



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 31, 2017

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. Guests are always welcome. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

Upcoming events – Mark your calendars Details to follow in future editions

Feb 4 **RV2017 - Regimental reunion dinner** - details at the end of the newsletter.

A slow response on this event. Please lets us know ASAP if you can attend.

Mar 3 **Scotch Tasting Fundraiser** - details at the end of the newsletter.

Dues

The Vancouver Artillery Association, 15 Fd Officers Mess and RUSI Vancouver are now collecting membership dues for 2017. See end of newsletter for details.

World War 2 - 1942

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

Feb 1942: Britain's Worst Defeat

General: 154 Allied merchant ships (679,600 tons) are lost this month, 100 to the Germans and 54 to the Japanese. Malta is bombed more or less continuously.

Feb 1st: The Kriegsmarine starts using a new cipher on their Enigma machines, which puts a damper on British naval intelligence in the Atlantic until the 'Wizards of Bletchley Park' can master it. The 8th Army withdraws to the Gazala line. US carriers raid Japanese air bases in the Marshals and Gilberts – to no real effect. Quisling has a new job as the head of the Nazi government in Norway.

Feb 3rd: The Japanese begin attack on Java, and the Dutch fighter strength in the region is immediately wiped out. The British evacuate Derna.

Feb 4th: A Dutch/American attempt to attack Japanese shipping off Java is defeated by Japanese airpower alone. Despite gallant resistance by Dutch and Australian troops, Amboina is

captured. Reinforcements arrive in Singapore, and a Japanese surrender demand is refused. One of the doomed ships of the American/Australian/British/Dutch naval force assembled to resist the Japanese onslaught in the East Indies is the cruiser USS Houston. From today until the ship sinks in Feb 27th, she will be damaged several times and repeatedly fight against heavy odds. Her skipper is Captain Albert H Rooks, who will fight his ship until he is mortally wounded with her on the 27th. Captain Rooks posthumously receives the Medal of Honor, and USS Houston remains an honored name in the memory of the US Navy.

Feb 5th: The UK declares war on Thailand – which is a putative Japanese ally/client state now.

Feb 6th: The Combined Chiefs of Staff meet for the first time in Washington. More Japanese troops land on Luzon to help deal with the siege of Bataan; depriving the Japanese empire of their use elsewhere.

Feb 7th: Panzer Armee Afrika stops at Gazala, having retaken much of the territory lost in December 1941. The Soviets launch an attack at Rzhev, west of Moscow. Todt, the Minister of Munitions, is killed in a plane crash and Albert Speer steps up as his replacement (which is bad news for the Allies as Speer is much more efficient).

Canadian Troops, Researcher Evaluate Nett Warrior System

Tests in tactical field situations. *Nestor Arellano Jan 20 2017*

Member of the Canadian Army tested and assess the effectivity of a mobile communication and situation awareness wearable system designed for the foot soldier in a recent war game exercise that pitted them against similarly equipped opponents. At the US Joint Staff-led demonstration Bold Quest was held at Fort Stewart, Georgia, last fall, Canadian soldiers and their counterparts from 17 other partner nations were outfitted with Nett Warrior (also formerly known as Ground Soldier System) an integrated dismounted leader situational awareness (SA) system for use during combat operations of the United States Army. The system is connected, through a secure radio, to a network. It displays the location of individual soldiers, vehicles, points of interest, and enemy activity on a digital geo-referenced map, and enables communication of voice, data, and location messages.

The system provides SA to the dismounted leader. It enables faster and more accurate decisions in the tactical fight. The system features advanced navigation, SA, and information sharing capabilities. With it, soldiers are able to avoid friendly-fire situations and can become more precise in the execution of their combat missions. Dr. Katherine Banko, a Defence scientist from Defence Research and Development Canada's Centre for Operational Research and Analysis (DRDC CORA), evaluated how the technology impacted combat effectiveness. "Operational research is exciting in that we can apply a method to tactical field demonstrations like Bold Quest to gain additional data that otherwise can't be gathered," explained Dr. Banko. "Unlike the controlled setting of a lab, the biggest challenge is getting valid and reliable data in a military environment where anything can and does happen."

The first iteration of Nett Warrior was introduced at the Network Integration Evaluation 11.2 assessment in spring 2011. By mid-2012, the Nett Warrior had morphed from a 10-lb Ground Soldier System to one that is based on an “end user device,” essentially an Android or iPhone-like smartphone tied to the Rifleman handheld radio. The device links to command and control networks and uses applications to call in fire support, plan and coordinate operations, and track friendly forces. In 2013, the US Army installed the Samsung Galaxy Note II into Nett Warrior as the system’s end user device. The US Army’s 2016 budget includes funding to field Nett Warrior in three brigade combat teams, increasing information and situational awareness for dismounted platoon, squad, and team leaders. During the exercise, two sections from 38 Canadian Brigade Group and a section from the New Zealand Army formed a platoon embedded into a US company. The troops conducted missions against a near peer enemy force also wearing the same technology.



ISS Argus Rheinmetall ISS

In addition to Bold Quest, Canada took part in the US Army’s Warfighting Assessment (AWA) 17.1 exercise alongside more than 5000 personnel from the US, Australia, Denmark, Italy, and the UK earlier last fall. The AWA, held at Fort Bliss, Texas, was a virtual combat simulation against a near-peer enemy. The exercise allowed coalition forces to conduct realistic operations to improve how they fight, communicate, and share digital data on the battlefield. As part of the AWA, Emile Pelletier, a DRDC CORA scientist, assessed how the Canadian Army’s 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group used the Land Command Support System in planning and conducting tactical operations. With rugged laptops for the

headquarters, radios for vehicles, and forward-deployed soldiers on the ground, the Land Command Support System allowed the Canadian Army to communicate with each other and other nations. “The unique thing about these types of exercises is that they help the operators to work better with their international partners, but they also offer scientists great insight into the evolution and direction in which we should take our scientific research for their benefit,” said Pelletier.

Army Eyes Lasers in Dealing with IEDs and Drone Threats

Steven Fouchard Jan 19 2017

In the late 1960s, Canadian researchers working at the Defence Research Establishment in Valcartier, Quebec made a game-changing advance in laser technology with the development of a laser known as the CO₂-TEA, which continues to have many industrial applications. Today,

the Canadian Army continues to take a serious look at the latest in laser technology and is finding plenty of promise. The key priorities for the CA are finding safer ways to deal with improvised explosive devices (IEDs), unexploded ordnance and unmanned threats such as drones. Michel Szymczak, Director Science & Technology (Army) at Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC), oversees the Army's science and technology portfolio, within which new technologies are studied. "Lasers have great potential," said Szymczak. "Our purpose is to further our understanding of the technology, what it can do, what the benefits and limitations for military applications are and how safe they are to operate. Then we inform the army what those capabilities are and what those possibilities are." More specifically, DRDC is investigating potential new uses for high-energy laser (HEL) technology. As Szymczak pointed out, they have come a long way from the liquid-cooled 10-watt laser he used as a graduate student in the mid-1980s. "It burnt paper and wood if you kept it long enough on the target. And now we're at tens of kilowatts," or a thousand times more powerful, he explained. Researchers recently broke "the 100-kilowatt barrier," he added, though the CA is working with kilowatt-class lasers. HEL technology is widely used in the civilian world for welding work, Szymczak said.

The CA already has other laser tools in its arsenal, including range finders, target acquisition systems, and Visual Warning Technology. "We're working to see how we could neutralize unmanned vehicles using lasers," Szymczak explained. "You could have an effect on the sensors and the optics by delivering that concentration of energy on the target. You could disrupt or destroy it. It's been demonstrated by the United States that you can track and disable air platforms." Crude but devastating IEDs took a heavy toll in Afghanistan. HEL-based devices, including two on loan to the CA from the United States, offer the promise of a much safer way to disarm, neutralize and destroy them. One has been mounted to the turret of a Cougar vehicle as a demonstrator. The Cougar is one of three vehicles in the CA's Expedient Route Opening Capability, which supports the detection and disposal of buried IEDs. "What you can do is target specific components of the IED," said Mr. Szymczak. "For example, if you see wires, you could cut the wires from a distance. The advantage is that you do it while keeping the soldiers out of harm's way and neutralize the threat in a timely manner. The distance could be from a few metres to a few hundred metres. So, it's quite significant."



A Canadian Armed Forces member takes aim with a Multiple Integrated Laser Emanating Systems simulated rocket launcher while conducting a simulated attack during Exercise ALLIED SPIRIT IV in January 2016. Canadian Army researchers are investigating the potential of more powerful laser devices that may be effective tools against improvised explosive devices and other threats. Photo by: Cpl. Nathan Moulton

Another aspect of upcoming research, he added, is countering the lasers that some future adversary could use against Canadian troops.

“Right now there are simple means that are being used, such as smoke as an obscurant,” Szymczak said. “There are different compositions of smoke for different threats – you hamper the propagation of the beam in the air. One day lasers will be used as a threat against us, so that’s something we have to keep in the back of our minds. We will be exposed to it sooner or later. As such, we have to consider emerging threats and ensure that the Army is not technologically surprised.” Lt Col Jake Galuga, who has been observing DRDC’s work for the CA’s Directorate of Land Requirements, added that, while the technology has been proven, there is still some way to go in determining how it can best be integrated into the CA. “It is going to take a while to figure out if and how we want to use it,” he said. “There are legal aspects to consider, there are practical aspects to consider and certainly developing any new technology takes resources.” “High-energy lasers are not far-future items in terms of technological readiness,” he added. “The notion that this is 30, 40, 100 years down the road needs to be dispelled.”

11 Things You Need to Know About the US Army's New Handgun

Meghann Myers and Michelle Tan January 20, 2017

Half a decade into its search for a new handgun, the Army has chosen Sig Sauer's P320 as its new service pistol.



The Sig Sauer P320 was selected as the Army's new handgun, officials announced Jan. 19. The handguns will be delivered over a period of 10 years.

Photo Credit: Courtesy photo from Sig Sauer

Here's what we know so far:

- The P320, released by Sig Sauer in 2014, is a polymer striker-fired pistol, according to a statement from the gunmaker.
- The new sidearm will replace the M9 Beretta, the Army’s pistol of choice for more than 30 years, according to an Army announcement Jan 19.
- The P320 is the first modular pistol with interchangeable grip modules that can also be adjusted in frame size and caliber by the user.
- It can be adapted to shoot 9mm, .357 SIG and .40 S&W ammunition, according to Sig Sauer.
- Although neither the Army nor Sig Sauer announced which caliber the Army chose, media reports say the Army chose the 9mm version.
- Sig Sauer confirmed that the Army had selected both the full size and compact P320.
- Soldiers should start getting the new handguns this year, with all of the contract’s weapons delivered over a period of 10 years.

- All pistols will be configurable to receive silencers.
- The pistols will have standard and extended capacity magazines.
- The gun boasts a stainless-steel frame that allows users to “**change caliber, size and fit at will,**” according to promotional material from Sig Sauer. It also has a “cleaner, crisper trigger reset, safe takedown and unprecedented modularity,” the company said.
- The pistols will be produced at Sig Sauer facilities in New Hampshire, the company said.

The Army first announced the competition for the Modular Handgun System back in 2011, but multiple delays left the most recent solicitation deadline at February of 2016. Sig Sauer beat out companies such as Glock and Beretta for the \$580 million contract, which includes firearms, accessories and ammunition. As of Jan 20, the Army had not provided any additional information on the contract or the weapon. “We are both humbled and proud that the P320 was selected by the US Army as its weapon of choice,” said Ron Cohen, president and CEO of Sig Sauer, in a statement. “Securing this contract is a testimony to Sig Sauer employees and their commitment to innovation, quality and manufacturing the most reliable firearms in the world.” Army acquisition executive Steffanie Easter said she is “tremendously proud” of the Modular Handgun System team. “By maximizing full and open competition across our industry partners, we have optimized private sector advancements in handguns, ammunition and magazines and the end result will ensure a decidedly superior weapon system for our warfighters,” she said.

Britain's Doomsday Nuke Subs Still Run Windows XP

The fate of the country's nukes is in the hands of an obsolete operating system.

Kyle Mizokami Jan 21, 2016



Britain's fleet of missile submarines, HMS *Vanguard*, *Victorious*, *Vigilant*, and *Vengeance*, are four of the deadliest ships ever built. Armed with nuclear weapons, the four "boomers" patrol the oceans, providing a powerful deterrent against a surprise nuclear attack on the United Kingdom. The four *Vanguard*-class ballistic missile

submarines provide the UK's entire nuclear deterrent. Each nuclear-powered submarine has up to eight Trident II missiles and a total of 40 nuclear warheads. That's enough firepower to devastate entire countries. It's an awesome responsibility, and the submarines are built to the task. Nuclear reactors provide enough power to remain submerged almost indefinitely, while Spearfish torpedoes provide defense against enemy submarines. The four submarines have just one critical flaw: They all run Windows XP.

The submarines were commissioned in the 1990s. According to *The Guardian*, Windows XP was installed because it was "cheaper than alternatives." The software is even branded as

"Windows for Submarines." A joke? We're not sure. Microsoft ended security updates for Windows XP in 2014, meaning that the *Vanguard* submarines could be vulnerable to viruses, malware, and cyberattacks. As with any software release, each update fixes existing problems but introduces the likelihood of new ones. The Redmond, Washington company issued a grim reminder to XP holdouts in 2014, warning: "Any PC running Windows XP after April 8, 2014 should not be considered protected as there will be no security updates for the Windows XP operating system."

The USN also still runs Windows XP, but it is paying for extra security and updates while it transitions to more modern operating systems. A \$9 million tech support deal it cut with Microsoft is good until July 2016, with an option to extend for another year for \$31 million. The *Guardian* article makes no mention of the Royal Navy cutting a similar deal, the UK's Ministry of Defence only insisting the submarines are "safe and secure." The Royal Navy is currently designing the next generation of its ballistic missile submarines to replace the *Vanguard* class, with the first boat to be delivered in 2028. Twenty years from now, there's a good chance Popular Mechanics will be decrying the submarines' reliance on Windows 10.

Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

The 1991 yearbook continues to have material added. It must have been a very busy year! Either that or there was a camera sale and more Gunners were taking photographs. There was the band performance at SeaWorld and the plaque unveiling at Point Grey. Check it out at <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/1991.html>

Added fifty new names to the on-line nominal roll for a total of 2400 members that have served with 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA at some time in their career.

There's a big reminder about our upcoming Regimental Birthday Party on 4 February 2017. Check out the details at the end of the newsletter. Send your RSVPs to LeonJ1@hotmail.com Have you got a story that you might wish to share? Some additional photographs? Contact Leon Jensen at LeonJ1@hotmail.com

Who Is It

Last Week: This exercise was held over the Victoria Day weekend at Fort Lewis 1972 and Sgt



M Meehan is showing cadets the ammunition being used. The cadets were from the Regiment's cadet corps and the GPO directed them to his gun to have him explain operations on the gun position. The numbers one of the exercise were Sgt G Wood, Sgt B Amos, Sgt D Friedsam, and Sgt M Meehan. His gun crew consisted of the following, in the position of number two through four: Gnr A Edwards, Gnr C Elezam, Gnr R

Prokop, Gnr R McCracken. Gnr G Mutton was the number seven/driver. The picture was taken on Saturday, 19 May, 1972, just before lunch.

This Week: This week's photo comes from the batch of negatives mentioned a while ago. All were taken in the early 1950s, and are of the old 102nd Coast Regiment (RCA). As noted in previous quizzes, this unit, which later amalgamated with the 43rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment (RCA), was probably the first in Canada to enlist baptised Sikhs, and allow them to continue wearing their turbans, almost forty years before the controversy of turbans in the RCMP (a gunner-founded policing agency, apparently).



In any case, there are no pugarees in this photo, taken on Vancouver's Island. Oddly, there are very few caps or berets, either. The little band has berets, as do four of the officer wallahs on the right. However, everyone else is hatless, in spite of being outside, and standing at attention. Do you know why? I don't, so send your answers to the editor, bob.mugford@outlook.com or the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net) and enlighten us.

From the 'Punitary'

What did the boy cat say to the girl cat on Valentine's Day? You're purrr-fect for me!

Murphy's Other Laws

Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

Quotable Quotes

Dare to be honest and fear no labour. - *Robert Burns*

Dues for 2017

It's that time of year again. In most local organizations, annual dues are payable as of Jan 1st. Last year we went through a change which many found confusing so we are going back to the old way for 2017.

15 Fd Officers Mess Associate Members dues are \$60, payable to - '15 RCA Officers Mess'. By mail, send to the *Associate Members Representative, Officers Mess*, at the address below.

Vancouver Artillery Association dues are \$25, payable to the '*Van Arty Assoc*'. By mail, send to the *Treasurer, Van Arty Assoc* at the address below.

RUSI Vancouver dues are \$40, payable to '*RUSI Van*'. By mail, send to the *Treasurer, RUSI Van* at the address below.

If you are coming to the weekly lunch or other event at the Armoury, in the near future, you can hand deliver payment, cheques preferred, to the appropriate representative of these organizations, as they are all regular attenders.

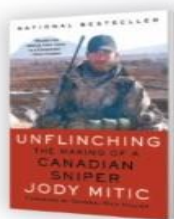
Mailing Address (Appropriate Representative)
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

For **Mess Associate and Van Arty Assoc members** there is an option to pay by email transfer, if you can access your account on line. Go to your account and initiate an email transfer, sending the required amount to 15fdtreasurer@gmail.com You can send a bulk payment for both groups but please ensure that you indicate which organization(s) your payment is intended for. **Note: The email address and the email payment system above is not working until Feb 4th, as the Treasurer is on vacation and can't access that inbox. The inbox is full and rejecting emails. Sorry for the inconvenience.**

CALL FOR CANADIAN SOLDIER STORIES

DO YOU HAVE A STORY to tell about being in the military? About facing danger, making sacrifices? Is there someone in the military who made an impact on you?

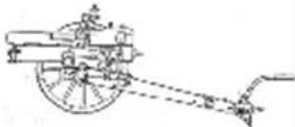
If you're a veteran or an active soldier in the CAF we want to hear from you.



Bestselling author
JODY MITIC
wants your story
for an upcoming
book to be published by Simon & Schuster Canada.

To submit your story, go to
www.canadiansoldierstories.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 28, 2017



RV 2017

**Regimental 97th Birthday
Saturday, February 4th, 2017
1800 Hours – 2400 Hours
Bessborough Armoury
\$30.00 per person**

The evening is open to all members of The 15th Field Artillery Regiment, currently serving or retired, their spouses, all members of other Regiments that may have served alongside of The 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA and currently serving or retired members of the Cadet Instructor Cadre affiliated with the Regiment.

It's time to phone up some of those old time buddies and get together at Bessborough Armoury to share some memories. Dig out your old horn and join in a jam session with the Band.

The Messes will be opened with a planned theme in each. In the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess there'll be a turntable with World War 2 vinyl playing.

Bring down some of your old photos for scanning that night! Too many? Bring them all down in a shoebox and we'll return them in a couple of weeks after scanning.

<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new/rv-2017-birthdayreunion-party-4-february-2017>



15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA & The 78th Fraser's Highlanders Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night

The 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78th Fraser's Highlanders invite you, and any like-minded guests of your acquaintance, to attend our annual fund raising and whiskey tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music. Did we say whisky?

Tickets are **\$55.00** per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by our famous whisky elves, Chuck & John, or a meager **\$25.00** if you are only having beer, wine, or soft drinks from our No-Host Bar.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for the full whisky fleet!

Dress is business casual. kilts, and highland dress, of course, are welcome.

DATE: Friday – March 3rd, 2017

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA

LOCATION: 2025 West 11th Ave Van, BC V6J
2C7

DO NOT MISS OUT!

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:

Major James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: barrettjd007@gmail.com

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Fort Fraser Garrison.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations upon request.



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR



ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST MALE VOICE CHOIRS

STOUT HEARTED MEN

Saturday, February 25th, 7:30pm

HIGHLANDS UNITED CHURCH

3255 Edgemont Blvd, North Vancouver

\$29 adult • \$27 senior • \$12 student

Tickets Available:

ONLINE from vwmc.ca or call 604-878-1190.

Tickets are also available from Highlands United Church office and choir members.

VWMC Concert is jointly sponsored by:



Highlands United Church
Phone: (604) 980-6071

and



St. Catherine's Anglican Church
Phone: (604) 985-0666