



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 3, 2016

Newsletter on line. This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: www.vancouvergunners.ca and the RUSI Vancouver website at: <http://www.rusivancouver.ca/newsletter.html>

Wednesday Lunches The 15 Field Officers Mess serves a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal - or a better deal, anywhere. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. Jacket and tie required, equivalent for ladies. We are now pushing the 3rd Wed lunch each month as the Van Arty Association lunch and encouraging members to attend. Come meet some old friends and help with the Yearbook project.

Concert – Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment

International Military Band Concert

Date: Monday, May 23rd, 2016 **Time:** 2:30pm

Location: Chandos Pattison Auditorium, [10238 168 Street](#), Surrey

Tickets: Family \$45, Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Children \$10.

Available online at: <https://www.picatic.com/imbc> **More information at end of newsletter**

World War 2 - 1941

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

May 4th: Rommel realizes that Tobruk won't go the fast way, and so it is closely picketed as he turns his attention eastwards. German aircraft land in Iraq (via Vichy-Syria) and the British decide there is no time to waste on this crisis. The Italians at Amba Alagi are chased off of three Ethiopian hill-tops as the British close in; but the Italians have heavily fortified the mountain itself and have ample supplies of food and ammunition.

May 5th: Haile Selassie comes home to Addis Ababa at the head of his troops. RN destroyers conduct the first night supply run into Tobruk. The first of some 480 'F Section' agents of the Special Operations Executive are clandestinely parachuted into France.

May 6th: The RAF station at Habbinyah in Iraq is now quite secure and more Indian troops arrive in Basra. Operation Tiger begins as the British heavily reinforce a convoy at Gibraltar for a supply run of tanks and aircraft to Egypt.

May 7th: Cunningham bombards Benghazi with three battleships to provide support for the Tiger Convoy – sinking two merchant ships. The German weather ship Munchen is captured northeast of Iceland, with papers relating to Enigma cipher machines.

May 8th: Axis aircraft begin attacking the Tiger Convoys with no appreciable success. The German commerce raider Pinguin has sunk 28 merchant ships – today, it's her turn to be sunk as the heavy cruiser HMS Cornwall looms into sight. The Italians are shoved off more hill tops at Amba Alagi in the Ethiopian highlands.

May 9th: U110 has a good evening when it bags two merchant ships, then the severe depth charging it receives forces it to surface and surrender to HMS Bulldog. The RN bags the U-boat's code books and its Enigma cipher machine before it sinks two days later without anybody else in the Kriegsmarine noticing.

May 10th: Hitler's deputy Rudolph Hess flies off to Scotland on his solo mission to persuade the Duke of Hamilton to rally the British people against Churchill and make common cause against the Soviets. Jordan's Arab Legion captures the Iraqi town of Rutba. 507 Luftwaffe bombers hit London in its worst air raid of the war but the Luftwaffe's bombers won't be back over the city until 1944.

New Initiative to Consult with Veteran Stakeholders

Advisory groups to improve transparency and engage with Veterans

OTTAWA, April 15, 2016 /CNW/ - The Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, today announced a new initiative to broaden engagement with stakeholders. Six ministerial advisory groups are being put in place as part of his commitment to improve transparency and support consultation to address important Veterans' issues.

The six advisory groups will focus on policy, service excellence, mental health, families, care and support and commemoration. Each group will be comprised of up to twelve members, and participants will appoint a chair from their membership. A senior departmental official will also be selected to co-chair each group and a representative of the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman will be invited to attend the meetings as an observer. Current members' names will be updated as the advisory groups are established and their membership confirmed.

The overall goal is to engage with stakeholders, work toward common goals and seek advice and input on new and existing initiatives to support Veterans. The six advisory groups will help inform policy and program development as well as service delivery at Veterans Affairs Canada. This will ensure all areas reflect the changing needs of Veterans and their families. Records of discussion of these meetings will also be posted as they become available.

A Ministerial stakeholder summit with broader representation is planned for May 9-10, 2016, in Ottawa. The summit will provide an opportunity to collaborate, share views and gather information on topics that are important to Veterans and their families. This is a follow-up to the December 2015 Stakeholder Summit whose record of discussion is posted online.

You can view the full announcement by following this link:

<http://canadianveteransadvocacy.com/Board2/index.php?topic=15852.0>

Military Test Facility Could Move from Alberta to Ottawa Area

DAVID PUGLIESE, OTTAWA CITIZEN | April 25, 2016



AETEA jet flies past AETE in 2004. The services currently offered by AETE may be moved near Ottawa.

As part of efforts to cut costs, the Canadian Forces is looking at options to revamp its Alberta-based aerospace test facilities, including transferring some of the work to private industry or moving the organization to a more accessible location, such as the Ottawa area.

The process, dubbed the Engineering Flight Test Rationalization Initiative, is part of continuing efforts at the Department of National Defence to create a lean, more efficient organization while freeing up money or staff to support other military capabilities. It was started last year under the Conservative government but has continued under the Liberals. The focus is on the services offered by the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment, or AETE, in Cold Lake, Alta.

Defence industry representatives have been told the military believes substantial savings can be made at AETE while keeping essential flight test capabilities intact. Several options are being considered, including increased co-operation with industry, allies or other government departments or changing how the staff is structured — 175 of its 200 employees belong to the military. Other possibilities are moving the facility to the Ottawa region or contracting out some of the work. Areas where industry might play a role include aircraft maintenance, providing planes for flight testing and operating ranges. “We’re still gathering information to build up our options,” said Col. Mike Barker, AETE’s commanding officer. “Once we figure out the ‘what,’ then the ‘how’ or the ‘when’ all falls from that.” AETE tests everything from new seatbelts for military planes to radars to aircraft. Some of its recent work included testing gun systems on helicopters and the new guided bombs for the CF-18 fighter jets. “Nobody is talking about shutting down what we do,” Barker said. “It’s a core capability. (But) are there opportunities to do it smarter or better?”

The military has already gathered information from industry on what services it could offer and there have been back-and-forth discussions. Whether AETE moves from Cold Lake depends on the options being examined. But the military has told industry representatives the remote Cold

Lake location makes it challenging to attract or retain people. AETE employs test pilots, engineers, and other specialists and support staff. Whatever option is selected, there will still be the need for the bombing ranges at Cold Lake. But other parts of AETE could be located near regional airports aerospace industry hubs, or in the national capital region. “You don’t have to go very far north of Ottawa before there is a lot of nothing,” Barker said when asked about what airspace could be used for testing near the capital city. AETE staff have been kept in the loop about the process and why it is being done, he said. John MacLennan, national president of the Union of National Defence Employees, said one potential location in the national capital region is in Gatineau, Que., where there is another military test organization. AETE began operating at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake in 1971.

Barker said he does not have a specific timetable for the options to be completed or acted upon if necessary. But the Liberal government recently launched a defence review that is expected to be made public in early 2017. The Liberals said during the election campaign they would move ahead with developing an “agile and lean” Canadian Forces and the review of defence capabilities is part of that process.

Government to Spend \$133 Million Over Five Years in the Arctic.

Liberal government will spend \$133 million in five years for research to keep an eye on the Arctic. *David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen April 12, 2016*



The midnight sun shines over the ice covered waters near Resolute Bay as seen from the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker Louis S. St-Laurent, Saturday, July 12, 2008.

The Canadian Press/Jonathan Hayward

OTTAWA — The Canadian government will spend \$133 million over the next five years for new technologies to improve surveillance of the Arctic. The research project dovetails with the election promise of the Liberals who said they would increase surveillance in the Far North. The work could also provide new technology for Canada as it enters into the renewal of the North American Aerospace Defence Command agreement with the United States. Senior NORAD officers have suggested that to be relevant past 2025 the alliance should improve its surveillance capabilities in the north. Defence Research and Development Canada, the military’s science organization, is co-ordinating the surveillance research. The project will “enhance all domain situational awareness” of the air, sea and underwater approaches to Canada, particularly in the Arctic, according to a DRDC notice recently issued to companies and universities. “Right now we’re generating interest,” said DRDC spokeswoman Kathleen Guillot. “The call for proposals is anticipated in the fall.” The DRDC notice sent to industry noted that climate change is making the north more accessible, increasing economic activity and international interest in the Arctic. “Such increased Arctic activity brings additional responsibilities for the Department of National Defence and other government departments in

search and rescue, emergency response and environmental monitoring,” the notice noted. “A greater awareness of the potential challenges posed by foreign military and commercial activities in the Arctic region is also essential for Canada.” It also stated that the current North Warning System radar technology, used for providing surveillance of northern air approaches to North America, will need to be replaced as early as 2025. “Starting work now to define cost effective solutions that would provide the situational awareness capabilities required into the future is critical for the defence of Canada, and the United States, against continuously evolving potential adversary systems and threats,” according to the DRDC notice.

Whatever technology to be considered for the Arctic must be suitable for a remote setting, where there is limited power, harsh weather and “vulnerability to capture,” it said. U.S. officers are already viewing improvements in surveillance in the Arctic as an important part of protecting the continent. At a January 2015 news conference, Admiral William Gortney, head of NORAD and the U.S. Northern Command, said the Arctic remains “key terrain as the northern approach to North America.” “We view the Arctic as an emerging operating area with much yet to be defined,” he said. Canadian defence officials see the provision of a new radar system in the Arctic as potentially fulfilling part of its contribution to the future of NORAD, according to a September 2013 Department of National Defence briefing note. NORAD conducted a strategic review in 2014 noting the need for improved sensors, communications and infrastructure in the high North in order to remain effective into the future. Canada’s Arctic coastline is 162,000 kilometers long and only one-tenth of its northern waters are charted.

Honoring the Toughness of a Forgotten Hero

Story Number: NNS160429-24 4/29/2016

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eric Lockwood, Naval History and Heritage Command, Communication and Outreach Division

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- District leaders, military officials and veterans, as well as representatives from the Embassy of Canada honored a forgotten Medal of Honor recipient at St Elizabeth’s Hospital Cemetery in Washington, DC, April 29.

Captain-of-the-Hold Joseph Benjamin Noil received the Medal of Honor for bravery in 1872 for actions while serving in the Navy. According to his citation, "Serving on board the USS Powhatan at Norfolk, 26 December 1872, Noil saved Boatswain JC Walton from drowning." But until today you wouldn't know that from his tombstone. In fact, aside from his name, there is no mention of his deed -- and even his name is spelled wrong. Likely because of a clerical error on his death certificate, the name on his headstone was originally engraved as Noel. Originally born in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada, Noil moved to America and enlisted in the Navy Oct. 7, 1864, in New York. He served his adopted country until March 18, 1867, whereupon he got out, but he reenlisted Dec 18, 1871. It was during this enlistment that he earned the medal.

Investigations carried out by Galyle Alvarez, Don Morfe and Bart Armstrong of Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States helped correct the 130-year-old oversight. Alvarez and Armstrong referenced the Powhatan deck log and found no mention of Noil's

heroism, but the day after Walton's rescue, Capt Peirce Crosby, commander of the Powhatan, acknowledged the bravery in a memo that was published in a Jan 11, 1873, Army and Navy Journal. The memo states: "Sir: I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Department the gallant conduct of Joseph B Noil, seaman, (negro,) one of the crew of this vessel. The circumstances are as follows: On yesterday morning the boatswain, I C[sic] Walton, fell overboard from the forecandle, and was saved from drowning by Joseph B Noil, seaman, who was below on the berth deck at the time of the accident, and hearing the cry 'man overboard,' ran on deck, took the end of a rope, went overboard, under the bow, and caught Mr Walton, who was then in the water, and held him until he was hauled into the boat sent to his rescue. The weather was bitter cold, and had been sleeting, and it was blowing a gale from the northwest at the time. Mr Walton, when brought on board, was almost insensible, and would have perished but for the noble conduct of Noil, as he was sinking at the time he was rescued."

Noil passed away March 21, 1882, at St Elizabeth's. Records indicated that a tombstone was ordered, but due to a typo on his death certificate, the error was later repeated on his headstone. The purpose of the ceremony was to replace the headstone and to reflect on Noil's heroism. For one person in attendance, the ceremony was personal. "I believe a thread runs through every family, and if we follow that thread it will explain where we come from, and show us where we're able to go," said Bernadette Maybelle Parks Ricks, Noil's great-great granddaughter. "As someone said to me recently, they didn't know he had a family. But now he has a vibrant gang of descendants. We love you. We thank you. And now you can rest in peace." Speakers also included Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm Robin Braun and Canadian Defense Attaché Rear Adm William Truelove, CMM.

"I can say that the people of Liverpool are profoundly honored to have one of their own bestowed with the Medal of Honor of which, to date, there are only 3,514 recipients," said Truelove, also a Liverpool native. "This is a special day for Canada. This is a special day for the United States. This is a special day for those that we recognize." Braun in particular was struck by the selfless regard Noil displayed for his shipmate, a word she holds in extremely high esteem. "Your shipmate is not simply someone who happens to serve with you," Braun said. "He or she is someone who you know that you can trust and count on to stand by you in good times and bad and who will forever have your back. "So, by [...] rededicating his headstone, we are not only correcting a wrong, we are highlighting and reinforcing the eternal bond which exists between Shipmates-past, present, and those yet to come. And, although I-or any of us-did not know him, we are his Shipmates-and, 134 years after he passed, we have his back."

National Sentry Program Suspended

The National Sentry Program has been suspended for the 2016 season, said the Department of National Defence in a statement issued on April 1. The suspension is caused by rehabilitation work taking place at the National War Memorial that will make the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier inaccessible to the public. The National Sentry Program was instituted in 2007 as part of the Ceremonial Guard's Public Duties Task. The program was revamped in 2014 to include

sentries from all branches of the CAF. “The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, situated in front of the National War Memorial, is our most iconic and visible reminder of the service and sacrifice of members of the Canadian Armed Forces. The National Sentry Program reinforces Canada’s commitment to pay tribute to our fallen and to honour those who served,” stated the Department of National Defence’s statement. It is expected that the sentries will resume their duty in 2017. Sentries are on duty from April 9 to November 10 each year until 2020.

Weather Reports Will No Longer Be Written in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS

Michael Bastasch 04/12/2016

Talk about government efficiency. The National Weather Service (NWS) has finally announced it will no longer be sending out weather reports using all capital letters — a feat that’s only taken the bureaucracy 20 years to complete. “Better late than never, but the slow change was not for lack of trying,” reads an NWS press release on the change in weather bulletins. NWS officials announced the change Monday in a press release saying their “FORECASTS WILL STOP YELLING AT YOU.” For decades, NWS weather reports were sent over the wire in only capital letters because the teleprinters they used only allowed bulletins to be written that way. But in the Internet age, something written in all capital letters is generally meant to convey anger or alarm. It’s the way you yell at someone over the Web, and NWS will finally change over all their old equipment so they can use lower-case letters. And it only took 20 years.

NWS is set to switch over its weather reporting system from all upper-case letter to mixed-case on May 11, 2016. It’ll probably be a transition for some seasoned weather forecasters, but at least one NWS meteorologist has gotten used to it. “People are accustomed to reading forecasts in uppercase letters and seeing mixed-case use might seem strange at first,” NWS meteorologist Art Thomas said in the press release. “It seemed strange to me until I got used to it over the course of testing the new system, but now it seems so normal.” Meteorologists will still be able to use all upper-case typeset for “weather warnings to emphasize threats during extremely dangerous situations,” according to NWS. “Certain forecast products with international implications, such as aviation and shipping, will continue to use upper case letters, per international agreements that standardize weather product formats across national borders,” according to NWS.

Who is it?

Last Week: We got a couple of replies on this quiz from some knowledgeable Naval people.



The single-stacker is most likely the liner SS Pasteur, which John Redmond’s dad took in 1941, and which still had its peace-time kit when he sailed, silver and champagne! [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Pasteur_\(1938\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Pasteur_(1938))

We are not sure about the ID of the warship, but it could be the HMS Malaya

This Week: Well, we are taking a departure from our usual trolling of the vast holdings of our museum's photo collection, held in immense, steel-doored caverns, deep beneath Bessborough Armoury, under the Field Marshall Headley Fry Memorial Fallout Shelter. Instead, this week's photo is one from the Vancouver Archives, and is available to view on-line, absolutely free!

As one can see, this is a large, metallic object, similar to those currently on the floor of our historic armoury. This object, however, is rather a bit larger than those currently taking up space that could otherwise be used for parking. It has a menacing look about it that leads one to believe it is not a proper British, nor even American piece of ordnance. Its very stance implies oppression and dastardly deeds.



So, can you tell us what it is? From whence came this heavy, potentially loud device, and where was the photo taken? Can you enlighten us to why such a foreign object might have a link to our proud land of the beaver, and, whatever became of it (the gun, not the beaver)?

Your enlightenment can be conveyed to the editor, or the author, John Redmond (johnd_redmond@telus.net). All answers are treated with equal respect, and all are rewarded with a free CAMT of your choice, but you must visit our museum to collect this valuable prize. As always, you can email the editor for a picture you can zoom in on: Bob.mugford@outlook.com

From the 'Punitentary'

How do you organize a space party? You planet!

Murphy's other Laws

The real objective of a committee is not to reach a decision, but to avoid it.

Quotable Quotes

We live in an age when pizza gets to your home before the police. - *Jeff Marder*

Upcoming Events - Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment

The 26th International Military Band Concert

Date: Monday, May 23rd, 2016 **Time:** 2:30pm

Location: Chandos Pattison Auditorium, [10238 168 Street](#), Surrey

Tickets Available Now

\$20 [Adult](#), \$15 [Senior](#), \$10 [Child](#)

Special [Family Pack](#) (2 Adult & 2 Child) \$45



**26th ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
MILITARY BAND
CONCERT**

Chandos Pattison Auditorium
10238 168 Street, Surrey

Monday, May 23, 2016
2:30 pm

Tickets
\$20 Adults; \$15 Seniors; \$10 Students
www.tapestrymusic.com/tickets
or www.picatic.com/imbc

HOSTED BY
Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA

WITH
Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth
Highlanders Regiment of Canada
NADEN Band of the Royal Canadian Navy
56th US Army I-Corps Band
US Navy Band Northwest
US Air Force Band of the Golden West

In 1990, musicians from the Fifteenth Field Artillery Regiment, the US Army 56th I Corps and Her Majesty's Grenadier Guards bands took to the stage in Olympia, Washington for an exciting concert of music that celebrated the common bond the three countries shared in the first International Military Band Concert.

For the next 25 years, the International Military Band Concert continued and soon became one of the most highly anticipated musical events held in the Olympia's Washington Centre for the Performing Arts. The list of participants grew to include bands from the US Air Force, US Navy, US Marine Corps, Washington National Guard, the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Pipes and Drums of the Canadian Scottish Regiment and each year, the hall was filled.

On Victoria Day 2016, the 26th International Military Band Concert will be presented in Vancouver. This year's list of participating bands is equally impressive and includes, for the very first time, the US Air Force Band of the Golden West from Travis, California.

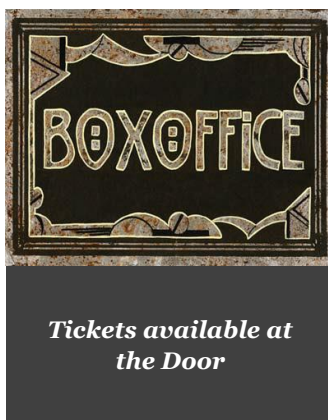
Join musicians from six military bands at the Chandos Pattison Auditorium on May 23rd at 2:30pm for a fantastic afternoon of music celebrating our common British Heritage and the continuing bond Canada and her allies enjoy!

It is with great pleasure that the [British Columbia Military Music Society](#) announces all net proceeds from the 2016 International Military Band Concert will be donated to elementary band programs in Metro Vancouver.

Please help us fill the Chandos Pattison Auditorium on Victoria Day so we can help the boys and girls just beginning their musical adventure. Join us for what is guaranteed to be a fantastic performance. And tell your friends!



[On Line Store](#)



RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE

Force 136



Learn more about a largely unknown part of Canadian history. During the last years of the Second World War, about 150 Chinese Canadians were secretly trained in guerrilla warfare and jungle survival tactics. Their mission? To get dropped behind Japanese lines and assist with sabotage and intelligence gathering. Although denied the right to be full citizens of Canada, these men volunteered for what many knew could be a dangerous, even a suicidal, operation.

OPENS MAY 14, 2016

CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM

CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE MUSEUM, 2ND FLOOR, 555 COLUMBIA STREET, VANCOUVER B.C.
WWW.CCMMS.CA

EXHIBITION DESIGNER:



EXHIBITION SUPPORTER:



EXHIBITION PARTNER:



**The Chinese Canadian Military Museum, located in Vancouver's Chinatown, is the only museum of its kind in Canada. Its goal is to collect, preserve, document, and celebrate the role of Chinese Canadians in the service of Canada's military and the impact this service had on Chinese Canadian history and civil rights. Besides operating a museum and organizing tours, the Museum is involved in several projects each year (exhibitions, forums, documentaries) that capture the stories of veterans and educate a new generation of Canadians about the sacrifice of these patriotic men and women. To learn more, visit their website at: www.ccmms.ca*