



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Sept 24, 2019

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get a copy.

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 - We need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars See attached posters for details.

- Sept 20** 15th Fd Regt and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders whiskey tasting
- Sept 28** **RUSI Vancouver Inaugural Annual Dinner – RSVP by TOMORROW!!**
Very slow response for the dinner to date. Please get replies in ASAP!
- Oct 04** Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019
- Oct 26** 15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner

World War 2 – 1944

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

Sept 26th: Greek partisans agree to obey the government in exile. British troops cross the Rubicon (going north). The consolidation of the holdings made by Market-Garden continues as Turnhout and Oss are liberated – Nijmegen and the 82nd Airborne Division's nearby landing zone will prove especially useful later.

Essential Reading: *Understanding the motivations and gestalt of the German soldiers of the Second World War has never been easy for other Westerners; how and why did they sustain themselves so long and so well in battle? How much did ideology weigh in their thinking?*

Stephen G Fritz produced an excellent study of the mindset of the Landsers and Panzergrenadiers in 1995; his “Frontsoldaten: The German Soldier in World War II” is a superb well-written piece of research and a worthy addition to any library.

Sept 27th: XX Corps of Third Army begins a series of costly hammering attacks on the defences around Metz. German resistance in Estonia is virtually ended, but fierce counterattacks occur near Cluj in Hungary. The last of the British paratroopers in and around Arnhem cease fighting.

Sept 28th: The Japanese defences in Peleliu are reduced to minor pockets, but these are still fighting as stubbornly as ever. Other landings are made on the nearby islands of Ngesesbus and Kongauru, but there is relatively little opposition on either. Captain Robert E Roeder is a company commander with the 88th Infantry Division on Mount Battaglia in Italy. Yesterday, his company occupied the hilltop and when the evening came in, so did a series of determined German counterattacks – six of them. Throughout this time, Captain Roeder was constantly circulating among his men, encouraging and directing them. With the dawn came another attack. This time, Roeder was seriously wounded and knocked unconscious by a shell. He regained consciousness in the company aid station; and immediately took a rifle and crawled back to his command post. Once there, he sat up, shot two more Germans before being killed by an exploding shell. His personal leadership and fighting spirit saved the situation and resulted in a posthumous award of the Medal of Honor.

Sept 29th: The Canadian 3rd Division starts to crack the defences of Calais. Mikhail Efimovich Katukov commanded a Guards Tank Brigade at Moscow in the 1941 counter-offensive, a Guards Tank Corps at the battle of the Rzhev Salient in December 1942 and a Guards Tank Army at Kursk and during Operation Bagration. He has earned a reputation as a skilled and a meticulous commander of armored forces; and today he is made a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Sept 30th: Calais is liberated, while fierce resistance is offered in the Scheldt Estuary. American XII Corps (of Patton’s 3rd Army) fends off German counterattacks to the East of Nancy near Arracourt. Admiral Fort announces that Peleliu and three small neighboring islands are secure – but mopping up will continue for a while. The new Japanese defence on Peleliu was based on caves and pillboxes in carefully sited positions that cost the attacking Americans casualties on an almost 1 to 1 basis, except that virtually all the Japanese are dead while the majority of US troops are wounded. The same tactic will be seen on Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Essential Reading: George S Patton kept a diary and started a manuscript for a book tentatively entitled ‘War As I Knew It’ in the months between the VE Day and his death in a traffic accident. It was finished after his death and published in 1947 – almost the first of the wartime memoirs. To posterity, Patton is a complex character, but no man is such in his diary, nor can he be fully blamed for his own larger-than-life reputation. It is an interesting read and contradicts some of the impressions left by the execrable 1970 movie ‘Patton’.

October 1944: MacArthur Returns – Triggering the Largest Naval Battle in History.

“To the people of the Philippines: I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God our forces stand again on Philippine soil -- soil consecrated in the blood of our two peoples.”

- General Douglas MacArthur – On the beach at Palo, 24th October 1944.

General: Allied heavy bombers drop 107,000 tons of bombs on Occupied Europe. 57,000 are dropped by day and 50,000 by night. 14th Air Force bombers concentrate on Formosa and the Philippines. U-Boats claim 4 ships for a total of 11,700 tons.

Oct 1st: General McCreery takes over 8th Army, as Leese is sent to a new command in SE Asia. US II Corps (5th Army) opens an advance on Bologna. British and Greek troops liberate several Aegean islands.

Oct 2nd: US 1st Army opens an offensive towards Aachen. After suffering 200,000 dead, the last Polish AK forces in Warsaw surrender... the conduct of the Germans towards their Home Army prisoners markedly changed over the course of the uprising and the latter defenders are accorded the status of POWs. The civilians are to be treated respectfully, but Nazi officials still divert some 60,000 to death camps and 90,000 to labour camps. Some 200,000 are released. In a night assault along a rocky ridge near Guignola, Italy, Sergeant Chris Carr of the 85th Infantry Division moves around the German flank and then rips it apart in a series of lone assaults on machinegun posts – using his squad to hold his prisoners. The ferocity of his attacks takes the heart out of the German defence and enables his company to take their objectives. He is awarded the Medal of Honor.

Project ‘44 THE ROAD TO LIBERATION

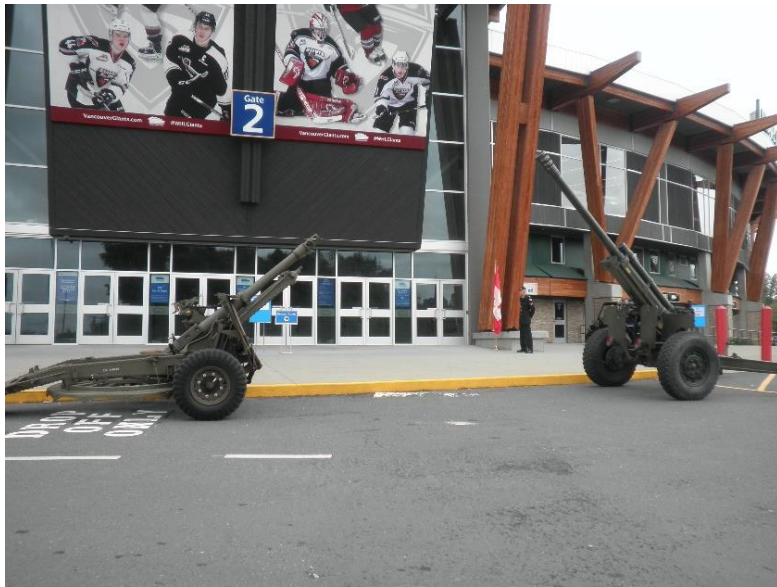
After a long and very busy summer we thought we would reach out and say hello to all of our new project followers and supporters! And since its been a while we last touch base we would like to take this moment to quickly reintroduce Project ‘44. Project ‘44 THE ROAD TO LIBERATION is an online web map (beta) that will let you explore the battles of the Second World War like never before. Digitally preserved maps, aerial imagery and war diaries are being used to map out the allied advance from the beaches of Normandy to beyond the Nederrijn river. Over the summer some of our team members traveled to Normandy and experience the celebrations going on for the 75th anniversary of the Landing and subsequent campaign. We met so many amazing people! And being able to be on the grounds with veterans and walking in the fields they walked all those years ago was a moving and unforgettable experience. Thank you to everyone who we connected with.

What now? Well for starters we finally have our first web map update that went live on Friday the 13th. This is V 1.1 and we are looking for feed back. So please if you have visited the web map reach out via our social media and or you can email us at info@project44.ca. We would like to once again thank all those that have contributed to this project. We are truly grateful for your support and encouragement. Stay tuned we have some many amazing things coming up and we can’t wait to share them with you.

Project ‘44 team

Service for LCol Dean Drysdale

The service for LCol Drysdale was held at the Langley events centre on Saturday, Sept 14. There was a large number of people in attendance, including many military personnel who knew and worked with Dean.



The Vancouver Artillery Association 25pdr team joined with a detachment of Regimental members to set up one of the Regiment's 105mm guns and the 25pdr at the entrance to the Events Centre.

The Guns set up at the Events Centre.

The return trip for the FAT and gun didn't go as well. On our way through Richmond, the drive shaft came off. We had to call around to find a wrecker to tow us back to the Armoury. Rusty's towing showed up with their big highway

wrecker and towed FAT, limber and gun together to the Armoury – an ignominious return to say the least.

The FAT and gun on 11th Ave just after the tow truck lowered the FAT to the road.

The wrecker was too big to tow everything into the compound, so a smaller tow truck completed that task. Then, with the help of some of the Gunners from the 105 detachment and the wrecker drivers, we were able to push everything into the Armoury to their assigned spots.



Canadian Military Tests New Camouflage Uniform

A replacement for iconic pattern in use since early 2000s.

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen __ September 5, 2019

Canadian troops will be wearing new uniforms over the coming months as the military tests a different pattern to replace its iconic camouflage worn by soldiers in Afghanistan and other war zones. Known as "Prototype J" the new, predominately brown, camouflage is being examined as a replacement for both the current arid (tan) and temperate woodland (green) camouflage. Some 600 soldiers at the military base in Petawawa, On, will receive the new uniforms, but that

could eventually be expanded to around 1,000 personnel. The current Canadian Disruptive Pattern, or CADPAT, has been in use since the early 2000s. “It’s definitely time for a refresh,” said LCol Ray Corby, who is with the army’s Director Land Requirements’ Soldiers Systems section, which oversees the clothing, related gear and small arms issued to the army.



LCol Corby speaks to 3 Royal Canadian Regiment about the Soldier Clothing and Equipment Modernization Trial at Garrison Petawawa on September 4, 2019.

Able Seaman Elizabeth Rosseaman

The new uniforms are initially being issued to soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment for a series of trials and tests in the fall. “The trials will kick off in two weeks,” Corby said. “We’ve put the whole battalion into the uniforms. In the next week or so

they’ll be wearing them.” Various camouflage patterns were examined as part of the project, but this is the first to be taken out to the field for a large-scale test. The prototype pattern, developed by Canadian defence scientists, is predominately brown, with some green and black. The addition of more brown in the pattern “reflects the desire to bring it more into the middle of the spectrum and not necessarily tied to a specific operating environment,” Corby said. The CADPAT uniforms are used by Army, Navy and Air Force personnel. Canadian special forces personnel use the US MultiCam pattern and will continue to wear that camouflage. The troops involved in the Prototype J camouflage tests are being issued with uniforms, a soft field cap, helmet and fragmentation vest covers. “This isn’t a final pattern, but I think we’re getting quite close,” Corby said. “I see the uniform being issued to 3 RCR as probably the 90 per cent solution.”

Canadian Armed Forces troops from the 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment, show off the new CADPAT prototype Uniform.

Private Robert Kingerski

Defence scientists continue to make changes to the pattern and soldiers will be asked for their feedback via questionnaires. A report will be submitted to the senior leadership for a decision on



whether to proceed with a new camouflage pattern. The army says a final decision on the new camouflage is expected no later than 2022. A full roll-out of a new camouflage uniform would take place in 2027. The military says it is too early to estimate the full costs of the initiative, but it noted that between \$15 million and \$25 million is spent annually on providing operational clothing. In August 2018 the National Post revealed that Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Jon Vance wanted Canadian soldiers to have new uniforms with the US MultiCam camouflage pattern. MultiCam is a patented brand made by Crye Precision of New York. Militaries pay royalties to the firm to use the pattern. CADPAT and the new pattern was developed by the Canadian government, which owns the copyright to the design. MultiCam-style uniforms are widely available in surplus stores and are in use by more than 20 countries, including by Russian special forces. At one point during the Syrian war, both Russian and American special forces were wearing almost the same type of uniform on the battlefield. Defence officials acknowledged the lack of security controls over MultiCam and the fact that numerous militaries, including the Russians, now wear the same or similar uniforms. In developing the new Canadian pattern, defence scientists examined MultiCam but only to compare it to their prototype.

Pratt & Miller Expeditionary Modular Autonomous Vehicle (EMAV)

The EMAV (Expeditionary Modular Autonomous Vehicle) from Pratt & Miller have been assessed at the US Army's Next Generation Combat Vehicle (NGCV) Robotic Combat Vehicle (RCV) Phase II Demonstration and Assessment Event, held at the Texas A&M REllIS Campus in Bryan/College Station. The EMAV is a tracked, autonomous vehicle that has been completely designed from the bottom up by Pratt & Miller and is the most mobile of the company's range of robotic platforms. The vehicle was originally created under contract to the US government to provide tactical infantry support at the platoon level. Power to the system is provided by a hybrid electric drivetrain that allows the EMAV to be operated in either electric-only silent watch and silent mobility modes.



Pratt & Miller Expeditionary Modular Autonomous vehicle (EMAV)

The vehicle features a typical track configuration with a rubber track band and can reach speeds of up to 72 km/h. The vehicle's curb weight of 3.08 tonnes and payload capacity of up to 7,000 lb (3,175 kg) will allow it to compete in two categories of the NGCV programme: RCV Light and RCV Medium. Pratt & Miller is also demonstrating its wheeled variant – the Trackless Moving Target Vehicle - in the RCV Light category. The EMAV is claimed by Pratt & Miller

to have excellent manoeuvrability characteristics, allowing it to traverse challenging terrain such as soft soil and navigate gradients of 60% as well as side slopes of 35%. The flat deck on the EMAV is 3.84 m long and 1.5 m wide, allowing it to carry significant payloads, both weaponised and for crew support. Three control options are available for the EMAV – local, tele-operation, or autonomous – with a common controller being used for both the vehicle and payload systems.

Armoury Open House

15 Field Artillery Regiment will be holding an open house on Sept 28 from 1000-1400hrs. Static displays will be set up by the Regiment (the Recruiting Office will be open), Museum and Cadet Corps. The Regiment will have all its equipment set up to show visitors how the Artillery works while in action and the Museum will be open with the 9pdr, 18pdr and 25pdr set up on the parade square.

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the Reserves, please encourage them to drop by.

VAA members – we will need some help staffing the Museum displays. Please let me know if you can come in to help.

Who (or What) Is It?



Last Week: As noted in the story, this is a picture of John Redmond's (our quiz author) father. The photo was taken in the summer of 1945 in Halifax. Capt Redmond was RCA then (note RCA cap badge and lapel grenades) as there was no RCHA in the war years. He was with NDHQ at the time. The main points are his CVSM (Canadian Volunteer Service Medal) with overseas clasp (a tiny silver maple leaf). and the shoulder patch showing Atlantic Command with the overlay indicating he volunteered for the invasion of Japan.

This Week: With climate change a hot (!) topic these days, some of you, especially those living in Vancouver, might not recognize the white material in this photo. It is called “snow” and was once common across this vast Dominion of ours. Apparently, it still exists in some parts of the country, and is coming to your front walk soon. Along with the thinning of Arctic ice, has come an increase in activities in waters that Canada considers her own. Undaunted, our close neighbours are seeking ways to navigate freely in the Arctic, without asking our permission. Canada has responded with at least a few moves to strengthen our military and naval presence in the north. The re-equipping of the Canadian Rangers with new rifles has struck fear in the cold hearts of our potential enemies.



However, in the distant past, we actually had some regular army feet (slightly frozen) on the permafrost. That brings us to our photo of the week. Sharp-eyed readers should recognize the mighty vehicle shown here, it was featured in a previous quiz. Those with even better eyes, or a magnifying glass, will be able to tell us who owned this one, and in which province it lived. And, finally, the most erudite readers will be able to tell us at which base this was, well, based. Send your surmises to the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@outlook.com), or to the author, John “Tundra Thumper” Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Nakurmiik!

From the ‘Punitary’

What do you call a bull that likes taking a nap? A bulldozer!

Murphy’s Other Laws

Little inconveniences like emergencies don’t give you advance warning

Quotable Quotes

Life is a long lesson in humility. - *James M Barrie*



*The President
and the Directors
of*

Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Society

request the pleasure of the company of you and your guests

at our

Inaugural Annual Dinner

*Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day
and the 30th anniversary of our 'Royal' Designation*

to be held at

*BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC*

on

Saturday, the Twenty-Eighth of September 2019

at

six thirty for seven o'clock in the evening

RSVP by 18 September 2019
to RSVP@rusivancouver.ca

Send payment to:
Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 3C7

Dress: Business Formal (Mess Dress Optional)

Tariff: \$50 per person
Make cheques payable to: RUSI Vancouver

Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Vegetarian – please indicate choice on RSVP

Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019



Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019

Sponsored by the Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia

0800 – 1630 October 4, 2019

BCIT Marine Campus

265 West Esplanade

North Vancouver, British Columbia

Agenda

0730 – 0830 Registration and Continental Breakfast

0830 Opening and Recognition of NOABC 100th Anniversary

0845 Canada and the Pacific (Strategic Situation)

Canada-China Relations: Predatory, Promising or Problematic

Dr. James Boutilier (Special Advisor to the RCN Commander Maritime Forces Pacific)

China's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada

Jonathan Manthorpe (Author and Journalist)

The National Security Context for Canada's Relations with China

Richard Fadden (Former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada, Deputy Minister of National Defence, and Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service)

Q&A Session on the Strategic Situation in the Pacific

Panel of speakers above

Moderated by Senator Yuen Pau Woo

1115 The Challenges and Roles for the Navy

The Royal Canadian Navy in the Pacific and the Strategic Vision of the RCN: "Ready to Help, Ready to Lead, Ready to Fight"

Rear-Admiral J.R. (Bob) Auchterlonie, OMM, CD, RCN (Commander Maritime Forces Pacific)

1200 Lunch

1245 Naval Reserve – International Perspective

RCN Reserve Priorities, Plans and Challenges

Capt (N) Alan Offer, CD, RCN (Deputy Commander Naval Reserves)

Royal Navy Reserve Experience and Future Plans

Cmdre Martin Quinn, ADC, RN, Commander Maritime Reserves

US Navy Reserves and Future Plans

TBA

Q&A Session on Challenges and Roles for Navy Reserves

Panel of speakers above

Moderated by Cmdre David Craig, CD, RCN (Ret'd)

1500 Marine Industry

Seaspan: RCN Joint Support Ship Program

Cory Zachrisson, Seaspan

Association of BC Marine Industries (ABCMI)

Dan McGreer, BAsc (Nav Arch), Principal Naval Architect, Vard Marine, Inc., Secretary, ABCMI

1615 Closing Remarks

Conference includes continental breakfast and light lunch

The charge is \$85.00 per person

Please register by 20 September using the form below

NAC National Conference 2019

Attendee: _____ Affiliation: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Send Registration form: by post to L. Fournier, 2970 Altamont Cr., West Vancouver, BC V7V 3C1

By email to: ljfournier@shaw.ca

Send Payment by: Cheque: Payee NOABC , post to L. Fournier (above address)

e-transfer: Payee/Security NOABC email: critophs@hotmail.com

15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner

**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, 26th October 2019

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 no later than
11th October 2019, as space is limited,
to the Unit Chief Clerk (*Sgt Woods*),
2025 West 11th Ave,
Vancouver BC V6J 2C7
Email: brenda.woods@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