



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



**RUSI News
Vancouver**

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Mar 29, 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>

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. **We are missing lunch tickets #10, 20 & 21. Check your pockets. Please return if you find them.**

NOABC monthly lunch Mar 30. Guest speaker is CDR Arthur Hastings RCN (Ret'd). His topic is: *"Beyond the Dockyard Gates" "The Revitalization of the seagoing and combat capability of the Naval Reserve from 1974 to 1998"*

RUSI Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference **With less than 2 weeks** to go registrations are proceeding at a fast clip for the Strategic Studies Conference on April 8 and 9, so now is the time **register without delay**. With the theme of 'Global Flashpoints' the conference will be held in the Alice MacKay Conference Room at the Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library. The conference promises a full range of expert presentations on topics that make today's headlines. A panel discussion will get the conference started on the evening of Friday April 8, followed by a full day of presentations on Saturday April 9. This is the annual signature event of RUSI Vancouver, with the generous support of numerous organizations. We encourage everyone with an interest in foreign affairs and defence policy to attend. Register now for the 2016 Strategic Studies Conference by going to the Eventbrite link on the notice page at the end of this newsletter. *Thank you, Cam Cathcart, President, RUSI Vancouver.*

World War 2 - 1940

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

Mar 30th: Rommel, again without orders, advances on Mersa Brega; the British and Australians still haven't concentrated to meet him. The US takes all German, Italian and Danish ships into "protective custody". The RAF sends 130 bombers after the German warships anchored in Brest. Hitler approves the plans for the Yugoslavian Invasion and tells 250 senior commanders that the rules in the upcoming Soviet invasion will be quite different, and not to observe the usual conventions of warfare about the treatment of prisoners, civilians, etc.

Mar 31st: The RN Cruiser Bonaventure is sunk by torpedo boats in the eastern Mediterranean. Rommel hits the British Infantry Brigade from 2nd Armour at Mersa Brega and is barely fended off.

April 1941: *Reversal of British Fortunes* “Anybody who came under the spell of his personality turned into a real soldier. However tough the strain, he seemed inexhaustible. He seemed to know just what the enemy were like and how they would probably react. His plans were often startling, instinctive, spontaneous and not infrequently obscure.” -Theodor Werner, on Rommel’s leadership style.

General: The Allies lose 195 ships of 687,000 tons, but RAF Coastal Command is on line and convoy organization is improving rapidly.

Apr 1st: The British abandon Mersa Brega in Libya. Asmara is captured and the Italians in Ethiopia are now entirely isolated. My, what big explosions, the RAF introduces the Germans to their new two ton bombs in a raid on Emden.

Apr 2nd: An overnight coup in Iraq puts Rashid Ali and the pro-German “Golden Square” in charge. Rommel starts rampaging through “Cyrenaica in eastern Libya; Wavell tries to get O’Connor off the sick list to take charge in the desert. Hungary’s PM commits suicide as a protest against the alliance with Germany. HMS Ark Royal flies some Hurricanes into Malta. Roosevelt signs 10 Coast Guard cutters off to the Royal Navy.

Apr 3rd: Britain reacts to the Iraqi Coup by rushing in whatever it can scrape together from its already way-over extended Middle Eastern forces.

Apr 4th: Rommel’s western column retakes Benghazi. The British Armed Merchant Cruiser Voltaire meets – and is sunk by – the German commerce raider Thor. Roosevelt opens up US shipyards to the Royal Navy for repairs (of course, a damaged RN battleship and aircraft carrier are already en route to New York for just that reason). Rommel’s push towards Tobruk runs “into a snag... 20 Brigade of the 9th Australian Division. Over the next ten days, these Australian troops will deter Rommel from attempting to storm the port and will set the stage for an epic siege. The Brigade Commander, Brigadier John Murray, DSO, MC will attract much admiration in the coming months, receiving both a bar to his DSO and being named a member of the Légion d’honneur for his example in blunting the heretofore unbeaten panzers of Germany.

Apr 5th: Yugoslavia signs a non-aggression treaty with the USSR. Rommel’s columns in Libya capture Barce and Tengeder.

Canada's Defence Budget Heads Back to the Future

New Liberal budget puts off billions in defence spending to make numbers look better

By Terry Milewski, CBC News Mar 27, 2016

"Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss," sang The Who in their 1971 classic, *Won't Get Fooled Again*. Sadly, though, for geezers who recall that brave song from 45 years ago, The

Who were wrong. We always get fooled again. So meet the new defence budget. Same as the old defence budget. In opposition, the Liberals were severely critical of the Conservatives' much-ballyhooed strategy to re-equip the Canadian military — just as the Conservatives condemned the preceding "decade of darkness" under the Liberals. But neither government ever produced the ships and planes that both said were needed.

Now, the cycle is repeating like the chorus of the old song. Goodbye to the Conservatives' regular chest-thumping announcements that a new day was dawning for a threadbare military — and hello to the Liberals as their finance minister, Bill Morneau, does exactly what the late Jim Flaherty did for the Tories when he had the job. Like Flaherty in 2012 and again in 2014, Morneau has now punted the budget for defence procurement down the road. Fear not! We're still planning to buy lots of ships and fighter planes. You just won't find the billions to pay for them in the budget.



Royal Canadian Navy personnel watch over the Protector, a supply ship that was decommissioned last year. The Liberal budget tabled last week once again pushes funding for defence projects, such as new ships for the navy, down the road to when - hopefully - new ships are ready to require payment.

(Chad Hipolito/The Canadian Press)

Dave Perry, senior analyst at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, calls this a "recurring theme" in Canada's defence budgeting, which he calls "depressing." But Perry does not blame either of the two ministers. Rather, he blames a dysfunctional procurement system, which, he says, "simply cannot deliver on schedule." "In essence, no matter how badly needed, the government just isn't able to get this money out the door on schedule," Perry complains. And the official budget documents confirm it, saying that the earmarked funds "cannot be spent due to unforeseen delays in planned projects." Unforeseen? That's a stretch. Many defence analysts, including Perry, saw these delays coming long ago. And the budget games are hardly new. In his time, Flaherty explained the procedure very simply. "We're not reducing spending on the armed forces," Flaherty told reporters of his February, 2014 budget. Even so, he added memorably, "There is no point in having money there to spend if they can't spend it, which they can't." See? It was easy. The government had not decided what jet fighters to buy and it hadn't built any ships. So no procurement was actually happening and — poof! — the vast piles of cash required were deftly shifted off the right-hand side of the page and beyond the five-year budget horizon. Thus exiled from the spending column, the missing money became invisible — as weightless as it was immense, leaving no stain upon the cheery numbers that remained.

The time-shifting process worked well for Flaherty, whose balance sheet was thereby spared the inconvenient facts of the future. Now the new boss, Morneau, is doing the same, although his

explanation is not quite so pithy. 'If this situation doesn't change, the 2018 budget will be telling the exact same story of a defence procurement system unable to deliver what Canada needs'- Defence analyst Dave Perry "In order to make sure that we have the funds available at the time when they need those funds," the finance minister told reporters about the defence numbers, "we've re-profiled some money in the fiscal framework, which is currently in the 2015-16 to 2021 period. And we've re-profiled it to future years so that when we need the money, the money will be in the fiscal framework." "Re-profiled" is a word only a finance official could love. Here, it really means the money is parked in the beyond. But however numinous, the amount is still impressive. In his two tries, Flaherty moved a total of \$6.7 billion in procurement funds off the page in this way. Morneau has now added another \$3.7 billion. So the Liberals are all for spending and job creation and investments — but the federal government has now reached well over \$10 billion in defence money that is theoretically earmarked but not even close to being spent. Call it stimulus, call it infrastructure — but it's not being spent. And that's because, as Flaherty said, there's no point in having money there if we can't spend it, and we can't.

So where has that cash gone? Those determined to find it must take a microscope and dive deeply into page 204 of the new budget. There, the future is squeezed onto one page in tiny font, extending to the year 2045. A graph shows procurement spending rocketing upwards under the old plan, but rising much more gently under Morneau's plan. Oddly enough, that new plan doesn't match the old level of projected spending on procurement until after the next election. Purely a coincidence, no doubt. Notice, too, the footnote, in even smaller font. "The annual profile of this funding," it warns, "may be subject to change depending on project schedules." No kidding. Still, it must be admitted that the repeated delays in funding do match the repeated delays in buying ships and planes. The minister for procurement, Judy Foote, is reviewing the creaky system and the minister of defence, Harjit Sajjan, is reviewing defence strategy in general. And for now, there seems to be no danger of a new ship suddenly hitting the water and demanding to be paid for.



Minister of Public Services and Procurement Judy Foote is the latest minister charged with trying to untangle Canada's military procurement process. (Fred Chartrand/Canadian Press)

But the navy, the coast guard, the Defence Department, the shipbuilding industry and anxious experts like Dave Perry are all hoping that Canada's sclerotic purchasing system can be shocked into life. Otherwise, forget The Who. We just might get fooled again. "If this situation doesn't change," says Perry, "the

2018 budget will be telling the exact same story of a defence procurement system unable to deliver what Canada needs."

Winter Adventure Training in Whistler

Reservists Receive Avalanche Safety Training Level Certification
Captain Greg Chan A Coy 2IC, Royal Westminster Regiment

For the first time in recent memory, the Royal Westminster Regiment conducted a winter adventure training exercise, which was held in Whistler from 18-23 December. Known as Exercise WESTIE BACKCOUNTRY 15, this physically challenging training event provided an opportunity for soldiers from all four 39 CBG infantry units to hone their winter mobility and hazard preparedness skills. Winter conditions proved ideal for the exercise with higher than average snowfall throughout the region. Whistler is generally regarded as one of the world's premier outdoor recreation destinations, and part of the training was conducted at facilities purpose-built for the 2010 Winter Olympics. All the activities on the exercise were conducted by highly qualified civilian guide companies. "All in all, our guides delivered an outstanding experience for the soldiers," commented Major Mike Schultz, the OPI for the exercise. "Everyone came away with a wealth of new skills to apply when operating in a winter environment."



WO Keith Shannon, WO Ole Frederiksen, and Capt Greg Chan receive instruction on snowpack analysis as part of their Avalanche Safety Training Level 1 training.

Photo by Maj Schultz, R Westmr R.

Day one began with lessons on Cross-Country Skiing and Biathlon at Canada Olympic Park. According to Corporal

Randy Robinson of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), "Biathlon was incredibly relevant to the move and shoot nature of the infantry, and experiencing firsthand the effort that goes into that degree of activity while controlling your breathing and shooting really puts into perspective how difficult winter warfare can be."

Biathlon on Day 1 at Canada Olympic Park.

Photo by MCpl Lyons, RM Rang.

Day two consisted of ice climbing in the vicinity of Duffey Lake Provincial Park (supplemented by a grueling hike to the waterfall!), whereas day three took the participants to Squamish for backcountry ski touring and practical instruction on avalanche safety. The final day concluded with snowmobiling and ziplining across the valleys



of Cougar Mountain. Theoretical classroom instruction was conducted during the evenings in order to maximize training time during the days. By the end of the exercise, all participants were awarded the Avalanche Safety Training Level 1 (AST-1) qualification.

Overall, Exercise WESTIE BACKCOUNTRY 15 was successful and extremely well received by all participants. Each soldier departed Whistler with a greater appreciation of winter mobility challenges as well as the knowledge of the risks and hazards of operating in avalanche-prone terrain.

Micro Black Aces Shotgun! Is It Legal?

By Jacob Epstein On July 9, 2015

Black Aces Tactical is a weapons manufacturing company based in Central Florida that is dedicated to providing the customer an heirloom quality, hand-finished shotgun at a reasonable price. All BAT weapons are made in America and come with a lifetime warranty, and each BAT shotgun receiver, internal, and magazine are custom built and machined. BAT's expanding line includes nearly two dozen weapons and range in price from \$499 to \$1,799.

Black Aces Tactical isn't a household name. Yet. They don't have the longevity of Colt or the pedigree of Browning, but we think the Black Aces brand will grow because these guys are building guns that no one else even dares to develop. The best example is their redesign of the classic the pump shotgun, the DT. With their billet receivers, removable magazines, and pistol grip stocks, these shotguns are the Ferraris of pump guns.



The DT is designed to be comfortable to shoot. It has padding built into the pistol grip, it has a Magpul vertical grip that is offset to the left, but able to be positioned at 4 other locations around the action tube making the gun ambidextrous. The gun also has an ambidextrous magazine release and safety. The DT takes all of the good traits of the Mossberg 500, combines them with the capacity and quick reloading of the Saiga 12, and gives it to you in a package that is well within the size of a normal shotgun's barrel. One shortcoming of the weapon is that it doesn't come from the factory with any accurate way to place shots. It has no sights. It is drilled and tapped for

the addition of a standard Mossberg 1913 rail. The assumption here is that you'll top it off with some sort of red dot. I picked up an inexpensive rail for \$10 that did the job. On top of this rail I put an old Primary Arms Microdot that lasted right around 200 rounds before the glass shattered out of the front from the percussion. Still. Adding an optic to this gun is a must. The addition of a PA microdot allowed me to accurately place slugs on human sized target with ease out to 50

yards and inside of 20 yards it made shots with slugs as precise as with a full sized shotgun. The addition of the red dot sight took what would most certainly be a range toy and made it into a functional working gun.

Black Aces has also brought to market a gun that seems to defy law and logic. The Pro Series 5 DT is an 8.5” barreled Pistol grip “gun” that does not fall under NFA restriction. Utilizing a (fixed or side folding) SB15 Arm Brace, the DT falls in to the murky category know as PGO (pistol grip only). We will get into the legality of all this later, but what you need to know is this gun is legal for you to own with no NFA strings attached. And if that weren’t enough, the DT is beyond bad ass.

The DT isn’t just a weapon, it’s a revolution, it changed the way we perceive guns that shoot shot shells. With its development we can chop 10 inches off of the normal shotgun, incorporate the folding arm brace and roughly lose another 10 inches off the firearm and find ourselves with package that is the same size as a normal shotgun’s barrel. Shooting the DT is an experience! The recoil is modest, the muzzle flash is more reminiscent of a cannon, and the percussion that you feel every time you pull the trigger is similar to being inside of an explosion. Will any of this stop you from enjoying every second of your trigger time? Hell No! Every shot you take with the DT is a shot of adrenaline. It’ll put a smile on your face—guaranteed. When you actually run the gun, you begin to appreciate the generous tolerances of the action bars as they keep the gun from binding. You begin to appreciate the speed and ease at which you can reload the gun. You notice that the magazine release is precise and easily actuated with your off hand or your trigger finger. The magazines fit to the receiver with little play while still inserting easily. The DT is built like a Swiss watch where it should be and built like an Ak47 where it needs to be. Out of the hundreds of shells I fired (both brass and steel rimmed) I had no jams, no malfunctions, no problems what so ever.



Who is it?



Last Week: The noisy, pointy object is a 4.5-inch Howitzer. The date of the photo is around 1940, since the carriages were converted to pneumatic tires in that year. This carriage has the older spoked wooden wheels, but the wheel apparently has a solid rubber rim. The steel rimmed wheels were replaced with rubber rims on a few carriages after 1930. The howitzer is being fired by the brave lads of 62 Bty located in Duncan, possibly Weekes

Lake at the Renfrew Crossroads above Duncan.



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This Week: Celtic Week was just a little while ago, and we thank those who identified the unit in the photo quiz that corresponded with that fine event. On that theme, we continue our popular (with one or two of you) theme, “What on earth is that unit?” Taken from an ancient boys’ book, of the sort one would receive for Christmas, such as “Boys’ Own Paper”, “Roger of the Raj”, or “Our Plucky Colonial Chaps”, this photo might make a few scratch their balding heads.

On the surface, it is a painting of a piper. But, from where does this chap hail? He isn’t in a kilt, and his tunic would indicate a warm clime, given its colour of white. The hint, though barely visible, lies in the colours of his pipe ribbons (or whatever they are called, your author not being blessed/cursed to be a doodle-sack player). I will give you a hint: his country was once stable, under a kindly monarch, who was booted out by a true nutter. That ill-starred nation is now probably thinking that nothing could be much worse than that which they are enduring these days. Your international military surmises may be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net). As a further hint, I once taught quite a number of lads from that distant country, all of whom were quite memorable, mostly for very positive reasons.

From the ‘Punitary’

Tennis players can never find happiness. Love means nothing to them.

Murphy’s other Laws

Those in authority tend to assign jobs to those least able to do them.

Quotable Quotes

Experience is that marvellous thing that enable you to recognize a mistake when you make it again. - *Franklin P. Jones*

Mark Your Calendar

2016 RUSI VANCOUVER STRATEGIC STUDIES CONFERENCE

APRIL 8 & 9, 2016

Central Branch, Vancouver Public Library

Conference Theme – **GLOBAL FLASHPOINTS**

Featuring speakers and panels on the future of NATO, Middle East militarism, China and the West Pacific, the Arctic, and Canada and International Security.

**Opening Remarks: The Hon Judith Guichon OBC
Lieutenant Governor of BC**

**Keynote Speaker: Hon Harjit Sajjan PC OMM MSM CD
Minister of National Defence**

Conference fee: \$45 Regular; \$30 Students. (*includes light refreshments and Saturday lunch*)

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-vancouver-strategic-studies-conference-tickets-21259706354>

Contacts: Keith Maxwell (kdm Maxwell@gmail.com) or Cam Cathcart (lhccathcart@gmail.com)

The following support the 2016 Strategic Studies Conference:



Taste of Thailand Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2016
- 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 March 21, 2016)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please e-mail Charlotte Yen at corporate@hplaw.ca
(Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association
No cancellations after March 21, 2016

NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: *Thursday, April 28, 2016*



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

*The President and Directors of
The Naval Officers' Association of
British Columbia,*

*request the pleasure of your company and guest(s)
at dinner.*

We shall commemorate the 71th anniversary of

The Battle of the Atlantic

on

Saturday, 30 April 2016

1830 for 1930

Wardroom, HMCS DISCOVERY

Guest of Honor

Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier, OMM, CD.

Commander Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force Pacific

*Cost: \$85.00 per person
Mess Dress or Black Tie
(Ladies Equivalent)
Miniatures*

RSVP before April 20th 2016

by using the attached reservation form.