



Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Jan 6, 2015

Wednesday Lunches

The 15 Field Officers Mess is the only Mess left still holding weekly lunches (the BCR Mess has a monthly lunch) and these lunches can only survive if sufficient numbers attend regularly. Attendance numbers went down the last few weeks of the year and we need your support to keep the lunches going so, if you are in the area on a Wednesday, drop in and join us for lunch. We serve a 5 course, 'homemade' meal for only \$15- you won't find a better meal, or a better deal anywhere.

The Mess is back to 'winter' dress so dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Your guests are always welcome.

Christmas Lunch break – Lunches start again next week – Jan 14th

From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - 1914

Jan. 2nd to 23rd: During this period it was the usual give and take. We fired every day at any targets that presented themselves, and were occasionally shelled, very often at night. The REDOUBT was retaken and lost many times, each attack meaning a fierce couple of hours work, till at length it was [undecipherable] 'no man's land' for neither side could hold it. Rifle bullets at night made it rather uncomfortable. The weather was very cold and wet, a few heavy snowstorms. I sometimes had a fever in a bucket. Night attacks were very frequent – we were lucky in having only a very few casualties, [or] wounded, although quite a few went away sick. One day during this period, I went to Bethune and had a much needed bath and change of underclothing. It was a relief for I, as most, was overstocked with 'livestock'.

World War 2 - November 1939

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

Jan 1st 1940, Western Europe is quiet because the British and French are not yet willing to fully commit themselves for battle.

Jan 2nd: The Finns savage the 44th Division as the Soviet troops blunder forward to attempt to relieve the 163rd Division at Suomussalmi; the Russian habit of staying road bound costs them dearly as the few Finnish ski battalions are enjoying uncontested mobility in the woods and are striking at will.

Jan 4th: Goering is given overall control of the entire German war industry; but Hitler being Hitler and the Reich being the Reich, there will be lots and lots of exemptions and back-door deals anyway. The poor organization of the German war industry will remain Hitler's greatest handicap.

Jan 5th: The Finns ease up in their attacks on the trapped Soviet 18th (on the Karelian Front) and 168th Divisions – which have finally formed a solid series of defences while the handful of Finnish battalions are nearing exhaustion. A Cabinet shuffle in the UK: Leslie Hore-Belisha is replaced at the War Office by Oliver Stanley, the new head of the Board of Trade is Sir Andrew Duncan and the Information Minister is Lord Reith.

Jan 6th: At Suomussalmi, the 44th Rifle Division, like the 163rd, has also been ground into isolated fragments by the Finns, who now pause to regroup. However, the survivors of both trapped divisions (and the 18th to the south) are setting up stout defences, denying the Finns any more easy victories.

Jan 7th: Timoshenko takes charge in the war on Finland and orders new training for all troops in winter survival, patrolling techniques and all-arms cooperation. This will set a new training standard for Soviet troops that will pay enormous dividends in a couple of years. The Soviet armies on the Finnish frontier are reorganized and will soon be re-equipped with newer material. Semyon Konstantinovich Timoshenko was a long-time friend of Stalin (insofar as that murderous tyrant had any), and one of the few senior officers to survive the purges. A competent commander, he will take the Soviet Army intact through some of its worst moments in 1940, 1941 and 1942. The reforms he sets in place as a consequence of the Red Army's horribly incompetent performance against Finland were also instrumental in ensuring the toughness and field-skills of Soviet soldiers in time for their most severe trial. Warts and all, Timoshenko deserves his place as a Hero of the Soviet Union.

How the World's First Computer was Rescued From the Scrap Heap

By *Brendan I. Koerner* 11.25.14

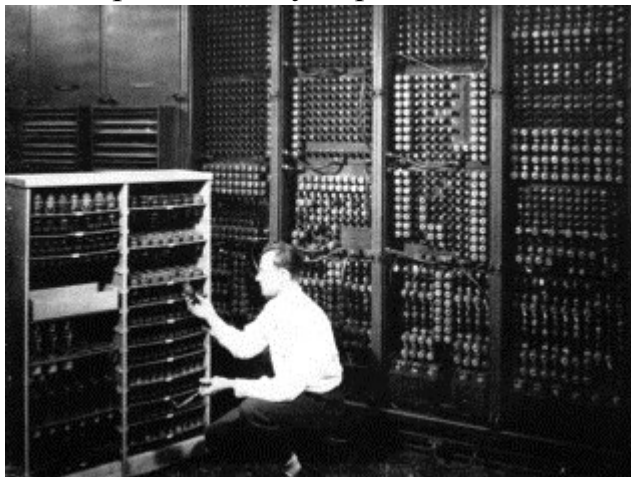
The first prototype computers were the 'Bombes' at Bletchley Park and the first computer was 'Colossus' which was in operation at Bletchley at the end of the war, so ENIAC isn't the first computer. Unfortunately, when the war ended, the Bombes and Colossi were destroyed and their Secret classification meant that few knew of them for many years, whereas ENIAC was kept working. Alan Turing spent several months in the US helping with design and initial construction of ENIAC.

Eccentric billionaires are tough to impress, so their minions must always think big when handed vague assignments. Ross Perot's staffers did just that in 2006, when their boss declared that he wanted to decorate his Plano, Texas, headquarters with relics from computing history. Aware that a few measly Apple I's and Altair 880's wouldn't be enough to satisfy a former presidential candidate, Perot's people decided to acquire a more singular prize: a big chunk of ENIAC, the "Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer." The ENIAC was a 27-ton, 1,800-square-foot bundle of vacuum tubes and diodes that was arguably the world's first true computer. The hardware that Perot's team diligently unearthed and lovingly refurbished is now accessible to the general public for the first time, back at the same Army base where it almost rotted into oblivion.

ENIAC was conceived in the thick of World War II, as a tool to help artillerymen calculate the trajectories of shells. Though construction began a year before D-Day, the computer wasn't activated until November 1945, by which time the U.S. Army's guns had fallen silent. But the

military still found plenty of use for ENIAC as the Cold War began—the machine’s 17,468 vacuum tubes were put to work by the developers of the first hydrogen bomb, who needed a way to test the feasibility of their early designs. The scientists at Los Alamos later declared that they could never have achieved success without ENIAC’s awesome computing might: the machine could execute 5,000 instructions per second, a capability that made it a thousand times faster than the electromechanical calculators of the day. (An iPhone 6, by contrast, can zip through 25 billion instructions per second.) When the Army declared ENIAC obsolete in 1955, however, the historic invention was treated with scant respect: its 40 panels, each of which weighed an average of 858 pounds, were divvied up and strewn about with little care. Some of the hardware landed in the hands of folks who appreciated its significance—the engineer Arthur Burks, for example, donated his panel to the University of Michigan, and the Smithsonian managed to snag a couple of panels for its collection, too. But as Libby Craft, Perot’s director of special projects, found out to her chagrin, much of ENIAC vanished into disorganized warehouses, a bit like the Ark of the Covenant at the end of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

“As time went on, new people would come in and the storage records they got probably weren’t as good as they should have been,” says Craft, who was the person most responsible for tracking down what remained of ENIAC. “And so when they’d need more space, they’d look at this hunk of metal that they didn’t know anything about. And they’d go ahead and dispose of it.” Craft was on the verge of ending her search when an Army functionary dug up documents indicating that some panels had once been shipped from the Aberdeen (MD) Proving Ground to Oklahoma’s Fort Sill, home to the Army’s field artillery museum. When Craft contacted Fort Sill to inquire, the museum’s curator was stunned to discover that he did, indeed, possess the world’s largest trove of ENIAC hardware—nine panels in total, all stored in anonymous wooden crates that hadn’t been pried open in years. Fort Sill officials are unclear as to how they ended up with nearly a quarter of ENIAC, pieces of which also came to Oklahoma from the Anniston (AL) Army Depot.



An ENIAC technician changes a tube.
US Army

Craft struck a deal to borrow eight of Fort Sill’s panels in exchange for a promise to restore the hardware to some semblance of its former glory. The restoration project was assigned to Dan Gleason, a video-conferencing engineer at Perot Systems who had zero experience with fixing vintage computers. Gleason realized early on that he couldn’t make his portion of ENIAC run actual calculations—such an endeavor would require all 40 panels, not to mention thousands of new components and technical know-how that had long been forgotten. But he resolved to make the computer at least appear like it was hard at work figuring out the best flight paths for artillery shells.

The first step for Gleason was to address the panels' cosmetic deficiencies; the exterior metal was badly rusted. (One of the eight panels was so water damaged, in fact, that it couldn't be salvaged.) Gleason sandblasted the panels, then coated them with black wrinkle paint that he procured from dozens of auto-body shops. Once the paint dried, Gleason and his son, Jonathan, laboriously soldered 600 new lamp bulbs into place. Those bulbs were then connected to a motion sensor, so they would flash in random order when an observer approaches. Gleason also fabricated a massive steel frame that prevents the panels from tipping over and crushing the protruding vacuum tubes on its sides (not to mention unfortunate passers-by). The revamped ENIAC went on display at Perot's office building in 2007, but relatively few people had the chance to see it; the building is a secure facility that doesn't welcome the general public, though a few computing nerds were able to arrange special tours. But Perot's company, which was purchased by Dell in 2009, recently announced that it will soon be moving to new digs, so the time seemed right to return the panels to Fort Sill. The 6,864-pounds'-worth of computing history, encased in mounds of bubble wrap, made its way back to Oklahoma in late September. Because Dan Gleason had the foresight to wire the panels' lights using simple spade connectors and an off-the-shelf 12-channel DMX controller, the Fort Sill museum had little trouble getting ENIAC back in working order. The toughest part was piecing together Gleason's steel frame, which was more elaborate than museum officials had anticipated.

The ENIAC panels went on display at Fort Sill in late October, though some more restoration work remains to be done. The museum is in the process of obtaining a few new vacuum tubes, for example, to give the unit an even more authentic appearance. The panels will never be able to run any bona fide calculations, of course, but that's probably for the best. Even in its heyday, ENIAC required a whopping 30 milliseconds to figure out the square root of a complicated number. Who has the patience for such long waits nowadays?

Veterans Gathering at Chilliwack.

Wayne Johnston has undertaken to bring as many veterans together 2015 mid Aug in Chilliwack BC. This is not a political gathering so it is requested please leave that part of your life at home. We will gather to discuss veterans' issues and as a unit present them to whatever government is in power, so it is not needed that we wait for the next election. There are some 700,000 veterans and there is no way we will gather all.

Wayne has asked me to make a list of as many veterans who will attend and then pass this info onto him for the following reasons. As I do not have a list I ask all of you who do have lists to pass this info onto them. Air flight with WestJet, accommodations, rations, etc at no cost to the individual. Spouses are invited. Veterans will be required to make their own way to and from the closest airport WestJet services. Those living in BC and relatively close to Chilliwack will use their own vehicles and travel to Chilliwack at their own expense.

I need your: full name, address, telephone number, full name of spouse. Please begin to send me this info 07 Jan 2015. More info to follow.

Dale Dirks - bddirks@shaw.ca

John McCrae Statue Campaign

The Indiegogo on-line crowd-funding portion of our McCrae Statue Campaign is now closed. We have raised \$10,530 to date with many donations coming from civilians and new first-time donors to the RCA. Our overall campaign is proceeding on track with approx. \$260,000 raised to date towards our \$350,000 target. In the last few weeks separate from our crowd-funding campaign, we have received a number of generous gifts including:

\$10,000 from the Canadian Medical Association

\$10,000 from the Canadian College of Physicians and Surgeons

\$5,000 from Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion (In addition to donations from many individual branches across Canada.)

\$5,000 from 7 Toronto Regiment RCA

Donations can still be made as usual online or by mail directly through The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery website. Mention "John McCrae Statue" in the message section when making your online donation. We will be unveiling the statue in Ottawa on 3 May 2015. Please make your donation today and thank you so much for your support if you have already made a generous donation!

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/in-flanders-fields-john-mccrae-centenary-statue/x/8893168>

UBIQUE

Keith Wright, National Coordinator, RCA Heritage Campaign

Defence Engagement Program Targeted Engagement Grants

The Defence Engagement Program (DEP) at the Department of National Defence is pleased to launch the second round of Targeted Engagement Grant applications for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. The DEP's grants provide non-recurring financial support, up to a maximum of \$25,000, to projects that can include conferences, roundtables, workshops, publications, and other scholarly activities. The Defence Team's Engagement Priorities are intended to provide guidance to applicants. The Priorities reflect the issues of primary importance to National Defence at this time. Grant applications should demonstrate consistency with at least one of the Priorities.

The application deadline for projects in the second round of funding for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 is January 23, 2015. For more information, including instructions on how to apply, please consult the DEP website at the following link:

<http://www.forces.gc.ca/en/training-paid-education/grant-program.page>

All interested organizations and individuals are encourage to apply. Questions or concerns, please send an email to: DEP-PCD@forces.gc.ca<<mailto:DEP-PCD@forces.gc.ca>.

SITREP - With Pat Stogran

Colonel Stogran has been a voice for Veterans who have been mistreated by their government.

Now he wants to speak up for all Canadians who are being victimized in the same way. Col Stogran will soon begin interviewing for pod-casts that will broadcast on the internet early in the New Year. Please check back regularly for updates.

To get a clear picture of the situation as it stands today, he is asking you to submit your stories. Once you submit a story, Col Stogran will leverage his years of experience as Veterans Ombudsman to get a clear view of the facts and spread your message. He would like to interview people on the front lines, Canadians who can speak about topical issues first person singular: I – Me – My – Mine

<http://thesitrep.ca/submit-a-report/>

Honour House Accommodation

For any military personnel (incl retirees) that may need to come to the Vancouver, BC area for medical attention for themselves or for an immediate family member, they may stay at Honour House for free. There is a referral form that will need to be filled out by someone in your chain of command (or for retirees - a veterans organization or regimental association, etc).

Honour House Military Liaison Officer. For more info see - <http://honourhouse.ca/>

HMCS Vancouver Presentation

The visit of HMCS Vancouver to her namesake city during the 2014 Grey Cup weekend was commemorated by RUSI Vancouver with a presentation of a RUSI badge plaque to the ship's company. The Wardroom presentation was witnessed by (l to r) Chief PO 1 Pierre Picard, MS Daniel Milburn and the Commanding Officer Jeffrey Climenhaga. Presenting the plaque to the Commander of HMCS Vancouver is RUSI President Cam Cathcart, accompanied by Bob



McIlwaine and Jim Howard, executive members of the RUSI Vancouver. The Royal Canadian Navy frigate had just completed a two year refit.

Eric Roberts, MI-5 spy, lived quiet life on Salt Spring Island, B.C.

Declassified documents reveal amateur historian was key agent in WWII. CBC News



Eric Roberts, who retired to B.C. in the 1950s, has been revealed as one of the key secret agents working for MI-5 during the Second World War. (The National Archives)

In a tale that wouldn't look out of place in a John le Carré novel, an amateur historian who wrote a regular column for his local newspaper on Salt Spring Island, B.C., has been **revealed as a key British spy** during the Second World War. Eric Roberts retired to the sleepy Gulf Island in the 1950s, staying mum on his impressive MI-5 career for the rest of his life. When he died in December 1972, aged 65, his obituary in Salt Spring's Driftwood paper noted he was a "free man of the city of London", and that he was the author of *Salt Spring Saga*, a history of the island he had come to call home. And that seemed enough, until files declassified last week by the British National Archives identified Roberts, not just as a former spy, but as a pivotal agent in the infiltration of Hitler's "fifth column" who identified scores, if not hundreds, of Nazi sympathizers on U.K. soil.

Roberts, apparently a humble bank clerk for many years in London, was actually a double agent named "Jack King", who ingratiated himself among British supporters of Hitler by posing as a Gestapo officer, having been handpicked for the role by Maxwell Knight, then MI-5's top agent runner. Amusingly, when Westminster Bank was approached in 1940 to release Roberts for work with the secret service, his employer agreed, but wrote back, "what we want to know here is: what are the particular and special qualifications of Mr Roberts, which we have not been able to perceive." In fact, Roberts was both ingenious and brave in his work, diverting the subversive activities of Nazi supporters into harmless efforts. **According to the files**, he also made sure that key intelligence data was rerouted to MI-5 rather than Berlin by offering to transmit secrets to Germany himself. His work meant that secrets around significant strategies such as Operation Window — a tactic that employed strips of aluminum foil to jam Germany's radar during major raids, including the bombing of Hamburg — and the development of jet aircraft, never made it into German hands.

By 1945, Roberts' circle of reporting was considered the "most valuable single source of information" on British fascists and their activities. Roberts moved to Canada with his wife Audrey and their three children, Maxwell, Peter and Crista. Now 72 and living on Vancouver Island, Roberts' daughter, Crista McDonald, told CBC News that as a child she knew her father lived a double life and that his real job was working for MI-5. "It's not a normal upbringing," she said. "You live knowing you don't draw attention to yourself." Nevertheless, she said, she and her brothers had no idea of the scope of what their father did, or that he was secretly credited as one of MI-5's most valuable wartime agents. The declassifying of his file was a revelation. "It meant a lot," she said. "I'm very happy — and we are as a family — that he's

receiving some recognition. Even though he's long gone, it makes us very happy. We're finding it very emotional. "He was a very charming, witty, unassuming man. Very loyal to his country. He was a great father."

Who is it?

This Week: As autumn quickly turns to winter, so does the dress of our warriors turn from tropical worsted and hosetops with puttees to itchy woollen battledress, or so it once was. Our



female soldiers of the past were not immune to seasonal change, as this week's photo shows. Here we have three amazons of the Canadian Women's Army Corps, striding resolutely down a street, while defending democracy and relieving men for the serious job of combat. They were most likely photographed by a street photographer, such as the famed Foncie of Vancouver. However, beyond that we don't know much about this photo.

Who are these three CWACs? Is one of them your mum? When was the photo taken, and where? We think it must be post-war, given the lack of a blackout, and maybe the rounded shape of the vehicle they are passing. The theatre in the background seems to be the "Paradise", but was there such a cinema in the Vancouver of the past?

Let us know your thoughts on this mystery photo. Responses may be sent to the editor or to the author, John Redmond (johnd._redmond@telus.net).

FLASH! We have a name for the black and white dog on Yorke shown in December. He was "George", a loyal member of the Regiment during the war.

From the 'Punitary'

What did the grape say when the elephant stepped on it? Nothing, it just let out a little whine

Murphy's other Laws

Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself

Quotable Quotes

The leader has to be practical and a realist, yet must talk the language of the visionary and the idealist. - *Eric Hoffer*

January 2015 Mainland BC Military Family CONNECTION

Hello Military Families & Friends, download your JANUARY 2015 Mainland BC Military Family CONNECTION, to stay up to date on our programming, news and events, by visiting our website at www.bcmfrc.com or by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.familyforce.ca/sites/MainlandBC/EN/Documents/01Jan15News.pdf>

2015 British Columbia Army Gala



BC Army Gala Tickets On Sale Now! Don't miss out...

Early-bird Pricing has been extended with a limited number of tickets.

The 2015 BC Army Gala is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver. many great surprises in store for you! From dancers, music, specials guests and more... it would be out!

To ring in 2015, the team at the BC Army Gala have extended the Early-Bird price! There have been a number of \$110 tickets made available, once they are gone the price goes up to \$140 each. This is a wonderful night of entertainment and an amazing dinner.

Event Count-Down: **81 Days** until the 2015 BC Army Gala!

Visit the link below to purchase your tickets today:

<http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2015-bc-army-gala-tickets-13545802861?aff=efbevent>

Thank you for your continued interest and we look forward to seeing you at The BC Army Gala 2015!