



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Aug 6, 2019

Newsletters normally are emailed on Monday evenings. If you don't get a future 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 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 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 need your support to keep the lunches going. Hope all you regular attendees can keep coming. The Mess serves a great 5 course buffet meal for only \$20. Hope to see you all there. Guests are always welcome, and we encourage members to bring their significant others and friends. Dress - Jacket and tie, equivalent for Ladies. For serving personnel, uniform of the day is always acceptable at lunch.

NOTE: There will not be a lunch on Sept 11. Mrs Lum will be out of town.

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

Sept 11 NO LUNCH - mark your calendars! Mrs Lum away.

Sept 28 RUSI Vancouver Inaugural Annual Dinner

World War 2 – 1944

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

Aug 7th: The Germans retake Mortain in a major counterattack (by the remains of 2nd and 116th Panzer Divisions), but US artillery and airpower are the masters of the situation and the German use of armour becomes too expensive for them. Elsewhere in Normandy, 3rd US Army mounts attacks on Brest, St. Malo and Lorient while the 1st Canadian Army uses the RAF to help crunch into the German defensive belt south of Caen by dropping 3,000 tons of bombs as the attack begins. Soviet troops take Sambor in the Carpathian foothills. Ferocious fighting continues on Guam as the Japanese continue to make slow and grudging withdrawals.

Aug 8th: Kluge's counteroffensive around Mortain fails to prevent further American gains as 79th US Division enters Le Mans and US XX Corps (newly created) undertakes a drive on Nantes and Angers. Warsaw is largely cleared by the Polish Home Army, but the vicious behavior of the SS-Police and Penal units has even disgusted hardened Waffen SS and

Wehrmacht veterans. Most of Mount Santa Rosa is overrun, prompting a further Japanese withdrawal on Guam to the northern tip of the Island.

Aug 9th: Soviet troops saunter to within 19km of Warsaw's suburbs. The German situation in Normandy crumples beyond repair as the Mortain offensive fails utterly while US XV Corps turns from Le Mans to drive for Argentan and Canadian II Corps continues to hack its way south from Caen towards Falaise. The B-26 Marauder bomber always was a handful for a pilot to control. Badly hit by flak as he starts his bombing run on a bridge over the Seine, Captain Darrell R Lindsey continues in his burning B-26 bomber to lead 29 others in the attack. Then he stays at the controls until all of his crew safely bailed out. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Aug 10th: Guam is secure in return for 1,300 US KIA and 5,700 wounded, while over 10,000 Japanese have died there. Vimont falls to British troops of 1st Canadian Army in the drive on Falaise; while XX US Corps takes Nantes and prepare to cross the Loire, XV US Corps advances on Alencon from Le Mans and St. Malo is liberated. Hitler strips off a lot of Luftwaffe fighter cover from the Eastern Front to try to rebuild his air strength in the west. SS Obergruppenfuhrer Felix Steiner is awarded the Swords to go with the Oak Leaves on his Iron Cross on this day. A former regular army officer, Steiner has been with the SS since 1935 but is without the taint of atrocity that so often attaches to them. As the commander of the Waffen SS Wiking Division and III Panzer Corps, he has attracted the respect of several Soviet generals for his skill as a commander. In the end during April 1945 he also chose to husband the lives of his remaining men rather than throw them away on Hitler's orders in a pointless counterattack to penetrate the Soviet encirclement of Berlin. He dies in 1966 in Munich at 69 years of age.

Aug 11th: Kluge pleads to pull back from Mortain as US troops cross Loire. 3rd Baltic Front shatters the German frontlines around Lake Peipus in a new offensive.

Aug 12th: PLUTO starts pumping fuel across Channel. US XV Corps grabs Alencon and advances towards Argentan. The liberation of Florence is completed.

Aug 13th: US XV Corps clears Argentan and holds while the Canadians and Poles claw their way south through desperate opposition to try to close Falaise Gap; US XII and XX Corps are closing in on Orleans and Chartres. The US Navy essays its first operational use of a radar glided glide bomb, but the Bat bomb does not prove to be a successful weapon system.

Essential Reading: The immediate generation of historians after the war took the fighting skill of ordinary Allied soldiers for granted, but a subsequent generation tended to diminish their contribution altogether – with the worst offenders dismissing them as helpless victims of either German efficiency (overrated) or incompetent Allied commanders. Canadian historian Terry Copp has been trying to rectify the injustice in a series of books, and one based on the battalion diaries of the Canadian 5th Brigade is a fine example of his work. *The Brigade: The Fifth Canadian Infantry Brigade in WWII* is another of the fine papers being published by Stackpole and carries a detailed examination of the men who bore the brunt of the war.

How it Came to Be

The story of how the history of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery - 1941 to 1945 came to be written.

Note:- During the war our Regiment was the 15th Coast Artillery Regiment RCA. Post war, we were issued 25pdrs and converted to Field Artillery. We carry the name of the wartime Field Regiment but not its history. - Ed.



Robert Spencer signs a copy of the book he presented to the Juno Beach Centre with Hon LCol Foster looking on.

On June 8, 1945, Brigadier EC Plough, Brigadier Royal Artillery (BRA), issued an order that no artillery regiment was to return home until its history had been written. This order reflected concern that the regiments would be dissolved and their personnel in the batteries scattered across the country. The histories were to be written in accordance with a suggested outline provided by the BRA. Regimental histories were distributed to each of the former serving members of a Regiment, to libraries in Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and specifically the New York Public Library, which was developing a collection of unit histories. Robert agreed to write a brief article to tell his remarkable story, about how he was tasked with writing the 'History of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regiment, RCA 1941 to 1945'.

As Robert wrote in the foreword, the book is dedicated "To the Gunners who so loyally served the 15th Field Regiment in training and in battle. It was intended to be a gunner's book, written about the gunners for the gunners. The book is a narrative about the 800 men who served the guns, drove the tanks, and vehicles, maintained communications under fire, cooked in field kitchens, carried ammunition, or worked in offices, command posts and stores. These are the men who made history."

The book shown with its original packaging. It was wrapped in old WW2 posters and packed in a cardboard box.



Robert A Spencer, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Toronto joined the Veterans Affairs Canada overseas delegation to mark the 75th

Anniversary of the Juno Beach landing and the Battle of Normandy. On June 5, 2019, Robert Spencer visited the Juno Beach Centre and presented HLCol Don Foster, Director of the Juno Beach Centre, with an original copy of the History of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regiment, RCA 1941 to 1945, still in its original 1945 wrapping.

Ubique,
Don G Foster, HLCol 15 Field Artillery Regiment, RCA

How it Came to Be: The story of the History of the 15th Canadian Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery - 1941 to 1945

The task of my writing the history of the 15th Canadian Field Regiment, RCA, 4th Canadian Armoured Division, first came into view soon after VE Day and the Regiment's move from its last base deep in Germany near Oldenburg back to Holland to await repatriation. Once settled in the simple village of Neede, as instructed I presented myself before the Commanding Officer, Colonel R.H.E. Walker, in his headquarters in Neede's railway station, wondering what offence I had committed. His message was quite different, and I could hardly have guessed its impact on my future. It turned out that Brigadier E.C. Plough, the Brigadier Royal Artillery (BRA), on 8 June 1945 had issued an order that no artillery regiment was to return home until its history had been written. This reflected concern that the regiments would be dissolved and their personnel in the batteries scattered across the country. I could readily see the point. The 15th Field's batteries had been raised in Winnipeg, Broadview (Saskatchewan), and Calgary, and the officers came from as far apart as Vancouver and the Maritimes. The histories were to be written in accordance with a suggested outline provided by the BRA. I was to have two months free from other duties to write the history of the 15th Field. I might have asked "why me?" but didn't. I had only joined the Regiment in England in October 1943, midway through its preparations for the Normandy campaign. I had a rather mediocre BA from McGill and a single article in Bell Canada's house journal, *The Blue Bell*, recounting experiences of a summer's

employment, as my sole publication, apart from labours as an Associate Editor of the *McGill Daily*, responsible for the front news page one day a week, and later the Military Editor. Thus, my writing record was limited. I do not recall much of the interview. But I clearly acknowledged that an order was an order and agreed that I would undertake the task.

My letters home at the time reflected the view that writing the history offered me a chance to brush up on my writing skills at the Army's expense. Early on I determined that I would tell the story in full and as best I could for the benefit of those who had been part of it. And as I contemplated the job it grew larger, and larger. Looking back, I can see that I took the project more seriously than perhaps I needed to because, as I later observed from the file at Canadian Military Headquarters in London, some others produced only a few pages as their regimental record.

However inexperienced I was, I realized at the start that I had to find the sources on which to base the story. I would also have to rely on the memories of those still with the unit, though I knew that verbal testimony could be unreliable. For the documentary basis, I would have to look at the Regimental war diaries. Written by the Intelligence Officer under direction of the Adjutant, often incomplete and hastily written some time after the events they recounted, these would be a primary printed if often inconsistent source. After being advised, incorrectly it turned out, that all the diaries, except the current one, had been sent to Second Echelon near Ghent, I travelled there only to learn that they had in fact been sent to London. I thus travelled there by train and ferry and train again to settle into the Maple Leaf Club IV in Kensington for a two week stay. From there I travelled daily by the London Underground and bus to a Ministry of Pensions building in Acton W3, where an outpost of the Canadian Army Historical Section was located. I put in long days labouring through files, starting with the period from Normandy to the end of the war, and on my final weekend there I turned my attention to the long period of training and waiting in England before deploying to the Continent. Of course, there was no photocopying, so I had to make extensive handwritten notes.

Back in Neede (I managed to get a flight from London to Army Headquarters in Apeldoorn from where I was picked up) and conscious of the looming two month deadline, I set to work in my bedroom office, assigned to me in the home of Mr and Mrs Kleerebezem, who looked after me so well during my four month stay. I must have made a favourable impression for, on my departure, they presented me with a handsome handkerchief decorated with a picture of a windmill and the message "In Remembrance of Neede" and accompanied by a card inscribed "in Remembrance of your Staying at our House, with Kind regards." The walls of my room were lined with maps showing the Regiment's path. I sorted out the notes I had taken in London, realizing also that for the periods before I joined the Regiment I would have to rely especially on the memories of participants and on some useful material provided by Colonel P.K. Park who on 4 January 1941 had been commissioned to raise and then command the Regiment. Then I settled down to write on the typewriter provided by Regimental Headquarters -- far better than my looted German one. It went surprisingly well and quicker than expected as I was able to piece together a fairly intelligible and cohesive narrative. The Divisional Commander Royal Canadian Artillery, Brigadier Bud Drury, came to see me. He read a few

paragraphs, seemed satisfied, and not worried about the fact that I was not going to be finished by the original deadline. What I had at the start referred to as “a little booklet” was clearly developing into a sizable book-length manuscript and I began to consider its publication. I made use of a handsome 1941 privately printed edition of Stephen Leacock's *Canada The Foundations of Its Future*, which had been sent to me as a birthday present two years earlier and which served as a model. Others read my drafts and made helpful criticisms. J.E.A. (James) Smith, who had served as Regimental Survey Officer for much of the campaign, drew a series of maps of where we had been.

We collected photographs and through Charles Stacey, the Director of History at Canadian Military Headquarters in London, we secured permission to make use of several printings by war artist Captain L.P. Harris, the son of Lauren Harris of Group of Seven fame. Lieutenant Andy Damer, a commercial artist by trade, provided many sketches to illustrate the book. Early on I had made contact with Mr R.E.M. van den Brink of the renowned Dutch publishing firm of Elsevier which, in addition to Amsterdam, had branches in Brussels, London, and New York, and who was interested in producing our book. When through Army Headquarters we secured the paper required for publication from captured German stock, he went one better, and resorted to Elsevier's own stock, long hidden from the Germans, and provided much better paper. The required funding came from Regimental canteen funds, for which I had to secure Army approval for the release of 9600 Guilders to pay the publisher. Towards the end of the process, the Regiment's next move, westward from Neede to Amerfoort, complicated my efforts. But, with a group of willing assistants, I pulled all the material together, and on 4 October the manuscript and supporting documents were all delivered to Elsevier, and I could go on leave. On my return there was still much to be done. As part of the process, I supervised Regimental members who made lists of those who had been wounded or killed, an honour roll of decorations and awards, and a complete list of all those who had landed in Normandy in July 1944. I also oversaw the creation of a list of home addresses so that each Regimental member could receive a copy of the book. Above all my task was to correct the first and second proofs. While the printers had done an excellent job, the different Dutch symbols for my corrections caused them difficulties as they were dealing with English, which they mostly did not understand.

In the meantime, the stunning news that the remnants of the 4th Division were to move from Holland, with 10 December 1945 set for the move of the 15th Field, meant I had to advance the plan for publication. I at once drove up to the printer at Wormerveer, eight kilometres northwest of Amsterdam, to plead with them to make haste, as I knew that repatriation efforts would continue to complicate the history's completion. Throwing packages of cigarettes around the shop, with the promise of more to come, no doubt helped speed up the process, as did the fact that one evening when with my watchful eye out for any military police, I sweetened the deal by rolling four jeep tires down the basement steps of the shop. To underline our seriousness and to encourage the workers, I made frequent trips back to Wormerveer, from where I also made a six-hour round trip down to Antwerp to scrounge a classic brown paper with which to wrap the books for mailing. When finally packaged, the books were first encased in sheets of heavy paper with a silhouette agricultural image dated 1936 which the printer must have had on hand

from nearly a decade earlier, and then the secured brown outer wrapping. I completed the proofs and returned them to the printer and arranged for the delivery of the books to England. On a final visit to Wormerveer it was thrilling to watch the sheets roll off the press ready for folding and binding, and I was assured that the finished product would be ready in about three weeks.

The concluding phase of this saga took place against the background of my successive changes in location and status. On 10 December I reassumed some regimental duties and set out leading its remnants south to Nijmegen and then westward on the long trip to the coast at Ostend and across to Dover, to reach, in the very early morning of 14 December, Aldershot, where I had passed my first days overseas on arrival from Canada in 1943. Back in England I cancelled my planned repatriation and accepted the invitation to join the Canadian Army's Historical Section in London. After handing over my command of the Regiment's rump early in 1946, I settled in to work in the Section's offices in Acton W3.

In the meantime, before I left Holland, I had linked up with Regimental Sergeant Major Bob Wilson, an old friend from my early days with the Regiment's 95th Battery. He was being left behind to supervise the shipment of the Regimental history to England. Together we had made our way to Wormerveer where the printers had yielded to my entreaties and laboured forty-eight hours without a break. The volumes in their green coloured binding (the colour of our division's shoulder patches) were piled high. It was hard to believe that what I had set to work on in the previous June had been completed. It had on its frontispiece a colour reproduction of '74,' the number which identified all our guns as well as wheeled and tracked vehicles. It included large scale folded end maps illustrating the Regiment's path from Sheffield Park, Sussex, England, through the whole campaign until the end, deep in Germany. The publishers were proud of their work and deservedly so. When the next day I went to see Mr van den Brink in his Elsevier office, I was asked to sign several copies which he intended to use as samples of their work. In return he presented me with a copy of their newly published *Mission Interrupted. The Dutch in the East Indies and their work in the XXth Century*, inscribed "With my best wishes for the author of the 15th Fd Regt, Royal Cdn Artillery."

On the afternoon of Friday, 18 January 1946, while I was at work at the Historical Section in London, Bob Wilson phoned to announce his arrival in Aldershot. I purchased postage stamps with funds provided from the grant from the Regimental canteen funds and joined him in No 2 Repatriation Depot in Aldershot. Together with Battery Sergeant Major W.A. Graham who, for some reason which I cannot recall, had not gone home with the Regiment, we set to work in assembly-line fashion. Using the list of home addresses compiled in Neede, we prepared address labels each of which bore as the return address my parents' home in Montreal. We worked until midnight and resumed our labours the next day when the stoutly wrapped books were deposited in the mail. One was addressed to each of the former serving members of the Regiment, to libraries in Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Belgium, as well as to the New York Public Library, which was developing a collection of unit histories. We also shipped a large number of copies to each of the batteries in Winnipeg, Broadview, and Calgary. In the ensuing weeks and months, I mailed further copies as I responded to requests from members of the Regiment whom we initially had been unable to contact.

I received many letters of acknowledgement and congratulations from grateful recipients. Especially moving were the letters from the families of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice. One wrote “Thank you so much for the lovely book.” Another that “His heart was always with the 15th.” In Montreal the pitifully crippled R.C. Fetherstonhaugh, who had a considerable reputation as a historian, wrote a review in the *McGill News* and quoted extensively from it in his *McGill University at War, 1914-1918, 1939-1945*. In the September 1946 issue of the *Canadian Historical Review*, the reviewer wrote that “Captain Spencer ... has produced a book of good quality with excellent features.” Later on, I was pleased to note the many references to it in Gerald Nicholson's 1947 study, *The Gunners of Canada* Volume II, and in Charles Stacey's *The Victory Campaign*, the third volume of the official history of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, published in 1960. Accompanying Stacey's description of the battle at Kapelesche veer was Andy Damer's sketch of the dyke drawn from descriptions of the scene given to him by me and others. The *History of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regiment, RCA 1941 to 1945* was dedicated “To the Gunners who so loyally served the 15th Field Regiment in training and in battle.” As I wrote in its foreword, it was intended to be a gunners’ book, written about the gunners for the gunners. It is a narrative about the 800 men who served the guns, drove tanks and vehicles, maintained communications under fire, cooked in field kitchens, carried ammunition, or worked in offices, command posts and stores. These are the men who made history.

The publication of the book had an unexpected impact on the development of my postwar career. While serving in the Historical Section I was awarded a major fellowship, the James C. Cumming Fellowship at Trinity College, University of Toronto, where the book was accepted by the University's Department of History as my thesis for an MA. This enabled me to enrol in further senior courses which did so much to further my academic preparation for a DPhil degree while a student at St John's College, Oxford and my subsequent career in history and appointment to the Department of History at the University of Toronto. There I had a further step in my military experience by joining the leadership of the University's Canadian Officers’ Training Corps (COTC) of which I was Commanding Officer from 1962 to 1966.

Nearly seventy-five years after writing the book, and while a member of the Veterans Affairs Canada overseas delegation to mark the 75th anniversary of the Juno Beach landing and the Battle of Normandy, on 5 June 2019 I was pleased to present to the Juno Beach Centre a copy of the *History of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regiment, RCA 1941 to 1945*, still in its original 1945 wrapping.

The *History of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regiment* was Robert’s first major publication. Throughout his academic career that followed his war service he was a prolific writer and editor. His most recent publication (2010) was *A European Affair: Memoirs*, his personal story, in which he describes his time with the 15th Field and his experience writing its history. At 98 years old, Robert lives independently in Ottawa.

DND to Spend \$250 million over Five Years on Reserves

For infrastructure and gear. *The Canadian Press August 1, 2019*



National Defence headquarters in Ottawa

HALIFAX — Canada’s military reserve units will see \$250 million in repairs and upgrades to their armouries and training facilities over the next five years, changes Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan says are long overdue. Sajjan announced the funding Thursday at Artillery Park, a

reserve facility in downtown Halifax. He said approximately \$38 million of the total is expected to be spent on immediate maintenance and repairs across the country this fiscal year. “This investment will have meaningful impact on reservists across Canada,” Sajjan told a gathering of reservists from various units in the Halifax area.

The federal minister said training areas such as firing ranges would be upgraded, while many aging armouries will see repairs to things such as plumbing, electrical wiring and leaky roofs. Heating and cooling systems will also be upgraded to make workspaces more comfortable and to make buildings more energy efficient. “Maintenance may not seem glamorous, and it should have been done a long time ago, but it wasn’t,” Sajjan said. “Under-investment leads to simple things like washrooms not working or roofs starting to leak. A reservist that gives up time from their employment and from their families deserves to have a proper working environment.” Sajjan said a regional study will also be conducted to assess longer term infrastructure needs. The study will begin by looking at facilities in Vancouver and Edmonton with an eye to future modernization. The Liberal government has committed to increasing the size of the primary reserve force by 1,500 people to reach a total of 30,000. “As we increase our numbers, we must ensure that our facilities can accommodate that growth,” Sajjan said. Sajjan told reporters the Armed Forces have had to make tough decisions in the past about where to put their finances when it comes to maintenance. “Reserve infrastructure was always left to the side,” he said. “What this is about is making sure we invest in the right places.”

Investments planned this fiscal year include an estimated \$15.8 million for Quebec, \$5.2 million for the West region, \$3.8 million for the Pacific and \$1.2 million for Ontario. Atlantic Canada’s estimated share for the year is about \$3.7 million. BGen Roch Pelletier, Commander of the 5th Canadian Division, welcomed the funding for the Atlantic region. “Atlantic Canada has a large footprint of reserve units,” said Pelletier. “Their armouries were built many years ago and they require maintenance and upgrades to make sure they are ready to support the mission and the

task that we have today.” Pelletier said it’s a required move given that the reserves are being asked to do more under Canada’s defence policy in both supporting the regular force and in assisting communities. He highlighted recent missions such as the assistance that was provided this spring during the second straight year of severe flooding along New Brunswick’s Saint John River. While the Canadian Forces have a long history of helping provinces and municipalities, recent trends indicate those requests are growing in both frequency and magnitude. A recent analysis by The Canadian Press found the military has been called out to help with 10 weather-related disasters in the last two years — compared with 20 between 2007 and 2016 and only 12 between 1996 and 2006. Pelletier said the funding “will increase the operational effectiveness of reserve units and regiments.”

Abbotsford Agrifair 2019



The FAT and 25pdr were moved to the Abbotsford Fairgrounds for the Annual Agrifair from Aug 2nd to 4th. Doug Loney and Andrew MacRae manned the display. They spent a hot weekend entertaining many visitors to the display – good thing they brought the sun shelter.

Next weekend they are off to the Abbotsford Airshow where they will be joined by Walde Libera with his Cab 13 FAT and newly acquired 25pdr to make a two-gun troop.



Vancouver Artillery Association Yearbook Updates

It is with a sad heart that the Vancouver Artillery Association passes on the terrible news that one of our former Commanding Officers, Lieutenant Colonel Dean Drysdale CD is losing his battle with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. Dean is not able to greet as many of his friends and acquaintances as he would like, so we’ve put together a special page <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca/dean-drysdale.html> as a means to pass along your messages for him to read. Please send them to president.vcrgunners@gmail.com and we will post them as quickly as possible.

Good Shooting.
Ubique.

VIA Rail Discount for Veterans

VIA is offering a 40% off the best available fares in Sleeper Plus class onboard the Canadian (Toronto-Vancouver train) —for qualifying members of the Canadian Armed Forces, National Defence civilian personnel, veterans, and their immediate families. The offer ends on September 23, 2019. For details see:- <https://www.viarail.ca/en/canadian-forces>

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: The Barkley-Grow Aircraft Corp. was a US aircraft manufacturer established by Archiebald St Clair Barkley and Captain Harold Barkley Grow in Detroit in 1937 to produce a small civil transport which incorporated Barkley's patented wing design, the Barkley-Grow T8P-1. Typical for the era, the Barkley-Grow T8P-1 was a low-wing monoplane of all-metal construction with a twin tail (an additional third tail was installed, à la Lockheed Constellation, when fitted with floats). The T8P (standing for **T**ransport, **8** Passenger) was designed to be simple and rugged, thus the main



units of the tailwheel undercarriage were not retractable, and this may have negatively impacted the type's reception in the marketplace. A novel design feature, however, was the wing structure. Barkley used what might be called a "horizontal cell" technique that has no ribs or spars. Long tapered strips of aluminium were bent to form V shapes which were then riveted tip to tip to form an "X". These "X"s are riveted inside the wing side by side to produce the long "cells". This wing structure was unique to the Barkley-Grow and according to mechanics who worked on the aircraft it was very light, very stiff, very expensive to build, and difficult to repair if damaged, but it gave no problems in service. Sales in the US were disappointing, only 11 being built, and most machines (seven) were sold to Canada, where the fixed undercarriage was no obstacle to the fitting of skis or pontoons. One was selected for a record flight from Washington DC to Peru, and another was used in the Antarctic by the US Navy.

This Week: Motorcycles featured in our very first column, back when we were all much younger. The devices have come and gone in popularity in armed forces around the world, once being seen as a replacement for horses. During the 1970s and 80s, Canada's Bombardier was one of the world's leaders in making military bikes, but these are now collector's items. Which leads us to the propensity amongst some soldiers to collect any item of interest that is not nailed down, especially enemy kit. These objects still sometimes turn up in museums, booty brought home by a forbearer. Sometimes they are simply cap badges, but occasionally they are more interesting, such as the fully loaded Smith and Wesson .455 of Great War vintage that was brought to a famous artillery museum in Vancouver by a retired chief justice, in his backpack. It had belonged to his father.

Which in turn leads us to this week's photo. On the surface, it is a bunch of rollicking GIs and their favourite motorcycle, all over paid, over sexed, and over there. However, it isn't. There are two tiny clues that tell us that they aren't GIs, and this isn't really theirs, or wasn't (it is now!). Your job, dear reader, is to identify the two clues, then tell us where and when and what about the photo.



Are you up to it? If so, let the editor, Bob Mugford (bob.mugford@outlook.com), or the author, John Redmond (johnd.redmond@telus.net) in on the secrets. Gambatte!

From the 'Punitary'

Why was the tree excited about the future? It was ready to turn over a new leaf!

Murphy's Other Laws

Don't look conspicuous, it draws fire.

Quotable Quotes

Never retreat. Never explain. Get it done and let them howl. - *Benjamin Jowett*



*The President
and the Directors
of*

Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Society

request the pleasure of the company of you and your guests

at our

Inaugural Annual Dinner

*Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day
and the 30th anniversary of our 'Royal' Designation*

to be held at

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

on

Saturday, the Twenty-Eighth of September 2019

at

six thirty for seven o'clock in the evening

RSVP by 18 September 2019
to RSVP@rusivancouver.ca

Send payment to:
Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 3C7

Dress: Business Formal (Mess Dress Optional)

Tariff: \$50 per person
Make cheques payable to: RUSI Vancouver

Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu or Vegetarian – please indicate choice on RSVP