



**Vancouver Artillery  
Association News**



**RUSI News  
Vancouver**

## **Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 19, 2016**

**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>

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **NOABC Speaker – 27 Jan 2016**

This month's topic is "Canadian Heroes in the Royal Navy" to be presented by Surgeon Commander John Blatherwick OC OBC CStJ CD RCN (ret'd). The presentation will start at 1300hrs.

### **RUSI Luncheon Speaker – Feb 10<sup>th</sup> - DART presentation**

Lt Col Edward M. Izatt, Commander, Canadian Forces Disaster Assistance Response Team will give a presentation in the lecture room at the Armoury after lunch (1330hrs) on Wednesday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. He will speak to us on DART activity after the earthquake in Nepal last spring.

## **World War 2 - 1940**

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

**Jan 20<sup>th</sup>:** The Iron Guard gets out of hand and starts a revolt; their erstwhile leader General Antonescu calls on Hitler for aid.

**Jan 21<sup>st</sup>:** 6th Australian Division breaches the outer defences of Tobruk, and captures two of the Garrison's generals.

**Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Australian troops finish the capture of Tobruk and take 27,000 Italians POW – and the port is intact! The Italians must run their supply routes all the way back to Tripoli. The Italians also fall back in Eretria and skirmishing takes place on the Kenya-Italian Somaliland frontier.

**Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Malta's harbour looks emptier as the bomb-riddled Illustrious finally heads out to Egypt (and then the US) for complete repairs. The Bulgarians agree to alliance with Germany.

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup>:** The ABC (American-British-Canadian) talks are held in London over sundry issues relating to North American security and 'worst-case' scenarios. The Italians in North Africa are

split into two with the British advance on Mechili. With German help, the Iron Guard Revolt in Romania is quelled.

**Jan 26<sup>th</sup>:** A good day for the Italian Army, they manage to withdraw unmolested from Mechili in Ethiopia, and stage a successful local counterattack against the Greeks in Albania.

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>:** The Eritrean Campaign becomes focused on the battle at Agordat. Count Ciano and other high level mugwumps arrive in Albania to shore up Italian morale – improved weaponry and some wine and women might have gone over better.

## **Military Review to Be Completed by End of 2016**

Harjit Sajjan says procurement is being looked at in 'extreme detail' as part of review process.

Marie-Danielle Smith Published 01/13/2016



*Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan speaks to Embassy on Jan. 12.*

Embassy Photo: Sam Garcia

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan says he plans to complete a thorough defence policy review by the end of 2016—and the public will be asked to participate.

In an interview with *Embassy* Jan. 12, Mr Sajjan confirmed that Department of National Defence officials are already

identifying how the review, or Defence White Paper, will be conducted. Public consultation will be involved and foreign allies will be consulted, he said. The review is expected to set a road map for the next 10 to 20 years. “I want to make sure that we get the 'How' part. It’s so important,” he said. “If we don’t get that right then the quality’s not going to be there at the end.”

As the *raison d’être* for the Canadian Armed Forces is debated once again, Mr Sajjan said there are elements of Canadian defence policy that he assumes will be prioritized. The safety of Canadians will always be the “number one priority,” he said, while continental defence, Arctic sovereignty and Canada’s responsibilities within the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will stay constant. Even so, he said defence policy needs to be placed “in a wider context that suits the needs of the vision that our government is setting.” The Liberal government, in its early days, has talked up a return to multilateralism and a greater focus on diplomacy. Working with foreign allies is “critical,” Mr Sajjan said. The minister has connected with his counterparts from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and France, as well as other NATO allies. “The British just did a defence review,” he said, referring to the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 released by the Cameron government on Nov. 23. “Australia is about to release theirs, and especially it’s important for us to be able to learn from those lessons.”

He said he recently spoke with UK Defence Secretary Michael Fallon in London. “It is helping me to shape how Canada can look at doing [the defence review],” he said, noting the UK had used an interactive website to get public input. “I’ve got some really key ideas that Fallon

provided, and I'm looking forward to reading the Australian review when it comes out as well," Mr Sajjan said. The minister said the credibility and relevancy of the review was important. "We can do a white paper of everything on the wish list, but if you don't have the budget to support it, it really doesn't matter." Defence officials declared the previous Harper government's military wish list, the Canada First Defence Strategy, unaffordable in 2011, but no updated document was ever released.

Sitting in his office at National Defence headquarters—where staffers said reporters hadn't been seen in the past few years under the previous government—Mr Sajjan told *Embassy* that procurement is being looked at in "extreme detail." "Does it have the right number of people, the right type of expertise to be able to make it more efficient," he posited. A recent report from the Canadian Global Affairs Institute's David Perry had warned that cutbacks to DND's materiel department were causing major slowdowns to the process. "To have an agile force we need to support it as well. Certain areas we do need to increase," Mr Sajjan said. Procurement is "definitely one of them." Though hesitant to look back at the previous government's record, he acknowledged a belaboured procurement process. He is "dismayed" at the capability gap in the Canadian Navy, he said, "because we didn't get the procurement process right." So he is "very focused" on making sure that procurement becomes more efficient. "We're going through a process that's going to be more transparent, so that it's done in a manner that gives confidence to the Canadian public," Mr Sajjan said.

He would not confirm, however, whether the Statement of Requirements for new defence procurements would be released publicly. In 2013, DND quietly decided to no longer post these key technical documents on its website, which allowed the public to see the military's requirements for crucial new planes, ships, and vehicles. With the ubiquitous F-35 fighter jet program, shafted by the Liberals to replace the CF-18s in favour of an open competition, Mr Sajjan said "the last thing I want to see with our fighters is what we have with our Navy right now: the gap in our capabilities." When it comes to figuring out how Canada's National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy should move forward—including narrowing down exactly which ships are needed and how many—the defence policy review will help to provide "a lot more clarity."

Asked about the transformation recommendations of fellow MP and retired general Andrew Leslie, whose controversial report recommended ways to improve the department's efficiency, Mr Sajjan noted there could be redundancies in some areas within the department. The defence review will identify these, he said. Another thing the review will determine, he said, is the future for Canada's reserve force. The previous government had committed to an accelerated expansion from 24,000 to 30,000 members. "With the defence review it will allow us to look at what the capability and the role of the reserves will be for the future," Mr Sajjan said. "In some areas, as much as we want to grow, the population can't support that growth." Ultimately, funding will play a big role in how the department will evolve. The Liberals committed to maintaining the current defence budget escalator—a three per cent increase to the budget annually, as of the 2015 federal budget. The minister wouldn't specify whether the government is thinking of increasing funding any more than that, but he said it's his goal to make sure

funding is “consistent and predictable” to better plan for the future. “And as the economy improves, we can look at adjusting things as well,” he added.

## **Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers**



The Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers will recognize the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country and celebrate a wide range of voluntary contributions. As an official honour created by the Crown, the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers will be part of the Canadian Honours System. The program will incorporate and replace the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award, created in 1995, by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc. The Chancellery of Honours, part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, will administer the program. The Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers will recognize living Canadians who have made a significant, sustained and unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad. Non-Canadians will also be eligible if their contribution brings benefit or honour to Canadians or to Canada.

Until the inaugural presentation ceremony of the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers is held in Spring 2016, presentations of the Caring Canadian Award are ongoing. Nominations for this award continue to be accepted throughout the year by the Chancellery of Honours and reviewed by an advisory committee, which will make recommendations to the governor general. Existing Caring Canadian Award recipients will subsequently receive the medal to complement their award. Canadians can nominate a friend, neighbour or member of their community who deserves this unique honour by visiting [caring.gg.ca](http://caring.gg.ca).

The Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers consists of a silver circular medal that is 36 mm in diameter with a suspension ring. The obverse depicts a contemporary effigy of the Sovereign, circumscribed with the inscription in capital letters of the Canadian Royal Title and the word “CANADA”, separated by two maple leaves. The reverse bears a large and a small heart interlaced, set with five maple leaves on the outer edge of the large heart which is surmounted by a coronet bearing three maple leaves. The edge of the reverse is decorated with a sunburst pattern. The medal is suspended from a ribbon that is 32 mm in width, the edges of which shall consist of 9.25 mm deep red stripes and the centre of which shall consist of five 1.5 mm gold stripes interspersed with four 1.5 mm blue stripes.

The design of the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers was created by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, based on concept by Darcy DeMarsico of the Chancellery of Honours. The medal will be manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint at its Ottawa facility.

# **Just One Canadian Tank Made It from D-Day to VE Day**

*by David Nye - Jan 12, 2016*

The 14,000 Canadians and 200 tanks that landed at Juno Beach on June 6, 1944 fought bitterly to breach Fortress Europe and begin the long march to Berlin. Almost a year later Canada and the rest of the Allied powers celebrated the fall of Nazi Germany.



*Crewmembers and officers who served on the 'Bomb' pose with it on Jun. 8, 1945 in the Netherlands.*

*Photo: Library Archives of Canada*

Bomb was the only Canadian tank that rolled unstopped from D-Day to VE-Day, fighting its way from the beaches of France through Holland and into Germany. It travelled 4000 kilometers, fired 6000 rounds and never missed a day of action.

Lt Walter White took command of B squadron in Holland, as the allies were pushing the Germans east. One night, White's Squadron was camped in the Hochwald Forest, halted by the mighty Rhine River. The intrepid commander had an idea. The next morning, his crew sealed the tanks to make them watertight, wrapped them with compressed air hoses and floated the 31 tonne tanks across the Rhine, taking the enemy by surprise. As the fighting continued into Deventer, Holland, White took a shrapnel wound in the leg, and was evacuated to hospital in England.

Soon after Bomb crossed into Germany near Emden, the Squadron was sent to Kleve on the German side of the border with the Netherlands. In the early morning of Feb 26, 1945 the Squadron, under command of Capt John Neill, was escorting a column of infantry in Kangaroos forward when German artillery opened up and pinned the column down in thick mud. The Germans put up a smoke screen and continued their attack. But the Bomb and a second tank left their supported infantry to dig out of the mud and led a counterattack, taking the objective and relieving the pressure. Surrounded by German anti-tank teams and under heavy mortar, artillery, and machine gun fire, Bomb and the other tank held their ground for 20 minutes, until their infantry was able to reinforce them, thus stopping the Germans from destroying the Canadian column. Neill was later awarded the Military Cross for the battle.

As the war wound to a close, the Bomb found itself in continuously heavy combat. On the last day of the European war, the Bomb was under the command of Lt Ernest Mingo. He and his men faced off against a German officer who kept sending soldiers to try the Allied Forces. "The land between us was covered with dead German soldiers," he said, according to a Sunday Daily News article. "He must have known the war was over, but he just kept sending them out, I guess trying to kill Canadians." Mingo recalls the moment his radio cracked with the news of

the end of the war. We were still facing the enemy that morning when the word came over- "Unload, clear guns, the war is over" he says.



*Photo: Wikipedia/Skaarup HA CC 4.0*

Despite being the only Canadian tank to serve every day of the war in Europe, the Bomb was nearly melted down as scrap after the war. Bomb was rescued from the Belgium junk heap where most of the tanks were melted into history. The National Film Board commemorated its unmatched

battle record in the documentary "The Green Fields Beyond". It is currently at the Sherbrooke Hussars Armoury in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

## **Battle with ISIL Ignoring Lessons of 1st Gulf War**

If there has been a “good” conflict in the Middle East, the first Gulf War may have been it.

Twenty-five years ago this week, the US Congress authorized the use of force to oust Saddam Hussein’s invading troops from Kuwait. A few days later Canada went to war for the first time since Korea. Between Jan 17, 1991, when allied warplanes began to light up the night sky over Baghdad, and Feb 28, 1991, when Operation Desert Storm ended with a massive four-day ground assault, CF-18 Hornets carried out 56 bombing missions against Iraq. US Gen Norman Schwarzkopf, who cut a far more dramatic figure than commanders such as Stanley McChrystal and David Petraeus later did in Iraq and Afghanistan, had 956,000 coalition troops under his command. About 4,000 of them were Canadians. Then US president George H.W. Bush’s sole goal was to liberate Kuwait. Although Bush the Elder was harshly criticized at the time, when that limited goal was achieved and the sheikdom’s saviours quickly went home, rather than rolling on to Baghdad to overthrow Saddam, as many armchair generals wanted. The president’s son went all the way 12 years later, during the second Gulf War, spawning a disastrous occupation that lasted until 2011.

Operation Friction, as the Canadians called the first conflict, was a watershed for Ottawa and for the country. For the first time in decades, Canada moved away from the defence of western Europe and peacekeeping. But in a typical Canadian compromise that finds its echo today in Canada’s involvement in yet another war in Iraq, the Mulroney cabinet, after intense internal debate, chose to only send warplanes to kill the enemy, rather than put boots on the ground. Three warships and a field hospital were also deployed. Rules about how journalists were allowed to cover coalition forces were far more relaxed then. I was able to go on missions with USAF and RAF tankers that flew tracks above the Iraqi border to transfer fuel to fighter jets bristling with weapons. Being airborne with the tankers and in the cockpit of an Canadian air

force C-130 Hercules that landed in the sand to insert special forces troops into Iraq provided a dramatic window on Schwarzkopf's vaunted left hook. In the war's signature strategic move, the swashbuckling American four-star general suddenly veered more than 100,000 troops, tanks and attack helicopters far to the west to encircle Saddam's army in Kuwait and southern Iraq. There were lessons Bush the Younger and his Svengalis, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, could have drawn from the first Gulf War but didn't. One, obviously, was to get in and out quickly, and avoid the kind of quagmire that followed the second Bush's invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The earlier conflict also proved the wisdom of the Powell Doctrine. Named for Colin Powell, the retired US army general who was chairman of the joint chiefs of staff under the first Bush, it held that the US should become involved militarily only if there was a clear, attainable objective and if it brought overwhelming force to the fight. This was not something that Cheney and Rumsfeld did. Against the advice of their generals and even the state department, they dispatched a potent but smallish force. It easily won the war, but as some predicted at the time, there were not nearly enough troops to keep the peace. Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf could call on more than 2,250 coalition aircraft. I witnessed aerial ballets that involved packages of as many as 70 warplanes at a time mustering around tiers of tankers before they blitzed Iraq. Now, even with a US aircraft carrier back on station in the Persian Gulf after a gap of several months, Gen. Lloyd Austin, the almost-anonymous commander of the war against ISIL, has only about 200 warplanes, and sorties seldom involve more than a few attack aircraft at a time. Other than a handful of advisers and special forces commandos, Austin has no ground troops.

Canada has greatly scaled back its combat contribution, too. It sent six aircraft to attack ISIL in Iraq and Syria last year, compared with 26 in 1991. Still, Canada's part in the first Gulf War shattered the myth that Canadians should only do peacekeeping and the notion that the country was somehow uniquely qualified or best at such missions. ISIL has been described as the greatest scourge of our time. Unlike Saddam, who murdered and plundered in or near his own backyard, ISIL kills and maims across the Middle East and globally. Forgetting the Powell Doctrine, the US, Canada and the rest of the West have devoted only a tiny percentage of their military power to defeating ISIL. The wrong lessons from 1991 have been drawn about the need for clarity of purpose and for adequate resources to achieve the desired result. Go all out — or why bother?

## Who is it?



**Last Week:** We are quite sure this picture was taken in 1966 at the Annual Summer training camp in Wainwright. It would have been Dave Penman's last camp before he retired in the fall. Pat Smith succeeded him.

Al Yelland	Bud Taylor	Eric Tyldesley Gore	Pete Erwin	Gord Wright	Rollie Wiebe	Doug McCloy	Heinz Winter
	WOII Ray Guttridge	??	WOI Dave Penman RSM	WOII Pat Smith			

**This Week:** We greet the New Year of the Monkey with some of his close relatives, posing in an undated photo from the deep archival vault of 15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment's vast holdings. Indeed, due to heightened security, it is getting more and more difficult to get past the Gurkhas who guard our subterranean storage, but we shall persevere. The gentlemen (and, as they are all officers, one must assume they are, indeed, such) are all well-turned out in their blue patrols, looking every bit the ideal to which we, who were lowly NCMs, always aspired, mostly because of the copious amounts of alcohol once consumed in Her Majesty's various messes.



Some in this photo are familiar faces, still with us, but impossibly youthful. Others are sadly departed, or potential nominees for "Lost Trails" columns. So, dear reader, do you recognize these lads (and, my apologies for there being no lasses, but times were different then)? In fact, are you one of them, and do you have any jolly reminiscences of those

days (a date would help us, too)? Let us know, or just drop by the museum of a Wednesday morning and let us record your story (if the Statute of Limitations has meant you are now free to do so).

Send your thoughts to your editor, or to the author, John Redmond [johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)  
As always, you can email me for a picture you can zoom in on. [Bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:Bob.mugford@outlook.com)

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

What do you call the Director of Carbonation at the soft drink factory? A fizzition.

### **Murphy's other Laws**

What gets you promoted on one level will get you demoted on another.

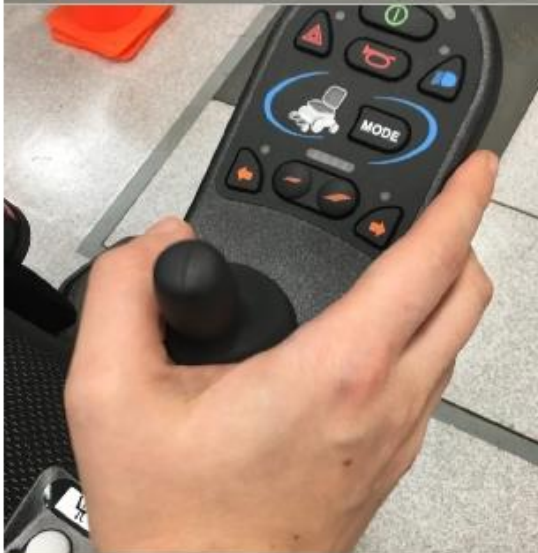
### **Quotable Quotes**

Opportunity is a favourable occasion for grasping a disappointment. - *Ambrose Bierce*



# Stand-To!

Volunteers of your calibre are needed now!



Student researchers from the University of British Columbia Master of Occupational Therapy programme are comparing two different methods of controlling a powered wheelchair to determine if one of them is more intuitive for new users.

We are seeking persons with limited wheelchair experience, aged 60 years or older, for participation for an hour on one of two dates in January.

- ⇒ Wheelchair experience less than 6 months in the past 5 years
- ⇒ Willing to learn new skills

When: 23 or 24 January, 2016

Where: GF Strong Rehab  
4255 Laurel Street @ West 26th Avenue, Vancouver

Time: One hours appointments throughout

Other: Please call or email for an appointment:

**Emma Smith**

**778 986 4038**

**[smithem@alumni.ubc.ca](mailto:smithem@alumni.ubc.ca)**

# Taste of Singapore Curry Lunch



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

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



**Date:** Thursday, January 28, 2016

**Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
(Bar opens at 11:45 am)  
(Lunch starts at 12:25 pm)

**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  
who confirm attendance by January 18, 2016)

**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 January 18, 2016

***NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, February 25, 2016***

## **Whistler/Blackcomb Military discounts**

Whistler/Blackcomb offers a Military Discount off the Window Ticket price to all Active duty, reservists, retirees and Dept of Defense civilians across all branches of military. This discount can also be extended to intimate family (spouse and immediate dependents).

To redeem this discount, Military ID must be provided at the window. Any form of Military ID, Coast Guard, Emergency Services ID or paystub would be suitable proof when purchasing at the window. Whistler/Blackcomb is not affiliated with the CFOne program so CFOne cards are not accepted.

The daily rates offered at the window for Military:

<b>Adult (19-64)</b>	<b>Senior (65+)</b>	<b>Youth (13-18)</b>	<b>Child (7-12)</b>
\$97.00	\$64.00	\$60.00	\$34.00