



**Vancouver Artillery  
Association News**



**RUSI News**  
Vancouver

## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Oct 7, 2014

### Wednesday Lunches

Dress for Wednesday lunches is suit/blazer/sports jacket and tie. We retain 'Business casual' for summer dress. Dress for ladies is the equivalent. Guests are always welcome.

### **NOABC - Monthly Lunch Speakers - Wednesday, 29 October**

Our guest speaker for October will be associate member Roddy MacKenzie, who will provide an illustrated talk about the recent visit he and his wife Ka Hyun made to Fort McMurray and the associated oil sands mining operations.

### **Wednesday, 26 November**

Our guest speaker for November will be Captain John Swann, Master Mariner, on the maritime implications of LNG export.

## From the Journal of Capt Fred G Coxen RFA - Sept 1914

*No further entries until Oct 9<sup>th</sup>*

### World War 2 - October 1 - 7<sup>th</sup>, 1939

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

**October 1<sup>st</sup>:** The Admiralty learns where Graf Spee and Deutschland are roving as reports come in on these commerce raiders. The gallant Polish defenders of the Hela Peninsula surrender.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> :** At the Pan American conference; 21 American nations state that any act of war within 300 miles of any country on the American continents will be considered as an attack on that nation. None of the belligerent states pay this any attention.

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>:** The last major Polish units under arms surrender near Luck, effectively ending this campaign. The casualty list for the campaign numbers under 50,000 German dead, wounded and missing. The Poles have 70,000 dead and 130,000 wounded with 900,000 POWs. About 100,000 Polish troops have got out through Neutral Countries to have a go at fighting again; as will the officer-less survivors of the 100,000 soldiers taken prisoner by the Soviets. Soviet losses are not known. I Corps of the British Expeditionary Force takes control of a section of the Allied front on the French frontier with neutral Belgium.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>:** Eight Anglo-French hunting groups are created to pursue the German pocket-battleships out raiding commerce in the Atlantic.

**October 6<sup>th</sup> :** Hitler tells the Reichstag that he desires peace with Britain and France but his sincerity is most doubtful as the Nazis need a long war to affect their 'volks-gemeinschaft', the

transformation of German society. Tomorrow he will extend an olive branch to Britain and France, blaming the war on Churchill and asking for a "Pan –European Conference" to settle sundry issues.

## **RUSI Co-Sponsors WW 1 Series at Vancouver Public Library**

RUSI Vancouver, in collaboration with the Vancouver Public Library, will co-sponsor a series of four presentations to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War at the VPL Central Branch on West Georgia and Homer in Vancouver. The involvement of RUSI Vancouver in the VPL series is part of RUSI's community engagement initiative.

**Robert W Mackay: Canada's 100 Years of Submarines:** "100 years of Canadian submarines, and it all started right here in BC! Join Bob Mackay, a former submariner, as he talks about Canada's experience with submarines from the earliest days in 1914 until today. Bob will read from his Cold War submarine thriller, *Terror on the Alert*, and looks forward to sharing photographs and answering questions about the Canadian navy's "silent service".

The **Britannia Branch** talk will be held in the Al Mattison 55+ Centre, 1661 Napier Street (across the street from Britannia Branch Library) on Thursday 30 October, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM for more information call 604-665-2222.

Presented in partnership with The Royal United Services Institute – Vancouver, in commemoration of Canada's First World War Centenary."

## **The Brief Inglorious History of the First Canadian Aviation Corps**

*by John A. Swettenham, former senior military historian at the Canadian War Museum*

The Corps owed its enthusiastic if shaky start to Canada's unpredictable defence minister, Sir Sam Hughes. Hughes appointed as provisional commander Capt EL Janney, a 21-year-old aviation enthusiast from Galt, Ontario, who claimed flying experience in the US. With five thousand dollars allocated by Hughes, Janney bought a Burgess-Dunne machine in Massachusetts and took off for Quebec.

In England, Janney proposed forming a flight squadron at an estimated annual cost of over \$116,000. The Canadians turned the proposal down, and to add to Janney's chagrin neither he nor Sharpe possessed any official status. Their appointments had not been gazetted - and they were not being paid. In December, 1914, Janney had had enough of the army. He acquired an English plane which he planned to use in Canada for flying exhibitions, hoping to raise money to fit out a squadron of his own. Eventually he opened a private flying school near Toronto. No disciplinary action was ever taken against him for so summarily divesting himself of his commission, presumably since there was no record that he had ever taken the oath of allegiance. Sharpe joined the Royal Flying Corps and was killed on his first solo flight in February, 1915 - Canada's first air force casualty.

Meanwhile Canada's five-thousand-dollar airplane had vanished somewhere in England. Neither Janney nor Sharpe had taken any interest in it after it crossed the Atlantic. Sharpe had described it as an old machine, useless for military purposes, and had noted that it had been damaged in transit. A Canadian major reported seeing it lying on the road opposite the ordnance depot at Salisbury and said he had ordered it removed to a place of safety. It turned up next at the Upavon Central Flying School, and in December, 1914, the airplane was on the move again, to the Canadian Division at Larkhill. But for some reason the ordnance depot at Salisbury kept its propeller. Nothing was heard of the airplane for several months, until a sergeant reported it



was still at Larkhill.

The report was passed along to Canadian authorities with the cautious comment: "What do you think?" Apparently the Canadians preferred not to think about it.

In May, 1915, there were rumours of a plane abandoned "somewhere on Salisbury Plain," and in June an officer who had been "rather successful in finding bicycles and other properties" in the Salisbury area was detailed to trace the machine. The search was thorough but unrewarding. A contractor who was given the job of clearing up after the Canadians at Larkhill said he had found some airplane parts and sold them for scrap, but he could not be sure they came from the missing Burgess-Dunne. A few spare parts were found in a clump of woods near the Canadian encampment. At a garage in Salisbury the radiator was salvaged in good condition, and two inner tubes turned up, mysteriously, at the Bustard Inn. That is all that is known about Canada's first military aircraft.

## **A Dark Past Unearthed**

*by Carmen Weld - Aug 13, 2014*



*The derelict graves of seven interned men now set for repair in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery* Photo: Carmen Weld

A dark part of Canadian history, and Vernon's history, is hiding in a forgotten corner of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. In that corner lay the crumbled remains of several headstones, a reminder of a time in history when Canada interned thousands of its citizens - deemed enemy aliens just by their passports -- during the Great War. Now, having discovered the forgotten graves, the Vernon and District Family History Society and the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund are working together to repair the graves and bring new light to the atrocity of war that was felt right here at home. "We just want to pay homage to them and respect their time on earth, and recognize that they died in an internment camp, wrongly so and at a young age," says Lawrna Myers, Cemetery Committee Chair with the Vernon and District Family History Society.

This repair and recognition project all started when Myers went into the cemetery to take photos as part of a war graves photo project out of the UK. The project aimed to have photos taken of each grave, from all of the soldiers and internees that died during WW1 and WW2. Myers was given a list of 30 gravestones to photograph in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery and that is when she noticed the destroyed headstone of Stephen Sapich. Sapich was an internee in Vernon who died in 1917. In the ground beside Sapich there lay another six who died at the same camp. She decided something needed to be done to remember these victims of war and ensure their legacies were not forgotten. She contacted the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund to see what could be done, and the society granted \$15,000 to ensure that these men are remembered. It is work that Andrea Malysh, Program Manager of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund and an internee descendant, is passionate about. “The internees were literally rounded up,” explains Malysh. “When people are interned, they are disenfranchised, they are treated as enemy aliens, their wealth was taken from them and never returned and they were forced to do heavy labour without any form of compensation.”

After WWI broke out, Malysh says over 8,500 Canadians, many naturalized citizens, were taken to one of the 24 internment camps across Canada, including a large one in Vernon that ran from 1914-1920. Another 88,000 Canadians were forced to register and had to report on a monthly basis to officials. “The government deemed they could use these men for forced labour,” explains Malysh. “The government used them to build up the national parks system and highways against their will.” In fact, men out of the Vernon camp were used to build local highways including Hwy 6 and the highway around Sicamous. “The BC Government did not have the money to build this infrastructure, so for six years, even 18-months after Armistice, they kept these camps open to use the free labour,” says Malysh. All seven graves belong to men, in their 20's or 30's from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, who died from various illnesses in the camp including tuberculosis and influenza. “We need to do the respectful thing and ensure they are not forgotten,” says Malysh.

The camp in Vernon also housed German civilians and their families; four German men also died while interned. One of those men, Leo Mueller, was actually murdered in the camp and a trial was held. The remains of the German men were later recovered from the cemetery and reburied in Ontario with other German internees who died across Canada during the war. The existing grave markers of the remaining seven men will now be cleaned and repaired and new ones will be installed along with them, as well as a memorial plaque. An official unveiling of the repaired stones and a memorial service will be held May 23, 2015, the same day Sapich was interred in 1917. Also in recognition of the camps, a internment memorial plaque will be unveiled to mark 100 years. The ceremony will take place at the Vernon Internment Mural site (2749 30 Street) at 11 a.m. on Aug 22.

The names of the internees still buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery are:

Mile Hecimovich (d. 1917)	Ivan Jugo (d. 1917)	Steve Sapich (d. 1917)
Timoti Korejczuk (d. 1919)	Wasył Shapka (d. 1918)	George Vukop (d. 1916)
Samuel Vulovich (d. 1918)		

The names of the internees that were originally buried in Vernon and moved to Kitchener, Ontario (Woodland Cemetery) are:

Bernard Heiny (d. 1918)

Leo Mueller (d. 1919)

Karl Keck (d. 1917)

Wilhelm Wolter (d. 1918)



The Vernon Internment Camp  
open from 1914-1920

*Photo: Contributed - Greater Vernon  
Museum & Archives.*

## **Memorial Honours Fallen Canadian, Allied Air Force Personnel**

*News Article / October 3, 2014 By Captain Bettina McCulloch-Drake*

A lone bronze airman looks out across the 300-foot-long (91.4-metre-long) expanse of black



granite engraved with the names of more than 19,000 Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Allied air force personnel who lost their lives between 1939 and 1945. Above his head, the clouds are somber, providing no relief from the bitter winds that harass the men and women outside the Commonwealth Air Training Plan (CATP) Museum in Brandon, Manitoba. They are here to witness the September 10, 2014, unveiling of the RCAF WWII Memorial.

The winds are not strong enough to deter Second World War-era aircraft – a Tiger Moth, a Stinson, a Cornell and two

Harvards – from taking to the sky and acknowledging those lost with a flypast in the “Missing Man” formation.

Inspired by “They Shall Grow Not Old,” a memorial book displayed in the Museum’s chapel containing more than 18,000 biographies of Canada’s lost airmen and women, the RCAF WWII Memorial is a project nearly four years in the making. A labour of love for the volunteers and staff of the Museum, the Memorial owes its existence to generous private donations and the unwavering dedication of the project committee led by one of the Museum’s founders, Archie Londry, a Second World War veteran and an alumni of the British Commonwealth Training Plan (also referred to as “the Plan”). “I trained under the Plan and was a flying instructor in the Plan,” recalled Mr. Londry of his wartime experience. After completing basic training in a Manning Depot at the Edmonton Exhibition Grounds and completing a variety of general duties as an Aircraftman Second Class at No 10 Service Flying Training School (SFTS) in Dauphin, Mr. Londry was sent to Initial Training School (ITS) for ground school. After graduating from ITS as a Leading Aircraftsman, he was sent to Elementary Flying Training School where he learned how to fly Tiger Moths. This was followed by further instruction and practice at the Service Flying Training School where he was awarded his pilot wings and later employed as a flying instructor. A self-professed “green kid with a little over 250 flyer hours” he was later posted to No. 12 SFTS where he was “charged with the task of training other kids to fly.”

No longer a kid but, rather, a man of experience, Mr. Londry had a chance to meet the next generation of RCAF aircrew trainees after the unveiling ceremony. Pilot trainees from 3 Canadian Forces Flying School in Portage La Prairie, and air combat systems officer and airborne electronic sensor operator trainees from 1 Canadian Forces Flying School in Winnipeg, supported the ceremony by assisting the attending veterans with unveiling the granite plaques and accompanying visiting dignitaries for the wreath-laying portion of the event.

It was not lost on the Museum’s Executive Director, that there was a strong connection between the veterans who took part in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the current air crew trainees from the RCAF. “It is most fitting to have the men and women from 1 CFFTS and 3 CFFTS here with us today. There is a strong historical link between the Plan and the flying schools of today.”

## **Nothing is Left On the North Coast Except for the Tales of War**

*by Bruce Wishart - The Northern View Aug 8, 2012*

*Tales of war are always a hit with visitors to Prince Rupert.*

A year after Major BDC Treatt MC, RA of the British Army arrived in Canada to review coastal defences in October 1936, the Canadian government began building the seven coastal batteries of Prince Rupert harbour. The Canadian government was ready – had already been waging war for over two years – when the Americans were surprised and unready after Pearl

Harbor. By the spring of 1942 the RCAF had stationed 115 (Fighter) Squadron at Annette Island (New Metlakatla) – Canadians defending US territory – and the US made Prince Rupert a Sub-Port of Seattle. Alaska was at first supplied through Prince Rupert, and everything grew even more frenetic in June 1943 when the Japanese attacked Dutch Harbour and then occupied Kiska and Attu.

Acropolis Hill became Roosevelt Park as a massive US military presence in Prince Rupert created “Little America.” Protected by North America’s only armoured train, running between Rupert and Terrace, munitions funneled into the Pacific theatre of the war via Watson Island. The city’s population grew to four times its prewar size. The Aleutian Islands campaign was waged just beyond the horizon. There were unconfirmed reports of a Japanese spy plane spotted over Seal Cove. City Hall was a Federal Building with sentries, there were anti-aircraft guns on the roof of the Cold Storage, and the Sunken Garden was a heavily guarded munitions dump. One CKPR radio announcer said he couldn’t go on-air without heavy army trucks rumbling past the studio, and another fellow told me that he and his buddies once went the entire length of Second Avenue jumping from truck to truck without touching the ground. The Drydock produced four minesweepers and 15 cargo ships – including the minesweeper HMCS Clayoquot, launched in 1941 and torpedoed and sunk by U-806 near Halifax in December 1944. The 7,130-ton North Sands ship Fort Stikine, carrying munitions when it all but obliterated the Bombay waterfront in the great Bombay Explosion of April 1944, was built here in 1942.

Visitors find these stories fascinating. Travel writers pepper us with questions about the war years. They ask questions going back to the Great War. In 1914 Prince Rupert was a boomtown of newcomers. Here one can clearly see how the bloodbath of Vimy Ridge forged immigrants seeking opportunity into Canadians seeking nationhood. Those newcomers who returned built Section Two with help from the Soldier’s Settlement Board, and founded the enduring families of Prince Rupert. Yet it seems as if our visitors are more interested in Prince Rupert’s wartime history than we are ourselves. Sure, a cenotaph stands before the Court House, though it’s mostly forgotten 364 days of the year. The US Corps of Engineers cairn stands at Roosevelt Park, though I’d hazard a guess that most in Prince Rupert have no idea what it represents. The wartime buildings are transformed through time. Others, such as the Legion building or the Elizabeth Apartments, age and fall. The coastal defence batteries – described to me by Parks Canada as the best preserved in the country, and national treasures – lie overgrown in the forest at Barrett Point and ignored by all except those who would see them razed to make way for new development.

These could each be opportunities. Opportunities to tap into an existing market, a ready audience – particularly among fellow Canadians, and American cruise ship passengers, who hunger to touch the Second World War memories of their parents’ generation. Opportunities to celebrate a proud heritage, the only time in history when Prince Rupert’s port truly played on a world stage. But time passes, interest surges just once a year on November 11, and soon we will be left with nothing but the tales that we spin to amuse the visitors.

## **Who is it?**



**Last Week:** Capts Ian Seymour and Bruce Longon in front of the old tiger skin. Ian was a lawyer and served in the Calgary tanks during WW2. Bruce worked in the personnel department of the city of Vancouver. He worked on salary negotiations and later joined a firm that that represented all the city and municipalities in lower mainland.

The Tiger went AWOL one night after an enterprising burglar shinned up onto the Officers' Mess balcony and absconded with it and some alcoholic beverages. A year or so later a tiger skin was advertised for sale in a "Buy and Sell" newspaper which looked very much like it but, since there was no way to prove that it was the stolen tiger skin and the Mess had been well compensated by the Insurance company nothing was done. The money was used for Mess redecorations, mostly to redo the south room where the skin used to hang.

**This Week:** Our brave lads and retirees of 15<sup>th</sup> Field recently visited the fabled island of



Yorke, scene of much camaraderie in World War Two, and a place vital to the defence of Vancouver in that great conflict. By all accounts, they had a great time, and were blessed with wonderful weather. How unusual!

This week's photo comes from Yorke Island, and is of a stalwart gunner, guarding pine and cedar trees from the perfidious Japanese and their German and Italian henchmen (or, "henchpersons" as we now call them). Our sentinel is perfectly equipped with '37 Pattern webbing, replete with a "bag, respirator", tin lid and itchy-scratchy battledress, the latter indicating that this photo was not taken at the beginning of the war, when our brave warriors wore service dress. Due to the standard nature of uniforms and equipment, this photo could be taken anywhere during the war. However, one item is not so

standard, and is a dead give-away that this is not the sunny shores of Italy. Our question, the answer to which we already know, is: what is this not-so-standard item? We'd also like to know more about the soldier.

If you can help, or just want to play, send your ideas to the editor, or to the author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)).

## **From the 'Punitary'**

A woman who worked at a hot dog stand got fired for putting her hair in a bun.

## **Murphy's other Laws**

No mission is impossible for an officer who doesn't have to do it himself.

## **Quotable Quotes**

Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people. - *John Adams*



## Air Observation Pilot Video

When the AirOP Pilots' Association published their history of Canada's Flying Gunners, it also produced a CDROM entitled "Peter Tees - An AirOP pilot of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery". This CDROM was distributed to many military museums in Canada and abroad.

Recently, they were able to transfer the content of the CD into a web video, and believe that all ranks of the Royal Regiment would appreciate seeing it and be able to relate to the story. The group pictures and log book entries contain names of all ranks who flew or were involved with the Air OP role. None of the pictures have the names of people identified, so if you see a familiar face please pass the information to the editor. To view the video, go to:

<http://rvh1964.ca/airop/airop.html>

# Thailand Curry Lunch



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



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

- Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2014
- Time:** 11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
(bar opens at 11:45am)  
(lunch starts at 12:25pm)
- Location:** Officers' Mess - The BC Regiment  
620 Beatty Street, Vancouver, BC
- Dress:** Business Attire (jacket & tie, ladies similar)
- Price:** \$30/person (\$5 discount for those that confirm attendance by October 23, 2014)
- RSVP:** For more information or to register, please contact Bill Diamond at Bill@DukeaBear.com or 604.618.3607 (Please advise of any dietary needs with your RSVP)

Payment by cheque or cash will be accepted at the door  
Cheques are payable to: The BC Regiment (DCO) Association  
No cancellations after October 23, 2014

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



*Churchill Society of British Columbia*  
*PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH CHURCHILL:*

**“Cyber Warfare” with guest speaker James McFarlin on Thursday, October 16, 2014**

Please join us on Thursday, October 16 to welcome our guest speaker James McFarlin.



“Threats from cyber attacks are real, they are serious, and they are increasing in volume and intensity. Our economy, our personal finances, our privacy – indeed our entire way of life – are at risk”. Jim McFarlin thus introduced his views on the cyber threats facing America in a recent presentation.

Whereas Winston Churchill took a keen interest and helped to drive the development of new weapons such as the tank, radar, code breaking at Bletchley Park and the atomic bomb, military leaders today are turning their attention to the modern weapons of Cyber Warfare. Cyber Warfare is uniquely complex as the defender does not know whom the enemy is, or where it resides, or what its ultimate motives may be.

Jim will reference the attack against Target on December 17, 2013. In the midst of retail’s most critical sales season, reality crashed through Target’s boardroom in the form of one of the largest credit card heists in history. Following the loss of credit card information belonging to 40 million customers and personal data of another 70 million customers, Target is incurring and facing massive expenditures to remedy the breach and shore up its cyber defenses to prevent repeat thefts in the future. The breach has already claimed the job of Target’s CEO.

A former Air Force officer and high-tech CEO in Silicon Valley who participated first-hand in the evolution of four generations of computing, Jim is in a unique position to provide informed perspective on today’s threats from cyberspace. He is an active national speaker on Cyber Security and addressed in June the TAIA Global Cyber Security Forum in New York City on the subject of cyber threats facing the U.S. financial industry.

From his position as publisher of the online journal *Cyber Warfare Today*, Jim provides keen insight and analysis of the trends and future of Cyber Warfare to readers across the globe.

The second edition of his popular Tom Clancy-style cyber thriller *Aftershock: A Novel*, was published in March, 2014. We recommend it for a page-turning read prior to Jim’s presentation. It is a shocker of the first magnitude... a plausible scenario based on the headlines of the news today. We will have books available for sale. Jim will be available to sign your books prior to and after his presentation.

**Date:** Thursday, October 16, 2014

**Location:** Ballroom, The Vancouver Club, 915 Hastings Street West, Vancouver, B.C.

**Time:** Wine & Cheese starts at 5:00 pm, Program from 5:45 – 7:00 pm

**Cost:** \$25 each for a Member of the Society, \$35 each for a non-Member  
\$40 for a Member accompanied by either a spouse, partner or an immediate family member

*(The ticket cost includes one beverage ticket per attendee for 1 glass of wine or beer, or for 2 soft drinks. Additional drinks can be purchased from the bar)*

Please inform our Administrator, April Accola, of your attendance by email at [aprilaccola@hotmail.com](mailto:aprilaccola@hotmail.com), by mailing the attached form, by registering by phone at 778-321-3550, or online at [www.winstonchurchillbc.org](http://www.winstonchurchillbc.org).

I look forward to seeing you on October 16. Please feel free to send this notice to any interested parties.

Ian E. Marshall, Secretary  
Churchill Society of British Columbia

The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir &  
Band of the 15th Field Regiment present

# With Glowing Hearts: Songs of Remembrance

November 7th and 11th, 2014

*Nov. 7, 7:30pm @ Gateway Theatre, Richmond*  
*Nov. 11, 2:30pm @ South Delta Baptist Church,*  
*Tsawwassen*

Join Canada's largest male choir and premier military reserve band in a musical journey reflecting upon the innocence and optimism of the wartime era.



Tickets: \$27/\$24/\$10  
at [www.vwmc.ca](http://www.vwmc.ca) or call  
604-878-1190 for more info