



**Vancouver Artillery  
Association News**



**RUSI News**  
Vancouver

## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Mar 26, 2013

### Wednesday Lunches

Lunches in the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Officers Mess continue with Mrs Lum cooking at home and bringing the food in. The decision has been made to renovate the upstairs (Mess) kitchen at an estimated cost of \$30-35,000. Fundraising efforts have been started, with a whiskey tasting event scheduled for March.

Remember to drop your lunch ticket in the bowl when you pick up your soup/salad.

And finally, PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VEHICLE COMPOUND!!

### **Lunch speaker - Wednesday March 27 **Tomorrow!!****

Bruce Seligman, President ARKTOS Developments Ltd.

Bruce will provide us with an illustrated talk on his company's amphibious vehicles. Developed by his company in British Columbia, ARKTOS Craft are proven to have the highest level of all-round amphibious mobility in the world - particularly while crossing the transition between ice and water.

Due to their unique design ARKTOS Craft have an unsurpassed ability to manoeuvre through ice-rubble fields, significant side slopes, steep grades, muskeg, quicksand and any other water transition zones. The existing 15-meter United States Coast Guard approved ARKTOS Evacuation Craft can carry 52-passengers or 5,000 kilograms of cargo through the most severe terrain and up to 10,000 kilograms of cargo in open water, across relatively level ground and across moderate transitions between water and land.

Larger ARKTOS Craft with greater load carrying capacity and exceptional amphibious towing have been considered for several major projects, while smaller, faster ARKTOS Craft have also been conceived for patrol and rescue missions.

### **The 2013 Military Ball - 6th of April 2013 – Less than 2 weeks to go**

The Annual Vancouver Garrison's Military Ball is scheduled once again to be held at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel. The tariff to attend the Vancouver Military Ball remains unchanged for 2013 at \$110 per person - **Tickets must be purchased in advance**. To purchase tickets send an email to the address on the poster below to have an order form emailed back to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Want to book a room at the host hotel for the Military Ball? The Hyatt has again offered a special room rate for our guests and the reservations link is pasted below. The rate is **\$149.00!**

As per last year, this rate is ***only available by booking on-line via this link***. You will **not** be able to find it if you call the Hyatt 1-800 reservation phone number or try to book via the Hyatt website

On line reservation: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/mball2013>

The Website is now up and running. For more information go to: [www.militaryball.ca](http://www.militaryball.ca)



*Vancouver Garrison Officers Society*

# **The Military Ball**



*We invite everyone to attend our*

## **68<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Ball**

*to be held at the*

### ***Hyatt Regency Hotel***

*on*

## **April 6, 2013**

Tickets - \$110/pp

**For information about the event and ticket orders please go to:**  
[www.militaryball.ca](http://www.militaryball.ca) or contact us at: [bcmilitaryball@gmail.com](mailto:bcmilitaryball@gmail.com)

### **British soldier stormed insurgent stronghold to deploy last grenade**

*A British soldier who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross crawled behind a knee-high wall on his belly to accurately deploy his last grenade to protect his comrades.*

*By Nadia Khomami - 18 Mar 2013*

Lance Corporal James Ashworth, 23, led his team in a 300-metre charge to the enemy position in the Nahr-e-Saraj district of Helmand province in June last year as gunfire flew overhead. Two insurgents were killed in this initial attack but a follow-up assault by Afghan police stalled when a patrolman was shot and killed as the enemy fled. The team advanced on the insurgent compound and used grenades to drive the final remaining enemy to an outbuilding. L/Cpl Ashworth then "with no regard for his own safety" dropped to the floor and crawled behind a knee-high wall that ran parallel to the front of the outbuilding, a spokesman said. As bullets continued to fly overhead, he inched forward on his belly while his team drew fire away from his position. However, in order to accurately deploy his final grenade he was forced to expose himself to enemy fire to get a better angle for his throw.

"L/Cpl Ashworth was now in full view of the enemy just metres away, with rounds hitting the floor just centimetres around him," a spokesman said. "He was preparing to throw the grenade when he was tragically hit by enemy fire."

L/Cpl will receive the medal in recognition of his "extraordinary courage" while serving with the 1st Battalion, The Grenadier Guards. The details of the attack emerged today as the official citation for the honour was revealed. The Victoria Cross, the country's highest award for gallantry, has been awarded just 10 times to UK soldiers since the Second World War. It is only awarded in exceptional circumstances for bravery carried out under direct enemy fire. The posthumous award to L/Cpl Ashworth, from Corby, Northamptonshire, is just the second from the 12-year conflict in Afghanistan. A Victoria Cross was awarded to Corporal Bryan Budd of 3 Para, who died fighting the Taliban in 2006. L/Cpl Ashworth's mother Kerry, father Duane, a former Grenadier, and brother Corn, 22, a serving soldier, were present at Buller Barracks, Aldershot Army base, Hampshire, where the citation for the Victoria Cross was read aloud.

It states: "Despite the ferocity of the insurgent's resistance, Ashworth refused to be beaten. His total disregard for his own safety in ensuring that the last grenade was posted accurately was the gallant last action of a soldier who had willingly placed himself in the line of fire on numerous occasions earlier in the attack. This supremely courageous and inspiring action deserves the highest recognition."

After L/Cpl Ashworth's death, his comrades spoke of their pride in his bravery and told how the loss of such an "outstanding soldier" would affect the battalion. His company commander, Captain Mike Dobbin said: "Lance Corporal Ashworth was killed while fighting his way through compounds; leading his fire team from the front, whilst trying to protect his men; and he showed extraordinary courage to close on a determined enemy. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and his girlfriend, who should be extremely proud of the courage he displayed and the life that he led. I am humbled by what I saw of Lance Corporal Ashworth's actions and will never forget him."



L/Cpl Ashworth was a soldier for five years and came from a family with strong military links.

*The family of L/Cpl James Ashworth at Buller Barracks, while Commander Land Forces Lieutenant General Adrian Bradshaw CB, OBE, right, talks (PA)*

His family paid tribute to him in a statement released after his death, saying: "We are devastated by the loss of our son, brother, uncle and boyfriend.

"He meant the world to everyone and has left an irreplaceable hole in our hearts."

## Jim Wallwork dies aged 93

19 Mar 2013

Jim Wallwork, born October 21 1919, died January 24 2013



*Jim Wallwork, who was the pilot of the first glider to land in the coup-de-main on the bridges across the river Orne and the Caen Canal; catapulted through the Perspex canopy on touching down and thereby was able to claim to be the first Allied soldier to set foot on French soil during the D-Day landings.*

Just before midnight on June 5 1944, six Horsa gliders were towed to the French coast, each carrying men of Major John Howard's D Company of the 2nd Battalion

Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. Bearing rifles, Sten and Bren guns, mortars and grenades, and with their faces blackened with burned cork or coke, they had been entrusted with capturing the key bridges near Ranville to prevent German reinforcements reaching the landing beaches further west.

The gliders were towed by Halifax bombers above the clouds to 6,000ft. There was a relaxed atmosphere as the troops sang and joked, but this stopped abruptly as each glider was released from the tug within sight of the French coast. Wallwork was flying the lead glider, and he saw the twin waterways in the moonlight as he descended. He flew a perfect circuit to land within a few yards of the well-defended bridge, later to become known as Pegasus Bridge. Within a minute, two more gliders had landed alongside Wallwork's, which had its nose buried in an embankment.

Wallwork was injured when he was thrown from the glider and, although concussed, he carried ammunition forward to Howard's troops, who had advanced on the bridge, overcoming resistance from machine-gun pits and slit trenches, and storming underground bunkers. Despite strong opposition, they held the bridge until relieved some hours later by Lord Lovat and his commandos. Wallwork was later repatriated to England, where he recovered from his injuries. The precise flying of the glider pilots had been remarkable, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory observed: "It was one of the most outstanding flying achievements of the war." Wallwork was awarded an immediate DFM.

The son of a First World War artillery sergeant, James Harley Wallwork was born at Salford on October 21 1919 and educated at the local grammar school. He joined the Army just before the outbreak of war, but after being refused permission to transfer to the RAF he volunteered to serve in the new Glider Pilot Regiment. After training, he left for North Africa.

On the night of July 8/9 1943, Wallwork flew one of the 137 gliders on Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily. Unusually high winds, ill-trained tug aircraft crews and poor navigation led

to the force being widely scattered; many gliders landed in the sea, and there was heavy loss of life. Wallwork just managed to make his landing zone, where he was met by heavy enemy fire. He remained in Italy with the 1st Airborne Division until later in the year, when he returned to England for intensive training for the D-Day landings. His was one of eight crews selected for the “special mission” to capture the bridges near Caen. After returning to his regiment, Wallwork flew on the ill-fated landings at Arnhem before converting to the much bigger glider, the Hamilcar. During Operation Varsity, the airborne landings on the Rhine, he took a 17-pounder anti-tank gun and its crew to the east bank of the river.

Wallwork had the extremely rare, possibly unique, distinction of flying a glider on the four major Allied airborne landings: Sicily, Normandy, Arnhem and the Rhine. At the end of the war he left the Army as a staff sergeant, and in 1957 emigrated to British Columbia, where he worked for a supply business before running a small livestock farm east of Vancouver.

In later life Wallwork attended reunions at Pegasus Bridge, including one in 2004 when the Prince of Wales unveiled a replica Horsa glider at the site. Jim Wallwork married Dorothy Colgate in 1945. He married, secondly, Genevieve O'Donnell, who survives him with two daughters of his first marriage. Another son, whom he named Howard in honour of the Pegasus bridge assault, died in childhood.

### **Major Robert Hart, Regtl Major, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**

Upon assuming the responsibilities of Regimental Major I was surprised that The Royal Regiment did not have a list to honour its fallen. Of course, much of the work had been done collectively by Veterans Affairs Canada through publishing the Books of Remembrance <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/collections/books> and in creating the Virtual War Memorial: <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/collections/virtualmem>

There were also several very helpful websites such as Canada at War: <http://www.canadaatwar.ca/> which facilitated an easier electronic extraction of Gunners. Beginning with the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 there have been 4880 Gunners that we are aware of who have died in conflicts, in the aftermath of the world wars and during times of peace and they are as follows:

Northwest Rebellion -	6
South Africa -	10
The First World War -	2671
The Second World War -	2129
Korea -	32
Cold War / Peacekeeping -	21
Afghanistan -	8
Others -	3

Unfortunately, before the Second World War, training and other casualties were not recorded in the Books of Remembrance - Major John Short and his Battery Sergeant Major, Staff Sergeant George Wallick, were examples of this. The aim of this two year project was two-fold; first to create a list of those who served and died in The Royal Regiment; and second, to enable others to be able research and contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our Gunners. I expect that as more records are digitized, researchers and family members will uncover more information, perhaps requiring amendments to the database. We have been fortunate to have access to the Second World War Unit War Diaries and hope that someday they will be available for all to view online as they give a unique insight into regimental life.

The lists are in alphabetical order and each name, where possible, is hyper-linked to the Virtual War Memorial: <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/collections/virtualmem> I would encourage you to follow the links to the Memorial as it often contains other information on each individual and allows for anyone to submit photographs, articles or other material which can be posted to the individual's webpage.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Captain Andrew Richardson for completing the hyper-linking process and reviewing every entry to ensure accuracy and Master Warrant Officer Calvin Gibson for organizing the database and devising a way in which could be put on the RCA website: <http://www.artillery.net/beta/> It has been a special experience for all of us in learning about each of our fallen Gunners and I hope that you will also take the time to get to know them as well.

### **LCol Vic Coroy presented with a picture of Honour House.**



*Vic, shown with wife Pat, being presented the picture by Kerry-Lynne Findlay, Associate Minister of National Defense and MP for Delta-Richmond East.*

The picture, suitable engraved, was sent to Ottawa by the Honour House committee in recognition for his efforts to get Honour House up and running. Vic, as President of RUSI Vancouver, came up with the idea for such a facility at a RUSI benefit concert for injured soldiers in New Westminster several years ago. At the time, a committee of interested people,

led by Vic, was established to pursue the idea, leading to the opening of Honour House, which is now fully functional. The picture was presented today in the Ottawa Army Officers Mess. Congratulations Vic

*I am reading a great book on the Cavalry/Armoured Corps and came across an interesting item:- Everybody has heard about the supposed heroic but futile charge of Polish Cavalry against German tanks in WW2 and I have always wondered how much truth there was to it. It sounded too ridiculous and stupid to be true (but you know the military mind...) and this excerpt clears up the event quite convincingly. (the book uses US spellings)*

### **Shameless Theatre: Horses Versus Panzers**

*An excerpt from the book 'CAVALRY From Hoof to Tack' by Roman Jarymowycz and published by Stackpole in their military history series.*

*The famed Polish cavalry threw itself into the path of the German mechanized columns and was swept out of the way like garbage – Time Magazine, August 19, 1940*

The cavalry's pious defense of the horse (*at the beginning of WW2*), at first admirable, then irrational, was savaged and mocked. The shock of blitzkrieg launched a sycophantic worship of the tank and a savage condemnation of the cavalry. Like betrayed lovers, the world's armies, spearheaded by an overly imaginative press corps, denounced cavalry actions, ridiculed the commanders, and belittled battles that would have inspired awe in any other conflict. They also got things wrong. The most infamous item of derision was the alleged conduct of Polish cavalry against blitzkrieg panzers in early September. Thanks to Axis propaganda, overzealous newspapers and Pathe newsreels, the campaign left the West with an image of pathetic cavalry hopelessly crashing against the technological future.

The genesis of the tale occurred near the Breda River. As German vanguards exploited a quick crossing, they were surprised by a mixed Polish armored cavalry force. Because few of his tankettes (*a light tank/recce vehicle*) were in running order, the regimental commander of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ulans, Col Kazimierz Mastelarz, decided to launch a surprise mounted attack. Maneuvering through wooded terrain to the rear of the Germans, the Lancers came upon a German infantry battalion. Mastelarz ordered an immediate charge; his squadrons galloped out of the woods sabering and lancing with wild abandon—the Germans broke. As the melee wore down, a troop of German armored cars appeared and engaged the cavalry with machine gun and 20 mm cannon fire. Mastelarz and about twenty lancers were killed while the remaining squadrons withdrew to covered ground.

There are conflicting reports, but either German or Italian war correspondents and a kinematic unit visited the scene shortly after, viewed the carnage which included dead and dying horses, and wrote an embroidered report on a futile cavalry charge: lances against Krupp steel. The story caught reader's attention and seemed to perfectly illustrate Western unpreparedness, technological inferiority and obsolete doctrine. The (*report of the*) incident was repeated and embellished.

## **CDA and CDA Institute**

### **Release Analyses of the Upcoming Defence Budget**

19 March 2013, Ottawa. The Conference of Defence Associations (CDA) and the CDA Institute are pleased to release their respective analyses of the upcoming Canadian defence budget.

#### **Conference of Defence Associations**

In "**Waiting for Defence Budget 2013**" the CDA's senior defence analyst Colonel (ret'd) **Brian MacDonald** charts the steady decline in the funding the Department of National Defence is receiving and draws some worrying parallels with the "decade of darkness." In summary, Canada's defence spending as a percentage of GDP is at its lowest level since 2003, and the consequences could be a rust out of the Canadian Forces.

For a copy of the full paper, please visit:

[http://www.cda-cdai.ca/cda/images/Waiting\\_for\\_Defence\\_Budget\\_2013\\_EN.pdf](http://www.cda-cdai.ca/cda/images/Waiting_for_Defence_Budget_2013_EN.pdf)

#### **CDA Institute**

In "**Defence Austerity: An analysis of the impact to date**," the CDA Institute's defence analyst **David Perry** previews the upcoming budget with an analysis of how the Department of National Defence is spending its allocated funds. The announcements that DND is having to return unspent funds on an annual basis are widely reported. What is not so widely reported, however, are that the areas where funding is being cut may not necessarily align with where funds are being under-spent. Perry's analysis shows that numbers do not lie: while the Canada First Defence Strategy was underfunded even before budget cuts, what is actually being cut now, disproportionately, is readiness.

For a copy of the full paper, please visit:

[http://cda-cdai.ca/cdai/images/Defence\\_Austerity\\_Budget\\_2013.pdf](http://cda-cdai.ca/cdai/images/Defence_Austerity_Budget_2013.pdf)

## **DUES 2013**

It's time to pay dues again:

**Vancouver Artillery Association** – Dues are \$75/yr. Make cheques payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association and send to the Vancouver Artillery Association at the address below.

**15 Field Regt Officers Mess** – Dues are \$60/yr. Make cheques payable to 15RCA Officers Mess and send to the Associate Members Representative at the address below.

Association and Mess dues to: 2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

**RUSI Vancouver** – dues are \$25/yr. Make cheques payable to RUSI Vancouver and send to Keith Freer, 524-666 Leg-in-Boot Square, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3. *Note: We will be voting on dues at the upcoming AGM so pay now in case they go up.*



# 2013 Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference

## 2013 Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference

Vancouver Community College  
Downtown Campus  
(Dunsmuir St & Hamilton St)



Robert Fisk



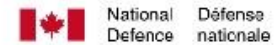
Major-General (ret'd) Ed Fitch

**Contact the Organizers -**  
RUSI-Vancouver -  
Col (ret'd) Keith Maxwell, OMM, CD  
kdm Maxwell@gmail.com  
604 865 0612 or 604 740 8124  
SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies/SFU -  
Ms Colleen Pescott  
cdpescott@sfu.ca  
778 782 8466/778 855 0467

**Sponsoring Hosts -**  
Royal United Services Institute -  
Vancouver  
Simon Fraser University/Stavros  
Niarchos Foundation Centre for  
Hellenic Studies  
**Sponsoring Societies/Associations -**  
British Columbia Regiment (DCO)  
Royal Westminster Regiment  
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada  
Department of National Defence  
- Defence Engagement Program

### Friday April 26, 2013

6:30 PM Doors Open  
7:00 PM **Keynote Event** - Round Table Discussion -  
"Syria, Security and the Middle East"



Featuring

Robert Fisk, Middle East correspondent for "The Independent" of London, UK  
With Major-General (retired) Ed Fitch, former Commander, Canadian Land  
Forces Western Area  
**Moderator** - Dr John Craig, Dean of Arts, Simon Fraser University

### Saturday April 27, 2013

8:30 AM Doors Open with Opening Remarks at 8:50 AM  
9:00 AM **Mike Molloy** - Former Canadian Ambassador to Jordan  
*Jerusalem and Refugees: Challenges to Peace*  
9:45 AM **Colonel (retired) Pat Dennis** - Wilfrid Laurier University  
*Slackers, Shirkers & Malingerers and other great myths about Canadian  
Conscripts in the First World War*  
10:30 AM Coffee break  
10:45 AM **Stewart Muir** - Former Deputy Editor, Vancouver Sun  
*The Soldier and The Journalist: An untold World War II story of the press, public  
opinion, politics and war planning on the west coast of Canada*  
11:30 AM Lunch in the BCR Beatty Street Drill Hall, 620 Beatty St (Displays and Museum open)  
12:40 PM **Canadian Forces Perspective** - **Commodore Scott Bishop** - Commander, Canadian  
Fleet, Pacific  
*The Royal Canadian Navy in the Middle East*  
1:25 PM **Special Presentation** - **Robert Fisk** - Middle East Correspondent for "The  
Independent" of London, UK  
*The Middle East Security Environment*  
2:10 PM **Capstone Presentation** - **Major-General (ret'd) Edward Fitch** - former Commander,  
Canadian Land Forces Western Area  
*Canada's role in the Middle East*  
2:55 PM **Panel Discussion** - *The Middle East, Israel, Palestine, Iran - Is Diplomacy Dead?*  
**Moderator** - Nelofer Pazira, Award-winning Afghan-Canadian director, actor,  
journalist and author. Co-Producer and Director of the film "Return to Kandahar"  
**Featuring** - Robert Fisk and a panel of our Conference Presenters  
3:50 PM Closing remarks by the Conference Organizers

Venue - Presentation Room 420 at Vancouver Community College  
Enter VCC through the Dunsmuir St and Hamilton St entrance

Registration - (including coffee and lunch): \$35 regular, \$20 students and junior ranks  
Register online visit - <http://2013vancouverstrategicstudiesconference.eventbrite.com/>  
Note - Special rates for the Conference at the nearby Victorian Hotel - <http://www.victorianhotel.ca/>

## From the 'Punitary'

In a recession, the most secure job is garbage man. Business is always picking up.

## Murphy's Rules of Combat Operations.

Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.

## Great Truths

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. *Winston Churchill*

## BCR Lunch

# Curry Lunch - Ireland



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



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

- Date:** Thursday, March 28, 2013
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
(bar opens at 11:45am)  
(welcome at 12:15pm)  
(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 March 22, 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 March 22, 2013

**NEXT LUNCH: Thursday, April 25, 2013**