



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News May 2, 2017

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a newsletter on time, check the websites below to see if there is a notice about the current newsletter or to see if the current edition is posted there. If the newsletter is posted, please contact me at [bob.mugford@gmail.com](mailto:bob.mugford@gmail.com) to let me know you didn't get a copy.

**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> . Both groups are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vancouver%20artillery%20association> and <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=rusi%20vancouver>

**Wednesday Lunches -** We serve a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Attendance has been down recently. Most of our regular attendees, who are retired, are slowly fading away and the next generation seems, by and large, to be too busy to attend. Guests are always welcome and we encourage members to bring their significant others. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies

**Upcoming events – Mark your calendars** See attached posters for details.

- May 06** - BC Army Gala
- SHC Afghan LAV Unveiling and Dedication
- NOABC Battle of the Atlantic Dinner
- May 07** - Battle of the Atlantic Parade
- May 13** - 15 Field Arty Regt Change of Command **Note change of venue**
- May 31** - CareerConnect comes to Vancouver

## World War 2 - 1942

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

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Today's landings of Japanese troops include Tulagi in the Solomons and a new beachhead on Mindanao. British troops land on Madagascar to wrest it from the Vichy French and keep the Japanese from being tempted.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>:** Yorktown's aircraft raid the Japanese beachhead at Tulagi. The bombardment of Corregidor intensifies. The British in the Akyab region of Burma (the backdoor to the south from India) have withdrawn as the Chinese are scattered in all directions in northern Burma.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>:** British troops land at Diego Suarez on Madagascar, to provide a presence against the Japanese on the Pro-Vichy Island. It is a costly effort, but the Japanese manage to land on Corregidor. Stilwell sends his remaining forces to retreat towards India rather than China. The Japanese decide to attack Midway Island and start planning. Many sailors insist ships have

souls and the Polish destroyer ORP Blyskawica has a most valiant one. Since her escape from Danzig in 1939, the ship has fought on in exile. This night, tied to a dock in Cowes on the Isle of Wight, she defended the British town from a raid by 160 Luftwaffe bombers. Her guns fired till they were glowing, her magazines were shot empty, and her smoke screen obscured the town. For this and other deeds (including sharing in the destruction of three U-Boats), the ship eventually received Poland's highest military distinction and she was named to the Order Virtuti Militari.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>:** General Wainwright and 15,000 US and Filipino troops surrender on Corregidor – the defence of the Island and Bataan have been a tragic epic but their valour threw a major spanner in the works of Japan's juggernaut, diverting troops, supplies and shipping from other projects.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** The Battle of the Coral Sea begins in earnest as air strikes are traded with mixed results – the Americans lose a destroyer and a tanker (which the Japanese mistake for a carrier), the 44 ship Japanese convoy headed for Port Moresby turns back to Rabaul, and the IJN loses the small carrier Shoho. Wainwright broadcasts his surrender from Luzon and invites US forces on Mindanao to yield as well.

**May 8<sup>th</sup>:** Simultaneous strikes are launched by the Carrier forces in the Coral Sea – USS Lexington is sunk, and Yorktown is badly damaged as is the IJN's carrier Shokaku; but the Americans have an unambiguous strategic victory as the invasion of Port Moresby is called off. 22<sup>nd</sup> Panzer Division resumes the German offensive in the USSR by moving to clear the eastern tip of the Crimea.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** USS Wasp and HMS Eagle ferry 64 Spitfires to Malta, these are immediately fueled and armed on landing and so manage to survive to make a dent on the aerial armada pounding the islands.

## **CF Pledges Pensions to Be Sorted Before Wounded Soldiers Released**

Delays getting retiring soldiers their cheques has been a problem for years

Murray Brewster, CBC News Apr 20, 2017



*LGen Chuck Lamarre, who oversaw Joint Task Force Afghanistan in 2011, is the Canadian Armed Forces' new chief of military personnel. He says the military will ensure pensions for wounded soldiers are in place before they're released from service.*  
(Murray Brewster)

The new head of military personnel says injured soldiers whose pension and financial estimates aren't completed by their release dates will remain in uniform until the paperwork is finalized. LGen Lamarre announced the measure while answering questions Thursday after a ceremony marking the change of command at the Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU) in suburban Ottawa. "We will hold them within the JPSU until all of that

pension administration has been done and that when these people transition out, within 30 days, they will receive their first pension [cheque]," Lamarre said. He wasn't clear, when asked, about how long it will be before the measure is extended to those who aren't injured, saying "the whole intent is that all members of the Canadian Armed Forces ... will be looked after in that respect, in the same way."

The measure is an important step toward making the journey between uniform and civilian life easier. Throughout the winter, CBC News reported on cases where retired soldiers, sailors and aircrew waited months for their military pensions to kick in, including a single mother who was evicted when she couldn't pay her rent. But later Thursday, an official at National Defence was unable to say how many troops might be affected by the new policy because the department is "not currently tracking whether any releasing members need to be 'held-on' to in achieving a successful transition." A statement prepared in response to further questions wouldn't go as far as to say wounded members will be allowed to stay on after their scheduled release. The best clarification Maj. Alex Munoz could offer was that the military is "updating" the release process to "encourage" retiring members to obtain an estimate of their pension entitlement well in advance of their departure date. "Additionally, we are encouraging CAF members to obtain their pension package forms from the Pension Centre prior to their release date and to return the forms in a timely manner." Lamarre, however, was clear when asked what the military intends to do: "We will hang on to the individuals and make sure their pension has been set up and organized so they can get it."

The delay in getting pension cheques into the hands of retiring soldiers has been a major headache at National Defence for years. Roughly 5,000 members are released each year, with an increasing number of them departing for medical reasons. At one point last year, there was a backlog of 13,000 cases, which the department has said it's whittling down and expects to eliminate by the end of the year. Figures released by National Defence on Thursday show the backlog now sits at 4,081 cases. Last summer, the administration of the system was handed over to the Department of Public Services and Procurement, which Lamarre said has been delivering payments within 30 days in 96 per cent of cases. According to officials, that delivery timeline depends on the required paperwork being filled out and delivered to the department. But getting the files there is a chore. Figures released by DND on Thursday show there's an additional backlog of 4,331 release files at the Director of Military Careers Administration office.

*Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Jonathan Vance says he wants to make sure that when someone leaves the military their 'pension cheque is ready.'*  
(Lars Hagberg/Canadian Press)



When he appeared before a Senate committee last week, the country's top military commander, Gen Jonathan Vance, alluded to the new release policy for injured soldiers, but indicated he was still searching for an overall solution. "I would like to

find a way to ensure — positively, no matter how complex your case is — that you don't take this uniform off until your pension cheque is ready," he said. "It's going to take some work. All things sound simple when you're a critic, but when you're actually trying to do it, things are challenging." When questioned about the pension delays last winter, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan blamed staffing cuts at the department under the previous Conservative government for creating the backlog. But the problem is more complex than that, according to internal Defence Department documents obtained by CBC News. Some soldiers have mixed service between regular and reserve forces, which requires a more detailed pension calculation. Medical releases add another layer of complexity. Defence sources say one solution being examined involves taking an individual a month before they retire and doing a financial analysis that will allow the member to walk out the door with a cheque in their hands. But there is no doubt that lean staffing throughout National Defence has had an impact on ill and injured soldiers, particularly in the unit that is supposed to help shepherd them out of the service.

The JPSU, with eight locations and 24 smaller sub-units at bases across the country, has been a routine target of complaints since it was conceived at the height of the Afghan war almost 10 years ago. As with any organization put together quickly, "there are usually some teething pains," said BGen Shane Brennan, who assumed command of the JPSU on Thursday, "but we wouldn't want those teething pains to overshadow the good work that goes on in the JPSUs every day." He acknowledged staffing has been an issue and says as many as 80 uniformed members of the regular force and a comparable number of civilians will be brought in over the next two years as the organization is overhauled and joined with a larger, professional military human resources branch. The plan for that transition is not yet complete. "Of course, there are things that need to be improved," Brennan said. "We need to have the right people there. They need to be trained and we need to develop some expertise. I think we're on the path now to make the JPSU brand better."

## **Manitoba to Honour Military IDs for License Applications**

Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) announced yesterday that it will accept Canadian Forces licences and identification cards to help establish the identity of military personnel who relocate to the province and apply for either a license or identification card. "These military cards are issued by the Department of National Defence and, in all cases, the military card holder goes through a stringent process to establish and confirm their identity," Crown Services Minister Ron Schuler said. "This is a positive step in expediting the transition to Friendly Manitoba." "This change is effective immediately, and is also being adopted in other Canadian jurisdictions that don't already recognize military identification cards or driver licences for identity verification purposes," commented MPI Loss Prevention and Communications vice-president Ward Keith. "It can be a real challenge when military members and their families are moved between provinces," said Special Envoy for Military Affairs, MLA Jon Reyes. "The acceptance of military identification cards and driver licences by Manitoba Public Insurance means one less worry when a member of our military is stationed to Manitoba and applies for a provincial driver licence or identification card." *MyToba.ca* reported that Manitoba will continue to

circulate the “Support our Troops” specialty licence plate series to honor the commitment of Canadian Forces personnel.

## **Seven Day Vancouver Island Exercise involves 300 CF Members**

The Canadian military is conducting an exercise on Vancouver Island over the next week to test its capacity to rescue Canadians from foreign failed states. CBC News Posted: Apr 27, 2017

Over the next week, Vancouver Island will play the fictitious failed state of "Macadamia" in a military exercise designed to test the Canadian military's capacity to rescue Canadians from a nation in turmoil. When Canadians are in trouble abroad, the first federal department in charge of evacuation is Global Affairs Canada (the former foreign affairs department). LCol Jacques Allain, the commanding officer of the exercise, says if the capacity of Global Affairs Canada to move people falls short, it may ask the Canadian Forces to come and help. The military has participated in real-life overseas rescue missions from Lebanon in 2006 and Libya in 2011. Allain says the key point of this exercise is to improve communication between the civilian staff of Global Affairs Canada and military personnel. "The major lessons we've learned is the necessity for us and the people at Global Affairs Canada to speak the same language. Although we are two federal departments, we have two different focuses. It's important for us to come together and speak the same language and unify our processes and our protocol," he explained. The exercise is practiced annually in different locations across the country to test different terrain, he said. It is not related to a specific world event or scenario, he added.



*The Canadian military is conducting an exercise on Vancouver Island over the next week to test its capacity to rescue Canadians from foreign failed states.*

In this scenario, Vancouver Island will play "Macadamia" — a nation struck by an earthquake and tsunami that has devolved into political chaos. "What we're seeing right now is a lot of political and social unrest. We've included a natural catastrophe

because sometimes, in a more fragile country, that can destabilize the government," Allain said. "Canadians that are doing business or living abroad at this time — we feel like their situation is dire and not safe anymore." The mission will be to evacuate role-players from Vancouver Island. Challenges will include integrating with the civilian Global Affairs personnel and other organizational personnel, creating communication systems, organizing transportation and ensuring safety.

About 300 Canadian Armed Forces personnel will be participating in the exercise, Allain said, but you likely won't see them. "We will keep a low profile," he said. "CAF personnel typically arrive in civilian clothes and in the smallest possible numbers so as not to create alarm,

suspicion or ill-feeling. "That is one of the key aspects of one of these operations when we go and help Global Affairs Canada. Most of the time, we'll be using just plain clothes as we come in and help them sort out the logistics and chaos and make sure we can move our Canadians to a safe place." The exercise is expected to end on May 5.

## **The Govt Wants to Give Veterans Up to \$80,000 to Go to School**

The move is part of the recently-released federal budget. Apr 18, 2017 11:00 AM by: Sue Sgambati

Veterans will be eligible for up to \$80,000 to pay for college, university or technical education under a program announced this morning by the federal government. Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr made the announcement at Georgian College. "If education truly is the great equalizer, as I believe it to be, being the son of two school teachers, then this new Education and Training Benefit will be a game changer for Canada's Veterans and their families," Hehr told a news conference. The new measures in budget 2017 involve redesigning career transition services so more people can make use of them including survivors, spouses and partners. "They'll have access to coaching for job search, labour market assessments, information on education and training requirements to reach their career goals. All from coaches who understand military culture," explained Hehr. The new education and training benefit introduced will help Veterans transition from military careers by returning to school after service. "Soldiers will have the opportunity to go back to the college or university of their choice within ten years of release from the military. It will cover up to \$40,000 in tuition and other costs for members who have served six years and \$80,000 for members who have served 12," said Hehr. "If college or university isn't the right option, \$5,000 benefit is available for professional development. If you want to become a real estate broker, something to that affect." Georgian College President and CEO MaryLynn West-Moynes told the crowd Georgian has many students with a military background. "I cannot think of a better investment in the individuals who have invested in our country than the investment you are making," said West-Moynes.



Several veterans who are already attending Georgian College attended the announcement. Bob Munroe, who served 36 years in the Canadian Forces, was a bit leery about applauding the news just yet. "A little. It helps. Every little bit that they're giving veterans is a positive thing. Before I make an opinion on anything I have to read what's out there," said Munroe, 59.

"The biggest problem with people retiring now is the wait that they have between when you retire to when you get your pension. It's horrendous. I know people who had to wait seven months. Myself I waited just short of five months and it caused hardship." Munroe and fellow veteran Bob Hurley, 58, are both set to graduate next week from Georgian's Digital Photography program. "I joined right out of high school in 1977 and I served 38 years three months and two weeks in the regular force," said Hurley. "It is a tough transition from military to civilian. Education is important so while we get trained in the military a lot of our skills aren't necessarily transferable so if we can come back to college and learn new marketable skills I think that's awesome."

Honorary Colonel Jamie Massie has already established scholarships for Canadian Forces personnel family members. "I think the announcement this morning creating more pathways for our veterans and Canadian Forces personnel to be able to attend institutions like Georgian college is phenomenal," said Massie. The government allotted \$133.9 million over six years to create the new Veterans' Education and Training Benefit. "We ask the men and women of this county to do the heavy lifting for us on the front line when they join the Canadian forces and we are committed to ensuring they receive the support they need afterwards," said Hehr.

## **Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates**

Follow the war diary entries of 100 years ago on our What's New page - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/whats-new>

We're also adding names to the nominal roll and uploading them to the website  
Check out the following:

C's - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---c.html>

D's - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---d.html>

E's - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---e.html>

F's - <http://www.vancouvergunners.ca/nominal-roll---f.html>

I'm always looking for more stories and pictures! Contact Leon Jensen at [LeonJ1@hotmail.com](mailto:LeonJ1@hotmail.com)

## **Who Is It**

**Last Week:** A director, also called an auxiliary predictor, is a mechanical or electronic computer that continuously calculates trigonometric firing solutions for use against a moving target, and transmits targeting data to direct the weapon firing crew. Most of them were built by the Sperry Corp. We aren't sure of the Mk #. The photo was taken on Vancouver Island, probably Albert Head, around 1950.



**This Week:** Here is, as promised a couple of weeks ago, one for the Brylcreem Boys (and Girls, although I doubt any used that product). Now I must admit that this is not a Supermarine Spitfire, nor any other swish fighter. Neither did it serve with that august organization, the RCAF, at least, not in this guise. All of you Biggles types are probably saying, “What ho, Piffy. Stonked his dibbly-dob, eh! Everyone savvies that kite is a \*\*\*\*\*”. However, please be patient, as most Gunners will have difficulty identifying it as anything other than a moving (sort of) target. This week’s quiz has some rather odd questions.



So, the first is simply this. What is that kite (to use RCAF banter)? The second is “What military organization flew them?” Simple, isn’t it? Well, how about this one. Who flew one over the railhead of Uijeongbu in Korea in April of 1953, dropping toilet

paper (unused) on to one of our finest regiments? What was that regiment? Who commanded it and what did he do in that war that so confused the Americans?.

Easy? I hope not. Answers may be sent to the editor, [bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com) or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)). Exercise those grey cells!

### **From the ‘Punitary’**

When should a mouse carry an umbrella? When it is raining cats and dogs.

### **Murphy’s Other Laws**

If you find yourself in front of your platoon, they know something you don't.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.  
*Mark Twain*



*We're Going...*

**Are YOU?**



**VIMY**  
1917 - 2017

**Event:** The 2017 British Columbia Army Gala  
**Date:** Saturday, May 6th, 2017  
**Location:** The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Armoury  
**Dress:** Mess Kit or Black Tie, Evening Gown  
**Tickets:** Website/Facebook details here

For more information, go to the Gala website: -  
<http://bcarmygala.ca/#about-marquee>



The Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia  
Founded 1919

## **Battle of the Atlantic Sunday**

**Parade and Ceremony - 10:30 am - May 7, 2017**

### **Sailor's Memorial – North Vancouver**

The annual Battle of the Atlantic parade and ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the Sailor's Memorial at Waterfront Park, adjacent to the BCIT Marine Training Centre in North Vancouver.

The parade forms up at 10:00 am at the south foot of Chesterfield Street, close to the Sea Bus Terminal, then will march to the Sailor's Memorial arriving at 10:30 am. Taking the salute will be Commander Jeffrey Zwick, Commander of Canada's Pacific Fleet.

The Battle of the Atlantic remembrance ceremony begins at 10:35 am, during which the listing of Royal Canadian Navy ships lost in battle will be featured. The placing of wreaths will conclude the ceremony.

Participating in the Battle of the Atlantic Sunday parade will be members of HMCS Discovery, Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, Navy League Cadets, Naval Officers Association of BC, Vancouver Naval Veterans Band and the Legion Colour Party.

Representatives of Royal United Services Institute Vancouver and the Air Force Officers Association and various veterans' organizations will also attend.

Those attending and not marching are requested to be seated by 10:20 am.

Access to Sailor's Memorial is through Waterfront Park from Chesterfield Street or from Esplanade West.

For more information contact Bob Juulsen @ 604 946 0936.

# 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Change of Command



The Commanding Officer  
and  
all ranks of

The 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment,  
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery  
request the pleasure of your company at the

Change of Command ceremony

between

Lieutenant-Colonel Brent Purcell, CD  
and  
Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Lajoie, CD

To be held on  
13 May 2017, at 13:00 hours  
At

**Parade has been moved back to  
Bessborough Armoury**

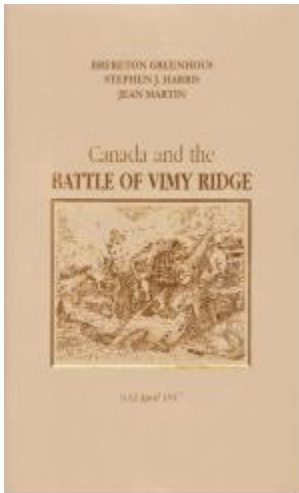
**2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver BC**

Reception to follow in the 15<sup>th</sup> Fd Regt, RCA Officers' Mess  
in Bessborough Armoury.

Dress:  
CF Mbrs- DEU No.1A (Medals)  
Civilian- Business attire

RSVP  
Richard.Jones6@forces.gc.ca

## **FREE Vimy Ridge Book**



**Canada and the BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE** by Brereton Greenhous, Stephen J. Harris and Jean Martin first printed in 2007 is now available online FREE, courtesy of DND and DHH. To get a copy go to:-

[www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/pub/boo-bro/vimy/doc/vimy-eng.pdf](http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/pub/boo-bro/vimy/doc/vimy-eng.pdf)

## **Afghan LAV Memorial**



### **AFGHAN LAV MEMORIAL**

All, please pass onto your Afghan Vets, that there will be a LAV unveiling and dedication at the Vancouver Garrison, Seaforth Armoury

First & Burrard St., Vancouver

Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>

1:15pm

Reception to follow in the Seaforth Officers Mess

## CareerConnect comes to Vancouver!

# You're Invited!

On Wednesday, May 31, Canada Company will hold its first CareerConnect in British

**CANADA COMPANY PRESENTS:**  
**Vancouver CareerConnect**

**HMCS Discovery**  
1200 Stanley Park Drive  
Vancouver, BC  
V6G 3C7

**May 31st**  
10:30AM - 5:00PM  
\$550+HST  
[www.metforce.ca](http://www.metforce.ca)

CanadaCompany Canada\_Company

Columbia. CareerConnect is a job fair specifically designed to connect Military Members, Veterans and Spouses to a network of local military-friendly employers. And we want you with us in Vancouver!

At CareerConnect, you'll engage with employers who understand your military background, and can speak knowledgeably about opportunities for your next career, all in an informal trade show setting.

The MET and METSpouse programs have seen our 272 Employer Partners hire more than 2189 Veterans and Spouses across Canada. We're well on the way to achieving our goal of 10,000 hires by 2023 – and we want to add you to that total.

Your participation in CareerConnect includes a pre-event Workshop on the evening of Tuesday, May 23 to prepare you for the job fair, and ensure you get the most out of the experience. The details for the Workshop are:

Location: BCIT  
3700 Willingdon Avenue  
Building SE6, Room 233  
Burnaby, BC  
V5G 3H2

Agenda: 5PM – 6PM Registration & Light Supper  
6PM – 9PM CareerConnect Workshop for Members, Veterans & Spouses

The details for CareerConnect are:

Location: HMCS Discovery  
1200 Stanley Park Drive  
Vancouver, BC  
V6G 3C7

Agenda: 12:30PM – 3:30PM Military Members, Veterans & Spouses' Registration  
1PM – 4PM CareerConnect Job Fair

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with military-friendly employers who are waiting to meet you!

For more information about CareerConnect, please contact Marram Mohammad, MET & METSpouse Assistant, at [marram.mohammad@canadacompany.ca](mailto:marram.mohammad@canadacompany.ca) or 416.865.4254.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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