



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Aug 16, 2016

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 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 3rd 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.

World War 2 - 1941

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

Aug 18th: The Soviets pull their troops in the south to the east side of the Dniepr while heavy fighting continues around Gomel, Narva and Novgorod. 'Darling, I remember...' "Lili Marlene" is aired for the first time by the German military radio station in Belgrade; and becomes an instant hit with the German forces in Africa and their British opponents are soon enthusiastically listening too.

Aug 19th: British and Canadian troops land on Spitzbergen to evacuate the civilians and demolish the mining operations there. The first British convoy is sent to the USSR, and includes a cargo of Hurricanes and the RAF pilots who will fly them around Murmansk. The Germans give a green light to an RAF bomber to drop something over one of their airfields - new artificial legs for Wing Commander Douglas Bader. A flying accident in 1931 had severed both of his lower legs, but Bader successfully re-entered the RAF at the start of the war and became a highly successful fighter-pilot with 20 confirmed kills of his own in 1940-41. Shot down over northern France, the Germans were impressed by the legless ace and made arrangements for replacement artificial legs to be delivered from Britain – they were less pleased when Bader used them to make the first of several escape attempts and he spent three years in the German maximum security POW facility at Colditz Castle.

Aug 21st: German troops sever the main rail link between Moscow and Leningrad at Chudovo, while Gomel is evacuated and the city of Kherson on the lower Dniepr falls into German hands.

Hitler orders the main effort of the Wehrmacht in Russia to be in front of Army Group South. The first Arctic Convoy to Murmansk from the UK sets out.

Aug 23rd: Major German offensives start the encirclement of Kiev as Army Group Centre's 2nd Panzer Group and 2nd Army are diverted south, although most Generals believe that this is a waste of effort that should be directed towards Moscow.

Seaforths Coming Home

By Robert SD Chown



As you may know there have been some good news rumours going around about Your Friends and Mine; The Seaforth Highlanders' of Canada, and the 72nd Seaforth Cadets' Return to "Our Home".

The Date is set for a hopefully large Parade to head out from Jericho HQ; march smartly along 4th Avenue to The Armoury by 11:00 am; so that our Canadian Flag may be raised

overhead in our new home.

Our friends from Jericho HQ will be moving soon after our return into a brand new building constructed on the former parade square at the back of The Armoury

Gen Wynnyk Assumes Command of Canadian Army

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen



On July 14, there was a change of command ceremony for the Canadian Army on Parliament Hill. Lieutenant General Paul Wynnyk assumed command of the Canadian Army from Lieutenant General Marquis Hainse.

During the ceremony on Parliament Hill a 17 Gun salute was fired and an M777 155 mm Towed Howitzer, a Light Armoured Vehicle 6.0 APC and a Buffalo Counter Improvised Explosive Device vehicle were also on display.

Military Escalation by Russia in Crimea Against Ukraine

By Franklin Holcomb and Kathleen Weinberger

Preparations for conventional conflict between Russia and Ukraine are accelerating and the likelihood of open war is increasing rapidly. Russia has prepositioned military forces along all of its common borders with Ukraine: to the north in Bryansk district, to the east near

Rostov, to the south in Crimea, and to the west in separatist-controlled Moldovan territory. Russian President Vladimir Putin has escalated hostilities after claiming that Ukrainian forces entered Crimea on 07 AUG. On 11 AUG, he mobilized additional forces in the separatist republics and to the south in Crimea. In response, Ukraine is beginning to redeploy forces to adjust to Russia's deployments, which may leave Ukrainian forces engaged in combat with Russian proxy forces in Donbas without access to adequate support and vulnerable to offensive operations. Russia has not yet articulated any clear political objectives or demands, making it impossible to determine on what negotiated basis the looming conflict might be resolved. Putin may be seeking to trigger a political crisis in Kyiv designed to topple Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The situation for now, however, is moving clearly in the direction of open conflict between Ukrainian and Russian forces in Donbas or elsewhere in Ukraine.

Russia began rapidly moving forces into Crimea and the Black Sea on 11 AUG:

- The Ukrainian Armed forces claimed that Russian troops stationed along the de-facto Ukraine-Crimea border have been reinforced by additional men and vehicles and have begun digging trenches.
- There have been reports of Russian convoys moving through Kerch at the crossing point between Russian and Crimea, in Krasnodar, and moving north through Krymsk towards Crimea.
- Bastion-P coastal defense systems were spotted heading towards Crimea from Russia.
- Russia announced that the Black Sea Fleet will hold drills in the Black Sea from 11-13 AUG.
- Russian naval and air units have been reported entering the Black Sea.
- Russia continued efforts to disrupt internet access in northern Crimea.

Russia has been engaged in a steady buildup around Ukraine:

- Russia escalated its military buildup on Ukraine's northern, eastern, and southern borders in August.
- The Moldovan Foreign Ministry strongly condemned aggressive military exercises held on Ukraine's western border with Russian regular forces and separatist troops in the pro-Russia separatist region of Transnistria on 08 AUG.

Ukraine took steps to adjust to Russia's redeployments as the international community examines the sides' competing claims on 11 AUG:

- Ukrainian troops are being deployed to the de-facto Crimean border and are on high alert.
- Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is increasing the readiness of forces in Donbas and on the de-facto border with Crimea.
- Ukrainian Naval Infantry and coastal artillery systems began live fire drills.
- The UN Security Council is hosting an emergency meeting on Crimea.
- U.S. and EU officials noted the lack of independent verification of Russia's claims about the alleged 07-08 AUG infiltration.

Russia's proxies in eastern Ukraine escalated rhetoric and offensive operations on 11 AUG in what may be an attempt to exploit Ukraine's military focus on other fronts:

- Leader of the pro-Russia Donetsk People's Republic Alexander Zakharchenko announced that the "terrorist state" of Ukraine is preparing an offensive against separatist forces in Donbas.
- Separatist forces began to rapidly increase the intensity of their shelling of Ukrainian positions during the night of the AUG 11 near the key port city of Mariupol according to unconfirmed local sources.
- Ukrainian intelligence reported that Russian paratroopers from the 331st parachute regiment rotated into frontline positions in Donetsk as Russia deployed additional artillery systems in Donbas.

Public Awareness of Canadian Military Drops

According to DND polling data *David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen* August 3, 2016



A Canadian Army reservist fires his machine-gun during exercises in 2009 at CFB Suffield, Alberta. Cpl Bill Gomm / Combat Camera

The Department of National Defence is still crunching its polling data for this year about how the Canadian public feels about the Canadian Forces. But sources tell Defence Watch that the numbers are similar to the data collected for 2014 (apparently there wasn't a final number crunching for data from 2015). And what did the polls taken by DND in 2014 show?

General awareness of the Canadian Forces is dropping. In 2006 as the Afghan war ramped up, awareness of the Canadian military peaked at 74 per cent of those polled (they were asked if they had recently seen, read or heard anything about the Canadian Forces?). By 2010 that had dipped slightly to 72 per cent. By 2014 it had plummeted – only 34 per cent of those polled said they had recently seen, read or heard anything about the Canadian Forces.) Numbers for this year are said to be about the same. The overall impression of members of the military was strongly positive (60 percent of respondents in the 2014 data). That has been constant at around the same number since 2006. That isn't expected to change with the latest data. Not surprisingly, the number of people with the opinion that the Canadian Forces does not properly care for its soldiers returning from overseas missions has increased from 20 per cent in 2010 to 38 per cent in 2014.

US Shows Off Its Strategic Muscle with Bomber Flights

CF-18s involved in flights to Arctic and Baltic Sea. *David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen*

August 1, 2016



US Strategic Command held its POLAR ROAR exercise which involved three non-stop sorties of three B-52 and two B-2 bomber aircraft to the Arctic, Northern Pacific and Baltic Sea, according to NORAD. The exercise is to test the force's "long-range global-strike capability" while training and integrating with key allies, such as Canada, noted the news release from NORAD.

Canadian and American fighter aircraft exercised intercept and safe passage escort procedures in collaboration with the exercise, NOARD added. "The training was conducted within the Canadian NORAD Region, Alaskan NORAD Region and Continental United States NORAD Region as US STRATCOM B-52s and B-2s conducted flights through each of the regions as part of their exercise POLAR ROAR," the command noted. "Intercept aircraft consisted of Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 fighters, as well as United States Air Force F-22 and F-15 fighters." That training was conducted within the Canadian NORAD Region, Alaskan NORAD Region and Continental United States NORAD Region the same time POLAR ROAR was underway.

The Official Tulip for Canada's 150th Anniversary is Unveiled

May 09, 2016



The *Canada 150* tulip, the official tulip of Canada's 150th anniversary, was unveiled today in Commissioners Park. More than 200,000 Canada 150 tulips are blooming across the National Capital Region this spring.

The *Canada 150* tulip's elegant white bloom with red flames bears a striking resemblance to our maple leaf flag. The National Capital Commission (NCC) has partnered with the Kingdom of the

Netherlands, Home Hardware, exclusive retailer of this special tulip bulb, and Communities in Bloom for the selection and distribution of the *Canada 150* tulip. During the sesquicentennial celebrations in spring 2017, 300,000 *Canada 150* tulips will be showcased in the NCC's flower beds, and thousands more will bloom in community gardens across Canada.

The public can purchase *Canada 150* tulip bulbs at participating Home Hardware stores nationwide as of September 2016, so they can enjoy the beauty of this special tulip as part of the Canada 150 celebrations in spring 2017.

Eric's Wartime Adventure

By Eric Mold

During WWII my sister and I were sent out of London to the safety of the tiny village of St Breward, in Cornwall where we became the wards of Charlie and Katie Johns a young, childless couple. A loving friendship resulted which remained long into our adulthood, until the passing of the last member of their family. Charlie was the chief whip of the local hunt. Since their cottage was close to the stables and kennels, most of our free time revolved around the horses and hounds. He was also a corporal in the Home Guard and a Frank Mussen was a member of his little five-man group. Frank only had one arm but he played the trumpet like Harry James, he also rode a motor bike – but not at the same time.

I was about 12 years old and very interested in the Home Guard's activities. Blindfolded, I could dismantle, and reassemble the old Browning machine gun they had been issued faster than anyone else. In those days, everyone was encouraged to take an interest in home defense. We had several 'exercises' in which two or three Bren gun carriers came whizzing down the lanes. People was asked to stand behind whatever cover they could find and lob a pair of rolled up old socks (supposed to be similar size to a hand grenade) into the carriers as they passed by. I don't know what it proved but it was fun. One very dark and rainy night, after the air raid sirens had sounded, we heard the throb-throb-throbbing noise the German bombers made as they passed overhead, probably on the way to Cardiff or somewhere like that. We went outside to see if we could see anything. Charlie and Katie's little cottage stood in the corner of a meadow, which fell away with an increasing incline to the valley of the fast flowing River Torridge. On the other side of the river, the terrain climbed away in a similar fashion. The bottom 50 – 100 yards of the meadow, on both sides were too steeply inclined for cultivation so remained heavily wooded. There had been much rain during the last few days so close to the river the ground was very muddy and slippery.

You can imagine the situation. There was total blackout, it was a pitch-black rainy night, and the sound of aircraft had just passed over. Suddenly we saw a bright light moving about on the far side of the valley. The invasion scare occupied everyone's mind in those days. Immediately the thought – could the planes have dropped parachutists? Was that light German airborne troops assembling? We had to find out. Charlie quickly gathered his five-man group, all of whom lived in nearby cottages, including Frank who had a pistol. They prepared to set out to investigate. I was too scared to stay at home with Katie and my sister and too scared to go with Charlie. In the end, I opted to go with him. At first, the going was easy as we trudged off into the darkness but as the incline increased, we started slipping and sliding all over the place. I was terrified, if the others were as scared as me they did not show it. We had the Browning machine gun, two old Lea Enfield rifles, a couple shotguns and Frank's pistol and between us. We slipped and slithered

our way along, eyes focused on the light, which was still flickering about a quarter of a mile from us. My imagination was running rampant as we reached the fast flowing River Torridge. I imagined several hundred crack Nazi Paratroopers forming up as part of the expected German invasion.

There was no bridge over the river, which was about 40'wide at that point. There were however a few large trees that had been felled across it from bank to bank. We had to find one of these and balance across the slippery bark, without a flashlight and with the men carrying their weapons. However, everyone made it and we began our climb up the opposite bank towards the light. We were all soaking wet and covered with mud from the many slips and slides. The closer we got to the light the more mystifying its movements became. If these were German troops assembling, they were being very quiet about it and there did not seem to be many of them. Very cautiously, we approached the source of the light. I was starting to feel some relief. Maybe it was just a downed pilot who I thought we could easily overpower. Finally, all was revealed. It was a farmer. Apparently, his chickens had escaped and he was trying to round them up. Did he ever get a bullocking from Charlie and his boys? I was so relieved but we still had to make our hazardous way back to the cottage.

It seems laughable now but Charlie and his little platoon, fragile, poorly equipped, untrained, without thought for their personal safety, sallied forth to take on Hitler's storm troopers. Throughout the British Isles, there were probably hundreds of similarly heroic incidents that have long since faded into history, never recognized and no longer remembered. But they all were also Heroes.

PS. Charlie, who was unfit for military service was subsequently sent to Bristol work in an aircraft factory.

PNE Admission

Heroes' Opening Weekend – **INCLUDES A FREE GUEST!**

11am - 10:30pm. **SATURDAY, AUGUST 20- SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**

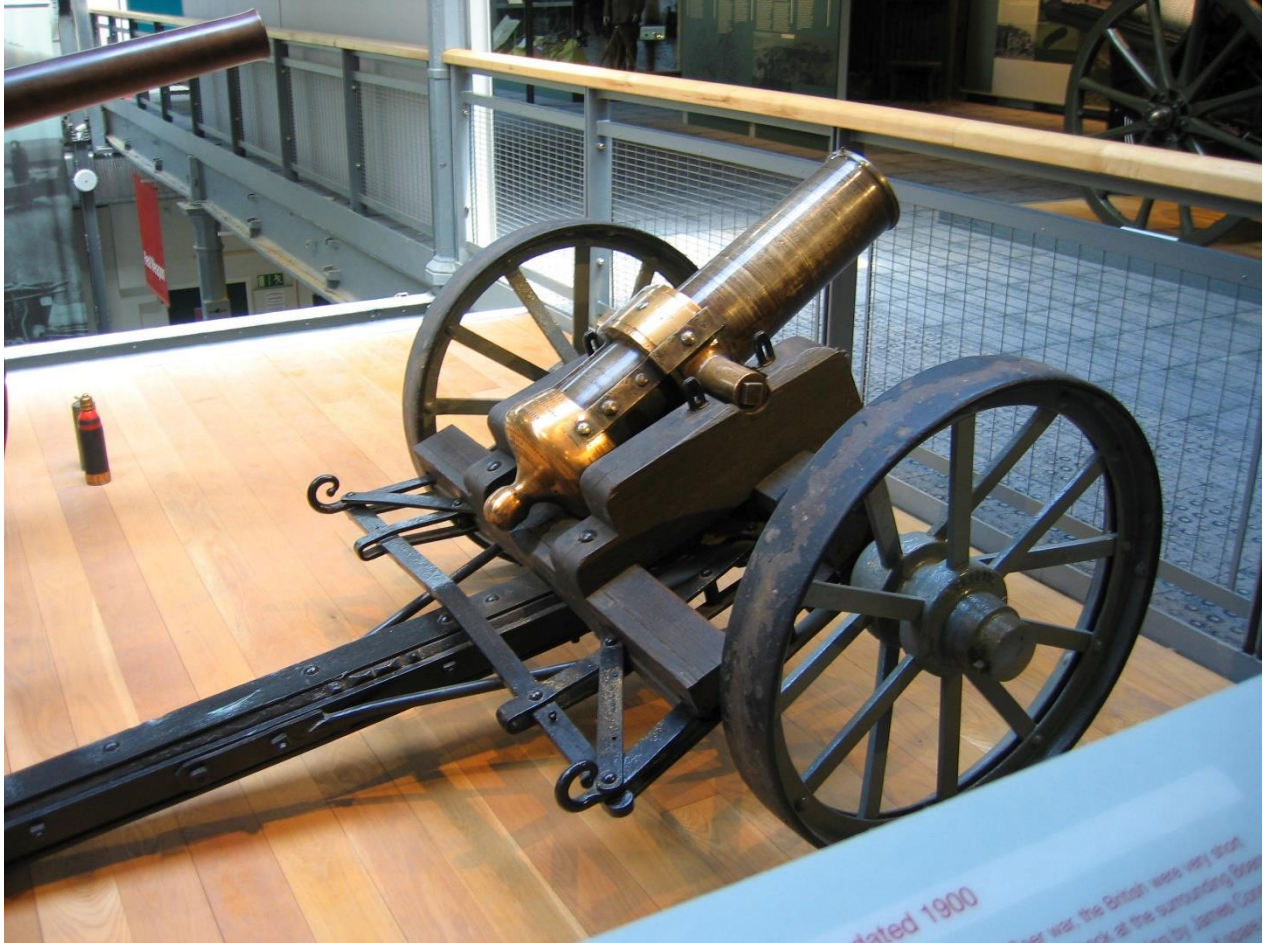
FREE gate admission for First Responders **and a guest**. Promotion is valid for current and retired military, police, RCMP, ambulance workers, firefighters, search & rescue and coast guards plus one guest. First Responder must present a valid First Responders service card at the gates. Guest does not require a service card. Only applies to gate admission. Internal fees may still apply.

Who is it?



Last Week: We didn't get a single bite on this quiz. We are pretty sure this event happened late in the war, somewhere in Canada, but we don't know what the trophy is, what it was for or who the people are.

This Week: This week, we return to our popular (for some of you) series on loud tubes. Some of you may have purchased Doug Knight's latest masterpiece, "Guns of the Regiment" (available from Service Publications), and I can assure you that this is one piece that is not in that excellent tome. However, the reason it is not included has nothing to do with scholastic deficiencies in research. The truth is that this gun never served in our Royal Regiment, nor in the mother Regiment (if I can use such sexist vocabulary). It is, however, intimately connected to the Empire (huzzah!) and all that she stood for.



Your task, dear reader, is to scout about to find an answer to the question: where, by whom, and for what purpose was this gun made? I'm sure you will dyb, dyb, dyb.

Answers can be sent to the author, Senior Sixer Bob Mugford, or to the author, Cub Johnny [johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)

From the 'Punitentary'

Where do dogs go when they lose their tails? To the retail store.

Murphy's other Laws

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Quotable Quotes

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder. – *John Glenn*

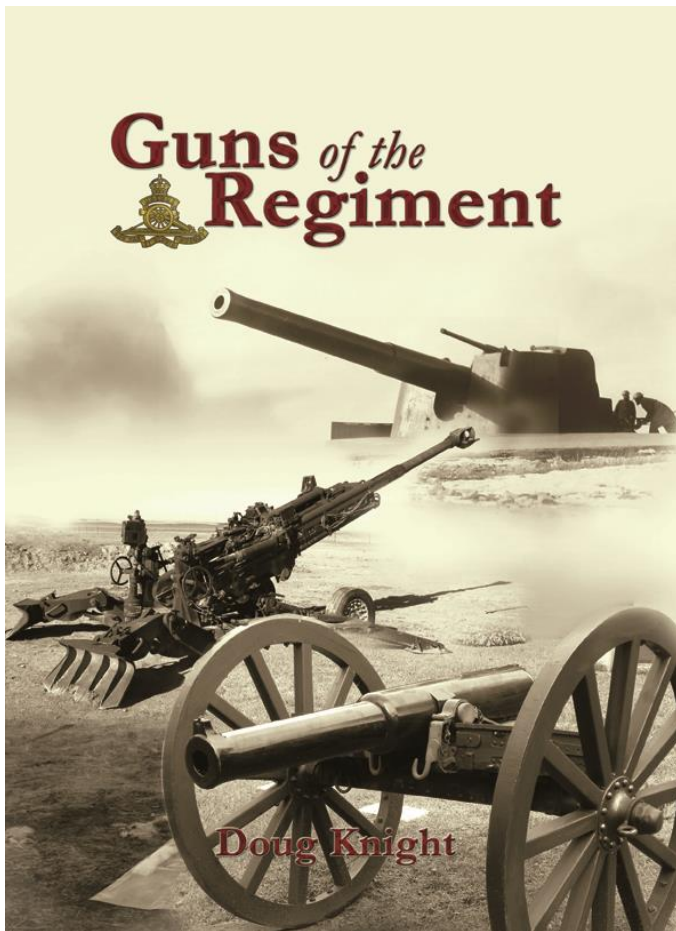
The
49th Marines
invite you to join them
as they gather to celebrate
the
241st
Birthday of the
United States Marine Corps

49th
MARINES

- DATE:** Saturday 5 November 2016
- TIME:** 1700 Hours (5:00 PM)
- PLACE:** Best Western Mission BC - "Rockwell's Banquet Room"
- DRESS:** MEN: Service Dress Uniform or Suit and Tie
LADIES: Formal, Semi Formal, Cocktail Dress
- COST:** \$85.00 per person
- RSVP:** With payment in full by: 15 October 2016

If You are interested in attending this event please email me at
Bob.mugford@outlook.com and I will forward more information.

LAST CALL! For "Guns of the Regiment"



I will be putting in the bulk order for this book shortly. If you want a copy and haven't notified me yet, email me ASAP.

Doug Knight, a good friend of our Association and Museum, has produced a book on the guns of the Canadian Artillery. 425pp, illustrated throughout.

Since Confederation, the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery has used more than 130 types of gun, howitzer, mortar, and rocket. Each gun was purchased or manufactured to fill a role in the defence of Canada, or in support of Canadian foreign policy. It then served with the Regiment, and was modified, modernized, or upgraded as necessary. Finally, it was transferred into the reserves, and later, a few retired in museums or as monuments.

"Guns of the Regiment" will be an invaluable resource to anyone with an interest in the weapons

used by the Canadian artillery. Each gun has its own section, detailing its development and its career in the Regiment at home and overseas. Special sections deal with the manufacture of the guns, the organization and operation of the Regiment, and the mechanization of the artillery in the 1930s. Every gun is illustrated by at least one photograph, many of which have never been previously published