



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Jan 27, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches and these lunches can only survive if sufficient numbers attend regularly. Attendance numbers went down the last few weeks of the year and we need your support to keep the lunches going so, if you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. We serve a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal, or a better deal, anywhere.

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. Your guests are always welcome.

Presentation on Artillery in Canada

An introduction to Artillery in Canada, its role, equipment and activities, will be presented by Capt Don Lamb CD, RCA, on **Jan 28 at 1300hrs** in the lecture room adjacent to the Mess. Capt Lamb is an experienced Artillery Officer who has served extensively with the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, served on two tours in Afghanistan and is currently a Staff Officer at Headquarters, 39 CBG. Various points to be covered:

- Guns in the Canadian inventory and their capabilities including ammunition types
- Fire control systems for artillery and expected accuracy
- FOO roles and procedures
- How artillery fits into the Canadian ORBAT
- Employment of artillery in Afghanistan
- If time permits, a tour of one of the Regt's guns

This presentation is open to all.

Valentine's Dinner in the Officers Mess

We are in the planning stage for a Valentines Dinner in the Officers Mess for Friday, February 13th. *See invitation at end of newsletter.*

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1914

Jan 24th: During the day the enemy bombarded the lock of the canal and railway line (by our observing station) with their 8' Howitzers. Sending over 129 shell[s], which did no material damage, one shell fell plumb on the railway line and flung a piece of the rail (about 4 foot) right over our guns fully a thousand yards, and fell a few yards from where I stood, I thought it was a shell coming over. We afterwards read in the papers of this incident and smiled to read the lot

they made of it, whereas when it happened, we took little notice. We were rather more interested watching the effect of their fire on the lock, which they failed to hit.

Jan 25th: The night passed rather quiet, rather less than the usual amount of shooting taking place. About 7:15am I received a message from 25th Brigade RFA that information had been given them by a German deserter that a big attack on our front [at] GIVENCHY and CUINCHY was to take place at 7:30, preceded by a heavy bombardment. I sent the message to the observing station, and hurriedly roused the gun detachments and the officers. [When] it started, it was horrific, and we replied with rapid gun fire. The enemy captured our first line trenches and our infantry fell back to our observing station. Two out of my three lines got cut by shell[s], and while I attended to the instruments, Collins ran a line to the left Section. [He] was knocked in the knee, the same shell wounding two men and fatally wounding Mr Watkins, a young officer that had only joined us 8 days previous. I sent two of my chaps along the observing line, and [then] the line to the 25th Bty got broken. I hastily got Collins, who was limping, to attend to the phones and I went along the line to the 25th. It was warm for we were heavily shelled, [but] I found a couple of yards of the line had been cut out by shrapnel, where the wire ran along the top of a wall. I climbed on the wall and dropped very quickly, for a shell seemed to whiz inches by my head, bursting a little way behind. I got a piece of wire that had been holding up a vine of some description, and managed to fire up the line. [I] was very glad when I reached the 25th to find that communication was through. I stopped a little while to recover my breath. On my return to the Battery I had a very close shave from a splinter from a shell, which burst directly in front of me. I fell on the ground, I think just in time. Reached the battery without mishap – just as I reached them, another big shell burst right in the farm, about 20 yards from where my little shed was, luckily doing no damage except to the building. Just opposite, a shell came right into the shelter where the telephones for the left Section was, severely wounding one man. It was in all a horrific morning, our infantry had been forced to retire right back, and we thought it was all up. We were the foremost Battery, and knew if our infantry lost the small ridge in front of us, it was the finish of us and our guns. Luckily the third line stood, and we kept up firing at ground range, [and] were credited with doing great execution among the masses of advancing Germans. The Guards Brigade, consisting of the London Scottish, Seaforths, Camerons and Guards were brought up as reinforcements, and stopped the German advance, [by] entrenching themselves behind our original line. In spite of all attacks the Germans held on to the ground they had gained by overwhelming odds.

Jan 26th : At 7am our troops made a counter- attack on the lost ground. After a fierce bombardment, of about 3 hours, the Guards regained a little, but failed to get our six fire trenches, which was the objective. We fired feverously and were shelled in return. One 6” going right into the cellar of the farm by the left Section, quite a few near the guns, but only two men were wounded. The fight went on more or less all day, but we failed to get any further forward, but repulsed an attack from the Germans in the afternoon. The 1st Siege Battery, on our left rear, got it hot, shell going right into the farm where they were in action. It was very soon ablaze – but in spite of the heavy shelling, I watched the gunners pluckily go to and from the farm, moving the wounded. After a while [they] managed to put out the fire in spite of the persistent shelling. It was grand to watch them, [although] at times they were obscured from

view by smoke from the shells and fire. But they stuck it grandly and after putting the fire out, they started shooting again, as if it were to get their own back. During this time some shells fell very near us, but did no damage.

World War 2 - November 1939

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

Jan 27th: A "Peace Vote" introduced in the South African Parliament by the Opposition is defeated by 81 to 59 votes. German planning for the invasion of Norway is advanced and a code name (Weserubung) is supplied.

Jan 28th: The Finnish 9th Division chops the 54th Soviet Division into three pockets near Kuhmo and keeps them penned in; but are too weak to finish their enemy off. Meanwhile, troops on the Mannerheim Line notice more signs of another looming Soviet offensive – as if the weeks of incessant shellfire hadn't been enough.

Jan 29th: The Swedes are approached by the Soviets to convey a message to the Finns that negotiations would be possible

Warriors Suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress '3,000 Years Ago'

Researchers at Anglia Ruskin University discover texts suggesting PTSD could have existed as far back as 1300 BC. The Telegraph 24 Jan 2015

Warriors in ancient Iraq more than 3,000 years ago could have been the first people to suffer from post-traumatic stress, researchers have found. It has long been believed that the first account of PTSD was in 490 BC following the Marathon Wars between the Greeks and the Persians. The understanding was based on Herodotus' account of the Athenian spear carrier Epizelus who began to suffer from mutism after the conflict. But researchers at Anglia Ruskin University have now discovered texts that suggest PTSD could have existed as far back as 1300 BC. They have found evidence that warriors in ancient Iraq during the Assyrian Dynasty were left suffering from the condition after battle. At the time the symptoms were explained as being caused by the spirits of the enemies the victims had killed in battle. But researchers now believe the male population of Assyria actually suffered from PTSD as they had to fight every three years under national service.

A new paper says: "Ancient soldiers facing the risk of injury and death must have been just as terrified of hardened and sharpened swords, showers of sling-stones or iron-hardened tips of arrows and fire arrows. "The risk of death and the witnessing of the death of fellow soldiers appears to have been a major source of psychological trauma. "Moreover, the chance of death from injuries, which can nowadays be surgically treated, must have been much greater in those days. "All these factors contributed to post-traumatic or other psychiatric stress disorders resulting from the experience on the ancient battlefield." Prof Jamie Hacker Hughes, director of Anglia Ruskin's Veterans and Families Institute, said the texts references conflicts in the same region as the current Gulf Wars. He said: "This paper, and the research on which it is based, demonstrates that post traumatic psychological symptoms of battle were evident in ancient

Mesopotamia. "Well before the Greek and Roman eras, before the time of Abraham and the biblical Kings, David and Solomon, and contemporarily with the time of the Pharaohs. "Especially significant is that this evidence comes from the area known as the cradle of civilisation and, of course, the site of much recent conflict including the recent Gulf and Iraq Wars in which many British service personnel were involved." The paper is entitled 'Nothing New Under the Sun: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders in the Ancient World'. It was co-written by Prof Hughes and Dr Walid Abdul-Hamid, a consultant psychiatrist at the North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

Flaws in Bill to Give Veterans First Crack at Civil Service Jobs?

Canada's military watchdog is worried about what it says are flaws in a bill intended to give veterans first crack at federal civil service jobs, writes Murray Brewster of the Canadian Press.

David Pugliese January 26, 2015



Rock the Hill takes place on Parliament Hill with veterans, families and supporters hoping to draw attention to the problems Canadian veterans are facing.

Wayne Cuddington / Ottawa Citizen

Bill C-27, which is currently before the Senate after passing in the House of Commons last June, gives Veterans Affairs the power to determine whether a military member's medical release is a result of service in the Canadian Forces. Canadian Forces ombudsman Gary Walbourne says that's a determination that should be made by the Department of National Defence. The ombudsman's office conducted an extensive analysis of the proposal, which was pushed last year as the government faced criticism for the summary dismissal of ill and injured soldiers, many of them with post-traumatic stress. The legislation is supposed to bump wounded soldiers to the front of the line for federal jobs, as long as they are qualified for the position. It may, however, have the opposite effect, said Walbourne.

National Defence, which has access to medical records and service history information, is in a better position to justify an ex-soldier's medical condition and the reason for the release, he argued. The way the bill is written, "it could be counter-productive," Walbourne said in an interview. "There is the potential for certain releasing members to not have the right priority status — or be delayed getting on that list." It's not the first time the two departments and their dueling assessment systems have come under the microscope. Many ex-soldiers, released from the military on medical grounds, have found doctors contracted by Veterans Affairs don't always agree with the assessments of military physicians. That has, in some cases, led to veterans being denied benefits and services for conditions that cost them their military jobs. Walbourne said the same general mechanism applies in the case of priority hiring and he doesn't understand why there "needs to be a separate process. National Defence "knows how the person has gotten hurt," he said. "We know what happened to him. And we know whether it has happened on the job. I have a real concern. Why would we bring in another process to determine something that has already been determined?"

Walbourne's counterpart, veterans' ombudsman Guy Parent, said he agrees with the findings of the assessment. "Giving ill or injured soldiers speedier access to potential jobs in the public service is vitally important to the (Canadian Armed Forces) members and veterans," he said. No one at either National Defence or Veterans Affairs was made available for comment Monday.

Adrian Carton de Wiart: The Unkillable Soldier

By Peter Crutchley BBC Digital & Learning NI



Lieutenant-General Sir Adrian Paul Ghislain Carton de Wiart, VC, KBE, CB, CMG, DSO was a one-eyed, one-handed war hero who fought in three major conflicts across six decades, surviving plane crashes and PoW camps. His story is like something out of a Boy's Own comic.

Carton de Wiart served in the Boer War, World War One and World War Two. In the process he was shot in the face, losing his left eye, and was also shot through the skull, hip, leg, ankle and ear. In WW1 he was severely wounded on eight occasions and mentioned in despatches six times. Having previously lost an eye and a hand in battle, Carton de Wiart, as commanding officer, was seen by his men pulling the pins of grenades out with his teeth and hurling them with his one good arm during the Battle of the Somme, winning the Victoria Cross. WW1 historian Dr Timothy Bowman believes Carton de Wiart's example helps debunk some myths. "His story serves to remind us that not all British generals of WW1 were 'Chateau Generals' as portrayed in Blackadder. He exhibited heroism of the highest order. "Evelyn Waugh supposedly used Carton de Wiart as the model for his fire-eating fictional creation, Brigadier Ritchie Hook, but Waugh's fictional creation experienced considerably fewer adventures than his real life counterpart."

It says much for Carton de Wiart's character that despite being one of the most battle-scarred soldiers in the history of the British Army, he wrote in his autobiography: "Frankly, I had enjoyed the war." He was born into an aristocratic family in Brussels on 5 May 1880. In 1891 he was sent to boarding school in England, going on to study law at Oxford. In 1899 he saw the opportunity to experience his first taste of war. Abandoning his studies, he left for South Africa to serve as a trooper in the British Army during the second Boer War. As he was under military age, wasn't a British subject and didn't have his father's consent, he pretended to be 25 and signed up under a pseudonym. It was a baptism of fire which ended with him receiving bullet wounds to the stomach and groin, necessitating a return to England. Although eager to get back in the mix again, he had to wait more than a decade to experience further front-line action.

At the outbreak of WW1 in November 1914, Carton de Wiart, now naturalised as a British subject, was serving with the Somaliland Camel Corps, fighting the forces of the Dervish state.

During an attack on an enemy stronghold, he was shot in the arm and in the face, losing his left eye and part of his ear. He received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his exploits. Speaking in 1964 Lord Ismay, who served alongside Carton de Wiart in Somaliland, described the incident: "He didn't check his stride but I think the bullet stung him up as his language was awful. The doctor could do nothing for his eye, but we had to keep him with us. He must have been in agony." Lord Ismay also gave an insight into Carton de Wiart's innate love of fighting: "I honestly believe that he regarded the loss of an eye as a blessing as it allowed him to get out of Somaliland to Europe where he thought the real action was."

He returned to England to recover in a nursing home in Park Lane. He was to return to this same place on each subsequent occasion he was injured. This became such a regular occurrence that they kept his own pyjamas ready for his next visit. While recuperating from these injuries, Carton de Wiart received a glass eye. It caused him such discomfort that he allegedly threw it from a taxi and instead acquired a black eye patch. Such setbacks were not to delay him long. He soon realised his ambition to fight on the Western Front when he was sent to Ypres in May 1915. During the Second Battle of Ypres, the Germans launched an artillery barrage in which Carton de Wiart's left hand was shattered. According to his autobiography, *Happy Odyssey*, he tore off two fingers when the doctor refused to amputate them. His hand was removed by a surgeon later that year.

The way he overcame injury and disability remains an inspiration, says Colour Sgt Thomas O'Donnell, who served in Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. "For him to have endured all those injuries and gone through so much rehabilitation in so many conflicts and to never give up is really inspirational, particularly given the inferior medical facilities they had then. I just don't know how he managed it. "Soldiers like Carton de Wiart are a real example for troops serving today. It's quite sad that having sacrificed so much his story isn't particularly well-known. I think as well as remembering the war dead, it is vital we remember what injured soldiers like him went through in countless conflicts." O'Donnell knows from first-hand experience what it is like for a soldier to have to battle back from severe injury. He was wounded in Afghanistan in 2010, when a sniper's bullet hit him just above his left kneecap, smashing the knee in two. He was told he might lose his leg and that his soldiering days were over. But O'Donnell's desire to walk his daughter down the aisle unaided and to serve with his battalion again saw him defy medical advice and return to front-line action in Afghanistan in September 2012. O'Donnell is self-effacing about his own experience. "I want to make it clear that I went through nothing like as much as he endured. Carton de Wiart is like Robocop."

A soldier who served under Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart at the Battle of the Somme recounts his experiences. After a period of recovery, Carton de Wiart once more managed to convince a medical board he was fit for battle. In 1916, he took command of the 8th Bn, Gloucestershire Regiment, and while commanding them at the Somme his legend was cemented. He electrified his men. The eye patch, empty sleeve and striking moustache, combined with his bravery, made him famous, with men under his command describing his presence as helping to alleviate their fear before going over the top. During fierce fighting, the battle for the village of La Boiselle swayed back and forth. When three other commanding officers were killed, Carton de Wiart

took charge of all units fighting in the village and led from the front, holding off enemy counterattacks. He received the Victoria Cross, the highest British military award for gallantry, for his actions at La Boisselle. He, however, declined to even mention the medal in his autobiography, later telling a friend that "it had been won by the 8th Glosters, for every man has done as much as I have".

He took part in a number of other offensives during the war, picking up more injuries. Mr A Holmes, who served as Carton de Wiart's "batman" or personal servant, told the 1964 BBC Home Service programme, *In Our Time*, how his commanding officer had a particularly lucky escape during another Somme offensive. "They shifted us from Ypres then back on the Somme again to the Devil's Wood, and that's where the old man got shot through the back of the head. But fortunately it missed his spinal cord." Some historians have contended that Carton de Wiart's bravery at times bordered on recklessness, and that this may have explained his being passed over for promotion to divisional command in WW1. But Bowman believes there were mitigating factors. "He was a brave soldier and effective leader of men. He was well qualified to hold divisional command, but so were many others, and his habit of turning up in the front line and getting himself injured didn't bode well for his ability to manage a division.

"Given the primitive communications of the time, and the amount of bureaucracy involved, commanding a division in WW1 did involve a lot of office time, which didn't seem to be his forte." Carton de Wiart lived in Poland for most of the inter-war period but his military career was not yet over. When World War Two broke out, he led a campaign in Norway in 1940 and was briefly stationed in Northern Ireland. In April 1941 he was dispatched to form a British military mission in Yugoslavia, but his aircraft was shot down over the Mediterranean. After swimming to shore, he was captured by the Italians. Despite being in his 60s, he made numerous attempts to escape the PoW camp, on one occasion eluding recapture for eight days - quite a feat given his distinctive appearance and lack of Italian. He was eventually released

over two years later and was then sent to China by Winston Churchill to be his personal representative to Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek, a post he held until 1946.

Carton de Wiart's impressive array of medals



Lord Ismay recalls fighting alongside Carton de Wiart when he lost an eye. Churchill was a firm admirer of Carton de Wiart, describing him as "a model of chivalry and honour" and writing the foreword to his autobiography. In

retirement, he eventually settled in County Cork, spending his time fishing. Having proved indestructible on the battlefield, he died peacefully in 1963, aged 83. Military historian Lt Col James Cook, of the Royal Artillery, believes his example continues to resonate today. "Carton de Wiart did have a habit of getting injured but this is simply testament to his belief of leading from the front. He inspired his men with the simple and eternal words, 'follow me'. These words remain the mark of a truly courageous leader, be it on the Western Front a hundred years ago, or today in military operations around the world."

Who is it?



Last Week: Well, no one has a clue about this picture. It appears to be the stage of a small community theatre or school but no one can be identified.

This Week: This week's photo comes from an album belonging to Larry Marrier, who served with the 24th Field Regiment during World War Two. Larry trained in Shilo and other scenic sites before joining the task force that invaded Kiska in 1943. Afterwards, his Regiment served



in various parts of the Dominion, but did not proceed to North-West Europe. As a result, Larry is still alive and well, living in Thunder Bay. The photo was taken in Vernon in May of 1944 and is captioned, "Capt McKinley, TBSM MacPherson". What the caption fails to mention is the rather extraordinary mounting of a Bren gun on the forward part of the barrel of the 25 pdr behind the gentlemen.

Was this a failed attempt to turn the gun into an anti-personnel weapon, or defence against low-flying Japanese balloons? We know that larger calibre guns had sub-calibre guns that could be inserted into the breech in order to allow gunners more play time. So, is that what's occurring here? Your erudite musings may be sent to the editor or to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net). I thank you in advance.

For a picture you can enlarge, email bob.mugford@shaw.ca

From the 'Punitentary'

What happened to the frog when he parked illegally? He got toad away.

Murphy's other Laws

Those who can – do. Those who can't – teach. Those who can do neither become administrators.

Quotable Quotes

All of us who are concerned for peace and triumph of reason and justice must be keenly aware how small an influence reason and honest good will exert upon events in the political field.

- *Albert Einstein*

Valentine's Dinner in the Officers Mess



Lieutenant Colonel Brent A. Purcell
& the Officers of the

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

*request the pleasure of your company and guest
at their*

Valentine's Ladies Dining In



to be held at the

*Officers' Mess, Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC*

on

Friday, the Thirteenth of February 2015

at

seven o'clock for seven-thirty in the evening

*Dress: Mess Kit or Black Tie, with decorations
Tariff: \$55ea/\$100 per couple*

*RSVP by February 8th with payment to:
"15 RCA Officers' Mess"
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7*

*No Alcoholic beverages will be included with the meal. Attendees may purchase drinks from the bar
or bring their own wine for a nominal corkage fee of \$5.00*

Seating will be limited to the first 40 people.



Menu

*Roasted Butternut Squash Soup
Fried sage, hazelnut crumble, green oil,*

*Salmon "Pastrami" & Beet Trio
Pickled beets, cream cheese, rye bread, horseradish*

*Three Cheese & Potato Raviolo
Parmesan tea, chive brown butter*

*Slow Roasted Beef Brisket
Country style beans, sweet onions, honey mustard*

*"Nemesis" Chocolate Cake
Orange curd, fresh oranges, cocoa meringue*

Allowance can be made for vegetarian requirements or allergies - prior notice is requested.



About the Chef

Chef Dan Marcenko is currently Executive Chef for two fine dining establishments on Vancouver's West side, La Buca, creating handmade regional Italian specialties and Pied-à-Terre, serving classic French bistro-style cuisine.

Originally hailing from Red Deer, Alberta, Dan began at the bottom of the restaurant ladder as a dishwasher in a local Italian restaurant. Management soon recognized his work ethic and enthusiasm, teaching him to prepare food and ultimately putting him in charge of a station as a line cook. In order to further develop his skills, Dan embarked on the three year culinary arts program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, graduating at the top of his class. To broaden his experience he then spent a year with Chef Pierre Orsi at his Michelin starred restaurant in Lyon, France.

Dan is an enthusiastic supporter of the Canadian military and is honoured to be preparing this special Valentines dinner for the Officers Mess. As he says "My objective is to help create a convivial environment, with a goal of providing impeccable service and delicious cuisine. Passion is at the heart of my work and the relationship with my customers. It is what I strive to express each day."

Bon Appétit.

Whiskey Tasting

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

&

The 78th Fraser's Highlanders

Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders welcome you to attend our annual Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or \$25.00 if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. kilts, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday - March 6th, 2015

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J 2C7

DO NOT MISS OUT!

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

2015 BC Army Gala



Steve Darling reprises his role as event MC for the 2015 BC Army Gala!

Join us in remembering the Second World War, 70 years later.

The 2015 BC Army Gala will remember the sacrifices and celebrate the victories of The Second World War. Come with us as we travel through the war, and through Europe with an evening of entertainment and remembrance.

The evening will see Steve Darling return as the evening MC; in addition, the entertainment will be unparalleled with live music, dancers and more.

Tickets are available for purchase at \$140 each, and are selling quickly. The BC Army Gala team looks forward to seeing you at the Hyatt Regency on March 28th.

Event Count-Down: **60 Days** until the 2015 BC Army Gala!

Visit the link below to purchase your tickets today:

<http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2015-bc-army-gala-tickets-13545802861?aff=efbevent>

Thank you for your continued interest and we look forward to seeing you at The BC Army Gala 2015!

South Korea Curry Lunch



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

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



Date: Thursday, January 29, 2015

Time: 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)

Location: Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC

Dress: Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)

Price: \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm
attendance by January 23, 2015)

RSVP: For more information or to register, please contact
Bill Diamond at 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 January 23, 2015

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, February 26, 2015