



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 24, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches and 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.

The dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Your guests are always welcome but don't forget to tell them about dress requirements BEFORE they come.

NOABC Speaker – 25 March - TOMORROW -

Cmdre David Craig who is currently the Commander Naval Reserves, will provide us with an update on the RCN with emphasis on the naval reserve component.

Commodore Craig joined the Naval Reserve in 1974 at HMCS DISCOVERY as a naval cadet while attending the University of British Columbia. He has served in numerous staff and training positions at four Naval Reserve Divisions in his career, including HMC Ships DISCOVERY, CARLETON, CHIPPAWA and MALAHAT (Commanding Officer 1972-1975). Following a number of senior appointments he was promoted Commodore and appointed as the Commander Naval Reserve in January 2011.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1915

Mar 18th - Apr 3rd: This period [was] very quiet. [We were] firing for registration only, by observation and by aeroplane. I find this very interesting, signaling to the aeroplane by means of a very powerful light. We were credited with doing damage to German gun targets. Hostile aeroplanes were very active, but invariably our 13" pounder antiaircraft guns gave them a warm reception. The Germans brought down one of our aeroplanes, which fell between our fire trenches and theirs. We destroyed it with our guns to prevent [the] enemy getting any of the remnants. The enemy aeroplanes frequently drop bombs on ESTAIRS, some 5 miles from us. Almost every day they drop a few shell[s] in LAVENTIE. As in every place, the church, a beautiful old structure, is utterly destroyed. I came through the town one day at a stretch gallop, as it was being shelled. Stopped a little way outside and watched the fire, which always seems to have a fascination for me. They did some grand shooting and repeatedly hit the church, one shell clearing off clean the one of the four pinnacles that remained. I learned that the 37th Brigade, including my old battery, the 55th, were in action near us. After a deal of scouting and a ride on my old charger, [I] almost [rode] up to the trenches, when I was chased back by the infantry. Eventually found them and spent a pleasant afternoon. All my old comrades were

Sergeants; Sergeant Majors and two [others] had got their commissions, for great changes had taken place during the last 3 years. All the old officers, excepting one, had gone. I learned that several of my old chums had been killed and felt very sorry about one of my old friends named Hayman. The last time I met him was on Christmas Eve 1913, when I was shopping with my dear wife. I little thought then that the next time I heard of him [he] would be ‘blown to bits, [as] we only found his legs’. He married a girl living in Battersea, only two weeks before the war. On Good Friday I was interviewed by my CO. he told me he would forward a strong recommendation for old George and I, that we both should be granted commissions and advised us to take promotion which we had [previously] refused. [I] had several rides to wagon line through ESTAIRS and LAVENTIE and enjoyed this period of what was practically inactivity; during the whole time only two shell[s] came near the guns. The bombardment of AUBERSs was postponed and we received orders to take up [an] old position [at], CROIX BARBETTE.

World War 2 - November 1939

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

Mar 28th: The Anglo-Franco Supreme War Council agrees that neither the UK nor France will seek a separate peace with Germany; and to start mining Norwegian Waters on April 8th and to be ready to land troops there if it looks like the Germans will. Mackenzie-King and his Liberals retain power in a Canadian federal election.

Mar 30th: The Japanese get Wang Ching-Wei, a former nationalist politician, to head “their new Nanking Puppet government.

Mar 31st: The Atlantis, the first of seven heavily armed German Merchant Cruisers, sets sail on a long range commerce raid; before she returns on 22 November 1941, she will have sunk 22 ships.

Enhanced Lifetime Support for Injured Veterans and Their Families

New monthly benefit addresses significant gap for Canada’s moderately to severely disabled Veterans and survivors. March 11, 2015 – Fredericton – VAC

VAC today highlighted a proposed new financial benefit for Veterans who are moderately to severely disabled and their families—the *Retirement Income Security Benefit*. Currently, the Earnings Loss Benefit—upon which many moderately to severely disabled Veterans rely—is not available after the age of 65, resulting in a drop in the Veteran’s annual income. The new *Retirement Income Security Benefit* highlighted today would provide these Veterans with continued assistance in the form of a monthly income support payment beginning at age 65. The proposed *Retirement Income Security Benefit* would work in concert with existing services and benefits to establish a continuum of support that spans a disabled Veteran’s entire life. It is designed for those whose ability to save for retirement was directly impacted by their service to our country. Income support would also be extended to families through continued payment of a monthly benefit to the Veteran’s survivor.

The Government of Canada also recognizes the complexity of financial benefits available for moderately to severely disabled Veterans. As part of a continued commitment to Veteran-centric care, Minister Moore indicated that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is examining ways to combine these new and existing supports into a single monthly pension for severely injured Veterans.

Quick Facts:

- The *Retirement Income Security Benefit* would ensure that an eligible Veteran's total annual income is at least 70% of what he or she received in financial benefits from VAC before age 65.
- Monthly payments would be calculated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account how much the Veteran was receiving before age 65 and other sources of income he or she may have beyond age 65.
- It is estimated that by 2020, approximately 5,800 Veterans and survivors would qualify for the Retirement Income Security Benefit upon turning 65. An estimated 261 Veterans and survivors would receive payments by 2020.
- The *Retirement Income Security Benefit* responds directly to concerns raised by the Veterans Ombudsman and the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Destruction of WWII Era Chemical Stockpile Set to Begin

By Cheryl Pellerin DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, March 17, 2015 - The process of destroying the chemical stockpile at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot is set to begin today in Colorado, defense officials said. Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Frank Kendall granted final approval to begin destroying 2,611 tons of World War II-era mustard agent stored near Pueblo. "After months of preparation, testing and scrutiny by oversight and regulatory agencies, the Pueblo team is ready to play its part in meeting our nation's commitment to the 100 percent destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile," Conrad F. Whyne said. Whyne is program executive officer for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, the responsible government agency.



Samples of mustard agent were drawn from the munitions stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot and placed into Department of Transportation bottles, like the ones shown here, for safe storage.

An Army process called the Explosive Destruction System, located on the depot near the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot

Plant was chosen to destroy an estimated 1,300 chemical munitions that can't easily be processed by the main plant's automated equipment. The stockpile include munitions that have leaked in the past and are now packed in sealed containers, plus some from the pilot plant that have physically deteriorated and may not be easily processed through the main plant, officials

said. The problematic munitions account for about 0.2 percent of the total Pueblo chemical weapons stockpile. The EDS works by using explosive cutting charges to access the mustard agent inside a munition. Neutralization chemicals are then added and heated to destroy the mustard. Detonating the cutting charge also eliminates the explosive components of the munition. The blast, vapor and fragments from the process are contained inside a heavy, sealed stainless steel vessel, defense officials said.

Before the vessel is reopened, laboratory sampling of liquid and air from inside the vessel confirms the chemical agent's destruction. EDS has a documented history of safe, successful operations at sites across the United States, including the former Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Colorado. There, it was used to destroy several recovered non-stockpile chemical munitions. The Army designed the EDS with Sandia National Laboratories to treat chemical warfare materiel on site in a safe, environmentally sound way. This week's destruction operations will begin with Department of Transportation bottles that contain chemical agent drained from munitions over the years to assess the condition of the stockpile. The bottles are made of seamless stainless steel and are about 25 inches high with a 7-inch diameter. They were developed under federal guidelines to transport hazardous chemicals.

The Defense Department's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program selected the Bechtel Pueblo Team to design, build, operate and close a plant to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Bechtel, with headquarters in San Francisco, is a global engineering, project management and construction company. The full-scale plant, built by the Bechtel Pueblo Team, is undergoing systemization, which encompasses all the planning, technical work, training and testing activities required to ensure that destruction operations run safely and smoothly. Afterward, the plant will destroy the remaining stockpile of chemical weapons located at Pueblo, Colorado, beginning in late 2015 or early 2016, officials said

Benefits for Wounded Canadian Veterans Do Not Stack Up

Gloria Galloway The Globe and Mail Mar 09, 2015

A new analysis of money paid to disabled vets by Canada's closest allies raises questions about the Conservative government's claim that its support for injured troops is world class

A new analysis reveals that Canadians injured in the line of duty are eligible for significantly less financial compensation than the amounts provided to disabled soldiers in the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States – raising questions about the Conservative government's claim that its support for wounded veterans is world-class. A comparison of monetary compensation offered to disabled veterans in Canada, Britain, Australia and the United States

Canada

Lump Sum: A lump-sum payment of up to \$306,698.21 which can be taken in a single payment or spread out over multiple payments. The amount offered depends on the degree of disability. Someone with mild hearing loss, for instance, might collect just \$14,929, while someone who has lost the complete function of their lower limbs and is confined to a wheelchair might

receive the maximum. Of the 45,615 veterans granted a lump-sum payment between 2006 and 2014, just 185 received the maximum. It is non-taxable.

Earnings loss: An earnings-loss benefit of 75 per cent of salary for two years (or longer if the veteran is taking part in a vocational or rehabilitation plan), all of which is taxable and from which any outside earnings are deducted dollar-for-dollar for veterans who are permanently and totally incapacitated and at 50 cents on the dollar for those in a rehabilitation plan. For those who are permanently incapacitated and unable to work after the two-year period has ended, the benefits can continue to age 65, with annual inflation increases of up to 2 per cent.

Impairment allowance: There are three grades to this allowance with the lowest being \$584.66 monthly, which is what most veterans get. The middle grade pays \$1,169.33 a month and the highest grade pays a maximum of \$1,753.97. In addition, there is supplement for most, but not all, veterans who are receiving the permanent impairment allowance of \$1,074. The allowance and the supplement are taxable.

Britain

Lump Sum: Lump-sum benefits are available up to a maximum of \$1,092,348. This was originally set in 2005 at half that amount but was doubled in 2008 when it was deemed inadequate.

Severely disabled: Severely disabled veterans receive 100 per cent of their military salary tax-free for life.

Australia

Lump Sum: Lump-sum benefits of up to \$420,207 are available, but veterans can choose instead to receive this as a fixed-rate weekly pension which, for someone who starts receiving payments at the age of 25 and dies at the age on 80, would amount to a total of \$902,261. This is tax-free.

Severely disabled: Lump sums are awarded for spouses and children of severely disabled vets. For each child, for instance, a veteran would receive \$80,956.51.

Earnings loss: An earnings-loss benefit pays 100 per cent of the difference between what veterans were making before their injury and what they are making after their injury, for the first 45 weeks of incapacity. When the 45-week period ends, they are paid between 75 per cent and 100 per cent of the difference between what they were making preinjury and post-injury, depending on how many hours they are able to work. These payments are taxable.

United States

Disability pension: Tax-free disability pension ranging from \$167.58 for someone with no dependents and only a mild impairment, to as much as \$4,010 per month for a severely incapacitated veteran with one spouse and a child. In addition, there are supplements of up to \$10,836 monthly for those with dependents who are severely disabled and need special help.

The Conservatives are fighting the perception that the party, which styles itself as pro-military, is failing veterans as Canada transitions from serving elderly veterans of the Second World War and Korea to helping a smaller number of young Afghanistan veterans who are suffering from psychological illnesses and debilitating physical injuries. Veterans Affairs Minister Erin O'Toole, who replaced Julian Fantino in the portfolio earlier this year, is vowing to take steps in the coming months to repair relations with those veterans, a politically sensitive constituency in advance of this year's federal election. On Monday, Mr. O'Toole unveiled a new retirement benefit aimed at giving moderate and severely injured soldiers a monthly income support payment beginning at age 65. But many veterans say those moves are just tinkering. They argue they are getting a raw deal under the New Veterans Charter, which was passed into law in 2006 and replaced a system that provided veterans with lifetime pensions. An analysis of the money paid to disabled vets by Canada's closest allies suggests those concerns may be well founded.

Whether it is a comparison of lump sums awarded according to the level of injury, or the ongoing payments meant to replace the incomes of those who can no longer do their jobs, Canada's remuneration comes up short – in some cases by hundreds of thousands of dollars. “Veterans benefits around the world are universally complex to both access and understand,” said Sean Bruyey, a retired Air Force captain and veteran's advocate who helped The Globe and Mail obtain and analyze the numbers from other countries. But “veterans instinctively know that the programs under the New Veterans Charter are deficient,” Mr. Bruyey said. “For the government to tell them otherwise really is just stepping on veterans' hearts and destroying their dignity.” Trying to compare the compensation offered by the Canada, Britain, Australia and the United States is difficult because each jurisdiction provides money to its veterans in different ways, and all four countries have additional programs that go beyond direct financial compensation. In Canada, for instance, the Veterans Affairs department provides an independent living program that includes grounds-keeping among other home-care services. In addition, the level of service to veterans is not equal. There have been complaints in the United States, for instance, about a huge backlog of unprocessed claims. And the delivery of health care is not the same on both sides of the border. But, looking solely at the money paid to those injured while they were in the military, this country lags behind.

While Canada offers lump-sum payments of as much as \$306,698.21 to its veterans depending on the level of their injury, Britain will pay up to the equivalent of more than \$1-million Canadian dollars. Australia's maximum lump-sum payment is in excess of \$400,000 (Canadian), and veterans in that country can choose instead to receive a non-taxable, weekly pension which can amount to more than \$900,000 for a soldier who retires in his 20s and lives into his 80s. Lump sums are also given to children of disabled Australian veterans, which does not happen in Canada. The United States provides a tax-free disability pension that ranges as high as \$4,010 (Canadian) per month, depending on the level of injury and the number of dependents. In addition, there are supplements of up to \$10,836 (Canadian) monthly for the most seriously disabled.

Canada has a program that compensates disabled veterans for lost wages which pays 75 per cent of their military salary. This country also provides a permanent impairment allowance and a supplement that can combine to equal a little over \$2,700 monthly. But most soldiers who qualify for that allowance receive far less than the maximum, and the money is taxable. In Australia, on the other hand, the earning-loss compensation can amount to 100 per cent of a veteran's former salary if he or she is completely unable to work. And in Britain, the most severely disabled veterans receive 100 per cent of their military salary tax-free for life. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has defended his government's approach to veterans, saying Canada's programs and services are the best in the world. Mr. O'Toole, the Veterans Affairs Minister, said there are a number of programs and benefits offered to disabled Canadian soldiers which, when added to the amounts they are paid, makes Canada's system of compensation one of the best anywhere. "On a category by category comparison," he said in an e-mail, "some of our allies may have a few items that have stronger support than we have at present, but in other areas they offer less in terms of programming or financial supports." Not only does Canada have a good health-care system which is not available in every country, Mr. O'Toole said, but there are medical, rehabilitative, vocational and family supports that aim to return disabled former military personnel to a productive post-service career. And, in terms of the monetary payouts, for soldiers in the lower ranks, the combination of the earnings-loss benefit plus the permanent impairment allowance and the supplement could add up to more than their military salary, the minister said.

The government has spent at least \$700,000 fighting a court case against a group of veterans based in British Columbia who argue that the New Veterans Charter violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms because it does not provide the same level of benefits and support as the system of lifelong pensions it replaced. Frank Valeriote, the Veterans Affairs critic for the Liberals, said the comparison with other countries "just adds more fuel to the fire of the argument that our veterans have been making and that is that [the benefits] are inaccessible, insufficient and inadequate." Peter Stoffer, the NDP critic, said looking at what other nations provide to disabled veterans is a bit of comparing apples to oranges, but "for those who qualify, there is no question that other countries do better than ours when it comes to cash outlay."

Who is it? **Last Week:** This picture was taken in the parking lot at Sunset Beach in 1962.



General Sir Robert Mansergh GCB, KBE, MC, Master Gunner St James Park, was on a cross country tour visiting various Artillery Units and here, 15 Field Artillery Regiment is formed up awaiting his inspection. I recall he was fashionable late and made a very thorough and lengthy inspection. The parade is legendary in the Band's history as they had to play the Slow March at least 20 times.

It is the custom (or was in those days, don't know about now) in the Artillery that we didn't fix bayonets on parade. On this parade, we fixed bayonets, but notice that they are still in their scabbards. I don't remember why this was done. Is not as crisp as it could be so it is hard to pick out people. I see WOII Stan Thompson, in blues, in the rear rank and Capt Bill Matterson

in front of the right marker. In front of him is Maj Gordon Platt and beside him is Maj Eckford. The officer out front is Lt Col Doug Elsdon.

Two Weeks ago: Thanks to Capt Bill Annand, PPCLI, Adj 39CBG, who identified the location as Work Point Barracks.

This Week: This week's photo is the latest in our series "Name that Piece". Here, on the sunny



fields of possibly Sarcee, Alberta, sometime between the wars, is an impressive piece of artillery, in full recoil. Note the attention paid to hearing protection...viz. none at all, save for one wimp who later had to buy a round of drinks in the

mess. In fact, some old-timers have told me that they were informed by kindly sergeants that the way to protect their hearing was to open their mouths wide. This would equalize the pressure, and preserve their senses. I was told this whilst they were shouting at the top of their lungs, due to the fact that they couldn't hear a thing quieter than a heavy metal concert.

So, ordnance experts, can you name this piece, and, as a bonus, can you name the battery that was equipped with this mighty weapon? Answers can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

From the 'Punitary'

The church council insisted on a new seminary graduate. They were looking for greener pastors.

Murphy's other Laws

The number of errors in any piece of writing rises in proportion to the writer's reliance on secondary sources.

Quotable Quotes

Failures are divided into two classes - those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought. — *John Charles Salak*



Vimy Day Commemoration

Commonwealth War Graves Section

Mountain View Cemetery

Fraser Street at 39th Avenue, Vancouver

Taste of India Curry Lunch



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

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



Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015

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 20, 2015)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please e-mail
Events@DukeaBear.com
(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 20, 2015

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, May 28, 2015

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir Concert

THE VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

with the
AWARD WINNING B.C. GIRL'S CHOIR

7:30 pm, Saturday, April 11th, 2015

TERRY FOX THEATRE

1260 Riverwood Gate, Port Coquitlam

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