



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Aug 2, 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"

Aug 3rd: A modest encirclement of Soviet troops by elements of Army Group South takes place at Pervomaysk.

Aug 4th: For well over a century, operational art and planning has been a rigorous intellectual discipline to the Prussian and then the German General Staff – but Hitler constantly believes his genius trumps intellect and training: Against the insistence of von Bock, Hoth and Guderian, Hitler decides his operational priorities involve Leningrad and Kiev, not Moscow.

Aug 5th: The fighting in the Smolensk pocket winds down – the 700,000-man Soviet force has been broken with 310,000 prisoners being taken by the Germans. Admiral Darlan is appointed head of Vichy North Africa with Weygand as his deputy.

Aug 6th: General Anders is appointed CinC of Polish Forces in the USSR – his main aim is to get as many Poles out of the Soviet Union as quickly as possible. The Japanese approach the United States with some concessions they are prepared to offer if the Americans relax their restrictions on oil – Roosevelt doesn't bite.

Aug 7th: Soviet bombers hit Berlin; six more of these modest long-range air raids will follow soon after.

Aug 9th: The Atlantic Conference begins as Roosevelt and Churchill meet on USS Augusta and HMS Prince of Wales in Placentia Bay off Newfoundland. Army Group South begins driving east with elements of 11th and 17th Army.

4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group Change of Command

A Legacy of Standing Watch in Western Canada

Capt Chris Poulton, Public Affairs Officer, 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group

Three months after the December 7th 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbour, a group of concerned citizens from Vancouver Island's Cowichan Valley organized to stand watch over their shoreline and readied to defend it from Japanese attack. The legacy of that citizen commitment to Canada's defence remains today in the form of the Canadian Rangers.



Canadian Ranger Master Corporal Adam Glover, of Gillam Patrol in Manitoba, pulls back on the bolt of his Lee Enfield .303 rifle ejecting a spent casing during marksmanship training at Heals Range in Victoria, BC. Canadian Rangers from across Western Canada were in Victoria as part of Exercise BEST FOOT FORWARD (19-26 June 2016) practicing their parade drill and marksmanship skills.

Photo by Capt Chris Poulton, Public Affairs Officer 4 CRPG

The 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (4 CRPG), Headquartered in Colwood, BC, perpetuates the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers of the Second World War and maintains the time-honoured watchful gaze upon western Canada's remote and coastal regions. "The men and women of the 4 CRPG operate in a very similar manner to the PCMR," said LCol Russ Meades, 4 CRPG's newly-appointed Commanding Officer. "They live and work in western Canada's most remote coastal and inland locations and are a vital layer to our country's security."

Canadian Rangers (CRs) from across Western Canada march on to the parade square during parade rehearsal at Work Point in Victoria, BC. The CRs were practicing their parade drill as part of Exercise BEST FOOT FORWARD in preparation for the 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group Change of Command ceremony held on 26 June 2016.

Photo by Capt Chris Poulton, Public Affairs Officer 4 CRPG



During the Second World War, many of the men from the Cowichan Valley headed eastward to join Canadian Expeditionary Forces fighting in Europe, but those who remained recognized that Canada's remote west coast was left unprotected. "Everybody was going east to fight over in Europe and there was no one left to defend the coast so we figured we had to," said John

Motherwell, a 92-year-old PCMR veteran and an honoured guest during 4 CRPG's change of command ceremony 26 June 2016. "We were concerned that after Pearl Harbour we had to do something. At least we could report it if we saw any Japanese submarines," he said.

For the next three years, until the end of the Second World War, PCMR volunteers increased to around 15,000 throughout British Columbia, ever watchful and safe-guarding Canadians. Nearly 75 years later, the legacy of standing watch continues.



*(L-R) LCol Russ Meades, BGen Wayne Eyre, and LCol Tim Byers sign Change of Command certificates during the 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group Change of Command ceremony on 26 June 2016 at Camp Albert Head near Victoria, BC.
Photo by: MCpl Brent Kenny, MARPAC Imagery Services.*

In his inaugural address at 4 CRPG's change of command parade, LCol Russ Meades described an exciting future for 4 CRPG. "We will operate in the farthest reaches of Western Canada taking everything nature can throw at us," he said. He also stated the importance of developing young Canadians via the Junior Canadian Ranger program. LCol Meades takes over as commanding officer at a time when 4 CRPG is healthy, robust, and viable, much due to the dedication of former commanding officer LCol Tim Byers who commanded the unit from 2004 to 2016.

LCol Tim Byers (right) receives his Commander's Axe from LCol Russ Meades (left), commemorating his 12-year tenure as Commanding Officer during the 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group's Change of Command ceremony on 26 June 2016.

LCol Byers was the Commanding Officer of 4 CRPG from 01 May 2004 – 26 June 2016.

Photo by: MCpl Brent Kenny, MARPAC Imaging Services.



"Lieutenant-colonel Byers created immense positive change, not only in 4 CRPG but at the national level through his initiatives," said LCol Meades. "My job is to take 4 CRPG to the next level in terms of capability, capacity, and institutional resilience and robustness. Connecting our past to our future will play an important role in all of that as will our 75th anniversary in 2017."

4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group consists of 43 patrols located in remote regions across Western Canada and as far south as southern Vancouver Island. There are over 1,000 Canadian Rangers operating part-time in 4 CRPG, as well as over 800 Junior Canadian Rangers learning valuable life-skills, traditional values, and outdoor skills.

Canadian Forces Teams Complete the 2016 Nijmegen Marches

July 22, 2016 – Ottawa – National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces

Today marks the end of the 100th annual International Four Days Marches Nijmegen in the Netherlands. This year, more than 200 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members from across Canada and Formation Europe participated in the marching event, and were awarded a special 100th anniversary edition of the Four Day Marches Cross. The CAF contingent, led by Colonel Kristiana Stevens for the second year, marched 40 km a day for four days, an effort culminating



in a five-kilometre victory parade. The parade was attended by thousands of spectators who cheered the CAF contingent in commemoration of the Canadian soldiers who liberated the Netherlands from Nazi occupation during the Second World War. Originally a means by which the Dutch infantry aimed to increase their long-distance marching and weight-carrying ability, the Nijmegen Marches have evolved into an international four-day event that draws more than 50 000 civilians from over 50 countries, in addition to military participants, to challenge their physical and mental endurance.

Members of the Joint Task Force Nijmegen 2016 Canadian contingent press ahead in the countryside during Day 2 of marches at Nijmegen, the Netherlands, on July 20, 2016. Photo: LS Brad Upshall, 12 Wing Imaging Services, Shearwater, NS SW2016-0167-132

CAF participation in the Nijmegen Marches highlights Canada's historic and unique connection to the Netherlands. Canada has had a special relationship with the Netherlands since the Canadian military took part in the liberation of the

Netherlands during the Second World War.

The CAF has participated in the Marches every year since 1952. Colonel Kristiana Stevens, Commander Joint Task Force Nijmegen said: "I could not be any more appreciative of the strength of character that our Canadian Armed Forces members demonstrated once again this year at the Nijmegen Marches. They completed this wonderful challenge together, and that is only a small reflection of their capacity for harmony and teamwork."

Is Saab's New Gripen the Future of Fighters?

New Gripen may be the next wave. *Aviation Week & Space Technology*

Lockheed Martin labeled the F-35 a "fifth-generation" fighter in 2005, a term it borrowed from Russia in 2004 to describe the F-22. Some of their rivals tumbled into this rhetorical trap and tried to argue that "fourth-generation" was just as capable. Whether it is true or not, making such a case is an uphill struggle. But if "fifth-generation" means more than "the ultimate driving machine," a sixth generation will emerge. Saab can argue that the JAS 39E Gripen,

rather than some of the wildly expensive-looking artist's concepts we have seen, is the first such aircraft. The Gen 5 concept is almost 30 years old. It dates to the final turning point in the Cold War, when the Reagan administration accelerated the arms race, believing (correctly) that the Soviet economic engine would throw a rod first. The F-22 was designed for a challenging but simple war: If you were in a NATO fighter and the nose was pointed east, pretty much everyone headed your way was trying to kill you.

Defense technology led aerospace in those days, and aerospace drove many other technologies. Today's gaming, simulation and movies are descended from 1980s military simulators. The world has changed a bit. Operation Allied Force in 1999 presaged the air campaigns of the 2000s, when targets were soft but hard to find, and harder yet to pick out of the civilian environment. We can say little for certain about the nature of future conflict, except that it is likely to be led by, and revolve around, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR). For the individual pilot, sailor or soldier, that translates into situational awareness. Demographics and economics are squeezing the size of the world's militaries—nations with more than 100 combat aircraft are few and becoming fewer. There are no blank checks for overruns. Much of the technology of 1995, let alone 1985, has a Flintstones look from today's perspective. (My 1985 computer boasted 310 kb. of storage and communicated at a screaming 300 bits per second.) Software is no longer what makes machines work; an iPhone is hardware that is valued because of the apps that it supports. This technology is characterized by development and deployment cycles measured in months. In aerospace, the lead in materials and manufacturing has gone to the commercial side.

The conundrum facing fighter planners is that, however smart your engineering, these aircraft are expensive to design and build and have a cradle-to-grave product life that is far beyond either the political or technological horizon. The reason that the JAS 39E may earn a Gen 6 tag is that it has been designed with these issues in mind. Software comes first: The new hardware runs Mission System 21 software, the latest roughly biennial release in the series that started with the JAS 39A/B. Long life requires adaptability, both across missions and through-life. Like Ed Heinemann's A-4 Skyhawk, the Gripen was designed as a small aircraft with a relatively large payload. And by porting most of the software to the new version, the idea is that all C/D weapons and capabilities, and then some, are ready to go on the E. The Swedes have invested in state-of-the-art sensors for ISR and situational awareness (AW&ST March 17, p. 28), including what may be the first in-service electronic warfare system using gallium-nitride technology. It's significant that a lot of space is devoted to the identification friend-or-foe system. Good IFF is most important in a confused situation where civilian, friendly, neutral, questionable and hostile actors are sharing the same airspace.

Sweden's ability to develop its own state-of-the-art fighters has long depended on blending home-grown and imported technology. Harvesting technology rather than inventing it becomes more important as commercial technology takes a leading role and becomes more global. The JAS 39E engine is from the U.S., the radar from Britain, and the infrared search and track system is Italian. Much of the airframe may be built in Brazil. However, what should qualify

the JAS 39E for a Gen 6 tag is what suits it most for a post-Cold War environment. It is not the world's fastest, most agile or stealthiest fighter. That is not a bug, it is a feature. The requirements were deliberately constrained because the JAS 39E is intended to cost less to develop, build and operate than the JAS 39C, despite doing almost everything better. As one engineer says: "The Swedish air force could not afford to do this the traditional way"—and neither can many others. It's an ambitious goal, and it is the first time that Sweden has undertaken such a project in the international spotlight. But if it is successful, it will teach lessons that nobody can afford not to learn.

Suicide Prevention Among Regimental Veterans

PPCLI Association Southwest Ontario Branch Discussion Paper

South West Ontario Branch has undertaken a review of veterans' suicide prevention programs to determine the extent of the problem and to identify what, if anything, the PPCLI Association can do to add its weight in prevention. The review examined Canadian, US, Australian and UK studies where these are available.

The review itself, in military speak is a 'large hand, small map' approach. Subject areas and statistics were examined only insofar as trends could be identified that allowed reasonable conclusions to be reached.

The review found that suicides among serving and retired members of the armed forces *as a whole* in each country were below the national averages; however, the rates among middle aged males and in the army/combat arms are higher than these averages. The most at risk group are young men and those between 40 and 60 years of age. Of particular concern is that VAC has neither the means nor the mandate to track morbidity statistics among Canadian veterans. The US DVA has a much broader mandate than VAC and tracks morbidity for all veterans. The UK does not track as closely as the US but has a limited ongoing project tracking deaths of Falklands and Gulf War 1 veterans. Structurally, the US, Australia and UK are better placed to provide mental health care to veterans than Canada even though the results may not be perfect. A major observation of suicide statistics is that suicide rates among serving soldiers is less than the national averages for the same age group. Later, the rates for retirees increase above the national average indicating that there are factors in service life that act to prevent suicides. These factors are known as the 'Healthy Soldier Effect'.

A decision to commit suicide is usually the consequence of a range of factors, including those that show a predisposition to act, contributing factors that are not usually clinical (debt, family issues and so on), and a precipitating factor or factors. All studies accepted that PTSD and repeated deployments were contributing factors but none considered that they were the sole cause. Both Canadian and US reports suggest that non clinical contributing factors or stressors played a large role and that much more work will be needed to understand their impact and integrate this work with ongoing preventative programs.

Current prevention and treatment programs in all countries generally follow the same path: crisis lines, education, early detection and reporting and treatment of clinical factors (primarily those associated with predisposition). All countries have increased their efforts for serving

soldiers and retirees over the past decade. The US, Australia and the UK are currently promoting community based, multi-disciplinary treatment. Canada lags in these efforts as VAC lacks the mandate to extend into provincial areas of responsibility. Nevertheless, there are indications that suicide rates may indeed be increasing.

Both Canadian and US studies raise the alarm that mental health care that is deficient in any way can itself become a contributing factor. Posting to Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU) elements is a prime example. In the case of Canadian veterans, we simply have no measure of program effectiveness. A principle conclusion arising from this part of the review is that the PPCLI Association should not pursue any mental health care initiatives on an individual basis beyond its responsibility of Duty of Care*. This implies that Association members may know individuals who display suicidal tendencies and are obligated to do their best to assist that person, largely through the assessment and referral approach now taken within the VPP.

Veterans in Canada with mental health issues should not simply be turned out in the cold to arrange their own care and to fight the VAC benefits system. A better *hand off* is essential. The review suggests that the Association could improve its VPP representative training and resource material and could advocate, preferably with others, CAF and VAC measures that might ensure greater continuity of care on release and an extension of the Healthy Soldier Effect into retirement.

Finally, the Association might develop outreach programs.

These measures are summarized into three tasks:

Task Number One – Advocate Enhanced Mental and Physical Training, General Fitness and Medical Care Through DND and VAC.

Task Number Two – Provide Information and Guidance on Mental Health issues and Suicide Prevention.

Task Number Three – Provide Comradeship, Sense of Purpose and Leadership.

**Duty of Care: a requirement that a person act toward others and the public with watchfulness, attention, caution and prudence that a reasonable person in the circumstances would. If a person's actions do not meet this standard of care, then the acts are considered negligent.*

Who is it?



Last Week: This is a 3-pounder Hotchkiss sub calibre gun for the 6-inch Mk VII guns at Pt Grey and Ferguson Point (later moved to Yorke Island). The picture comes from Theo Dumoulin's album, and his caption reads: "Budge Garrett, Ted Royce, Bill Jackson and myself., Point Grey Fort, June 1947. Cleaning up the 3 pdr sub-calibre gun after firing." For you non Gunners, a sub-caliber gun is used to save wear and expense when training with a larger gun, by use of smaller weapons with identical ballistic characteristics. The smaller weapons could be inserted into the

larger weapon's barrel (which was the case with the 6" guns), externally attached to the barrel or mounted above the weapon.

This Week Those of you old enough to remember the 1980s, and that number is rapidly dwindling, might know of the short-lived DND health and safety directive of early 1981 which forbade any and all military activities involving snow or ice. This rule was the result of a heavy snowfall in the Ottawa region which, combined with record-low temperatures, led to the closure of all kindergartens. A clerk at NDHQ, while listening to the news being broadcast, lost concentration and accidentally typed up that information into a directive addressing activities involving asbestos-lined H-huts (limiting their use to cadets only).



The mistake was soon noticed, but the recall never got past the Rockies. As a result, winter warfare training for 15th Field Regiment, took a whole new path. It was assumed by the Vancouver Gunners that the directive was both logical and needed, given the chaos that ensues in the city when even one snowflake is spotted gently

descending from the heavens. As a result, the Regiment moved their snowshoe training to the beach, a much more familiar locale.

Our question of the weeks is: “Were you there?” Can you provide further information on this photo, which comes from the extensive collection of our patron, Major (quite ret’d) Peter Moogk? Are you one of these Arctic warriors? Send your gab to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Winter is coming.

From the ‘Punitary’

Why don't cannibals eat comedians? Because they taste funny.

Murphy’s other Laws

If you don’t need it and don’t want it, the Supply system will have tons of it available.

Quotable Quotes

Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity; they seem more afraid of life than of death. - James F. Bymes

"Photographs Required"

1960 – To present

"History of the Gunners of Canada Vol 3" urgently needs relevant photographs about units, equipment, memorable events including ceremonial, and unusual tasks or activities. To date only 2 units 5eRALC and 6eRAC have provided material. Some individuals have also contributed. 1 RCHA can be covered by persons in contact but most are pre-1980.

Please submit up to 20 suitable photographs per unit or individual with detail of activity/event, location and date, description of equipment, source (who took the photograph). Pictures should be a minimum of .300 dpi where possible. We assume that all submissions may be used - no copyright limitations, etc.

The design of the book will be firmed up by September 2016. Material received after that might not be usable.

Please email submissions by 31 August 2016 to dtomaso@rogers.com or mail to:

Tom Tomaso
1681 Boisbriand Cres,
Orleans, ON K1C 4V6

Tom Tomaso
Vol III Committee Member