



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Aug 12, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

The Mess dress requirements for Wednesday lunches is Business Casual. Business casual can best be described as our 'summer dress'. Minimum requirement is an open neck button up shirt with dress pants or slacks (no blue jeans, pls), Ladies is the equivalent. Of course we never discourage the wearing of jackets and ties. Guests are always welcome.

Lunches continue through the summer. We always take a short break over the Christmas period, otherwise they keep going, except when Mrs Lum decides to take a holiday or if the Mess or Armoury are shut down for military requirements.

Note: The Handicap elevator in the Armoury is back in service.

The Harper Government Plan for Unilateral Canadian Disarmament

MICHAEL BYERS, NATIONAL POST | July 8, 2014

Though it feels absurd to say this — like a bad joke at a lame 80's themed party — the Canadian government has announced that this country is sending reinforcements to our NATO allies in Europe. Six CF-18 fighter jets and necessary support personnel will soon deploy to an Eastern European location (expected, but not confirmed, to be Poland), to join other NATO forces in a "patrol" mission. Roughly 20 staff officers will join their alliance peers at NATO headquarters in Belgium, to assist in contingency planning. HMCS Regina, currently deployed in the Arabian Sea on anti-terror duties, may join allied warships assembling in European waters. Whatever bland bureaucratic euphemisms these efforts will be saddled with, this is a military buildup in response to recent Russian moves against Crimea and its military mobilization across the border from the rest of Ukraine, as well as some posturing off the frontier of Estonia, a NATO member. NATO's Eastern European members, for whom Soviet domination is a not-too-distant memory, called for reinforcements, and after typical delays, the allies are responding.

At the risk of stating the obvious, any armed conflict between Russia and the West would be a very bad thing. Putin would have to be a mad man to provoke such a clash, with its literally apocalyptic risks. But, alas, NATO doesn't really have a choice. Yes, Putin would need to be a mad man to pick a fight with the allies. But our defence posture must accept the possibility that Putin is indeed a mad man. He may not be — indeed, he probably isn't. But the alliance would not be acting in a responsible manner if it adopted as its official response to this crisis a policy of, "Meh, we've probably seen the worst of it." So, yes. Reinforcements must be sent, and Canada is right to do its part. But, gosh, that part sure is awful tiny. We are a G8 nation, an economic giant. We have the second largest landmass in the world. Our population of 35

million may not be huge, but we're not exactly Andorra. And yet, the military commitment that has been announced or even hinted at — six jets, a few dozen officers and, maybe, a warship — constitutes a frighteningly large percentage of our total available military assets. The six CF-18s, in particular, represent a shockingly tiny contribution, and a major effort, at the same time. Currently, Canada's air fleet includes 80 relatively recently modernized CF-18 jets. These aircraft are more than three decades old, but remain capable. Should it be necessary to fight the Russians, the CF-18s and their pilots would acquit themselves well. But there's still only 80 of them, and not all of those are actually assigned to combat squadrons. Some aircraft are needed for training and scientific purposes, and aircraft are always being rotated in and out of service for maintenance. Indeed, as of 2012, barely half of our 80 jets — 48 total — were actually assigned to combat squadrons. Canada fields four squadrons of 12 jets each, two squadrons each to Alberta and Quebec. As if that wasn't bleak enough, those squadrons only maintain a "readiness rate" of 70%, *at best* (readiness rate meaning how many of the aircraft are actually immediately available for service at any given moment). Do the math on that — $48 \times .7$ — and you get 34 planes, rounded up to the nearest jet. Again, that's the best-case scenario, assuming that every squadron meets its readiness goal.

That's not enough to protect a country of this size. Even if you write off the vast swathes of Canadian territory that are only populated by moose and black flies, 34 jets still isn't enough to cover all of our population centres, and our military knows it. According to sensitive information publicized by WikiLeaks in 2012, Royal Canadian Air Force contingency planning assigns the available jets to cover four defence zones 24/7 — Vancouver, Calgary-Edmonton, Toronto, and Montreal-Ottawa. Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Quebec City, all of Atlantic Canada and the entire Arctic — sorry, fellas. No jets for you. Think of that for a minute. Thirty five million people — 34 jets. You need a city the size of Edmonton or Ottawa to keep one CF-18 in the air? Really? The Air Force is too small. There's no way around that. We don't have enough jets to cover our own territory, even when we are using all of them at home. And that's almost never the case. Our jets often take part in important training exercises with allied nations. We assist the US in patrolling the vast air approaches to North America — several years ago, after an accident grounded the US jet fleet in Alaska, Canadian jets assumed temporary responsibility for the defence of that entire state. And now, of course, we're sending half a dozen of our precious few planes on an important mission abroad to support our allies and maintain international stability. This is what I mean when I said that our contribution is both tiny and a major commitment. As bleak as it is to admit this, our paltry six jets is probably more than we can really spare.

I've focused on the Air Force here, but the other service branches aren't much better off. The Army, which benefitted from new equipment and relatively lavish funding during the Afghan War, isn't in bad shape, and could probably put together a modest land battlegroup with a decent mixture of infantry, armoured vehicles and artillery if it was asked to. It would be light on helicopters, drones and would be using elderly supply trucks, but it could do it. But the Navy is a disaster. Michael Byers, a frequent contributor to the commentary pages of the *National Post*, recently wrote an op-ed for us where he took a close look at the state of our maritime readiness, with particular attention paid to tensions in Ukraine. Space constraints do not permit

me to recap his findings in full, but suffice it to say, if the Russian Army decided to make a break for Paris tomorrow, Canada could probably send ... a ship. *Maybe* two, but probably not. Canada is never going to be a major global military power, and when compared to many of our allies, a disproportionate percentage of our military power will always be needed here at home, looking after our gigantic landmass and the air and sea approaches that surround it. But even with only 35 million souls, a country this rich ought to be able to patrol its own coastline and vital ocean trade routes, provide adequate search-and-rescue services throughout its territory and provide minimal air cover to all of its major populated areas, while still possessing enough strength to contribute modestly, but meaningfully, to international operations. Right now, we fail, miserably, in each and every one of those categories.

The typically progressive Canadian response to talk of this nature is to scoff, and demand to know what Canada needs a military for. The absence of apparent international threats is held up as proof that Canada doesn't need a military, beyond what's required for domestic security. But make no mistake — first of all, Canada does not currently meet even the modest military thresholds required to provide said domestic security, and on the international scene, threats materialize faster than we can muster the strength to respond to them. On the morning of Sept. 10, 2001, the idea of Canada waging war in southern Afghanistan would have seemed ridiculous. In 2010, sending an air and naval group to Libya would have been science fiction. Mounting a major humanitarian intervention in Haiti after a devastating earthquake wasn't on anyone's radar until after the earthquake struck. And reinforcing NATO against Russian adventurism? As if.

And yet all of these things have happened, in recent memory, and with little or no warning. The world is not as nice or stable a place as millions of Canadians continue to pretend it is. We need a military capable of securing our home and helping out abroad. We don't have it. This should embarrass us all — but especially our “troop supporting” Tory government. It's great that the troops are so valued. Too bad there's so few of them.

Michael Byers holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at the University of British Columbia.

The Lie that Started the First World War

The personality and motives of the young assassin, Gavrilo Princip, who fired the fatal shots at Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, were twisted by Austrian propaganda

By Tim Butcher, Sarajevo 28 Jun 2014

This day 100 years ago dawned memorably bright over Sarajevo. After days of stormy rain, Sunday June 28, 1914 began cloudless as Austria-Hungary, the imperial power that held dominion over the small Balkan province of Bosnia, prepared for a show of ostentatious pageantry in its capital. Loyal citizens came out in their thousands, lining the route into the city centre that was to be used for a rare official visit by a top member of the Habsburg royal house, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, second only in imperial protocol to the venerable, mutton-chopped emperor himself, Franz Joseph. Witnesses remember the morning sun being fierce as the crowds gathered, eight deep in places, many of them waving the yellow imperial standard of Austria-Hungary with its double-headed black eagle, some shouting "Long Live the Archduke"

as the Gräf & Stift limousine drove sedately by. An imperial 21-gun salute, from the fortress high in the hills that ring Sarajevo, sent out puffs of smoke, vivid white against the blue summer sky.

But the crowd was seeded with six would-be assassins united in their loathing of Austria-Hungary. By the time the sun set, what happened in Sarajevo would plunge the world into the darkness of global war for the first time. The details were well recorded: how the first attacker lost his nerve as the cortege passed, how the next attacker threw a grenade that struck the limousine but did not harm the Archduke, how the royal party nevertheless continued with the visit, how three would-be assassins melted away into the crowd and how one, a 19-year-old peasant, stood his ground. Gavrilo Princip was his name and he took up station at the street corner where the royal vehicle was scheduled to turn right, according to the route flagged up for days in local newspapers, off the wide riverside boulevard that gives Sarajevo its spine, before taking the Archduke to visit a museum. What might be called the devil's luck then enters the story as the decision had been taken after the grenade attack for the Archduke's car not to turn right but to continue down the boulevard. All the senior members of the royal party were informed. But nobody told the driver. When the driver made the turn, an imperial officer on board with the Archduke and his wife, Sophie ordered: "Stop." The driver braked immediately, presenting the assassin with his targets right in front of him in a now stationary car, the canvas roof folded helpfully back because of the sunny conditions. Princip needed to take only half a step forward before he aimed his 9mm, semi-automatic Browning pistol and fired what amounted to the starting gun for modern history. The killing of the Archduke and his wife was the trigger for the First World War. What happened next is a bone well worried by historians. But the details of who Princip was, his motivation, his actions and his support network have been mired ever since in political bias, ethnic rivalry and sloppy homework.

We have been told that: Princip jumped on the running board of the Archduke's limousine to take his shot, the Archduke's wife was pregnant when she died, the shooting happened on the anniversary of their marriage, the car did not have a reverse gear, the Archduke caught the grenade thrown earlier and tossed it away safely, and Princip stopped to eat a last sandwich at the café on the corner before emerging to take his shot. It's all myth. Yet, given that this is the young man with perhaps the greatest impact on modern history, I have been drawn to spend the past three years researching what the historical record definitively reveals about the assassin from Bosnia.

Gavrilo Princip was born in 1894, a serf's son from the hamlet of Obljaj in remotest western Bosnia, short and slight of build with the strong chin that is the dominant hallmark of the Princip male line. His father Petar was trapped in the grinding poverty of generations of Princip before him. Princip was the feudal subject of two local lords who effectively owned him, one called Jovic, the other Siercic. Although the Princip came from the ethnic Serb community, a hundred years ago rivalries with the Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Muslims were not as charged as today. Instead their anger was directed against Austria-Hungary, a foreign power responsible for occupation of particular austerities. And there were plenty of grounds for anger. Six of Princip's brothers and sisters died in childhood, a level of child mortality that

appears routine. Gavrilo Princip's break came in 1907 when, after excelling at primary school, he left Obljaj and made the long journey to Sarajevo to take up secondary education. I found his school reports, passed over by a century's worth of historians, and saw grades that charted the development of a slow-burn revolutionary. The reports show him as a starred-A grade student to begin with, but as the years pass his truancy goes up, his academic performance down. He had fallen in with other young radicals who dared to think the unthinkable: doing away with Austria-Hungary.

And just as with other independence movements across the world, the talk slowly turned to direct action and political violence. Again, Princip was not headstrong, watching and learning as an unsuccessful assassination attempt was made in 1910 by a slightly older Bosnian student in Sarajevo against an Austro-Hungarian target. What stands out, however, is how inclusive Princip's nationalism was. He learnt to trust Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats, not just his ethnic kin from the Bosnian Serb community. He made contact with extreme Serb nationalists in Belgrade, capital of Serbia, to acquire the weapons used in the assassination but this appears opportunistic. There is no evidence he shared their chauvinistic agenda, not least because the attackers were planning on using trusted Bosnian Croats to spirit away the weapons, while one of the six would-be assassins was Bosnian Muslim. Princip was caught within seconds of firing his pistol, his bid for martyrdom doomed when the dose of cyanide he stuffed down his throat failed to kill him. Two weeks short of his 20th birthday, Princip was too young to be executed as Austro-Hungarian law said the death sentence could only be given to criminals aged 20 or more. Instead, he was jailed, sentenced to 20 years solitary confinement with the condition that one day a month he was to receive no food. He died in a prison hospital on April 28 1918, his body so badly ravaged by skeletal tuberculosis that his right arm had had to be amputated. Over the last century his voice has rarely been heard, drowned out by more powerful forces, not least Vienna which was desperate to use the assassination as a pretext to attack its small and potentially troublesome neighbour, Serbia. For this to work, Austria-Hungary worked to represent Princip and the assassination plot as the work of the Serbian government. And this alone is perhaps the greatest misrepresentation of the truth about Gavrilo Princip, with the historical record containing no convincing evidence to support the claim.

Wilfred Owen wrote of the patriotic invocation *dulce et decorum est pro patria mori* as "the old lie", but I have come to see an even greater lie at the founding moment of the First World War. It is the lie used by Vienna in its deliberate misrepresentation of the Sarajevo assassination. On its hundredth anniversary, now is high time to straighten the record.

Tim Butcher's 'The Trigger – Hunting the Assassin who Brought the World to War' is published by Chatto & Windus

Secret message found in WW1 kilt

A note has been discovered hidden in the folds of a kilt destined for a soldier heading to the front in the First World War *By Keith Perry 3:49PM BST 24 Jul 2014*

A secret note has been discovered hidden in the folds of a kilt destined for a soldier heading to the front in the First World War. Economic historian Dr Helen Paul, of the University of Southampton, found the hand-written message when she was removing the packing stitches

from the kilt, which has been passed down her family over decades. The message reads: "I hope your kilt will fit you well, & in it you will look a swell. If married never mind. If single drop a line. Wish you bags of luck, & a speedy return back to Blighty." Underneath was the name of Helen Govan, of 49 Ardgowan Street in Glasgow. Dr Paul thinks the seamstress left the message possibly in the hope of finding a future husband returning from war not realising how many soldiers would be killed in the trenches. She doesn't know how many messages she left in kilts destined for the front line.



Dr Paul thinks the seamstress left the message possibly in the hope of finding a future husband returning from war not realising how many soldiers would be killed in the trenches Photo: Robin Jones/ Digital South

The London Scottish Regiment kilt, manufactured by Peter Wilson of Bridge Street in Glasgow, would have been made for use by a soldier sent to fight in the war, but for reasons unknown, it was never unpacked or worn. Dr Paul is now hoping to find the descendants of the seamstress to uncover the story behind the note. She said: "This garment has been in our family for a number of decades, and until recently, we were completely unaware there was such an intriguing secret hidden in its folds. It was a real surprise when the note fell out. "My father tried to trace any relatives of the note's author a few years ago, but his efforts failed and I'm hoping to pick up where he left off. "There are many unanswered questions. We don't know how many of these poems this lady sent. Was this a one off, or were there many more lost to the battlefield, or even still existing undiscovered? If there were more, did anyone ever answer her message and indeed did she ever meet and marry a soldier returning from the war? "It would be fantastic to trace who this lady was and learn more about her history, as well as the social history of the women who made and packed the kilts, which ultimately went to clothe the soldiers fighting in the trenches."

Professor Maria Hayward from the University of Southampton, who specialises in the history of clothing, said: "The condition of the kilt is very striking - you do not expect to see a piece that has such clear links to the First World War being in such good condition.

"The construction, which is very simple, in combination with the efficient use of fabric and the way one size could be made to fit most men, made kilts of this type a very versatile piece of military uniform, which also retained its distinctive national identity."

US Army Unveils Design Changes for New Camo Uniform

Matthew Cox Aug 06, 2014



The Army has released the first images of its new Operational Camouflage Pattern, the replacement for the service's Universal Camouflage Pattern.

The summer of 2018 will mark the official retirement of the US Army's embattled Universal Camouflage Pattern. In addition to the new camouflage pattern, the new Army Combat Uniform could feature several design changes based on battlefield performance. The Aug. 6 announcement comes less than a week after Army officials released

the first images of the service's new Operational Camouflage Pattern, or OCP. "The uniform bearing the new pattern will be largely the same as what soldiers wear now, except that the lower leg pockets will be closed by a button instead of the 'hook and loop' fabric fastener on the current Army Combat Uniform, or ACU," according to an Army press release. "Soldiers complained that fastener made too much noise in combat environments."

Another approved change coming for the ACU is that the "insert pockets for knee pads and elbow pads will also be removed from the new uniform," according to Program Executive Office Soldier officials. OCP is also known as Scorpion W2, a revised version of the original Scorpion pattern that Crye Precision LLC developed for the Army's Future Force Warrior in 2002. Crye later made small adjustments to the pattern for better performance and trademark purposes and called it MultiCam.

The new OCP is very similar to MultiCam, the pattern the Army chose in 2010 for soldiers to wear in Afghanistan. Army officials maintain however that there are differences between the two designs. The service plans to make ACUs, printed in the new pattern, available at Military Clothing Sales Stores next summer. Soldiers are expected to retire their current uniform and begin wearing the new pattern by the summer of 2018, according to the release. Next year, the Army Uniform Board will consider several changes the ACU such as eliminating the mandarin collar and replacing it with a fold-down design. The AUB will also consider removing the three-slot pen pocket on the ACU sleeve and eliminating the drawstring on the trouser waistband, the release states. The adoption of the new pattern brings the service's multi-year camouflage improvement effort to a close for now. It was actually congressional pressure that prompted the Army to launch its camouflage improvement effort in 2009. The late Rep. John Murtha, D-Pennsylvania, then chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, pushed the service to look for a better camouflage pattern after receiving complaints from sergeants about the UCP's poor performance in the war zone.

As part of that program, the Army was directed to develop and evaluate camouflage patterns that will provide effective concealment in a variety of terrains and environments. In addition to adopting OCP, two "bookend patterns of OCP are being optimized and evaluated for possible use on Flame Resistant ACUs that would be worn by soldiers deployed in either arid or heavily wooded terrains," the release states. All organizational clothing and individual equipment, referred to as OCIE, such as MOLLE gear, protective vests, ruck sacks and plate carriers and non-flame resistant ACUs and will be offered in the OCP pattern only. "The Army's adoption of OCP will be fiscally responsible, by transitioning over time and simply replacing current uniforms and OCIE equipment as they wear out," according to a senior Army official in the release. The cost of uniforms with the new pattern will be comparable to the current uniform. At the Fort Myer, Virginia, military clothing sales store, for instance, an ACU top now sells for approximately \$45. The pants sell for around \$45 as well. A cap sells for about \$8, according to the release. According to the 2014 pay charts, online at dfas.mil, enlisted soldiers receive between \$439 and \$468 annually to buy new uniforms – that includes replacing the outgoing UCP ACU with the Operational Camouflage Pattern ACU.

Soldiers will have about three years – the time between the first availability of the uniform in military clothing sales in 2015 and the time they are required to wear it in 2018 – to transition the contents of their clothing bag to the new look. They will also have more than \$1,300 in clothing allowance at their disposal to make that happen, the release states.

Who is it?

Last Week:



L-R: Vic Stevenson, U/K, Ron Abbott, Barry Clemons, probably at Albert Head. The argument about the camera is ongoing, but it is either a Leica or a Canon.

This Week The Canadian Army, the RCAF, and the RCN have long been known for their anti-sexist stance, especially the latter (temperance is even more a highlight of the Senior Service). Nothing shows this progressive attitude more than this undated photo of two members of the Army Society for Progressive Views, which flourished in the past. They have just confiscated a piece of regressive and misogynistic imagery, and, after careful examination of the photo, will have it destroyed and the culprit charged and re-educated.



Our problem is that we don't know when the photo was taken, other than a broad guess from the bush dress. We also don't know the names of these paragons of politically correct thinking. Can you help? If so, please contact the editor, or the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Also, if you know of the whereabouts of more of this

antiquated imagery, let us know

From the 'Punitary'

What do you get if you cross a bullet and a tree with no leaves? A cartridge in a bare tree.

Murphy's other Laws

Any event, once it has occurred, can be made to appear inevitable by a competent historian.

Quotable Quotes

Next to knowing when to seize an opportunity, the most important thing in life is to know when to forego an advantage. - *Benjamin Disraeli*



**BATTLEFIELD TOUR OPPORTUNITY
75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MANNING OF THE GUNS AT YORKE ISLAND
12-14 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Here is your opportunity to join the Officers & Gunners of 15 FD RCA as they return to commemorate the manning of the guns at Yorke Island in August 1939.

Departure of the tour will be from the Bessborough Armoury at 6 PM on Friday, 12 September 2014, with transportation to Yorke Island on the morning of the 13th to attend a dedication ceremony at the gun position, BBQ lunch, tour of the island, and a reception in the evening at the Village of Sayward Royal Canadian Legion. After an overnight stay at Sayward, the tour will return by ferry to the armoury on the afternoon of 14 September 2014.

There will be options for those who wish to stay overnight with the troops on Yorke Island, with the remainder being quartered in Cabins at a nearby resort.

Space still available. Email bob.mugford@shaw.ca for a tour application form and details