

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 16, 2021

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get your copy.

Newsletter online. This newsletter and previous editions are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>. Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

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

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

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

Mar 17 Wednesday ‘Zoom’ Lunch meeting
Mar 24 Wednesday ‘Zoom’ Lunch meeting
Mar 31 Wednesday ‘Zoom’ Lunch meeting

BC Police Warn Scammers Calling to Book Fake Vaccine Appointments

Fraudsters asking for personal information to 'set up' fake appointment.

CBC News · Mar 12, 2021



Fraudsters are calling people to tell them they're next in line for a vaccine, and then asking them for personal information like their address and credit card details. (CBC)

Police in BC are again warning the public about scams related to COVID-19 vaccines. On Thursday, police in West Vancouver said its officers have seen multiple reports of fraudsters calling someone by phone and telling them they're next in line for a vaccine. The fraudster asks the person to provide some personal information, like their address and credit card details, to set up a "home visit" so they can get their shot. "At this stage [in the vaccination rollout], nobody will be calling you to set up a home vaccine appointment. If you receive a call like this, hang up immediately," said Const Kevin Goodmurphy.

Anyone who believes they've been a victim of fraud is asked to call police. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre has also received reports of more than a dozen scams and frauds linked to COVID-19 vaccines. The centre has stressed that the only way to access real vaccines is through clinics organized by your local public health authority. Immunize BC has also issued warnings about buying fake vaccines online. BC is currently in the second phase of its vaccine rollout plan, which is focused on protecting seniors. Those who are eligible for a vaccine have to call their local health authority to book an appointment — not the other way around.

An Army Marches on its Stomach

Electrothermal, a Bibby Scientific company – now Cole-Parmer
Defence Procurement International 2011



RAK15-2 Water & Ration Heater

In your next pub quiz when you're asked who first proclaimed that: "An army marches on its stomach", you have the choice of three answers: Napoleon Bonaparte, Frederick the Great of Prussia, or if you want to impress, Claudius Galen, chief physician to the Roman army. Yet whilst this proverb's origin is debatable, its truth is self-evident and timeless; without bodily sustenance, a military unit cannot function efficiently. Times

may have changed, but the human body has changed remarkably little. The body's mechanisms of energy production are complex, but it is an irrefutable fact that we require food and water for energy. Water is especially essential as our liver needs water to metabolise glycogen into useable energy and water is a primary driving force of energy production inside the cells, so that even the slightest loss of water makes us feel lethargic. Experiments conducted on athletes have demonstrated the potentially catastrophic effects of dehydration. Roughly speaking, for every 1% of bodyweight lost through dehydration, there's a corresponding 5% drop in performance. If dehydration reaches 4-5% of bodyweight, performance drops by 20-30% and a fluid loss of 9-12% can be fatal. Simply put, dehydration results in immediate fatigue and this can be the difference between success and failure in warfare. Times may have changed, but the human body has changed remarkably little.

Electrothermal has long recognised the importance of maintaining both the fluid and nutritional intakes of military personnel at optimum levels, and our range of RAK Water and Ration Heaters is designed to meet the exacting demands of modern mechanised forces worldwide. Our RAK Water and Ration Heaters provide potable hot water and heat MREs on demand, to give a hot meal and drink for personnel whether under combat conditions, on patrol, or back at base. They are rugged, manufactured to withstand the harshest environments and can be installed in armoured vehicles, patrol boats and helicopters. Our current range of RAK Water and Ration Heaters includes the:

- RAK 15, which operates off 15 amps and is designed for installation in tanks and trucks.
- RAK 30 which draws 30 amps to heat faster and is designed for the Marines and Special Forces.
- RAK 110 which runs off 110V at 400Hz for use within helicopters, such as Air Sea Rescue.

A “Chiller Crockpot” will soon be available which cools as well as heats, but more about this later.

RAK15 in use



Electrothermal was originally awarded a contract to design and manufacture 10,000 RAK15/30 units for supply to the US Army. We now have 20,000+ combat-tested units in the field all over the world, which have been installed into support and front-line vehicles such as the Abrams M1A1, Bradley’s LAV, M109 Paladin, MLR’s, M113’s, Foxhound, Ocelot, Scorpion, Jackal, and Warthog. In addition, all the British Army MAN trucks in the support vehicle fleet are equipped with

our RAK15/30 units, and most of the others are too, i.e., Warthog, Mastiff and Jackal, along with the Foxhound armoured patrol vehicle. They have proved especially beneficial in the recent war in Afghanistan, as having the RAK units installed in the cab ensures that vehicles stay on the move and are consequently less vulnerable to attacks from insurgent groups.



The RAK15/30 is at the optimal size to fit into the cramped quarters of a tank and provide hot meals and drinks for its five-person crew, heating 2 pints of water and 5 MRE’s (Meals Ready to Eat) simultaneously. When used for water only, the RAK15/30 can heat up to one gallon of potable water for drinks, washing or medical purposes. Depending on the power rating, the RAK unit does this in just 20 minutes under normal ambient conditions- it does of course work in extreme climates too but may take longer to heat the contents if the prevailing temperature is bitterly cold. When switched off with the cover closed and locked, the thermally insulated unit keeps its contents piping hot for between four and six hours. It is fair to say that our RAK Water and Ration Heaters have gained many satisfied customers over the years and are so integral to troops’ morale that they are affectionately referred to as the “Morale

Booster” or “Crock Pot” within the UK and US military respectively.

RAK15/30 units are designed to withstand the rigours of modern conflict and have been comprehensively tested to meet military standard specification MIL-PRF-44466D, including MIL-STD-461: Requirements for the Control of Electromagnetic Interference Characteristics of Subsystems and Equipment and MIL-STD-810: Environmental Test Methods and Engineering Guidelines. They are also certified for food heating, meeting NSN ANSI 4-2007. The RAK15/30 connects with standard military connectors to the auxiliary power supply of 24 volts DC in armoured and soft-skinned vehicles. The RAK15 has a low power uptake and only pulls 15 amps of power. With a built-in intelligent sensor, the unit automatically switches off if the battery power is getting low and drops to 22 volts; there is a similar overvoltage protection feature in the event of a sudden power surge to over 39 volts.

The outside of the RAK15/30 unit remains cool-to-touch to ensure safe transit should the product be mounted on the back door of a vehicle or be located in an exposed position. The cool-to-touch feature also gives the unit a very low thermal signature, which is critically important for maintaining discretion during military operations. Constructed from a robust stainless steel outer casing, the unit is sealed to be water-tight, so that any steam is retained within its interior. It has both low and high temperature settings and has its own built-in control, so that a separate control unit is no longer necessary. The choice of heating ranges is either 66 to 71°C (on LO setting), or 82 to 88°C (on HI setting). The RAK’s quality and reliability are renowned, since of more than 20,000 units supplied to date, less than 0.05% of them have been returned under warranty. Electrothermal will soon be able to offer a “Chiller Crockpot” with all the benefits of the RAK15/30 coupled with the additional benefit of cooling.

Registry Will Help Identify Canadian War Dead in Unmarked Graves

Dr Sarah Lockyer The Maple Leaf February 18, 2021

- Defence Stories: World Anthropology Day



Captain Sye VanMaanen, Padre, leads the burial party from The British Columbia Regiment on June 12, 2019 during the burial ceremony of First World War fallen soldier, Private George Alfred Newburn at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission’s Loos British Cemetery outside Loos-en-Gohelle, France.

*Photo: MCpl PJ Letourneau, Canadian Forces Combat Camera
IS06-2019-0026-003*

In the spirit of World Anthropology Day on Feb 18, I wanted to share with you what I do as a forensic anthropologist: I am the Casualty Identification Coordinator for the Canadian Armed

Forces. I analyze the newly discovered skeletal remains of Canadian service personnel who were killed in action during the First and Second World Wars, as well as the conflict in Korea, and who have no known grave. The Casualty Identification Program aims to identify the remains of more than 27,000 Canadian war dead so that they may be buried with their name, by their regiment, and in the presence of family. Since 2007, the Program has successfully identified the human remains of 31 Canadian soldiers, while five sets of remains have been buried as unknown soldiers when identification was not possible. The families of those we have identified and those who are still missing show us why this work is important. I have heard many stories of families continuing to honour their ancestors who died in conflict and have no known grave, no matter how much time or how many generations have passed.

People are often surprised that the remains of Canadian war dead continue to be discovered today. It is certainly not a daily occurrence; however, a number of new cases come to my desk every year. My goal, as a forensic anthropologist, is to return the names and faces to those who died in service to Canada, some of them more than 100 years ago. The process is not as easy as what television shows such as “Bones” and “CSI” make it out to be. Due to a number of circumstances, it can take many years before we are able to identify remains. Some of the remains I continue to work on were discovered 10 years ago. Why not use DNA? We do. DNA is a very valuable tool that helps us identify unknown human remains; however, it is not as straightforward as many people think. Some types of DNA do not survive very well, which can limit what we are able to obtain from the remains. If we do not have a sample from a family member, the DNA from the remains does not reveal much to help with identification. Finding viable donors willing to donate their DNA can take a very long time. Over the years, I’ve had some interesting conversations on the phone with family members to reassure them that the Casualty Identification Program is legitimate, there is no cost to the families, and we will respect their private information. It is an unusual request, after all.

Today, I am asking for your help in identifying Canada’s war dead, including someone who may be from your family. The Casualty Identification Program has created an online registration form for the families of Canadian war dead who have no known grave. We only ask for your contact information and information about the soldier who is a part of your family. By registering with us, you can help accelerate the identification process. You can sign up here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/casualty-identification-military/register-missing-military-family.html>. And who knows, someday you may get a phone call from me.

Dr Sarah Lockyer is the Casualty Identification Coordinator and forensic anthropologist for the Canadian Armed Forces. She is based in Ottawa, ON.

For more information on the Casualty Identification Program, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/casualty-identification-military.html>.

The US Army's Ironman Ammo Pack

Task & Purpose



A little over three years ago the US Army told us about this great new high-capacity ammunition carriage system that they had developed for the M240 Machine Gun. It was so awesome they even gave it a cool name. The 'IronMan' was created by Natick's Quick Reaction Cell and the Rapid Equipping Force after a Soldier identified the need for a means to carry and feed up to 500 rounds of linked 7.62. We literally thought this was a one of kind of a thing to support the 34th ID and that would be the end of it. Interestingly, the Army spent a lot of time (initial prototypes in 45 days with an operational assessment almost *two* years later) and money to develop these things before they finally purchased

a bunch of them. When we first wrote about it in July of 2011, we noted the conceptual similarity to the existing TYR Tactical MICO. The MICO Machine Gunners Assault Pack was created first, on TYR's dime, and chances are really good that some enterprising GI saw the MICO and wanted one. Instead, he got the IronMan.



Above is the Army's IronMan and below the TYR Tactical MICO. They are definitely different executions of the same concept.



A 'China Lake' pack system built for the SEALs and used with the M60.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, it's been done before. There's no question, the concept isn't new. The difference here is that the government designed something that was already commercially available and incurred greater costs than the commercial model's. Even worse, we hear reports that the issue models have trouble feeding and that units have been buying the MICO from TYR Tactical as replacements.

That's paying twice for the same capability. In the time it took the Army to finalize and test their design, TYR Tactical has continued to develop the MICO, not only ensuring it will work with both the M240 and Mk48 but also introducing adapters for the M249 and Mk46 5.56mm weapons. They've also developed a tripod carrier accessory for the pack. If any SSD readers have experience with the IronMan (or the MICO for that matter), please share it in the comments section. We are hearing that most are out of service for various issues. From here on out, we'll just refer to it as 'IronMan'. When all is said and done, the Army takes years to field a system that already exists commercially and pays more to do it. Sound familiar?

Who Stole Two 13 Ton Bronze Propellers from His Own Destroyer?

The heist involved substituting the real screws for two fake ones made out of less expensive metal. *Joseph Trevithick The War Zone Jan 11, 2021*



Russian Ministry of Defense

The Russian Navy says that a former commander of the now-decommissioned *Sovremenny* class destroyer *Bespokoyunny* conspired with others and stole the ship's two bronze propellers while it was in dry dock being converted into a floating museum. The alleged caper

sounds like it was ripped straight from the plot of a comedic Hollywood heist movie, with the thieves reportedly swapping out the pair of screws, each weighing approximately 13 tons, for ones made out of a cheaper metal. Russian media outlet *Interfax* reported on Jan. 11, 2021, that Sergei Sharshavykh, head of the military investigation department of the Russian Navy's Baltic Fleet, confirmed that the investigation into the theft was nearly complete. The names of the former commander of the *Bespokoyunny*, or any of their accomplices, and what kind of jail time or fines they might be facing, were not disclosed. The two propellers are valued at approximately 39 million rubles, or just over \$522,513 at the rate of exchange at the time of writing.

The heist took place at the Yantar Shipyard in Russia's Kaliningrad enclave, which is geographically separated from the rest of the country and is situated between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea. Kaliningrad, which is heavily militarized as a whole, is also home to the headquarters of the Baltic Fleet. It's unclear when the theft took place, but Sharshavykh said that happened after *Bespokoyunny* arrived at Yantar in 2016 for conversion into a museum ship as part of its decommissioning from the Russian Navy. That process included remove the destroyer's two propellers, as well as its driveshafts, and sealing the hull in such a way as to allow it to remain afloat, but without the need for regular maintenance. The destroyer was finally formally decommissioned in 2018 and is now on display at the Patriot Park in Kronstadt, on Kotlin Island, near St Petersburg.

The revelation that the *Bespokoynny's* screws had been stolen comes just over a month after reports emerged that thieves had taken unspecified "radio equipment" out of one of the Russian Air Force's highly sensitive Il-80 Maxdome "doomsday aircraft," an airborne command post for use during major crises, including a nuclear conflict. When it comes to *Bespokoynny's* propellers, it seems much more likely than not that other Russian Navy and shipyard officials were also involved in the heist. It's not clear if the bronze screws, or what's left of them, if they haven't already been sold for scrap, have been recovered. Thankfully, unlike the theft of equipment from the Il-80, this destroyer was already headed into retirement when this theft took place. It's still an ignoble footnote, though one that seems ripe for a comedy heist flick, for this warship, which had served the Soviet and Russian Navies for more than 25 years. All told, it is safe to say that someone got screwed.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

Yorke Island War Diaries. Latest War Diaries from September 1942 have now been uploaded. Major Rix is the Officer Commanding. A Court of Inquiry was held into the malfunction of one of the searchlights. The Battery changed its name from 85th Heavy Battery to 85th Coast Battery and red & blue RCAs were authorized. *Texas* was playing in the Mess Hall followed by *First Love*. All ranks were asked to conserve their Battle Dress due to shortages. Drill hall construction was proceeding, stopping rounds were fired, there was a note regarding plastic armour and #2 Bofors was moved to a position on Hill 260 where anti-aircraft practice firing was conducted. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/war-diaries---85th-battery.html>

Museum Fleet – We now have three vehicles available for the summer outreach project. Let's keep our fingers crossed that COVID allows for the events this year. You might want to check out our speedometer as well. We seem to be stalled at 35kph. Have you got a few bucks to spare? <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/the-iltis-project>

M135 Deuce and a half – Check up on the latest happenings on the project. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/deuce.html>

Venerable Gunners– We're looking for all of our remaining World War 2 veterans to give us a call! <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/venerable-gunners>

Sad news passed on to me by her daughter of the passing of Gloria Jane McGinley, the wife of Sergeant Charles "Scottie" McGinley. Our sincerest condolences to Elizabeth Ann at this time. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/passing-of-gloria-jane-mcginley>

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

Remember – Stay healthy and stay safe!

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: Mussolini's Marines: Italians in China

Peter Harmsen 10 March, 2019



One of the strangest military operations of World War Two featured Japanese opposing Italians on Chinese soil. In September 1943, when Italy signed an armistice with the Allies, abandoning its Axis partners, Japanese forces moved swiftly to seize Italian military assets in areas under its control, including China. This also involved moving in and occupying a small area of Tianjin city which had been under Italian administration since 1901. The Italian sector of the city was guarded by soldiers of the San Marco Battalion, the nation's marines and clearly among the elite in the Italian armed forces.

The Italian WWI monument in the Italian sector of Tianjin. Part of the building can also be seen in the photo above.



The Italians were surrounded by Japanese forces and given the choice of either work for the Axis cause or captivity. According to some sources, one unit of the San Marco Battalion chose a third option, resisting the Japanese for 24 hours before finally surrendering. The Italian marines had manned the garrison in Tianjin since the middle of the 1920s, and prior to September 1943, relations with the Japanese Army in China appears to have been amicable. The photos on this page were taken by Japanese photographers stationed in China during the war. They are part of a large batch of images taken in north China in the period from 1936 to 1945 that have recently been made available by Kyoto University. Many have never before been seen in public.

This Week: As many of you know, every time a military vehicle appears on the news, it is labelled as a “tank”. Well, some are, but some aren't. Our military has been equipped with some great main battle tanks and others but lost their way about 20 years ago when such were to have been replaced by a wheelie thing. Fortunately, Afghanistan re-taught those in charge that you are much safer in a great tracked thing than you are in a lightly armoured wheeled thingie. As a result, we still have tanks, thanks.

But we never had this elegant model. Some of you will instantly recognize it as one designed pre-war by a great European power, and used, with less-than-hoped-for results against another great power (but one that wore black hats). It was actually a better tank than most of those used by the opposition at the time they met in conflict. However, it was let down by the organization



and employment of tanks in general by that power. However, it soldiered on, and, in the case of this week's quiz, participated in a brave charge against another great power, one that was at the time invading the land of the new owner of this vehicle, not the original owners, who had kindly donated them to their neighbours. These new owners quickly saw the error of their way, and switched to wearing white hats, but, sadly, not before these tanks were destroyed.

So, here are your weekly questions. What is this beast? Who charged gallantly, but futilely against their future ally? Where and when did this happen? Think you know? Then send your answers to our armour-clad editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@gmail.com), or the angled glaxis author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Tanks.

From the 'Punitary'

With the minor baby boom going on, what will happen in 2033. The rise of the quaranteens.

Murphy's Other Laws

Heroism is just about doing your job the best you can and living through it.

Quotable Quotes

Always do what you are afraid to do. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Wednesday Digital Video Lunch

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

Join us to check up on your old lunch buddies.

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

Password:- Ubique



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

their teams together in a frictionless environment to get more done. Zoom is a publicly traded company headquartered in San Jose, CA.

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

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

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

UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest



UBIQUE 150 “Good Shooting” Video Contest

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

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

Important dates

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

Eligibility

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

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

Learn about:

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

All details on the contest and the free Webinar are at
ubique150.org

