



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 22, 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. **We are missing lunch tickets #10, 20 & 21. Check your pockets. Please return if you find them.**

**NOABC monthly lunch Mar 30.** Guest speaker is CDR Arthur Hastings RCN (Ret'd). His topic is: *"Beyond the Dockyard Gates" "The Revitalization of the seagoing and combat capability of the Naval Reserve from 1974 to 1998"*

The NOABC will commemorate the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of The Battle of the Atlantic with a formal dinner on Saturday, 30 April 2016, in the Wardroom, HMCS Discovery. Interested in attending? See the Invitation in the poster section at the end of this newsletter.

**RUSI Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference** With less than a month to go registrations are proceeding at a fast clip for the Strategic Studies Conference on April 8 and 9, so now is the time register without delay. With the theme of 'Global Flashpoints' the conference will be held in the Alice MacKay Conference Room at the Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library. The conference promises a full range of expert presentations on topics that make today's headlines. A panel discussion will get the conference started on the evening of Friday April 8, followed by a full day of presentations on Saturday April 9. This is the annual signature event of RUSI Vancouver, with the generous support of numerous organizations. We encourage everyone with an interest in foreign affairs and defence policy to attend. Register now for the 2016 Strategic Studies Conference by going to the Eventbrite link on the notice page at the end of this newsletter. *Thank you, Cam Cathcart, President, RUSI Vancouver.*

### World War 2 - 1940

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

*In last week's entry, John Thompson had mixed up U-Boat names - Otto Kretschmer was captured after U99 was sunk and Joachim Schepke went down with U100. Thanks to Ralph Webb for catching that.*

**Mar 24<sup>th</sup>:** Rommel again begins an offensive without permission and takes El Agehila: O'Connor and the best British troops in the region are all elsewhere leaving the inexperienced

and under-equipped 2<sup>nd</sup> Armour, 9<sup>th</sup> Australian and an Indian Brigade to face the heavily reinforced 90<sup>th</sup> Light and four of the best Italian divisions.

**Mar 25<sup>th</sup>:** The Yugoslav PM and Foreign Minister sign the Tripartite Pact; violent protests immediately begin in Belgrade. 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Division commences an advance on the Keren Road in Eretria.

**Mar 26<sup>th</sup>:** British forces liberate Harar in Ethiopia while Wingate's Ethiopian guerrilla Gideon Force easily defeats a far larger Italian one around Burye. An Italian manned torpedo unit slips into a British anchorage on Crete, sinking a tanker and damaging the Heavy Cruiser York. An Italian fleet makes a sortie to the Aegean; with the battleship Vittorio Veneto, six heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and 13 destroyers.

**Mar 27<sup>th</sup>:** The British dispatch two forces to intercept the Italian fleet. There is a coup in Yugoslavia to refute the treaty with Germany, and an infuriated Hitler immediately orders an invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece. The Italians have lost 3,000 dead and 3,000 wounded (to 4,000 British casualties) at Keren and retreat towards Asmara.

**Mar 28<sup>th</sup>:** General Sir John Dill arrives in Belgrade for consultations with the new Yugoslavian government. At the battle of Cape Matapan, the British lose two Swordfish to sink three cruisers (Fiume, Pola and Zara) and two destroyers while the rest of the Italian fleet heads for home at flank speed.

**Mar 29<sup>th</sup>:** As the British close in on Addis Ababa local Italians plea for help out of fear of the atrocities being committed by deserting Ethiopian troops from their own armies.

## **Transition to Civilian Life - Three Phases of Medical Release**

*From the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman.*

The Veterans Ombudsman's office has just published a video and reference tool called *Your Transition to Civilian Life - The Three Phases of Medical Release*. Links to the reference tool and the video are below in both languages.

[medical-release-transition-phases](#)

[phases-transition-liberation-medicale](#)

This is very important information for anyone being released from the CAF for injury or illness.

## **Drones' Role Limited**

*by Tom Lawson, former CDS, Ottawa, Global Mail Editorial Column*

Re Can Drones Replace Fighter Planes? (*March 11*): Your editorial justifiably praised Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff, General Jonathan Vance, for being a creative forward thinker. He is indeed so and, as his predecessor in the position, I know that this was one of the reasons he was selected to be chief of the defence staff. That said, I believe you have misinterpreted the comments he made to the Senate committee regarding drones. He was simply restating what the Canadian Armed Forces has been saying for over a decade now: that the RCAF needs a fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles with the capability to carry armament.

Neither Gen. Vance, nor the RCAF, would suggest drones are anywhere near ready to replace fighter aircraft in the complex roles associated with protecting Canadian air and sea approaches, or in many other combat situations. Certainly, the US Air Force plans to fly manned fighters in the NORAD role for coming decades. If we plan to remain a viable partner in the defence of North American aerospace, Canada will need to replace the CF-18 with a new fighter aircraft. This is why it is critical to identify a replacement, and quickly. I am quite certain the coming defence review will confirm the need for both fighters and drones.

## **RPAs Provide Crucial Combat Air Patrol Capabilities**

*By Snr Airman Christian Clausen, 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing PA March 15, 2016*



*In order to support remotely piloted aircraft missions around the world, every RPA combat air patrol requires the dedication of nearly 200 Airmen in various capacities. (US Air Force photo/Tech Sgt Nadine Barclay)*

**CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFNS) --** Remotely piloted aircraft don't fly themselves as autonomous super machines. They also don't require only a single pilot and sensor operator to function. The RPA enterprise of MQ-1 Predators and MQ-9 Reapers is maintained or operated by Airmen from more than 30 Air Force career fields, each one playing a key role in supporting every combat air patrol. The patrols enable combatant commanders access to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities at all times. A combat air patrol is essentially having an aircraft in the air, providing joint combatant commanders with dominant ISR and real-time munitions capability. Today, the RPA enterprise flies a total of 60 CAPs in a 24-hour period requiring thousands of Airmen from pilots and sensor operators to maintainers, intelligence personnel and weather forecasters.

Before the RPA capability can be utilized, an authorization order must first be given from a joint combatant commander. From there, the order falls down the chain of command until it reaches a squadron operations director or operations superintendent. The ops director will work with the wing operations center to ensure all logistical necessities are in place in order to complete the specific mission order. "Mission planning in a new area of responsibility can be intense and require additional documentation such as airspace control plans, air operations directives, air tasking orders, and rules of engagements," said Lt Col Ronnie, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Attack Sqn's ops director. "It would be my job as well as other shops to disseminate these documents. I'm also responsible for ensuring the squadron is fully manned and ready to operate in combat 24/7/365." The director is also accountable for the weapons and tactics shop, scheduling, training, plans and programs, and squadron aviation resource managers. According to Ronnie, all these shops, while different, each ensure the mission completion by validating that proper weapons are chosen to meet mission requirements, crews have proper training to use those weapons, and the correct aircrew is flying and has the necessary flight requirements. "Before we can even plan a mission, we first have to figure out where we're going to get the manpower needed to fly the aircraft," said Maj Steven, the 432nd Wing's ops center deputy director. "After that we have to coordinate a launch and recovery site, the ground control stations, and

get planes to the location.”

Once the mission’s logistics are good to go, intelligence Airmen must ensure the aircrew has the necessary qualifications and information to fly in the region. “When we go into a new (area) we have to first make sure the aircrew is qualified to operate in that location,” said Senior Airman Aaron, a 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing intelligence evaluator. “After that’s done, then we can begin to gather the necessary information to fly a successful mission.” At this point, a mission support analyst collects information to have situational awareness of the overall environment. Information included is the type of mission, possible targets, combatant groups, common practices and beliefs of said groups, the terrain, and overall geographic familiarization and more. With this information, the analyst briefs the pilot, sensor operator, and mission intelligence coordinator, to ensure the aircrew is aware of anything specific to the operating environment that could hinder or help mission success. “We, as (intelligence personnel), must make sure that the aircrew and supported units flying the mission are completely aware of everything that could hurt or help the mission so we can get the job done,” Aaron said.

Also in this briefing, a mission control element made up of the pilot, sensor operator, and mission intelligence coordinator, discuss information provided by the analyst as well as tactics, techniques and procedures, and safety checklists. They ensure everyone in the control element is physically and emotionally able to fly the mission. Once the mission is planned, weather Airmen step in to gather the latest weather data to determine if it’s safe for the aircraft to fly. According to Snr Master Sgt Ken, the 432nd Operations Support Squadron weather flight superintendent, compared to a fighter, bomber or airline aircraft, RPAs can be more susceptible to inclement weather. With the mission planning portion of the CAP complete, Airmen across five career fields and even more shops have been involved in starting a patrol. Each one adding their own instrumental piece to the puzzle that makes global RPA operations a reality, ultimately eliminating enemy combatants and saving American and coalition lives downrange.

## **365-Year-Old Mystery of Missing Battle of Dunbar Prisoners Solved**

A 365-year-old mystery about what happened to the bodies of Scottish soldiers captured by Cromwell’s forces after a bloody battle has been solved, archaeologists have said. Skeletons discovered in a mass grave close to Durham Cathedral in 2013 have been extensively tested and researchers are certain the bones are those of prisoners from the 1650 Battle of Dunbar, some 111 miles north. Now public discussions will start about what will happen to the remains, found naked and buried without ceremony, with one possibility that they will be returned to Scotland for burial.

After Oliver Cromwell’s unexpected victory over Scottish forces who supported Charles II, around 6,000 were captured, with 1,000 of the sickest being freed. Around a further 1,000 of the hungry, defeated soldiers died on the gruelling march south, many of them suffering from dysentery, then known as “the flux”. Some escaped and some were shot for refusing to

walk further. Around 3,000 Scots were imprisoned in Durham Castle and Cathedral, which were abandoned at the time and would have provided bleak shelter. Experts have estimated around 50 of them died every day, with 1,700 thought to be buried at locations around what is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. In November 2013, during work on a new cafe, the remains of between 17 and 28 people were found in a mass grave. Tests by Durham University's archaeology department have pinpointed the origins of these bare remains and given them back their place in history. Analysis showed they were male, mainly aged 13-25, and isotope tests showed they were likely to be from Scotland, though three were believed to be Northern European mercenaries. Study of the teeth showed some smoked clay pipes, which were common in Scotland after 1620. Examination of the bones showed no evidence of healed wounds, indicating these men were not battle-hardened veterans, nor died from their injuries, and the fact they were naked and buried in a hurry led to the belief they were suffering from disease.

Senior archaeologist Richard Annis said: "This is an extremely significant find, particularly because it sheds new light on a 365-year-old mystery of what happened to the bodies of the soldiers who died. "The burial was a military operation: the dead bodies were tipped into two pits, possibly over a period of days." The burial site, at the far end of the castle grounds, meant they were "out of sight, out of mind", he said. But that will not remain so, as prayers will be said at the cathedral on Thursday, the anniversary of the Battle of Dunbar. Discussions will be held with interested parties, including the Church of Scotland, about what should happen to the remains, which will be reburied, possibly at a local churchyard, or potentially in Scotland. Canon Rosalind Brown, of Durham Cathedral, said: "We are particularly mindful of descendants of the Scottish soldiers and hope and pray that this new information can bring solace." Some survivors of the Durham imprisonment were known to have been sent to Ireland, while others went to Barbados and New England, with descendants known to be still living in Maine and Massachusetts.

## **"Bitchin' Betty," the Voice of the F18, is Retiring**

The familiar voice that warned pilots when they were in danger.

*By Kyle Mizokami Mar 8, 2016*



Not all F/A-18 pilots have heard of Leslie Shook, but every Hornet pilot knows her voice. The Boeing employee is the voice of the "oral alert," a series of pre-recorded commands that help a pilot avoid his or her imminent demise. Shook is now retiring from the company, which put together a nice tribute video to

her. <https://youtu.be/yx7-yvXf6f8>

The F/A-18 can sense when corrective action is needed—right away—and the plane promptly warns the pilot what needs to be done. Bitchin' Betty will bark commands like "Pull up! Pull up!" until the pilot complies. There are numerous Bitchin' Betties across various airplanes, with Erica Lane voicing the AH-64 Apache and Sue Milne the Eurofighter Typhoon (where she is known as "Nagging Nora.")

Why have women shouting at pilots? Early voice studies indicated that female voices, in addition to having a greater range, were more authoritative and more likely to grab a pilot's attention. Shook's voice, sharp and matronly, sounds like your mother. And everyone should listen to their mother.

## **Let's Have a Grown-Up Discussion About Military Procurement**

Stuart McCarthy March 6, 2016 Ottawa Citizen



National Defence Harjit Sajjan. The military's procurement wish list is not the same as that of other government departments, notes Stuart McCarthy. *Sean Kilpatrick / The Canadian Press*

Good, fast, cheap – pick two. This is one of the immutable laws of procurement. Or as the Rolling Stones say, “You can’t always get what you want.” Government after government has tried to fix Canada’s military procurement and despite the latest major studies and strategies, the effort has resulted in nothing more than tinkering around the edges while major and minor procurement flounder and fail. From trucks to jets and ships, everything seems to go sideways. We have a world of procurement paralysis.

The military lapsed another \$2.4 billion in its capital budget this past year, hurting Canadian companies that have invested hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in the reasonable expectation that procurements will proceed as scheduled and contracts will be issued, not be delayed or cancelled. Canada goes to major international defence trade shows with the banner “Invest in Canada.” As one international executive said, “Canada is a great place to spend money. To be an investment you have to have a chance to win business.”

So how did we get things so wrong? Largely because Canada has not had the “big boy” discussion on procurement that we desperately need. And this discussion centres on two things: What are the levers on the procurement machine and whose hand is on the levers? Let’s start with the latter.

Three main government departments have a hand in defence procurement: National Defence; Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC); and Innovation, Science and Economic

Development (ISED). Each has different objectives: The military wants the best possible equipment, they want a lot of it and they want it now. PSPC should want to ensure a fair, open and transparent competition, run with expediency and getting the best value. ISED wants to ensure Canada gets the most value out of any procurement – workshare for Canadian companies, access to technology and a strong return on investment. But everyone can't have everything. And nobody in the past several governments has had the courage to place these interests in any order of priority.

And we risk getting it wrong yet again. Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan's mandate letter from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau directs him to "conduct an open and transparent review process to create a new defence strategy for Canada." It directs him to also "ensure that the Canadian Armed Forces have the equipment they need." PSPC Minister Judy Foote's mandate letter calls on her to "work with the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development to launch an open and transparent competition to replace the CF-18 fighter aircraft" and "prioritize the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS)" AND "modernize procurement practices so that they are simpler, less administratively burdensome, deploy modern comptrollership, and include practices that support our economic policy goals." SED Minister Navdeep Bains is directed to "work with the Ministers of Public Services and Procurement and National Defence to ensure the identification of industrial benefits for Canadian firms" from procurements.

We can't pull all these levers at the same time because they effectively cancel each other out. If the military wants the best possible equipment and fast, it comes at a high price, straight off suppliers' existing production lines. Forget economic benefits, technology transfer and domestic defence industry growth. Fair and open competition with the best value or lowest cost, means the military settles for less than expected, and with less investment in Canada. If, however, Canada wants to maximize the return on its investment, put Canadian companies on the world stage with access to global aerospace and defence supply chains, receiving technology and IP to develop the next generation of military products here, then the cost of procurement rises and again the military might have to settle for something different. Each of these options comes at the expense of the others. Each is a legitimate path forward. But if we want to succeed at defence procurement, pick one – and get on with it.

## Who is it?



**Last Week:** A Tattoo Called 'Pomp & Ceremony' was held in the Coliseum in 1964 or 65, featuring the massed bands, drums and pipes and the dancers of; the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, the Royal Ulster Rifles, the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Woman's Royal Army Corps. The photo shows Pipe-Major Peters of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Two other fusiliers are dancing with ladies of the RWAC. The photo is from 1963, published in the Tattoo program in 1964, and Peters is playing a set of Brian Boru pipes, notable for having two, rather than the usual three drones. These are no longer used by any band that we know of, but we are not always right.

**This Week:** We return to the less exotic for this week's quiz. The object in question is made of metal, coloured khaki, and makes a lot of noise. The photo, which is a tiny contact print, about one inch by half an inch (hence the bad quality), is from the album of a long-time member of the regiment, Major Ted Edmonds, who some of you might remember from his days running a military regalia shop downtown (and if you purchased any military miniature figurines from him, they were possibly painted by the author, paying for his expensive [\$350/yr] university education).



So, dear militarized reader, can you name the object in the photo, given that only the less-dangerous, slightly pointy bit is visible? If you are a keen expert of things artillery, maybe you can also identify the unit (as in "battery") that is about to

make a lot of noise. If you can identify the place, then you are obviously making that up, unless you have taken the album home without telling me. Answers can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). If you win, come and collect your prize from the museum, a slightly use, but almost antique CAMT of your choice. Then you can sign our guest book, and donate. As always, you can email the editor for a picture you can zoom in on [Bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:Bob.mugford@outlook.com)

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

When Spring comes, trees are released.

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

Almost anything is easier to get into than to get out of.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Democracy is a process by which people are free to choose the man who will get the blame.  
*Laurence J. Peter*



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# *Mark Your Calendar*

## **2016 RUSI VANCOUVER STRATEGIC STUDIES CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 8 & 9, 2016**

**Central Branch, Vancouver Public Library**

### *Conference Theme* – **GLOBAL FLASHPOINTS**

Featuring speakers and panels on the future of NATO, Middle East militarism, China and the West Pacific, the Arctic, and Canada and International Security.

**Opening Remarks: The Hon Judith Guichon OBC  
Lieutenant Governor of BC**

**Keynote Speaker: Hon Harjit Sajjan PC OMM MSM CD  
Minister of National Defence**

**Conference fee: \$45 Regular; \$30 Students.** (*includes light refreshments and Saturday lunch*)

*Register at:*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-vancouver-strategic-studies-conference-tickets-21259706354>

**Contacts: Keith Maxwell ([kdm Maxwell@gmail.com](mailto:kdm Maxwell@gmail.com)) or Cam Cathcart ([lhccathcart@gmail.com](mailto:lhccathcart@gmail.com))**

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*The following support the 2016 Strategic Studies Conference:*



# Taste of Thailand Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, March 31, 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 March 21, 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 March 21, 2016

**NEXT PLANNED LUNCH:** *Thursday, April 28, 2016*



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 71<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 2016*

*by using the attached reservation form.*