



## **Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News July 22, 2014**

### **Wednesday Lunches**

The Mess dress requirements for Wednesday lunches is Business Casual. Business casual can best be described as our 'summer dress'. Minimum requirement is an open neck button up shirt with dress pants or slacks (no blue jeans, pls), Ladies is the equivalent. Of course we never discourage the wearing of jackets and ties. Guests are always welcome.

Lunches continue through the summer. We always take a short break over the Christmas period, otherwise they keep going, except when Mrs Lum decides to take a holiday or if the Mess or Armoury are shut down for military requirements.

### **RUSI Co-sponsors WW 1 Series at Vancouver Public Library**

RUSI Vancouver, in collaboration with the Vancouver Public Library, will co-sponsor a series of four presentations to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War at the VPL Central Branch on West Georgia and Homer in Vancouver. The involvement of RUSI Vancouver in the VPL series is part of RUSI's community engagement initiative.

The first is by RUSI member and author Robert MacKay on Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> which deals with his first published novel *Soldier of the Horse* that tells the story of his father's time in Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), part of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade in WW1. The Robert MacKay and subsequent presentations are free and held in the Alice MacKay Room at the Central Branch from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, and facilitated by RUSI President Cam Cathcart.

Robert MacKay attended UBC and spent 13 years in the Canadian Navy with service on destroyers and submarines. He later taught school and practised law. In 2008 Robert visited Moreuil, France, where the "Straths" had their finest hour. He says the landscape is largely unchanged but the scars of battle from 100 years ago remain on the land. Robert MacKay has a new novel coming out this September called *Terror on the Alert*, which is set in a Canadian submarine during the Cuban missile crisis. This book ties in with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of submarines in Canada.

Also on July 30<sup>th</sup> - at 1:30 pm, the theme for *Soldier of the Horse* will be established when the movie "War Horse" will be shown for free in the Alice MacKay Room. Set in rural England and in Europe during the First World War it is the story of the friendship between a horse named Joey, and a farm boy named Albert. Hard times forces the horse to be sold to the British Army for use in cavalry charges against the enemy, much like those experienced by Robert MacKay's father.

“War Horse” is described as “one the great stories of friendship and war” through the odyssey of Joey, the war horse. Directed by Steven Spielberg, “War Horse” was first shown in late 2011.

- The next RUSI-VPL presentation will be on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> featuring *From the West Coast to the Western Front* a new book co-authored by Mark Forsythe and Greg Dickson.
- On Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> Keith Maxwell, Vice President of RUSI and a military historian, will provide a presentation on the topic of *Canada and the First World War*.
- The final RUSI sponsored presentation will be on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will feature Dr. James Wood, from the University of BC Okanagan. His subject is “*British Columbia and the Great War*”.

In addition RUSI, in cooperation with various Regimental museums in Vancouver, will organize and install First World War memorabilia displays at three separate Vancouver Public Library branches. These are Kensington, Terry Salman (Hillcrest) and Kerrisdale. The exhibits will be installed at these branches from October 15 to November 15, 2014 as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War One.

## **Mystery of Irishman who was WWII hero solved after 62 years**

Sam Griffin *Published 08/07/2014/02:30*



*The 62-year mystery of an Irishman whose investigations during World War II helped return millions in stolen art and diamonds has finally been solved.*

Eugene Smith, who was born in Lavey, Co Cavan, in 1913 but emigrated to the US as a child, disappeared after his military plane crashed into a glacier in Alaska in 1952. For decades his family, both in America and in Cavan, suspected he had died in the crash, but were never able to recover his body or give Eugene a proper burial. Searches of the area in the intervening years have been restricted due to the harsh landscape and it seemed the C-124 military aircraft, carrying 52 passengers, had been lost forever. But now, because the glacier has receded, the US military has been able to

search the site and confirm that Eugene died in the crash. "They knew the general area where it

had gone but because it was a glacier that the plane had crashed into, it wasn't possible to carry out any kind of proper search," explained Amy Kiernan, whose grandfather was Eugene's first cousin. Despite not knowing him, Amy says Eugene's legacy had lived on through her grandfather's stories who remembered him before he left Ireland and had waited for years for his cousin's remains to be found. "Granddad was always so proud of his cousin in America and he remembered when he first heard the plane had crashed.

"He had kept in touch with the family in the US the following years but passed away without ever finding out what happened to his cousin," said Ms Kiernan, who lives in Lavey. Eugene settled with his family in Wilmington, Delaware and got US citizenship. He joined the National Guard before he went on active duty with the army. In 1942 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the military police, investigating crimes committed during World War II. He quickly moved up the ranks becoming a lead investigator within the force. His crowning glory came in 1946 when he brought court martial proceedings against three US officers who had stolen more than \$30m worth of jewels and gold belonging to one of the royal families of Germany, the Hesse family. The robbery was known as the Hesse jewel heist and a Hollywood film based on it was made in 2009 starring Billy Zane. The air disaster struck soon after he was named the director of the office of special investigation, based in Alaska. The crash site remained untouched until 2012, when the US military was finally able to access the site due to the receding glacier.

DNA extracted from existing family members matched positively with a skull discovered in the plane. Eugene had been found. "The family always thought the plane had crashed and that he was there," says Brian Gorman, nephew of Eugene, who lives in Wilmington today. A burial ceremony will take place at the end of the month in Wilmington and Amy, and her sister Louise will attend as representatives of Eugene's Irish ancestry. "It's great that he dedicated his career to solving mysteries and now finally this last mystery is solved," Amy added.

## **Fascinating Photos of the Hidden World of WW1**

When photographer Jeffrey Gusky, M.D., FACEP, was given exclusive access to record all but forgotten underground cities of World War I lying beneath private farms in France, he had no idea what to expect or the impact it would have on others. Now captured in thousands of striking images, Gusky has titled the collection *The Hidden World of WWI*. The beautiful art and emotionally charged inscriptions, carved in stone by WWI soldiers, have been virtually untouched for almost 100 years. They are a direct human connection between then and now. Gusky, a Dallas emergency physician, fine-art photographer and explorer, is believed to be the first person ever to bring to light the large number of underground cities beneath the trenches of WWI. *The Hidden World of WWI* reveals the artifacts, sculptures and evocative graffiti left behind by soldiers on both sides of the conflict. Landowners determined to preserve the past have zealously protected these underground treasures for decades.

“Seeing these subterranean cities for the first time was one of the most moving experiences of my life,” Gusky says. “Finding hundreds and hundreds of messages to the future, written by soldiers in their own hand, made time seem to stand still. I feel a tremendous responsibility to the people who trusted me enough to share their secrets about these places. It was also amazing to realize that while some people knew about some of these spaces, no one knew about all of them.” While visiting France to photograph another project, Gusky had a chance meeting with a French official – which resulted in his first meetings with local WWI enthusiasts and several land owners along the Western Front. Gusky’s passion for the story and his commitment to protecting these hidden treasures earned their trust and eventually led to encounters with many more people who helped him find and photograph dozens of underground cities.

“To witness the inner thoughts and feelings of the soldiers, carved in stone, was more than inspiring; it was almost spiritual,” Gusky explains. “My goal was to capture this outpouring of human emotion and help make World War I real and relevant to people today.” One of the first soldier’s carvings the Dallas photographer saw was a perfectly executed, museum-quality relief sculpture of a classic woman’s face chiseled into the wall of an obscure underground quarry. At that moment he knew he had stumbled onto an important story that could touch people around the world during the 100-year anniversary of WWI.

He spent a total of six months exploring miles and miles of these underground spaces. The often treacherous work was performed in complete darkness and sometimes required him to crawl on hands and knees through tight spaces, over jagged rocks, and to lean down over ledges, balancing his camera in one hand. Additional perils in the form of unexploded hand grenades and live artillery shells were common. Gusky found thousands of works of art, graffiti and inscriptions by German, French, British, American, Canadian, Polish, Hungarian, Australian, New Zealand, Chinese, African and even New Zealand Maori soldiers, among others. In at least one instance, it was clear that three different armies had occupied the same underground city over the course of the war. While they left their mark in different languages, their graffiti and artwork was less about war and politics and more about home and loved ones.

Gusky is strongly committed to preserve and protect these treasures in France. “I’m a man on a mission. I hope these images will change the way we think about WWI and that they will be protected for future generations. *The Hidden World of WWI* gives us a glimpse into the humanity of individual soldiers who refused to be silenced in the face of modern warfare. Men from both sides declared themselves as human beings who could think, feel, express and create, and who remind us today that they were here, that they once existed as living, breathing human beings.”

Gusky’s discoveries and photographs are featured in the August 2014 issue of *National Geographic*, *The Hidden World of the Great War*. Images from *The Hidden World of WWI* can be found at [www.JeffGusky.com](http://www.JeffGusky.com)

## **British Student Discovers WW II Bunker Buried More Than 70 Years**

*A World War II air raid shelter buried for more than 70 years has been discovered at a primary school by a pupil — and it was so well-preserved the light bulb still works.*

*PHIL HOUGHTON/CATERS NEWS AGENCY*



*Students at Stoke Community Primary School, in Medway, Kent, marvel at the Anderson shelter. It would have fit up to six people during a German invasion.*

The iconic Anderson shelter was unearthed at Stoke Community Primary School, in Medway, Kent. Youngster Harvey Cotton, 10, had been taking part in a school activity when he saw a block of concrete at the back of what used to be an orchard in the school grounds. School caretaker Chris Poulter was sent to investigate and was amazed at what he found. He said: "We cleared away some of the vegetation and saw the steps down to the shelter. "After more clearance work we were able to get to the entrance. It was bricked up most of the way, and there was a wooden door behind it. "We knocked through the bricks and it opened up into the shelter."



*The long-forgotten bunker was barely visible from the school grounds*

The pair was even more surprised when they ran an extension cord down to the shelter and switched on the light and the bulb still worked. It's thought the shelter was used during the Blitz by

pupils at the school and local villagers from nearby Lower Stoke. The school now plans to restore the shelter so it can be used for hands-on lessons about the Second World War. Volunteers from National Grid have agreed to connect a power supply and help with some of the clearance work to create better access to the shelter. Head teacher Anita Meggs said: "We feel very privileged to have such a wonderful resource in the school grounds. "There is so much history in the school, which has been here since the 1800s. In September we plan on

doing a project on the Second World War that will run all term. "We hope to use the shelter for lessons and invite older villagers, who may have used the shelter, into the school to tell their stories about the war."

## THE ANDERSON SHELTER

The Anderson shelter was designed in 1938 by William Paterson and Oscar Carl (Karl) Kerrison in response to a request from the Home Office. It was named after Sir John Anderson, then Lord Privy Seal with special responsibility for preparing air-raid precautions immediately prior to the outbreak of World War II. Anderson shelters were designed to accommodate up to six people. The shelters were 6-feet high, 4 feet, 6 inches wide, and six feet six inches long. They were buried 4 feet deep in the soil and then covered with a minimum of 15 inches of soil above the roof. Anderson shelters were issued free to all householders who earned less than £5 — about \$8.50 — a week, and those with a higher income were charged £7, nearly \$12. 1.5 million shelters of this type were distributed from February 1939 to the outbreak of war. During the war a further 2.1 million were erected.

## **China Sends Uninvited Spy Ship to RIMPAC**

By: [Sam LaGrone](#) July 18, 2014



*Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy electronic surveillance ship Beijixing (pennant number 851). A ship of this class is currently off the coast of Oahu, monitoring RIMPAC 2014.*

China slipped an uninvited guest into the world's largest naval exercise. The US invited four ships from China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) to the Rim of the Pacific 2014 exercise — a move that was hailed as a sign of improved military-to-military relations between the two countries. But China also sent an electronic surveillance ship designed to monitor signals from the ships, right to the edges of the exercise. "The US Pacific Fleet has been monitoring a Chinese navy surveillance ship operating in the vicinity of Hawaii outside US territorial seas," Capt. Darryn James, a spokesman for US Pacific Fleet, told USNI News late Friday. "We expect this ship will remain outside of US territorial seas and not operate in a manner that disrupts the ongoing Rim of the Pacific maritime exercise."

James said the ship was not part of the exercise and would not speculate on the ship's purpose but said that it appeared in the vicinity of Hawaii about a week ago. "Any questions about the ship's intent or capabilities will need to be addressed by the People's Liberation Army Navy," he said. A message left with PLAN representatives at RIMPAC was not immediately returned.

As of Friday, the ship was operating south of the Hawaiian island of Oahu, near the USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76) carrier strike group (CSG) and the main body of the 50 ships participating in the exercise, several sources confirmed to USNI News. The ship is a Dongdiao-class auxiliary general intelligence (AGI) ship, one in a class of three PLAN ships designed to gather electronic and communication data from surrounding vessels and aircraft, sources confirmed to USNI News.

China watcher Andrew Erikson said the ship is likely to be one the PLAN's most experienced, in a late Friday interview with USNI News. "This AGI is most likely to be the Type 815 Dongdiao-class intelligence collection vessel *Beijixing* (pennant number 851), home ported in the East Sea Fleet," Erikson, an associate professor at the Naval War College said.

"*Beijixing* is the most experienced vessel from the PLAN's most advanced class of AGI. Based on Internet photos and Japanese government and other media reports, *Beijixing* is China's most well-traveled AGI, having operated frequently near and within Japan's claimed Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)." The Dongdiao-class off Hawaii is operating inside the US EEZ but not in territorial waters, James said. "The Chinese Navy AGI ship's presence is in accordance with international law regarding freedom of navigation," he said.

"The US Navy operates in waters beyond the territorial seas of coastal nations around the world while adhering to international law and norms, and China's AGI is permitted to do the same." Monitoring electronic signals and communications from rival's exercises is nothing new. The US and then-Soviet navies were famous for stalking one another's exercises to gain intelligence information. China often accuses the US of doing the same in areas like the South China Sea. Adversaries and allies both can learn much from monitoring and analyzing electronic signals from a plane or a warship — say the frequencies in which an air defense radar operates. Likewise the communications between ships and aircraft can tell an adversary procedures of how a navy operates. What's strange about the Chinese ship monitoring RIMPAC from afar is four PLAN ships and their crews have already been included in most levels of the operation. "For an operation that risks making the PLAN look like an untactful guest, as well as undermining its insistence that it has the right to oppose similar activities in its own EEZ, China would want to deploy the vessel least likely to make visible mistake(s) that would generate further embarrassment in that fishbowl environment," Erikson said.

The revelation of the spy ship near the exercise has caused at least one member of Congress to say the US shouldn't invite China back for RIMPAC 2016. "Given China's recent disregard for principles like freedom of navigation and the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes, it was already a stretch to reward Beijing with an invite to such a prestigious event like RIMPAC," Rep Randy Forbes (R-Va.) chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces told USNI News in a late Friday statement. "Now we learn they chose to disrespect the 20 other international participants by sailing an intelligence gathering ship directly into the middle of the exercise. It is clear China is not ready to be a responsible partner and that their first trip to RIMPAC should probably be their last." RIMPAC — held every two years — includes 50 ships, 200 aircraft and more than 25,000 military personnel from 23 nations. The exercises will run until August.

## **Who is it?**

**Last Week:** **Correction.** *In the picture of the LAA guns 2 weeks ago, the green diamond shaped patch was in fact, the Pacific Command patch. The 6th Div patch was red over blue triangles on a rectangular patch.*



This picture was taken at the Officers Mess New Year's Eve party in 1961. LCol Garrett, to the right of the carver, was CO of the Regiment from 1959 to 1962, next to him is the Wines Officer, then Lt Bailey, later CO from 1972 to 73 and on the far left is the PMC, Maj Eckford. Next to Maj Eckford is Mike Maskovic and his brother Don. They joined the Regiment in 1960. At that time they had their own little tailoring business on the side and were the two best dressed gunners on parade, having re-tailored their issued battledress. Several others in the Regiment, when they saw the results, had them alter their uniforms for a better fit as well, for a modest fee. They catered a number of the Regiment's activities in those years. Don eventually took over as Officers Mess bartender and with his wife Jean, catered to Regimental functions until the late 80s. Don Passed away several years ago.

## **This Week**

The centenary of Canada's entry onto Armageddon, World War One, draws daily nearer. Although this Regiment did not exist at that time, it does both commemorate the 68<sup>th</sup> Bty, CEF, which fought in North Russia, and originally contained many veterans of the Great War, including most of the founders. That the Great War was, indeed, a world war, can be seen in this week's photo. It was found in a box in our storage area, in amongst ephemera from the next great conflagration, World War II. Hence, we have no idea of its provenance. That is, we don't know who owned it, nor who donated it, nor why they had it in the first place. Should you be thinking of donating items to us, we suggest you take an HB pencil and write some relevant information on the edge of the back, taking care not to press too hard. This works well with vintage paper prints, but not well with modern resin ones. In either case, avoid using ink.



So, although this photo has no direct connection to us, we do invite you to speculate on the type of gun shown, and on the officers who are so interested in this monster. In addition, any guesses concerning the date would also be most appreciated. Answers can be sent to the editor, or to the author ([john\\_d.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:john_d._redmond@telus.net)). For a better quality photo, email [bob.mugford@shaw.ca](mailto:bob.mugford@shaw.ca)

**From the 'Punitary'** A flush beats a full house - for plumbers.

**Murphy's other Laws** In a hierarchical organization, the higher the level, the greater the confusion.

**Quotable Quotes** Political language . . . is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind. - *George Orwell*



# MEMORIAL DEDICATION

— CATES PARK/WHEY-AH-WICHEN —

— DEEP COVE, NORTH VANCOUVER, BC —

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**MONDAY AUGUST 4 2014**

**11AM**

**THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANADA ENTERING WORLD WAR ONE**



ENJOY THE PARADE OF COLOURS AS FLAGS FROM OUR NATION ARE MARCHED ON  
HEAR GUEST SPEAKERS IMMORTALIZE THE MEMORIAL AND THOSE WHO SERVE  
WITNESS THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE NEW MEMORIAL  
ENJOY THE SONGS OF TRIBUTE BY SOLOIST AND NORTH SHORE CHOIR

**BE PART OF HISTORY IN DEDICATING A UNIQUE JADE STONE MEMORIAL TO**

**HONOUR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM**



Canada



— OUR THANKS TO THE TSEIL-WAUTUTH NATION, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION —