



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News April 14, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess holds weekly lunches, serving 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.

The dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Your guests are always welcome but don't forget to tell them about dress requirements BEFORE they come.

Parking around the Armoury is always a problem. Only the day staff are allowed to park in the vehicle compound and, with all the business establishments in the area, it is difficult to find a spot on 11th Ave. The new cargo and gun tractor vehicles have difficulty getting in and out of the compound so make sure you are in a legal parking spot and not blocking access. If you are illegally parked, there is a good chance you will get a ticket.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1915

April 5th – 23rd: Remained in this position (CROIX BARBETTE) firing on enemy's trenches and guns, [but] aeroplanes [were] very active and often stop us [from] firing. Very little night doings.

World War 2 - November 1940

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

April 15th: The British Guards Brigade lands in Norway.

April 17th: The cruiser HMS Suffolk causes much damage bombarding the Luftwaffe Airfield at Stavanger, then gets mauled by the German aircraft based there when retiring.

April 18th: French troops join a second British brigade landing at Andalsnes.

April 20th: The Luftwaffe has won complete air superiority over Norway and uses it to destroy the harbour at Namsos.

April 21st: The Norwegian defences at Lillehammer are enveloped by the Germans, forcing a withdrawal to the north.

DND 404 transferable to commercial license upgrades in Manitoba

Helmets to Hardhats Canada

In Manitoba, the Military Licence Upgrade Program will now allow for military members with DND commercial class driving permits certified by the Department of National Defence (DND) to upgrade their active Manitoba driver's license (if applicable) to permit operation of equivalent commercial class civilian vehicles without having to complete knowledge or road testing. Medical reporting requirements still apply.

Through this program, Manitoba Public Insurance will recognize the following Department of National Defence (DND) 404 licenses for upgrade to the equivalent Manitoba driver's license class:

- Class 1 (all combinations of tractor trailers)
- Class 2 (most types of buses, subject to approval)
- Class 3 (most cargo vehicles - except tractor trailers, subject to approval)
- Class 4 (emergency recovery vehicles, subject to approval)
- Air brakes qualified

The purpose of the program is to simplify the pathway to employment for military personnel who have completed active duty – many of whom have gained trades-related skills which will be an asset to Manitoba's workforce. Eligibility is extended to up to 90 days after retirement from the military.

Wounded Warriors Coming to Chilliwack

by Jessica Peters - Chilliwack Progress Jan 14, 2015



Bobby Henline, at bottom, goes for a tandem skydive. Henline is a war veteran who now performs stand-up comedy. He performed at a benefit for the Wounded Warriors Weekend on Valentine's Day in Chilliwack.

— Image Credit: Submitted Photo

A massive event that has brought together veterans each summer for the past three years is coming to Chilliwack. The Wounded Warriors Weekend, taking place July 31 to Aug. 3, is expected to draw in 250 participants to share in some much-needed relaxation, recreation and camaraderie. But more than anything, the weekend offers a chance for healing, and feeling a little less alone in the world. The focus is on those 'wounded warriors' who are dealing with

the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder. While the weekend first was started with war vets in mind, it now has grown to include a wide range of participants. RCMP members, members of the military, fire fighters, first responders and Corrections Canada employees are all welcome to take part in the activities of the weekend.

“It’s a self-healing weekend,” said organizer Bill Higdon. There are no counsellors at the ready, no overly structured plans to follow. But there will be plenty to do for those who come. Last year the event was held in Slave Lake, AB and the activities offered included golfing, fishing, a motorcycle rodeo, a large gala event, a dance and a wind up party. And none of it cost the attendees a dime. Everything from air travel from anywhere in country, to accommodations (at the Pacific Regional Training Centre’s Executive Hotel), to the recreation portion, meals and entertainment, were all offered free to those who attended. Post-traumatic stress can be debilitating, and can lead to depression and suicide. There were a reported 178 Canadian soldier suicides between 2002 and 2014 — 20 more than the number of armed forces members killed in action. While the rate is in line with the general population, it’s believed the common link in many of those deaths is post-traumatic stress disorder. Common complaints included excessive fears and anxiety, memories that won’t go away, cold sweats and anger. Even a car backfiring in a peaceful suburban neighbourhood can trigger flashbacks. And enough of these triggers can force the country’s strongest and bravest people to barricade themselves off from the world, their friends, and even their own spouses and children. But the tide may be turning, as post-traumatic stress, depression and suicide are becoming better studied and less stigmatized.

Talking about it really can help. And that’s really what the Wounded Warriors Weekend is all about. The organizing team is looking for partners to help make the weekend a success. The average cost to cater to each participant (including travel) is \$2,500. Covering the costs for the participants eliminates any financial barriers, as many of the Wounded Warriors are no longer employed. “We strive to bring more awareness to the Wounded Warriors Weekend that works to promote the healing of damaged souls with the combination of nature, music, compassion and renewed support,” the organizers said. Between now and the August long weekend, they will be hosting numerous fundraising events and accepting donations. Any money in excess of what is needed for the weekend will be forwarded to next year’s committee.

Saving the Vimy Ridge Dead

Researcher trying to find bodies of 48 Canadian soldiers before land developed.

MATTHEW FISHER, POSTMEDIA NEWS | July 10, 2014

NEUVILLE-ST-VAASTE, France — A race is on to try to locate and identify the remains of 48 Canadian soldiers whose bodies were inadvertently buried, then forgotten, 97 years ago during the battle for Vimy Ridge. There is urgency to the hunt: the regional municipality of Arras hopes to transform the potato field, where they are believed to have died in April 1917, into a building site for small factories to try to alleviate unemployment in this economically depressed part of northern France. Norm Christie of Ottawa, author of more than 20 books on Canada’s warriors in Europe, is convinced the soldiers of the 16th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, the

1st Canadian Army Division — usually called the Canadian Scottish — lie about six metres deep in rich soil a few kilometres from the famous ridge, where it is often said Canada came of age as a nation. “A Canadian Corps burial officer was to have arranged to have somebody bring them in, but for some reason they weren’t,” he concluded after poring over war graves record and official military accounts. Some of the dead were to have been taken to the nearby 9



Elms Cemetery. “Their crosses are there, but their bodies aren’t,” said Mr. Christie, 58, who worked for years for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Britain and France.

German Shrapnel shell bursts over a reserve trench, sheltering second-wave troops waiting to go forward during the attack on Vimy Ridge, April 9, 1917. George Metcalf Archival Collection, Canadian War Museum

which was never given a name, he pointed to a field near the highway to Neuville-St-Vaast. Give or take 30 metres or so, he reckoned this was where the soldiers, who were from British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario, would be found. “You figure this out by looking for statistical anomalies,” he said.

“All graves are registered and these ones weren’t, so these soldiers were never accounted for” in several Canadian cemeteries in the vicinity. They include one about 500 metres away, known as Zivy Crater, where 48 Canadians were buried together.

Canadian troops in the second wave of the attack on Vimy Ridge wait in a trench for the signal to advance. George Metcalf Archival Collection, Canadian War Museum



Mr. Christie runs personalized one- and two-week battlefield tours of France and Belgium for people passionately interested in the minutiae of where and how the Canadian Expeditionary Force fought. The goal at Neuville-St-Vaast is to locate the missing, identify them through

DNA analysis and give them a proper military burial in a new cemetery or in one of the existing Canadian cemeteries.

Killer Robots Pose Risks and Advantages for Military Use

Human rights groups to push for ban on lethal autonomous weapons at UN meeting next week.

By Kathleen Harris, CBC News Posted: Apr 09, 2015



*The kind of artificially intelligent soldier-robot from the futuristic movie *The Terminator* may be a long way off, but policy analysts are grappling now with limits on the military use of robots. (Herwig Prammer/Reuters)*

As Canada prepares to take part in international talks on so-called "killer robots" next week, documents obtained by CBC News show defence officials see risks but also military advantages to deploying deadly autonomous weapons. Records released under the Access to Information Act show officials at Foreign Affairs and National Defence are keeping an open mind as they carve out a Canadian position on the controversial systems — in spite of growing calls for a pre-emptive global ban. Lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) are not currently in use, but could eventually have the ability to select, target and engage in deadly attacks without human intervention.

Censored emails, reports and briefing papers released to CBC were prepared last spring when the first United Nations meeting was convened on the issue. One 17-page report outlines the Defence Department's "initial thinking" on the military, strategic, diplomatic and ethical implications, flagging moral questions but also potential benefits. That paper, which will help shape Canada's position on the issue, says the weapons "clearly promise" many of the same benefits as unmanned, human-controlled systems now in use — including limiting risks to military personnel, driving down costs, allowing penetration of enemy lines with little risk, and circumventing human shortcomings with faster response times and no fatigue or boredom. "In short, weapons at various stages of autonomy, including LAWS, offer military advantage in several clear — and perhaps also unforeseen — ways," the report reads.

On Monday, officials and experts from around the world will meet again at the UN in Geneva. Defence spokeswoman Ashley Lemire confirmed Canadian representatives will attend. "[Robots] don't get scared. They don't get mad. They don't respond to a situation with rage." — Steven Groves, Washington-based Heritage Foundation While Canada is not currently developing any lethal fully autonomous weapons systems, Lemire said Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) has an active research program on unmanned systems that informs policy on the opportunities and threats the technologies could pose. "As part of this work, DRDC is initiating research activity into ways to counter and/or defend against non-lethal and lethal autonomous weapons systems," she said, adding: "We would not want to speculate about potential applications of lethal autonomous weapons systems at this point."

Walter Dorn, a professor at the Royal Military College of Canada, has urged limits to ensure there is always an element of human decision-making in carrying out lethal force. No matter



how advanced the technology, there is always the potential for glitches and malfunctions with technology that could harm soldiers or civilians. "There is potential for great utility and great danger," he said.

In 2014, U.S. Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel, left, is briefed by Brad Tousley on the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency's ATLAS robot at the Pentagon. DARPA says Atlas is one of the most advanced humanoid robots ever built. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

But an international coalition of human rights activists, academics and security experts called the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots says that because technology is advancing so rapidly, world leaders must adopt a treaty to ban the weapons. Alex Neve, secretary general of Amnesty International Canada, said lethal weapons without human control — whether they're used for policing or military purposes — would violate international humanitarian law. "Allowing robots to have power over life and death decisions crosses a fundamental moral line: the killing of humans by machines is an ultimate indignity in a certain sense, and humans should not be reduced to mere objects," he said.

He sees a ban as the "only real solution." "Taking a wait-and-see approach could lead to further investment by states in the development of these weapons systems and their rapid proliferation in a new arms race," he warned.

The Defence Department documents point out that countries like China and Russia are "rapidly moving toward developing unmanned and autonomous systems," and that changes could revolutionize modern warfare. "Depending how technology progresses, it may be possible to fight a war without ever leaving North America or Europe," it reads, noting the potential for major shifts in power for high-tech countries in military alliances. The report also notes how the U.S. used robots in Iraq to clear explosive devices, and suggests those kinds of applications could be enhanced in future. "Fitted with weapons, robots could be used for house-to-house clearance operations in modern urban combat," the paper reads. "Unlike human soldiers, they could be programmed to 'shoot second' with high accuracy — or even give an enemy the opportunity to surrender after the enemy has fired his weapon — thus potentially decreasing civilian casualties and increasing the chance of capturing enemy combatants." The report also raises concerns about a potential arms race — and flags the danger if weapons wind up in the

hands of non-state actors or repressive governments. But legal concerns might be "somewhat misplaced," the report says, adding the driving force for a ban is more likely "an under-explored moral unease over giving machines the power to kill."

Steven Groves, senior research fellow with the Washington-based Heritage Foundation, said a ban would be premature. He said those pushing for a ban depict the worst-case scenario of an evil humanoid "Terminator-type" robot roaming through crowded cities, which is likely a long way off. He points to clear advantages machines have over human fighters. "There are a number of ways these things can be deployed where they may even be more accurate than humans. They don't get scared. They don't get mad. They don't respond to a situation with rage — and we've seen some tragic consequences of that happening in Iraq and elsewhere where ... a very human soldier reacts to a terrible situation and ends up killing a lot of civilians." Groves said the history of warfare is about putting more distance from the enemy — from the bow-and-arrow, to the cannon, to bombs, to drones. And while there are legitimate concerns it could escalate conflict, the opposite could prove to be true. "If the U.S. has developed weapons that are so accurate, so deadly, so thorough and can deploy them in a way that no U.S. soldiers are put at risk to effectively seek out and destroy the enemy — I wonder if I would start a war with the United States. I wouldn't start it very lightly."

5th (BC) Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery Band Concert

The 5th (BC) Artillery Regiment Foundation presents the "Annual Spring Concert of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery Band under the direction of CWO Frank Eigler". The concert will be held on Sunday 19 Apr 2015 - 2:30 pm - Alix Goolden Performance Hall, Victoria Conservatory of Music, 900 Johnson Street, Victoria BC.

Admission by donation. Great music, great fun. **See attached poster.**

Defense Connexion Newsletter

The Department of National Defence Outreach Department is publishing a monthly electronic newsletter that is most informative about ongoing activities and current issues of the Canadian Armed Forces. The March issue, for example, has articles on marine security ops centre, Ebola containment system, Canadian Armed Forces operational update, including Operation Impact in Kuwait (soon to include Syria), and our participation in the UN Stabilization forces in the Democratic of Congo.

The link to the newsletter is:

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/news-defence-connexion/index.page>

There is also a link you can forward your request to receive this newsletter directly.

Who is it?

Last Week: The **BTR-60** is the first vehicle in a series of Soviet eight-wheeled armoured personnel carriers (APCs). It was developed in the late 1950s as a replacement for the BTR-152 and was seen in public for the first time in 1961. BTR stands for *Bronetransporter* (БТР, Бронетранспортер, literally "armoured transporter")



We suspect that, because of the vegetation, the photo was taken in Ft Lewis. There was an OPFOR (Opposing Forces) unit in Ft Lewis to provide more realistic training scenarios. The OPFOR unit had quite a variety of Soviet equipment in its collection. No positive IDs on the soldiers.

This Week: Hey hipsters! Get on down and get groovy. This funky group of young people has a connection to the RCA, given that they are all attired in t-shirts bearing the regimental badge, and a scroll above that which might possibly name 15th Field, but is indistinct, even on the original print. Given the total lack of elegance in the fashion sported by these youths, the 1970s spring instantly to mind (the decade fashion forgot). Waist-high bell-bottoms seem to have come and gone, with little regret, save from sailors. Close examination shows that most, if not all, of these young people are of the female persuasion, with only the person in the centre appearing to be an adult.



So, funky hipsters, who are these people, and what is their connection to the army? Is one of them you, or your mother? Did one of these people rise to a high rank in the army, or maybe you married one of them and have little gunners now? Let us know by either contacting the esteemed editor, or the author, John Redmond

(johnd._redmond@telus.net). Power to the people!

From the 'Punitary'

Why do barbers make good drivers? Because they know all the shortcuts.

Murphy's other Laws

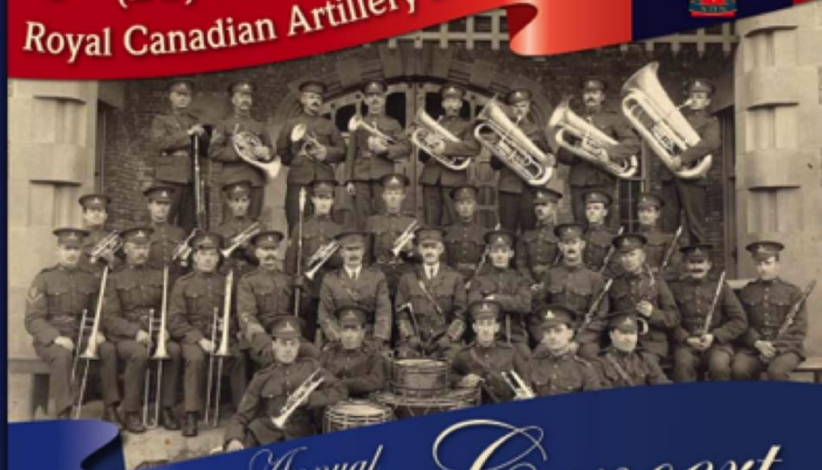
The intelligence of any discussion diminishes with the square of the number of participants.

Quotable Quotes

The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one, a criminal. *Erich Fromm*

Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment (RCA) Foundation
Presents the

5TH (BC) Field Regiment
Royal Canadian Artillery Band



Annual Spring Concert

Conductor
CWO Frank Eigler



Alix Goolden Performance Hall,
Victoria Conservatory of Music
900 Johnson Street • General admission by cash donation

Sunday April 19, 2015
2:30pm

Donated proceeds will go to the Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment (RCA) Foundation





The Buffalo Celtic Music Society proudly present a fundraiser for the
RCMP 'E' Division Pipes & Drums



Tartan Day Ceilidh

Come enjoy...

**Dinner, Dancing, Piping, Drumming,
Scotch Tasting & Silent Auction**

Featuring:

The Shot of Scotch Vancouver Highland Dancers

Saturday, April 25th 2015, 6:00 PM

Location:

Riverside Palace Banquet Hall, 14431 Knox Way, Richmond, BC

Tickets \$60

**Dress: Formal, tartan encouraged
(wear your tartan kilt, tie, scarf or sash)**

For tickets and information contact Brent Jette: 604-308-1424



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www.rcmppipeband.com



RECONNECT... WITH NATURE, FRIENDS, AND OUR 1 AIR DIVISION HERITAGE

Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre
in Parksville, BC; your premier resort destination on Vancouver Island, invites you to reconnect. All former 1 Air Division personnel and their "brats" are welcome!

Reconnect For The Weekend

- \$160 early bird before May 31st 2015 (\$175 after May 31st)
- Full Registration (Friday meet and greet buffet + Saturday breakfast + Saturday banquet and dance)
- Friday Only (Meet and Greet and buffet): \$90
- Saturday Only (Banquet and Dance) \$110

Activities

- Day trips on Saturday (Comox Air Museum, Little Qualicum Cheeseworks, Cathedral Grove)
- Memory Room: a gathering place for attendees to reconnect with our heritage as 1 Air Division. Chat, look at pictures, and reminisce
- Photographer: affordable portrait sittings and a group photo

Accommodation

Tigh-Na-Mara rates from \$139 standard room and \$159 deluxe room
Quote "10F2GG"

Stay longer and make it a holiday: these rates apply for 5 days before and 5 days after the reunion. <http://www.tigh-na-mara.com/>

Camping Options also available. <http://www.surfside.bc.ca/>
Mention "RCAF" for rates between \$25-35, full book-up

Travel

WestJet discount code "CC8679"

Register Online

<http://www.proreg.ca/events/rcdf/reunion/>

Or Via Mail (contact us for a registration package if you are not on email/internet)

Lorne/Jane Sundby
19 Ironwood Drive,
St. Albert, AB T8N 5J8
Phone: 780-909-1953



RCAF 1 AIR DIVISION REUNION

October 30-31, 2015

TIGH-NA-MARA
SEASIDE SPA RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTRE



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