



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Aug 23, 2016

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html> . Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Wednesday Lunches The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3rd Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project. **Roast Beef is served on the first Wednesday of each month.**

World War 2 - 1941

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

Aug 24th: The Soviet counter-attack near Gomel goes nowhere and the Finns surround Viipuri. The British Mediterranean Task Force -- Force H -- is busy off Northern Sardinia harassing the Italian navy.

Aug 25th: The UK and the USSR invade Iran to "protect" it from German agents (some are present); capturing some Axis ships as the columns make good progress. The Italian cruiser Bolzano is torpedoed by the UK submarine HMS Triumph.

Aug 26th: The British get into Abadan and the Russians enter Tabriz in their joint invasion of Iran. The Soviets launch a counter-attack at Velikiye Luki, which goes nowhere. Junior Lieutenant Alexandr Divochkin is pulled out of the front lines, promoted and given the award Hero of the Soviet Union. A few days earlier, his detachment of NKVD troops was thrown in the path of the German forces advancing on Leningrad. He was the only unwounded man in his detachment of two 76mm fieldpieces and had been running from gun to gun, firing both to convince the Germans that his defence was still viable. By the time assaulting German troops had worked themselves up to grenade range, reinforcements had turned up and saved Divochkin and the few wounded survivors of his detachment.

Aug 27th: The Iranian government resigns as the Anglo-Soviet invasion continues. The German submarine U570 surrenders to a Hudson bomber, the first time a warship has surrendered to an aircraft. Laval and some flunky are shot and wounded by the Resistance, prompting a Vichy crackdown on "communists" (there are many around, but Vichy authorities prefer a much wider definition). The Germans begin their assault on Tallinn. Since the start of the Axis invasion of

the USSR, the Hungarians have flushed 18,000 Jews who are not Hungarian citizens into the Soviet town of Kamianets-Podilskyi. Today, a reinforced Einsatzgruppen detachment begins two days of mass executions, killing 23,600 Jews from Hungary and the local area.

Aug 28th: A ceasefire is declared as the Ali Furughi government takes power in Iran. The Soviets demolish their great Zaporozhye dam on the Dniepr to deny it to the advancing Germans. They also ship 446,480 Volga Germans to the farther reaches of Siberia.

Aug 29th: The evacuated Tallinn garrison comes under heavy attack when convoyed by sea to Leningrad with heavy losses. The Finns halt their advance to Leningrad along the 1939 border after liberating Viipuri. General Milan Nedic is appointed head of the puppet Serbian government. Fighting comes to an end in Iran as the British and Soviets move to complete their occupation.

Aug 30th: German troops sever the last rail link (at Mga) between Leningrad and the rest of the USSR.

Seaforths Coming Home

I left the date off this announcement last week – The Seaforths return home on **Sept 24**.

Canada Buying New Fleet of Lightweight Combat Vehicles

Vehicles could cost over \$190k each. *By Monique Muise National Online Journalist, Politics Global News*



Polaris' DAGOR model is an example of the kind of ultra-light combat vehicle Canada is looking to acquire.

Credit: Polaris Defence

As the Canadian government continues to come under fire for exports of armoured personnel carriers to countries like Saudi Arabia and South Sudan, our own military is looking to augment its capabilities with

an entirely new type of ground vehicle.

Following in the footsteps of the American military, Canada has issued a call for tender for 52 new ultra-light combat vehicles, or ULCVs. The ULCVs will be four-passenger, Jeep-like vehicles that are small and light enough to fit inside a Canadian Forces' CC-177 Globemaster aircraft, a CC-130 Hercules aircraft or a CH-147 Chinook helicopter (or to be lifted externally by helicopter). According to the tender documents, published earlier this week, they must also be designed "to be air dropped with a 900 kg payload" from either the Globemaster or the Hercules, and detached/offloaded from the helicopter within five minutes. They need to be able to operate in extreme temperatures (-32C to +49C), handle a combination of urban and rural environments (mountainous, plains, jungle and woodland) and will be off-road 75 per cent

of the time, the documents note. “The ULCV is a new type of vehicle and will be used in concert with the current fleet of DND ground vehicles to increase mobility on operations.”



Boeing Phantom Badger.

The ULCV can be used for a variety of different missions and tasks, Lemire noted, extending the “tactical mobility needs” of troops in the field. In plain English, that could mean providing quick deployment into a hostile area, cutting down on the distance soldiers need to walk before reaching an active battle zone. The ULCVs may also give troops an easier entry and exit during reconnaissance or surveillance missions, and help avoid putting helicopters within the range of enemy fire that could shoot them down. The call for tender notes that DND will have the option of adding 26 more vehicles to the total within two years. There are several possible options in terms of the model of ULCV DND may acquire. US defence firm Polaris could be a contender with its DAGOR model, as could aerospace giant Boeing with the Phantom Badger. The total cost of the new acquisition will depend on the bids received, but Polaris’ DAGOR models for example, run around US\$150,000 apiece. That’s around CAD\$194,000 at the current exchange rate. Much like their American counterparts, department officials are moving quickly to add ULCVs to the roster of available ground vehicles as the role of special operations groups becomes more prominent. Among other missions, Canadians special forces are currently carrying out training work in Iraq with local Kurdish troops fighting the so-called Islamic State.

This week’s call for tender comes just under a year after an initial request for information, which went out last August, and the first 52 vehicles are expected to be delivered by Nov15, 2017. Asked if the American move to purchase a fleet of ULCVs prompted the Canadian tender, Lemire said that “while we must ensure our equipment remains compatible with other nations with whom we frequently work, the equipment we acquire must also meet the essential requirements ... needed for the (Canadian Armed Forces) to achieve the missions assigned by the Government of Canada.”

Canada's Forgotten Victory

CTV Ottawa Published Monday, August 15, 2016



On this date in 1917, Canadian soldiers won an important battle during WWI yet very few Canadians have ever heard of The Battle of Hill 70.

It’s called Canada’s forgotten victory. On August 15, 1917, roughly four months after the Battle of Vimy

Ridge during World War I, Canadian soldiers successfully assaulted a position known simply as Hill 70 near the town of Lens, France. In just five hours, the Canadians had succeeded where other forces had failed. Then they fought off 21 counterattacks over the next five days to retain the strategic high ground. It was the first time Canadian troops fought independently under a Canadian commander, General Arthur Currie. In fact, Currie balked at the original orders by the British High Command to attack the town, suggesting the hill was the better target. They relented. It was a victory orchestrated and performed entirely by Canadians, using newly-developed combat techniques. Some say it was the battle after which Currie and his forces were regarded as a national army and not just call-ups from the colonies. "The whole Canadian Corps for the very first time fought under a Canadian. And as a result it was a significant event in the development of Canada," says Mark Hutchings, Chair of the Hill 70 Project.



Actors stand beside a statue of Gen Sir Arthur Currie in Ottawa, Aug 15, 2016

Yet the story of the Battle of Hill 70 is rarely told. Most Canadians have likely never heard of it. Hutchings and his organization are trying to change that. The Hill 70 project is launching a series of initiatives to increase public awareness of the battle, including educational kits for students and teachers, a series of books including a graphic novel, and a travelling exhibit. On Monday, the 99th anniversary of the battle, a small group of supporters, two young actors in WWI uniforms, and a piper, roamed downtown Ottawa to bring attention to their cause. Their biggest initiative by far is a new monument to be built in Loosen-Gohelle, France, just outside of Lens. Hutchings says they hope to break ground later this year. Construction will be completed in time for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Hill 70 in 2017. The hope is that Canada's forgotten victory will be forgotten no more.

A Cost-Effective Way to Replace Our Aging SAR Helicopters

Colin Kenny, National Post | August 18, 2016



Capt Sam Jeffery, right, chats about the Griffon CH-146 helicopter during the Edmonton Airshow on Aug 7.

Codie McLachlan/Postmedia Network

Since the government took office last December, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan has spent much of his time musing about Canada's military role in Iraq, the CF-18 replacements and our future peacekeeping operations. As important as these issues are, the minister would be wise to spend some time on another file that is in need of his attention: search-and-rescue (SAR). Search and rescue is not something that gets very much

attention until something goes awry. In October 2011, Search and Rescue Technician (SAR Tech) Sgt Janick Gilbert and his crew were called to fly to Igloolik, Nunavut, to rescue a young man and his father who were stranded on the ice. Thirty minutes before the sun set and total darkness fell, the SAR Techs parachuted down into waves that were over three metres high. The temperature was -8C and winds were gusting up to 60 km/h. Sgt Gilbert landed furthest from the life-raft and was found five hours later, floating lifeless in the water. He was posthumously awarded the Star of Courage for his actions.

This is just one example of the more than 10,000 search-and-rescue incidents that occur each year — around 1,200 of which are considered life-and-death situations. The sheer number of annual rescues is compounded by the vast expanse of coverage SAR Techs are called on to provide. Canadian search-and-rescue operations are divided into three areas totalling around 18 million square kilometres. The largest of those areas — the Trenton region — spans more than 10 million square kilometres, an area 15 times the size of France. To do their jobs, SAR Techs rely on a number of specialized fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, including the CH-149 Cormorant helicopter. While the Cormorants are highly effective SAR aircraft, there simply are not enough to go around in a country the size of Canada. Our fleet of 14 Cormorants is spread between locations on the East and West coasts, leaving the largest region, Trenton, to rely on the inferior CH-146 Griffon helicopter for rescue operations.

The problem is that the Griffon is a converted civilian helicopter that was never designed to be used for search-and-rescue operations. It's considerably slower than the Cormorant, has less lift capacity and has less than half the aeronautical range. To make matters worse, the Cormorants are now almost 20 years old, meaning they are approaching their required mid-life refit. When the refit begins, the fleet will be even further thinned with the Griffons likely being forced to assume an even larger role in SAR operations. If anyone took a few minutes to focus on this issue, they would find that there is a cost-effective answer to this problem. Canada has nine VH-71 helicopters (which are very similar to the Cormorants) sitting idle. These helicopters were part of a fleet originally bought by the US Marines to transport the president. When the Americans cancelled the program in 2012, the Royal Canadian Air Force snapped them up along with 800,000 spare parts for pennies on the dollar.

A Cormorant helicopter.

Jeff Bassett/Ottawa Sun



The minister of defence should have already acted to secure the funds necessary to put these VH-71s into service. Despite this oversight, it's not too late. The presidential choppers would only require new avionics suites and side doors to make them SAR ready. By doing so, we would be able to

refit the Cormorants without diminishing search-and-rescue capabilities while the refit is underway. And after the refit, the new VH-71s would replace the Griffons, giving us the ability

to provide better coverage in the largest SAR region in the country. Now is the time for Minister Sajjan to get off his keister and provide our pilots and our SAR Techs with the tools they need to do their jobs and get home safely.

New Canadian Army Flag Unveiled

Ottawa, ON — The Canadian Army will advance into the future under a new flag that reflects its proud past.



The flag was unveiled July 14, 2016, during a ceremony on Parliament Hill in which CA members welcomed their new Commander, LGen Paul Wynnyk. The flag traces the evolution of the CA’s identity, reinforcing the link between the brave veterans of Afghanistan and the Cold War period with the heroes of First and Second World Wars and Korea. In doing so, the new design reflects the Canadian Army of today while respecting tradition by combining elements from several past Canadian Army flags.

The white stylized maple leaf was worn on the collar of the majority of the soldiers who fought up Vimy Ridge to victory in the First World War and it remembers all Great War soldiers as we approach that national centennial. This

same maple leaf flew on the HQ flags of the fighting Divisions of the Second World War and it remains a vibrant symbol today, flying on our Army’s Division Headquarters across Canada. Superimposed on the white maple leaf is our Canadian Army badge worn during Korea and during the Second World War symbolizing Canada’s victories and sacrifices in 1939-45. “These changes are collectively directed at promoting the Corps traditions that shape our Army. Our symbols and history increase the pride that each soldier feels in their trade and duty within the CA,” declared LGen Paul Wynnyk. “Soldiers fight for their regiment and Corps. Maximizing that regimental and Corps identity is key to their personal and collective esprit de corps.” The Canadian Army name was restored in 2011 following several decades in which all three military branches were known collectively as the Canadian Armed Forces. The CA Divisions and Corps began restoring their identities in 2013 and there have been several additional restorations of Army badges and rank designations since. The new Canadian Army flag will be featured at the Canada Army Run this coming September.

Army Reservists Begin Exercises in Alberta and Saskatchewan

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen August 12, 2016



A Canadian Army reservist fires a burst from a C6 machinegun.

Photo courtesy DND.

Approximately 1,000 Canadian Army soldiers from 38, 39, and 41 Canadian Brigade Groups will conduct training in Dundurn, Saskatchewan, and Wainwright, Alberta as part of Exercise WESTERN DEFENDER 2016, the Army said in a news release. The exercise will go from August 13 to 21. The exercise is designed to provide challenging training opportunities for Primary Reserve soldiers and junior leaders within 3rd Canadian Division, according to the army.

The exercises that make-up the Ex WD 16 serial include:

Ex BISON WARRIOR - Location: Dundurn, SK 13-21 Aug 16 **pers:** Approx 400

Ex COUGAR CONQUEROR Location: Wainwright, AB 13-20 Aug 16 **Pers:** Approx 550

Canadian Rangers Get a New Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel

By Sergeant Peter Moon, 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group



John Newman, MSM, CD, a Toronto-based business executive, has been appointed the honorary lieutenant-colonel of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, which commands the Canadian Rangers in Ontario. He is a former honorary colonel of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and president of the Ranger Foundation. He replaces Jim Potts, OOM, who served as honorary lieutenant-colonel for three years. Colonel Potts retired

from policing in 2002 after 45 years of service with the RCMP and the Ontario Provincial Police. He was the first status Indian to be commissioned in RCMP history.

Who is it?

Last Week: The **Siege of Mafeking** was a famous British defence in the Second Boer War. It took place at the town of Mafeking (now called Mahikeng) in South Africa over a period of 217 days, from October 1899 to May 1900. The siege turned the British commander, Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, into a national hero. Baden-Powell had no artillery when the siege started but a gun soon came into action: home-made in Mafeking, in a furnace made of a cistern lined with bricks. The gun was made of a 4-inch steel furnace pipe strengthened by rails bent into rings. The chassis came from an old threshing machine. Spherical shells were made by



melting down scrap metal. The gun could fire an 8kg projectile almost 4000 metres. The gun was named 'The Wolf' in honour of Baden-Powell: *Impeesa*, the Wolf that never sleeps

This Week: We move on to wheeled vehicles this week, with a shot from the photo album of the late Brigadier Tees. Most of the standard shots one sees of Canadian transport in the Second World War come from either the Italian operations or post D-Day fighting in North-West Europe. We seldom see photos from the many, many days spent training in the United Kingdom, mostly because such lack the "action" element so beloved of newspapers and other media.



This photograph is certainly not an "action" shot. In fact, at first glance, other than the nattily-clad soldier, replete with box respirator and gloves, there isn't all that much military. However, one quickly realizes that the "civilian" station wagon has been militarized extensively, with blackout headlamps, a matt paint job, and

suitable markings. Your task, dear quiz followers, is to first identify the make of automobile, with its attractive upside-down canoe going over a waterfall front end, then to identify the unit to which it was attached. A date would be a bonus, and telling us who lives in the building behind the car would be a bit too much.

Auto enthusiasts of a military mind can send their answers to the editor (bob.mugford@outlook.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Happy motoring!

From the 'Punitentary'

What do you need to start the car in Boston? Khakis.

Murphy's other Laws

When you believe your opponent has just two options, he will surprise you with a third.

Quotable Quotes

Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much. Oscar Wilde

**The Regimental Sergeant-Major
Warrant Officers and Sergeants
of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment,
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**

*Cordially invite you
to their*

ANNUAL MESS DINNER

Saturday, 10th September 2016

Cocktails: 18:00 hrs Dinner: 19:00 hrs

To be held in the
**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess
Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC**

RSVP required by 31st August 2016
to the Mess Treasurer, Sgt Ukrainzow
2025 West 11th Ave,
Vancouver BC V6J 2C7
Email: ukrainzow.aj@forces.gc.ca
Telephone: 604-666-4876

Dress Mess Kit/Formal
Ticket price: \$60.00
Cheque payable to 15th Field
Warrant Officers' and
Sergeants' mess. Pay at the
door or mail in payment

The
49th Marines
invite you to join them
as they gather to celebrate
the
241st
Birthday of the
United States Marine Corps

49th
MARINES

DATE: Saturday 5 November 2016

TIME: 1700 Hours (5:00 PM)

PLACE: Best Western Mission BC - "Rockwell's Banquet Room"

DRESS: MEN: Service Dress Uniform or Suit and Tie

LADIES: Formal, Semi Formal, Cocktail Dress

COST: \$85.00 per person

RSVP: With payment in full by: 15 October 2016

If You are interested in attending this event, please email me at

Bob.mugford@outlook.com and I will forward more information.aa