



## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Feb 4, 2014

### Wednesday Lunches

Walked into the kitchen last week and the old stove was gone!! I thought it was one big piece of metal but I guess it could be taken apart. A lot of painting done. The contractor says we might have to close for a week at some point – hopefully we will get a couple of weeks warning at least.

Guests and visitors are always welcome. People these days, especially civilians, don't think about dress much and, if not pre-warned, will show up in very casual dress so, to avoid embarrassment, please make them aware of the dress requirements (suit/blazer and tie, equivalent for ladies) before they come.

### Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting

The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders welcome you to attend a Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at our Armoury. There will be food, draw prizes, and music.

**See poster at the end of the newsletter for more details**

### Time for Annual Dues

As of Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, dues are now payable for RUSI Vancouver (\$30), The Vancouver Artillery Association (\$75) and 15 Fd Officers Mess Associates (\$60).

Dues payments can be sent to the Treasurer of the applicable organization at Bessborough Armoury: 2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6J 2C7. **This includes RUSI Vancouver!** In the past, payment for RUSI dues has been sent directly to Keith Freer but Keith had a bit of a mishap and is in hospital. We are in the process of appointing an acting Treasurer until Keith's situation is resolved so please, send RUSI dues payments to the Armoury.

### Military Ball Renamed

The date for the 2014 Ball has been set for **May 10, 2014 at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel**. 39CBG is getting more involved in the running of the event and has renamed the Military Ball the 'BC Army Gala'. The Gala website is: <http://bcarmygala.ca/> and tickets can already be purchased on the EventBrite site at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bc-army-gala-tickets-8508578387>

# **Military Truck Delays Proving Costly, Defence Department Memo Warns**

MURRAY BREWSTER OTTAWA — *The Canadian Press* Published Wednesday, Jan. 15 2014

The longer it takes the federal government to buy 1,500 new replacement trucks for the military, the fewer vehicles it will be able to afford, the Department of National Defence warned in 2012. The unusually frank assessment of the medium support vehicle program, cancelled twice since 2006, came in a memo to former deputy defence minister Robert Fonberg just weeks after the Department of Public Works pulled the plug for the second time. It was part of a series of internal documents, obtained by *The Canadian Press*, under the Access to Information Act, that show the decision to halt the program was the direct result of budget cuts at National Defence. Fonberg, who has since moved on to another position in the government, was told by officials that the \$800-million set aside by the Conservatives for that portion of the program was being eroded by inflation at a rate of two per cent a year. “The potential impact of schedule delays ... is that for every year of delay, it is estimated that (censored) fewer vehicles can be procured,” said a briefing dated Nov. 27, 2012. It was also costing the department \$10.5-million per year to keep the project office open, the briefing noted. The program was quietly restarted last year – bids closed just last week – but a contract award is not expected until the summer of 2015, just weeks before the next federal election – a delay that could chew as much as \$48-million of buying power out of the program. New Democrat defence critic Jack Harris said the timing of a relatively straightforward purchase of trucks has been hijacked by politics. “It’s pathetic,” said Harris. “What else can you say? It’s pathetic.”

The briefing and a series of other documents paint a picture of how National Defence had painted into a corner over the program. Budget cuts from 2010 were trickling down to front-line programs and planners were being left in the lurch. Defence officials were advised midway through 2012, just as final bids were about to be submitted by contractors, that “as a result of ‘expenditure review measures’ there could be a reduction in the current financial cap” allocated to the truck program, a series of Public Works e-mails shows. Officials scrambled during the first weeks of July, 2012, to salvage the truck plan, which was described as being an “urgent priority” when it was first announced because of safety concerns with the existing 1980s-vintage fleet. Harris said the political imperative of balancing the budget clearly took priority over safety hazards. “The government wanted to put themselves in a position of having to declare a surplus in time for an election, where they can announce tax breaks,” he said. The army has started parking some of the vehicles and using them for spare parts in hopes of saving money.

The Public Works documents show defence planners considered ditching the requirement for extra armour protection – individual kits that can bolted on to vehicles to help them withstand roadside bombs. They looked at doing away with utility trailers and even cutting the number of trucks. “The other option would be to keep the (armour protection) and trailers and reduce the number of everything else,” said a July 9, 2012, e-mail from the project’s senior director at Public Works. Contract officials looked at extending the tender deadline by a couple of weeks and giving contractors the opportunity to “update their

bid,” but in the end they decided to park the entire procurement just minutes before the competition closed. In a statement at the time, Public Works soft-pedalled the reasons for the cancellation, saying “economic, marketplace and budgetary circumstances have changed since the solicitation process began.” The department said the government had to “reassess this procurement to ensure that the right equipment is acquired for the army at the best value for Canada.” There was no direct mention of the role budget cuts played in the decision.

A spokeswoman for National Defence largely stuck to that line on Wednesday and insisted the program needed to be reviewed. “Since the Medium Support Vehicle System (MSVS) project was launched in 2006, there have been significant changes in the Standard Military Pattern (SMP) truck marketplace and to fiscal circumstances,” Jocelyn Sweet said in an email. “The estimates for this project did not reflect this new reality. Therefore the [request for proposals] was cancelled until a re-evaluation of this project had been completed.” Sweet insisted that with the newly re-launched program, the government will still get the same number of vehicles and they “can be procured within the existing budget.” She explained the discrepancy by saying that officials have consulted within the industry and been reassured that their numbers are solid. Sweet was asked directly what strategies National Defence had used to address safety concerns with the existing fleet, but she would only say the government was committed to “procuring modern equipment.”

## **Lions and donkeys: 10 big myths about World War One debunked**

*Much of what we think we know about the 1914-18 conflict is wrong, writes historian Dan Snow.*

No war in history attracts more controversy and myth than World War One. For the soldiers who fought it was in some ways better than previous conflicts, and in some ways worse. By setting it apart as uniquely awful we are blinding ourselves to the reality of not just WW1 but war in general. We are also in danger of belittling the experience of soldiers and civilians caught up in countless other appalling conflicts throughout history and the present day.

### **1. It was the bloodiest war in history to that point**

Fifty years before WW1 broke out, southern China was torn apart by an even bloodier conflict. Conservative estimates of the dead in the 14-year Taiping rebellion start at between 20 and 30 million. Around 17 million soldiers and civilians were killed during WW1. Although more Britons died in WW1 than any other conflict, the bloodiest war in our history relative to population size is the Civil War which raged in the mid-17th Century. It saw a far higher proportion of the population of the British Isles killed than the less than 2% who died in WW1. By contrast around 4% of the population of England and Wales, and considerably more than that in Scotland and Ireland, are thought to have been killed in the Civil War.

### **2. The Most soldiers died**

In the UK around six million men were mobilised, and of those just over 700,000 were killed. That's around 11.5%. In fact, as a British soldier you were more likely to die during the Crimean War (1853-56) than in WW1.

### **3. Men lived in the trenches for years on end**

Front-line trenches could be a terribly hostile place to live. Often wet, cold and exposed to the enemy, units would quickly lose their morale if they spent too much time in them. As a result, the British army rotated men in and out continuously. Between battles, a unit spent perhaps 10 days a month in the trench system, and of those, rarely more than three days right up on the front line. It was not unusual to be out of the line for a month. During moments of crisis, such as big offensives, the British could occasionally spend up to seven days on the front line but were far more often rotated out after just a day or two.

### **4. The upper class got off lightly**

Although the great majority of casualties in WW1 were from the working class, the social and political elite was hit disproportionately hard by WW1. Their sons provided the junior officers whose job it was to lead the way over the top and expose themselves to the greatest danger as an example to their men.

Some 12% of the British army's ordinary soldiers were killed during the war, compared with 17% of its officers. Eton alone lost more than 1,000 former pupils - 20% of those who served. UK wartime Prime Minister Herbert Asquith lost a son, while future Prime Minister Andrew Bonar Law lost two. Anthony Eden lost two brothers, another brother of his was terribly wounded and an uncle was captured.

### **5. 'Lions led by donkeys'**

*British commanders were thrust into a massive industrial struggle unlike anything the Army had ever seen*” This saying was supposed to have come from senior German commanders describing brave British soldiers led by incompetent old toffs from their chateaux. In fact the incident was made up by historian Alan Clark. During the war more than 200 generals were killed, wounded or captured. Most visited the front lines every day. In battle they were considerably closer to the action than generals are today. Naturally, some generals were not up to the job, but others were brilliant, such as Arthur Currie, a middle-class Canadian failed insurance broker and property developer. Rarely in history have commanders had to adapt to a more radically different technological environment. British commanders had been trained to fight small colonial wars, now they were thrust into a massive industrial struggle unlike anything the British army had ever seen. Despite this, within three years the British had effectively invented a method of warfare still recognisable today. By the summer of 1918 the British army was probably at its best ever and it inflicted crushing defeats on the Germans.

### **6. Gallipoli was fought by Australians and New Zealanders**

Far more British soldiers fought on the Gallipoli peninsula than Australians and New Zealanders put together. The UK lost four or five times as many men in the brutal campaign as her imperial Anzac contingents. The French also lost more men than the Australians. The Aussies and Kiwis commemorate Gallipoli ardently, and understandably so, as their casualties do represent terrible losses both as a proportion of their forces committed and of their small populations.

### **7. Tactics on the Western Front remained unchanged despite repeated failure**

Never have tactics and technology changed so radically in four years of fighting. It was a time of extraordinary innovation. In 1914 generals on horseback galloped across battlefields as men

in cloth caps charged the enemy without the necessary covering fire. Both sides were overwhelmingly armed with rifles. Four years later, steel-helmeted combat teams dashed forward protected by a curtain of artillery shells. They were now armed with flame throwers, portable machine-guns and grenades fired from rifles. Above, planes, that in 1914 would have appeared unimaginably sophisticated, duelled in the skies, some carrying experimental wireless radio sets, reporting real-time reconnaissance. Huge artillery pieces fired with pinpoint accuracy - using only aerial photos and maths they could score a hit on the first shot. Tanks had gone from the drawing board to the battlefield in just two years, also changing war forever.

## **8. No-one won**

Swathes of Europe lay wasted, millions were dead or wounded. Survivors lived on with severe mental trauma. The UK was broke. It is odd to talk about winning. However, in a narrow military sense, the UK and her allies convincingly won. Germany's battleships had been bottled up by the Royal Navy until their crews mutinied rather than make a suicidal attack against the British fleet. Germany's army collapsed as a series of mighty allied blows scythed through supposedly impregnable defences. By late September 1918 the German emperor and his military mastermind Erich Ludendorff admitted that there was no hope and Germany must beg for peace. The 11 November Armistice was essentially a German surrender. Unlike Hitler in 1945, the German government did not insist on a hopeless, pointless struggle until the allies were in Berlin - a decision that saved countless lives, but was seized upon later to claim Germany never really lost.

## **9. The Versailles Treaty was extremely harsh**

The treaty of Versailles confiscated 10% of Germany's territory but left it the largest, richest nation in central Europe. It was largely unoccupied and financial reparations were linked to its ability to pay, which mostly went unenforced anyway. The treaty was notably less harsh than treaties that ended the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War and World War Two. The German victors in the former annexed large chunks of two rich French provinces, part of France for between 2-300 years, and home to most of French iron ore production, as well as presenting France with a massive bill for immediate payment. After WW2 Germany was occupied, split up, her factory machinery smashed or stolen and millions of prisoners forced to stay with their captors and work as slave labourers. Germany lost all the territory it had gained after WW1 and another giant slice on top of that. Versailles was not harsh but was portrayed as such by Hitler who sought to create a tidal wave of anti-Versailles sentiment on which he could then ride into power.

## **10. Everyone hated it**

Like any war, it all comes down to luck. You may witness unimaginable horrors that leave you mentally and physically incapacitated for life, or you might get away without a scrape. It could be the best of times, or the worst of times. Many soldiers enjoyed WW1. If they were lucky they would avoid a big offensive, and much of the time, conditions might be better than at home. For the British there was meat every day - a rare luxury back home - cigarettes, tea and rum, part of a daily diet of over 4,000 calories. Absentee rates due to sickness, an important barometer of a unit's morale were, remarkably, hardly above peacetime rates. Many young men

enjoyed the guaranteed pay, the intense comradeship, the responsibility and a much greater sexual freedom than in peacetime Britain.

## **Crew Safety Questions Unanswered in Helicopter Replacement Deal**

- by Daniel Leblanc - a parliamentary reporter in Ottawa Ottawa — The Globe and Mail  
Published Tuesday, Jan. 14 2014

Ottawa's plan to start replacing its fleet of Sea Kings next year remains full of unanswered questions about the quality of the new equipment that will be provided to its helicopter crews, a military procurement expert said. Late afternoon on Friday, Jan. 3, the federal government issued a news release stating that it would start retiring its fleet of Sea King helicopters in 2015 after coming to terms on a revised deal with Sikorsky for the acquisition of a fleet of Cyclone helicopters. Nearly two weeks later, the government has failed to provide further details on the impact of the announcement. "There are lots of unanswered questions, the most important of which concern the safety of the air crews," said University of British Columbia professor Michael Byers, who has studied the acquisition program.

First off, the government announced that Sikorsky will start to provide the Canadian Forces with "operational capability sufficient to begin retirement of Sea Kings in 2015." In other words, the company will start delivering an unknown number of helicopters that do not fully meet the terms of the contract that it signed with the Canadian government in 2004, when Sikorsky promised to start delivering helicopters in 2008. In addition, the government has not provided any further details on the actual capabilities that will be missing from the helicopters that will operate on Canadian military ships, potentially in dangerous missions, in replacement of the five-decade-old Sea Kings. "Now that the Harper government has agreed to accept non-compliant interim helicopters, it is one step closer to accepting final helicopters that do not meet Canada's requirements," Mr. Byers said, stating that the requirements "are necessary to ensure the safety of Canadian personnel."

Secondly, the government said in its announcement that it would start receiving "fully capable" Cyclone helicopters three years later, in 2018. Asked whether these helicopters would contain the same technical and technological capabilities that were agreed to by Sikorsky in a contract in 2004 and a sub-contract in 2008, the government stated that it has only come to a "Principles of Agreement" with the firm. In that context, formal contractual negotiations are just starting, and it is unclear whether the helicopters delivered in 2018 will be "fully compliant" with the terms of previous agreements. "The Principles of Agreement will form the basis for formal contract negotiations to describe comprehensive definitions and detailed timelines for the project's phases," the department of Public Works said. In that context, it remains unknown when the Canadian Forces will receive the last of the 28 helicopters that it is purchasing, at a cost of \$5.7-billion.

An industry source said the contractual negotiations will first have to determine the exact capabilities that will be included in the final helicopter, which have struggled to provide enough power to meet the government's requirement. Only then will Sikorsky and the government be able to predict when the last helicopter will be delivered. According to the subcontract that was signed by Sikorsky and the government in 2008, the delivery of the fully compliant helicopters

was supposed to start in 2012, and be finished by 2013. If the same pattern holds true, Sikorsky could deliver its last Cyclone in 2019, or five years down the road. While details are scarce, odds are high that the government will agree to further water down its requirements to obtain a final deal with Sikorsky. According to a report commissioned to study the process to date last year, the government will need to “sacrifice” some of its requirements to obtain a deal with Sikorsky.

In the statement that was released at the start of the month, Sikorsky apologized for the delays. “As the pre-eminent helicopter manufacturer in the world, we regret that we have not executed this program to the satisfaction of the Government of Canada and that no aircraft were delivered in 2013,” Mick Maurer, president of Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., said in the news release. “We recognize that we and our subcontractors must do better,” he said.

## **Churchill Society Dinner – 27 March 2014**

*Churchill Society of British Columbia  
Simon Fraser University -  
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies  
Royal United Service Institute – Vancouver*

**PRESENT THE ANNUAL BANQUET:  
“The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914”  
with guest speaker, Margaret MacMillan**

The featured speaker will be Professor Margaret MacMillan, OC. The event is co-sponsored by the Churchill Society of BC, RUSI-Vancouver and Simon Fraser University - Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies. The presentation is being sponsored by Odlum Brown. The invitation and registration form were sent out earlier this week. If you require the registration form, please email me at [bob.mugford@shaw.ca](mailto:bob.mugford@shaw.ca)

## **FLY OVER CANADA.**

Highly recommended by Eric Mold - This stunning, most remarkable performance can be experienced in the theater at Canada Place (where the cruise ships come in). It is the most incredible display I have ever seen. Therefore I am pleased to highly recommend it. It costs \$20 for seniors for the eight-minute show and it is worth every nickel of it. If you go within the next few weeks, you will experience the additional feature FLY OVER CHINA.

Weekday afternoons are the best times to avoid line-ups. At the weekends, you could experience up to two hours wait.

## **Who is it?**



**Last Edition.** Regular attendees at the Mess should recognise this picture. The late Ted Hoskinson used it to create the painting that hangs to the right of the sword case. This is one of the two 4.7" guns mounted at Yorke Island at the beginning of the war. Later they were swapped for two of the 6" guns at Ferguson Point. *Note: two editions back we correctly identified the picture of an 18pdr gun. The additional information was not correct- the gun made famous by Nery and the Kings Troop is the 13pdr.*

## **This Week's picture**



This week we return to more modern subjects, and photos about which the museum has little or no information. When our friend Vic Stevenson passed away, he took with him much knowledge that was never written down; he was also the only person who could correlate the numbers on our photos with the numbers on file cards that describe the photos. Currently, we cannot find any documents allowing us to do so. If you know the secret, please contact us. Then I wouldn't have to write this column and could spend my time sitting on a park bench, as pensioners are meant to do.

So, on to our photo. The sleek, greyhound-like lines of the faithful "Deuce-and-a-half" are rather marred in this shot. The picture is similar to one taken from a greater distance in Fort Lewis around 1980 or so, but might not be of the same vehicle. Do you know what happened here? Was it, indeed, in Fort Lewis that this truck was 'customized', or is the shot taken elsewhere? Who was involved, and is the paperwork still being processed?

Answers can be sent to the editor, or to the columnist, John Redmond ([johnd\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd_redmond@telus.net)).

## **From the 'Punitary'**

Reading while sunbathing makes you well-red.

## **Murphy's other Laws**

A group marching in formation is not necessarily on the right course.

## **Quotable Quotes**

Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art...it has no survival value; rather, it is one of those things that give value to survival. - C.S. Lewis



# **15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA**

## **&**

# **The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders**

## **Fund Raiser and Scotch Tasting Night**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders welcome you to attend a Fund Raising and Whiskey Tasting event at our 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, of course, are welcome.

**DATE:** Friday March 7th, 2014

**TIME:** 1800 hrs – 2300 hrs

**LOCATION:** 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment RCA  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Van, BC V6J 2C7

### **TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET CONTACT:**

LCol James Barrett

Cell: (604) 916-1766

E-Mail: [barrettjd007@gmail.com](mailto:barrettjd007@gmail.com)

Reserve your tickets early to not miss out on a great night!

All profits will go to support the activities of the 15th Field Regimental Society. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations on request.



Churchill Society of British Columbia  
Simon Fraser University -  
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies  
Royal United Service Institute - Vancouver

PRESENTS THE ANNUAL BANQUET:

*“The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914”*

with guest speaker, Margaret MacMillan



**Thursday, March 27**

Please join us on Thursday, March 27 to welcome our guest speaker Margaret MacMillan, one of Canada’s top historians, who will address our Society on *The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914*.



Professor Margaret MacMillan is the Warden of St. Antony’s College and a Professor International History at the University of Oxford and a Professor of History at the University of Toronto. Her books include *Women of the Raj* (1988, 2007); *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World* (2002); *Nixon in China: Six Days that Changed the World* (2006, 2007); *The Uses and Abuses of History* (2008) and *Extraordinary Canadians: Stephen Leacock* (2009). Her most recent book, published in 2013, is *The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914*. Margaret is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an Officer of the Order of Canada. She sits on the European Advisory Board of Princeton University Press.

Margaret MacMillan was born in Toronto. She is former Provost of Trinity College, Toronto (2002-2007) and formerly a professor of History at Ryerson University. Professor MacMillan received an Honours B.A. in History from Trinity College, Toronto. Margaret has honorary degrees from the University of King’s College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston Ontario and Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario.

- Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014  
**Location:** Members’ Lounge, The Vancouver Club, 915 Hastings Street West, Vancouver, B.C.  
**Time:** Reception and Cash Bar starts at 5:45 pm, Dinner in Ballroom at 7:00 pm  
**Cost:** \$115 each for a Member of the Society, SFU or RUSI, \$130 each for a non-Member  
(includes wine with dinner)

***Please note the dress code is black tie or mess kit (business attire optional)***

I look forward to seeing you March 27.

Ian E. Marshall, Secretary  
Churchill Society of British Columbia

PATRON: THE LADY SOAMES, L.G., D.B.E.

# Thailand Curry Lunch



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

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



- Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2014
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
(bar opens at 11:45am)  
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment  
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by February 21, 2014)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at [Bill@DukeaBear.com](mailto:Bill@DukeaBear.com) or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door  
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association  
No cancellations after February 21, 2014

***NEXT PLANNED LUNCH: Thursday, March 27, 2014***