



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Nov 25, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches (the BCR Mess has a monthly lunch) and these lunches can only survive if sufficient numbers attend regularly. I have noticed that lunch attendance numbers have been down the last few weeks and we need your support to keep them going. The Mess is back to 'winter' dress so dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Guests are always welcome.

Christmas Lunch break

Last lunch of 2014 will be Dec 10th. Members are encouraged to bring Significant Others and guests. The first lunch of 2015 will be Jan 14th.

NOABC - Monthly Lunch Speakers

Wednesday, 26 November: The guest speaker for November will be **Captain John Swann, Master Mariner**, Who will give a talk on the maritime implications of LNG export. Capt Swann has some 55 years of experience in the marine industry providing a wide background as a professional seafarer and consultant in marine related matters. His seagoing career has provided extensive experience in small and large ship operations, up to and including the very largest oil tankers in the world. This includes berthing manoeuvres, ship handling, pilotage, and navigation. He also has extensive experience in tug and barge operations and oil transshipment systems including a number of years in the offshore oil industry. His long list of projects has included a 'Tanker Risk Study for Port of Vancouver'. This included navigational safety and procedures assessment, operational practices for loading, discharging, ballasting, de-ballasting, etc., design of oil terminals and associated moorings, terminal safety practices, and firefighting.

St Barbara's Day Special Guest Night – Dec 6, 2014

The invitations are in the mail. A copy is attached for those interested in attending and who are not on the mailing list or haven't received one.

Commanding Officer's Tea - 2014

Sunday December 14th, 1400hrs

The cost, \$20pp, includes sherry, Mrs Lum's delicious hors d'oeuvres, as well as coffee and tea served by Regimental Ladies. The Regimental Band is sending one of its combos to entertain us as we mingle. The bar will be open for those of you who want more than sherry. Dress is suit and tie (or Regimental blazer and tie), Cocktail dresses for the Ladies.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1914

Nov. 15th: The section continued firing during the morning – we were shelled a little, but nothing in comparison with previous day - I went over to the 51st Bty, to get my telephone, which I had left in a dugout the day before when we had to leave the guns - but found that a shell had dropped plumb into the dugout and destroyed the instrument - there was two other telephonists with me the previous day and had we not run when we did - undoubtedly we should have all shared the fate of our instruments. I went back to the Section and about noon we had orders to take up position with our right Section - [while] the 51st Bty remained and had it as bad, or even worse than the previous days. Two guns were put out of action, and their casualties were heavy. One shell killed five and while they were being buried, another dropped among the burial party killing four more. We reached our right Section in the afternoon and I remained with the wagon line, and was in PIEGUAT – very wet and cold, shelling all night.

Nov. 16th: I removed some wagons into an adjacent wood for aeroplane cover. While going to a ruined farm nearby, a bullet hit a wooden gate post as I was passing. I dodged behind the post, for I thought a sniper had me, but it must have been a spare bullet, for nothing else came near me. During my look round the farm - I got some water, a few potatoes, and a couple of onions. On returning to the wagon line, [upon] getting a tin of ‘bully’ prepared a dinner, which I had not had for a considerable time. I had just got it nicely on the go, when I was sent for from the guns, and was ordered to run a line to the reserve trenches. George and I ran the line and I remained with a borrowed instrument from a Sergeant of the R.E’s in a dugout with a Gordon named Bruce (whom I afterwards learned was the famous runner). I was warned by him to keep low, as snipers were pretty busy – and almost as he spoke a fellow coming towards me got a bullet in the chest - the bullet just missed me, so I took his word and kept low. It was terribly cold – he gave me some bread and cheese, which I gratefully took. I sent the orders to the guns until after midnight, and things seem to quiet down. I pitied Bruce in his bare legs and kilt, but he slept sound, but I could not sleep a minute for the cold, and was glad when morning came. I was stiff with cold, and dared the snipers in running up and down for a few minutes to [undecipherable] warm myself.

Nov. 17th: I was under the direction of Major Baird, Gordon Highlanders, to send the orders for our guns to cover the trenches, as much as possible. Shortly after dawn, the enemy made a big attack and considering the small number of men in the trenches, it was marvelous that the enemy didn’t break through. About 9 o’clock they started to shell us. The first shell went into a dugout a few yards in front of me and killed a Lieut. Colonel and his servant, [while] another fell 10 yards to my right, and killed or wounded 3 officers, who were buried – they were hastily dug out, and presented a pitiful sight. Many were wounded during these first few minutes. An Artillery Officer and a man rode up and dismounted. The man jumped into my dugout, hitching the two horses to a tree about one yard away. Almost immediately a shell burst right over - [and] killed the two horses, one of whom fell dead, right on top of the dugout - the blood running in.

Then the shells came in terrific force – all the Gordons had to run, for it was murderous – I felt like running – but could not leave my instrument, as the guns would not be firing. So I stuck [while] they all ran, bar Bruce. He asked me if I was going to stop, I said yes, and he answered – ‘If it’s good enough for you, it’s good enough for me’ as he stopped with me. In the run, a chap passing got a splinter in the leg and a bullet in the arm. I dragged him in and we bandaged him up; he was with us throughout the day. Two more attacks took place, and every available man was pressed forward –and that was very few. During the day Bruce was telling me that of the 1400 hundred in the regiment who left Plymouth in September – all that remained of the number was 34, and he was one of them. They had had some terrible times, he said, but this is worse than any of them. I fully believed him, for I was sick with the smell of powder and blood. Bruce very pluckily ran to and from where Major Baird and the rest were in trenches outside the wood, to take messages from me, and to bring the orders for the guns. All day the enemy kept up the fierce bombardment. Old George came and relieved me that night, for I was fairly done and felt bad, [because] four nights out of six I had had no sleep and very little food. I was absolutely more like a sponge than a man, and on reaching the guns, Collins took on the instrument and I got my two blankets. They were wet – it was snowing and freezing hard, but I slept like a top, and in the morning [I] felt a little better and quite able to carry on with the business.

World War 2 - November 1939

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

Nov 22nd : 53 Warsaw Jews are shot in reprisal for the murder of a Polish policeman by a career criminal.

Nov 23rd : Some of these troublesome German magnetic mines fall onto the mudflats in the Thames estuary, thus giving the British the key to developing countermeasures. Scharnhorst encounters the Armed Merchant Cruiser Rawalpindi near the Faroe Islands – with predictable results.

Nov 25th : Japan and Germany sign the Anti-Comintern Pact – the Comintern being the ‘Communist International’, Moscow’s organization of Communist Parties throughout the world.

The Day the Entire German Fleet Surrendered

By Marek Pruszewicz BBC World Service 20 November 2014

Armistice Day is remembered as the day World War One ended, but for naval historians Britain's greatest victory came 10 days later. Operation ZZ was the code name for the surrender of Germany's mighty navy. For those who witnessed "Der Tag" or "The Day" it was a sight they would never forget - the greatest gathering of warships the world had ever witnessed. It was still dark in the Firth of Forth when the mighty dreadnoughts of the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet began to raise steam and one by one let slip their moorings. The huge shapes of more than 40 battleships and battlecruisers began to ease out, course set due east. As the procession of steel headed for the open water of the North Sea, more than 150 cruisers and destroyers joined them. The mightiest fleet ever to sail from Britain's shores was heading for a final rendezvous

with its mortal enemy - the German High Seas Fleet. Victory would be total. But there was to be no battle. After four years of naval stalemate, this was the day when Germany would deliver her warships into British hands, without a shot being fired. The date was 21 November 1918. World War One had ended on land 10 days earlier, but this was to be the decisive day of victory at sea.

After tense negotiation, Germany had agreed to deliver its fleet - the second biggest in the world behind only the Royal Navy - into the hands of the British. The mighty assembly steaming to meet the Germans was a reception committee so overwhelming that it would brook no changes of plan. "The Royal Navy perceived something that others did not. They wanted to underline to the Germans that they had truly been defeated, and nothing does that better than having to surrender your fleet into the enemy's hands," explains Andrew Choong, Curator of Ships, Plans and Historic Photographs at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. Operation ZZ saw the mightiest gathering of warships in one place on one day in naval history. It was a sight those who saw it would never forget. The unnamed correspondent for the Times, watching from the deck of the British flagship the dreadnought HMS Queen Elizabeth, was overwhelmed: "The annals of naval warfare hold no parallel to the memorable event which it has been my privilege to witness today. It was the passing of a whole fleet, and it marked the final and

ignoble abandonment of a vainglorious challenge to the naval supremacy of Britain."

German Rear Admiral Otto Maurer steps aboard the flagship, HMS Queen Elizabeth

Two days earlier nine German battleships, five battlecruisers, seven cruisers and 50 destroyers had set sail, heading west. Under the terms of the Armistice which had ended the



war they were to hand themselves over in the Firth of Forth, before being brought to the lonely Orkney anchorage of Scapa Flow. It was a fleet built to challenge Britain's dominance at sea. Its construction had sparked a naval arms race which helped turn the two countries against one another. As an island nation, dependent on imports to feed itself, Britain had to rule the waves. Defeat at sea by Germany could have led to blockade, possible starvation and surrender. The commanders of the Royal Navy knew it was not an option. As Winston Churchill had said, Sir John Jellicoe, the admiral who led the Royal Navy until 1916, was "the only man on either side who could lose the war in an afternoon". To avoid that possibility Britain built more warships and bigger warships than Germany. Throughout the war she held an advantage of roughly two-to-one in battleships and battlecruisers. Superiority in numbers was designed to make defeat in battle impossible, and bottle up the Germans on the other side of the North Sea. It worked. "A lot is said about how close Germany's U-boats came to strangling Britain in 1917, but if you

turn it around, by early 1915 the seas were empty of German merchant ships," explains Andrew Choong. "Germany's overseas trade was effectively shut off overnight. It ended up causing her major problems later in the war."

The blockade of Germany meant that by 1918 it was the Germans who were hungry, not the British. Unrest followed, then a clamour for peace. For maritime historians like Andrew Choong, the strategic defeat of Germany at sea was an even greater British contribution to victory than the battles fought on land. "I personally think the maritime contribution was our most important one, but not in battle. It was the quieter strangulation by blockade," he says.

As he led his fleet out of the Firth of Forth, Sir David Beatty, Jellicoe's successor as C in C of the Grand Fleet, could count on an overwhelming superiority to forestall any final show of German defiance. As well as his ships, he was joined by five American battleships and three French warships. Nevertheless, he was taking no chances. His orders issued the night before were clear - ships were to be ready for action: "Turrets and guns are to be kept in the securing positions, but free. Guns are to be empty with cages up and loaded ready for ramming home. Directors and armoured towers are to be trained on. Correct range and deflection are to be kept set continuously on the sights." As the Grand Fleet sailed into the North Sea, it formed two massive columns, one to the north, one to the south, six miles apart. Just before 10:00 it met the Germans, being led to their surrender by the British light cruiser HMS Cardiff. The Allied columns swung round to due west, forming an overwhelming escort on either side of the Germans. The Times correspondent described the scene: "Between the lines came the Germans, led by the Cardiff, and looking for all the world like a school of leviathans led by a minnow. Over them flew a British naval airship. First came the battlecruisers, headed by the Seydlitz." By late morning it was over. The German ships, missing one destroyer which had struck a mine and sunk, lay at anchor off the Isle of May in the outer reaches of the Firth of Forth, surrounded by their jailers. Beatty rammed home the message with a curt signal: "The German flag will be hauled down at sunset today and will not be hoisted again without permission."

Before holding a service of thanksgiving on board HMS Queen Elizabeth, Beatty thanked the sailors of the Grand Fleet. "My congratulations on the victory which has been gained over the sea power of our enemy. The greatest of this achievement is in no way lessened by the fact that the final episode did not take the form of a fleet action." The Royal Navy stood at the apex of its power. Britannia truly ruled the waves. "As of that date, Britain was still the world's predominant naval power, and the world's second naval power had just placed its ships in our custody," Choong explains. But it was not to last. Within a few months the German fleet would be at the bottom of Scapa Flow, scuttled by skeleton crews in a final act of defiance. With no enemy left to face, and Britain desperate to slash military budgets, the Royal Navy could not justify the expense of its massive ships. "The majority were scrapped between the 1920s and the early 1930s. A handful of the most capable went on to serve in World War Two," explains Choong. At least one of the British battleships, HMS Hercules, was towed across the North Sea to meet her fate in a breakers yard in the German naval port of Kiel. But as darkness fell on 21 November 1918 that was still in future. As buglers played "making sunset", cheers rang out

from the sailors of the Grand Fleet. The Times correspondent knew he had witnessed a unique spectacle. "The plan of the operation will not convey to the mind any conception of the scene, but it must be placed on permanent record, for it indicates a disposition of hostile fleets such as has never been seen before and will in all likelihood never be seen again."

Forgotten Chinese workers honoured

Shawn O'Hara Staff Writer Lookout on Nov 17, 2014



Capt(N) Steve Waddell addresses the assembly of Chinese Canadian veterans at the William Head staff veterans' cemetery. Picture: Vincent Chan, CCMMS

Last week, Capt (N) Steve Waddell, CFB Esquimalt's Base Commander, joined members of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and William Head personnel for a dedication ceremony and plaque unveiling at the William Head Institution. The plaque was dedicated to First World War Chinese Labour Corps personnel who died and were buried at William Head, which at that time was an immigration entry point. During the First World War, with thousands of casualties suffered by the Allies, 140,000 Chinese were brought to Canada and organized into Chinese Labour Corps to support the war effort.

Over 80,000 Chinese Labour Corps members were transported from China to William Head, then dispersed across Canada for training, and then shipped from Halifax to Le Havre, France, to join the war effort. "Neatly laid out here before us are 49 gravesites that have a hidden past," said Capt (N) Waddell to those in attendance. "These all-but-forgotten graves tell a history unknown to many of us, despite being only a half hour from Victoria." Thirty-five graves belong to Chinese labourers who succumbed to illness or mistreatment before being able to make the arduous journey across Canada by train, then embarking on ships to Europe. The Chinese Labour Corps dug trenches, provided ambulatory services, and fixed equipment. It's estimated 20,000 Chinese did not survive the war. On the war's completion, those that lived were returned to China. "They endured terrible conditions – building trenches, repairing roads and railways, working in factories, building warehouses, and performing other manual tasks, all for pennies a day. After the war, they stayed in Europe clearing the battlefields of corpses, removing ammunition, unexploded bombs and grenades," said Capt (N) Waddell.

The William Head Institution, CFB Esquimalt, and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society jointly supported this project, and created the plaque for placement at the grave sites to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War. Many of the veterans of Chinese descent travelled from Vancouver to observe this ceremony. "Canada, and her allies, owe the members of the Chinese Labour Corps a debt of gratitude for their service in the fight for liberty in Europe," said Capt (N) Waddell.

HMCS Vancouver Open House

From the Executive Officer:

HMCS Vancouver will be open to visitors on Saturday 29 Nov between 1100-1500. There will be a registration booth where folks can register for a tour and be assigned a tour group and time. The registration booth will open between 1000 and 1200. The location of the registration booth will be at Canada Place in the vicinity of our access point. I can't be more specific than that right now, since I don't know where Port Metro Vancouver is putting our access point at the facility.

Please remind folks wishing a tour that they should register. Any backpacks, brief cases, cell phones and cameras will have to be checked-in before coming on board. It's best if these things are left behind. A lady's purse is acceptable, mind you the security detail will want to have a look inside. Please remind folks to dress appropriately, no heels, and skirts since there will be a ladder or two to climb.

70th Annual BC Army Gala

Formerly known as the BC Military Ball

**The next annual BC Army Gala will take place
on Saturday, March 28th, 2015
at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency,
655 Burrard Street, in Vancouver.
Reception at 6pm. Dinner at 7pm.
Dress: Mess Kit/Formal**

For more information, go to the Gala website at: <http://bcarmygala.ca/>

See poster at end of newsletter

2015 Liberation of the Netherlands Canadian Battlefield Tour

The Netherlands - 12 Days April 28 to May 9, 2015 - *70th Anniversary of VE Day in Holland - featuring the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Regimental Association*

To see the full tour and itinerary, go to:

<http://www.liberationtours.ca/docs/Liberation%20Tours%20-%202015%20Holland%20Liberation%20Battlefield%20Tour.pdf>

Booking deadline is December 15, 2014.

Who is it?



Last Week: This is a picture of a Battery of the 24th Field on a practise shoot. This Regiment accompanied the invasion of Kiska. We could not determine where this picture was taken because there is no real background to give any clues. The detachments are wearing US helmets which were issued to the Canadian troops taking part in the joint Canadian/US Kiska Operation in 1943. They are also wearing white coveralls but that was the common dress of the day for training. The really unusual thing is that the limbers are deployed to the right of the guns where the SOP of the day was to deploy them to the left,

so the Ammo numbers didn't interfere with the working of the #2. That rule was not 'written in stone' though, so they may have been doing a practise deployment with limbers on the right just to see the problems and how to work around them.

This Week: Here's a photo from another album owned by someone who shouldn't have been



running around with a camera when there were evil Nazis and their henchmen (or "henchpersons") to shoot. Again, the author of this tiny column has been tipped off to the identity of all and sundry, but posts this as a test of your tri-service knowledge.

So, take a guess and tell us what is going on here. What is the aircraft type? What might be the mighty ship, and, who might the intrepid pilot be and when? Here's a hint: the pilot has a connection to the regiment, but

not direct. He also has a connection to my late father. Guesses only (nothing educated, please) to the esteemed editor, or the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

From the 'Punitary'

The things that come to those who wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.

Murphy's other Laws

The more a recruit knows about any given subject, the better chance he has of being assigned to something else.

Quotable Quotes

The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes.

- Benjamin Disraeli

15 Fd Officers Mess – St Barbara’s Special Guest Night 2014



*The Commanding Officer
and the Officers of*

*15th Field Artillery Regiment
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery*

*request the pleasure of your company
at their annual*

**ST BARBARA'S DAY
SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT**

*to be held at the
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver*

*on
Saturday, the Sixth of December, 2014*

*at
six o'clock for seven o'clock in the evening*

*RSVP by 25 November 2014 with payment:
OCdt. R. T. Jones
Richard.Jones6@forces.gc.ca
Tariff: \$ 80.00 CAD or USD*

*Payable to "Officers' Mess 15th Fd Regt"
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7*

*Dress: Mess Kit or Black Tie, with
decorations*

BCR Annual Christmas Fundraiser



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT (DCO) ASSOCIATION

You are invited to the
2014 Annual Christmas Fundraiser

When:	Thursday, December 04, 2014
Time:	11:30 AM – Doors Open
Lunch:	Served from 12:15 to 12:30 PM followed by Silent Auction and Raffle
Where:	The Drill Hall Home of The British Columbia Regiment (DCO) 620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
Tickets:	\$35.00 if confirmed by November 28, 2014 \$40.00 if confirmed November 29 to December 04, 2014 Please note, cancellations after December 3rd will be invoiced
Menu:	Turkey - With all the trimmings!

- Silent Auction!
- The usual valuable lucky prize draws!
- If you can't attend, a donation is welcomed.*
- Funds raised help us to fund Bursaries, Cadet Development Programs, Commemorative events and numerous other projects of The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust.
- Enjoy great company, good food & have fun while helping a worthy cause.

RSVP by Thursday, November 27, 2014 to:

Gayle Hawthorne 604-421-1521 or e-mail to: ghawthorne@shaw.ca

*Please send any cheques to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association Charitable Trust,
c/o #208, 1899 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5C 5T1



Hearth & Fire Concert



**HEARTH
& FIRE**

British Columbia Girls Choir
and
**Band of the 15th Field Regiment,
Royal Canadian Artillery**

IN CONCERT

Saturday, December 13, 2014
7:30pm

Michael J. Fox Theatre
7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby

Adults \$23; Seniors/Students \$18; Children under 12 \$13

Tickets **604-542-1698**
or email manager@bcgirlschoir.org

CO's Christmas Tea



The Commanding Officer

LCol Brent Purcell CD

invites you to his

Annual Christmas Tea

to be held on

Sunday December 14th 2014

in the

15th Field Regiment Officers' Mess

commencing at Two o'clock,

in the afternoon

Dress: Jacket & Tie
Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door
Please sign up at the Bar !!



Legion Lions Lair at Enactus BCIT

LEGION LIONS' LAIR

LOOKING FOR **CURRENT**
AND **FORMER** MILITARY
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LEARN THE MOST UP TO DATE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.ENACTUSBCIT.COM/LEGION.HTML
OR EMAIL: JENNIFER.SCOTT.JR@GMAIL.COM

WHAT:

- 5 business skill workshops followed by a business pitch competition
- Personal student advisors
- Industry professional presentations
- Opportunity to win \$10,000 in seed capital and network with other local small business owners

WHEN:

Every Thursday from
Jan. 15th to Feb. 26th 2015
6pm-9pm

WHERE:

BCIT Burnaby Campus
3700 Willingdon Ave
Burnaby, BC

*Workshops can be attended online via Skype for those outside of the Greater Vancouver Area

REQUIRED:

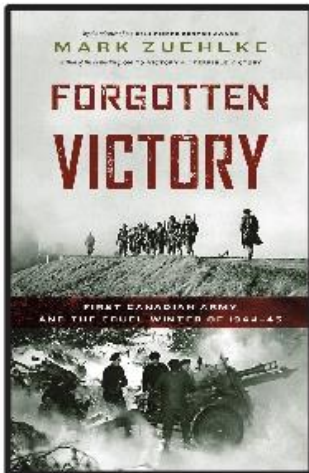
- Small business or business idea
- Completed application by Dec. 1st, 2014



Forgotten Victory: 1st Cdn Army and the Cruel Winter of 44-45

WINNING THE WAR

FIRST CANADIAN ARMY'S RHINELAND CAMPAIGN
OF FEBRUARY-MARCH 1945



A presentation by
MARK ZUEHLKE

—
winner of the
**2014 PIERRE
BERTON AWARD**

▶ **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 7PM**
Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level
Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street

Free!

Seating is limited.

Drawing from his newly-released **FORGOTTEN VICTORY: FIRST CANADIAN ARMY AND THE CRUEL WINTER OF 1944-45**, Mark Zuehlke—author of the critically acclaimed Canadian Battle Series—offers an insightful, informative journey back to February and March, 1945 when our nation's soldiers launched one of World War II's most important offensives. Today little remembered, this thrust into Germany's vital Rhineland made possible the ultimate Allied victory that followed less than two months later.

For more information, email marketing@douglas-mcintyre.com or call the library at 604-331-3603.

A partnership event:



Douglas & McIntyre



Vancouver Public Library

WWW.DOUGLAS-MCINTYRE.COM

2015 British Columbia Army Gala



The British Columbia Army Gala 2015



CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1945 - 2015

Come and enjoy a unique evening of fun and dancing in
the company of peers, comrades, long-lost-friends
and, of course, loved ones!

Venue: Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Date: Saturday, 28 March, 2015
Time: 6 p.m. 'till late
Dress: mess kit, Black Tie or equivalent



For all ticket information, including
Early Bird Specials, please visit
www.bcarmygala.ca or
phone (604) 225-2520 ext 2568.

DO NOT DELAY. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!