



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 16, 2017

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a 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](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get a copy.

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

**Wednesday Lunches** - We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Attendance has been down recently. Most of our regular attendees, who are retired, are slowly fading away and the next generation seems, by and large, to be too busy to attend. Guests are always welcome and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

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

- May 31** - CareerConnect comes to Vancouver
- June 01** - BCR Lunch - **Note change of date**
- June 18** - Point Atkinson Tour

## World War 2 - 1942

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

**May 17<sup>th</sup>:** Gasoline rationing (3 gallons a week for nonessential vehicles) begins in 17 US States. Manstein's troops capture Kerch and 170,000 POWs -- Manstein can now focus on the 186,000 Soviet soldiers in the heavily fortified city of Sevastopol. Australian troops are sent to Port Moresby. HMS Trinidad is sunk in the Arctic by the Luftwaffe. The Monsoon begins in Burma just as the last intact British and Chinese units make it to safety: Japan has captured a whole country and defeated 140,000 Allied troops (of mixed quality) for the loss of 8,000 men. May 18<sup>th</sup>: Argus and Eagle carry another 17 Spitfires to Malta. Admiral Harwood becomes commander of the British Mediterranean Fleet.

**May 19<sup>th</sup>:** The Germans mount a counter-offensive at Kharkov, utilizing the forces they had amassed for a drive on Izyum.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Mexico declares war on Germany and Japan. The Japanese fighter ace Tateo Kato is killed while attacking a flight of British Blenheim bombers over the Bay of Bengal; he is

posthumously awarded the Order of the Golden Kite for his leadership of the of the 64<sup>th</sup> Sentai during the Malaysian invasion.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** 6<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Panzer Armies encircle the Russian 6<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Armies west of the Donets.

## **Sweden Re-introduces Conscription**

We need to enhance our military capacities following the changing security policy situation in the region, says Defense Minister Peter Hultqvist. Atle Staalesen March 02, 2017



**Photo: Kim Svensson/Försvarsmakten**

Thousands of young Swedish men and women will soon get a letter in their mailboxes. They are needed by the country's Armed Forces. The Swedish government today announced that it reintroduces general conscription. Enrollment is to start already from 1 July this year, and from 1 January 2018 the system of mandatory military training is to be in effect. The country wants to have 4,000 young men and women in military service in the period 2019-2020. Everyone born in years 1999 and 2000, both men and women, will be the first ones included in the system. A total of 13,000 people will be registered, of which about 4,000 will be selected for service, STV informs.

Sweden originally abolished conscription in 2010. Since then, the world has changed. "We want to strengthen our military capacity, because the security situation has changed," Minister of Defense Hultqvist says in an interview with newspaper Svenska Dagbladet. "We are now giving priority to the bolstering national defense and to extend our cooperation with other countries." Hultqvist also underlines that the Swedish Armed Forces needs more manpower and a more stable personnel situation. "The current system does not allow us to train with fully-manned forces." The re-introduction of conscription comes as the country is enhancing its general defense capacities. A new national defense strategy presented earlier this year states that Sweden "must continue to strengthen its ability to meet immediate and long-term threats and challenges in an efficient and coherent way". The conscription system is in line with a budget proposal for 2018 submitted earlier this week by the country's defense forces. In a statement,

Head Commander Micael Bydén says the short-term proposal is to “increase the number of permanent service personnel, heighten IT protection measures and strengthen military intelligence”. “In order to maintain our current investments and reduce the decline in capacity which we are facing in the period until 2020, we propose an increased number and enhanced complexity in national and international exercises, improved preparedness and investments in communication and connection equipment,” he adds. The Swedish Armed Forces today has about 20,000 employees of which 9,000 are professional officers.

## **Air Force Academy Cadet Invents Goo That Can Stop Bullets**

Tom Roeder, *The Gazette* (Colorado Springs, Co.) May 7, 2017



*US Air Force Academy Cadet First Class Hayley Weir and AFCEC research chemist Katherine Simpson talk about Weir's capstone project; the development of a new ballistic resistant, flexible, lightweight nanotech-enabled fabric. The material, which is patent pending, could be applied as a protective lining on a variety of objects ranging from body armor to tents and vehicles.*

*US Air Force photo*

There are a lot of ways to stop a bullet. Feet of concrete work. A few dozen pounds of steel work, too. Modern fibers like Kevlar work, if you have enough. But a senior cadet at the Air Force Academy may have come up with something better: A thin coating of gravy. It's a special gravy, to be sure. But it's not that different from the cornstarch-thickened substance best served over breakfast biscuits. And it would stop Dirty Harry's .44 caliber magnum as a snack. Yet it's flexible enough to bullet-proof, ahem, intimate areas. “Like Under Armour, for real,” explained cadet Hayley Weir, a Highlands Ranch native who has applied for a patent on her spicy recipe. Weir, who graduates from the academy this month, is an academy chemistry department dropout who came up with the idea in class.

A professor had asked cadets to think up ways to stop a pistol bullet. She thought of a child's toy called Oobleck, which has a really scientific second name: a non-Newtonian fluid. Those

fluids, made with substances like cornstarch, are gooey and oozy to a gentle touch, but become as hard as steel when struck. That means when a object traveling with a lot of force strikes the goo, it runs into something like Superman's chest. Weir has a collection of mushroom-shaped spent bullets to prove it. Weir's idea gained traction last year when she partnered with academy military and strategic studies professor Ryan Burke, an ex-Marine. Burke's Marine Corps experience told him that Weir had stumbled on to something important. "It's going to make a difference for Marines in the field," he said. Burke called some Marine Corps contacts who shipped materials to test the new bullet-stopping stuff. In an academy lab, Weir mixes up batches of her secret formula, a viscous black goo. She says it's less like science and more like baking a cake. "I use a KitchenAid mixer," she explained. The substance is put in vacuum-seal bags normally used for leftovers and flattened into an quarter-inch layer. That is layered into a wafer with Kevlar fabric. "It's all about the layering," Weir said.

The result was first tested on a gun range in Jack's Valley, the training area on the northern edge of the 18,500-acre academy campus. Weir and Burke hit the armor with shot after shot of 9 mm fire. The goo stopped the bullets. A firearms instructor offered up a 44-caliber pistol round for a tougher test. The 44 magnum bullet, legendary in firearms circles, has been used to successfully hunt elephants. Despite the increased weight of the bullet and its higher velocity, the gooey armor worked better. What happened is part of the magic of gravy: When impacted the molecules in the gooey substance jam together. The bigger the impact, the bigger the molecular traffic jam and the better the ability to resist penetration. That means that Weir's goo has the potential to replace steel plate as armor. "It's the properties of non-Newtonian fluids that do this," she said.

Having a cadet come up with ground-breaking ideas is nothing new at the academy, which prides itself on having the best undergraduate research programs on the planet. Cadets have designed satellites and airplanes. They've also worked on making diesel fuel from algae, tiny hydrogen fuel cells and new molecules that could clean up chemical weapons. Weir's experiments have captured the imaginations of some of the Air Force's top scientists. Weir and Burke recently traveled to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center in Florida to demonstrate their invention. It worked as well there as it had at the academy. The center took to its website to laud the invention, calling it "incredible." "We're very pleased," Dr. Jeff Owens, senior research chemist, said in a statement. "We now understand more about what the important variables are, so now we're going to go back and pick all the variables apart, optimize each one and see if we can get up to a higher level of protection." The flexibility of Weir's weird armor has researchers thinking big. Wafering the stuff into fabric could lead to tents resistant to mortar and artillery fire. Weaving it into a blanket could give firefighters and cops protection when they work to pull people out of mass-shooting scenes. On the battlefield, it could drive body armor that actually protects the entire body – rather than the torso protection now given to troops overseas. Weir is hoping to continue her research after graduation this month. She hopes her gravy saves lives. But her invention hasn't gone to her head. "I don't feel like I am that much smarter than the average person," she said,

# General Robert Nivelle

5 MAY 2017 ADMIN



Robert Nivelle had a spectacular career trajectory. A meteoric rise from commanding an artillery Regiment in 1914 to command an Army at Verdun was followed by his appointment in late 1916 to command the French armies of the North and North East, over the heads of many more senior commanders. His fall was equally spectacular as his offensive in April 1917 failed to achieve the predicted gains, but instead cost 200,000 casualties. The story of the battle itself is here. Nivelle was a man for whom the Peter Principle, that “Managers rise to the level of their incompetence,” might have been created. Historians and soldiers find much to criticize in Nivelle’s performance as de facto Allied supreme commander on the western front. But there is also much to admire about his performance that brought him to notice.

For a start, Nivelle was an outstanding field commander. He had already distinguished himself during the August battles. On the Marne on 6th September 1914 part of the *63e division de réserve* broke and fled while attacking towards the village of Vincy. Nivelle’s *5e régiment d’artillerie de campagne* was outside Puisieux close by, on a ridge behind the retreating troops. Nivelle saved the day. Rather than fall back, he took half his regiment and galloped forwards, through the retreating troops and unlimbered his guns among the French skirmish line. Their rapid fire stopped the Germans. This action alone made Nivelle a bit special as a horse gunner. Many actions of this era involving manoeuvre by horse drawn artillery ended badly for the gunners. Nivelle got away with something that ended badly for Colonel Long at Colenso and managed to avoid the fate of the British gunners at Le Cateau and Nery. Promoted to command an infantry brigade, he did well in an otherwise failed attack north of Soissons above Crouy. His brigade, closely supported by artillery managed to reach the sites. Promotion to command the 61st Division Nivelle mounted a model operation in June 1915, the battle of Quennevieres. This introduced the form of the operations mounted at Verdun at the end of 1916 and of the Aisne in April 1917. This was based on a sudden and violent attack, supported by overwhelming artillery, followed by a lateral and forward exploitation. A rising star, he was promoted to command the 3 Army Corps in December 1915. Nivelle followed Petain to Verdun as part of his Second Army, and took over the tactical command at Verdun from Petain. It was Nivelle, not Petain who adopted the phrase “They shall not pass.” Nivelle’s aggression, optimism and tactical skill won praise. The recapture of Forts Vaux and Douaumont in 1916 made him a national hero.

Nivelle was an innovative artilleryman. It is probably that the fire support he arranged for his brigade’s attack on 15th January 1915 was the first use of the *barrage roulant* – the creeping barrage. He encouraged the scientist Hoffman to develop sound ranging. Australian Laurence

Bragg would further improve on these for the technology use by the British. He also supported the development of the tank, which in France took the form of self-propelled artillery.

Good Idea – pity about the means. The idea of a narrow front attack spearheaded by a phalanx was a good one. The untried and flawed Schneider tanks penetrated further into the German lines at Berry-au-Bac than the British at Flers on the Somme. Nivelle’s tactical methods had many similarities with the practises that emerged in other armies, combining artillery fire with infantry movement. However, he was an exponent of the operational idea of the breakthrough battle with the aim of the destruction of the enemy army. His emphasis on lateral and forward exploitation has something in common with Liddle Hart’s influential “Expanding Torrent” ideas, and the tactics used by the Germans in 1918, and 1940. What else is lateral exploitation other than “Aufrollen.” Under his command the French introduced more weapons at platoon level, including light machine guns and a light cannon – which might also serve as a anti-tank gun. This is along similar lines to the German all as assault groups that penetrated allied positions in 1918. His ideas were consistent with the pre-war doctrine based on offensive spirit. These contrasted with the pessimistic views of Petain who advocated a long game based on firepowers. Petain’s catch phrase was, “we will get them in the end.” While Petain’s emphasis on doing what was possible was proven right by events, at the time there were many who thought that the Allies could not win by remaining purely in the defensive. Even if correct for France of 1917, it flew in the face of the principles of war. Nor was, “waiting for the Americans” a strategy palatable to the politicians, the media or a patriot public.

After Nivelle’s dismissal his ideas became discredited and Petain’s methodical, “bite and hold” battle for limited objectives became the basis for French tactics for the remainder of the First World War, and their thinking after that conflict and leading to 1940. These is part of a pattern of French defeat. The pre-1914 doctrine based on offensive spirit and élan was finally discredited on the Chemin des dames in 1917. Petain’s cautious techniques led to an army ill prepared for the German Blitzkrieg. France might have been much better served if they had not thrown out the baby, of Nivelle’s ideas with the bath-water of his strategic command. Nivelle’s ideas were on the on the right lines for the mechanised age. A French army that tempered an appreciation of firepower with an offensive orientation might have put up a better fight in 1940.

## **France Orders New Armored Vehicles from Nexter, Renault, Thales**

*Richard Tomkins | April 25, 2017*



*French Army 6x6 wheeled light tanks are to be replaced by the Jaguar, pictured, and the Griffon, both of which are being produced by Nexter, Renault Trucks Defense and Thales. Photo courtesy Thales Group*

French companies Nexter, Renault Trucks Defense and Thales are to produce more than 300

newly designed armored vehicles for the French military, the companies announced on Monday. The platforms are the Griffon, a 6x6 multi-role personnel carrier, and the 6x6 Jaguar, which is armed with a 40mm gun and anti-tank missiles. The Griffon is expected to replace VAB Hot personnel carriers now used by the French Army, while the Jaguar is to supplant the army's wheeled light tanks.

The initial production order from DGA, the French military procurement agency, is for 319 Griffons and 19 Jaguars. It comes after just 27 months of development of the vehicles under the government's SCORPION program. "We are proud of this new sign of confidence on the part of the French Procurement Agency and can't wait to start producing this new equipment, which will project the operational capabilities of the army to the future," Jean-François Pellarin, director of the SCORPION program within the Temporary Business Grouping that will build the vehicles, said in a press release. Deliveries of the Griffon are expected to begin next year. Deliveries of the Jaguar will begin in 2020.



## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

The war diaries updates from 100 years ago continue on our What's New page - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new>

Additional names have been added to the nominal roll on the following pages:

G's - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---g.html>

H's - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---h.html>

I's and J's - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---ij.html>

The 1972 Tattoo programme <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1972.html>

Additional names have been added to the Military Medal page <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/mm.html>

I've added a new page – Notable characters – Do you have someone in mind that should be included? <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/notable-characters.html>

I'm always looking for more stories and pictures!\_Contact Leon Jensen at [LeonJ1@hotmail.com](mailto:LeonJ1@hotmail.com)

## **Who Is It**

**Last Week:** This is a No3 Height and Rangefinder. A height finder is a ground based aircraft altitude measuring device. Early height finders, like this one, were optical range finder devices combined with simple mechanical computers, while later systems migrated to radar devices. In World War II, a height finder was an optical rangefinder used to determine the altitude of an aircraft



(actually the slant range from the emplacement which was combined with the angle of sight, in a mechanical computer, to produce altitude), used to direct anti-aircraft guns.

**This Week:** This week's quiz is one for which we honestly have no answer. It is from an envelope in the collection of the late Vic Stevenson, labelled "From an album?". That cryptic message is all we have, nor can we find from which album the photo might have fallen.



What can be said is that it is a photo of a medium-sized warship, possibly American, due to its design and the lettering on the bow. It appears to have some forms of radar, so would most likely be of early post-war vintage. The background might be one of the old piers (B-C) where Canada Place now sits. The hint for this is the roof-line, and the trees in the distance. So, we who can barely tell the Seabus from the Yamato call upon you naval types to assist us in identifying this vessel, and helping the photo to find an appropriate home. Send your erudite answers to the editor, [bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com) or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). Thank you.

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

How many feet are in a yard? Count the number of people in it and multiply by two.

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

### **Quotable Quotes**

A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit. *Arnold H. Glasow*



## CareerConnect comes to Vancouver!

**MET**

**MET SPOUSE**

CANADA COMPANY PRESENTS:  
**Vancouver CareerConnect**

**HMCS Discovery**  
1200 Stanley Park Drive  
Vancouver, BC  
V6G 3C7

**May 31st**  
10:30AM - 5:00PM  
\$550+HST  
[www.metforce.ca](http://www.metforce.ca)

CanadaCompany Canada\_Company

## **You're Invited!**

On Wednesday, May 31, Canada Company will hold its first CareerConnect in British Columbia. CareerConnect is a job fair specifically designed to connect Military Members, Veterans and Spouses to a network of local military-friendly employers. And we want you with us in Vancouver!

At CareerConnect, you'll engage with employers who understand your military background, and can speak knowledgeably about opportunities for your next career, all in an informal trade show setting.

The MET and METSpouse programs have seen our 272 Employer Partners hire more than 2189 Veterans and Spouses across Canada. We're well on the way to achieving our goal of 10,000 hires by 2023 – and we want to add you to that total.

Your participation in CareerConnect includes a pre-event Workshop on the evening of Tuesday, May 23 to prepare you for the job fair, and ensure you get the most out of the experience. The details for the Workshop are:

Location: BCIT  
3700 Willingdon Avenue  
Building SE6, Room 233  
Burnaby, BC  
V5G 3H2

Agenda: 5PM – 6PM Registration & Light Supper  
6PM – 9PM CareerConnect Workshop for Members, Veterans & Spouses

The details for CareerConnect are:

Location: HMCS Discovery  
1200 Stanley Park Drive  
Vancouver, BC  
V6G 3C7

Agenda: 12:30PM – 3:30PM Military Members, Veterans & Spouses' Registration  
1PM – 4PM CareerConnect Job Fair

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with military-friendly employers who are waiting to meet you! For more information about CareerConnect, please contact Marram Mohammad, MET & METSpouse Assistant, at [marram.mohammad@canadacompany.ca](mailto:marram.mohammad@canadacompany.ca) or 416.865.4254.

**To get your FREE tickets to this event, go to:-**

For the May 23 Workshop -

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/careerconnect-workshop-tickets-33501436699>

For the May 31 Career Fair -

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/careerconnect-tickets-33500301303>

*Both sessions are **FREE**, and both are open to military members, veterans, and spouses. The sessions are not just for those transitioning out of the military, but also to Reservists who may be looking to change or obtain civilian employment.*

Copyright © 2017 Canada Company, All rights reserved.  
Our mailing address is:  
Canada Company  
66 Wellington St West Ste 3100  
Toronto, ON M5K 1K2  
Canada

# June Lunch

## Taste of the India



**Hosted by:**  
*The British Columbia  
Regiment  
Officers' Mess*

**Coordinated by:**  
*The BC Regiment  
(DCO) Association*



- Date:** June 1, 2017
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
(bar opens at 11:45am)  
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment  
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by May 22, 2017)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail Charlotte Yen at [corporate@hplaw.ca](mailto:corporate@hplaw.ca)  
(Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door  
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association  
No cancellations after Monday, May 22, 2017



# CANADA 150 TOUR of POINT ATKINSON LIGHT STATION

Lighthouse Park Preservation Society and West Vancouver Historical Society invite you to join a free guided tour of the light station grounds. Learn about the link between the lighthouse and Canada's confederation. Climb the steps to the base of the lighthouse (the tower will not be open). Enter the Fog Alarm museum to learn about its inner workings and the role of the lighthouse keeper. Sit inside the Power House to view a short slide show on the presence of the military during WWII.

**For more information about the tour and to register please email [pointatkinsonpals@gmail.com](mailto:pointatkinsonpals@gmail.com)**

## TOUR DATES

Sunday May 14

Sunday June 18

Sunday July 23

Sunday August 13

Sunday Sept. 3

## TOUR TIMES

1:00 pm & 3:00 pm

Registration required  
Limit 20 per tour



COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA  
FONDATIONS COMMUNAUTAIRES DU CANADA  
all for community. ensemble pour tous.



Canada