



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News April 19, 2016

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>

Wednesday Lunches The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3rd Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project. **We are missing lunch tickets #10, 20 & 21. Check your pockets. Please return if you find them.**

Concerts – Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment

International Military Band Concert

Date: Monday, May 23rd, 2016 **Time:** 2:30pm

Location: Chandos Pattison Auditorium, [10238 168 Street](#), Surrey

Tickets: Family \$45, Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Children \$10.

Available online at: <https://www.picatic.com/imbc> **More information at end of newsletter**

World War 2 - 1940

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

Apr 20th: The Greeks on the Albanian frontier might have bested the Italians, but today they surrender to the Waffen SS 1st Liebstandarte Division. In a war where the leading 105 fighter aces were all Germans with over 100 kills, few Allied pilots had the chance to amass such a score but South African flier Marmaduke Pattle might have: He had 51 kills and was the top-scoring Western Allied ace of the war, but was killed in his Hurricane over Athens this day.

Apr 21st: A trio of British battleships bombards Tripoli.

Apr 22nd: The Italian defences at Dessie in central Ethiopia fail and they retreat northwards. German forces in Greece begin to attack the Allied defence line at Thermopylae.

Apr 23rd: King George of Greece and most of his ministers are evacuated to Crete. The commerce raider Thor docks in Brest after a 322 day cruise in which she sank 11 merchant ships and an Armed Merchant Cruiser.

Apr 24th: The British withdraw from Thermopylae as the first 11,000 Allied troops are evacuated. Roosevelt orders the US Navy to pass intelligence on all Kriegsmarine movements west of Iceland to the British. Three nights of intensive Luftwaffe attacks on Plymouth come to an end, leaving some 30,000 people homeless.

Apr 25th: Hitler orders the OKH to work up plans for the invasion of Crete.

Apr 26th: Fallschirmjager fail to capture the Corinth Canal Bridge while the 1st Waffen SS Liebstandarte Division improvises a crossing into Patras at the west end of the Gulf of Corinth.”
“The British take 8,000 Italian POWs at Dessie in Ethiopia.

Force 136: A Secret War Story

Edmund Wu and Catherine Clement, Chinese Canadian Military Museum

Any idea what you, as a Canadian soldier, would be tasked to do if you were assigned to Force 136 during the Second World War? How does receiving intensive, commando-style training and being secretly parachuted into the jungles of Southeast Asia sound? And what about being told you needed to survive without outside support and you were given a cyanide capsule just in case of capture?

Well that is what happened to over 300 Chinese Canadians soldiers. And until recently, they were sworn to secrecy and thus their story was relatively unknown.

It all started when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and then invaded and occupied large swaths of territory in Southeast Asia. British Intelligence began looking for ways to infiltrate the region. They had a lot of success in occupied Europe, secretly ferreting in agents that helped organize and support resistance movements that would gather intelligence and help sabotage enemy supply lines.

However, the British recognized that in Asia, Caucasian agents would stand out too much, and would find it challenging to gain trust from the locals. So, Britain turned to Canada and quietly recruited and trained Chinese Canadians for these dangerous, secret missions.

As May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum* will launch a special exhibition on Chinese Canadians in Force 136. Called “Rumble in the Jungle: The Story of Force 136”, the display will open on **Saturday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Chinese Canadian Military Museum (2nd Floor, 555 Columbia Street, Vancouver). Come hear the story of Force 136 and meet some of the men who were there. All in their 90s, this may be a final opportunity to hear their story told in their own words.

The exhibit will be on display for several months. The Museum is open Tuesdays to Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is by donation.

Nova Scotia Crew Pulls Off Daring Arctic Rescue in Nunavut

THE CHRONICLE HERALD Published April 3, 2016



A C-130 Hercules from Greenwood searched late last week for three missing Iqaluit residents. Seen here is search and rescue technician Kevin McFarlane.

A Nova Scotia helicopter crew got their chance to rescue after a Twin Otter aircraft broke down during this week's frigid Nunavut rescue. When the plane that discovered the survivors landed in a remote tundra valley, it broke down, prompting a call to Greenwood's 413 Squadron, the Greenwood-based group that provides search-and-rescue all the way up the east coast to Baffin Island. Capt Robert Nicholson is the aircraft commander of the Cormorant helicopter sent on the mission. He recalled the urgency Thursday night as search and rescue aircraft scrambled to find Nunavut MLA Pauloosie Keyootak, 63, his 16-year-old son Atamie Qiyuqtaq and nephew Peter Kakkik, 47. The trio went missing on snowmobiles, after an Arctic blizzard set in. "We were starting to get worried — at that time they had already been missing for 11 days," Nicholson said. Their first search "grid" was 50 nautical miles by 50 nautical miles. Then they got a second of comparable size.

Two Hercules airplanes from 413 Squadron were also looking, swapping shifts, and some Twin Otters were also participating. The Cormorant crew had just finished searching for the day, and got back to the hotel, when they heard a Twin Otter found the survivors but was broken down at the scene. "The Twin Otter did a very good job finding them ... They were at the extreme edges of the search area, and they followed snowmobile tracks to find the missing party," he said, describing a valley that was about 2.5 miles wide and 200 feet deep. "It seemed like a reasonable spot to take shelter ... rugged and desolate, it's incredibly rough terrain," he said. The Twin Otter had skis, and was able to land on the snow, but it broke down on landing. "The survivors were still able to get 'inside' the Twin Otter and get some relief," he said. "It was incredibly cold — it was minus 30, and with the wind-chill, probably minus 40." The survivors told the harrowing details of their journey. A wrong turn in blizzard conditions had swept them far off course. Low on fuel, they could only hunker down and stay alive. Keyootak had crafted a traditional igloo with the help of a small knife; one of the men had shot a caribou. "They knew they were in trouble from the beginning, but they knew it was getting dire," Nicholson said, praising the intrepid trio for well-honed skills. "They did an excellent job staying alive down there ... They were able to sustain themselves."

The Cormorant reached the survivors plus the Twin Otter crew and landed 2.5 hours after they got the call. “It was quite dark, we had the Twin Otter turn on all the lights so we could see them,” Nicholson recalled. The Cormorant landed about 70 metres away. “The survivors were able to walk to the helicopter; while being cold and hungry, they were ambulatory,” he said. The survivors were encased in warming blanket bags. The Cormorant is loud, so communications happened at a yell, with the search-and-rescue techs getting medical information from the survivors, the heaters going full blast to warm up the survivors. The gear was left with the broken-down Twin Otter. The Cormorant seats 13 easily, 12 in stretchers if need be. “In a case like this where the danger of leaving somebody there is greater than the danger of not everyone having a seat in the helicopter, you could cram 20-30 people in, if they were in trouble otherwise,” Nicholson said. “The priority was getting them out of there,” he said. With 17 aboard, the loaded chopper returned to Iqaluit. “When the airport came into view, my guys in the back told me (the survivors) were pretty happy,” he said.

The Cormorant arranged for an ambulance to meet the incoming flight at the airport and transport the group to hospital to get checked out. All in a day’s work for the 413 Squadron Cormorant, Nicholson said. “That rescue — that’s what we do this job for. When we’re able to help somebody and save somebody’s life and get them out of that situation when they’re in need,” he said. “Tuesday morning I was driving into work for a relatively normal day, and 12 hours later we were here in Iqaluit searching and trying to help people that were missing,” he said. The crew for this operation consisted of: Capt. Robert Nicholson, Capt. Chad Surette, MCpl. Pierre Lebel, Sgt. Mark Robar, MCpl. Ashley Barker, MCpl. Gabriel Ferland.

UK Army Unveils Rapid Response Hospital

Can Be Set Up in Just 16 Hours.

Ben Farmer, Defence Correspondent, Al Quwayrah, Jordan 5 APRIL 2016

The Army has unveiled a new rapid reaction field hospital that can be flown anywhere in the world and then be put up to start operating on battlefield casualties in only 16 hours. The vanguard hospital fits in the back of two transporter planes and provides the same level of care as an NHS trauma centre.



The 34 Field Hospital

Credit: Julian Simmonds for The Telegraph

Medics have practised setting up the new hospital as part of a logistics war game in the Jordanian desert to test if the Army could still deploy a fighting force of up to 30,000 troops to anywhere in the world. More than 1,400 troops and hundreds of vehicles have spent six weeks in the desert

outside the port of Aqaba for Exercise Shamal Storm. Troops have also practiced night fighting, bomb disposal, intelligence gathering and chemical and biological warfare drills. Lt Col Paul Reynolds, commander of the field hospital, said it was the best and fastest to deploy that the Army had ever had. The tented wards and operating theatre can treat eight badly wounded soldiers within hours of landing and be quickly scaled up to treat more as necessary. In a war zone, the hospital would operate on and stabilise casualties before they were evacuated back to Britain.

Lt Col Reynolds, commander of 34 Field Hospital, said: "Once I have receipt of my equipment, I can deliver world class care in 16 hours. "If you had a road accident in the UK and went to a UK-based trauma centre, you would get no better care there than you would here. "I can then take this down in a day, move it wherever I am told to move it, and re-establish again in that 16 hours." The 50m square hospital containing millions of pounds worth of medical equipment fits into 100 wire cargo cages that can be carried in the back of two RAF C17 transporters. Equipment includes an ambulance, X-ray machine, intensive care ward, operating theatre, blood storage fridge, blood analysis equipment and generators to power everything. After years of operations in Afghanistan, where the medical care at Camp Bastion gradually grew into a renowned purpose-built centre, the Army is now again preparing for the possibility it may be sent abroad at short notice and have to set up facilities from scratch. Col Reynolds said: "After Afghanistan, the medical services are back in the mindset of being able to deploy at short notice, anywhere in the world, and be ready to deliver first class care in that short space of time. "If you were to walk into an NHS hospital, they would have equipment that does exactly the same thing, but it would be far bulkier. What we have got is an ability to deliver the same capability, but in a much smaller package."

While the target to set up the hospital is 16 hours, his 100-strong team managed to set it up in just over 11 hours during the exercise. He said: "It's packed in the desired order that we wish it to arrive. It comes off the aircraft tents first, and then the equipment next. "Everybody in this facility is responsible for the erection of the tents. The surgeon was putting up those tents, just like everybody else. Then they split into their respective departments to set up their individual bits and pieces." The hospital has its own generators and a Royal Engineers electrician has to wire up 268 sockets, 86 lights and six air conditioning units. Capt Jim O'Keefe said: "There are 250 bits of quite delicate kit. It's not just getting it here, it's getting it here and it has got to work."

Compensation System for Injured, Ill Reservists 'Cumbersome'

A review of the way sick and injured Canadian military reservists are compensated has found the process to be "too complex and cumbersome," as well as unfair in some cases. On Tuesday, the office of the Canadian Forces Ombudsman released its second report on issues within Canada's Reserve Force. The report concludes that the Department of National Defence must improve the governance and administration of the compensation system.

Among the report's findings:

- The process of ceasing the employment of an injured or sick reservist is inconsistent. "Without clear direction on how or when to cease employment, some Reservists are being treated unfairly by this inconsistency," the report says.
- The compensation application process is plagued by confusion and delays, which can have "significant financial impacts" on the reservists and their families.
- Reservists and military leadership are "often unaware of available compensation options, their roles and responsibilities, policies, and/or procedures."

The ombudsman's office is recommending that DND and the Canadian Armed Forces improve the compensation process and "take concrete steps to improve the knowledge and awareness of the compensation options available to ill and injured reservists." Ombudsman Gary Walbourne said Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan understands the need to "fix the shortcomings" and has agreed with the recommendations. In a letter to Walbourne, Sajjan said he will be following up with DND officials "in the coming months" to address the issue. In another report released last year, the ombudsman found that 30 per cent, or roughly 6,000 reservists, are missing valid medical assessments.

Army's Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle Arriving Two Years Late

Canada to receive new TAPVs by end of 2016 April 12, 2016 Global Affairs Staff



A pre-production Canadian TAPV is shown with applique armour package and the Kongsberg Protector remote weapon station.

Source: Textron Marine & Land Systems

The Canadian Army expects to receive its new Textron Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) by the end of 2016, following two years of delays [the vehicles are of course being assembled in Canada in—guess where? — Quebec!.] The 500-vehicle fleet is to be distributed across seven bases and 24 units. The 2nd Canadian Division [not an operational formation, rather a geographical expression] is scheduled to be the first formation to operate the TAPV, which it will premiere during a High Readiness Training Cycle that culminates in Exercise 'Maple Resolve 2018', the army said in an 8 April announcement. The service hopes to declare full operational capability by mid-2020 after all operators are trained and user trials and operational exercises are complete, it added. Schedule delays have set the programme back by about two years, the army noted, but Textron's testing and qualification activities are "currently more than 50% complete and planned to be finished

by May 2016”, the army said. The Canadian Department of National Defence’s assistant deputy minister for materiel is overseeing those tests.

After qualifications, the vehicles are to begin deliveries sometime around August 2016 “and all deliveries should be completed within 17 months of that date”, the army said. The TAPV is based on Textron Systems’ COMMANDO series of vehicles, and appears closest in configuration to the COMMANDO Elite platform. It is fitted with a remote weapon station that is armed with a 40 mm automatic grenade launcher and a C6 flex machine gun. At least this programme will escape the new government’s defence review.

HMCS Ville De Québec Generator Catches Fire at Halifax Dockyard

3 crew members were hospitalized as a precaution, MARLANT says

By David Irish, CBC News Posted: Mar 03, 2016



One of HMCS Ville de Québec's four diesel generators caught fire while at the Halifax dockyard, according to Maritime Forces Atlantic. Around 3 pm Thursday, the ship's engineer detected the fire and activated a sprinkler system within the generator's steel enclosure. The fire was quickly contained.

A diesel generator caught fire around 3 p.m. Thursday when the ship was being tested for combat readiness. (Pte Johanie Maheu/DND)

Spokesman Capt. Cameron Hillier said HMCS Ville de Québec recently completed a Halifax-class upgrading program. The ship was going through a series of tests to ensure its combat readiness when the fire occurred. "HMC Dockyard fire department arrived on scene to confirm that the fire was extinguished," he said. "And crew is to continue overhaul procedures just to simply make sure that the fire won't reignite." The three crew members who were first on the scene were sent to hospital as a precaution in case of smoke inhalation. Hillier says "there's no damage assessment with what's been done to the diesel generator," but there will soon be an investigation into the fire's cause.

Who is it?



Last Week: This group photo was taken at Sgt C "Scotty" McGinley's retirement dinner in the WO and Sgts Mess on 13 June, 1981.

R Row	Janet Drinnan	Doug Johnston	Gary Beaumont	John Wright	Brian Hill	Stuart Mont
3 rd Row	Dave Gamage	Mike Hennessy	Clive Walton	Cliff John	Mike Meehan	Darleen Amos
2 nd Row	Larry New	Mark Jackson	Scotty McGinley	Don Friedsam	Bill Amos	Gordy Wright
Fr Row	George Wood					Dave Levien

This Week: At first glance this might seem to be a unit made up entirely of ministers of national defence, but, if that's what you thought, you'd be wrong. And so we trove into my own collection of shots of rare and unusual units, the latest in our series, "Who are those chaps?" (or whatever the female version is). As many of you already know, these soldiers, the ones proudly wearing their blue pugarees, are baptised Sikhs, who have long played a colourful role in the history of first the Empire, and then the Commonwealth. Of course, India has a Sikh Regiment, carrying on the traditions of the Sikh components of regiments of the Raj, but these pukkah sahibs are in a unit not associated with, nor recruited in India.



Baptised Sikhs do not smoke, nor drink, and follow quite strictly the five "K's" as laid down by Guru Gobind Singh (kesh: uncut hair, kangha: wooden comb, kara, metal bracelet, kachera: special underwear, and kirpan, curved sword, of varying sizes). The gohrah officer wallah is not part of the unit, nor

are the other lads, but they do form part of the larger army in which these lions served (it no longer exists)

So, this might be easy for some of you, and hard for others. What is their unit, and where did they serve (and why)? Good guesses can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net). Shukria. As always, you can email the editor for a picture you can zoom in on: Bob.mugford@outlook.com

From the 'Punitary'

What do bees do with their honey? They cell it.

Murphy's other Laws

You can't guard against the arbitrary.

Quotable Quotes

Committees have become so important nowadays that subcommittees have to be appointed to do the work. - *Laurence J. Peter*

Upcoming Events - Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment

The 26th International Military Band Concert

Date: Monday, May 23rd, 2016 **Time:** 2:30pm

Location: Chandos Pattison Auditorium, [10238 168 Street](#), Surrey

Tickets: Family \$45, Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Children \$10.

**26th ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
MILITARY BAND
CONCERT**

Chandos Pattison Auditorium
10238 168 Street, Surrey
Monday, May 23, 2016
2:30 pm

Tickets
\$20 Adults; \$15 Seniors; \$10 Students
www.tapestrymusic.com/tickets
or www.picatic.com/imbc

HOSTED BY
Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA
WITH
Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth
Highlanders Regiment of Canada
NADEN Band of the Royal Canadian Navy
56th US Army I-Corps Band
US Navy Band Northwest
US Air Force Band of the Golden West

Tickets Now Available!

In 1990, musicians from the Fifteenth Field Artillery Regiment, the US Army 56th I Corps and Her Majesty's Grenadier Guards bands took to the stage in Olympia, Washington for an exciting concert of music that celebrated the common bond the three countries shared in the first International Military Band Concert.

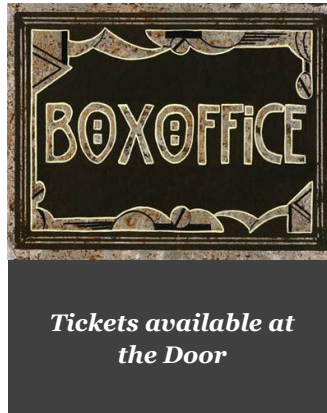
For the next 25 years, the International Military Band Concert continued and soon became one of the most highly anticipated musical events held in the Olympia's Washington Centre for the Performing Arts. The list of participants grew to include bands from the US Air Force, US Navy, US Marine Corps, Washington National Guard, the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Pipes and Drums of the Canadian Scottish Regiment and each year, the hall was filled.

On Victoria Day 2016, the 26th International Military Band Concert will be presented in Vancouver. This year's list of participating bands is equally impressive and includes, for the very first time, the US Air Force Band of the Golden West from Travis, California.

Join musicians from six military bands at the Chandos Pattison Auditorium on May 23rd at 2:30pm for a fantastic afternoon of music celebrating our common British Heritage and the continuing bond Canada and her allies enjoy!



[On Line Store](#)



Party in the Park - HM's 90th Birthday Party

In Celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday, The Royal Commonwealth Society, Mainland of British Columbia Branch, in the presence of The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, will hold a "Party in The Park" in Queen Elizabeth Park's Jubilee Square, over the bridge and next to the Bloedel Conservatory.

The event will commence at 9:30AM on April 22, 2016. Those wishing to attend are asked to arrive no later than 9:20AM. Happy Birthday to HM The Queen will be sung and cake will be served. Please plan to attend this once in a lifetime event, staged by the Royal Commonwealth Society, Mainland of British Columbia Branch and the local community.

Contact Shawn M Wade (Home Office) 604 522-5134 shawnmwade@hotmail.com



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

*The President and Directors of
The Naval Officers' Association of
British Columbia,*

*request the pleasure of your company and guest(s)
at dinner.*

We shall commemorate the 71th anniversary of

The Battle of the Atlantic

on

Saturday, 30 April 2016

1830 for 1930

Wardroom, HMCS DISCOVERY

Guest of Honor

Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier, OMM, CD.

Commander Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force Pacific

*Cost: \$85.00 per person
Mess Dress or Black Tie
(Ladies Equivalent)
Miniatures*

RSVP before April 20th 2016

by using the attached reservation form.

Taste of the Caribbean Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, April 28, 2016
- 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 April 18, 2016)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail Charlotte Yen at 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 April 18, 2016

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, May 28, 2016

RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE

Force 136



Learn more about a largely unknown part of Canadian history. During the last years of the Second World War, about 150 Chinese Canadians were secretly trained in guerrilla warfare and jungle survival tactics. Their mission? To get dropped behind Japanese lines and assist with sabotage and intelligence gathering. Although denied the right to be full citizens of Canada, these men volunteered for what many knew could be a dangerous, even a suicidal, operation.

OPENS MAY 14, 2016

CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM

CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE MUSEUM, 2ND FLOOR, 555 COLUMBIA STREET, VANCOUVER B.C.
WWW.CCMMS.CA

EXHIBITION DESIGNER:



EXHIBITION SUPPORTER:



EXHIBITION PARTNER:



**The Chinese Canadian Military Museum, located in Vancouver's Chinatown, is the only museum of its kind in Canada. Its goal is to collect, preserve, document, and celebrate the role of Chinese Canadians in the service of Canada's military and the impact this service had on Chinese Canadian history and civil rights. Besides operating a museum and organizing tours, the Museum is involved in several projects each year (exhibitions, forums, documentaries) that capture the stories of veterans and educate a new generation of Canadians about the sacrifice of these patriotic men and women. To learn more, visit their website at: www.ccmms.ca*