

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 12, 2020

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.

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

May 13 RUSI Vancouver virtual presentation - Canada and the Cold War - 5

May 20 RUSI Vancouver virtual presentation - Canada and the Cold War – **Final?**

Everyone stay safe!!

World War 2 – 1945

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

May 13th: Elements of the 40th US Division capture the Del Monte Airfield on Mindanao. An aroused Gurkha is a deadly foe, as 31 Japanese soldiers learn with fatal consequences in a night attack on the 8th Gurkha rifles at Taungdaw, Burma. The first rifle pit they encounter is manned by Lachhiman Gurung. He has thrown two Japanese grenades back at his assailants, but the third blows up in his right hand, removing his fingers, shattering his arm and peppering his face and leg with fragments. His two comrades are even more severely wounded, leaving Rifleman Gurung to fight on alone, using his rifle with one hand... which he does repeatedly for four hours. With the dawn, he is relieved of his post and evacuated. He is awarded the Victoria Cross.

May 14th: Kapitan Wolfgang Luth is one of Germany's greatest submarine aces and a recipient of the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves, Swords and Diamonds. He has made 15 cruises in U-Boats and been at sea in submarines for 600 days. While the British Army has just arrived in Flensburg, the German U-Boat base on the Baltic, the Germans are still running things and tonight, Luth is accidentally shot by a German sentry. The British town commander gives permission to Admiral Doenitz to stage the last Nazi funeral for one of the Reich's heroes. Doenitz

delivers the eulogy and Luth's honour guard is made up of six submariners who also wear the Knights Cross.

May 15th: The last major surface action of the war is fought off the Nicobar Islands as a Japanese supply convoy is attacked, and the cruiser Haguro is sunk by British destroyers. The Japanese on Okinawa continue to expend much of their strength in shoring up the Shuri Line on Okinawa. The 6th Australian Divisions operations against the long-isolated Japanese of 18th Army in New Guinea sounds like it should be a push-over, but ragged, sick and starving Japanese still have lots of ammunition and no compulsion to surrender just yet. When his company assault on a Japanese defensive position near Wirui mission stalls in the face of intense machinegun fire, Private Edward Kenna stands up in plain sight with his Bren gun and engages the heavy machinegun with bullets zipping around him. When the Bren runs out, he takes a rifle and kills the Japanese machine-gunner with a single shot, and then immediately does the same with a second gun as soon as it opens up on him. This lets the company go forward into a highly successful assault and makes Kenna the recipient of the Victoria Cross.

May 17th: The carrier USS Ticonderoga has a training exercise with live Japanese in a raid on the enemy held islands of Taroa and Maleolap in the Marshall Chain. These long-bypassed Japanese garrisons need to be raided occasionally, and it is a good way of working up new carriers. In four days of fighting at the base of Sugar Loaf Hill on the Shuri Line in Okinawa, Corporal James Day USMC repulsed numerous Japanese counterattacks on his position despite numerous wounds and has crawled through heavy fire to rescue four comrades. When relieved on this day, 100 Japanese are found dead in front of his post. He is awarded the Medal of Honor.

May 18th: The 6th Marine Division finally takes Sugar Loaf Hill, one of the key points of the Shuri Line.

May 19th: The Ipoh Dam sector of Luzon is finally secured.

Why did the National Socialists in Germany call themselves Nazis

Rick Edmondson, City of London School (Adapted from the book, *The Etymologicon* by Mark Forsyth.)

It is funny, but Hitler didn't call himself a *Nazi*. Indeed, he became quite offended when anyone did suggest he was a *Nazi*. He would have considered himself a National Socialist. *Nazi* is, and always has been, an insult. Hitler was head of the catchily-named *National-sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* (National Socialist German Workers' Party). But he hadn't thought through the name properly. You see, his opponents realised that you could shorten *Nationalsozialistische* to *Nazi*. Why would they do this? Because *Nazi* was already an (utterly unrelated) term of abuse. It had been for years. Every culture has a butt for its jokes. Americans have the Polacks, the English have the Irish, and the Irish have people from Cork. The standard butt of German jokes at the beginning of the twentieth century were stupid Bavarian peasants. And just as Irish jokes always involve a man called Paddy, so Bavarian jokes always involved a peasant called *Nazi*. That's because *Nazi* was a shortening of the very common Bavarian name Ignatz (Ignatius). This meant that Hitler's opponents had an open goal. He had a

party filled with Bavarian hicks and the name of that party could be shortened to the standard joke name for hicks. Imagine if a right-winger from Alabama started a campaign called *Red States for the Next America*. That's essentially what Hitler did.

Hitler and his fascists didn't know what to do about the derogatory nickname Nazi. At first, they hated the word. Then, briefly, they tried to reclaim it. But once they got to power, they adopted the much simpler approach of persecuting their opponents and forcing them to flee the country. Refugees started turning up elsewhere complaining about the Nazis, and non-Germans of course assumed that this was the official name of the party. Meanwhile, all the Germans who remained in Germany obediently called them the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, at least when the police were listening. To this day, most of us happily go about believing that the Nazis called themselves Nazis, when in fact they would probably have beaten you up for saying the word. So, it all goes back to the popularity of the name Ignatius. The reason that Ignatius was such a common name in Bavaria is that Bavaria is largely Catholic and therefore very fond of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, better known as the Jesuits.

'Paint' that Purports to Regrow Wounded Troops' Bones

Moving Toward FDA Testing *Dorothy Mills-Gregg Military.com 20 Feb 2020*



Medics talk about how to help a simulated victim's leg injury during a mass casualty exercise Feb. 5 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

(U.S. Air Force/Samuel King Jr.)

The latest proposed bone regenerative therapy is a paint-like substance that coats implants or other devices to promote bone regrowth. It's designed for use in treating combat injuries and lower back pain, among other issues. After

about \$9 million in grants from the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, the substance, called AMP2, made by the company Theradaptive, is moving onto the next trial phase, a step ahead of testing on humans. Creator Luis Alvarez, a retired Army lieutenant colonel who served a year in Iraq, said coating an implant is much better than the current, more dangerous therapy for bone regrowth. "Without this product, the alternative is to use the type of protein that is liquid," Alvarez said. "And you can imagine if you try to squirt a liquid into a gap or a defect in the bone, you have no way of controlling where it goes." This has caused bone regrowth in muscles and around the windpipe, which can compress a patient's airway and nerves leading to the brain, he said.

AMP2 is made out of that same protein that promotes bone or cartilage growth in the body, but it's sticky. It binds to a bolt or other device to be inserted into the break, potentially letting surgeons salvage limbs by reconstructing the broken, or even shattered, bone, Alvarez claims. He said veterans could find the new product beneficial as it may be used in spinal fusions to treat back pain or restore stability to the spine by welding two or more vertebrae together. According to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the goal of this surgery is to have the vertebrae grow into a single bone, which is just what AMP2 is intended to facilitate. Alvarez created his product after finding out halfway through his career that wounded soldiers he served with ultimately had limbs amputated because they couldn't regrow the tissue needed to make the limbs functional. "To me, it felt like a tragedy that that would be the reason why you would lose a limb," he said. "So when I got back from Iraq, I went back to grad school and the motivation there, in part, was to see if I could develop something or work on the problem of how do you induce the body to regenerate tissue in specific places and with a lot of control?"

Alvarez, who graduated from MIT with a PhD. in Biological Engineering and a Master of Science in Chemical Engineering, said AMP2 has shown a lot of promise: A recent test showed bone regrowth that filled a two-inch gap. And its potential is not limited to combat injuries, he added. "The DoD and the VA are actually getting a lot of leverage from their investment because you can treat not only trauma, but also aging-associated diseases like lower back pain," Alvarez said. "It's going to redefine how physicians practice regenerative medicine."

The Pandemic Could End Up Changing Everything

— Including the Military. *Murray Brewster · CBC News · Apr 26, 2020*

Governments are getting used to calling in soldiers when domestic disaster strikes



A member of the Canadian Armed Forces arrives at Residence Yvon-Brunet a long-term care home in Montreal, Saturday, April 18, 2020, as COVID-19 cases rise in Canada and around the world.

(Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press)

It's safe to say that the Canadian military plans for just about everything. It's also safe to say that nowhere in the dusty stacks of military strategies for various hair-raising scenarios shelved in the Department of National Defence (DND) is a plan for sending soldiers to long-term care homes to backstop failing provincial systems. Hospitals, maybe — not seniors' homes. But pandemics have a way of re-ordering priorities. Which explains how a niche project — one of those nice-to-have items of equipment the military keeps on its wish list — can suddenly rocket through the ponderous federal procurement maze in a matter of days.

Earlier this month, DND put out a request for proposals for delivery of a "biocontainment aeromedical evacuation system" — a gadget developed and refined by the U.S. Air Force in the aftermath of the Ebola crisis of a few years back. Back in normal times (ie: a few weeks ago) such a specialized piece of kit — which is used to transport people infected with highly contagious diseases and is meant to slide inside C-17 Globemaster and C-130J transport planes — was far, far down on the list of procurement priorities for an air force that has struggled for more than a decade to replace its fighter fleet. Nothing focuses the mind like a crisis, however. Within the military and the larger defence community, there's a growing debate over whether the novel coronavirus pandemic, and governments' extraordinary responses to it, represent a watershed moment — or simply a ghastly one-off event that will soon be forgotten. That debate is posing some large questions. Is this pandemic going to force Canada to redefine what we consider to be 'national security'? And if pandemics remain a lingering threat, how and when should the military be employed to respond?

If you ask Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, he'll say the place for troops is not in nursing homes. "We shouldn't have soldiers taking care of seniors," he said Thursday. "Going forward, in the weeks and months to come, we will all have to ask tough questions about how it came to this." He was talking about the political and public policy decisions that left long-term care homes so vulnerable to a global pandemic. In Ontario, 573 residents of long-term care facilities have died of the pandemic — 75 per cent of the province's death toll. In Quebec, 1,045 residents have died — that's nearly 80 per cent of the provincial total. It could be argued, however, that the provinces are simply taking advantage of a backstop the federal government offered when the military stood up its immediate response units (IRUs) across the country, under a mandate of providing "humanitarian support, wellness checks and natural disaster response."

A recent paper by the Conference of Defence Associations Institute put its finger on the relevant point by arguing that the military is a well the federal government has repeatedly drawn from over the last five years. "The pandemic represents a symptom of a larger trend affecting the CAF, namely the increasing demand from Canadian governments for support during domestic emergencies," said the paper. "The CAF has seen a 1,000 per cent increase in requests to assist civilian governments in supporting cleanup after natural disasters over the past four years."



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Troops build a wall of sandbags to protect a home from the flooding Ottawa River in Constance Bay, Ont., on Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

(Justin Tang/The Canadian Press)

Retired MGen Denis Thompson said the request for troops in nursing homes likely caught planners off guard. "As they like to say, the military is the force — or choice — of last resort with respect to domestic operations," he said. "The provinces are looking for strong arms to do some work. The military will plug the gap until volunteer organizations step up" to help in nursing homes. It's not what most people expect the military to do, Thompson acknowledged. And that's

the rub. The country's top military commander, Gen. Jonathan Vance, suggested last year that the increase in calls for military support for the government is prompting him to re-think the structure of the Armed Forces. The pandemic could accelerate that re-evaluation. Separately and distinctly, Thompson said, the lesson about having the right equipment at hand should not be forgotten. "Our assumptions before the pandemic, that we would have the appropriate protective equipment in the civilian world, have gone awry," he said. The aeromedical medical evacuation system, Thompson said, could be used on medical evac missions in the Far North, where civilian pilots might not be willing to fly.

Retired LGen Ken Pennie said casualty evacuation has long been part of the air force's mandate, but noted the new system is an "upgrade" for a special set of circumstances. "Other than being more up to date, it is the ability to isolate that is new," said Pennie, the former commander of the air force. The COVID-19 crisis has unleashed some outside-the-box thinking among people and institutions normally accustomed to safe, incremental planning and purchases. And it could change the way a lot of institutions in this country approach their work — including the military.

Hawkeye Mobile Weapon System (MWS)

DEVELOPERS – AM General and Mandus Group

The Hawkeye weapon system offers a maximum firing range of 19.5km.

Hawkeye is a lightweight mobile weapon system (MWS) developed by AM General in collaboration with Mandus Group. It integrates an M20 105mm cannon aboard the M1152A1 HMMWV (Humvee) platform. The self-propelled howitzer is designed to defuse and destroy both land forces and fortifications in either indirect or direct fire mode. Hawkeye howitzers are in service with the US Armed Forces. AM General unveiled the Humvee-based Hawkeye MWS at the AUSA 2016 defence exhibition. The howitzer was also exhibited at the International Defence Exhibition & Conference (IDEX) show in Abu Dhabi in February 2019. The Illinois Army National Guard deployed Hawkeye systems during a simulated drill conducted at Camp Grayling in July 2019.

Hawkeye mobile weapon system is based on a Humvee vehicle, which features a forward crew cab and a rear cargo platform mounted with the 105mm howitzer. The MWS integrates hybrid soft recoil technology, which ensures lower carriage loads, resulting in up to 50% lighter carriage structures when compared to conventional recoil systems. The recoil technology also allows the weapon to match the characteristics of the vehicle. A vertical sliding breech block at the rear of the carriage structure ensures uninterrupted loading and firing of standard NATO 105mm rounds in all elevations and traversing conditions. The Hawkeye 105mm howitzer is operated by a crew of four and can be prepared for firing in less than two minutes. The compact design of the Hawkeye MWS enables a small logistic footprint. The weapon system requires lower maintenance costs as its critical components or assemblies can be replaced at the unit level.

The M20 105mm cannon of the Hawkeye MWS is mounted on a circular platform for 360° firing. Equipped with a digital fire control system, the elevation and azimuth angles of the cannon are electronically controlled. The 105mm gun can fire high-explosive and illumination rounds,

rocket-assisted projectiles (RAP), high-explosive performed fragmented (HEPF) rounds, and smoke cartridges. Two hydraulic jacks at the front and two large spades at the rear of the vehicle are lowered on the surface to make the system ready for firing. Hawkeye's shoot-and-scoot capability enables the crew to escape from counter-battery fire and other aggressive and offensive actions by hostile forces. The gun system offers a range of 11.6km with standard ammunition and 19.5km with rocket-assisted projectiles. It ensures a maximum range of 2,000m with direct fire rounds. The maximum rate of fire is eight rounds a minute for three minutes, while the sustained rate of fire of the gun is three rounds a minute.



Hawkeye is a light-weight mobile weapon system based on Humvee vehicle.

Images courtesy of Maj W Chris Clyne, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs.



Hawkeye is a light-weight mobile weapon system based on Humvee vehicle.

Hawkeye howitzer's digital fire control system integrates an LN-270 inertial navigation system (INS), an MVR-700C muzzle velocity radar system, a DFS-02 direct fire camera system, an S67-1575-76 GPS antenna, and a DK10 gunner's display unit (GDU). The MWS also features an optical fire control unit equipped with M187A1 telescope mount carrying an M137A2 panoramic telescope.

The HMMWV platform is powered by a V8, 6.5l turbocharged diesel engine, which develops a power output of 190hp (142kW) at 3,400rpm. The engine is coupled to a GTP four-speed automatic transmission. The vehicle offers a maximum speed of 113km/h and a cruising range of more than 400km. It delivers superior off-road mobility over different terrain types to support multiple firing missions. The Humvee vehicle can negotiate grades of 40% and side slopes of 30%. Its angle of approach and departure are 48° and 39°, respectively.

View videos online on deployment and operation of the Hawkeye 105mm Howitzer.

<https://www.facebook.com/Military9Army/videos/542572683317470/UzpfSTQ4MTYyMjkwNTM0ODM3NDoxNTU1OTE3NTg3OTE4ODk1/>

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

We're trying to stay in touch with our members during these not-so-normal times. Our latest and greatest is our **Virtual Candle Light Dinner** on 23 May 17 at 1700 hours. Time to try on that Mess Kit and see if the COVID-19 pounds have had an effect! Thanks to Zoom, we might have some dinner guests from around the world. Check out the details here: <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/virtual-dinner.html>

Don't forget our other on-line events

VAA Virtual Lunch every Wednesday at Noon PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710845848>

No computer? No smartphone? Dial in to 778 907 2071 Canada Meeting ID: 710 845 848

RCAA Virtual Coffee every Sunday at 1600 PDT - <https://zoom.us/j/710752062>

No computer? No smartphone? Dial in to 778 907 2071 Canada Meeting ID: 710 752 062

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday. If you have any problems connecting, email me at president.vcrgunners@gmail.com

We've purchased the medal set. Please send your donation by cheque to Maj (Ret'd) Peter Moogk (Curator), 4645 W 6th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6R 1V8. Cheques or money orders should be payable to:- 15 Field Artillery Regt RCA Museum & Archives Society

Thank you [!https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/medal-purchase.html](https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/medal-purchase.html)

Second Lieutenant Lloyd's Ride Along Video is now on-line in our 2019 Yearbook. Isn't Yakima wonderful? <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2019.html>

Major Peter Moogk has been digging through some of his old Photo Albums and we've posted a few online in our 1979 Yearbook. There's Yakima again!

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yakima-1979.html> and Ft Lewis

<https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/fort-lewis-1979.html> Were you there? Send me photos!

Did you know that a former Commanding officer of ours submitted a design for the Vimy Memorial? It made the finals and a mock up was created. Check it out here. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1921.html>

We had a great Beer Call last Friday. There was a half dozen in the Officers' Mess and a half dozen in the Junior Ranks. Great conversation and nice to share a beer with some fellow Gunners. This month we have the Virtual Candle Light Dinner – Hope to see you there. We want to hear what's been happening with you and your family.

Who (or What) Is It?



Last Week: That is the 11th Machine Gun Bn, CMGC, marching east on Georgia Street around 1932. They are in front of the Devonshire Hotel with the old Vancouver Courthouse (now the Art Gallery) across the street. Past the Devonshire is the Georgia Hotel and in the far distance, the HBC store at Georgia and Granville. The 11th MG Bn was absorbed by the BC Hussars in 1936 which was subsequently converted to the 1st Searchlight Regt RCA

in 1939.

This Week: Having run out of photos of weird aircraft (actually, we do have a few more), the board of this column has decided to reach further back in time than the last century and test your knowledge of things more ancient. This week's photo is of this tall erection, standing alone, surrounded by verdant trees and grass, and stuff like that. Those of us from the coasts of this mighty dominion might at first assume it is a lighthouse, but such is not the case. Its sturdy walls are pierced with many windows, one of which appears to house an air conditioner, so, people in Vancouver would be led to believe it is a luxury condo. However, it is much older than any condo in that garden city, and probably much cheaper (and better constructed).



So, dear reader, can you guess what this structure is, and where it resides? Can you tell us what role it played in the history of our nation (for, to give you a major hint, it is Canadian)? Who were the players, and what was the outcome? Were any of you ever there, back in those days when travel was allowed? Send your musings to

the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Both of us are currently in our separate fallout shelters, but can still receive electronic mail on our computational machines when we raise our aerials through the 20 metres of concrete. Talk about social distancing!

From the 'Punitary'

Why are doctors always calm? Because they have a lot of patients.

Murphy's Other Laws

You can always hit what you don't aim at.

Quotable Quotes

Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever. - *Napoleon Bonaparte*

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 Wednesday lunches.

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

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

For details on downloading and setting up a Zoom account, see the **RUSI Vancouver** notice below



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.



Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Society

2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7
www.rusivancouver.ca

Engaging RUSI Vancouver Members and Friends with Virtual Presentations!

Every Wednesday – Next Session on 13 May 2020

Topic: Canada and the Cold War

By now everyone has had enough of living in the bunker and maintaining “social distancing.” RUSI had planned to present a lecture series this Spring, but that was not possible for obvious reasons.

As an alternate, and in the spirit of our RUSI mandate on education - and by using **Zoom** - we are presenting a series of online lectures every Wednesday by military historian Col. (Ret'd) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD. The 6-part topic is ‘Canada and the Cold War’. The first three sessions took place on April 15, 22 and 29.

The presentations continue on **Wednesday, 13 May** from **1:30 to 3:00 PM**. Subsequent sessions will be held on **May 20**. To participate, you need to register an account with **Zoom** – it is easy to do and it’s free. Here is the link to establish an account: <https://zoom.us/freesignup/>

Once you are registered, it is recommended that you download the application on your computer and sign on to the application. Here is the link to do that: <https://zoom.us/download>

We recommend that you download ahead of the scheduled date and time and play with the application a bit to become familiar with it. Keith Maxwell will host the sessions. He is familiar with the application and has implemented all the necessary precautions to keep the presentations safe and secure. If you wish to participate, register for the sessions by sending an email to both Cam Cathcart (lhccathcart@gmail.com) and Keith Maxwell (kdmaxwell@gmail.com).

Once you are registered, you will receive an invitation to join the sessions by email. That email will be sent out about two hours before the sessions start. Many of you participated in the Cold War in one way or another – come learn more about what happened in the biggest war we never fought! We look forward to you joining us on Zoom on Wednesday, 13 May.

Cam Cathcart, President