



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Jan 28, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

Renovations are proceeding – slowly.

Guests and visitors are always welcome. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting

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

See poster at the end of the newsletter for more details

Time for Annual Dues

As of Jan 1st, dues are now payable for RUSI Vancouver (\$30), The Vancouver Artillery Association (\$75) and 15 Fd Officers Mess Associates (\$60).

Dues payments can be sent to the Treasurer of the applicable organization at Bessborough Armoury: 2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6J 2C7. **This includes RUSI Vancouver!** In the past, payment for RUSI dues has been sent directly to Keith Freer but Keith had a bit of a mishap and is in hospital. We are in the process of appointing an acting Treasurer until Keith's situation is resolved so please, send RUSI dues payments to the Armoury.

Military Ball Renamed

The date for the 2014 Ball has been set for **May 10, 2014 at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel**. 39CBG is getting more involved in the running of the event and has renamed the Military Ball the 'BC Army Gala'. The Gala website is: <http://bcarmygala.ca/> and tickets can already be purchased on the EventBrite site at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bc-army-gala-tickets-8508578387>

F35 fighter 'hit by software and reliability problems'

Britain's costly new F-35 stealth fighter is struck by computer and reliability problems says the Pentagon

By Ben Farmer, Defence Correspondent 24 Jan 2014



The STOVL version of the Joint Strike Fighter - the F35B - has been chosen to operate from the Queen Elizabeth class Photo: Lockheed Martin

Britain's new £70 million F-35 fighter is struggling with “unacceptable” software problems and is less reliable than hoped a new report has warned. The Pentagon's chief weapons tester has warned the new stealth fighter being bought by the British and the US militaries is facing more delays and remains vulnerable to fires. British MPs said the findings raised concerns over the future costs of one of the country's most expensive military projects, with the Ministry of Defence committed to buying dozens of the aircraft. The 25-page report to be delivered to the US government is the latest to contain sharp criticism of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter project.

The fighter programme from Lockheed Martin is the costliest and most sophisticated ever and Britain has said it will buy at least 48 “jump jet” variants to replace the retired Harrier fleet. F-35s, also known as the Lightning II, will fly from the two new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers and also be based at RAF Marham. The report by Michael Gilmore, the US military's chief weapons tester, focuses heavily on the “unacceptable” performance of the plane's software, according to a 25-page draft obtained by the Reuters news agency. The aircraft is proving less reliable and harder to maintain than expected, and remains vulnerable to propellant fires sparked by missile strikes. Its problems mean that America's Marine Corps, which is buying the same F-35 variant as Britain, faces delays bringing the fighter into service.

Earlier reports have criticised the “augmented reality” pilots' helmets which allow them to see 360 degrees. Britain has already spent around £1.3 billion on developing the jet. It has taken delivery of three test aircraft and is in negotiations to buy its first batch of fighters. The Government originally said it would order 138, but Philip Hammond, Defence Secretary, has so far only committed to buying 48. The first British F-35s are due to be operational in 2018. John Baron, MP for Basildon and Billericay and a former Army officer, said the report raised fears the project was going the way of earlier costly equipment-buying fiascos. He said: “I hope that the Ministry of Defence has learnt from past mistakes and grips this project sooner rather than later because we risk repeating past errors in allowing costs to rise.”

Nicholas Soames, MP for Mid Sussex and a former defence minister, said: “It's very, very important that we don't take the aircraft until it's working correctly.” Lockheed Martin said the problems were “known items and the normal discoveries found in a test program of this size and complexity.” It said there were “no big obstacles” to finishing the new aircraft. A spokeswoman for the MOD said: “Our three test aircraft are undergoing development trials in the US and as ever, when you go from the drawing board to practical tests with a highly

complex combat jet, there will always be technical development and fine tuning needed along the way.

“We are confident we will have resolved any issues by the time our operational aircraft arrive.” She said delivery of the fighters is planned to start next year. Land-based operational flights should begin in 2018 and trials from the new carriers will start the same year.

US, Canada partner to upgrade Canadian howitzer

January 28, 2014 By Audra Calloway



Kenneth Whitnall, Canadian Army Life Cycle material manager for 105 mm Howitzer Fleets, explains to members of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center how to conduct maintenance on the C3 Howitzer.

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. (Jan. 28, 2014) -- The Canadian Army has enlisted the help of Picatinny engineers to evaluate the life-span of

their World War II-era C3 Howitzer. "We are looking for engineering data that, unfortunately, we're missing right now," said Canadian Army Maj David Lebel, Equipment Management team leader for Field Artillery Systems. The C3 Howitzer is a 1950's technology that the Canadian Army is trying to keep in service for ten or 11 more years.

"The fleet is now about 60 years old, and after it was modified to fit Canadian needs, we didn't think at that time to have the contractor provide engineering data -- to check the rail forces or validate the forces that are applied to the structure, either while it's firing or while it's being towed," Lebel explained. "Now that it's been around for 60 years, we're starting to experience a few cracks here and there, but we can't explain how these cracks are being made. We need to be able to find solutions without having to ground the fleet for a long amount of time."

The Canadian Army uses the C3 howitzers for training, although they use the 155 mm M777 in combat. The operation procedures for towed howitzers are similar, but 105 mm ammunition is cheaper than 155 mm ammunition. "We take a lot of time to train before going into operations, so this reduces cost," Lebel said.

In addition to training purposes, the C3 is also used for avalanche control in the snow-covered Canadian mountains. "There's a stretch of highway in the (Canadian) Rockies called Rogers Pass, which is in Glacier National Park," Lebel explained. "Because of the mountains' elevation, there's about 300 inches of snow during winter, and it's very prone to avalanches," Lebel said. "We've got a detachment from the Royal Canadian Artillery with [C3 Howitzers] ready to support Parks Canada in managing the dangers on the main road of Roger's pass. Once Parks Canada gives us the go ahead, we shoot to stabilize the area, which means sometimes we

do create an avalanche so that we can shovel the snow out."

Picatinny's Program Executive Office Ammunition, known as PEO Ammo, employees, with help from Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, or ARDEC, engineers, is conducting an analysis of the stresses of the C3 Howitzer in order to support the howitzer's life cycle, said Luke Helsel, ARDEC's C3 Evaluation team lead. The team will conduct a series of tests over the next year to determine potential problems that could occur throughout the system. "We're going to do analysis to help the Canadian Army find those problems in advance," said Helsel. "It helps them better predict areas to target for inspections or to perform upgrades. Sometimes that can be a challenge when looking at a design that was done years ago, and has no support from the original contractor." The data packages for the howitzer are from the 1940s, and they have been updated through the 1980s, but there's no subject matter expert to refer to for questions.

"It's fascinating to look at the older style of design, and to see what we can do to support them maintain their fleet for the next couple of years," said Helsel. "Some of these slick things they did back then are good to look at now. The old design can inspire us for modern work and working on this project we can discover new analysis techniques that we can use here for the M119 or M777." A gun was recently shipped to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., for mobility trials. In April, it will be transferred to Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., for firing trials. At Aberdeen, engineers will instrument the gun with strain gauges to measure the amount the metal is being pulled while the gun is being towed. The gun will also be towed around a series of courses over hills and other terrain while recording data from the gauges. "Then, using that data, we can predict virtually what the strain is throughout the whole carriage," said Helsel. "After that, we can come back and figure out where we think the other high strain areas are and perform another test to confirm our analysis." At Yuma, engineers will do similar testing while firing the howitzers at different elevations and azimuths.

"This will give us the engineering technical argument to pursue the direction we need to," Lebel said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to find a few simple, small fixes to extend the lifecycle without having to re-engineering big assemblies on the gun." The Canadian Army currently has almost 100 deployed across Canada, and the process for replacing the howitzers with newer models could take up to two decades. "We can't stop every unit from training six months while we're scratching our heads trying to decide how to solve the problem. So by giving us the technical data that we're looking for, ARDEC is really making our job that much more easy either to do preventive maintenance that's much more accurate on potential failure locations. And should there be a failure, they'll be enough engineering data to put together a solution that won't take us four or five months to get to." "At this point, we know there are problems, but I don't think there's going to be one solution to fix them all. We're going to have to choose the problem that's the most risky and go about it in a deliberate fashion. But there could be many conclusions," Lebel said.

"The reason Canada came to us is that we have a great working relationship," said David Wong, Foreign Military Sales manager for PEO Ammo's Project Manager Towed Artillery

Systems. "Canada purchased 37 of our M777 155mm howitzers, so they know us and the capabilities and resources we have. This project extends the good working relationship we've had for seven years," Wong said. In addition, the Department of National Defence, especially the Director of Armament Sustainment Program Management, has benefited on several aspects of howitzer maintenance and support from both Project Manager Towed Artillery Systems expertise and Picatinny's resources, Lebel added. Picatinny also recently updated their M119 Howitzer fleet, which required similar data collection and engineering processes.

Diaries Provide First Person Account of WWI Attacks

The personal memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel John Stewart, of the 9th Battalion, provide eyewitness accounts of key battles of WWI from France to North Africa and the Middle East

A BLACK Watch hero's World War I diaries were opened for the first time yesterday. Lieutenant Colonel John Stewart, of the 9th Battalion, ordered that his personal memoirs only be revealed in 2014. When experts at the Black Watch regimental museum in Perth unsealed the records, they discovered bundles of letters and diaries from WW1, giving eyewitness accounts of key battles. Museum archivist Richard McKenzie said it was an exciting find.



He added: "It is one of the biggest collections we have from an individual. "It is a fantastic collection because it covers almost the entire span of the war.

Stewart, believed to be the front centre, with officers in Egypt in 1918

"Lt Col Stewart is writing his letters but he is also recording his personal views of various battles fought by the battalions. "So we have an individual's eyewitness account

of several key battles, especially in Mesopotamia in 1917 and 1918." Lt Col Stewart took over from Arthur Wauchope as commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion in 1916. He was in command during the battle of Samarra in Iraq in 1917, where the Baghdad Bell – on display in the Black Watch museum – was captured. Describing the British attack on enemy trenches in Tabor, Mesopotamia, on September 19, 1918, the soldier wrote: "At zero hour, the artillery bombardment commenced.

“To us who had been waiting anxiously for some minutes, it seemed as if some button had been pressed which discharged every gun on the 15 mile front. “The change from silence to pandemonium was startling. “They seemed dazed with the volume of our fire and too much

The enemy's machine guns got to work, and our men began to drop right and left, but they never wavered for one single second - on they went, line after line, just as if they were on parade. There was no sensational charging, they kept touch in distance and marched solidly across the "Hay Field" men and officers dropping right and left. Seven officers were killed within 50 yards of me. Scott-Pearse and Stirling were wounded quite close to me as I was sitting on the parapet talking to the men as they went over. I went to Scott-Pearse and did what I could for him and got him down into the trench. Just at this time the Colonel came up - he looked pretty worried, and told me that Harvey, the Adjutant, had been shot by his side about five minutes before. I went out in front of the wire and got hold of Stirling, dressed him as well as I could, and brought him back with the help of a man, and then the C. O. and I started out with, I think, the 5th. Line. By that time our 1st. and 2nd. Lines were well over the German trenches, and we had very little machine gun fire to cope with, but the German guns then began to get to work. They had evidently been keeping their men well under cover during the intense bombardment, because, as we crossed the historic Hay Field, literally a rain of shells of all kinds fell round us. Just after we had crossed the first German trench we met Colonel Wallace, of the Gordon Highlanders, full of praise for the way the Black Watch had made their charge - this was about 7-25 a.m.

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alarmed by the width of the attack to know what to do ...and it was thus, with consummate ease, that the Highlanders reached, and dealt with, their various objectives.” Lt Col Stewart added: “During the mopping-up process, a complete Turkish battery was discovered, the whole of the personnel having been destroyed by a single shell - horses lying harnessed up, and men at their guns, all dead.”

Account of the battle of Loos

And recounting the Battle of Loos in France on September 25, 1915, he wrote: “Just before the attack was launched, the Germans sent some gas shells over; one dropped in the neighbourhood of our dug-out, which made things rather unpleasant. “The enemy’s machine guns got to work and our men began to drop right and left, but they never wavered for one single second – on they went, line after line.”

Richard explained that a team of experts have begun the long task of reading the contents of Lt Col Stewart’s letters and documents to see what they contain. He

added: “Prior to opening the sealed documents, we actually knew very little about him. We just had his bare bones, his military service. “We know that he was an officer in the 9th Battalion, the Black Watch.

“He went with the 9th overseas to France in 1915 and rose to become a major to temporarily commanding that battalion. “In 1917, he was given command of the 2nd Battalion of the Black Watch, who were fighting in Mesopotamia.” Another letter describes how Lt Col Stewart and his unit were still fighting in Tripoli, now capital of Libya, on November 12, 2018 – because word of the Armistice had not yet reached them.

Richard said Lt Col Stewart’s insistence that his war documents be sealed until 2014 was most likely due to his desire to protect the personal lives of himself and his family.

The hero died of old age in Colchester, Essex, in February 1931.

Members of the public can see the diaries at the Black Watch Museum, which reopens at Balhousie Castle, in Perth, next week.

Launch of 24/7 Service of the Family Information Line

Today, all Canadian Armed Forces personnel were made aware of the availability of the Family Information Line service, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through a general message to Canadian Forces members. Families, service providers and the general public can also help us share this information so that ALL military families know that there is a service intended to help them find the answers to the questions they may have and the support they might require at different times during their loved ones career.

The Number is: **1-800-866-4546**

Churchill Society Dinner – 27 March 2014

*Churchill Society of British Columbia
Simon Fraser University -
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies
Royal United Service Institute – Vancouver*

PRESENT THE ANNUAL BANQUET:
“The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914”
with guest speaker, **Margaret MacMillan**

The featured speaker will be Professor Margaret MacMillan, OC. The event is co-sponsored by the Churchill Society of BC, RUSI-Vancouver and Simon Fraser University - Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies. The presentation is being sponsored by Odlum Brown. The invitation and registration form were sent out earlier this week. If you require the registration form, please email me at bob.mugford@shaw.ca

When Pomp and Ceremony Goes to Hell In a Hand Basket

A quick summary of many funny, awkward and embarrassing moments on parade. Go to:

http://biertijd.com/mediaplayer/?itemid=44537#.Uo3BASHy_uQ.mailto

Who is it?

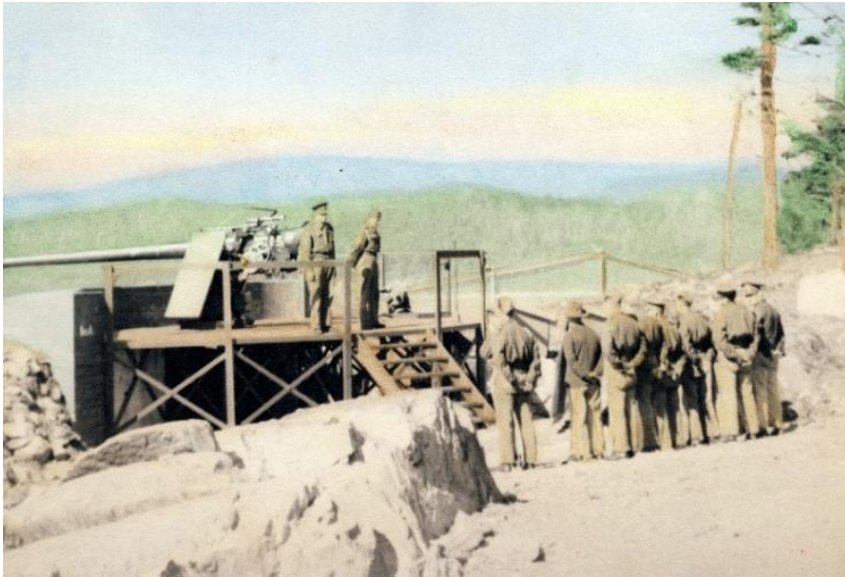


Last Edition. Ordnance, QF 3.7" Mk 1 Anti-Aircraft gun, owned by 43 HAA, deployed at Albert Head sometime in the late 1940s (note the lovely Diamond T of wartime vintage in the background) Superior to the Luftwaffe 8.8 cm Flak 38 in most respects regarding performance, so much so that the German's actually manufactured 100,000 rounds of 3.7" ammunition for the guns that they captured in France and North Africa and some were mounted in German tank destroyers. It was a Vickers design that went into production in 1938 and were built into 1945. Later modifications included a flick-rammer and automatic mechanical fuze setter so that the complete round was placed on the loading tray, the fuze was set and rammed in just

seconds. They could also use the first generation proximity fuzes and were quite effective against the V-1 "Buzz-Bombs".

The gun that preceded this one in Canadian service was the 3" gun, although rumour had it that there were only about half a dozen in the whole country when war broke out. It was replaced by the US 90mm gun in the early 50s in the big push by the US to standardize weapons and ammo – meaning use our stuff as we have it in spades – the same push that caused the demise of the 25pdr.

This Week's picture We are nearing the end of our segment of quizzes regarding the "Colours" of the Regiment, but, fear naught fellow anoraks, we haven't quite run out of ordnance just yet.



This week's gun is one that is fairly rarely shown in photos, both for reasons of its relatively obscure service, and for the fact that, being emplaced in secure positions in wartime, it was less likely to be photographed, lest those images fall into the hands of the perfidious Hun or his allies.

This gun was used to defend the West Coast from the ravages of the Boche and the Sons of Nippon (the daughters, seemingly all employed in various coffee shops around the Lower Mainland, were not interested in things military, or is that just now?). It wasn't an ideal gun for the task, being slightly smaller than those mounted on its potential foes, such as the 18.1" guns of the IJN Yamato, which, fortunately, never visited here.

Your weekly questions are: what is this gun, where is it and where else was it served by the gunners of this Regiment? A bonus point: is this really a colour photo? Answers can be sent to the editor, or to the columnist, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

From the 'Punitary'

Genealogists never fade away; they just lose their roots

Murphy's other Laws

If, after you write an exam, you are confident you have done well – it's because you don't know enough to know better.

Quotable Quotes

Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please." - *Mark Twain*

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

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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 a Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at our 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, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday March 7th, 2014

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

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

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

LCol James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

Reserve your tickets early to not miss out on a great night!

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations on request.



Churchill Society of British Columbia
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Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies
Royal United Service Institute - Vancouver

PRESENTS THE ANNUAL BANQUET:

“The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914”

with guest speaker, Margaret MacMillan



Thursday, March 27

Please join us on Thursday, March 27 to welcome our guest speaker Margaret MacMillan, one of Canada’s top historians, who will address our Society on *The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914*.



Professor Margaret MacMillan is the Warden of St. Antony’s College and a Professor International History at the University of Oxford and a Professor of History at the University of Toronto. Her books include *Women of the Raj* (1988, 2007); *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World* (2002); *Nixon in China: Six Days that Changed the World* (2006, 2007); *The Uses and Abuses of History* (2008) and *Extraordinary Canadians: Stephen Leacock* (2009). Her most recent book, published in 2013, is *The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914*. Margaret is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an Officer of the Order of Canada. She sits on the European Advisory Board of Princeton University Press.

Margaret MacMillan was born in Toronto. She is former Provost of Trinity College, Toronto (2002-2007) and formerly a professor of History at Ryerson University. Professor MacMillan received an Honours B.A. in History from Trinity College, Toronto. Margaret has honorary degrees from the University of King’s College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston Ontario and Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario.

- Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014
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: \$115 each for a Member of the Society, SFU or RUSI, \$130 each for a non-Member
(includes wine with dinner)

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

I look forward to seeing you March 27.

Ian E. Marshall, Secretary
Churchill Society of British Columbia

PATRON: THE LADY SOAMES, L.G., D.B.E.

India

Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2014
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm
(bar opens at 11:45am)
(presentation at 12:01pm)
(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 January 24, 2014)
- 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 24, 2014

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, February 27, 2014