



**Vancouver Artillery  
Association News**



**RUSI News  
Vancouver**

## **Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News April 5, 2016**

**Newsletter on line.** This newsletter, and previous editions, are available on the Vancouver Artillery Association website at: [www.vancouvergunners.ca](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. **We are missing lunch tickets #10, 20 & 21. Check your pockets. Please return if you find them.**

**RUSI Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference This Weekend!!** Registrations are proceeding at a fast clip for the Strategic Studies Conference on April 8 and 9, so **register without delay**. With the theme of 'Global Flashpoints' the conference will be held in the Alice MacKay Conference Room at the Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library. The conference promises a full range of expert presentations on topics that make today's headlines. A panel discussion will get the conference started on the evening of Friday April 8, followed by a full day of presentations on Saturday April 9. This is the annual signature event of RUSI Vancouver, with the generous support of numerous organizations. We encourage everyone with an interest in foreign affairs and defence policy to attend. Register now for the 2016 Strategic Studies Conference by going to the Eventbrite link on the notice page at the end of this newsletter. *Thank you, Cam Cathcart, President, RUSI Vancouver.*

## **World War 2 - 1940**

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

**Apr 6<sup>th</sup>:** The Germans (with Italy, Hungary and Bulgaria) invade Yugoslavia and Greece with 24 divisions and 1,200 tanks and 2,000 aircraft: The Yugoslav Army is uncoordinated, largely armed with obsolescent material, unmobilized and over-extended. Four days of terror bombing of Belgrade begin, killing something like 17,000 residents. The German Battlecruiser Gneisenau has been in dry-dock in the Occupied French port of Brest for maintenance, but is now ready to go back out to sea and hunt Allied convoys – when in come RAF Beaufort Torpedo bombers. The shot is a difficult one, requiring very careful timing and precise flying even without over 100 anti-aircraft cannon spewing shells at you. Flying Officer Kenneth Campbell of 22 Squadron is up to challenge and bores in on the German warship, releasing an effective torpedo hit; but getting out of the target area required a banking turn and full exposure to the many flak weapons. Campbell and his three crew members were buried the next day with

full honours by the Germans and the valiant aviator received a posthumous award of the Victoria Cross. Gneisenau goes into dry-dock again for months of repairs.

**Apr 7<sup>th</sup>:** The Greek Aliakmon and Metaxas Lines are overextended but holding off the Germans and Bulgarians for the moment. XL Panzer Corps enters Skopje. The US opens their new “naval and air base on Bermuda. Rommel takes Derna.

**Apr 8<sup>th</sup>:** The British capture 17 large merchant ships at Massawa, and immediately start using them to load up the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Division for shipment to Egypt, while the other British forces in Eretria are aimed at the Ethiopian interior. Mechili falls to Rommel’s advance, and he starts organizing a column to lunge for Tobruk. A heavy German air raid on Belgrade causes 30,000 casualties. In the meantime, the RAF hits the German naval base at Kiel with 229 bombers dropping incendiaries.

**Apr 9<sup>th</sup>:** The Metaxas line collapses, the Greeks lose their 2<sup>nd</sup> Army and Thessaloniki. German attacks on Yugoslavia now include attacks from Austria and Hungary.

**Apr 10<sup>th</sup>:** Croat troops start deserting the Yugoslav Army as Zagreb falls and the Croats announce the creation of an independent republic. Rommel fails to bounce the defences of Tobruk. The USS Niblack depth charges a U-Boat which has entered the US Security Zone in the Western Atlantic and sunk a ship.

**Apr 11<sup>th</sup>:** Italian troops attack into Slovenia and Croatia. Tobruk is cut off and the siege begins with another failed German assault. Roosevelt opens up an Office of Price Administrations to contain inflation. Roosevelt tells the British that he will extend the American defence zone to 26 Degrees West, and that Red Sea Ports (now that the British occupy them all) are no longer a ‘War Zone’ and American ships are free to carry cargoes there.

**Apr 12<sup>th</sup>:** The Australians and British are forced to withdraw from the line based on the Aliakmon River back towards Mount Olympus. Belgrade surrenders as German columns converge on it.

## **Canadian Army Generals to Get Maple Leaf Insignias Back**

*David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen | April 1, 2016*



*The Canadian army's new maple leaf insignia. Over the years Canada's military allies have come to recognize the maple leaf as a symbol of the country and Canadian Forces. DND*

The country’s army generals are getting their maple leaves back so that allies can identify them as Canadians. Almost

three years after the Conservative government ordered Canadian Army generals to abandon the maple leaf insignia in favour of British-style pips, the army is returning to its previous look. The move was prompted by concerns that military allies were having trouble recognizing the generals as Canadians, sources say. The diamond-shaped insignia (the Star of the Order of the Bath) will be replaced by a gold-coloured metal maple leaf, Canadian Army spokesperson Capt Susan Magill said.



*A British general's insignia. Wikipedia*

She said the change brings the army generals in line with senior officers of the Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force. Those officers have maple leaves on their epaulets. “There won’t be any confusion as everything will be harmonized,” Magill said. Over the years Canada’s military allies have come to recognize the maple leaf as a symbol of the country and Canadian Forces. “To change it could have caused some confusion so we want to be sure (when) we’ve got higher ranking officers it’s very clear who is who,” Magill said.

The Conservative government announced in July 2013 that Canadian Army rank insignia, names and badges would revert to those used before 1968 when the military was unified. The army replaced the maple leaf rank designation on the uniforms of officers with stars and crowns. The ranks of non-commissioned officers returned to the original designations that were in place during the First and Second World Wars. Those were based on the British army. The move followed the Conservative government’s push to re-introduce symbols of the British monarchy to Canadian military organizations. The cost of its 2011 move to reinstate the word “Royal” back into the titles of the navy and air force, as well as changing the name of Land Force Command to Canadian Army was about \$1 million. The Conservatives also ordered the removal of gold braid bands on officers’ tunic cuffs. The army is reversing that decision. “The sleeve braid (for General Officers) will be restored to same braid as before 2013,” Magill said. The Conservatives’ decision to revert to the traditional British military terminology and insignia for Canadian units was greeted enthusiastically by monarchists and some veterans.

## **WW2 History is Alive on Newfoundland and Labrador’s Bell Island**

Pat Brennan, Postmedia News | April 1, 2016

Rolf Ruggeberg loved Newfoundland. He took photos of its rugged terrain and its quaint harbours. He recorded its daily weather. He made pencil drawings and charted the course of thousands of icebergs rubbing up against its rocky shores. He did all this peering through the periscope of a Nazi submarine during the Second World War. Several places in North America were hit by enemy fire during the Second World War and little Bell Island in Newfoundland

and Labrador's Conception Bay was one of the victims. Captain Ruggeberg sank two freighters anchored at Bell Island waiting to load the world's richest iron ore. He also destroyed the loading docks on Bell Island with his torpedoes. Adolf Hitler sent Ruggeberg a letter of commendation for sinking the freighters, plus he was awarded two Iron Crosses. Ironically, the medals were likely made of iron from Bell Island as Germany was one of its biggest customers before war erupted. On Bell Island today you can read Hitler's letter, see Ruggeberg's Iron Crosses and read his logs and diary marvelling at Newfoundland.



*Icebergs passing near Bell Island could damage four freighters sunk by German submarines. Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism*

Ruggeberg's war memorabilia was donated to the Bell Island Community Museum by his daughter, who knew nothing of her father's role in the war until he died. Ruggeberg survived the war and eventually was appointed military attaché to the

German Embassy in London, where he married a British woman and raised a family. His British daughter wanted to burn his sea chest full of war records when she found it in his attic. Her British husband, Barry Collins, persuaded her the trunk is a treasure chest of history and thus it survived. While riding on a municipal bus in Birmingham, England Ruggeberg's son-in-law picked up a brochure about a scuba diving trade show in the city's convention centre. The brochure mentioned Rick Stanley and Ocean Quest Adventures; a company that conducts diving tours on four freighters sunk in Bell Island's harbour during the Second World War. "You're not going to believe who my father in law was," said Collins when he approached Stanley at the trade show. "Barry came to my booth at the Birmingham show and told me about his father-in-law and his sea trunk of documents," said Stanley, a volunteer at the Bell Island Community Museum. "I told him I knew a perfect home for those documents."

In September 1942, Ruggeberg's U-513 slipped into the Bell Island anchorage on the surface at night, sat on the bottom in 24 metres of water and the next morning rose to periscope depth to sink the SS Lord Strathcona and the SS Saganaga, killing 29 sailors. Two months later U-518 snuck into Bell Island Harbour and sank two more iron ore freighters – the Rose Castle and the Free French vessel PLM 27 with the loss of 40 lives. All four freighters were armed and rest in shallow waters. But they don't rest easy. The vessels are in jeopardy of further damage by the thousands of huge icebergs that hug Newfoundland's coast each spring. Towering icebergs drift into Conception Bay, but only 10 per cent of an iceberg appears above the water. Many of them plow trenches into the ocean floor as they drift along. Stanley says an iceberg could crush a freighter or cut it in half.



As Ruggeberg was escaping the area on the surface, two Bell Island shore batteries opened up on his sub. Their projectiles missed, but one skipped off the water's surface and destroyed a private garage at Portugal Cove on Newfoundland's mainland. After viewing Hitler's congratulatory letter and Ruggeberg's medals and notes, visitors to the Bell Island Community Museum can go through a trap door in the floor and descend down a long dirt ramp out under the ocean to see what caused all this action. The ore extracted from this mine under the sea is 54 per cent iron, the richest on earth. Iron ore was mined on the island for 71 years until 1966 when easier-to-access iron ore was discovered in Labrador. Clydesdale draught horses were used in the mine to pull carts full of iron ore along rail lines extending hundreds of miles out under the ocean. For each month down in the mine the Clydesdale spent a month grazing on green fields up on the surface. When the mine closed in 1966, the Clydesdales were given to island farmers who were amazed at how much weight the horses could pull. 72-year-old Bernie (Bernadette) Hammond walks 650 feet down the mine slope and back up again four times a day conducting tours of the mine: "It's really the only exercise I get. I look forward to each trip down and up the slope because I get to meet interesting people all the time." She has been making the climb ever since the mine opened 20 years ago. Barry Collins and his wife are not scuba divers, but have been out on the Stanley's dive cruiser to drop a memorial wreath on the ships sent to the bottom by their father.

The Stanleys have just opened a new adventure for their Ocean Quest scuba tours. When the mine closed its drainage pumps were shut down and seawater has filled most of the mine. Ocean Quest now conducts scuba cave-diving tours of the abandoned mining equipment and other features in the flooded mine tunnels. The museum opens on May 30 and remains open until the end of September. A 20-minute ferry ride across "the Tickle" from Portugal Cove connects Bell Island to Newfoundland's mainland.

## **Royal Canadian Navy Testing Reduced Crew Sizes on Frigates**

By Murray Brewster The Canadian Press



*HMCS Toronto heads to the Arabian Sea as part of Operation Artemis, in Halifax on Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.*

*The Canadian Press/Andrew Vaughan*

OTTAWA – Defence planners hope “X” marks the spot for the sailor-strained Royal Canadian Navy as the military has embarked on a set of experiments aboard existing frigates aimed at reducing crew sizes on its future warships. Vice-

Admiral Mark Norman has designated the Halifax-based frigate HMCS Montreal as a so-called “X-ship,” which for the next few years will experiment in what’s being described as innovative concepts and procedures for ships’ companies. The idea is to prepare the navy for both the new Arctic offshore patrol ships and eventually the replacements for country’s patrol frigates, both of which will have smaller crews than the navy traditionally deploys. The level of automation on the new ships will allow defence planners to make the reduction, but Norman says it means assuming a level of risk and potentially reduces the flexibility of what the warship can do on operations.

But it is also an important cost consideration as the navy plans for the nominally designated Canadian Surface Combatants, which are to begin replacing the 1990s vintage patrol frigates in the early 2020s. “We like to get cranked up about how much the ships cost,” Norman told a defence conference hosted by the MacKenzie Institute this week., (But) arguably over the 50 year life of the platform – if that’s what you’re planning for, but (ideally) let’s plan for 35 or 40 – the most expensive component of that ship is the crew.” The average crew size of one of the existing patrol frigates is roughly 225. The jaw-dropping price tag of the frigate replacements gives the exercise added weight. Some internal estimates at National Defence put the total investment in 15 warships – over 30 years – to be in the range of \$104 billion, including the purchase price and the full operating cost, including crew. The Trudeau government will soon be asked to approve the strategic plan for acquiring the ships and to put some seed money into the preparations. It has also taken some preliminary steps to bringing down the cost by mandating builders go with an existing warship design and combining two procurement plans into one. The experiment also comes at a time when the navy has already gotten smaller.

In 2009, the fleet was short 954 sailors out of a total complement of 8,541 regular force personnel. Officials at defence headquarters pointed to 2012-13 federal budget reports which show the navy’s total strength at 7,888, but wouldn’t say on Thursday how many of those postings were unfilled. During his speech, Norman also didn’t say how many vacancies there might be. “The organizational structure of the navy has shrunk significantly over the last decade and it is very, very fragile,” he said. But it’s a give-in the new ships will have fewer bodies, Norman added. “The crew of the surface combatant will be smaller than the crew of the (existing) Iroquois class (destroyers) and Halifax class (frigates) that it’s replacing,” he said. “The ship itself will be bigger. The systems will be more complex.” Discussions are still ongoing about how much smaller the crew of the frigate replacements will be, he added. Data on the feasibility will be gathered through the long-term experiments run by the Montreal, and its sister ship HMCS Fredericton, which is running its own, smaller short-term trials while deployed with NATO’s standing task force as part of Operation Reassurance. The concept, according to Norman, involves using a core crew and mission crew. The core crew is needed to operate the ship; a separate mission crew is embarked depending on the tasks the warship is assigned. “We’re – in essence – splitting the crew,” he said. “The core crew is smaller and in essence you can customize the mission crew depending on what you want to do. That introduces a great deal of flexibility in terms of how we operate the ship.”

# Jericho Replacement Building Nearly Complete

By MCpl Leon Underwood, 39 CBG Movement Team

We are Moving!!

2016 will see all occupants of the Jericho Garrison moving to the new site located next to the Seaforth Armoury at 1650 Burrard Street. This project has been in the works for a number of years now and we are very excited about the move. Defense Construction Canada is currently overseeing the project with the building nearing completion. It will be turned over to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Environment, in the spring of 2016.

The contractor broke ground back in the spring of 2012 in the previous parking lot of the Seaforth Armoury. Since then, a four storey building has been erected which will house all of the people that currently work in the Jericho Garrison. The Seaforth Armoury has been seismically upgraded and has seen additions such as; climbing/rappelling wall, new parade square and renovation of all three messes. For the most part, the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada will move back into their original building and the rest will move into JRB.



*The new Jericho Replacement Building. DND/CAF organizations will be relocating from Jericho Garrison to the JRB later in the year. Photo by Capt Chris Poulton, 39 CBG Public Affairs*

Some of the major changes will be that the Jericho Combined Mess will be dissolved and all of the units will share the three messes in Seaforth Armoury. As well, Mainland Family Resource Centre will be moving with us, and there will a Dental Clinic setup within the CF H Svcs lines. Stay tuned for an official move date and a new name for the building!

## Who is it?



**Last Week:** We had several very good guesses about the ID of this piper but no one got it right. The chap in question is a piper of the Royal Guard of Libya, pre-Kaddafi, of course. The scan is from a lad's book of the early 1960s that was kicking around John Redmond's parents' basement.

**This Week:** We return to the theme of loud devices. In fact, this one is something that might be related to another quiz of the recent past. So, the easy question is: “Can you name this gun?” That done, the second question is: “Can you name the location?” Given that the photo, which comes to our archives courtesy of a local municipality, was taken before most of you were born, you might be tempted to say: “Of course, not”. However, not every part of the Lower Mainland (strong hint) has benefited from the wonderful advance of progress and modernity, which has seen the sweeping away of old, ugly places such as the Birks Building, or all those selfish single-family houses up and down Cambie, Oak, and Granville, and all the trees and gardens they had. Trees get in the way of SUVs, and gardens cause allergies.



The final, hardest question is: “What unit is this?” Given the contemporary-like girth of the lad playing with the sights of the gun, it is possibly a Reserve Army unit, but we honestly don’t know. Please help us by contacting the editor, or the author, John Redmond ([johnd.redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Thanks for playing along, and don’t forget to check out other photos at the Vancouver Artillery Association website (<http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/>). As always, you can email the editor for a picture you can zoom in on [Bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:Bob.mugford@outlook.com)

### **From the ‘Punitary’**

What did the triangle say to the circle? You're so pointless.

### **Murphy’s other Laws**

Murphy on State-of-the-Art Electronics: If you understand it, it’s obsolete.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Those who would give up essential freedoms for security, deserve neither freedom nor security.  
- Benjamin Franklin





## 2016 Vancouver Strategic Studies Conference

Vancouver Public Library  
350 West Georgia Street  
Alice McKay Presentation Room

**Friday April 8, 2016**

- 6:30 PM Doors Open
- 7:00 PM **Opening Remarks** – The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC  
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
- 7:10 PM **Keynote Event – Panel Discussion**  
“Global Flashpoints”  
Moderator – Cecilia Walters, CBC Journalist  
Panelists – Dr James Boutilier, Asia-Pacific Policy Advisor to  
Commander Maritime Forces Pacific; Brigadier-General (retired) Robert  
Chekan, CD; Former Ambassador Jillian Stirk; Professor Allen Sens, UBC

**Saturday April 9, 2016**

- 8:30 AM Doors Open with Opening Remarks at 8:50 AM
- 9:00 AM **Professor Alexander Moens** – Political Science, SFU  
*NATO: Threats, Challenges, and the Response of Allies and Partners*
- 9:50 AM **Ms Jillian Stirk** – Diplomat and former Ambassador  
*Human Rights and Migration*
- 10:40 AM Coffee break
- 11:00 AM **Dr James Boutilier** – Asia-Pacific Policy Advisor, Maritime Forces Pacific  
*China's Maritime Ambitions in the Indo Pacific Region*
- 11:50 AM Lunch in the BCR Beatty Street Drill Hall, 620 Beatty St 2 blocks east
- 12:50 PM **Professor Allen Sens** – Political Science UBC  
*The Middle East: Conflict and Conflict Management*
- 1:40 PM **Brigadier-General (retired) Robert Chekan, CD** – RCAF  
*Expeditionary Air Operations, at Home and Abroad*
- 2:30 PM **Panel Discussion – The Arctic - Whose Future is This Anyway?**  
**Moderator** – Mr Joe Spears, Principal, Horseshoe Bay Marine Group  
**Featuring** – Professor Tina Adcock, SFU; Dr James Boutilier;  
Nancy Teeple, SFU; Brigadier-General (retired) Robert Chekan, CD
- 3:30 PM **William Hart-McHarg Memorial Lecture** – The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, PC,  
OMM, MSM, CD, Minister of National Defence  
*Canada and International Security*
- 4:30 PM Closing remarks by the Conference Organizers

**Register - (including coffee and lunch): \$45 regular, \$30 students and junior ranks - online –**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-vancouver-strategic-studies-conference-tickets-21259706354>

**Contact the Organizers – RUSI-Vancouver**

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The Hon Harjit Sajjan,  
PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP



The Hon Judith Guichon, OBC  
Lieutenant Governor of BC



Cecilia Walters, CBC

**Conference Organizer –**

Royal United Services Institute  
Vancouver

**Conference Sponsors –**

Royal United Services Institute  
of Vancouver Island  
Naval Officers' Association of  
British Columbia  
15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Society  
British Columbia Regiment (DCO)  
Association  
Royal Westminster Regiment  
Association  
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada  
Association

*The Vimy Day Committee invites you to attend*



## **The Vancouver Vimy Day Commemoration**

Commonwealth War Graves Section

Mountain View Cemetery

*(Enter at Fraser Street opposite 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue - Parking available)*

**11:00 a.m.**

**Sunday April 10, 2016**

*Please gather or be seated by 10:45 a.m.*

RSVP to [lhccathcart@gmail.com](mailto:lhccathcart@gmail.com) or 604 682 5453 by April 5, 2016



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia  
Founded 1919

*The President and Directors of  
The Naval Officers' Association of  
British Columbia,*

*request the pleasure of your company and guest(s)  
at dinner.*

*We shall commemorate the 71<sup>th</sup> anniversary of*

***The Battle of the Atlantic***

*on*

*Saturday, 30 April 2016*

*1830 for 1930*

***Wardroom, HMCS DISCOVERY***

*Guest of Honor*

*Rear-Admiral Gilles Couturier, OMM, CD.*

*Commander Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force Pacific*

*Cost: \$85.00 per person  
Mess Dress or Black Tie  
(Ladies Equivalent)  
Miniatures*

*RSVP before April 20<sup>th</sup> 2016*

*by using the attached reservation form.*