



Van Arty Association and RUSI Van Members News Jan 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 to let me know you didn't get a copy.

I will continue to publish a limited edition, mainly to keep advertising upcoming events and to keep the WW2 daily diary up to date. Next full edition on Jan 8.

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 - First lunch of 2019 – Jan 9th

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

- Jan 01** New Years Levée – 1100hrs in the Officers and WO & Sgts Mess
- Jan 09** First lunch of 2019
- Jan 26** 78th Fraser Highlanders - Burns Dinner
- Feb 02** 15 Fd 99th Birthday Social
JP Fell Pipe Band Burns Supper

Holiday Stand down - The Unit will stand down from Dec 9 - Jan 7.

RUSI Speaker Series for 2019

The RUSI Speaker Series will continue in the new year. The first series of lectures took place this past fall on Wednesday's from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. We thank the Commanding Officer of 15Fd RCA and the Officers' Mess for their cooperation. The next series will again be held in the Mess from February through April 2019. Timing will remain the same while dates, topics and speakers will be announced early in the new year. Check www.rusivancouver.ca for this information and other events and activities that are being considered by RUSI Vancouver for 2019 for which members will be invited to be involved and encouraged to attend.

World War 2 – 1943

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

Jan 2nd: The Japanese finally manage to contain the expansion of US Marine holdings on Cape Gloucester, although mud and the incessant rain have much more to do with this. The Soviets advance to within 30km of the 1939 Polish border. Elements of US 32nd Division land at Saidor on New Guinea and grab the harbor and airfield.

Jan 3rd: The Soviets continue to move west and southwest of Korosten.

Jan 4th: The Soviet offensive in the Ukraine continues, this time to the south of Kiev. Sherman's carriers are bashing the Japanese on New Ireland today. Spearheaded by the British 46th Division, 5th Army starts to attack towards the Gustav line in Italy along a 10 mile front. Robert Klein, a Soviet officer, receives the award Hero of the Soviet Union for his actions near Cherkassy in late 1943. There's a catch: Klein's heroism was performed while wearing the uniform of an officer of the German General Staff. During his masquerade, he had prevented the withdrawal of elements of 4th Panzer Army and convinced German engineers to remove the demolition charges from a vital bridge. When asked for his orders by a stressed Panzer officer, he had drawn his pistol and threatened a summary execution on the spot. His ruse snarled the withdrawal of German forces and enabled heavier casualties to be inflicted on them by pursuing Soviet troops.

Jan 5th: Vatutin's 1st Ukrainian Front captures Berchidev, southwest of Kiev, while Konev's 2nd Ukrainian Front starts driving on Kirovograd. American and Australian forces are moving on the Japanese at Saidor and the Huon Peninsula on New Guinea.

Jan 6th: The Marines on Cape Gloucester expand south of their beachhead to the Aogiri River – the deep mud and incessant heavy rains make all progress very slow. The Polish town of Rakotino gets to see the Soviet Army arrive for the second time in 5 years.

Jan 7th: The German defenders of Kirovograd are weakening, and the Soviets occupy the old (pre-1939) Polish city of Rovno. British and US elements of 5th Army clear the peaks of Monte Porchia and Monte Chiaia. Facing losses among his U-Boats, Doenitz abandons Wolf-Pack tactics and deploys his boats individually.

Jan 8th: Kirovograd is back in Soviet hands. Count Ciano and de Bono are now in Mussolini's uncharitable hands and are on trial in Verona for helping to overthrowing Benito last summer.

Essential Reading: Galeazzo Ciano was Mussolini's son-in-law and a sometime foreign minister as well as a senior figure in the Fascist Party; he was also a consummate diarist. The diary survived the war, Ciano did not. However, his candid inside observations about high figures in the Fascist and Nazi party were engaging material when first published in 1946. However, the full English translation of his entire diaries had to wait until 2002 and this

version is the one that should be acquired for any good collection on the war. Seek out Galeazzo Ciano, Diaries 1937-1943, translated by Robert L Miller and published by Enigma Books in 2002

Dues 2019

As of Jan 1, memberships dues are payable for 15 Fd Regt Officers Mess Associate Members, Vancouver Artillery Association and the Royal United Services Institute - Vancouver Society. Details below.

Dues for the **Vancouver Artillery Association** are \$25 (\$15 of which goes to the RCAA), payable to the Vancouver Artillery Association. Membership in the VAA also makes you a member of the RCAA and we need to submit a membership list along with payment of \$15 per member in the very near future so please get your dues payment in soon. Dues cheques can be hand delivered at Wednesday lunches or mailed to:

Treasurer, Vancouver Artillery Association
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

Dues for **RUSI Vancouver** are \$50 (\$25 for students), payable to RUSI Vancouver. Dues cheques can be hand delivered at Wednesday lunches or mailed to:

Treasurer, RUSI Vancouver
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

Dues for **15 Fd Officers' Mess Associate Members** are \$60, payable to 15 RCA Officers Mess. Dues cheques can be hand delivered at Wednesday lunches or mailed to:

Treasurer, 15 Fd Regt Officers Mess
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 2C7

**Happy
New Year!**

The text 'Happy New Year!' is rendered in a bold, blue, 3D sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed to give them depth. Interspersed among and around the letters are numerous thin, flowing streamers in various colors including green, purple, pink, brown, blue, and yellow. The streamers appear to be blowing in the wind, adding a sense of motion and festivity to the text.

**WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST
OVER THE HOLIDAYS**

78 Fraser Highlanders Garrison Burns Supper



I request the company of our Officers, Miladies and Guests at our annual

Garrison Burns Supper

to be held in

The Officers' Mess at Bessborough Armoury,
15th Field Regiment RCA
2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Saturday, 26 January 2019

1800hrs for 1900hrs

Dress: Scarlets, Highland Evening wear, Black Tie or Business Attire
Tariff: \$78 per Person

RSVP to jobarb@shaw.ca or 604-522-5766

ASAP! (before 19 January)

Places will be allocated on the sequence (date & time) of RSVP emails received
at jobarb@shaw.ca

Members have priority, but please RSVP soonest as this event is
usually oversubscribed.

Looking forward to seeing you there

James Barrett, Maj.
Officer Commanding

JP Fell Pipe Band Burns Supper

*J. P. Fell Pipe Band
25th Anniversary
Robbie Burns Supper*

February 2, 2019

Proudly Associated with 6 Engineer Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers



Tariff: \$60.00 per person
Time: 5:30pm for 6:30pm Dinner
Location: J.P. Fell Armoury
1513 Forbes Ave, North Vancouver
Dress: Mess Dress or Semi-formal
No Minors
Cash only bar
Website: jpfellpipeband.org
Tickets: events@jpfellpipeband.org

Join us for an evening of:

Pipes and Drums,

Scottish Country Dancing,

Door Prizes,

Silent Auction and a

Delicious Buffet Dinner.

15 Field Regt Birthday Fund Raising Social

15th Field Artillery Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

*Cordially invite you
to their*

99th Birthday

**&
ALL RANKS FUND RAISING SOCIAL**

(ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS "BATTLE FIELD TOUR 2020")

Saturday, 2nd February 2019

Cocktails: 18:30 for 19:00 hrs

LIVE MUSIC and DJ

To be held at

Bessborough Armoury

2025 West 11th Avenue

Vancouver, BC

RSVP required by 3 Jan 19
Capt Dempsey GM,
Email: george.dempsey@forces.gc.ca
Telephone: 604-666-4370

Dress: Casual
Tickets: \$10 single
\$15 couple