



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 12, 2019

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get a copy.

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Wednesday Lunches - We need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars See attached posters for details.

- Feb 13** RUSI Speaker - The Charge of Flowerdew's Squadron - Battle of Moreuil Wood
- Mar 01** 15 Fd & 78th Fraser Highlanders Scotch tasting
- Mar 13** RUSI Speaker - current and future relationship between China and Canada
- Apr 10** RUSI Speaker - Canada's role in Bomber Command during WW2

RUSI Speaker Series for 2019

The popular RUSI Speaker Series resumes on Wednesday, February 13 in the 15Fd Officer's Mess from 5:00 to 7:00 pm with Bob Mackay entitled 'The Charge of Flowerdew's Squadron: 100 Years Later'. In this three-part presentation Bob will tell the story of the famous Battle of Moreuil Wood by Lord Strathcona's Horse led by Lt Gordon Flowerdew VC, in March 1918. Bob Mackay is the author of 'Soldier of the Horse'. The series continues March 13 with special guest speaker Dr James Boutilier who will provide insights on the current and future relationship between China and Canada. This is followed on April 10 with a presentation on Canada's role in Bomber Command during WW2 with Col (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell. RUSI Vancouver thanks the Commanding Officer of 15Fd RCA and the Officer's Mess for their cooperation.

World War 2 – 1944

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

Feb 13th: The towns of Luga, Lyada and Polna are back in Soviet hands in the North; to the south, the breakout battle continues around the Korsun Pocket.

Feb 14th: The Soviets enter Korsun, but the pocket is still a going concern – with thanks today going especially to a Belgian SS brigade in keeping it from being sealed off.

Feb 15th: New Zealand troops are landed on the Green Islands north of Bougainville. Freyberg, commander of II New Zealand Corps has determined (wrongly) that the Germans are using Monte Cassino's Monastery and has successfully lobbied for a massive airstrike by 229 bombers on it – and now the Germans move into a splendid new defensive position in the Monastery's rubble to defeat the New Zealand/Indian attack.

Feb 16th: The final German breakout attack at Korsun begins at nightfall, and soon turns into a wild ordeal by fire for the men who escape. US Carriers hit Eniwetok again. Elements from 5 Divisions hit 45th US and 56th British divisions at Anzio while the Luftwaffe mounts numerous sorties – blowing up an ammunition ship. A Finnish diplomat in Stockholm asks his Soviet counterpart for Armistice terms.

Feb 17th: The battle of the Korsun Pocket is over and 35,000 men of 56,000 have managed to escape, but they had to run a gauntlet of fire on foot and have no gear, heavy weapons – or much in the way of morale right now. The Germans at Anzio almost break through the 45th Division with heavy losses to both sides. The Germans at Cassino are also managing to keep their positions against the 2nd New Zealand and 4th Indian Divisions. US troops land at Eniwetok. US Destroyers hit Rabaul. A massive US naval raid on Truk begins.

Feb 18th: In response to the RAF over Berlin, the Luftwaffe mounts a "little blitz" over London. Mitscher's TF58 and Spruance's TF50 leave Truk behind them – the Japanese have lost 140,000 tons of shipping, 250 aircraft, two cruisers and four destroyers in return for less than 30 US aircraft. In the Marshals, US forces successfully land at Engebi. The Germans commit 26th Panzer and 29th Panzergrenadier to their attack on Anzio, to realize that success is unattainable so long as the fleet (minus a Royal Navy cruiser sunk today) is offshore. Elements of the New Zealand Corps start clawing into the town at the base of Cassino. The Soviets retake the towns of Staraya-Russa and Shimsk. Jailbreak by bomber: 255 Prisoners in Amiens France, many of whom are French Resistance figures scheduled for execution tomorrow, are sprung when RAF Mosquito bombers blow holes in the prison walls in a daring attack. Alas, the leader of Operation Jericho, the gallant Group Captain Percy Charles Pickard DSO and two bars, DFC, is killed after the raid.

Feb 19th: Fighting continues on Engebi as US troops land on Eniwetok to fierce resistance. The fighting at Anzio and Cassino dies down. Oil is Japan's Achilles heel, and it doesn't help when the submarine USS Jack torpedoes four tankers (Kokoie Maru, Nanei Maru, Nichirin Maru and Ichiyo Maru), despite their three escorts. The RAF helps out the US Air Force's "Big Week" with a raid on Leipzig, but sustains heavy casualties, losing 78 aircraft out of 823.

WW2 Spy Who Pulled Off A Real-Life James Bond Mission

And Inspired an Iconic Goldfinger Scene

War History online *Jay Hemmings* *Feb 2, 2019*

The opening scene to 1964's *Goldfinger*, one of the most popular and critically-acclaimed James Bond movies, portrays the famous spy at his deadliest and most suave. Bond emerges from the ocean in diving gear, takes out a guard, plants some explosives – and then rips off his wetsuit to reveal that he's wearing a spotless (and totally dry) tuxedo underneath. He then casually makes his way into a bar to await the explosion he's set up. It's a brilliant scene, but so outlandish that it takes a good degree of suspension of disbelief to keep a straight face. It was even parodied in the *Austin Powers* movies. However, regardless of how unbelievable this movie scene may appear, a scene exactly like this really did play out in WW2. The spy in question was Peter Tazelaar. He was a real-life James Bond working for the exiled Dutch government and assisted by the British Secret service.



Visit of Queen Wilhelmina and Princess Juliana to Breda in 1945. First on the left is Peter Tazelaar, on the right is Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema.

His mission, codenamed Contact Holland, was to infiltrate Nazi-controlled Scheveningen, a resort town in The Netherlands. The story of how Tazelaar came to be a spy – and how he ended up being assigned to such an unorthodox mission – began a few years before. Tazelaar initially trained to be a midshipman at the Royal Netherlands Naval College in 1938, before the outbreak of the Second World War. While The Netherlands was officially neutral during the first phase of WW2, they were forced into the war when the Nazis crossed the Dutch border and began their invasion of the country on March 10, 1940. At this time, Tazelaar was working in the Dutch Merchant Navy. He came into contact with a fellow midshipman called John Birnie, who, along with other midshipmen and cadets, had formed an underground resistance organization called Ordedienst. Thus began Tazelaar's induction into the world of covert resistance, intelligence, and sabotage. The men of Ordedienst realized that they needed outside help to fight the Nazis. To this end, Tazelaar was assigned a mission. He

was to travel to Britain– which, under Nazi occupation, was easier said than done – and make contact with the British Secret Service, which Ordedienst believed would help them.

Tazelaar added his name to the muster roll as a stoker on a commercial freighter – a Swiss ship bearing a Panamanian flag as a disguise. Two Dutch resistance fighters also made their escape from The Netherlands on this ship. They would later end up playing a role in Tazelaar’s audacious Contact Holland mission. The ship was heading to New York to pick up a supply of corn for the Germans, but Tazelaar and the other resistance members snuck off the ship in the Faroe Islands. From there, they made their way to Britain. Once in Britain, Tazelaar and the other resistance fighters (Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema and Bram van der Stok) made contact with the exiled Dutch Queen Wilhelmina in England.



Queen Wilhelmina reading a speech for Radio Oranje in 1940

After this, van der Stok and Roelfzema worked out a gutsy, if risky, plan to get key resistance fighters into and out of The Netherlands. The plot involved a dinghy, a specially-designed wetsuit, and a bottle of brandy. The first trial to see if this crazy mission could actually work was to be carried out by Peter Tazelaar. Van der Stok and Roelfzema

were both very familiar with the seaside town of Scheveningen, at which there was the beachside Palace Hotel that had been taken over by the Nazis and used as their headquarters. The Nazis held officers’ parties – which could get pretty loud and out of hand – at the hotel every Friday night. The plan was for Tazelaar, under cover of darkness, to be taken as close to the shore as possible in a rubber dinghy. He would then swim the rest of the way. Once he was on the beach, he would dispose of his wetsuit (which had been specially designed to be absolutely watertight) under which he would be wearing a high-end tuxedo. He would then pour some brandy over himself and stagger past the guards into the hotel, pretending to be a drunk reveler from the party who had just taken a midnight stroll on the beach. It sounded too crazy to work, but Tazelaar was willing to give it a try anyway. On the night of November 23rd, 1941, he made his way ashore in his special wetsuit. He stripped off once he got onto the beach. As planned, the tuxedo beneath it was bone-dry.

After splashing some brandy onto himself, he smelled enough like a partygoer to slip by the guards. Against all the odds, he pulled off the first, most audacious part of his mission. The rest of the mission didn’t go as smoothly as they had hoped it would, though. A radio which was parachuted in behind enemy lines for him to use was broken in the drop. Even worse, when it came to extracting the important resistance members from the country, sea conditions proved too dangerous to get them out. The Germans caught wind of the plan. With the Nazis now looking for him, Tazelaar had no choice but to flee The Netherlands. He and another resistance fighter escaped in January 1942, and the James Bond-style beach landing was never again

repeated. Tazelaar, however, continued to work with both the Dutch Resistance and the British Secret Service. He returned to fight the Nazi occupiers in November 1944, when he and other agents parachuted in to conduct sabotage and espionage missions. He continued to lead a life of adventure after the end of the war, working for the CIA and large multinational corporations among other employers. It seems strange that the opening scene of *Goldfinger* echoes Tazelaar's mission with such uncanny accuracy, yet the scene was absent from both Ian Fleming's novel and the original script of the movie.



Sculpture of Peter Tazelaar.

Photo: Marion Golsteijn – CC BY-SA 4.0

However, Paul Dehn, a British screenwriter who had been a high-ranking British intelligence officer during WW2, was hired to polish the *Goldfinger* script. It was he who added the wetsuit scene. Did his knowledge of Tazelaar's mission some twenty years before the release of *Goldfinger* inspire him to pen this scene? It is a distinct possibility, but one which remains unconfirmed. Peter Tazelaar, the real-life spy who may have inspired this iconic James Bond scene, passed away in 1993.

The US Army's Next-Gen Rifle Will Be the iPhone of Lethality

Jared Keller Task & Purpose February 08, 2019



A concept drawing for the Next Generation Squad Weapon (US Army)

The Army isn't on the hunt for any old rifle for its Next Generation Squad Weapon program — it's looking to spark a "revolution in small arms" on par with what the iPhone did to consumer electronics.

At least, that's how Army officials at the Armament

Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) at the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey described their overall goal in a conversation with Task & Purpose following the release of a formal Prototype Project Opportunity Notice calling on industry partners for a rapid prototyping and testing run of the brand-new platform. "Imagine that Steve Jobs and his engineers were trying to convert the iPod Touch to the first 3G iPhone," said Army Col Elliott Caggins, project manager for soldier weapons. "There were a thousand technologies they could have put in the first iPhone, but they were looking to mature the platform before they could actually go onto the system." Rather than slap future additions onto an outdated platform like the service's current M4A1 improvement program, the Army wants future capabilities baked into the NGSW from the get-go in a "one end-all solution" to replace both the M4 and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. Call it firing for effect for the acquisition process; the first PON was meant to gather critical industry data before a second PON refined the requirements for the rifle.

This logic of the platform, Caggins said, was reflected in the unusual run-up to the January PPON. As Task & Purpose previously noted, the January notice followed an initial draft notice in Nov 2018. While several defense contractors previously received separate contracts under the NGSW program, those prototypes aren't for play; they're "totally intended to determine if industry could deliver from the performance and manufacturing standpoint," Caggins said. The January notice, on the other hand, is the real "no-kidding agreement," as Caggins put it — and one of three companies selected by the Army will ultimately end up cinching the contract to actually produce the weapon in all its glory. "We have hundreds of capabilities we can put into this weapons system, but we want to do it by holistically creating a system that that takes advantage of everything we've done in the past," he added. "This means its capabilities will only grow, just as the iPhone's did."

Those capabilities, according to Arthur Fiorellini, NGSW team leader, include:

- a specially-designed fire control system engineered to boost hit probability at extended ranges,
- the Advanced Small Arms Ballistic System, an onboard processor hardened against cyberattacks that miniaturizes the positioning system and range finder typically used on Army artillery pieces,
- a sensor suite designed to accommodate for changes in pressure and density using multi-laser rangefinder system to estimate wind speed and adjust rifle positioning accordingly.

"The operator, as he lazes the target, instantly gets an aim point and the system adjusts for ballistics instead of the operator trying to figure things out," Fiorellini told Task & Purpose. "A dot is displayed on the optic that the operator just puts on the target and everything else is taken care of ... the processor takes all of the information and boils it down."



Next Generation Squad Automatic Rifle



Fort Benning, Home of the MCOE



- Replacement for M249 Squad Automatic Weapon ~2025
- Improved Lethality (Probability of Hit and Incapacitation)
- Precise to 600m Volume Effects to 1200m
- Lightweight Weapon and Ammunition
- Improved Mobility
- Improved Reliability
- Reduced Signature
- Integration with Future Fire Control Capabilities Key

Maneuver Center of Excellence - Team of Soldiers, Families, and Civilians from the Best Army in the World!

A slide from the Maneuver Center of Excellence presentation on the Next Generation Squad Weapon (US Army)

The NGSW team has some fascinating capabilities in mind for the future as well, namely "aim augmentation" not unlike the auto-aim rig that ARDEC researchers showed off in May 2017. "It could be wind sensing, stabilizing platform, interrupted trigger so it only fires when on target," Caggins told Task & Purpose. "We're

working the technology now and working to mature them and look to add in ... we're not done working once it's fielded." This is all to say nothing of the 6.8mm round required in the Army's PPON. According to Caggins, that rounds will integrate elements of the new 130 grain M80A1 Enhanced Performance Round developed by the Army to defeat 5.56mm-resistant body armor

downrange. Indeed, the NGSW team is looking for a prototype that has a suppressor base in order to compensate for the intermediate round. "It's a higher caliber and a louder system, so the suppressor will help operationally," Fiorellini told Task & Purpose.

With a goal of equipping its first unit with the platform by fiscal year 2022, the Army has kicked the acquisition process into high, Caggins said, with the dual PONs posted with the intent of having prototypes ready to test by June 2019. But despite the desire to field the NGSW as quickly as possible, there's one element that's critical to the process: soldier input. Fiorellini told Task & Purpose that the NGSW team is working with hundreds of soldiers across military occupational specialties and skill sets for feedback on everything from reliability to ergonomics. "Our assessment of the threat we need to be prepared for is to engage multiple targets on the battlefield over extended ranges, a shift from COINI to near-peer," Caggins said. "This is for a population in the Army that engages in close combat, and with this program, we're experiencing a revolution in small arms."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Don't forget to order your Regimental Centennial glassware! A new order for beer mugs and scotch glasses will be mailed on Wednesday. Get your order in before you have to wait for the next one! Check out what's available on this page.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/quartermaster-stores.html>

Here's some more recent updates on the website:

1948 – Vic Stevenson's COTC days I <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/cotc-1948.html>

1949 – Vic Stevenson's COTC days II <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/cotc-1949.html>

1982 – Additional info on the shaving cream incident

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/shilo-1982.html>

2018 – Unit group photo <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2018.html>

Keep those stories, calendar events and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

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Who Is It



Last Week: A Basic Helicopter Training Unit was established at Rivers in August 1953, initially to train RCAF pilots, but by 1956, Army helicopter pilots were also training at there. After the closure of the helicopter school at RCN Air Station HMCS Shearwater, the Navy began sending trainees to Rivers as well, making the BHTU the first tri-service flying training unit in Canada. In December

1963, No 1 Transport Helicopter Platoon (No 1 THP), a unit of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, was established at RCAF Station Rivers, along with their fleet of CH-113A Voyager transport helicopters (shown here) and one CH-112 Nomad. The platoon's function was to support the Army on field exercises. No 1 THP moved to RCAF Station St Hubert in 1966, but also established a detachment at RCAF Station Namao. In 1968, No 1 THP was re-designated 450 (Heavy Transport) Helicopter Squadron. The Squadron is now 450 Tactical Helicopter Squadron flying CH-147F Chinook helicopters.

This Week: During a recent visit to a large military museum, I came across this gun. Of course, I was able to instantly identify it from a distance, but, upon getting closer, and seeing what had happened to it, I was quite shocked, and very moved. As I was examining it, and reading the plaque next to it, I was approached by a museum volunteer, a retired doctor, who added even more to the interesting story of this artillery piece. During my visit to this fine museum, I kept coming back to this gun, and thinking of what had happened around it in the distant past. Now, several weeks later, just looking at the photo continues to move me.



So, dear reader, can you identify this gun? Can you tell us where it is, and why it is there? Can you think of something similar in your experience? We'd like to hear from you, so send your thoughts either to the editor, bob.mugford@oulook.com or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). *Ubique. Quo Fas Et Gloria Ducunt.*

From the 'Punitary'

What is a sweater? Something a child has to put on when a parent feels cold.

Murphy's Other Laws

If you think of something really profound to say – don't say it!

Quotable Quotes

It's a lack of faith that makes people afraid of meeting challenges and I believe in myself.
Muhammed Ali



JOIN US
RUSI VANCOUVER SPEAKER
SERIES

Wednesday, 13 February 2019

From 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Officers Mess – Bessborough Armoury

Subject: “The Charge of Flowerdew’s Squadron: 100 Years Later”

Speaker: Robert Mackay

Upcoming Topics & Speakers

13 March 2019 – “Canada - China Relations: Predatory, Promising or, Problematic”

Speaker: Dr. James A. Boutilier – Advisor to MARPAC Command

10 April 2019 – “Canada & The WW2 Bomber Command Campaign”

Speaker: Colonel (Ret’d) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

RSVP TO LHCCATHCART@GMAIL.COM

Hosted by RUSI Vancouver with the cooperation with LCol. Pierre LaJoie, Commanding Officer, and President and Members of the 15Fd Officers Mess.

15 Fd and 78th Fraser's Highlanders Scotch Tasting

THE ANNUAL 2019 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78th Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

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

For the Full 'Whisky Fleet', Tickets are **\$55.00** per person by Credit Card, Cheque, or by exact change, otherwise your \$60 in bills will be gratefully accepted towards our good cause. Bernard Rowe, who will be relieving you of your burden of carrying cash will meet you at the front door and will be most appreciative. For those who are driving, or prefer the options from the No-Host bar, you pay a meager **\$25.00**.

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

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

DATE: Friday – March 1st, 2019

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J 2C7

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

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits raised by the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison will go towards supporting the 15 Field Centennial Projects next year in 2020.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.