



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 17, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches and 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.

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.

NOABC Speaker – 25 March - Commodore David Craig, the Commander of the Canadian Naval Reserve, will be attending the Wednesday lunch on 25 March 2015 and will give a talk in the lecture room after lunch.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1915

Mar 12th: [We] kept up steady rate of fire throughout the night, raising a little at dawn, and throughout the morning [we] engaged various targets. The enemy commenced to bombard RICHEBOURG (which was about 400 yards to our left) with salvos from their 8.2 Howitzers (nicknamed coal-boxes or Jack Johnsons). In the afternoon my communication broke down; consequently the battery had to stop firing. I went along the line and whilst crossing a main road, shell[s] were falling pretty thick, although the majority were going into the village. I found the break in the wire; a shell had hit it square and chopped a piece out. I took our now favourite cover and got in the hole made by the shell. [I] repaired the line, [then] tapped in and found everything alright. Another line running in the same direction was also broken like mine, so I repaired it, tapped the line and asked who they were, it was the 9th Brigade. They were profuse in their thanks for it had saved them an uncomfortable job. Was still pretty hot when I reached the battery; the guns were very lucky for nothing fell between us and the village. They were bombarding the poor old church fiercely. Three of us (two telephonists and myself) were watching the effect of the fire and speculating which would be the next to go in the air. Several splinters [were] whizzing over our heads at every salvo, but we took no notice, until one small piece hit me in the muscle of my right arm, but [it] did not penetrate. The next salvo, a good sized piece, just grazed my cheek and went about 2 inches into the ground at my feet. I scratched it out, [but] had it been a couple of inches more near, it would doubtless have given me a nasty knock. We thought we had watched the fun long enough, so we went into our little house and had 'tea' – nothing short of an earthquake would make us miss that at this time, for some cows near bye [sic] kindly supplied us with milk, and milk in tea is 'bon'. In the evening the Manchester's caught 5 spies in RICHEBOURG. They were found in underground

cellars and must have been there months. They received scant ceremony, and no doubt were soon put out of the world quickly. For spies, either man or woman, were promptly dealt with, especially by the French. The night was rather more quiet, only doing little firing; we had gained and consolidated our objective and the Germans seemed glad to keep quiet, as long as we would let them.

Mar 13th - 15th: [It was] rather quiet, done little firing. Collins had a squeak on 14th whilst going along [the] wire, a shell bursting near missed him, but caught a Garhwal, and cut him clean in two. I went into RICHEBOURG to have a look round; I went all over the deserted and desolate piles of ruins that had a little time before [been] a pretty little town. The church had suffered severely, only parts of the walls and tower remaining. The churchyard was pitiful to look at, graves and tombs absolutely heaved up skulls and bones lying about everywhere. The top of the steeple had been caught fair by a shell and had fallen off and the top stuck firmly in the ground just by the door. It was as if it had been planted there. Everywhere was a hopeless mass of wreckage, which can hardly be described and wants seeing to actually believe.

Mar 16th : Marched to PAQAULT and billeted, orders to move before dawn.

Mar 17th : Marched and dropped into action near LAVENTIE. This town was deserted and partially in ruins. Were busy all day laying our line to a ruined house in rear of our trenches, from where we could observe the German lines and AUBERS, a town in their possession. Whilst doing this, we went into an establishment, which was not damaged, and had only been abandoned the day before. It was beautifully furnished and in the attic were [an] abundance of women's clothes. We secured plates and cooking utensils, several things that would be handy to us, and took [them] back to the guns. In a field near the establishment were a good number of graves of our chaps, quite a miniature cemetery, and every grave had a cross and name upon it, etc. It was fenced in. I thought it will [be] a consolation one day perhaps, for some woman to visit the spot where someone dear to them was laid. This was a very unhappy day for me, for my thoughts were far away, and I slept but little at night, more due to my thoughts than the cold.

World War 2 - November 1939

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

Mar 18th: Hitler has a summit with Mussolini in the Brenner Pass, and the latter tells the Germans he is now ready to join the war effort.

Mar 20th: Daladier, the French Prime Minister resigns after losing public confidence in the progress of the War.

Mar 21st: France has a new Prime Minister, Paul Reynaud.

India Remembers Its World War One Dead

Events are being held to remember thousands of Indian soldiers who fought alongside the British in a key battle in France in World War One. 10 Mar 2015



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi placed a wreath at the India Gate memorial in Delhi on Tuesday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi placed a wreath at the India Gate memorial in Delhi on Tuesday, marking the centenary of the battle of Neuve Chapelle. The army is holding an exhibition, recreating scenes from the conflict.

Britain and France have also organised events to commemorate the memory of the fallen Indian soldiers. According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, about 1.1 million soldiers from undivided India - which includes today's India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma - were sent to fight in World War One between 1914 and 1918 in France, Belgium, Egypt and the Middle East. Indian soldiers earned more than 9,200 gallantry awards, including 11 Victoria Crosses, for their bravery. About 60,000 Indian soldiers were killed in the war.

Tuesday marks the centenary of the beginning of a major offensive the allied troops launched around the town of Neuve Chapelle in northern France and half of the attacking force was drawn from India. "Inadequately trained for the ferocity of trench warfare, the Indian Corps nonetheless took part in most of the major battles on the Western Front, suffering huge losses and winning the first Victoria Crosses to be awarded to the Indian army," says Dr Santanu Das, who teaches at Kings College London and is an expert in the culture and literature of World War One. "But alongside the trench experience, another deeper story was unfolding, the story of plebeian peasant-warriors making their way in a new continent - negotiating new peoples, cultures, customs, language and food - just as many of the local French and Flemish people were meeting these 'Oriental warriors' and their customs for the first time," Dr Das adds. Most of the Indian troops who were sent to fight in Europe had probably never left home before and found themselves deployed in a land that was completely foreign to them. "Six-and-a-half-thousand miles away from rural India onto the fields of Flanders and France - it would have been a totally different experience for them, it would have been exciting, as well as frightening for them to be here," says Avtar Dhillon, whose grandfather Dasaunda Singh died in the battle for Neuve Chapelle. France is holding a series of events, including exhibitions, talks, guided tours and drama in Neuve Chapelle from 10 March.

20,000 Irishmen Fought for Canada in World War I

Irish Central Staff Writer

Almost 20,000 Irish soldiers fought in the Canadian army during World War I new figures show. According to an unpublished document from Canada's Department of National Defense, 19,327 Irish served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. However, the Irish Times reports that

number may be underestimated as many Irish who enlisted in the army came from across US border and would have been regarded as American. Canada went out of its way to recruit Irish soldiers and a number of Irish battalions were raised during the war. The Canadian Expeditionary Force and an Irish regiment, the Royal Irish Lancers, were involved in the liberation of Mons on Armistice Day 1918. Figures suggest that about 2,000 Irishmen probably died in the war while fighting for Canada. Jimmy Duffy was one of 11 men from Co Sligo who died in the Canadian army. Regarded as one of the best marathon runners in the world at the time, he won the 1914 Boston Marathon. He was living in Canada at the time and enlisted in the Canadian army. Duffy was killed at the Second Battle of Ypres in May 1915. It was just eight days before his 25th birthday. He and the other Sligo men who died are included in a new local history project aimed at finding a more definitive number of the war dead from Ireland.



Number of Irish killed during World War I remains unknown.

Photo by: Getty Images/iStockphoto

The Australian government lists 4,731 Irish-born soldiers who served in the Australian Expeditionary Force during the war, while the New Zealand Expeditionary Force lists 1,300. The British army saw 206,000 Irishmen join its ranks with at least 31,000 killed. The Irish-born population in the United States was around 1.3 million in 1910, and it is estimated that some 40,000 Irishmen served with the American army. A definitive number has never been established as to exactly how many Irish soldiers died fighting in the war.

Trinity College Dublin (TCD) historian Professor John Horne, an expert on First World War casualties, told the Irish Times that it is “unknown” how many Irish fought and died in all armies in the war. According to Irish War Memorial Records, there are 49,400 dead from Irish regiments in the war, but not all of those killed were Irish and many of the Irish, who died in non-Irish regiments, are not included. Horne says more research needs to be done, but the task of ascertaining for certain the number of military dead in the war is “hugely complex.”

Statue of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to be Unveiled

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Medical Service, will unveil a statue of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, gunner, physician, and poet at the National Artillery Memorial on Green Island in Ottawa on 3 May 2015. Dedication of the statue will mark the centenary of the writing of his world famous poem, In Flanders Fields, and will recognize John McCrae’s service as an artillery officer and as a medical officer. This event will be the cornerstone of the national commemoration of The Second Battle of Ypres. Although John McCrae served during the First World War as a medical officer, he spent most of his military career as a gunner. In 1887, at age 15, he became a bugler in the Canadian Field Artillery in Guelph, Ontario. Aside from a short period in The Queen’s Own Rifles while at university in Toronto, he remained in the artillery for the next 18 years. He was commissioned

as a Second Lieutenant in 1893 and served in the Boer War with D Battery, Royal Canadian Field Artillery 1900-1901. He retired from the artillery as a Major in 1905.

Upon completion of a BA degree at the University of Toronto in 1894, John McCrae went on to study medicine, graduating MD in 1898. Following his medical residency, he was appointed Resident Pathologist at Montreal General Hospital in 1902. He travelled to England in 1904 to further his studies and while there, became a member of the Royal College of Physicians. He set up a private practice in Canada in 1905 and continued to work in Montreal hospitals. In 1910, he was Expedition Physician for the Governor General's expedition to Hudson Bay. He later served as a Lecturer in Medicine and in Pathology at McGill University and as a Professor of Pathology at the University of Vermont. In 1912, he co-authored a pathology textbook. When war broke out in 1914, John McCrae was amongst the first to answer the call for volunteers. He contacted his friend Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Morrison, with whom he had served during the Boer War. Specifically, he asked Morrison, the Commanding Officer of the 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, to find him a gunner position so he could again serve with the artillery. Morrison recommended McCrae as an artillery commanding officer, but was instructed to enlist him as a doctor. In response, Morrison invented the position of "Brigade Surgeon and Second-In-Command" of the 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

Major McCrae, as he was at the time, was in the 1st Brigade at the Second Battle of Ypres in the spring of 1915. From his Aid Post, he could see the guns firing from nearby fields. He also looked out upon a small cemetery just to the south. During the battle, German shell fire killed two young artillery officers from McCrae's unit. The next day, he delivered the funeral service for one of the officers in the cemetery near his dug-out. Following the service, inspired by the deaths of his comrades, John McCrae wrote *In Flanders Fields*.

To bring attention to this great Canadian, **the statue will be unveiled the afternoon of Sunday, May 3, 2015**, the 100th anniversary of the writing of the poem. The ceremony will be open to the public.

Lieutenant General (Retired) M.K. Jeffery, CMM, CD
Chair - The McCrae Statue Committee #2
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

Tight Budget Reduces Air Force's Time in The Sky

Business plans reveal cost-cutting. By Lee Berthiaume, Postmedia News February 12, 2015

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Federal budget cuts have been quietly clipping the wings of the Canadian military, with the air force's fighter jets, search and-rescue helicopters and other aircraft spending more time on the ground in an attempt to save money. The belt-tightening, combined with increasing fuel, utility and training costs, has also made it more difficult for the Royal Canadian Air Force to pay for such essentials as removing snow from runways, and has forced it to cut back on preventive aircraft maintenance. The revelations are contained in internal business plans prepared by 1 Canadian Air Division, which manages the RCAF's numerous aircraft fleets. The documents

predate the current conflict in Iraq, raising further questions as to how that action is affecting the air force's already stressed budget.

RCAF spokesman Maj James Simiana says the air force "is always exploring ways and means aimed at ensuring we can effectively and responsibly maintain and deliver operational effect in support of Canadians and Canada's national interests, both at home and abroad. "The RCAF will continue to maintain its current level of operational and readiness excellence by examining and implementing new ways of achieving the military effects required, becoming more innovative, more agile, and more adaptable," he added. But 1 Canadian Air Division's 2014-15 business plan says the "extremely limited manning and financial flexibility that exists in the Air Force restricts the effectiveness with which we can fulfil our mandate." It adds that underfunding "will eventually impact the RCAF's ability to conduct operations." NDP defence critic Jack Harris says the "damning warning" makes it even more important for the Conservative government to reveal how much the Iraq war is expected to cost, and whether the Department of National Defence will have to pay for it from its budget.

Canada has six CF-18s fighter jets, two Aurora surveillance aircraft and a Polaris refuelling plane participating in the U.S.-led campaign against Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL. All three types of aircraft have seen their planned flying hours cut since 2009, and increasing them beyond the planned rates, for Iraq or any other reason, would require additional government money or diverting resources from other areas. Liberal defence critic Joyce Murray accused the Conservative government of having the wrong priorities by promising to introduce income-splitting while "compromising the ability of the air force to protect Canadians. "Clearly the government's priority is to be able to deliver a tax cut to families that need it the least," she said. "They've used the National Defence budget over the last few years as a giant piggy bank to accomplish that objective, which is to deliver tax cuts for the 2015 election."

CP-140 Aurora Detachment Completes 100th Mission

Members of Air Task Force-Iraq's CP-140 Long Range Patrol Detachment have been engaged in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant since late October 2014, amassing nearly 900 hours of flying during 100 missions and gathering considerable information and imagery on ISIL activities. 2015-03-16 RCAF Press Release

As the sun sank into the dusty desert of Kuwait, turning the sand a deep orange hue, the throb of four Allison turboprop engines announced the safe return to base of the 100th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) mission by a CP-140 Aurora aircrew over Iraq. Members of Air Task Force-Iraq's CP-140 Long Range Patrol (LRP) Detachment have been engaged in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since late October 2014, amassing nearly 900 hours of flying during 100 missions and gathering considerable information and imagery on ISIL activities. The 100th mission marks a success for the Aurora community across the board. Operation IMPACT, the Canadian Armed Forces mission against ISIL, has seen the solidification of new capabilities for the Aurora fleet, building on operations in Libya and Afghanistan with the use of the upgraded Block III CP-140.

The modernized Block III Aurora aircraft is well equipped to fulfil a number of roles, both over water in its traditional maritime patrol capacity, as well as over the desert, where the capabilities of aircraft and crew have received much acclaim throughout the coalition. The improved Aurora is equipped with new sensors like the Wescam MX20 camera and Ground Mapping Radar. The MX20 can image points of interest with High Definition resolution during the day and night, due to its heat-sensitive infrared camera. Thanks to developments in radar technology, even on days of total cloud cover, the Aurora can see through it, taking images of ground sites that rival anything a conventional camera can produce. This imagery can be sent immediately to analysts who identify and assess objects that merit further investigation or potential airstrikes.



*A Royal Canadian Air Force technician guides a CP-140 Aurora to its parking area during Operation IMPACT in Kuwait on Feb 5.
Canadian Forces Combat Camera, DND Photo*

The benefit of having ISR missions performed by a manned platform, instead of a remotely piloted vehicle, is the human component on board. Crewmembers that are immersed in the mission and have situational awareness over the battlespace are often better able to differentiate that which is out of the ordinary from the normal pattern of life on the ground. Despite living and working in a sandy environment, constantly battling the heat and frequent dust storms, the dedicated Aurora aircraft technicians have given their utmost to ensure superb serviceability of the aircraft in theatre. The 100 mission milestone was only achieved thanks to round-the-clock efforts of all the technicians, aircrews and support staff that have been part of this detachment.

As the aircraft landed from this 100th sortie, the LRP Detachment gathered together to celebrate with pizza and pop. However, the celebrations couldn't last too long into the night; there was one aircraft to put to bed, another to wake up and make ready, and the next crew needed to rest prior to their 101st long mission. Through a team effort, the LRP Detachment of Air Task Force-Iraq will continue to help ensure that ISIL has no place to hide.

2015 Vancouver Vimy Day Commemoration – General

The annual Vancouver Vimy Day Commemoration will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the Commonwealth War Graves Section of Mountain View Cemetery commencing at 11:00 am.

Vimy Day is recognized by the Royal Canadian Army Cadets as its day of recognition. As a result close to 300 Army cadets from various units in the Metro Vancouver area will parade at the ceremony on April 12th together with the all-cadet Vancouver Flag Party and the BCR 2381 Cadet Corps brass band. Vehicle entry to the cemetery is on the west side of Fraser Street at 39th Avenue. Parking is available. Guests are advised to arrive not later than 10:30 am.

Contact: Cameron Cathcart, Chair, Vancouver Vimy Day Committee at: cccathcart@shaw.ca or 604 682 5453.

Who is it? Last Week: Still no ID on the location but two people have been identified -



3rd from the left is Dave Pearson, 2nd from the right (in second row) is Al Langmuir

This Week: From our unaccessioned photo vault, deep in the underground chambers of the armoury, deeper even than the Hedley Fried Memorial Nuclear Bunker, comes this week's shot. The date stamped on the slide is indistinct, but seems to be "1962". Of course, that time is so



long ago that most of you, dear readers, were not even a gleam in a glint in your future dad's eye. However, there are some, a very few, who remember that decade that started with Bobby Vinton and ended with the Beatles breaking up.

So, can you inform us a bit more of this event, which seems to be a regimental parade in a parking lot by English Bay. Were you there? Did your mummy take you to

see the soldiers? Answers can be sent to the esteemed editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). All answers are also reviewed by CSIS for potential security breaches (or, for Gunners, breeches).

From the 'Punitary'

Why shouldn't you iron a four leaf clover? Because you don't want to press your luck

Murphy's other Laws

If there is a way to delay an important decision, the good bureaucracy, public, private or military, will find it.

Quotable Quotes

We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face... we must do that which we think we cannot. - *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Want to Visit Yorke Island?

Ross Keller, UE, was appointed Hon Bty Comd of Yorke by LCol Purcell last summer in recognition for all his hard work restoring and promoting the Yorke Island site. He has requested that we put a small piece in the newsletter about how to connect with him. He can take a max of 5 people in his boat for day trips or camp outs (best on the weekend) so, if anyone is on Vancouver Island this summer who would like to visit Yorke Island, contact Ross at: treetraveler@hotmail.com Best to make arrangement about 2 weeks in advance.

LOST JAPANESE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN

(13.2mm OR 25mm "TWIN" Barreled A.A. Gun from KISKA) see below

Brought to Vernon, British Columbia (Canada), Army Training Camp from Kiska in early 1944 by the 24th Field Artillery Regiment RCA, the Regimental War Diary entry describes it as a 20mm twin-barreled AA gun. Research to date indicates NO twin-barreled models of 20mm calibre found on Kiska (*viz. intelligence ground survey in 1943 after Allied occupation*). The ONLY 20 mm AA guns were single-barreled models. However, many twin-barreled types of both 13.2mm and 25mm *were* found. The same results came from the 2007/8 Kiska Guns and sites preservation survey. The anti-aircraft gun brought to Vernon by the 24th Field RCA was positioned in front of the Regimental Sergeants' Mess. It "VANISHED" from the camp sometime after the 24th Field RCA was disbanded in 1945.

I am **seeking information** from anyone posted to the Vernon BC Army Training Camp during or after 1944 (including as an Army Cadet in later years), who recalls seeing the twin-barreled AA gun referred to and remembers which of the two models depicted in the photos it was. Additionally, information as to the **disposition of the gun or its current location** (particular museum, private collection etc.) is sought.

Please Contact: Robert H (Bob) Spring, Capt (Ret'd) RCA at #414 – 12258 224th Street, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 8Y7, Canada, or by e-mail: bobspring@shaw.ca with information.



*Japanese Type 93
13.2mm twin mount light anti-aircraft gun on North
Head, Kiska. (US National Archives and Records Admin
80-G-80265).*

*Japanese Type 96 25mm twin barreled anti-aircraft
gun on Mercy Point, Kiska Harbor.
(US National
Archives and
Records Admin 111-
sc-186547).*





Vimy Day Commemoration

Commonwealth War Graves Section

Mountain View Cemetery

Fraser Street at 39th Avenue, Vancouver

CELTICFEST

PRESENTS



THE VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR



CANADA'S LARGEST MEN'S CHOIR

Friday, March 13th, 7:30pm
(Doors open 7:00pm)

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
690 Burrard St., Vancouver

With the De Danann School of Irish Dance

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
WWW.CELTICFESTVANCOUVER.COM

\$27 adult advance | \$24 students & seniors advance
\$31 adult at the door | \$28 students & seniors at the door

5th (BC) Arty Regt Foundation - Vancouver Island Brewery Tour

If you plan to be on Vancouver Island on Friday, March 20th check out this tour.

This event is a fundraiser for the Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment Foundation. \$25 will provide each participant with a tour of the Vancouver Island Brewery, beer tastings, finger food and the gratitude of our not-for-profit Foundation.

Fifth (BC) Artillery Regiment RCA Foundation



Private Brewery Tour

At Vancouver Island Brewery

Supporting the Foundation's Work



Friday, March 20, 2015

Meet at 4:30pm

Tasting Room

2330 Government Street

Victoria BC



*YES! There will be
beer tasting!*



For more information please
contact:

Scott Wisdahl

(250) 794-7495

Scott.wisdahl@gmail.com



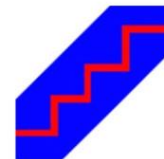
Dress: Smart casual

Admission: \$25

Limited spaces

Book by emailing

Scott.wisdahl@gmail.com



Taste of India Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015
- 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 March 20, 2015)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail
Events@DukeaBear.com
(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 March 20, 2015

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, May 28, 2015