



## Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Oct 15, 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 26** 15Fd WO & Sgts Annual Mess Dinner
- Nov 10** Remembrance Day Concert – 15 Fd Band and Welsh Men's Choir
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day Concert – 15 Fd Band and Welsh Men's Choir
- Dec 7** Annual St Barbara's Dinner

## World War 2 – 1944

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

**Oct 16<sup>th</sup>:** Horthy has been dragged off to Germany (although he will survive the war and is not prosecuted for his role in it), and Radio Hungary retracts its armistice request. US XIX and VIII Corps complete the encirclement of Aachen. The Soviets liberate Nis in Yugoslavia and start to cooperate closely with the Partisans. It is a hard thing to run into a torrent of fire and few men dare to do so. So, when three German MG-42s opened up on a platoon of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry near Overloon in the Netherlands; all of the British soldiers prudently took cover -- except for Sergeant George Harold Eadley. He rushed three machinegun posts consecutively and destroyed them all; clearing the way for his platoon to take their objective and winning the Victoria Cross.

*Essential Reading: It is taken as a fact nowadays that all veterans are somehow traumatized by their experiences of war... this has never been entirely true. RM Wingfield's 1955 account of his six months as a rifleman-reinforcement in an infantry battalion in a British Armoured Division in Northwest Europe is The Only Way Out and concerns the only way other than victory that an infantryman can honourably end his service in wartime. Wingfield knows why he is where he is and how his term will probably end. In his own case, it does with two bullets through his hip and he was glad to go. This is a hard volume to find, but worth the search.*

**Oct 17<sup>th</sup>:** A massive air assault is underway around Leyte by US Carrier aircraft – US Army rangers capture two small islands at the entrance to Leyte Gulf. Slow and heavy fighting continues in Holland and Italy while the French conclude negotiations to incorporate various elements of the Resistance into the regular military. The British launch a carrier raid on the Nicobar Islands to distract the Japanese fleet from Leyte... which doesn't work.

**Oct 18<sup>th</sup>:** The Greek Government in exile comes home. The 4<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Front enters eastern Slovakia. The Germans subject all males between 16 and 60 to conscription in the Volksturm. Remaining Axis units in Greece and Yugoslavia start to withdraw north, some will take months to extricate themselves. General McLain replaces General Corlett in command US 1<sup>st</sup> Army. Sergeant Max Thompson of the 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Division first comes to the aid of a neighbouring platoon which is overrun during a strong German counterattack near Haaren Germany. He handles a machinegun to stem the attack until it is destroyed by an enemy tank, picks up an automatic rifle and works it until it jams, then takes a bazooka and knocks out a tank. The attack is checked. and the situation stabilizes, but he is soon leading his own squad against a German occupied pillbox when its fire stalls their attack. Crawling forward towards the pillbox, he attracts all of their fire and is wounded, but grenades the position and knocks it out. He is awarded the Medal of Honor.

*Essential Reading: Ian V Hogg was one of the world's top experts on small arms, artillery and ballistics; and a gifted teacher and writer eager to pass on what he learned. There are over 100 books with his name on the jacket as the author or the editor, but those interested in the Second World War should make a special point of acquiring the Ballentine War Book (will this magnificent series ever be re-printed?) Barrage: The Guns in Action for a superb summary of artillery weapons and techniques employed during the war.*

**Oct 19<sup>th</sup>:** Liberation day for Bruyeres (thanks to the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of 7<sup>th</sup> US Army), and German resistance around Aachen is weakening. Occasionally, German Panzers try to do things the way they used to – and Major General GF Tarasov is there when they do. The 53<sup>rd</sup> Soviet Army contains a Romanian division that abandons its position when menaced by German Tiger tanks in Hungary and these move into the area occupied by the Army's artillery regiment when attempting to encircle the Army. Tarasov is found amid the Army's artillery reserve directing their direct fire engagements of the Tigers when he is killed. He falls in battle and becomes a Hero of the Soviet Union.

**Oct 20<sup>th</sup>:** “I have returned” MacArthur keeps a promise, but also brings 132,000 soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, 7<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> Divisions with him and a hell of a lot of sailors are lurking off the east coast of Leyte. The Japanese prove shy today and retire inland. In Yugoslavia, Belgrade and Dubrovnik are liberated by Tito (with Soviet help). Elsewhere, British I Corps attacks Northeast of Antwerp. The 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured South African Division fends off a German counterattack on 5<sup>th</sup> Army south of Bologna.

**Oct 21<sup>st</sup>:** Aachen yields after six weeks of fighting and becomes the first German city captured in the war. The fighting around the city caused 5,000 casualties to the Americans and 5,000 to the Germans with an additional 5,600 prisoners taken by the attackers. Fighting inside cities demands the closest cooperation between tanks and infantry. For the past nine days the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Division’s Captain James M Burt, notwithstanding painful wounds to his face and hands, has inspired infantry and tank crews under his command with his personal courage and skill in the fighting around Aachen. He will be awarded the Medal of Honor. American troops expand their bridgeheads on Leyte and fighting on Angaur (in the Palaus chain) comes to an end – 45 POWs and 1300 dead for Japan, 256 dead US servicemen and 1300 wounded.

*Essential Reading: Charles B MacDonald (a US Army infantry company commander in 1944/45) wrote a conventional treatment of the review of the American effort in Europe in the war -- and this reflects which can only be a conventional slur on the American troops who fought in the autumn of 1944. The Mighty Endeavor: The American War in Europe treats all the usual subjects fairly enough (and is recommended for these reasons), but it is as if nothing worth commenting on occurred between the end of the Arnhem Campaign and the opening strokes of Hitler’s Ardennes Offensive. Hard-fought triumphs like the capture of Aachen or the terrible ordeal of the Hürtegen Forest need more coverage from historians.*

**Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>:** US troops push forward on Leyte, while the IJN sallies out to attack the US landings in a complex plan. The IJN can muster seven battleships, one fleet carrier and five smaller carriers of various types, and 13 cruisers. The USN has 12 battleships, 12 fleet carriers, 18 escort carriers, and an equivalent number of cruisers and far more warships of other kinds. In Holland, Canadians complete the capture of Breskens (the south bank of the Scheldt). The Soviets reach the Norwegian border on the Karelian Front and the Danube south of Budapest. De Gaulle’s provisional government is formally recognized by the Allies. 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division starts to cross the Savio River, despite its flooding. Heroes are seldom charismatic clean-living men, and Private Ernest A “Smokey” Smith of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada has a long list of disciplinary infractions but is widely seen as a good man in a fight. After midnight in a dark and rainy night, he shows just how good he can be. Smith saves the initial lodgment over the swollen Savio River against a German counterattack by using a PIAT to destroy a Panther tank and two self-propelled guns and shooting a number of soldiers with a Thompson MG in a close-range fight. He is subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross – and remains a discipline problem until it eventually dawns on him that as a living VC winner, he represents the dignity of all of them, living and dead.

**Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The Soviets clear the Petsamo region in the far north. Two US submarines spot the IJN centre force making for Leyte, sink two heavy cruisers and then one is stranded on a reef.

## **First Royal Canadian Air Force CC-295 Shows Off Its Final Livery**

*Airbus Press Release October 8, 2019*

The first Airbus CC-295, purchased by the Government of Canada for the Royal Canadian Air Force's (RCAF) Fixed Wing Search and Rescue Aircraft Replacement (FWSAR) program, rolled out of the paint shop showing off its final livery at the Airbus facility in Seville, Spain. The aircraft will now go through the final preparation phase before its delivery to the customer, planned to take place in Spain before the end of the year.



*The contract, awarded in December 2016, includes 16 CC-295 aircraft and all in-service support elements.*

*Airbus Photo*

The photo in this article shows the first Canadian C295, to be designated CC-295 by the RCAF, in its distinctive search and rescue

colours. The aircraft adopts the yellow paint scheme following the tradition defined in the 1970s for search and rescue aircraft, giving high visibility for those in the air and on the ground. The contract, awarded in December 2016, includes 16 CC-295 aircraft and all in-service support elements including training and engineering services, the construction of a new training centre in Comox, B.C., and maintenance and support services. The aircraft will be based where search and rescue squadrons are currently located: Comox, BC; Winnipeg, Man.; Trenton, On; and Greenwood, NS. Considerable progress has been made since the FWSAR programme was announced two and a half years ago: the first aircraft is due to be delivered in Spain in the coming months; another six aircraft are either completing flight tests or in various stages of final assembly; and seven simulators and training devices are starting up preliminary acceptance tests. The first RCAF crews started training in late summer 2019 at Airbus' International Training Centre in Seville, Spain.

## **Federal Government Cuts Reimbursements for Military Health Care**

Hospitals on the hook for millions. Mercedes Stephenson and Amanda Connolly Global News  
October 8, 2019

News has confirmed with sources within the military, provincial and federal governments that the federal government made major changes this spring to the fees it reimburses to hospitals when they provide health care to military members – and that's leading to fears

some members could be denied health care services. Under the Canada Health Act and provincial health acts, members of the military are not eligible for public health coverage under provincial plans. Instead, the federal government is constitutionally responsible for providing comparable medical care to all members, although more advanced medical care like surgery or MRIs is provided at the same hospitals used by civilians. The military then reimburses the cost of providing those services to the hospital. It's effectively the same model used for treating out-of-province patients. But sources tell Global News that the Department of National Defence ordered a cut to military healthcare spending earlier this year, and the fees reimbursed to hospitals for seeing military patients was one of the first items on the chopping block.

Set fees for services are laid out by provincial health plans. For example, Ontario has one set of rates for services to provincial residents — those covered through OHIP — and uses a set of fees laid out by the Ontario Medical Association for services not covered by OHIP, which would apply to military members not covered by the provincial plan. The federal government used to reimburse the cost of those at Ontario Medical Association rates, which can be roughly three times more expensive than OHIP rates. Physicians could bill \$105 for a psychiatric assessment under OHIP fees, for example — but under the OMA fees, they can charge \$240 for providing that same service to those not insured through provincial health plans. What those changes mean concretely is that the military will cover less of the fees physicians charge for services, leaving hospitals on the hook for millions of dollars. Documents obtained by Global News show many of those hospitals are already bracing for the hit.

Pembroke Regional Hospital, located near the Canadian Forces Base at Petawawa, projects a shortfall of \$3.4 million as a result of the change. Sources say at least one hospital is no longer accepting military patients for some specialized services. The Kingston Health Services Centre, located near the base at Kingston as well as the Royal Military College of Canada, estimates a shortfall of \$2.3 million. In total, Ontario hospitals are estimated to take a hit of at least \$10 million. In August, Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott wrote to her federal counterpart, Ginette Petitpas Taylor, as well as Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, to express her concerns. “I am sure we can agree that our brave men and women of our Canadian Armed Forces and veterans make countless sacrifices to protect our country and uphold our democratic values. They deserve our respect and gratitude for keeping us safe,” Elliott writes in her letter, a copy of which was obtained by Global News. “That’s why I was surprised and extremely disappointed to learn that the federal government, through the Canadian Armed Forces, is attempting to unilaterally impose a new fee schedule for the delivery of health care to serving members and veterans. These changes, which were communicated without consultation, could result in either undue burden on hospitals or, worse yet, military members and veterans being charged to access health care services. Neither of these options is acceptable.”

A spokesperson for Alberta Health Minister Tyler Shandro also said that province had not been consulted and would be pushing the Department of National Defence to reconsider the change. “We recently received new rates for payment by the Department of National Defense (DND) for hospital services provided to eligible Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members,” said Steve Buick, press secretary to the minister. He added the new rates “will likely lead to a shortfall of at least \$2 million in revenue to Alberta Health Services versus their actual costs” and added they will also lead to an income reduction for physicians. Buick also noted the change had been discussed among provincial and territorial deputy health ministers at a recent meeting, and there are plans for the provinces to issue a joint statement of concern. A spokesperson for Quebec’s Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux said the province is currently in negotiations on the matter with the federal government and declined to comment.

Daniel Lebouthillier, a spokesperson for the Department of National Defence, said the military is engaging with the provinces and territories. “The Canadian Forces Health Services Group has been actively working with provincial and territorial governments, and civilian hospitals and institutions with respect to recent billing changes for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members who receive health care from non-military facilities or providers,” he said. “The CAF will continue to ensure that all its eligible members have access to appropriate health care, whether it is provided directly by the CAF or by non-military facilities or providers.” Military sources say the health care budget has been ballooning for years and they are under pressure to bring down the costs. The question being raised now by sources is whether those cuts could lead to military members being denied services or having to pay a greater amount to access the services they need. “It all kind of depends on the way things get structured out,” said David Perry, vice president of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute and a defence expert. “Because we tend to locate military members in areas that are more rural, more remote, harder to get specialized talent, the end result in this could be that you do have some increases in the demand for service, folks that are outside of the major metropolitan areas having to move, to travel to seek specialized care.” He added that he isn’t surprised to hear the change isn’t landing well. “For a Department of Defence that’s spent several years saying its people are its priority, it’s going to look bad if one of the areas where there is an effort to reduce spending is on the health side,” he said.

A spokesperson for Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan sent a statement on his behalf late Tuesday night. It says: “I can assure you that high-quality health care services are and will continue to be provided to the women and men of our Canadian Armed Forces. Our government reversed the cuts that the Harper Conservatives put on the women and men of our armed forces. Our Defence Policy puts people at its heart. As it stands, when a member of the Canadian Armed Forces gets care in a hospital, they are charged more for the same service than a Canadian because they wear a uniform. That is wrong. Currently, the Canadian Forces Health Services Group is actively working with provincial and territorial governments and civilian hospitals and institutions concerning the fee structure between the federal government and the provinces and territories. We will always ensure

that all members have access to the highest quality care, no matter who it is provided by. Let me be clear, no institutions are going to be negatively impacted by this.”

## **This Could Be the US Army's Next Scout Helicopter**

*Oriana Pawlyk Military.com October 03, 2019*



*An artist's rendering of Bell's '360 Invictus' helicopter (Courtesy photo)*

Bell has unveiled its proposed single-rotor design for the US Army's Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA), a cutting-edge helicopter that may be optionally manned.

The '360 Invictus' helicopter will be loaded with a 20 mm cannon and

integrated munitions launcher able to carry Hellfire missiles or rockets. It will be able to adapt for future weapons integration in order to fight in urban environments, according to Bell. Bell showcased its design to reporters at its facilities in Arlington, Virginia on Tuesday. The Army realized that they absolutely do need a smaller aircraft that's ... able to operate in urban canyons as well as out in mixed terrain," said Jeffrey Schloesser, executive vice president for strategic pursuits at Bell. Schloesser said the 360 Invictus has high-cruise speeds, long-range capabilities and advanced maneuverability, all intended to help it dominate a future battlespace. "We have a solution that can accomplish those missions, but it's also the lowest-risk, and therefore probably the lowest-cost aircraft, to be able to accomplish [that]," Schloesser said.

Keith Flail, vice president of advanced vertical lift systems, said the agile helicopter's first flight is expected in the fall of 2022. It should be able to fly at speeds greater than 180 knots true airspeed, or more than 200 miles per hour; the aircraft will also have a supplemental power unit that can boost the aircraft's speed in flight. Loosely based on Bell's 525 Relentless rotor system, the fly-by-wire computer flight control helicopter will be made in partnership with Collins Aerospace which will deliver a new avionics hardware and software suite. "[Collins] also has the ability to integrate capabilities with the MOSA, or modular open system architecture, onto the aircraft," Flail said. Some observers at Tuesday's event remarked how the streamlined, lightweight fuselage design of the 360 Invictus resembled the body of a shark, particularly the vertical canted ducted tail rotor, designed for optimized lift and propulsion. "As we're in the wind tunnel, as we're looking at performance, as we're looking at drag, everything on the aircraft, we're very confident that we have a good story on ... that design target," Flail said.

In April, the Army awarded Bell, a subsidiary of Textron, the contract to begin prototype and design work; but the company must compete against four other firms before the service downselects its options to move forward with its future helicopter. They are: AVX Aircraft Co. partnered with L3 Harris Technologies; Boeing Co.; Lockheed Martin's Sikorsky; and Karem

Aircraft. Currently, the Army is developing FARA and the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) along with other airframes as part of its larger Future Vertical Lift initiative, or FVL. FVL, the Army's third modernization priority, is intended to field a new generation of helicopters before 2030. Flail said that Bell will have a full-scale model of its FARA design, which fits inside a C-17 Globemaster III for transport as well as a 40-foot CONEX box, at the annual Association of the US Army show later this month."

## 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: Goliath tracked mine** - complete German name: *Leichter Ladungsträger Goliath*



(Goliath Light Charge Carrier) was a name given to two German Unmanned ground vehicles, disposable demolition vehicles, used during World War II. These were the electrically powered *Sd.Kfz. 302* and the petrol-engine powered *Sd.Kfz. 303a* and *303b*. They were known as *beetle tanks* to the Allies.

*An SdKfz.303, the petrol-powered version of the Goliath*

They carried 60 or 100 kilogrammes (130 or 220 lb) of high explosives, depending on the model, and were intended to be used for multiple purposes, such as destroying tanks, disrupting dense infantry formations, and the demolition of buildings or bridges. Goliaths were single-use vehicles that were destroyed by the detonation of their warheads. John Redmond took this picture at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1962 with his Kodak Brownie Starmite.

**This Week:** The lifespan of modern aircraft is quite astounding. Your author was reminded of this by comments about the Supermarine Swift, which was in service with the RAF in the 1950s for about a week (we exaggerate). By contrast, I doubt that any of our RCAF pilots flying the CF-18 are older than the crates they control, that fighter having been in front-line service since

before their parents had even reached puberty. This is also true of this week's mighty bird, the C-130 Hercules. It was first flown, in prototype form, in 1954, which, for those of a mathematical bent, was an astounding 65 years ago! I was going to add that that was before most of you were born, but, realizing the average age of our readership, I have reconsidered that statement.



Mind you, that first ship is not flying, and just about everything inside and outside current models has changed, but when one realizes that 65 years before the prototype's first flight the only human-made flying

objects were kites and balloons, it makes one wonder in amazement.

So, that is the aeroplane pictured, but it is not our question. That concerns this particular aircraft and its role in the history of the Lower Mainland. We would like to know the date, the event, the location, and (strong hint) who provided the salute. Look closely at the rear ramp for another hint. For weather geeks, it was a wet and windy day, not at all suitable for the historic event. Send your guesses to the editor, Bob (older than the prototype) Mugford ([bob.mugford@outlook.com](mailto:bob.mugford@outlook.com)), or the slightly younger (than the editor, not the aircraft) author, John Redmond ([johnd.\\_redmond@telus.net](mailto:johnd._redmond@telus.net)). God bless America (another hint)!

### **From the 'Punitary'**

Why are ghost such bad liars? Because they are easy to see through.

### **Murphy's Other Laws**

Anything cut to length will be too short or too long.

### **Quotable Quotes**

Power is like being a lady... if you have to tell people you are, you aren't. - *Margaret Thatcher*

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

**Remembrance Day Concert – 15 Fd Band and Welsh Men's Choir**

**The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir &  
Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA**

Present

**With Glowing Hearts**  
**Music & Songs of Remembrance**

SUNDAY NOV 10TH, 2:30 PM

MONDAY NOV 11TH, 2:30 PM

MASSEY THEATRE

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735 8TH AVE. NEW WESTMINSTER

1988 56 STREET, DELTA, BC

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