



## **Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News July 12, 2016**

**Newsletter on line.** This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://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** The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project.

### **Yorke Island Visit – Aug 2016**

The Regt and Association are planning a visit to Yorke Island in August. For details, visit the Association website at: <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-2016>

We need to see how many are interested, so check the details and let me know ASAP

### **World War 2 - 1941**

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

**July 13<sup>th</sup>:** Soviet 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Armies combine in the defence of Smolensk.

**July 14<sup>th</sup>:** Elements of Army Group North reach the Luga River. A force of German JU-88s stages from Crete to bomb the harbour in Suez.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** The Soviets start three days of expensive counterattacks with very raw troops at Lake Ilmen to buy time to fortify the outskirts of Leningrad.

**July 16<sup>th</sup>:** Soviet troops are pocketed north of Leningrad at Sortavala and in the Ukraine south of Uman. General Weygand is appointed governor of Algeria. Hitler, Bormann, Goering and Rosenberg (the fuzzy Nazi ideologist) meet to plan policy for the administration of territories taken from the Soviets. Prince Konoye resigns to form a new cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> in a bid to remove his foreign minister, Matsuoka who favors war with the USSR over action in southern Asia.

**July 17<sup>th</sup>:** Political commissars are restored to Soviet units in a bid to stiffen resistance; the Germans gain a lodgment on the east bank of the Dnepr near Mogilev.

**July 18<sup>th</sup>:** Britain formally recognizes the Benes government in exile as the true Czech government, while the Soviets sign a treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance with it. The Japanese government is reformed with Matsuoka (and his diplomatic views) excluded from the cabinet.

**July 19<sup>th</sup>:** The Battle of Smolensk ends but Hitler diverts Guderian's Panzer group (currently dealing with a counter-attack by Timoshenko's 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Armies) to the battle for Kiev instead of directing them further along the road to Moscow. Hoth moves on from Vitebsk towards Yartsevo. "V for Victory" takes on wider recognition as symbol inside Europe with a BBC broadcast (Morse Code for 'V' is dot-dot-dot-dash). The US Atlantic Fleet deploys 25 destroyers around Iceland while Navy PBY Catalinas and Army P-40s are flown in to supplement its defences.

## **The Disastrous British M-Class Submarines**

Feb 17, 2016 Joris Nieuwint



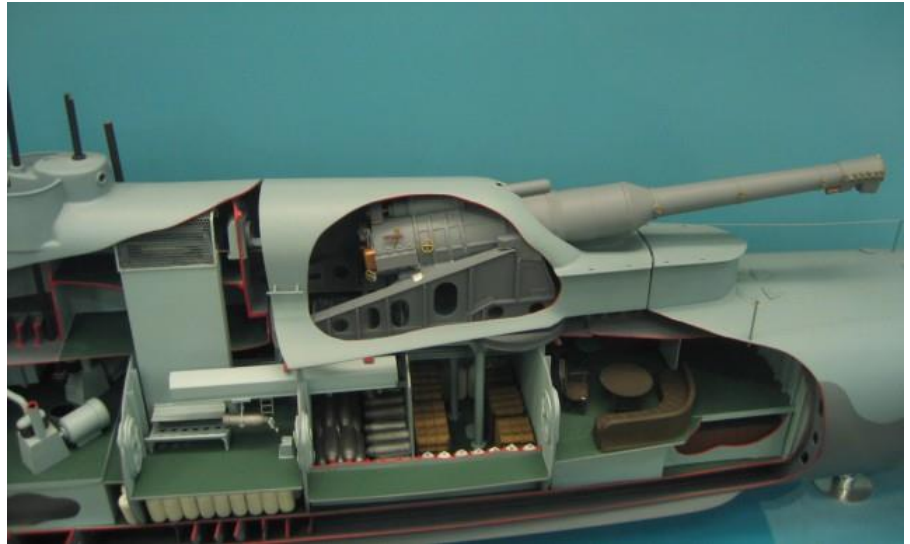
*M1 with 12-inch Gun* ©  
IWM (Art.IWM ART 3065)

During the last months of the first world war, the Royal Navy built the M-Class submarines, sometimes called submarine monitors. These were diesel-electric submarines with a rather unique feature; they had a 12-inch gun mounted in a turret forward of the conning tower and the M-class submarines are. They were initially intended to bombardment the enemies coast, but their role had been changed before detailed design begun. The new idea was that the submarine could engage merchant ships with the gun while remaining at periscope depth. Alternatively, it could surface and fire the gun, rather than with the use of torpedoes. At that time, torpedoes were considered ineffective against moving warships at more than 1,000 yards distance.

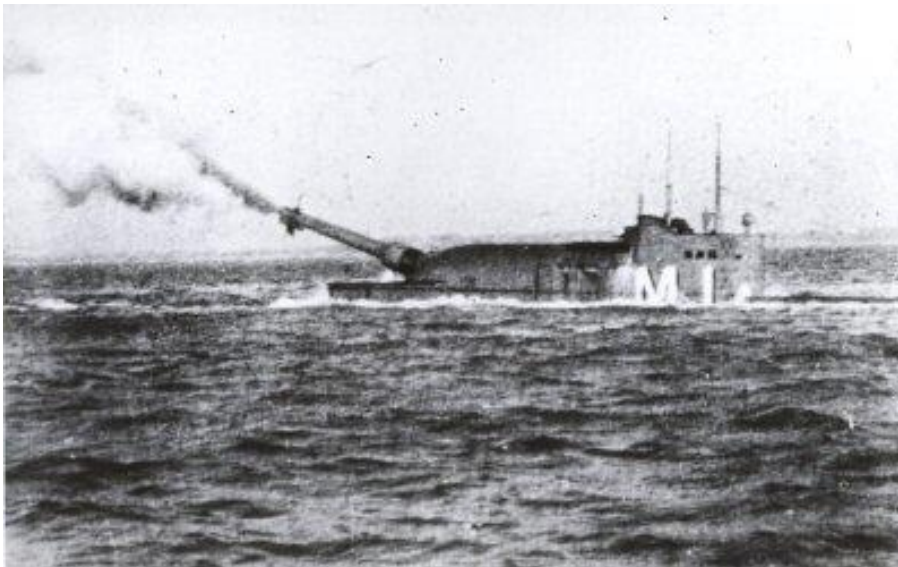
A 12-inch gun fired at a relatively short range would have a flat trajectory simplifying aiming, and few ships would be expected to survive a single hit. The 12-inch guns, Mark IX guns were

taken from spares for the Formidable-class battleships which were all obsolete by the end of 1919. The mounting in the tower allowed them to elevate by 20 degrees, depress 5 degrees and train 15 degrees in either direction from the centre line. The weapon was normally fired from periscope depth using a simple bead sight on the end of the gun aligned with the target through the periscope at a range of around 1,000 yards. The exposure time of the gun above the surface was around 75 seconds. A drawback was that the submarine had to surface to reload the gun, which would take about 3 minutes.

*Sectioned model in the Science Museum, showing the 12 in (300 mm) turret, by Andy Dingley CC BY-SA 3.0 / Wikipedia*



In practice the concept was not very successful and only three of the four M-class boats ordered were completed, all between 1917 and 1918. M1 and M2 also had four 18-inch torpedo tubes, M3 and M4 had 21-inch diameter tubes and were 3 metres longer to accommodate them. Due to the limitations imposed on submarine armament by the Washington Naval Conference in 1922, M2 and M3 had their guns removed. M2 was converted to carry a small seaplane and M3 was turned into a minelayer. M1 was the only one to enter service before the end of World War I but did not see action. She was captained during her sea trials by experienced submariner Commander Max Horton after his return from the Baltic. She was later lost with all hands while on exercise in the English Channel near Start Point in Devon after a collision with a Swedish collier, SS Vidar, on 12 November 1925.



*M1 Firing its guns*

A Swedish ship, SS Vidar, struck the submerged M1 and sank her in 70 m of water. The collision tore the gun from the hull and water flooded the interior through the open loading hole. The crew members appear to have tried to escape by flooding the interior and opening the escape hatch, but

their bodies were never found. The wreck of M1 was rediscovered by a diving team led by Innes McCartney in 1999 at a depth of 73 metres. Later that year the wreck was visited again by Richard Larn and a BBC TV documentary crew, and the resulting film was aired in March 2000.

M2 was converted to a seaplane carrier in 1925, a hangar replacing the gun turret. She was lost off Chesil Beach on 26 January 1932. It is thought that the hangar door was opened prematurely. Her entire crew of 60 was killed in the accident. The submarine was found on 3 February, eight days after her loss. Ernest Cox, the salvage expert who had raised the German battleships at Scapa Flow, was hired to salvage the M2. In an operation lasting nearly a year and 1,500 dives, on 8 December 1932, she was lifted to within 20 ft of the surface before a gale sprang up, sending her down to her final resting place. M2 lies in much shallower water, 32 metres deep with the top of the conning tower only 20 metres below the surface at low tide. She is a popular attraction for local scuba divers with as many as six boats anchored above her on busy days.

M3 was converted to a minelayer in 1927 with storage for 100 mines, primarily to test the mine-handling equipment of the Grampus class. The mines were carried on a conveyor belt which ran along her upper deck and covered over by an enlarged casing. The mines were laid through a door at the stern. M3 was set to be scrapped in 1933, but the date was brought forward after the unfavourable reports of her abilities as a minelayer, and she was sold out of service on 6 February 1932 and was scrapped at Newport in April 1932.

Submarine M4 was broken up before completion.

## **A Kafkaesque Fight to Enlist in the Canadian Forces**

CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD | July 5, 2016



*Jesse Miller's Canadian Forces recruitment process has thus far gone on for more than 480 days — and in all that time, he still hasn't had his medical.*

*Lars Hagberg for National Post*

A 30-year-old university graduate whose classical education taught him that “rights were granted on your willingness to die in the line of duty” and wants desperately to serve in the Canadian Forces before he’s too old has been met with rigid bureaucracy, raging incompetence and now by what appears to be a punitive cancellation of his long-sought-after interview and physical exam. “It’s frightening,” Jesse Miller said of his 16-month-long odyssey in a phone interview from Amherstview, near Kingston and only 100 kilometres from Canadian Forces Base Trenton, where he’d been scheduled for what’s called “aircrew selection” (or ACS) next week.

It was in part because of that two-pronged appointment — a medical and an interview — that Miller moved this spring to the Kingston area; his girlfriend also lives there. The appointment was abruptly cancelled after a frustrated Miller, learning that the CF had booked him a plane ticket from Vancouver to Toronto despite his repeated emails saying that he was now living in the Kingston area, finally lost his cool and blasted recruiting officials. “FOR THE LOVE OF GOD,” he wrote Gordana Aleksic, file manager for the CF recruiting centre in Vancouver, on June 29. “I DO NOT CURRENTLY LIVE IN VANCOUVER, B.C..!! WHAT GOOD IS A FLIGHT FROM VANCOUVER TO TORONTO ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> IF I AM CURRENTLY LIVING AND BREATHING IN AMHERSTVIEW/KINGSTON, ONTARIO!!” The very next day, June 30, Miller received a note from Sgt. Stephen Cobb, crisply telling him “you have been removed” from the ACS and “may be placed” in another slot at an undetermined “later date” by Kingston detachment. Aleksic apologized for “the inconvenience” the same day, but also hectoring him for not explicitly saying he had *moved* to Kingston, rather than saying he was “currently in Kingston.”

Miller admits he “reacted poorly after losing patience” with the interminable Kafkaesque process. The National Post has reviewed about 200 pages of emails between him and CF officials — he dealt with about five generic CF addresses, such as [info.vancouver@forces.gc.ca](mailto:info.vancouver@forces.gc.ca), as well as with about six individuals — and it’s clear that the outburst, such as it was, wasn’t typical. In fact, Miller repeatedly thanked Petty Officer Second Class Ken Rosadiuk, the one humane person he dealt with at the Vancouver recruiting office, and was patently grateful any time he received any personalized attention. But the mis-booked flight was just the latest in a spectacular series of miscues that also saw recruiters schedule Miller’s medical during the one month when he wasn’t available (he is a seasonal worker and was on contract at the time in Blue River, B.C.; again, officials ignored Miller’s repeated written notes that he’d be unavailable then), had him apply for several occupations that the CF website said were in demand but actually weren’t available, and saw him shuffled back and forth among bureaucrats who kept giving him mixed messages and who, with the notable exception of Rosadiuk, could barely rouse themselves to send anything but a form letter. The process has thus far gone on for more than 480 days — and in all that time, Miller still hasn’t had his medical.

He first applied to join the CF on March 9, 2015. He passed the CF aptitude test that May and received what’s called an “offer letter” to join the Forces. But the same notice that told him he was successful also told him that the career he sought — intelligence officer — “has no openings at this time” and that his application was now on hold. Miller then chose the pilot option — his test results qualified him to try for that, too — but even that hardly went smoothly, though in the end he was conditionally accepted for the Seneca College aviation program through the Royal Canadian Air Force. His treatment at the hands of the inept Canadian recruiting group shows that nothing has changed, let alone improved, since the National Post first reported in March 2014 on the disastrous state of recruiting. At that time, according to a draft report done in 2013 by the Defence Science Advisory Board, a private sector group which advises the Department of National Defence, it was taking an average of 166 days to process a

recruit — meaning from the time someone walked into a recruiting office until all the necessary boxes were checked. Miller has spent almost three times as long in the system.

That defence advisory board report warned the CF it was losing “eminently desirable candidates” to attrition, especially the smart young people such as Miller who are mobile and have plenty of choices. He is now working at a Kingston area bar, feeling punished for daring to question his treatment, but still hoping someone, somewhere, will give him a chance. “If citing me personally in your article has consequences for my other government applications,” he said in an email Tuesday, “then I guess I am mistakenly applying to morally and politically bankrupt institutions and Orwell is rolling in the grave.” He has emailed the Kingston detachment and asked to have his career choice changed to marine engineering

## **Transitioning CF Members into Civilian Life**

Posted by Webmaster on May 28, 2016 in Military

Time to Rethink How We Transition CF Members into Civilian Life By Sean Bruyea

[http://community.veteransofcanada.ca/forum/topics/transition-cf-members-into-civilian-life-la-transition-des-membre?xg\\_source=msg\\_mes\\_network](http://community.veteransofcanada.ca/forum/topics/transition-cf-members-into-civilian-life-la-transition-des-membre?xg_source=msg_mes_network)

Seamless transition is the latest buzzword for helping CF members and their families releasing into a new civilian life. Throwing money at the same programs while focussing principally upon the most severely wounded chips away but does not directly address the problem. We need a new model of transition that looks at the military experience of every current and prospective CF veteran and their families. Transition for all veterans has predominantly focussed upon employment. If the veteran is employable, then prepare and find him or her a job. If the veteran is not employable or suffers injuries, then offer medical care and compensation. Seamless transition begins this process well before release from the CF.

When leaving CF employment, finding new employment or likewise compensating and caring for the injured, if accomplished in a timely manner, should overcome transition barriers, right? We have forgotten that the military is not a job but a vocation, a way of life. Leaving one way of life in uniform for a very different way of life as a civilian requires far more than job training, job placement or even medical treatment: it requires life retraining. We conveniently overlook the tools we employ to change civilians into military members. Military indoctrination is the most powerful, legally-sanctioned means of manipulating a human being. The goal: to provide the most fail-safe means of ensuring Canadian citizens in uniform do what government wants including taking the lives of others while potentially losing one’s own life. This is known as unlimited liability. Yet government has demonstrated a very limited liability in transforming military members back into civilians. The indoctrination process occurs throughout one’s military career. Even the brief periods of basic training can result in individuals being profoundly, comprehensively, and irrevocably changed. Military indoctrination affects key aspects of emotion, perception and cognition, not just task-oriented, institutional behaviour.

Indoctrination also emphasizes the separateness of military members from civilians. How can a military member deeply indoctrinated to mistrust civilian forms of working, thinking, and belonging be expected to have a seamless transition into a new civilian life? Most would not be aware of how indoctrinated beliefs and skills that are beneficial on the battlefield are detrimental to a successful civilian life. Likewise, the self-reflection, broad innovation and creativity that are key to success in the private sector are cognitive features that are soundly suppressed in the military environment. Military socialization emphasizes a mission-mind where all relationships become judged based upon their contribution to or hindrance of a task. Friendships, family and work relationships become more about common goals and less about understanding and relating to one another. Mutually encouraged growth needed for deeper intimacy, stronger relationships and trust are subsequently diminished.

Job-seeking assistance or even job and/or education retraining are unlikely to reverse these effects. How do we create conditions to optimize the well-being of each and every veteran, past, present and future? If basic training is necessary to indoctrinate civilians to become military members, perhaps a reverse form of basic training can catalyze the transformation process from being military to becoming civilians once again. Self-reflection, caring relations and broader forms of thinking are the eventual goals. However, a course that expands awareness of the consequences of the military experience can open many doors for veterans and their families. Families along with civilians can join the transformation process encouraging veterans to feel like they intimately belong to the society for which they were willing to sacrifice everything. Just as military team-building suppresses important aspects of the individual during indoctrination, a parallel system of individual coaching would enhance the transformation process, optimizing the potential of each individual veteran. Socialization and other life skills coaching would complement financial, career and job-performance coaching. Homelessness, suicides, veterans in the criminal justice system, and disaffected injured veterans are symptoms, the tragic manifestations of poorly-understood civilian integration. Similarly, it would be short-sighted to assume that those veterans who remain hidden from the media are all optimizing their well-being, relationship and employment potential.

Eight years ago, I proposed a “Homecoming” course. The need is far more acute today. Let’s stop reinforcing failed or limited approaches. Let us remember the broader sacrifices of military service. Not only would each and every veteran benefit from Canada’s investment in their capacity but Canadians would benefit from the return on the investment we make in our veterans and their families.

## **Who is it?**



**Last Week:** This gun is a 12 pdr Hotchkiss, used in the AMTB role at Siloso Point, Fort Siloso, Sentosa Island, Singapore. It's actually a replica, and now sits minus several bits taken by Mainland Chinese tourists (Singaporeans blame all that is bad on Mainlanders these days).

See <http://www.fortsiloso.com/guns/point/gun.htm>

**This Week:** This issue marks the 150<sup>th</sup> quiz since we began at the suggestion of MGen (ret'd) Stu McDonald. The original purpose was to identify people in photos held by our museum. However, we quickly discovered that if the photo is more than fifty years old, identification is basically nil. More recent photos of former members of the regiment have been identified courtesy of LCol (ret'd) Leon Jensen's on-line efforts, so, the focus has gradually shifted from people to things.



And, this week's "thing" is a good example of such. At first glance, one might think that this photo belongs in a naval publication, and, to a certain extent, one would be right in harbouring such a thought. However, this torpedo-like object, which, to be honest, is a torpedo, has a close connection with the Royal Regiment and things that go bang in the night and in the

day, everywhere.

Your task, dear sleuths, is to identify this pointed object, precisely (viz. the name of the inventor, etc.), and to tell us where we might find one, should we be in the mood to do so. I'll let you in on a secret: this one is a replica, but the cave in which it sits is authentic. You might want to guess where the replica sits, too. Your investigative results can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Thanks to all who have played along for the last 150 quizzes. We might have energy for another few.

### **From the 'Punitary'**

What do you call Batman disguised as a pastry chef? The Crepe'd Crusader.

### **Murphy's other Laws**

When the need arises, the tool or object closest to you becomes a hammer.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Compromise, if not the spice of life, is its solidity. It's what makes nations great and marriages happy. Phyllis McGinley



## "Photographs Required"

1960 – To present

"History of the **Gunners of Canada Vol 3**" urgently needs relevant photographs about units, equipment, memorable events including ceremonial, and unusual tasks or activities. To date only 2 units 5eRALC and 6eRAC have provided material. Some individuals have also contributed. 1 RCHA can be covered by persons in contact but most are pre-1980.

Please submit up to 20 suitable photographs per unit or individual with detail of activity/event, location and date, description of equipment, source (who took the photograph). Pictures should be a minimum of .300 dpi where possible. We assume that all submissions may be used - no copyright limitations, etc.

The design of the book will be firmed up by September 2016. Material received after that might not be usable.

Please email submissions by 31 August 2016 to [dtomaso@rogers.com](mailto:dtomaso@rogers.com) or mail to:

Tom Tomaso  
1681 Boisbriand Cres,  
Orleans, ON K1C 4V6

Tom Tomaso  
Vol III Committee Member

# OKANAGAN



# MILITARY TATTOO

## KAL TIRE PLACE Vernon, BC

Saturday  
July 23, 7pm

Sunday  
July 24, 2pm



## TICKETS & INFORMATION [www.okanagantattoo.ca](http://www.okanagantattoo.ca)

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# **SAVE THE DATE**

**15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment,  
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery  
Officers' Mess**

**St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night**

**Saturday 3 December 2016**

**1800hrs for 1900hrs**



# Boundary Bay Airshow 2016



People of all ages have a fascination with flying. There is something about "taking to the skies" that challenges and excites. While we may never have the experience of flying our own planes, we can share in the thrill of seeing others do it. The Corporation of Delta and Alpha Aviation are proud to sponsor the Boundary Bay Airshow on Saturday, July 23, 2016.

As one of the few remaining free admission airshows, this event holds an **appeal for people of all ages. From children's activities and delicious food** options, to the non-stop excitement in the skies, there truly is something for everyone!

You are encouraged to bring your folding chair, sunglasses, sunscreen and hat. Remember, the Boundary Bay Airport is located next to the ocean and can be windy throughout the day. A windbreaker can be a great addition to your backpack.

We look forward to presenting you with a great experience that incorporates our slogan of "flying, family and fun."