



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Feb 3, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches and these lunches can only survive if sufficient numbers attend regularly. Attendance numbers went down the last few weeks of the year and we need your support to keep the lunches going so, if you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. We serve a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal, or a better deal, anywhere.

The Mess is back to 'winter' dress so dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Your guests are always welcome.

Valentine's Dinner in the Officers Mess

The dinner is now **SOLD OUT**.

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1914

Jan 27th and 28th: [In] two days of attacks and counter attacks, very fierce and severe scrapping, we regained all the lost ground, and numbers of prisoners were taken. No further casualties at the guns, which was lucky considering the shell fire they put over at intervals. The Germans did a great deal of entrenching during the nights and we had some good targets to shoot at during the day. Our guns were dandy, for considering the enormous amount of shooting they had done throughout this campaign, they were still perfectly accurate and our Lyddite accounted for many things.

Jan 29th to Feb 5th: A rather quiet period, the enemy seemed to have [undecipherable] off a little, for at times they never replied to our fire, and the attacks of the previous week seemed to have quieted them considerably.

World War 2 - November 1939

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

Feb 1st: The Japanese produce their largest budget ever, with half of the government's expenditures directed towards military spending. The Soviets resume offensive operations against the Mannerheim Line; with 14 Soviet divisions and 6 armoured brigades of 7th and 13th Armies largely gnawing on 3rd Finnish division's sector.

Feb 3rd: An intruding He-111 bomber becomes the first Luftwaffe aircraft to be shot down over Britain.

Feb 5th: The Anglo-French Supreme War Council decides to intervene in Norway and aid Finland, but planning is being done on the fly with little time for detailed staff work.

How to Fix Defence Procurement

David Perry. January 21, 2015 Ottawa Citizen



HMCS Toronto returns to port in Halifax on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015. The frigate was on a six-month deployment with Operation Reassurance in the Mediterranean Sea.

Andrew Vaughan / THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Department of National Defence is facing a bizarre situation. Despite a pressing need for new equipment, and parliamentary approval to replace almost every major piece of military hardware in its inventory, it has been unable to actually spend billions of dollars allocated to equipping our fighting forces. Since 2008, nearly a quarter of DND's procurement funds went unspent every year, more than \$7 billion in total. This is a historically unprecedented problem; dating back to the 1970s, the average funds DND left unspent averaged only two per cent a year. The best example is the replacement of Canada's ageing fleet of CF-18 fighter jets. After the Auditor General's 2012 report slammed the process that led Canada to the F-35, the project was placed on hiatus pending the completion of a seven-point plan. That effort was finished last spring, but the government has not yet made a decision 33 months after it charted a new way forward.

While the unused money has significantly helped the federal bottom line, making a major contribution to reducing the deficit, DND has lost millions in purchasing power due to inflation. Without an infusion of additional procurement funds, fewer, or less capable, ships, aircraft and trucks can now be afforded within the current budget. This also means the military must wait longer for new equipment, which in some cases has been on order for over a decade. Meanwhile current fleets become increasingly obsolescent, or in the case of the navy's supply ships, are taken out of service years before they can be replaced. A new Defence Procurement Strategy (DPS) was launched almost a year ago by the federal government. While this is mostly oriented towards improving the domestic economic benefits of defence acquisitions, it is also intended to facilitate timely delivery. The strategy is a good start, but must be accompanied by other changes. First and foremost, the capacity of the acquisition workforce must be improved. Over the last decade, the number of big and complex defence procurements increased significantly but the acquisition workforce did not, resulting in too few people with too little experience spending too little time on complicated files before rotating off to their next job. The system needs more acquisition experts, increased access to training and professional development, and retainment in key positions. The workforce should then be assigned based on a prioritized shortlist of key projects, identified through the renewal of the Canada First Defence Strategy (CFDS). Given their huge costs and how critical these capabilities are, the fighter procurement and entire shipbuilding program should top this list.

That same review needs to fundamentally reassess how much of the CFDS procurement plan is still affordable in lieu of lost buying power, budget cuts and inadequate initial funding. Financial resources should be directed to a few key priorities, instead of simply buying a little less of everything, as in the past. This needs to be accompanied by improved efforts to cost defence projects according to an accepted, government-wide life-cycle costing framework that reflects the realities of the Canadian acquisition system. Although progress has been made, Canadians are still concerned about overly complicated requirements, flawed project costing, strained relationships with the defence industry, and several failed procurements. Until trust in the system is restored, acquisitions will suffer. The DPS's new governance structure should help, but ultimately, trust in the defence procurement system won't be restored until it can demonstrate repeated success. Some recent projects have gone well, such as the upgrade of the navy's frigates. But more change is needed to prevent billions in much needed procurement funds going unspent each year.

132 Year Old Winchester Rifle Found Leaning against a Tree

Family History Daily / January 19, 2015



Known as the “Gun that Won the West,” the Winchester Model 1873 was a very popular rifle in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. More than 720,610 were manufactured between 1873 and 1916, selling for about \$50 when they first came out. The guns reduced in price to \$25 in 1882 making them increasingly accessible.

But why was one left leaning against a tree—forgotten, perhaps, for more than a century—in a remote part of Nevada? That’s the question researchers are asking themselves after Eva Jensen, Cultural Resource Program Manager for the Great Basin National Park, discovered one last November as she was working with a park archaeology team. Numerous questions surround the small piece of American heritage in Great Basin National Park. The 132-year-old rifle, exposed to sun, wind, snow, and rain was found leaning against a tree in the park. The cracked wood stock, weathered to grey, and the brown rusted barrel blended into the colors of the old juniper tree in a remote rocky outcrop, keeping the rifle hidden for many years.

“Model 1873” distinctively engraved on the mechanism identify the rifle as the Winchester Model 1873 repeating rifle. The serial number on the lower tang corresponds in Winchester records held at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West Museum in Cody, Wyoming, with a manufacture and shipping date of 1882. At this time, the detailed history of this rifle is unknown. Winchester records do not indicate who purchased the rifle from the warehouse or where it was shipped. The rifle was not loaded when it was found, but would have held 44-40 caliber ammunition when in use.

CSE Spy Chief Shuffled to Defence

LEE BERTHIAUME OTTAWA CITIZEN January 26, 2015



John Forster, Chief of Communications Security Establishment, is moving over to the Department of National Defence. Fred Chartrand / The Canadian Press

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has tapped a second spymaster to serve as the top bureaucrat at National Defence.

Harper announced Monday that Communications Security Establishment chief John Forster will take over as deputy minister for National Defence on Feb 2. Forster has served as head of the super-secret electronic surveillance agency since January 2012. His tenure has coincided with explosive revelations, first exposed by U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden, about massive data spying efforts by the U.S. National Security Agency.

CSE hasn't been spared from the resulting controversy, as questions have been raised about how much information the government was collecting about Canadians, and whether more oversight is needed. Forster's appointment comes after Harper shuffled another former spymaster out of the top job. Richard Fadden was head of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service when he was named deputy minister of defence in May 2013. Fadden was appointed Harper's national security adviser earlier this month.

Taking over CSE will be Greta Bossenmaier, who is best known for heading the multi-departmental Afghanistan task force from 2009 to 2012. She will be responsible for continuing to guide the spy agency amid increasing public scrutiny. Bossenmaier has served the past three years as a senior official in the now-defunct Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Looking For WW 2 Gnr Vets Who Helped Liberate The Netherlands

RHQ RCA (along with a number of military/unit associations across Canada) were contacted by VAC last Thursday regarding Canada's participation in the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands activities. I "attended" a VAC telecon-based meeting yesterday on this topic where they provided additional details (sketchy at this time).

In short Canada is looking to send an 80 person strong contingent of Vets who were involved with the liberation of the Netherlands. They want all/as many units as possible involved in that liberation represented within this contingent. There is also additional VAC funding available for vets (again who were involved with the liberation) to attend who do not make up the official contingent. In both cases there is funding available for a care-giver to travel with the vet. VAC will be sending details to us in the coming days. Their deadline for completed Vet application forms (not yet provided) is 27 Feb – this may slide right as details solidify.

I do not believe there are many surviving Gunner vets who fit this bill. So as a first order of business, I am seeking to use your extensive knowledge and contacts to help compile such a list – and then make contact with them and advise them of this opportunity. Alternately, if we cannot confidently generate that list ourselves, I would like to use your respective contact lists to get the message out to the Gunner vet community at large and then pass on VAC documents/guidance as it becomes available to those who indicate interest.

Any assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Major MJ (Mike) Draho
Regimental Major | Major régimentaire
RHQ RCA | QGR de l'ARC
204-765-3000 x 3595 (civ) | 258-3595 (CSN) | FAX: 204-765-5289
michael.draho@forces.gc.ca
CFB Shilo | PO Box 5000 Station Main | Shilo, MB | R0K 2A0

The Defence Engagement Program Targeted Engagement Grants

The Defence Engagement Program (DEP) at the Department of National Defence is extending the submission deadline for the second round of Targeted Engagement Grants for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. Applicants now have until February 9, 2015 to apply. You will find attached the Defence Team Engagement Priorities and the grant application form.

The Targeted Engagement Grant Program provides non-recurring, financial support, up to a maximum of \$25,000, to projects that can include conferences, roundtables, workshops, and other scholarly activities. Requests for funding are assessed primarily on the proposed project's ability to inform, confirm, or challenge current and future defence policy thinking.

For more information, please check the DEP website at the following link:

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/training-paid-education/grant-program.page>

Government Intends to Extend Iraq Mission

Will introduce motion for House support in April By TIM NAUMETZ | 01/29/2015



Defence Minister Rob Nicholson, pictured in a file photo, testified at the House Defence committee on Jan. 29.

The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright

PARLIAMENT HILL—The government intends to extend air-strike and military advisory operations against ISIL forces in Iraq with a motion seeking the House's support in April, Defence Minister Rob Nicholson has indicated. Mr. Nicholson (Niagara Falls, Ont.) referred to

the plan during a special joint Commons committee hearing on Thursday, as he and the chief of Canada's defence staff, Tom Lawson, faced opposition grilling over allegations Canadian Special Forces advising Iraqi security forces have contravened an original Commons motion endorsing the mission that disallowed combat operations. Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Lawson repeated government denials over the past two weeks that three recent incidents, where Canadian soldiers "neutralized" ISIL fighters who had shot at the Canadians as they were accompanying Iraqi troops or guiding air strikes toward ISIL installations or locations, meant the Canadians were conducting combat operations.

During his testimony, Mr. Nicholson referred to the first Commons vote endorsing the air-strike mission last October, and noted a six-month review of the Operation Impact mission is due by April 8, under conditions set by the October motion. "Are we there for eternity?" Mr. Nicholson said. "We have been very clear as a government. We have said we have a six-month mission and we have come before Parliament and had Parliament to either endorse or not endorse what we were doing." Mr. Nicholson indicated the government will seek approval in the House to extend it. "We've been very clear up to this point in time that we would like to have the support of Parliament," he said. "I'm hoping this time the NDP will have a look at this, and say how do we measure success? It's the kind of thing that we've been talking about. When you push back ISIL I believe that's part of the success."

An aide to Mr. Nicholson later confirmed his remarks could be interpreted as a signal the government intends to extend the mission with a Commons vote in April. The term of the renewed mission would also be six months. Both the Liberals and the NDP voted against the initial motion last October, although the Liberals said immediately after the vote they would back the mission from then on in support of the Canadian air force and a total 600 Canadian Forces personnel involved in support roles, as well as nearly 70 special operations forces who now are taking part in advisory and air-strike roles close enough to ISIL forces to come under fire. Mr. Lawson, Prime Minister Stephen Harper (Calgary Southwest, Alta.) and Mr. Nicholson have made conflicting statements about the role Canadian soldiers on the ground have been playing since last October. Mr. Lawson said early on that Canadian soldiers were there to advise and assist Iraqi security forces and Kurdish soldiers in northern Iraq, but not to accompany them.

Over the past weeks, in light of the army's disclosure of Canadian troops returning fire against ISIL forces who had shot at them, the general has stated the mission has evolved, but at the committee denied that the new phase of operations has put Canadian soldiers into a combat role. "I think we should be very clear about what a combat operation is," Mr. Lawson, a former career air force fighter pilot, said in response to questions from NDP MP Jack Harris (St. John's East, Nfld.). "That, defined in military doctrine, is a military operation where the use of force is essential to accomplish a mission." "The non-combat operation, which is exactly what we have the mandate for in advise and assist, is one where military operations, certainly our special operations forces are carrying weaponry, but they are only used in self-defence," he said.

“When I made my comments in October, that was based on 15 years as a fighter pilot working with tactical air controllers. These tactical air controllers that I worked with had always been on the very front,” he said. Mr. Harris asked Mr. Lawson when the mission evolved to allow Canadians close to Iraqi forces near ISIL targets, and who gave the order. “What I had not anticipated at that time, in October, was that those tactical air controllers [the special forces troops in Iraq] would be able to develop techniques that would allow them, from the relative safety of their ‘advise and assist’ positions, to be able to help the Peshmerga Iraqi security forces, bring the weaponry of coalition bombers to bear,” Mr. Lawson told the committee. “So in fact I provided them, within the ‘advise and assist’ mission, the authority to go ahead with that well within the mandate given to us by the government,” he said.

Global Hawk UAV



This is a photo of the Global Hawk UAV that recently returned from the war zone under its own power. (Edward's AFB in Ca. to Iraq and back again.) Not transported via C5 or C17. Note the mission paintings on the fuselage, it's flown over 250 missions. (And I would suppose has collected 25 air medals.) That's a long way for a remotely piloted aircraft. Think of the technology as well as the required quality of the data link to fly it remotely from a source thousands of

miles away. Not only that, but the pilot controls it from a nice warm control panel at Edwards AFB, Ca. It can stay airborne for 2 days at altitudes above 60-thousand feet. The Global Hawk is controlled via satellite. Basically, the UAV's dive into the fight at a high Mach using full thrust power, fire their AMRAAMS, and leave. No one ever sees them, and they have no radar signature. [I feel certain they have a radar signature, but the RCS is so low as to render them invisible.] There is no radio chatter because all the UAV controllers in the flight are tied together electronically, and can see who is targeting what, and they have AWACS aircraft (Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems) direct input, as well as 360° situational awareness from satellites, and other sensors. The enemy cannot see them, cannot hear them, they are to air superiority what the jet engine was to aviation.

The UAV's can taxi out, take off, fly a mission, return, land and taxi back to their hangar on their own. They can recognize familiar landscapes, other aircraft, and ships at sea. They can fly through storms, in daytime, and in total darkness. They suffer no blackouts, no pilot fatigue, no relief tubes, no ejection seats, and best of all, no dead pilots.

Who is it?

Last Week: This photo was taken in Vernon, in May of 1944 and shows the 25pdr guns of the 24th Field Regiment on the range. Mounted on top of the barrel of this gun is a Bren Gun Mk1. This configuration was used to practice direct fire target engagement. It was far cheaper than using regular ammunition and also allowed direct fire practice to occur on any small arms range.



This Week: Ordnance is something that fascinates soldiers, sailors, and even some air personnel, although the latter might understand the term in ways that the former two do.



However, all can agree that this piece of ordnance is impressive.

The photo is fairly recent, given that garb of the gunnerette (as they were proposed to be known initially, according to a respected source) consists of smartly-pressed “combats”. However, even given the budget-mindedness of the Canadian government, the ordnance piece beside her seems a tad out of date. However, it could have been in service had the proposed “de-museumization” scheme of the late 1970s actually been

implemented as a drastic way of cutting expenditures. Such a policy is not now necessary, given that our current C-3 guns are based on a design older than that 25 pdr.

So, our questions are two: what is that gun, and who is the gunner? And, possibly if you are super-sharp, where was the photo taken and what has become of the comely Amazon?

Your ideas can be sent to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net). Thanks again.

From the ‘Punitary’

What happened when the computer fell on the floor? It slipped a disc.

Murphy’s other Laws

To err is human but to really screw things up requires a computer.

Quotable Quotes

Democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not." -- Thomas Jefferson

Whiskey Tasting

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 welcome you to attend our annual Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at the historic Bessborough Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music.

Tickets are \$55.00 per person for those sampling a selection of six excellent Whiskeys selected by the Officers of the Mess, or \$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 6th, 2015

TIME: 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

LOCATION: 15th Field Artillery Regiment RCA
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.

2015 BC Army Gala



Support BC Military Families at the 2015 BC Army Gala!

Join us in supporting our modern-day troops and their families,
while still celebrating those of days past.

The 2015 BC Army Gala not only pays tribute to the sacrifices of our military past, but also the current enlisted men and women and their families.

Along with live music, dancers and Steve Darling as MC the BC Army Gala will feature a wonderful night out celebrating a good cause. What better way to support The Mainland BC Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) than to come out to the 2015 BC Army Gala!

MFRC has implemented the Military Family Support Program (MFSP) and operates this program through Military Family Resource Centres at all Canadian bases, wings and stations, as well as at some foreign locations. The programs cover a wide breadth of areas from personal health to family issues and crisis intervention.

Tickets are available for purchase at \$140 each, and are selling quickly. The BC Army Gala team looks forward to seeing you at the Hyatt Regency on March 28th.

Event Count-Down: **53 Days** until the 2015 BC Army Gala!


Visit the link below to purchase your tickets today:

<http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2015-bc-army-gala-tickets-13545802861?aff=efbevent>

Thank you for your continued interest and we look forward to seeing you at The BC Army Gala 2015!

To learn more about the MFRC, visit their website by clicking [here](#).

The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir
with
The Richmond Singers



Directed by
Jonathan Quick &
Natasha Neufeld



*My Funny
Valentine*

February 14, 2015 - 7:30pm

Bethany Baptist Church
22680 Westminster Hwy
Richmond, BC

Tickets: Adult \$27 | Senior \$24
Student \$10 (with ID) | Children (under 12 free)

Order By Phone (604) 878-1190

Buy Online www.vwmc.ca or

Buy from any Welsh Men's Choir or Richmond Singers Choir member or at the door