



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 10, 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>

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 3rd 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.

Concert – Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment

International Military Band Concert

Date: Monday, May 23rd, 2016 **Time:** 2:30pm

Location: Chandos Pattison Auditorium, [10238 168 Street](#), Surrey

Tickets: Family \$45, Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Children \$10.

Available online at: <https://www.picatic.com/imbc> **More information at end of newsletter**

World War 2 - 1941

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

May 11th: A disappointed Hess is bundled off after his parachute landing in Scotland to enter a long lifetime of solitary reflection and his apparent peace message goes undelivered.

May 13th: Martin Bormann gets the job Hess just abandoned. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem gives a pro-Axis broadcast from Baghdad calling "for a Jihad against the British; he will do even more later to aid the German war effort.

May 14th: Italian morale starts sinking quickly at Amba Alagi as British and Ethiopian guerrilla attacks start coming in from every point of the compass – worse, a lucky artillery shell has spilled the Italian fuel dump into their last reservoir of drinking water. French police arrest 1,000 Jews and hand them over to the Germans for 'deportation' to the East.

May 15th: British aircraft start bombing airfields in Syria to disrupt German air travel to Iraq. The British (under Gott) capture Halfaya Pass and take aim at Fort Capuzzo. The Kingdom of Croatia is established although the new monarch, the Italian Duke of Spoleto, will never visit his kingdom. German air attacks begin on Crete.

May 16th: A looming Panzer counterstroke makes Gort call back his 22nd Guards Brigade from Fort Capuzzo.

Audit Finds That Canada's Army Reserve Has Many Problems

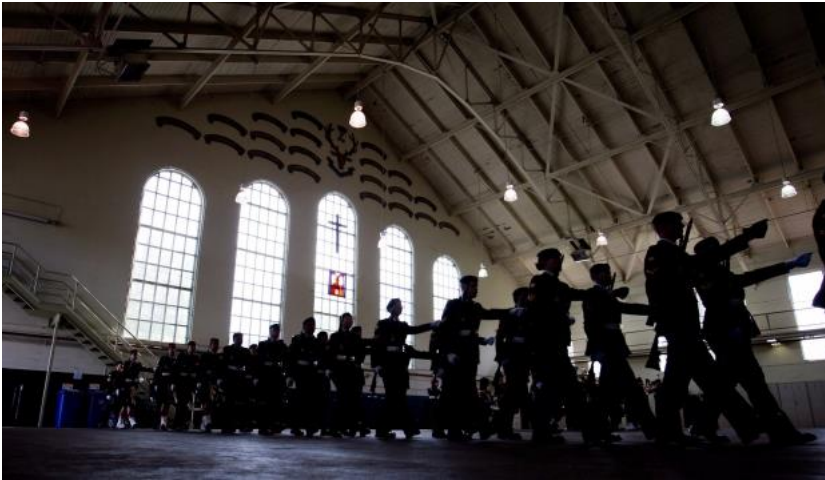
Of 21,000 positions on the books, only 13,944 Army reservists are considered active and ready for service. By Murray Brewster, The Canadian Press Posted: May 03, 2016 ETPlay Media

A scathing auditor general's report Tuesday shows Canada's army reserve is in dire straits, with only a fraction of its troops properly trained, equipped and fit for international operations and domestic emergencies. Michael Ferguson's latest audit conducted a detailed examination of the problems faced by the military's part-time branch and found that even though there are 21,000 positions on the books, only 13,944 reservists are considered active and ready for service. The federal government's stated goal is to have a reserve force of 27,000. The audit goes into detail about how National Defence has not only failed to recruit for the part-time force, but also how reservists are quitting at a rate faster than they can be replaced — and are doing so before they are fully trained. "In late 2015, National Defence set a goal to increase the army reserve by 950 soldiers (five per cent) by 2019. In our opinion, this goal will be difficult to achieve given the present rate of attrition," said the audit. The sweeping review also looked at training and found that many reservists don't receive certain basic weapons training, such as the use of a pistol or grenade launcher. They have been woefully unprepared for some duties in combat zones, such as convoy escort and force protection, and ill-equipped for missions at home like responding to forest fires and floods.

When there is a domestic emergency, reserve units are expected to assemble trained units of up to 600 soldiers, but Ferguson's report noted that they were thrown into the field over the last few years — specifically in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba — without everything they needed, including essential items. "When we reviewed these reports, we found many instances of key equipment lacking, such as reconnaissance vehicles, command posts, and communications equipment," the audit said. "We found that the Canadian Army has not defined the list of equipment that all army reserve units should have for training their soldiers and teams for domestic missions. This means that army reserve units may have to rely on other Canadian Armed Forces units to provide this equipment, but we were told that it is often not available." The former Harper government was keen on highlighting the participation of reservists, notably the Canadian Rangers, in annual Arctic exercises. In 2013, it staged a series of photo-ops with then-prime minister Stephen Harper shooting rifles and mingling with the troops, who are drawn from indigenous northern communities.

The audit says the army made a special effort to equip them, but even there Ferguson's report found support wanting. "Following recent training exercises, these groups reported that they did not always have access to the equipment they needed to be self-sufficient, such as reliable communications and vehicles larger than light snowmobiles," said the report. National Defence, in its response, agreed with the criticism and said it is working on the equipment issue. Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said the Liberals have already started investing in the reserves, but didn't explain how. He said he recognizes recruiting and retention as long-standing

problems, and that the department is looking at ways to make training more engaging. LGen. Marquis Haines, the commander of the army, says they're putting in place measures to ensure that reservists are more prepared to deploy, both at home and abroad. "Any gaps in training will be assessed and resolved before deployment and the completion of army reserve training objectives will be confirmed annually," he said in a statement.



Members of the 39 Canadian Brigade Group (Reserve) march during a ceremony at the Seaforth Armoury in Vancouver, B.C., in 2012. Canada's auditor general says only a fraction of Canada's reserve troops are properly trained, equipped and fit for international operations and domestic emergencies.

(Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press)

Ferguson also tore a strip off the government over how it balances and pays for reservists, some of who are being called up to full-time duty. Under the law, a part-time soldier can be converted to full-time status for periods of between 180 days and three years. But those jobs can be — and often are — renewed for longer periods of time. It was one of the criticisms in retired LGen Andrew Leslie's 2011 report, which was meant to overhaul administration at National Defence. Ferguson's report goes a step further, showing that as many as 1,704 part-time soldiers are on full-time duty, but are financed out of the reserve budget. "This means that the Canadian Army spent about 27 per cent of its overall army reserve pay and operating expenses on these full-time contracts, leaving less available for other army reserve activities," said the report.

How Luftwaffe Pilots Cooled Their Coca Cola in North Africa

Bf 109 pilots in North Africa used to fix bottles of Coca Cola to the underside of their wings so that the drink would cool at high altitude and be ready to drink after landing.

by [Jack](#) – War History Online 2015



In 1925, the Coca-Cola Company commissioned a brass watch fob in the shape of a Swastika emblazoned with the company logo and the message to drink Coca-Cola in bottles for 5 cents. This may sound shocking today but at the time the Swastika was still a symbol of good luck derived from Buddhist origins and would not become a symbol of evil until the Nazi Party rose to power with Hitler's ascension to Chancellor of Germany in 1933. By the time the Second World War broke out

in 1939, Coca-Cola had been operating a production plant inside Germany for a decade. When America entered the arena in 1941, Company Director Robert Woodruff offered all servicemen a subsidy of paying only 5 cents for a bottle of coke. While attempting to drive patriotism behind the brand, the tactic also ensured the company was exempt from wartime sugar rationing and could therefore continue production as normal. The Coca-Cola employees who were conscripted into the army became vital in helping to install the 64 military bottling plants and distributing the 10 billion drinks required to stock the various US bases and fleet throughout the war. As such these company conscripts or Coca-Cola Colonels as they became known were granted Technical Observer status, equal to that of qualified military technicians, and never saw front line action. A sweet posting by more than one definition. So well associated with the US troops was coke that the name Coca-Cola even became the password to identify American troops when crossing the Rhine during Operation Plunder in the final stages of the war.

And the Americans were not the only one's who appreciated the taste of an ice-cold Coke. According to *Emperors of Coca-Cola* by Murray J. Eldred, German troops discovered a case of Coke left by retreating Allied forces while fighting in North Africa. With great value as contraband, some bottles were acquired by Luftwaffe BF109 fighter pilots who devised an ingenious means of chilling the drink in the hot African sun. Bottles would be wrapped in wet towels before being affixed to the underwings of their planes. Upon returning from flying, where the pilots had sweated profusely under the Perspex canopy of their cockpits, they would remove the bottles of coke which had chilled at high altitudes and retained temperature due to the moist towels evaporating in the drag of the wings. – a rudimentary refrigeration technique. A true example of Coca-Colas 1939 advertising slogan, “Whoever you are, whatever you do, wherever you may be, when you think of refreshment, think of ice-cold Coca-Cola”.

Not only a soft drinks company, Coca-Cola briefly diversified into weapons manufacture investing and operating a propellant ammunition loading plant in Talladega, Alabama in support of the war effort. Operating under the subsidiary Brecon Loading Company, an average of 30 railroad cars of ammunition were reputedly produced from their Coosa River Ordnance Plant a day until closure in August, 1945. Despite their seemingly unfailing support of Americans at war, what was not known to the average GI was the continual operation of the German Coca-Cola plant throughout the conflict. Adding refreshment and a much needed financial boost to the enemy economy, the existence of this factory has been used over the years to attack the Coca-Cola Company and their questionable support of the Allied war effort. The truth is that even though prior to the war Coca-Cola had hosted various Nazi party sporting events and supplied Coke throughout Nazi Germany, all direct ties between the Coca-Cola Company and this factory ceased with the outbreak of the war and with it, so did the manufacture and sale of Coca-Cola in Germany. But the factory did not stop trading.

With the Coca-Cola syrup no longer imported into Germany due to wartime trade embargoes, Germany's new Coca-Cola factory director Max Keith gathered his creative managers together to develop a new product from ingredients available outside of war rationing – or the “leftovers of leftovers” as later quoted by Keith. Finally creating a product made from a combination of

fruit, pomace and whey the team branded it in the spirit of the imagination which went into its creation – Fanta, from the German fantasie. Reputedly resembling something closer to modern day ginger ale, Keith and his team continued to produce Fanta throughout the war where it was used for more than just common refreshment. Tighter rationing saw many people using it to flavor soups or sweeten stews in place of luxury items such as sugar and spices. Despite being cut off from their American owners during some of the most tumultuous years in modern European history, at no point did Keith or his company succumb to pressure to join the Nazi party. By the end of the war, Max Keith reputedly relinquished the company back to their American owners as well as representing all profits made from the sale of Fanta throughout the war. With a market already established, Coca-Cola relaunched Fanta as an orange drink and the rest as they say is history.



Coca-Cola even managed to win the tastes of high placed Russians during the Cold War which followed the end of the Second World War. General Georgy Konstantinovich Zhukov – a Russian hero of WWII and staunch opposer of Stalin, befriended US General Dwight D Eisenhower during their mutual occupation of Berlin and was thus introduced to Coca-Cola. Taking a liking to it but knowing he couldn't be seen associating so closely with a western icon, Eisenhower collaborate with Coca-Cola to produce a one off colourless soda with the same flavour especially for him. They sealed it in a round bottle with a white cap and labelled it with a red star to represent that of a standard bottle of Russian vodka. True to their advertising slogan at the time; “Where there's Coke there's hospitality”.

NDHQ Building to be Shut Down for Three Days.

No toilets, no light — workers will be issued headlamps at National Defence Headquarters for three days this month. *David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen May 2, 2016*



OTTAWA — Federal public servants and military staff will be issued with headlamps and bottled water in preparation for working in the dark at National Defence headquarters in Ottawa for three days later this month. Fire alarms and the sprinkler system will also be turned off, but the workers, who will be on the 11th floor, have been told the likelihood of a blaze breaking out in the headquarters is remote, according to documents obtained by the Citizen. They can use their BlackBerries to contact emergency crews. The

ventilation system will also be shut down and the elevators won't be working. The arrangements will affect 15 military and civilian staff working their regular shifts at a communications centre at National Defence headquarters over the May long weekend. The building will be without electricity as part of regular maintenance. Generators will be used to temporarily power the communications systems, which is used to keep in touch with overseas military missions. The workers will be issued with headlamps and batteries so they can find their way around the darkened building. A floodlight will be used to illuminate one area of the communications centre. "Without electricity, the fire alarms and suppression system will not work but it is also nearly impossible there will be an electrical fire," a Canadian Forces officer told staff in an email.

The workers on the 11th floor won't have access to water or toilets during the shutdown because of low water pressure. They will be given bottled water. Toilets up to the sixth floor of the building will continue to function. "This is absolutely ridiculous," said John MacLennan, national president of the Union of National Defence Employees. "Everything about this violates every health and safety law there is." The union, which represents some of the workers has complained to DND health and safety officials and the Canadian Forces Fire Marshall. In the email, the Canadian Forces noted, "The work environment conditions will be monitored by management as reported by employees. If conditions become unsafe, the area will be evacuated."

Canadian Forces Spokeswoman Lieutenant Commander Lora Collier said, "Necessary measures will be in place throughout to mitigate the risk associated with power interruptions occurring during the maintenance timeframe." Health and safety of all personnel remain a top priority and all activities will be carried out in a safe and controlled manner. "Health and safety of all personnel remain a top priority and all activities will be carried out in a safe and controlled manner," she added. But MacLennan said the claim the chance of a fire is unlikely borders on reckless. "No one was predicting a fire at the Louis St. Laurent building and look what happened there," he said. A fire broke out April 21 on the sixth floor of the building in Gatineau, Que. The cause is still unknown and the building remains closed. The facility was home to 1,800 Department of National Defence staff and Canadian Forces personnel. Employees are either working from home or at other office in the Ottawa area.

UBIQUE 300

UBIQUE 300 is the official celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Royal Artillery on 26 May 2016. On 26 May 1716 by Royal Warrant of King George 1 two companies of artillery were formed at Woolwich, alongside the guns, powder and shot located in the Royal Arsenal. This led to the formation of the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1722 with Colonel Albert Borgard, a Dane by birth and an acknowledged artillery expert, later becoming the first Colonel Commandant of the new Regiment. From the outset the Regiment was distinct from others, answering to the Master General of the Ordnance rather than the Commander in Chief. It meant that the Regiment evolved differently – to advantage. For example, the Regiment was the first to select officers on merit (rather than by purchase) and to decide that officer cadets and soldiers

should be properly trained. UBIQUE 300 commenced on 1 May 2015 when the Master Gunner St. James Park passed the Captain General's Baton to the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. Since that date twenty-two RA regiments have undertaken sixty expeditions to thirty countries where the Royal Regiment of Artillery has served. On 18 May 2016 the Baton arrived in Ottawa in the care of Lt Richard Thornton, SSgt Darrel Baikie and Sgt David Sables of 32 Regiment RA. They were greeted at the Eternal Flame on Parliament Hill by a good turnout of Serving and retired Canadian gunners for the requisite official photos, see below, after which everyone repaired to the Army Officers' Mess for lunch during which our Col Comdt, BGen (Ret'd) Jim Selbie, signed the scroll of Loyal Greetings in the OP. While in the Ottawa area the RA reps will visit 2RCHA, Petawawa and Fort Henry and Fort Frontenac, Kingston. UBIQUE 300 will culminate in a Royal Review in May 2016. When the Baton returns it will be mounted in a replica of Congreve's trail made of oak from the period and metalwork worked by the blacksmiths of the King's Troops Royal Horse Artillery – the Battery that Congreve would rejoice in seeing in being today. For more details on UBIQUE 300 visit the web site at www.ubique300.com

Who is it?

Last Week: This picture has generated the most activity of any quiz we have put in the newsletter to date. We had emails from all across the country, each one supplying additional information on the gun. Thanks to all who participated and sent information to fill in the facts.



This is a Mörser 16, a 21cm German heavy howitzer captured by the 72nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, displayed at the entrance to Stanley Park. The Vancouver Rowing Club is visible in the background in this picture. A dedication plaque on the howitzer read:

'This twenty-one centimeter German howitzer is one of the two such guns

captured by the 72nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada during the operations in France of November 1st to November 4th, 1918. These operations resulted in the passage of the Canal de l'Escaut and the taking of the City of Valenciennes and several smaller towns. The forward movement initiated by this attack never slackened for one moment until Mons was captured and the Armistice declared on November 11th, 1918.'

The **21 cm Mörser 16** (21 cm Mrs 16), or longer 21 cm Mörser, was a heavy howitzer used by Germany in World War I and World War II (although classified as a mortar (Mörser) by the German military). It was based on the earlier 21 cm Mörser 10, but had a longer barrel, a gun shield and other refinements. Originally, it broke down into two loads for transport, but the

Germans rebuilt surviving guns during the 1930s, with rubber-rimmed steel wheels to allow for motor traction in one piece, with a limber under the trail and generally removed the gun shield.

In 1942 many communities in Canada received letters from the Govt of Canada to send in war trophy guns for smelting, if they were not part of a war memorial or museum display - more than 300 were confirmed destroyed. 532 War Trophy guns were brought to Canada in 1919, only around 100 have been accounted for. There are only 3 guns of this type left in Canada.

This Week: This week's quiz brings a colourful candidate to the fore. As one can see, it is a camouflaged gun, or a rather large calibre. The setting is certainly not Vancouver, nor, indeed, is it in Canada. However, it is in the Empire, to which we once proudly belonged.



The questions are many. What gun is this? Where is it? Who served it? What is peculiar about it? How does it relate to Vancouver? There is, shall we say, something a bit odd about this gun. However, I am sure that the sophisticated cognoscenti who read this humble column are up to the task of answering these queries. So, please respond to the esteemed editor, or to the author, John Redmond

(johnd._redmond@telus.net), and don't forget to visit the museum to pick up your valuable prize. They are going quickly, and can be easily re-sold on EBay, with profits then invested offshore, as all patriots know. As always, you can email the editor for a picture you can zoom in on: Bob.mugford@outlook.com

From the 'Punitary'

What did the undertaker say when the coffin fell out of the car? We'd better rehearse that.

Murphy's other Laws

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit "the target."

Quotable Quotes

A mother's arms are made of tenderness and children sleep soundly in them. *Victor Hugo*

Upcoming Events - Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment

The 26th International Military Band Concert

Date: Monday, May 23rd, 2016 **Time:** 2:30pm

Location: Chandos Pattison Auditorium, [10238 168 Street](#), Surrey

Tickets Available Now

\$20 Adult, \$15 Senior, \$10 Child

Special Family Pack (2 Adult & 2 Child) \$45

**26th ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
MILITARY BAND
CONCERT**

Chandos Pattison Auditorium
10238 168 Street, Surrey

Monday, May 23, 2016
2:30 pm

Tickets
\$20 Adults; \$15 Seniors; \$10 Students
www.tapestrymusic.com/tickets
or www.picatic.com/imbc

HOSTED BY
Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA

WITH
Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth
Highlanders Regiment of Canada
NADEN Band of the Royal Canadian Navy
56th US Army I-Corps Band
US Navy Band Northwest
US Air Force Band of the Golden West

In 1990, musicians from the Fifteenth Field Artillery Regiment, the US Army 56th I Corps and Her Majesty's Grenadier Guards bands took to the stage in Olympia, Washington for an exciting concert of music that celebrated the common bond the three countries shared in the first International Military Band Concert.

For the next 25 years, the International Military Band Concert continued and soon became one of the most highly anticipated musical events held in the Olympia's Washington Centre for the Performing Arts. The list of participants grew to include bands from the US Air Force, US Navy, US Marine Corps, Washington National Guard, the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Pipes and Drums of the Canadian Scottish Regiment and each year, the hall was filled.

On Victoria Day 2016, the 26th International Military Band Concert will be presented in Vancouver. This year's list of participating bands is equally impressive and includes, for the very first time, the US Air Force Band of the Golden West from Travis, California.

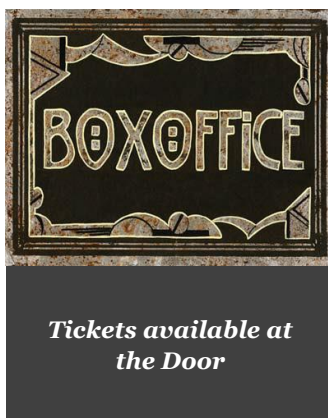
Join musicians from six military bands at the Chandos Pattison Auditorium on May 23rd at 2:30pm for a fantastic afternoon of music celebrating our common British Heritage and the continuing bond Canada and her allies enjoy!

It is with great pleasure that the [British Columbia Military Music Society](#) announces all net proceeds from the 2016 International Military Band Concert will be donated to elementary band programs in Metro Vancouver.

Please help us fill the Chandos Pattison Auditorium on Victoria Day so we can help the boys and girls just beginning their musical adventure. Join us for what is guaranteed to be a fantastic performance. And tell your friends!



[On Line Store](#)



Taste of Malaysia Curry Lunch



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



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

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2016

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 May 16, 2016)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please e-mail
Charlotte Yen at corporate@hplaw.ca
(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 May 16, 2016

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, September 29, 2016

RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE

Force 136



Learn more about a largely unknown part of Canadian history. During the last years of the Second World War, about 150 Chinese Canadians were secretly trained in guerrilla warfare and jungle survival tactics. Their mission? To get dropped behind Japanese lines and assist with sabotage and intelligence gathering. Although denied the right to be full citizens of Canada, these men volunteered for what many knew could be a dangerous, even a suicidal, operation.

OPENS MAY 14, 2016

CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM

CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE MUSEUM, 2ND FLOOR, 555 COLUMBIA STREET, VANCOUVER B.C.
WWW.CCMMS.CA

EXHIBITION DESIGNER:  CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM

EXHIBITION SUPPORTER:  CITY OF VANCOUVER

EXHIBITION PARTNER:  大溫哥華中華文化中心
Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver

As May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum* will launch a special exhibition on Chinese Canadians in Force 136. Called “Rumble in the Jungle: The Story of Force 136”, the display will open on **Saturday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Chinese Canadian Military Museum (2nd Floor, 555 Columbia Street, Vancouver). Come hear the story of Force 136 and meet some of the men who were there. All in their 90s, this may be a final opportunity to hear their story told in their own words.

**The Chinese Canadian Military Museum, located in Vancouver's Chinatown, is the only museum of its kind in Canada. Its goal is to collect, preserve, document, and celebrate the role of Chinese Canadians in the service of Canada's military and the impact this service had on Chinese Canadian history and civil rights. Besides operating a museum and organizing tours, the Museum is involved in several projects each year (exhibitions, forums, documentaries) that capture the stories of veterans and educate a new generation of Canadians about the sacrifice of these patriotic men and women. To learn more, visit their website at: www.ccmms.ca*