

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Feb 18, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

Renovations to the kitchen are proceeding slowly. There are several projects underway at the moment and the contractors are trying not to disrupt our lunches. Rumour has it that one of the year end projects will be the removing of the carpets and refurbishing of the hardwood floors in the main rooms.

Guests and visitors are always welcome at lunch. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders welcome you to attend a Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at our Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music.

See poster at the end of the newsletter for more details

CF gear stuck in Kandahar for nearly 3 years

Military equipment left in Afghanistan airfield after 2011 pullout

By James Cudmore, CBC News Posted: Feb 16, 2014



Canadians soldiers load baggage on the back of a truck at Kandahar airbase in Afghanistan, Saturday, July 16, 2011. Hundreds of containers of military gear were stranded in Kandahar following the end of the Canadian combat mission there. (Rafiq Maqbool/Associated Press)

Hundreds of shipping containers filled with expensive and important military equipment used in the Canadian combat mission in Kandahar were stranded in Afghanistan for years and are only now finally finding their way back to military storehouses in Canada. A February 2013 briefing note prepared for former defence minister Peter MacKay obtained by CBC News under access to information laws shows the military at one point had 441 sea containers of equipment stuck in Kandahar as a result of a decision by the government of Pakistan to shutter its border to convoys of NATO gear. That's

nearly a quarter of the 1,800 containers of equipment left in Kandahar following the conclusion of Canada's combat mission there in July 2011. The documents show the military was able to get 67 containers of "high priority material" out of the country but debated how best to send the rest home. At one point, with access to southern oceans through Pakistan blocked, the military was apparently willing to try an overland route through Europe. That route was part of a NATO "Proof of Principle initiative" that would have seen about 200 Canadian containers shipped to a

European port — likely Bremerhaven in Germany, though the location is redacted in the documents — over the course of a year before being shipped by sea to a military depot in Montréal.



A Canadian armoured vehicle being loaded into a C-17 military transport aircraft at Kandahar airbase in Afghanistan, Sunday, July 17, 2011. (Rafiq Maqbool/The Associated Press)

It's not clear whether any containers made it out that way as another problem reared its

head: As the months and years passed, the sea containers began to lose their seaworthiness certification, meaning even if Canada could get the roughly 375 containers to port, no commercial captain would load them.

"Commercial liner services will not accept uncertified sea containers as this would void the carrier's insurance and would contravene international convention," the briefing note says. In the end, the government decided to deploy a team of 15 troops back to Kandahar airfield for 30 days to unpack the containers, inspect them, and re-certify them. The documents estimate that mission cost about \$750,000.

Col Chuck Mathé, the director of logistics at Canadian Joint Operations Command, was responsible for dispatching those troops. Mathé says while on the ground the team also conducted a "triage" of the gear left behind and was able to winnow down the number of containers to 212 requiring repatriation. The more important equipment including military spare parts, tents and other gear, was repacked into containers, while the less important and less-costly equipment was either sold to allies in Kandahar, or demilitarized and destroyed. By the time the team was dispatched last summer, the military had decided it could no longer wait for a ground option to open up. 'It was essentially a crapshoot.' - Col Chuck Mathé

"It was essentially a crapshoot. You know you could throw dice and say, 'Is it going to be next month, or is it going to be eight months.' There was no light at the end of the tunnel," Mathé told CBC News. "A decision was made that we were going to fly this stuff into another location in the Middle East and then put it on liner service and bring it home." Mathé says the government contracted through NATO with two civilian contractors who flew the 212 containers of gear to ports in the United Arab Emirates where they were loaded aboard ships bound for Montréal. The military refused to reveal the details of the costs involved in the more expensive airlift option. But, Mathé says a typical air lifter can carry between six and nine containers at a cost of between \$300,000 and \$650,000 per flight. Those numbers suggest the

defence department paid between roughly \$7 million and \$22 million dollars to fly the 212 containers to the U.A.E., before having them loaded on ships to Canada.

Some gear still not back

Despite the cost and effort involved, not all of that gear is back in Canada, says Mathé. One hundred and forty of the containers have made it to the military depot in Montréal, 29 are currently in transit at sea, and another 43 are still in the UAE. Mathé says he expects the last of the gear to be back in Canada by March — almost three years after Canada finally finished its combat mission in Kandahar. March is also the month Canada is expected to remove the last of its soldiers from Kabul where 1,000 troops had been deployed to help train Afghan security forces. According to the briefing note, military leaders were aware the government might be concerned about the "inherent political sensitivities" of returning soldiers to Kandahar, but felt there was little other option.

Senior officers recommended the military not announce the return to Kandahar, but rather adopt a "passive communication strategy," with a focus on a cost-savings message: "That the [Canadian Forces] is taking the necessary steps to recover military materiel and equipment necessary for CF reconstitution and future operations in the most cost-effective manner possible."

Major General Logan Scott-Bowden - Obituary

Major General Logan Scott-Bowden was a sapper who carried out daring missions to ensure the Normandy beaches were ready for D-Day. - 17 Feb 2014



*Major General Logan Scott-Bowden –
born February 21 1920, died February 9 2014*

Major General Logan Scott-Bowden, who has died aged 93, carried out secret reconnaissance missions to the Normandy beaches which paved the way for the D-Day landings. Scott-Bowden was a member of the Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPP), a small unit which specialised in the clandestine survey of potential sites for the Allied landings in Italy and later France. On the night of New Year's Eve 1943, he and Sergeant Bruce Ogden-Smith, clad in rubber swimsuits, swam for 400 yards from a landing craft to the area west of Ver-Sur-Mer, later known as Gold Beach. Each carried a Colt 45, a commando knife, wire cutters, wrist compass, emergency rations, waterproof torch and an earth auger for testing the bearing capacity of the beach. The objective of their mission was to determine whether the landing area



would stand up to the weight of heavy vehicles disembarking in great numbers. If armour and supply vehicles became bogged down in a hitherto undetected substratum of clay or peat bog, it would put the whole operation in jeopardy.

D-Day landings at Normandy, France (PA)

As they moved along the beach, they had to flatten themselves on the ground every minute as the beam from the local lighthouse swept over them. Heavy rain arrived to provide some very welcome cover and, encouraged by the sounds of New Year celebrations, the pair spent several hours collecting samples in bandoliers. Heavily laden by the time they attempted the return journey, they were thrown back many times by the rough sea before they managed to get through the surf. Scott-Bowden thought that his companion was in trouble when he heard him shouting, but when he turned to help he found Ogden-Smith wishing him a happy New Year. "Swim, you bastard," yelled Scott-Bowden, "or we will land back on the beach." One of them dropped an auger, which was found by a Frenchman who – realising its significance – hid it until after the war. On their return, the samples were rushed to scientists for assessment. Scott-Bowden was awarded an MC.

Their next assignment, in an X-Craft midget submarine commanded by Nigel Willmott, the founder of COPP, was to survey Omaha Beach, near Vierville. After boarding at Gosport, they were towed to mid-Channel by an armed trawler before starting their diesel engine and travelling on the surface during the hours of darkness. At dawn on January 18 1944, they submerged and, with Scott-Bowden at the helm, soon found their way partly blocked by a French fishing fleet with armed guards. As they threaded their way through the nets, they raised the periscope. Scott-Bowden found himself staring at the face of a German soldier perched on the stern of a boat, puffing away at his pipe. They beached at periscope depth in seven feet of water. Scott-Bowden snatched a look through the periscope and was astonished to see hundreds of soldiers at work. He later reported that the Germans were establishing an immensely strong defensive position. The submarine withdrew offshore using its electric motor, surfaced and recharged its batteries. For the night reconnaissance, the eastern sector of the beach was chosen. Scott-Bowden and Ogden-Smith swam ashore. They checked for obstacles and mines above the high-water mark. A patrol passed nearby but they were not interrupted. The area was destined to be used on D-Day by the US (1st) Division.

After a daylight reconnaissance the following day, at nightfall the two men made another sortie, this time to the adjoining sector. As they reached shallow water, a powerful torch was beamed straight at them. They kept their faces down and, after a nerve-wracking wait, the sentry switched it off. They swam away to the east and examined a beach in detail. Stones from a shingle bank that might cause problems to tanks were retrieved and the locations of wire and a suspected minefield noted. Bomber Command laid on a raid on the river Orne to divert the sentries' attention. They had spent three nights on the beaches and four days on the seabed. Scott-Bowden was appointed DSO for the operation. Ogden-Smith, a veteran of the Special Boat Service, finished the war with an MM and a DCM.

Logan Scott-Bowden was born at Whitehaven, Cumberland, on February 21 1920 and educated at Malvern and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, where he was an accomplished athlete and swimmer. Commissioned into the Corps of Royal Engineers, in 1940 he served with 162 Independent Company in the Norwegian Campaign. The following year he was posted to 53 (Welsh) Division RE as adjutant. After a spell in Canada and America on liaison duties, in May

1943 he joined COPP and was based at Hayling Island. On D-Day he was assigned to Naval Force "O" and took station at the head of the fleet and immediately in front of landing craft carrying amphibious Sherman tanks. His task was to observe the first assault wave on Omaha Beach and report to his Force Commander, Rear Admiral Hall.



*Allied soldiers, tanks and ships at the D-Day landings
June 6 1944 (Hulton Archive)*

He had been ordered to return to England but his job with COPP was finished and, on June 10, he risked being court martialled by taking command of 17th Field Company (17FC), whose commander had been badly wounded. He was soon busy laying 5,000 mines across the expected axis of an enemy counter-attack. For the next 10 months, he led his Company in every action. When his men were responsible for "gapping" large and treacherous minefields, invariably Scott-Bowden carried out the reconnaissance himself and directed the work, often under heavy fire. In April 1945, at Lingen, 17FC was building a bridge over the Dortmund-Ems canal when a self-propelled gun opened up at close range. Scott-Bowden directed the operation, standing on the bridge, until he was wounded. The citation for the award to him of a Bar to his MC stated that "his individual feats of gallantry are almost too numerous to record".

After the war he was posted to the Far East, briefly as GSO2 in Singapore, then as brigade major of 98th Indian Infantry Brigade who were countering insurgency in Burma. Two years in the Middle East with 1st Division, commanding 12 Field Company RE, were followed by an appointment as DAQMG at the War Office. He reassumed command of 12 Field Company in Korea and, on returning to England, became brigade major of the Training Brigade at Aldershot. After a course at the Joint Services Staff College, in 1956 he was posted as DCRE (Works) Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg. During this appointment, he was honorary secretary of the British Kiel Yacht Club. Two years in Aden followed, and he then returned to the 1st Division in Germany as CRE. After appointments as head of the UKLF Planning Staff and Assistant Director of Defence Plans at the new Ministry of Defence, he returned to Aldershot in 1966 to command the Training Brigade.

In 1970-71 he raised and commanded the Ulster Defence Regiment, a force of seven battalions drawn from all sections of the community. He was then appointed head of the British Defence Liaison Staff in India. Having retired in 1974 he farmed in Oxfordshire. Holidays were spent in Italy, camping in Bavaria and skiing in Austria. Appointed CBE in 1972, he was Colonel Commandant RE from 1975 to 1980.

Logan Scott-Bowden married, in 1950, Jocelyn Rose Price. She predeceased him and he is survived by their three sons, all of whom served in the Army, and three daughters.

Statue Honouring Lt Col John McCrae to be Erected

Statue in honour of 'In Flanders Fields' poet to be erected in Ottawa to mark Centenary

Posted on centenarynews.com on 31 January 2014



A model of the statue in honour of Lieutenant-Colonel McCrae

An initiative by the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery will see a statue of the First World War soldier, physician and poet, John McCrae, erected in Ottawa, Canada. Lieutenant-Colonel McCrae served as the surgeon and also as the second in command of 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery. He was both a Gunner and the physician

in the unit.

In recognition of his enduring poem 'In Flanders Fields', a statue of McCrae will be unveiled in Canada's capital city on the 100 year anniversary of when the poet was penned - the 3rd May 2015.



John McCrae, circa 1914

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery intends to place the statue at the National Artillery Memorial, where, upon its unveiling, there will be a formal ceremony with a Guard of Honour from each Artillery Unit in Canada. The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery stated that the commemoration of the writing of the poem "marks an event of significance throughout Canada and abroad".

"This statue is a work of tribute to an iconic Canadian figure and someone of importance to all veterans. It is, equally, a work recognising the sacrifices of World War I, during its centennial period".

For more information about the McCrae Statue Fundraising Campaign, visit the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery website <http://www.artillery.net/beta/>

Images courtesy of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery Posted by: Daniel Barry, Centenary News

Afghanistan: A Soldier's Story

Afghanistan: A Soldier's Story, requests the benefit of your input to a legacy album that will tell the story of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Your story. Whether you deployed as an Officer, NCO, NCM, or civilian, you all have a story, an image, or perhaps a short video that is worth sharing with Canadians. A story only you can tell.

This is not a DND project, but is the work of serving and retired Canadian Forces volunteers. The book is being prepared for publication and distribution by well-known Canadian photographer and publisher John McQuarrie. Canadian Forces volunteers are assisting Mr

McQuarrie with validation and editing. The Edmonton MFRC is administering a fund for the project and net proceeds will be distributed, by them, to the Boomer's Legacy Foundation, the Military Families Fund, and the Soldier On Fund.

Stories, photographs, art work, and short videos can be submitted through a web site dedicated to this project. Submissions will be selected and published in French or English, as submitted. Video submissions and written or graphic submissions, not printed in the book, will be included in a DVD to accompany the book.

For more information go to the project website: www.afghanistanacanadianstory.ca

Time for Annual Dues

As of Jan 1st, dues are now payable for RUSI Vancouver (\$30), The Vancouver Artillery Association (\$75) and 15 Fd Officers Mess Associates (\$60).

Dues payments can be sent to the Treasurer of the applicable organization at Bessborough Armoury: 2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6J 2C7. **This includes RUSI Vancouver!** In the past, payment for RUSI dues has been sent directly to Keith Freer but Keith had a bit of a mishap and is in hospital. We are in the process of appointing an acting Treasurer until Keith's situation is resolved so please, send RUSI dues payments to the Armoury.

RUSI Vancouver Society AGM

RUSI Vancouver Society AGM will be held on Wednesday March 12, 2014 at 1330hrs at Bessborough Armoury.

A separate notice was sent out to registered members earlier today. If you are a member and **did not** get the earlier notice, please email me at bob.mugford@shaw.ca so I can correct my membership list.

Earlier this year, John Nosotti indicated that he wanted to retire as President after this term. Then, while in China, he suffered a heart attack and had a stent inserted. Our Treasurer, Keith Freer, also had some medical problems. Both are recovering well but have decided to step aside from their executive positions to allow us to reconfigure the executive before the AGM. The Board of directors have elected Cam Cathcart as President, Keith Maxwell as 1st Vice President and Svend Raun as Treasurer.

Military Ball Renamed

The date for the 2014 Ball has been set for **May 10, 2014 at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel**. 39CBG is getting more involved in the running of the event and has renamed the Military Ball the 'BC Army Gala'. The Gala website is: <http://bcarmygala.ca/> and tickets can already be purchased on the EventBrite site at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bc-army-gala-tickets-8508578387>

More information can be found, including an order form for direct purchase of tickets, on the Gala website and Gala's Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/britishcolumbiaarmygala>

Who is it?



Last Edition. The accident depicted occurred during gun camp in Fort Lewis in Oct 1985, but was in fact 'next door' at Camp Murray, the Washington Army National Guard Headquarters. The driver went for a "joyride" in Camp Murray late in the evening, and the combination of an inexperienced driver, an over-powered vehicle, darkness, wet leaves, speed and a dead-end road (and an oak tree) proved to be a deadly combination. He wasn't badly hurt, but the truck was a write-off, and yes, he was charged!



This Week's picture We should have run this last week for Valentine's Day, but, as many of you probably forgot that Friday was such, you are now in the position of being able to redeem yourselves, and come in from the doghouse. Here we have an officers' mess event from many years ago. Although most men never age, and wear clothes that defy chronological identification, the same (the latter, not the former, of course) cannot be said of women. That is good in that it

helps us to identify a time when a photograph was taken. This might be a case in point. To wit, the gentleman, obviously an officer from both his uniform (although the rank is indistinct) and his bearing, could be from any era. The lady, on the other hand, is at the height of fashion, but of what era? So, do you recognize this charming couple? When was the photo taken? All we know is that it is a large-format negative, from the past. Help us by either contacting the editor of this esteemed journal, or the writer, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Thank you in advance, and good luck with the chocolates and flowers, late as they may be. Answers can be sent to the editor, or to the columnist, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

From the 'Punitary'

Old Doctors never die, they just lose their patients.

Murphy's other Laws

Never needlessly disturb a thing at rest.

Quotable Quotes

There are three types of friends: those like food, without which you can't live; those like medicine, which you need occasionally; and those like an illness, which you never want.

- *Solomon Ibn Gabirol*

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

&

The 78th Fraser's Highlanders

Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders welcome you to attend a Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at our Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or \$25.00 if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. Kilts, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday March 7th, 2014

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J 2C7

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

LCol James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

Reserve your tickets early to not miss out on a great night!

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations on request.



*The
British Columbia
Army Gala
2014*



Celebrating
A LEGACY OF SERVICE
Dinner and Dance

Come and enjoy a distinctive evening of fun, friendship and tradition. The BC Army Gala is open to anyone who has served, is a friend of the military or who wants to have an enjoyable evening with a unique group of people!

DO NOT DELAY. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!

Venue: Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Date: Saturday 10 May, 2014
Time: 7 p.m. 'till late
Dress: Mess Kit, Black Tie or equivalent



For all ticket information, including Early Bird Specials, please visit the BC Army Gala web site or phone (604) 225-2520 ext 2496.

www.bcarmygala.ca

Thailand Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2014
- 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 February 21, 2014)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (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 February 21, 2014

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, March 27, 2014



and

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

with

Soprano ~ Suzann Kingston

presented by

The Vancouver Welsh Society

Saturday, March 1, 2014 7:30 pm
Michael J Fox Theatre
7373 Macpherson Avenue, Burnaby

TICKETS:

Adults \$25

Seniors \$22

Students \$10 (with ID) Children under 12 no charge

Book on line:

vwmc.ca (no fees)

Call:

Orpheus Choir info line 604 515-5686

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir at 604 878-1190

Vancouver Welsh Society Ticket line 604 742-1378

vwmc.ca

welshsociety.com

vancouverorpheus.org

