



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



RUSI News
Vancouver

Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 30, 2017

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at bob.mugford@gmail.com to let me know you didn't get a copy.

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 - We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Attendance has been down recently. Most of our regular attendees, who are retired, are slowly fading away and the next generation seems, by and large, to be too busy to attend. Guests are always welcome and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

Big Changes Coming Renovations in the Officers Mess started this week and are expected to take all summer (if not longer). During renovations, lunches will be held in the WO & Sgts Mess.

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars See attached posters for details.

- May 31** - NOABC Speaker lunch- Captain Colin Henthorne, Queen of the North
- **CareerConnect** comes to Vancouver
- June 01** - BCR Lunch - **Note change of date**
- June 18** - Point Atkinson Tour

World War 2 - 1942

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

May 31st: Sydney Harbour is attacked by three IJN Midget submarines which cause much alarm and little destruction –save to the 19 sailors killed when their accommodation ship is struck by a torpedo. The US Battleships Colorado and Maryland set out from San Diego to reinforce the Pacific Fleet, but they will not make it near Midway in time for the battle. 150th Brigade is overrun and Rommel's Panzers now have ample supplies.

June 1942: Japan's Victory Fever Breaks

General: Although Leigh-Light fitted aircraft and refueling at sea for escorts begin this month, the U-Boats still claim 144 of the Allies 173 ship losses (834,200 tons total). The RAF stages 5,000 sorties (with 240 losses) which drop 6,950 tons of bombs. The Germans will engage in anti-partisan sweeps in Montenegro.

June 1st: USS Saratoga also heads out from San Diego at flank speed to rejoin the Pacific Fleet. The RAF visits Essen with a 1,000 bomber raid, enduring 36 losses as they do so, but the raid is not well executed.

June 2nd: Rommel sends 90th Light Division and the Italian Trieste Division to support the Ariete Division's assaults on the stubborn French at Bir Hacheim. The Germans renew the bombardment of Sevastopol, using the 600mm 'Karl' Mortars and the 800mm 'Dora' railway howitzer among their 1300 guns. Japanese light carriers raid Dutch Harbour in the Aleutians, but the forewarned Americans don't act too surprised. China inks a lend-lease deal with the US. The three US carriers, Enterprise, Hornet and Yorktown, link up to the northeast of Midway.

June 3rd: The Midway Invasion Force is spotted by PBY Catalinas and some Midway-based B-17s lightly harass it. HMS Eagle ferries another load of 31 Spitfires to beleaguered Malta.

June 4th: Heydrich, the only man in the Reich that Hitler was wary of, dies of the wounds sustained on the May 27th assassination attempt by Czech members of the Resistance. The decisive day at Midway—Mars approves of the sacrifice of American Marine fighter pilots over Midway and of the valiant US Navy torpedo bomber crews in their futile attacks on the IJN carriers and grants victory: after a series of mutual errors, US Naval dive bombers set the Japanese carriers Akagi, Kaga and Sōryū ablaze, consuming many of Japan's elite veteran aviators in the holocaust. The return Japanese strike sets Yorktown ablaze and then their surviving flattop Hiryū is also destroyed. Hereafter, the initiative in the Pacific War now rests with the Americans. Captain Richard E Fleming of the US Marine Scout Bombing Squadron 241 takes his aircraft within 400 feet of a Japanese aircraft carrier before releasing his bomb, and flies away with two wounds and 179 hits on his plane. He will make an equally perilous attack on a Japanese cruiser tomorrow and be shot down and killed. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

June 5th: The US declares war on Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. Out in the Western Desert, the British have been slow to attack the stranded Panzers in the Cauldron, and the two attacks that go in today are badly organized (32nd Tank Brigade loses 60 out of 70 tanks to a minefield), and so are easily defeated. In one attack, a South African Sergeant, Quentin George Murray Smythe of the Royal Natal Carbineers, takes over an assault after their officer is killed. As it becomes clear the assault is a failure, the wounded Sergeant leads the survivors out of a determined German attempt to envelop them. His deeds win him the Victoria Cross. Off Midway, the Japanese briefly contemplate lunging after the American carriers with their battleships and cruisers, but reconsider.

June 6th: Yamamoto decides to withdraw his fleet from Midway, and victory in the battle is now assuredly in American hands, although the Japanese pick up two trivial prizes, the Aleutian Islands of Attu and Kiska, to make up for the loss of four fleet carriers and their veteran crews and airmen.

Status Update and Q&A by Minister of Veterans Affairs

Veterans are invited to a "Status Update and Q&A" by Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 31 2017 in Room 4, Woodward (Instructional Resources Centre-IRC), 2194 Health Sciences Mall, University of BC. The meeting is open to the public and Minister Hehr will provide an update on the progress made to increase support and services to Veterans and their families. The Minister will take questions from the audience. Veterans can confirm their participation by responding to www.engagement@vac-acc.gc.ca

Defence Policy: Tax Exemption for Those Serving Overseas

Marcello Sukhdeo May 23 2017

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan said late last week that the salaries of Canadian military and police officers serving in international missions will no longer be taxed. This tax exemption is retroactive to January 1 of this year and will cover over 1,400 officers who are currently serving in operations overseas. The cost of this tax exemption, according to the CBC based on current deployment status will result in about \$43 million in revenue that will not be collected annually. But this figure is likely to rise as the Trudeau government is looking to provide more military personnel and police officers overseas as part of the UN peacekeeping missions.

Historically, tax exemption for those serving overseas was given based on the level of risk of each mission, for example, Canadians serving in Kuwait lost their tax exemption status late last year when the mission's risk level was downgraded. But this has now been changed, with this latest announcement all overseas assignments will qualify for tax exemption status regardless of the level of risk.

For those serving in dangerous missions, they will be rewarded by an extra pay in the form of a hardship allowance. This according to the minister is "just one portion of the defence policy, which is going to be focusing on our people." The new defence policy is expected to be released on June 7. Regarding the challenges that the military faces in leadership, negative role models, inadequate training, bullying and sexual misconduct, the Defence Minister said, "There are no simple answers to how we deal with these challenges." He went on to add during his speech to the graduating class at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont. "But you should know the government of Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces chain of command are focused on taking whatever steps are necessary to ensure the college and the entire military family emerge stronger than ever before."

Snowbirds Safety Incident a Factor Behind Air Show Cancellations

Air force officials confirmed to the Star Thursday that the famed aerobatic team had a problem during a May 6 performance in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., the first day of a two-day air show there. Bruce Campion-Smith Ottawa Bureau May 18, 2017

OTTAWA—Canada’s Snowbirds suffered a close call during a US air show earlier this month when one of the jets was upset by turbulence as it flew inverted, recovering less than 100 metres above the ground. That incident is now the subject of a formal safety investigation by an air force team and was one factor behind the decision by the Snowbirds to pause its air show displays for more training. It happened during a May 6 performance at the air show in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., during the “Double Take” manoeuvre when four planes fly in formation, two of them inverted. The tailplane of one inverted jet got caught in the turbulent engine exhaust of the jet ahead of it, causing control problems. “On his recovery, he recovered at a low altitude,” said Lt Col Brad Wintrup, a veteran pilot who serves as commanding officer of the venerable team. It’s been a rough few weeks for Canada’s aerial ambassadors as they embarked on their summer display season, only to put it on pause out of concern about their performance. The team is back in Moose Jaw, Sask., and next week will begin practice flights to hone skills and build trust needed to get back flying air shows sometime in June. “We’re a little disappointed, obviously. No one wants to start their season like that. We’ve had a number of challenges this and we’re confident we’ll power through it and get back on the road,” Wintrup said in an interview. The team, formally known as 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, announced earlier this week that it would cancel upcoming appearances in six cities in Canada and the United States over the coming weeks.



Air force officials confirm there was an incident involving Canada's famed Snowbirds during a US air show last month that's now the subject of a safety investigation. The Team recently announced that they had put their show on hold.

(Darryl Dyck / The Canadian Press)

That’s the fallout from reduced training period, and poor weather meant missed practice flights, including time in Comox, B.C. where the team does their spring training. Wintrup said it’s critical

that the team be able to fly at least once a day while training, including weekends. “That builds momentum, muscle memory and it gives guys confidence in their pilot abilities but also in their situational awareness in knowing where everyone is,” he said. But bad weather ate into that schedule and plans to practice while on the road also ran into trouble. Flying in such tight formations, trust in the flying abilities of fellow pilots is essential, Wintrup said. He said the pilots have a “contract” to remain within their assigned position — or “box” — within the formation. If one pilot gets out of position, they announce it on the radio, using their call sign

and the phrase “shadow” to alert the other pilots. “Our guys, when they’re at the height of their proficiency, will always be in the box,” Wintrup said. “At the beginning of the show, they’re not in their box very often . . . we purposely make the formations wider.”

Unexpected excursions out of formation and shadow calls during the early days of the season made the team lead, Maj Patrick Gobeil, conscious that the formation “was not as stable as it needed to be,” Wintrup said. “It’s not just that you have to be proficient in the art of flying in formation but you also have to have a level of trust that would be uncommon to the lay person in knowing that the person you are working with is always where he’s supposed to be,” Wintrup said. Wintrup described the rigorous work that goes into getting ready for a show season. It begins each October, just weeks after their last show for season. New pilots come onboard and the regime of flying two or three times a day begins. At the same time, the manoeuvres that will make up the next season’s show are selected — picked from the “standard manoeuvres manual,” the team’s bible. “There’s nothing new under the sun really for the last 47 years. We just kind of string them together in a different order,” Wintrup said. The team actually has four shows in its repertoire — a high show with all of the spectacular looping and rolling manoeuvres for good weather days; a low show and a flat show when weather restricts the flying; and a non-aerobatic show, essentially just a flypast. Air force brass — and US aviation regulators — have to sign off on the safety of the show each year, before the team is allowed to hit the air show circuit.

Marine Artillery Unit Went Hard on ISIS During Syria Deployment

Event shrouded in secrecy Sarah Sicard May 25, 2017



CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — US Marines assigned to Fox Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) fire an M777 A2 howitzer at an indirect firing range outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait April 23, 2017. The Marines are in Kuwait for a sustainment training evolution. The 24th MEU is currently deployed with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group in support of maritime security operations designed to

reassure allies and partners and preserve the freedom of navigation and free flow of commerce in the US 5th Fleet area of operations. (US Marine Corps photo by Sgt Matthew Callahan)

During a recent mission to Syria, Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit fired off upward of 4,500 rounds of ammunition against ISIS, 11th MEU spokesman Maj Craig Thomas told reporters on May 24. An artillery unit entered Syria in early March to support Kurdish and Syrian Arab Forces isolating Raqqa, ISIS' de facto capital in the country. The news of the Marines' presence in Syria broke at the same time that Army Stryker combat vehicles were seen in the Manbij area. The number of rounds fired was one of the only details that officials were able to discuss, according to Marine Corps Times' Jeff Schogol, who was present for a roundtable discussion with Thomas on May 24. It's an ongoing operation," Thomas said. "We have another Marine unit that's there – to my knowledge, they have not released that name, so we'll let [Operation Inherent Resolve] do that. It's not exactly an established theater as Iraq or Afghanistan was."

The capacity in which these Marines have been aiding Kurdish and Syrian Arab Forces for the last two months is largely unclear, but the detachment is connected to the larger 11th MEU, which had been deployed with the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group for seven months and recently returned home to San Diego earlier this month. In all, roughly 400 members of 11th MEU deployed to Syria. These Marines have since been replaced by a different Marine artillery unit, but the unit has not yet been named publicly. Marine Corps Times speculated that the replacement unit likely belongs to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is currently deployed with the USS Bataan's amphibious ready group. On April 23, the 24th MEU uploaded an image to its Facebook page, which showed artillery Marines at Camp Buehring in Kuwait, firing M777 A2 howitzers at an artillery range

Military Historian Tim Cook's Vimy Lecture on YouTube

by Gail Dever

If you haven't had your fill of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge -- and I certainly haven't -- you will enjoy watching this YouTube video of military historian and author Tim Cook's lecture, [Why Vimy Matters](#). This is a recording of the lecture delivered on March 30, 2017 in conjunction with the *World at War – International Speaker Series*, an annual series of academic events, presented by the Canadian War Museum, to mark the centenary of the First World War. During the 47-minute lecture, Mr Cook talks about how Vimy has been transformed over the past 100 years from a costly hard-fought battle into an enduring symbol of national courage and Canadian accomplishment. Mr Cook is a historian at the Canadian War Museum and an adjunct research professor at Carleton University in Ottawa. He is also the author of seven books. His latest book, *Vimy: The Battle and the Legend*, was released earlier this year.

Two shorter lectures that were delivered as part of the *World at War* series and available on the Canadian War Museum's YouTube channel are: [World War Women](#) about Canadian women and votes by Suzanne Evans (10 minutes long) and [World War Women](#) about Russian women by Laurie Stoff (20 minutes long).

There Will Be a Peacekeeping Conference in Vancouver

But no UN mission for Canada yet. *Calgary Herald David Pugliese 24 May, 2017*

The government, while seemingly committed to a peace effort in Africa, is still playing coy, and now there's a peacekeeping conference in Vancouver sponsored by the government. The "2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial" will be held on November 14-15 and will involve around 500 delegates from 70 countries. The Liberal government's promise that the Canadian military will make a significant contribution to a United Nations mission seems to have gone nowhere. There's not a lot of talk about that promise any more, although Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says such a contribution is still being examined. Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan was at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Wednesday to launch the "2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial." The conference will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, on November 14-15 and will involve around 500 delegates from 70 countries.

The 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial will review current contributions by UN members, and "secure pledges to meet the current and future needs of UN peacekeeping operations," according to the Department of National Defence. "We are committed to increasing our engagement in peace support operations," Sajjan said in a statement. "The 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial is one component of our engagement with the UN and I look forward to welcoming defence counterparts to Canada later this year." Ten countries will serve as co-hosts for the 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uruguay, the United States, and the United Kingdom. On November 14, Canada will host a series of events called "Focus on Peacekeeping". While not a part of the official conference, these events will complement the Ministerial, they will be geared towards a broad audience, and will explore several different themes to underline the importance of a comprehensive approach to peacekeeping.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The war diaries updates from 100 years ago continue on our What's New page – the 5th Canadian Siege Battery has returned from their rest period and were dealing with some premature issues and the 31st Field Battery has been absorbed into the 9th Brigade.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new>

Check out the great story from our Artillery Day Tour that stopped at the Forts located at Point Grey, Stanley Park, Steveston and Yorke Island. In addition, we met up with three city mayors and several councillors. The Artillery flag was flown at New Westminster, Vancouver, Delta, Richmond and Sayward!. <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/2017.html>

A new page featuring many of the boats that served Yorke Island has been added.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/yorke---boats.html>

Keep those stories and pictures coming! Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com

Who Is It



Last Week: This is a 2pdr Mk IX or Mk X AT gun on a Mk I carriage. We believe it belonged to the 6th Anti-Tank Regiment RCA. The photo was found in a box with sundry other items and a note saying “2pdr Practise Flathead (tracer). First shoot, 6ATK Regt, Petawawa, 24 Aug 42”.

This Week: This week we continue with a proper khaki (pronounced “car key” for those of you too young to know) theme. We have raided the collection of the Vancouver Archives for this one, thank you. City archives, most of which are now digitized, offer some interesting surprises when it comes to things military. However, due to the lack of military historians at



many archives, the photos can sometimes be labelled in a manner that doesn’t make them very easy to find. Such might be the case with this photo. It was obviously taken during the Second World War. Due to the kit worn, it probably wasn’t taken overseas, although our fightin’ Canucks in Italy did sport these attractive shorts (as did I, years later, at Vernon Cadet Camp...hopefully not the ones worn by the fellow on the left).

The photo is simply labelled as soldiers defending the West Coast. However, our question to you is this: what are they using to defend our verdant coast? Is this an Elevator, Anti-Axis, Mk I*? Or can it be something of a more deadly nature? What was it that put fear into the heart of Tojo and his evil henchmen? What kept us free from bombardment by the Yamato and her puny 18” guns? You tell us via the usual method: traditional, old-fashioned e-mail, to either the editor,

bob.mugford@outlook.com or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net).

From the ‘Punitary’

What do you call cheese that isn’t yours? Nacho Cheese.

Murphy’s Other Laws

The more crap you put up with, the more crap you are going to get.

Quotable Quotes

Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever. - *Napoleon Bonaparte*

CareerConnect comes to Vancouver!

CANADA COMPANY PRESENTS:
Vancouver CareerConnect

HMCS Discovery
1200 Stanley Park Drive
Vancouver, BC
V6G 3C7

May 31st
10:30AM - 5:00PM
\$550+HST
www.metforce.ca

CanadaCompany Canada_Company

You're Invited!

On Wednesday, May 31, Canada Company will hold its first CareerConnect in British Columbia. CareerConnect is a job fair specifically designed to connect Military Members, Veterans and Spouses to a network of local military-friendly employers. And we want you with us in Vancouver!

At CareerConnect, you'll engage with employers who understand your military background, and can speak knowledgeably about opportunities for your next career, all in an informal trade show setting.

The MET and METSpouse programs have seen our 272 Employer Partners hire more than 2189 Veterans and Spouses across Canada. We're well on the way to achieving our goal of 10,000 hires by 2023 – and we want to add you to that total.

Your participation in CareerConnect includes a pre-event Workshop on the evening of Tuesday, May 23 to prepare you for the job fair, and ensure you get the most out of the experience. The details for the Workshop are:

Location: BCIT
3700 Willingdon Avenue
Building SE6, Room 233
Burnaby, BC
V5G 3H2

Agenda: 5PM – 6PM Registration & Light Supper
6PM – 9PM CareerConnect Workshop for Members, Veterans & Spouses

The details for CareerConnect are:

Location: HMCS Discovery
1200 Stanley Park Drive
Vancouver, BC
V6G 3C7

Agenda: 12:30PM – 3:30PM Military Members, Veterans & Spouses' Registration
1PM – 4PM CareerConnect Job Fair

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with military-friendly employers who are waiting to meet you! For more information about CareerConnect, please contact Marram Mohammad, MET & METSpouse Assistant, at marram.mohammad@canadacompany.ca or 416.865.4254.

To get your FREE tickets to this event, go to:-

For the May 23 Workshop -

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/careerconnect-workshop-tickets-33501436699>

For the May 31 Career Fair -

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/careerconnect-tickets-33500301303>

*Both sessions are **FREE**, and both are open to military members, veterans, and spouses. The sessions are not just for those transitioning out of the military, but also to Reservists who may be looking to change or obtain civilian employment.*

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Our mailing address is:
Canada Company
66 Wellington St West Ste 3100
Toronto, ON M5K 1K2
Canada

NOABC Monthly Lunch and Speaker



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia
Founded 1919

MONTHLY LUNCH PROGRAM

Wednesday May 31st 2017

Officers Mess
Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC.

1130 am bar open
1200 noon lunch
1 pm-2pm speaker
3 course hot lunch
\$20 per person

Dress – Business attire or blazers slacks tie etc

The topic is:

The Queen Of The North Disaster

by

Captain Colin Henthorne

RSVP for lunch numbers please to dreese@telus.net
by Sunday May 28th 2017.

June Lunch

Taste of the India



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

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



- Date:** June 1, 2017
- 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 May 22, 2017)
- 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 Monday, May 22, 2017



CANADA 150 TOUR of POINT ATKINSON LIGHT STATION

Lighthouse Park Preservation Society and West Vancouver Historical Society invite you to join a free guided tour of the light station grounds. Learn about the link between the lighthouse and Canada's confederation. Climb the steps to the base of the lighthouse (the tower will not be open). Enter the Fog Alarm museum to learn about its inner workings and the role of the lighthouse keeper. Sit inside the Power House to view a short slide show on the presence of the military during WWII.

For more information about the tour and to register please email pointatkinsonpals@gmail.com

TOUR DATES

Sunday May 14

Sunday June 18

Sunday July 23

Sunday August 13

Sunday Sept. 3

TOUR TIMES

1:00 pm & 3:00 pm

Registration required
Limit 20 per tour



COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA
FONDATIONS COMMUNAUTAIRES DU CANADA
all for community. ensemble pour tous.



Canada