



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News April 28, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess holds weekly lunches, serving a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch.

The dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Your guests are always welcome but don't forget to tell them about dress requirements BEFORE they come.

NOABC Post Lunch Speaker –Wednesday - Tomorrow

The monthly speaker for tomorrow will be Bob Mackay, who will do a presentation on the NAC Outreach PowerPoint program.

BCR Monthly Curry Lunch – No lunch for April.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1915

April 27th: Much the same as yesterday – continual shelling and firing, the enemy also sending over their great 17' Howitzer (Big Bertha) shell into YPRES (a mile in our rear), as well as at artillery and the trenches. The enemy must have been preparing for this for months, for their ammunition expenditure was enormous and unceasing. We found another observing post near ST JULIEN, a wrecked house about 200 yards in rear of our trenches, but it was almost useless as the wire was continually getting broken, and it was impossible to signal. Our Captain was a perfect brick and stuck it grandly, his hat being carried away once by a shrapnel burst. He had just left the house and was running to the fire trench [when] a 17" came right into the house. [It] threw it almost bodily into the air – after the smoke cleared off, the house was a pile of wreckage. Several natives had been killed, Lt Donahue having a lucky escape – three natives were horribly wounded and pinned down under the wreckage. An officer mercifully shot them to put them out of their misery. We kept up fire by map all day. Several shell[s] burst upon us and one pitched right against the trail of Jerry's wagon, and funny enough hurt nobody. The thought struck me in the afternoon that it was my birthday – Gee! It was a very grim and bloody one. Old George and Collins had an exciting afternoon. While going along the wire, they had to take refuge in a shell hole, [They] had to stay in it for a long while, and they eventually got back alright. About midnight we got orders to move at once, for the position was absolute[ly] suicidal to hold. The battery got away alright; I remained with my horse holder to wait for George and Collins, who were with the Infantry HQ. [They] were reeling in what remained of our wire. Shelling was still going on, and the burst of shells, firing of our own guns, and the

rockets from both side's trenches always lights up the Heavens like a gigantic firework display. I waited a long time behind the shelter of a building for them to come, and I thought that they must have got knocked over. I resolved to go and look for them; it was a nasty job for the road and the village [of] ST JEAN was still being heavily shelled. The road was deserted as I crept from tree to tree. But every here and there were dead horses and occasionally a dead man.

As I got to the village, two infantry chaps were coming down from the end of the village. I asked them if they had seen anything of my chums, but they told me they had not seen anybody, and advised me to go no further, if I wanted to live. So I returned to where I had left the horses, thinking that George and Collins were 'goners'. I was greatly relieved when I got there to find them back. They had come back a different way, as it was too hot through the village and road. I had hardly been back 10 minutes when a shell struck the roof of the building, or rather, shed. We were inside and tiles [and] bricks fell in a shower [on top of us]. Collins got a whack in the shoulder, but it was not serious. Another shell followed; 19 burst all within 40 yards of us and not one of the four was touched. They seemed to lengthen the range a little on to the road where we had to go to get through Ypres. We resolved to go for it and we did. It was the maddest gallop I had ever had; my old charger never moved so quickly as when he galloped round 'Dead Man's Gulch' and through the town itself. The only ones we met till through the town were the dead ones lying about. Our troubles for this night were not over yet. I had only a faint idea where the battery was going to, and instead of following the right road, we took the wrong. Eventually found ourselves just on the left of Hill 60, which was being subjected to a fierce bombardment from all directions. We had another mad ride back and tried another road. We found a reel of wire which must have fallen off one of the wagons, and knew we were on the right track. We were, and eventually caught the battery just as dawn was breaking.

April 28th: Went into action on the edge of a wood on the left of Ypres; this seemed more quiet than the place we had vacated. In the afternoon we ran our wire to a point for observing, just over the canal. Everywhere about here was a scene of desolation, half- starved cattle roaming about, pigs, and all sorts of farm commodities; many [were] lying about dead. The French Infantry held this front and just in [the] rear of the trenches were 4 of their Howitzers, which showed how far the enemy had advanced. We stopped to observe some big shell bursting near, a kind we had never seen before, and promptly named it 'Black Jack' on account of the great volume of black smoke they gave off. While we were watching one burst directly over the heads of a few Frenchman, they scattered and I didn't think any were harmed. We went back, [while] shells of large caliber were continually passing right over the guns, but only one burst near, about 20 yards from where I had made my dugout at the foot of a large tree – it did no harm. The night passed uneventfully, except for the continual shelling, and during [the] night, two batteries of French 7.5's took up position about 50 yards in our rear.

World War 2 - November 1940

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

April 27th: The British decide to evacuate Namsos and Andalsnes, which means they abandon the attempt to retake Trondheim. Himmler orders the creation of a new concentration camp in Poland at a town the Germans call Auschwitz.

April 29th: The Germans link up with their troops in Trondheim as King Hakkon (and Norway's gold reserves) board HMS Glasgow, a British cruiser, in Molde. Rudolf Hoess arrives in the Polish town of Oswiecim to oversee the establishment of Auschwitz (later to expand to the Auschwitz-Birkinau Complex).

April 30th: Norwegian troops start surrendering as the British begin evacuating Norway.

Battle of the Atlantic Service - Sunday 3 May

The Battle of the Atlantic Service will take place commencing 1030, Sunday 3 May at Sailors' Point in Waterfront Park, North Vancouver. All members are encouraged to participate. Dress is blazers with medals and beret (rain gear as appropriate). If you are able to take part in the march past, please muster at the Sea Bus Terminal by 1000. There will be seating at Sailors' Point for those not marching. Please be seated by 1030. There will be a reception at HMCS Discovery following the service.

Last Post Fund Newsletter – The Bugler April 2015

The Last Post Fund newsletter for April 2015 is now available online.

Click here: [The Bugler - April 2015](#)

Britain's Last Surviving Warship from Gallipoli Restored

Restoration of the 54-metre steel ship, to mark the disastrous offensive, has taken seven weeks and cost £2.4m



Britain's last surviving warship from the Gallipoli campaign is being brought back to life, 100 years on from the bloody campaign.

Britain's last surviving warship from the Gallipoli campaign is being brought back to life, 100 years on from the bloody campaign that killed 145,000 and haunted Winston Churchill for the rest of his life. HMS M33, one of only three British ships remaining from

World War I, is being painstakingly renovated in a dry dock in Portsmouth, the Royal Navy's home on the south coast. The boat, originally built in 1915, is being conserved to help commemorate the story of Gallipoli, the disastrous World War I offensive which was launched in a bid to seize the Turkish peninsula. The Gallipoli campaign, launched in the spring of 1914, lasted nine months before the evacuation of the last Allied troops in January 1916. The plan

had been pushed forward by Winston Churchill, who later became Britain's wartime Prime Minister. But he was tainted when it ended in ignominy.

HMS M33 was built in 1915, before her first active operation supporting the British landings at Suvla during the Battle of Gallipoli in August 1915. She remained stationed at Gallipoli until the evacuation in January 1916. For the remainder of the war she served in the Mediterranean and was involved in the seizure of the Greek fleet at Salamis Bay on 1 September 1916. In 1919, she played a part in the Russian Civil War covering the withdrawal of Allied and White Russian troops. Following her return from Russia, she spent the rest of her active life in Portsmouth Harbour. She was renamed HMS Minerva and Hulk C23 during her long life. She is one of only three surviving Royal Navy warships of the First World War and the only surviving ship from the Gallipoli campaign.

Each side sustained 250,000 casualties with 46,000 Allied troops and 65,000 Turkish troops dead. The ill-fated mission threw the government into crisis and forced Churchill, then the political head of the Royal Navy, to be relegated to an obscure cabinet post. Nick Hewitt, strategic development executive at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, next to where the ship is being renovated, said it was incredibly poignant that the ship was involved in combat during the international campaign. He said: 'She's a little time capsule. She's a survivor that actually went into action and fought in a really significant international campaign.' Lying next to King Henry VIII's beloved Mary Rose and Horatio Nelson's Trafalgar flagship HMS Victory, M33 stands testimony for the World War I maritime war effort in the pantheon of British ships. The 54-metre steel ship, which was built in seven weeks, is flat-bottomed so it can get in close to shore and attack land targets accurately with its disproportionately large guns. It had a crew of 78. The ship has been freshly repainted in the black and white 'dazzle' style - geometric shapes intended to confuse the enemy. But the £2.4million restoration project aims to conserve the gunboat rather than refit it. 'There's layers of history in that steel,' Mr Hewitt added. When it opens to the public in August, visitors will be able to tour the decks, the cramped living quarters and the ammunition rooms. In the empty boiler room, audiovisual displays will revive the hell of Gallipoli. The campaign started on March 18, 1915, when Allied naval forces from Britain and France sought to force their way through the Dardanelles Straits, the waterway which separates Europe from Asia, in a bid to take Constantinople - now Istanbul - and secure a sea corridor to the Russian empire. But the naval attack was repelled, forcing the Allies to begin a land campaign on the Gallipoli peninsula - backed by support from the likes of M33 - which the Ottoman forces also won.

Wreck of HMS Repulse 'rigged with explosives'

Scrap metal merchants have been illegally plundering the wreck. Divers cut fuses attached to home-made bombs in an effort to protect war grave off Malaysia. By Julian Ryall, Tokyo 23 Apr 2015

The wreck of HMS Repulse, sunk in 1941 off Malaysia and classified as a war grave, has been "rigged up with home-made bombs and fuses waiting for detonation", according to a diver who visited the site on Sunday. David Yiu, director of Singapore-based Friendly Waters Seaports, dove on the battlecruiser to place a memorial flag in honour of the 508 men killed when the ship

was sunk on December 10, 1941, by bombs and torpedoes dropped by Japanese aircraft. Despite being a war grave, scrap metal merchants have been illegally plundering the wreck, as well as that of HMS Prince of Wales, which went down just 9 nautical miles away. "New fuses and cables had been laid all across the hull and tin cans containing explosives were in place", Mr Yiu told The Telegraph. "And they had only been there a short time because there was no marine growth on them." Mr Yiu and his colleagues cut as many cables as they could find, as well as the scrap metal merchants' mooring ropes. "It was going on nearby when we were at the site because we heard a loud 'boom' when we were diving", Mr Yiu said. "It was so loud that I thought it had come from the Repulse. "When we got on the deck, we looked through binoculars towards where the Prince of Wales is, but there were no ships there", he said. "They must have been after some of the other wrecks that are in the area, such as the two Dutch submarines."



HMS Repulse Photo: GETTY

Mr Yiu says the damage being done to the British warships is "hugely disrespectful" to the men who died when they sank, while another concern is the environmental damage the vessels could cause should they leak large amounts of fuel. "They have already stolen the propellers from the Repulse, they have pretty much blasted all the back section away and when I was last on the Prince of Wales there were huge sheets of metal that had been blown off the hull and were ready for lifting. "And the wrecks were not leaking oil before because their hulls were intact, but the blasting has damaged the plates and knocked the rivets out, so the oil has started to seep out", he said. In November, the Malaysian navy impounded a Vietnamese-flagged fishing vessel that was caught with divers in the water on one of the wrecks.

New Russian Heavy Armour Breaks Cover

Nicholas de Larrinaga, London - IHS Jane's Defence Weekly 22 April 2015



The Russian Ground Forces' new Armata main battle tank (MBT) seen during rehearsals for the Victory Day Parade in Moscow. (Russian Ministry of Defence)

The Russian Ground Forces' new suite of armoured vehicles have been officially revealed for the first time by the Russian Ministry of Defence (MoD), ahead of their formal debut at the 9 May Moscow Victory Day Parade. The new vehicles are principally clean-slate designs and represent the biggest change in Russia's armoured fighting vehicle families since the 1960s and 1970s. The official MoD website published pictures of the vehicles - albeit with their weapon systems covered - following the unofficial leaking of images and footage of them rehearsing for the

parade in recent days. The flagship of the new armoured vehicles is the Armata main battle tank (MBT), also known as the T-14 and built by UralVagonZavod. The images show an MBT much more in keeping with recent western philosophies on tank design, appearing larger and taller than the T-72/90 it will replace. The key feature of the Armata is its unmanned turret, with all three crew members (commander, gunner, driver) seated in a crew capsule at the front of the vehicle's hull. Although the turret is covered in the MoD image, Armata is understood to be armed with a 2A82A 125 mm smoothbore main gun fed by a bustle-mounted automatic loader equipped with 32 rounds. Armata is also reported to feature a 30 mm coaxial secondary armament and a 12.7 mm machine gun. Despite being covered, the turret's bustle-mounted automatic loader and commander's independent sighting system are clearly visible under the shrouding material. Armata, judging by the images released, features a notably different hull design to the T-72/90. One striking difference is the road wheels, which are of a different design to the T-72/90's, while the Armata features seven road wheels to the six of the previous MBT



design. The MBT's sides are fitted with a new advanced armour package along three-quarters of the vehicle's length, with the rear three-quarters protected instead by bar armour.

The Russian Ground Forces' new heavy infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) based on the Armata main battle tank (MBT) chassis seen during rehearsals for the 9 May Victory Day Parade in Moscow. (Russian Ministry of Defence)

The Armata chassis is also intended to provide the base for a whole family of heavy armoured vehicles. The MoD displayed one of these: a new heavy infantry fighting vehicle (IFV)/armoured personnel carrier (APC) variant also known as the T-15. Although the T-15 turret is covered, this IFV variant is understood to be armed with a KBP Instrument Design Bureau Epoch Almaty remote control turret (RCT) armed with a 30 mm 2A42 cannon, 7.62 mm coaxial MG, and a bank of two Kornet-EM anti-tank guided weapons (ATGWs) on either side. In the MoD image, the heavy IFV is also fitted with an advanced armour package on the side of the vehicle, although it has only been partially applied to the latter part of the vehicle's flanks.

Other Armata chassis-based vehicles being planned are understood to include the MT-A armoured bridge layer, MYM-A engineering vehicle, BMO-2 thermobaric multiple rocket launcher variant, and USM-1 minelayer. In total 10 examples of the Armata MBT are expected to take part in the 9 May parade. Also shown for the first time is the 2S35 Coalition-SV (Koalitsiya-CB) self-propelled artillery (SPA) system, which will replace the 2S19 MSTA-S SPA in Russian Ground Forces service. This is understood to feature a new 152 mm ordnance utilising a modular charge system. Although the turret of the 2S35 is covered, the exposed barrel's muzzle break and recoil dampeners are notably different from that seen on the earlier 2S19. Russia had previously worked on another SPA design under the 2S35 Coalition-SV name that featured an unusual double-barrelled configuration, although work on this was understood to have been abandoned in 2010.



The Russian Ground Forces' new Koalitsiya-SV (Coalition) self-propelled artillery system seen during rehearsals for the 9 May Victory Day Parade in Moscow. (Russian Ministry of Defence)

Although stated to be based on the Armata hull, Coalition-SV's hull is clearly different. While the frontal arc of the hull and crew positions appear similar to that of the Armata, the drivetrain appears to be that of a T-72/90, with the vehicle utilising six T-72/90 road wheels. Coalition-SV is said to weigh 55 tonnes. In total, eight examples of

the Coalition-SV SPA are expected to take part in the parade.

To see the full story go to: http://www.janes.com/article/50896/new-russian-heavy-armor-breaks-cover?utm_campaign=PC6110_E15%20DF%20NL%20Land%2004_28_15&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

Defence Engagement Program

The Defence Engagement Program (DEP) at the Department of National Defence is pleased to launch the first round of Targeted Engagement Grant applications for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. The DEP grants provide non-recurring financial support, up to a maximum of \$25,000, to projects that can include conferences, roundtables, workshops, publications, and other scholarly activities. The Defence Team's Engagement Priorities are intended to provide guidance to applicants. The Priorities reflect the issues of primary importance to National Defence at this time. Grant applications should demonstrate consistency with at least one of the Priorities.

The application deadline for projects in the first round of funding for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 is May 22, 2015, with funds to be awarded in July. This should be ideal for those applicants who are planning their projects for fall 2015. A second round of grants will be launched in fall 2015, with funds to be awarded by the end of December. This should be ideal for those applicants who are planning their projects for winter/spring 2016. For more information, including instructions on how to apply, please consult the DEP website at the following link:

English: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/training-paid-education/grant-program.page>

French: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/fr/instruction-education-payee/programme-subvention.page>

We encourage all interested organizations and individuals planning projects for the summer and fall 2015 timeframes to apply. If you have any questions or concerns, please send an email to DEP-PCD@forces.gc.ca.

Who is it? **Last Week:** Those are Carden-Loyd Machine Gun Carriers, Mk VI. Six were purchased in fiscal 1930/31, with a further six in the following year. Four were assigned to the RCR from 1931 to 1938. Two to the Van Doos and eight to the PPCLI in Winnipeg (shown in photo). The Universal Carrier (incorrectly called the "Bren" carrier) was only procured by Canada from 1941, although we did produce 29,000. We never used the Bren Carrier (which came before the Universal) in Canada, but 1 Div did use it for training only.



This Week: Customizing cars was all the rage at one time, and may still be the case in remote areas, such as Surrey and points east. Some have even been known to turn their skills to larger vehicles, such as trucks. This may or may not be the case in this week's photo of a much-loved and well-remembered "deuce-and-a-half", sitting next to a 105.



Given the topography, this could be Yakima, or some other desert-like base in the States. From the equipment and the dress of the young gunner in the left of the photo, one could date this image to the 1970s or early 1980s.

So, do you have the story behind this "chopped and channeled" truck? Please send such to the editor, or

to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net). Thanks for helping to preserve our heritage.

From the 'Punitary'

How does Bill Gates enter his house? He uses Windows.

Murphy's other Laws

Important things that are supposed to happen do not happen, especially when people are watching.

Quotable Quotes

The secret of Happiness is Freedom, the secret of Freedom, Courage. – *Thucydides*

Annual Banquet Notice for the Churchill Society of BC

Below is the Annual Banquet notice for the Churchill Society of BC on Thursday, May 7. The evening features guest speaker Nigel Hamilton, who will address the audience on "*Churchill and Monty*". **This event is open to all and there are still seats available.**



Churchill Society of British Columbia

PATRON: RANDOLPH CHURCHILL

PRESENTS *THE ANNUAL BANQUET:*

"Churchill and Monty"

with guest speaker, Nigel Hamilton

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Please join us on Thursday, May 7, 2015 to welcome our guest speaker Nigel Hamilton, a best selling author and charming speaker who will address our members on *Churchill and Monty*.



Professor Hamilton is the official biographer of Field Marshal Montgomery, having authored eight books on the General. His three volume official life of Viscount Montgomery of Alamein won both the 1981 Whitbread Award and the Templer Award for Military History. His film on the life of Field Marshal Montgomery won the New York Blue Ribbon Award for Best Documentary. Nigel is the author of twenty-five books, the most recent entitled "The Mantle of Command, FDR at War 1941-1942". It was nominated for a National Book Award. Nigel Hamilton is a bestselling and award winning biographer of President John F. Kennedy and President Bill Clinton. He is a Senior Fellow of the McCormack Graduate School, University of Massachusetts-Boston and first president of the Biographers International Organization.

Professor Hamilton was born in Alnmouth, Northumberland, located north of Newcastle and home to one of the oldest golf courses in the U.K. Nigel is married to Raynel Shepard, is a U.S citizen and has four children.

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2015

Location: Members' Lounge, The Vancouver Club, 915 Hastings Street West, Vancouver, B.C.

Time: Reception and Cash Bar starts at 5:45 pm, Dinner in Ballroom at 7:00 pm

Cost: \$120 each for a Member of the Society, \$140 each for a non-Member
(includes wine with dinner)

Please note the dress code is black tie or mess kit (business attire optional)

Please inform our Administrator, April Accola, of your attendance by email at aprilaccola@hotmail.com, by mailing the attached form, by registering by phone at 778-321-3550 or online at www.winstonchurchillbc.org.

I look forward to seeing you May 7.

Ian E. Marshall, Secretary
Churchill Society of British Columbia

RECONNECT... WITH NATURE, FRIENDS, AND OUR 1 AIR DIVISION HERITAGE

Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre
in Parksville, BC; your premier resort destination on Vancouver Island, invites you to reconnect. All former 1 Air Division personnel and their "brats" are welcome!

Reconnect For The Weekend

- \$160 early bird before May 31st 2015 (\$175 after May 31st)
- Full Registration (Friday meet and greet buffet + Saturday breakfast + Saturday banquet and dance)
- Friday Only (Meet and Greet and buffet): \$90
- Saturday Only (Banquet and Dance) \$110

Activities

- Day trips on Saturday (Comox Air Museum, Little Qualicum Cheeseworks, Cathedral Grove)
- Memory Room: a gathering place for attendees to reconnect with our heritage as 1 Air Division. Chat, look at pictures, and reminisce
- Photographer: affordable portrait sittings and a group photo

Accommodation

Tigh-Na-Mara rates from \$139 standard room and \$159 deluxe room
Quote "10F2GG"

Stay longer and make it a holiday: these rates apply for 5 days before and 5 days after the reunion. <http://www.tigh-na-mara.com/>

Camping Options also available. <http://www.surfside.bc.ca/>
Mention "RCAF" for rates between \$25-35, full book-up

Travel

WestJet discount code "CC8679"

Register Online

<http://www.proreg.ca/events/rcdf/reunion/>

Or Via Mail (contact us for a registration package if you are not on email/internet)

Lorne/Jane Sundby
19 Ironwood Drive,
St. Albert, AB T8N 5J8
Phone: 780-909-1953



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October 30-31, 2015

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