



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Oct 1, 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](mailto: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](http://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 04** Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019

**Oct 26** 15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner

### World War 2 – 1944

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

**Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>:** US troops from 1<sup>st</sup> Army penetrate the Siegfried line in the drive on Aachen. RAF heavy bombers bust open the dikes around the heavily fortified island of Walcheren on the Scheldt Estuary and flood the interior of the island – this inconveniences Germany artillery, but costs many Dutch civilians their lives. As the ordeal of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division continues on Peleliu, many Marines voluntarily head up to the embattled rifle companies to carry supplies and help carry the growing number of wounded. One such is the 18-year-old Pfc Richard E Kraus of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amphibious Tractor Battalion. As the four volunteer stretcher-bearers near the wounded marine they are to retrieve, they are grenaded by the Japanese. One grenade lands amidst them and Krause unhesitatingly smothers it at the cost of his own life. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

*Essential Reading: Charles B Macdonald's narrative Company Commander follows his experiences as a front-line infantry officer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the US Army from Oct 1944 until May 1945. Memoirs from the perspective of a company commander are rare, and Macdonald (later a US Army Historian) writes a simple and unvarnished narrative. It is a worthwhile addition to any library of the War.*

**Oct 4<sup>th</sup>:** German counterattacks against 1<sup>st</sup> US Army outside Aachen yield them little. Soviet troops from 3<sup>rd</sup> Ukrainian Front link up with Tito's Partisans near Belgrade. Allied forces land in Southern Greece near Patras. In the Scheldt Campaign, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division moves to cut off South Beveland.

*Essential Reading: A Forward Observation Officer with the 4<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division, George G Blackburn has been surviving in his job since early July, and will go on to become the longest serving FOO in the Canadian Army, only being pulled out of his dangerous task after winning the Military Cross next April, but he will see more than his share of battle. Decades later, he writes the 'Guns Trilogy', a personal recollection about the Normandy, Scheldt, Rhineland and Rhine Crossing Campaigns (The Guns of Normandy, the Guns of Victory, and Where the Hell are the Guns?). These are very vivid and accurate memoirs, rich in detail and a valuable tool for the historian. While Blackburn does not view himself as heroic (he was cautious and candid about his increasing nervousness as the months went by, particularly when his battery started running a book on his survival odds), he was in the fray for 10 months and his writing is a splendid tribute to the men he fought beside. France shows its gratitude for his service and scholarship by enrolling him in the Legion d'honneur in 2001.*

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup>:** Soviet Naval Infantry make a number of lodgments on sites along the Lithuanian and Estonian coasts in the campaign in clear the Germans out of the Baltic.

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup>:** The Zwaardvisch, A Dutch submarine based in Australia (and under US command) successfully intercepts U168 as the latter is on her way to Japan with technical materials from Germany. II Canadian Corps starts moving across the Leopold Canal into the Breskens Pocket on the south side of the Scheldt Estuary. This area is flat, muddy and with many flooded sectors, and fiercely defended.

*Essential Reading: Another of the excellent histories of the Scheldt Estuary campaign is Denis and Shelagh Whitaker's Tug of War: The Allied Victory that Opened Antwerp. Whitaker, a highly decorated veteran, commanded a Canadian infantry battalion in the battle, but this book is a solid and very vivid history and not a memoir of his own experiences.*

**Oct 7<sup>th</sup>:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division crosses the Leopold Canal into the savage resistance of the Breskens pocket. 3<sup>rd</sup> US Army gains some ground near Luxembourg but faces intense German counterattacks. Some 500 Sonderkommandos at Auschwitz-Birkenau stage a revolt, none escape and all die – taking a handful of their guards with them, but they also knock out one of the crematoria. Tankmen don't like mist and darkness, it is too easy to get lost, bogged down or

surprised by an enemy. 2Lt James L Harris of the 756<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion is on hand around Vagny France when a German raiding party of two platoons and a tank infiltrates the line of the American infantry battalion that Harris' tanks are supporting. Dismounting, he leads his tank through the mist and darkness until the enemy raiders reveal themselves by mortally wounding 2Lt Harris. Despite his wounds, he directs the fire of his tank – which is knocked out in the exchange – but this quickly summons more friendly tanks to the engagement. During the fight, he has sustained another critical wound, but waves off medical treatment until a survivor of his tank is treated, and the young officer dies soon after. He receives a posthumous award of the Medal of Honor.

**Oct 8<sup>th</sup>:** There is ferocious fighting in II Canadian, US XII and US XIX Corps sectors. Finnish troops occupy the last of their ports in German hands. In Greece it is Liberation Day for Corinth and Samos. Some members of the 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Division have been fighting since North Africa, as has Captain Bobbie E Brown; so, when they nickname a feature to their front 'Crucifix Hill' it doesn't bode well. The hill, on the approach to Aachen Germany, has 43 known pillboxes and bunkers on it, and Captain Brown is leading his company in an assault on the feature when they bog down under heavy fire. He orders his men to cover him, as he crawls forward alone three times with satchel charges and knocks out three of the major bunkers, ignoring the wounds he sustains as does so. With Brown's destruction of one massive bunker, the enemy loses heart and retreat off the hill. He receives the Medal of Honor.

## **Chilean Navy Set to Procure Canadian Coyote LAV II**



The Chilean government is purchasing 12 second-hand Coyote 8x8 armored scout vehicles from Canada to outfit its navy's Marine Corps. Deliveries are expected to take place during 2020 but could start in late months of 2019. The value of the deal hasn't been released as negotiations are still under way for new engines and spare parts. The Coyotes are coming from Canadian Forces surplus stock. Since the introduction of the Coyote to the Canadian Armed Forces, the vehicle has served national interest domestically and abroad. The Coyote served during the United Nations/ NATO missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo, and in Afghanistan. Domestically, it has been deployed during "Operation Grizzly" to Kananaskis to secure the 28th G8 summit, the 36th G8 summit, and the G-20 Toronto summit, in addition to a number of domestic emergency response incidents.



*Light Armoured Vehicle II (LAV II) Coyote*

The Light Armoured Vehicle II (LAV II) Coyote is a derivative of General Dynamics Land Systems Piranha II that anticipated features of Piranha III built by General Dynamics Land Systems Canada for the Canadian Forces. The Coyotes mount a 25×137mm M242 Bushmaster chain gun and two 7.62×51mm NATO C6 general purpose machine guns. One of the machine guns is mounted coaxial to the main gun while the other is pintle-mounted in front of the crew commander's hatch. The Coyote is powered by a Detroit Diesel 6V53T engine developing 400 horsepower (300 kW) and can reach speeds of 100 kilometres per hour (62 mph) (on road). The Coyote has a maximum road range of 660 kilometres (410 mi). In service since 1996, the Coyote is a later generation of the LAV-25 and is of the same family and similar generation as the Bison APC and the Australian ASLAV.

## **The Flux Defense MP17 System**

This elegant system converts the US Army's new sidearm into a beastly personal defense weapon. *Jared Keller - Task & Purpose Sept 22 2019*



*The new system adds a retractable stock, a Picatinny rail, and a second magazine that doubles as a forward grip to the Sig Sauer P320 pistol the Army adopted as the M17/M18 under the service's Modular Handgun System program.*

"Shoots like a carbine, holsters like a pistol." That's the pitch behind the new Flux Defense system designed to transform the Army's brand new sidearm into a personal defense weapon. Working together, the stock and forward grip greatly enhance the pistol's control, range, and accuracy by allowing shooters to shoulder and fire their weapon like a rifle, while the extra magazine boosts the M17/M18's standard 17- or 21-round capacity to 43 rounds. And rather than a timely conversion process, the MP17 appears elegantly simple: soldiers just slot their sidearm into the system in less than a minute and, thanks to a custom holster, quickly draw from their hip and handle the weapon with the ease of a standard pistol. According to Flux Defense, the converted weapon is both smaller and lighter than most PDWs on the market, weighing just 2.8 pounds without ammo and measuring just 10.75 inches long with the stock collapsed (it's worth noting that Recoil pegs the average PDW length at around 10.3 inches).

Despite the allure of a nimble PDW conversion kit, the Army isn't necessarily on the lookout for one. In April, the US Army awarded Swiss defense contractor Brugger & Thomet a \$2.5 million contract to outfit personal security details with the APC9K semi-automatic carbine. But it's worth noting that at \$399 apiece and a 43-round capacity, the MP17 presents a compelling alternative to the roughly \$2,500-per-weapon price tag on the 30-round 9mm APC9K submachine gun (although, to be fair, the latter includes spare parts and accessories). And even if the Army doesn't go for it, the other services might. As *We Are The Mighty* smartly points out, the MP17 could serve as a viable alternative to the collapsible 30-round GAU-5A Aircrew Self Defense Weapon that the Air Force recently adopted for pilot forced to eject in hostile territory, especially since the service recently tested the M17 as a potential sidearm for pilots.

## **RUSI Inaugural Annual Dinner**

*Eric Mold*

On the whole the event went off quite well. There were about 40 people in attendance, about half in mess kit or evening clothes. Mrs Lum performed at her usual stellar standard...chicken or vegetarian...pretty huge portions of each and wine was included. The room was tastefully arranged in typical mess dinner format. There were a couple of 'after dinner' speakers. All in all, it was a very good show... especially at \$50 a plate which is well below the tariff for similar events.

A new feature which was tried out was the closing off of the 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Cul-de-sac and making it an Event Only parking area. I don't think anyone had a problem parking. This is a feature which we can repeat anytime we have a substantial social event at the mess. It should encourage more to attend these functions. When they, especially the girls, don't have to walk a couple of blocks in their party frocks and high heels...on cold, rainy nights.

For a first attempt I'd say the event was 'bang on'

And good news for those with handicaps and difficulty climbing stairs, the Armoury Handicap elevator is finally working, as long as someone can find the key.

## Capt Benson Lum awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> bar to CD



*Capt Ben Lum presented with 3<sup>rd</sup> bar to CD by LCol Paul Ursich.*

About 3 months ago, we had an article in this newsletter about MWO Ken Surges being presented with the 3<sup>rd</sup> bar to his CD. Now we have another. Capt Benson Lum was just presented with his 3<sup>rd</sup> bar signifying 42 years of service in the military. In spite of the fact that we have had two members presented with a 3<sup>rd</sup> bar this year, it is still a fairly rare occurrence. Congratulations Ben!

## 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.
- 

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:** We saw this photo in a previous newsletter quiz when we asked what vehicle this was. This time we were looking for a bit more information. The Nodwell entered service in late 1962, replacing the Penguin. It came in the model shown, for personnel, and a flat bed model. The trailers were not always used but were great for kit whilst on exercises. It was a much-liked vehicle. The location is Goose Creek, south of Fort Churchill in 1964. We don't know the RCASC Company name, but it was the one based at Fort Churchill.

**This Week:** The Internet has transformed how we acquire information, often for the better, if we are better people, and for the worse for some. As an early user, going back to the late 1970s (using the educational internet “ERIC”), I can attest to how much our information gathering has changed, especially after the invention of the World Wide Web by Dr. Tim Berners-Lee in 1991. However, maybe not everything is on-line yet (although my students would never have believed that statement, even ten years ago).

On that note, we present a photo that might not yet be on the World Wide Web. The reason it might not be is that it lay in a box for many years, and, being classified “RESTRICTED”, was not published in paper-based information retrieval objects (formerly called “books”). Of course, at one time such a label was accompanied by the silhouette of a panther, cleverly designed to entice lads into cinemas showing European “art” movies, but that is another story, and, I hasten to add, not mine.



So, what is this odd photo, mixing vehicles and aircraft in a rather dusty and featureless landscape? Can you identify the vehicles and the flying machines? Is there something about them that might tell you why they were positioned in such a place? And, finally, can you identify the location and, possibly, the name of the operation in which they were involved?

Send your sleuthing remarks to the editor, Bob Mugford ([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)), or the author, John Redmond ([john.d.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:john.d._redmond@telus.net)). Happy surfing (a word whose meaning has changed since the days of the “Surfaris”).

### **From the ‘Punitary’**

Why is life a bit like soccer. You can either use your head, or a good, swift kick.

### **Murphy’s Other Laws**

Medals are OK, but having your body and all your friends in one piece at the end of the day is better

### **Quotable Quotes**

The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him. *GK Chesterton*

# **Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019**



## **Naval Association of Canada National Conference 2019**

Sponsored by the Naval Officers' Association of British Columbia

**0800 – 1630 October 4, 2019**

**BCIT Marine Campus**

265 West Esplanade

North Vancouver, British Columbia

### **Agenda**

**0730 – 0830 Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**0830 Opening and Recognition of NOABC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**0845 Canada and the Pacific (Strategic Situation)**

**Canada-China Relations: Predatory, Promising or Problematic**

Dr. James Boutilier (Special Advisor to the RCN Commander Maritime Forces Pacific)

**China's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada**

Jonathan Manthorpe (Author and Journalist)

**The National Security Context for Canada's Relations with China**

Richard Fadden (Former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada, Deputy Minister of National Defence, and Director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service)

**Q&A Session on the Strategic Situation in the Pacific**

Panel of speakers above

Moderated by Senator Yuen Pau Woo

**1115 The Challenges and Roles for the Navy**

**The Royal Canadian Navy in the Pacific and the Strategic Vision of the RCN: "Ready to Help, Ready to Lead, Ready to Fight"**

Rear-Admiral J.R. (Bob) Auchterlonie, OMM, CD, RCN (Commander Maritime Forces Pacific)

## 1200 Lunch

### 1245 Naval Reserve – International Perspective

#### **RCN Reserve Priorities, Plans and Challenges**

Capt (N) Alan Offer, CD, RCN (Deputy Commander Naval Reserves)

#### **Royal Navy Reserve Experience and Future Plans**

Cmdre Martin Quinn, ADC, RN, Commander Maritime Reserves

#### **US Navy Reserves and Future Plans**

TBA

#### **Q&A Session on Challenges and Roles for Navy Reserves**

Panel of speakers above

Moderated by Cmdre David Craig, CD, RCN (Ret'd)

### 1500 Marine Industry

#### **Seaspan: RCN Joint Support Ship Program**

Cory Zachrisson, Seaspan

#### **Association of BC Marine Industries (ABCMI)**

Dan McGreer, BAsc (Nav Arch), Principal Naval Architect, Vard Marine, Inc., Secretary, ABCMI

### 1615 Closing Remarks

Conference includes continental breakfast and light lunch

The charge is \$85.00 per person

Please register by 20 September using the form below

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### NAC National Conference 2019

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Registration form:** by post to L. Fournier, 2970 Altamont Cr., West Vancouver, BC V7V 3C1

By email to: [ljfournier@shaw.ca](mailto:ljfournier@shaw.ca)

**Send Payment by:** Cheque: Payee NOABC , post to L. Fournier (above address)

e-transfer: Payee/Security NOABC email: [critophs@hotmail.com](mailto:critophs@hotmail.com)

15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner

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

*Cordially invite you  
to their*

**ANNUAL MESS DINNER**

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

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

*To be held in the*  
**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess  
Bessborough Armoury  
2025 West 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:brenda.woods@forces.gc.ca)  
Telephone: 604-666-4876

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