



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Oct 8, 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.

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

Oct 26 15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner
Dec 7 Annual St Barbara's Dinner

World War 2 – 1944

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

Oct 9th: Heavy fighting continues in the Scheldt (where 3rd Canadian Division has just flanked the defenders of Bresken by using amphibious vehicles), and for the Americans near both Aachen and Metz. Churchill and Eden arrive in Moscow for talks on the future of Eastern Europe. Near La Forge, France, Lt Victor L Kandle of the 3rd US Infantry Division is having a busy day. During the course of his reconnaissance and then his platoon attack on a defensive position that had earlier checked his battalion, he duels a German field officer, assaults machine gun posts by himself, and uses his platoon as a fire support team while he storms defended houses by himself. At day's end, he has captured or killed 3 German officers and 54 men, winning the Medal of Honor.

Oct 10th: US Task Force 38 raids airfields and shipping in the Okinawa area. In Aachen, the Germans are invited to surrender to spare the city... they entrench in it anyway. US II Corps is wading through mud and slop to approach Bologna. The Soviets 3rd Ukrainian close in on Belgrade, 1st Baltic Front reaches the Baltic to the North of Memel. Some men embrace war, and Major Richard Bong has already become America's leading fighter pilot with 28 kills before being sent home for a War Bond tour. But he rejects celebrity and manages to return to the war against Japan with a new assignment as a staff officer with V Fighter command in the South Pacific. Regardless, he goes back out to combat as soon as he can and downs two Japanese fighters today... the start of a streak of eight in a month which will result in his recommendation for the Medal of Honor. He will have 40 kills before being sent home for good and dies as a test pilot in August 1945.

Essential Reading: Stephen Ambrose had a prolific career as a US historian, writing 22 books, half of them concerning the American effort in the Second World War. The slow costly grind of combat on the Franco-German frontier in Oct-November 1944 was not the highpoint of the US Army's performance in the war and tends to get ignored in consequence, but not necessary by Ambrose. For this reason alone, Citizen Soldiers: The US Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany, June 7, 1944 - May 7, 1945 is commended to any reasonable collection on the war.

Oct 11th: XIX Corps of 1st Army captures Bardenburg while elements of 3rd Army liberate Parroy. II Canadian Corps captures the base of the South Beveland Peninsula. Ferocious fighting continues in Hungary around Szeged, Debrecen and Cluj (which falls to the Soviets).

Oct 12th: The future test pilot Chuck Yeager downs five Me-109s in a single dogfight, although two were abandoned in mid-air by their pilots when Yeager closes in for the kill. British paratroops land in Athens and other British troops liberate Corfu. US Marines start to feel the bite of the Japanese teeth lodged on the last bastion on Mount Umurgbrogol on Peleliu. German MG-42s have a high rate of fire that makes them very deadly, especially when they are situated to dominate streets in built-up areas. As infantrymen from the 30th Division finish clearing the town of Bardenburg, they encounter a nest of MG-42 machineguns and the best approach route to them is dominated by another MG-42. Staff Sergeant Jack J Pendleton volunteers his squad to take out this second gun; and they move forward as best as they can against it. After covering 130 yards, Pendleton is badly hit. He tells his squad to remain under cover and continues to work towards the gun; getting within 10 yards of it before being killed. While S/Sgt Pendleton had the gun's undivided attention, another squad infiltrated close enough to destroy it while another platoon was able to work its way in to decisively engage the original nest. Pendleton's self-sacrifice resulted in a posthumous award of the Medal of Honor.

Oct 13th: Task Force 38 in the middle of a massive raid on Formosa –sending forth 2,350 sorties. While Japanese airpower is nearly crippled, USS Franklin (a Fleet Carrier) and the light cruiser HMAS Canberra are damaged. US 1st Division fights its way into Aachen. V1s and V2s start landing on Antwerp; the city and its environs will receive hundreds of these missiles in the

coming months. 2nd and 3rd Baltic Fronts crack the German defences at Riga and reach the outskirts of the city. British and Greek troops start landing at Piraeus.

Essential Reading: What was the effect of Nazi ideology and practice on ordinary Germans? One contemporary diarist was Friedrich Percyval Reck-Malleczewen and his thoughts and observations are charted in Diary of a Man in Despair; although the book is a result of a post-war archivist – Reck-Malleczewen was arrested this day in 1944 and executed in Dachau in February 1945. His book is a cry from somebody who almost believed himself to be the last European and is a valuable perspective on life in the Reich.

Oct 14th: TF 38 finishes its raid, but this time the Japanese do better in their defence, downing 23 aircraft from 246 sorties and crippling USS Houston This latter vessel is a Cleveland Class light cruiser (CL-81) that was christened for the gallant heavy cruiser USS Houston (CA-30) sunk in 1942. Athens is fully liberated (and one can still see the preserved bullet strikes on the King George Hotel –opposite the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier). Rommel is visited by two of Hitler’s staff and given a grim choice between suicide and honour, or trial and the persecution of his family; and so, the life of one of Germany’s most popular generals ends. The remainder of the 81st US Infantry Division lands on Peleliu to aid the much-bloodied Marines.

Oct 15th: The Soviet 14th Army takes Petsamo, while 2nd and 3rd Baltic Fronts enter Riga. As fighting goes on in Aachen and the Scheldt, US VI Corps (3rd Army) opens up a new drive west of Epinal. Radio Hungary transmits a request from Admiral Horthy to the Soviets asking for an Armistice – which triggers a German contingency plan for his arrest. The Soviets organize a new division of NKVD troops to deal with the Polish Home Army in Soviet occupied areas, in the usual ways that they handle such things.

Ooops – I goofed

Last week, in the photo of Capt Lum being presented with the 3rd bar to his CD, I incorrectly identified Col Ursich as LCol Ursich. My apologies to Col Ursich.

Honour Ranch Provides a Place of Recovery for Uniformed Personnel

*Ashcroft facility to help more people with operational stress injuries, like PTSD
Press Release October 5, 2019*



*Al DeGenova, President of the Honour House Society and HCol 15Fd Regt RCA, at the opening ceremony with Capt (Ret'd) Trevor Greene and Bob Parkinson, Health and Wellness Director of the Paramedics and Dispatchers of BC and a director of the Honour House Society
Photo by HLCol Don Foster*

Ashcroft, BC – Honour House Society welcomed more than 300 supporters, including uniformed personnel from across

BC, at a special ceremony today to celebrate the opening of Honour Ranch, a place of recovery and renewal for our Canadian Armed Forces, emergency services personnel, veterans and their families. Nestled in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, 12 kilometres south of the historic village of Ashcroft, Honour Ranch provides much needed space and facilities for individuals to learn healthy strategies to cope with operational stress injuries, such as PTSD. Honour Ranch is a new step in answering the call of our country and communities. The 120-acre property offers a tranquil and secluded setting to help heal the body, mind and spirit. “This facility is the realization of a vision we had of creating a safe place to support our men and women in uniform who give unconditionally every day,” said Allan De Genova, President of Honour House Society. “Honour Ranch is the perfect setting to positively change the lives of the many brave people who reach out to us looking for help, each and every week. We can now better support those who serve.”



*Members of the 15 Fd Regt RCA and Vancouver Artillery Association attending the ceremony
Photo by HLCol Don Foster*

The Ranch complements Honour House in New Westminster established in November 2010 after De Genova watched a documentary recounting the inspiring story of Captain Trevor Greene of Canada’s Seaforth Highlanders. Greene was violently attacked and seriously injured while deployed in Afghanistan. To date, Honour House has provided over 10,000 free nights of accommodation for uniformed personnel and their families while receiving medical care and treatment in Metro Vancouver, saving them hundreds of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket accommodation expenses. Greene was on hand to commemorate the opening of Honour Ranch in Ashcroft today. “Honour Ranch is Phase 2 of Honorary Colonel Al De Genova’s enlightened and compassionate mission to help wounded first responders and soldiers. Al knew instinctively that family plays a critical role in recovery, so he put his considerable energy and enthusiasm into creating Honour House, a beautiful home away from home in Metro Vancouver. Now he has created a serene countryside refuge where soldiers and first responders struggling with PTSD can begin their healing journey,” said Greene.

*Members of the Band of the 15 Fd Regt entertained the attendees
Photo by HLCol Don Foster*



When Honour Ranch begins full operations in early 2020, it will offer education and support programs for military members, veterans, first responders and their families dealing with the debilitating effects of operational stress injuries. Guests will stay onsite in one of 10 cabins while receiving treatment at the Ranch's transformed main lodge. This will be a place to escape the stresses of work - guests will participate in education and treatment programs using natural, agricultural and environmental therapies. "Studies show that mental health support delivered in a natural setting, as a partner in the therapeutic process, helps people overcome barriers and increases recovery," said Bob Parkinson, Health and Wellness Director of the Paramedics and Dispatchers of BC. "Many of our first responders face intense and stressful situations that can affect their mental health. Honour Ranch will provide a safe and comfortable place of recovery. We hope these programs and mental health specialists will show some of our bravest Canadians that it's okay to ask for help."

DARPA's Team of Autonomous Robot Battle Buddies

The autonomous systems "provided reconnaissance of areas ahead of the unit as well as flank".

Jared Keller July 16, 2019



An artist's depiction of the Squad X Core Technologies in action (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency)

There are squad goals, and then there are squad goals — and only one of them includes a potential future accompanied by autonomous robots. Hot on the heels of the Marine Corps' head-to-toe overhaul of infantry rifle squads, a handful of

grunts at the Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California recently conducted

field testing alongside a handful of autonomous surrogate vehicles engineered by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Squad X Experimentation program. The Squad X program was launched in 2016 to give dismounted infantry squads the same "highly effective multi-domain defensive and offensive capabilities that vehicle-assigned forces currently enjoy," but infantry Marines simply can't support with current combat loads, according to DARPA. But that doesn't just mean robotic mules to hump gear: as autonomous platforms become more integrated into current combined-arms squads, Marines will also face a "steady evolution of tactics," as Squad X program manager LTC Phil Root said in a DARPA release announcing the field tests.

"Developing hardware and tactics that allow us to operate seamlessly within a close combat ground environment is extremely challenging, but provides incredible value," Root said.

During the early 2019 test, a gang of autonomous ground and aerial systems that provided intelligence and recon support for Marines outfitted with sensor-laden vests as they moved between natural desert and mock city blocks at Twentynine Palms, while ground-based units provided flank security for the primary force. The autonomous systems "provided reconnaissance of areas" ahead of the unit as well as flank security, surveying the perimeter and reporting to squad members' handheld Android Tactical Assault Kits (ATAKs)," DARPA said. "Within a few screen taps, squad members accessed options to act on the systems' findings or adjust the search areas." The additional recon support on squad flanks could prove a major boost to Marine squads as continue to evolve in pursuit of that ever-precious lethality. And don't worry DARPA has your inevitable SkyNet concerns in mind. "A human would be involved in any lethal action ... But we're establishing superior situational awareness through sufficient input and AI, and then the ability to do something about it at fast time scales."

The Nammo Scalable Hand Grenade

By Matthew Moss In Daily News, Defense June 4, 2018



The Scalable Offensive Hand Grenade (Nammo Talley, Inc.), allows users to configure blast effects from 1/4 lb to 3/4 lb by connecting modules (up to 3) to increase or decrease the grenade's effects. The SOHG is currently fielded by US Special Operations Command and the Finland Defense Force.

US Army Photos by Angie DePuydt

Norwegian arms manufacturer NAMMO have developed a scalable hand grenade that brings modularity to offensive grenades. The grenade can be 'expanded' by attaching up to three

plastic bodied segments together. The plastic-cased grenades have a threaded base and neck that allows them to be stacked securely. With each segment the grenade's yield is increased.



OFFENSIVE HAND GRENADE
HGO 115-3,5 AND 225-3,5

Offensive Hand Grenade gives an extensive shock effect with a very limited number of fragments. It is specially designed for use in closed rooms, such as bunkers, buildings or semi-closed areas like trenches. A version with metal fuze mechanism is also available.

Main components

- plastic container for explosive
- explosive filling
- fuze mechanism of metal or plastic
- patented dual operation safety pin



OFFENSIVE HAND GRENADE
HGO 115-3,5 MODULAR

The Nammo modular offensive hand grenade gives scalable shock effect by attaching modules together and variety for use with a very limited number of fragments. Each module has its own fuze and grenades can be used either separately or by attaching two to three modules together.

Main components:

- plastic container for explosive
- explosive filling
- fuze mechanism of metal or plastic
- patented dual operation safety pin

OFFENSIVE HAND GRENADE HGO 115-3,5	
Length	~85 mm
Diameter	~53 mm (with handle ~65 mm)
Weight	~205 g
Explosive	~115 g, alternatively 50g Comp B (Heksotol 60/40)
NSN	
OFFENSIVE HAND GRENADE HGO 225-3,5	
Length	~135 mm
Diameter	~53 mm (with handle max 65 mm)
Weight	~390 g with metal handle ~350 g with plastic handle
Explosive	~225 g Comp B (Heksotol 60/40)
NSN	1330-58-000-1749 (with metal handle)

Designated the Offensive Hand Grenade HGO 115-3,5 Modular by NAMMO the grenades have been tested by SOCOM and the regular army since around 2010. Back in 2015, Harry Lubin, then chief of the Experimentation Branch of the Maneuver Center of Excellence's Maneuver Battle Lab, said that a two module Scalable Offensive Hand Grenade blast "has a devastating effect," completely collapsed a one-room, adobe-style structure.

Data sheet from NAMMO for the Scalable Offensive Hand Grenade system
NAMMO

During the SOCOM Small Arms Modernization update session held at the recent

2018, NDIA Armament Systems Forum, LtC Mark Owens, SOCOM's Project Manager for Ammo, Weapons and Visual Augmentation Systems explained that SOCOM are continuing to field the Scalable Offensive Hand Grenade in mid-2018, through to FY2022. With Small Arms Defense Review reporting that SOCOM have bought over \$40 million worth of the offensive hand grenades from NAMMO.

NAMMO describe their offensive modular hand grenade on their site: *"Offensive Hand Grenade gives an extensive shock effect with a very limited number of fragments. These are specifically designed for use in closed rooms, such as bunkers, buildings or semi-closed areas like trenches. Modular offensive hand grenade gives scalable shock effect and variety of use by attaching 1 – 3 body modules together depending on the customer requirements. Each module can have its own fuze, and grenades can be used either separately or by attaching two to three modules together."*

Earlier this month Small Arms Defense Journal suggested that the regular US Army was looking at adopting NAMMO's offensive hand grenade to replace the MK3, potentially acting on the first live-fire tests completed back in 2015.

New Veteran's Service Card

The final stage of distribution of the Veteran's Service Card has begun. Applications from Canadian Armed Forces Veterans released before February 2016 are now being accepted for processing. If you want the new card, follow the links below.

You are eligible to receive a Veteran's Service Card if you have:

- completed basic training and
- been honourably released from the Canadian Armed Forces.
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Please visit the link below to apply:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/benefits-military/transition/service-card.html> (English)

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/ministere-defense-nationale/services/avantages-militaires/transition/carte-service.html> (French)

Who (or What) Is It?

Last Week: This is the impact area at Maralinga, Australia, after the tower atomic blast for Operation Buffalo in 1956 (Commonwealth Atomic Weapons Trials). The Ferret, Centurions, Bedford lorries, and Supermarine Swift fighters were all test targets. The photo is after the blast. Capt Redmond (John's Dad) was the head of the Canadian team at that operation, which saw both tower and air drop blasts. There is footage of the tests on the Australian War Memorial site, and on YouTube (British Pathe). The photo is now with the Canadian War Museum.



This Week: We live in a country wherein few with military backgrounds or knowledge reside. How many times have you seen a news report where anything large, military, and green is described as a “tank”? Of course, as most of you know, even that word was invented to foil the Hunnish spies who might have twigged to the Empire's new, sure-fire, war-ending weapon: His Majesty's Landship (not as catchy, admittedly).

The cognoscenti are aware that to be a “tank”, the vehicle must be full-tracked (some exceptions, of course), heavily armoured (a relative idea, given that we started the Second World War with Vickers Mk VIs made of recycled Kit-Kat wrappers), and possessed of death-dealing armament. Nowadays, that latter requirement is fulfilled by a large-calibre gun, but in days of yore it could have meant many turrets, each with a machine gun or dinky piece of ordnance, such as the impressive, but rather useless Soviet tank, T-35, in its different, and very strange models.

So, does this month's candidate make the grade? Will it be voted in as a tank in the upcoming federal horse-race? Could it be the personal mount of some local political hopefuls with military connections? What on earth is it? Send those great guesses to the editor, Bob Mugford bob.mugford@gmail.com or the author, John Redmond johnd._redmond@telus.net



All answers are read, and most are laughed at - but a few make it. Thank you in advance.

From the 'Punitary'

What are a shark's two most favourite words? Man overboard!

Murphy's Other Laws

As soon as you make something idiot-proof, along comes 'smarter' idiot.

Quotable Quotes

Personally, I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught." - *Winston Churchill*

15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner

**The Regimental Sergeant-Major
Warrant Officers and Sergeants
of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment,
The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery**

*Cordially invite you
to their*

ANNUAL MESS DINNER

Saturday, 26th October 2019

Cocktails: 18:00 hrs Dinner: 19:00 hrs

To be held in the
**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess
Bessborough Armoury
2025 West 11th Avenue
Vancouver, BC**

RSVP required no later than
11th October 2019, as space is limited,
to the Unit Chief Clerk (*Sgt Woods*),
2025 West 11th Ave,
Vancouver BC V6J 2C7
Email: brenda.woods@forces.gc.ca
Telephone: 604-666-4876

Dress Mess Kit/Formal
Ticket price: \$60.00
Cheque payable to *15th Field
Warrant Officers' and
Sergeants' mess*. Pay at the
door or mail in payment