

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 12, 2021

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 your 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 - Lunches suspended until further notice. Everyone stay safe!!

The 2021 BC Military Gala is CANCELLED. The Sheraton Wall Ctr is booked for Apr 23, 2022

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars (see Poster section at end for details)

Jan 13 Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
Jan 20 Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
Jan 27 Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting
Feb 03 Wednesday 'Zoom' Lunch meeting

Our Investment in Defense is an Investment in North American Security

Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defense 11 Jan 2021



For any military force, maintaining an advantage requires innovation and investment. It is why Canada is modernizing our Army, Navy and Air Force while putting our serving members in the Canadian Armed Forces at its core. To ensure our people have the most advanced capabilities and tools for the future, Canada is putting a greater focus on research and development, supporting innovators in industry and in government, and building a closer relationship between these two worlds. Since 2017,

when we published our fully funded 20-year defense policy “Strong, Secure, Engaged,” we have seen significant changes in the global security environment. These new challenges underscore the need to invest in defense as a matter of national security and economic vitality. “Strong, Secure, Engaged” was released at a time when the dominant forces of the current security environment

were just beginning to take shape. Today, Canada faces a world defined by great power conflict, rapid military modernization by states set on upending the international rules-based order, and advances against disruptive technologies in which North American geography no longer affords the protection it once did.

While we have traditionally been able to address threats abroad before they reach our shores, our security requires reinforcement. While this new space has many unknowns, we know that multilateralism and supporting the rules-based international order is critical to our success and our safety. Since 2017, Canada has increased our support to NATO partners through Operation Reassurance — which has seen Royal Canadian Navy ships deployed in the Black Sea region, the Royal Canadian Air Force supporting air policing in Romania, and Canadian Armed Forces members leading the Enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup in Latvia — as well as through our work leading NATO Mission Iraq and our support for the coalition. We also know that this changing security landscape means we need to take a thorough look at how we can secure North America against the threats of today and the future. It is why Canada continues to work with our American partners on the modernization of North American Aerospace Defense Command to build continental resiliency. This critical work will ensure that Canada and the United States of America have the ability to detect, deter and respond to threats, and that the only binational command in the world can meet the challenges of the 21st century.

For many years now, the Department of National Defence has worked hard to keep defense industries informed of future investment opportunities that will continue generating jobs and improving Canada's capacity for innovation. It is one reason that we have a forward-looking, 10-year defense investment plan that is updated every three years. This engagement with industry has become an integral part of the procurement process, providing critical insights while showing industry that we are a predictable partner. Despite the unexpected challenges during 2020, Canada reached important milestones for key defense projects. In July 2020, the first Arctic and offshore patrol ship was delivered to the Royal Canadian Navy, followed in the fall by delivery of the first new fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft to the Royal Canadian Air Force. Construction of armored combat support vehicles for the Canadian Army began in May 2020, with the first vehicle delivered to the Armed Forces in December 2020. We also continue to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into equipping members of our armed forces.

We now see unprecedented innovation in all corners of the world, which militaries can harness to quickly understand and respond to potential threats before they cause harm. It is why new and emerging technologies in cyber and artificial intelligence are becoming an integral part of defense projects. Canada is growing its defense industry by leveraging research and development from both industry and government to achieve the best results. By working together, we can come up with innovative solutions to increase Canada's operational effectiveness while showing that defense is forging a path to the future. In addition to embracing innovation within defense institutions and industry, more work is needed to support our people. The Canadian Armed Forces is a diverse institution, and our equipment needs to recognize that. It is why the Gender-based Analysis Plus process looks at factors such as gender, race, religion and ethnicity so that our defense projects better meet the needs of armed forces members.

These changes help get the best out of our people, producing meaningful results. For example, changes made to the brake pedal assembly in the new armor-protected cab of the Standard Military Pattern vehicle ensure all soldiers, no matter their size, can safely operate these vehicles. By building an agile, well-educated, flexible, diverse, combat-ready military, we will be able to deal with threats abroad to protect stability at home. This historic investment through “Strong, Secure, Engaged” allows Canada to modernize our military by putting our people at its core as we continue to step up our contribution to North American and global security. When our partners and allies call upon Canada, we will be there for them.

The Military Commander Behind Construction of the NHS Nightingale

Lucy Fisher Deputy Political Editor The Telegraph 7 January, 2021

An update on a story published in this newsletter last spring.



The military commander behind the lightning-fast construction of the NHS Nightingale hospitals is now leading the Armed Forces’ bid to speed up the coronavirus vaccine rollout. Brigadier Phil Prosser of the Royal Logistics Corps has been embedded for weeks at the NHS headquarters in Elephant and Castle, South London, to work alongside the head of the job task force. Taking a central role in the

programme’s delivery, he chairs the 8am daily vaccine meeting and is preparing to dispatch military “surge teams” to ensure the mass jab rollout runs to timetable. On Thursday night he stood alongside the Prime Minister and Sir Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, at a televised Downing Street press conference to set out the Armed Forces’ next moves. A crisis management expert, the military officer commands 101 Logistic Brigade, a unit represented by a snake logo that is known as the “Iron Viper” among its own personnel, but often dubbed the “Blackadders” by waggish rivals. The latter nickname derives from an earlier formation of the unit taking seed at Baldrick Lines, a British camp in the First Gulf War and the name of a leading character in the eighties TV sitcom Blackadder.

Brigadier Prosser, described by friends as a proud Welshman, is a cycling enthusiast and committed fan of the Scarlets, the Llanelli rugby team. His challenge to help Boris Johnson fulfil an ambitious pledge to administer 13 million jabs by mid-February comes after he was last year tasked with setting up at breakneck speed the Nightingale temporary hospitals to boost NHS intensive care unit capacity. His Aldershot-based brigade, which includes logistical, engineering and medical personnel, also oversaw the delivery of tens of thousands of items of personal protective equipment to hospitals in desperate need last March. A convoy of Army trucks from the unit worked through the night to deliver 50,000 face masks to St Thomas’ hospital in London from a depot in Haydock, Cheshire, on one occasion. He has had help in his endeavours during the pandemic – drawing on the expertise of a range of corporate leaders who moonlight as reservists in the Engineer and Logistic Staff Corps, described as the “greatest military unit you’ve

never heard of’. This includes advice on the high-speed scaling up of NHS supply chains from Neil Ashworth, a former chief executive of Yodel, and logistical support from Martin Frobisher, an executive at Network Rail.

Commissioned into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1992, Brigadier Prosser has served with a variety of units and completed operational tours of Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2010-11 he attended the Advanced Command Staff Course for military officers tipped for senior leadership roles. Since then, he has overseen moves by a battalion to revitalise 100 vehicles mothballed in long-term storage for a major NATO exercise in Poland, and also led on the design and delivery of a combat service support exercise in Kenya.

Canadian Made Equipment Shut Out of \$70B Warship Program

A spokeswoman says DND is “confident that we have competitively selected the best design to meet Canada’s needs.” David Pugliese Ottawa Citizen Dec 16, 2020



An artist's rendering of the Type 26 Global Combat Ship, Lockheed Martin's proposed design for Canada's \$60-billion fleet of new surface combatant warships.

Photo by Handout /Lockheed Martin Canada

Canadian equipment that taxpayers spent hundreds of millions of dollars to develop isn't being used on the country's new \$70-billion fleet of warships because the consortium that won the bid selected its own affiliated companies and their foreign systems. A number of Canadian firms repeatedly tried to warn ministers and deputy ministers at the Department of National Defence, Public Services and Procurement Canada as well as Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada that they would be shut out of the Canadian Surface Combatant project, according to federal government documents obtained by this newspaper. Those concerns were ignored. Instead, Canada left it up to the winning consortium, in this case, the US-controlled Lockheed Martin Canada and BAE of the United Kingdom to determine the equipment that would make up key components of the proposed 15-fleet Canadian Surface Combatant, or CSC fleet. By selecting the consortium's Type 26 warship design for the CSC, the Royal Canadian Navy automatically agreed to what Lockheed Martin had determined was the best equipment for it to use.

In the last week, this newspaper has chronicled multiple issues with the CSC project, the most expensive military procurement in Canada's history. This newspaper reviewed thousands of pages of documents, obtained through sources and through the access to information law, to reveal how the CSC's budget has spiralled upward and upward and how government officials previously tried to block the cost of the project from becoming public. In an email, DND

defended its choice that shut out inclusion on the CSC of Canadian-made propulsion systems, sonar and communication systems, as well as radar. The Canadian-based firms that build those systems employ hundreds of people in the high-tech sector. “By selecting the design, Canada has selected the associated equipment,” said DND spokeswoman Jessica Lamirande. She noted DND is “confident that we have competitively selected the best design to meet Canada’s needs.” As a result, a radar built by Lockheed Martin in the US, which hasn’t yet been certified for naval operations, will be installed on the CSC. Passed over was a state-of-the-art naval radar developed with the help of Thales Canada in Nepean. Canadian taxpayers contributed \$54 million to the development of that radar, which is now being used on German, Danish and Dutch warships.

Also shut out of the CSC competition is SHINCOM, a naval communications system built by DRS Technologies of Ottawa and considered one of the best such systems in the world. SHINCOM is in service on other Royal Canadian Navy vessels as well as 150 warships of allied navies around the world, including Australia, the US, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. It was originally developed for Canada’s Halifax-class frigates and taxpayers have poured millions of dollars into its development. Also left on the sidelines was General Dynamic Mission Systems of Ottawa, Canada’s top developer of anti-submarine warfare and sonar equipment. The firm has its systems on aircraft or warships of militaries in Canada, Japan, South Korea, Portugal and various South American nations. Top government officials and politicians were repeatedly warned key Canadian firms would be shut out of the CSC project. Steve Zuber, vice president of DRS Technologies, wrote on Aug 31, 2016 to alert innovation minister Navdeep Bains that the way the CSC procurement was designed would work against Canadian firms. “The CSC procurement approach may actually disadvantage Canadian companies,” Zuber warned. “The current evaluation approach puts our world-class Canadian solutions at serious risk of not being selected for Canada.”

At the heart of the matter was a procurement system that penalized bidders if they deviated too much from their original ship designs to accommodate Canadian equipment. In addition, no competitions were held for key components of the new warships, such as sonar, radar or communications systems. General Dynamics Missions Systems Canada also tried to warn government officials in November 2019 that the lack of competition shut out high-tech Canadian systems developed over the years with both private and tax dollars. Company vice president David Ibbetson told navy commander Vice Adm Art McDonald, DND deputy minister Jody Thomas, PSPC deputy minister Bill Matthews and ISED deputy minister Simon Kennedy about the lack of competition on the CSC anti-submarine warfare systems. That resulted in a “largely foreign solution with only limited Canadian content,” he noted. The documents also show bureaucrats at ISED countering such concerns by pointing out that the CSC program will include equipment from other firms such as L-3 and CAE in Quebec and MDA in BC. Lockheed Martin has also committed to invest in priority areas such as cybersecurity, clean technology and the marine sector, innovation minister Bains was told. But the federal government has declined to release other documents requested through access to information law about specifics of the industrial benefits and job creation plan linked to the CSC. There is concern by some in the country’s defence industry that the Liberal government has put at risk existing Canadian high-

tech jobs, developed and established in part by federal contracts and development money, in exchange for the promise by foreign companies to create new jobs in the future linked to the CSC. In addition, in November 2019, the Lockheed Martin Canada executive responsible for delivering on the industrial commitments admitted the system had major problems. Walt Nolan said the policy the Canadian government developed has prompted defence firms to significantly overcommit on the jobs and industry benefits they claim they can deliver on the CSC.

But Lockheed Martin has significant support from the leadership of the Royal Canadian Navy, including Vice Adm McDonald. In July, McDonald took to Twitter to promote the company and its SPY-7 radar, noting that such a system is critical to a warship's survival and how it performs on missions. "For these reasons, the Royal Canadian Navy is delighted that Canada's Combat Ship Team under Lockheed Martin Canada leadership will fit the SPY-7 in CSC," wrote McDonald, in retweeting the company's press release about the radar. But McDonald's enthusiastic corporate plug left out some critical information, namely that the SPY-7 radar had never been installed on an actual warship. Less than a month before McDonald's tweet, Japan's government, which had been hoping to use SPY-7 radar for a land-based missile defence system, suspended the project. Japan cited technical issues and cost for the decision and is now trying to figure out what to do with the systems it has already paid for.

Japan's military has suggested using the SPY-7 on new frigates but some of the country's lawmakers are trying to scuttle that plan. They are worried that Japan will pay significant development costs to get the radar ready for maritime use and since the US Navy will use a completely different system there will be problems operating with a key ally. While the SPY-7 radar issue has been debated in Japan's legislature, Canadian politicians have been silent. Lockheed's rival, Raytheon, the firm which will provide the SPY-6 radar for the US Navy, has made several presentations to the Liberal government. It tried to convince politicians and bureaucrats the Lockheed Martin system could become a money pit that would potentially put Canadian sailors at risk. Switching to SPY-6 would save Canada tens of millions of dollars as the US Navy would finance future research into modernizing the radar to deal with new threats, federal officials were told.

In addition, Raytheon pointed out that unlike the SPY-7, the testing of its radar, which included intercepts of targets, was completed in 2019. The US Navy intends to install the system on 50 of its warships. But cabinet ministers and federal bureaucrats dismissed Raytheon's overtures as an attempt to reverse the CSC procurement process that had already been completed. Neither Lockheed Martin nor the DND could provide a date on when the SPY-7 will be ready for naval operations and certified for use on the CSC. But they noted the company is supposed to deliver the first radar system in 2025. "Once fully integrated into the CSC design, the SPY-7 will provide Canada the capabilities it needs to meet the operational and interoperability requirements of the Royal Canadian Navy well past the middle of this century," added DND spokeswoman Lamirande. Responses from DND and Lockheed Martin to questions posed by this newspaper for this story were answered in nearly identical fashion. Canadian taxpayers will finance the development and testing of any of the radar requirements for the CSC. The cost of that, however, is not known at this point.

The US Army's Futuristic New Goggles

Changing the mechanics of shooting, according to soldiers

Matthew Cox *Military.Com* Nov 24, 2020



Soldiers at Fort Pickett, Virginia test the Microsoft-designed prototype goggle known as the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS)

(US Army photo)

After testing out the latest version of the Army's smart-soldier goggles, infantrymen from the 82nd Airborne Division say combat marksmanship definitely changes when wearing the Individual Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS). The newest Microsoft-designed IVAS prototype resembles a sci-fi version of the tactical dust goggles soldiers wore in the last two desert wars. Slated for fielding in fiscal 2021, IVAS is designed to equip soldiers with a heads-up display (HUD) that allows them to view tactical maps, as well as their weapon-sight reticle. A special thermal weapons sight mounts on the M4A1 carbine and projects the sight reticle into the wearer's field of view via Bluetooth signal — a technology known as Rapid Target Acquisition. "The real difference we were experiencing, because of the way the HUD is designed, you actually don't really shoulder your rifle quite the way that you normally would without the IVAS system," Sgt Sam Crawford, a team leader in Comanche Company, 2nd Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, told *Military.com*. "It would take some getting used to," Crawford said. "As somebody who fires weapons, it's very alien to us."

Crawford's unit participated in the Army's third soldier touchpoint evaluation of the first ruggedized version of IVAS at Fort Pickett, Virginia, in October. "I was trying out a bunch of different things just to see what was effective for myself," he said. "Shouldering wasn't quite the way it normally was, so I tucked the [buttstock] under my right arm and was able to use it like that. It felt stable; it was just different. It looked like something out of a Rambo movie." Staff Sgt Kaleb Kester, a weapons squad leader in Comanche Company, said he quickly gave up on how he was trained to shoot. "It's a lot different from how we are used to shooting," he said. "At its current state, you can't get a proper cheek-to-stock weld." 1st Lt Nicholas Christopher, a platoon leader in Comanche Company, agreed it takes some getting used to, but said he realized shooting with the IVAS is similar to shooting with night observation devices, or NODs, by aiming an infrared (IR) at a target. "You have to shoot it more like you are shooting with an IR laser, like the way we do right now with NODs and an [AN] PEQ 15," Christopher said. "But they took us to a standard M4 range, and I was hitting targets out to 300 yards, and a lot of my guys were doing that too."

However, all three paratroopers said they were impressed how easy IVAS is to learn to use and are excited by the navigation and situational awareness tools it offers. Soldiers spent the first few days learning how to access menus, use the functions and fit the IVAS to their kit. "I personally went through every menu I could and was looking at what each of the functions did — very easy to use," Kester said, adding that the small, chest-mounted control pad is also very intuitive to use.

"The control pad that you use, you could put your hand on it and track what buttons you were using just by the tactile reference points they put on the control interface." Crawford said his first impression was that the device is a little bulky, "but as we began to use it more, you could definitely see the potential that it could be an awesome tool in the future." The current prototype straps to the helmet, sitting on the brim so it doesn't have to touch the wearer's face, the soldiers said. "Our first event was land navigation where we did a day into night — about a four-hour-long, land navigation course," Crawford said. "Inside the system, we had a map of the area we were in, and we were able to plot points on the map. And then you could take the map away, and you would have arrows and a compass where you could walk to those points. And it would be something almost out of a video game just projected out in front of you on the landscape — 'Go this way,'" Crawford said. "It made it incredibly easy to not get lost, and everybody was on the same page of where we were going."

Christopher was also surprised at how well this feature worked. "If you look up, you can actually see a compass that moves with your head and gives you, like, a pinpoint compass reading in degrees. And if you look down, you have a marker placed on the map; it actually has a little arrow with the distance and direction of exactly where you need to go," he said. "It was very fluid; there wasn't really any hiccups. It wasn't slow." Crawford found the navigation feature useful when his unit did an assault and seizure of a trench system. "I was actually the lead element going into the trench, and I was able to coordinate with our weapons squad leader where exactly the entrance point was for myself and my team," he said. "He put a point down on the map for the exact entrance to the trench, and I was able to just navigate through that, through smoke and just run straight to the entrance of the trench and get my guys there super fast, compared to had I not had that, it would have been running through smoke and not really knowing where you are popping out at — too far left, too far right — so it was very useful for that." Crawford said he told the Microsoft officials on site that the night vision and thermal sensors on this version of IVAS could be clearer. They told him they already have a new prototype with upgraded sensors. "I was able to look through an upgraded version of it, so it was pretty cool that they were making changes on that already," he said. Christopher said IVAS will be extremely useful to leaders because they can easily view the location of each member of the unit. "The ability to bring up a map and see where all my guys are and send waypoints to them of various types like "move here" or "enemy here" ... all in real time and have that level of precise communication with them in terms of maneuver was a huge boon to me," he said.



*Soldiers at Fort Pickett, Virginia test the Microsoft-designed prototype goggle known as the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS)
(US Army photo)*

The Army has been working for decades to field this type of capability. The first attempt started in the mid-1990s with the Land Warrior program, which featured a bulky computer, heavy cables and a helmet-mounted eyepiece through which soldiers could view tiny maps for unit situational awareness. More than a decade later, the Army chopped the system down to the Nett Warrior system, which features a ruggedized smartphone

that key leaders can use to view maps, send text messages and check the locations of other units. The system is now known as the end-user-device (EUD) and is worn mounted to the front of a leader's body armor, but Christopher said it can pick up the locations only of those wearing it, such as squad leaders and team leaders. "With the IVAS, I can see where every single one of my soldiers are," he said. Kester agreed. "I have used the EUD, and I think this is a tremendous upgrade over the EUD," he said. Part of this evaluation was designed to test the ruggedness of the current IVAS prototype, so there was lots of infantry weather. "It rained pretty hard on us," Christopher said. "They told us a big part of this testing phase was to see how well it did in the rain. And we were expecting some malfunctions, but any malfunctions we did have were not water-related."

Most glitches occurred when a wire got disconnected, Christopher said. "You just have to stop and do some self-repairs on it just to make sure everyone's system was up." Some soldiers did not have a lot of patience with the IVAS prototype, Kester said. "There are some people that really enjoy it, and there are some people that aren't really willing to kind of push the limits of what is possible," he said. "I think a lot of people, they want a perfect product. I'm kind of like the old guy in the unit, so my perspective is a little different." The soldiers agreed, though, that this version of the IVAS could be improved. Kester said one of the medics complained that he had trouble seeing what he was doing when he tried to treat casualties while wearing the IVAS. "In order to treat a casualty, some of the sensors where they are located make it more difficult," Kester said. "I kind of went down this rabbit hole with them ... of how do we place the sensor so you can see a little bit better below you." Christopher said he wants the device to be lighter. "One thing that a lot of us talked about to the Microsoft employees is the system itself, I would say, is still a little heavy ... and to prevent neck strain, they should try to get it to a smaller package," he said. Crawford also suggested that the bottom of the IVAS could be less bulky. "If there was a way to reduce the size of the IVAS system a little bit at the bottom of it, so that you could shoulder your weapon more steadily while maintaining your sight picture, I think there [are] going to be times and places where you need that," he said.

Army officials did not immediately respond to questions about how much the system weighs or its dimensions. Kester said he suggested to program officials that IVAS could work better if it didn't rely solely on a thermal sight, which can make it difficult at times to clearly identify a target. "One of the issues that I had was, sometimes under thermals, you can't tell the difference between friend and foe," he said. By the time the third soldier touchpoint ended in early November, IVAS team program officials had collected more than 40,000 hours of soldier data, Brig Gen Tony Potts, director of Program Executive Office Soldier, said in an Army news release. "We have learned so much through Soldier Centered Design," Potts said. "Our real desire is to let soldiers design it, and then our engineers build what they design. It's about listening to our soldiers." Kester said he prefers to shoot in a more traditional fashion with his cheek resting against the stock of the weapon but added that he believes in the overall IVAS concept and what it offers to the infantry. "I have been trained in the Army for 11 years, I have taught pistol and rifle marksmanship. ... I prefer to have a cheek-to-stock weld; I feel like I can get a better shot," he said. "However, I am willing to put in more work and effort to make this work. ... They said they want to field it in a year, and I am very interested to see how far they come in that time."

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Well, 2021 seems to have had a bit of a nasty start to it!

Yearbook Photos – We’re still looking for dates on some of these photos.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-photos> Help us with the when, who and where? Email president.vcrgunners@gmail.com with your answers.

New Westminster 24 Pounders – We’ve launched a page on the restoration of the two howitzers at City Hall. Check out the great information on a 24-pounder restoration in Québec.

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/24-pounders.html>

Yorke Island – Did you watch the video on Yorke Island?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yearbook-update-2021>

Ubique150 Video Contest – Have you got a team?

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/ubique-150-video-contest>

Newsletter Archives – Bob Mugford has been working diligently on uploading additional back issues of the weekly newsletter to our website. He’s currently worked back to March 2015 with more to follow in the future. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/newsletters---2015.html>

VAA Virtual Lunch every Wednesday at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848> - Drop in for 10 minutes or stay for an hour.

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: This patch is the early version of that worn by the 49th (West Riding) Division, a TA force. The polar bear was adopted in Iceland during the Second World War, replacing the earlier emblem from the Great War. It was later altered to look more aggressive, and it is that pattern that is most reproduced. The early version was also worn by two non-British units:



Z Force of the Canadian Army (RRC, FMR, CHOttawa, and other support units), and, more surprisingly, by the USMC 1st Provisional

Marine Bde. Even more unusual is that the USA was neutral when this Of course, so was Iceland, but that didn't stop them getting invaded. The white dots are a guide for sewing.



Later version

This Week: There was a time when it was unusual for women to be pilots, and the feminine term “aviatrix” was used to describe these pioneers of the ether. Amy Johnson was probably the most famous of these women, followed by the tragic Emilia Earhart. During the Second World War,

neither the RAF nor the RCAF had female pilots, but we did have them in the Air Transport Auxiliary, where life, unarmed, could be quite dangerous, as the death of Amy Johnson demonstrated. The evil Hun generally treated women with a high degree of sexism and did not mobilize them in the way our side did, restricting them to the roles of mothers and wives. However, there were two famous exceptions to this rule, both test pilots: Hanna Reitsch, who astounded der volk by flying an early helicopter inside an arena, amongst other feats, and the much less-known, but far more decent, Countess Melitta Schenk Gräfin von Stauffenberg, who, tragically, was shot down near the end of the war whilst searching for her concentration camp-imprisoned husband.



The Red Menace... sorry, stalwart ally the Soviet Union, did not hold back much on using women in any role imaginable, from target practice for the NKVD, to heroine pilots of the legendary Night Witches, the 46th Taman Guards Night Bomber Aviation Regiment, a mostly female unit, as were two others.

However, this week's photo is of a woman of another nation, who performed equally heroic tasks, but who is not

well-known outside her own country. She flew with other women into danger, but, like our ATA pilots, was unarmed. Who she and her unit were are questions that we hope you can answer with your usual accuracy and enthusiasm? Send those educated responses to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

Why did the balloons run away from the concert? They were playing pop music!

Murphy's Other Laws

In life, sometimes the questions are complicated - but the answers are simple.

Quotable Quotes

When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on. -*Franklin D Roosevelt*

Dues 2021

As of Jan 1, memberships dues are payable for, Vancouver Artillery Association, the Royal United Services Institute - Vancouver Society and 15 Fd Regt Officers Mess Associate Members. Details below.

VAA

Dues for the **Vancouver Artillery Association** are \$25, payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association.

VAA dues can be paid by etransfer (preferred method):- by sending payments to:- president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

Dues cheques can be mailed to:

Vancouver Artillery Association
27048 35B Avenue, Langley BC V4W 0C3

RUSI Vancouver

Dues for **RUSI Vancouver** are \$50 (\$25 for students), payable to RUSI Vancouver.

By eTransfer (preferred method):- richmark@telus.net

By mail:-

Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver
1998 Ogden Avenue, Vancouver BC V6J 1A2

15 Fd Officers' Mess

Dues for **15 Fd Officers' Mess Associate Members** are \$60, payable to 15 RCA Officers Mess. Send to:

Treasurer, 15 Fd Regt Officers Mess
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

No need to worry about COVID-19 when you go digital. Pop into our video lunch **at noon** on Wednesdays and say hi. All you need is a laptop, tablet or smartphone. These sessions are being hosted by the Vancouver Artillery Association and are **open to all – especially those who attended our Wednesday lunches.**

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

<https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

Password:- Ubique



Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars across mobile, desktop, and room systems. Zoom Rooms is the original software-based conference room solution used around the world in board, conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices and classrooms. Founded in 2011, Zoom helps businesses and organizations bring their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more

done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting now](#)

Use the link above on your computer Zoom program or dial in on your phone
778 907 2071 Meeting ID: 710 845 848

Invite 2 friends! We have room for 100! See you on Wednesdays at noon. Bring your own lunch and beverage of choice.

Join us on the VAA Zoom site for a virtual New Years Day Levée!

– 1000hrs to 1300hrs. Bring your own Eggnog

UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest



UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest

In conjunction with the commemoration of 150th Anniversary of A & B Batteries, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery is pleased to announce a video production contest.

Prizes will be awarded to 3 winners: 1st place winner receives \$2,000; 2nd place winning entry receives \$1000; 3rd place prize is \$500.

Important dates

Submissions accepted between	1 January – 30 April 2021
Judging starts	1 May 2021
Winners announced	26 May 2021

Eligibility

Submissions are open to **teams** consisting of **current and/or retired members of The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**. Each team can submit more than one entry but only one prize will be awarded to any unit.

*If you missed it, the **Free webinar** recording and accompanying resources are available on our website.*

Learn about:

- Part 1: Pre-Production (Planning for Your Shoot)
- Part 2: Production (Getting the Shot You Need)
- Part 3: Post-Production (Bringing Your Vision Together)

All details on the contest and the free Webinar are at

ubique150.org