



Mess and RUSI Vancouver Members News 20 Dec, 2011

I will take a week off for Christmas so this is the final edition for 2011(except for special bulletins). I will send out the first newsletter of 2012 on Jan 3, 2012.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Year's.

Wednesday Lunches.

Tomorrow will be our last lunch of 2012. We plan to resume lunches on Jan 4th, however that date is a little 'iffy' at the moment. The Regiment started its winter stand-down last week and we only got tomorrow's opening because a member volunteered his time to come in and open up for us. The Regiment stands to in the second week of January and we can only open on Jan 4th if someone volunteers to open up again. We hope to have this issue settled by Jan 1st so watch the newsletter of Jan 3rd to see if our first lunch is Jan 4th or 11th.

Upcoming Events

New Year's Levée – Jan 1, 2012

The Regimental Messes will be open as usual on January 1st. Officially, the Messes open at 1100hrs but the Regimental members of the Officers Mess and the WO & Sgts Mess exchange New Years' greetings around 1030hrs. The usual light lunch will be served starting around noon. Everyone welcome. This is considered a 'formal' event for the Regimental members so others should wear blazer and tie (equivalent for ladies) at least.

Regimental Society Annual Burns Dinner - Saturday January 28, 2012

Featured Performers

The Pipes and Drums of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
The Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA
The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir.

For tickets call Grant Smith 604-271-5530

Military Ball - 2012 (Last call for early bird price)

The Vancouver Garrison Officers' Society has announced that the 2012 Military Ball is confirmed for **24 March 2012** at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency. Ticket prices this year will be the same as 2011- \$110 per person, but, as an added incentive, the price for 'early birds', who **purchase their tickets by cheque or money order prior to 31 December 2011** will be at a discounted price of \$100.00 each. A ticket order form can be found on the Ball website at

(www.militaryball.ca) on the 'ticket' page. Print, fill in and forward, with cheque or money order, to our mailing address: Military Ball, 2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, V6J 2C7

RUSI Vancouver Speakers Program

We are collaborating with the NOABC for monthly lunch time speakers (held now on the last Wednesday of the month – except for June to Aug and Dec). The last event (Nov 30) featured our member, Eric Mold, describing his and Canada's roles in the 1950's Cold War era and was very well attended. Thanks Eric.

The RUSI Vancouver Military History Evenings

Also on Nov 30, in the evening, RUSI Vancouver presented the episode "Hour of Darkness, Hong Kong, 1941" from the King & Country History Television Series. Following the screening of the program LCol Romano Acconci, CD, Deputy Commander of 39 CBG, put the Battle of Hong Kong in context and lead a discussion on what lessons may have been learned from Hong Kong by Canada's military planners and strategists in the training and deployment of Canadian troops for the remainder of World War Two. This presentation was enjoyed by all who attended. Attendance was somewhat reduced for this event but still good.



Pictured here is the group of attendees waiting to watch the screening of the show.

Eurozone crisis poses military risk, warns defence chief

Defence chiefs are drawing up plans to cope with the potential military fallout from the eurozone crisis, according to General Sir David Richards.

By James Kirkup, Deputy Political Editor, The Telegraph 14 Dec 2011

*General Sir David Richards,
the Chief of the Defence Staff*

It is understood that Armed Forces planners are looking at the possibility that a new global financial crash could undermine the defence forces of key British allies. The head of the Armed Forces warned that economic issues pose a "strategic risk" to Britain. Senior British commanders and officials are concerned that US plans to cut defence spending will be followed by other allies



in Europe and elsewhere.

Reductions in allied military capabilities could put a greater burden on Britain's stretched forces in Afghanistan and elsewhere, it is feared.

The military planning work has come to light after The Daily Telegraph disclosed last month that British embassies in the eurozone have been told to prepare emergency plans for the demise of the euro and the possible civil disorder that could follow.

Senior ministers are increasingly convinced that the break-up of the single currency is a real possibility. Economists suggest that the failure of the euro could cause EU economies, including Britain's, to shrink by up to eight per cent. Gen Richards, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said economic issues present the biggest threat to Britain and its interests in the world. "I am clear that the single biggest strategic risk facing the UK today is economic rather than military," he told the **Royal United Services Institute**

"Over time, a thriving economy must be the central ingredient in any UK Grand Strategy. This is why the eurozone crisis is of such huge importance not just to the City of London but rightly to the whole country and to military planners like me." The Armed Forces are facing painful cuts and the loss of tens of thousands of personnel, but Gen Richards said that such austerity was necessary. "The country's main effort must be the economy. No country can defend itself if bankrupt," he said. He used his speech to raise questions about the ability of European economies to sustain their armed forces. He asked: "What impact will fiscal restraint and slow recovery have on European defence capabilities?"

Gen Richards also noted that America, which is facing deep defence cuts, has said it will switch the focus of its main military effort from the Atlantic to the Pacific and south-east Asia.

That means "less emphasis on Europe and her problems," he said. Gen Richards also accepted that Britain's defence cuts carry risks, but insisted those risks were acceptable. "It will mean taking risk. But managing risk is ultimately what we do and none of us in the Armed Forces are discomfited by the challenge," he said.

The Armed Forces will need to "combine realism with imagination", he said.

Queen given early Diamond Jubilee bling from Canada

Postmedia News Dec 20, 2011 By Randy Boswell

Queen Elizabeth has received an early gift from Canada to mark next year's 60th anniversary of her time on the throne: a diamond, gold and platinum brooch symbolizing her "special relationship" with a Manitoba-based military Regiment.

The brooch, commissioned by the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and designed by the Montreal jewellery firm Birks, features a maple leaf encrusted with 60 individual diamonds, a gold cannon and a stylized crown set with a sapphire, emeralds and rubies.

The Diamond Jubilee gift was personally presented to the Queen last week at Buckingham Palace by two senior members of the Regiment, which is based at Canadian Forces Base Shilo, near Brandon, Man. The Regiment's Colonel Commandant, retired Lieutenant-General Mike Jeffery, said in



a statement that the gift from “Her Majesty’s Canadian gunner family” highlights the “very special relationship” between the Queen and the Regiment. Jeffery and the Regiment’s senior serving gunner, Lt.-Gen Stuart Beare, presented the gift to the Queen last Tuesday. Elizabeth II became Queen of Canada as well as the Canadian Artillery Regiment’s Captain General following the death of her father, King George VI, on Feb. 6, 1952.

Regiment spokesman Maj John Stewart wouldn’t disclose the value of the brooch but told Postmedia News the cost was covered privately by serving and retired members of the unit and by Birks. He described the brooch as a “celebration of mutual loyalty and respect” between the Queen and the Canadian Regiment.

Birks, which was commissioned to produce a silver jewel case for Queen Elizabeth’s mother in 1947, has a “rich past as official purveyor to the Royal Family,” said company president Thomas Andruskevich. “We are very proud to be adding the beautiful Diamond Jubilee brooch to our list of creations for the Royals.”

The Queen has a demonstrated taste for brooches from Canada. It’s known that one of her favourite pieces of jewellery — and one she’s worn several times during visits to this country — is the Williamson Brooch, a Canadian mining executive’s wedding gift to her in 1947 when she was known as Princess Elizabeth.

At the centre of that flower-shaped brooch is a huge, pink diamond discovered by Quebec-born geologist John Williamson at his mine in present-day Tanzania.

Elizabeth wore the piece to the 1981 wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer and during a 2009 visit to Buckingham Palace by U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama.

The Williamson Brooch was among the items selected earlier this year from the Royal Collection of jewellery, artworks and historical artefacts for a special exhibition to be unveiled in Britain next year, celebrating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

From the ‘Punitary’

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

Murphy’s Rules of Combat Operations.

Whenever you have plenty of ammo, you never miss. Whenever you are low on ammo, you can't hit the broad side of a barn.

Quotable Quotes

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

-- Winston Churchill