

## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Sept 24, 2013

### Wednesday Lunches

Lunches are back in full swing, although it will be much better once the kitchen project is done. Still no start date, but I understand all approvals have been given.

If you haven't been to one of our lunches, they happen (almost) every Wednesday from 1130-1400hrs in the 15 Field Officers Mess, Bessborough Armoury, 2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver. Guests and visitors are always welcome. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements before they come.

### A NEW HOME FOR THE BAND

In 1994, National Defense announced it would vacate the Jericho lands, home of military bases on Vancouver's west side since before World War Two. More than a dozen military buildings and a building leased to the National Science, Education and Research Council of Canada (NSERC) on 54 acres at the time of the announcement.



In the years since the closure announcement, most of the buildings have been removed. NSERC departed, units closed and units consolidated in the headquarters building. By 2011, all units at Jericho were housed in the headquarters block. Only a drill shed and one barracks block remained. The Jericho Garrison sat amidst a vast tract of urban parkland. In 2007, architects were engaged to design a "super armoury" complex similar to those in other Canadian cities. When completed, the complex would house all units at the Jericho Garrison in purpose designed quarters on the grounds of the Seaforth Armoury in Vancouver. The project would include the existing Seaforth Armoury and two new buildings.

On September 5th, 2012, the Seaforth Highlanders marched out of their armoury to take up temporary residence at Jericho. With a massed band of the Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth Highlanders and the Band of the Fifteenth Field Regiment in the lead, more than 200 soldiers

stepped off early in the morning to parade down the streets of Kitsilano to their home for the next three years. Almost immediately, retrofitting of the Seaforth Armory began. In addition to seismic upgrades, the heritage building on Burrard Street will receive new offices, training facilities and the rest of the armory will be brought up to a modern standard to become an integral part of the next 100 years of military presence in the city. One of the new buildings will hold a purpose built suite for the Bands of the Fifteenth Field and Seaforth Highlander Regiments. Working in consultation with the bands, the architects have designed state of the art rehearsal rooms, offices, a library to house more than 5000 musical scores, and proper storage for uniforms, musical instruments and gear.

In July 2013, ground breaking for the new super armory complex took place. If construction goes as planned, the complex will be occupied by January, 2016. Look forward to joining us then for opening celebrations. After more than 80 years of waiting, the band is looking forward to having a new home!

## **Great Lakes US Aircraft Carriers**

The Great Lakes provided vital support for the war effort in WWII, from building 28 fleet subs in Manitowoc to providing the bulk of US industrial output. We could not have won the war if not for the benefits of the Great Lakes and their related industry. However there was another benefit of the lakes that is often overlooked. Japan quickly lost the war because, among many other things, its navy could not replace its carrier pilot losses. We could. But how did we train so many pilots in both comfort (calm seas) and safety (no enemy subs)? We took two old side-wheel Great Lakes passenger steamers and turned them into training carriers on Lake Michigan! Virtually every US carrier pilot trained in the war got his landing training on these amazing ships! Sadly nothing but these great photos and the wrecks of the aircraft that ditched alongside them remain to tell their fascinating story! Check out the link below! USS Sable and USS Wolverine sailing the Great Lakes giving pilots much needed experience flying off of and landing on carriers.

<http://warbirdinformationexchange.org/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=48962>

## **Military steamed about not being able to court martial Jeffrey Delisle**

*Murray Brewster, The Canadian Press Sept 22, 2013*



*Sub.-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle leaves provincial court after pleading guilty to charges related to communicating information to a foreign entity, before his preliminary hearing in Halifax on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012.*

*(Andrew Vaughan /CP)*

OTTAWA -- The Canadian military was privately furious the Harper government did not allow it to

court-martial a naval intelligence officer who sold top-secret allied information to the Russians. And the decision could well have far-reaching implications and potentially compound the damage done by former sub-lieutenant Jeffrey Delisle, says an intelligence expert who followed the case. The 42-year-old Delisle was sentenced to 20 years in prison earlier this year after pleading guilty to selling classified Western intelligence to Russia during a four-year period which began in 2007. He was arrested in January 2012 after the FBI tipped off the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, which after months of surveillance brought in the RCMP to build a criminal case. The military was brought into the loop only after the investigation was well on its way towards a civilian prosecution.

"All senior government authorities involved in security and intelligence matters should be made aware of the alternatives available to pursue suspects subject to the Code of Service discipline, so that automatic defaults to mechanisms more applicable to civilians do not occur," said a newly declassified military assessment of the damage wrought by the spy scandal. "Little or no discussion concerning the advantages of employing the military police to lead the criminal investigation, the (Canadian Forces National Counter-Intelligence Unit) to lead the counter-intelligence investigation and laying the charges under the Military Justice Systems appears to have occurred and/or fully informed decisions made with regard to the way ahead."

When someone joins the Forces, they are subject to a totally separate justice system while in uniform and on base. Infractions committed off-base can be dealt with in civilian courts, such as in the case of the sex murder charges against former air force colonel Russell Williams. The rules for courts martial give the military wide latitude on what evidence is presented in public and what is kept secret. It would have been in the country's best interest to prosecute Delisle by court martial because the public disclosure of details through the civilian system has laid bare weaknesses in the intelligence community, said Michel Juneau-Katsuya, a former CSIS agent.

"The public doesn't need to know all of the details," said Juneau-Katsuya, who also served with the RCMP. "You must take into consideration whatever you reveal to the public, it will go to the bad guys, and the bad guys will be capable to be better next time, and that's the weakness of the procedures in civilian court."

Through the court process, the public learned of lapses in the system of security clearances and that top-secret defence computers were not as secure as the military believed. Juneau-Katsuya said the government likely chose the civilian prosecution route because it didn't believe National Defence could carry out a competent investigation, among other things. "I think we jumped the gun," said Juneau-Katsuya. "I have seen it often in my career. The civilian masters within National Defence don't necessarily trust military police and I think that was a mistake." An expert in military law disagreed, however, saying the decision to prosecute the trouble naval intelligence officer under national security legislation was the right one.

"Thank God that this is exactly what happened here; otherwise, it would have created a bad precedent," said retired colonel and lawyer Michel Drapeau. Allowing the military to

investigate, prosecute and sentence one of its own for such a grave offence would have put the Forces in a conflict position and fostered lingering doubts about whether the procedure was fair. "Therefore, it is arrogant and improper for the military brass in general, and the (Judge Advocate General) in particular, to oppose this reality and resist the notion of 'civilian control' over all judicial affairs in this country," Drapeau said.

There has been considerable public debate about how Delisle, a man with a failing marriage and money trouble, kept his top-secret clearance and managed to easily copy sensitive intelligence to a portable memory stick. The review shows the military remained confident of its overall security approach in the aftermath of the scandal, but that improvements were required at bases in Canada. Defence officials, writing in their review, said they believed Delisle's actions revealed several "deficiencies" in the security program. But many of those had already been pointed out to the department by its own chief of review services and the auditor general.

### **US plane in 1961 'nuclear bomb near-miss'**

*A 24-megaton nuclear bomb was one switch away from exploding over the US in 1961, a few days after JFK's inauguration, a newly declassified US document confirms.*

Two bombs were on board a B-52 plane that went into an uncontrolled spin over North Carolina - both bombs fell and one began the detonation process. The document was first published in the UK's Guardian newspaper. The US government has acknowledged the accident before, but never made public how close the bomb came to detonating.

The document was obtained by journalist Eric Schlosser under the Freedom of Information Act. Schlosser told the BBC such an explosion would have "changed literally the course of history". The plane was on a routine flight when it began to break up over North Carolina on 23 January 1961. As it was breaking apart, a control inside the cockpit released the two Mark 39 hydrogen bombs over Goldsboro. One fell to the ground unarmed. But the second "assumed it was being deliberately released over an enemy target - and went through all its arming mechanisms save one, and very nearly detonated over North Carolina," Mr Schlosser told the BBC's Katty Kay.



Only one safety mechanism, a single low-voltage switch, prevented disaster, he said.

The bomb was almost 260 times more powerful than the bombs that fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The accident occurred during the height of the Cold War between US and Russia, just over a year before the Cuban missile crisis brought nuclear fears to the US's front door. There has been ongoing speculation ever since, including a 1961 book by former government scientist Dr Ralph Lapp. The newly declassified document was written eight years after the incident by US government scientist Parker Jones - who was responsible for mechanical safety of nuclear devices. In it, he comments on and corrects Lapp's narrative of the accident,

including listing that three out of the four fail safe mechanisms failed, not five out of six as originally thought by Lapp.

"One set off by the fall. Two rendered ineffective by aircraft breakup," Mr Jones writes. "It would have been bad news in spades." "One simple dynamo-technology low voltage switch stood between the United States and a major catastrophe."

There has been no official comment to the newly declassified details.

## **World's Only Full Size Model of Avro Arrow To Go On Display**

*September 18, 2013. David Pugliese*

MISSISSAUGA, ON—(Marketwired – September 18, 2013) – Fifty five years after its first flight, a replica of the Avro Arrow is coming home. The world's only full-size model, the Avro Arrow and memorabilia will be unveiled at the official kick-off to Doors Open Mississauga, held at The International Centre on September 28, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mayor Hazel McCallion will commence the festivities at 9:00 a.m. with an opening ceremony at The International Centre. After Doors Open Mississauga, the Avro Arrow will continue its time at The International Centre, taking stage at the Canadian Manufacturing Technology Show (CMTS) from September 30 to October 3, 2013.

The International Centre is grateful to the board, staff and volunteers at the Canadian Air and Space Museum (CASM) and their partners who generously provided their time and expertise in moving the Avro Arrow home to Mississauga. The Avro Arrow replica was built by CASM volunteers and is one of many important pieces in the CASM collection.

The original Avro CF-105 Arrow was designed and built in 1953 and was considered to be the most advanced Canadian technical and aerodynamic achievement at the time. During the 1950s, The International Centre site was used in the development of the Avro Arrow, making it the perfect location to introduce the Arrow replica as part of Doors Open Mississauga. The Orenda Research & Development Laboratory, a part of the Avro Canada group, operated out of what is now known as Hall 1, building and testing engines for the Avro Arrow.

“The International Centre is very pleased to be part of Doors Open Mississauga to showcase our venue's historical footprint,” said Michael Prescott, Chief Executive Officer, The International Centre. “As the leading trade and consumer show venue for over 40 years, we're excited to share our connection to our country's proud aviation history. Thanks to the efforts of our client, SME, and the CMTS show, the public can take a step back in time and experience the famed Avro right here on our site.”

CMTS, organized by SME Canada, is Canada's largest manufacturing event, featuring more than 600 suppliers and the most up-to-date industry solutions. “The Avro Arrow is enshrined in Canadian aviation history, and showcasing remarkable Canadian manufacturing and



technological innovations such as this is what the show is all about,” said Nick Samain, Group Manager of SME Canada. “We are extremely proud to be able to bring the Arrow back home after over five decades.”

Designed and built as a supersonic, delta-winged all weather interceptor aircraft, the Avro Arrow held the promise of Mach 2 speeds at altitudes exceeding 50,000 feet. Its wing span measured 50 feet, tail fin height 25 feet, and its length was 82 feet. On February 20, 1959, the Arrow was cancelled by the Conservative Diefenbaker government, halting a momentous time in Canadian aerospace history.

## **New Book – ‘An Abundance Not Worth Sharing’**

*By: Fred LaForge RCA (r)*

Without shame or malice of forethought can I prevail upon you to once again broadcast, through your various and wondrous Gunner web-sites, a message in support of the launching of my novel "An Abundance Not Worth Sharing"? Writing a novel is one thing but getting the word out that it is out and for sale is something entirely different. The latest, and I am bound to say, the greatest, way to launch a new book is through the web-based systems such as Amazon, Kindle and Kobo. The benefit to that approach is reflected directly on the purchaser's pocket book. Printed books today run in the order of \$ 14 to \$ 24 dollars per copy. E-books on the other hand are normally offered at \$10 to \$ 20 dollars cheaper. The down-side of E-book sales of course is that not everyone in North America let alone the rest of the world has Apple devices or Kindle or Kobo Readers. The only way to introduce newly published works such as mine are to rely on e-mail, contact lists and hopefully good reviews which might encourage readers to recommend the new work.

*An Abundance Not Worth Sharing at Amazon.ca* is a Canadian Novel with Canadian characters set in the Ottawa area during the 1930's and 1940's. I tried to portray two boys, growing up in Ottawa and the strong sense of loyalty and the friendship bond that developed between them. They join the Air Force at the beginning of the Second World War and that takes them to the painful but unbelievably exciting epic that was unfolding in Europe. I think that everyone will enjoy reading the book and I hope that some of your and my former friends and Gunner associates will support my efforts to get this book out and into the main stream of Canadian literature.

My Author page and the link to my book can be found at the following web site.

<https://www.amazon.com/author/fredricklaforge>

*I understand the book is selling quite well now.*

## 'Limber Gunners' Looking for an 18pdr Gun

As a Limber Gunner I have been tasked to seek out an authentic Horse drawn 18 Pounder, even if requires restoration. Since the LG are the operational unit of The Toronto Gunners which is a sub unit of The 7th Toronto Regt, RCA, it is part of the new CO's Campaign plan to investigate forming A Mounted Brigade Unit.

This is like looking for a needle in a haystack? So I'm appealing to the Arty net for help on the off chance someone out there can help.

Please put this out over the net. Thank you

Ubique Don Thomas. -- [thomford@sympatico.ca](mailto:thomford@sympatico.ca)

## Who is it?

**Last Week.** As expected, no one could identify either of the two Sergeant Majors but that isn't surprising as most of us around now were not even born when that picture was taken.



A couple of our more knowledgeable readers identified the 'Mutt and Jeff' medals.

The combination of a Star, Victory Medal and War Medal was fairly commonplace (more than 2.5m trios were issued). This combination earned for itself the common nickname, "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred". However, the pair of the Victory Medal and British War Medal is seen more often (3.2m issued) simply because more men and

women served overseas after 1st January 1916 than before. This combination was often called "Mutt and Jeff".

Pip, Squeak and Wilfred of the Daily Mirror, and Mutt and Jeff originally of the San Francisco Chronicle, were popular cartoon characters of the day.

Medal groups consisting of a Star and Victory Medal are often seen nowadays. This is reputed to be because the British War Medal, with a silver content, was more valuable and many former soldiers or their families sold the medal when times were hard. The Star and Victory Medal were never issued without the British War Medal.

This week's quiz photo comes from a series of shots taken during an exercise, probably in the late 1950s, given the uniforms and vehicles shown. Therefore, the slightly non-military subject



of this week's photo is actually military when put in context. Certainly the gentleman waving the bottle of needed supplies is in partial uniform, battledress trousers, 'Police' brand braces, khaki shirt and tie, and properly shined boots. He also sports an artillery-style moustache, much-favoured due to the idea that the optical nerve is connected to the upper lip, which must remain protected and stiff at all times.

So, the two questions this week are: who is the stalwart gentleman, and what make

is his fine auto? Bonus points for identifying the brand of thirst-quenching liquid in the bottle.

Answers can be sent to either the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)), or the editor of this fine newsletter.

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

The tombstones on the left were identical to the ones on the right. He was buried in the middle of the symmetry.

### **Murphy's Laws**

The inevitable result of improved and enlarged communications between different levels in a hierarchy is a vastly increased area of misunderstanding.

### **Quotable Quotes**

If you always tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything. – *Mark Twain*

### **BCR Lunch**

"A special event will take place at the Curry Lunch this Thursday. Portraits of Colonels John Toogood and Arthur Lungley will be unveiled in the Mess prior to lunch. Members of the Commanding Officers Committee as well as some association members and others donated the necessary funds to make this project happen. The portraits will ensure that these two Dukes will be remembered for many years to come. They both made significant contributions to this Regiment, to our province and to Canada in peace and war. Audrey Toogood and Grace Lungley and others will be present at the unveiling. The portraits were painted by renowned Vancouver artist Michael Kluchner who will also be present."



# Curry Lunch – a Special Presentation



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, September 26, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
(bar opens at 11:45am)  
(presentation at 12:01pm)  
(lunch starts at 12:20pm)
- 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 September 20, 2013)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at [Bill@DukeaBear.com](mailto:Bill@DukeaBear.com) or 604.618.3607 (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 September 20, 2013

***NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, October 31, 2013***