



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News June 28, 2016

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html> . Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

Wednesday Lunches The 15 Field Officers Mess serves 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. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3rd Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project.

Yorke Island Visit – Aug 2016

The Regt and Association are planning a visit to Yorke Island in August. For details, visit the Association website at: <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/yorke-island-2016>

We need to see how many are interested, so check the details and let me know ASAP

World War 2 - 1941

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

June 29th: Guderian (Panzergruppe 2) and Hoth (Panzergruppe 3) encircle another 15 Soviet divisions near Minsk while joint Finno-German attacks begin on the Karelian Peninsula and near Petsamo.

June 30th: The Germans capture Bobryusk (2nd Panzer Group) and Lvov (Army Group South), while crossing operations begin on the Berezina River. The Soviets form a State Committee for Defence with Stalin (now that he is coming out of his psychological shock), Molotov, Voroshilov, Malenkov and Beria.

July 1941: The Germans Shoot into the East

You can't afford to be soft in war. No, you must be tough; indeed, you have to be pitiless and relentless. Don't I sound like a different person to you? -Letter from a German soldier in Russia to his wife; July 1941.

General: U-boat numbers include 63 on operations with another 20 joining in this month, but British escort strength in increasing too, with more warships on more convoys and radio-

direction finding becoming much more effective. Also, the Spanish deny the Canary Islands to the Kriegsmarine for refueling and rearming. RAF Bomber Command flies some 3800 sorties over France and Germany, dropping 4,380 tons but losing 188 aircraft for doing so.

July 1st: Auchinleck replaces Wavell as CinC in the Middle East; this is unfair to Wavell, but *ces't la guerre*. US aircraft begin anti-submarine patrols from Newfoundland. Riga falls into German hands as Hoth and Guderian's Panzergruppen move towards Vitebsk and Smolensk. General Slim's 10th Indian Division joins in the invasion of Syria from Iraq.

July 2nd: The Japanese decide to acquire airbases in Indochina, even at the risk of war – a decision the Americans soon learn all about through the magic of **MAGIC** (their decoding of Japanese diplomatic radio traffic). Army Group South unleashes the 3rd and 4th Romanian Armies. Japan orders mass conscription, calling another million men to arms (half of whom will be detailed to replace regular units in China). Moral courage is rare and it is difficult to shame armed men engaged in callous cruelty but it helps if you are the formidable mother of one of your nation's war heroes (her son Horia was a fighter pilot who had just shot down three Soviet bombers in one action). Viorica Agarici sweeps down on a train carrying some of the last survivors of the Iași Ghetto and intimidates the guards in order to get water and food to the remaining people on the over-stuffed freight train. Having been seeing to the needs of a trainload of Romanian wounded, she has a contingent of Red Cross workers with her and they perform in the best tradition of their organization. Viorica Agarici is later named 'Righteous Among the Nations'.

July 3rd: Stalin finally comes out of his psychological shock and makes a radio broadcast to the Soviet people, invoking many icons of patriotic nationalism and urging total resistance and a scorched earth policy. Guderian and Hoth's troops come under control of von Kluge's 4th Panzer Army. Belgian troops (yup, there are some still in Allied Service) accept the surrender of 7,000 Italians in southern Ethiopia, more Italian troops surrender in Gondar Province too. The Vichy fort at Palmyra in Syria finally surrenders.

July 4th: Roosevelt makes his 4th of July broadcast and drops broad hints that America may have to get into the war sooner or later.

July 5th: Hitler puts some brakes on Kleist's Panzer group as they start moving through a gap in the lines near Zhitomir that 6th Army carved open. The Fuhrer is closely monitoring events in the invasion and is finding it difficult to restrain himself from dabbling in Operational Art from afar.

New Commanders to Take Over Canadian Army Divisions

David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen June 23, 2016

Three of four Canadian Army Divisions will have new commanders this summer, according to the army. Starting Thursday until July 11, a series of ceremonies will take place to mark the changes of command for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions, the army noted in a news release. Each ceremony will be presided over by Lieutenant-General Marquis Hainse, Commander Canadian Army. The divisions are operational formations of the Canadian Army

with designated areas that are responsible to provide combat ready land forces (Regular and Reserve Force), the army added.



Canadian Army reservist in Alberta.

Photo Courtesy Canadian Forces

The leadership changes are as follows:

2nd Canadian Division

On June 23, Brigadier-General (BGen) Hercule Gosselin will assume command of the 2nd Canadian Division in Montreal, Québec. He will take command from BGen Stéphane Lafaut, who will be retiring from the Canadian Armed Forces after 33 years of service. BGen Gosselin previously served as the Chief of Staff, Army Operations at the Canadian Army Headquarters in Ottawa;

3rd Canadian Division

On July 11, BGen Simon Hetherington will assume command of the 3rd Canadian Division in Edmonton, Alberta. He will take command from BGen Wayne Eyre, who has been appointed Deputy Commander Military Personnel Command in Ottawa. BGen Hetherington previously served as the Deputy Commanding General – Operations of the XVIII Airborne Corps in Fort Bragg North Carolina; and

4th Canadian Division

On July 6, BGen Stephen Cadden will assume command of the 4th Canadian Division in Toronto, Ontario. He will take command from BGen Lowell Thomas, who has been appointed to the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff in London, United Kingdom. BGen Cadden previously served as the Chief of Staff, Army Strategy at the Canadian Army Headquarters in Ottawa.

39 CBG units in BC, are part of 3rd Div.

Canada to Build Off the Shelf Warship Design

By MarEx 2016-06-13

On Monday, Canadian public services and procurement minister Judy Foote confirmed that her office would be accelerating the procurement process for as many as 15 replacement "Canadian Surface Combatants" by using an off-the-shelf hull design, cutting two years off of the first delivery date and helping to bridge a gap between the retirement of Canada's aging destroyers and the sea trials of the new builds. The vessels will be built at Irving Shipyards in Halifax, Nova Scotia. "We're talking about existing designs," said Lisa Campbell, assistant deputy minister for acquisitions, discussing the project in February. "It takes out a whole bunch of the design technical risk of trying to fit together a combat systems integrator with a warship design that possibly was more customized."



Iver Huitfeldt class destroyer, a possible design for the Canadian program (file image courtesy mtlarsen)

Industry will propose designs this summer for the military to use as a basis for the vessel; observers have suggested

that the new surface combatant could end up being based on the Danish *Iver Huitfeldt* class. Two variants of the same hull will be designed for different missions, one for air defense / command and control, the other a general purpose frigate to replace Canada's Halifax-class vessels. The timeline is tight, as the Canadian Navy's last destroyer is set to retire next year. The program's original expected cost was \$26 billion, the largest procurement order in Canada since the Second World War. Last year, the head of the Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Norman, acknowledged that the project would greatly exceed its budget; an independent analysis by firm A.T. Kearney put the total at \$42 billion, including a doubling in construction costs due to high capability specifications. The Navy has been working hard to keep the delivered vessels near the original budget framework, insiders say, in part by revisiting discussions on required capabilities. The service insists it is retaining all necessary equipment for the warships' mission. "It's a question of what the government actually wants to do. Do they want to maximize on the numbers? Do they want to maximize on the capability?" said Dave Perry, a defence analyst at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, speaking to CBC. "I certainly think that [the cost is] at least \$2 billion for a fully capable ship, the ones they're talking about . . . And potentially more, depending on exactly what goes into it and when they're built."

LGen Paul F Wynnyk CMM, MSM, CD to Command Army



Gen Wynnyk was educated at Royal Roads Military College and the Royal Military College of Canada, Wynnyk was commissioned into the Canadian Military Engineers in 1986. He became Commanding Officer of 1 Combat Engineer Regiment in Edmonton in 1997, commander of 1 Area Support Group in 2004 and Assistant Commanding General at the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan in March 2009. He went on to be commander of Land Force Western Area in 2010, Deputy Commander of the Canadian Army in 2012 and Commander of

the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command and Chief of Defence Intelligence in July 2014. On July 14, 2016 he will become Chief of the Army Staff and Commander of the Canadian Army.

The Veterans-What Happened to the Honour of Parliamentarians?

Posted by Ujjal Dosanjh on Thursday, 16 June 2016



Veterans! We sent them to wars and they happily risked their lives for us. As I write these lines some of our soldiers, veterans of tomorrow, are in the battlefield in Iraq, in harms' way. There they are doing what we have asked them to do: help destroy the genocidal ISIS. As our soldiers stand on guard for us in Iraq and the government is considering despatching more of them to Europe, their comrades are being forced to do battle by our newly elected government in a court of law.

Unfortunately, the new government has resumed the fight the previous government had started with them but from which it had later retreated prior to the last election.

In 2014 the then Liberal leader Justin Trudeau had urged the Harper government to stop fighting with the veterans and "live up to our sacred obligation, end this court battle" and start giving them the help they deserve. In May 2015 all parties understanding that "sacred obligation" voted unanimously to recognise "a stand-alone covenant of moral, social, legal and fiduciary obligation exists between the Canadian people---and members of the Canadian Armed Forces---injured, disabled or died as a result of military service." Now the Lawyers for the government argue the unanimous motion which elaborated the "sacred obligation" declared by our Prime Minister only "records the opinion of the then members of the Parliament "and not having the force of law it can't bind the government. One wonders whether each member of Parliament of 2014 who is still a member, and no doubt Mr. Trudeau is one among them, still believes in the "stand-alone covenant of moral, social, legal, and fiduciary obligation" vis a vis our veterans?

The government lawyers argue the principle of the "honour of the Crown" which requires governments to always act honourably applies only to the aboriginal issues. True, as a legal principle it has so far been successfully invoked only in the aboriginal issues. But it is quite probable that confronted with the MPs' and party leaders' dishonourable conduct of solemn promises before the elections which they brazenly break afterwards--particularly in the case of classes of people such as the veterans--the Supreme Court of Canada may expand the principle of the "honour of the Crown" to help the veterans and others in need. The question the veterans and the public are asking is: Is there any honour left among the MPs? Is a unanimous motion of

the Parliament of Canada, even though of the last one, not worth the paper it is printed on? Where is the honour of the MPs of the last Parliament who sit on the government benches in this Parliament? Where is the honour in voting in support of a "a stand-alone covenant of moral, social, legal and fiduciary obligation exists between the Canadian people---and members of the Canadian Armed Forces---injured, disabled or died as a result of military service" and then argue the government owes the veterans no special duty of care? And worst of all that the Crown doesn't have to honourably deal with the veterans that risked their lives for us?

Medals to Mark Canada's 150th – On or Off?

Medals were designed in Harper era — but Liberals mum on whether they will be used

Marie-Danielle Smith Monday, Jun. 20, 2016



Heritage Minister Melanie Joly answers a question during question period on Friday. Adrian Wyld / Canadian Press

OTTAWA — Designs and plans for a commemorative medal celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary of confederation were ready to go at least a year ago, the National Post has learned. Even as the responsible department maintains there are currently "no plans," many are calling on Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly — who remains mum on the status of the program — to dust off the previous government's plans and keep up a tradition of civilian honours. The Royal Canadian Legion and its provincial entities unanimously agreed to advocate that the government, if it cancelled the program, should change its mind, said Steven Clark, the director of administration at Dominion Command in Ottawa. He said if the program was cancelled because of a "political decision," that's "absolutely the wrong reason." "Something as significant as the 150th anniversary of a country is really something that should transcend political parties," he said. The medals, he said, are "a simple yet dignified and honourable way for the country, for the government, to say thank you."

A source close to the project described the favoured design, as of last September, as a circular silver medal with a Maple Leaf on the front and a royal cypher in the middle of the leaf. Surrounding the Maple Leaf was the text, “Confederation CANADA Confédération.” The back of the medal featured the Canadian coat of arms and the dates 1867-2017. An attached ribbon would feature thick red stripes on the edges, with thin red stripes on white in the middle. Designs for medal certificates were ready, too, as were draft regulations that would oversee the program and Letters Patent to be signed by the prime minister and the Queen.

Asked why plans were cancelled haven’t been approved, Joly was tight-lipped. “We will be making sure to celebrate the hard-working Canadians that are in every community,” she said last week, and “we have a very new way of celebrating.” During question period Wednesday, Conservative MP Peter Van Loan accused the government of jumping at “every chance to kill a proud tradition.” “Why this ongoing Liberal war on history and tradition?” he said. Joly replied, “Canada 150 will be a great year, and we will celebrate, of course, history.” A Canadian Heritage spokesman said there were no plans for a medal program. The Canada 150 secretariat was working with the Privy Council Office, the governor general’s office and the Royal Canadian Mint on the medals. At least two conference calls were held last summer, while a working group was struck last September just over a month before election day. Under the new government, high-level discussions were occurring as recently as this February, the source said, when the status of the program itself was discussed with the minister present. “I think (the government) should be embarrassed” that plans aren’t going ahead, said Michael Jackson, a former chief of protocol for Saskatchewan. He was involved in the issuance of medals at the 125th anniversary of confederation in 1992. “This is done in a very grassroots way,” he said. With only a small investment from the government, medals “extend recognition in our country to a wide range of citizens of all walks of life.”

Honours are nonpartisan, Jackson said. “Just because a previous government was planning things for Canada 150 doesn’t mean these plans should be scrapped. It’s not too late ... Let’s just dust those plans off and get moving.” Canada has a history of offering civilian honours with commemorative medals. Most recently, Stephen Harper’s Conservative government issued the Queen’s diamond jubilee medal to 60,000 people in 2012. Garry Toffoli, vice-chairman and executive director of the Royal Canadian Heritage Trust, said there’s an argument to be made that with only five years since the past medal, many of the Canadians deserving of commendation may already have one. But it would be illegitimate, he said, to stop issuing medals just for the sake of doing something new. “It’s a Canadian tradition to have civilian medals,” said Toffoli.

Do you think the Government should issue this medal? Contact your local MP to express your opinion.

Who is it?

Last Week: This photo is labelled “Queen gun target boat for twin 6, 1952, Mary Hill”.



These boat targets were usually deployed in pairs – a King boat and a Queen boat. This one is being deployed as one of the targets for the twin 6in gun at Mary Hill. 15 Fd used the same target boats for live firing from Albert Head.

This Week: This week we bring you something big, very big (and, no, it’s not a house with a big pipe sticking out the door). As in many previous quizzes, this photo comes from the extensive archives of the late Vic Stevenson, founder of our museum. Vic seemed to have photographed everything, from the time he was a spotty youth, until just before his passing, and we are the richer for it. His photos keep turning up in unlikely places, and continue to engage those who find them. As an aside, Vic never seemed to have embraced the digital age, and we are the richer for it, as digital files can disappear or be erased in the blink of an eye, whereas it is a little harder to get rid of negatives (although people apparently do so), prints or slides. If you are a keen photographer, it is essential that you back up your photos (digital) on several devices, such as external hard drives, or USB sticks (and remember where you put them!).



So, what do we have here? Something that was probably very, very noisy when fired. Your task, dear arty enthusiasts, is to identify the type of gun, and, if you will, where this particular one was parked. If you cannot do so, we recommend you purchase a copy of Doug Knight’s new tome, “Guns of the Regiment”, from Service Publications (I get no kick back from this, just a kick). Answers may be sent to the

editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net). Thank you.

From the ‘Punitary’

What kind of shoes do ninjas wear? Sneakers.

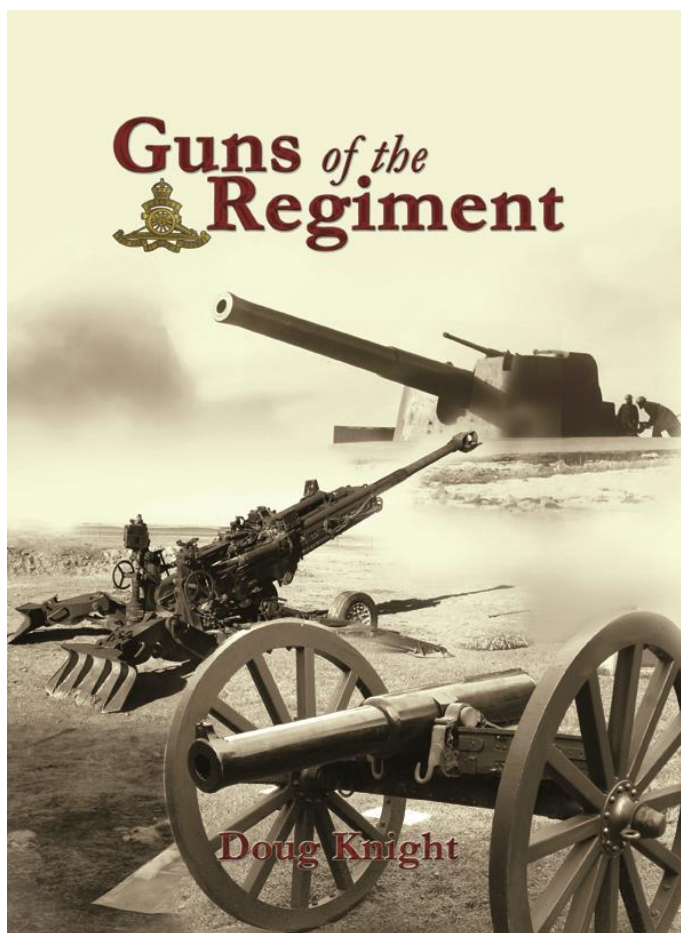
Murphy’s other Laws

The problem with trouble shooting is that trouble sometimes shoots back.

Quotable Quotes

Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who find it. - *André Gide*

"Guns of the Regiment"



Doug Knight, a good friend of our Association and Museum, has produced a book on the guns of the Canadian Artillery. 425pp, illustrated throughout.

Since Confederation, the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery has used more than 130 types of gun, howitzer, mortar, and rocket. Each gun was purchased or manufactured to fill a role in the defence of Canada, or in support of Canadian foreign policy. It then served with the Regiment, and was modified, modernized, or upgraded as necessary. Finally, it was transferred into the reserves, and later, a few retired in museums or as monuments.

"Guns of the Regiment" will be an invaluable resource to anyone with an interest in the weapons used by the Canadian artillery. Each gun has its own section, detailing its development and its career in the Regiment at home and overseas. Special sections deal with

the manufacture of the guns, the organization and operation of the Regiment, and the mechanization of the artillery in the 1930s. Every gun is illustrated by at least one photograph, many of which have never been previously published. Retail price - CDN \$79.95

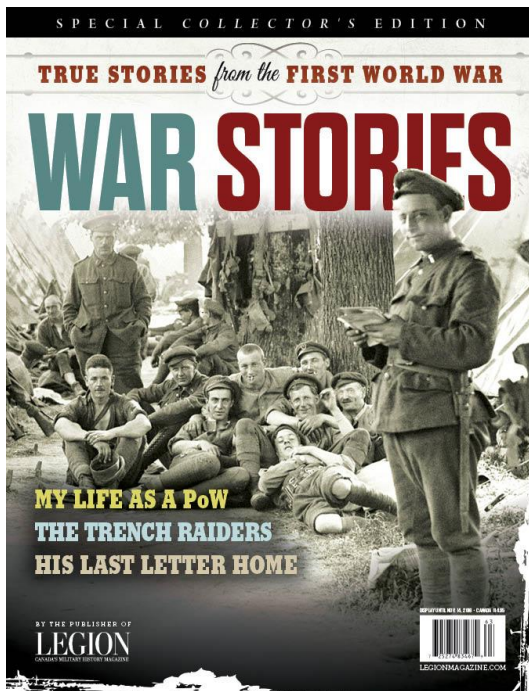
Pre-Order - for shipping on 3 July go to: <http://www.servicepub.com/>



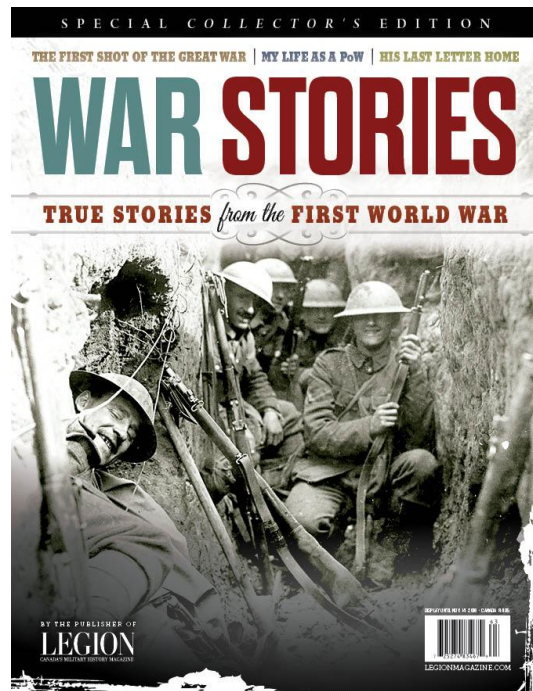
Help pick our next special issue cover!

Our newest special issue hits newsstands in August 2016.

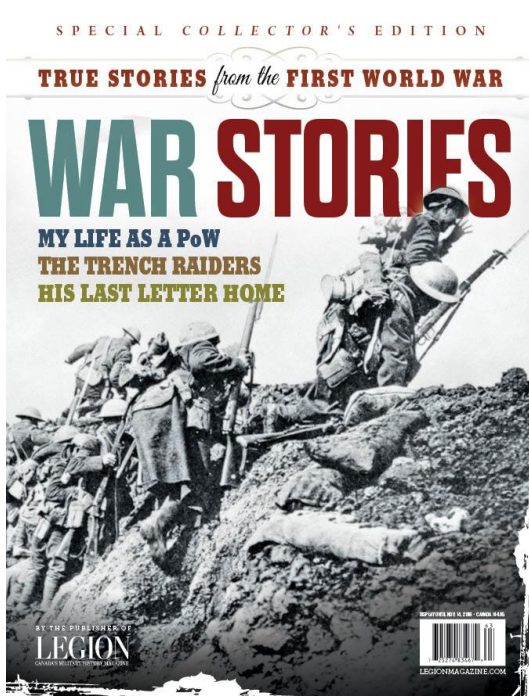
Which cover do you prefer?



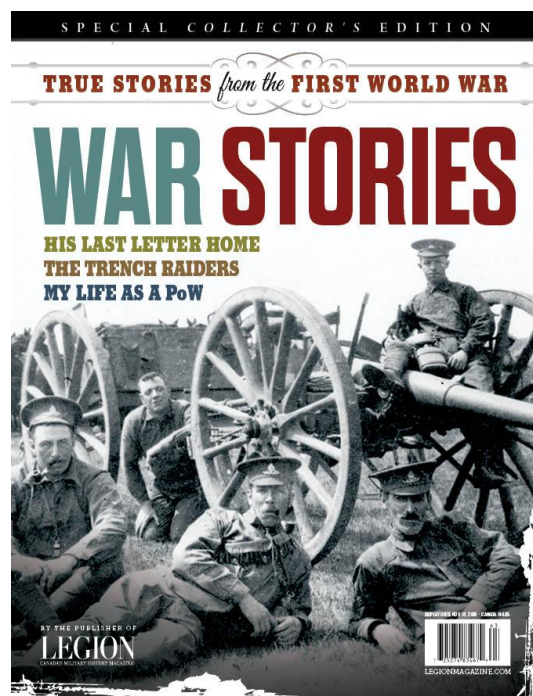
VERSION 1



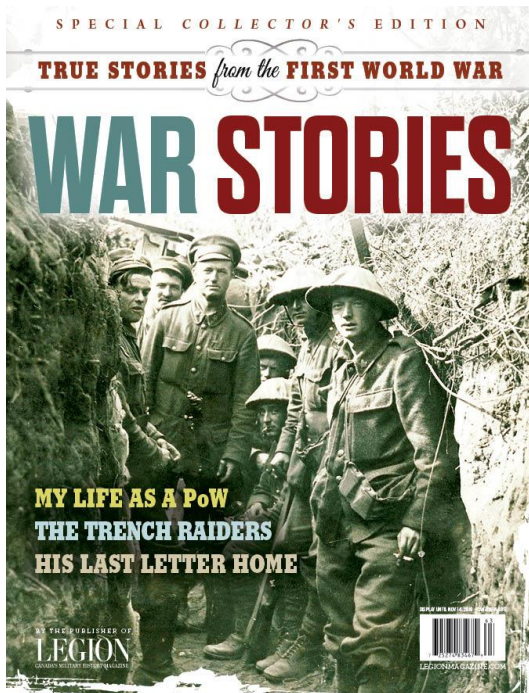
VERSION 2



VERSION 3



VERSION 4



VERSION 5



legionmagazine.com

Note: the Gunner page (version 4) is lagging behind the other selections so vote now and vote often

War Stories

The next special issue is *War Stories*, a selection of true stories from the front lines of the First World War, originally published in *Legion Magazine* and its predecessor, *The Legionary*.

Once the war bogged down in static trench warfare, life on the front was a series of daring trench raids, terrible losses in ill-conceived battles and constant torment from snipers, rats and lice. Yet throughout, the men could somehow find humour in it for themselves. As historian Jonathan F. Vance notes in his introduction,

“There is a cliché that old soldiers never like to talk about their wartime experiences—unless it is to other old soldiers. These stories are just that—First World War veterans talking to each other.”