



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Sept 10, 2013

Wednesday Lunches

Thank you to all our loyal diners. Attendance at last week`s lunch was very good compared to most early Sept lunches. I didn`t get a final figure from Steve but we had at least 28 so we did well. Last year, I believe we had only 18 on the same date.

Summer Dress will be in effect for a couple of more weeks. Just to clarify, this does not mean shorts, sandals and tee shirts. Summer dress for civilian clothing means you take off your jacket and tie so you can be more comfortable on hot days. On cool days, many of us keep jackets and ties on to keep standards up. For Officers on duty, uniform of the day is always acceptable.

Rangers: 5000 strong from Sea to Sea to Sea

August 29, 2013

Ottawa, Ontario — A steady expansion in the number of Canadian Rangers is strengthening the Army`s presence in the North, with approximately 5000 spread across remote, isolated and coastal communities in seven of ten provinces and all three territories.



The Rangers began as the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers (PCMR) in 1942, at the height of the Second World War. They were volunteers who watched the coastlines of British Columbia and Yukon against the threat of a Japanese invasion. At their peak they numbered 15,000 volunteers in 138 communities. The PCMR disbanded in 1945. The Canadian Rangers took over on May 23, 1947, charged with Northern and Arctic surveillance, most often by means of "sovereignty patrols." Their motto "Vigilans" is often interpreted as "The Watchers."

Rangers also conduct search and rescue operations and assist during other crises — for example, lending support during the drinking water crisis in Kashechewan, Ont. and in the aftermath of the 1999 avalanche at Kangiqsualujjuaq in northern Québec. They also often

come up whenever there is talk of protecting Canada's Arctic sovereignty, though that issue has cooled quite a bit since its heyday a few years ago.

Rangers, often dubbed the “eyes and ears” of the North, are Reservists trained to detect and report unusual activities or sightings, and conduct surveillance or sovereignty patrols. They are also trained in activities such as first aid, ground search and rescue, survival, navigation and providing assistance in disaster relief. They are renowned for their guiding ability and outdoor survival skills; skills and knowledge that the rest of the Canadian Armed Forces depends on to operate in the North.

For the past several years, Rangers have been successfully engaged in the NANOOK series of operations and a number of Northern exercises in their respective areas of responsibility. The equipment and clothing they are provided help them to operate in sub-Arctic conditions. Through consultations with the Ranger community, the Army will be replacing their current .303 Enfield rifles with a rifle the Rangers deem best able to meet their requirements. The objective is to enable the Rangers to be lightly-equipped, self-sufficient and mobile, ready to support Canadian Armed Forces sovereignty and domestic operations in Canada.

Their contributions are essential to the Army’s success, as they bring a lifetime of acquired skill and knowledge, helping to keep Canada’s Northern boundaries protected.

Exercise UNITAS Kicks Off in Colombia

Date: 9/9/2013 8:54:00 AM From U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs

CARTAGENA, Colombia (NNS) -- Naval forces from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Peru, the United Kingdom and the United States kicked off UNITAS 2013, an annual multinational exercise, Sept. 8 in Cartagena, Colombia.

This year's exercise is hosted by the Colombian navy and will include 19 warships that will conduct operations in the Western Caribbean Sea through Sept. 15.

Observers from Belize, El Salvador, Germany, Jamaica, Panama and Mexico are also participating in the exercise. UNITAS is intended to train participating forces in a variety of maritime scenarios to test command and control of forces at sea while operating as a multinational force to provide the maximum opportunity to improve interoperability.

"While the overarching goal of the exercise is to develop and test command and control of forces at sea, training in this exercise will address the spectrum of maritime operations," said RAdm Sinclair M Harris, the US 4th Fleet commander. UNITAS develops and sustains relationships that improve the capacity of U.S. and partner nation maritime forces through complex and comprehensive multinational training at sea. "Specifically, there will be high-end warfare scenarios addressing electronic warfare, anti-air warfare and air defense, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, and maritime interdiction operations," Harris said.

The training focuses on developing coalition building, multilateral security cooperation,

promoting tactical interoperability and friendship, professionalism and mutual understanding among the participating partner nations.

The next UNITAS exercise is scheduled for spring 2014.

US Naval Forces Southern Command and US 4th Fleet employ maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations in order to maintain access, enhance interoperability, and build enduring partnerships that foster regional security in the US Southern Command Area of Responsibility.

21st International Defence Industry Exhibition held in Kielce, Poland

by Remigiusz Wilk, Kielce, Poland IHS Jane's Defence Weekly - 03 Sept2013

Polish PL-01 Concept vehicle unveiled.



Polish Defence Holdings unveiled its PL-01 vehicle concept at MSPO 2013. Source: Remigiusz Wilk

Obrum has unveiled the PL-01 Concept, a new armoured fighting vehicle (AFV) concept, at the MSPO 2013 defence industry exhibition in Kielce, Poland.

The PL-01 was developed by Obrum, part of Poland Defence Holdings (PDH), with co-operation from BAE Systems, and is classed as a Direct Support Vehicle (DSV, or WWB in Polish) by the firm. The vehicle features a three-person crew, an auto-loading 120 mm main gun in an unmanned turret, and a chassis based on that of the BAE Systems Hägglunds CV90 AFV. The development of the DSV is closely tied with the Polish Armed Forces' plan to create a Universal Modular Tracked Platform (UMPG), featuring a common chassis across different variants. Planned variants of UMPG include a DSV; command vehicle; armoured recovery vehicle; and mine clearing vehicle.

The future of the DSV is connected with the Polish National Centre of Research and Development's (NCBR's) fourth defence competition. The NCBR is the implementation agency of the Polish Ministry of Science, with a scope to manage the assets of strategic research programmes. One of the NCBR's competition topics for 2013 is a 42-month-long programme to develop the DSV up to prototype stage. To meet the time requirements and to reduce risk, the Polish Ministry of Defence (MoD) requested that a proven chassis was used. Analysis by the Polish military indicated that the CV90 is of suitable weight and still has development potential. BAE Systems co-operation with PDH is currently limited to the initial design work and the transfer of components needed to complete the concept vehicle.

The PL-01 is 7 m long, 3.8 m wide and 2.8 m high, and with additional armour and anti-mine protection weighs 35 tonnes, although the Polish Army plans to cut 2-3 tonnes of this. The DSV's 120 mm main gun is capable of at least six rounds per minute, while a 105 mm gun is expected to be an option for potential export customers. The turret features two ammunition drum magazines, with 12-16 ready to fire, and up to 29 rounds stored in the vehicle's chassis compartment. Alternatively, this space can be used for transporting up to four soldiers. The additional armament - used for fighting in urban areas - would be a remote weapon station (RWS) with 7.62 mm or 12.7 mm machine gun or 40 mm grenade machine gun. The PL-01 Concept vehicle shown at MSPO is equipped with a ZSMU-1276/ZSMU-40 RWS from ZMT. The Polish-designed ZSMU-1276 passed additional military testing in July, and is ready for serial production.

The supplier of the main armament has not been chosen, but Belgium's CMI Defence is understood to be one likely source. Paul Thorton, general manager of CMI Defence, has proposed to manufacture the CT-CV 105HP in Poland. CMI Defence also recently purchased the rights to the RUAG Defence 120 mm smooth bore gun. The coaxial machine gun for the army will be the UKM-2013C (modified version of UKM-2000C). The fire control system would include day/thermal sights with integrated laser rangefinder, while the commander's panoramic sight works in hunter-killer mode.

The vehicle is protected by multi-layer ceramic-aramid armour, in excess of STANAG 4569 level 5 over the frontal arc (to defeat 30-40 mm calibre armour piercing rounds) and level 4 on the flanks and rear of the PL-01, with additional modular armour. The concept model shown in Kielce has an integrated the mock-up of BAE Systems' active protection system.

Battle of the Somme mound to become visitor attraction

By DAILY MAIL REPORTER - 3 September 2013

Saved, by Western Front Association, from development by French property developers.

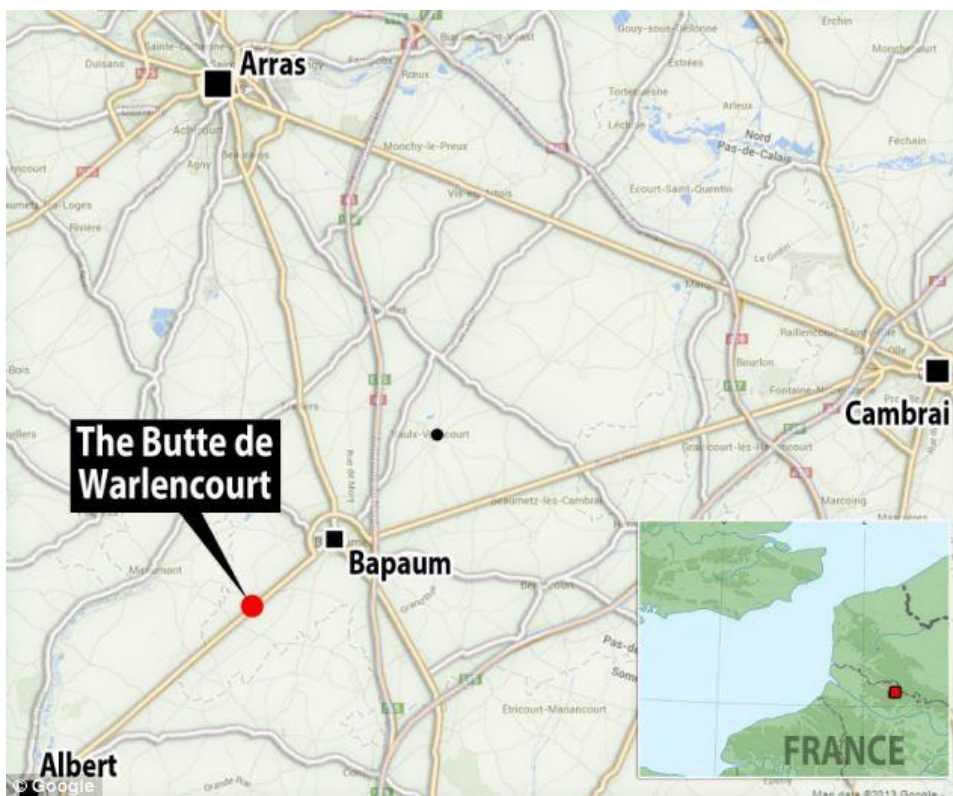
Fortified with barbed wire, and defended by machine guns and mortar, it was once a symbol of the bloody Battle of the Somme - fiercely fought over by British and German forces. Now, the Butte de Warlencourt - one of the most iconic features of the Great War - stands overlooking the landscape of Northern France, almost unrecognisable. Overgrown and unkempt, the mound, once a position of great strength for German forces, affording them clear views across the surrounding countryside and their opposition, was destined to be bulldozed to make way for housing by French developers. But thanks to a band of World War One enthusiasts, the Butte will be restored to its former glory in time for the centenary of the Great War, next year. The Western Front Association bought the site 23 years ago from a local farmer for £7,500 in a bid to preserve it for future generations, the Express reports. The group has now chosen to transform it into a 'must visit' location.



Fortified with barbed wire, and defended by machine guns and mortar, the Butte de Warlencourt was once a symbol of the bloody Battle of the Somme - fiercely fought over by British and German forces

The project will start in the autumn and the group aim to be finished in time for next year's Commemorations. During the Battle of the Somme the Butte became an obsession.

In German possession throughout 1916 it only came into Allied possession in 1917, after the German retirement to the Hindenburg line in February, despite an earlier attempt by British forces to gain control of it. At 250ft the Butte had given German commanders clear views across the battlefields and on enemy lines.



The Butte de Warlencourt became significant to many as the final hurdle before the strategically-important town of Bapaume

According to Lt Colonel Roland Boys Bradford - who was awarded a Victoria Cross for his role in an attempt to scale the mound and seize it from the Germans - it 'loomed large in the minds of soldiers' in a battle which has since come to symbolise the horrors of warfare in World War One. In an account, he said: 'The Butte de Warlencourt had become an obsession. 'Everybody

wanted it. It loomed large in the minds of the soldiers in the forward area and they attributed many of their misfortunes to it. The newspaper correspondents talked about "that miniature Gibraltar".'

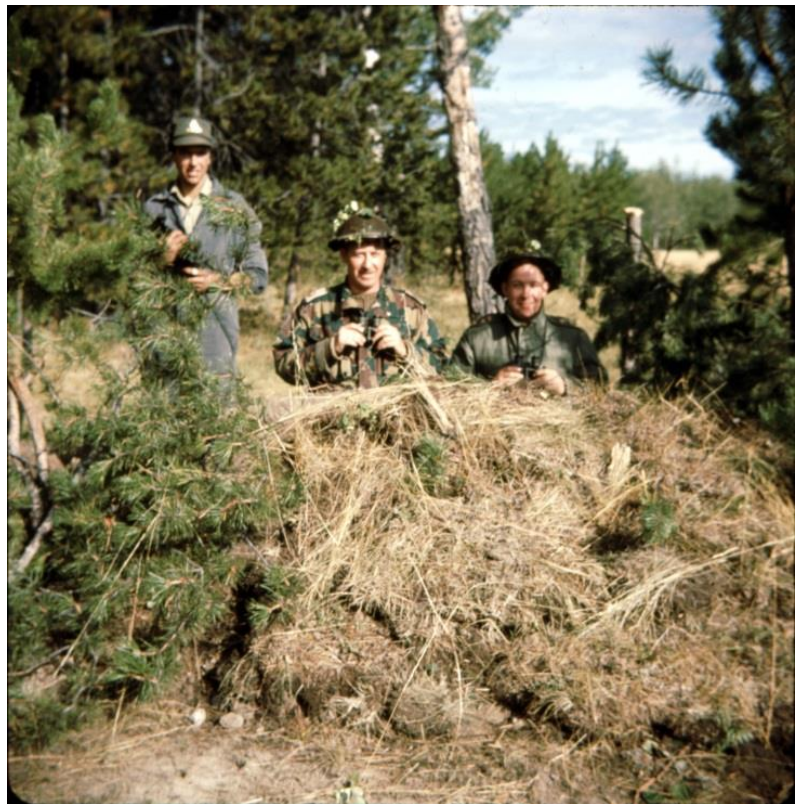
The Battle of the Somme started in July 1st 1916 and lasted until November that year. The bloody fighting led to 420,000 British Army casualties including nearly 60,000 on the first day alone. The French lost 200,000 men and the Germans nearly 500,000. But the Butte de Warlencourt became significant to many as the final hurdle before the strategically-important town of Bapaume. WFA's Bob Paterson told the paper the Butte was the 'jewel in our crown'. He said: 'Having saved it from destruction this piece of France will continue to be preserved as a fitting memorial to those of all nations who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the fields that surround it.

The WFA is appealing for sponsorship and donations towards the Butte de Warlencourt restoration project.

Who is it?

Last Week. So far, no one has been able to identify the Gnr on the left. He must have been a recruit of the time as he is wearing issue coveralls instead of a proper uniform.

The officer in the centre is Maj Ron Abbott and to his left, Capt Bill Wickett. The picture was taken in the Chilcotin area.



Thank you all who participated last week, many having served during the time the photo was taken. That is somewhat less likely with this week's quiz photo, although some will

recognize one famous figure from the regiment's past. This shot is from our pile of unaccessioned photos, meaning that it has yet to receive a catalogue number. When items are donated to our museum (and to other DND-accredited institutions), the donor might get a tax receipt, but we get to play with CFAMS, the DND Department of Heritage and History's somewhat user-unfriendly computer system. Our resident expert is Susan Moogk (the rest of us avoiding the system like the plague).



So, for this photo, the location is probably/possibly the Point Grey Battery, and the date on the back states that it was taken in 1946. Can you help us by confirming the identity of the famous chap, and supplying names to the other two officers? It would appear that there was a cap badge shortage that year, but no shortage of material for berets, which were much more ample then than now. As always, answers can be sent to the editor, or to John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net), electronically or in analogue form (note paper). Thank you for your help."

From the 'Punitary'

What is the difference between a nicely dressed man on a tricycle and a poorly dressed man on a bicycle? A tire!

Murphy's Laws

The inevitable result of improved and enlarged communication between different levels in a hierarchy is a vastly increased area of misunderstanding.

Quotable Quotes

Thomas Jefferson said in 1802:

"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property - until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."

Curry Lunch – a Special Presentation



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



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

- Date:** Thursday, September 26, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(presentation at 12:01pm)
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)
- 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 September 20, 2013)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (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 September 20, 2013

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, October 31, 2013

Come join us at the
BATTLE of BRITAIN
Parade & Flyby



Sunday, Sept. 15 ~ 1pm

Air Forces Garden of Remembrance

STANLEY PARK Bus Loop

www.BattleofBritain.ca

Posted with the support of:



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

