



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Dec 1, 2015

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

Wednesday Lunches The 15 Field Officers Mess holds weekly lunches, serving 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.

Last Lunch for 2015. The Armoury will shut down completely for the winter break so our last lunch for this year is on Dec 9 and the first lunch of 2016 will be on Jan 6. The last lunch is traditionally a 'Ladies' lunch so we encourage attendees to bring spouses or significant others (but not both – that always gets messy). We are now starting to collect for Mrs Lum's annual 'Christmas Purse'. See me in the Mess to contribute.

Commanding Officers Christmas Tea – December 13 The annual CO's Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday December 13, 2015. This is probably the most enjoyed event of the year. The cost, \$20pp, includes sherry, Mrs Lum's delicious hors d'oeuvres, as well as coffee and tea served by Regimental Ladies. The Regimental Band is sending one of its combos to entertain us as we mingle. The bar will be open for those of you who want more than sherry. Dress is suit and tie (or Regimental blazer and tie) for gentlemen and the equivalent for ladies. **See invitation at the end of the newsletter.**

New Year's Levée – 1 Jan 2016

15 Fd Artillery Regiment is holding their annual Levée. The Messes will open for visitors at 1100hrs. A light lunch will be served starting around noon. The only other Unit we have heard from is the Seaforths. They will hold their Levée at the Jericho Mess.

World War 2 - 1940

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

Dec 3rd: Britain orders 60 merchant ships from US yards.

Dec 4th: The Greek advance into Albania is slowing, due to weather and environmental conditions.

Dec 5th: Planning day for Hitler, he reviews the plans for the invasion of the USSR and calls for more details for the invasion of Greece.

Dec 6th: Badoglio resigns as Italian CinC and Count Cavallero replaces him. The Greek Army is now advancing along the Adriatic coast into Albania."

Dec 8th: Greek forces capture two more villages on the Albanian frontier.

CAF Commences Support to PCA's Avalanche Control Program

The Canadian Armed Forces' (CAF) annual support to Parks Canada Agency (PCA) avalanche control program, Operation PALACI, is underway and expected to continue into April 2016. Since 1961, the CAF have provided artillery support to the PCA avalanche control program in Glacier National Park, specifically in the Rogers Pass region. Rogers Pass is where major road and rail transportation corridors cross the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia.



The operation is carried out in two rotations drawing upon different artillery units nationally: this year, the first rotation will incorporate 10 members from 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, based out of CFB Shilo, Manitoba, and seven Primary Reservists from Western Canada. The second rotation will be supported by 17 members from the 5e Régiment d'artillerie légère du Canada, based out of Garrison de Valcartier, Québec.

Quick Facts

- During Operation PALACI, avalanches are triggered by artillery fire before they become a threat to road and rail transportation corridors.
- Historically, approximately 3,000 vehicles and up to 32 trains traverse Rogers Pass each day in winter, which amounts to billions of dollars in trade each season. Whenever an avalanche closes Rogers Pass transportation corridor, there is a significant impact on the Canadian economy.
- Operation PALACI is coordinated by Joint Task Force Pacific (JTTFP) in Esquimalt, B.C. JTTFP is responsible for all CAF operations in the province of British Columbia and its western air and maritime approaches.

China Unveils Biggest Army Overhaul in Decades to Project Power

Bloomberg News November 26, 2015

President Xi Jinping announced a major overhaul of China's military to make the world's largest army more combat ready and better equipped to project force beyond the country's borders. Under the reorganization, all branches of the armed forces would come under a joint military command, Xi told a meeting of military officials in Beijing Thursday, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Bloomberg in September reported details of the

plan, which may also seek to consolidate the country's seven military regions to as few as four.



Xi Jinping

Photographer: Feng Li/Getty Images

The plan also seeks to tighten the Communist Party's grip over the 2.3-million-member military, with Xi insisting the People's Liberation Army maintain "correct political direction" and stressing "the Communist Party of China has absolute leadership of the armed forces," Xinhua reported. Under Xi, China has been more assertive over territorial claims in the East China Sea and South China Sea, raising tensions with neighbors such as Japan and the Philippines, as well as the U.S. Xi's policy marks a shift from China's previous approach of keeping a low profile and not attracting attention on the world stage, a philosophy laid out by former paramount leader Deng Xiaoping. "Under the leadership of the party, the army has gone from small to large, from weak to strong and from victory to victory," Xi told military leaders, according to Xinhua. "The reason why the military has stayed vigorous is that it has kept pace with the times and never ceased reforming itself. Now, as the country progresses from a large country to a large and powerful one, defense and military development stands at a new and historic starting line."

*A military parade at Tiananmen Square on Sept. 3
China Foto Press via Getty Images*



Xi, who became chairman of the Central Military Commission upon taking power in 2012, is personally overseeing the overhaul. He made a public display of his commitment to the reforms when he

announced that the People's Liberation Army would shed 300,000 troops at a September military parade in Beijing to mark the 70th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II. "This is the biggest military overhaul since the 1950s," said Yue Gang, a retired colonel in the PLA's General Staff Department. "The reform shakes the very foundations of China's Soviet Union-style military system and transferring to a U.S. style joint command

structure will transform China's PLA into a specialized armed force that could pack more of a punch in the world." The country's navy has been the most visible demonstration of the modernization drive, with advanced Chinese warships participating in anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden and extracting nationals from conflict zones in Libya and Yemen. On Thursday, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that China was in talks with Djibouti about building logistical facilities to help resupply military vessels operating off the East African coast.

The military has been a prime target of Xi's anti-corruption campaign as the party chief consolidates power over the PLA. Xi has expelled two former CMC vice-chairman, as well as dozens of generals accused of everything from embezzling public funds to selling ranks. Xi said the PLA would build a new disciplinary structure and a new legal and political committee to make sure the army is under the rule of law. "The reform enhanced the power of the Central Military Commission and its chairman," Yue said. "This is also a lesson learned from last generation of military leaders, as the former CMC chairman had little real power over the armed forces." The PLA's last major overhaul -- carried out under Deng Xiaoping in 1985 -- reduced the number of military regions to seven from 11 and resulted in the dismissal of some 1 million soldiers. In its annual report to the U.S. Congress in May, the Pentagon said creating joint-command entities "would be the most significant changes to the PLA's command organization since 1949."

Army Chaplains to Remove 'Conquer' From 102-Year-Old Motto

Because it is Offensive to Muslims

November 20, 2015 MATTHEW BENNS *The Daily Telegraph*



A move to change the Australian Army Chaplaincy Corps hat badge is under consideration.

THE Australian Army is removing the motto "In this sign conquer" from the 102-year-old hat badges of army chaplains because it is offensive to Muslims. The move comes after an imam approved by the Grand Mufti was appointed to join the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services in June. Australian Army chaplains have had the motto on their hat badges since 1913. A Defence spokeswoman last night denied the motto was being changed because it was associated with the Crusades, when Christian armies fought Muslims in the Holy Land during the Middle Ages. "The motto of the Australian Army Chaplains is being changed to better reflect the diversity of religion throughout the Australian Army," she said. "The new wording on the Australian Army Chaplaincy badge is under consideration and no decision has been made at this time."

Former army major Bernard Gaynor, whose commission was terminated last year due to his outspoken views, said: "This is political correctness destroying our military heritage." Mr Gaynor, who is standing as the Australian Liberty Alliance senate candidate for Queensland, said political correctness in the military was highlighted by the appointment of an imam.

Sheikh Mohamadu Nawas Saleem. “The government must stop the political correctness. It must dismiss the Defence Imam for his views. And it must put Australia first,” he said. Military historian Professor Peter Stanley from UNSW Canberra said: “The motto was acceptable 100 years ago but today has crusader connotations.” Despite the perceived crusader links, he said the motto actually comes from Emperor Constantine’s vision before he won the battle of Milvian Bridge in 312AD and converted to Christianity: “Jewish chaplains already have a separate badge with a Star of David, so Muslim chaplains would not be expected to wear the current badge. They would have one with a crescent.”

Army chaplains are understood to have pushed for the change. Former principal chaplain to the army Monsignor Greg Flynn said: “We have been aware of this coming down the track and most chaplains would agree with the change. It is a reality.” Professor Tom Frane, former Bishop to the Defence Force, said: “It seems like a crusading motto — triumphal. It is not the first time it has been misinterpreted. If times have changed it is worth another look.” The army imam, Sheik Mohamadu Nawas Saleem, has previously called for sharia law to be introduced into Australia. He signed a petition supporting radical Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir, which has argued in favour of honour killings and said Muslim students should not be forced to honour Anzac Day. Sheik Saleem works about 40 days a year for the Army and is paid \$717 for each one: almost \$30,000 a year. The sheik did not respond to requests for comment. Sheik Saleem was supported for the role by Grand Mufti Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, who this week sparked controversy by failing to come straight out and condemn the Paris terror attacks. The Defence spokeswoman said: “There are 102 ADF permanent members who self-identify as Muslim. In addition there are 40 Active Reservists who have declared as Muslim.”

Seaspan Could Provide Interim Supply Ship to the RCN Faster and Cheaper.

Nov 24, 2015 By Jonathan Whitworth, Chief Executive Officer, Seaspan ULC

Let’s give the new Liberal government in Ottawa credit for taking a deeper dive into the reported costs associated with Canada’s search for an interim capability to support the Royal Canadian Navy’s supply ship needs in the aftermath of the unanticipated retirement of HMCS Protecteur and HMCS Preserver. This interim capability would provide a needed bridge to the greater capability of the future Joint Support Ship (JSS) to be built at Seaspan’s Vancouver Shipyard. Notwithstanding the indignation of certain commentators from Quebec, the Davie Shipyard-controlled Shipbuilding Association of Canada (neither Seaspan nor Irving are members of this organization) and some in the media, at the heart of the issue is whether Canada will get value for the reported \$750 million it would be spending on a sole-source contract with Chantier Davie. Taxpayers should expect our federal government to have confidence in the answer they give to that question and one clear way of determining best value is through a fair, open and transparent competition.

Since Seaspan’s name has found its way into media articles related to this issue over the past week, I offer facts for the public record:

- Seaspan believes in competition and are proud to have won the federal government’s competition to build the next generation of vessels for the Canadian Coast Guard and Joint Support (supply ships) for the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) under the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS).
- With no financial support from either the Province of British Columbia or the federal government we have invested \$170 million of our own money to build North America’s most modern shipyard through which we have begun to produce the vessels that make up our initial inventory of work;
- The first of those vessels – the Offshore Fisheries Science Vessel for the Canadian Coast Guard – began construction in June and has 15 of 37 blocks presently under construction and is on plan;
- The engineering and planning phases are well underway on the next two classes of ships to be built in Vancouver. The Offshore Ocean Science Vessel for the Canadian Coast Guard and JSS for the Royal Canadian Navy are both benefiting from the world-class expertise that has been built at the Vancouver Shipyard under NSPS;
- This level of effort is currently providing employment to over 650 people at the Vancouver Shipyard and has resulted in contracts valued at over \$321 million being awarded to some 140 Canadian suppliers. These numbers will continue to climb as our NSPS build program increases;
- Project delays that are often attributed to JSS are related to a failed procurement back in 2008 which predates NSPS and is unrelated to our current program. We are currently working to schedule and to budget with our JSS deliverables;
- We have formally expressed interest to Canada, at its request, to support the RCN’s interim capability need with a converted containership, similar to that offered by Davie but at a significantly lower price and faster, through our Victoria Shipyards. The work would be performed without compromise to our capacity at Vancouver Shipyards which will deliver JSS to Canada, in 2020;
- Seaspan’s Victoria Shipyards, and its trades-men and women, have enjoyed a very successful long-term relationship with the RCN including our delivery next summer of the fifth of five extensively refit Halifax Class frigates, each delivered to Canada on-time and on-budget. If Canada opens the interim supply ship project to best value competition, it is the Victoria Shipyard that stands ready to offer a winning, low-cost interim solution as a bridge to the much more capable Joint Support Ship. We invite journalists and those who comment through the media to come and visit us at Seaspan, in both Vancouver and Victoria, to see with their own eyes why we are bullish on the future.

US and Allies Recall and Renew Scientific Ties

11/20/2015 By Warren Duffie, Office of Naval Research Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va (NNS) -- In the somber wake of recent attacks in Paris, three World War II allies honored decades of defense-critical scientific collaboration and re-affirmed their partnership for years to come. On Nov 17, at the Embassy of Canada in Washington, DC, the US Office of Naval Research, the British Embassy and the Canadian Embassy co-hosted a one-

day, 75th-anniversary commemoration of the Tizard Mission, a pivotal moment of transatlantic political cooperation and scientific collaboration that contributed to Allied Victory in World War II. It also led to a range of technological advances that resonates even today, including the critical cavity magnetron, which made possible small, powerful radars that could be placed on aircraft, ships and land-based platforms.

"The recent atrocities in Paris highlight the unpredictability of today's external threats, and with that, the compelling need to rapidly deliver relevant, innovative technology solutions," said Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm Mat Winter. "That was true in 1940, it is true today and will be true in 2040." The Tizard Mission--named after Sir Henry Tizard, the prominent British scientist who organized it--traveled to the US and Canada in 1940, during the Battle of Britain, when that nation was fighting an onslaught by the German Air Force. The British shared information about more than 20 of the greatest scientific advances of the war thus far, in the hope of securing help in producing a range of new technologies. In addition to the cavity magnetron, other breakthroughs included designs for rockets and jet engines, submarine-detection devices and gyroscopic gunsights, as well as a memorandum outlining the feasibility of an atomic bomb. "The Tizard Mission, and the partnership resulting from it, showed that the way we develop technology is just as important as how we use technology," said Dr Vernon Gibson, chief scientific adviser, UK Ministry of Defence. "Tizard was a desperate act of trust that sowed the seeds for future victory and collaboration."

Gibson's words supported the prevailing theme of the ceremony: Complex future challenges require the three nations to continue Tizard's legacy. Representatives from the nations' defense science and technology organizations signed a renewal of commitment to future collaboration. The commemoration included several panel discussions during which distinguished scientists, engineers and historians talked about the importance of transatlantic S&T cooperation. Attendees also were able to view a display showcasing various artifacts from the Tizard Mission, including several cavity magnetrons. "In the US Navy, the most important ships we have are partnerships," said Winter. "The nations represented here today must build on our history of scientific cooperation and mutual respect and reliance, in order to defend against future adversaries."

Who is it? **Last Week:** This is the Narrows North Fort under the Lions Gate Bridge. This picture was taken around 1943.



By this time in the war, the threat of the enemy approaching by sea was greatly diminished. Many of the personnel from the start of the war were replaced by conscripts and sent overseas. Then the garrisons of the installations were gradually reduced until, by wars end, there was only a small maintenance staff at each.

The structure remained standing until the mid-60s.

This Week: This week's quiz focusses on things that go "bang!", in a big way. As everyone, except maybe RCAF types, can see, this is a gun emplaced for coastal defence. It obviously isn't in a well-constructed, permanent site, as one can see from the earthworks and the rather rudimentary base. One also wonders about the tents, and other structures almost in front of the gun. No doubt they have triple glazing in order to soften the sound of the gun as it fires.



The photo is from an album that does not belong to us, rather, it was loaned to the museum by Lt Larry Marrier (ret'd). Were I to go into any more detail about him, you'd know too much about the photo. So, what gun is this? And, where and when was the photo taken?

All logical guesses can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net). By the way, should you have your dad's or your granddad's wartime or service album, and are wondering what to do with it in terms of conservation, and sharing, let me know and I'd be happy to help you out.

From the 'Punitary'

Only a Freudian dies Jung.

Murphy's other Laws

The nail that sticks up gets hammered down.

Quotable Quotes

If age imparted wisdom, there wouldn't be any old fools. – *Claudia Young*



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the

2015 Annual Christmas Fundraiser

- When: Thursday, December 03, 2015
- Time: 11:30 AM – Doors Open
- Lunch: Served from 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM
Followed by Silent Auction and Raffle
- Where: The Drill Hall
Home of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
620 Beatty Street,
Vancouver, BC
- Tickets: \$35.00 if confirmed by November 27, 2015
\$40.00 if confirmed November 28 to December 03, 2015
Please note, cancellations after December 03, 2015 will be invoiced
- Menu: Turkey - With all the trimmings!

- Silent Auction!
- The usual valuable lucky prize draws!
- If you can't attend, a donation is welcome.*
- Funds raised help us to fund Association Bursaries, Commemorative events and numerous other projects of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust.
- Enjoy great company, good food and have fun while helping a worthy cause.

RSVP by Friday, November 27, 2015 to:

Gayle Hawthorne 604-421-1521 or e-mail to: ghawthorne@shaw.ca

* Please send cheques to:

The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust
c/o #208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5C 5T1

*The Commanding Officer,
Lieutenant Colonel Brent Purcell,
Requests the Pleasure of your Company*



*at the
Annual Christmas Tea
to be held on
Sunday, December 13th, 2015
in the
15th Field Regiment Officers' Mess
Commencing at two o'clock
in the afternoon.*

Dress: Jacket & Tie
Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door
Please sign up at the Bar or
RSVP to dpgayton@gmail.com

SOUNDS *of* CHRISTMAS

Sat, Nov 28th, 7:30pm *White Rock*
with *North Surrey Secondary School Choir*
White Rock Baptist Church
1657-140th Street, Surrey

Thurs, Dec 3rd, 7:30pm *Vancouver*
with *The CHT Salvation Army Band*
St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church
cnr Burrard/Nelson Streets

Sat, Dec 5th, 7:30pm *Shaughnessy*
with *Magee Secondary School Choir*
Shaughnessy Heights United Church
1550 West 33rd Avenue, Vancouver

Sun, Dec 6th, 2:30pm *New Westminster*
with *Winter Harp* at **Massey Theatre***
735-8th Avenue, New Westminster

Fri, Dec 11th, 7:30pm *North Vancouver*
with *the Argyle Secondary School Choir*
Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Ave

Sun, Dec 13th, 7:30pm *Chilliwack*
at the **Chilliwack Cultural Centre**

Where to Buy Tickets:

Online: vwmc.ca (no surcharges)

In person: from any choir member

By phone: 604-878-1190 or

From Massey box office: (plus surcharges)

Ticket Prices:

\$27 **\$25** **\$10***
ADULT SENIOR STUDENT with ID.

Except at Massey Theatre, \$33, \$28, \$22*



CHRISTMAS

2015

CONCERTS



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

CANADA'S LARGEST MALE VOICE CHOIR