



**Vancouver Artillery
Association News**



**RUSI News
Vancouver**

Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Sept 30, 2014

Wednesday Lunches

At a General Meeting last week, members voted to return to the previous dress regulations. Dress for Wednesday lunches is now suit/blazer and tie. We will retain 'Business casual' for summer dress. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Guests are always welcome.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - Sept 1914

No further entries until Oct 9th

World War 2 - September 29-30th, 1939

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

Sept 29th: Germany and the USSR announce their division of Poland in a new treaty and the Soviets start to lean on the Baltic states for basing rights; regarding (as per their treaty with Nazi Germany) the Baltic states as theirs.

Sept 30th: The Polish Government in exile is formed in Paris with Wladyslaw Raczkievez as President and General Sikorski as Commander in Chief of all Free Polish Forces. Germany's pocket battleship Graf Spee bags its first prize, SS Clement, off the coast of Brazil

RUSI Co-sponsors WW 1 Series at Vancouver Public Library

RUSI Vancouver, in collaboration with the Vancouver Public Library, will co-sponsor a series of four presentations to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War at the VPL Central Branch on West Georgia and Homer in Vancouver. The involvement of RUSI Vancouver in the VPL series is part of RUSI's community engagement initiative.

Canada and the First World War: Keith Maxwell, Vice President of RUSI and a military historian, will give this presentation on Tuesday, **October 7th**. These presentation are free and run from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Alice MacKay Room at the VPL Central Branch.

Robert W Mackay: Canada's 100 Years of Submarines: "100 years of Canadian submarines, and it all started right here in BC! Join Bob Mackay, a former submariner, as he talks about Canada's experience with submarines from the earliest days in 1914 until today. Bob will read from his Cold War submarine thriller, *Terror on the Alert*, and looks forward to sharing photographs and answering questions about the Canadian navy's "silent service". There will be two sessions of this presentation:

The **Kerrisdale Branch** talk will be held in the Kerrisdale Community Centre, 5851 West Boulevard, in the Seniors Centre Craft room, on **Tuesday 7 October**, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM. For more information call 604-665-3974.

The **Britannia Branch** talk will be held in the Al Mattison 55+ Centre, 1661 Napier Street (across the street from Britannia Branch Library) on Thursday 30 October, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM for more information call 604-665-2222.

Presented in partnership with The Royal United Services Institute – Vancouver, in commemoration of Canada's First World War Centenary."

Teenage Australian Girl Tried to go Overseas in WW1

By Associate Professor Victoria Haskins and Jennifer King. 4 Sep 2014

A teenage girl from the Hunter Valley coalfields was so desperate to be a part of Australia's war effort that she cut her hair, dressed as a soldier and stowed away on a troopship.



Maud Butler stowed away on the troopship Suevic to get to the front. (Australian War Memorial: Robert Fletcher)

The exploits of Maud Butler, a resourceful 16-year-old waitress with a sense of adventure, are being researched by historian Professor Victoria Haskins. As part of her study, Professor Haskins is researching Maud's expedition, which she says runs several chapters. Here, Professor Haskins writes about Maud's initial run-in with authorities.

Maud was only 16 years old when she first tried to get to the front — and if it had not been for her boots she might have made it. The girl from Kurri Kurri, in rural New South Wales, climbed on board a troopship waiting at the Woolloomooloo docks in Sydney at night, disguised as a soldier, and was discovered two days later out at sea. Her story caused quite a sensation at the time. Described as "a clear-skinned, rosy-cheeked, bright-eyed type of healthy country girl" by reporters, Maud gave a lively interview a few days after her return to Melbourne on Christmas Day, 1915. She told them that she "had a terrible desire to help in some way, but I was only a girl... I decided to do something for myself".

Maud explained how she had got hold of an Australian Imperial Force (AIF) uniform in bits and pieces and had her portrait taken in it. On the day before she stowed away she went down to Woolloomooloo Bay to see a transport there and met an officer, telling him she had friends on the ship. "I made up my mind to see him again, but as a soldier next time," she said. She went straight to the barber's and had her hair cut short, then headed back the next evening through the Domain to where the ship, Suevic, was lying at the wharf, a sentry on guard. "Well, I said to myself, 'here goes for up the line'. It was a hand-over-hand job, and I didn't think the boats were so tall. I got up after a struggle and crawled to a lifeboat," she told reporters from the Farmer



and Settler. The ship left that night, heaving through the rollers between North and South Head, with Maud tucked up tightly inside the small lifeboat swinging at the davits.

Maud Butler (tipping hat), pictured prior to her transfer to the Blue Funnel liner Achilles to return to Australia.

(Australian War Memorial: Donated by G Carroll)

The next day she crept out of her hiding place and mingled with the soldiers playing cards, and no-one suspected a thing. With no place for her at the mess, and nothing to eat but some lollies she had brought with her, she made up her mind to raid the kitchen the next night. But the following day she was discovered by a suspicious officer, who asked for her identification disk. "It was these wretched black boots," Maud said. "That was the trouble all through. I bought the tunic and breeches from a soldier and the putties in George Street and the cap in Bathurst Street. "But I could get no regulation tan boots that I could wear. I tried everywhere, but it was of no use. So I had to chance it. "I could kick these boots round the room for vexation." The officer had not actually worked out she was female, though, and was prepared to let the stowaway continue on to the front with them. But when Maud was told she would have to pass a doctor's examination, she confessed. The captain told her he would have her put on a passing passenger liner back home as soon as he could. "Then I cried for the first time; it was hard luck, wasn't it, now?" she said. "The captain was a jolly fellow. He asked me why I didn't get tan boots, and that made me cry more." According to Maud, the captain had told her that "if the secret could have been kept" he would have let her stay on. "But it was all over the ship in a minute, and there must have been 500 snapshots taken of me," she said.

Maud next had the rare experience of being "trans-shipped" at sea — going down the side of the troopship on a ladder to get into a small rowboat under escort to take her up to the other vessel. "I had a great joke going up the ship's side," she told the reporters. "We were nearly at the top when I said to the officer above me, 'You don't speak [like that] to the girl you took for a walk up George Street!' He nearly fell off with the shock." There were not a lot of opportunities for young women like Maud in those days. The reporters had assumed Maud wanted to join her older brother in Egypt, but he had not yet enlisted at that point. She told them that she had hoped to get to the front as a nurse, and had come down to Sydney from Kurri Kurri "because I would never learn to be a nurse there". In Sydney she had tried to join the Red Cross, without success. No doubt Maud could have become involved in the organisation's charitable activities at home, but they were not going to send her overseas. There were already hundreds of young women, both trained nurses and Red Cross voluntary aides, waiting to get the front. Some even paid their own way. That was not an option for Maud — the daughter of a coal miner who raised his four children alone — who now supported herself by waitressing. Maud was not disheartened, however. She told the reporters that she intended to go to Sydney that night, and "find some way of learning the work and joining the Red Cross service". "It is a pity if they

cannot find a way for me to be of some service to the poor wounded men," she said. "I learned first aid and was reckoned very good at it. I shall be at the front yet, you'll see."

Prof Haskins is the recipient of a grant from the Arts NSW Centenary of Anzac Commemoration History Fellowship to explore the impact of the war on Australian women. "The way I am approaching it is to reconstruct as much as possible the personal stories of individual women, like Maud Butler, whose stories can shed light on what it was like for women during the war from various backgrounds," she said. "I thought her story worth exploring further for the insights it provides into all sorts of aspects of women's experiences of WWI. "The Red Cross and nursing, the exclusion of women from actual fighting, issues around recruitment, soldiers' drinking, and more."

Medieval Knights may have had PTSD

DEC 20, 2011 03:00 AM ET // BY [EMILY SOHN](#)



Medieval knights were not just thugs, but humans who likely felt the impact of their work. Getty Images

In movies, medieval knights are portrayed as courageous and loyal heroes who will fight to the death without fear or regret. In reality, the lives of knights were filled with a litany of stresses much like those that modern soldiers deal with. They were often sleep-deprived, exhausted and malnourished. They slept outside on hard ground, fully exposed to whatever weather befell them. And their lives were full of horror and carnage as they regularly killed other men and watched their friends die. Faced with the trauma inherent in a life of combat, according to a new look at ancient texts, medieval knights sometimes struggled with despair, fear, powerlessness and delusions. Some may have even suffered from post-traumatic stress or related disorders, argues a Danish researcher, just as their modern-day counterparts do.

The research strives to add a dose of humanity to our understanding of knights, who are often considered cold and heartless killers. "As a medievalist, it's a bit irritating to hear people say that the Middle Ages were just populated by brutal and mindless thugs who just wallowed in warfare," said Thomas Heebøll-Holm, a medieval historian at the University of Copenhagen. "I'm going for a nuanced picture of humans that lived in the past. They were people just like you and me, as far as we can tell." Ever since the war in Vietnam, there has been a growing recognition that the terrors of battle, torture, terrorism and other horrific experiences can result in a type of severe psychological distress now known as PTSD. To be diagnosed with the disorder, people must suffer from uncontrollable and intense stress for at least a month after a horrifying event. Symptoms can include flashbacks, nightmares, depression and hyperactivity. When soldiers go to war in modern times, Heebøll-Holm said, psychologists now recognize that the stresses they encounter can lower their psychological resistance until they finally succumb to anxiety disorders. Since medieval knights faced as many and possibly more hardships than

modern soldiers do, he wondered if he might be able to find references to signs of trauma in warriors who fought during the Middle Ages.

In addition to other documents, Heebøll-Holm focused on three texts written by a 14th-century French knight named Geoffroi de Charny, who was also a diplomat and trusted adviser to King John II. No one knows for sure why Charny wrote the documents, whose translated titles included "The Book of Chivalry" and "Questions Concerning the Joust, Tournaments and War." The most popular theory is that they were part of an effort to create an ideological program for the royal French chivalric order that would rival the British equivalent. Though many of these texts have been thoroughly analyzed already, Heebøll-Holm was the first to look between the lines through the lens of modern military psychology. And while it's hard to ever completely understand a culture that was so very different (and far more religious) than our own, Heebøll-Holm found a number of examples that would suggest at least the potential for trauma in medieval knights.

Among his writings, for example, Charny wrote: "In this profession one has to endure heat, hunger and hard work, to sleep little and often to keep watch. And to be exhausted and to sleep uncomfortably on the ground only to be abruptly awakened. And you will be powerless to change the situation. You will often be afraid when you see your enemies coming towards you with lowered lances to run you through and drawn swords to cut you down. Bolts and arrows come at you and you do not know how best to protect yourself. You see people killing each other, fleeing, dying and being taken prisoner and you see the bodies of your dead friends lying before you. But your horse is not dead, and by its vigorous speed you can escape in dishonour. But if you stay, you will win eternal honour. Is he not a great martyr, who puts himself to such work?"

Charny showed no signs of instability, Heebøll-Holm said, but he repeatedly expressed concern about the mental health of other knights. And there is no doubt that medieval knights suffered a lot, said Richard Kaeuper, a medieval historian at the University of Rochester in New York, who has translated and written extensively about Charny's "Book of Chivalry." Tales from that era include all sorts of gruesome details, Kaeuper said. Many tell of warriors vomiting blood or holding their entrails in with their hands. One mentions a Castilian knight who gets a crossbolt stuck up his nose in his first fight. Another tells of a fighter getting slashed by a sword through his mouth. Again and again, there are references to bad food, uncomfortable conditions and relentless fighting. After so many centuries, though, it can be challenging to interpret old texts, said Kaeuper, who was intrigued by Heebøll-Holm's theory. Part of the problem is that knights never psychoanalyzed themselves, at least not in print. Instead, they either offered advice to other knights about how to act in various situations or they simply recounted events.

One of the biggest differences between now and then, Kaeuper added, is that medieval knights were usually born into their elite and noble order, and they were trained from a young age to think of themselves as warriors who fought in the name of Christianity. Modern soldiers, on the other hand, often leave a very comfortable life for one of violence and trauma. Knights "were not civilians who were suddenly thrust into this," Kaeuper said. "I think that makes a difference."

Veterans Should Transcend Party Politics

Paul Manson Contributed to The Globe and Mail Sep. 05 2014

Traditionally, Canada's veterans have enjoyed outstanding moral support from a grateful public, in recognition of the nation's solemn obligation to care for those who have served and suffered in harm's way. But the veterans landscape is changing. With a steady decline in the huge numbers who served in the Second World War, today's veteran community is characterized by a new set of men and women whose military experience stems from the Korean conflict, the Cold War, peacekeeping missions, upheaval in the former Yugoslavia, the first Persian Gulf war and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, there have been significant changes in the array of organizations serving the veterans community. The Royal Canadian Legion, formed in the aftermath of the First World War, is still the largest and best known. Predating the Legion by many years is the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, also with branches across the country. Another organization, the National Council of Veterans Associations, brings together mostly 1939-45 groups, but it remains an effective advocacy voice. It also has close links with the War Amps.

The post-1945 era has seen the emergence of two peacekeeper organizations, namely the Canadian Association of Veterans in UN Peacekeeping and the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association. Then there is the newer NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, plus a host of small associations representing specific groups such as regiments, naval formations and squadrons, which are primarily collegial in nature, with minimal advocacy activity. Significantly, a recent phenomenon has altered the landscape, with the appearance of several veterans' advocacy groups that comprise little more than a website and a handful of officers, with few members in the traditional sense. Small as they are, these have dominated the headlines by virtue of a non-traditional, militant approach in support of veterans' causes, notably in the form of aggressive and occasionally vitriolic attacks on the federal government, the Prime Minister, Veterans Affairs Minister Julian Fantino and the bureaucrats of his department. To be sure, the record of both Conservative and Liberal governments over the past few decades has been less than perfect. Our military's heavy involvement in Afghanistan obviously raised the temperature of the debate. Like all wars, this one took a toll on those who were engaged in the conflict, reminding Canadians of their obligation to care for those who suffered as a consequence of military service. In 2006, the government introduced a New Veterans Charter in an attempt to articulate this obligation in practical terms, but not all of it was deemed satisfactory. This dissatisfaction led to a comprehensive review by the Parliamentary Committee on Veterans Affairs, whose recent report generated mixed reaction among veterans' organizations.

In the midst of all this, the militants have vigorously broadened their attacks on the government, largely over alleged failures in the medical treatment and financial compensation of disabled military personnel, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or other debilitating injuries. They have also derided the government for having closed a number of Veterans Affairs service centres across Canada. Lately, their campaign has taken on an ominous political tone. With an eye to the coming federal election, these vocal advocates are calling on

Canadians to vote against the Conservative government for what they see as its inadequate response to veterans' needs. Many of today's veterans – perhaps the great majority – are uncomfortable with parts of this rhetoric, even though they agree with the need for action. One reason for the discomfort is a growing feeling that the aggressive approach may very well be counterproductive – it could alter the positive image the Canadian public holds of its veterans, and in turn influence government support for their community. More to the point, unduly antagonizing the officials of the Veterans Affairs department can scarcely lead to a productive working environment in the search for solutions to current problems. In all of this, the mainstream veterans' organizations are becoming increasingly concerned about what is seen as an unhealthy trend toward confrontation, militancy, bitterness, unionism and politicization in the veterans' community. Part of the problem is that the proliferation of diverse veterans' organizations in this country tends to dilute their collective power and message. Each of the many groups has a legitimate role to play in representing its own members, but what's missing is an ability to speak with a common voice, incidentally reinforcing what has been a very sensible input from the Veterans' Ombudsman.

Recent attempts to bring the diverse traditional vets' groups together are beginning to show some modest success. But much more needs to be done collectively to debate the really important issues of the day, to decide on realistic solutions and to present these politely but forcefully. In the absence of such a process, the veterans' agenda will continue to be captured by the few who, by playing the political game, are seen to be risking the good name Canadian veterans have earned over the years. The veterans' cause must transcend party politics and campaign issues. Mainstream veterans firmly believe that political gamesmanship is not the answer. It might appeal to some partisan interests, but only at the expense of broad public support – without which the veterans' community at large cannot expect fulfilment of the nation's solemn obligation toward them.

Paul Manson is a former chief of the defence staff. He is currently the patron of the NATO Veterans Organization of Canada.

WWII 75th Anniversary Veterans Pin and Certificate

Here's something that should interest any of our members who served during the Second World War. **Living** Canadian Veterans of the Second World War may request a special commemorative lapel pin and certificate of recognition to mark the 75th anniversary of Canada's engagement in the War. The application may be made by a relative on behalf of a **living** veteran for those who cannot complete an application themselves. The Application form and instructions can be found online at this [link](#)

Upon completion it can be sent to:

Veterans Affairs Canada
Honours and Awards
66 Slater Street, 17th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P4

Who is it?



Last Week: A lot of conversation on this picture. Because the soldiers are all wearing different cap badges, we believe they are NCO Instructors at a Cadet Camp. The location could be Vernon or, more probably, Banff. No IDs on any of the people pictured. The picture was labeled as 1967.

This Week: This is another slide from Vic Stevenson's personal collection, and is just out of mind of many of us, having been taken in 1967, according to the date stamped on the frame. We can hazard a guess at the identities of the two officers, resplendent in their cut-away mess kits, and loaded with medals showing service overseas in World War Two, but we would rather



await your more educated and personal comments regarding them.

We'd also like to know what happened to the poor old tiger. He seems to have disappeared one night, but, when was that? Do you have a story about the tiger? Do you have him in your study right now, providing a cozy rest for your little Labradoodle? If so, you may return him and no questions will be asked (the tiger, not the dog).

Tiger skins can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

From the 'Punitenary'

Police arrested two kids the other day, one was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one - and let the other one off.

Murphy's other Laws

Build a system that even a fool can use and only a fool will want to use it.

Quotable Quotes

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure. - *Colin Powell*

Mainland BC Military Family CONNECTION OCT 2014

Download your OCTOBER 2014 Mainland BC Military Family CONNECTION, to stay up to date on our programming, news and events by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.familyforce.ca/sites/MainlandBC/EN/Documents/10Oct14News.pdf>

or by visiting their website at www.bcmfrc.com

Newsletter The Bugler - Oct 2014; Infolettre Le Clairon - oct 2014

The latest edition of The Bugler, the quarterly newsletter of the Last Post Fund, is now out. To read, go to:

Click here: [The Bugler - October 2014](#)

Cliquer ici : [Le Clairon - octobre 2014](#)



SOMETHING MONUMENTAL

COMING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 2014
HYACK SQUARE

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SOMETHING MONUMENTAL

COMING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 2014

THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER'S MAYOR AND COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO THE UNVEILING OF THE WAIT FOR ME DADDY WAR MEMORIAL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FAMOUS PHOTO TAKEN ON OCTOBER 1, 1940 BY CANADIAN PHOTOGRAPHER CLAUDE P. DETTLOFF OF THE PROVINCE NEWSPAPER. WHITEY BERNARD, THE YOUNG BOY FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH, WILL ALSO BE JOINING US FOR THIS MEMORABLE DAY.

THE WAR MEMORIAL WILL BE PERMANENTLY SITUATED AT NEW WESTMINSTER'S HYACK SQUARE, THE EXACT LOCATION THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT MARCHED THROUGH TO CATCH A WAITING TRAIN TO THEIR SECRET MILITARY TRAINING DESTINATION.

11:00 am: OFFICIAL UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL,
CANADIAN MINT COIN AND CANADA POST STAMP

12:30-3:00pm: UNVEILING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY:

- » OPENING OF WAIT FOR ME DADDY MUSEUM EXHIBIT
- » CANADIAN MINT TWOONIE EXCHANGE
- » CANADA POST FIRST DAY OF STAMP SALES
- » WAIT FOR ME DADDY VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT
- ... AND MUCH MORE.



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NEW WESTMINSTER



The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir &
Band of the 15th Field Regiment present

With Glowing Hearts: Songs of Remembrance

November 7th and 11th, 2014

Nov. 7, 7:30pm @ Gateway Theatre, Richmond
Nov. 11, 2:30pm @ South Delta Baptist Church,
Tsawwassen

Join Canada's largest male choir and premier military reserve band in a musical journey reflecting upon the innocence and optimism of the wartime era.



Tickets: \$27/\$24/\$10
at www.vwmc.ca or call
604-878-1190 for more info