



## Van Arty Assoc and RUSI Van Members News Dec 9, 2014

### 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 have been down the last few weeks - we need your support to keep the lunches going. 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. Guests are always welcome.

### **Christmas Lunch break**

Last lunch of 2014 will be **Dec 10<sup>th</sup> - TOMORROW**. Members are encouraged to bring Significant Others and guests. The first lunch of 2015 will be Jan 14<sup>th</sup>. **We are collecting for Mrs Lum's annual 'purse'.**

### Commanding Officer's Tea - 2014

**Next Sunday** - December 14th, 1400hrs

The cost, \$20pp, includes sherry, Mrs Lum's delicious hors d'oeuvres, as well as coffee and tea served by Regimental Ladies. The Regimental Band is sending one of its combos to entertain us as we mingle. The bar will be open for those of you who want more than sherry. Dress is suit and tie (or Regimental blazer and tie), Cocktail dresses for the Ladies.

Response has been a little slow for the Tea, if you are planning to attend please let us know. **Sign up at the bar. Or email me at [bob.mugford@shaw.ca](mailto:bob.mugford@shaw.ca) and I will put you on the list.**

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

On 'rest and refit' around Ypres.

### World War 2 - November 1939

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

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** The Soviets force a slight withdrawal by the Finns at Suojarvi. The Finns appeal to the League of Nations for help.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>:** HMS Nelson is damaged by a German magnetic mine – the last time one of these weapons will have a significant effect as countermeasures are being rapidly developed. The casual murder of Jews by German soldiers in Poland reaches its zenith as 1,400 in a column of 20,000 are impulsively shot while being marched towards the new Soviet border.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>:** The Finns have already noticed the slow nature of the Soviet command and control loop and are learning to take advantage of it. The leading elements of the Soviet 7th Army are reaching the Finn's Mannerheim Line on the Karelian Isthmus.

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** Soviet troops of 9th Army enter Suomussalmi – a key road and rail junction in the Kainuu region of Northern Finland, while 8th Army starts to attack the Finns at Kollaa.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>:** Nazi theoretician Alfred Rosenberg introduces some Norwegian fellow named Quisling to Hitler as Admiral Raeder proposes invading Norway. The US protests the Anglo-French imposition of a blockade on Germany. Since joining the Red Army in 1919, Sahip Maysky, an ethnic Bashkiri, has slowly climbed the ladder and after 20 years (and the influence of the Stalin purges) has finally become a captain in command of a rifle battalion in the 150th Division. Now battle awaits and the 38 year-old career soldier must lead his men into the teeth of the Finns' prepared defences. After sixteen days of battle, Captain Maysky is injured and evacuated but not before setting an example by leading from the front in eight separate assaults. His valour makes him a Hero of the Soviet Union, but this soldier's service will end in January 1942 when he dies of wounds sustained fighting the Germans.

**December 9<sup>th</sup>:** The Finnish tactics stop the Soviets in three places, while the worsening winter weather brings Soviet amphibious activities on the coast to a halt.

## **New Procurement Process for DND**

*Upcoming changes will further complicate life for Department of National Defence staff*

*David Pugliese Published on: December 7, 2014*



I recently had an article about concerns being raised inside National Defence headquarters about procurement staff being poorly trained, overworked and stressed out. Things could get worse before they get better, a **Defence Watch** reader who works in DND's procurement organization tells me. Why? A new process will allow DND staff to spend more money for procurements but they also have to oversee the entire process, instead of relying on Public Works and Government Services Canada (PGSC) staff.

The new DND'S Delegation Of Authorities (the ability to spend up to \$2 Million to buy goods) is planned for 2015. The current level is now at \$25,000. "It's always been a PWGSC prerogative to deal with contracts," noted the procurement official. "They exercise the Contracting Authority (CA) while DND is the Procurement Authorities (PA) and Technical Authority (TA)." "Some of us will become Contracting Officers (CA) from one day to another, as well as with our Procurement Officers responsibilities (PA)," the individual noted. "The problem is simple: nobody, except for a few of us have ever done this: Publishing our RFPs on the Buy and Sell Web site for example, negotiating directly with tenders and writing contracts, writing amendments,

etc.” “Once the experience will have kicked-in in a few years ...it will actually be a very good thing for DND. We will be saving time and money. No one can complain about that!

But procurement people will be pushed even further because of that....and add departures, lack of leadership, and everything that you mentioned in your article and we are in for some very interesting time ahead!”

## **Conservatives Cut Frontline Jobs of VAC Employees**

*Administration jobs largely spared.* THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some of the biggest job cuts at Veterans Affairs in recent years have been in the disability awards branch — the division targeted in a recent auditor general’s report for taking too long to decide on the benefit claims of ex-soldiers, writes **Murray Brewster** of the **Canadian Press**. Departmental performance reports stretching back to 2009 show that roughly 897 positions have been eliminated across Veterans Affairs, with 33 per cent coming out of the section that administers pensions and awards. Those same records show the health and rehabilitation branches also took a sizable hit — roughly 372 positions during the same time frame.

Commemorations, the division that celebrates past wars and maintains memorials, was reduced by 17.2 per cent, while internal services — Prime Minister Stephen Harper described it last week as “backroom administration” — lost 71 positions, just 10.1 per cent. “We have taken resources out of backroom administration from bureaucracy. We have put it into services,” Harper said Wednesday during question period. “There are more benefits and more money for veterans than ever before, and more points of service. That is called good administration, good government, and it is good service for the veterans of this country.” As late as Friday, the Harper government was continuing to insist the reductions, part of an overall effort to eliminate the federal deficit, were not coming at the expense of ex-soldiers. “We make no apologies for reducing bureaucratic expenses at Veterans Affairs Canada,” said Conservative MP Parm Gill, the parliamentary secretary to the minister, Julian Fantino. “The opposition wants to increase government bureaucracy. We are increasing front line support for Canada’s veterans. We recently announced eight new front line mental health clinics for Canadian veterans. While the NDP defends the unions, along with the Liberals, we are defending Canada’s veterans.” The majority of the staff cuts in the disability and death compensation branch took place between 2010 and 2013. That section also underspent its budget allotment by \$121 million, according to a 2013-14 departmental performance report.

There’s a direct connection between the job cuts, the auditor general’s complaints about benefit application wait times and the \$1.13 billion in budget allocations that have gone unspent since 2006, said Liberal MP Frank Valeriote. You can’t spend the money or process the applications if you don’t have the staff, said Valeriote, who accuses Harper of misleading Canadians by saying the cuts were administrative in nature. “It is indefensible,” he said. “Internal services, the backroom position of which the prime minister spoke on Wednesday when he said they’re in the backroom, the cuts were minor in nature. So, let’s make no mistake and let’s be very clear: He lied.”

The Union of Veterans Affairs Employees confirmed the job loss numbers, but noted that there is a knock-on effect when disability claims are delayed, which can also contribute to lapsed funding. Other benefits, such as health care and re-establishment to civilian life, don't kick in until a disability is approved. There was \$33 million in underspending on that area in the last budget year. In 2013-14, the department did over-spend on financial benefits for the mostly seriously wounded, including \$7.9 million in the permanent impairment allowance, which has been the subject of criticism from the veterans' ombudsman. Despite blowing that portion of their allocation, Veterans Affairs underspent its budget by \$133 million in 2013-14, the performance reports show. The union has revealed that it filed formal notice on Nov. 18, demanding the government suspend further cuts until an independent third party can analyze the impact the staff reductions have had on services. "We want an independent body to determine whether Veterans Affairs is capable of carrying out its mandate," said Carl Gannon, the union's president.

The union, a division of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, is currently in the midst of contract talks with the federal Treasury Board. Fantino faced multiple calls to step down last week, but Valeriote said he expects the Conservative strategy is to run out the clock on Parliament's latest sitting and hope the anger blows over during the Christmas holidays.

## **DEAR WALRUS: ARE YOU KIDDING ME?**

*By Dan Thomas*

Anyone passing a newsstand this month would find it difficult to ignore the December 2014 issue of The Walrus magazine, with its cover photograph of a York Regional Police officer in riot gear beside its grabby headline: "Is this the future of the police?...How military tactics are quietly turning Canadian cops into soldiers." The article is available for viewing at the following link: <http://thewalrus.ca/armed-and-dangerous/> and is of local interest here because much of its "truthiness" hinges on its depiction of the professional relationship between the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and local Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel. Here, too, is it where it goes immediately astray.

Against the backdrop of the recent crises in Ferguson, MO, and the visibility of surplus US military vehicles and other gear provided to some American police forces, Toronto-based author John Lorinc gets off to a very questionable journalistic start in his first paragraph, where he indirectly cites an "unnamed source" via a likeminded academic (former University of Victoria graduate student Adam Molnar, who now lectures in criminology at Deakin University, Australia) that the VPD established a military liaison unit (MLU) "in the early 2000s" that allegedly "coordinated the Canadian Forces troops assigned to the 2010 Winter Olympics."

Wrong. The CAF's role in the 2010 Vancouver and Paralympic Winter Games was in fact coordinated with the RCMP-led Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit (V2010 ISU), and was focussed on the outer maritime and aviation approaches to the region, plus the mountainous outer

perimeters to Cypress Bowl, Whistler Nordic Centre, and Whistler Athletes' Village.<sup>1</sup> The CAF sought no role in urban security, which was handled by the VPD and other police forces of jurisdiction that strove to find a proper balance between effectiveness and unobtrusiveness. The event emphatically did not “funnel military tactics and equipment into the bloodstream of Canadian law enforcement agencies,” as Lorinc attributes to Veronica Kitchen of Waterloo University.

Indeed, the Olympics security effort famously inspired a “shout out” from the American host broadcaster for mission success without producing “a single automatic weapon” - hardly what one would expect, if the police forces were becoming as militarized and warlike as the article asserts.

As for the Forces, the CEO of the Vancouver Organizing Committee, John Furlong, praised the military in his memoir Patriot Hearts for its low-key professionalism in supporting Games security, and in delivering the Olympic flame and official party from Greece to Victoria via military aircraft.

It is true that professional contact occurs between the VPD and the CAF - but not for the sinister reasons the article insinuates. In the post-9/11 era, it became apparent that urban-based (largely Reserve) CAF personnel and facilities were reliant on an external security environment provided by police forces of jurisdiction - in our case, the VPD. This relationship regained importance in recent weeks, when two individuals expressed their disagreements with Canada's policies by murdering CAF members in uniform in cities, and in broad daylight. In the tragedies' aftermath, a visibly elevated police presence offered much assurance to CAF members as well as the public who attended Remembrance Day ceremonies at Victoria Square, like elsewhere across the nation.

Furthermore, Lorinc ignores serious recent events in Canadian policing, such as the Mayerthorpe and Moncton mass murders of RCMP officers, that could help explain why Canadian police officers may legitimately require access to such enhanced protection such as body armour and lightly armoured vehicles; at least temporarily enhanced firepower, such as assault carbines; night vision and other specialized equipment; and the skills to deploy these resources as lawfully and humanely as possible. The successful, unharmed apprehension of the Moncton murderer by the RCMP surely demonstrates a commendable level of professional restraint – contradictory to the article's grim theme.

In fairness to Lorinc, he is not the only Canadian to jump on the Ferguson bandwagon – nor the most unprofessional. The latter award might go to an academic who recently told CBC radio that the Ottawa police were acquiring “a tank.” Presumably, he was referring to the four-wheeled Lenco G3 “BearCat” armoured rescue vehicle that was recently photographed helping extricate CAF personnel from downtown Ottawa following the murder of Cpl Nathan Cirillo at the National War Memorial. In a national capital where embassies and other facilities have indeed

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<sup>1</sup> The author of this critique served for two years as an embedded CAF planner in the V2010 ISU.

been attacked in the past, such a vehicle might be considered a reasonable public precaution, rather than a threat.

While he does not articulate any alternative, Lorinc apparently believes that Canadians would be better served via a lack of routine communication, cooperation, or other forms of understanding between police agencies and the CAF. Unfortunately, how such a disconnected relationship would serve Canadians in the event of natural disasters or other crises - likely on short notice - is left to the reader's imagination.

Canada's domestic security and policing activities and policies certainly merit ongoing public examination via the media, and professional evaluation among academic and other experts. Unfortunately, in this instance The Walrus' shrill headlines and superficial analysis offer disappointment rather than insight.

*Note: while the author of this critique is a serving Reservist, the opinions and concerns expressed are his own and are not the official position of the CAF/DND.*

## **Victory Square on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**

Here is a great picture of the ceremony at this year's Remembrance Day taken from the top of the Fleck Building. The picture was taken by Acting Battalion Chief Dan McClelland, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services.



Those who were there will remember the haunting trumpet duet of the Last Post and Rouse played at the ceremony. Dan played the trumpet from atop the Flack Building, the other was played by Assistant Chief Joe Foster, at the Cenotaph.

## **Who is it?**



**Last Week:** Didn't get one reply on this picture. Not surprising, seeing that it is over 70 years old.

**This Week:** This week's photo takes us back in time to when colour photography was in its infancy, and so were some of us. Actually, the photo isn't so old, but it has been exposed to sunlight, which is something of a no-no. If you have a colour photo you value, it is best to make a copy of it, and use that for display, keeping the original in a darkened environment.



Also, avoid contact with sticky photo albums, the curse of all archivists. Photos are best stored in acid-free paper or plastic sleeves, or loose in an acid-free box.

Labelling, if you must, should be done with a soft pencil on the back edge. Never use a pen, as the ink will eventually seep through to the image.

So, I am sure some of you recognize this group of jolly gunners. In fact,

even your author, young and inexperienced as he is, recognizes some of the lads. However, some of these guardians of the North are no known to us. So, if you have time during this rush of present-buying and goose-catching, please let us know who everyone is, and when it was.

Answers and guesses may be sent to the editor of this award-winning newsletter, or to the author of this humble column, John Redmond ([johnd. redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd.redmond@telus.net)).

## **From the 'Punitary'**

Those who throw dirt are sure to lose ground.

## **Murphy's other Laws**

Any source or program, however complicated, if looked at in exactly the right way, will become even more complicated.

## **Quotable Quotes**

A life spent making mistakes is not only most honorable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. – *George Bernard Shaw*

Hearth & Fire Concert



**HEARTH  
& FIRE**

**British Columbia Girls Choir**  
*and*  
**Band of the 15th Field Regiment,  
Royal Canadian Artillery**

**IN CONCERT**

**Saturday, December 13, 2014**  
**7:30pm**

**Michael J. Fox Theatre**  
7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby

Adults \$23; Seniors/Students \$18; Children under 12 \$13

Tickets **604-542-1698**  
or email [manager@bcgirlschoir.org](mailto:manager@bcgirlschoir.org)



# Vancouver Welch Men's Choir Concert

## CANDLELIGHT CAROLS

Thur, Dec 4th, 7:30pm *Downtown Vancouver*  
with Burnaby Central Secondary School choir  
**Christ Church Cathedral**  
690 Burrard Street at Georgia, Vancouver

Sat, Dec 13th, 7:30pm *Shaughnessy*  
with Magee Secondary School choir  
**Shaughnessy Heights United Church**  
1550 West 33rd Avenue, Vancouver

Sat, Dec 6th, 7:30pm *White Rock*  
with North Surrey Secondary School Choir  
**White Rock Baptist Church**  
1657-140th Street, Surrey

### Ticket Prices:

**\$27** **\$24** **\$10\***  
ADULT SENIOR STUDENT with ID

Except Massey Theatre  
where tickets are \$33, \$28, \$22\*

Sun, Dec 7th, 2:30pm *New Westminster*  
with Winter Harp  
**Massey Theatre\***  
735-8th Avenue, New Westminster

### Where to Buy Tickets:

Online: [vwmc.ca](http://vwmc.ca) (no surcharges or handling fees)

In person: from any choir member

By phone: 604-878-1190 or

From theatre box offices: surcharges apply

Fri, Dec 12th, 7:30pm *North Vancouver*  
with Argyle Secondary School choirs  
**Centennial Theatre**  
2300 Lonsdale Ave., North Vancouver

CHRISTMAS

CONCERTS

**VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR**  
CANADA'S LARGEST MEN'S CHOIR

# CO's Christmas Tea



*The Commanding Officer*

*LCol Brent Purcell CD*

*invites you to his*

*Annual Christmas Tea*

*to be held on*

*Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> 2014*

*in the*

*15<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Officers' Mess*

*commencing at Two o'clock,*

*in the afternoon*

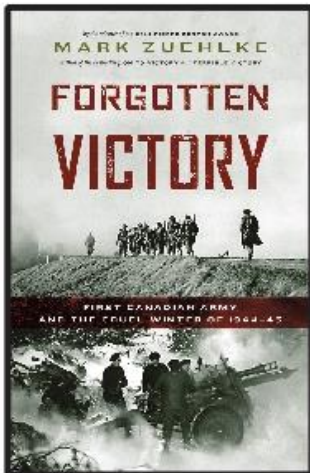
Dress: Jacket & Tie  
Cost: \$ 20 per person at the door  
Please sign up at the Bar !!



# Forgotten Victory: 1<sup>st</sup> Cdn Army and the Cruel Winter of 44-45

## WINNING THE WAR

FIRST CANADIAN ARMY'S RHINELAND CAMPAIGN  
OF FEBRUARY-MARCH 1945



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A presentation by  
**MARK ZUEHLKE**

—  
winner of the  
**2014 PIERRE  
BERTON AWARD**

▶ **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 7PM**  
**Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level**  
**Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street**

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**Free!**

Seating is limited.

Drawing from his newly-released **FORGOTTEN VICTORY: FIRST CANADIAN ARMY AND THE CRUEL WINTER OF 1944-45**, Mark Zuehlke—author of the critically acclaimed Canadian Battle Series—offers an insightful, informative journey back to February and March, 1945 when our nation's soldiers launched one of World War II's most important offensives. Today little remembered, this thrust into Germany's vital Rhineland made possible the ultimate Allied victory that followed less than two months later.

For more information, email [marketing@douglas-mcintyre.com](mailto:marketing@douglas-mcintyre.com) or call the library at 604-331-3603.

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A partnership event:



Douglas & McIntyre



Vancouver Public Library

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[WWW.DOUGLAS-MCINTYRE.COM](http://WWW.DOUGLAS-MCINTYRE.COM)

# 2015 British Columbia Army Gala



## The British Columbia Army Gala 2015



### **CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1945 - 2015**

Come and enjoy a unique evening of fun and dancing in  
the company of peers, comrades, long-lost-friends  
and, of course, loved ones!

Venue: Hyatt Regency Vancouver  
Date: Saturday, 28 March, 2015  
Time: 6 p.m. 'till late  
Dress: mess kit, Black Tie or equivalent



For all ticket information, including  
Early Bird Specials, please visit  
[www.bcarmygala.ca](http://www.bcarmygala.ca) or  
phone (604) 225-2520 ext 2568.

**DO NOT DELAY. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!**