need it. Despite repeated pleas from NATO, Canada's defence spending remains nowhere close to the alliance's desired level of two per cent of GDP. At just one per cent, Canada's a laggard. Only five of NATO's 28 members spend less. There's no chance that Kenney will fix that in a hurry, even if he is famously in a hurry. And first, he will need to find the Harper government's fourth chief of defence staff, because Gen Tom Lawson plans to step

down this summer. Whoever takes over, the new chief of defence staff and the new minister

must hope for two things that don't seem certain: luck and money.



Defence Minister Jason Kenney, right, and Admiral William Gortney, NORAD and US Northern Command, speak at the Conference of Defence Associations Institute conference in Ottawa on Feb. 19. A month into his new portfolio, Kenney is looking for a new chief of defence staff.

(Sean Kilpatrick/Canadian Press)

The problem is simple: the rusting out of the existing stock of military hardware. The solution is hard: years go by, and the replacement for an aging fleet of fighter planes is nowhere in sight. First, it was definitely going to be the F-35. Then, the fancy new stealth fighter turned out to be much more costly than advertised. So it was back to the drawing board. And it's always back to the drawing board. Decades go by, and a new fleet of ships is delayed and delayed again. Two rusty supply ships have already been pulled out of service and the construction of new ones is not even close. A new icebreaker has been announced, and even named — the Diefenbaker — but don't expect to see any steel cut until the end of the decade. All of that is to happen on the West Coast, while on the East Coast a new fleet of "six to eight" Arctic offshore patrol ships was promised — seven years ago. Construction is finally supposed to start later this year, but delays have taken a bite out of the budget. Now, we'll be paying more for fewer ships. Those patrol ships, though, are just the test run for the vaunted national shipbuilding procurement strategy. The heavy lifting doesn't really begin until construction starts on a fleet of warships called the Canadian surface combatants. That will be when the patrol ships are done — theoretically, around 2020, if all goes well. Which it rarely does in the byzantine world of military procurement.

Remember the epic quest for new search and rescue planes? If you forgot, you can be forgiven: it's now up to 11 years and counting. A request for bids is just around the corner. Really. Any day now.

LOST JAPANESE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN

(13.2mm OR 25mm "TWIN" Barreled A.A. Gun from KISKA) see below

Brought to Vernon, British Columbia (Canada), Army Training Camp from Kiska in early 1944 by the 24th Field Artillery Regiment RCA, the Regimental War Diary entry describes it as a 20mm twin-barreled AA gun. Research to date indicates NO twin-barreled models of 20mm calibre found on Kiska (*viz. intelligence ground survey in 1943 after Allied occupation*). The ONLY 20 mm AA guns were single-barreled models. However, many twin-barreled types of

both 13.2mm and 25mm *were* found. The same results came from the 2007/8 Kiska Guns and sites preservation survey. The anti-aircraft gun brought to Vernon by the 24th Field RCA was positioned in front of the Regimental Sergeants' Mess. It "VANISHED" from the camp sometime after the 24th Field RCA was disbanded in 1945.

I am **seeking information** from anyone posted to the Vernon BC Army Training Camp during or after 1944 (including as an Army Cadet in later years), who recalls seeing the twin-barreled AA gun referred to and remembers which of the two models depicted in the photos it was. Additionally, information as to the **disposition of the gun or its current location** (particular museum, private collection etc.) is sought.

Please Contact: Robert H (Bob) Spring, Capt (Ret'd) RCA at #414 – 12258 224th Street, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 8Y7, Canada, or by e-mail: bobspring@shaw.ca with information.



Japanese Type 96 25mm twin barreled anti-aircraft gun on Mercy Point, Kiska Harbor.
(U.S. National Archives and Records Administration 111-sc-186547).



Japanese Type 93 13.2mm twin mount light anti-aircraft gun on North Head, Kiska.
(U.S. National Archives and Records Administration 80-G-80265).

Who is it?

Last Week: Bill Wickett says: *"This is a US designed, 90mm Medium Anti-Aircraft gun. It replaced the 3.7" AA gun in the mid-50s and I served on one as a Sgt. I also introduced it to a group of officers from our 43rd MAA. The advantage of the 90mm was that it was automatically controlled by radar, which put the gun on a target using hydraulics. It was much easier to put into action than the old 3.7". Two gunners sat on the gun as it moved to make sure the settings for elevation and direction were OK."*



The soldier standing at the far right in the gun photo with his left arm on his waist is believed to be Sgt Art Beatty.

This Week: This week we go back again to the days of the “bush” uniform, not named after any former president of the USA. This comes from a series of slides taken at a parade of, possibly, the 43rd HAA/MAA, and possibly in Victoria. These were found in the effects of Vic Stevenson, who was a prolific collector of anything even remotely connected to the history of his Regiment. God bless him for that.

These slides were “preserved” in glass holders, which didn’t exactly help, except to trap dust and dirt. Being Anscochrome, the slides have faded, in spite of having been stored in the dark for decades. Just about the only film that doesn’t do that is the late, lamented Kodachrome. However, do not despair, with proper software, and careful cleaning, most slides and negatives (colour) can be restored to some semblance of their original self. You should have seen this one in its ‘just found’ state.



In any case, the subject appears to be a group of smartly dressed officers, with brown boots and Fox puttees, promenading before a parade. As mentioned, they are probably from the old 43rd. So, can you help us identify who they are? In fact, is one of them you, or your dad? Let us know by contacting the editor, or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Thanks for your help. *For a larger picture email bob.mugford@shaw.ca*

From the ‘Punitentary’

When the construction worker fell in the wet concrete he left a bad impression.

Murphy’s other Laws

When things are going well, something will go wrong.

Quotable Quotes

If Columbus had an advisory committee he would probably still be at the dock. - *Arthur Goldberg*

2015 BC Army Gala



The Countdown is on!

With less than a month away, now is the time to purchase your BC Army Gala tickets!

The BC Army Gala is an event unlike any other in Vancouver, with live music, dancers and Steve Darling as MC; the BC Army Gala promises to be a spectacular night out.

Join us in supporting The Mainland BC Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC). Only improving on previous years, we are thrilled to welcome a wonderful group of entertainers to see you through what has become a lasting tradition in Vancouver.

The Hyatt Regency is offering the attendees of the BC Army Gala a discounted room rate of \$149 per night. If you are interested in taking advantage, you can contact them one of two ways:

Call: 1-800-233-1234 and mention "VGO BC Army Gala"

Or follow this link

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/armygala2015>

Tickets are available for purchase at \$140 each, and are selling quickly. With over 50% of tickets sold, we are on track for another sell-out event this year! The BC Army Gala team looks forward to seeing you at the Hyatt Regency on March 28th.

Event Count-Down: **18 Days** until the 2015 BC Army Gala!

Visit the link below to purchase your tickets today:

<http://bcarmygala.ca/buy-tickets/>

Thank you for your continued interest and we look forward to seeing you at The BC Army Gala 2015!

To learn more about the MFRC, visit their website by clicking [here](#).

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Concert

CELTICFEST

PRESENTS



THE VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR



CANADA'S LARGEST MEN'S CHOIR

Friday, March 13th, 7:30pm
(Doors open 7:00pm)

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
690 Burrard St., Vancouver

With the De Danann School of Irish Dance

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
WWW.CELTICFESTVANCOUVER.COM

\$27 adult advance | \$24 students & seniors advance
\$31 adult at the door | \$28 students & seniors at the door

Taste of India Curry Lunch



Hosted by:
*The British Columbia
Regiment
Officers' Mess*

Coordinated by:
*The BC Regiment
(DCO) Association*



- Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by March 20, 2015)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail
Events@DukeaBear.com
(Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after March 20, 2015

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, May 28, 2015

Vancouver Island Brewery Tour

Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment RCA Foundation



Private Brewery Tour

At Vancouver Island Brewery

Supporting the Foundation's Work



Friday, March 20, 2015

Meet at 4:30pm

Tasting Room

2330 Government Street

Victoria BC



*YES! There will be
beer tasting!*

For more information please
contact:

Scott Wisdahl

(250) 794-7495

Scott.wisdahl@gmail.com



Dress: Smart casual

Admission: \$25

Limited spaces

Book by emailing

Scott.wisdahl@gmail.com

