

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Feb 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>

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.

NOABC Lunch Presentation – Feb 24 In a presentation to NOABC, Cam Cathcart will trace the history of Victory Square, the centrepiece of Vancouver’s annual Remembrance Day parade and ceremony for the past 100 years. Once the business center of the city at Hastings and Cambie, it was the site of Vancouver’s first court house. It was re-named “Victory Square” at the end of World War One then declared a city park. The iconic Cenotaph, erected in 1924, has since become the centrepiece of respect and remembrance for Vancouverites. Cam Cathcart is President of RUSI Vancouver and an Associate member of NOABC. His presentation will begin at 1:00 pm on Wednesday.

Whiskey Tasting - Friday – March 4th 1800 – 2300 hrs



The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser’s Highlanders welcome you to attend our annual Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music. *See poster at the end of the newsletter.*

World War 2 - 1940

John Thompson Strategic analyst quotes from his book “Spirit Over Steel”

Feb 25th: After advancing 390 km in three days, Cunningham’s troops capture Mogadishu and its large stocks of fuel and supplies – including many of the excellent Italian Fiat trucks. The Italian light cruiser Diaz is torpedoed by a British submarine en route to Tripoli.

Feb 26th: Eden and Dill visit Ankara but fail to sway the Turks in any manner.

Feb 27th: HMNZS Leander catches and sinks the Italian merchant cruiser Ramb I off the Maldives Islands in the Indian Ocean. The first deportation of Dutch Jews, 389 are sent to Buchenwald.

Feb 28th: Asmara in Eritrea is bombed by the British.

March 1941: The British Appear to be Coping

General: The Allies lose 139 ships (almost 530,000 tons worth) while 6 U-Boats are lost. RAF Bomber command introduces its new Halifax Bomber in some of its 1900 sorties on German ports, losing 75 bombers while doing so. The Germans lose 90 bombers in the Blitz on England.

Mar 1st: Bulgaria joins the Tripartite Pact. Kuffra in southern Libya is captured by Colonel Leclerc with some help from the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG). Himmler visits Auschwitz and orders the expansion of the complex.

The Canadian Military Develops Green Artillery Ammunition

The CF has finally developed green ammo that won't poison drinking water

By Justin Ling February 17, 2016

It may have taken five years, but Canada may finally be getting some green artillery that won't poison people. In the process, military scientists have found a more effective and cheaper type of ammunition that could reduce the environmental impact of war across the board. A research project in the Canadian Armed Forces began looking for a new type of ammunition in 2011 in response to fear that its shooting ranges were posing a threat to local water sources. Explosive rounds, especially from the artillery, were being scattered around their training sites, and the military feared that the toxic chemicals inside the water-soluble rounds could seep into drinking water. So scientists with the Canadian military began researching how to fix the problem. Their solution: make sure the rounds explode fully, and replace the decades-old explosive solution inside them with less-toxic material.

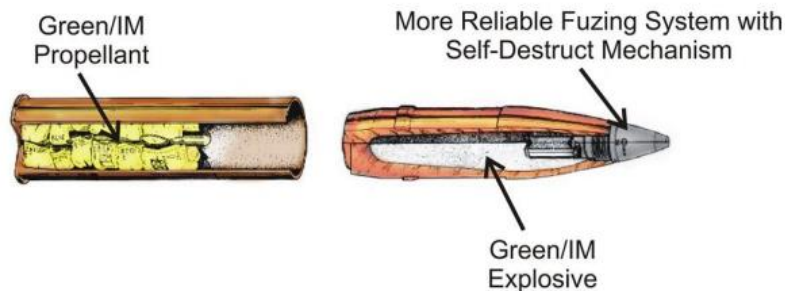


Figure 1: RIGHTTRAC concept

Screenshot of a Defence Research & Development Canada report.

The project was called RIGHTTRAC — an acronym for Revolutionary Insensitive, Green and Healthier Training Technology with Reduced Adverse Contamination — and it was undertaken by Defence Research & Development Canada (DRDC). It served essentially as a proof of concept, and the results are expected to be replicated on other types of ammunition. The final report is dated May 2015, but the results were only just published by the DRDC. "This project has proven that it is possible to develop [insensitive munitions] and green munitions that perform better than current munitions and that will help to ease the environmental pressures on [ranges and training areas]," the report concludes. "The end result is that military personnel will be able to train and fight with ammunition having comparable or better properties than

current munitions, with the added benefit of decreasing the environmental pressure and the health hazards on soldiers, sailors or airmen." The report notes that the project was unique, in that it put environmental considerations at the forefront — without regard for cost — and ended up saving money in the long run, as well as developing a superior product.

The trouble with munitions, like artillery shells, is that they're designed to only explode in specific conditions. As such, there's all sorts of cases where the rounds only partially explode, or where they turn out to be duds and don't explode at all. "Unexploded or deflagrated RDX does not degrade in soil and, because of its solubility in water, migrates easily to groundwater and off military property," the report says, referring to Research Department Formula X, a powerful and very common explosive developed during WWII. "This may trigger a serious environmental problem and becomes a public health concern if the groundwater is used for drinking." One of the researchers on the project told *La Presse* newspaper that "we never know in which state of instability we'll find these non-exploded munitions."

The Canadian military, under this project, developed a formula for the shells that doesn't include RDX. The 80-year-old chemical compound wasn't the only problem. Researchers also looked to improve the engineering of the rounds to avoid duds, and sought to replace toxic and carcinogenic compounds in the rounds with more earth-friendly chemicals. And, by and large, they succeeded. This breakthrough may mean that the Department of National Defense won't have to pay to continually remediate these training sites to detoxify the soil.

The new ammunition was primarily designed just for training ranges in Canada, but the fact that the new rounds are both more effective, and cheaper, than regularly ammunition means that they could become the military standard for other militaries, both at home and in theatre. In 2009, Patrick Brousseau, one of the researchers responsible for the project, noted that the Canadian Forces were working alongside the American, Swedish, British, Dutch, and Australian militaries on the project.

The international impact of toxic ammunition can be disastrous. A report on the effect of shelling in Syria says the ravaged country will also be facing "problematic soil and water contaminant" in the long-term, after the bombing ends. Motherboard reported in 2015 that one Canadian Forces training base was re-building its firing range in order to prevent the littering of ammunition. More than a decade ago, the American military tried to green itself by reducing the amount of lead in its bullets — though that effort appeared, ultimately, to be counter-productive.

New Mack Trucks for CF Successfully Finish Cold Weather Testing

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen February 18, 2016

The new Mack trucks destined for the Canadian Forces were put through cold temperature testing at the end of January.

The tests at the "cold chamber" at the National Research Council's facility in Ottawa were successful, Department of National Defence officials told Defence Watch. In July, then Defence Minister Jason Kenney announced that Mack Defense, LLC, of Allentown, PA, had

been awarded two contracts to provide standard military pattern trucks and related equipment for the Canadian Forces. Assembly will take place in a Sainte-Claire, Quebec, plant operated by Prevost, one of the firms partnered with Mack. The overall contract for the project, known by its military acronym as MSVS SMP, is worth \$834 million.



US defence firm Oshkosh is alleging that the Canadian government unfairly awarded a \$834 million contract that would see Mack Trucks deliver vehicles, such as the one in the photo, to the Canadian Forces.

Photo courtesy Mack Trucks

The program to purchase the trucks was originally announced in 2006 by the Conservative government but the acquisition had been dogged by problems. The first delivery of the trucks and equipment is planned for summer 2017, and deliveries are expected to be completed by fall 2018, according to the federal government's news release issued at the time. With the ability to carry 9.5 tonnes, the Standard Military Pattern trucks are the backbone of the Canadian Forces truck fleet, the government noted. Oshkosh Defense has filed a complaint with the Canadian International Trade Tribunal alleging the \$800 million contract was unfairly awarded. The complaint is under review by the federal tribunal but no details were available on how long that would take. The complaint alleges that Public Works and Government Services Canada, now Public Services and Procurement Canada, did not conduct a fair and transparent process to select the new trucks.

Mack Defense announced in July 2015, that it has been awarded two contracts by the Department of Public Works and Government Services Canada on behalf of the Department of National Defense to deliver more than 1,500 8x8 trucks for the Medium Support Vehicle System (MSVS) Standard Military Pattern (SMP) program and to provide an initial five years of In-Service Support (ISS) for the SMP fleet operating in Canada and throughout the world. Mack Defense (www.mackdefense.com) will also provide 300 trailers and 150 Armour Protection Systems as part of the two contracts valued at \$725 million CAD. Deliveries will begin in the summer of 2017 with completion in the fall of 2018. "We are extremely proud that the Canadian government has chosen Mack Defense to provide the Canadian Armed Forces with our MSVS SMP solution," said Ryan Werling, president of Mack Defense. "Mack has supplied the Canadian Armed Forces with trucks since World War II and we are honored to continue to support Canada's domestic and international missions for years to come." The vehicle systems will include multiple variants such as cargo, material handling cranes, load handling systems (LHS), and mobile repair trucks (MRT). Mack Defense will work with key strategic Canadian partners including Volvo Group sister company Prevost; Dumur Industries Ltd; EODC, Inc; and Link Suspensions of Canada (Raydan Division). System assembly will

take place in Prevest's Sainte-Claire, Quebec, plant. The Volvo Group's global supply chain, with a strong presence across Canada and in 42 other countries worldwide, serves as the foundation of the In-Service Support program. The Volvo Group, which employs about 100,000 people, has production facilities in 19 countries and sells its products in more than 190 markets. In 2014, the Volvo Group's sales amounted to \$38.2 billion. The Volvo Group is a publicly held company headquartered in Gothenburg, Sweden. Volvo shares are listed on Nasdaq Stockholm and are traded OTC in the US

MND Says He Will Not Reduce the Size of the Military

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan says defence review being done this year will look at staffing levels. *By Murray Brewster, The Canadian Press Posted: Feb 18, 2016*



Canadian soldiers patrol southwest of Kandahar, Afghanistan, Monday, June 7, 2010. The Liberal government says that it has no plans to reduce the size of Canada's military. (Anja Niedringhaus/Canadian Press)

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan has ruled out cutting the size of the Canadian military, despite the country's bleak economic and fiscal picture. The Liberals will concentrate on meeting existing approved levels of 68,000 full-time and 27,000 part-time soldiers, with an eye towards eventually expanding Canada's military ranks, Sajjan said Thursday. "We are not looking at reducing our personnel," he said. "In fact, the conversations I'm having right now (are) about where do we need to increase the personnel." A recent federal report from last year's budget shows military reserves are running at roughly 20,000 paid members — about 19 per cent short of full strength. The numbers are only slightly better for the regular forces, with roughly 66,000 full-time members in uniform. Sajjan says recruiting has slowed over the last few years and he wants to see measures stepped up so the country always has an agile, optimal force. National Defence is the largest single discretionary item in the federal budget. Previous governments, Liberal and Conservative alike, have often used military cuts as a way to balance the books. Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have both indicated of late that the Liberal promise to balance the budget over four years has morphed into returning to black ink over the long-term. When the Conservatives were still in power, they were being urged to cut the size of the regular force by respected voices, including former defence chief and retired general Rick Hillier, who said the number of bodies could be trimmed in order to preserve sophisticated capabilities.

Sajjan said the new government's planned defence review — to be carried out this year — will look at the appropriate level of staffing. He suggested that the exercise will not be aimed at cutting, but rather whether there is an appropriate balance between the army, navy, air force and special forces — something known as "troops to task." But in a nod to Hillier's remarks, he said

the review will be wide-ranging. "We have to focus on capabilities; that perfect mix of personnel, training and equipment," Sajjan said. "We want the Canadian Armed Forces to be flexible, appropriately resourced and able to respond quickly to the challenges of the future."



These reservists from 38 Canadian Brigade Group, predominantly from Saskatchewan, make up roughly 20,000 paid reservists currently serving in the Canadian Forces. (Photo by: Melanie Ferguson, Canadian Army Public Affairs)

The minister told the annual Conference of Defence Associations Institute meeting that the review will be completed by the end of the year, but the parameters — including public consultation — have not yet been set. Defence analysts say that is an aggressive timetable, one that the Liberals will have a hard time meeting. Some at the conference questioned how the government could proceed with a review when it has yet to articulate an overall national security strategy.

Farming Project to Help Canadian Veterans Adjust to Civilian Life

Tu Thanh Ha The Globe and Mail Feb. 18, 2016

On a stretch of rolling hills north of Toronto, two men are trying to start a farm to help former members of the Canadian Forces resettle after they leave the service. The project is still in the planning stages, but John Randolph, a management consultant with a history of supporting military families, and Toronto businessman Bobby Sniderman hope to see a network of farms that could help veterans reintegrate into civilian life. The veterans' farm is the brainchild of Mr Randolph, a former assistant deputy minister at Ontario's Ministry of Revenue, who in 2007 founded Forces & Families, a volunteer organization that supports current and former members of the military. A few years ago, Mr Randolph met Vice-Admiral Bruce Donaldson, then vice-chief of the defence staff, who urged the consultant to focus his efforts on veterans' mental well-being. "They clearly had been struggling with the issue for many years. Nobody can solve those problems by themselves, but it's a collective effort," Mr Randolph said.

Canada ended its combat mission in Afghanistan in 2014, but the impact on military personnel has persisted, with a lingering legacy of post-traumatic stress disorder and suicides. Some have tried to assist veterans with their move to the civilian world. The non-profit group Wounded Warriors Canada, for example, worked with Senator Roméo Dallaire's Child Soldiers Initiative. Last week, they launched a program at Dalhousie University that will turn 15 veterans into specialized trainers who can teach peacekeepers, police or military personnel how to deal with child soldiers. Mr Randolph believes that farming could be another approach. He noted that

many military members already live in rural areas, near the small towns where bases are located. Working the land could also help them find peace of mind, he added. “We’re trying to find solutions for our military, for veterans, for their mental wellness.” His friend Mr Sniderman has offered a 160-acre farm he owns near Orangeville to test the farming project. “I feel this is a responsibility, that the community has to take care of the people who’ve made great sacrifices and enable us to enjoy the quality of life we have,” Mr Sniderman said.

While his family is best known for the now-defunct Sam the Record Man music stores, Mr Sniderman is no stranger to farming. The Sniderman family used to operate a fruit farm in Grimsby, On, in the Niagara region. After high school, Mr Sniderman worked on a tobacco farm. The Orangeville land, which Mr Sniderman bought in 2007, was once a dairy farm and retains a historic log home. He operated it as an organic farm for about two years, so it already has a processing shed with a walk-in cold storage area for produce. The farm also has a beehive, and some woodland that produces maple syrup. Similar veterans transition endeavours exist in the United States. In Denver, former Marine Buck Adams started Veterans to Farmers, which teaches former soldiers how to operate greenhouses and botanical gardens. The project was launched four years ago, but became fully operational only last year, training 47 former military people – pilots, infantrymen, canine-handlers, divers – program manager Richard Murphy said. “We’re pretty big on the fact that veterans are going to take care of other veterans,” said Mr Murphy, a former member of the US Air Force. He expects to train 60 more people this year.

The veterans are paid a stipend. It was financed with a grant from a private health-care provider, but Mr Murphy was hoping for a subsidy from the US Department of Agriculture. While the project is not formally a therapy, it helps veterans with PTSD or traumatic brain injury prepare for what they will do after leaving the military, Mr Murphy said. “We allow them an opportunity to create life.” The Canadian project is still at a preliminary phase, but Niagara College has agreed to donate greenhouse equipment, Mr Randolph said. The farming would only supplement veterans’ pension and disability payments, he said.

Who is it?



Last Week: The ship is the USS Iowa on a friendship visit to Vancouver on July 2, 1947. She was on her ‘farewell’ tour and was headed for LA to become a Museum (Although that didn’t last too long). At the end of the war, all the local Active Duty units reverted to Reserve Status and then most were sent to the Supplementary Order. The only Arty units left were the 15 and 102 Coast Regiments and any of the local Active

Duty personnel who wanted to stay in the Reserves ended up in those units. All the local field and AA guns went into storage at the Ordnance Depot in North Vancouver so when a requirement for any gun salutes arose, the 15 Coast drew 25pdrs for the occasion. There were enough personnel from the former Field Regiments still in 15 Coast to man the 25pdrs.

This Week: One of my favourite movies is the 1938 Technicolor epic, “The Drum”, directed by Zoltan Korda, he of “Five Feathers” fame. Set in the Northwest Frontier, it stars Sabu as the young Prince Azim, who, strangely, seems not to need a shirt, despite the rather nippy air of that part of the Raj. His jolly good friend, Captain Carruthers, is played by Roger Livesey, whilst the evil Prince Ghul is played by Canada’s Raymond Massey, he of tractor fame. The story concerns an uprising by otherwise innocent hill tribes, stirred into wrongful action against the natural order of life and civilization (as represented by the Raj) by nasty Russians. Thank heavens the world has moved on from that!

The movie employed, as extras, members of both the Indian (Royal Indian Artillery) and British (Gordon Highlanders) armies, and was filmed on site near Chitral (and, to be frank, also in parts of Wales, another, older “colony”). The beauty of this movie lies not in its slightly predictable plot (good guys win), but in the authenticity of its battle scenes, and the wonder of the Indian (now Pakistani) hills and mountains.



Well, this week’s photo could be from that cinematic masterpiece, but it isn’t. Our question to you, dear cinemaphiles, is, “What is this unit, and where was the photo taken?”

Your biopic answers may be sent to the office of the editor, starring

Bob Mugford, or to the chorus line, starring John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

Break a leg. As always, you can email the editor for a picture you can zoom in on. -

Bob.mugford@outlook.com

From the ‘Punitary’

What did one philatelist say to the other? You have my stamp of approval!

Murphy’s other Laws

Opportunity always knocks at the least appropriate moment.

Quotable Quotes

If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning. - *Catherine Aird*

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78th Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders welcome you to attend our annual Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music.

Tickets are **\$55.00** per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or **\$25.00** if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. kilts, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday – March 4th, 2016

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J 2C7

DO NOT MISS OUT!

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.

BC Regiment Association

invites you to the



St. Patrick's Day Party

Where: BC Regiment Drill Hall
620 Beatty St, Vancouver

When: Sunday March 13, 2016

Time: 13:00hr – 17:00hr
(Meet & Greet 13:00hr,
Lunch 13:45hr)

Cost: \$20 RSVP by March 6

RSVP: Sandra Young 604-543-0368 or
sandymay@shaw.ca

Prize for St. Patrick's Day best dressed

Lunch: Irish Stew, Salad, Buns & Dessert

Door prize giveaways

Lucky Draw prize raffles: \$20 arm's length or 3 tickets for \$5
50/50

Come down for the St. Patrick's Day Parade 11:00-12:30hr Howe & Georgia Streets and then come warm up with some hot stew, catch up with some friends and listen to the BC Regiment Association Irish Pipes & Drums.

Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend

**2016 RUSI VANCOUVER
STRATEGIC STUDIES CONFERENCE
APRIL 8 & 9, 2016**

Alice Mackay Room, Vancouver Public Library - 350 West Georgia, Vancouver B.C.

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 B.C.

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

Conference fee: \$45 Regular; \$35 Students. (*includes light refreshments and Saturday lunch*)

Register at: www.eventbrite.ca

Contacts: Keith Maxwell (kdmaxwell@gmail.com) or Cam Cathcart (lhccathcart@gmail.com)

The following support the 2016 Strategic Studies Conference:

